

THE  
OCTAGON

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*A Journal of The American Institute of Architects*

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# THE OCTAGON

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## The Sixty-Sixth Convention

SECOND NOTICE.

**T**HE first official notice to the membership concerning the Sixty-Sixth Convention appeared in the January number of The Octagon.

The Convention will be held in Washington, D. C., at the Mayflower Hotel, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday—May 16, 17, and 18, 1934.

Chapter Officers, Delegates, and prospective Delegates are requested to review that first notice which gave information on the following matters:

- Early Election of Delegates
- Procedure for Delegates and Proxies
- No Taxes or Refunds
- Chapter Meetings on Convention Business
- Nominations of Officers and Directors.

All of the preceding items are of importance and should be reviewed

### QUALIFICATIONS OF DELEGATES

Any member of the Institute who is in good standing therein and has been duly elected or appointed by a Chapter or by a State Association Member to represent it at the 1934 convention will be accredited to the Convention by the Credentials Committee upon presentation to that committee of his 1934 Institute membership card and the credentials of his election or appointment by the Chapter or State Association Member, as the case may be, and thereafter he may act as a delegate of the said Chapter or of the said State Association Member at that convention and also vote thereat any duly accredited proxy executed to him by a Chapter or by a State Association Member.

Possession of his 1934 membership card will be

*March, 5, 1934*  
prima facie evidence of his good standing in the Institute on April 30, 1934 so far as payment of his Institute dues is concerned. Such membership card will be issued to every member other than a State Association Member, who pays to the Institute, between January 1st and April 30, 1934, not less than \$5.00 on account of his 1934 annual dues, plus not less than \$5.00, or in full of any lesser amount owed, on account of the \$25.00 dues for the period 1931 to 1933 inclusive, if said \$25.00 has not been previously paid in full by said member.

Any member of the Institute who is in good standing therein and has been duly elected or appointed as an alternate by a Chapter or by a State Association Member will be accredited to the convention as such alternate on presentation of evidences of his good standing and the credentials as required of a delegate, and in the absence of a delegate of said Chapter or said State Association Member from said convention, said alternate may be accredited to act in lieu of said absent delegate, and thereafter may exercise all the power of a delegate in said convention.

### PROXY REPRESENTATION

Special attention is called to the procedure for electing Delegates and executing Proxies. In order that there may be no misunderstanding, the resolutions adopted by the Executive Committee—for the purpose of assuring representation from every Chapter and from every State Association Member—are again quoted as follows.

*Whereas*, Due to the economic depression, the Institute was unable to hold its annual Convention in 1933, but it is desirable to hold such a Convention in 1934; and

*Whereas*, It is desirable that every Chapter and every State Association Member be represented at such Convention, but the continued economic depression makes attendance of many delegates impossible, and all Chapters and State Association Members cannot be represented unless they can utilize their full right of proxy under the By-laws of the Institute, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Executive Committee does hereby authorize and declare that any Chapter and/or any State Association Member may be represented at the annual Convention of The American Institute of Architects, to be held in May, 1934, by voting and duly executing its proxy for one or more or all of the delegates to which it is entitled to be represented at such Convention to any duly accredited delegate to such Convention; and each such proxy, when duly accredited to said Convention, shall be voted by the said delegates holding the same; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Credentials at said Convention, if it finds the said proxy to be in due and regular form and duly executed, shall accredit each such proxy to the meeting as qualified to be voted therein and thereat by the said delegate.

Several requests for interpretation of these resolutions have been received, and have been answered by the Chairman of the Committee on Constitution and By-laws, Edwin Bergstrom, as follows:

The resolution states that any Chapter and/or any State Association Member may be represented at the annual convention of the American Institute of Architects to be held in May, 1934 by voting and duly executing its proxy for one or more or all of the delegates to which it (the Chapter or State Association Member, as the case may be) is entitled to be represented at such convention to any duly accredited delegate to such convention.

The Conventions of the Institute are composed of representatives of the Chapters and of the State Association Members. Therefore, an individual member of a chapter or of a State Association Member may not, under this resolution, delegate his proxy to any one.

The Chapter by vote, or the State Association Member, by vote, may authorize and execute its proxy in favor of any duly accredited delegate. The duly accredited delegate must be one who is actually present at the convention and who, as the delegate of a Chapter or of a State Association Member has been accredited by the Credentials committee as entitled to vote at the convention. The delegate to whom the proxy is given need not be a member of the Chapter or the State Association executing the proxy.

Therefore, if a Chapter or State Association Member is entitled to be represented at the 1934 convention of the Institute by three delegates, and is unable to send any delegate, then it, the Chapter or State Association Member may vote and execute its proxy to any delegate who is actually going to be present at the Convention, and is duly accredited thereto, and that delegate must then vote the proxy, which will register the three votes of the Chapter or State Association Member at each voting in the Convention at which the proxy is voted.

If the Chapter or State Association Member send any delegates, but not all to which it is entitled, then it may execute its proxy for the remaining number of votes to which it is entitled, to its own, or to any other delegate, as it may choose.

In due course, Chapter and State Association Member secretaries will receive delegate cards

and proxy cards which must be properly executed, and filed with the Credentials Committee at the time of registration. Those without such cards cannot qualify.

The Board of Directors of the Institute ask that every Chapter and every State Association Member send just as many Delegates to the Convention as is possible within its quota. The Board realizes that it will not be possible for some Chapters and some State Association Members to send full quotas of Delegates, and it urges that the emergency plan for the giving of proxies as herein outlined be followed.

#### HOTEL HEADQUARTERS AND RESERVATIONS

The Mayflower Hotel, at De Sales Street and Connecticut Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D. C., has been selected as the hotel headquarters for the Convention. The hotel is approximately one mile from the Union Station and is within the first zone taxicab rate. The hotel can be reached, from the Union Station, by taking a street car marked "Mt. Pleasant" or "Georgetown" or "Cabin John Bridge" or "Alta Vista."

By special arrangement with the management of the Mayflower Hotel all Institute Delegates, Members, and Guests will be assured of accommodations if their reservations are made direct to the Hotel at an early date—and not later than May 10th. Reservations made after May 10th may be too late to secure the type of accommodations desired.

The Mayflower has agreed to assure accommodations for all those attending the Convention, at the following prices:

Single room and bath for one person (for one hundred rooms only).....	\$3.50
Single room and bath for one person.	\$4.00, \$5.00
Double room and bath for two persons, with double bed.....	\$5.50, \$6.50
Double room and bath for two persons, twin beds.....	\$7.00, \$8.00, \$9.00

The Hotel advises that there will be no limitation on the number of rooms—except those at the \$3.50 rate, as indicated.

All applications for reservations at the Mayflower Hotel should specifically state that the applicant is a member of The American Institute of Architects, attending its Convention, and should specify the room desired, as to type and price, and should state the approximate time of arrival.

#### EARLY REGISTRATION—NOTICE

The Committee on Credentials will be on hand at the Mayflower Hotel on Tuesday, May 15th, from 3:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.; also, on Wednes-

day, May 16th from 9:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Those failing to register by 8:00 P.M., Wednesday, May 16th, will not be accorded the privilege of voting.

#### THE PROGRAM

The April number of *The Octagon* will go into some detail with regard to the Convention Program and will contain notices of amendments relating to dues to be offered to the Convention by the Board. It may be said now that this Convention is of unusual importance.

The Gold Medal of the Institute will be presented to Ragnar Ostberg, perhaps at the White House by President Roosevelt on the evening of May 17th.

The Committee on Education has an unusual report to be presented to the Delegates on the evening of May 16th.

On the evening of Friday, May 18th, a dinner will be given, with distinguished officials as the guests of the Institute.

At the day sessions of the Convention much time has been allotted to consideration of the status of the architect under code requirements, and under the new economic order. Also, the

Delegates will have before them the financial problems of the Institute, which include proposals to reduce dues and adjust outstanding accounts. The Report of the Board of Directors will discuss all of these matters and will offer a general survey of the condition of the Institute, its program, its policies, and its objectives.

The middle of May is a most agreeable time of the year in Washington. The railroads and the bus lines offer special rates which are most reasonable. The modern highway systems put Washington within easy driving distance of many Chapters east of the Mississippi River. At the San Antonio Convention some of the Delegates from the Washington State Chapter drove their own automobiles from Seattle!

Be sure that you come to the Convention, no matter how. All Members, all Architects regardless of affiliation, are just as welcome as Delegates. It's time for the Architects to get together again and demonstrate to themselves, and to the public at large, that idealists are not to be exterminated, or even licked.

FRANK C. BALDWIN,  
*Secretary.*

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### Code For Architects—Progress Report

**T**HERE is nothing new to report on the status of the Architects' Code. In the February number of *The Octagon* the Code of Fair Competition for the Construction Industry was printed in full.

The only other Construction Industry Code approved since then is that of the General Contractors' Division, which becomes Chapter II of the Construction Industry Code. The Contractors' Code is reviewed elsewhere in this issue.

The Code Committee of the Institute met in Washington on March 5th to continue the negotiations with N.R.A. with respect to certain provisions

*March 10, 1934*  
of the Code which have not been agreed upon; and also to attend the meetings of Code Authorities and Code Committees called by General Johnson for the purpose of reviewing the whole code situation; and for other purposes, as stated in the public press.

The membership may depend upon *The Octagon* to keep them fully informed with respect to the Architects' Code and developments concerning it.

FRANK C. BALDWIN  
*Secretary.*

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### Construction Industry Code—Review

**I**N the February number of *THE OCTAGON*, with accompanying notice of February 5 addressed by the Secretary to members of the Institute and the architectural profession, there was printed in full the Code of Fair Competition for the Construction Industry.

That code became effective on March 2, 1934.

Inquiries have been received with respect to those sections of the Construction Industry Code which are of special significance to architects.

All architects should be familiar with all provisions

of the Construction Industry Code, and it should be used as a reference document. Prior to the issuance of interpretations by the Construction Code Authority, and solely for the purpose of rendering informal assistance to members of the Institute, the following provisions of the Construction Industry Code are believed to be of direct or indirect application to architectural practice. It is suggested that they be checked against the February number of *THE OCTAGON*, which contains the Code in full:

Article II—Definitions—Sections 1 to 10 inc.;

Article III—Hours, Wages and Conditions of Employment—Sections 2, 3 and 4;

Article VII—Competitive Bidding Practices—Sections 1 to 14, inclusive;

Article VIII—General—Sections 1 to 6 inc.

Copies of the Construction Industry Code, printed as a separate document, can be obtained from the Construction League of the United States, 1741 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C., at 5 cents per copy. Send stamp or other remittance with order.

This Code appeared in full in the February number of THE OCTAGON.

## Code for General Contractors—Review

### Chapter II—General Contractors' Division\*

**T**HIS Code was approved by President Roosevelt on February 17, and becomes effective on March 19, 1934.

The Code, in full, can be obtained from the Associated General Contractors, 222 Munsey Building, Washington, D. C., at ten cents a copy. Copies were sent from The Octagon to all Chapter Presidents on February 19, 1934.

Every architect should become thoroughly familiar with the privileges and the obligations of the general contractor under the latter's Code of Fair Competition. The following sections are taken from the Code as of special interest to the architect at this time and prior to the general circulation of the Code:

#### Article I.—Definitions.

##### Section 1.—A General Contractor.

The term "general contractor" is hereby defined to mean without limitation any individual, partnership, association, trust, trustee, trustee in bankruptcy, receiver, corporation or agency which undertakes, whether by formal contract or otherwise, to direct, superintend, coordinate and execute either directly or through others, the work of constructing, substantially in its entirety, any fixed structural or physical improvement, or a modification thereof, or an addition or repair thereto, excluding any such operation aggregating in its entirety less than the sum of \$1,000.00.

It is recognized that the function of the architect or professional engineer is to design or plan construction projects and acting in his professional capacity to supervise the execution thereof on behalf of the owner. Such architects or professional engineers in the performance of their normal and customary functions shall not be deemed to be included in the foregoing definition of a general contractor.

##### Section 4.—Sub-contractor.

The term "sub-contractor" as used herein shall mean anyone other than an employee who enters

\*Must be observed in conjunction with Chapter I—General Provisions.

into a contract for the performance of an act with the General Contractor who has already contracted or otherwise arranged for its performance.

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#### Article IV.—Practices as to Submitting Bids.

##### Section 1.—Bids by General Contractors.

In order that whenever contracts are to be let by competitive bidding the terms of the competition shall be such as to insure fair competition, a general contractor, in submitting bids for the construction or improvement of either private or public works, shall be governed by the following provisions:

(a) All bids shall be in writing, signed by an authorized representative of the bidder. Alternate proposals may be submitted with the original bid, providing the same privilege is extended to all bidders.

(b) A general contractor shall not take advantage in his bid of any special privilege, favor or understanding had with him by persons in control of the award. This, however, shall not prevent any such competitor, even though not the lowest bidder, from taking such contract, providing the award is made at his original competitive price, nor shall it prevent any contractor from accepting the award of such contract at any price where no competitive bids are taken.

(c) A general contractor shall not revise his bid after bids have been opened in order to improve his position with the owner. Bona fide mistakes discovered after the opening of bids shall be grounds for withdrawal only.

Where supplemental bids are requested because of substantial changes in the plans and/or specifications, such bids shall reflect only the true value of the changes.

A general contractor shall not bid upon a private construction project upon which bids

have been opened, or at any time within 90 days next thereafter, except there be substantial changes in the plans and specifications.

(d) Standards of accounting, cost keeping and estimating may be prescribed by subdivisions for the purpose of determining a fair price for services or products and systems for the interchange of such information subsequent to the award of specific work may be established. Such standards shall be subject to the approval of the Divisional Code Authority and of the Administrator.

## Article V.—General.

### Trade Practices.

#### Section 1.—Qualification of Contractor.

A general contractor bidding upon or undertaking to execute construction contracts shall be properly qualified by capital, organization and experience. He shall own or have available sufficient and proper equipment to execute the work bid upon or furnish evidence of his ability to acquire same.

#### Section 2.—Credit Information.

A general contractor shall make available upon request to those responsible for the award of construction contracts, pertinent information as to his current financial position, using the standard questionnaire forms developed and approved by and available through the Joint Conference on Construction Practices, Washington, D. C., or other forms approved or prescribed by the Administrator, and may request equivalent information from the owner.

#### Section 3.—Records and Accounts.

A general contractor shall maintain and employ an adequate system of records and accounts, which system shall clearly show the allocation as to each specific project of all funds received or disbursed on account thereof.

#### Section 4.—Contractual Agreements.

The following bases of contractual agreements are recognized as fair trade practices; guaranteed price, cost of the work plus a fee, unit price, lump sum, and other contractual methods not inimical to the public interest, providing that the regulations contained in this Code of Fair Competition are met.

#### Section 5.—Prohibited Agreements.

A general contractor shall not enter into any agreement or understanding prior to the award of a contract where such award is made as a result of competitive bidding by which agreement or understanding he agrees to accept a lesser amount for his services than the amount stated in his bid.

#### Section 6.—Disputes.

A general contractor shall be ready and willing to settle disputed matters promptly. Where arbitration as a method of settling disputed matters is agreed upon, the rules of procedure as established by the American Arbitration Association shall govern, except as otherwise required by law or contract. Payment, exceeding that sufficient to cover the amount in dispute, shall not be withheld from the parties affected.

#### Section 7.—Payments by General Contractor.

Funds received by a general contractor for construction work performed or to be performed by him shall be accepted and applied first for the purpose of paying amounts due from him to others in respect of any portion of such work including amounts due to employees, material men, sub-contractors and others. These provisions shall not be construed to require a general contractor to keep in separate bank accounts or deposits the funds received under separate contracts, provided that he shall maintain books of accounts which shall clearly show the allocation to each and every contract of the funds deposited in his general or special bank account or accounts, and he shall devote the final payments to him from the owner within ten days after the receipt thereof, to the payment of the balances due from him to such employees, material men, sub-contractors and others, provided satisfactory evidence is furnished showing that all outstanding claims against such parties, for which the general contractor would otherwise be liable, have been fully satisfied or provided for. Earlier payments and/or greater amounts may be mutually agreed upon.

Nothing in this section shall supersede any Federal, State or local laws imposing more stringent requirements with respect to matters referred to herein.

#### Section 8.—Rebates.

A general contractor shall not give or accept rebates, refunds, allowances, unearned discounts or special services to or from sub-contractors, material vendors or others which are not extended under like terms and conditions to or by other sub-contractors, material vendors and others of equal credit rating.

#### Section 9.—Financing.

A general contractor shall not permit or require subcontractors or material vendors to finance his accounts unless such arrangement is expressly provided for in the original contract between the parties.

#### Section 10.—Waiver of Legal Rights.

A general contractor shall promptly inform sub-contractors with whom he is contracting of any waiver of lien rights executed by the general contractor.

**Section 11.—Deficient Plans.**

In competitive bidding a general contractor shall not offer or agree to assume the responsibility for deficiencies in or omissions from the plans and/or specifications, which he has not prepared or caused to be prepared by others, and upon which the contract is based, for the purpose or with the effect of securing an unfair competitive advantage.

**Section 12.—Labor Welfare.**

A general contractor shall provide for the welfare and safety of his workmen, complying with all applicable laws governing such matters. Except where such laws otherwise require, he shall comply with the provisions of the safety manual heretofore

adopted by the Associated General Contractors of America.

**Section 13.—No Prison Labor.**

A general contractor shall not employ prison labor in the execution of the work.

**Section 14.—Payment of Wages.**

A general contractor shall as promptly as possible make payment of all wages due, in lawful currency of the United States, or by a negotiable check at par therefor payable on demand. A general contractor or his agents shall accept no rebates directly or indirectly on such wages, nor give anything of value or extend favors to any person for the purpose of influencing rates of wages or the working conditions of his employees.

## Awards In Better Homes Competition

By JAMES FORD, CONSULTANT

**T**HE Small House Architectural Competition was undertaken by Better Homes in America for the purpose of discovering the better types of small house architecture to be found in America, and with the wish of interesting our leading architects in small house design. These Competitions have proved very useful in helping to show to the people of America what constitutes good design in the small home, and should help to raise general standards of taste.

The sponsoring organization, Better Homes in America, was founded more than ten years ago by Mrs. William Brown Meloney, with the help of Herbert Hoover, who for many years served as President of the organization and who is still serving as its Honorary Chairman. Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur is Chairman of the Board.

The major function of Better Homes in America is to organize volunteer committees in each of our forty-eight states, and for each county and community. These Committees, of which there are approximately nine thousand, conduct contests in home improvement, lecture and discussion pro-

grams, exhibits, and frequently arrange for the demonstration to the local public of the better types of local houses completely and appropriately furnished. Several hundred thousand persons are involved annually in the contests and tours to improved homes, and probably millions of persons are helped annually to take the next steps in the improvement of their own homes.

The Small House Architectural Competition was inaugurated four years ago by a gift from Mrs. William Brown Meloney. Gutzon Borglum was the designer of the Gold Medal. Each of the winners of Honorable Mention receives also a Bronze Medal.

Each district in the country was represented in this year's competition by a few submissions, and altogether twelve designs were recognized by the Jury on Awards. The Jury was appointed, at the request of Doctor Wilbur, by Mr. Russell, President of the American Institute of Architects. The prize winning designs will be published in the March issue of the Architectural Forum. The report of the Jury on Awards for the Competition of 1933 follows:

### Report of the Jury on Awards

*Classes A, B, and C—1934*

**T**HE Jury met at the Beaux Arts Institute of Design, New York City, on January 31, and reports as follows:

#### *A Gold Medal.*

Awarded in Class B, Story and a Half House, to Roger H. Bullard, of New York, for an accessory building on the Salvage Estate at Locust

Valley, Long Island.

#### *Class A, One Story House.*

First Honorable Mention: Milton L. Grigg, Architect, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Honorable Mention: William I. Garren, Architect, San Francisco, California; and Edwin E. Goodell, Jr., Architect, Boston, Massachusetts.



*Class B, Story and a Half House  
(in addition to Medal)*

First Honorable Mention: Miller and Wernicke, Architects, Oakland, California.

Honorable Mention: Reinhard M. Bischoff Architect, West Hempstead, Long Island; and Randolph Evans, Architect, New York City.

*Class C, Two Story House.*

Honorable Mention: Dwight James Baum, Architect, Riverdale-on-Hudson, New York; Martin L. Beck, Architect, Princeton, New Jersey; Frank J. Forster, Architect, New York City; O. Kline Fulmer, Architect, Cleveland, Ohio; and Royal Barry Wills, Architect, Boston, Massachusetts.

Of Mr. Bullard's design it is felt that the plan was admirable, compact, convenient, well lighted and well aired. This excellent arrangement is considered perfectly adaptable to a house of material other than the cut stone employed. It gave expression to the feeling that the family living there was compactly knit together, snug under the roof. In addition, the entire presentation was outstanding, and the landscape work of Ellen Shipman was of a noticeable quality.

In Class A, there were but three distinctive designs that met with favor. Mr. Grigg's exhibit was satisfying because of the extreme simplicity of treatment for a house of this sort. Crudity and bareness of the fuel house and the heater room, prevented it from receiving further consideration. Of the other two awards, the character of the living-room in Mr. Garren's design was favorably commented on, and it was regretted that the work submitted by Mr. Goodell was not more advantageously shown in photograph. The plan met with universal approbation, and the house was considered excellent in the woodland setting.

In Class B, other than the highest award already referred to, the house of Miller and Wernicke was splendidly presented, and the photographs unequalled by any other exhibit. The irregularity of the site was well taken care of, and the plan not diffuse. It lacked, however, a directness and simplicity of treatment noticeable in the Medal Winner. No particular comment is made of the other two designs, other than in the

house of Mr. Evans, where the treatment of the garage was well handled as a unit with the porch off the living-room.

In Class C, there was by far a wider divergence of design by the competitors, and broader consideration of award by the Jury. Of the five houses favorably received, there were, in the order previously mentioned, a well-studied and restrained Greek Revival house, what one Juror termed "civilized design"; one with an unusual treatment of a two-story living-room, the central feature of a design handled in a straightforward and pleasing manner, described by another Juror as "not the best, but the most interesting entry"; a charming house of foreign romantic character, well presented for consideration and with many admirable qualities, an excellent plan, with possibly too great striving in the exterior for the picturesque; a modern house with metal exterior, a simple plan, and with no historic precedent for design either within or without. This exhibit was viewed principally as being of a distinct character, and considered as a forerunner of what the future may develop, an illustration of both material and style now making itself evident. And, finally, in complete contrast, a perfect example of period architecture as applied to New England, executed in such manner as to deserve high commendation. In four of these five designs, not considered in the above order, it is regretted that there were reasons why one or more of them were denied higher recognition, the other having been placed as high as its quality deserved.

It is the hope of this Jury, as in the past of previous bodies, that a larger number of exhibits will be presented another year, and that this worthy and beneficial undertaking will appeal increasingly to practicing architects as being of value to both the profession and the layman. Better Homes in America is deserving of appreciation for its interest, and initiative, and to The Architectural Forum we are indebted for the publicity afforded.

Respectfully submitted,  
CHESTER H. ALDRICH,  
ARCHIBALD M. BROWN,  
RALPH T. WALKER  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS  
F. ELLIS JACKSON, *Chairman*

Members Elected—January 1 to 3, 1934

<i>Central Illinois Chapter</i>	- - - - -	BRYANT ELWOOD HADLEY
<i>Louisiana Chapter</i>	- - - - -	SAM PAYNE STONE
<i>Madison Chapter</i>	- - - - -	JOSEPH D. LIVERMORE
<i>Southern California Chapter</i>	- - - - -	ARMAND R. MONACO

## Public Works and the Architect

REPORT BY LOUIS LA BEAUME, CHAIRMAN,  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

March 1, 1934.

**D**EVELOPMENTS in Washington during recent weeks would seem to be adverse both to the cause of architecture and to the interests of the architectural profession. Shortly after the present Administration came into power, the profession was much encouraged by the public statements of the Hon. L. W. Robert, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, with regard to the employment of architects outside of the Government service in the preparation of designs, plans and specifications for Federal buildings. It was believed that Secretary Robert expressed the liberal views of the national Administration.

The profession, having seen its private practice vanish almost completely, as a result of the industrial collapse, welcomed the announcements from Washington regarding a national program of Public Works. This program naturally embraces many types of construction, some of which are probably not architectural in character. Many buildings such as post offices and other Federal structures requiring architectural service are, however, contemplated. The profession has waited patiently, for the past eight months, for an opportunity to participate in the execution of this program. We still wait.

About the middle of February the newspapers announced that all Public Works under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Department had been placed in charge of the newly organized Procurement Division. Reference to the organization chart printed with this report will show the set up of this Bureau. The new branch of public works is under the direct control of an Assistant Director, Mr. W. R. Reynolds, to whom the Supervising Architect and the Supervising Engineer report. Mr. Louis A. Simon has been advanced to the position of Supervising Architect. It will be noted that the Fourth Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. L. W. Robert, Jr., has no longer any jurisdiction over the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury, nor are his duties in any way connected with the public works administration.

While this chart indicates that the Procurement Division is under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Department, it should be borne in mind that the Public Works Administration, headed by Hon. Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, controls the funds with which many Federal buildings are erected. It has been stated that both the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of the Interior are much interested in the reform of procedure with regard to the erection of public

buildings. With these proposed reforms, the architectural profession can sympathize. The profession itself for many years has urged reform both in the interest of economy and better design.

Now, however, the profession is seriously concerned with rumors to the effect that the architect in private practice will no longer be consulted by the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department. For some months a small committee, appointed by Secretary Ickes, has been engaged in a study of standards and other requirements for Federal buildings, notably post offices. This Committee, as far as known, consists of Mr. Dwight L. Hoopingarner of New York, Mr. J. C. Dresser of Cleveland, and Mr. Aaron Rabinowitz, of New York. Mr. Hoopingarner, Executive Secretary of the American Construction Council, is a lawyer; Mr. Dresser is an engineer formerly connected with the Austin Company; and Mr. Rabinowitz is a realtor. It is a matter of deep regret to the architectural profession, as it should be to the public, that the architectural profession is not represented on this Committee. Immediately upon becoming cognizant of these facts and rumors, with relation to Public Works and the architectural profession, efforts were made to establish contact with the proper authorities in Washington, in order that the point of view of the profession might be given fair and full consideration.

The following memorandum was submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on Public Works to Mr. W. R. Reynolds, Assistant Director of the Construction Division, on Tuesday, February 27, 1934:

"The architectural profession is naturally concerned with any steps, which may be proposed by the Federal Government, looking toward the stimulation of the construction industry and the encouragement of Architecture.

"The profession is especially interested in the policies to be pursued by the Procurement Division, with regard to the employment of Architects outside of the Division, in the preparation of plans for public works.

"We request an early opportunity to discuss with you, and the administrative officials in charge of policy, the terms and character of such employment, and all correlative factors.

"As a basis for such discussion we are setting down the following agenda:—

1. Direct advantages to be expected from the employment of competent architects outside the Federal Bureaus.

- a. Versatility and vitality of design.
  - b. Expedition in forwarding public works program as a result of decentralization.
  - c. Economies in construction which would result from familiarity with local methods, materials and processes.
2. Indirect advantages.
- (a) Relief to a professional group largely unemployed at present.
  - (b) Relief to draftsmen and technical assistants.
  - (c) More equitable distribution of Recovery Funds by allocating their expenditure to many communities.
  - (d) Stimulation of public appreciation of good architecture by Federal example.
3. Terms of employment.
- (a) Character of service and responsibility.
  - (b) Basis of remuneration.
4. Policies of Procurement Division with relation to—
- (a) Simplification of design.
  - (b) Economies of construction.
  - (c) Standardization of types.
  - (d) Encouragement of good architecture.
  - (e) Effect on morale of architectural profession.

"These are all matters of vital interest to architects, draftsmen, all elements of the Construction Industry and the public.

"An appointment is requested, at which they may be discussed."

This memorandum will be called to the attention of Admiral Peoples, Director of Procurement, by Mr. Reynolds and, it is hoped, to the attention of Secretaries Ickes and Morgenthau also.

We believe that the President, and his close advisers, are making every effort to put people back to work. Surely architects, engineers, draftsmen, contractors, producers of building materials and artisans are among the people he has in mind. The architectural profession does not plead for assistance under temporary distress measures, like the C. W. A., or relief organizations designed to compile data regarding historic buildings, housing, etc. It does not seek to be benefitted by made work. But the profession must insist if there is work of an architectural character to be done, that architects should be employed in the doing of it, whether or not the buildings under consideration be simple or complex. The profession believes, and will continue to assert its belief, that it is against the public interest, as well as unfair to a profession such as ours which has established its competence so thoroughly in the field of both public and private architecture, to concentrate the designing of Federal buildings in one or more large bureaus.

The matter does not concern our profession

alone, for it is well known that the building industry is in great distress. Engineers, contractors, sub-contractors, mills and quarries are idle; building labor is largely unemployed; architects and draftsmen throughout the country have felt, and are still feeling the depression keenly. The prompt employment of private architects, to prepare drawings for public buildings, will expedite the whole program of recovery. That these buildings are to be "modest and practical" does not mean that they should not be well designed. The services of competent architects are no less necessary in the case of simple structures than in the case of more monumental ones.

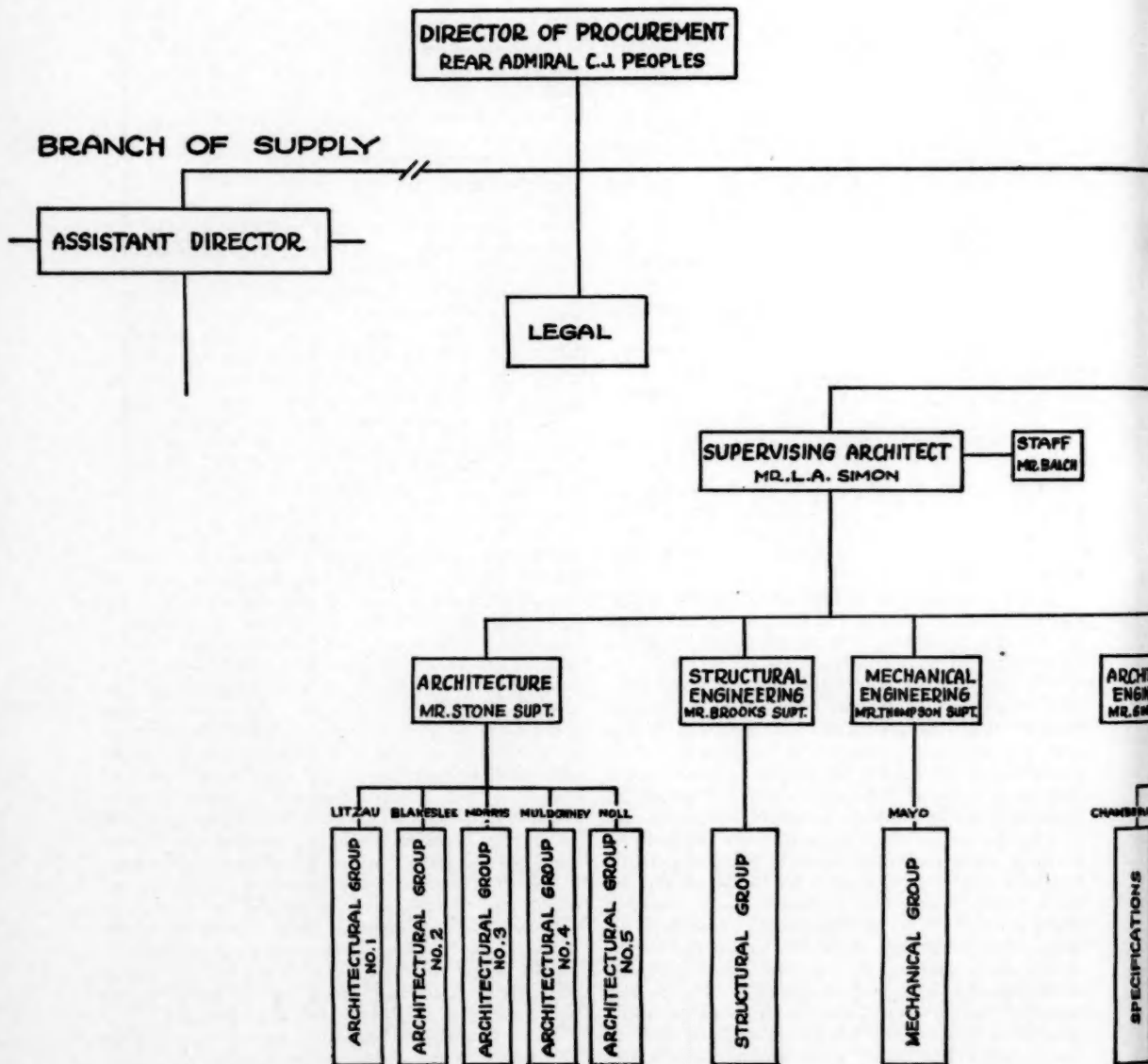
The Government has announced and put into effect many admirable programs for the relief and encouragement of many different groups. It would be a strange quirk of fate if, in the development of the Administration's recovery program, the profession of architecture should be ignored and its morale impaired. Throughout all periods of history the special abilities of the architect have been recognized by governments and peoples alike. No state can justly boast of a civilization when it takes no account of the elements of design which are associated with the art of architecture. The present Administration has recently inaugurated a program having as its purpose not only the relief and encouragement of artists, but the recognition of art itself as a factor of prime importance in the social economy. This program is sponsored by the Treasury Department. Public money is now being spent in the employment of artists to produce works which will serve, strictly speaking, no intrinsic utilitarian or economic purpose. This money will, however, find its way into the channels of trade and reflect benefits to business far in excess of the special benefits to the individual artists employed. In view of this recognition of the educational and spiritual value of art by the Federal Government, can architectural values be ignored in any fair consideration of public works? It is unthinkable that an Administration which has sponsored this enlightening and promising program could be unconscious of the need of stimulating the art of architecture likewise.

For the Government to ignore the architectural profession in this juncture would be disastrous not only to the profession itself, but to the whole body politic. Private corporations and individuals would follow the false example set by our public authorities, and the whole moral tone of the profession and of society would be lowered.

Your Committee therefore strongly urges that the Institute, acting as spokesman for the entire architectural profession and as an integral part of the construction industry, urge, through its Representatives in Congress, the fullest recognition possible of the architectural profession with relation to the Public Works Program.

# PROCUREMENT

TREASURY  
DIVISION  
TEMPORARY





## The Civil Works Administration

THE architectural profession is familiar, through announcements in the public press, with the plans for continuing in some form a modified C. W. A. program. As such program may extend over a period of years, the President of the Institute deemed it desirable to place before the C. W. A. officials in Washington suggestions with respect to the employment of architects.

Those suggestions are contained in a letter of March 6, addressed to Hon. Jacob Baker, Deputy Administrator. In the absence of Mr. Baker on account of illness the recommendations were submitted to the Chief Engineer, Mr. John M. Carmody, who promised to give them full and sympathetic consideration.

For the information of the Chapters and the profession as a whole, a copy of the letter of March 6 to Deputy Administrator Baker is printed as follows:

*March 6, 1934.*

Hon. Jacob Baker, Deputy Administrator,  
Civil Works Administration,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Baker:

With reference to the future program of C. W. A. (or its successor), as outlined by the President in a recent announcement, and in confirmation of recommendations verbally made to you, the following is submitted by The American Institute of Architects on behalf of the entire architectural profession.

We are heartily in sympathy with the principles stated by the President, in his recent announcement. We also appreciate his recognition of the widespread unemployment in the ranks of professional architects and professional engineers.

We have, however, great concern for the future—because in many communities, under the operations of C. W. A. in recent months, architects and engineers heretofore maintaining offices for independent practice have been used at nominal hourly wages to perform major architectural and engineering services. This has imposed unwise and severe

hardship upon architects and engineers not on relief rolls, who normally expected to perform such services.

We submit for your consideration the principle that under the future program of C. W. A., architects and engineers on its rolls shall *not* be used in direct competition with or to supplant those architects and engineers who remain in private practice and have not sought relief employment.

There are a number of methods by which this principle can be observed and under which useful services can be performed by architects and engineers on relief rolls without destroying the livelihood and the morale of those not on such rolls.

Any future program which ignores this principle will add to the relief rolls those architects who would otherwise be self-sustaining—and thereby defeat recovery to that extent.

In considering this matter, we ask that you give attention to the following:

(1) Memorandum dated March 1, containing reports from various Chapters of The American Institute of Architects; notices from the public press concerning the supplanting of private architects by "C. W. A." architects; and suggestions for overcoming local abuses, as presented by the Pittsburgh Chapter of The American Institute of Architects.

(2) Letter of March 2, addressed to the Institute by the President of the Pittsburgh Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, and its accompanying memorandum of February 27, prepared by a Joint Committee of Pittsburgh Architects and Engineers. It is understood that the rates of compensation in the memorandum are emergency rates, and in no sense normal or adequate.

The Officers of the Institute, and of its many Chapters in all the large cities, are at your service, nationally and locally, in developing an equitable procedure for the future.

Sincerely yours,

(s) ERNEST JOHN RUSSELL.

*Enclosures.*

*President.*

## Medal of Honor of New York Chapter

AWARDED TO ROBERT D. KOHN, F.A.I.A.

**T**HE Medal of Honor, of 1933, of the New York Chapter of The American Institute of Architects was awarded on March 2, 1934, to Robert D. Kohn, Director of Housing under the Public Works Administration, at a dinner meeting of the Chapter in the Architectural League House in New York City.

Ralph Walker, President of the Chapter, and Chairman of the Jury of Award, presented the Medal, which has been conferred since 1904 for "distinguished work and high professional standing."

The medal was presented with the following citation:

"To Robert D. Kohn for devoted and inspired national leadership of the architectural profession; for initiating the unification of the building industry; for great vision, understanding and continued national effort for the betterment of humanity in housing and city planning; for high ideals as a man; for fine qualities as an architect; the New York Chapter of The American Institute of Architects awards the Medal of Honor for 1933."

Associated in the practice of architecture with Dr. Charles Butler at 56 West 45th Street, Mr. Kohn is a native of New York City. Graduating from Columbia University with the degree of Ph.B. in architecture in 1890, he studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris from 1891 to 1895. He has practiced in New York since 1895.

Mr. Kohn has been a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects since 1910, serving as its President from 1930 to 1932. He is an Honorary Corresponding Member of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and Past-President of the Construction League of the United States.

Upon receiving the medal, and after saying that the cordiality with which the members of the Chapter appeared to approve of the great honor done to him, and contrasting the warmth of their greetings with some of the disappointments of recent months Mr. Kohn spoke in part as follows:

"At a time when the future is so uncertain for the professions it is important that we make an honest examination of the possible roads on which we may enter, and discover which road leads in the direction of progress. Now, as always, we have to move forward, even gropingly. This is particularly true for those of us who have behind us a long and varied professional career. If we keep looking backward at our experience and try to base our future action on that experience as older

men so frequently do, we are out of the running. But if we keep youthful and look to the future for our opportunities we may help to frame a future more worth while than anything it has been our privilege to share.

"You have honored me by awarding to me the Medal of Honor of the New York Chapter. With all due modesty I accept it with the hope that I may continue to merit your approval for what I try to do for the profession of Architecture. And I hope it does not make me stuck up! If there were any danger of that my experiences of each day in Washington, indeed, each hour, would take it out of me. Heine, the poet, once said that there were two ways of wearing a halo. You could keep it well up over your head where it would illumine your path, or down so low that it blinded you so that you could not see where you were going. It is particularly important that we, professional men, remember to use our training, our privileges and our honors, to illumine our paths so that we can keep on the path towards wider and more socially minded fields of activity.

"Bitter as is the experience of those who are now deprived of the ordinary necessities of life, and particularly the professional men who find themselves helpless against the odds of a disorganized society, architects, as participants in the construction industry, may, even so, look forward to the future with some optimism. They can do so on the certainty that that future is to be one based on a more truly democratic organization of society. As a profession and as part of the construction industry we have been moving in that direction for many years. It has been a topic we have discussed at many of our national meetings, with the hope that we might discover those larger opportunities for service which we were convinced the building industry must find if it were destined to survive as an industry. We talked about meeting the needs of those groups heretofore more or less neglected. Our approach to the organization of the construction industry was to be one which would include every element of the industry—we were going to organize functionally so that the interdependence of each element on all the others would be made clear.

"A move in that direction was started by architects more than ten years ago. We had a prophetic vision of what was to come, in our halting attempts through the Building Congresses and in the Construction League, to organize our particular function with a larger view of the full extent of the service which the public need might some day ask of us. These preliminary steps it appears were of

enormous help in the approach of the construction industry to the problems of re-organization considered by the Code Authorities this year under the National Recovery Administration.

"Despite the failures and the frustrations which all of us have had to put up with in recent months and years—for we were all in same boat—it seems to me that the construction industry and consequently the architects, can now look forward with some optimism to a future different but greater than that of the past. We can make ourselves indispensable to any improvement in the standard of living of the great mass of the people, and that betterment is bound to come. The improvement of our low cost housing is now recognized as an es-

sential part of any recovery programme. In at least forty or fifty cities serious study is now being given to this subject. In this field of city building where our laissez-faire policy has shown its worst effects we are beginning to see attempts at long range community and regional planning. We must learn to make ourselves more useful in this field, but we can only continue to be the leaders if we have the art and the skill to do so and are inspired by a great vision. It must be a vision of a new life in a new kind of a community, one in which the individual, no matter what he may be, will be able to live and work so as to contribute his share in the building up of a new and better order of society."

### Housing—Past, Present and Future

**T**HE architect who has an interest in housing, be that interest only academic at the moment, will do well to consult one or more of the current magazines and report listed below. They set out in full what the leading authorities have to say on the subject. They give up-to-the-minute information on all phases of housing and housing problems—from finance to design; from the theory of housing as a social obligation down to the application of the latest inventions to a modern kitchen:

#### The American Architect.

The January number covers construction finance, and features a paper by Carol Aronovici, entitled "The One Hope for Low-Rental Housing." It also contains an extensive review of the building outlook.

Single copy, 50 cents. 57th Street at Eighth Avenue, New York.

#### The Architect and Engineer.

The January number has a convincing article, entitled "Standardized Houses at Lower Cost a Fallacy," by Professor H. Vandervoort Walsh of Columbia University. This article punches holes in the theory of mass production of houses—at low cost—by assembly-line methods, it makes valuable reading for the intending home builder who has the illusion that standardized houses can soon be had at the price of an automobile.

Single copy, 60 cents. 621 Foxcraft Bldg., San Francisco.

#### American Builder.

The February number is dedicated to the reemployment of two million idle men in the building industry. Commended to the architect who desires a comprehensive view of housing conditions in the United States. Special attention

is given to questions of financing, and to the prospects for the future. The "plan service" plans contained in one article bring home to the architect the question of his participation or non-participation in the small house field.

Single copies, 25 cents. 105 West Adams Street, Chicago.

#### The Architectural Forum.

The February number contains articles on the Federal Housing Program by Administrator Ickes, Director Robert D. Kohn, and by some of his Associates, including Frederick L. Ackerman and Eugene Klaber. Highly commended as a comprehensive review of large scale housing developments, both in the United States and foreign countries.

Single copies \$1.00. 220 East 42nd Street, New York.

#### The Architectural Record.

The February number covers a wide field, with extensive data on housing projects now under way including those in Cleveland, Philadelphia, and New York. Also has a portfolio of small houses consisting of photographs, floor plans, and descriptive data including, of course, the names of the designers.

Single copies, 50 cents. 115 West 40th Street, New York.

#### "Planning and National Recovery 1933."

This report of planning problems presented at the Twenty-fifth National Conference on City Planning, held jointly with the American Civic Association at Baltimore, Maryland, October 9-11, 1933, has recently been published for the Conference by Wm. F. Fell Co., Philadelphia, Pa. Requests for the publication should be addressed to the National Conference on City Planning, 130 East 22nd Street, New York, N. Y.



## Home Building and Recovery

By B. G. DAHLBERG

**I**N 1901, when the first Roosevelt entered the White House, the scandalous condition of New York City's tenements resulted in the enactment of the New Tenement Law, which set a higher standard for the construction of future dwellings of this type. In 1933, when the second Roosevelt began breakfasting at the executive mansion, 1,800,000 New York families still ate such breakfasts as hard times permitted in these same structures that begot the 1901 law. And as in 1901, families of ten or a dozen still were packed into wretched three-room apartments.

New York? We shrug our shoulders! Surely, the remainder of the country does not present such a picture. But, according to Dr. Edith E. Wood, a recognized authority on housing, less than half the homes in all the United States measure up to minimum standards of decency and health. These minimum standards do not include such frills as bathtubs, central lighting, central heating, or ice boxes. They do include running water, a water closet in the house, dry walls, garbage removal, minimum privacy at least between one family and another, sunlight, ventilation, fire protection and rental within 20 per cent of income. These minimums, so modest that they fail to provide even a modern bathtub, embrace items that one-half the people of this country are still doing without.

### *The Great American Riddle*

Inadequate housing is part of our great American riddle. Since 1929, we have seen with growing amazement a nation overflowing with food while millions go hungry, a nation whose banks bulge with savings while it suffers from a shortage of cash, a nation overrunning with idle labor and surplus materials, but short of absolutely essential homes.

Although this problem baffles all of us, it may contain the key to its own solution. Several factors indicate that the building industry may prove to be the nation's great natural recovery accelerator.

The tenement dwellers and others of the 60 odd millions in this country who are inadequately housed have had no effect on what we call the home building industry. When we mention the overproduction of homes in 1925, we are only talking of too many homes for half the people. When we discuss the present shortage of homes we are still only speaking of the upper half. In the lower half, there is not a mere shortage, but a complete absence of adequate dwellings.

When statisticians compute housing needs and

announce that we need 1,350,000 family units to make up for dwellings not built in the past four years, they are calculating the needs of only the upper half, because this half is where the home building industry has been doing its business. It is here that the visible surpluses are accumulated. It is here that fright freezes surplus funds into inactivity, and it is here that returning confidence turns the buying curve upward. It is here that rising prices send a man pell-mell to buy a new suit and his wife to stock up on sheets and towels.

History shows us that with enough to eat and sufficient clothing to keep warm, man's next step has always been to provide shelter for his family. If history in this respect is to be followed, and I think it is, we can assume that the surplus accumulated by the upper half of our population will be used, in large measure, to take up the housing slack before it sweeps into less fundamental fields.

### *Relaxing Depression's Pinch*

The pinch of depression has squeezed two or more families under many roofs intended to shelter but one. As depression relaxes, the reverse process of spreading out will begin. It has been estimated that ten or eleven billion dollars is required to bring us back to the housing level of ten years ago. This is the biggest market the building industry has ever had, yet it represents only a natural, unstimulated demand for a necessity, and only among the upper layer of population.

This demand has been a long time in the making. Depression in the home building industry started after the peak year of 1925, when the most family units were built, although more money was spent on general construction in 1928. In 1929, while business in general was at its peak, home building had dropped to half its 1925 family unit level. From 1929 to the beginning of 1932, home building declined so swiftly that last year witnessed the erection of only 13 per cent of the residential floor space built in 1925. Thus, home building, having sweated off its boom-generated poisons much earlier than other industries, should be earliest in recovery, and as a matter of fact, the home building cycle apparently is already moving in advance of the general business cycle.

There is also an intangible force working within the building industry at this moment in the form of radical changes in home design and methods of construction. New styles, not modifications of the past, but arising from consideration of efficiency and economy, have appeared. Visitors to Chicago this summer inspected some new home building

ideas at the Century of Progress Exposition. Many did not like them, because they were different, unconventional, "queer"—just as the Model T was queer when Henry Ford started to make motor cars for the masses while his jeering competitors looked on and continued to make cars for the thin "upper crust" of the people. If the genius and determination of a Ford had turned to building homes, if only half the progress had been made that the motor car industry has shown, the problem would be more than fifty per cent solved. Progressive builders are beginning to realize this and here and there new ideas are appearing—not merely new in "style" for a home is not like a woman's hat, to be changed with each season, but setting a new standard of value, a new idea of comfort—in other words, a new and better machine for home life, available to more people because priced within their reach.

#### *Doubling the House Market*

Low initial cost of small dwellings of improved types, combined with the economy of maintaining them should enable the building industry to tap a market it hitherto has been unable to reach. This market is among the third of the families in the United States whose annual incomes range from \$2,000 down to \$1,200. They are the ones we may reach with good homes costing from \$3,000 to \$4,000. We have never been able to supply them with good homes at such prices, but new design and construction methods may work the miracle. When that happens, the building industry will double the number of families in its market by serving, for the first time, two-thirds of our population instead of only the traditional upper third.

But under our new social and economic deal, we must not forget that third of our population which has a family income of \$1,200 or less. These must have outside help. In housing this latter third, we are far behind our European contemporaries, who, since the war, have worked steadily toward eradicating the old-fashioned tenement.

Like America, they found private enterprise could not do the job alone, but unlike America, they brought aid to the private endeavor and much has been accomplished.

Now, however, the government seems on the verge of taking over this problem. It is well that this be done, as there is no enterprise more valuable to the nation than providing proper dwellings for its citizens. And economically, such expenditures will stimulate the flow of capital goods as much as the construction of bridges, postoffices, hospitals and schools.

To round out the picture of the home building industry today, let us consider some further estimates.

To bring back housing to the proper basis for the first one-third of the population will require substantially eleven billions; to provide housing for the second one-third will require twenty-five billion dollars, and to provide adequate housing for the last one-third will require twelve billion dollars, or a total potential building necessity now existing of forty-eight billion dollars. This does not take into consideration the repairing or modernizing of homes in the first third that will be required in the next few years by reason of such improvements as air conditioning and adequate insulation.

#### *Nation's Biggest Payroll*

In view of our present production, it does not seem to be necessary for the nation to raise any more foodstuffs or manufacture any more clothing, but the nation does face the necessity of spending over forty billion dollars for needed housing. Here, then, would seem to be the factor that would make the building industry the great recovery agent, and it is exceedingly likely that America will see, and see shortly, a home building era that will dwarf even the much talked of three billion dollar payroll in 1925, the largest wage bill ever paid by any industry.

*By Courtesy of "The Architect and Engineer", San Francisco, California.*

## Questionnaire for a Home Builder

By H. I. Phillips—in the Washington Post

("Home builders should be psycho-analyzed says William Le Case, New York architect, proposing questionnaires to determine tastes and requirements as builders."—News Item.)

1. How many people are there in your family and are there any two alike.
2. Have you a gadget complex or don't you mind if there are no wall attachments for opening bottles?
3. What do you consider the relative impor-

tance of contract bridge, home gardening, weekend house parties, radio programs?

4. Are you a moderate drinker or will you need wider corridors?
5. Do you keep a dog? If so, is it a lapdog or will a special extension be necessary? What place does an animal hold in your affections with respect to your children and neighbors?
6. Would you kill an architect who failed to

take into consideration the comfort of a Great Dane and its importance in one's home life?

7. Check the clause which properly completes the following: If I fell downstairs, I would—

- (a) Call a physician.
- (b) Notify the insurance company.
- (c) Write a letter to the newspapers.
- (d) Call up the architect and bawl him out?

8. Give a brief statement expressing yourself on the relative importance in family life of the following institutions:

- (a) A Roman bathroom in colored tile.
- (b) A tennis court.
- (c) Ample guest rooms.
- (d) A rock garden and fish pool.
- (e) A good heating plant.
- (f) A home putting green.

9. Have you ever had any great tragedy in your life or have you been careful not to buy a suburban home from the real estate agent's description?

10. Do you go in for week-end house parties or will no steel reinforcements of the building be necessary.

11. Are you an outdoor bug who carries the

craving for a tropical tan to the point of fanaticism or will you want a house sufficiently large to give you a feeling of comfort when you are indoors?

12. Do you smoke a pipe or will the installation of mechanical blowers and air purifiers be unessential to the comfort of your wife and her mother?

13. Is this your first owned home or have you been disappointed in real estate so often that nothing an architect may do can make you happy?

14. Do you and your wife get along peacefully as a rule or should the walls be sound proofed?

15. Has there been any insanity in your family or hasn't any member of it ever fallen a victim of the conviction that in the ideal American home the bathrooms should be larger and more numerous and more beautiful than the other rooms?

16. Is a good view an obsession or don't you care what goes on in the neighboring homes?

17. Will you require ample book shelves or are you and your children average Americans?

## Savants Clash on Destruction of Carthage

By Roger Allen

"CARTHAGE should be destroyed!" stated Dr. Eliel Saarinen to the Detroit Chapter of the A. I. A., alleged Red organization, as reported in The Octagon after a lapse of time that indicates that The Octagon is now receiving news dispatches from Detroit by means of notes placed in bottles and floated around Cape Horn.

Queried for the five-star final edition of The Bulletin as to the effect on world conditions of the Saarinen ukase, Prof. Horace V. Handlebar, who was pacing up and down in front of the state liquor store and sniffing rapidly, spoke in part as follows:

"Carthage must be destroyed, says he? I say it's mutiny. In the first place, what's the matter with Carthage? I assume that the learned Doctor is referring to Carthage, Missouri, home of the late Mark Twain. It should be destroyed, should it? Five bucks will get you ten if you can destroy it without the natives catching you at it and making you hard to lift. In the second place, 'Carthage should be destroyed' is not an original remark; 76 years ago, come Tuesday, I went to school to Gus O'Dell at the corner of Seven Mile Road and Seven Mile Road, which was then in Canada, and I learned all that 'Carthago est delenda' stuff, along with another nifty about 'How long, O George W. Catiline, will you abuse our patience?' and if

anybody will offer me any part of two bits I will recite it, with gestures."

"What is your opinion of the future of the Dymaxion house?" asked our reporter.

"You lie, you hound," returned the professor. "Our American women will repudiate you at the polls. This Carthage stuff is merely a cloak to elevate Greta Garbo to the post of America's Swedeheart. If Saarinen don't like it in this country why don't he move to the Fort Shelby?"

"Is it true, professor, that you plan to make a non-stop flight to join the Byrd expedition, using only one roller skate, and subsisting entirely upon food and liquor during the trip?" asked the Bulletin representative.

"Yes, and no," replied the learned savant. "No man ever got in trouble for taking care of our feathered friends, unless his wife found out that one of his feathered friends was Sally Rand. I believe that conditions in the building industry are fundamentally sound, but they will never be found dam mental, or how could this guy Allen get by?"

*By courtesy The Weekly Bulletin—Michigan Society of Architects.*

## The Outlook for School Building Improves

By Ralph C. Llewellyn

AS EVERYONE knows, school house construction in common with construction of all kinds has been on the decline for the last five or six years. The extent of this decline may not be so well known. According to figures which I have before me, compiled by the F. W. Dodge Co. for states east of the Rocky Mountains, the value of new school house construction for the year 1929 amounted to \$381,908,000. From this sizable total, the amount of contracts let have receded in an increasing ratio until last year the total contracts let for this vast area scarcely reached \$25,000,000. This is only between 6% and 7% of the volume of school building enjoyed before the crash, and it probably does not represent the extent of the decline in territory immediately contributory to Chicago. The depression has hit harder here than in some other places, and especially in Cook County the local tax situation has made it impossible to keep up with running expenses and pay teachers, to say nothing of considering building projects no matter how badly they were needed.

However, there is now reason to believe that the bottom has been reached. The Government, as a part of its recovery program, has aided the school situation in several ways. The mere fact that over three million people have gone back to work and now have a job will help the payment of taxes, and will increase the school income. The Civil Works Administration has put a large number of men to work on school buildings, repairing

equipment, painting, decorating, and in making minor improvements. This class of work may not help the architect much, but there will be some jobs where supervision will be needed and, in any case, this work is being paid for from a source not usually available and the school will be just that much better able to undertake new work when it becomes necessary. The most important boost to school building and the source from which the school architect will receive the most benefit, is the program of the Public Works Administration which allows the financing of non-Federal Public Works Projects.

\* \* \* \*

The schools that are to be built this year under the stimulus of the Public Works program are for the most part buildings that were first planned or thought of three or four years ago. In other words, they are to provide for needs that had developed in 1930 or before. Since that time the schools have been continuing to function and the potential needs to pile up, so that if recovery continues, there is still more building that will be added to the list as the finances of the various districts improve. In short, there can be no doubt that school house construction passed the low point a month or two ago for some time to come, and the prospect for a steadily rising curve for this year is practically assured.

*By courtesy The Bulletin of the Illinois Society of Architects.*

## With the Chapters

Excerpts from Minutes

### Baltimore.

On the evening of January 31st, President Russell and Secretary Baldwin met with the Baltimore Chapter. The Minutes of the meeting report as follows:

"The annual meeting took place as usual in January, and according to long standing custom, took the form of a dinner with minimum formalities.

"The Chapter had the good fortune to have the President of the Institute, Mr. Ernest John Russell of St. Louis, and the Secretary of the Institute, Mr. Frank C. Baldwin, as its guests for the second successive year. This makes the third successive year in which the Chapter has entertained the President of the Institute. \* \* \*

"After cocktails and general conversation the

meeting adjourned to the dining table, and it was after 8.30 that Mr. Nolting called for order and asked that the meeting be given over to President Russell and Mr. Baldwin who must return to Washington at a reasonably early hour.

"Mr. Russell spoke of the Institute, and of the critical year in its history which is now beginning, of the loyalty, and efficiency of the Staff of the Octagon, and of the tremendously increased accomplishments of the Institute operating with a starvation budget and a skeleton staff. He pointed out that there was now a tremendous increase in the public importance of the Institute under the 'New Deal' conditions and the N. R. A. and other government activities, and described the battle for the preservation of professional architecture which the Institute was waging at

the instance of the entire profession. He emphasized the gravity of the future, and the necessity for the greatest support from all the Chapters.

"Mr. Baldwin spoke briefly of the work at the Octagon, and also paid a tribute to the staff there. He asked that the Baltimore Chapter consider itself a part of the 'home team', and make a practice of keeping in personal touch with the Octagon, and bringing to its attention every matter of architectural interest that occurred in the jurisdiction of the Chapter. He made reference to the necessity of being prepared to sponsor a registration law for architects in Maryland, and for fighting against unsatisfactory and badly constructed bills for this purpose which constantly threatened. He thanked the Chapter for their cooperation in the past and urged them to make it their business to attend the coming convention in full strength and help to swell the number of the delegates who could be expected."

#### Cleveland.

The Cleveland Chapter is sponsoring and directing a Renovize Exposition, to be held in the Builders Exchange Building in Cleveland beginning March 5th. This Exposition was initiated in cooperation with the National Administration in its recovery program.

All of the important business and civic organizations of Cleveland are cooperating with the Chapter in staging the Exposition.

The purpose is to stimulate the demand for and to increase the sale of building materials and equipment and the employment of building labor, thus hastening recovery in the building industry.

In due course it is hoped to publish information concerning the results obtained from this enterprise, which has the support of all of the construction industry and civic organizations in Cleveland.

#### New Jersey.

At the regular joint meeting of the New Jersey Chapter, and the New Jersey Society of Architects, at the Down Town Club, Newark, in January, Mr. Charles E. Kraemer reported that the Publicity Committee had arranged for a series of talks on alternate Fridays—on building a home, before the Newark Real Estate Board, commencing on February 23rd. The speakers are to be Messrs. Kenneth Dalzell, Seymour Williams, Arthur B. Holmes, Neil J. Convery, C. V. R. Bogert, Marcel Villanueva, and Harry Stevens, the last named being the President of the Real Estate Board.

#### Southern Pennsylvania.

These resolutions, adopted by the Southern Pennsylvania Chapter, at its January meeting, speak for themselves:

**WHEREAS:** The various departments of the Pennsylvania State Government are constantly expanding their architectural activities and are exhibiting unmistakable inclinations to establish more and more architectural bureaus of their own and to absorb into them more and more of the legitimate business of the independent Architects of the State, (of which bureaus the most notable are the Division of School Buildings in the Department of Education which furnishes free standard plans for school buildings of four rooms or less with an ever-present possibility of more; and the comparatively new Architectural Bureau in the Highway Department which is now working on a building program of Highway Department Garages in various parts of the State amounting to many hundred thousands of dollars); and

**WHEREAS:** This encroachment on the field of private architectural endeavor is further depleting the possible activities of a profession already reduced to a point of real distress and laboring under a terrific handicap; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the Southern Pennsylvania Chapter address the State Association with the request that the Association take action as it deems suitable and expedient to curb these expeditions of the State into the realm of private architectural enterprise; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That a copy of this resolution be presented to each Chapter in Pennsylvania with an earnest request for careful and serious consideration of its merits and for cooperation in bringing about the fulfillment of its intent by means of personal solicitation and persuasion of any and all Legislative and Governmental officials or individuals who may be in position to help in the cause; and to properly instruct each delegate to the forthcoming meeting of the State Association as to the wishes of the Chapter on the question.

#### St. Louis.

Notes from the January meeting are:

Wilbur T. Trueblood announced that a State Planning Commission had been formed, in part a result of the Chapter's State Survey made up several months ago.

Eugene H. Klein reported some progress for the housing scheme, but said that everything awaited the report of the City Plan Commission, which was to be shown at this meeting for the first time with the Mayor's permission.

Mr. Harland Bartholomew, beginning with a brief historical review of the housing situation in the city, said that the Federal Government was not proceeding with such housing schemes directly. He described the City Plan Commission's Surveys of portions of the city last year and its reasons for selecting the particular site agreed upon. He told about the materials of the buildings and then showed in slides the actual plans and elevations of the buildings.

Mr. Klein stated that these drawings were made with the object of obtaining funds and arousing the interest of the Federal Government. He said that an architect for the actual buildings had not been selected. He requested an approval by the Chapter of this work of the City Plan Commission—which was promptly given.

#### Kentucky.

The January meeting of the Kentucky Chapter was in the nature of an innovation, to see whether

a dinner meeting would be more acceptable to and better attended by the membership than luncheon meetings. It was reported in the Chapter minutes as follows:

Judging from the attendance the meeting was quite a success. As there are only seventeen members of the Chapter in Louisville, an attendance of sixteen is very good indeed. This statement is misleading, unless it is explained that four of those attending were younger architects working in various offices, who are prospects for active and associate membership. Even taking this fact into consideration, there was a seventy percent attendance of active members living in Louisville.

\* \* \* \*

The principal topic of the evening was introduced by Herman Wischmeyer, who brought out some interesting and often discussed points in regard to architectural fees, which was the subject of his discussion. He asked the rather pointed question as to whether there should not be some difference in the rate of fees charged by architects of less experience or operating with much less overhead cost, than architects with larger organizations and operating costs. Practically all the professions, including medicine and

law, have different rates of charging, depending upon the importance of the case and the skill of the practitioner. This subject has been debated for lo! these many years, and no definite decision yet reached. Mr. Wischmeyer suggested that it might be well for architects whenever it is possible or practicable to quote the owner a lump sum fee, based on the estimated cost of the work with some provision made to take care of possible extras. He also advised that architects should try to explain to their clients that the important thing is the completed building and the cost thereof, and that an architect's duties include a great deal more than the mere preparation of plans and specifications, important as these are. He thought it was unwise as a general thing, for an architect to agree to furnish plans and specifications without performing the full architectural service usually rendered.

There was quite a lively and interesting discussion on the subject, entered into by Messrs. Hutchings, Tom Nolan, President Epping, and others. Although the discussion brought out some interesting points the subject of a proper method of charging for architectural service has not been settled once and for all by the Kentucky Chapter of The American Institute of Architects.

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## As of Interest

### General Manager Appointed Federal Housing Corporation.

Appointment of Horatio B. Hackett, of Chicago, as General Manager of the Public Works Emergency Housing Corporation, was recently announced by Public Works Administrator Harold L. Ickes.

Selection of Col. Hackett as General Manager of the housing corporation brings to P.W.A. an executive with a wide experience in business and construction. A nationally recognized architect-engineer, Col. Hackett also has established an enviable record in the building construction field and as an army officer during the world war.

After the war Col. Hackett returned to civil employment. Since 1922 he has been a partner in Holabird and Root, Architects, of Chicago.

### International Congress of Technical Education.

This Congress will be held in Barcelona on May 17, 18, and 19, 1934.

Any member of the Institute who may be so fortunate as to be travelling in Spain in May and who can find it convenient to attend this Congress in Barcelona on the dates indicated can render a service to the profession by attending the sessions

of the Congress and registering as a delegate of the Institute.

In such event, advance information should be sent to the Secretary of the Institute, in order that proper credentials may be issued direct, and through the State Department.

### "Historic House Museums."

The American Association of Museums announces its new book on *Historic House Museums*—a study based on field work financed by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, with an appendix comprising a directory of 400 historic house museums in the United States, listing nearly 600 houses which, singly or in groups, are maintained as public exhibits for their architectural interest or historic associations. Of especial interest to architects, the Association points out, are the chapters on principles and methods of restoring period furnishings, and the various financial and administrative matters concerning which architects need to advise trustees and societies seeking to preserve old houses.

Price \$2.50. Obtainable at The American Association of Museums, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

## BOOKS AND DOCUMENTS

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Standard Filing System.....	.50
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HANDBOOK OF ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE.....	\$5.00
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