FEDERAL ARCHITECT



HONORABLE JOHN M. CARMODY

Administrator of the new Federal Works Agency.

From a picture taken at the Anniversary Dinner

of the Supervising Architect's Office, July 6th, 1939

Published for the Association of the Federal Architects

July, 1939 Vol. 10, No. 1

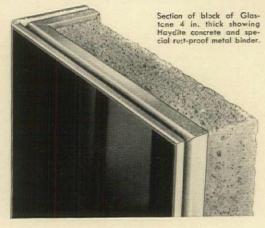
THE 103rd ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISING ARCHITECT

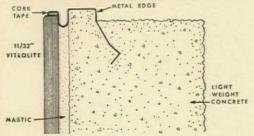
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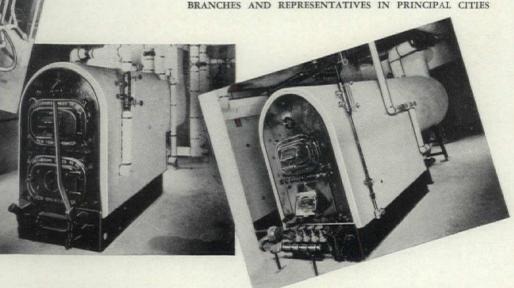
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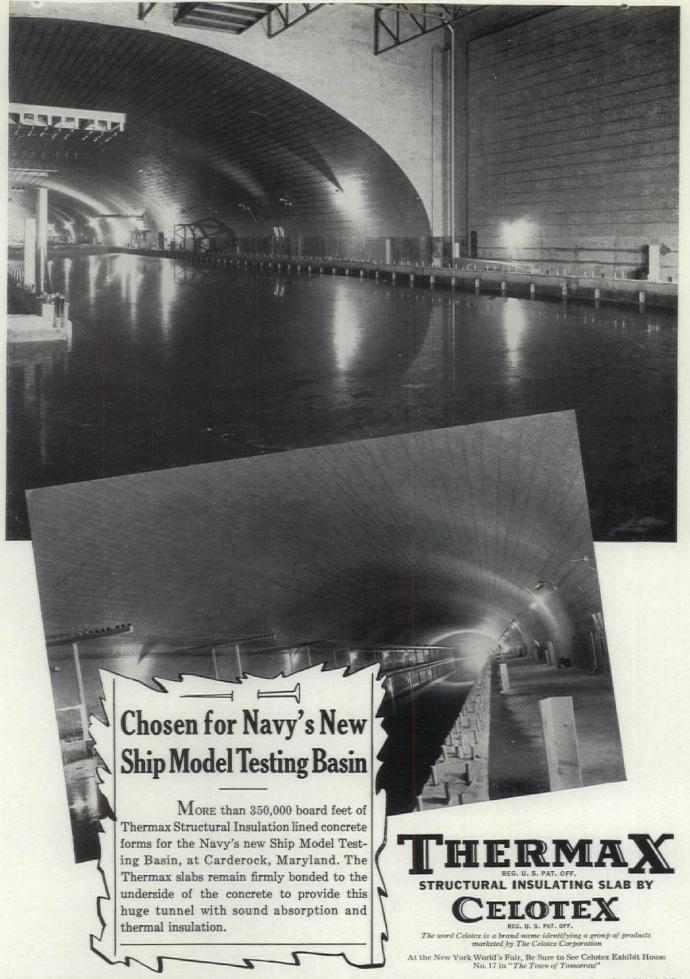
counter panels, baseboard, door trim and window trim. At Ottawa a lighter background color with dark inlays was used for much the same purposes.

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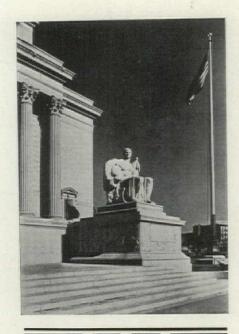




THE CELOTEX CORPORATION . 919 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE . CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The FEDERAL ARCHITECT · JULY, 1939

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JULY, 1939

EDWIN B. MORRIS, Editor

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SPECIFICATIONS

for Air Conditioning and Refrigerating Installations

ONE of the most exacting duties of an architect or engineer is to draw concise and inevasible specifications for the guidance of contractors and the protection of his client. Such specifications should be founded on the specifications and regulations of nationally known and accepted authoritative bodies interested solely in public welfare.

The National Board of Fire Underwriters, Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., and the National Fire Protection Association are institutions of this class. Each has contributed to the fundamental specifications covering air conditioning and refrigerating machinery. Every architect and engineer should have a copy of their rules and specifications:

(1) NBFU Pamphlet No. 90 entitled, "Regulations of the National Board of Fire Underwriters for the Installation of Air Conditioning, Warm Air Heating, Air Cooling, and Ventilating Systems as Recommended by the National Fire Protection Association." (This is also the A. S. A. standard Z33.2). Address National Board of Fire Underwriters at 85 John Street, New York City, or 222 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois, or Merchants Ex-

change Building, San Francisco, Cal-

- (2) Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., Subject 207, "Standard for Air Conditioning and Commercial Refrigerating Equipment." Address 207 East Ohio Street, Chicago, Illinois.
- (3) Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., Subject 207, "Standard for Unit Refrigerating Systems." Address 207 East Ohio Street, Chicago, Illinois.
- (4) Underwriters' Laboratories Report MH2375 entitled, "The Comparative Life, Fire, and Explosion Hazards of Common Refrigerants." Supplies of this publication are exhausted at the Underwriters' Laboratories, but may be consulted in most public libraries in the United States. Reprints have been made by Kinetic Chemicals, Inc., Tenth and Market

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It is often hard to compare values and capacity of the equipment offered and so it is well to provide that the contractor shall express his rating according to the following methods:

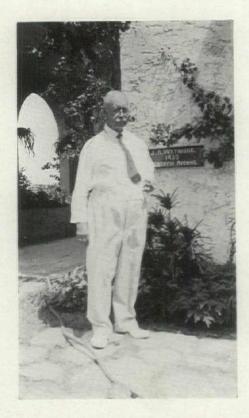
- (1) "Standard Method of Rating and Testing Mechanical Condensing Units"—Price 15¢.
- (2) "Standard Method of Rating and Testing Air Conditioning Equipment"—Price 20¢.

These standards are obtainable from the American Society of Refrigerating Engineers, 37 West 39th Street, New York City.

An example of concise yet comprehensive specification formulation that everyone should have may be obtained for 5¢ from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. It is "Federal Specification for Air-Conditioning Units (Room-Coolers); Electric-Motor-Driven, Portable," 00-A-361 of July 23, 1938.

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LETTER FROM JUDGE WETMORE

Coral Gables, Florida, July 15, 1939.

Dear Eddie:

I dislike to discuss the weather and I wouldn't say the kind we are having just now is a pippin—it's more like a water core.

It's only about a month since Florida emerged from one of the dryest spells within the recollection of the oldest inhabitants, except that arid period which our late lamented fellow worker, "Jack" Birgin used to refer to as the time when he was prohibited,—and that was only comparative. For more than six months Jupiter Pluvius did nothing to entitle him to a per diem for attendance. He must have trapsed off after that British umbrella-toting premier to see what Mars was going to do about the European situation.

Personally, I have never cared how long a camel could go without a drink, not being a camel; but I was compelled to pay attention to the distress signals made by the growing things on my place. How grateful they all were for a cooling drink—all but the cacti. These latter are an ungrateful aggregation. You can soak them with water and all the time they seem to be singing softly: "I can get along without you very knowing that they will come through the drought in better shape than the things that are being bottle-fed, so to speak. The rain toads nearly "hollered" their heads off, but we got so we didn't care what they said. When their language lacked vigor I even supplemented their anathemas with some choice selections from my golf vocabulary. And now for a month the drought has been broken-shattered in

fact. Old J. P. is back on the job. He must have tripped over his water jug on the way back and upset it. We're getting daily what the weather man calls "occasional showers." "Semi-occasional" would seem to be a more accurate description, and a lot wetter. Doors and windows stick; bureau drawers won't open; the crowded buses smell like a wet goat or a motorman's damp mitt and, if I remember my lines one feels like repeating with Shakespeare: "Lay off MacDuff, and damned be he who thinks he hasn't had enough."

I am gratified to note that on the 6th of this month a representative gathering of architects and officials observed the one hundred and third anniversary of the establishment of the Supervising Architect's Office. For twenty years I was the acting head of that office, and although it may not be generally known to my former associates in office, I have documentary proof that the full title and pay pertaining to the head of the office was tendered to me and declined. I mention this in order that justice may be done to

my official superiors.

It is with a sense of sadness that I note the old office has been merged and submerged until it has lost its identity. It was an efficient organization, capable of building anything, anywhere, at any time, both in this country and abroad, and not only projects authorized to be constructed under the Secretary of the Treasury but under authorizations given to other Departments and establishments, and it did these things with marked success. Perhaps, logically, it didn't fit into the Treasury organization, and was regarded as a sort of a stepchild, which makes its accomplishments all the more remarkable. I hope, so long as there are a sufficient number of survivors of the "Old Guard" that they will continue to observe the anniversary of the establishment of the Supervising Architect's Office. They should consider it a hall mark of distinction to be able to say that they had been a part and parcel or the old organization. Personally, I am glad that I am retired because it would be like expatriation to me to be transferred from the Treasury Department where I served for half a century.

The plight of the old office in being cast adrift from its moorings reminds me of a thing that happened years ago. We had a female clerk on our roster who was so eccentric as to be a problem, and no chief of division was willing to have her in his organization. After long and patient trial she was considered impossible and was transferred to the Sixth Auditor's Office, which was a sort of Botany Bay, and was so called. She complained to her Congressman, (Mr. Sperry, of Connecticut), who called in her behalf. After listening to what each chief of division had to say about her deportment Mr. Sperry remarked that the situation reminded him of an occurrence in his home city. It appeared that an old Irishman who was a patient in the hospital was near death's door. A priest came to sit up with him and administer consolation. But the man didn't die that night, or the next. On the third night when the priest arrived he was met by one of the orderlies who said: "Ye'r wearing yerself out over this fellow. I've got a nice room on the top floor, and why don't you go up there and go to bed? (Continued on page 23)

The FEDERAL ARCHITECT . JULY, 1939

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THIS CARRARA TOILET ROOM installation in Cleveland shows how much the fine, plate glass finish of Carrara means to room beauty. Note the accurate reflections in the black Carrara stiles. Only a ground and polished structural glass can provide such mirror-like beauty.

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At the New York World's Fair, see the exhibits of Pittsburgh Glass in the Glass Center Building, the Forward March of America Building, and the All-Glass House; and, at the Golden Gate International Exposition, see them in the Homes and Gardens Building.

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FEDERAL ARCHITECT

Published for the Association of Federal Architects 1700 Eye St., Washington, D. C.



1836 ROBERT MILLS

IN July of 1836 Andrew Jackson, accompanied by the Architect Robert Mills stood in the middle of Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, thrust his cane into the middle of the street and said, "The new Treasury Building will be built here."

On July 4th, Congress had appropriated money for the building. On July 6th, the President, conscious of the need for architects in our growing country, appointed Mills Federal Architect, with the duty to take care of the design and construction of the Treasury Building and all others to be erected with Government funds.

Mills held his position until 1842, when a new administration courteously but briefly informed him that it needed the office room he was occupying in the Treasury Building for other purposes.

Fortunately, a capable architect, quaintly named Ammi B. Young had shortly before been brought into the Mills organization. Young carried on without title until 1852, when Congress set up a definite organization for his office and gave him the title of Supervising Architect.

Since then there have been thirteen Supervising Architects, and one Acting Supervising Architect, the Mills torch passing from hand to hand until it now rests in the capable grasp of the present Supervising Architect, Louis A. Simon.

On the 14th of June this year there was held a luncheon in the Willard Hotel in Washington, attended by some twenty prominent Government and non-Government architects, at which the value to the architectural profession of this historic background of the Supervising Architect's office was discussed.

The members of the Supervising Architect's office brought up the fact that on July 6th they proposed to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the office, but that they felt that there was more in it than the mere possibility of a social gathering. It was one of the days, packed with the possibility for publicity, which could be of value to the profession at large. Discussion centered around the growing feeling that architects should celebrate every anniversary and publicize every occasion that would focus attention upon them. The old ethical disapproval of personal advertisement could still stand, but mass advertisement was not only proper but essential. It was agreed that this feeling grows stronger day by day throughout the country.

Following this expression of opinion the members of the Supervising Architect's office decided to inflate their plan for an anniversary dinner to make it a matter, insofar as possible, of general public interest.

The use of the entire top floor of the Willard Hotel was obtained. An exhibition of architectural documents and drawings from the 1836 period down to the present was prepared. In this great help was given by the great, great granddaughter of Robert Mills, Mrs. Robert Mills Evans, who lives in Washington and who preserves a priceless collection of Millsiana.

The Secretary of the Treasury and the Postmaster General, after a nerve-racking arrangement of plans and schedules, agreed to be present. Mr. Maginnis, as President of the American Institute of Architects, made a difficult journey from the cool breezes of New England to the tropical Washington scene to make a glorious, silver-tongued speech.

Between four and five hundred persons attended the dinner. Flattering newspaper publicity resulted, which, together with the enthusiasm evident at the dinner, rewarded those in charge for their effort and expense.

CSO

THE forthcoming International Congress of Architects to be held in the late summer will be a greater and infinitely more potent means of focusing attention upon the profession.

Attention to mass advertisement by architects will always be of great value, and is needed. At the luncheon of architects above referred to, one of the men told of the remark of the editor of a certain weekly magazine to an architect who tried to sell him on the idea of an article describing how architects work and just what is their contribution to the public welfare. The editor said, "The public isn't interested. They think of an architect as a sleek, handsome smoothie who seduces the heroine in the fourth chapter."

That may or may not be a true picture of what the public, as a whole, thinks. But some of it is true. A word here and there to build up the idea that the profession is strong and virile will do no harm.

Some of the drawings shown in the exhibit in connection with the Supervising Architect's office 103rd Anniversary, are reproduced herewith as well as some photographs taken on the occasion.

The cooperation received from all architects in connection with this Anniversary was a pleasant and heart-warming thing.

co

AS a result of the investigation of the W.P.A. Federal Art Project, a quaint account of one

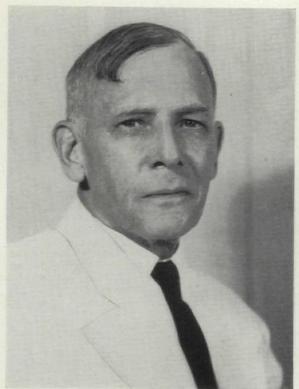


Photo by Hal

1939

LOUIS A. SIMON

of the activities of the architect, Charles Bulfinch, was discovered in a copy of the New York Journal and Weekly Register, for November 5, 1789. The description is of the visit of Washington to Boston and follows in part:

. the President gracefully bowed to all around: and the select choir of singers with Mr. Rea at their head immediately sang the following ODE (see Poets Corner) in the TRIUMPHAL ARCH (designed by Mr. Bulfinch) which was adjacent to the colonnade. This arch is 18 feet high, composed of a center arch 14 feet wide, and one on each side, of 7 feet, with an Ionick pilaster, and proper imposts between them. The frieze exhibits 13 stars on a blue ground, a handsome white dentule cornice is carried to the height of the platform; above is painted a ballustrade of interlaced work; in the center of which is an oval tablet, with the following inscription: on one side, 'To the Man WHO UNITED ALL HEARTS'—and on the other, 'To Co-LUMBIA'S FAVORITE SON.' At the end adjoining the state house, is a panel decorated with a trophy, composed of the arms of the United States, of the Common wealth of Massachusetts, and our French Allies, crowned with a laurel wreath; over these an inscription, 'Boston relieved March 17, 1776'—as a proof of a grateful remembrance of the services rendered this town by the illustrious President in his military character. Over the center arch, a rich canopy of 20 feet in height was erected with the American Eagle perched above; the whole forming a spectacle, which, while it captivated the eye of the beholder, added much to the testimonials of the respect of the day."

This was not the full extent of the structure specially built for the occasion. In addition there was a colonnade designed by one "Hon. Mr. Dawes." Since it provides the complete picture of the occasion and also helps to place the triumphal arch, the following

description of this portion is significant.

... On the arrival of the front of the procession at the Old Brick Meeting, the whole halted; and the military, the selectmen and council conducted the President through the triumphal arch erected across the Main-street, to the senate chamber, by the east door of the state house, from whence the President passed through the representatives chamber to the Colonnade erected for the occasion in the west end of the state house, composed of six large columns, fifteen feet high, and a ballustrade hung in front with Persian carpets, on which were wrought thirteen roses. The circle of the colonnade measured forty-four feet, and projected boldly into the Main-street, so as to exhibit in a strong light, 'THE MAN OF THE PEOPLE.' The central west window of the state house was the door through which the President passed to the ballustrade descending from a platform four easy steps to the floor of the gallery, which was furnished with armed chairs, and spread with rich carpets. On this platform was a pedestal, covered with green, supporting the figure of plenty, with her Cornucopia and other emblems. . . .

> "From the Bulletin of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiques."

> > eso

Y old master, Louis Sullivan, gave me a definition of a highbrow; a man educated way beyond his capacity. Perhaps the most trouble-some thing the matter with us is that we may have been educated beyond our capacity.

"If I were rich beyond the dreams of avarice, I would Buy up universities and close them. I would set at each entrance a bronze tablet reading, 'Closed by the beneficence of Frank Lloyd Wright.'"

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT.

The membership of the A. of F. A. has increased considerably. While this is most gratifying the members should realize that money is needed to carry on and do certain things to make the organization useful as well as interesting.

A number of 1939 dues remain unpaid and it is requested that they be sent in now so that it will not be necessary to remove any names from the rolls and mailing list of the Federal Architect.



Anniversary Exhibit

ROBERT MILLS' original drawing for the Washington monument. Taken from a steel engraving issued in 1854 to all persons and organizations which contributed toward the monument. The particular copy from which this was taken formed a receipt for seven dollars contributed by a church in Washington. Note the capitol in the distance with its flat dome, and in the right mid-distance, the then newly-completed Smithsonian. On the left is the Treasury Building and the canal which then flowed where now exists Constitution Avenue. The monument was designed to be 500 feet high with the base motive 100 feet high. When the monument was partially complete it was found that the spongy ground would be inadequate to support its weight when the final height was reached and that another leaning tower of Pisa might result, or a catastrophe even more unpleasant. The bill at the base of the structure was therefore built, which holds firm the restless strata beneath.

ADDRESS AT 103rd ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF SUPERVISING ARCHITECT'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON

by Charles D. Maginnis

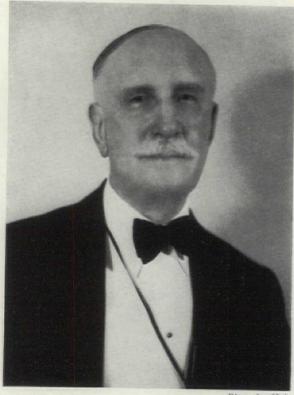


Photo by Ha

MR. CHARLES D. MAGINNIS

A picture of the president of the American Institute of Architects taken at the Supervising Architect's 103 Anniversary Dinner

Architect's Office. As I looked forward to this meeting with you I was reminded how very different your daily professional life is from mine. I was enviously aware that with you the practice of architecture is a more abstract business than it is with me. In your comparatively cloistered detachment, you no doubt miss some of the drama of the individual practitioner but there must be compensation in that serene perspective in which you are accustomed to regard your public. It is one of the occasional experiences of the private architect that he must deal with an actual and corporeal client with all the psychological complications which that idea has the faculty to convey.

The successful introduction of this valuable personage into the architectural process involves, as most of you know, a delicate and tortuous technique which singularly is not taught in the Schools and is not too confidently acquired afterwards. When he is finally

captured, one lives with him in an attitude of anxious deference which is never wholly free from the apprehension of his formidable displeasure. One of the most harrowing moments of my experience is when I am face to face with my client in the presence of a leak, which, I admit, is too often. The persuasion of my innocence avails nothing, I find, at such a time. I am as completely convicted as if I had introduced the leak as an element of my design, and until the pestiferous phenomenon is removed my proud building is merely a whited sepulchre.

I am not implying that the news of leakages never percolates into the Supervising Architect's Office, but merely that, in the security of its nebulosity, it is not an event which has the capacity to reduce any identifiable member of it to an uncomfortable sense of kinship with the humble worm. And yet I am not wholly unmindful of the critical potentialities of the 120,000,000 units of our citizenry which you serve so that I know there is room in your bosoms for troubles which are not entirely domestic.

Once I rashly entered on the adventure of building a house for myself. It was only at the end of this enterprise that I thoroughly realized how important it is to hire an architect. Up till then my wife had always been vividly and influentially identified with the affairs of the home, but my complete adequacy to deal with this particular problem seemed reasonably indicated so that I was left completely to myself. It was not long before I began to feel about for that Economic friction which is seldom absent from the atmosphere of clients, but I was conscious of nothing but a great softness all around me. In this predicament, I was compelled to create a client histrionically but I found him too ineffectively sympathetic. When I would invite him, for instance, to entertain the idea of paving the sitting-room with a scrumptious Greek marble he would protest he thought it in the circumstances worthy of a particularly drunken sailor, but if my professional pride could be gratified in no less opulent terms I might go ahead. With successive encounters of this dangerous character we stumbled on till we became prostrate under a pyramid of bills from which we were extricated only with painful difficulty. Since then I have held the realistic client in a new respect.

In more serious and fitting vein let me thank you, on behalf of the Institute of Architects, for so hospitably including me in this hour of rejoicing over the long and honorable history of your office. It is my wish that my presence here should imply more than a mere community of interest. It should convey to you a thoughtful acknowledgement from the whole profession of the efficiency with which the

office has sustained the cause of Government architecture. It would be unreasonable if the architects of America were not deeply concerned that, in the quality of its products no less than in the high plane of its administration, such an agency as yours should be worthy of the best architectural tradition. Nor need it be thought singular that this solicitude should have developed apprehension that, with all its admitted competency, any undue comprehensiveness of its interest might well represent a denial of opportunity to talents both worthy and eager to serve the nation. If, in recent years, this feeling has been expressed more anxiously, more passionately, it has been the voice of a profession at tragical disadvantage with the times.

It is particularly gratifying to me, therefore, that I address you at a moment when the Treasury Department, taking considerate and sympathetic account of these circumstances, has provided for a measure of recognition of the private architects of the country through a system of regional competitions.

This gesture, as you are aware, has been received with marked satisfaction by the profession and with the hope that it may make for such results as will encourage the Department to identify the architect as responsibly as possible with his finished product.

In view of the esteem in which American architecture is held abroad this recognition comes felicitously on the eve of the first meeting in this country of the International Congress of Architects under the auspices of the United States Government. We are all greatly interested in this visitation which, incidentally, will bring the Federal aspect of Washington under a new and critical scrutiny. Our people are intelligently convinced of the beauty of the Washington scene and of the debt we owe to the men of an

older day who perceived the vision of it. We must not be surprised, however, if the incorrigible classicality of its architecture provoked only an oblique politeness from the more sophisticated of our visitors who have embraced the new architectural philosophies. Nor should we permit ourselves to be disturbed by an attitude which, after all, is not unfamiliar even here. We are all trying very thoughtfully to determine the measure of our present obligation to history or whether we have any which should prevent our consigning it utterly to the waste-basket. Meantime, architecture is so inscrutable an interest that it reminds me of an incident which recently happened in Cambridge. A member of the crew had boasted of getting high marks and, on being pressed, admitted it was in Sanscrit. The following morning two athletic young men called on Professor Lanman to express an interest in his subject. The Professor, excited by the implications of intellectuality from so strange a quarter, showed them his choicest books. When they were leaving presently, Mrs. Lanman was just in time to overhear one of them exclaim, "Hell! it's a language!"

I find myself uncomfortably close here to the verge of controversy and I must sheer off. The President of The Institute should deal discreetly with his private and fallible opinions on matters which will in all likelihood soon settle themselves. It is to be assumed that he is not oblivious to the fact that the material world has changed considerably since the days of Mr. Mills and that the circumstance deserves its due acknowledgment. Nevertheless, he is moved to express the hope that in this accommodation the men who shape the architecture of Government may not be persuaded to put too light an estimate upon the merit of a tradition which has given so gracious and distinguished a countenance to our National Capital.



Washington Post Photograph

AT THE ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Postmaster General Farley slips across a high-power wisecrack to the editor of the Federal Architect CANDID PICTURES TAKEN AT THE ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF THE SUPERVISING ARCHITECT'S OFFICE



(Above)

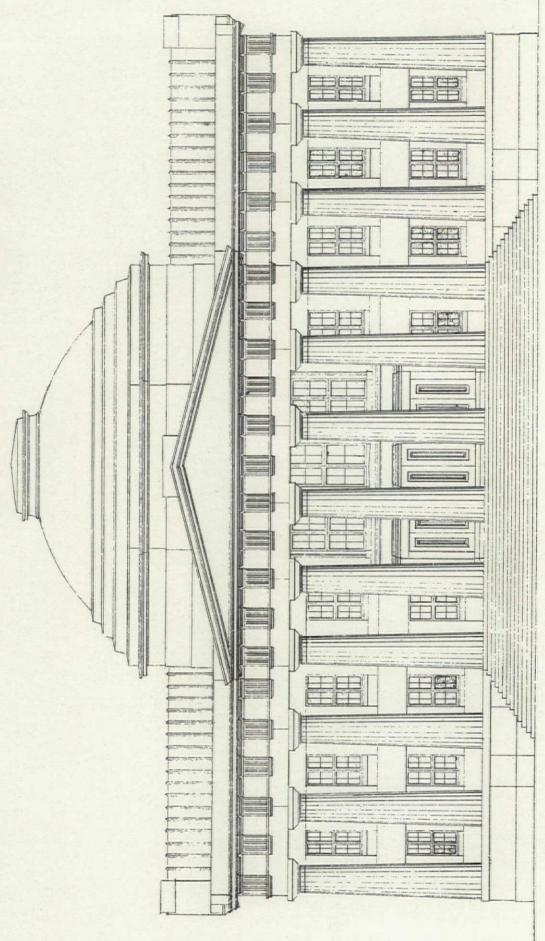
Administrator Carmody, expounds. Mr. Reynolds, newly-appointed Commissioner of Public Buildings, and Captain Collins, newly-appointed Director of Procurement have you're-got-something-there expressions.

(Below)

Admiral Peoples convinces Secretary of Treasury Morgenthau. Architectural Advisor LeRoy Barton is apparently unconvinced at the moment but will give his full concurrence presently.



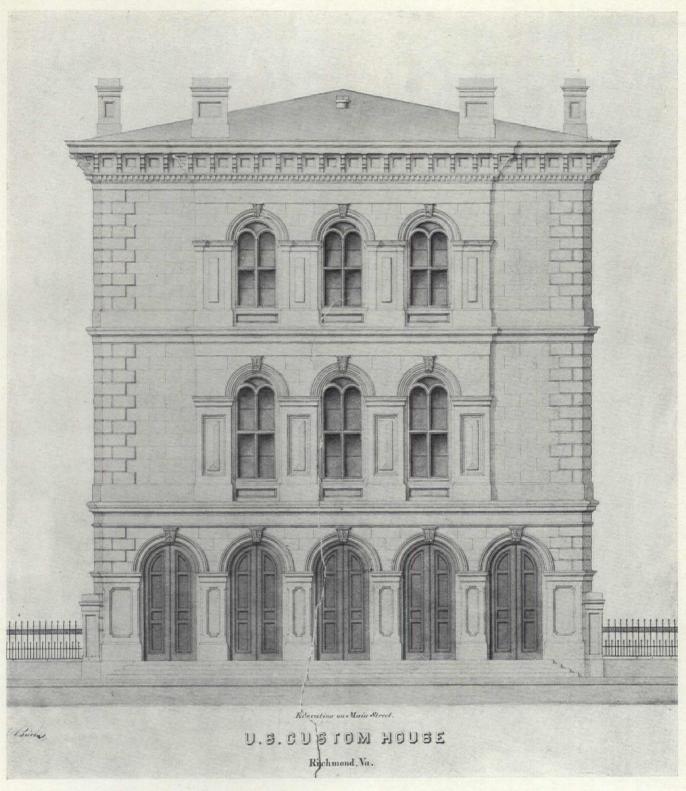
Washington Post Photograph



Anniversary Exhibit

1847

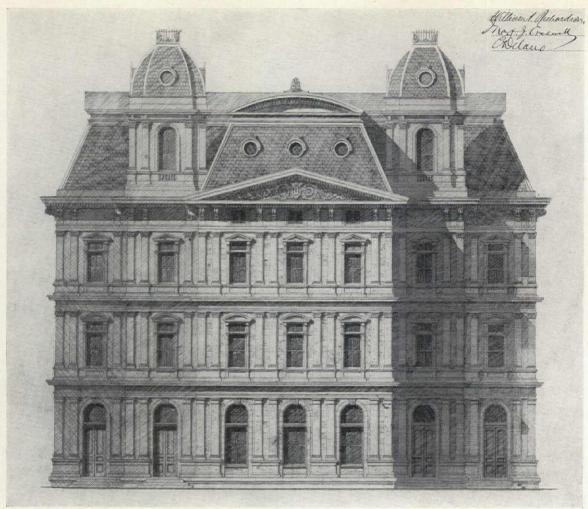
In 1841 Ammi B. Young was appointed as assistant to Robert Mills with particular responsibility for the design of the Boston Custom House. Young asked to be sent abroad to study custom houses, which Mills would not approve, saying "If the Government pays him for his knowledge of his profession, it should not pay him to obtain that knowledge." Young's final drawing for the Custom House is reproduced above. When Mills left the service in 1842 Young carried on until 1852 when by legislation he became Supervising Architect. In 1910 Peabody and Stearns designed a tower office building which was superimposed on top of Ammi Young's custom house. The original building was completed in 1847.



Anniversary Exhibit

1858

THE Custom House at Richmond, Virginia, was erected under the regime of Supervising Architect Ammi B. Young, in 1858. It later became the Treasury Building of the Confederacy. Two extensions have been added to it. Time has dealt kindly with it and it is imposing in its stately location opposite the State Capitol.



Anniversary Exhibit

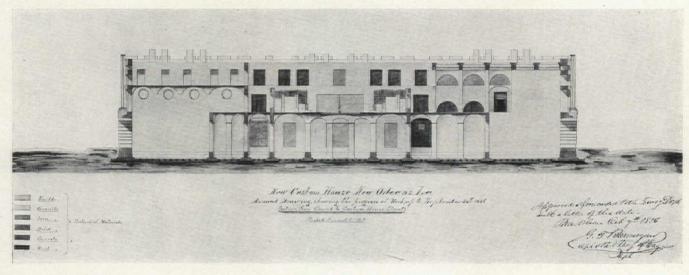
1873

U. S. POST OFFICE, HARTFORD, CONN. A. P. Mullett, Supervising Architect

THE drawing below is titled as "annual drawing showing progress of work to Sept. 30, 1856," and is a progress drawing instead of a progress photo. It is signed, curiously enough, by G. T. Beauregard, Major of Engineers, a name later to become well known as that of the Commander-in-Chief of the Confederate Army.

1856

Ammi B. Young, Supervising Architect

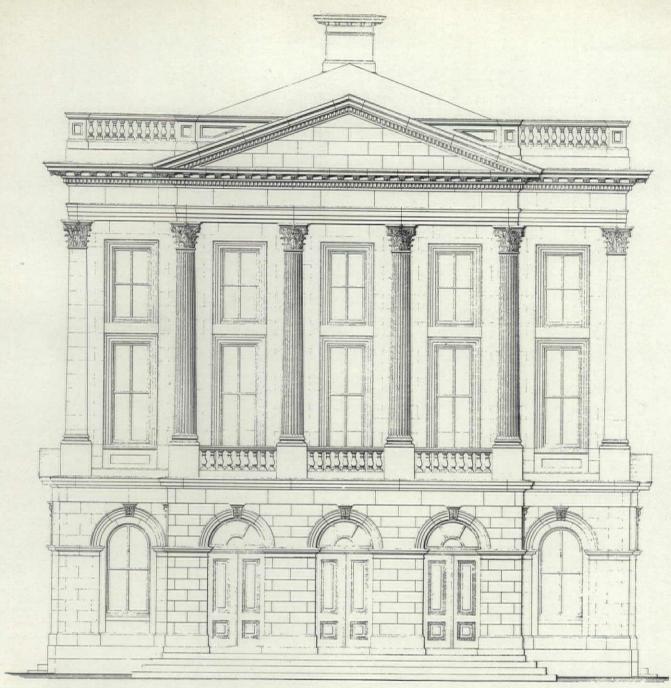


Anniversary Exhibit

Page 16

U. S. CUSTOM HOUSE, NEW ORLEANS, LA.

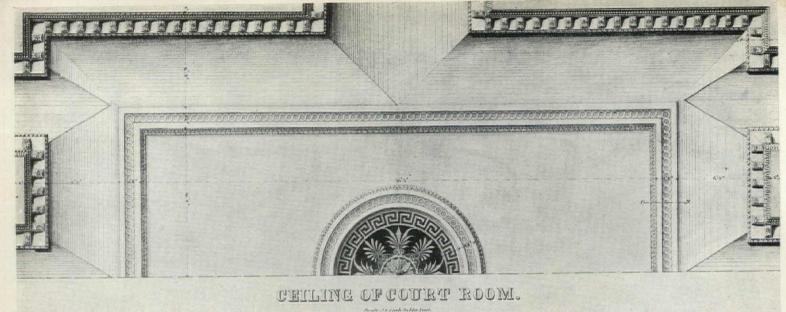
The FEDERAL ARCHITECT · JULY, 1939

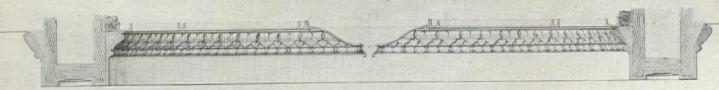


Anniversary Exhibit 1873

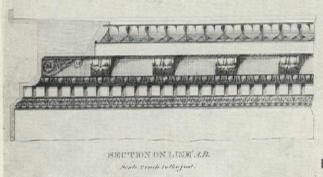
DRAWING made in 1873 of the elevation of the Post Office and Court House at Portland, Maine. This is a beautifully executed drawing but the ink has rubbed and faded in places so that many of the lines have not reproduced.

The drawings printed in this issue are from the historical exhibition held in connection with the Anniversary Dinner of the Supervising Architect's Office.





SECTION OF CENTREPIECE.



DETAILS OF PLASTER-WORK. Nº31.



Anniversary Exhibit

1873

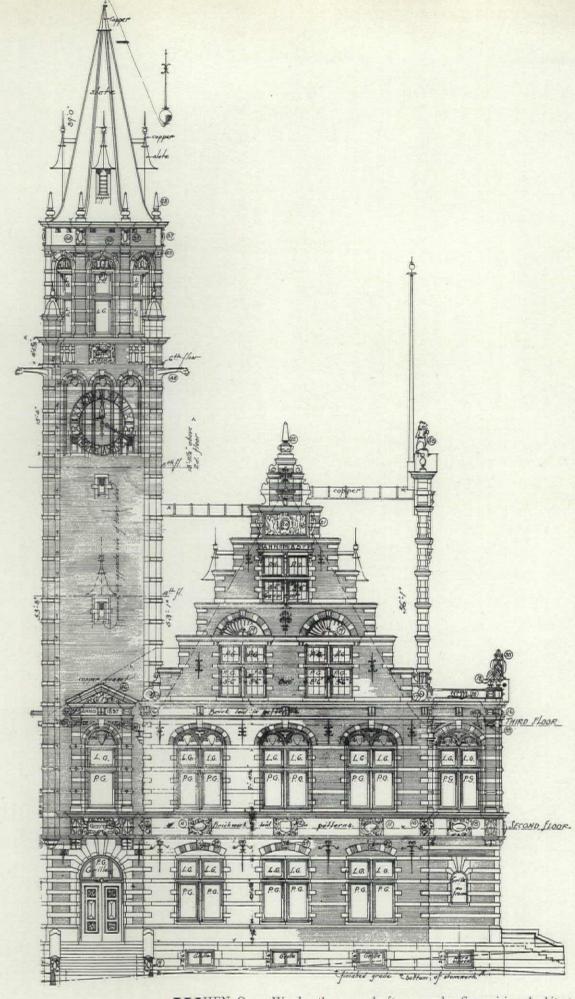
Detail of Court Room Ceiling at Portland, Maine, Custom House

eso

LIST OF HEADS OF OFFICE OF SUPERVISING ARCHITECTS

ROBERT MILLS1836-1842	WILL A. FRERET1887-1888
	(Supervising Architect)
(title Federal Architect) AMMI B. YOUNG	JAMES H. WINDRIM1889-1900
(Architectural Advisor)	(Supervising Architect)
AMMI B. YOUNG	W. J. EDBROOKE1891-1892
(C. tamining Architect)	(Supervising Architect)
ISAIAH ROĞERS	JEREMIAH O'ROURKE1893-1894
(Suberrusing Architect)	(Supervising Architect)
A. B. MULLETT	WM. MARTIN AIKEN1895-1896
(Supervising Architect)	(Supervising Architect)
W. A. POTTER1874-1877	JAMES KNOX TAYLOR1897-1912
(Supervising Architect)	(Supervising Architect)
JAMES B. HILL	OSCAR WENDEROTH1913-1914
(Supervising Architect)	(Supervising Architect)
M. E. BELL1884-1886	JAMES A. WETMORE1915-1933
(Supervising Architect)	(Acting Supervising Architect)
LOUIS A. SIMON	1933 to present
(Supervising Archit	ect)

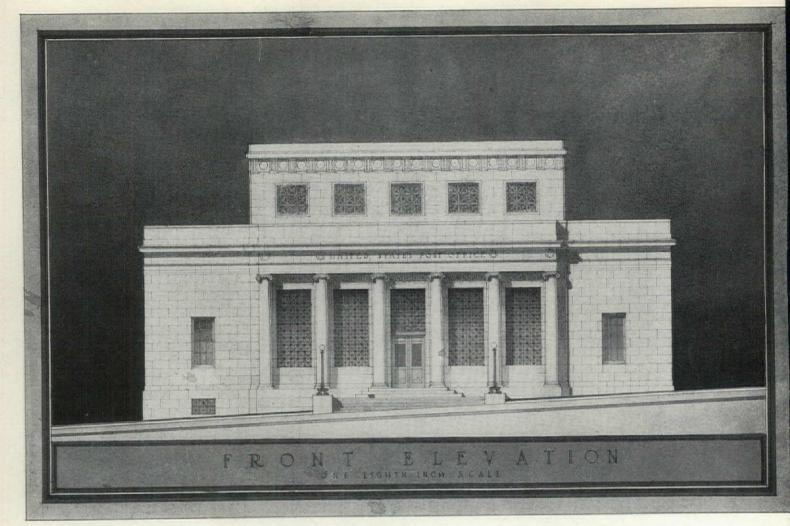
The FEDERAL ARCHITECT · JULY, 1939



Anniversary Exhibit

1899

WHEN Oscar Wenderoth was a draftsman under Supervising Architect James Knox Taylor he made this fine drawing of the Paterson, N. J., Post Office which was required to be in the Dutch style. Wenderoth later went with Carrere and Hastings and returned in 1913 to be Supervising Architect.



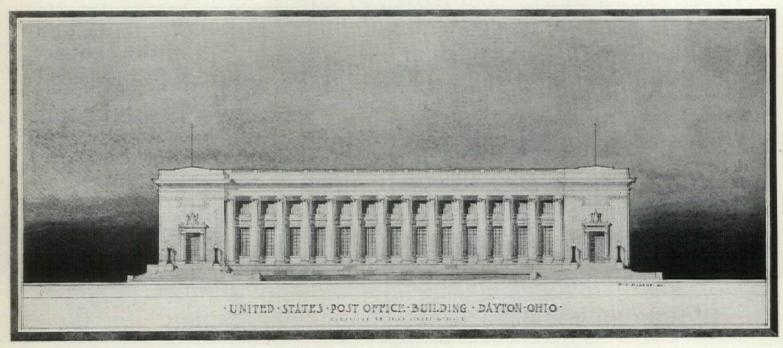
(above) 1914

U. S. POST OFFICE, MOUNT VERNON, N. Y. Oscar Wenderoth, Supervising Architect Designed and Rendered by Phil Hooton

Anniversary Exhibit

(below) 1911

U. S. POST OFFICE, DAYTON, OHIO James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect





1938

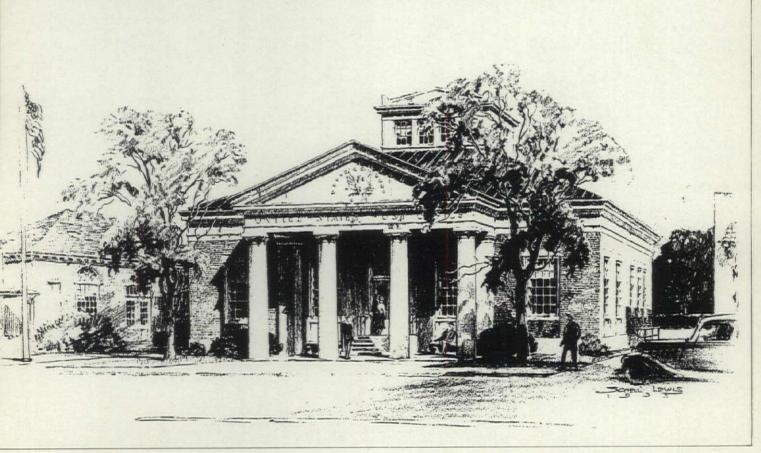
NATIONAL CANCER BUILDING, BETHESDA, MARYLAND Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect

Reis Weston, Delineator

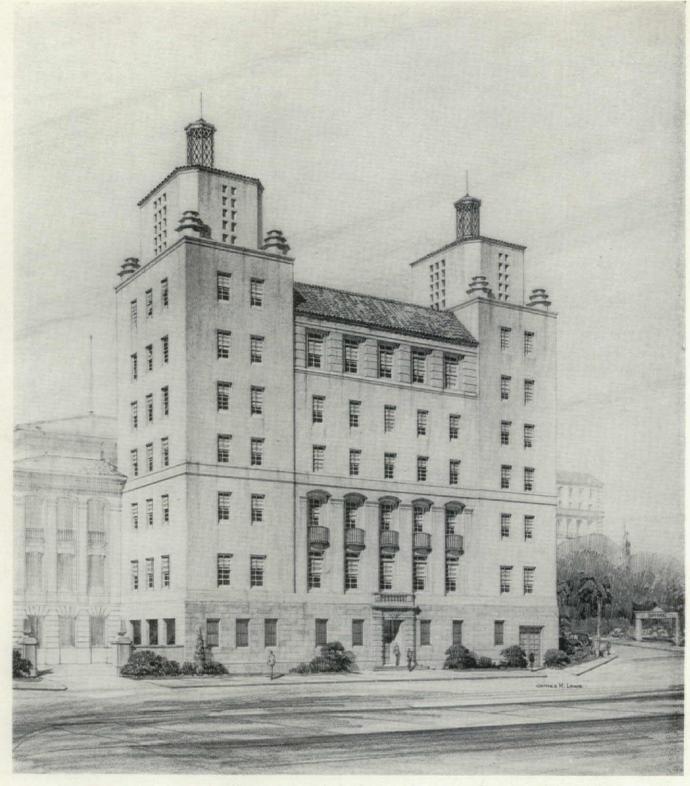
Anniversary Exhibit

1935

U. S. POST OFFICE GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect Lorimer Rich, Consulting Architect



Shell Lewis, Delineator



1938

Anniversary Exhibit

James H. Lowe, Delineator

Federal Building
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO
Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect

JUDGE WETMORE'S LETTER

(Continued from page 6)

If anything goes wrong with this fellow I'll call ye." The priest demurred but was finally persuaded to accept the hospitality proffered, particularly when the orderly added: "Father, don't worry. I'll not fail ye. I'm all over this hospital at all hours of the night, and nothing happens that I don't know about. I'll look in on this fellow every little while, and if he gets worse I'll call ye." When the priest came down stairs next morning he learned of the patient's death. Naturally, he took the orderly to task, but the latter said: "Now, Father, don't be too hard on me 'till ye know what happened. During the night I found this fellow was getting much worse and I ran up and shook you, and told you to get up, and ye said 'yes; yes' and ye sat up. I thought ye were going to follow me right down stairs. When ye didn't come I ran back and ye were that dead tired that ye had gone to sleep again. So I shook ve and called ve again, and I thought I had 'roused ye and I hurried back to this fellow who was getting weaker and weaker, and when ye didn't come I administered consolation to him myself. "You administered consolation to him? What did you say?"
"Well, Father," said the orderly, "I had been knowing this fellow for a long time and I said to him, 'Mike, ye'r a dom sick man.' 'I know I am,' sez he.' Then sez I, 'I think ye'r going to die,' and he sez, 'I think so, too.' Then I sez 'I am afraid ye'r going to hell,' and he sez, 'I am afraid I am that.' Then I sez: 'Don't worry, considering everything I think ye'r lucky to have some place to go to." And, Mr. Sperry added that he thought, considering everything, that his constituent was lucky to have some place to go to. Perhaps this applies with equal force to the Supervising Architect's Office. However, I hope its excellence in the past and its recognized efficiency will insure for it the welcome and recognition it deserves from the organization of which it will form a part.

Say, Eddie, did you ever get so mad that you couldn't say anything? Maybe I've told you this before. A bishop was playing golf and he "foozled" his ball scandalously. He didn't say a word, and one of the foursome said to him: "Bishop, when you do that don't you ever say just a little bad word?" "No," said the Bishop, "but where I spit the grass never grows again." The situation reminds me. When the old office was located on the basement floor of the Treasury Building access was had through a passageway leading from the corridor to the south court where a structure to serve as a drafting room had been built. On one side old man Moberly and his gang of hellions, who constituted the mailing force, were located. On the opposite side was a long table. One day Adolph Cluss rushed in and threw his hat on the table before going in to see Colonel Lowe. While he was inside one of the hellions cut some strips of blotting paper and inserted them under the sweatband of the hat. When Cluss came out he picked up the hat, put it on his head, took it off, looked it over carefully, replaced it on the table and disappeared in the drafting room in search of his hat, which, of course, he did not find. Meanwhile, the strips of

blotting paper had been removed. When Cluss came out he started off without his hat, but Moberly called his attention to it. "It isn't my hat," said Cluss. "Well, you left it there," said Moberly, "and no one else has been in or out since." Cluss picked up his hat, tried it on, gave a dirty look at Moberly that could have killed, tried to say something, but words failed him as he disappeared. If he could have spit I know it would have left an indelible stain on the tiled

Well, the old office-or what is left of it-seems to be on its way to a new mooring, and I wish you all a happy landing.

With kind regards to my former office associates, and best wishes always, I am,

Sincerely, "THE JUDGE."



AIR-CONDITIONING ENGINEERS' ATLAS

["Air-Conditioning Engineers' Atlas" by Clifford Strock and C. H. B. Hotchkiss. 76 pages, including 18 colored maps; size 9 x 12 in. Published by The Industrial Press, 148 Lafayette St., New York, N. Y. Price \$2.00.1

Heating and air conditioning engineers continually find it necessary to study weather data in connection with design and operating problems. The weather data that they need, however, are usually buried in such enormous masses of existing weather figures that it is frequently an impossible task to locate the desired information. The Air-Conditioning Engineers' Atlas is a new type of book presenting in condensed and usable form the climatic data needed for the solution of heating and cooling problems,

The Atlas consists of 18 sections, each containing a colored map of the United States, accompanied by pertinent data in tabular form; of these 18 sections nine deal with winter weather conditions and nine with summer weather conditions. The maps are zoned to show graphically, for all parts of the country, figures on the various phases of weather which are of concern to the heating and air conditioning engineer, while the tables contain supplementary data applying to the larger cities and their environs.

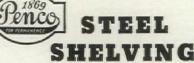
Describing Celotex Traffic-Top as a new material which inexpensively transforms flat roofs that have never been used before into recreational areas, a new folder just published by The Celotex Corporation explains fully the various features of a product which has many uses. It allows owners and operators of residences, hotels, apartments, hospitals or other types of buildings with flat roofs to turn them into playgrounds for children, roof gardens, recovery areas and open air play centers for schools and factories.



William Y. Brady, Assistant District Engineer, in the Public Buildings Branch of the Procurement Division, retired from the Government service March 1, 1939, and was presented with a fine mahogany house desk by forty-six members of the Field Engineering force and the personnel of the District office.

Presentation was made by District Engineer McAllister, without speeches, and the recipient showed himself much pleased with the token of regard from his fellow-workers.

NEW PHILADELPHIA POST OFFICE Equipped Throughout with





Order your requirements from

PENN METAL CORPORATION OF PENNA.

PHILADELPHIA

Manufacturers of Steel Shelving, Lockers, Storage and Wardrobe Cabinets

MINNESOTA DOLOMITIC LIMESTONE

A sound durable stone, produced in color shades of

GRAY, CREAM, BUFF, and PINK.

Fine and Coarse Texture Stone



Ample production and milling facilities for any project.

MINNESOTA DOLOMITE ASSOCIATION
Mankato Minnesota

Mr. William G. Jones, Jr., The Celotex Corporation, 1276 National Press Bldg., Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Jones:

Thank you for the examples of various types of Celotex advertising. For my own information as well as yours, I have shown these around about to various architects whose opinions and reactions, taken collectively, I would say represent a good cross section of architectural psychology.

Architects are average individuals, in everything except what they see. Advertising they hear over the radio appeals to them exactly as to persons in other professions. Advertising they see, however, gets into their own field and appeals to eyes sensitively trained over a long period of years. So, frequently they may turn over quickly a page to get it out of their sight, a page which would not annoy the average person.

All these proofs which you sent me are carefully prepared and are well-designed in that they bring to the surface quickly the important elements. To architects however, there are certain annoyances which detract from their appeal, would probably cause architects to flip over the page where otherwise they would pause.

I think all the pages you sent have too much printing and too many different kinds of printing,—that is, for nuts like architects, understand, and not for regular individuals, for whom I do not speak. Also there is this device of overprinting a panel of lettering in the middle of the page which is good technique generally, but which annoys architects by spoiling the photograph which is their main interest.

The best liked of the pages were the ones I have marked (1) and (3). The interest was in the photographs, and in the case of (1) because the printing was simplified and of such extent that one would be inclined to read it.

I am venturing to stick my neck out as an advertising critic because of the fact that there has been much discussion of advertising lately by both Government and non-Government architects, who feel that much of the appeal of architectural advertising is lost because advertisers forget the trained-eye part of the architectural profession.

If I may with humility venture into a field in which my friends Bruce Barton and Leon Hansen assure me kindly I know almost nothing, I would say, after a pretty careful investigation, that Government architects (and I think it applies to private architects) like the following elements in an advertisement:

- (1) A photograph.
- (2) A simple page, with not too many different kinds of ideas in different kinds of lettering.

 (Continued on page 28)

In the early spring of 1834 a small rolling mill was built at Torrington, Connecticut, for the purpose of rolling brass for the manufacture of kettles. Machinery was imported from England and there was great difficulty in securing workmen competent to carry on the business. Israel Holmes of Waterbury, Connecticut, who was the manager of this mill went to England and succeeded in procuring a few experienced workers. When English manufacturers, who were fearful of losing their American trade, endeavored to prevent him from employing and bringing these men into the United States, he succeeded in embarking a colony of workmen and their families, about 30 persons in all.

Tradition has it that Mr. Holmes transported his craftsmen in casks in which they were smuggled on board ship. After arrival on the New England coast the workmen again entered the casks to be drawn ashore at night and transported to Waterbury.

This interesting saga of the brass industry is graphically illustrated by a diorama which is one of the features of the Copper & Brass Industry Exhibit, Metals Building, New York World's Fair.

CSO

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Resigned

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Daniel H. Robertson, Jr., 6/2/39.

Discontinued

Irving Van Wagner, 5/28/39.

ROMANY TILES for AIRPORTS



Administration Building

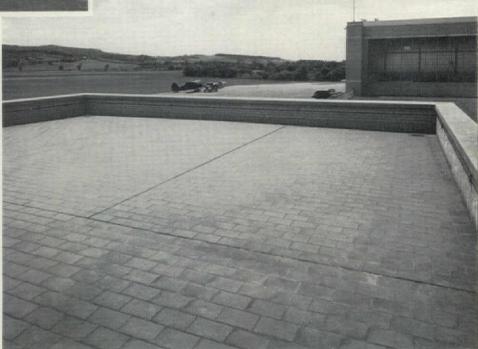
MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

New Cumberland, Pa. (Near Harrisburg.)

General Contractor—Ritter Bros.
Tile Contractor—Lehigh Tile & Marble Co.



Kitchen



Roof Deck

6 x 9 Romany Red Quarry Tiles

The floors and decks of a Modern Airport must withstand the pounding and scraping of hurrying feet. Quarry Tile surfaces are not marred after years of heavy traffic. Minimum maintenance is assured. Quarry tiles are made in a wide range of sizes and colors and will harmonize with any type of Architecture.

United States Quarry Tile Co.



St. Elizabeth's Hospital

Continued Treatment Building

Construction Division

Veterans Bureau—Architects

Shown above is a typical installation of walls and floors by Sparta. This Hospital installation indicates the type of decorative effect achieved by the restricted use of a Spartan Chintz pattern. The result is an interesting wainscot that will withstand extreme abuse. The Spartan Weave on the floor is a four by three with half inch dot.

All tiles by

The

SPARTA CERAMIC COMPANY

East Sparta,

Ohio

(Con	tinued	from	page	24)
A 10.44		A COLUMN TO STATE OF THE PARTY	1	

(3) No distortion. Slanting lettering and that type of thing, which takes the eye of the ordinary individual, worries an architect.

One architect said, "The main thing is for the architect to see the word Celotex. If there is a badly composed, heterogeneous page, he will probably turn the page before seeing Celotex. If the page is well composed, he will study it long enough to get Celotex burned on his mind. If it is so well composed as to be a thing of beauty he will come back again to look at it and will think Celotex many times when the magazine is not in his hands."

The rating of the pages in order of interest to Government architects would be No. 1, No. 3, No. 2, No. 4, No. 6, No. 5.

Sincerely yours,

EDWIN BATEMAN MORRIS, Editor.

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							52,333.00
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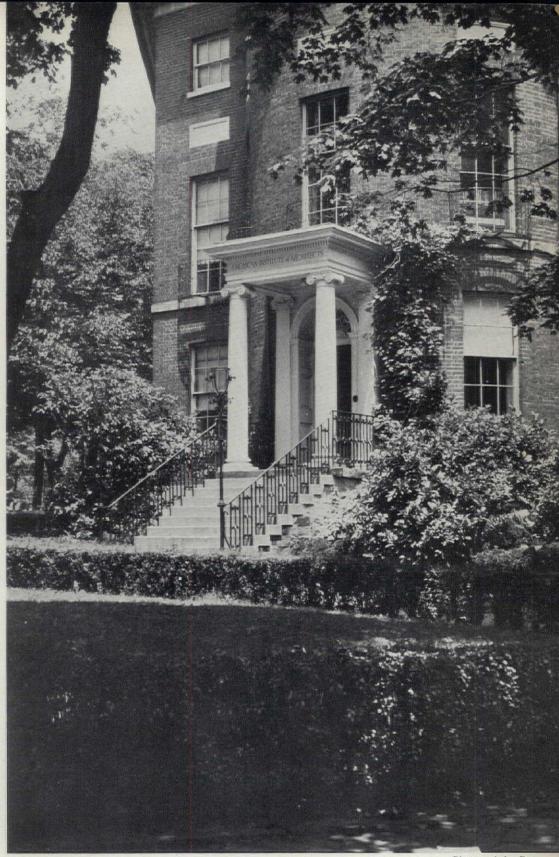
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- 44,640,00 Alcatraz, California, Penitentiary—construction of the Industrial Building—Louis C. Dunn, Inc., 799 Monad-nock Building, San Francisco, California. 186,000.00
- Plano, Illinois, P. O.—construction, etc.—Mutual Contracting Company, 2532-34 Warren Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois.
- Anchorage, Alaska, P. O. & CT. H.—construction, etc.— McCarthy Bros. Construction Co., 4903 Delmar Boule-vard, St. Louis, Missouri.
- San Francisco, California, P. O., Rincon Annex—in stallation of an elevator plant,—The Shepard Elevator Co., Inc., 2425 Colerain Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio.....
- Hoffman Island, N. Y., Maritime Commission Station—dock changes, etc.—Mr. Thor Wetlesen, 430 Bement Avenue, West Brighton, Staten Island, N. Y.
- Lowville, N. Y., P. O.—construction, etc.—Samuel Plato, 2509 W. Walnut Street, Louisville, Kentucky......
- Monticello, Indiana, P. O.—construction, etc.—James I. Barnes Construction Co., Barnes Building, Logansport, Indiana.
- Oxnard, California, P. O.—construction, etc.—R. J. Daum, 6803 West Boulevard, Inglewood, California. Bethesda, Maryland, National Cancer Institute—manufacture and installation of certain laboratory equipment, including the mechanical equipment—Kewaunee Mfg. Co., Adrain, Michigan.
- Seattle, Washington, Court House—complete elevator plant—Otis Elevator Company, 810—18th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.
- Seattle, Washington. Court House—construction—N. P. Severin Co., 222 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois Bangor, Pennsylvania P. O.—construction etc.—Henry Dattner, 1515 Barlum Tower, Detroit, Michigan..... Dattner, 1515 Barlum Tower, Detroit, Michigan...

 Washington, D. C., Central Heating Plant, Social Security and RR retirement BD. Bldgs., and General Federal Office Building—construction of the C Street southwest extension to the steam distribution system, including all work shown in Central Heating Plant—The Mechanical Engineering Construction and Equipment Company, 1814 W. Fayette Street, Baltimore, Md.
- Blackshear, Georgia, P. O.—construction, etc.—Barnes Brothers, 314½ Fifth Street, Logansport, Indiana....
- Council Grove, Kansas, P. O.—construction etc.—Martin K. Eby Construction Co., 850 Litchfield Avenue, Wichita, Kansas. Jamaica, N. Y., P. O., Woodhaven Branch—construction, etc.—Thos. G. Sperling & Company, Inc., 103 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.
- Harrisonburg, Va., P. O. & CT. H.—construction, etc.—A. Farnell Blair, Lake Charles, Louisiana. Crookston, Minnesota, P. O.—extension and remodeling —Thos. L. Dawson Company, 2035 Washington Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

 New York, N. Y., P. O., Grand Central Annex—relocation of pneumatic tube mail transportation machinery, etc.—The Hayes Heating Company, 308 West 20th Street, New York, N. Y.

OCTAGON HOUSE 18th and New York Ave. Washington, D. C.



Photograph by Daum

Besides obtaining a charming and sentimentally perfect headquarters for itself, the American Institute of Architects, in acquiring the Octagon performed a splendid service to the cause of preservation of historic American buildings. With the life of Strickland's Philadelphia Custom House threatened and Latrobe's Decatur House in Washington, the preservation of historic structures is becoming a difficult and sorrowful problem.



NEW YORK CITY BUILDING, WORLD'S FAIR, N. Y. 1939

Aymar Embury II, Architect Psaty & Fuhrman, Inc., Builders.

THE only permanent building in the heart of the fair grounds; a huge rectangle 215' by 422'.

ATLANTIC TERRA COTTA used for the mottled green spandrels under the large windows and for the lustrous black capitals to the columns; a strikingly successful relief for the rigid gray of the limestone by the use of colored glazed smooth surfaces.

The penthouse is faced on all elevations with ATLANTIC TERRA COTTA. The ashlar has a very light gray background with subdued buff spots and superimposed small black spots. The triglyphs and the disks in the metopes are mottled green and the field white with faint yellowish tinge. The coping is lustrous black. These glazed Abbochrome colors all fired at standard Atlantic temperature 2400° F.

2' 0" diameter disks in the stone parapet are brilliantly gold glazed (twice fired).

The ashlar units in the penthouse field are 2' 5" wide by 2' 10" high. The triglyph and metopes 2' 6" high and the pieces carrying the green disk 2' 6" wide.

Every piece made with closed back providing excellent structural stability and eliminating expensive filling.

All flat surfaces face planed in dry state before firing insuring level face.

Each piece machine ground to accurate dimensions on all sides after firing to provide uniform 1/4" joints, and wrapped in heavy paper containers for safe delivery.

Great technological progress in the last few years has made ATLANTIC TERRA COTTA the modern high quality building material.

ATLANTIC TERRA

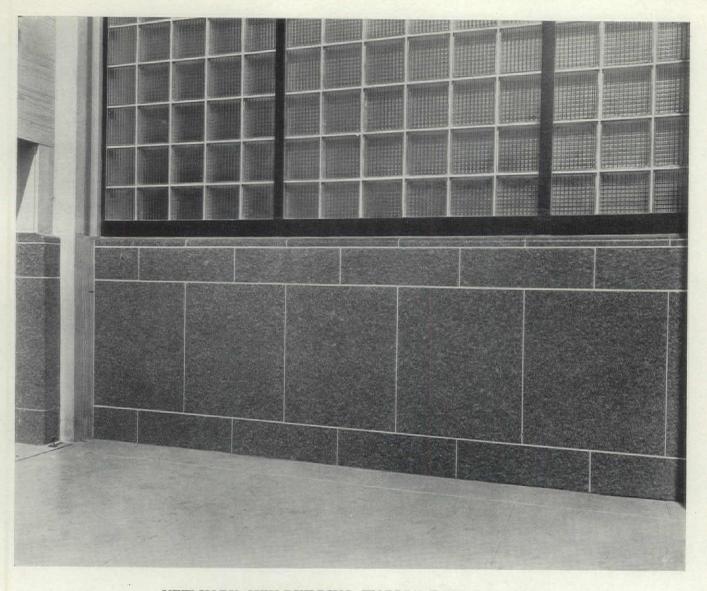
MAKERS OF AMERICA'S BEST KNOWN TERRA COTTA

101 Park Avenue, New York City

Southern Branch: ATLANTA TERRA COTTA CO., East Point, Ga.

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The FEDERAL ARCHITECT - JULY, 1939



NEW YORK CITY BUILDING, WORLD'S FAIR, N. Y. 1939

Detail of spandrels under large windows, first floor, in lustrous mottled green glaze. The pieces are 2' 85/8" wide and 3' 11/2" high.

THE INTERIOR

The great room in the interior 160' by 370' is lined on four sides, including the six stairhalls, with a wainscot five feet high. The field is in units 1' 3½" high by 1' 5½" long, closed back (planed in dry state to insure level face and machine ground after firing to accurate dimensions for uniform setting joint of 3/16") in lustrous Scotch blue glaze.

The diamonds in the pattern cap to this wainscot alternate in oyster white and scarlet vermilion (twice fired) glazes.

COTTA COMPANY

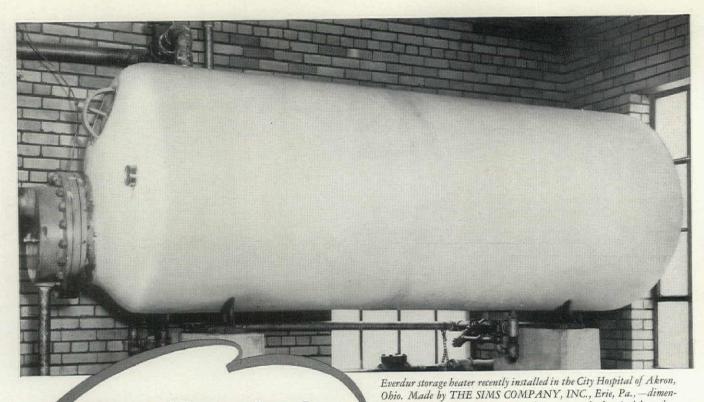
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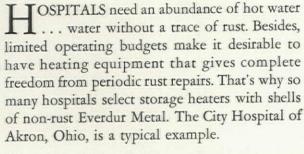
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City Hospital of Akron, Ohio

replaces rustable heaters with

Everdur

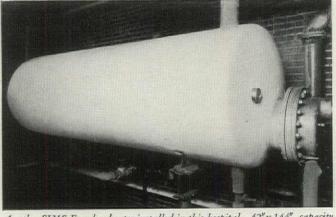


sions 48" x 144", capacity 3500 g.p.h. It serves the hospital laundry.

In Commerce, Industry and Homes

All over the country—in schools, department stores, office buildings, textile mills, laundries and various institutions—rustable heaters are being replaced by strong, long-lived heaters made of Everdur Metal. Here are the facts: Nowadays more Everdur tanks and heaters are sold in a week than were built in the entire year 1929.

Everdur—Anaconda's copper-silicon alloy—
is rustless, exceptionally strong, welds readily and
is moderate in cost. Metals with such a combination of extraordinary qualities are rare indeed.
For non-rust tanks and heaters of all types, consult the leading equipment manufacturers. Remember the name—Everdur Metal.



Another SIMS Everdur heater installed in this hospital—42"x 144", capacity 2000 g.p.h. It is used for general hospital service.

Everdur TANK METAL

THE AMERICAN BRASS COMPANY, General Offices: WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT In Canada: ANACONDA AMERICAN BRASS LTD., New Toronto, Ont. • Subsidiary of Anaconda Copper Mining Company

Visit the Copper and Brass Industry Exhibit in the Metals Building at the New York World's Fair 1939. We cordially invite you.



"EVERDUR" is a trade-mark of The American Brass Company, registered in the United States Patent Office. Conlon Bakery, Charleston, West Va. Architect: The McCormick Company

Note size of unit, 12" by 24", and evenness of jointing both horizontal and vertical.

Color is a textured buff glaze which will not fade or discolor, and if washed now and then with soap and water, will always be bright and new—a factor of vital importance in a plant such as this. The interior of the bakery is also Terra Cotta.



As Streamlined as Tomorrow's Car

Simplicity of line and breadth of scale, carried out in colorful Terra Cotta, characterize this outstanding expression of the modern trend.

Modern Terra Cotta is the one building material that meets the progressive architect's demand for color, scale and flatness. Produced in solid slabs up to 24" by 36" in the 2" thickness and larger in the 4", it is ground on four edges to accurate dimensions and face planed, before firing, to eliminate surface waviness.

This ultra modern plant
is entirely faced with
FEDERAL SEABOARD
ARCHITECTURAL TERRA COTTA

Stencilled polychrome decorations are produced economically and, as to color, there is no end to possibilities so long as architects seek "something a little bluer," "a trifle less yellow."

Write our New York office today for specifications and data on this modern Terra Cotta, equally at home in factory, office building or store front. Constant in beauty, economy and durability it keeps pace with the trend of our times.

FEDERAL SEABOARD TERRA COTTA CORP.

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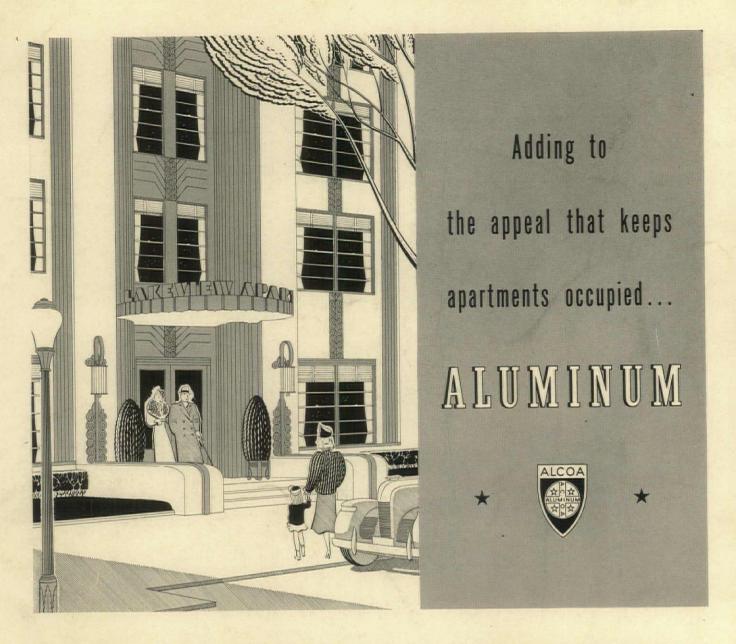
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NEW YORK, N. Y.

PERTH AMBOY, N. J.

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Aluminum adds a smartness that helps attract and hold the tenant; imparts by its subdued richness a feeling of solid permanence. The money-making ability of an apartment building is enhanced; Aluminum retains its attractive newness with but little care.

Free scope in design possibilities are offered with Aluminum, for it is suited to any metal-working treatment and can be given many striking finishes. Aluminum coping is neat and inexpensive. Aluminum window sills, spandrels, grilles and structural work add

greatly to valuation, yet show low annual cost.

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Standard Alcoa Aluminum extruded shapes for architectural uses are available. Aluminum Company of America, 2147 Gulf Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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