Museum 0974

# ARCHITECT



\* A glossary of abbreviations of Government Departments and Societies and Committees of all kinds, together with their full address and telephone numbers. The glossary is published in two parts—A to Ig one week, Ih to Z the next. In all cases where the town is not mentioned the word LONDON is implicit in the address.

standard

contents

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every issue does not necessarily contain all these contents, but they are the regular features which continually recur

and COMMENT NEWS

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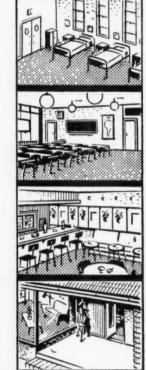


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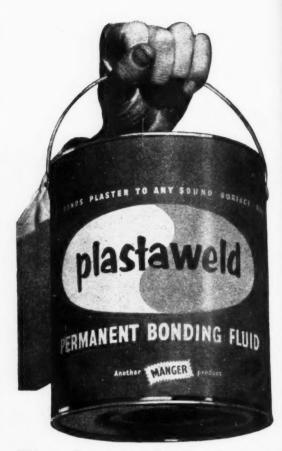
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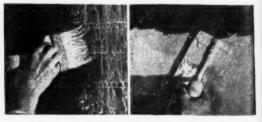
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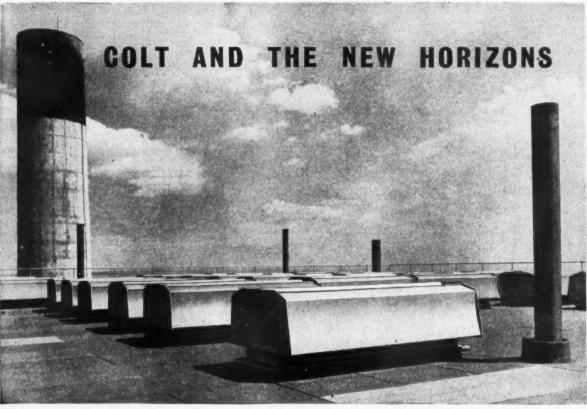
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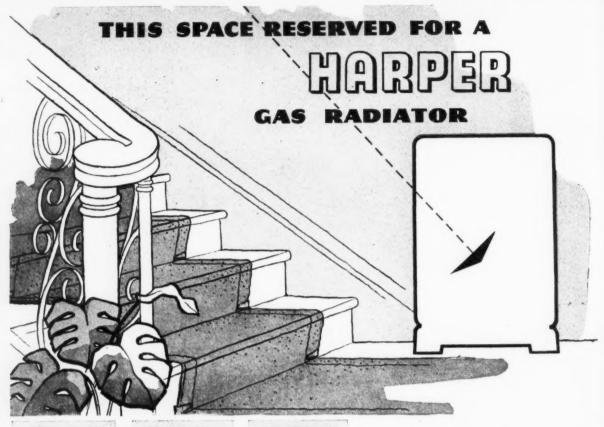
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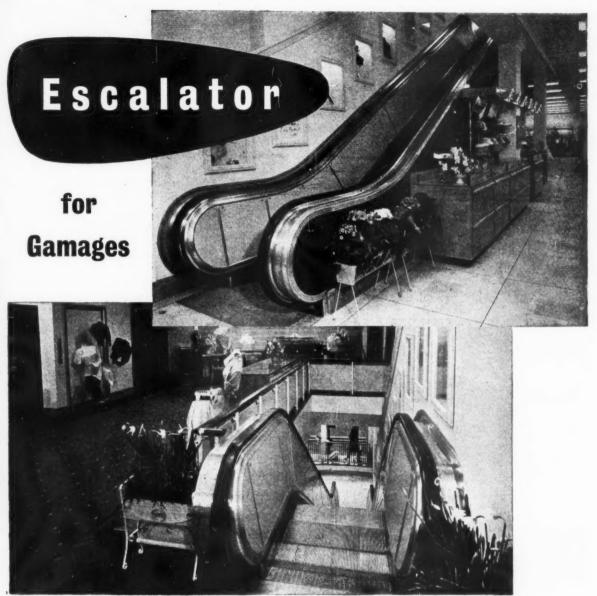
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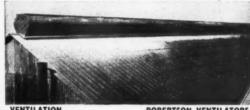
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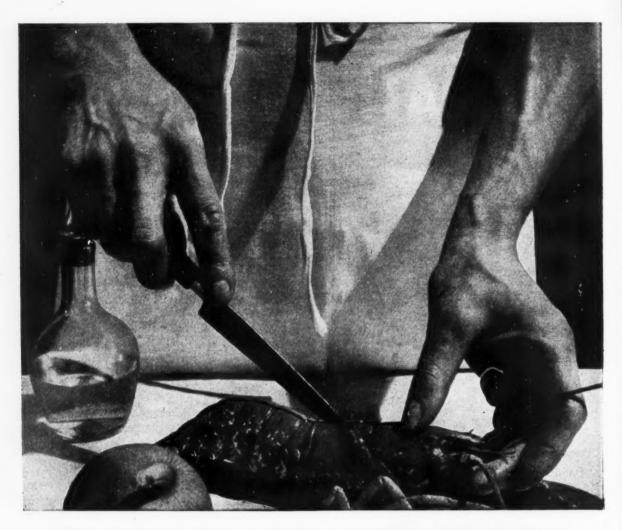
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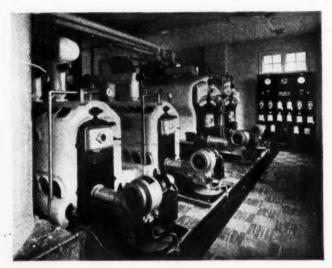
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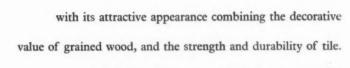
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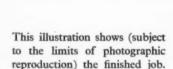


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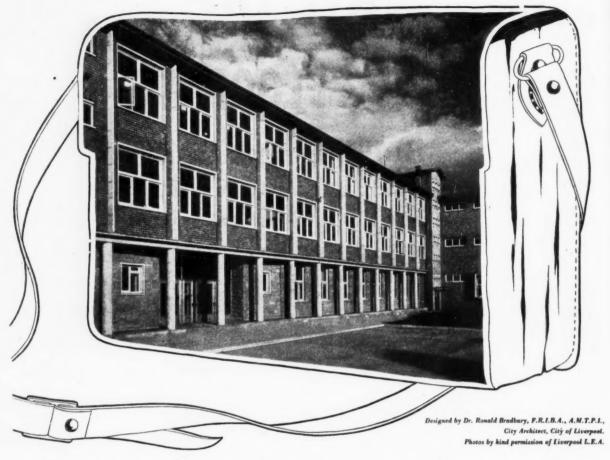
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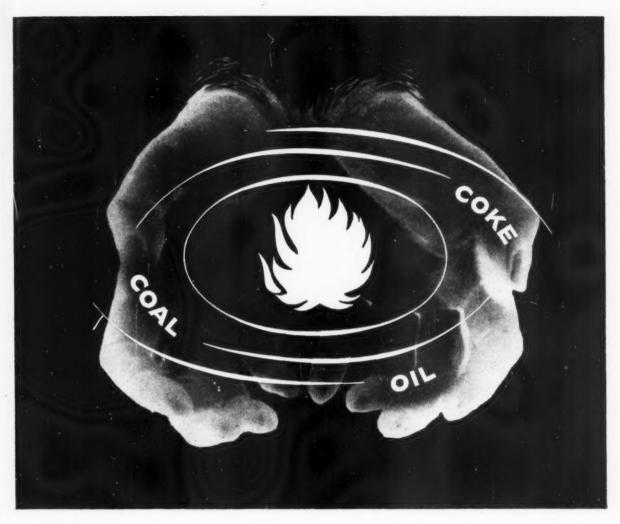
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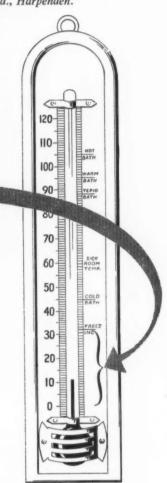
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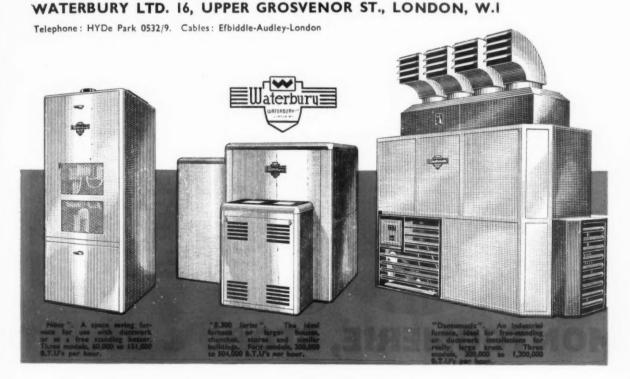
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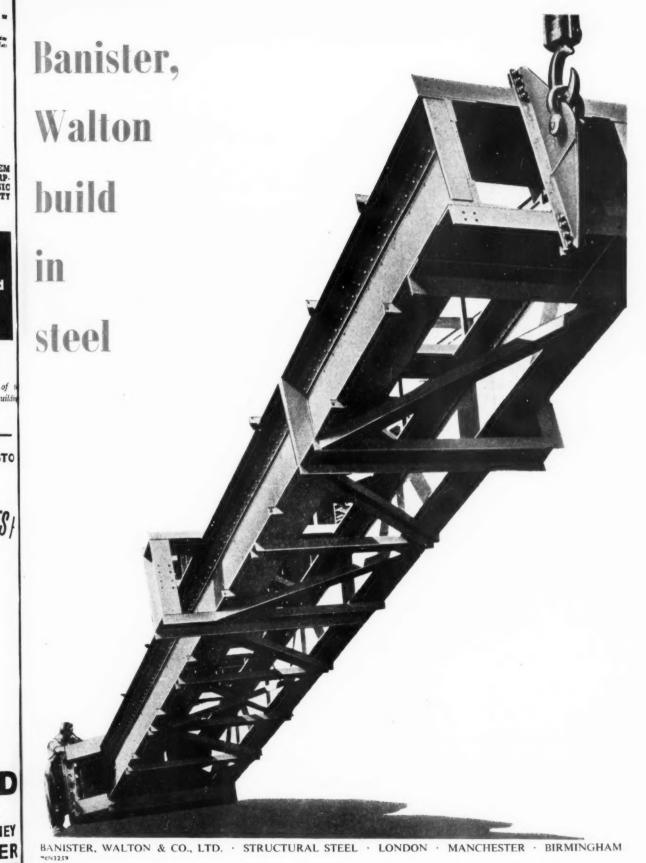
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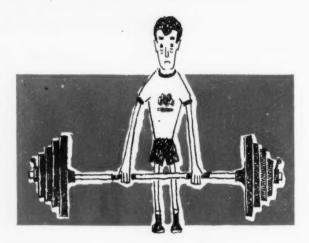
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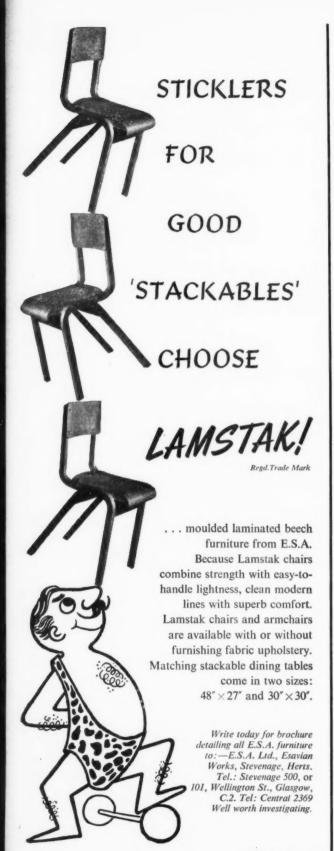
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NOT QUITE ARCHITECTURE

#### ALLOWAY AND AFTER

"This," said the inevitable smart-Alec, gesturing at the modern-type art-works on the walls of the O'Hana Gallery, "should have been called Abstract Art since HE got his hands on it." No one doubted whom he was HE-ing at! In this context it could only mean Lawrence Alloway, deputy-director of the ICA, le Cocteau de nos Jours, and ring-master of the abstract circus.

The man Alloway is a phenomenon; sawedoff, dapper (in the Charing Cross mode), with his ginger nut cropped close to the bone, a wit like a slasher's razor, and a conversational range from Martin (K) and Lewis (D), the well-known abstractionists, to Martin (D) and Lewis (J), the celebrated comics. Out of a whole generation of junior pundits raised in that nursery of promise, Art News and Review, he is not merely the most likely to succeed, but has. The job at the ICA might have been made for him-he certainly made for it, like a man sighting a well in the desert. Oil-well, of course. He had already given proof of his quality as a prospector, and like his contemporaries in the mineral field, revealed himself a techman, not an intuitive. Whereas previous discoverers of deposits of abstract art had reported back in gushers of metaphysical ebullience, Alloway's introduction to Nine Abstract Artists (published in 1954) was a prime example of a "cold sell," with footnotes instead of fervour, erudition instead of enthusiasm.

Which was hardly surprising, since the

# Nibble-Planning In Westminster

The proposed new office block on the island site, nos. 1-19 Victoria Street, London, S.W.I, was designed by Ronald Fieldoriginal proposal was for two blocks in echelon, one of end of 6 storeys. At the suggestion of the Royal Fine Art Commission the tall block was reduced to 11 storeys, and the reduction of the taller block to 8 storeys and the lower block to 6. The lost floor space was partly regained by the addition some 50 ft. from the Victoria Street frontage, with the aim sunk some 12 ft. below pavement level, bridged at ground questionable whether there is anything to be gained by the out Victoria Street diminishes the surprise when the Abbey 14 storeys nearer Westminster Abbey and one at the western lower block increased to 7 storeys. The LCC requested the is now before the LCC. The taller block will be set back lower ground floors will be set in a paved and planted plaza access will be from the rear under the projecting arm of the setback at the eastern end of the Victoria Street corridor, as the projecting buildings of Great Sanctuary obscure the view of the lower part of the Abbey in any case, and opening suddenly comes into view. The successive compromises imposed by the RFAC and the LCC have nearly eliminated astonishing, moreover, that nibbling at individual schemes should be considered an adequate substitute in Westminster other sites are ripe for redevelopment, and it is not (one of a spur to the south of the taller block. This scheme, left, or the detailed study made of the precinct of St. Paul's. hopes) too late to reconsider the design of the new Colonial The new block will be the third new building in the area, Office (3). But, bit by bit, the chance for effective civic design following Monsanto House (1) and the Tothill Press (2); ing for the Legal and General Assurance Society Ltd. of opening up the view of the Abbey from the West. the contrast between the heights of the two blocks. floor level to give the main pedestrian access. T-block to a sub-basement garage for 174 cars. in the Abbey precinct is being lost.

Vehicular

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opinions which he personally holds are pretty antipathetic to the kind of art that is usually thought of as abstract, and although he has bent the movement slightly to his will by his advocacy of actionmainting, his operative connection with most of it depends less on a chummy community of ideas than on his qualities as a PRO, his ability to keep abstract in front of the public nose.

Ouite apart from the book which made a movement out of a mess, Alloway has put articles on key men (Pasmore, McHale) in foreign periodicals, staged discussions, written articles, catalogue notes, prefaces, and organized or helped organize exhibitions-which brings us back to the show at the O'Hana.

precinct is being

Under the catch-critic title of Dimensions, it presents a catch-all cross-section of the abstract circus, from entrenched provincial academics to men so far out they aren't even on a limb. Even if you wouldn't break your neck to see such a show, be prepared to give an arm and a leg for a copy of the catalogue. Not only is its typography for the birds, but its text is something like the ultimate cold sell, at its most elaborate and most frigid. Nowhere does it say that Abstract is a good thing, merely that it is current. It aims, it claims, "to organize some of the relevant facts so that their potentialities for communication can be realized," and then takes care not to realize them. It lists the kinds of pictures that are in the exhibition, and sets out, in imitation of Wittgenstein's Tractatus, the topics that might have been discussed if the text had discussed them. It offers a bibliography so dispassionate that it includes even a spee-h by Ove Arup that proved to be the hardest knocking that English Abstract ever received, and a chronology that gives equal weight to events that vary from the epochmaking to the sociable.

Indeed, when it solemnly records the date in 1951 when Pasmore managed to scrounge a book whose contents were already fairly common knowledge, the cold sell has become so cool that a mean-minded abstractionist might suspect that he was having his square leg pulled. But even so, he might think twice about quitting the circus, for while the larger luminaries in it could be sure of getting attention, anyhow, many of the feebler talents are only visible by the light they pick up from the first-magnitude stars, and you have to stand close enough to reflect.

So even though he might hanker after warmer tones and an occasional valuejudgment, your well-briefed abstractionist will stay in the act, and Alloway can be sure of remaining Mr. Abstract until such time as he cares to break it up.

REYNER BANHAM

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#### The Editors

#### ROCK 'N' ROLL BUILDING CATCHES ON

THE economies to be derived from bulk ordering have long been known, if not always practised to an extent, and on a scale, which produced the best advantages from it. This week we announce, however, on page 947, a scheme of collaboration which may have far-reaching effects and which amply demonstrates the continual advances being made by local authorities in their educational building programmes. Derbyshire, Durham, Glamorgan, Nottinghamshire and the West Riding-all counties affected by mining subsidence—have decided to collaborate in order to develop school building programmes which will save the money spent on precautions against mining subsidence, and to get better value for the money spent on schools by collectively negotiating with manufacturers and suppliers. As there are now thirtyone schools in the programme, valued at £2,867,000, the scope of any collective negotiation which leads to economies can be visualized. The system of building which these authorities have adopted (and Leicester City and Warwickshire may eventually join in-they are at present trying out the system on one school each) will be familiar to readers; it was described in the JOURNAL of October 10. Its use amongst a number of authorities will lead, we hope, to its rapid full development and refinement. These authorities and their chief architects merit encouragement and congratulations on their joint action to combat difficult local conditions and inflating costs. It is to be hoped that other authorities will follow their example.

#### COMPREHENSIVE OR SELECTIVE?

The interesting letter from local government architects appearing on page 946 opens new subjects for discussion on the involved subject of salaried architects. The issue which has now to be decided by the membership of the RIBA is whether it is worth pursuing the ideal of one omnipotent organization to look after the interests of all salaried architects (and at this point most architects think longingly of the medical profession and the tough-talking BMA, and forget how different the conditions are for doctors, the bulk of whom have only one,

national, employer) or whether to concentrate on supporting existing, or producing new, relatively specialized, organizations to deal with specific problems. The immediate issue is whether to form a local government architects' society which, by joining with the other professions, might make progress within the clearly defined field of local government.

The architects who write advocating a more comprehensive society, have, in fact, rather over-simplified the position, for they have ignored the existing organizations, such as the IPĆS, and they say nothing about the National Coal Board, the Hospital Boards and Railways, all of which have their own kind of negotiating machinery. It would be a mastermind indeed that could knit all these differing interests, each with it's own entrenched negotiating machinery, into a working and workable set-up.

However attractive it may seem to that indefatigable idealist, the architect, to say: "a plague on all your houses, let us start afresh and let the RIBA lead," it is probable that no such easy, all-embracing solution exists. The alternative is all too likely to be hard and diligent slogging, putting to rights a dozen different organizations. Not so glamorous an answer, maybe, but more realistic.



BOTTOM DOG

Hugh Molson should think again on the question of the Director-General of Works. He has allowed himself to be guided by the administrators into a most dangerous reversal of policy. When no suitable candidate came forward as successor to Sir Charles Mole it was announced that an administrator—an Under-Secretary—would take on the job as a non-professional manager "for the time being." The implication was that continued efforts would be made to find a qualified man for the biggest job in the building industry. But Mr. Molson has now said: "I do not see any reason to suppose that things will not be extremely well administered by the official whom I have appointed as general manager." In other words, the new appointment is permanent, not temporary.

When Anthony Greenwood quoted the JOURNAL, Mr. Molson rubbed the point in by saying "this is an administrative job. There is no need at all for a general manager to have professional qualifications." One can only ask why, if there is no need for the Director-General to have professional qualifications, the job was entrusted to an architect for many vears, and why the Ministry itself advertised for a professionally qualified man? Once again the administrators have got their way, and put the technically qualified man in what they believe to be his right place in the Civil Service-bottom dog.

PENNY WISE

A very odd situation concerning Carlton House Terrace also came to light in the House last week, when Mr. Peyton complained that it presented an appearance of "seedy decay." Mr. Molson said he hoped that it would be possible to repaint the Mall façade in the next financial year, "but that depends on whether money is available." This means, ASTRAGAL learns, that the Ministry of Works thinks it ought to be repainted, but is not yet sure whether the Treasury will pay for it. Either the Mall façade should be repainted next year or it should not: and if it needs to be repainted, the Treasury should pay up. If it does not, in a few years we shall no doubt hear, once more, that Carlton House Terrace is falling to pieces.

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#### COMPETITION AT HAMPSTEAD?

In Hampstead, ASTRAGAL is glad to note, public opinion has forced the Planning Committee to instruct the town clerk to investigate the possibilities of open and closed competitions for the Civic Centre. As readers of this column will remember. the Committee rejected the idea of a competition several months ago, and decided to select an architect. When the Committee got bogged down in a controversy between those who wanted a traditional (meaning, apparently, a neo-Georgian) Civic Centre and those who wanted a modern one, it tried to pass the buck to the Council by asking it to choose the style of architecture it wanted. Then, fearing a public discussion in which the architects' names would be revealed, it drew back at the last moment. The large number of letters in the local Press has reflected a strong preference for a modern building, and the Planning Committee's decision to investigate the possibilities of a competition suggests that the neo-Georgians are on the run.

Since, as one Hampstead architect has pointed out in the Press, Hampstead had some claims to being "a nursery of modern architecture" before the war, and is said to have more architects to the square mile than anywhere else in the country, it should not relapse into neo-Georgianism at a moment when modern architecture has largely won its battle.

#### PLASTER STRUCTURES

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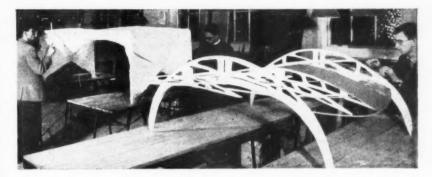
Well-trodden trails of plaster on the AA floors towards the end of last term enabled ASTRAGAL to track down one of the best enterprises in teaching structures he has seen since Paul Ritter pioneered the idea (in this country at any rate) at Nottingham a couple of years ago. The programme, for firstyear students, was a form-and-structure exercise devised by the Danish engineer Nils Lisborg, year-master John Dennys, and art-master Myers. It is part of the AA's new way of teaching structure: no calculations or formulæ in the first year, lots of demonstrations, exercises and models. This particular programme called for a bridge or shelter of not less than 6-ft. span, to be made of plaster or cardboard with string reinforcement, and capable of carrying three links.

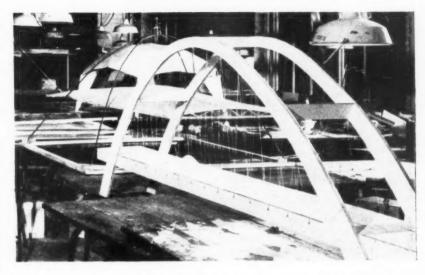
The photographs show the rather weird vaults and bridges which were evolved. The programme expressed the hope that a few of the structures would collapse, as an indication that the students were not lacking in adventurousness. ASTRAGAL'S informant poked at a few of the thinner-looking efforts with his umbrella, and slipped a furtive extra brick here and there, but when he left no ominous rumblings drowned the sound of Ove Arup, enthusiastically critting at the other end of the studio.

ASTRAGAL hopes that this intriguing programme will not now be discarded—as most school programmes are—but will be retained and improved on next year. But what is needed, surely, is the introduction of factors which will impart more reality to the whole exercise? The amount of labour and materials which goes into each design should be announced, and the students should be compelled to programme their work.

#### BACK TO THE OLD ADAM

The Courtauld Institute recently gave a suitably elegant party to top people in the artistic and academic world (and a few select members of the Press, including ASTRAGAL) to unveil the restored splendours of their Etruscan Room. You hardly need to be reminded that Home House (where the Courtauld is at present based) is the most intact of all Adam's London town-houses, but much of the original decor has been painted out or toned





Vaults and bridges at the AA, built as part of the new programme for teaching structure. See note on left.

down. Two years ago the great stairwell was put back to more or less its original condition, and now two of the smaller rooms on the first floor have been completed, of which the most recently finished is that "in the Etruscan taste."

The effect is extremely striking. The terra-cotta and black, with old-master coloured painted panels, and reliefs in dead-white on a near-white background should give pause to those who think of the Adam style as a bit too pretty.

Home House, by the way, is open on weekdays during the vacation, and if you are in the Selfridge's area, step through into Portman Square and have a look, because the house, and the Courtauld pictures which it contains, are one of London's forgotten treasures.

#### HOW LONG?

"How much longer must the designs of architects be hampered by illinformed, untrained local councillors?" That question was asked by David Stern in our letters column two weeks ago. I have since heard some more appalling stories of delays caused by lay committees, and one architect, Dennis Berry, has ended a letter (page 946) which recounts stories of this kind with a constructive suggestion worth repeating.

"I believe," he says, "that the RIBA should take a more active interest in this. A committee could be formed within the RIBA to whom details of such obstruction and prejudice could be referred. They would then place these before the MOHLG, with sufficient pressure to ensure that recommendations and even directives would be sent to the local authority concerned. This would probably ease the delay and the public money involved in many appeals."

Well, why not?

ASTRAGAL

#### LETTERS

9 Registered Architects

Dennis Berry, A.R.I.B.A.

Peter P. Krasucki

Anthony Pott, A.R.I.B.A., Chief Architect, MOE

#### We Want A Salaried Architects' Association

Sir - We would welcome and support an Association of Salaried Registered Architects (ASRA) which is long overdue.

Naturally, the decision to form such an association should be subject to a majority vote of all salaried registered architects. is considered essential for the association to be suitably constituted to include mem-bers from private practice offices as well local government offices, otherwise the profession will become hopelessly divided.

The Association of Salaried Registered Architects' field of interest should not be limited to salary. It should be prepared to discuss and pass advisory resolutions on all aspects dealing with the salaried architect's work, protecting his status as a professional man, and improving the quality of service offered by him in return for public trust.

As an example we suggest the following items as suitable for discussion:—

- 1. The recognition of assistant architects' work in published articles.
- Courses for assistant architects on subjects peculiar to their professional service in local government.
- The recognition by local authorities of such courses and exhibitions, by grant-ing leave and paid expenses to attend.
- Exchange visits between offices.
- Standard information from offices advertising appointments.
- 6. Publication of individual and joint research within the association.
- The revision and standardization of the nomenclature of assistant architects.
- Representation to the Inland Revenue for proper and standard allowances.
- 9. Salary negotiations.
- 10. Working hours, and overtime.

There is already sufficient evidence of support to commence an immediate and realistic approach. We therefore suggest the following action, leaving further discussion to take place within the Association of Salaried Registered Architects:—

- The RIBA should organize the prelimi-nary work immediately and provide necessary finances, pending the proper formation of the association.
- 2. That a vote of support be obtained from all Salaried Registered Architects.
- That a general meeting of Salaried Registered Architects be held at the RIBA some time in January, 1958.
- That offices should send at least one Salaried Registered Architect to represent his colleagues.

The meeting would then decide by vote the proposed structure of the association, selecting their committee members and passing instructions for the committees to proceed with their work.

We suggest that the association would work satisfactorily under the following struc-

1. Joint policy committee—having 24 members—12 members being from local government offices and 12 members from private practice offices.

2. Local government general committeesix members from local government offices. Local government salaried negotiation committee-six members from local government offices.

Private practice general committee-six members from private practice offices. Private practice salaried negotiation committee -six members from riivate practice offices.

We consider that a structure of this kind would provide cohesion within the association, and at the same time allow both private practice and local government members freedom to settle their own affairs, and subsequently follow through their separate channels of negotiations. In this manner it is accepted that local government members should be affiliated to NALGO.

Assistant architects should remember that they alone of all other professions em-ployed in local government have not formed an association and we, the undersigned, strongly support the Association of Salaried Registered Architects immediate formation.

P. G. LOUTSIS, D. CLARK, C. D. OGDEN, G. S. COOPER, H. BONWICK, S. F. BALDWIN, H. H. CHAN, R. ASHLEY, D. F. RICHARDS. (Registered Architects in County Borough Councils.)

#### Another Job For The RIBA

SIR,-When David Stern asks "For how much longer must the designs of architects be hampered by ill-informed, untrained local councillors . . . ?" he speaks for most

If reviewed objectively, the situation is quite incredible and without parallel in any other profession.

That a qualified architect should be required to submit his work for approval to a committee of lay people can have any of three results: 1. the work is so mediocre and indistinguishable from the speculative builders' standard that it will probably be approved; 2. the work is modern and therefore unfamiliar and is probably rejected; the committee is composed of enlightened, unprejudiced people of good taste, when good modern design will pass. The last possibility is funny and the first doesn't bear discussion. In the second case, however, if the architect is still young

and keen he can appeal. But this takes time, and very few clients are willing, or able, to play,

It has been my experience that many local authorities are aware of this and deliberately obstruct by using "legitimate" delaying tactics to enforce their authority. I have an appeal now pending where the local authority refused an outline application for the development of a site with a house. The date of my initial application e 3. The drawings were returned later as I had omitted to sign was June 3. days them. During a telephone call on the same day, I was asked to submit a sketch of the proposed elevation. I pointed out that I only wanted outline approval, and the house was not yet designed. A month later I was told that detailed consideration of my application was deferred pending the receipt of an elevational sketch. Following my protest at this waste of time, one week later I was asked for a verbal description of the proposed house; was it to be traditional or modern, flat or pitched roof. replied that I could not see how this affected the basic issue as to whether the site could be developed for housing or not. On September 6, I received the refusal on the grounds . . . that the site is made up ground, and there is no main drainage available! It took three months to refuse application, on grounds which

acknowledged, viz., made up ground, and the need for special foundations, in my initial application.

I could also quote the case of a house I could also quote the case of a house which has since been illustrated in three architectural journals and three books. Planning approval was only granted after prolonged argument and finally, the threat of an appeal.

Another house was finally approved and built, but only after the Local Authority had asked for two extensions of time whilst they appealed to the local panel of architects, who approved the design, and the County Planning Authority, who similarly

These examples are so commonplace that the situation is accepted as normal. client retaining an architect, in good faith, to design a house for him runs the risk of becoming embroiled in this process of vacillation and delay. He cannot understand why we as a profession tolerate the position. If he goes straight to a builder, chances are that approvals will be obtained automatically. This is a terrible

indictment of ourselves.

I believe that the RIBA should take a more active interest in this. A committee could be formed within the RIBA, to whom details of such obstruction and prejudice could be referred. They would then place these before the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, with sufficient pressure to ensure that recommendations and even directives would be sent to the local authority concerned. This would probably ease the delay and the public money in-volved in many appeals.

Cannot something be done?

London

DENNIS BERRY.

#### No Verve?

SIR,-I am surprised and angry at the lack of your usual verve and the mild, if any, criticism of the Enfield Civic Centre winning designs.

Years of study and practical experience of the winners and the assessor can only offer us a "traditional style effort," which degrades the dignity of the civic centre and

architecture to a building which, putting it politely, could be anything, anywhere.

The traditional style is not a virtue, but a poor and guilty excuse for the barbaric refusal of recognizing and accepting the inequirable process. inevitable progress.

If your Journal does not encourage the Young Angry Architect to fight this chronic architectural inertia, who will?

London.

PETER P. KRASUCKI.

#### Study Bedrooms

SIR,-I should like to refer to the letter in your issue of December 12 from C. G. Stillman about the size of study bedrooms in training college hostels.

It is true that the Ministry approved of study bedrooms of 160 sq. ft. for the Maria Grey Training College and of 120 sq. ft. for the second college quoted. It is also true that at the times when these projects were approved (1953 and 1955 respectively) the Ministry's views were undecided about the best size for study bedrooms. Since then it has been possible to take stock of various experiments which local authorities and voluntary bodies have carried out and to publish certain conclusions. These are contained in Building Bulletin No. 15, which was published in February last. This recommended that study bedrooms of at least 140 sq. ft. should be provided out of a total (not allowing for common rooms and dining facilities) of 200 or 220 sq. ft., depending respectively upon whether the design is in two-storey terraces or multi-storey blocks. ANTHONY POTT.



#### RIBA

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#### Representations Made About MOW Director-General

The President of the RIBA, Kenneth Cross, has made representations to the MOW and the Chancellor of the Exchequer about the decision not to appoint an architect as successor to Sir Charles Mole, F.R.J.B.A. (see our leader on November 28). Mr. Cross pointed out the necessity of having an architect in charge of the Department of State, which is directly responsible for most of the government's architectural work.

#### Prizes

The award of prizes and studentships at the RIBA will take place on January 7, at

#### Holiday Lectures

Goutran Goulden will give the Christmas holiday lectures for boys and girls on January 2 and 3 at 3 p.m. The title of these lectures, for which admission is free, is "Other People's Houses."

#### South African Architecture

An exhibition of South African architecture is to be presented at the RIBA in April. It is being prepared by the Faculty of Architecture of the Witwatersrand University, under the supervision of the Dean of the Faculty, Professor J. Fassler. It is being financed by the Department of External Affairs and will be brought to this country by the office of the High Commissioner for South Africa. The exhibition aims to show the best work from all over the Union and has the backing of the Institute of South African Architects and the various provincial institutes.

The Danish architectural exhibition, scheduled for next year, has been cancelled.

#### Symposium on Design for Teaching Laboratories

A symposium on the design of teaching laboratories in universities and technical colleges will be held at the RIBA on March 14, under the chairmanship of Sir Keith Murray, chairman of the University Grants Committee. The object of the symposium is to bring together science

teachers and architects to exchange ideas and opinions on the kind of accommodation needed for the teaching of science subjects in universities and technical colleges. The discussion will be led for the teachers

The discussion will be led for the teachers by Sir Eric Ashby, vice-chancellor of the Queen's University, Belfast, and Dr. S. R. Sparkes, of Imperial College of Science and Technology, and for the architects by Maxwell Fry and G. Grenfell Baines.

They will review current practice in the teaching of science subjects, discuss some of the anxieties which are arising from the rapid increase in the number of students enrolling for degree and diploma courses, and examine the problem of providing more laboratory space for less money. W. H. Pritchard, of Courtaulds Ltd., will talk about recent developments in materials suitable for finishes in laboratories, and in able for finishes in laboratories, and in methods of providing the required services.

The symposium will begin at 2.15 p.m. There will be a break for tea at 5 o'clock; discussion will be resumed at 6 p.m., and is expected to last until approximately 8.15

Tickets will be one guinea each, and will include tea and a printed report of the proceedings, which will be published after the meeting.

the meeting.

Tickets at 10s. each will be available to the first 50 students RIBA to apply before March 1. Applications for tickets should be addressed to the Secretary, RIBA, and marked "symposium" on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

#### LOCAL AUTHORITIES...

#### . . . To Control Building System

A group of local authorities, consisting of Derbyshire, Durham, Glamorgan, Nottinghamshire, and the West Riding of Yorkshire County Councils, and the Coventry City Council, have decided to collaborate in order to sponsor and control a system of building with the following objects:—

(a) To save the money being spent on precautions against mining subsidence.

(b) To get better value for the money being spent on new schools by collectively negotiating with manufacturers and suppliers on the basis of a big building programme. In addition to the authorities mentioned above, Leicester City Council and Warwickshire County Council have decided to cooperate by each building one school in this system of building. They will share in all the results and advantages of the work of the Consortium, but until the number of schools which they are building in this way has increased they are not being asked to devote time or personnel to the running of devote time or personnel to the running of the scheme.

the scheme.

The number of schools in the programme at the moment is 31, representing a total value of £2.867,000. The local authorities have decided to adopt a pre-fabricated system of building using standard components which can be assembled to design schools of all types to suit an infinite variety of site conditions. This system of construction has special advantages for sites affected by mining subsidence but can also be used with equal benefit on normal sites. be used with equal benefit on normal sites. The co-ordination of architectural work within the Consortium will be in the hands of a board of chief architects which will hold periodic meetings at the offices of each authority in turn. Representatives of the other chief officers such as clerks, education officers and treasurers will also attend these meetings where necessary. The day to day work of designing the schemes in the Consortium programme will be carried out in the normal way by each authority's architects. A Working Party has also been set up so that architects and quantity surveyors

from each Authority can meet, at frequent intervals, to discuss technical problems and to co-ordinate the bulk requirements of their Authority's projects in the Consortium's building programme. The Chief Officers' building programme. The Chief Officers' board will agree which elements should be the subject of collaboration and which will better lend themselves to local manufacturing and purchasing arrangements. Where bulk purchase is agreed, one member will negotiate on behalf of all the members for

this particular element.

It is envisaged that quotations on a unit price basis will be obtained and that the conprice basis will be obtained and that the contractual arrangements with the successful tenderer will mean that in consideration of actual orders being placed by individual Authorities for individual projects at the times and in the quantities covered by the Consortium arrangements, the manufacturer will supply the items at the unit price which has been agreed. The appointment of the general contractor for their own programme of jobs, will be at the discretion of each general contractor for their own programme of jobs, will be at the discretion of each member of the Consortium acting through their ordinary Committee structure. The approval of the arrangements put forward by the Chief Architects' Board will be dealt with individually by the Authorities concerned, in accordance with their normal practice.

#### HYDE PARK CORNER

#### Second Thoughts

Harold Watkinson, the Minister of Transport, has now had second thoughts on the Hyde Park Corner underpass. When the Park Lane Improvement Bill was debated Park Lane Improvement Bill was debated in the Commons before the recess, the most strongly criticized feature was the proposal to provide in the first instance only for a single lane of traffic in each direction through the underpass. Subsequently the Minister said in a parliamentary answer that he had been much impressed by the strong support for the construction now of both tunnels, to provide two lanes of traffic in each direction, and had decided to consult the LCC.

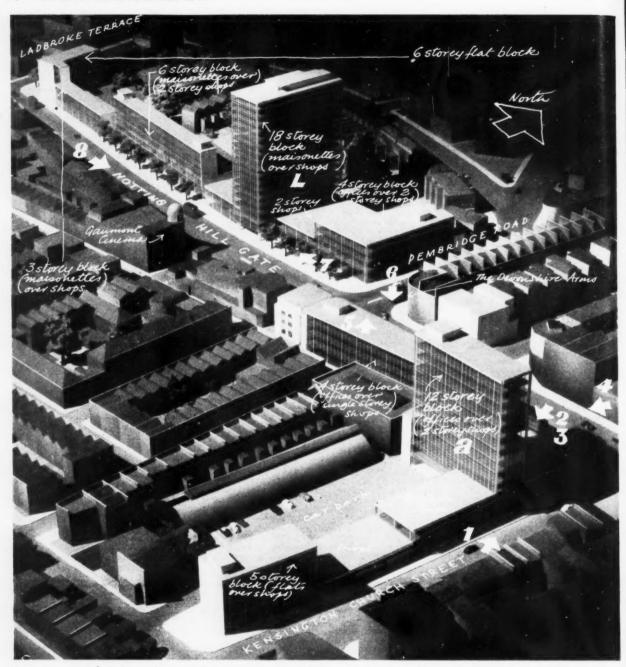
Very severe criticisms of the Hyde Park Corner proposals were made by Anthony Greenwood in the House of Commons debate on the Park Lane Improvement Bill.

Mr. Greenwood's thesis was that a wonderful and imaginative scheme originally proposed by the London County Council had been spoiled by financial economies and by

posed by the London County Council had been spoiled by financial economies and by the insistence on preserving a processional way. It was, he said, a great pity that with a wonderful opportunity for landscaping and proper planning we should have a rather prim and prissy and neatly clipped grass site, presumably with notices saying that walking on the grass was strictly forbidden. There could have been a magnificent scheme There could have been a magnificent scheme if real imagination had been allowed to be shown—a combination of the trees which are at present part of the Green Park with water and paved areas. As for the processional route, Mr. Greenwood thought it would have been more in keeping with the times if the processional way went round the

times if the processional way went round the square.

But, if the island had been treated as a paved area instead of with the grass that the Minister's budget dictated, a processional way could have wound its way across the paved areas of the site without it being obviously a processional way. Mr. Nugent, the Parliamentary Secretary for Transport, replied that nothing had yet been settled about the islands. The LCC's ideas had not been turned down, and the final layout would be settled between the LCC, the RFAC and the Ministry. For the treatment of the various spaces, railings, structures and so on £450.000 was being reserved, and the House could be assured that the intention and the resources were there to see that tion and the resources were there to see that the visual effect was all it should be.



Numbered arrows on the model show the viewpoints of the drawings in the article which follows, and the letters a and L mark the two tall blocks which will dominate the area.

#### TOWNSCAPE PREVIEW

Kenneth Browne

A street-level investigation into some of the visual implications of the Notting Hill Gate re-development scheme

The model above, exhibited recently at Kensington Town Hall, shows in block form the future development of Notting Hill Gate. The LCC rightly attaches some importance to recreating this busy area, always cosmopolitan in character with its wealth of pubs and cafés—no architectural masterpieces but plenty of life.

The model, which is all we have to go on at the

moment, is purely diagrammatic and is intended as such. It is a guide to the placing of the masses and to the number of floors, but not necessarily to the architectural character. For instance, it gives the impression of a uniform overall curtain walling treatment to all the buildings, regardless of their difference in function, and it is unlikely that such a treatment is the architect's intention. Even if it were possible, it would result in an

overall dullness, especially as the form of the corridor street has had to be maintained.

To judge from the model, the main feature of the

scheme visually is the placing of two tall slab blocks at right angles to each other on either side of the main road and these, seen together, will act as a landmark to pin-point the area as one of importance when approached from either Marble Arch or Shepherd's Bush. What is so misleading about an architectural street model, though attractive in itself, is that it gives the observer the view he is most unlikely ever to be in a position to appreciate, i.e. the air view. Although in the street, the eye-level things are those which most affect us and add up to a feeling of "place," they are the things so often neglected.

With this in mind, an attempt is made in these pages to visualize what this particular scheme may look like from the viewpoint that matters; that of the man in the street; to visualize it as townscape, the new Notting Hill Gate and pick out a few of its more important aspects and problems.

There is the need to give variety, movement, and colour and at the same time to provide pleasant places to rest between bouts of shopping, places where you can enjoy a coffee or a pint and watch other people; in other words, to do everything possible to prevent the feeling of being sucked through a monotonous corridor of a street with no temptation to resist.

#### 1. Junction and Transparency

The junction of the 12-storey office block a and the 2-storey shops below b. presents a visual problem often badly handled. If the face of the tall block is kept back from that of the shops, from the foreshortened street level the high building will give a feeling of crushing into the low one. Probably the best solution is to keep the faces in line and to let the supports of the tall block be seen. The transparency of the corner building c is an important townscape point here as it takes the eye through to the important developments round the

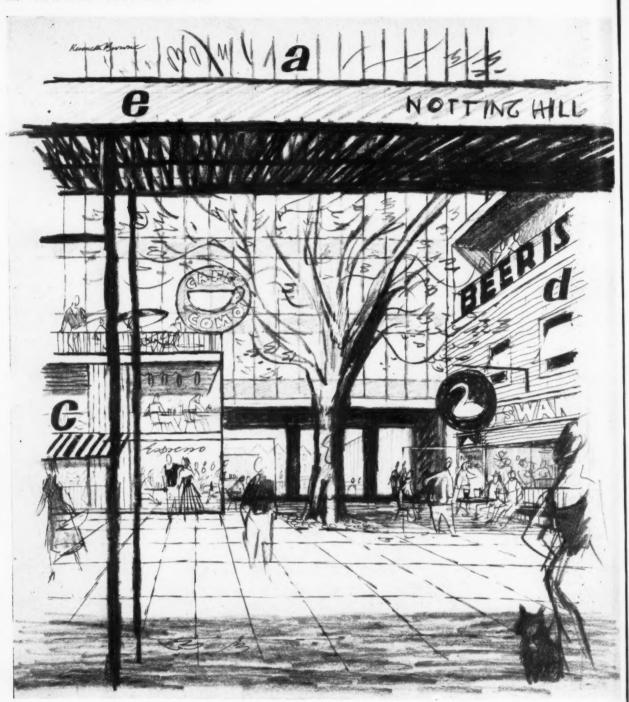


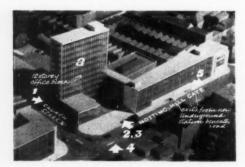
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#### 2. Pedestrian Enclosure

Having turned the corner, a 50-ft. wide pavement at this spot, plus the enclosure provided by the tall office block **a** (an excellent backdrop), the transparent corner building **c** and the link block **d**, could make this the heart of the whole area, especially if the paving is taken back into the space between **c** and **d** with a fine tree as a feature. This is one of the two outdoor places in the scheme which lends itself to sitting down, having a drink and resting your feet. The more invitation there is (pub **d**, cafe **c**) the better. A pedestrian canopy at the curb **e** would complete the visual sense of enclosure and contain the site.

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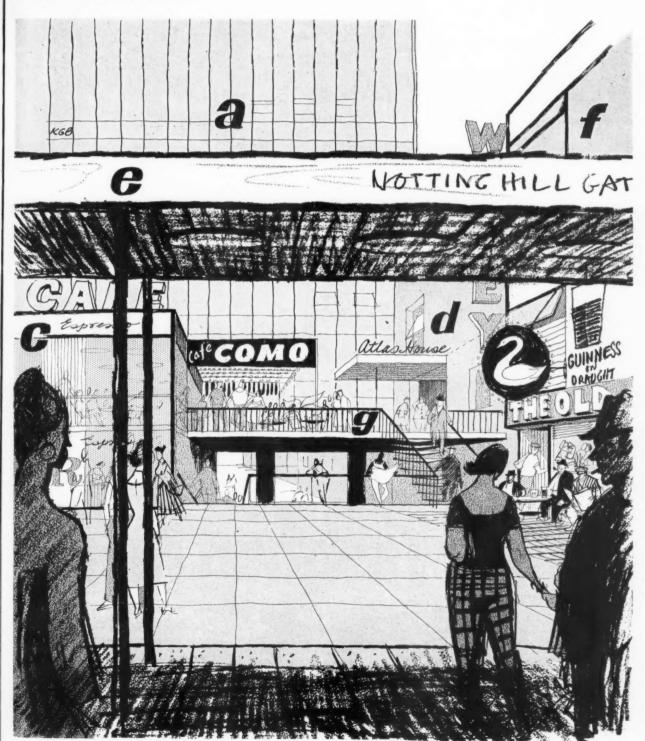
#### 3. Pedestrian Enclosure (alternative)

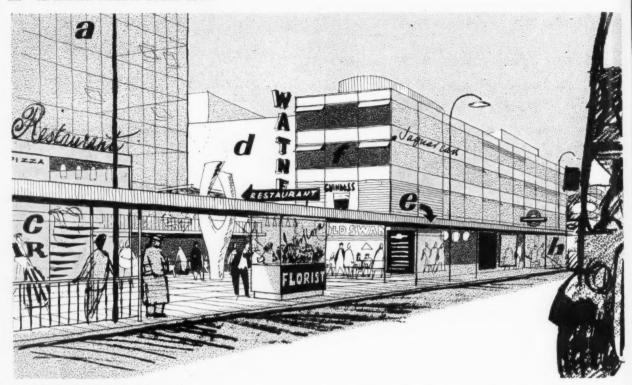
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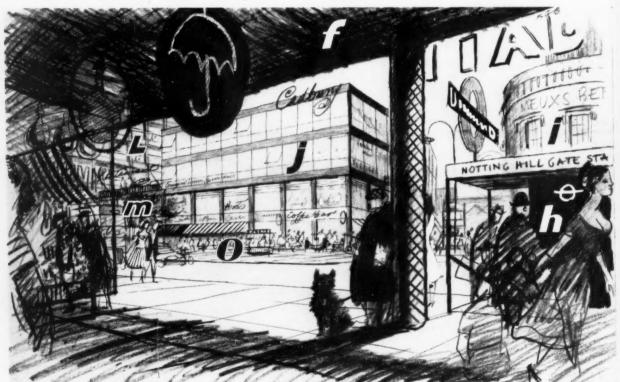
If, as seems likely, the problem of servicing the shops requires vehicle access at a lower level under the link **d** and connecting with the car park behind the tall block **a**, the pedestrian space between **c** and **d** should not be sacrificed but merely jacked up to become a platform **g**. This would provide an interesting change of levels, an overflow from the cafe **c** with an excellent vantage point, and also street entrance to the office block through the link **d**. The pub is now shown in the end of block **f** (see **4**, over).





#### 4. Pedestrian Link

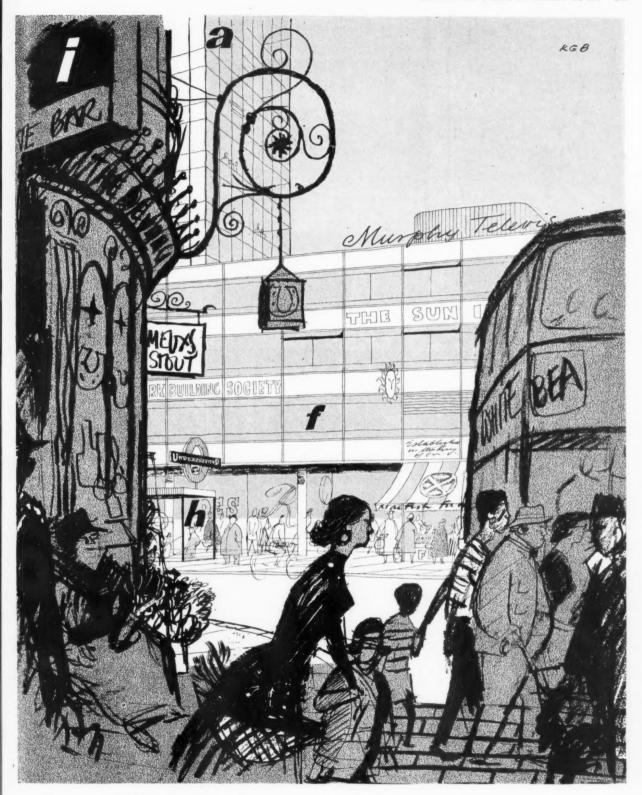
A pedestrian canopy **e**, already mentioned, could be used to define this pedestrian territory and act as a transparent barrier to protect him visually from the traffic. It could be a continuation of the canopy over the exits from the new Underground station **h** and could contain and control all the paraphernalia, such as barriers, lamp-posts, paper bins, bus stops, etc., also flower kiosks, newspaper stalls and posters.



#### 5. View from Enclosure

View from the shopping arcade under office block **f**, showing exit from to Underground station **h** and, across the road, offices over 2-storey shops **j** with 40-ft. pavement **o** in front forming second

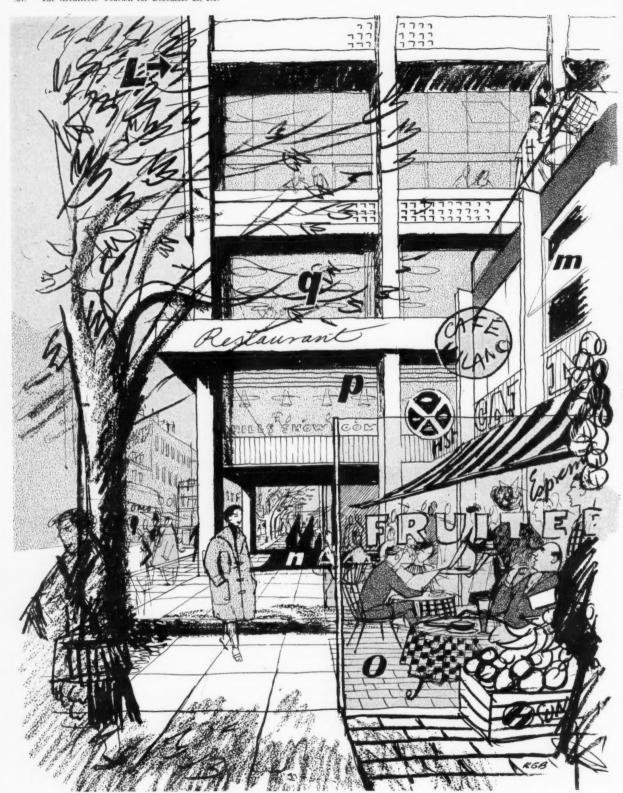
pedestrian area where you can sit out and enjoy watching the crowd. The existing Devonshire Arms pub 1 on right. A roof garden restaurant above 2-storey shops is shown at m to which tall maisonette block L forms a background.



#### 6. Sharawaggi

all

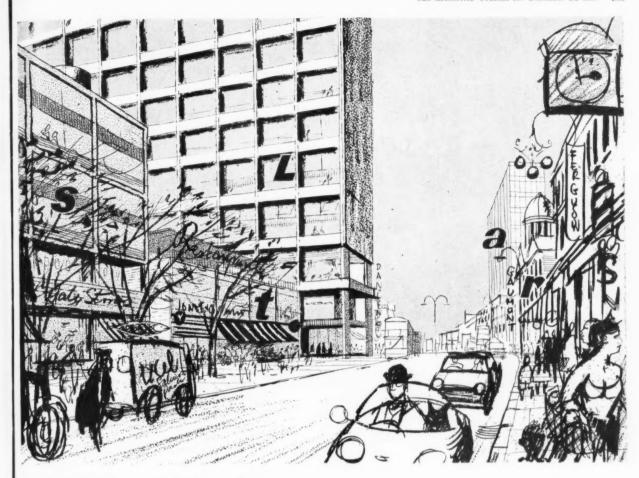
One of the many interesting contrasts of old and new building: the ornate detail of the Devonshire Arms i finding a foil in the smooth curtain wall facade of the 4-storey block f (3-storey offices over shops) opposite. A horizontal emphasis to the treatment of the latter would contrast well with a vertical treatment in the tall office block a. The colour of the curtain wall panels is important. Too often they are garish and there is a lot to be said for sticking to white, grey, black and getting the colour with things which change, such as posters, sunblinds and people.



#### 7. Tunnelled View

This should be one of the most interesting parts of the new Notting Hill Gate, where the 18-storey maisonette block comes down at right angles to the pavement and assists in breaking the corridor feeling of the street. The view through under this building **n** is most important, guiding the eye on to the next, tree-lined, area of the site. This tall (176 ft.) block has showrooms on first floor **p** and a restaurant on second floor **q** which could be connected to an open-air extension on the roof of the 2-storey shops **m** (see also 5). At ground level the 40-ft. pavement **o** gives ample opportunity for outdoor eating.

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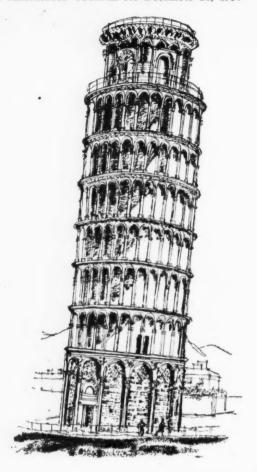


#### 8. Character and Transition

A difficult problem throughout will be to give essential variety and interest to the street by expressing the function of the various blocks (e.g. maisonette high block **L** expressed as cellular structure of 2-storey high units in contrast to office block **a** expressed as a curtain walled structure of identical single-storey units) whilst at the same time relating them in character and effecting satisfactory transition between them. This view looking back from beyond maisonette block **L** shows 6-storey block **S** (4-storeys of maisonettes over 2 storey shops), 2 storey shops **t**, maisonette block **L** and across the street beyond the old Gaumont Theatre **r** the tall office block **a**.

This development, first described in the JOURNAL for October 24, 1957, results from a LCC road-widening scheme and the replacement by London Transport of two existing Underground stations (Central and District-Inner Circle on opposite sides of the road) by a single station under the road with exits on both sides. The architects for the redevelopment of the sites are Messrs. Cotton, Ballard & Blow, acting on behalf of two private development companies. Most of the demolition work has been carried out, but no rebuilding has yet started above ground.

It is indeed unfortunate that the scheme has had to be restricted to the replacement of buildings demolished in the road-widening scheme with no attempt to penetrate or open out at right angles to the street. Presumably this is for financial reasons outside the scope of this article but the result is another corridor street. Even so, success or failure will depend very largely on the way this 600 yds. of streetscape is handled; architecture, street furniture and floorscape. It can be as dead as mutton or full of life.



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CONSOLIDATION TEST

This apparatus is used to estimate the amount of settlement of a structure on clay soils.



INDEX PROPERTIES
OF SOILS

The illustration shows apparatus used to provide information on the state of materials in the field and to assess their probable behaviour under various conditions. Another vital factor when considering foundation engineering.

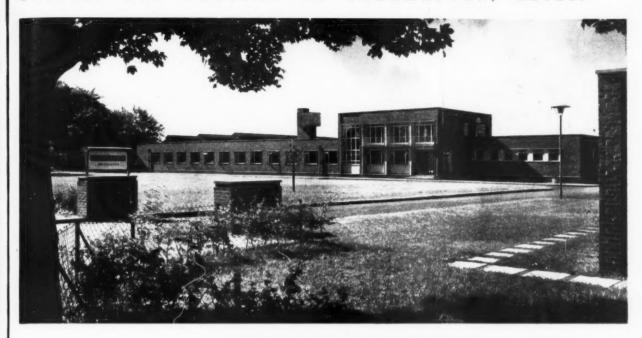
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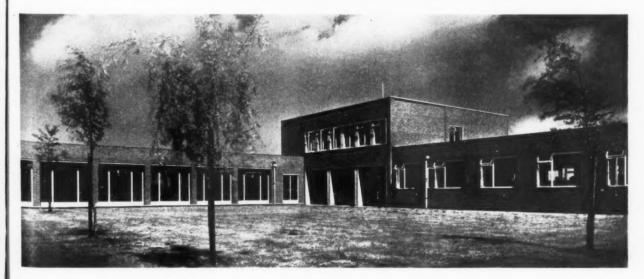
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#### OFFICES AND FACTORY AT THURMASTON, LEICS.



The new offices for Dallow Lambert & Co., at Thurmaston, Leicester, were designed by Brian O'Rorke. The illustrations show, above, the road elevation of the office block, right, the drawing office, and below the office block from the internal grass courtyard. The clients required 18,500 sq. ft. of office space and 29,500 sq. ft. of factory space, with room for early expansion, a garage block and caretaker's cottage. To allow for expansion the offices had to be planned on the road frontage, with a north aspect. The grassed court between the factory and the offices gives the latter a







ARCHITECT: C. H. Thurston, Esq., L.R.I.B.A., F.R.I.C.S., County Architect, 25, Thorpe Road, Norwich.

CONTRACTORS: Oliver Staines & Son, Station Street,

For the prevention of rising dampness in the floors of the above hostel, the County Architect specified the inclusion of 4% of 'PUDLO' Brand waterproofer to the cement in a 1.2.4. mix. The finishing screed I" to  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " thick was finished with various patent floor tiles.

'PUDLO' Brand waterproofer, of the same composition, was also specified in the reinforced waterproofed concrete floor to the boiler house, and in the 2 to 1 waterproofed cement rendering to the walls of this structure. Write for the latest booklet containing specifications for all cement waterproofing work.



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#### OFFICES AND FACTORY AT THURMASTON: continued



sunny outlook and reduces noise from the factory, above. A canteen, below, opens on to the garden court, divided by a mobile partition, one end being used by factory and the other by office staff. All internal partitioning is clear glazing, giving a pleasant open atmosphere and a sense of "all working together" which was specially asked for by the clients. The glass area in the office windows has been limited deliberately, as it was felt that the present fashion for continuous large glass areas has many practical and aesthetic disadvantages. The offices have load bearing piers in mass concrete, brick facings and internal steel columns, and are designed so that an additional storey can be added. The factory is steel framed, external walls in "no fines" concrete rendered both sides, Tyrolean finish externally. The whole site has been cleared, graded and planted with grass; belts of trees have been planted on the south, east and west sides, with ornamental trees in the internal courtyard.





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#### **BOOK REVIEW**

#### Sweet Are The Uses of Advertisement

H. T. Cadbury-Brown wrote the following review of "Workplace for Learning," by Lawrence B. Perkins.

This book was commissioned by the Libby-Owens-Ford Glass Company and sells for the remarkably low price (by American standards) of \$4 or 30s, in this country. The "work places" illustrated are all designed by the firm of Perkins and Will and executed by themselves or in association with other distinguished architects. You might suspect, therefore, that the book was an advertisement and you would be right. It advertises both an important glass company and a famous firm of architects.

But in these days of prestige publicity one cannot draw a hard and fest line between pleasure and profit, or scientific information and trade literature. Fact and fiction are often so subtly fused that it is difficult to distinguish one from the other. And when the result is a work of art it is pointless to try. The Shell Guides were perhaps the best example of good advertisement combined with intelligent patronage. London Passenger Transport Board posters under Frank Pick were a close second. To succeed, the advertiser must exercise an almost inhuman degree of restraint. In this case the name of the sponsors appears only on the first page and the illustrations are not necessarily confined to buildings using their products. It is fair to say that one is never consciously aware that one is reading a book financed and perhaps subsidized by a powerful commercial enterprise.

The selection of illustrations limited to the work of a single firm of architects was a happy decision, though the excuse may appear somewhat naive. "We felt compelled" writes Larry Perkins" to use only examples of works in which the exact purpose and intended effect were known to us. These, of necessity, had to be our own, regardless of how far or how often these works may have fallen short of their goals or have been surpassed by others." What he has succeeded in doing is to put on the market a 63-page anthology of beautiful photographs of some of his most distinguished schools with just enough text to provide continuity and a coherent theme. The presentation, photography and letterpress are a delight and the book is both a pleasure to skim through and to possess as a record of an architect's successful penetration and subjugation of the black-board jungle.

It is a struggle that has been going on for two generations in the Perkins family. Larry is the son of Dwight Perkins who, in 1905, was appointed architect to the Chicago Board of Education. His mother was Lucy Fitch Perkins, author and illustrator of famous story books for children. With this background, and his own hobbies of sailing and farming, one cannot help feeling that it is no accident that Perkins brings a breadth of vision and experience and a warm humanity to all that he handles. These qualities are irresistibly conveyed by every page of this book and one is arrested, charmed and finally won over by one of America's most sympathetic personalities.





if there's a floor in the contract...





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#### THE INDUSTRY

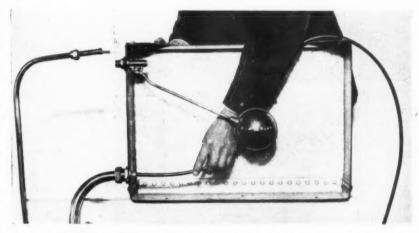
This week Brian Grant describes a new anti-frost device, luminous ceilings and two new gas cookers.

Preventing frost damage

From time to time these notes have reported electrical and other devices for preventing damage by frost. One answer, of course, is to use polythene pipe, which appears to withstand the expansion due to freezing water without bursting, but with existing systems the problem is more difficult. The Mechtrical anti-burst system, distributed in this country by Bourners, of Supatap fame, seems to offer a sensible approach, for it allows the pipes to freeze, but prevents them from bursting. This is done by inserting lengths of small diameter plastic tube in any water pipe liable to freeze, the plastic tube, and the air inside it, being sufficiently compressible to take care of the expansion when the water freezes. To insert the plastic tube, the joints of the existing pipework are disconnected, and one end of the plastic tube is plugged, after which it is fed into the water pipe until it reaches the tap or ball valve. It is then cut to length and the free end plugged, for it is, of course, vital to prevent water from getting into the plastic tube and destroying its ability to be compressed. Plugs with small rings on the end are provided for use at the ball valve end of the tube to avoid the danger of the small valve hole being fouled by the tube, and plugs with stainless steel spring stops are used at the top of vertical runs of pipe to stop the tube from settling. Two sizes of tube are produced, the smaller for ½-in. pipe, the larger for ¼-in. or larger. Prices in coils are 6d. and 9d. per oot. (F. H. Bourner & Co. (Engineers) Ltd., Manor Royal, Crawley, Sussex.)

Luminous ceilings

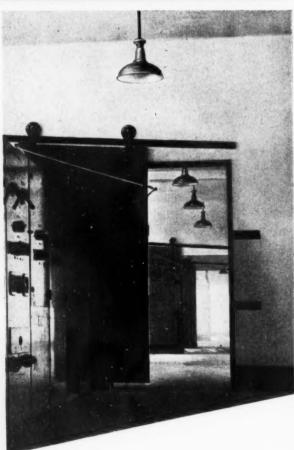
The illustration on the right shows the final stages in the installation of Crompton-Parkinson's new Modulume luminous ceilng, which has been developed in conjuncion with an American firm. The whole eiling is hung from the New Line trunking recently referred to in these notes, and is based on a 36-in. module. Hangers support a light alloy framework in which can be inserted rectangular plastic pans, either white or in colour, or long strips of corrugated vinvl sheet: spotlight panels can also be inserted wherever they may be required. The illustration shows all these types, which are readily interchangeable, and also the method of suspending the alloy grid from the trunking: the photograph is of a demonstration job and the permanent ceiling should be ignored. The system needs a minimum depth of 15 in. below the structural ceiling, and at least another 8 ft. to the floor, while it must not, of course, be used with any form of ceiling heating, though it is possible to accommodate



Above: The Mechtrical anti-burst system, showing the insertion of a plastic tube into the water pipe. Below: installing the Crompton-Parkinson Modulume luminous ceiling.







### FIRE RESISTING DOORS

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752

#### technical section

sprinklers. Cost varies from 15s. to 21s. a square foot, for all the electrical equipment and fluorescent lamps, but does not include cable or installation. (Crompton Parkinson Ltd., Crompton House, Aldwych, London, WC2)

#### Two new gas cookers

Radiation have just introduced two new cookers, the 42 and the Rangette, and their photographs give nearly all the necessary information. Rangette seems to me an unfortunate name, and suggests a kitchenette (used by an usherette?), although the cooker is quite large. It has four hotplate



The two new Radiation gas cookers. Above: The Rangette. Below: the 42.



burners and a large oven, on the right of which is a warming cupboard heated by waste heat from the oven. The storage cupboard at the bottom has a drop-down door. and the grill is at what is described as 'comfort-level," which seems to me a more convenient arrangement than the fashionable eye-level jobs, which I find spit on my

The 42 is a straightforward job; four burners, quite a big oven, storage drawer at the foot and an eye-level grill. As one expects from Radiation, the proportions seem good and the general design decently restrained. Prices of the two models are £63 16s. for the Rangette and £34 10s. for the 42. (Radiation Ltd., Stratford Place, London, W.1.)

#### Lightweight gypsum roof

In their hurry to get their Building Exhibition report to press, the Editors made what they consider to be an inadequate, if not misleading, reference to an interesting new product marketed by D. Anderson & Son Ltd., named Pyrodek. They have therefore asked me to make amends for them and to put straight certain matters of fact. Pyrodek is a poured-in-place gypsum concrete roof. In the standard version, gypsum formboards are fixed between mild steel bulb tees which in turn are tacked to the purlins. Galvanized reinforcing fabric of 12 or 13 gauge (not "chicken wire") is then laid over tees and formwork and on this is poured 2 in. of gypsum concrete (see illustration below). The gypsum sets very quickly so that it can be walked on in an hour and waterproofed after 24 hours and the resulting roof is very light: the total weight, including a threelayer waterproofing, is only 12-15 lb. per ft. super, which seems very little for a roof capable of carrying a safe load of 30 lb. per sq ft. The roof has a two hour fire resistance and the U value of the standard version is 0.38; but this can be lowered to 0.16 by the use of Fibreglass in place of gypsum formboard. This inclusion of Fibreglass was a CLASSIFICATION FOR TECHNICAL ARTICLE AND INFORMATION CENTRE

Sociology. 2 Planning: General. 3 Planning: Regional & National. 4 Planning: Urban & Rural. 5 Planning: Public Utilities. 6 Plan-ning: Social & Recreational. 7 Practice. 8 Surveying & Specification. 9 Design: General. Design: Building Types. 11 Materials: General. 12 Materials : Metal. 13 Materials : Timber. 14 Materials: Concrete 15 Materials: Applied Finishes & Treatments. 16 Materials: Miscellaneous. 17 Construction: General. 18 Construction: Theory. 19 Construction: Details. 20 Construction: Complete Structures. 21 Construction: Miscelianeous. 22 Sound Insulation & Acoustics. 23 Heating & Ventilation. 24 Lighting. 25 Water Supply & Sanitation. 26 Services & Equipment: Miscellanecus. 27 Furniture & Fittings. 28 Miscellaneous.

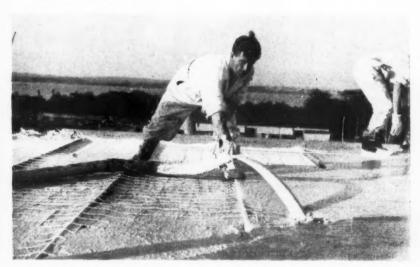
suggestion of Andersons, for the note in the JOURNAL saying that Fibreglass Ltd. combined with Andersons to produce Pyrodek was not correct. The roofing becomes economical for areas of 1,000 yd. and over, when the price is materially less than "about £3 per sq. yd. for an area of 500-1,000 sq. yd."-though, in fairness, I must add that the latter was the price given by a representative on the stand. This use of gypsum is something quite new over here (though not in America where it has been tried for 50 years); it would be a pity all round if our readers were put off from investigating its merits.

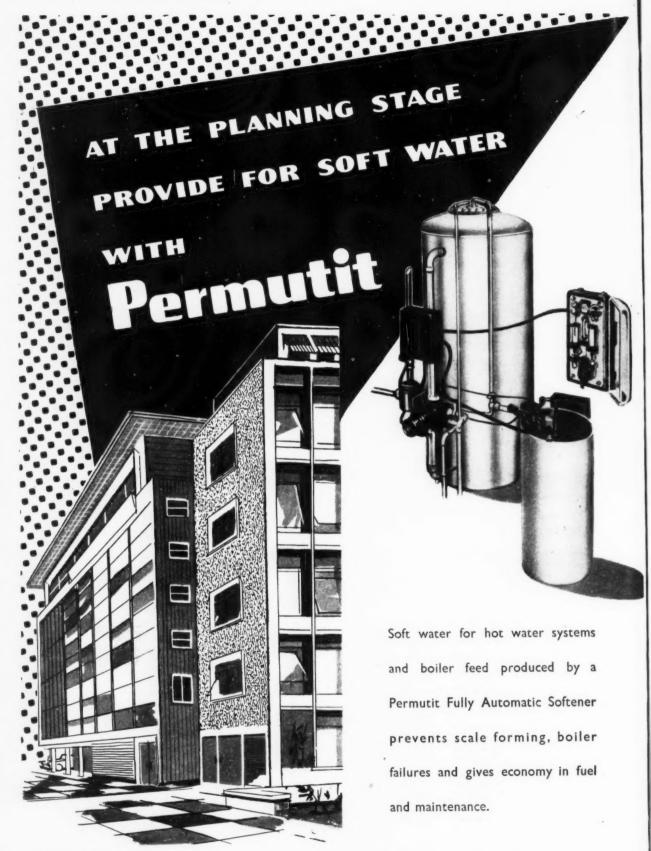
(D. Anderson & Son, Ltd., Stretford, Manchester.)

#### Correction

James Halstead Ltd., makers of the Polystyrene wall tiles described on p. 849 of the JOURNAL of December 5, inform us that these tiles are precision moulded, sionally stable, non-crazing, non-fading, and easily applied to any sound, dry, flat surface of almost any type of material and are priced to the builder at from 25s. to 28s. per sq. yd. with adhesive at 2s. per sq. yd. for normal applications. They can also be used for floor

Pouring Gypsum on a Pyrodek roof.





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#### INFORMATION CENTRE

A digest of current information prepared by independent specialists; printed so that readers may cut out items for filing and paste them up in classified order.

#### 7.62 practice Q.S. PRACTICE

Practice and Procedure for the Quantity Surveyor. Arthur J. Willis. (Crosby Lockwood & Son Ltd. 25s.)

No one has the interests of the young quantity surveyor more at heart or has done so much for his training as Arthur J. Willis. His latest contribution to their professional advancement is a second edition of the above book. The main difference from the first edition is the inclusion of a chapter on "Approvals and Controls" to satisfy the syllabus of professional practice. a subject recently introduced into the RICS final examination. Other differences are relatively minor but they include two short paragraphs concerning the much discussed elemental bill, to which the author it seems. unlike most quantity surveyors, sees no

The subject matter falls into two sections. First, information to assist the senior assistant who would deal with approximate estimates; preparation of bills of quantities, tenders, certificates and final accounts. Secondly, information intended to help the prospective private practitioner or partner who would be responsible for legal matters. policy, organization and finance.

Admittedly written for the young quantity surveyor about to qualify, the book is not without value to the young architect, who will find that many of the matters discussed will concern him to some degree. Even the architect and quantity surveyor who have passed the age contemplated by the author will find it a useful reference book of common practice.

The printing is large and easy to read and each chapter is divided into short paragraphs with bold headings which encourages reading and makes for quicker reference.

The author admits some difficulty in defining the two terms "practice" and "procedure" but he must also have been faced with some difficulties in deciding what was recognized as "practice" and what was as yet too new or novel. As a result he has been obliged to choose between an historical approach—that is, of describing the practices of the present and recent past-or a pioneering approach, of suggesting the practices which may be appropriate to the future. The young surveyor's professional career lies in the uncharted future and while he should perhaps trace the paths of earlier generations. some advice on the problems which may face him in the unexplored territory ahead, is at least of equal importance.

It is disappointing therefore, to see that the historical approach has been chosen. For example, the author gives no space to cost analysis and cost planning, now adopted by all realistic architects and quantity surveyors and supported by the RICS. Programming, a subject considered vital for the efficient contractor, is not considered to be of much value to the quantity surveyor and gets brushed aside in six lines. With automation just round the corner, not to mention a scarcity of "workers-up," one might have expected some mention of office machinery, such as comptometers and calculators and a word or two perhaps about the potentialities of punched card equipment. Architect-builder co-operation, a subject which intimately affects the quantity surveyor, receives no mention, nor does the negotiated contract which has recently gained in popularity.

The author, as he makes clear in his prefaces, is under no misapprehension that he has covered all aspects of the subject which may be of interest to his readers. In fact he expresses disappointment at the few suggestions he has received for improvements, and in the second edition he repeats his plea for constructive criticism. It is to be hoped that many readers of this latest edition will respond to his entreaty, and so help to build upon the solid foundation which the author has well and truly laid.

In the meantime the book accurately reflects the practice and procedure of a cautious profession.

#### 9.64 design: general CONSTRUCTION TEXTBOOK

Applied Building Construction. A. Medlycott. (Chapman and Hall Ltd. 25s.)

This book is intended for first year students and in the words of the author it "aims at a target centrally between all the various aspects of the subject (scientist, bricklayer, architect, engineer, etc.)." The chapters are headed: Foundations, Load bearing walls. Ground floors, Upper floors, Partitions . . . and so forth, ending at Plumbing and Drainage Services, Each chapter begins with a glossary of terms, then describes the technique with thickly drawn illustrations (there are no photographs at all), and ends up with a list of reference books and brief notes on materials.

This is a sad book to leaf through. It betrays so clearly the way in which our schools of architecture-unlike the other technologies-lag behind practice, which is itself struggling to catch up. It is not so much that lath and plaster, puff pipes and tusked tenons are no longer used, but that the book does not convey anything of the rational approach to architectural problems. One looks in vain for the analytical integrative method of arriving at a solu-

tion. The preface gives the show away, for here the author, referring to the gap between textbook and practice, remarks sadly that this is "inevitable as the teacher wants to give the best methods, whereas so much of the work has to be economic. . . ." This refusal to accept economy as a vital idea of present culture is perhaps to be expected from the older generation, but it is scandalous to inculcate it in young students.

Why, for example, write a book on elementary construction-which in fact deals solely with traditional house construction. Houses are one of the most complex and difficult of architectural problems to solve. It is quite unfair to give a great many typical details (which is what the book does) and side-step the real issue in three lines in the preface: "It is left to the student to fit these together and build them into working drawings."

#### 16.127 materials: miscellaneous PLASTICS

Plastics for Building. BRS Digest No. 103. (HMSO, 3d.)

At first sight this Digest seems to be too general to be of use to anybody, but careful reading reveals that it has been used to convey some useful pieces of information, most of them warnings. Thus phenolic plastic sheets used in curtain walling " soon lose their gloss on exposure to the weather and their natural chestnut colour tends to fade." A similar warning of the lack of colour fastness when used out of doors is made of some new "pigmented, sand-filled polyester resin coatings for concrete blocks" which have been developed in America and which are shortly to come on the market over here. On laminated (resin bonded paper) sheets, the pertinent comment is made that "the very high gloss finish tends to reveal any slight imperfection in the flatness of the surface" and that therefore matt and semi-matt finishes are to be preferred.

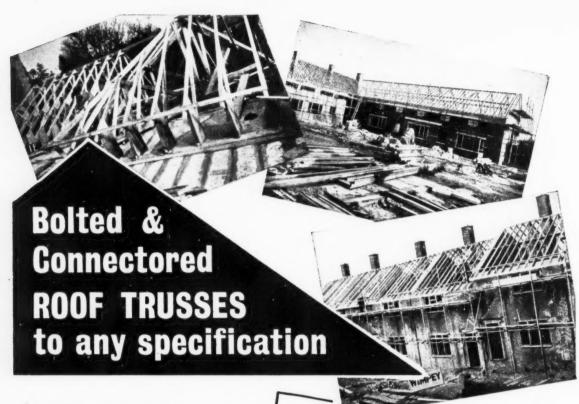
Lightweight rigid slabs of foamed polystyrene for insulation are reported favourably, but we are warned that foamed isocyanate resin (i.e., the one that can be foamed in situ in wall cavities) may let damp through. Polythene sheet is good as a vapour barrier, but if used as a damp-proof barrier in concrete ground floors should be not thinner than 0.006 in. Lastly, the evidence on the use of high density polythene pipes for hot water systems is so far unfavourable.

#### 22.85 sound insulation and acoustics

#### ABSORBENTS FOR NOISE REDUCTION

Control of Noise by Sound Absorbent Materials. T. Mariner. (Noise Control. Vol. 3, No. 4. July, 1957.)

A thorough survey of the many ways in which sound absorbent materials can be used to overcome noise problems, including information on their limitations. The first part of the article describes the different fundamental types of sound absorbers and gives a clear idea of their



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performance without reference to proprietary products. Some informative measurements on "functional" absorbers in the form of 1-in. thick absorbent blankets 18 in, wide suspended about 12 in, below a ceiling. These measurements show that when the blankets are spaced 18 in. apart, very high coefficients of absorption are obtained for frequencies of 1,000 c/s and above, although the coefficients for frequencies of 500 c/s and below are rather less than for the same material mounted in the conventional manner, flat against a solid surface. However, in certain industrial noise problems this form of treatment may be very useful as it is possible to obtain 1.7 units of absorption (at 2,000 c/s) for each square foot of ceiling area in this way.

Further data give actual measurements of the effectiveness of applying absorbents on ceilings, walls and in "spots" surrounding noise sources. These confirm that in low rooms ceiling treatment is most efficient, that effective sound insulation can be increased by sound absorbents in the source and receiving rooms, and that local application of absorbents on surfaces surrounding a noise source can be quite effective.

#### 26.128 services and equipment: miscellaneous ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION TEXT-

Electricity in Building. A. L. Osborne, F.R.I.B.A., in conjunction with the British Electrical Development Association. (B. T. Batsford Ltd. 25s.)

According to the Preface, the intention of this book has been "... to endeavour to provide an introduction to the subject (i.e. of electricity in building) for those who are unfamiliar with it, keeping closely to practical requirements, using the minimum of technical terms. . . "

This aim will scarcely be achieved. While the headings of the first five chapters do represent a logical division of the subject. the contents of each chapter bear little relation to the title. The book plunges straight into a description of three-phase A.C., under a chapter heading called "Basic Theory." Not until Chapter 4 is it explained what a fuse is and why it is used, although this should surely have come in Chapter 2. Chapter 2 does, however, contain a section on "Voltage Drop," which is an important factor only in the larger installations, and should either have come late in the book, or been left out altogether. Much of the useful information is contained in footnotes, but not all footnotes are informative. For instance, we learn on page 61 that a circuit breaker breaks the circuit by means of an electromagnetic trip. There is a footnote, but instead of explaining what "electromagnetic" means, this only says that the trip is sometimes thermally operated. It is a fundamental fault throughout the book that one technical expression is only explained in terms of another.

The chapter on lighting contains a mass

of half-digested information on the engineering aspects of the subject. The author has so far lost contact with reality that he states that glare is undesirable, not as a common fact of experience, but as if it were a finding of the most recent research.

Similarly on heating, the author barely touches upon the all-important question of in what circumstances electric heating is likely to prove economic, but describes at great length how to make heat loss calculations, a subject better left to a textbook on heating.

It is in Chapter 6, on "Structural Aspects" that Mr. Osborne is most disappointing. One would have expected an architect to have something interesting to say about this, but all we find is a few notes on ducting and trunking which have been published many times before, and a plea for consideration of the electric wiring from the earliest stages of planning. This is mere! y silly, as the finding of space for rising mains is not of itself critical and the place for them cannot be decided until it is known where the greatest load is required.

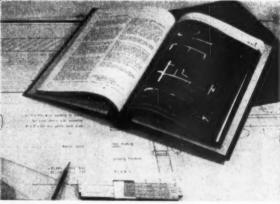
I wish I could find a good word to say about this book. Mr. Osborne has at least recognized that a book on the subject is needed, and has probably put as much effort into it as would have sufficed to write a really large book. I suspect, however, that the fault lies largely with his technical advisers.

#### 27.19 furniture and fittings LOCKS AND LATCHES

BS. 455:1957. Schedule of Sizes for Locks and Latches for Doors in Buildings. (BSI. 8s. 6d.)

This is a revision of the former BS, 455 and the only difference is that some new patterns of locks and latches have been included while others, for which there has been very little demand, have been omitted. The purpose of the Standard is stated to be "to provide standard dimensions . . . which will permit the preparation of woodwork in advance and the maximum interchangeability." It is therefore surprising to find that a large number of dimensionssuch as the overall sizes of rim lockshave been included which have no bearing on these matters, while other dimensions which are important are left variable—the width and thickness of fore-ends and the position of a keyhole, for example,

On each illustration there is a note to say that the drawings are not intended to show design details. This must presumably mean added ornament, since so much is laid down that it would in most cases be difficult to alter a design from that illustrated. This would be all very well if one could be confident that the range of locks and latches covered represented the best solutions to the problems involved, but since, as with all BSS, the terms of reference are merely those of "freezing" commonly accepted current practice, this is most unlikely.



REPRINTS

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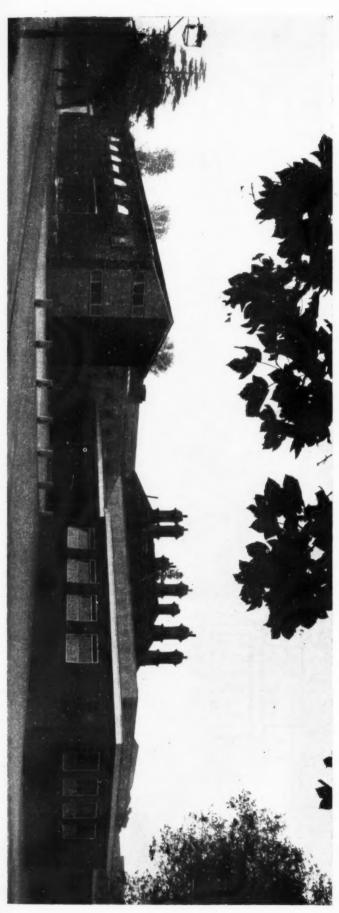
## LAW COURTS

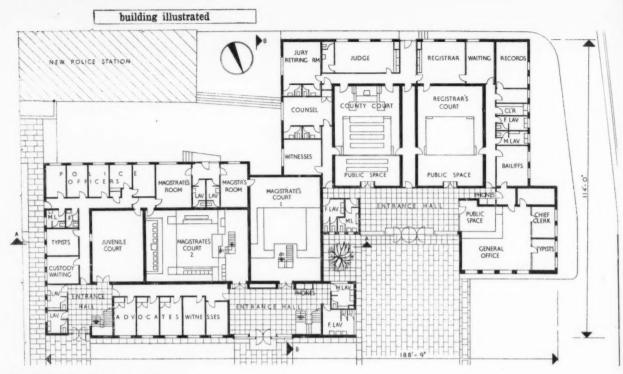
charge; consultants (heating) E. WINGFIELD-BOWLES and PARTNERS; quantity surveyors HENRY COOPER and SONS at CHALVEY PARK, SLOUGH, BUCKS; designed by F. B. POOLEY, county architect; A. R. WALKER, assistant county architect, C. M. HARDING, assistant-in-

retiring, waiting and advocates' rooms, etc. The eastern, two-storey part ing maximum isolation from road noises, as well as good accessibility from centrally contained within surrounding ancillary accommodation, providside, and without internal communication. Each part has its court rooms This building is composed of two self-contained parts, placed side by

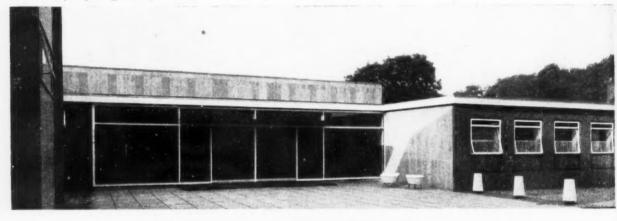
one to each part, and a separate one to the juvenile court. These are the first law courts to be analysed in the JOURNAL adjacent police station via a subway. Three public entrances are provided, the county courts. The magistrates' or police courts are linked with the contains the magistrates' and juvenile courts, while the western part houses

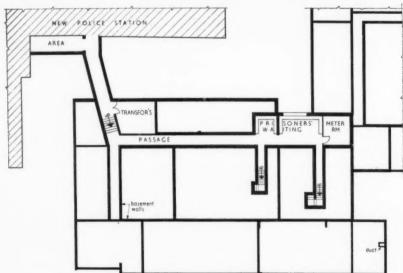






Ground floor plan [Scale: 33" = 1' 0"]





Viewpoint 2: the entrance to the county courts. The entrance screen is in metal, painted white, with clear glazing, and the doors are in ribbed teak, finished with clear boat varnish. A pressed metal canopy projects over the doors. The flank wall and the wall to the courtrooms, visible above the entrance, are faced with honed Derbydene facing slabs. The office windows, on the right, are steel set in teak frames.

Basement plan

analysis

## CORRIDOR CLERK DEPUTY CHIEF OFF CEN OFFICE OFF



Viewpoint 3 (above): the magistrates' entrance. On the right are the windows to the probation officers' rooms. Beyond them are the windows to the counsels' and witnesses' rooms. The entrance door panel is faced with ribbed teak. Red multi sand-faced bricks are used generally throughout the building. The entrance was illustrated as a Working Detail in the JOURNAL for October 10, 1957. Viewpoint 4 (below): the single-storey ancillary accommodation at the eastern end of the magistrates' court, with the juvenile court entrance on the right, and the probation officers' entrance on the left. The two-storey block houses advocates' and witnesses' rooms on the ground floor and office accommodation on the first floor. The metal windows set in teak frames are painted white. Fascias are similarly treated and C.I. rainwater pipes are painted black. The external paving is of concrete slabs, exposed aggregate slabs, Sussex cobbles, and tiles with exposed aggregate chippings.

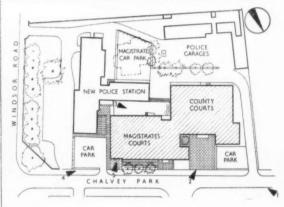


#### CLIENT'S BRIEF: his stated requirements

Magistrates courts: to provide two magistrates courts, each with direct underground access from the cell block of the adjoining Divisional Police Headquarters to the prisoners' docks. A retiring room to each court to be provided, leading directly off the court rooms, one to be large enough for committee meetings, together with witnesses' and advocates' rooms, a large entrance hall for waiting public and a suite of offices for the Clerk to the Justices and his administrative staff. In addition a juvenile court was required, with direct access to a retiring room, a separate entrance hall and public waiting space, custody waiting room and a suite of offices for five probation officers and staff, with an independent entrance for evening use. County courts: two identical court rooms required for use by a judge and a registrar, together with retiring rooms; jury room direct from the judges' court and separate rooms for counsel and witnesses. A large entrance hall for waiting public and a suite of offices for the administrative staff, bailiffs, etc., and a records room.

Generally: separate toilet accommodation to be provided for both sexes, for the public, magistrates, judge, jury, counsel and administrative staffs.

A buzzer and light call system to be installed in the four main courts to communicate with the administrative blocks,



Site plan

#### SITE: topography, surroundings, access, planting

The site is on a quiet tree-lined road in the centre of the town, off the main Slough to Windsor road, adjoining the new Divisional Police Headquarters. Area of site: 0.67 acre.

#### PLAN: general appreciation

The court rooms are planned in the centre of the buildings, surrounded by the ancillary rooms in order to isolate them from as much road noise as possible and for general accessibility from retiring rooms, waiting and advocates rooms, etc. The floors of the main court rooms are stepped to form wells in the centre, from which the prosecution and defendants operate, the public seating being at normal floor level at the entrance to the courts. The Press, jury boxes and witnesses' seating is on either side of the well of the courts at normal floor level, with raised benches for the judge, registrar and magistrates at the far end of the courts with direct access to retiring rooms.

In the magistrates courts the prisoner's dock is behind the well of the court and raised above the general level with a staircase and passage under the court rooms to a waiting space and link corridor to the cells in the adjoining police

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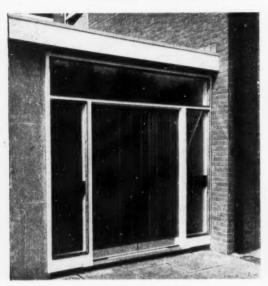
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First floor plan

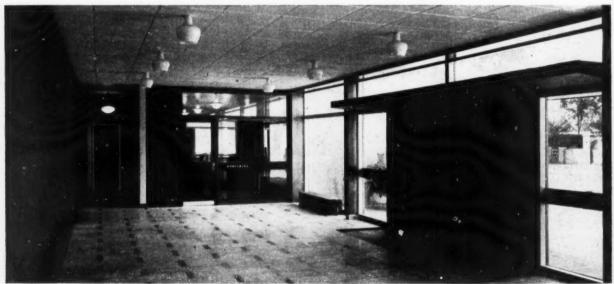
#### building illustrated

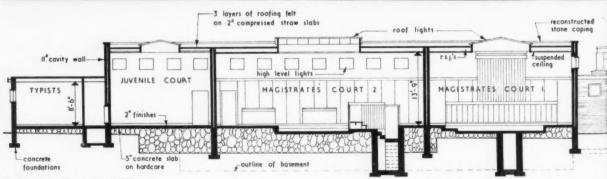




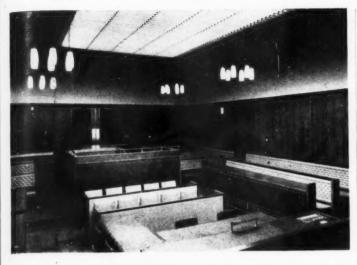
Viewpoint 5 (above left): the juvenile court entrance. The doors are in ribbed teak, finished with clear boat varnish, and the wood frame is painted white. Honed Darbydene slabs face this end of the building next to the entrance. Below: the entrance hall to the county courts has a travertine floor with Derbyshire fossil inlays. The wall opposite the doors is trimmed with leather panelling. The ceiling is formed from perforated plaster tiles,

which have a backing of glass fibre insulation. The glazed screen in the centre is to the general office accommodation. Above right: the entrance to the county court, with the leather panelling to the right of the doors. The doors are faced externally with walnut and have vertical panels trimmed with black plastic cloth, in which small, clear glazed inspection windows are inserted.





Section A-A [Scale: h" = 1' 0"]



Above: the registrar's court, looking towards the bench, in front of which is the clerk's table, with the two witness-boxes at either end. In the well of the court is the advocates' and witnesses' tip-up seating. At each side are the Press boxes. The public space is at the rear of the court. Black American walnut was used to panel the walls, with walnut fittings elsewhere, trimmed with leather or leather cloth. The floor is finished with 4-in. cork tiles and the ceiling with plaster on suspended expanded metal. The two doors, hung in walnut frames, are faced with black plastic cloth. The white painted, slatted mahogany suspended ceiling conceals a wired cast glass lay light above. Double glazed, hipped aluminium roof lights provide top lighting. Ventilation is by means of the row of high level windows and extract fans.

glazed

dation.

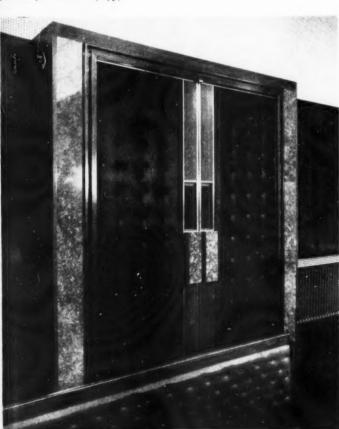
leather

d exter-

th black

windows

Below: the entrance doors within the county court are framed in walnut and trimmed with black leather cloth. Derbydene panels are used as door pushes and are inset at the side of the doors. These doors were illustrated as a Working Detail in the JOURNAL for October 10, 1957.



#### analysis

headquarters. The magistrates' retiring rooms lead directly off the court rooms.

The administration suite of offices for the magistrates' courts is placed on the first floor and the general office and ancillary rooms for the County Courts leading directly off the main entrance hall.

The juvenile court is simply a large room with loose furniture, which can be used if required as a large conference room.

The probation officers' suite adjoins the juvenile court with a separate entrance for evening use.

Separate private entrances are provided for judges and magistrates.

Separate car parks, finished with pea gravel on bitumen are provided in front of the building for the probation officers and public, with a private car park at the rear of the buildings for magistrates, judges and registrar. Relation of units: Although all the courts are within the same block of buildings, the County or Civil Courts are under entirely separate administration from the Police

#### MAIN CONSTRUCTION: general appreciation

Courts, with no direct communication between them.

Load bearing brickwork throughout. Timber joists and compressed straw slabs, 3 layer felt to flat roofs. Pitched roof, light timber trusses, insulation boarding and copper. Concrete floors throughout.

cost per sq. ft. of floor area s d note: prices based on anticipated final account preliminaries and insurances

#### STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS

#### Work below ground floor level 9 1. Strip foundation to brickwork under load-bearing brick walls.

Mass concrete. Uxbridge flint bricks in foundations and basement, finished white.

### External walls and facings 5 104 Cavity walls, generally external multi-colour facings, sand faced. Load-bearing brickwork. Court rooms, external, Derbydene stone facing

Ratio: solid wall o · 616
floor area

slabs in random lengths, honed.

Frame or load bearing element
Isolated steel beams and casing in entrance halls
(Cost of load bearing brickwork included with
walls. R.s.j.'s (included) with roof, except over
entrances.)

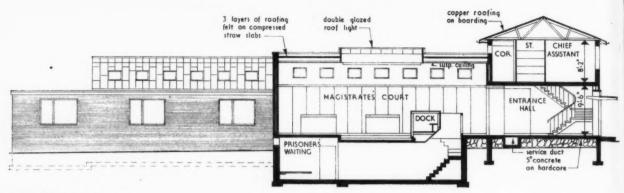
Upper floor construction

Pre-cast concrete floor units, 9-in. r.c. for 1st floor and administration block, Screed for p.v.c. floor finish. Soffit roughened to receive plaster. Chosen for ease of erection.

Staircases and landings
In situ reinforced concrete for juvenile court entrance hall, with terrazzo treads, risers and landings.
In situ r.c. for magistrates' court entrance hall with Travertine treads and paving and Derbyshire foscil risers.

No. of staircases: 2. Width: 4 ft. Total rise: 10 ft. 3 in.

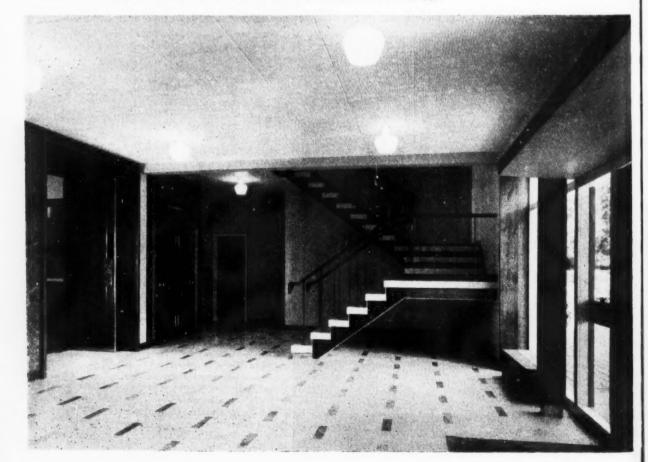
#### building illustrated

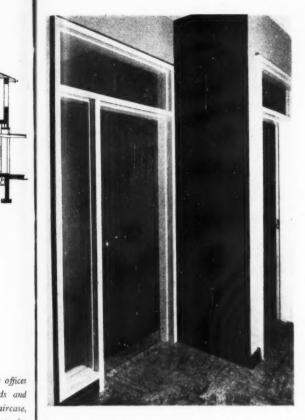


Section B-B [Scale: 18" = 1'0"]

Entrance hall to the magistrates' court. The floor and ceiling finishes are the same as those in the county courts entrance hall. The wall opposite the entrance door is faced with Derbydene marble. The entrance doorway to the court is trimmed with walnut and black plastic cloth, with a tracery of aluminium

studs. The staircase, giving access to the administrative offices at first floor, is finished with travertine boxed treads and Derbyshire fossil risers. The telephone booth, facing the staircase, were illustrated as a Working Detail in the JOURNAL for October 3, 1957.





Doors to witnesses' rooms in the magistrates' court. The doors are walnut veneered and set in white painted softwood frames.

offices ds and

AL for

The registrars' room. Walnut veneered sliding doors conceal a fitted bookcase. The windows are finished with venetian blinds. The floor is carpeted and the ceiling and walls are plastered, with white emulsion paint finish.



# analysis

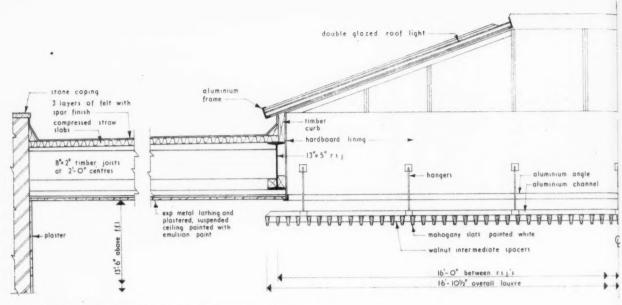
Roof construction	s	d
Pitched roof for administration block. Light timber		
trusses at 2-ft. c/c and insulation board. Copper		
sheeting finish. Total area 2,675 sq. ft.	1	64
Flat roofs for the remainder, constructed of timber		
joists firred to falls and compressed straw slabs and finished in 3-layer built up felt and white spar		
chippings. Total area 12,615 sq. ft.	3	101
Roof lights		
5 large, 21 small.		
Courtrooms: 16 ft. × 11 ft. hipped. In double		
glazed aluminium with timber curbs. With wired cast glass laylights,	1	91
Corridors and toilets: rectangular domes in glazed	•	24
rustproofed steel with ventilating upstands and		
finished in cast glass, "eggcrates"		
Total area: 1,050 sq. ft.		10
3317 J		
Windows Generally: painted steel opening lights with oiled	3	54
Burma teak frames.		
Window area 0.15		
Ratio: ———		
Floor area		
P-4I de-	-	,
External doors Three main entrance doors: ribbed Burma teak	2	6
with steel canopies finished in boat varnish.		
Private entrances for judge and magistrates:		
ribbed Burma teak finished in boat varnish.		
Doors to probation offices in probation office		
block: Georgian wired glass with teak frame and		
finished in boat varnish.  External door area 0.012		
Ratio:		
Floor area		
Glazing		9
Generally in clear plate and 32 oz.		. 3
Obscure, cathedral finish for toilets.		
PARTITIONING		
Internal partitions		
Courtrooms: 13½-in. Fletton cavity brickwork		
with panelled finish.		10
Ground floor: 4½-in. and 9-in. brick in flettons	4	61
with plaster finish.  First floor: 3-in. breeze with plaster finish.	1	62
First noor: 3-in. breeze with plaster linish.		15
Screens		4
Glazed with walnut frame and polished finish for		
County Court general office. The same for Chief		
Clerk and typists but with painted solid bottom		
panel, painted, for Chief Clerk and typists.		
W. a. doors and partitions		91
W.c. doors and partitions All toilets in plastic faced cork with aluminium		9
frames and trim in two shades of grey.		
0-7		
Internal doors		

Generally flush doors in walnut veneer or painted. Side doors to courtrooms in polished walnut frame, faced with black plastic cloth. Main doors to courtrooms in polished walnut and black

1 11

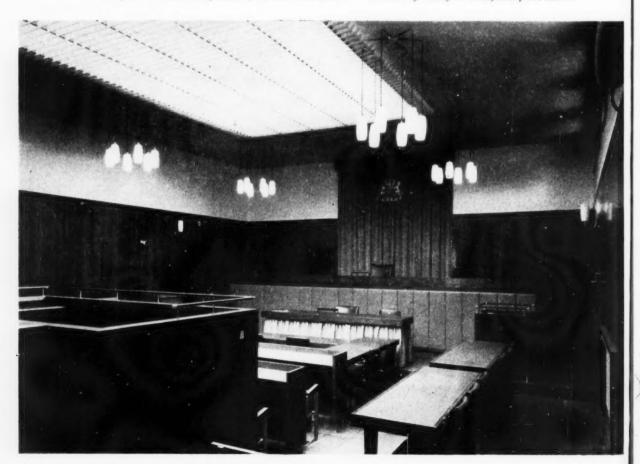
leather cloth facing.

## building illustrated



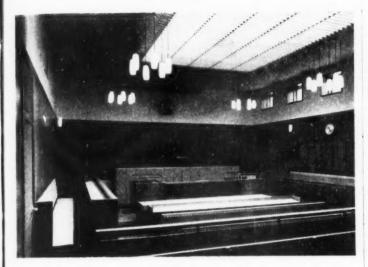
Typical section, rooflight in magistrate's and county court [Scale: \frac{1}{2}" = 1' 0"]

The magistrates' court, looking towards the magistrates' bench. The witness boxes are at either end of the clerk's table. In the well of the court are the defendants', advocates' and solicitors' tables. The two side tables are those of the probation officers and the Press. At the rear of the court is the prisoner's dock, which is connected by subway to the adjacent police station.



d

91

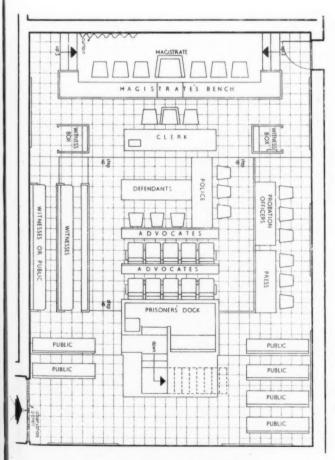


The magistrates' court, looking towards the prisoners' dock, with the witnesses and public boxes on the right. The boxes are faced with black leather cloth with a tracery of aluminium studs. The seating is padded grey leather cloth and the tables are surfaced with leather cloth. The satin chrome rail to the top of the prisoners' dock is partly covered with black leather. All the court rooms are heated by radiators recessed into the panelling, individually thermostatically controlled.

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phich is



Detail plan, magistrates' court 2 [Scale: 1" == 1' 0"]

#### analysis

# fronmongery to internal doors

Generally lever and knob furniture in satin anodized aluminium.

Main court doors in silver bronze and natural and polished walnut with marble push plates and polished Derbyshire fossil finish.

#### FINISHINGS

#### Floor finishes

Area in	Cost per
sq. yds.	sq. vd.
	s d

628 4-in. medium cork, sealed and polished, for courts, judges, jury registrar rooms and Press corridor 33 3

585 Polished p.v.c. sheeting and tiles for offices and corridors 30 6 1 6 71 Fitted tufted carpet for Magistrates'

rooms 36 o 25

164 Fine gritted terrazzo finished in
Hopton wood for toilets—invenile

entrance hall 44 0 6½

152 Fine gritted travertine and Derbyshire fossil marble for entrance halls 160 0 1 6½

#### Wall finishes

Dull polished black American walnut panelling for courtrooms.

Acoustic tiling in perforated plaster tiles and glass fibre with distempered finish for courtrooms.

Generally class "B" plaster with emulsion paint or wallpaper finish.

Egg-shell finished black 6-in. & 6-in. clay tiles to dado 4 ft, high for toilets.

## Ceiling finishes

Class B" plaster on (suspended) expanded metal with emulsion paint finish for courtrooms.

Generally 3 coats class B" plaster (suspended) with emulsion paint finish.

Perforated plaster tiles and glass fibre with

distemper finish for entrance halls.

## Decorations 1 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>

Main retiring rooms and private offices: selected wallpaper and applied paint finishes. Colour scheme restricted to five colours to obtain simplicity.

## FITTINGS

11 81

6 5!

2

113

3

31

81

Magistrates' benches in the magistrates' courts and judges' and registrates' rostrum in the County Courts in walnut and leather with softwood framing and polished finish.

Jury and Press boxes in the County Courts in walnut framing with black leather cloth panel, seats in grey padded leather cloth.

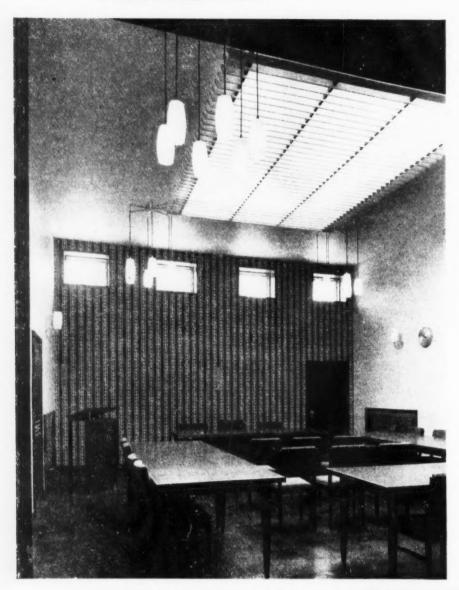
Witnesses' seating in magistrates' courts in walnut and leather cloth, finished as above.

Witness boxes in magistrates' and County Courts in walnut with satin chrome rail part-covered with black leather.

Prisoners' docks at magistrates' courts in softwood framing with polished walnut and black leather cloth trimmings. Black leather rail.

Advocates' seating at County and magistrates' Courts: walnut tip-up seats with grey leather-cloth quilted backs.

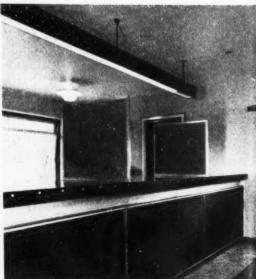
Public seating at County and magistrates' Courts:



The juvenile court is simply a large room with loose furniture. The floor is finished with \{-in. cork tiles. The rear wall is papered. Other walls and the ceiling are plastered and painted with white emulsion paint.

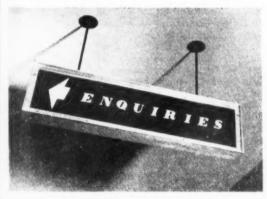
The counter in the general office over the magistrates' court.

The aluminium perforated reflector over the counter is painted matt black and contains an 8-ft. fluorescent tube. This fitting was designed by the architect.

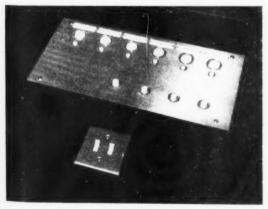




This private washroom and w.c. opens off the Judges' room. The tiles are matt black with walnut trimmed mirror above. A cast glass laylight in the ceiling provides daylight. The floor is finished with quarry tiles.



An enquiries sign with white raised letters on a black ground and an aluminium frame.



This aluminium control panel on the clerk's table controls warning and attention lights, from the bench and to the magistrates' room and the general offices.

## analysis

walnut seats with leather cloth quilted backs. Curtains for retiring rooms and principal offices. Counters for general offices. Enquiry hatches in probation office suite. Fitments for probation officers' rooms, general offices, advocates' rooms, etc. Built-in bookcases for Judge, Registrar and Clerk to the Justices. Pelmets and venetian blinds.

Coats of Arms in courtrooms and external.		
Loose furniture in courtrooms.		
SERVICES		
External plumbing and rain water disposal R.w. goods: rectangular c.i. down pipes finished in black gloss paint and pressed steel concealed gutters finished in bituminous paint.		61
Courtrooms: cesspools in flat roof with lead trays and outlets.		
Pressed steel concealed gutters in single-storey block.		
Rectangular steel exposed gutters in two-storey block.		
Internal plumbing: waste disposal All toilets have chromium plated steel vertical wastes and bottle traps.		41
•		
Cold water installation Steel storage tanks and main water supply in roof of adjoining Police H.Q.		9
Sanitary fittings All toilets and cleaners stores have basins, w.c.s, urinals, sinks and drinking fountains in white glazed fireclay.	1	1
Heating installation and boiler type and capacity Courtrooms and generally: thermostatically controlled hospital type radiators with accelerated low pressure hot water system. U values: wall 0·27. Roof 0·25.  Criteria temperature: 180° and air change rate of 2 per hour.  A sectional oil-fired boiler with a capacity of 997,000 B.t.u.s, is in the boiler house in the adjoining Police H.Q.	4	8!
Ventilation system Natural ventilation generally but extract fans are fitted in the courtrooms		1 {
Hot water installation Indirect hot water system, run from boiler in the Police H.Q.	1	9
Drainage: Soil drainage to main sewer. R.w. to soakaways with overflow drain in storm water sewer. Salt glazed stoneware pipes and brick manholes.	1	61

# Electrical installation Generally tungsten fittings are used. Illumination level: 15 f.c. in office. Fluorescent lighting is used over counters in general office. Illumination level 10 f.c. in Courtrooms. Wiring heavy gauge screwed conduit with V.I.R. cables. Cubicle type switch board, in basement alarm system and emergency lighting. Supply: 340/415 volts, 3 phase, 4 wire, 50 cycles.

6 74

#### analysis

#### Paved areas

Main forecourt: concrete paving slabs with recessed joints, exposed aggregate slabs, exposed granite chippings in 6 in.  $\times$  6 in. tiled slabs, red and black stable bricks and Sussex cobbled paving are used.

Magistrates' private courtyard: hexagonal paving slabs are used.

Car parks: hardcore finished with bitumen and pea gravel and with concrete bollards.

£80,000
Total cost per sq. ft. floor area

17.855 sq. ft.

#### COST SUMMARY

Total ground floor area	14,650 sq. ft.
Total floor area (excluding basement)	16,685 sq. ft.
Total basement floor area	1,170 sq. ft.
Price of work above ground floor level	£66,615
Price of foundations and basement	£8,130
Price of external works	£5,255
Gross total price	£80,000
Price per sq. ft. of floor	£4 9s. 71d.
Prices based on anticipated final account	nt.

#### TIME SCHEDULE

Tender date	January 21, 1955
Contract signed	August 1955
Work commenced	September 1955
Work completed	May 1957
Type of contract	RIBA (with quantities)

## SPECIAL ACOUSTICAL TREATMENT

Perforated plaster tiles and I in. glass fibre backing are used in the back wall of the Court rooms and the ceilings in the entrance halls.

## COST COMMENTS

The client's requirements are understandably rather exacting on a building of this kind. The separate entrances, toilet accommodation, car parks, etc., must have an obvious effect on cost, apart from the expected high quality of the finished building.

The analysis gives a fair summary of the distribution of cost over the building. The relatively small amount carried by "Preliminaries and Insurances" (11d. per sq. ft. of floor area) leaves a doubt as to whether this is a contractural risk or whether certain or all of the bill rates bear a proportion of the overheads. There is a considerable emphasis on "Finishes" (16s. 2d.) and "Fittings" (11s. 8 d.) as compared with 39s. od. spent on the structural elements and 15s. 10 d. on the plumbing, heating and electrical service elements. These figures are all the more helpful as they are based upon the anticipated final cost and are backed up with some quantity factors and more than the usual amount of cost detail. It is, therefore, possible to abstract from this analysis some useful cost information to assist in cost planning future projects. For example, the unit cost of the pitched roof construction and finish can be calculated at 17,855 (total F.S.) × 1s. 63d. (cost per sq. ft. of floor area).

2675 (quantity factor in sq. ft.)
= 10s. 5d. per sq. ft. of roof. Similarly, the flat roof can be calculated at 5s. 5½d. per sq. ft.
Alternatively, the ratios given may be used. These ratios

are only quantity factors of units of construction expressed in a different form, e.g., the total area of pitched roof might have been expressed not as 2,675 sq. ft. but as a ratio 2,675 0.15 or 0.15.

17,855

From the analysis and the Working Detail (AJ, 10.10.57). the unit cost of the "exceedingly sumptuous" main courtroom doors would appear to be something over 90s. f.s. exclusive of ironmongery.

Note that the "Heating Installation" element includes the cost of a boiler but not a boiler house as the boiler is situated in an adjacent building.

#### CONTRACTORS

Clerk of Works: H. G. Johnson. General contractors: William Hartley & Sons (Wexham) Ltd. Sub-contractors-Dampcourses: The Ruberoid Co. Ltd. Asphalt: Faldo Asphalte Co. Ltd. Reinforced concrete: Girlings Ferro Concrete Co. Ltd. Bricks: W. W. Hall Ltd. Stone: Nine Elms Stone Masonry Works. Copper roofing: Broderick Insulated Structures Ltd. Roofing felt: Bitumen Industries (Contractors) Ltd. Partitions: Saro Wood Products Ltd. Glass: Enterprise Glass. Patent Glazing: British Challenge Glazing Co., West Bromwich Casement & Eng. Co. Ltd., R. Seddon & Sons Ltd. Cork flooring: E. J. Elgood Ltd. Structural steel: T. C. Jones & Co. Ltd. Patent flooring: (Crestaline) Semtex Ltd., (Terrazzo) Roman Mosaic Ltd., (Marble) Art Marbles & Mosaic Ltd. Central heating: H. J. Cash & Co. Ltd. Electrical wiring: Rashleigh Phipps & Co. Ltd. Electric light fixtures: George Forrest & Son (1950) Ltd., Merchant Adventurers Ltd., Troughton & Young Ltd. Boilers: Ideal Boilers & Radiators Ltd. Stairtreads: (Marble) Art Marbles & Mosaic Ltd., (Terrazzo) Roman Mosaic Ltd. Ventilation: Brooks Ventilation Unit Ltd. Plumbing: William Hartley. Door furniture: Lockerbie & Wilkinson Ltd., Parker, Winder & Achurch Ltd. Bells and clocks: Gent & Co. Ltd. Casements and window furniture: C. E. Welstead Ltd. Sanitary fittings: Adamsez Ltd. Plaster: G. J. Foreman. Plaster (acoustic): Petradene Ltd. Joinery: H. Tyson-Chambers Ltd. Marble: Art Marbles & Mosaic Ltd., Nine Elms Stone Masonry Works. Tiling: (Terrazzo) Roman Mosaic Ltd., (Glazed) Carter & Co. Ltd. Textiles: Suters' Ltd. Wallpaper: John Line & Sons Ltd., Coles of Mortimer Street. Furniture: Heal's Contracts Ltd., Ian Henderson Ltd. Sun-blinds: J. Avery & Co. Ltd. Court room fittings: Builders Supply Co. (Hayes) Ltd. Panelling: Bath Cabinet Makers Ltd. Court room doors and surrounds, leather panelling, telephone kiosks: Bath Cabinet Makers Ltd. Signs, Royal Arms (plastic): Shaw & Son Ltd., Ward & Co Paint: R Gay & Co. Sign writing: Smart Signs.





	Sieces of L. Editor, Conterent Butter, A.K.I.B.	
Framed Structures, Aluminium .prefab. system, details, general data 25.A1 25.A2 25.A3 25.A4 25.A5 25.A6 typical structures . 10.B4 Steel, high-tensile . 20.C10 20.C13 Frameweld, see T. C. Jones & Co., Ltd. French, Thomas. & Sons, Ltd., Rufflette curtain fittings . 44.D1 Furniture, Cabinets, clothes drying . 37.D10 Counters, top, linoleum finish . 19.G4 top, plywood, metal-faced . 15.Z2 Desks, top, linoleum finish . 19.G4 General, plastic panels . 15.S8 15.T10 Kitchen, cooking, refrigerators . 31.C2 31.C3 43.E15 cupboards, aluminium . 43.E14 cupboards, steel . 43.E1 43.E2 plastic veneers . 15.T9 sink units, aluminium . 43.E14 43.E2 plastic veneers . 15.T9 sink units, steel . 43.E12 43.E13 Lockers, steel, for clothes . 42.C5 42.E1 Schools . 4.A13 Seating, latex foam . 42.D2 Shelving, aluminium . 43.H1 plastic veneers . 15.T9 steel, adjustable, fixed 42.C1 42.C2 42.C3 timber, industrial . 42.C7 timber, library . 42.C6 Storage Bains, steel, for bars, tyres . 42.C1 42.C2 Storage Racks, steel, for bars, tyres	Gyproc Products. Ltd., Acoustele ceiling 27.B9 Gypklith wood-wool slabs 14.K1 14.L12 14.L13 14.L14 14.L15 27.B9 Gyproc ceiling 26.J3 Gyproc plasters 22.F1 Gypunit partition 21.G2 Plaxstele ceiling 22.F1 Gypunit, see Gyproc Products Ltd.  Halcrete Panels Limited, dome rooflights 22.F1 Gypunit, see Gyproc Products Ltd.  Hall, J. & E., Ltd., escalators 35.B1 35.B2 Hall, John, & Sons (Bristol & London) Ltd. enamel paint 38.C3 plastic emulsion paint 38.D2 preparation of surfaces 38.A1 Hardboard, see Boards Harris and Sheldon (Electrical) Ltd., plastic eggerate ceiling 34.Z1 Harvey, G. A., & Co. (London), Ltd., cisterns, cylinders, tanks 42.B2 copper roofing 10.E1 extract ventilators 30.D1 gutters, heavy pressed steel 33.U5 Metalace, woven wirework 26.D2 perforated metals 26.D1 r.w. goods, light pressed steel 33.U4 steel bins, racks, shelving 42.C1 42.C2 42.C3 42.C3 42.C3	lighting equipment, suspension for 34.K1 lighting equipment, theatres 4.L6 4.L7 plastic eggerate ceiling 34.Z1 Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., aluminium, general data 10.B2 joints, capillary, compression 33.K1 Incinerators, gas-fired 33.K1 Insulation, Sound, see Ceilings; Floors; Partitions; Roofs; Walls Thermal, general data 28.A1 28.A2 28.A3 see also Boards; Ceilings; Partitions; Roofs: Walls Intervent, see Econa Modern Products Ltd. Invisible Panel Warming Association, The, concealed panels 29.H2 Iron Fireman, see Ashwell & Nesbit, Ltd. Ironstone, see George Woolliscroft & Son, Ltd.  Jenkins, Robert, & Co., Ltd., manhole covers Joints, building boards 15.B1 15.C1 capillary, compression, for copper pipes 33.B3 lead pipes, water 33.C4 33.C5 33.C6 plywood panels, metal-faced 15.Z2 sealing compound 26.M1 26.M2 26.M3 straw slabs 14.L4 Jones, T. C., & Co., Ltd., steel reinforcement 9.C1 Jones and Attwood Ltd., sewage disposal units 33.L1
Tables, tops, linoleum finish 19.G4 tops, plywood, plastics veneered 15.S8	Haskins (E. Pollard & Co., Ltd.), Firola fire- resisting rolling shutters	Junckers, see Webster, James, and Bro. Ltd.
15.T9	Portcullis steel rolling grilles 23.H1 23.H2 23.H3 23.H4 23.H5	
Galbestos, see Robertson Thain Limited Galt-glass, see Durasteel Ltd. Games, see Recreation, Games Garages, cars, private, dimensions, turning	Rolador steel, interlocking steel, timber, rolling shutters 23.H1 23.H2 23.H3 23.H4 23.H5 23.H6 Heat Control, hot-water heating systems 29.A1 Heating, Boilers, gas fired	Kaye, E. and E. Ltd., aluminium . 10.B2 Key Engineering Company, Ltd., drain pipes, fibre
circles 4.E1	stokers, mechanical, details, general data 29.J1 29.J3 29.J4 29.J5 29.J6 29.J10	Building Inventions, Ltd.)  Kitchen Fittings, see Furniture, Kitchen
commercial vehicles, dimensions, turning circles 4.E2	Space, Convection, ceiling panels	
circles 4.E2 sliding doors 23.H7 23.Z1 doors, timber, panelled	29.H2 29.H5	L.W., see Olsson, Martin, & Sons Ltd.
Gas Council, cooking, refrigerators 31.C3	concealed panels 29.H2 convector stove 30.C1	Laboratories, benches, lead lining 33.C11 sinks, lead plumbing 33.C11
flues for gas appliances	open fire and heater chamber 30.C2 Electric, floor heating 29.G2	Lanterns, see Roof Lights, Lanterns Lavatories, see Lavatory Basins; Plumbing;
gas-fired boilers 29.F1 installation and service pipes 37.D1 37.D2	tubular heaters 29.G1 Gas, clothes-drying cabinets 37.D10	Schools; Tiles; W.Cs
instantaneous water heaters 32.C10 meters, types, installation 37.D3	fires, built-in 29.C1 29.C2 29.C3 29.C10	Lavatory Basins, multi-branch fittings 33.D1 ranges, plumbing, copper 33.B1 33.B2
space-heating appliances	fires, portable	ranges, plumbing, lead
Gas, see Cooking; Heating, Space; Heating,	heaters, convector 29.C3 29.C4 rail, towel 29.C3 Solid Fuel, convector stove 30.C1	see also D.P.Cs; Flashings; Lead-burning; Metal Spraying; Plumbing, Gas, Water;
Water; Plumbing; Power Supply Gates, steel	Water, Gas	Roof Coverings, Sheeting; Weatherings Lead Sheet and Pipe Council, d.p.cs.,
Geometrical Drawing, Circles 1.B12	circulators	chimneys
curved surfaces, interpenetration . 1.B16 curves, special 1.B14	heaters, balanced flue 32.C31 32.C32 heaters, instantaneous 32.C10 32.C20	flashings 10.G1 10.G2 10.G4 10.G6 10.G13
dihedral angle 1.B11 domical surfaces 1.B15	32.C21 32.C22 32.C26 32.C27 32.C28 32.C29 32.C30 32.C31 32.C32	general data
ellipses 1.B13 hyperbolas 1.B14	32.C33 32.C34 storage heaters 32.C3 32.C11	lead-lined gutters
parabolas 1.B14 plane figures 1.B11	systems, domestic 32.C10 32.C11	plumbing 33.C1 33.C2 33.C3 33.C8 33.C9 33.C11
Geometry, circles, areas 2.H1	32.C22 32.C23 32.C24 32.C25 Heywood, W. H., & Co., Ltd., glazed panels,	roof construction 10.G3 10.G5 10.G11 10.G12 10.G21
plane sections, properties 2.B1	lantern lights 24.M3	traps 33.C12
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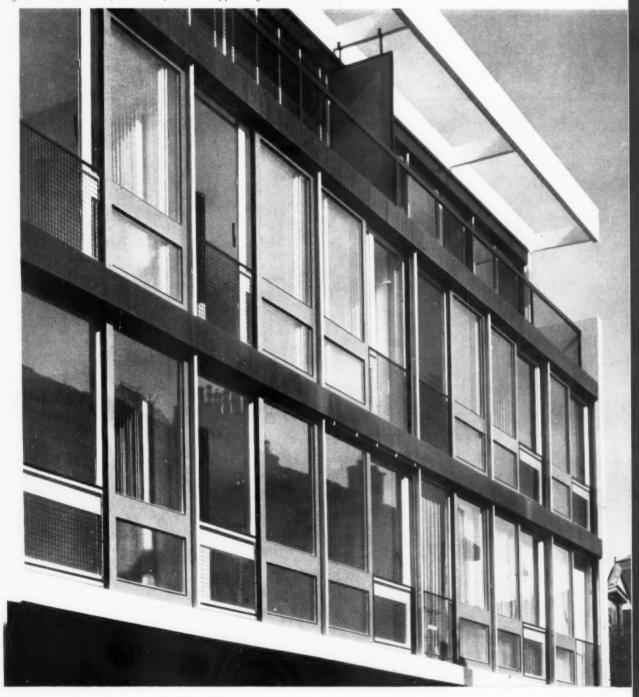
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GLAZED WALL: OFFICES IN GENEVA

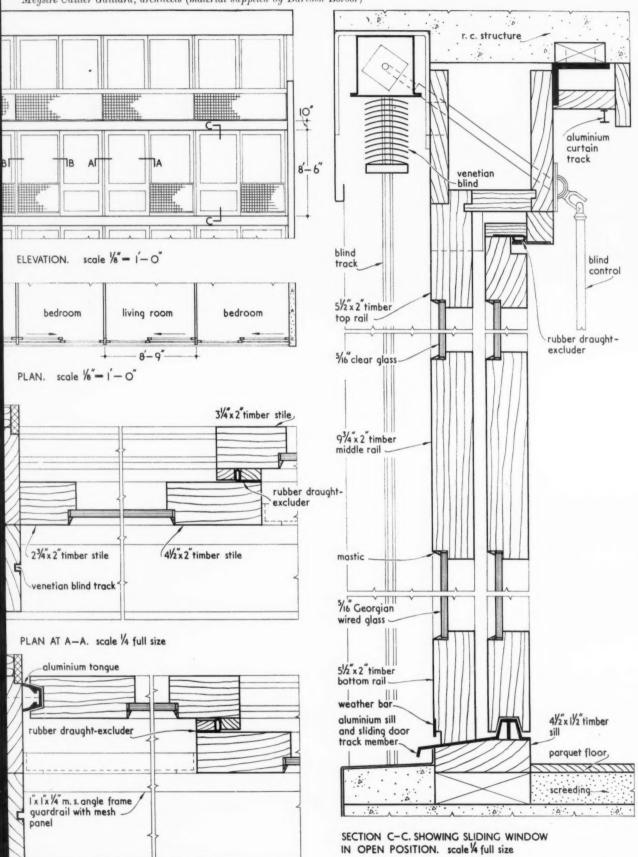
Meystre Cailler Gaillard, architects (material supplied by Dariush Borbor)



This is a very interesting version of a glazed wall in which half the glazed units are horizontally sliding doors. These slide behind the remaining fixed units to form a door-width balcony. Note the projection of the fascia (which is of mild steel sheet, painted) to house external venetian blinds. Another point of interest (which can be seen from the drawing) is the use of a single aluminium extrusion for sill and bottom rail of sliding track and the fact that the sliding leaf "runs" on its top draught excluder.

# GLAZED WALL: OFFICES IN GENEVA

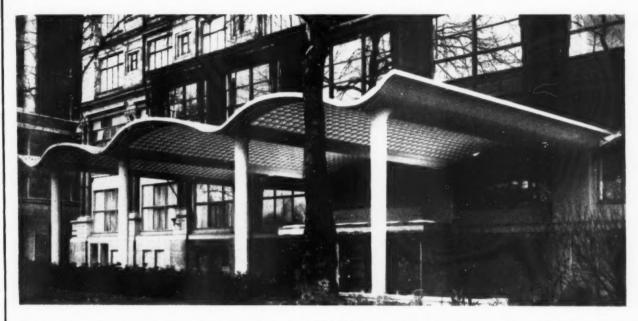
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PLAN AT B-B. scale 1/4 full size

note: figured dimensions in feet and inches are approximate

# PORTE COCHERE AT THE SAVOY HOTEL, LONDON, S.W.1



The new porte cochere at the Embankment entrance to the Savoy Hotel, designed by Eric James, was opened last week by the Mayor of Westminster. This canopy, constructed of reinforced concrete with glass lenses, is in deliberate contrast to the more solid facade of the hotel, designed in 1910 by Collcutt and Hamp.

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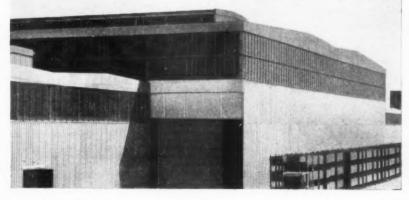
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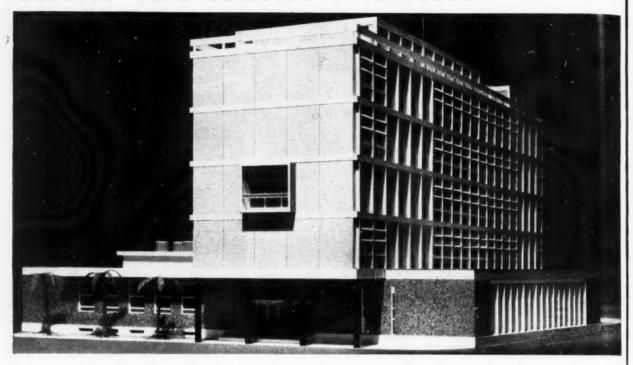
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# structural steelwork

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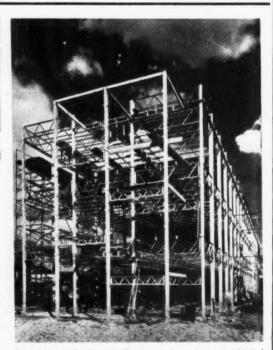
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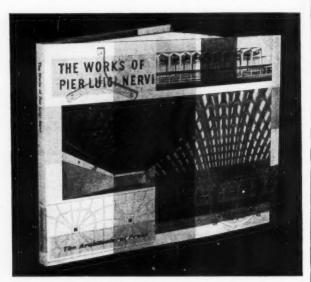
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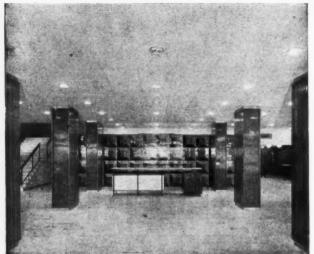
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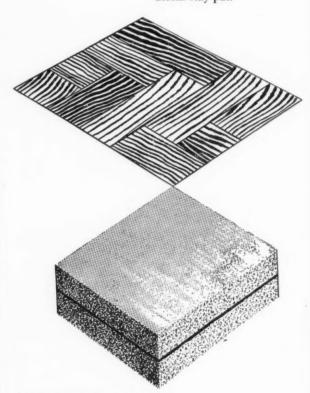
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## TUC Brasilia

# Street Lighting

December Architectural Review

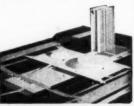
Design for public and administrative functions will form the subject of the two most important features in the Review for December. The TUC Memorial Building, designed by David Aberdeen, which is only the



Airview drawing of David Aberdeen's TUC Memorial Building.

second public building of consequence to go up in London since the War, will be described

The annual post free subscription rate payable in advance is 43.3.0 sterling; in U.S.A. and Ganada \$10.50; Queen 7710 Anne's the × ARCHITECTURAL Gate, C 田 Westminster, -H H C REVIEW H d Ħ until A F further 」 평 d and illustrated for the first time in complete form, and a supporting article in *Skill* will examine in detail the finishes and mechanical equipment that make this one of the most lavish buildings—outside the commercial field—of recent years. The other major feature is concerned with *Brasilia*, the projected new capital city for *Brazil*, typically grandiose and Latin-American in conception, but more likely than most such schemes to achieve completion. Sir William



Oscar Niemeyer's design for the Congress Building at Brasilia.

Holford who was one of the jury who assessed the competition for the new capital's plan, introduces the project and its site, discusses the competition, and adds a few words by way of introduction to the brilliant and unconventional winning scheme, by Lucio Costa father of Brazil's modern movement, whose report is published in English for the first time. Another father of his art, John Britton, founder of English topographical studies, will be the subject of an historical article by Peter Ferriday, and the bicentenary of the birth of the great neo-Classical sculptor Antonio Canova is celebrated by one of England's leading neo-Classical scholars, F. J. B. Watson, with a chronicle of English visitors and admirers at the sculptor's studio in Rome. Gordon Cullen will tackle one of the most vexed and debated problems of outdoor detailing, Street Lighting, in terms of distribution and siting, as well as the design of equipment, and interiors to be described include the IBM offices and the Garden Centre, both in new office blocks in Wigmore Street. Foreign reports will cover the Triennale di Milano, and the Berlin Interbau exhibition, and regular features like the Counter Attack Bureau and Robert Melville's provocative art-criticism will continue.

#### Preview

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January Architectural Review

Each New Year, the Review devotes an entire special issue to a survey of what the leading architectural offices in Britain have in hand on the first day of the year.



Assembly Hall of a girls' comprehensive school at Southwark.
Architects, Chamberlin, Powell and Bon.

The view presented by Preview is an extremely varied one; the buildings it covers range from a pub to a synagogue, by way of schools, universities, colleges, hostels, hospitals, factories, office blocks, churches, airports, planning schemes, housing layouts, a market and a seaside pavilion; and the offices and architects responsible for these projects-inprogress read like a directory of the country's top talent (as indeed they are)-the L.C.C., the Ministry of Works, ACP, T. P. Bennett and Sons, Bridgewater and Shepheard, James Cubitt and Partners, Llewelyn Davies, Easton and Robertson, Frederick Gibberd, Erno Goldfinger, Gollins Melvin and Ward, Sir William Holford, Arthur Ling, Sir Leslie Martinand so on down the alphabet to Yorke, Rosenberg and Mardall.



Factory at Wokingham. Architects, Yorke, Rosenberg and Mardall.

The reflection in *Preview's* mirror may prove flattering or alarming, but even where there appear to be grounds for satisfaction at the design of the buildings themselves, the environments into which they are being fitted still leave much to be desired, and though this is beyond the architect's control, it is not exempt from the watchful eye of the *Counter Attack Bureau*, whose month by month vigilance will be maintained even in this special issue.

## Churches Adam & Berkeley Lettering

February Architectural Review
The variety and scope of the
buildings illustrated, and subjects
discussed, in the February issue
will be catholic, even for the

Review. Three Churches around Coventry by Basil Spence will show what the imaginative use of a modicum of rationalisation can



Church at Bell Green, Coventry, by Basil

do even for a church building programme; the spectacular Teatro de los Insurgentes, designed by Alejandre Prieto exhibits Latin-American design at its most exuberant and effective; while Erno Goldfinger's precise Officeblock in Albermarle Street is the kind of building our cities sorely need. Historical studies will re-examine aspects of eighteenth-



Offices Albemarle Street, W.1. by Erno Golbfinger.

century architecture: Bishop Berkeley's contributions to architectural theory will be the subject of an article by Marcus Whiffen, while a sheaf of papers on Robert Adam by various hands will include some unknown Clérisseau drawings from Russia. Gordon Cullen will complete his set of townscape studies for Bristol University with an analysis of Trowbridge, and Jacqueline Tyrrwhitt will examine the planning of Fatehpur Sikri, the ideal city of Akbar the Great, somewhat in the manner of Sir Hugh Casson's memorable studies of Peking. In Skill, John Sharp will complete his survey of methods and materials in Architectural Lettering, Design Review will continue to note worthwhile new products and equipment, while the Interiors include new showrooms, by Design Research Unit, an officers' mess for the U.S. Air Force, and an ingenious conversion of a house near the docks in Hull.



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Replies to Box Numbers should be addressed care of "The Architects' Journal," at the address given above.

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Applicants must be fully qualified Architects and have had at least 5 years' experience in the preparation of plans, drawings and other details associated with Local Authority work, including Housing Schemes.

The appointment is subject to the Local Government Superannuation Acts and to medical examination.

Applications, on forms obtainable from the undersigned, must be returned to me not later than Saturday, 11th January, 1958.

A. BARNETT,
Town Hall, Wood Green, N.22.

A. BARNETT,
Town Hall, Wood Green, N.22.
23rd December, 1957.

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BEGAR STEPHENS.

Clerk of the Council.

Shire Hall, Warwick.

Shire Hall, Warwick. December, 1957.

December, 1957.

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The appointment will be subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation
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and a medical examination.
Applications, on forms provided by the undersigned, should be returned by the 10th January,
1958.

H. A. H. WALTER

H. A. H. WALTER, Clerk of the County Council. County Hall, Boston, Lines.

Clerk of the County Council.

County Hall, Boston, Lines.

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The appointment is superanuable, subject to
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Applications stating age, qualifications, training
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C. D. JACKSON,

Town Clerk.

8308

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13th December, 1957.

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will be given to those naving municipal experience.

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Applicants should hold suitable qualifications and have had experience in the design and supervision of the various types of heating installations for schools and other public buildings, etc.

Applications stating age, training, qualifications and experience together with the names of two referees should be sent to J. N. Sedgwick, A.M.I.C.E., City Engineer, Town Hall, Wakefield, by Monday, the 6th January, 1958.

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The work involves general drawing office duties preparation of sketch plans, and working draw-

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The qualification required is the Intermediate Examination of the R.I.B.A., but consideration will be given to candidates who have not passed the Intermediate Examination but have had considerable practical experience.

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Please quote Staff Vacancy No. 550.

Full particulars of age, qualifications, experience and positions held, together with details of present post and salary, should be sent to the Divisional Chief Staff Officer, National Coal Board, Cambrian Buildings, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff, by 6th January, 1958.

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ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT,
GRADE A.P.T. II (£725-£345)
Applications are invited for the appointment of an Architectural Assistant on Grade A.P.T. II on the architectural staff of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor. Applicants should have passed the R.I.B.A. Intermediate examination or its equivalent. equivalent.

R.I.B.A. Intermediate examination or its equivalent.

The appointment is subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Acts, and of the National Scheme of Conditions of Service, and to one month's notice on either side.

Half the reasonable cost of removal expenses will be paid at the end of six months' service and, where applicable, housing accommodation will be provided.

Applications giving the names and addresses of two referees should be forwarded to the Borough Engineer & Surveyor, 90, Station Road, Solihull, Warwickshire, not later than Friday, 10th January, 1958.

W. MAURICE MELL, Town Clerk. 8324 12th December, 1957.

GLENROTHES DEVELOPMENT
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BURGH ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT Applications are invited for the post of ASSISTANT ARCHITECT on salary scale AP Va-VI (£805 to £935) with placing according to age, qualifications and experience. The post is superannuable and subject to medical examina-

Applicants should be Associate Members of the Royal Institute of British Architects, preferably with experience in housing and local authority

with experience in housing and local authorify work.

Applications, stating age, experience, qualifications, and details of present appointment, together with copies of two recent testimonials, should be addressed to Leonard Howarth, Burgh Archited, 6 Abbot Street. Dunfermline, not later than 30th December, 1957.

The post has been designated by the Town Council for priority housing.

Applicants must disclose in writing whether to their knowledge they are related to any member or senior officer of the Town Council, and carvassing, either directly or indirectly, will be a disqualification.

J. DOUGLAS

J. DOUGLAS City Chambers, Dunfermline. 16th December, 1957.

10ID DECEMBER, 1957.

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and experience.

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A. B. GLASSPOOL, Clerk of the Council.

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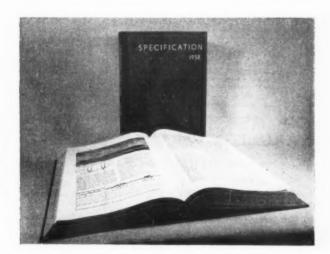
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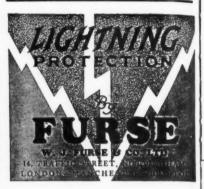
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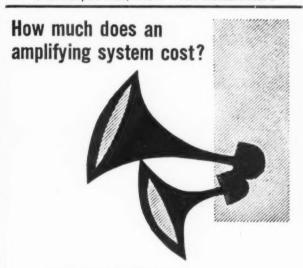
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