Journal of The American Institute of

ARCHITECTS



R. G. HATFIELD

December, 1950

War, Rearmament, Reconstruction

The A.I.A. in the New Economy

The Purpose of Light

Ownership of Plans

A German Invasion in Reverse

Frederick Lee Ackerman, F.A.I.A.

How Should Our Cities Grow?-III

35c

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WITH THE AIM OF AMPLIFYING AS THROUGH A MICROPHONE THE VOICE OF THE PROFESSION



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Cover portrait: R. G. Hatfield, First Treasurer of The Institute Awards of Merit in the National Honor Awards of 1950:

House of William Crocker, Sausalito, Calif. 259-60

Mario Corbett, architect

Wallach's Clothing Store, Jamaica, N. Y. 269-70 Ketchum, Gina ♂ Sharp, architects

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War, Rearmament, Reconstruction

Before the marauding Greek communists could be cleaned out of the tawny hills overlooking the Aegean, a short four years ago, when we helped the first nation successfully to resist communist imperialism, some way had to be found for the fighting Greek peasants to reoccupy their shattered village homes. Our real victory in Greece, no less than the subsequent reconstruction, was made possible by the development of a cheap, mass-produced roof tile that rapidly put damaged houses back in use, and gave the village population something to fight for as well as a place to live. It was an effective answer to the famous 1942 cry, "You can't beat Hitler with bricks."

While we fight, while we prepare to resist attack, we also rebuild. It is the climate of the global struggle in which we are engaged; as mixed and as bewildering as the fact that it is day in the United States while it is night in China; or Thursday on one side of the International Date Line while it is Friday on the other.

Really to win in Korea will take some building ingenuity as well as derring-do on the battlefields. The peoples of the East will estimate what our way of life has to offer by our accomplishments in reconstruction no less than our firepower. Korea showed that the United Nations could effectively resist aggression. Korea will offer the United Nations its first chance to show what it can do to help rebuild a shattered nation by harnessing the technical skills of a free world to do the job that is becoming recognized as a world responsibility.

President Ralph Walker has called upon the A.I.A. Committee on School Buildings to prepare a report on emergency types of school houses suited to Korean reconstruction. Perhaps this will be but the first of a series of such undertakings of international significance to show what architecture can do to rebuild a new world.

NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE, A.I.A.



The A.I.A. in the New Economy

By Edmund R. Purves, F.A.I.A.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

An address before the Central States District Conference, A.I.A., October 13, 1950—Omaha, Neb.

It is now generally recognized by even the most nostalgic devotee of the good old days of unfettered exploitation that the country, and the world, set out on the march toward the new economy long before World War I.

The march is not made up of happy volunteers; it is not led by the simple brave souls. In fact it is not led at all. It was and is simply the progress of mankind pushed by weight of population along the only path it could follow-a painful hard road of adjustment to a shrinking and contentious world. We have been and still are living through a great and awful period in the world's history, one which will unquestionably fascinate future historians for years to come. Maybe the recognition of the importance of our time will somewhat solace us who must bravely carry on. It is from our sacrifices. our fortitude and our willingness

to see things through that this civilization of ours will endure.

We have left the specious '20s well behind. Few, if any, recognized the trend of events in those days of unreality and immaturity. This observation applies with particular force to the architectural profession and its premiated projects of that era, and especially to its instruction. For the emphasis was on the surface and, save for a handful of handy pioneers with a passion for seeking the fundamental reason, we were content to be beguiled by stage scenery. However, not all of teaching in those days was had.

The Beaux-Arts persuasion, with all its faults, with all its devotion to symmetry in the grand manner and with all its extravagant disregard for basic function, nevertheless stimulated our imaginations, and those who were able to glean the good probably found that the Beaux-Arts precepts have stood them in good stead. That is, they were taught to look for the major elements of any problem, to analyze and to solve the principal factors first and to attend to the details later.

But students were still taught to believe that the winning of a travelling or resident scholarship in Europe, based on the student's ability to conceive the grandiloquent and portray it with flourishes on oversize boards, automatically made the recipient a great and wise architect. There was little or no consideration of economics, sociology, and of the true philosophies and forces that underly all architecture.

The history of architecture, that most vital of subjects, was only too apt to have been a dull recital of dates and names-a memorizing of lantern slides recalling the little surface marks of differentiation. The great philosophy and force that brought the building into being was ignored. We were fascinated with the picture and its frame, and forgot the substance. In all of my experience as a student of the history of architecture, not once was I given the reason behind the Greek approach, the Egyptian approach, or the other approaches. I

was taught only the superficial recognition of the outward manifestations of those periods. I have since been seeking reason, and at times I think I have found it. We could do well with a true understanding and application of a Greek philosophy in our architecture today.

It is safe to assume that, could the architect of the Parthenon be with us, he would not produce a replica of that building, but would apply his great understanding of our civilization and its meaning to achieve the latest and finest work in contemporary design. We must study and understand ourselves and our true importance to our world and times.

I have referred briefly to architectural history and the architectural background in order to relate ourselves as a profession to what is taking place today.

Let us look at the situation in which we find ourselves, so sharply focused by the happenings in Korea. I cannot attempt to forecast what will take place. I can only report that our immediate reaction to that incident in a far corner of the world was that the affair would be successfully handled with dispatch and would

cause little or no disturbance to our way of life. This was an error of optimism, for we had comforted ourselves in this country in the belief that there was room and a willingness to permit two vastly contrasting economies and two completely dissimilar ideologies to exist, if not in harmony, at least in forbearance. We now question that our enemies will allow the realization of a happy solution. There is a decision still to be made. Will the Western or Eastern civilization prevail and dominate?

We do not know what form the settlement of the issue will take. We can only strive to attain our objective at the least cost to humanity. Whether the form may be one of slow attrition, which will have just as deadening an effect on our economy and which might be just as satisfactory to our opponents as winning an all-out combat, is yet to be seen. We pray it will not be the all-out combat, for mankind must realize by this time that the all-out combat germinates nothing but a Pyrrhic victory.

There is still the possibility that our way of life may be made to prevail in peace, and this is one we should not overlook. To achieve it will demand the exercising of strength of character, of sacrifice and of perseverance. Our wisdom must be infallible.

The American way of life which we cherish seeks freedom of thought and enterprise. It is an ideal which, to be attained, requires performance and understanding on our part. It presupposes our capabilities and the force of our own self-reliance. It also presupposes that the exercising of freedom of thought and of enterprise will be considerate and benign and not predatory. In architecture, this calls for the recognition of the better characteristics of all architectural effort.

But to return to our more apparent enemy, we know we cannot fight him either in the field or economically in too free-and-easy a manner. He will not permit it. We must reorganize ourselves. We must learn to work together. And we must recognize at all times the right of the other man's opinion.

We are already engaged in this country in mobilizing our resources, which may mean, to a certain extent, an ordering of our way of life. The American Institute of Architects has already been called in to express its opinion and make its recommendations. Certainly, as planners, we are well

equipped to evaluate the problems before us, and to come through with well-thought recommendations. But The American Institute of Architects alone cannot decide the issue. It can only, through the training and experience of its members, play a leading part in guiding the construction industry and so influencing the general economy. At all times we must recognize the paramount importance of supporting the country, regardless of present discomfiture.

We are handicapped by the fact that the governmental pattern has not yet been made entirely clear, and it is possible that we shall have to wait until after the elections before we can begin to evaluate the situation with accuracy.

Today, the Allocation and Priorities Bill has been enacted into law. The President has issued his executive orders, which have established the setting up of the National Production Authority in the Department of Commerce, and he has set up the Chairman of the National Security Resources Board as the Coordinator of the national effort.

The American Institute of Architects and the profession will be greatly affected by the decisions arrived at by Mr. Symington and by General Harrison. The first will formulate the national policies, and the second will carry them out, at least in so far as the material situation is concerned. The manpower and its mobilization may fall within the jurisdiction of the Department of Labor. The present policy is to use existing agencies.

It is interesting and somewhat disheartening to realize that construction seems to have been somewhat forgotten or purposely overlooked. That I shall touch upon later.

In this great emergency there has been little or no excitement. No bands have been playing, no crowds have been cheering. There is, on the other hand, not a resignation to fate, but rather a determination to see the emergency through at whatever cost. The costs have already commenced. There are many probably in this room to whom the war is very real indeed.

Now for its part, The American Institute of Architects has set up a Committee on National Defense. This was done by Convention action. Even before that time, we began to sense the need and importance of a Committee of The Institute to concern itself with the welfare of the profession and the support of the country.

The Committee is under Past-President Douglas Orr as Chairman and its duties are comprehensive. There is a steering committee composed of vice-chairmen and of the chairmen of other Institute committees who may be concerned with national defense. Meetings have been held which are largely given over to evaluating the situation as we see it and as it progresses, and in conveying the results of our surmises to the membership. The objectives of the Committee are, first of all, the preservation of the economy and of the country, and the welfare of The Institute and the profession. The staff at The Octagon is prepared to service this Committee to whatever extent it may be called upon, even 100 per cent if necessarv.

It can be stated with confidence that The American Institute of Architects is well ahead of the game and is so recognized by Federal agencies.

When we turn to the construction industry, itself, and sense the disregard of the Government toward it (although we are the second largest industry in the country), we are concerned as to what may be the latent Government policy. Does the Government wish to break us up into small pieces in order to deal with us severally, or have they simply forgotten us?

At all events and in its own interests, the construction industry has actually set itself up as a thinking and effective unit. Although it is not nationally organized, and probably never will be, as its components are so many and so diversified as to make difficult the formation of a permanent organization, it is rallying around and taking counsel with itself.

The construction industry has been in the habit of gathering itself together as circumstances may demand, generally centered around the Chamber of Commerce, as that institution affords us the facilities and has on its staff an individual in whom we all have confidence, a true catalyst for all of us. However, we are not concerned with Chamber policies and are not guided by them. It is conceivable that, with our own new facilities, the physical forum of the construction industry may gravitate to The Octagon.

At a recent meeting of representatives of the construction industry, called together rather informally, it was decided to establish two committees—one on Credit Control, under the chairmanship of Mr. Addison, a banker of Washington, and the other on Production Mobilization, under the chairmanship of Ralph Walker, our own President. It is this last Committee which probably will become the focal point of the construction industry.

The American Institute of Architects and its representatives have played important parts in all of these activities, and have been asked to assume a leading position.

And so we bespeak your guidance, your thinking, your recommendations. Tell us of yourselves. Do not hesitate to make yourselves heard. You are all vitally concerned with the questions that confront us.

Let us not deceive ourselves or take solace in quick and bloody victory. The great issue is still to be met. It is the greatest that we ever will be called upon to meet in our lifetime. We are facing not only enemies without, but also enemies within. They are all of the same pattern, and are resourceful and determined to destroy, where and when they can, that way of life which has made it possible for you to practise your profession. We are confident that we will succeed. We urge that all members of the profession play their parts with courage and determination. We must not think of surrender. We must point the way to victory.

Frederick Lee Ackerman, F.A.I.A.

1878-1950

By Lewis Mumford

THERE ARE MEN whose life and L character are more significant than their work; and this was true of Frederick Lee Ackerman, who died in March, 1950 at the age of seventy-two. To say this is not to belittle the quality of Ackerman's architectural achievements. Whatever Ackerman built was soundly and thoroughly wrought; and well beyond middle life he showed a capacity for absorbing fresh ideas that would have honored a much younger man. But Ackerman had, as his most substantial and special gift, a quality of character that people with more original gifts of design sometimes lack. As an architect, he continued the tradition of integrity that the craftsmen of his boyhood in the Mohawk Valley passed on to him by their example.

Though I knew Ackerman for more than a quarter century, there are many others who are better qualified to present a detailed study of his life and work; and to them I would leave the task of a formal eulogy. This brief note can be nothing more than a personal tribute, from one who respected and admired the outstanding quality of the man: his sincerity and integrity. If I touch but lightly on his architectural achievements, it is because they are for me only a part of the fuller picture.

When I first met Ackerman I have no definite memory; but it was probably early in 1923, when the group that had originally been brought together by Charles Harris Whitaker, during the period of his inspired editorship of the JOURNAL OF THE A.I.A., took more formal shape in the Regional Planning Association of America, Whitaker, who greatly admired Ackerman, must have talked about him to me before this time: I have even some dim earlier memory of a large luncheon meeting at the old City Club, where Thorstein A. Veblen was the chief guest, when Acker-

man was one of the company. This is more than likely, because Ackerman was the most persistent and understanding disciple that Veblen ever acquired: indeed, Ackerman's thoughts on economics, which were extremely critical of the existing order, followed closely Veblen's own reasoning, even to the point of capturing some of the involved meticulousness and pedantic humor of Veblen's very conscious style. The effect of this corrosive attitude toward "business enterprise" and the "price system" on Ackerman was a somewhat paradoxical one: his revolutionary premises had the effect of making him, in practice, a thorough conservative: since he expected nothing good of the existing system, he took it as it was; and during the depression he even objected to a large-scale public-housing program, on the ground that we already had more domestic vacancies than we could fill.

With Ackerman's work, however, I had an earlier acquaintance than with the man, for I had read his survey of the housing and planning movement in England. He made this survey in timely fashion in 1917, at the instigation of Whitaker; and after being published in the JOURNAL as part of a series, it came out in book form. The other day, to certify a reference in Clarence Stein's account of this period. I turned back to Ackerman's essay and was amazed at its exhaustiveness, its percipience, its vivid concrete anticipation of the "shape of things to come." If any one doubts the effect of ideas and plans on history, he would do well to consult Ackerman's contribution. After this, he had become the Chief of Housing and Town Planning for the United States Shipping Board, where Henry Wright served under him and Robert D. Kohn was his chief; and Ackerman deserves no little credit, I have no doubt, for the remarkable quality of the work that the Shipping Board so promptly turned out. Without Ackerman's journey to England and without his work on the Shipping Board, it is safe to say that the housing and planning movement would have lost some of the main footings for the work done in the 'twenties and still more in the 'thirties.

During the early 'twenties, Ackerman was a regular contributor to the JOURNAL, which then had a special community planning department, where the Committee on Community Planning held forth; and Ackerman, I remember, made

a specially cogent contribution to the 1924 report of this committee. with a well-reasoned attack on the current conventions of zoning, an attack that has lost nothing in pertinency by the complacent errors of subsequent zoners. Ackerman's mind was essentially a critical one. He was invaluable, in the Regional Planning Association, precisely because his great practical grasp, his sense of the long-term processes in economic institutions running contrary to our immediate plans, enabled him to bring us back to earth, with an impatient, explosive laugh or cackle, when we strayed too far beyond the bounds of the possible. But he was a patient and considerate man in discussion; a strong opponent, but not the peppery one that his sandy red hair, his high-colored cheeks, his somewhat sardonic face might have falsely led me to suspect. I can remember only one occasion when he showed impatient contempt for someone who opposed his views. I myself was the victim of that outburst in print, I remember now with a smile; but I should add that Ackerman's reaction was not unwarranted, for apart from differences in our position, as to whether more housing should be built during the depression, Ackerman's impatience was due to my use of inaccurate statistics; and that last sin properly offended his own sense of craftsmanship.

Yes, he was a craftsman, and that was his great quality. He carried into both his personal and his intellectual dealings the forth-rightness, the patience, the habits of careful measure, the eye for detail, the essential humility that respects the nature of the material, that the good carpenter or mason brings to his work, and it is as a master craftsman in every department he touched that I think of Frederick Lee Ackerman.

Ackerman had a story of his own about those who followed the old traditions. It was about an old house he was remodeling or making additions to, with carefully measured drawings, which kept close to the traditional lines he loved, whether in the Mohawk Valley or in Nantucket, his second home. Just about when the job was done, Ackerman happened in to inspect it, and from another room he heard one of the workmen say to the other: "Well, Bill, the job's finished. Do you suppose we'd better take a look at the architect's drawings?" Bill said, "Guess it wouldn't do any harm." So one

of them began to call out the dimensions of the drawings and the other took the various dimensions of the room, with its doors and windows and moldings. When they had gone over these details, the first man turned to his partner and said: "By God, Bill, what do you know?—the architect was right!"

This kind of self-sufficiency and integrity was deeply part of Ackerman's nature; and, however conventional his work as a designer, it had the quality of straightforwardness and directness and thoroughness that characterized the best work of the past. Indeed, so deeply did he respect the usages and conventions of his ancestors that, Herbert Emmerich tells me, in the Manhasset project, a suburban development he did for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Ackerman insisted, since the houses were to be Colonial, on having leaders of wood, since metal had not been used for this purpose in Colonial times. As a disciple of Veblen, Ackerman was ready to use the machine to its limit, to depart from moribund traditions, to practise economy and avoid the frivolities of conspicuous waste; but he mistrusted those who achieved these things without caring for other human qualities that he deemed even more precious. So it was only late in his life that Ackerman followed his conscious premises to their conclusions, in his design for a modern apartment house, with glass brick windows, completely air conditioned, but, characteristically, with individual regulation of temperature in every apartment. If not a brilliant esthetic solution of the problem, this apartment house was still a sound and comely one; and not the least satisfactory part of it was the strict control of shop signs and their fine lettering.

Much of Ackerman's architectural life and thought was devoted to housing and community planning, so I find it something of a puzzle that his biography in "Who's Who" does not list either the houses he designed for Sunnyside Gardens, that experimental project, founded by Alexander Bing, which grew so directly out of Government war housing; nor does it mention the community building and stores he designed for Radburn, or his general association with those projects, though his terrace houses on 44th Street in Sunnyside have conspicuous architectural merits. With the nineteen-thirties Ackerman turned back

again to public housing, and was consultant to various housing authorities for Washington, New York State and New York City. Only those who worked with him in these areas can fully assay his contributions here, so I will make no attempt to; and yet the mystery of Ackerman's attitude toward Sunnyside and Radburn plagues me a little.

In every department, Ackerman served as a sort of gyroscopic stabilizer, righting the tendency to go to extremes and restoring the vessel to even keel, for his was a massive common sense. Radical in thought, Ackerman was essentially conservative, in the happiest sense of the word, in action. He was not, that is to say, opposed to change, but he wanted to keep as much as possible of the past as was still serviceable. The perpetual challenge of such a mind brings out the best qualities of his colleagues, and keeps them equally from timid triumphs and idle dreams. Ackerman had dreams of his own, no less quick because he hid them under a crusty show of common sense. He dreamed of a society free from privilege and of rights conferred by property rather than social function: he dreamed of a civilization where people would work cooperatively, with honesty and integrity, at whatever job was worth being done, never substituting the shoddy and the showy for the genuine, or the arts of publicity for solid performance. In short, he dreamed of such a society

as would exist if people of Ackerman's cast of mind and character were in the majority. To the extent that our civilization is moving now in this direction, the life and work of Frederick Lee Ackerman will continue to gain in significance.

The Rotch in Retrospect

THERE IS TO BE HELD, during the month of December, a large exhibition in memory of Mrs. Horatio A. Lamb, who was Annie Lawrence Rotch, the daughter of Benjamin S. and Mrs. Rotch, in whose memory the Rotch Travelling Scholarship was founded and endowed in 1883. The exhibition is to be held in the Gallery of the John Hancock Building, Boston. The occasion will open with a dinner to which all former Rotch Travelling Scholars have been invited.

It is interesting, in this connection, to look over the previous holders of the Scholarship, in which list will be found many of the architects who have made notable contributions to the architecture of our era.

1884 CLARENCE HOWARD BLACKALL*

1885 SAMUEL WALKER MEAD

1886 George Frederick Newton*

1887 EDGAR A. JOSSELYN

1888 AUSTIN WILLARD LORD*

1889 HENRY BACON*

1890 WILLIAM THOMAS PARTRIDGE

1891 ROBERT CLOSON SPENCER

1892 JOHN WATROUS CASE*
1893 WALTER HARRINGTON KILL

1893 WALTER HARRINGTON KILHAM
1894 HARRING VAN BUREN MACONIGUE

1894 HAROLD VAN BUREN MAGONIGLE*
1895 WILL STEIN ALDRICH

1896 LOUIS HOLMES BOYNTON*

1897 HENRY BODGE PENNELL

1898 Louis Chapell, Newhall*

1899 LOUIS WARREN PULSIFER*

1900 WILLIAM LESLIE WELTON*

1901 WILLIAM LUTHER MOWLL

1902 JAMES FORD CLAPP*

1903 EDWARD T. FOULKES

1904 Frederick Charles Hirons*

1905 WILLIAM DE FORREST CROWELL

1906 LEROY PEARL BURNHAM

1907 OTTO FAELTEN

1908 ISRAEL P. LORD

1909 Horace G. Simpson

1910 Joseph McGinniss*

1911 NIELS HJALMAR LARSEN

1912 CHARLES CAMERON CLARK

1913 WILLIAM LEO SMITH

^{*} Deceased

1931 CARNEY GOLDBERG
25 22 AMMERICA OF PROPERTY.
1932 CARROLL, COLETTI
1933 GEORGE STEPHEN LEWIS
1934 NEMBHARD N. CULIN
1935 GORDON BUNSHAFT
1936 LEON HYZEN
1937 JOHN A. VALTZ
1938 MALCOLM C. ROBB
1939 WILLIAM E. HARTMANN
1940 GEORGE R. McCLELLAN
1941 MARTIN ROSSE
1942-45 No AWARD BECAUSE OF WAR
1946 MELVERNE C. ENSIGN
1947 DALE C. BYRD
1948 VICTOR A. LUNDY
1949 EDUARD H. BULLERJAHN
1950 ROBERT LEWIS BLISS

They Say:

John Adams

(In a letter to a friend, 1872)

I must study war and politics, that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy, geography, natural history and naval architecture, in order to give their children a right to study painting, poetry, music, architecture, statuary and porcelain.

Leon H. Keyserling

CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC AD-

(In a radio talk, August 9, 1950)

Before the outbreak in Korea, the United States sought to make its contribution to this material resistance to barbaric reaction mainly by extending economic aid to the free peoples who had been and impoverished stricken World War II. This aid was helping these free peoples to make remarkable strides in getting back on their feet economically and regaining their political security. This aid was also full evidence, to every fair-minded person and nation, that the United States had no international policy of aggrandizement, but sought only to help others in the achievement of decent and humane objectives. But the Korean outbreak brought home to us beyond question the sad fact that this kind of material resistance to aggression alone was not enough.

That outbreak compelled us to admit, far more than before, that military resistance to barbaric reaction was also necessary—because unfortunately that is the only language which some people understand.

Thomas S. Holden

PRESIDENT, F. W. DODGE CORPORATION

(Speaking before the 1950 Convention of the New Jersey Chapter, A.I.A., June 25, 1950)

From 1944 on, the combined outlays of American consumers for alcoholic beverages, tobacco and amusements have been greater than their expenditures for shelter.

From 1942 on, consumers have spent more for clothing and shoes than for shelter.

Expenditures for improved diet over the 1929 standard were larger than shelter expenditures during several recent years and were very nearly as large as total current shelter expenditures in 1948 and 1949.

Alvar Aalto

(Speaking before the Architectural Association, London, June 28, 1950)

Is it possible to give everybody today the qualities and the quantities which earlier were in the hands of only a very few people? Suppose we have a dinner for

twelve people and a good burgundy. It goes very well. But if we have a dinner of three thousand men and women, how can you distribute a high-class burgundy down to the last man? He is about half a mile away from the distribution center, and burgundy does not stand transportation like that. It would be no longer a burgundy but some kind of mediocre wine. This is the tragedy of our time: that we have really not got the tools to give quality to a large social masswhich should be the real aim today.

Richard M Bennett

(In the November 1950 Bulletin of the Chicago Chapter, A.I.A.)

The voices of professionals must somehow be heard more clearly in the chorus of the minorities which form the attitudes of our time. The Bulletin wonders if The A.I.A. should not consider some plan to convene representatives from our sister professional societies of Law, Teaching, Medicine, Engineering, Science and all the others. The words and actions of such a council of professions would enable each profession to contribute to the effectiveness of all professions, and all of them to make life in this world more worthwhile.

How Should Our Cities Grow?

IN THREE PARTS-PART III

By Paul Windels

PRESIDENT, REGIONAL PLAN ASSOCIATION, INC. OF NEW YORK

An address delivered at the Annual Convention, A.I..A, Washington, D. C., May 11, 1950

DECAUSE OUR CITIES have be-D come the nerve centers of our national economy their efficient functioning and safety from attack are of paramount national importance. And we must never overlook the fact that the Federal Government does now possess an enormous power to influence the way in which cities develop by the way in which it applies Federal aid for such purposes as urban redevelopment, housing, highways, other public works and even unemployment relief. Accepting this aid makes the influence inevitable. This being so, Federal assistance might just as well be used to advance us toward sound objectives.

But today nobody seems to know what we are aiming at. We are moving in as many directions as there are Federal agencies involved. Each pursues its own individual path as defined within the four corners of its own statutory authorization. We badly need an over-all policy and an objective.

There is both lack of policy and complete confusion in direction. Some encourage decentralization, others result in greater congestion.

But we must not blame the Federal agencies for this condition. It is not their fault, although they might have called attention to it and urged that something be done about it.

In the meantime, a national defense policy with respect to the form and size of our cities, a matter of supreme importance to our national safety, is still to be defined, although five years have gone by since we had our first warning of what an atomic bomb could mean to any one of them.

What can we do to end this uncertainty and confusion? Surely we do not want the National Government planning our cities. This would be a task beyond its capacity and would involve it in endless local rivalries and jealousies. Detailed planning is the job of the local communities. This job, so

far as the economically integrated metropolitan regions are concerned. will never be done effectively until our state legislatures recognize the facts of twentieth-century life. They must create state agencies on a metropolitan regional basis, able to give political expression to the economic unity and common interests of these areas. Such agencies in planning for these areas can moderate within them the local rivalries of the many smaller political units which they now contain. The states must also recognize the need for official agencies to foster the creation of planned new towns as a substitute for present-day unplanned urban sprawl.

To aid these local efforts at planning there should be made available the research and recommendations of a National Commission on Urban Population Distribution.

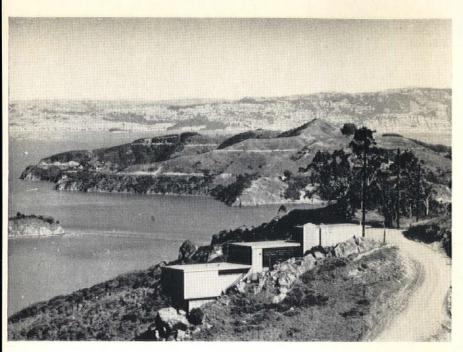
These are the points of attack and with them, moving toward the objectives defined within the metropolitan areas, must go the cooperation of all Federal agencies in the grant of Federal aid. We do not suggest more aid—only the effective use of such Federal aid as is now authorized.

The over-all purpose of all units

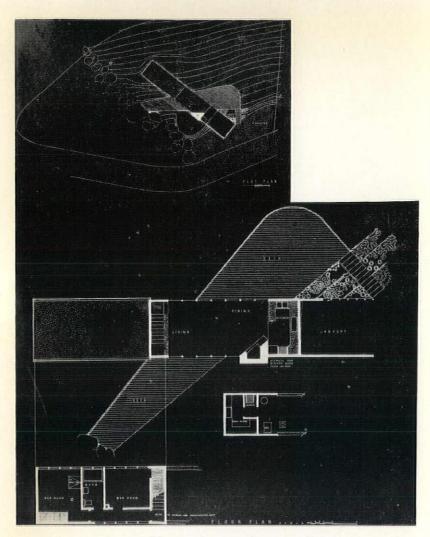
of government—national, state and local—working thus in harmony, must be to guide into coherent patterns the increasing trends toward decentralization, to the end that the planned metropolitan region of the next century does not repeat the mistakes of the unplanned city of the last.

As we stand at the middle point of the century we seem also to be delicately balanced as if on the crest of a continental divide. We live from day to day with the greatest care lest some unexpected incident sends us down the road to war which, if it comes again, might well threaten civilization itself. We ask ourselves if all the knowledge we have gained means only that we have tasted of the forbidden fruit of the tree of knowledge.

But we must go on in the hope that another road lies open before us and a better future invites us—perhaps a long period of world peace such as followed the conflicts for power in the Roman Empire and the Napoleonic wars. We must have faith that in the years ahead we shall be free to use science, not for destruction but to help us make as yet undreamed-of progress in the art of living together—years in which we can create cities and towns infinitely



Award of Merit in the 1950 National Honor Awards
House for William Crocker, Sausalito, Calif.
Mario Corbett, architect



HOUSE FOR WILLIAM CROCKER, SAUSALITO, CALIF.
MARIO CORBETT, ARCHITECT
Plot Plan (above) and Floor Plans

Journal The AIA 260 better than anything we have yet seen.

In the achievement of this high aim a great responsibility is yours for leadership. The daily practice of your profession and each building you create, requires you to strive for the ideals of order, harmony, utility and beauty. What more do we seek for our cities and towns?

Finally, we must learn to think

in terms of decades and of generations. We must have a sense of history about the role we play in the slowly evolving forms of urban life. Most of us will not live to witness the final achievement, but we can at least have the satisfaction of a part in the creation of the efficient, comfortable, beautiful cities and towns which will comprise the metropolitan regions of the next century.



Honors

PIETRO BELLUSCHI, F.A.I.A., of Portland, Ore., has been appointed Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. Belluschi will join the faculty on January 1, 1951.

WENDELL T. PHILLIPS of Milford, Mass., has been appointed by Governor Dever to a five-year term as a member of the Board of Registration of Architects in his state.

The Gold Medal of the Royal Institute of British Architects, which, as announced in the Jour-NAL of April, 1950 was awarded to Eliel Saarinen, F.A.I.A., was brought from London by Talmage Hughes, F.A.I.A. and, at a ceremony held by the Detroit Chapter, was entrusted to Eero Saarinen, son of the late Gold Medalist.

Bernard R. Maybeck has been given the Award for 1950 of the Building Industry Conference Board of San Francisco. Additional awards were made to William E. Hague, Executive Secretary of the Building Industry Conference Board, and to Henry J. Brunnier, as an outstanding engineer of the West.

The Purpose of Light

By Ralph Walker, F.A.I.A.

Excerpts from an address before the Illumination Division of the New York Section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, New York, N. Y., October 19, 1949.

I to not come here as a scientist, or as an engineer; or as a psychologist, or physician, but merely as a humanist. Moreover, as an intellectual humanist—if there can be that confusion of terms; for early in my life I learned that "to be surprised, to wonder, is to begin to understand"; and, further, my New England background taught me "to be skeptical and not to be one who readily swallows the momentary."

My remarks are, therefore, those of my own individual reactions, for I believe, and have so stated, that the good life is only to be made by the true radical, and to those ranks I proudly claim to belong—that is, the society of honest individuals.

After seeing the world and its more than seven wonders, I have these remarks to make concerning "the purpose of light"; and the title is one about which I thought I could be both philosophical and, at the same time, display a little ignorance without making the latter, especially, seem unduly monumental.

When one goes into a great cathedral such as Chartres or Notre Dame de Paris, one realizes that here is a magic of light in a great interior, for here is daylight treated (in modern terms, "conditioned) — into mystery — into Godliness—into everlasting beauty. Here is plastic space such as no man before or since has ever achieved. Certainly no modern space enables the spirit of man to become so large.

When one examines the single piece of vitrail, one cannot readily understand why the final result, when suspended high overhead, gives the glory which there exists. Of course, we have no record of the illumination engineers of Gothic times, if they existed, nor do we know under what light conditions the windows themselves were made, but we can be sure of this: that this beauty, amazingly large in extent-for the art was to be found all over Europe-was practised in the narrow guild streets; tightly held in walled Gothic towns. Perhaps no one thought to measure the footcandles of cathedral interiors nor of the work spaces in which those marvels of glass were made.

Years ago in the Thieves' Market at Florence, Italy, I bought fragments, possibly real, possibly faked, of wool and silk damasks, spun, dyed and woven-again in the narrow ways still named for the guilds, and once inhabited by them. Moreover, we still imitate their patterns and their colors, and for a moment I would quote for your benefit, if not for your future guidance, the following: "But most remarkable of all was the color sorting. A thousand accidents, inevitable in dyeing, make it certain that even in the some hour the threads would differ almost imperceptibly in tint and, woven as chance had left them, would lead to irregularity of color in the stuff. So threads were sorted for color, each pale or full, up to twelve or even fifteen tints and arranged so that when re-spun, absolute uniformity was the result. Few, one must suppose, had eyes keen enough for such work; and the 'trattato' (treatice or skill) says it could only be done upon a white cloth spread in a subdued light and air peculiar to certain lanes where the sun never shone."—("The Builders of Florence" by J. C. Wood Brown).

It is obvious that these beautiful fabrics, through long processes resembling the specialization of modern industry, and produced cheaply for a world market, were accomplished at the bottom of wells of light in which footcandles were strangely absent; but more important, there was also a total absence of glare.

I have heard that the ancient Hittites developed a quality of vision (without exterior aid of mechanical or optical devices) which permitted them to develop an art of jewel cutting which now needs hundreds of footcandles to accomplish and also the additional aid of squinting glasses.

In 1939 I spent an amazing hour or so in one of the oldest Samurai houses in Tokyo, one which had escaped the great earthquake, and to me one of the most beautiful houses I have ever seen. If I use the word exquisite, you must remember this house belonged to a member of the warrior class of old Japan, whose ideals of life were of great austerity and self-discipline—such as no modern man has any conception of, because theirs was not just a poverty austerity, like modern British living, but a well-

recognized and established esthetic one.

Here in the quiet light of a wide shade, the building overlooking a gracious garden—in sunlight and shadow where the carp swished and splashed—the owner, a painter of the old school, entertained me at tea, and later showed me the techniques of India-ink painting. Frankly, his knowledge of the abstract, his ability to suggest, has made me look with dismay at the tricky art of the dealer-touted Modernists.

No one, again, thought to measure the footcandles which enabled my Japanese host to make his exquisite strokes of genius, and I realized then that much of the exquisite work of the world is done under quiet light. I have looked at craftsmen all over the world, stood by their sides and realized, without benefit of meter, that the average skilled workman, left to his own resources, will seek quietness of light rather than glare.

Plato and Dante had at their left hand a meager light—not denied Shakespeare or Walt Whitman—although I am sure you illuminating engineers will have determined, by now, like the psychologists, that genius can only

have worked under x number of footcandles.

Now I am not being snooty, but I am sure that efficiency, as stated by most of us in these days, is measured in quantity-production terms rather than in quality results. Nowhere have I, after many years of reading your literature, found that there is any quality desiderata. What lasting results in human effort and human happiness have been achieved by your measurements or your learned experiments? Now, to many of us there is always a recurring question: whether or not our civilization is one only of the factory; all things, both material and mental, are considered as being capable of being massproduced; and therefore we have achieved finally a society which thinks that all its products are for sale and not necessarily designed for distinguished use.

Of course we have more light; of course we have more efficiency in production—yet I as a humanist say: Well, add it all up, and what have you achieved except more fatigue and more products produced and on the way to the waste-can? For the taste of our time can be expressed in the fact that never in the history of man

has the waste-can been so obviously filled.

Now, I claim no real knowledge either as a scientist, or more important, as an ophthalmologist or a physiologist, but I think good lighting finally will find its answers not in engineering nor invention possibilities, but rather in its primary effects upon human happiness. And I will deny that there is any true physiological happiness in the same assembly-line process repeated again and again, although perfectly lighted in measured footcandles.

Now I am tired, as a humanist, of so-called scientists who show illustrations of glare and light and who publicize their results in the press. And, believe me, that while I do question the results, I do not dislike the men nor question either their sincerity or the majesty of their studies. I merely question the applications.

For example, recently, I picked up a pamphlet entitled "The Meaning and Magic of Windows," and the first thing I discovered was the north side of the Education Building in Rio, with this note near the illustrations: "Above: close-up of recessed windows of the Ministry of Education and Public Health, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Completed in 1943; fixed concrete

piers at sides and at top and bottom of each window protecting against direct sun at various hours of the day and year while permitting a flood of natural light to enter all portions of the building." Now this is not so, for no one lives on this side of the building and, on the contrary, the device does not permit light to enter all parts of the building but engenders deep gloom. Even the other side, where people live, is 24-hour-conditioned by venetian blinds. I, myself, before seeing the buildings at Rio, designed a louvred front-and this with the background of experience in Trinidad in 1940, and I am frankly concerned as to the quality of light I may have given my clients. The same scientific publication shows the false picture often published of two different kinds of window lighting for the same room; which, in one, supposedly shows a terrible loss of thirty footcandles. Recently the same illustration was used to accompany a fine job of scientific research in climate control to show the supposedly devastating glare of the old-fashioned window arrangement. I say, regardless of the author or others, that this is pure nonsense, because at no time has it been proven that nine footcandles —the horrible residue—is not sufficient or more beneficial to the work to be done there—in that room.

Years ago, in fact in 1922, Basset Jones, my partner Stephen Voorhees and myself, made a study of daylight office space, and came to similar conclusions, namely, that the individual who can adjust himself by moving about does not need as much light as one who has a general task to do and who probably needs a higher degree of illumination. Fatigue comes from a fixation of task, a lack of interest, and, according to the famous Western Electric test, not to light. In other words, production, if you think of quality alone, can be better increased by enlarging the team spirit than by giving more, or strangely enough, less footcandles.

I have lately followed the advice of Dr. Gertrude Rand and never travel in the rear of a railroad coach or Pullman, because of the line of glaring light which streams forward more persistently than do the streamliners themselves, and found that I read, during my commuting hours, with greater comfort.

About a year ago I traveled on the famous "Merchants' Express." I have traveled up and down on

this train all my life, but lately it has been streamlined and given the "new look." The old cars with their quiet dull colors, the great easy chairs, the just sufficient lighting (not too good, but on the other hand not too disturbing, and nevertheless adequate for reading or snoozing) has been replaced with bright shining colors, long lines of polished aluminum, a much too bright lighting-trough covered with Plexiglas running the length of the car; uncomfortable airplane chairs. too short in the seat, too high in the arms; glare everywhere, glinting at you, making you squint, all reflected finally in the long mirrorlike windows (this train is an evening express); or if you pull down the shades then you find a bright reflecting color. No escape anywhere from this industrial designer's nightmare, and of which he can proudly say he has used modern materials in a clean modern way, and has increased the footcandles into greater efficiency. I complained to my wife concerning this new discomfort added to my life. I traveled in that year well over 130,000 miles in the air alone and have some ideas of what a traveler wants to make him happy. I received this advice which I thought at first was "corny" but

later agreed to its sageness: "Why not," she said, "wear your sun glasses?" Recently she too has traveled on the "Merchants" and has added to this comment that perhaps the sun glasses might be doubled.

Nor are architects any better, for they seemingly love balls of light. Years ago in Berlin I went through a lighting-fixture shop and saw a line of fixtures designed by the Bauhaus with beautiful glass balls arranged singly and on cross arms; also on triangular frames, hanging suspended in rooms like miniature and unfriendly suns. asked for whom were these horrible lighting-fixtures designed, and was told that they were for housing projects, but that the poor had refused them and that they were now being sold to intellectuals. to relate, they are still being sold to that group-because recently in Detroit I noticed a room which has suspended against one of its walls a large ball of light. Now Chinese and Japanese lanterns hung in the starlight have a gala effect but, unfortunately, there are no stars indoors.

And I heard the great El Corbu say that the U. N. Building should have its major slab sides facing east and west, otherwise the occu-

pants would get tuberculosis. And, as now designed, no matter what happens to the U. N. itself, I am sure the bureaucracy—so greatly symbolized—will feel doubly happy to know that they are insured against that dread disease.

Nor do I think some of my scientific friends are of any real help, for a laboratory we designed, but whose lighting was entirely outside our responsibility, has metal ceilings with troffer lighting, making zebra patterns of light and dark, and, because the walls are an unfortunate green and the ceiling of bare aluminum, there mirrors a ghastly Adams-like ghostliness—you know the Adams who draws for *The New Yorker*.

I repeat I am not a scientist nor a medical student, but I still insist that lighting—artificial or daylight—must be given a wider kind of criticism than we now have. We have been sold too much on the quantities, and not on the basic reasons and the too-often-forgotten qualities.

Now, I am not so sure that if the humanist had his way he might not try to give the individual research worker the same flexibility of individual light sources that he has in gas, steam, inert gases, and all the other services at the bench level. He should be able to read quietly and take notes on relatively low levels and relax while doing so, and later raise the quantity anywhere for the specific and shortduration task.

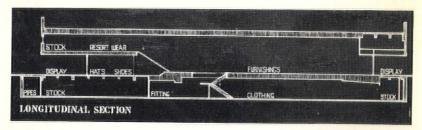
I am not sure, also, if I had all the money in the world, I would not in libraries give each individual reader his own intimate patch of light and one which would give him wide preference of intensity; and that in rooms lighted to achieve marked distance of mental perspective. For, with all the scientific experimentation in the world, I still wonder concerning the enormous results which the last generation or two has achieved and question, for example, just what footcandles did Whitney, Coolidge, and Langmuir work under at home and in their laboratories. When does Einstein work and under what light conditions? What quality of lighting does John Dewey use, or what window did Whitman work under?

You may light factories where the mass man works, and still have him run like hell when the day is nearly over. You may light mass children so that they don't squirm when they get a mass education which makes them, when they too grow up, run like hell from the job they will find—and long before the whistle blows. Or you can consciously try lighting with 100 or more footcandles to seduce people into thinking that mass-production work is worth doing—or can you? All we do, it seems to me, is set up conditions of high nervous light tension, which create more and more discontent.

Now, you may know I am not averse to seizing upon any medium which momentarily seems to fit the problem before me-egg crates, "saturn rings," Rambusch's down lights (here no plug intended), silver or plastic bowls, coffers and troffers-all to experiment with and all, of course, having their place, but I still do not know whether I should believe the lighting engineers-beyond the cost of wattage necessary to achieve any of these systems. Or should I go to my clients and say: if you make your space shallower, lower and nearer the ground, so that the "escape" windows look toward a planned vista, and spread the building over the land so as to give sufficient choice to the occupant, in the long run real economics may prove this latter idea to be more efficient. For, honestly, I believe there is being wasted today more human effort on bad artificial



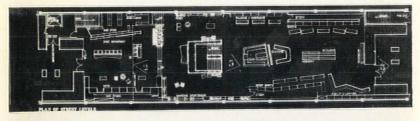
Award of Merit in the 1950 National Honor Awards Wallach's Clothing Store, Jamaica, N. Y. Ketchum, Gina & Sharp, architects

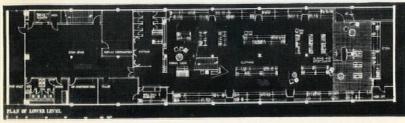


Journal The AIA



Wallach's Clothing Store, Jamaica, N. Y. Ketchum, Gina & Sharp, architects





Journal The AlA lighting because of bad land and building economics (this being recently followed neck and neck by air conditioning made more and more necessary by human-created deserts of brick and asphalt). To return for a moment to that building in Rio—it lifts its radiator-like character high into tropical heat and then wonders why simple

devices are not sufficient to get rid of the difficulty which it itself has created. Too often the choice in modern buildings lies in either having the venetian blinds slightly tilted or entirely closed.

I wonder, and I am surprised, but I still do not understand, what our so-called scientific world is trying to do with light.

A German Invasion in Reverse

By John A. Parker

HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING, UNIVERSITY
OF NORTH CAROLINA

In March of this year a group of eleven German trainees in city planning arrived at Chapel Hill for a four-month training program in American planning, conducted under the direction of the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of North Carolina.

Sponsored by the Department of State and the Office of the High Commissioner for Germany, the visiting trainees were one of several groups brought to this country as part of the reorientation program for the German people. Other groups in such fields as government, law, education and social science were placed at Harvard,

Bryn Mawr, Duke, Yale, Michigan, Chicago and California.

The members of the city-planning group were all trained as architects. Architectural education in Germany generally includes a course in city planning, but planning education as we know it in America has not been introduced in Germany. Approximately two-thirds of the group had had experience either in teaching planning, or working in planning or housing offices. The rest were private architects, interested in planning and housing.

They arrived a weary crew. A rough crossing on the boat, plus getting used to a different type of

diet, resulted in their being unable to undertake a full schedule at first. Their German G.I. clothes plus berets marked the group everywhere they went.

It wasn't long, however, before the inevitable transformation took place. Berets were regrettably put away, the local barber was put to work, and American clothes and sun tans were acquired. Within a few weeks the transformation was complete and the group was fully revived and ready to take on a full schedule.

The work at Chapel Hill consisted of two weeks of orientation in American Government, and eleven weeks of courses and seminars in American planning, urban planning methods and techniques, and housing, given by Hugh Pomeroy, Stuart Chapin, Jr., and Nicholas Demerath, respectively.

In addition to their regular course work the group collaborated with American students on developing plans for several cities, and undertook the translation into German of "Action for Cities" as a group project.

Special talks were given to the group by visiting authorities on planning and housing, such as Sam Zisman, Hans Blumenfeld, Coleman Woodbury, Catherine Bauer, William W. Wurster, Lewis Mumford, Howard Odum and Matthew Nowicki.

The last five weeks of the training period were spent visiting planning and housing agencies and projects in a number of cities. Two members of the group went to California during this period. The others visited Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Cincinnati, Knoxville, Charlottesville and New York.

The training period for three members of the group was extended to include six weeks' internship with the Philadelphia and Westchester County Planning Commissions.

The four-month program (which needless to say was much too short) was organized to give the Germans an insight into some of the city-planning practices and procedures in America which are either lacking or are being seriously neglected in Germany today.

In the summer of 1949, Sam Zisman, then Director of the Philadelphia Citizens' Council on City Planning, and Hans Blumenfeld of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission were called to Germany as consultants on city planning by the Office of the High

Commissioner for Germany. Their reports provided the basis for the Chapel Hill program.

The highlights of these reports were as follows: City planning in Germany is well established as a function of city government; there are able technicians at work; concern for design and for the threedimensional aspects of city building is well developed. At the same time the reports noted that planning offices are functioning pretty much "as usual." Abnormal conditions and opportunities brought about by the war are having very little effect on planning programs. Established priorities and longrange capital improvement programs are lacking. Churches, banks and public buildings are being rebuilt, while schools and desperately needed housing projects are being neglected.

The German trainees themselves reported the tendency, existing in a number of city-planning departments, to want to restore bombed-out areas rather than to take advantage of devastation to redevelop with a view to meeting present and future needs.

Zisman and Blumenfeld questioned current planning practices and attitudes on the part of officials in relation to the public. They urged more and better procedures in public reporting and publishing of plans, use of advisory committees, encouragement of local discussion of proposals, and development of public opinion and public concern on matters of city development.

With these excellent reports to guide us, the Chapel Hill program paid particular attention to the socio-economic aspects of housing, and to organization for housing at the federal, state and local level; to methods and techniques used in America for analyzing present and future traffic, circulation and landuse problems; and to procedures used in the establishment of priorities and capital improvement programs and in encouraging citizen participation in the planning process.

These matters were also given top priority during the travel period, during which the group heard about programs in planning, housing and architects' offices, and saw results.

Being of an average age of thirty years, the trainees had grown up under the Nazi regime and knew very little of other forms of government. As citizens under the Third Reich they had had little or no occasion to take part in civic affairs. Their education had been interrupted or postponed by long years of military service, and most of them were just beginning their professional careers.

Contrary to what we expected, they were a highly individualistic group. It was impossible to identify any quality they possessed in common that would differentiate them in any way from the same number of persons selected from different parts of this country with similar backgrounds.

The war in Korea broke out shortly before their departure from this country, and the group returned to Germany with heavy hearts—wondering how much time they would have to carry out their ideas for the revitalization of city planning in Germany.

Meanwhile the Office of the High Commissioner for Germany reports an active follow-up on the program. The Office maintains close contact with the trainees and encourages them to write and publish articles on their experiences in America.

The group was unanimous in expressing the opinion that the people they met and the friends they made in America were just as important to them as the training program

itself. Beginning with American roommates at Chapel Hill, they met and were entertained everywhere they went by architects, planners, municipal officials and interested citizens. Commenting on this aspect of his experience, one member of the group recently wrote to the American officials in Germany:

I was especially impressed by the free and hearty reception we had everywhere in the U. S. How old-fashioned and obsolete is the German conception of society! That is well known in America and one takes fun of the "Oberregierungsrat" and the "Frau Obermedizinalrat." But one only understands the actual tragicomics, if one has become acquainted with the free and human way of living overseas.*

There is no question in our minds as to the value of such a project. We need many more of them.

Professional Liability Insurance

For information of the profession, the original Master Policy A1-1097 of General Accident As-

^{*} Translation of report to the Office of Public Affairs, Office of the U. S. High Commissioner for Germany, by Claudius Coulin, Stuttgart, July 21, 1950.

surance Company, Ltd., was cancelled by agreement with that company on April 1, 1950. The American Institute of Architects does not act as Trustee under any policy of professional liability insurance. Renewals of former policies are being issued direct by G.A.A.C. without any participation by The Institute.

Ownership of Plans

The QUESTION OF OWNERSHIP of working drawings does not often arise in modern practice, perhaps because it is specifically stipulated in the A.I.A. General Conditions that all drawings, as instruments of service, belong to the architect. Nevertheless, the question sometimes is raised whether an architect has the right to destroy his original drawings, particularly when the storage of these has grown to a sizable problem.

John T. Carr Lowe, The Institute's Counsel, has this to say in the matter, however, in reply to a specific question:

"As between the architect and the owner, it is only a custom that the plans belong to the architect, and, unless otherwise agreed, the plans belong to the owner. The effect of getting away from the custom is shown in the Standard Documents, where it is specifically stated that the drawings, specification, etc., are the property of the architect. Such a contract state-

ment puts both parties on notice, so that the disposition of the papers after the work is completed is within the control of the architect.

"If your work was done without a formal contract, the plans are the property of the owner.

"If your work was done under a contract where the subject of the plans was not mentioned, the plans are the property of the owner.

"If your work was done under A.I.A. contract forms (or other like agreement) containing the mentioned provision, you own the plans and need refer to the owner only as a courtesy, if you wish to destroy them.

"In the first two groups above listed, if a time lapse of six years has occurred since the building was completed and occupied, it is my opinion that you would be safe in destroying the drawings.

"As a method of reducing your files you may want to offer the plans to present owners."



Architects Read and Write

Letters from readers—discussion, argumentative, corrective, even vituperative



WEST VIRGINIA'S OPEN HOUSE By C. E. SILLING, Charleston, W. Va.

ERTAIN WEST VIRGINIA ARCHITECTS propose a February 16-18 weekend at The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va. Emory Mick, his handsome redheaded gal, his banjo will be there. The wives of Pittsburgh's Schmertz and Stotz are coming. Their husbands may come also if accompanied by their inimitable music and stories. Others from Toledo through Pittsburgh to Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore through Virginia into the Carolinas have asked to be notified, and are herewith and hereby.

There will be no formal program; just you, your wife, a cocktail, maybe two—and your architectural friends. There is no head, no tail, no sponsorship. You are on your own. We just want to get

a little strange architectural money imported into West Virginia. Your money's worth is guaranteed by top resort facilities at nominal rates.

We have no way of reaching the architectural ladies so they will needle their husbands into coming unless it is publicized (and republicized) in the JOURNAL. And the ladies have asked to be notified.

There'll be singin' and dancin', decorous didoes, strictly C.O.D. by your own arrangements. Write The Greenbrier, reservations desk, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va. The dates are February 16-18, 1951. Note the winter rates: \$16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22.50 per person per day, lunch and dinner included (breakfast club or a la carte). Come one! Come all!

ARCHITECTS NO LONGER LOOK THE PART BY ALFRED BENDINER, Philadelphia, Pa.

I HAVE LONG NURSED A THEORY that the trouble with modern architecture is that it looks about as dull and impersonal as the architects themselves. If you will visit the National Gallery and look at the room of portraits of architects, you will note that the guys who had something to do with the architects.

ture of Washington looked like individuals.

Walker is beginning to look like a Federal Reserve eagle! It is a shame that Zorn is dead—he could have painted him, but the rest of the profession look like anybody else. I was brought up by Cret, and you must admit that he had a flare for doing a lot with little figure. Hood strutted around with some character, and Charlie Borie took great pains to doll himself up as if he just stepped out of Parliament. Zantzinger maintains his senatorial stance, and a couple of other characters around here made me feel that the architect was a public figure. (All persons herein mentioned are chosen as a compliment to their sartorial splendor.)

As I gazed with my caricaturist's eve over the gentlemen assembled to direct the affairs of The Institute, I took in enough characters to run a Continental Congress, but they all dressed exactly alike. don't know what to expect in this modern world, but the individual seems to have lost the flair for dressing himself like a character. Perhaps, the truth of the matter is that we have been so regimented in the last few years that anybody with character is scared to assert his independence.

Well-I guess I'll go out and buy myself a periwig!



News from the Educational Field

HARVARD UNIVERSITY'S Department of Landscape Architecture, in the Graduate School of Design, offers, to those eligible for admission as regular students, a scholarship with an income of \$600, applicable to the tuition fee.

MICHIGAN'S UNIVERSITY OF College of Architecture and Design announces the appointment of William Muschenheim, formerly of New York City, as Professor of Architecture; also, A. Benjamin Handler, educated in Canada

and London, as Associate Professor of Planning.

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECH-NOLOGY'S Department of Architecture announces the appointment as instructors in life drawing of Paul Wieghardt and Mrs. Wieghardt (known professionally as Nelli Bar, a sculptor).

The American Schools of ART at Fontainebleau will celebrate next year the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the schools by Walter Damrosch (Music, 1921) and Lloyd and Whitney Warren (Architecture, 1922).

NEW YORK CHAPTER, A.I.A., and the Board of Education of New York are sponsoring a circulating exhibition through high schools. Olindo L. Grossi, Chairman of the Department of Architecture, Pratt Institute, holder of the Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship last year, supervised the preparation of the display, which consists of models and charts of comparative living standards.

Calendar

December 1-2: Great Lakes Regional Seminar, Oliver Hotel, South Bend, Ind. Architects and their wives from Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois and Wisconsin are invited.

December 15: Closing date for the competition jointly sponsored by National Association of Home Builders and Architectural Forum.

January 21-25: 7th Annual Convention and Exposition of the National Association of Home Builders, Stevens and Congress Hotels, Chicago, Ill.

January 22-25: American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, Annual Meeting, Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia. January 22-26: 10th International Heating and Ventilating Exposition, Commercial Museum.

January 29-31: Annual meeting, Society of Architectural Historians, Statler Hotel, Washington, D. C.

February 16-18: West Virginia architects' weekend at the Green-

brier, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

May 8-11: 83rd Convention of The A.I.A. and Building Products Exhibit, Edgewater Beach Hotel, Chicago.

May 20-24: Annual Convention of the National Association of Building Owners and Managers, Rice Hotel, Houston, Tex.

September: Congress on Building Research, to be held during the Festival of Britain, London, with the purpose of reviewing the progress made in research in relation to architecture, building, and associated branches of civil engineering. Those interested in having further details may address The Organising Secretary, Building Research Station, Bucknalls Lane, Garston, Watford, Herts, England.

November 14-28: Building Exhibition, Olympia, London. For further details address the Managing Director, 4 Vernon Place,

London, W. C. 1.

Books & Bulletins

THE POTOMAC. By Frederick Gutheim. 446 pp. 53%" x 8". New York: 1949: Rinehart &

Co., Inc. \$4.

The "Rivers of America" books are well known, and "The Potomac" takes its place in the fore-front of this notable series. It is by our own Frederick Gutheim, and we are sure you would like it.

A GRAMMAR OF CHINESE LATTICE. By Daniel S. Dye. 470 pp. 6½" x 10". Cambridge: 1949: Harvard University Press. \$6.

A new, one-volume edition of a work first published in 1937, furnishing innumerable examples of the form of decorative art for which the Chinese have ever been famous.

PLAN YOUR HOUSE TO SUIT YOURSELF. By Tyler Stewart Rogers. 320 pp. 7" x 91/8". New York: 1950: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$3.95.

A revised and enlarged second edition of the excellent work first published in 1938. An admirable guide for the prospective client who doesn't yet know his own desires and family needs.

SWITZERLAND BUILDS. By G. E. Kidder Smith. 234 pp. 8½" x 11". New York: 1950: Albert Bonnier. \$7.50.

Under a grant of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, G. E. Kidder Smith has been able to bring together in text and his characteristically superb photographs a comprehensive record of what the Swiss have built in their past history and, particularly, in their present struggle for a freer application of their traditional forms.

THE POCKET BOOK OF GREEK ART. By Thomas Craven. 128 pp. 4½" x 6¾". New York: 1950: Pocket Books, Inc. 25¢. A hasty glance at Greek art, principally sculpture, with unusually good offset illustrations.

Gods and Goddesses in Art and Legend. By Herman J. Wechsler. 126 pp. 41/8" x 63/8". New York: 1950: Pocket Books, Inc. 25%.

With 64 illustrations from famous paintings, well reproduced at this small scale by offset—a convenient record check-list to substitute for, or supplement, a collection of prints.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE SOUTHWEST. By Trent E. Sanford. 324 pp. 6" x 9½". New York: 1950: W. W. Norton & Co., Inc. \$5.

Those who read Mr. Sanford's "On to Mexico" in the JOURNAL of February, 1949 will realize the treat they have in store in this sympathetic appreciation of our own Southwest.

JOURNAL OF THE A. I. A.

DIARY OF INDEPENDENCE HALL. By Harold Donaldson Eberlein and Cortlandt Van Dyke Hubbard. 385 pp. 5½" x 8¾". Philadelphia: 1948: J. B. Lippincott Co. \$3.50.

Diary is a fitting name for this compilation of contemporary records and personalized recollections of a national shrine. The humaninterest theme rather than the architectural is stressed.

ARCHITECTURE OF THE OLD TERRITORY. NORTHWEST By Rexford Newcomb. 290 83/4" x 111/4". Chicago: 1950: University of Chicago Press. \$20.

Professor Newcomb has turned his scholarly mind to a field not too well known-the early architecture of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and part of Minnesota. The architecture has been too long overshadowed by the greater richness of that of the East Coast.

PUBLIC HOUSING-LOS ANGELES AREA—ANALYSIS AND REPORT -May 1950. By the Housing Research Council of Southern California. 124 pp. 81/2" x 11". Los Angeles: 1950: Housing Research Council of Southern California.

The findings of a voluntary collaborative effort on the part of engineers, architects. landscape architects and other technicians to improve housing, particularly in the Pacific Coast region.

"Ten Books on Architecture"

PROFESSOR MARION ROSS'S article in the November issue, under the above title, was mysteriously shorn of a paragraph, without which he discussed nine books instead of ten. With deep apologies for the omission, here is the missing paragraph.

Two other books of widely different nature appeared in the late nineteen-twenties that have influenced contemporary thought on "The Architect in architecture. History" by Martin S. Briggs (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1927) concerns the status of the architect in society in the history of the West. This would be interesting in any case as the number of attempts to study the position of the architect has been very limited, but in this book we have an exceptionally attractive and well-documented account. The chapter on the architect in nineteenth-century England has special claim to our interest. We are able to see the appearance of the architect as business man as well as designer and the effect of the industrial revolution on the profession.



The Editor's Asides

THOSE WHO MAY HAVE BEEN WONDERING, these many years, what was wrong with Harvard now have their answer. For something over three hundred years, the student in any branch of the arts has not been permitted to sketch from nude female models in the life classes. Plaster casts, yes; bowls of fruit, yes; male gladiators, yes; but nude women, No!

On October 27, 1950, the faculty of Harvard's Fine Arts Department broke down and removed the ban.

IN ANOTHER COLUMN of this issue is a little piece about what you can do with old workingdrawings, assuming that they are cluttering up the place. The University of Illinois and the Art Institute of Chicago, between them, have the opposite idea—that some working-drawings ought to be preserved, and with honor. Their plan is to microfilm such drawings and other documents that tell the story of development of the "Chicago School" of architecture-the pioneer efforts of such men as William Le Baron Jenney, Louis Sullivan, Daniel H. Burnham, John W. Root and Frank Lloyd Wright. Architectural archives in the Burnham Library of the Art Institute could well record, in convenient microfilm, the historic documents that made possible the transfer of creative thought to brick, concrete and steel in a significant period of American architecture.

ALTHOUGH unquestionably it is hard to see the forest for the trees, are we in the midst of a period of transition which will eventually see the end of lumber sawed from logs? The staggering figures representing our nation's use of lumber would argue otherwise. Yet, the synthetic board industry has many of the earmarks of growth such as might have been recorded a generation ago by the motor industry and more recently by radio and television. We cannot long ignore the facts that a board made of wood waste and modern resins, with precision machinery, is not only a better building material but helps to conserve our forest resources. Looking at what is going on about us in the building industry, it is not unlikely that the house of 1975 or 2000 will have all structural parts man-made, reserving to its more favored rooms a wall finish of the texture and pattern that only nature can produce, in veneers of beautiful woods.

SAD NEWS FROM VATICAN CITY: you can no longer lie flat on your back to see Michelangelo's ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. It's not nearly so satisfying to squint at it through a hand mirror.

THOSE FEW CHAPTERS which have explored the possibilities of local radio projects feel that too many chapters are missing a good bet. Oklahoma Chapter was given fifteen minutes a week during June, July, August and September. On each occasion a different architect carried on an informal discussion with one or two stooges, explaining some architectural problem that was then engaging his attention, or talking of what a recent bond issue was going to do for the community, or in some other way getting across to the public the little-known functions of the architect.

Having thus sampled the water at the edge of the pool, the Oklahoma Chapter plunged right in, and is now sponsoring a series of twenty radio programs of the story type, to be heard over thirteen stations in the state.

If you are thinking of using this handy tool in public relations work, get someone to write the script who knows the technique. It will sound corny to you, but a scholarly lecture on architecture, such as you might like to give, would have the dials tuning it out after the first two sentences.

NEW YORK'S MANHATTAN, like the little red hen, has a great many troubles. The latest one, apparently, is the threatened loss of her middle-income class. They are being driven out of the Borough of Manhattan because they can't afford to live there. What seems to be happening is that the city's few houses and many apartments are priced for the very rich and for those lower-income bracket folks who live in subsidized public housing. The middle-income family is on its way to the hinterland. The cheapest privately financed shelter. even in very large projects, cannot be built and maintained at a rental rate less than \$35 per room per month. If the project is smaller and the rooms a trifle larger, the monthly rent must be \$60 a room.

Well, here's another push in the direction of decentralization.



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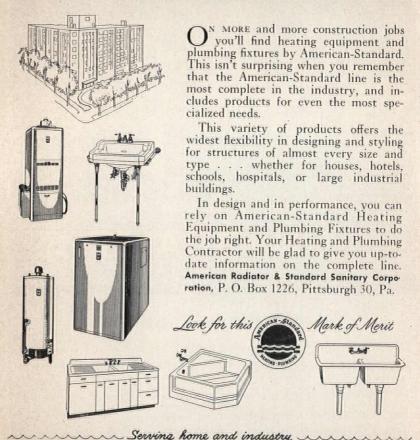
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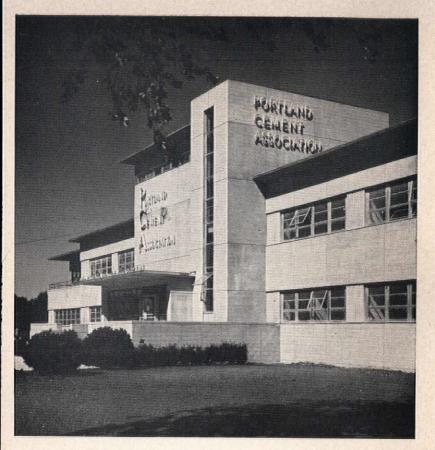
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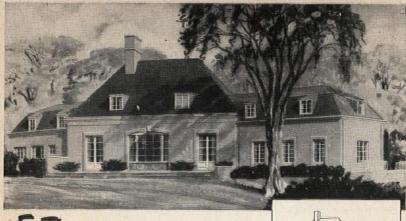


Architectural Concrete

lends itself equally well to imposing modern structures like the Portland Cement Association's new research laboratory near Chicago (above) or to classic or Gothic. Architectural concrete produces enduring and majestic edifices of any size, style or design when the simple and time-tested principles of quality concrete construction are followed.

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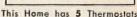
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Illustrated above is the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Lynde Selden, Field Point Park, Greenwich, Connecticut. Architects: W. Stuart Thompson & Phelps Bornum, New York City. Engineers: Leslie A. Hoffman Associates, Bridgeport, Connecticut.



(3)

- (1) In the Living-Dining Area
- 2 In the Sleeping Area
- ③ In the Kitchen-Service Area
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