

THE
OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



Second Thoughts on Modern Architecture

The Westchester Chapter

Seconding the Invitation

The Le Brun Scholarship

Newly Elected Members

With the Chapters—As of Interest

Volume 8

DECEMBER
1936

Number 12

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICERS 1936-1937

PresidentSTEPHEN F. VOORHEES, 101 Park Ave., New York, N. Y.
Vice-PresidentLOUIS LA BEAUME, 315 North 7th Street, St. Louis, Mo.
SecretaryCHARLES T. INGHAM, 1211 Empire Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa.
TreasurerEDWIN BERGSTROM, Citizens National Bank Bldg., Los Angeles, Cal.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For One Year (1936-37)

GERRIT J. DEGELLEKE, 152 West Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wisc. (Illinois-Wisconsin Dist.)
HUBERT G. RIPLEY, 45 Bromfield St., Boston, Mass. (New England Dist.)
RICHMOND H. SHREVE, 11 East 44th St., New York, N. Y. (New York Dist.)

For Two Years (1936-38)

WILLIAM H. CROWELL, 1040 Pacific Bldg., Portland, Ore. (Western Mountain Dist.)
WALTER R. MCCORNACK, 10006 Carnegie Ave., Cleveland, Ohio (Great Lakes Dist.)
WILLIAM G. NOLTING, Keyser Building, Baltimore, Md. (Middle Atlantic Dist.)

For Three Years (1936-39)

ALBERT J. EVERS, 525 Market Street, San Francisco, Calif. (Sierra Nevada Dist.)
MOISE H. GOLDSTEIN, American Bank Building, New Orleans, La. (Gulf States Dist.)
HENRY F. HOYT, 2500 Telephone Building, Kansas City, Mo. (Central States Dist.)
MERRILL C. LEE, c/o F. H. A., American Bank Bldg., Richmond, Va. (South Atlantic Dist.)

THE OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects

Published Monthly by

The American Institute of Architects

Executive and Publication Offices, The Octagon, 1741 New York Avenue N. W., Washington, D. C.

Second Thoughts on Modern Architecture

(A TALK BEFORE THE BOSTON SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS)

BY ROGER GILMAN, OF THE FOGG ART MUSEUM, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

IN THE decade between the War and the Depression, architecture in Europe seethed with new ideas. Probably not since the beginning of the style revivals, one hundred and fifty years before, had there been such vital changes proposed. The eclectic choice of older styles was tacitly abandoned. The current materials of construction—steel, reinforced concrete, glass and others—were now seen to hold new possibilities. There followed a new conception of the openings, the roof, the wall itself; new exteriors, even new plans. Additional factors were admitted into architecture, hygiene, and post-war social and political shiftings. Even the aims of architecture itself were questioned.

That we in America should doubt the need for such experiments was only natural; we had changed but little. That Europe felt their need deeply was evidenced by their simultaneous and widespread appearance.

Then came the Depression, revolutions in Germany and Austria, and a general halt in building. Now that work has been resumed, let us see which have survived of these hopes—and threats. Perhaps on second thought, from a five-year perspective, we can more fairly appraise them.

First let us look, for the moment, at the movement in Germany which was called Expressionism or the Dynamic Style. Its leaders were out and out individualists. Their method was to start from an idea or sketch which, to tell the truth, was more pictorial than architectural, and to work

it out in striking effects, such as Mendelsohn used in his well-known Schocken store at Stuttgart or Hoeger in the curved façades of his "Chilehaus" at Hamburg. "Tension" was their slogan. Exposition architecture was perhaps their true field. America saw their style at Chicago in the Science Building tower. But whether for lack of a coherent body of principles or from too much individualism, their movement faded out, and it now exists only as an influence in the somewhat fantastic compositions of Holland.

But the most deeply studied movement, the most radical and challenging, was "the new reality" (die neue Sächlichkeit). It was also the most written and talked about. In fact its American spokesmen, Philip Johnson and H. Russell Hitchcock, published a book on it, and christened it with the ambitious title of "The International Style."

Its intention was realistic, "objective," in contrast to the imaginative or "subjective" approach of the Expressionists. The starting points of this new architecture were to be "function and biology." The architect, no longer an inspired genius, was to be a sociologist, studying the needs of a new society; a doctor, prescribing the requirements of hygiene; also an engineer, an industrialist, and withal a philosopher and an artist. It is no surprise that one wing of the movement denied the existence, in all this, of any aesthetic ingredient whatever. "Beauty is efficiency" wrote Bruno Taut, one of its chief practitioners. And, in New York, Ray-

mond Hood was quoted as saying—though I doubt if he really believed it—that when he had finished with all the experts on an office building, he was through. It was in this wing that lay the real threat to architecture as an art.

All this new wine might perhaps have been put into the old bottles of a modified traditional design; it has been done in English and Dutch housing and will be, I understand, in the project in Cambridge. But, as it happened, some of its German leaders, notably Gropius, came under the influence of certain Dutch painter-architects. They saw in the theories of Cubist painting a new aesthetic reform for architecture, as basic as their other reforms. Out of all these Gropius produced a really remarkable experiment, the famous Bauhaus at Dessau.

About the same time, LeCorbusier, a Swiss living in Paris, and himself something of a modernist painter, evolved even more radical designs, combined with radical construction. Still more, by his brilliant writing, he launched the new style, while he applied a destructive criticism to nineteenth century architecture from which it will probably never recover. His theories were realized in several villas that have become bywords in the profession, and in a project on a grand scale for the Palace of the League of Nations. In these strange, bleak, uncompromising designs a distinction can again be drawn between the new ideas and the new forms, between LeCorbusier's far-reaching intellect and his peculiar personal taste. Yet his buildings, like those of the other leaders, Gropius, Oud, and Mies van der Rohe, have a definite aesthetic aim. In fact the aesthetic influence may at times be seen warping their logic.

The elements of this style formed a generally understood creed. In plan, spaces undivided, or nearly so; an orientation of great freedom; long, low, and narrow blocks and ell; flat roofs that liberate the plan from the former limitations of roof slopes and intersections. The exteriors were considered not as a mass, that is a wall with weight, but as a mere enclosure for space, a skin, as light as possible. No symmetry in design, not even balance, but a repetition of standard units such as windows; no ornament nor even a decorative treatment, only a painstaking proportion and clear-cut geometrical shapes.

Here then is a definite body of ideas which have produced a surprisingly consistent series of buildings for a number of years. They have been used by such different races as Argentines, Russians and Japanese. To exhibit their total executed work, five hundred pages of illustration were required in the latest and most comprehensive book upon it, just published by an Italian architect, Sartoris. Its especial field appears to be in new types of buildings—modern schools, laboratories, stadia, and so on, and, of course, in housing and the houses of certain advanced minds. Only in Germany has it been rejected. Partly because it was associated with the Socialist projects of the late Republic, partly because of political interference, and partly, it should be said, because it was too abstract for the younger generation. Yet this apparent defeat may be explained by a German trait, to invent and exalt an idea for five years or so and then to discard it—like a child with his house of cards. In its place there has been a reaction to old cottage types, for houses, and to a barren Roman style for the vast projects of the present dictatorship.

In America, the style has aroused interest chiefly on the Pacific coast, and in a few adventurous attempts here and there. For examples near Boston we might name the very consistent building of the Aluminum Products Company in East Cambridge, two houses by Miss Raymond, one by Mr. Webb in Southbridge, a doctor's office by Mr. Wills, and a quite European house for Miss Forbes in Cambridge by Howard Fisher. Less stylized, and more decorative in feeling, are houses by Mr. Child and Mr. Gunther. Again there are the experimental "Motohomes." Further afield is the notable new Museum at Hartford. Outstanding examples on a large scale, in the East, are the McGraw-Hill Building by Hood, and the Savings Association Building in Philadelphia by Howe and Lescaze.

We must admit, I think, that this style is a wide-spread and a serious effort to create a new architectural environment for modern existence. Yet we cannot help asking ourselves if it is as inevitable, even as convincing, in all respects as its adherents insist. It would seem not. Such a theory, for instance, as every building being a volume of space enclosed by flat, weightless planes, is too remote

a deduction to settle the style for both a small cottage and a city post office. Architectural form is not developed from one condition but from many; hygiene and logic are only two of a great number of factors. And walls of glass are rarely required. So that it is with modifications, in a more regional, more human, and less theoretical form that it is chiefly used. But its outward symbols, horizontality, flatness of surface and repetition of motif, its bold geometrical shapes, and above all its flexible asymmetry, have already had an influence that is far-reaching, and maybe long-lasting.

Where this international style shows signs of failure is in a lack of new developments. No new ideas, no new forms have been forthcoming since its start. In contrast the traditional style has shown a good deal of development. In monumental designs, to be sure, the old rhythm of voids and solids remains, but the effect is directly in light and shade, in mass and in line. We all know how they were formerly masked by the beautiful details of columns and cornices and all the idiom of classic decoration. For instance, this year in Paris, a new postoffice still has shafts and cornices but without capitals or mouldings. In ancient Poitiers, which calls itself "the Romanesque city," the new Chamber of Commerce is based on the same elements. Such types of façades, with

long established traditions, are apparently changed with reluctance. In other large buildings, such as apartment houses, the old elaboration has given way to plain surfaces, the old stone to brick and concrete, the old motifs, of bay and mansard and balcony, to motifs adopted from the new style.

It is in America that the conservatively modern, or as we might call it, the "transitional" style, maintains itself most strongly. Among us it attracts the majority even of the progressives. While it offers possibilities for large buildings which are to appeal to the public, by its air of progress and charm, yet it cannot venture too far beyond the public taste; for our man in the street is not so readily impressed by his architectural leaders as is the European bourgeois. Nevertheless such a "transitional" style might almost be said to be reaching a new expression. Its elements might almost be set down: a very bold mass, a vertical line—if it is of the skyscraper type, as much weight in the wall as we can afford; and beautiful material. Symmetry and striking composition combine these into a monumental, if sometimes theatrical, architecture of façades. Such recent buildings as Mr. Cram's Federal Building in Boston, Paul Cret's Folger Library, and Holabird and Root's Remington-Rand Building, seem to indicate a distinct phase of modern architecture, and one that carries its own justification.

Sir Raymond Unwin Entertained By Pittsburgh Chapter

MEMBERS of the Pittsburgh Chapter, American Institute of Architects, entertained Sir Raymond Unwin at luncheon on Wednesday, Dec. 2.

Sir Raymond Unwin, distinguished English architect, housing authority, and Past President of The Royal Institute of British Architects, is in the United States to deliver a series of lectures on Housing, Civic Design, and Regional Planning.

In addition to the Chapter members present, others interested in housing were also guests, including the Hon. Cornelius D. Scully, Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh; Hon. Henry Ellenbogen, Member of Congress; Hon. George E. Evans, Member of City Council of Pittsburgh; Prof. W.

Frank Hitchens, Head of Department of Architecture, Carnegie Institute of Technology; Charles F. Lewis, Managing Director of The Buhl Foundation; Ralph H. Richards, President of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh; Oakley W. Heselbarth, District Director of the Federal Housing Administration, Western Pennsylvania; Joseph P. Tufts, Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Housing Association; Frank M. Roessing, Director of Public Works of the City of Pittsburgh; and Edwin C. May, Chairman of Public Works Administration's Citizens Advisory Committee on Housing for Pittsburgh.

The Westchester Chapter

THE formation of the Westchester Chapter of The American Institute of Architects is formally announced, effective as of October 22, 1936.

The County of Westchester in the State of New York is thereby removed from the territory of the New York Chapter and will henceforth be the territory of the Westchester Chapter.

The organization meeting of the Westchester Chapter was held at the headquarters of the New York Chapter on November 24, with Richmond H. Shreve, Regional Director of the New York District presiding.

Hobart Upjohn, President of the New York Chapter, welcomed the members of the new Chapter, wishing them success in the new organization and pledging to them the support of the New York Chapter.

The meeting was addressed by The President of The Institute, who outlined the general nature of the problems with which the new Chapter would be called upon to deal. Mr. Voorhees, in extending congratulations to the new Chapter stressed the fact that the strength of The Institute lay in the strength of its Chapters.

Pending the first independent meeting of the Chapter at a date which will be announced, and at which the formal election of officers will take place, Frederick G. Frost, Secretary of the New

York Chapter, as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported nominations for an "interim" group of officers and members of the Executive Committee of the new Chapter. Those elected to serve until the date of the regular election of officers is fixed, are as follows:

President	- - - - -	K. K. Stowell
Vice President	- - - - -	Lewis Bowman
Secretary	- - - - -	R. H. Scannell
Treasurer	- - - - -	Paul B. Lavelle

Executive Committee

To serve three years	- - - - -	R. H. Shreve
To serve two years	- - - - -	Ralph T. Walker
To serve one year	- - - - -	Robert D. Kohn, H. Lansing Quick, Edward J. Smith

The charter members of the Westchester Chapter are as follows: Paul B. LaVelle, Nat O. Matson, Raymond J. Martin, Wm. John Cherry, W. Stanwood Phillips, Edward J. Smith, Lewis Bowman, Frederick G. Frost, Arthur Loomis Harmon, Robert D. Kohn, Benjamin W. Morris, Robert B. O'Connor, Richmond H. Shreve, Harvey Stevenson, Robert H. Scannell, Ralph Walker, Kenneth K. Stowell.

The officers and directors of The Institute have extended to the officers and members of the Westchester Chapter their heartiest congratulations.

Free Architectural Services Opposed

THE Executive Committee of the Philadelphia Chapter at its last meeting took formal notice of the increasing tendency on the part of certain manufacturers of building materials to offer free architectural services in connection with the use of their products.

Convinced that a continuation of this practice on the part of these manufacturers will seriously jeopardize the architect's position in the eyes of the uninformed public, the Executive Committee of the Chapter passed the following resolution:

"*Whereas*, It has been brought to the attention of the Executive Committee of the Philadelphia Chapter, American Institute of Architects, that numerous manufacturers

of building products are providing free architectural services in connection with the use of their products, and

Whereas, This architectural service can only be of limited scope and not of a comprehensive nature, and

Whereas, By the acceptance of this service the client is bound to use the product of the manufacturer without the opportunity of considering other products which may be equal or of superior quality, and

Whereas, The client is given the impression that the costs of architectural services are saved,

Whereas, In reality these costs are necessarily added to and included in the cost of the completed product, now therefore

Be It Resolved, That the Philadelphia Chapter, American Institute of Architects, declare itself opposed to the maintenance of Architectural Departments for the preparation of free sketches, designs and working drawings by Building Material Manufacturers, in order to promote sales of their products."

Seconding the Invitation

BY ROGER ALLEN, A. I. A., GRAND RAPIDS CHAPTER

I NOTICE there is some loose talk going around to the effect that the Detroit architects are going to invite The Institute to hold the 1937 convention in that city, and while this invitation is all right in a way, it doesn't go far enough.

The 1936 convention introduced a precedent that should be followed; you will remember that the convention headquarters were at Old Point Comfort and the meetings were held at Williamsburg, 40 miles away. Or was it "Sheridan forty miles away?" At any rate, the meetings were held a long way from the hotel.

Obviously this next convention should be held in Detroit but the meetings should be in Grand Rapids, which is a mere 140 miles west of Detroit, and what is 140 miles? Little enough, we often say in Grand Rapids, when the wind is in the wrong direction. By this ingenious scheme the delegates would spend nice quiet restful evenings in Detroit and spend their days en route to Grand Rapids and return. Thus they would spend so much time on the road that they would have no time to listen to committee reports, and if that isn't a good idea, what is?

Detroit is an ideal town to sleep in, as the town is practically deserted nowadays after six in the p. m. as the inhabitants have took to living in trailers, and as soon as Daddy comes home from 8 hours of refined employment running a 1200 ton body press out at Briggs, he and Mamma get in the car and start off, dragging the trailer. The kiddies ride in the trailer, along with the man from the finance company. As practically all the inhabitants of Detroit follow this system, it means that by 8 p. m. you could shoot a cannon down

Woodward avenue and not run any risk of hitting anyone except people from foreign countries like Kamchatka or Maine.

Personally I would kind of like to go back to Old Point Comfort because there is a sign in the lobby of the hotel there that reads as follows: "Chamberlin Gown Shop—Tailored Suits, Mourning and Riding Habits." When I saw that I said to myself, "There you see an intensely moving drama, or drayma, in three lines; she buys a tailored suit and looks so beautiful he marries her; he gets the bill for the tailored suit and the shock kills him; she puts on mourning and then buys a horse with the insurance money."

But since the Detroit chapter very selfishly overlooked the Grand Rapids chapter entirely in extending this invitation, I have been obliged to go to some trouble on my own account. I went right over to the City Hall and asked a prominent city official, "How would you like to have the A. I. A. convention meet here next year?"

"What's that?" he inquired rather suspiciously.

"A couple of thousand architects like me," I explained.

He turned a funny green color.

"Invite a couple of thousand people like you here?" he said, in a choking voice.

Well to cut a long story short we gave him the nicest civic funeral you would want to see and the first cellophane casket with Venetian blinds ever seen in Grand Rapids. (We are a little behind the times here.)

So I guess everything is settled and you can go ahead on that basis. All we have to do now is get that cannon to shoot down Woodward avenue.

Chatham Village

INVESTMENT GROUP VISITS VILLAGE TO EVALUATE PROJECT

MR. Allie S. Freed, Chairman of the Committee for Economic Recovery, brought to Pittsburgh a group of New York savings bank officials to visit Chatham Village, in suburban Pittsburgh, on Thursday, Oct. 22.

The party of visitors included, besides Mr. Freed: Mr. H. R. Kinsey, President, and Mr. Charles H. Place, Vice-President of the Williamsburgh Savings Bank; Judge Edward A. Richards, President, and Mr. Charles Bemish, a trustee of the East New

York Savings Bank; Mr. Bernard F. Hogan, President of the Greater New York Savings Bank; Mr. Paul Connolly, Vice-President of the Fulton Savings Bank; Mr. F. J. Fuller of Brown, Harriman and Company; Mr. Julian Gerard of the Federal Housing Administration; and Mrs. Millicent P. Kemp, Secretary of the Mortgage Information Bureau of the Savings Bank Association of New York.

Mr. Freed has announced that he plans to build a series of large-scale model housing developments in a number of the major cities in the country. They will follow, to a considerable extent, principles of community planning and management developed and established by the Chatham Village demonstration.

*Reprinted from the
Chatham Village News of Nov. 10, 1936*

Le Brun Scholarship

PRELIMINARY NOTICE OF THE LE BRUN TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION FOR THE YEAR 1937

THE Executive Committee of the New York Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, as Trustees of the Travelling Scholarship, founded by Pierre L. Le Brun, announces a competition for the selection of a beneficiary. The program will be issued about January 16, 1937, calling for drawings to be delivered about March 15, 1937.

The following excerpts from the Deed of Gift explain the award and conditions:

"Fourteen hundred dollars * * * is to be awarded, * * *, to some deserving and meritorious architect or architectural draughtsman, resident anywhere in the United States, to aid him in paying the expenses of an European trip, lasting not less than six months."

"The selection of the beneficiary of the Scholarship is to be by means of a competition * * * and the drawings called for * * * are to be submitted for examination and judgment to a jury consisting of at least three practicing architects, no one of whom is to be connected with any school or atelier for the teaching of architecture. In making the award the jury is to give a full and careful consideration to the records of qualification filed by the competitors as well as the comparative excellence of the drawings submitted."

"Any architect or architectural draughtsman, a citizen and resident of the United States, not under twenty-three or over thirty years of age, who shall, for at least three years, have been either engaged in active practice, or

employed as an architectural draughtsman and who is not and has not been the beneficiary of any other travelling scholarship, shall be eligible to compete."

"Every competitor must be nominated by a member of The American Institute of Architects who shall certify in writing that the above conditions are fulfilled and that in his opinion the competitor is deserving of the scholarship. No member of The Institute shall nominate more than one (1) candidate."

"Every competitor must engage to remain, if successful, at least six months abroad and to devote well and truly that length of time to travel and the study of architecture otherwise than by entering any school or atelier or attending lectures, it being intended that the benefit derived from this travelling scholarship shall supplement school or office experience."

"The successful competitor shall write from time to time, but not less than once every two months, to the New York Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, giving an account of the employment of his time."

All those wishing to enter the competition should arrange at once for nomination by a member of The American Institute of Architects. Nomination blanks can be obtained from The Secretary of any Chapter, A. I. A., or from the Le Brun Scholarship Committee. Nominations should be sent, so as to be received before January 15, 1937, to Le Brun Scholarship Committee, 115 East 40th Street, New York, N. Y.

OLIVER REAGAN, *Chairman.*

New Application Form

THE new form of application for corporate membership, A. I. A. Document No. 272, Form S1, has been distributed to all chapter secretaries.

This new form is a complete revision, and incorporates various changes in the procedure for the election of members, under the amended By-laws as adopted at the 68th Convention.

The new form consists of seven pages in dupli-

cate—the original on white and the duplicate on gray paper.

Chapter officers are urged to acquaint themselves with this document and with Chapter II of the By-laws, which sets forth the procedure for election to membership in The Institute, and the duties, obligations, rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

Additional copies may be had on request.

Members Elected—June 15, 1936 to October 16, 1936

<i>Alabama Chapter</i>	- - - - -	JACOB E. SALIE
<i>Albany Chapter</i>	- - - - -	FRANK BELL DYER
<i>Baltimore Chapter</i>	- - - - -	FREDERIC A. FLETCHER
<i>Boston Chapter</i>	- - - - -	FRANCIS WHITTEN, JR.
<i>Brooklyn Chapter</i>	- - - - -	BEN JOHN SMALL
<i>Central Illinois Chapter</i>	- - - - -	JOSEPH F. BOOTON
<i>Chicago Chapter</i>	- - - - -	ERVIN F. BAUR, ERNST A. BENKERT, ERNEST ROBERT GRAHAM, EDWIN H. MITTELBUSHER, RENE PAUL TRAVELLETTI
<i>Cincinnati Chapter</i>	- - - - -	JOHN WILLIAM BECKER, H. RICHARD ELLISTON, GEORGE GARTIES
<i>Colorado Chapter</i>	- - - - -	EDWARD L. BUNTS, G. H. HUNTINGTON
<i>Connecticut Chapter</i>	- - - - -	JOHN EVAN NICHOLS
<i>Florida North Chapter</i>	- - - - -	ELIAS FRANCIS DE LA HAYE, JR.
<i>Georgia Chapter</i>	- - - - -	ROY E. HITCHCOCK
<i>Grand Rapids Chapter</i>	- - - - -	RALPH L. BAUER, WALTER W. PEARL
<i>Kansas City Chapter</i>	- - - - -	HOMER FORBES NEVILLE
<i>Kentucky Chapter</i>	- - - - -	ELLIOTT CAMPBELL LEA
<i>Madison Chapter</i>	- - - - -	ELLIS J. POTTER
<i>New York Chapter</i>	- - - - -	RANDOLPH EVANS, ALEXANDER HAYDEN GIRARD
<i>North Carolina Chapter</i>	- - - - -	WILLIAM HENLEY DEITRICK, LOUIS F. VOORHEES
<i>Northern California Chapter</i>	- - - - -	JOHN KNOX BALLANTINE, JR.
<i>Oklahoma Chapter</i>	- - - - -	C. L. MONNOT, WILLIAM T. SCHMITT
<i>Oregon Chapter</i>	- - - - -	KENNETH C. LEOGE, ERNEST F. TUCKER
<i>Philadelphia Chapter</i>	- - - - -	J. ROY CARROLL, JR.
<i>Pittsburgh Chapter</i>	- - - - -	RAYMOND J. NICAISE
<i>Santa Barbara Chapter</i>	- - - - -	LUTAH MARIA RIGGS
<i>Southern California Chapter</i>	- - - - -	BREO FREEMAN, J. ROBERT HARRIS, WILLIAM SUTHERLAND McCAY, FRANK A. VIGERS
<i>St. Paul Chapter</i>	- - - - -	HUGH CAMPBELL EATON, PAUL M. HAVENS
<i>Utah Chapter</i>	- - - - -	FRED LEWIS MARKHAM
<i>Washington, D. C. Chapter</i>	- - - - -	ALFRED KASTNER, MILTON B. MEDARY, 3RD
<i>Wisconsin Chapter</i>	- - - - -	CARL F. RINGER, JR.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

THE FOLLOWING NOTICE IS PRINTED AT THE REQUEST OF
THE BOSTON CHAPTER

MR. William D. Austin, in writing the History of the Boston Society of Architects, would appreciate assistance from the members, as they may be able to furnish it, as follows:

1. Any diaries, journals, letters, memoirs or collections of printed matter of Boston architects in the eighteen sixties, seventies and eighties.
2. The names and locations of existing important public, semi-public and mercantile buildings in Boston and vicinity, the dates of their erection and the names of their architects. Private residences, except large and expensive ones, may be excluded.
3. The names and former locations in Boston and vicinity of the various kinds of buildings mentioned in No. 2, that were demolished within a

period of fifty years, with the dates of erection and demolition and the names of their architects.

4. Suggestions for illustrations, such as portraits, buildings, parks, etc., that would be appropriate to the History, with information as to the locations of the original pictures and photographs.

President Shepley and Mr. H. Daland Chandler urge the members thus to cooperate in the preparation of what is hoped to be not only a comprehensive story of the Society since its formation in 1867, but a history or encyclopaedia of local architectural activities for the past seventy years. This encyclopaedia as well as many other tabulations and copies of documents will be included in appendices to the main History.

Please communicate with William D. Austin, 8 Craigie Circle, Cambridge, Mass.

DECEASED MEMBERS

THIS list is as reported to The Institute from September 24, 1935 to November 30, 1936. Please report any omissions to The Secretary.

FELLOWS

Aspinwall, J. Lawrence	Itnner, William B.
Baechlin, Henry	Kirkham, Guy
Benes, W. Dominick	Murphy, J. C.
Bohlen, Oscar D.	Richardson, William C.
Clarke, Prescott Orloff	Rose, Thomas Leslie
Coolidge, Charles A.	Schwacke, John Strubing
Crane, Edward A.	Stewardson, Emlyn
Ditmars, Isaac E.	Walker, C. Howard
Hoyt, Edward H.	Wright, Henry

MEMBERS

Benedict, Fred S.	Emory, William H.
Bourne, Frank A.	Fishbourne, Ralph A.
Chapman, F. Burnham	Franke, Julius
Derby, Richard B.	Graham, Ernest R.
Elwell, Stanley Bruce	Hillger, Samuel E.

Hunt, William E.
Ingalls, Harry Creighton
June, Harry Norton
Kimberlin, C. W.
Lawrie, Harry
Macomber, William Kaluna
Marr, Thomas Scott
Marye, P. Thornton
Montfort, John Miller
Narbett, James T.
Neff, Conrad F.
Olin, Herbert Scott
Parkinson, John
Peters, Edward J.

Poland, W. A.
Price, H. Brooks
Price, Roy Seldon C.
Provot, George
Rockrise, Thomas S.
Rothschild, LeRoy B.
Sompayrac, Edwin D.
Storm, Arthur L.
Tuttle, Bloodgood
Weeks, Harry E.
White, Charles E., Jr.
Williams, W. Ward
Williamson, George H.
Witcover, H. W.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Blashfield, Edwin H.	Jusserand, J. J.
Coffin, William Sloane	Taft, Lorado
Gage, Lyman J.	Thompson, Henry B.
Glessner, John J.	

HONORARY CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Byne, Arthur	Poelzig, Hans
--------------	---------------

With the Chapters

EXCERPTS FROM MINUTES, BULLETINS AND REPORTS

Albany.

Mr. Joseph J. Gander and Mr. Richmond H. Shreve were guests of the Chapter at dinner on November 5. Because of the close contact of members of the Chapter with the State Architectural Department, considerable time was given to a spirited discussion of the proposed New York State War Memorial. Members of the Chapter have done valuable work in bringing the War Memorial program to the attention of the profession and public leaders, and are very much in earnest in their desire that strong objection be made to the action of the State Department of Public Works in preparing drawings for the Memorial.

Mr. Shreve was asked to formulate plans for the joint meeting of the Chapters of the New York Division, which meeting is tentatively set for the early part of 1937.

Baltimore.

William M. Ellicott, Chairman of the Chapter's Committee on Regional Plan and Parks, at the October meeting of the Chapter, presented his report covering the work which has been done by his Committee on the proposed parks and highways between Baltimore and Washington. It was brought out that most of the preliminary studies for the Baltimore-Washington area, which will eventually tie in with the National Park System, were substantially completed.

It was the opinion of the members of the Chapter that the present Committee on Regional Plan and Parks be enlarged and the scope of its work broadened to include all parks, parkways and playgrounds in the environs of Baltimore City.

Mr. Ellicott presented the Chapter with some interesting photographs of park and landscape treatments which he had brought with him from Europe. These photographs will be framed and presented to Mr. Wolman.

By action of the Executive Committee, a committee consisting of Clyde N. Friz, Chairman, C. D. Loomis, A. J. Klinkhart, Cyril Hebrank and F. Dano Jackley was formed to organize a State Archi-

tectural Association. The object of this Association would be to afford official representation to all architects in Maryland regardless of Chapter affiliation.

Boston.

The October meeting of the Chapter was held in the Library of the Architectural Club in Boston with twenty-five members present.

President Shepley called attention to the preliminary draft of the Schedule of Professional Charges that had been sent to all members, and requested that it be read very carefully before the next meeting, when it would come up for open discussion, and if there were any comments to submit them either to the President or to the Secretary.

Mr. Shepley presented for consideration the question of a small house competition that was being proposed by the *Boston Post* with the intention of later publishing the material in book form, the book to be supported by advertisements. A representative of the *Boston Post* had seen Messrs. Shepley, Whitmore and Richmond regarding the competition.

A letter from Hubert G. Ripley, Regional Director, regarding this subject was read, in which he calls attention to an article on advertising published in the December, 1935, *OCTAGON*, which indicates that The Institute looks with disapproval on the publication of the work of its members in any publications supported by advertisements.

The question of the small house and the architect seems to be a very disturbing one, and brought forth much discussion. Mr. Dana Somes believes that the architects should decide what they are to do. It is generally admitted that plans without an architect are not satisfactory to the client, and yet a majority of clients for small house work do not believe that they can economically afford full architectural service. He felt that a stock-plan, partial service arrangement, similar to the Small House Service Bureau and the Home Loan Bank service plan, would seem to be reasonable. The

Home Loan Bank plan ties up the owner, the architect and the lender in their home building service and further provides for certification at the completion of the work.

At 6:50 the meeting adjourned to the Great Hall for cocktails and dinner.

After dinner, President Shepley introduced the principal speaker of the evening, Mr. Roger Gilman, former dean of the Rhode Island School of Design and now Editor of the Fogg Museum, who talked on "Second Thoughts on Modern Architecture." He illustrated his talk with lantern slides, showing the trend of the modernistic style in various countries.

Brooklyn.

Through the courtesy of Adolph Goldberg, Chairman of the Public Information Committee of the Chapter, THE OCTAGON is informed that at a recent chapter meeting, discussion regarding the civic duty of architects was conducted with the result that the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, that the Brooklyn Chapter of The American Institute of Architects accept and endorse the action of Stephen W. Dodge, its President, acting on a joint committee, appointed by Mayor Fiorella H. La Guardia, to investigate the construction of one and two family houses in the borough of Queens.

"Resolved, that the Mayor be commended for his action in these vital matters, and his promised assistance to the end that an architect's connection with buildings in New York City shall be continuous until their completion."

Buffalo.

The Buffalo Athletic Club was the scene of a well-attended dinner meeting of the Chapter on November 4. The Chapter had, as its guest on this occasion, Richmond H. Shreve, Director of the New York District.

The discussions of professional problems which took place at the conclusion of the dinner were spirited and timely. Subjects discussed were varied and included office practice—the upward trend of the construction industry—the outlook for increased activity in the profession—and the question of Government interference with private business, notably the preparation of drawings for the New York State World War Memorial by the State Department of Public Works.

Members of the Chapter were emphatic in their opinion that this invasion of architectural practice by State Bureaus should be checked, but, more particularly, that a sound and sincere type of Memorial should be built rather than the project now proposed.

There was general approval of the suggestion that, following the December meeting of The Board of Directors of The Institute and after the convening of the Legislature in Albany at the beginning of the year, another meeting should be held at a place to be agreed upon, at which there would be present representatives of the Chapters in the New York District and of other architectural organizations, for the purpose of discussing some means of common action on questions affecting the profession in the State of New York.

The Chapter is fortunate in that Edward B. Green has taken such a vigorous part in helping to solve the many problems that confront the Chapter members at this time.

Central New York.

A Luncheon Meeting was held at the University Club in Rochester on November 5. The Chapter had the opportunity at this meeting to be host to Mr. Richmond H. Shreve, Director of the New York District, who has been on a tour of all Chapters in the District.

At this meeting special consideration was given to the possibility of the architects participating in community planning in Rochester. Hope was expressed that it might be possible to bring together and direct toward a common cause the influence of architects, engineers, builders and real estate men. It was brought out in discussion that one of the most effective means of gaining recognition for the profession was for architects to make themselves recognized as effective workers for the good of their communities and interest themselves in civic improvement.

The Chapter wholeheartedly endorsed the suggestion that a combined meeting of representatives of all of the Chapters of the New York District should be held at an early date.

Chicago.

The October meeting was the occasion for the presentation to the Chapter of a portrait of Thomas U. Walter. Thirty-five members and guests met

for dinner at the Architects Club in Chicago. After dinner the meeting was called to order by President John O. Merrill, who ordered the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and accepted the various committee reports.

The meeting was then turned over to Irving K. Pond who presided for the balance of the evening.

Mr. Pond made a short address and then introduced Arthur Woltersdorf, Chairman of the Portrait Committee, who tendered a report on the activities of the Committee in securing two portraits during the regime of Emery S. Hall. Mr. Pond introduced Mr. Carl Buher who represented Dr. Harshe of the Art Institute of Chicago. After a few remarks by Mr. Buher, Mr. Pond read a paper on the work of Thomas U. Walter, whose portrait had been unveiled by Mr. Buher.

Mr. Pond then turned the meeting back to the President of the Chapter, who called on Arthur Weissenborn for a few reminiscences regarding his service in the Supervising Architect's Office in Washington.

Cincinnati.

The 522nd meeting of the Chapter was held on October 20 at Mecklenburg's Restaurant in Cincinnati. A well-attended dinner preceded the business meeting which was opened by President Van Arsdall.

A letter from the Cincinnati Board of Education was read, inviting the Chapter to aid in the development of a program of school building for the City of Cincinnati. Charles F. Cellarius moved, and it was seconded that the Chapter express interest and approval and urge all members and friends to support the issue.

Marshall Martin reported that due to increased activity in the offices of many members of the Chapter, there had been little activity on the part of the Architects Advisory Council.

A Committee on the Architectural Bureau of Information for the Small House Service indicated considerable activity at the last eight meetings of the enlarged Committee. A final report, however, was not available at this meeting.

John Zettel proposed that the next regular meeting of the Chapter be given over to an exhibition of the Architects' Water Color Club.

The report of the Joint Conference Committee

of the Cincinnati Chapter and the Allied Construction Industries of Cincinnati was received and copies distributed to the members.

The "Report and Working Code" proposed by the Joint Conference Committee is now available in printed form. This report is most comprehensively presented and answers many questions that confront the architect in his daily practice. It is felt that through the adoption of this report and working code, a much clearer understanding will exist between the architects and contractors.

Detroit.

The Annual Meeting of the Chapter was held at the Intercollegiate Alumni Club on Wednesday, October 21. The meeting was attended by practically every member of the Chapter and many guests and members of the press.

The following Officers and Directors were elected for the year 1936-37: Alvin E. Harley, president; Richard P. Raseman, vice-president; N. Chester Sorensen, secretary; Milton J. Pettibone, treasurer; Robert B. Frantz, director. Wells I. Bennett and Richard H. Marr continue as directors.

Following the address of the president and the reports of the secretary and treasurer, Mr. Bingay, the speaker of the evening, dealt with "The Dangers That Confront America" in true Bingay style. The report of Dave Williams as treasurer was most creditable and he turned over to the new treasurer, Milton J. Pettibone, a considerable sum of money which he had converted from a deficit.

The highlight of the meeting was the annual report by President Harley in which he reviewed the activities of the Chapter during the past year and predicted that the following year would be one of increasing prosperity for the architects of Detroit.

Mr. Harley said, "Although this lack of glow of any spectacular feature along the lines of a gayer and more entertaining nature, nevertheless the Chapter has been active, especially in connection with the board of directors and some of the various committees, who have done excellent work in laying a good foundation for much greater activity for the coming year."

Kentucky.

The annual meeting of the Chapter was held at the French Village in Louisville. Nearly every

member of the Chapter was present at the meeting which was preceded by a dinner. Officers elected for the coming year are as follows: President, Thomas J. Nolan; Vice-President, E. T. Hutchings; Secretary-Treasurer, Ossian P. Ward; Executive Committee, Arthur G. Tafel, Elliott Campbell Lea, Stratton O. Hammon, C. Julian Oberwarth.

In his opening speech the newly elected president, Thomas J. Nolan, stressed the necessity of increasing the membership and enlarging the activities of the Chapter. The principal speaker of the evening was Joseph D. Baldez. Mr. Baldez, one of the senior practicing architects in Louisville, took as the subject of his talk "The Gay Nineties." He traced the development of architecture in Louisville from the 80's up to the present time. His talk was highly entertaining and resulted in several of the older members of the Chapter reminiscing of their own experiences over the years.

Most of the purely business matters were postponed until a later meeting.

New York.

Guests of honor at the Chapter luncheon meeting on October 29 were President Stephen F. Voorhees, William J. Pedrick, President, Fifth Avenue Association, and Arthur W. Holden, Chairman, Association, and Arthur W. Holden, Chairman of the Chapter Committee on Civic Design.

At the meeting following luncheon, the general subject for discussion was "Group Planning and Enlargement of the Field for the Architect."

President Voorhees spoke on "The Architects' Responsibility for Advance Planning."

Arthur W. Holden spoke on "Local District Planning."

William J. Pedrick spoke on "Civic Association's Place in Planning for the Community."

The names of candidates for membership in the Chapter and in The Institute were presented.

Northern California.

Twenty members were present at the Annual Meeting of the Chapter held at the St. Germain Restaurant in San Francisco. Chapter President Will G. Corlett presided.

It being the Annual Meeting as prescribed by the By-Laws, transactions therein were confined, in general, to business, reports and election of officers.

The President addressed the meeting with an

outline of the aims and purposes of The Institute and in a review of the activities within the Chapter, brought to the attention of its members what had been done in the past year to uphold these standards.

The Secretary-Treasurer's annual report showed the finances and membership of the Chapter to be in a very sound condition.

Other reports from Committees were presented and accepted with thanks, as follows:

Membership, Public Information, Education, Library, Entertainment, Advisory Committee to the Art Commission, Federation of Arts, Roadside Council, Housing Association.

Under the heading of unfinished business, the Board of Directors of the Chapter presented a recommendation that the Chapter contribute to the Architects Home Service Bureau, the sum of \$25.00 per month for a period of one year, subject to revocation by the Board. A motion to this effect by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Evers, was carried.

A motion by Mr. Bakewell, seconded by Mr. Allen, that the lump sum of \$300.00 be transferred from the general account to the Educational Fund was unanimously carried.

There being no other list of nominations for officers for the year 1936-37, a motion was passed instructing the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the election of the candidates proposed at the September meeting by the Nominating Committee. These follow:

Will G. Corlett, President; Warren C. Perry, Vice-President; James H. Mitchell, Secretary-Treasurer; Ernest Weihe and Timothy L. Pflueger, Directors for three years.

Philadelphia.

A recent luncheon meeting of the Chapter was attended by sixty members and guests, with Mr. Frank Nickel and Col. E. J. W. Ragsdale as guests of honor.

The President opened the meeting by introducing Mr. Nickel. The room was darkened and after a brief introduction a moving picture of the Red Cross Flood Relief work was presented with sound accompaniment.

Mr. Nickel followed this with an address and appeal on behalf of the Red Cross.

After lunch the President reported for the Executive Committee, stating its activities informally.

He also reported the need of new By-laws, new and younger members, a new Building Code, and talked of the Exhibition, which is being considered by the Chapter's exhibition board, and the need for a more prompt response to the questionnaire sent out on the subject.

The President introduced Colonel Ragsdale, who read a paper called "On Train Architecture," on the new lightweight streamlined trains. The Colonel's talk was very interesting and delightfully presented. It was quite evidently enjoyed and appreciated by everyone present.

After Colonel Ragsdale had finished the President thanked him and then introduced John F. Harbison, who spoke on the problems of designing the interiors of the trains.

Following this, the President adjourned the meeting so that those present could question the Colonel and view the drawings more closely.

Pittsburgh.

In accord with action taken at the October meeting, the Chapter will present to The Octagon a copy of the Historic Monuments Committee's project, "The Early Architecture of Western Pennsylvania." This work will be a valuable addition to The Octagon Library.

Consideration was given to the suggestion that Chapter meetings be held in different sections of the Chapter territory, thereby affording members residing considerable distances from Pittsburgh opportunity to take more active part in the Chapter meetings.

The Committee on Education reported that the series of lectures, given by various members of the Chapter at Carnegie Tech would be continued. An effort has been made to establish the Apprenticeship System which has been under consideration for some time.

The Chapter meeting was brought to a close after animated discussion on the advisability of sponsoring radio and newspaper publicity pertaining to architectural subjects. The matter was referred to the Chapter Committee on Education for report at the next meeting.

Southern California.

The Chapter held its annual reception at the Flintridge Country Club in Los Angeles. The meeting was held in honor of Sumner P. Hunt,

F. A. I. A., and was the occasion for awarding him his Certificate of Life Membership in the Chapter.

A distinguished group of public officials and other individuals interested in architecture and the fine arts attended the evening ceremony as guests of the Chapter. After the formal reception in the main lounge, dinner was served in the dining room. Through the courtesy of the Producers' Council, corsages were presented to the ladies.

During dinner Senor Corral's Mexican orchestra provided music and entertainment. President Ralph C. Flewelling, made a few brief announcements, welcomed the guests and turned the meeting over to David J. Witmer, F. A. I. A., who presented the Certificate of Life Membership to Mr. Hunt with a few well chosen words. It was evident to everyone present that Mr. Hunt deeply appreciated the honor and so stated in his words of acceptance.

Paul Cret's office furnished the Chapter with a photographic exhibition which was hung in an adjoining room and D. C. Allison reviewed the life and work of Mr. Cret and recalled some of his own personal contacts with him.

The meeting was closed with a brief address by the President and the balance of the evening was devoted to dancing and social activities.

Tennessee.

The Chapter, in conjunction with the Associated General Contractors, the Construction League and other branches of the building industry, met in annual convention in Knoxville on November 20.

Routine business matters and reports consumed most of the business sessions. It was decided to remit all Chapter dues owed for the years prior to 1936. It is hoped that many former members will be able to re-join the Chapter and that future meetings will be more largely attended. It was also decided to award each year a certificate or medal of merit to distinguished craftsmen in the State of Tennessee.

Officers were unanimously reelected for the coming year and arrangements were made for the Chapter president to attend all future regional meetings. The time not otherwise taken up with meetings was spent in motor trips through the Great Smokies and to Norris Dam.

The joint meeting was brought to a close by a banquet in the evening, and it was the unanimous

opinion of all those present that the convention this year was one of the most enjoyable ever held.

Toledo.

More than twenty members and guests attended the October meeting of the Chapter, which was held at the University Club.

President Hoke opened the meeting and after the reading of the minutes, many questions involving Chapter and Institute matters were discussed.

A letter from the Eastern Ohio Chapter was read, regarding appointments to the State Board of Architectural Examiners.

It was moved and seconded that the Chapter endorse Charles F. Owsley for reappointment to the State Board and that the Secretary notify Governor Davey of the appointment.

There was much discussion of timely topics and future programs and activities.

An Art Museum Exhibit is to be arranged and it was decided that the Chapter would continue its cooperation with the High School Architectural classes.

It was moved by Paul S. Robinette and seconded by William M. Fernald that a special committee be appointed to formulate a local registration ordinance to be presented to the City Council.

Washington State.

The 410th regular monthly meeting of the Chapter was held at the Mayflower Hotel in Seattle, Washington.

There was considerable discussion in regard to legislation and city ordinances affecting the practice of architects in Seattle.

Joshua H. Vogel submitted the report of the Legislative Committee relating to the suggested revision of the Architectural Registration law which is to be brought before the next session of the Legislature.

B. Marcus Priteca in commenting upon the report, suggested that the Chapter sponsor a law requiring that all buildings in the State, as a further protection to public health, be designed by architects or engineers.

It was moved and seconded that the secretary write to the City Council, endorsing the proposed amendment to the City Charter which stipulates that the City Building Inspector be appointed for a term of five years.

It was also decided that the Chapter endorse the pending City Ordinance in regard to improved planting in city parking strips. Both of these matters were referred to the Executive Committee of the Chapter with power to act.

Wisconsin.

The Silver Jubilee of the Chapter was formally celebrated with a dinner meeting at the City Club in Milwaukee on the occasion of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the founding of the Chapter.

Nearly fifty members and guests were present. The tables in the dining room were fittingly decorated with silver ornaments and silver candles.

President Herbst, in opening the meeting, announced that as the occasion was one of rejoicing, all business and reading of the minutes would be dispensed with.

Alexander C. Guth, secretary of the Chapter for thirteen years, was forced to be absent due to ill health. It was noted that this was the first time Mr. Guth had missed a meeting of the Chapter or the Executive Committee during his long term of office. The entire gathering was keenly disappointed at his inability to be present at the observance of the Silver Jubilee, and an appropriate testimonial, subscribed to by all present, was transmitted to him.

The past presidents who were present, in the order in which they served, are as follows: Wm. A. Schuchardt, Peter Brust, Gerrit J. deGelleke, A. C. Eschweiler, Sr., Walter W. Judell, Fitzhugh Scott, Henry C. Hengels, Roger C. Kirchoff, and A. C. Eschweiler, Jr.

The list of Charter members present were as follows: A. C. Eschweiler, Sr., Richard Philipp, Peter Brust, Wm. A. Schuchardt, Herman Bueming, H. W. Guthrie, and Gerrit J. deGelleke.

Alexander C. Eschweiler, Sr., talked entertainingly, reminiscing on his practice, begun in 1885.

Peter Brust outlined the history of the Chapter from the time of its inception.

Gerrit J. deGelleke, now Regional Director of the Illinois-Wisconsin District, spoke on the growth of the Chapter and its relation to The Institute, which has been of ever increasing importance.

President Herbst read the telegrams and letters of congratulation and the regrets of those unable to attend. Telegrams were received from Stephen

F. Voorhees, President of The Institute, and Charles T. Ingham, Secretary of The Institute, congratulating the Chapter on the occasion of the observance of its Silver Jubilee.

The Chapter was fortunate in having as its honored guest and principal speaker of the evening, Irving K. Pond, President of The Institute in 1911, the year that the Wisconsin Chapter was founded. Mr. Pond's views on Architecture and the Architect were keenly enjoyed by everyone.

At the conclusion of Mr. Pond's address, the assemblage stood for a moment in silence in honor of the deceased members of the Chapter.

A general discussion covering many topics followed, with Richard Philipp honoring the memory of George P. Ferry, and Peter Brust discussing the work of Milwaukee's early architects.

The unanimous opinion of all in attendance was that the Silver Jubilee of the Wisconsin Chapter had been enjoyably and appropriately celebrated.

Book Reviews

ARCHITECTURE IN THE BALANCE

By FREDERIC E. TOWNDROW

(Frederick A. Stokes Company, 443 Fourth Ave., New York, N. Y.—\$2.50)

THE OCTAGON has been privileged to print, from time to time, editorials by Frederic E. Towndrow, A. R. I. B. A., Editor of *Architectural Design and Construction* (London), and one of the well-known English lecturers and writers on architectural subjects.

In "a search for truth in the art of building," Mr. Towndrow, in his book, *Architecture in the Balance*, analyzes and discusses with stimulating clearness many important aspects of contemporary architectural thought. It provides a welcome guide for the layman through the present confusion in building design, with its monotonous copying of ancient styles, its revivals and re-revivals, and its now remarkable successes in the founding of a new beauty based on function.

The purpose of the book is twofold: To inform the interested reader so that he may be able to appreciate and criticize the buildings which he sees around him; and to offer the artist, architect and student a philosophic basis on which to work.

Mr. Towndrow, in his capacity of teacher, architectural critic of the *London Observer* and writer in the architectural field, has examined many post-war buildings of note in England, as well as in Continental countries. In this new book he presents convincingly his theory that "a great architecture is anonymous, communal and international."

Mr. Towndrow, in discussing "modern" architecture, states "that there is hardly a building upon our streets which may be called fit, or truthful, or modern in the exact sense of the word, and when 'Modernist' attempts are made by erstwhile traditionalist architects they are as barren and even more foolish than their copies of the antique. And by 'modern' I mean a building where every part has been thought out from the point of view of its service and not from the point of view of its visible effect: a building where the consciousness of beauty has been used only as a means to an end, and not the end itself; where the aesthetic apprehension of the designer has been used only to detect and draw out the underlying efficiency, and not to superimpose artistic predilections upon the organic nature of his subject."

The book is, in the main, a carefully revised and rearranged collection of Mr. Towndrow's more important editorials covering many phases of contemporary architecture.

In Part Two, there is presented a comprehensive analysis of individualism, aestheticism, expressivism, academism and formalism.

The subject matter throughout, while largely controversial is, at the same time thoroughly stimulating and timely. It is recommended to architects—traditionalists as well as modernists—as an entertaining and enlightening treatise on contemporary architecture.

The book is profusely illustrated with halftone engravings of ancient and modern architecture.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—THE CITY BEAUTIFUL
By MARIO BUCOVICH

(Beck Engraving Company, Philadelphia—\$2.00)

This book, nine by twelve inches, with spiral binding, is a splendid collection of photographs of Washington buildings and scenes.

It is Mr. Bucovich's first collection of photographs of American cities. He has had success abroad, having published similar books of photographs of Paris, Berlin, London and other European cities.

No small part of the quality of the photographs—which, in a way, resemble etchings—is due to Bucovich's early training. He is a graduate engineer, having received degrees from two European Universities. His first love, however, was painting, and in 1925 he became a photographer by profession and perfected a new process for the treatment of photographic plates and printing, known as the Brom-Oil Transfer Process.

With the engineer's flare for detail and the painter's feeling for color and composition, Mr. Bucovich's work brings a new quality to photography.

After successful exhibitions of his work in New York, Chicago, and elsewhere, Mr. Bucovich devoted his efforts to producing this interesting collection of photographs of Washington.

FURNISHING THE COLONIAL AND FEDERAL HOUSE

By NANCY McCLELLAND

(J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia—\$3.50)

This practical book is definitely planned for those who, desiring to furnish their houses comfortably and at moderate expense, want at the same time to express in it the atmosphere and feeling that existed in the days of which our modern Colonial and Federal dwellings are reminiscent.

In order to train the eye and give authority for the suggestions made in its pages, many examples of houses, old and new, furnished with the best of American antiques are shown. Included with these examples are pictures of good, yet inexpensive reproductions which may be easily found in the various establishments of dealers and decorators today.

The author discusses fully and authoritatively furnishing with oak, with mahogany, with American provincial furniture of maple and pine, and with painted furniture. She covers the use of color and gives valuable suggestions for decorative backgrounds in the Federal and Colonial house—floors, lighting, textiles, and decorative accessories.

An interesting as well as a practical and comprehensive book. 204 illustrations.

As of Interest

Exhibition.

An exhibition of "Frescoes" and "Sketches for Murals" by Miss Virginia H. Wood will be held in the Paul Reinhardt Galleries, 730 Fifth Avenue, New York City, from December 1 to 19.

Miss Wood is the daughter of Waddy B. Wood, F. A. I. A., distinguished Washington Architect. She studied in Paris under Choukaeff and later attended the Yale University School of Art. She also studied under and worked with Austin Purves, Director of Cooper Union, as assistant on his George Washington mural.

In 1932 Miss Wood returned to Europe, studying both in Rome and in Paris where she worked as massierat at the Fontainebleau School.

She has received several important commissions in this country including murals in the Federal Court Room at Scranton, Pennsylvania and at the McKinley High School in Washington.

St. Louis Meeting on Construction Industry.

On Thursday, October 15, President Stephen F. Voorhees and Director Richmond H. Shreve were guests of honor at a luncheon meeting called by the Chamber of Commerce of St. Louis. These officers of The Institute were enroute to the Conference of the Gulf States District held in Dallas.

The subject for discussion at the St. Louis meeting was, "What's Ahead for the Construction Industry?"

Mr. Shreve, also General Chairman of the Construction League, joined with President Voorhees in discussing the relationship of the building industry to business in general.

The meeting was well attended and the appreciation of the St. Louis men was expressed by Mr. A. P. Greensfelder of St. Louis, who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce.

