

# THE OCTAGON

*A Journal of The American Institute of Architects*



*Announcements of Elections*

*The President's Address*

*Report of The Board*

*The Treasurer's Report*

*Synopses of Committee Reports*

*Resolutions of the Convention*

*Essentials for Creative Design*

*Speaking of Conventions!*

*Foreign Influences on Architectural Education in America*

*Closing of the Convention*

*Volume 9*

*JULY*  
*1937*

*Number 7*

POST CONVENTION NUMBER—REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTIONS

---

### OFFICERS, 1937-1938

**PRESIDENT**—Charles D. Maginnis..... Boston, Massachusetts  
**VICE-PRESIDENT**—Frederick H. Meyer..... San Francisco, California  
**SECRETARY**—Charles T. Ingham..... Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
**TREASURER**—Edwin Bergstrom..... Los Angeles, California

---

### DIRECTORS, 1937-1940

**NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT**—Albert Harkness..... Providence, Rhode Island  
**NEW YORK DISTRICT**—Richmond H. Shreve..... New York, New York  
**ILLINOIS-WISCONSIN DISTRICT**—John R. Fugard..... Chicago, Illinois

*(Does not include the names of seven Regional Directors whose terms did not expire.)*

---

### FELLOWS

Elected by The Jury of Fellows and announced at the Convention

<i>Name</i>	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Chapter</i>
Harris C. Allen.....	No. California	Hugh M. G. Garden.....	Chicago
John Bakewell, Jr.....	No. California	Hal Fitzgerald Hentz.....	Georgia
Ralph B. Bencker.....	Philadelphia	Edward Shepard Hewitt.....	New York
Frederick Bigger.....	Pittsburgh	Roy Childs Jones.....	Minnesota
John Hutchins Cady.....	Rhode Island	Eric Kebbon.....	New York
Ralph H. Cameron.....	West Texas	George Simpson Koyl.....	Philadelphia
H. Daland Chandler.....	Boston	Samuel Lapham, Jr.....	South Carolina
Roland E. Coate.....	So. California	John Reid, Jr.....	No. California
James R. Edmunds, Jr.....	Baltimore	John Wellborn Root.....	Chicago
G. Corner Fenhagen.....	Baltimore	Louis A. Simon.....	Washington, D. C.
Henry A. Foeller.....	Wisconsin	Seymour Williams.....	New Jersey
	Laurence Hall Fowler.....		Baltimore

---

### HONORARY MEMBERS

Elected by The Board of Directors and announced at the Convention

Gilmore David Clarke, White Plains, New York.    George White Marston, San Diego, California

# 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.

## Opening of the Convention

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT STEPHEN F. VOORHEES

FORTY-SIX years ago at the last convention held in this city, Richard Morris Hunt, the retiring president, felicitated the Boston Chapter—the hosts then, as again today—upon having attained its majority of twenty-one years as a Chapter of The Institute. The Boston Society of Architects which became a Chapter of The Institute in 1870 was, however, much older. So I, today, retiring under the two-term rule first made effective in Hunt's administration, express to the Boston Chapter, on behalf of The Institute, my felicitations upon nearly half a century of maturity and upon outstanding accomplishments, benefiting not only the architects of New England, but of the whole country.

Three previous conventions have been held in Boston. The first, in 1871, was presided over by Richard Upjohn, the first president of The Institute. Thomas U. Walter, the second president of The Institute, presided over the convention of 1877, and Richard Morris Hunt over the convention of 1891. These are all great names in the history of The Institute to which I should like to add the names of a few others who have directed its efforts since that time and who are present with us today—Irrving K. Pond, R. Clipston Sturgis, Henry H. Kendall, D. Everett Waid, Robert D. Kohn, Ernest John Russell.

In one sense the holding of this convention in the territory of the Boston Chapter and its children chapters is a recognition of one of the most effective chapters of The Institute, but let me add

that this is not the first nor only recognition. The Institute has gone to Boston for many men to serve its needs. Among them, for Sturgis and Kendall as presidents; for Parker as secretary, and now for the rendering of invaluable service in our construction industry relations; for Emerson to lead and inspire our educational activities; and for Ripley as director, bringing to our Board not only fine ethical conceptions but sympathetic understanding of the amenities.

So may I again stress the importance of our Chapters in the life of The Institute. I cannot do better than to quote Hunt's recommendation in his farewell address here in Boston in 1891:

" . . . everything possible should be done to strengthen the Chapters; on their vigor the life of The Institute depends; without the Chapters The Institute could accomplish little, if anything. Each Chapter should be in constant touch with its surroundings, and should keep watch of all matters of interest to the profession, and should be ready at all times to give warning or advice, as the case may be. How, otherwise, would it be possible to introduce the many needed improvements pertaining to our calling, the want of which is so sorely felt throughout the country, such as proper building laws, guidance and advice about the location and the designing of public buildings, the laying out of streets, public squares and their protection, etc.? Daily, matters of public interest present themselves about which we should give our profes-

sional opinion firmly and fearlessly. If necessary, we should be aggressive, ever ready to expose any scheme, which, if carried out, would prove detrimental to the public good. Such work cannot be done at our annual conventions; it can alone be accomplished by the Chapters, and such work, properly directed, would be beneficial not only to the general public but to every follower of our profession. I consider it, therefore, the bounden duty of every member of The Institute to aid the Chapters in every way possible. . . ."

Since these words were addressed to us, all of our members have been grouped into chapters and a large part of the accomplishments of The Institute during the past half century is due to their effective action. I discussed this subject in my talk at the Williamsburg Convention last year. Another year of responsibility has strengthened my conviction—if that were necessary—that only through vital chapters can The Institute attain its objectives. The national officers and committees, of course, must do those things which have a national import and hence cannot be accomplished locally, but in the final analysis the application of the concepts and recommendations of the national committees to the needs of the profession must be made by the chapters. Now I am sure that all of you agree with me and that you will go back home, after considering the reports of The Board of Directors and the committees, determined to stimulate action in your chapters, always with the assurance that your national authorities will do all within their power to aid you.

It is a matter of sincere regret to me that, owing to the financial condition of The Institute, I have been unable to visit any considerable number of the chapters during my administration. I know that I have missed many inspiring discussions which would have been of utmost value to me in discharging my responsibilities. I have returned from each of my all too few chapter visits with a much improved conception, not only of Institute affairs but of the complexities in the practice of our profession. I hope I have left behind me a little better understanding of The Institute's aims and accomplishments in the field of its national ac-

tivities. This year I have been fortunate in making brief visits to the New Jersey, Philadelphia, St. Louis and Boston chapters, and in attending a regional conference of the Gulf States at the Dallas Fair. Your directors are fully aware of the value of visits between officers and directors and chapters and it is their decision with our improved financial conditions greatly to increase their number during the coming year.

I find another interesting parallel between the 1891 Convention and the one today. At that time the planning of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago was under way so Hunt discussed at some length the method followed in selecting the designers, and some of the problems which they had before them. We all know how successful they were in their solution. Now I am not going to discuss, in detail, the New York World's Fair of 1939, in which I am deeply involved with other members of The Institute, nor the San Francisco Exposition of 1939 with which other members of The Institute are concerned. Both of them are projects of great interest to the profession, of course, and I have no doubt that there will be many informal talks about them during this week. However, I should like to describe one phase of the design of the New York World's Fair which has a bearing on the subject that we shall have before us for discussion tomorrow, and that is the method being followed in selecting the designers.

The Board of Directors of the New York World's Fair appointed from its members a committee of laymen responsible for the architecture and planning of the Fair. This committee, with the advice of members of the New York Chapter, selected a Board of Design consisting of four architects, one landscape architect, one engineer and one industrial designer.

Among the Board's duties are the selection of designers and the approval of their designs subject to the concurrence of the lay committee on architecture and final acceptance by the Executive Committee of the Fair. The Board is responsible for the general plan of the Fair and for the coordination of the work of the designers. The Board, itself, and also its individual members are prohibited from designing any of the buildings in the Fair constructed out of public or Fair funds.



The objectives sought by this proviso are the creation of solidarity in the judgments of the Board and the maximum of individuality in the design of the various elements of the plan consistent with aesthetic unity. The scheme differs from plans followed by other Fairs, notably the Century of Progress in Chicago (1933-34), in excluding members of the Board from the design of individual elements of the Fair plan. This plan of procedure resulted from many discussions between the Fair authorities and a committee of the New York Chapter.

The Board began its work just a year ago and gave first consideration to methods of selection, finally determining to follow the method of direct selection. This recommendation was approved by the Fair authorities. In order that the Board might have before it the names and qualifications of all the architects in the community interested in participating in the design, an invitation was broadcast to architects to make such submissions. In addition, an open competition was held under The Institute procedure, the subject being a hypothetical Fair Building described in the program. All registered architects in the Metropolitan area were eligible to compete. The first prize consisted of monetary compensation and the promise of the award of a building to be selected by the Board. Twenty-two other prizes and honorary mentions received cash awards and a promise that the names would be placed on the preferred list of architects from which selections would be made for the buildings. The competition well served its purpose in discovering talent which otherwise might not have become known to the Board.

Thus far, more than two-thirds of the buildings are under design and more than one-half of the competition winners have been commissioned.

The results, as measured by the quality of designs obtained, have amply justified the plan. They are individual, unique and virile, while still conforming to the aesthetic unity desired by the Board. I am completely convinced that the Board, itself, could not have produced as satisfactory designs had it followed the method of dividing the design of the buildings among its members and I am equally sure that had the latter method been followed the solidarity of final judgment, which now characterizes the actions of the Board, would have been

lost, to the decided detriment of the whole Fair project, through the forcing of such decisions by the business management of the Fair. The designers have expressed to the Board enthusiastic approval of the scheme and the Directorate of the Fair is entirely satisfied.

Other designers, sculptors, mural painters, industrial and exhibit designers are being selected by the Board under the same procedure. Two important characteristics of this plan should be noted. One is joint participation by technical men and laymen in the selection of designers and the approval of their designs, and the other is the protection of the impartial judgment of the technical men by the prohibition of their creative participation in the design. Of course, the final results must be judged by the executed designs, but I can assure you at this time both the directors of the Fair and the Board of Design have the utmost confidence in its successful outcome. In any event, it is a very interesting experiment to determine whether or not a complicated, comprehensive and compact project, such as a New York World's Fair, can be successfully created by many designers under the general direction of a board of professional men and a committee of laymen. I hope I may not be out of order in inviting you to come and see if the project is good.

The experience derived from this effort should be of value to the profession in the solution of the very difficult problem we have always had with us and which is particularly acute right now. I refer to the definition of the field of the private practitioner and that of the bureau practitioner which comes before you later in our program in the report of the Committee on Public Works. This problem has been with us for a long time, if I may judge from Hunt's address, in which he says that he greatly regrets that "in the architectural bureau of the Treasury Department in Washington are still prepared the designs of the public buildings of the nation." Evidently, we shall have to exercise patience and persistence in the solution of this problem.

We have provided in the deliberative portion of our program for an extensive discussion of the problem of shelter—the major concern of the architect—one phase being housing, under the leadership of that committee and the other being civic design,

under the leadership of the committee charged with that responsibility. I hope that sufficient interest will be developed in the general session to warrant further seminar discussions of these problems which are of such vital interest.

As always, where architects gather together, the subject of architectural education is good for much discussion and wide differences of opinion. In this city, with its two great architectural schools, the opportunities for observation and inspection and for discussion with their leaders are extraordinary. With so many of their alumni among our members, there will certainly be no lack of guidance for those who desire it.

I recommend for your attention, not only here but more particularly when you return to your homes, the reports of the various committees. I believe in the reports you will find suggestions for effective chapter action and I assure you that each committee will be very glad to aid by correspondence, or otherwise, any efforts which you undertake.

The pleasures and profits of our conventions held outside of the city of Washington in the various cultural regions of the country depend upon the efforts of the local convention committees. This year is no exception. An examination of the program is proof that the New England committee has let its imagination have free rein and has applied its energy without stint. And so we are enabled to consider the serious problems of our profession with pleasureable relief in the

unique cultural atmosphere of New England, including the cod and the bean.

In terminating my term as president—not an abdication—I express my sincere regrets for my omissions, due not to lack of will but to inadequacy, but I hope I am passing on to my successor this crown of high honor not less bright than I received it two years ago nor its jewels less secure. And if we have attained some of our objectives I would assign the credit to the devoted services of the other officers and the directors, and to those many members in all our chapters who have given so generously of their time. And to these I would add our staff at The Octagon who, throughout this distressing period of depression, have made financial and personal sacrifices in order that the essential work of The Institute should not stop. I know of no more efficient or devoted staff than we have at The Octagon in Washington and I know I speak for the entire membership when I express to them our sincere and friendly appreciation.

Out of the great past we have an ever greater future before us. Times are changing. We must change with them, always holding to the great fundamentals that are our heritage from past centuries. Still we are young, without respect of years, and able to discharge the responsibilities which the great opportunities ahead provide, always pressing onward toward the attainment of our major objective—the perfecting of our service to society.

## Report of The Board of Directors

(To the Sixty-ninth Convention of The American Institute of Architects,  
Boston, Massachusetts, June 1, 2, 3, 4, 1937.)

### Introduction.

The Sixty-eighth Convention, at Williamsburg, last year, marked a turning point in the fortunes of the architectural profession. The past twelve months have witnessed a substantial upward movement in the building industry and consequently in the practice of architecture.

Reports of the Regional Directors indicate that this improved condition prevails generally in all sections of the country.

The Institute has benefited from the return of better conditions—in the improved morale of its members and chapters, and in its financial resources.

This year The Institute completes eighty years of service to the profession and to society. It is an appropriate time to take stock, and to initiate a program for the coming year which will demonstrate to the profession that The Institute is still young in idealism and is prepared to meet the problems of the day with continued vitality.

**The Committees.**

The Board here records its appreciation of the splendid service rendered by the Institute Committees, as evidenced by their reports, and in a separate document makes available to the Convention a synopsis of many of the reports. The titles of the committees and the names of their chairmen are as follows:

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES****CHAIRMEN**

The Board of Examiners.....	Edward W. Donn, Jr.
The Jury of Fellows.....	Robert D. Kohn
The Committee on Professional Practices .....	John P. B. Sinkler
The Judiciary Committee.....	William G. Nolting
The Committee on Architectural Competitions .....	Eric Gugler
The Investment Committee.....	Edwin Bergstrom

**BOARD COMMITTEES**

Allied Arts .....	Ely Jacques Kahn
Public Works .....	Francis P. Sullivan
Building .....	D. Everett Waid
Education .....	William Emerson
Public Information .....	William H. Beers
Structural Service .....	N. Max Dunning
Preservation of Historic Buildings.....	Leicester B. Holland
Registration Laws .....	C. Julian Oberwarth
Civic Design .....	Eliel Saarinen
National Capital .....	Francis P. Sullivan
Foreign Relations .....	Julian Clarence Levi
By-laws .....	Edwin Bergstrom
Standard Accounting .....	Edwin Bergstrom
Membership .....	Ralph T. Walker
State Societies .....	John R. Fugard
Construction Industry Relations....	W. S. Parker
Housing .....	Walter R. McCornack
History of The Institute.....	Hobart B. Upjohn
International Congress of Architects .....	C. C. Zantinger

**Public Works.**

The report of the Committee on Public Works will be submitted to the Convention at the morning session of Wednesday, June 2. At that time the following resolutions proposed by the Committee and approved by The Board will be offered for adoption by the Convention:

*\*Resolved*, That this Convention reaffirms its belief that the best results in public architecture are obtained through the employment of private architects; and be it further

*Resolved*, That this Convention is of the opinion that

\* See "Resolutions" for Convention action.

the appointment of a commission to pass upon the qualifications of architects for employment for work under the jurisdiction of the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department, as recommended in the Joint Report of representatives of that Division and the Public Works Committee of The American Institute of Architects, is a method adapted to secure the result intended, namely, to insure that architects selected for such work will be fully qualified for the service which they are called upon to perform; and be it further

*Resolved*, That The Board of Directors tender their cooperation to the Secretary of the Treasury in order to bring about the establishment of such a commission.

**Complete Architectural Service for Federal Projects.**

The Board received a resolution from the Philadelphia Chapter urging that The Institute recommend to the Government that in employing architects it give them full responsibility for the design, letting of contracts, and supervision of the work.

The position of The Institute with respect to complete architectural service is fully stated in its contract and other documents, and is generally known to the building industry, both public and private.

The Board calls attention to the fact that in many instances legislative acts, appropriation acts, decisions of the Comptroller of the Treasury, and long established departmental regulations make it impossible, if not illegal, for executive agencies to employ private architects under terms providing for the full architectural service customary in private operations.

The Board approves the intent of the resolution of the Philadelphia Chapter, but in view of negotiations now pending with relation to public works deems it inexpedient at this time to urge upon the Federal Government the immediate adoption of the proposed contract provisions.

**Public Information.**

The Board again records its appreciation of the continuous and energetic work of the Committee on Public Information and of the Publicist.

It earnestly requests the cooperation of all chapters in the efforts of the Publicist and the Committee to further the interests of the profession.

**Architectural Competitions.**

The Sixty-eighth Convention requested that The Board "consider the advisability of amending Article 7 of the Principles of Professional Practice to

express in a more definite way The Institute's position on free promotional sketches."

This request The Board referred to The Committee on Architectural Competitions, whose report was received at the annual meeting of The Board. Because of questions raised by the deliberations of the Committee and by the discussion at the meeting, The Board directed that the question raised by the Sixty-eighth Convention as to the advisability of amending Article 7 of the Principles of Professional Practice be referred to the incoming Board for further study and report.

#### Architectural Education.

The report of this Committee will be considered at the evening session on Wednesday, June 2. This is a regular session of the Convention at which the important work being done by the Committee will be reviewed. Speakers prominent in the field of architectural education will discuss trends in design and education.

#### The Edward Langley Scholarships.

The Board notes with satisfaction that the first general awards of the Edward Langley Scholarships will shortly be made. Two scholarships were awarded to two Canadian students for the current college year.

The Board is making every effort that these scholarships shall be as widely bestowed throughout its territory as can be, and every member of The Institute and, insofar as was possible, every practising architect within the various Districts received an announcement of the scholarships and an invitation to file applications on behalf of himself or of one or more of his employees, with the Regional Director of the District. The response to the notice was satisfactory, considering the very short time allowed for the applications this year. Hereafter, much more time will be given for filing them.

The Board, at this time, reiterates that the scholarships are open to any architect, architectural draftsman, student, or teacher of architecture who is a citizen of the United States or of Canada and can give The Institute satisfactory evidence of his character, ability, and of his need of the scholarship and the purpose to which he will put it. The scholarship is not open to under-graduates, as such, and it may be used for study, research, or travel.

#### Proposed Alterations of the Capitol.

The May number of THE OCTAGON contained two statements—one in favor of proposals for alterations of the Capitol, in Washington, and the other against them. Those two statements are evidence of a difference of opinion among architects.

The Committee on National Capital is in favor of taking no action either for or against the proposals.

The Committee on Historic Buildings urges that The Institute go on record as opposing the alterations.

The report of the Committee on National Capital contains the following resolution adopted by that Committee:

"That it is the opinion of this Committee that the question of the extension of the East Front of the Capitol involves disputed questions of architectural design, history and sentiment, on which it is impossible for the membership of The Institute as a whole to pass intelligent judgment without a more complete understanding of the details of the problem than is possible under the circumstances; and

"That it is not the function of The American Institute of Architects to act as arbiter of such disputed questions."

The Committee on Historic Buildings proposes that the Convention adopt a resolution reading as follows:

"Whereas, the Capitol at Washington is the foremost historical monument in the United States, being founded with the organization of the colonies as a single nation and developing with the development of the country; and

"Whereas, it shows at present the unaltered handiwork of a succession of the greatest architects of America; and

"Whereas, the proposed alterations to the exterior of the central portion would destroy the original work of Thornton, Bulfinch and Latrobe; and

"Whereas, the eastward extension of this portion into the courtyard, and the substitution of marble for the painted sandstone, would be likely to result in an aesthetic loss rather than in a gain, to what is now by general accord considered one of the most beautiful buildings in the world; and

"Whereas, no urgent necessity for such changes has been advanced; therefore be it

"Resolved, That The American Institute of Architects in convention assembled, express itself as opposed to any material alteration of the central portion of the Capitol, either in form or material, on account of the irreparable historic and aesthetic loss entailed, and recommend that if additional room be needed, now or in the future, it be secured outside, as in the past, or by additions to the newest rather than to the oldest part of the building."



\*It is The Board's recommendation that no action be taken in the matter by the Convention.

#### Registration Laws.

The Committee on Registration Laws in cooperation with a special committee of The Board has drafted a document, entitled "Provisions of a Registration Law," to be used as a guide in the preparation of laws for the registration or licensing of architects and for the amendment of existing laws. The Board has directed its publication as a document of The Institute.

To meet many requests for information concerning registration requirements for non-resident architects, the Committee on Registration Laws, in cooperation with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, prepared and published in the June Number of THE OCTAGON a comprehensive chart, entitled "Requirements for State Registration of Non-Resident Architects." The Board recommends that the document be preserved for reference, as it will not be republished until 1939.

#### Regional Directors.

The budget of The Institute now carries an appropriation to enable the Regional Directors to visit their chapters at least once a year.

The Board is of the opinion that these visits are of great value in maintaining the solidarity of The Institute.

It is the judgment of The Board that in the future these contacts will be of increasing importance to The Institute, the chapters, and the membership.

The chapters are urged to cooperate to the fullest extent in arranging for meetings and in working with and through their Regional Directors in carrying forward their local programs and the national program of The Institute.

#### State Organization.

In this important phase of Institute activity The Board gave consideration to a broad field of professional and industrial problems. The discussion centered upon the report of the Committee on State Societies. Mr. John R. Fugard, the Chairman of this Committee was invited to be present and reviewed with The Board conditions in a number of states.

\* See "Resolutions" for Convention action.

Recognized as having collateral significance were—

(a) The registration of architects and the strengthening of standards governing professional practice;

(b) The growth of various forms of state organizations parallel with this increase in registration and the consequent increase in the influence and importance of state associations or societies as co-leaders with the Institute chapters in dealing with local problems;

(c) Present activity in social or industrial organization which in some of its phases is related to the architectural profession;

(d) The mentor system which was established by action of the Convention in 1934 following recommendation by the Committee on Education cooperating with State Boards of Registration;

(e) The matter of associate, junior or student types of chapter membership as means of affiliating a broader professional group with The Institute.

(f) A letter from the Philadelphia Chapter regarding a proposal that The Institute drop its established policy of unification in the profession.

The Board of Directors accordingly presents to the Convention a statement of The Board's thought on these several questions which The Board considers related component parts of the single broad subject of State Organization.

#### 1. Report of the Committee on State Societies.

It is the judgment of The Board unanimously arrived at that the recommendations of the Committee on State Societies should be accepted and that the work of the Committee will be made more effective by action in accordance with the following resolutions which have been adopted by The Board:

*"Resolved,* That the present Committee on State Societies be continued under the name of "The Committee on State Organization."

*"Resolved,* That the suggestion of the Committee that the membership of that Committee be enlarged so as to include one representative from each of the existing state associations be approved.

*"Resolved,* That the suggestion of the Committee that The Institute make an adequate appropriation for its work be approved and that the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) be set up on the 1937 budget of The Institute, for disbursement through the Committee on State Societies, or the enlarged Committee on State Organization, as the case may be, and for the general and



specific purposes set forth in the report of the Committee on State Societies, under date of May 12, 1937."

### 2. State Associations.

The following resolutions are offered for adoption by the Convention:

\**Resolved*, That The Institute adheres to the plan of unification as established in the By-laws of The Institute.

*Resolved*, That The Institute shall not promote any plan for a nation-wide organization of state associations, separate and distinct from The Institute.

### 3. Institute Memberships.

The report of the Committee on Membership made reference to possible advantages through changes in certain membership provisions.

After careful consideration, it was the judgment of The Board that the provisions of the By-laws of The Institute in reference to Associateships, Junior Associateships and Student Associateships are in their present form adequate to enable chapters to deal with the problems related to the affiliation of younger men with The Institute, and that action under these provisions should be left optional with the chapters and should not be made mandatory.

### Civic Design.

The broad field of civic design is so closely related to that of housing that the morning session of the Convention on June 3 will be devoted to these two important subjects.

Seminars concerning them may be held during the afternoon of June 3, if desired by the delegates.

The report of the Committee on Civic Design, as well as the report of the Committee on Housing, appears in full in the "Synopses."

### Housing.

The following resolutions proposed by the Committee for carrying out the program outlined in its report are approved by The Board and offered to the Convention for adoption:

#### I. Cooperation with Federal Agencies.

\**Whereas*, The cooperation between the Federal Housing Administration, the Federal Home Loan Bank, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, and the Housing Committee of The American Institute of Architects has indicated the possibility of far-reaching results in improvements in the solution of the small house problem; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Convention approves the continu-

ation of this cooperation with the Federal Housing Administration, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, and the Home Owners' Loan Corporation for the purpose of continuing the study of the small house problem in relation to the best interests of the architectural profession and the public; and that the next Housing Committee of The Institute report progress of this cooperation at the next Convention.

#### II. Proposed Investigation of Completed Projects.

\**Whereas*, The Government's Low-Cost Housing Program is nearing completion; and there are certain fundamental questions which may now be considered on the basis of actual housing completed; and since it is believed that a study of these projects will be of benefit to both the government housing agencies and the citizens at large; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That The American Institute of Architects favors the formation of a committee composed of members of the various interested national agencies to make an investigation of the completed projects and to make a report on all phases thereof to the constituent organizations.

#### III. Construction Statistics by Government Agencies.

\**Whereas*, There has been little research in the housing field, relating to a reduction in the cost of housing, the revision of building codes, unemployment statistics in the building industry, and in determining facts relating to the physical aspects of our cities and towns, and since all of these fields should be studied in the light of the new social and economic field of low-cost, low-rent housing; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That The Institute favors the allocation of the sum of \$200,000 to the Department of Commerce for the purpose of conducting a study of methods of reducing the cost of housing construction with the reservation that it favors an attempt to develop a new technological approach, as well as an examination of present processes, and recommends the continuation of a proper grant to continue this work through such a period of time as will be necessary to arrive at proper conclusions; and

That it favors a study by the Bureau of Standards of technical data to be used in the development of building codes by local authorities for low-cost, low-rent housing based on the principle of minimum reasonable requirements for safety and health, inasmuch as the building codes now in force are generally filled with extra-legal requirements which it was necessary for the Government to vacate; in order to carry out its program; and

That it favors a study of industrial unemployment; the amount of yearly construction in the various units of Government and by private industry and any other data required in order to carry out a long-range planning program; and finally

That it approves the extension of the real property

\* See "Resolutions" for Convention action.

inventory and other methods of fact-finding necessary in the replanning of American cities.

#### IV. Study of Basic Principles for National Housing Movement.

\**Whereas*, Various national organizations interested in a single point of view have presented their ideas in a national way; and there has been no correlation of the ideas of these various groups, thereby creating confusion; and since with the passage of the Wagner-Steagall Bill there will be a Central National Authority to whom suggested programs may be directed; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That The American Institute of Architects suggests that a committee of architects be authorized to study the housing program in all its phases, which shall include the relation of housing to city and regional planning; and that The Institute shall offer to cooperate with the National Housing Authority in working out a program of basic principles for the national housing movement; and that The Institute request the chapters to organize local housing committees for the purpose of acting for the profession in all matters relating to the housing problem in their localities and to cooperate with the Housing Committee of The Institute in formulating a program to provide housing suitable to the needs of the various communities in the country.

#### V. Rental versus Ownership in Low-Income Field.

\**Whereas*, Current practice in the small house field is restricted almost entirely to the construction of homes for sale, and home ownership among those of modest competence is appropriate only for those of well secured continuance of employment, and since it is clear that a large percentage of such families have no such assurance and should, therefore, not be induced or forced into home ownership; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That in all communities there should be provided substantial developments of moderate cost housing for rent and not for sale, such housing to be produced in large-scale operations that can develop protected neighborhood security.

#### VI. Minimum Standards for Dwelling Units.

\**Whereas*, The cities of the United States now contain an unhealthy proportion of dwellings which encourage the lowest living standards, and are the cause of great economic and human waste; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That The American Institute of Architects shall, through its Housing Committee, and by it through its chapters, make every effort to arouse the public and local authorities to the necessity of adopting in each city a minimum standard for dwelling units below which condemnation and destruction become mandatory upon the authorities.

\* See "Resolutions" for Convention action.

#### VII. Appreciation of Governmental Cooperation.

\**Whereas*, The proposals and recommendations of the Committee on Housing of The Institute have received and are receiving the impartial and thoughtful consideration of various Federal agencies charged with duties which relate to large-scale housing and small house construction; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That The Institute hereby expresses its appreciation to the Federal Housing Administration, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, and the Housing Division of the Public Works Administration, and the Resettlement Administration for the cooperation which they have extended to the representatives of The Institute, and hereby publicly records its thanks to the administrative heads of these Federal agencies and their assistants, all of whom have adhered steadfastly to the principle that the large portion of the American public dependent upon Government aid to secure adequate shelter are entitled to architectural service to be rendered by the architects of their own communities.

#### The Producers' Council.

In the report of The Council to The Board, the following items of special interest are noted:

The Research Bulletin, issued by The Council from time to time, is now being sent to a mailing list which includes some 6,000 architects, as well as engineers, building owners, schools and libraries.

The Council has continued its membership in the Construction League for 1937.

In May, 1936, there was a joint meeting of The Council with members of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and a joint committee of the two groups has been studying practical means of bringing to architectural students up-to-date technical data on materials of construction.

The Council feels that at no time since the inception of the affiliation with The Institute has it been more worthwhile than it is today.

With close cooperation between the architects and the producers of materials which enter into their buildings substantial progress is assured.

#### Structural Service.

The Structural Service Committee was successful throughout the depression in maintaining architectural representation on many technical, structural, and fact-finding committees—through the unselfish service of its members.

The Structural Service Department, which operates under the direction of the Committee, is now functioning on a part-time basis at The Octagon.



## The Treasurer's Report to the 69th Convention

THE Treasurer submits his report on the financial operation of The Institute during 1936, and of its financial condition at the close of that year. The audit of his books and records made by Price, Waterhouse & Company is on file at The Octagon.

The financial condition at the close of 1936 is shown in the Balance Sheet, Table 1\* of this report. The Table shows: *first*, the condition of the General Fund; *second*, that of the Special Funds; and *third*, that of the two funds combined.

The General Fund is made up of income only, such as income from dues and sales of documents, from rents, from interest, and other minor items. From this income is paid all the operating expense of The Institute; hence, as that income fluctuates, so the activities of The Institute must vary.

The Special Funds are the permanent endowment funds, the reserve fund and funds that The Institute holds temporarily for prescribed purposes, such as The Octagon Administration Building Fund and the annual gifts of the Carnegie Corporation. The endowment funds and the reserve fund comprise gifts made to The Institute and funds accumulated and built up by The Institute year after year. None of such funds can be used to pay the ordinary operating expenses, and only the interest earned by the funds can be used to pay for carrying out the specific purposes fixed by the donors of the funds. Although the General and Special Funds are entirely distinct, the income from the Special Funds is transferred to the General Fund before being disbursed, in order to have a better picture of the total financial operations.

### General Operating Income and Outgo.

The sources from which the income of The Institute was derived, and the general purpose for which that income was distributed, are shown in Tables 2 and 3\* of the report. Table 2 is a statement of the operating funds that The Board controls, and Table 3 shows the income transferred from the Special Funds, the amounts reserved out of

\* Not included herein.

dues and fees in accord with the By-laws, and the disposition made of that income and amounts. You will note that the operating income controlled by The Board amounted to \$87,435.00 in 1936, as compared with \$56,827.00 in 1935; and that the expenditures made by The Board were well within the income in each of those years.

The general operating income and expenditures shown in Table 2 are epitomized in Tables A, B, and C that follow:

TABLE A

GENERAL FUND	From January 1 to December 31, 1936	From January 1 to December 31, 1935	From January 1 to December 31, 1934
Income for General Purposes	\$87,435.05	\$56,827.07	\$50,675.07
Expenditures for General Purposes	77,314.97	55,593.43	\$51,474.37
Gross Gain or Loss	(G)\$10,120.08	(G)\$1,233.65	(L)\$796.30
	(1936 and 1935 net—without discounts.)		

TABLE B

Year	Income From Sale of				Total Income
	Income From Members	Documents	Structural Service	Income From other Sources	
1931.....	\$64,329.44	\$15,607.02	\$3,999.96	\$1,287.30	\$85,223.72
1932.....	51,376.93 <sup>1</sup>	10,113.74	4,000.00	5,399.48	70,890.15
1933.....	35,842.02 <sup>2</sup>	7,933.93	2,200.00	5,262.45	51,238.40
1934.....	23,118.99 <sup>3</sup>	15,292.90	525.00	11,741.15 <sup>4</sup>	50,678.07
1935.....	27,182.10 <sup>5</sup>	20,349.18	300.00	8,995.79 <sup>6</sup>	56,827.07
1936.....	49,792.59	28,551.57 <sup>7</sup>	300.00	8,790.89 <sup>8</sup>	87,435.05

<sup>1</sup> Includes initiation fees and one dollar per annual dues normally placed in general reserve.

<sup>2</sup> Includes one dollar per annual dues normally placed in general reserve.

<sup>3</sup> Includes proceeds of \$4,500 loan and \$2,000 cash forwarded from 1934.

<sup>4</sup> Includes cash forwarded from 1935 but not proceeds of \$4,000 loan.

<sup>5</sup> Includes revenue from convention \$5,688.48.

<sup>6</sup> Net—without discounts.

TABLE C

Year	Expended for Meetings	Expended for Property Maintenance <sup>1</sup>	Expended Sales Expense		Expended for Public Information	Expended for Com-mittees
			Documents <sup>2</sup>	Structural Service		
1931.....	\$16,934.27	\$7,453.53	\$17,910.59	\$11,215.76	\$10,922.70	\$6,912.64
1932.....	8,799.53	6,835.46	11,671.71	8,797.43	5,156.11	8,599.45
1933.....	5,479.95 <sup>3</sup>	6,297.07	8,677.08	4,870.04	3,454.53	2,502.51
1934.....	7,429.28	5,912.32	12,697.87	625.40	2,938.73	3,355.45
1935.....	11,097.73	5,766.61	13,912.63 <sup>4</sup>	404.15	2,583.11	3,045.19 <sup>5</sup>
1936.....	15,683.90	6,510.79	17,126.46 <sup>6</sup>	1,039.96	2,331.13	1,788.95 <sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Income from Property Maintenance Fund, balance from General Fund.

<sup>2</sup> Includes expense of publishing OCTAGON at about \$4,500 per year.

<sup>3</sup> No convention held.

<sup>4</sup> Exclusive of allocations from chapter gifts.

<sup>5</sup> Exclusive of discounts.

You will note the substantial increase in the income from members and from the sale of documents. There was a gain over the previous year of approximately \$22,000.00 in receipts from mem-



bers and there was a gain of \$11,400.00 from the sale of the documents, in 1936.

The year was very satisfactory as to operations, and the increased income permitted The Board to resume several important activities that had been discontinued for lack of funds.

\* \* \*

#### Gifts.

The gifts of cash or securities received and deposited by The Treasurer, including additional Chapter gifts to May 25, 1937, aggregated \$22,848.38. (The names of the donors of these gifts and the disbursements therefrom are listed in full in the official copy of The Treasurer's report, on file at The Octagon.)

\* \* \*

#### Defaults in Dues.

352 members, owing \$6,269.50, automatically suspended their memberships on December 31, 1936, but are carried on the rolls during this year (1937), without privileges. If they pay their indebtedness before the end of the year, they will automatically restore those privileges.

#### General Financial Condition.

There have been some notable changes in the Balance Sheet from that of the previous year. The investments have risen from \$207,267.00 to \$370,919.00, due to the investment of \$118,696.00 received from the Edward Langley Estate, to profits on securities taken during the year, and to accretions to the reserves. The Emergency Loan Fund, which may be borrowed from by The Board during emergencies, has its maximum By-law amount of \$20,000.00; the General Reserve Fund stands at \$13,863.10; the Life Membership Reserve Fund stands at \$17,000.00, and the Fluctuation

Reserve Fund has a balance of \$22,261.44 against depreciation of securities. The total of all these reserves is \$73,124.54. The accumulated Endowment and Temporary Funds have risen from \$304,647.00 to \$432,186.00; and the net worth of The Institute has risen from \$143,304.00 to \$172,083.00.

A most satisfactory change in the liability side of the Balance Sheet is the entire elimination of all notes payable. The Board, on December 31, paid the last of the indebtedness incurred January 1, 1928, to pay the debts of the Press of The American Institute of Architects. The total amount paid out to cover that publishing adventure since its discontinuance is in excess of \$113,894.67. That chapter of The Institute's history is now closed, and for the first time in nine years The Institute is free of debt.

In conclusion, The Treasurer feels that The Institute is on a much sounder basis this year than it has been for several years. It is not only free from debt, but it has replaced dollar for dollar the Reserve Fund voted out in 1928, and has accumulated an equal amount in addition. It has demonstrated its inherent strength and the devotion of its members under the most adverse circumstances. It is better prepared than ever to assume the new responsibilities that face it, and to carry out the new plans that will be initiated by the incoming administration.

EDWIN BERGSTROM  
*Treasurer.*

---

EDITOR'S NOTE: Various sections and tables, some of them relating to special funds, have been omitted. Printed copies of this report as distributed at the Convention may be had on request.

---



**TABLE 2—THE GENERAL FUND**  
 For the administration and maintenance of The Institute and its property.  
**OPERATING STATEMENT**  
 Period from January 1, 1935 to December 31, 1936

INCOME		OUTGO	
1	2	1	3
	1936		1936
<b>FOR GENERAL PURPOSES</b>		<b>FOR GENERAL PURPOSES</b>	
CASH FORWARDED.....	\$ 22,322.24	MEETINGS.....	\$16,683.90
MEMBERS.....	698.00	Conventions.....	9,406.87
Life Members, from Life Membership Reserve.....	20,081.85	Board and Executive Committee.....	6,868.13
Corporate Members.....	245.00	Regional Meetings (Exclusive of appropriations from chapter gifts).....	45.31
State Association Members.....	314.00	PROPERTY MAINTENANCE.....	2,689.99
GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND.....	none	Less: paid by Property Maintenance Fund.....	3,012.53
PAYMENTS ON DEFAULTED DUES.....	27,870.25	GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.....	.....
SALES.....	28,873.87	Gross General Administration.....	\$12,563.10
Printing and Publishing.....	26,551.57*	Distributed General Administration.....	14,121.61
Structural Service.....	300.00	NET GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.....	.....
Insignia.....	22.00	RECRUITING.....	\$1,276.46
RENTS.....	1,742.80	Less: paid by Recruiting Fund.....	377.77
INTEREST ON NOTES AND BANK BALANCES.....	1,817.61	PRINTING AND PUBLISHING.....	17,128.46*
GIFTS TO MEET CURRENT INSTITUTE EXPENSES.....	20.00	EDUCATION PURPOSES.....	1,039.96
CONVENTION.....	8,088.48	Less: paid by Special Funds.....	186.06
OTHER SOURCES.....	.....	PUBLIC INFORMATION.....	2,331.13
TOTALS.....	\$87,435.05	COMMITTEES.....	1,788.95
Operating Gain or Loss.....	Gain 10,120.08	OCTAGON LIBRARY AND COLLECTIONS.....	68.06
	Gain 1,233.65	SPECIAL FUNDS.....	.....
	Gain 855,593.42	Less: paid by Special Funds.....	600.00
	Gain \$1,256.95	INTEREST, NOTES REPAID.....	.....
	Gain \$1,256.95	ARCHITECTS' CODE.....	.....
	Gain \$1,256.95	STATE ASSOCIATIONS.....	56.76
	Gain \$1,256.95	CONSTRUCTION LEAGUE OF THE U.S.....	363.06
	Gain \$1,256.95	OTHER GENERAL PURPOSES.....	122.41
	Gain \$1,256.95	APPROPRIATIONS TO SPECIAL FUNDS.....	14,157.77
	Gain \$1,256.95	Contingent Fund.....	9,157.77
	Gain \$1,256.95	Fluctuation Reserve Fund.....	5,000.00
<b>NET OPERATING GAIN OR LOSS (to Net Worth)</b>	<b>Gain \$1,256.95</b>	<b>TOTALS.....</b>	<b>\$77,314.97</b>
			<b>\$85,593.42</b>

\* Net—without discounts.

## Synopses of Committee Reports

(To the Sixty-ninth Convention of The American Institute of Architects,  
Boston, Massachusetts, June 1, 2, 3, and 4, 1937)

**D**URING the year of work between conventions each Institute committee makes two reports to The Board of Directors.

The first report, made at the semi-annual meeting, in November or December, is a preliminary one. The progress of the work of the committee under the instructions of the Convention and The Board is reported. This gives The Board opportunity to coordinate the work of all the committees and to develop the program of The Institute on a national basis.

The second report of each committee is made to The Board at the annual meeting, immediately preceding the Convention. The work done during the preceding twelve months is covered; the specific assignments of the Convention and The Board are reported; and recommendations and resolutions are offered for the advancement of the work in hand.

Funds are not available for the publication of the committee reports in full. The Board, mindful of the splendid service rendered to The Institute, the profession, and the public by the committees, here records its appreciation thereof.

After each Convention members of committees are appointed or reappointed. Written acceptance of service is secured from each appointee and the complete personnels are published in THE OCTAGON—so that all may know the names of those who are giving so generously of their time and abilities to the common cause.

In this document, which supplements The Board's Report, it is not feasible to epitomize the reports of all twenty-six Board and Administrative Committees. The functions of some of these Committees relate to internal affairs and are not made public.

This "Synopses" is commended to the attention of every chapter and every member. In it they will find many constructive suggestions for the year of work which begins after the Convention.

A quotation from a statement by The Board a year ago is here repeated with emphasis:

"Out of the experience of many years The Institute has developed a plan of organization to accomplish its objectives. That plan recognizes two phases of Institute activities—one national and the other local.

"Its national affairs are the responsibility of the Officers, the Directors, and the national committees.

"Its local affairs are the responsibility of the chapters, their officers, committees and members.

"Chapter action is equally as important as national action. In fact, except in a few special cases, the national responsibility cannot be discharged effectively unless the chapters perform efficiently. Strong chapters and vigorous chapter action are the foundations for a strong Institute.

"Each Chapter is The American Institute of Architects in its own community. It is charged with the general welfare of the architectural profession in that community. It is charged with the duty of vigorous action on behalf of the architectural profession, and on behalf of the public."

If the delegates to the Sixty-ninth Convention take but one message back to their chapters, it might well be this one.

### Committee on Public Works

Francis P. Sullivan, Chairman

#### *Report in full.*

The Committee on Public Works reports as follows:

As a result of the resolutions passed at the Convention held at Milwaukee in 1935, the Chairman of the Committee on Public Works tendered to the Secretary of the Treasury the cooperation of The Institute in determining a method of insuring that the Government architectural work under the control of his Department should be of the highest character.

In response, the Secretary invited this Committee to confer with representatives of the Procurement Division. After a general meeting at which

the broad aspects of the problem were taken up, it was determined that a joint committee should discuss the problem in all its details and prepare a report on the matter. On behalf of the Procurement Division, Messrs. Simon, Barton and Dunning were designated, and the Chairman, on behalf of the Public Works Committee of The Institute.

These conferences were immediately initiated and proceeded as steadily as was possible in view of the other duties of those involved. They consumed more than a year and were quite exhaustive in their scope. All the various aspects of the relationship between the private architect and the Government architect were canvassed in detail.

The representatives of the Procurement Division were quite properly most conscientious in defending the position of the Procurement Division in its relationship to architects in private practice, but at the same time, as was to be expected of men of their knowledge, experience and judgment, they brought to the problem a broad vision and a high ideal of what was to be desired in public architecture.

As a result of these conferences, the joint committee agreed upon a report which was submitted to the Committee on Public Works of The Institute and approved by it and, simultaneously, was submitted by the Procurement Division representatives to the Director of Procurement for his action. The representatives of the Procurement Division requested that this report be kept as confidential until action upon it was had by the Secretary of the Treasury. The undersigned advised them that no publicity would be given to the report until the meeting of the Convention of The Institute on June first; but that at this time there would necessarily be public discussion of it before the Convention.

*(The report of the joint committee follows this report.)*

It is believed that the recommendations made in the report of the joint committee furnish a method of obtaining architectural services for public works which should produce satisfactory results from the point of view of public architecture and which should be reasonably satisfactory to the profession as a whole; and that even if the report is not approved or made effective by the Treasury Department, the negotiation represents a distinct,

progressive step in the relationship between The Institute and the Government departments.

One factor in the relationship between the private architect and the Government in the past appeared to your Committee particularly objectionable, namely, the practice of employing architects to prepare plans without supervision of the work under construction.

While the representatives of the Procurement Division did not dissent from the suggestion that supervision be included as a part of the architect's normal services, they considered this a detail which could properly be taken up in future negotiations.

The representative of The Institute on the joint committee would also have been willing to enlarge to some extent the recommendation of the report regarding the use of competitions in public work so as to provide for occasional competitions of a minor character in order to demonstrate the qualifications of the competitors. It is believed that this also may be suggested in future contacts with the Procurement Division if the proposal embodied in the report is approved in principle.

The Committee reports with some feeling of gratification the conclusion of this rather long drawn-out and arduous discussion and trusts that the Directors and The Institute will feel its result justifies the recommendation made by the Committee in its report of 1935 regarding the desirability of maintaining a cordial and cooperative spirit and an attitude of understanding sympathy toward the Government departments and their architectural problems.

#### Report of Joint Committee on Public Works:

*Composed of Representatives of Procurement Division, Treasury Department and of The American Institute of Architects.*

The Joint Committee representing the Procurement Division and the Public Works Committee of the A. I. A. for the purpose of considering the relationship of the architectural profession to the work of the Procurement Division, Treasury Department, submit the following report:

The Committee have examined the subject in great detail over a period of sixteen months and have necessarily confined the scope of this report to the work of the Procurement Division.

Early in its discussions the Committee fixed as their objective the determination of the best method of assuring that the Federal buildings constructed under the jurisdiction of the Procurement Division shall achieve the highest possible standards of plan, design and construction.

It is evident that certain functions of the building construction work of the Procurement Division can only be performed by a permanent organization familiar with the laws, regulations and requirements of the Treasury and other Federal agencies. Among these functions are the preparation of building programs, the determination of space requirements, the purchase of real estate, the maintenance and repair of existing structures, rentals, matters involving materials and equipment for use in Federal work, the coordination and review of all instruments of service, superintendence of construction, control of obligations and expenditures.

Under normal conditions the personnel required to conduct these functions becomes highly efficient in the routine work involved. However, architects in private practice, because of their greater freedom from restraint in adopting new materials, methods and philosophies of design and their greater opportunity for discussion of their problems with their fellow practitioners, are able to produce work of a greater freedom of expression and virility not always obtainable in a large, permanent organization. It is, therefore, desirable that the private architect have a part in the field of Government building, not only for his value in the specific building or buildings at hand, but as a source of inspiration for the continuing work of the Government bureau.

During the past hundred years of the history of the Supervising Architect's Office of the Treasury Department, now incorporated in the Procurement Division, a number of methods of operation have been tried and no method found wholly satisfactory to both the Government and the architect.

A brief resumé of the three more important methods and the advantages and disadvantages of each is presented.

#### *Employment of Private Architects by Direct Selection.*

This is the method commonly used in private practice and when selection is based solely on professional qualifications for the work it is most satis-

factory. It is disadvantageous, however, when the selection is influenced by political considerations or local recommendations however sincere they may be.

#### *By Competition.*

This method eliminates the disadvantages of bias in direct selection and substitutes selection on the basis of such ability as may be indicated by drawings. This, while indicating ability in design, affords no assurance of the experience or qualification necessary for the satisfactory performance of the complete service required. It is much more expensive, slower, and, aside from the question of design, much less certain of results than the direct selection method.

#### *Operation by Permanent Organization.*

This method may involve the augmentation of the regular personnel by employment of private architects in the Government office, as has been done by the Procurement Division during the past three years, or it may be confined to the carrying out of all work by the regular personnel alone. The method is advantageous from the standpoint of flexibility, speed and mass production. It is disadvantageous, as pointed out above, in that the work may lack vitality and initiative if the method is extended over a long period of time.

In the case of minor buildings and alterations it is the opinion of the Committee that work of this nature cannot be produced by qualified private architects with profit to themselves or advantage to the Government, and it recommends that work in this category be done in the Procurement Division.

The Committee believes that the competition system, with the possible exception of purely monumental structures of national importance, is not a satisfactory solution for the selection of an architect and recommends that it be eliminated from consideration.

As a general policy the Committee recommends the direct selection method based on a system of prequalification and selection similar to that outlined below.

It is recommended that consideration be given to the establishment of a board of five qualified persons at least three of whom shall be architects, to be selected and appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury. This board to prepare and submit



to the Secretary of the Treasury from time to time the names of those architects or architectural firms who, in the judgment of the board, and under such regulations as it may set up, are specially qualified to be retained by the Government for architectural service for various categories of Federal buildings.

This procedure would enable the Secretary of the Treasury to select from the list an architect for each project, which in his opinion requires outside professional service, with full assurance that the architect so selected would be qualified for the service he would be called upon to perform.

(Signed April 9, 1937.)

#### Committee on Public Information

William Harmon Beers, Chairman

##### *Synopsis of Report.*

During the past year the committee's work has been more intensive and more varied than at any time since the debacle of 1929.

Architecture has figured prominently in press reviews, sponsored by authoritative spokesmen of The Institute, which reviews appeared in newspapers and other publications throughout the United States.

The publicity for the Regional Conference at Dallas was directed from the office in New York and nationwide results were obtained.

The Publicist has been of continuing service to the New York Chapter in its campaign to win recognition of the private architect and engineer in the designing of state projects.

Architects should not hesitate to accept the duty of architectural interpretation so that the millions who are schooled by the daily pages of newspapers may receive information upon which they may form correct conclusions as to Architecture and the Architect.

#### Committee on Architectural Competitions

Eric Gugler, Chairman

##### *Synopsis of Report.*

Since the Sixty-eighth Convention, no new cases have been brought before the Committee which has therefore been free to give its attention to the request of the Sixty-eighth Convention that The Board of Directors consider the advisability of

amending Article 7 of the Principles of Professional Practice "to express in a more definite way The Institute's position on free promotional sketches."

Following The Board's reference of this question to the Committee there was, as is usual when this subject is under consideration, some difference of opinion within the Committee as to the precise language to be employed—and also as to what procedure constitutes a competition.

Where an Owner, not wishing to hold a formal competition for the selection of an architect, invites a limited number of architects to submit illustrations of their executed work, the Committee is of the opinion that this procedure does not constitute a competition.

#### Committee on Education

William Emerson, Chairman

##### *Synopsis of Report.*

This report makes generous acknowledgment to the devoted friends of architectural education, both from within and without the profession, who continue to place at the disposal of the Committee resources of money and personal service for the purpose of carrying out the objectives of The Institute in the field of architectural education.

The report outlines the present condition and the operation of the following special activities coming, in whole or in part, under the jurisdiction of the Committee: Langley Scholarships; Carnegie Scholarships; The Waid Fund; Henry Adams Scholarship; Delano and Aldrich Scholarship; Medary Scholarship; Registration; Schools of Architecture; Sub-committee on Exhibition; Sub-committee on Architectural Education.

The Sub-Committee on Architectural Education—a part of the Committee's report—reports on School Conditions; Preparation for Practice; the Advisory Committee on Preparation for Practice; and The Beaux Arts Institute of Design.

#### Committee on National Capital

Francis P. Sullivan, Chairman

##### *Synopsis of Report.*

During the year a number of matters affecting the plan of Washington and the design of public buildings therein have come to the attention of the Committee.



The report discusses the proposals for alterations of the Capitol, an item which is presented in the report of The Board.

A commission was established at the last session of Congress, to determine a site and a design for a memorial to Thomas Jefferson.

The Chairman, in accord with the policy laid down by the Milwaukee Convention, in its resolution regarding public works, tendered to this commission his cooperation and asked to be advised of the action taken.

The proceedings of the commission were kept secret until a report was rendered announcing that the Tidal Basin site shown on the McMillan Plan of 1901 had been selected as the location, that an architect had been appointed, and that a circular, domical building of the Pantheon type had been selected as a suitable memorial.

This report evoked a great deal of popular opposition, especially because the development of the proposed site involved the destruction of the widely advertised cherry trees.

The Chairman of the Committee appeared at the hearings before the Committee on Library of the House of Representatives in order to clarify the position of The Institute in this matter and to remove any impression that as an organization it was seeking to have the architect's contract cancelled.

It was suggested to the Congressional Committee that it is desirable to require technical problems of this nature to be passed upon by the Park and Planning Commission and by the Commission of Fine Arts, instead of—as in this case—having complete discretion vested in a commission consisting almost entirely of laymen without planning experience.

The Committee has cooperated with the American Planning and Civic Association in support of a bill intended to bar nuisance industries in general from the National Capital.

The negotiations for the establishment of a national collection of Fine Arts in the Smithsonian Institution of a permanent collection of architectural drawings, as authorized by resolution of The Board, has been brought to a successful conclusion. A formal offer of The Institute's service in this

connection has been made and a formal acceptance thereof is anticipated.

It is believed that the existence of this collection will be very beneficial to the student of architecture and architectural history, and will result in the preservation of many drawings of historic and professional interest which might otherwise be lost or destroyed.

#### Committee on Preservation of Historic Buildings

Leicester B. Holland, Chairman

##### *Synopsis of Report.*

The Historic American Buildings Survey has continued to be the major activity during the past year. There has been close cooperation between the Committee and the National Park Service in Washington.

The Committee representatives in the various chapters are serving, almost without exception, as District Officers of the Survey.

Since 1936, funds for the Survey have been supplied by the Works Progress Administration. The present figures show a total of 2,070 structures recorded in 13,700 sheets of measured drawings, and 3,550 structures photographed in 16,150 negatives. In addition, cards for some 2,700 structures still to be recorded are on file. It is interesting to note that during the calendar year of 1936 the Library of Congress filled orders for prints of 2,665 sheets of drawings and 1,005 photographs, coming from all parts of the country.

At the present time, measurements are being conducted under W. P. A. funds in twenty states and the District of Columbia, while in New Mexico and Arizona similar work is being carried on by the National Park Service.

In addition to their other duties, District Officers of the Survey have been asked to prepare outlines covering the essential racial, cultural and material backgrounds of the architectural developments in their various districts. This data should serve as an invaluable basis for the future study of the history of American architecture.

The report concludes with a recommendation of Convention action with respect to the proposed alteration of the Capitol, which is covered in the report of The Board.

**Committee on State Societies**

John R. Fugard, Chairman

*Synopsis of Report.*

The substance of this report is built about the situation with respect to State Associations, and the opportunity existing for the extension of Institute connection with them. Four such associations are now members of The Institute; ten are not members; several are in course of formation.

The Committee discusses the arguments which have been heard regarding aloofness toward the question of Institute membership. These include:

A conception of The Institute as an organization detached from local problems and so not in a position to render on local matters a service commensurate with the cost of membership.

A belief that The Institute should be conducted as an honorary or aesthetic society and should not attempt to deal with practical affairs of the profession which fall within the field of the state organizations.

In answer to these contentions and to promote the present Institute policy of the affiliation of state organizations with The Institute certain constructive suggestions are made by the Committee which it believes will evidence the interest of The Institute in problems of local importance with which the state organizations are concerned.

These suggestions comprise:

Supporting state organizations in their respective areas; serving the entire profession by group advertising done in a professional way; opposing, as a profession, unfair competition by Government bureaus and others not qualified to practice architecture; strengthening the laws pertaining to the registration of architects, and enforcing standards for professional practice.

The Committee further suggests to The Board of Directors changing the name of the Committee to the Committee on State Organizations and taking certain steps in the expansion and reorganization of the Committee, which include an appropriation to cover increased activity in advancing the mutual interests of The Institute and the State Societies.

**Committee on Civic Design**

Eliel Saarinen, Chairman

*Report in full.*

As was mentioned in the preliminary report, there is no doubt that the general interest in the improvement of cities is increasing, due to the fact that the conditions in the cities throughout the country have grown exceedingly bad. A vivid activity in this respect is going on in many places, and it is to be hoped that the members of The Institute will take an active part in this work.

In so far as education toward a better understanding of civic design is concerned, the matter has been discussed between The American Institute of Architects and the American City Planning Institute, and much distinction has been made as to the methods of education concerning the architect and the engineer, respectively. The distinction is much the same as it is between the organic designing of a building—which is the architect's problem—and the technical erection of that building—which is the engineer's problem. Consequently, it is imperative that the architect—any architect—must be educated, primarily, toward a proper understanding of civic design; whereas the engineer-city-planner must be educated, primarily, toward the technical realization of the architect's civic design. Through such a mutual understanding of the civic problems a good and constructive cooperation between the two mentioned Institutes can be achieved.

The Committee on Civic Design, therefore, will recommend that The Board of Directors of The Institute may take into consideration the points, that

(a) a workable communication between the two institutions be established in order to further a better understanding on the above mentioned basis, and that

(b) the reorganization of the educational methods in the schools of architecture toward a better understanding of civic design in the above mentioned spirit may not be unfortunately delayed.

### Committee on Housing

Walter R. McCornack, Chairman

#### Report in full.

The Committee on Housing reports as follows:

#### Period Covered.

This report covers the period which has elapsed since the last Convention of The Institute, held in Williamsburg, Virginia, in May, 1936.

#### Instructions to Committee.

The work undertaken by the Committee, and the program for future action herein offered, are in compliance with the resolutions of the 1936 Convention, and of The Board at its December, 1936, meeting. Those resolutions are restated herein, for the purpose of recording the instructions which have guided the Committee during the past year:

#### Resolutions of the 1936 Convention.

##### "National Housing Program.

*"Whereas*, The American Institute of Architects acknowledges that housing is a major nation-wide public responsibility and that it is the duty of the architectural profession to accept its due share of such responsibility; and

*"Whereas*, The Government is hereby commended for having recognized housing as a nation-wide public responsibility; therefore be it

*"Resolved*, That The American Institute of Architects urges the immediate creation by the Government of a central agency to undertake systematic and coordinated research in all matters pertaining to housing such as methods of taxation, land utilization, financial and managerial procedures, standards for dwellings, for recreational and educational facilities, all as outlined in the report of the Committee on Housing of The American Institute of Architects, that such agency continue the work started as a housing program initiated by the Government; and be it further

*"Resolved*, That necessary legislation be passed so as to coordinate the activities of existing governmental agencies; and be it further

*"Resolved*, That The American Institute of Architects urges the immediate creation of state and/or municipal housing authorities in every state duly empowered to purchase and condemn necessary land, and build and manage low cost housing projects; and be it further

*"Resolved*, That The American Institute of Architects urges that the Government continue to assist, through appropriate measures, all such state and/or municipal housing authorities so constituted, until these are able to carry on the furtherance of their part of a true, long range, nation-wide, large scale housing program."

#### "Cooperation with Real Estate Groups.

*"Resolved*, That the Convention request the Committee on Housing to study ways and means of cooperation and friendly relations with the real estate fraternity, and report a plan at the next convention."

#### Replanning and Development of Blighted Areas.

The 1936 Convention adopted as the sense of the meeting a resolution calling to the attention of the President of the United States that the technically trained citizens of the nation in the professions of architecture and engineering, and in the fields of real estate and finance, are qualified to aid him in reporting on ways and means for replanning and developing blighted areas for new uses.

The resolution further recommended that \$50,000,000.00 be placed at the disposal of the President for use as a revolving fund solely for the financing of advanced planning and for the making of specific recommendations for the rebuilding of blighted areas; that the President be empowered to allocate to blighted local areas such sums as would pay for the necessary exploratory and advance planning under the supervision of competent technicians; and that such appropriations for advance planning should not constitute a lien against the taxing power of any municipality but should be repayable in such amounts as the President might deem equitable out of the appropriations for any work to be undertaken.

#### Resolutions of The Board.

The Board of The Institute at its meeting in December, 1935, adopted as the sense of the meeting a resolution with respect to architectural service for small houses, reading as follows:

*"Resolved*, As the sense of the meeting, that the Directors of The American Institute of Architects endorse the proposal of the Committee on Housing to establish, through the assistance of the Chapters of the Institute, local groups of architects prepared to furnish plans, specifications, and individual supervision in the small house field, in a manner to meet each local opportunity and demand for such professional service, and

*"That* the Directors offer to Government agencies promoting better small house building, the assistance of the Institute through the Committee on Housing in raising the standards of value by means of the employment of competent architectural service."

The Board of The Institute at its meeting in December, 1936, adopted the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That The Board go on record in favor of the principle of decentralization, with respect to any national program for large scale housing.

*Resolved*, That The Board go on record in favor of Federal subsidies for low rental housing projects, such subsidies to be administered jointly and locally with state appropriations and state or county supervision; and that in every case Federal aid should be coupled with local aid and local administration.

*Resolved*, That the chairman of the Housing Committee be authorized by The Board to act for The Institute in favoring a rental subsidy for the encouragement of large scale housing projects, and to oppose capital subsidies for that purpose.

*Resolved*, That the Housing Committee be delegated the authority to represent The Institute affirmatively and constructively before Congress and the Federal Departments with respect to national legislation on housing."

Action taken under these various resolutions, or recommendations with respect to them will be found in the relevant sections of this report.

#### Work of the Previous Committee.

The present Committee on Housing, at the beginning of this report, wishes to record its appreciation of the able report made to the 1936 Convention by its predecessor Committee, under the Chairmanship of Richmond H. Shreve.

That report, as distributed at the Convention and published in the May, 1936, number of THE OCTAGON, is the foundation upon which the work of the present Committee rests. The report of the 1936 Committee is a constructive document which it would be well to consider as The Institute's constitution on Housing.

A rereading of that report is suggested. The following quotation from it clearly states the position of the architect in our social system:

"The Architect as a citizen and as a professional man should recognize that he is a part of the 'Government' in whatever locality or wider region, and that we can not ask 'Government' to solve our problems except as each of us takes the part attaching to his professional responsibility in a social system which is undergoing fundamental changes."

The above statement definitely establishes the architect as an important element in the housing field.

The history of the world is recorded in the Arts and Architecture is one of the greatest of these.

Man's place in history is not fixed by his contemporaries, and neither is his art. All fine works are so because they have stood the test of time. Carry out America's Housing Program without thoughtless reverence for traditional forms, but with full knowledge that the accumulated culture of the centuries is the only sound foundation upon which to build.

The architect is not in as much danger from State Architecture as is Architecture itself, because, all art is the creative effort of the individual and cannot reach its greatest heights by any other road. Beethoven's Ninth Symphony would never have been given the world by group action.

The coming Housing Program deserves sound architectural service unhampered by the stultifying hand of standardization which seeks to pour America into a mould—North—South—East and West alike—in whatever style mass thinking may devise—even perhaps with importations from across the seas.

We are just as likely to cover America with untried styles as we are with traditional styles, blindly followed. By either means we strangle creative work of lasting value.

Our duty to society in the coming years is to continue to perform our real duty—the creation of beautiful, practical and soundly constructed housing—for the poor and the rich—not forgetting that beauty in all the Arts is the most important and lasting function.

#### Objectives of the Committee.

This report suggests cooperation by the architects in fields outside the normal activities of the profession. This effort, however, is secondary to the first duties we owe society.

The preceding statement of the work accomplished by the Housing Committee of last year, whose report was made to The Board of Directors and to the Convention in 1936, covered the general phases of the housing field. It is not necessary, therefore, to go over any of this ground again. The main objective of the Committee on Housing, which will report to The Board of Directors and the Convention in 1937, will be directed toward the outline of a comprehensive program of activities for architects in the whole housing field.

It is a question of the mobilization of ideas and the membership of The Institute behind a long range



housing program. The formative and experimental period is over and the entire membership should be heard on such a wide range program. This is not a report on housing technique. It is a report to suggest action. The work of the next housing committee should be of far reaching significance.

There has never been proper cooperation between large units of the building industry and the architectural profession with respect to architectural service, and in order to provide better service to the public it will be necessary to work out the program of cooperation with the various units in the industry with respect to the construction phases of the housing program. This might be done through cooperation with The Producers' Council, with particular emphasis on the matter of mounting costs.

#### Main Objectives to be Covered in This Report:

##### *First, The Small House Problem.*

The first step accomplished in the direction of better service in this field has been to establish cooperation between the *Federal Housing Administration*, the *Federal Home Loan Bank Board*, the *Home Owners' Loan Corporation*, and The Institute, in beginning a study for a program of service to the small house owner on a basis satisfactory to that part of the profession which must be relied upon to carry out such a program and within the scope of sound business procedure and the standards of our practice. The Committee does not believe that the final solution has been found, but that some progress has been made, and it urges that this cooperation which has been established be continued until an adequate method of providing service has been worked out. It is quite obvious that plans, specifications, and supervision will be provided in some degree for the great mass of prospective house builders in this country by some agency, either in the government bureaus or outside of them, or by the architectural profession. The trend in small house construction is toward the development of subdivisions which require cooperation with city and regional planning boards in developing a planned community. In effect, the small house problem is tending more in the direction of large scale housing developments.

This work then assumes a much more important place in architectural practice and will require a

different approach from the isolated single house with the closer knit architect-client relationship. There is a definite tendency, too, on the part of finance and industry, to consider this problem as one in which they have an opportunity for large scale production methods, and in some cases it has been proposed to set up, within these organizations, architectural departments for the preparation of plans.

A hopeful sign is that the announcement of cooperation between the government bureaus and The Institute has brought numerous inquiries from large industrial organizations as to how architectural service can be made to fit in with their plans for the development of single houses in large scale operations.

The Convention of 1935 decided that the Committee on Small Houses should study possible methods of offering architectural service in the field of the small house. By authority of The Board of Directors this work was undertaken by the Committee on Housing, and the Convention of 1936 discussed the problem in some detail. The significance and value of cooperating with governmental, financial, and business agencies interested in small house development was recognized, as was the possibility that the profession might increase its service in this field and assist by improving standards of design, construction, and supervision, and by supporting sound financial, land-acquisition and land-use policies. The cooperation now being worked out between the Federal agencies and the Committee on Housing of The Institute has followed the principle just outlined. The problem is one which can be studied only through a long-term survey of the opportunity and demand for such service.

It was the judgment of The Board, at its meeting in December, 1936, that this study should be continued. It is the opinion of the Committee on Housing that the progress made with respect to developing a policy for entering the field of low-cost houses has been such as to warrant the vigorous continuation of this work.

The Committee is not endorsing any particular group service plan and hopes that the membership of The Institute will contribute to the discussion by submitting points of view of individuals or chap-



ters on all phases of it, in order that the best thought of the profession may be made available to the Committee.

The interest of The Institute should be to educate the public but most especially the lenders who control the situation, to a full realization of the architect's position as the disinterested representative of the owner—as the only available buyer for the owner and his mortgagee.

#### *Second, The Wagner-Steagall Bill.*

The Housing Committee of The American Institute of Architects has endorsed the Wagner-Steagall Bill in principle. This bill follows very closely the basic principles outlined in the resolution of the Convention in 1936 on the national housing program, which resolution has been quoted above. This bill is a starting point from which proper legislation may be worked out, from time to time, during the development of the national housing program.

It is suggested that The Institute might recommend constructive amendments for improvement on the present legislation and offer them for consideration by the Committees of the Senate and House. The housing question has become a national issue in a very short space of time, and the Wagner-Steagall Bill, if passed, should bring about more progressive and effective action in housing.

#### *Third, Large-Scale Low-Rent Housing.*

Since a certain amount of housing has been completed, it will now be possible to evaluate what has been done and from the findings from such an investigation, to outline procedure for future action by the architectural profession.

The National Housing Authority under the Wagner Bill is a focal point towards which the profession may direct its comments, since this agency is not to be an actual constructing agency, but one for research and stimulation and financial assistance to local groups. It will probably concern itself, first, with the problem of organizing on a nation-wide basis, state and municipal authorities through which the bill contemplates that housing shall be done.

In this case, as a matter of organization, it is suggested that the various chapters of The Institute organize permanent chapter housing committees which shall act as the local agency through which

The Institute's Housing Committee may present the general case for housing. By this means it will be possible for The Institute to build up a housing policy which will offer definite suggestions and recommendations based on the needs found in the different sections of the country.

The Federal Housing Authority having been set up for the encouragement of local operations, may be expected to investigate very thoroughly basic principles relating to financing, land acquisition and land use, operation and management, zoning, city and regional planning, building codes, living standards, labor relations, and construction.

The local chapters should influence housing authorities in their respective areas in carrying out the work contemplated to be done under the Wagner-Steagall Low-Rent Housing Act.

#### *Development of a Housing Program.*

The money thus available for research is in line with the resolution entitled, "Replanning and Development of Blighted Areas," adopted as the sense of the meeting by the 1936 Convention, which recommends research into all fields of housing and suggests that "the sum of fifty million dollars be placed at the disposal of the President to be used as a revolving fund solely for the financing of advance planning and for the making of specific recommendations for the rebuilding of blighted areas."

It is suggested that The Institute endorse the preparation by a committee, of a suggested procedure for carrying out the housing program in the United States in collaboration with other agencies and to offer fullest cooperation to the National Housing Authority. Such a study might include a reexamination of the various housing agencies and their work in the light of new trends.

The following are some of the points which might be considered in such a study:

##### *1. Large-Scale and Community Planning.*

The question of city planning is one in which the profession should take part, not only in so-called paper planning, but by cooperating in comprehensive studies of all of the technical, economic, and social elements which enter into the final preparation of a plan for the development of cities and regions as related to housing. Redesigning and rebuilding large areas in our cities are on the way.

Any considerable amount of large scale housing in American communities should not be allowed to go ahead unless it is properly coordinated with the community plan.

### 2. *Construction Statistics.*

The real property inventory in cities where it is well established is proving of value in the solution of city rebuilding problems. It is a continuing audit of the physical properties of the city, and as such should have a definite and continuing place as an adjunct of housing programs. This study will indicate the requirements of commerce, industry and living accommodations.

The real property inventory is now an established policy in Cleveland. The county is expected to assume one-half of the expense since it is a county-wide study. One of the chief contributing factors to the success of this work is the cooperation of the Post Office Department in distributing cards used in the survey and in assisting in gathering factual data. This is a form of fact-finding very vital to the work of community planning and proper appropriations should be made to make this type of research effective on a nation-wide scale.

As an important item of construction statistics, the appropriation of \$200,000 allotted to the Department of Commerce for the purpose of an investigation by the Bureau of Standards of methods to reduce costs in housing should be made a continuing policy and a sufficient sum be appropriated each year to carry on this work until completed.

There are no reliable statistics relating to unemployment and such a study should be made as a part of the work of assembling construction statistics.

### 3. *Development of Facts Regarding City Operating Costs in Relation to Tax Income.*

Most of the cities of the country are uninformed regarding the financial conditions, not only of the owners of the property in certain areas of the cities, but of the effect of the financial condition of these owners on present and future city operating levies. In Cleveland, 333 acres of the area of the city were found, upon investigation, to require \$1,250,000 more of tax money to provide ordinary city and county school services, than the city received if all taxes had been collected in that area. In

Boston, a complete study of the entire city indicated that 78% of the area was in the red, throwing the burden of taxation on the other 22%. In addition to the real property inventory, this information should be available in all cities to enable community planning and housing developments to move forward in a sound and constructive manner.

### 4. *Taxes—Subsidy.*

If full taxes are to be assessed against low-rent housing the occupants will be faced with a charge of about \$3.00 per room for this item alone. It is a question whether a different form of taxation should not be considered for American cities since present tax and interest charges against a great amount of property are making it impossible for the owners to continue to maintain their property on a sound basis, thus creating not only a difficulty in securing tax money for city operation, but in hastening the depreciation of large territories in the hearts of the cities and threatening to create a serious operating deficiency in the city government treasuries. Perhaps the English method of taxation on the basis of income might be worthy of consideration. The entire subject of taxes—tax exemption which is municipal subsidy-service charges for municipal services in lieu of full taxes and subsidies—should be subjected to scrutiny by the next Housing Committee.

### 5. *Management and Equipment.*

In the Government housing program the managing and operating cost of from \$3.00 to \$4.00 a month per room exclusive of amenities is assessed against the tenant which, with the tax burden above mentioned, starts the low-cost housing projects off with a \$6.00 to \$7.00 a month per room charge for these two items alone. This opens a wide field for questions of management and operation which will probably lead us into a reconsideration of construction methods and the mechanical equipment of buildings, and of the cost of providing social, pre-school education, recreation, and other items coming under the heading of social welfare. If these features are made a part of the cost of rent, instead of being a part of the general cost of city and school government and therefore a general tax charge, the

cost of rent to the tenant will be out of reach of the intended occupants of low-cost housing.

#### 6. *Land Acquisition.*

This problem should also be covered in the report of the next Housing Committee, which should point out to the architectural profession that land-acquisition methods require further study, both with respect to housing and city planning, and an attempt made to find a way to eliminate the high ratio of land cost to total cost. The high value placed on land which becomes a false value because of the expectation that it may have a high speculative value is a serious handicap to a housing program.

#### 7. *Zoning.*

Zoning ordinances of most of the cities are entirely out of balance in zoning regulations for the various uses of land. For instance, in many cities the area zoned for commercial business is several times the amount necessary, even with liberal allowance for growth. With particular respect to housing, zoning should provide for proper use of land surrounding these residential areas. Zoning ordinances have never contemplated the proper amount of open space such as parks and recreation grounds.

#### 8. *Land Use.*

The question of land use is a subject of much importance and for the benefit of the members of the profession in localities where this question has not been examined or discussed a clear statement of the case will be of great value. One of the important points is the relation of the cost of municipal facilities such as streets, sewers, water lines, electric service, and other factors to the land. The cost of installing such services, maintaining them, and replacing them when a different use of the land renders the first installation obsolete is a matter of concern to all cities. Such facilities extended beyond reason into subdivided acreage in outlying districts have been too often unwisely done. This is subsidy of a costly nature.

Other points for consideration are population density, park and recreation area, public school sites, the creation of neighborhood units and the elimination of streets. Streets occupy a considerable area in our cities and towns and the elimination

of streets, often regarded by municipal authorities as impossible or inadvisable, when accomplished is accepted as an advantage. Money is saved and traffic hazards reduced.

#### 9. *Cost of Buildings.*

The reason a larger housing program is not going forward is because of the tremendous spread between income and the cost of housing—the cost of use of houses.

#### 10. *Definition of Public Housing.*

The present uncertainty regarding the term "Public Housing" and how to define it or to prescribe its limits was a subject regarding which there was no definite consensus of opinion among the members of the committee and since the work of the committee is largely in setting up a program for future action this matter is deferred for future consideration.

#### 11. *Amendment to the National Housing Act.*

It is proposed that Section 207 of the National Housing Act be amended so that the Criterion for Insurance of Mortgages under that Section should be large-scale operations rather than low-rental housing. Some members of the committee felt that no opportunity had been given for a study of the proposed amendments, consequently no definite action will be taken by the Housing Committee. This question might be the subject of a discussion by the Convention if the proponents of the measure so desire.

#### *Discussion of Remedies.*

There are three remedies.

The *first*, would be to increase the income of the American people to the point where they can pay the rents resulting from the present cost of building;

The *second*, would be to reduce the cost of building to the point where the ability to pay would enable a large number of people to secure satisfactory living accommodations;

The *third*, would be to partially bridge the gap by subsidy.

All three of these remedies will probably be necessary before satisfactory housing can be given

to the great number of families now living in sub-standard dwellings.

The architects can do their share towards the creation of an informed public opinion favoring any progressive movement that would result in a broader distribution of the proceeds of industry so that the average income would enable a great number of families now living in sub-standard dwellings to have decent living accommodations.

The architects can be of great service in studying the question of costs in order to bring about a substantial reduction in the cost per unit of housing.

There has been too little consideration by the advocates of low-cost housing of the cost of construction, which amounts to about 75% of the total capital outlay required to build the type of housing now under construction by the government. According to the figures issued by the government, the average cost of slum-clearance housing for a four-room apartment increased very considerably during the duration of the program. This increase became so serious as to require revision of drawings to include lower cost standards of construction.

Since contracts for the first housing projects were let, the cost of housing has been rising at an unreasonable rate. The architectural profession, knowing that the cost of housing today is far beyond the ability of 60% of the population to purchase or rent, is justified in suggesting that an investigation be made of the question of the construction cost in connection with housing. The revision of codes and studies by bureaus to permit the use of technological advance in the building industry should be started.

#### Present Building Conditions.

This brings us to the consideration of building conditions as they exist today, in connection with home construction:

a. Are building methods in the United States further behind in the development of technique than other industries?

b. Are the building codes of the United States properly drawn to provide methods of construction satisfactory to the low-cost house or apartment? And if they are not, should there not be developed a special code for the small-scale and large-scale low-rent housing projects, which are based on

minimum reasonable requirements of safety and health?

c. Should not the advice of the Bureau of Standards be sought in writing of basic requirements for building codes, and an appropriation granted to that Bureau sufficiently large to enable it to operate for the public benefit without subsidy from industry?

Industry is spending millions of dollars in research for the development of its products, largely on the theory of improving the product and reducing the cost in order to reach a larger market. This has not been done in the housing field. In the work outlined above the architect is understood to be the coordinator acting in his professional capacity in the public interest.

#### Rackets in the Building Industry.

The American Bar Association estimates that crime costs the American people \$12,000,000,000 yearly. This is more than is assessed against the citizens of this country for all national, state, county, school and municipal taxes. The elimination of crime would have the effect of lifting the entire burden of taxes from the taxpayers.

Only a very small minority favors crime—the criminals and their affiliates—yet crime exists on a staggering scale.

There are two questions to be raised in connection with rackets in the building industry:

*First*, are combinations in restraint of trade and other practices in opposition to a normal functioning of the building industry creeping in and increasing costs?

*Second*, have not the rackets in other fields been creeping into the building trades, resulting in an increase in cost which must be passed on to the consumer?

It is granted that only a small minority is favorable to rackets in the building industry and yet there is competent testimony to the fact that it is forcing its way into the building trades and has succeeded to an alarming degree.

The architects depend on skilled craftsmen to translate their ideas into buildings, and any interference with the proper rights of skilled craftsmen by a small, selfish group who seek huge and



dishonest personal profit through graft, or the levying of tribute or violence should be resisted with all the force of The Institute.

Continued toleration of the present widespread disrespect for law and order can only be overcome by direct and speedy action.

The architects in each locality can act against rackets already entrenched and prevent the further encroachment of this small minority on the rights of honest labor, and against the public interest.

#### Some Obstacles to Developing a Housing Program.

*First*, is there not a skilled labor shortage which will be a serious detriment in carrying on a larger home building program, and should the apprentice system be revived on a sound basis?

*Second*, are not jurisdictional disputes of such scope as to be injurious to the building of housing, due to the increased cost resulting therefrom?

*Third*, should not the building industry attempt to develop a plan of more continuous employment so that the hourly wage will decrease and the total annual wage increase?

#### New Methods of Construction.

In the housing projects to date, little experimentation in the line of new types of construction or of mechanical equipment has been tried. A great deal has been said about pre-fabrication in various forms. In 1930, there were practically no industrial organizations in America seriously considering this question. In 1936, according to reliable statistics, there were 63 industrial organizations considering various forms of pre-fabrication. It is often erroneously assumed that pre-fabrication means the turning out of a complete house in a factory. This is an incorrect view. It does include consideration of the pre-fabrication of larger units for house construction that can be readily and quickly set up in the field.

That this question is becoming one of importance is proven by the organization of some of the large industrial groups in America to produce pre-fabricated parts of houses on a large scale.

The movement toward pre-fabrication might readily develop into an industrial drive for profit without due regard for aesthetic quality or for sound construction. The architects should watch this

development carefully as a professional duty and industry will be well advised if it welcomes an intelligent architectural approach.

#### Minimum Standards for Housing.

There is some question that the minimum standards set up for housing have been in excess of those necessary for adequate living accommodations, and that the housing projects now being completed will provide better living accommodations than the average American citizens can now afford. Some investigation of this phase of the housing problem might well be undertaken in The Institute study of the whole field.

#### Cooperation with National Groups.

The 1936 Convention passed the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Convention request the Committee on Housing to study ways and means of cooperation and friendly relations with the real estate fraternity and report a plan at the next Convention."

This is a question which fits into the skeleton of the housing problem. The Committee feels that it is not practical for The Board of Directors of The Institute alone to set up a program of cooperation with national agencies in this field. This would be preempting the rights and duties of the various chapters and amounts to a centralization of authority at The Octagon, which is a parallel of the centralization of housing in Washington to which the profession objects. In several cases it has been found that the local chapters have been able to work out cooperation with real estate boards, taxing authorities, financial agencies, and governmental units with success. The committee has received a number of reports of cases where such cooperation has been successful. It recommends local cooperation as the most effective method.

#### In General.

The Committee recommends that the Housing Committee for the coming year concentrate on the development of and offer to cooperate with the Federal Housing Authority when created, to establish a workable administrative procedure.

There has been an accumulation of custom and practice over a period of years which has militated

against low-rent housing. The responsibility for this cannot be placed at the door of any government agency, nor of the architects, nor of the building industry, nor of labor, nor of financial groups, nor of land owners. These practices that seemed sound during the golden era of the twenties, from now on may not prove advantageous to any of the groups. An investigation of all of the phases of the housing question should be placed on the high level of scientific research to develop the truth, in order that progress from this point on may be on a sounder economic and social basis.

The reference to sounder economic and social bases for housing is incidental to the chief obligation of the architect which is to create beauty in practical and well constructed buildings. His work will naturally be more useful if done within sound economic and social principles, and his cooperation in these other fields is important even though incidental to his own work.

#### Proposed Resolutions—for Convention Adoption.

The Committee offers the following resolutions framed for the purpose of carrying out the program outlined herein:

\* \* \*

(Note: These resolutions were approved by The Board and are offered in its report for adoption by the Convention.)

#### Structural Service Committee

N. Max Dunning, Chairman

#### Synopsis of Report.

As prophesied in the report of December a remarkable improvement in the business outlook has occurred, including the prospects for building construction, especially housing, with consequent increase in architectural practice.

The many new materials now being used by architects have necessitated a revision of the A. I. A. Standard Filing System, for which there are indications of a large demand.

The services of the Structural Service Committee will be in greater demand than ever to assemble findings, reports, and investigations and make them available to the architectural profession. The participation of the profession in work of scientific and technical groups is growing more and more necessary and there is a splendid willingness on the

part of Institute members to meet the increasing number of requests for their assistance.

The Producers' Council is expanding and its direct contact with the profession through Producers' Council Clubs is proving of inestimable value, leading to that type of sympathetic understanding between producers and architects which is so desirable between all elements of the building industry. Such understanding and cooperation are particularly desirable to help forestall such a disastrous collapse as that of 1929. Danger signals in the field of low-cost housing are appearing, due partly to the work of the "Jerry" builder, indicating inevitable collapse if no remedies are applied. To produce *better* houses at lower cost all elements of the building industry must cooperate, utilizing the improved materials, methods and techniques. The Structural Service Committee and The Producers' Council can act as important links in this cooperation, allied with those interested Federal agencies, F. H. A. and H. O. L. C., all combining to produce low-cost housing that offers better living conditions and better security for loans, and also serving as an important influence in directing attention to the value of architectural service in the recovery program.

Below is an itemized list of committee activities and participations of the Structural Service Committee, for a great part of which the committee is fortunate in having the continued services of its Technical Secretary, Mr. Theodore I. Coe, who has given most generously of his time, far beyond that which could reasonably be expected. One of the most important of these activities is work on the Building Code Correlating Committee, undoubtedly a great factor for better construction.

#### List of Activities

1. American Standards Association.  
32 Committees and Sub-committees.
2. American Society for Testing Materials.  
11 Committees and Sub-committees.
3. Bureau of Standards.  
16 Committees of the Division of Simplified Practice.  
11 Trade Standards of the Division of Trade Standards.
4. National Fire Protection Association.  
5 Committees.
5. Joint Committee on Standard Specifications for Cement and Reinforced Concrete.
6. National Fire Waste Council.
7. Central Committee on Lumber Standards.

### The Jury of Fellows

Robert D. Kohn, Chairman

#### *Synopsis of Report.*

This Committee exercises an important responsibility, and performs a difficult task. Its constant endeavor is to make the award of Fellowship as impartial as is humanly possible.

This year The Jury continued its serious efforts to bring out proposals from all sections of the country—in the hope that chapter officers and others would submit the names of men who have distinguished themselves in the smaller communities, where their skill and art in relation to the opportunities offered frequently deserve recognition greater than that of members practicing in large metropolitan areas where, relatively, the opportunities are much greater.

The names of the twenty-three members elected to Fellowship by The Jury will be announced at the closing session of the Convention.

The report of The Jury concludes with the statement that while the number of Fellowship awards should never become great, it would be desirable if those awards were more generally scattered over the country.

### Building Committee

D. Everett Waid, Chairman

#### *Synopsis of Report.*

The Building Committee points out that the stress of conditions during the past eight years in the architectural profession has emphasized the fact that the construction of an Administration building, sorely needed as it is, cannot be achieved without the aid of patrons of architecture. The Committee proposes to secure that aid and has received substantial encouragement.

### Committee on Allied Arts

Ely Jacques Kahn, Chairman

#### *Synopsis of Report.*

The Committee regrets that the influence of the exhibition of craftsmanship held at the 1936 Convention did not stimulate greater interest in the chapters. In spite of the obvious fact that architects maintain that they should direct design in its broadest sense there is apparently little interest in taking a controlling hand in such direction.

In the future the architectural profession may realize this opportunity in the field of industrial design. At present, such realization is largely confined to industrial designers, decorators, and others who have initiative and who appreciate the importance of design for the materials that enter into our buildings.

The Federal Arts Project has given opportunity to a large number of painters and sculptors to execute commissions for the first time and to demonstrate their skill.

It is suggested that another committee analyze the constructive value of these works, for whereas inspirational results are valuable, mediocre products are likely to disfigure buildings and thereby retard the public's desire to see more of them.

Recommendations for the awards of the Fine Arts and Craftsmanship Medals have been made to The Board.

It is suggested that the next Committee undertake to determine whether the local crafts and the arts that are characteristic of different sections of the country are worthy of serious consideration and encouragement by Institute chapters.

### Committee on International Congress of Architects

C. C. Zantzing, Chairman

#### *Synopsis of Report.*

This Committee reviews the program for the Fourteenth International Congress of Architects to be held in Paris, France, July 19 to 25, 1937.

It has conducted extensive correspondence with architects throughout the country who have signified their interest in the Congress.

Twenty-three architects, most of them members of The Institute, have made final commitments with respect to attendance and all of them are recommended by the Committee for appointment as delegates to represent The American Institute of Architects.

The Committee further reports on the Fifteenth International Congress to be held in the United States in 1939. It is too soon to announce dates or plans for this Congress, but The Board, with the able assistance of the Committee on International Congress of Architects, is endeavoring to secure support from the Federal government, and to take other steps to make the 1939 Congress an outstanding gathering of the architectural profession.

**Committee on Construction Industry Relations**

William Stanley Parker, Chairman

*Synopsis of Report.*

The Fifth Edition of the Standard Documents was issued and a complete set sent to each member, in February, 1937, with the Circular of Information relating thereto.

The Institute sent to each member, for the Committee, a special letter in April with copy of the Report on Fire Insurance and the proposed Full Cover Builders' Risk Fire Insurance Policy—asking for an expression of opinion.

Returns so far received express cordial approval. If sufficient general approval is indicated by the replies, assurance is given that a form of policy substantially meeting the suggestions proposed by the Committee on Construction Industry Relations will be approved and issued by the Eastern Underwriters Association.

The Committee has continued to encourage the formation of Building Congresses and addressed a circular to all chapters relative to ethics in the building industry.

Through its Vice-Chairman in Charge of Health

and Safety, the Committee has been ably represented on the American Standards Association.

A survey is being made through the chapter representatives of the Committee on the use of the Short Form of Contract.

With the assistance of Institute counsel, two statements concerning the requirements of the social security law have been prepared and published in THE OCTAGON.

The Committee has referred the subject of bidding practices to the Construction League of the United States, in the belief that the subject required joint consideration by contractors and sub-contractors, as well as by architects.

The Chairman of the Committee has continued to act as consultant on contract procedure—queries being received with about the same frequency and variety as in former years, and from all branches of the construction industry.

The general recommendations of the Committee are that efforts be continued to secure the adoption of the proposed form of Full Cover Builders' Risk Fire Insurance Policy; that the organization of additional Building Congresses be encouraged; and that the Short Form of Contract be used with greater frequency in small construction work.

---

## Resolutions

ADOPTED BY THE SIXTY-NINTH CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

**P**RECEDING this report of the resolutions which were adopted by the Convention of The Institute will be found the report of The Board of Directors, and the "Synopsis of Committee Reports," which were distributed to the delegates, in printed form, at the time of registration.

The resolutions proposed in the Report of The Board of Directors which were adopted by the Convention are included herein. While this is a duplication, in some respects, it is desirable to record all Convention resolutions in chronological order in one place, as follows:

CHARLES T. INGHAM,  
*Secretary.*

**Committee on Resolutions.**

*Resolved,* That all resolutions or requests for opportunities to present new business concerning matters of policy and other matters not covered in the report of The Board of Directors or in the Committee reports shall be presented to a Committee on Resolutions for its action and approval prior to the close of the Convention session on Thursday, June 3, provided that an exception to this general rule may be made by unanimous consent of the Convention.

**Prequalification of Architects for Public Works.**

*Resolved,* That this Convention reaffirms its belief that the best results in public architecture are obtained through the employment of private architects; and be it further



*Resolved*, That this Convention is of the opinion that the appointment of a commission to pass upon the qualifications of architects for employment for work under the jurisdiction of the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department, as recommended in the Joint Report of representatives of that Division and the Public Works Committee of The American Institute of Architects, is a method adapted to secure the result intended, namely, to insure that architects selected for such work will be fully qualified for the service which they are called upon to perform; and be it further

*Resolved*, That The Board of Directors tender their cooperation to the Secretary of the Treasury in order to bring about the establishment of such a commission; and be it further

*Resolved*, That this Convention requests that The Board of Directors investigate further the possibility of a method for selecting architects for work under the jurisdiction of the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department by means of competitions among the pre-qualified architects similar to the competitions now conducted by the Section of Painting and Sculpture of the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department.

#### Appreciation of Work of Committee on Public Works.

*Resolved*, That a vote of thanks and appreciation be extended to the Committee on Public Works for the work which it has done.

#### State Associations.

*Resolved*, That The Institute adheres to the plan of unification as established in the By-laws of The Institute.

*Resolved*, That The Institute shall not promote any plan for a nation-wide organization of state associations, separate and distinct from The Institute.

#### Organization of State Associations.

The following resolution was presented by the Committee on State Societies following the reading of a report by Mr. L. N. Crawford of the State Association of California Architects:

*Resolved*, That the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on State Societies, as revised, and as read to the Convention as a part of the resolutions adopted by the Convention of State Architectural Societies, be carried out in detail; and be it further

*Resolved*, That The Institute adopt a vigorous policy of nation-wide organization of state associations; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Committee set up under the recommendations of the report study carefully those portions of the Standard Form of Chapter By-laws issued by The Institute which pertain to the state associations and their affiliation with The Institute, and make recommendations for their revision to the proper authorities for action at the earliest possible time.

#### Committee on City Planning.

*Resolved*, That The American Institute of Architects appoint a Committee on City Planning to—

(a) Help organize in each chapter a local committee on city planning which is to act as a clearing house and advisor to existing or contemplated city planning committees;

(b) To correlate the work of such local city planning committees, furnish them with information and guidance; and

(c) To educate public opinion to the increasing necessity of planning agencies and to the manifold benefits, safety of investments, safety of lives, ease of traffic circulation, and general welfare which intelligent planning can give to a community.

#### Housing.

The following resolutions were proposed by the Committee on Housing, approved by The Board of Directors, and unanimously adopted by the Convention:

##### I. Cooperation with Federal Agencies.

*Whereas*, The cooperation between the Federal Housing Administration, the Federal Home Loan Bank, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, and the Housing Committee of The American Institute of Architects has indicated the possibility of far-reaching results in improvements in the solution of the small house problem; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Convention approves the continuation of this cooperation with the Federal Housing Administration, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, and the Home Owners' Loan Corporation for the purpose of continuing the study of the small house problem in relation to the best interests of the architectural profession and the public; and that the next Housing Committee of The Institute report progress of this cooperation at the next Convention.

##### II. Proposed Investigation of Completed Projects.

*Whereas*, The Government's Low-Cost Housing Program is nearing completion; and there are certain fundamental questions which may now be considered on the basis of actual housing completed; and since it is believed that a study of these projects will be of benefit to both the government housing agencies and the citizens at large; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That The American Institute of Architects favors the formation of a committee composed of members of the various interested national agencies to make an investigation of the completed projects and to make a report on all phases thereof to the constituent organizations.

### III. Construction Statistics by Government Agencies.

*Whereas*, There has been little research in the housing field relating to a reduction in the cost of housing, the revision of building codes, unemployment statistics in the building industry, and in determining facts relating to the physical aspects of our cities and towns, and since all of these fields should be studied in the light of the new social and economic field of low-cost, low-rent housing; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That The Institute favors the allocation of the sum of \$200,000 to the Department of Commerce for the purpose of conducting a study of methods of reducing the cost of housing construction with the reservation that it favors an attempt to develop a new technological approach, as well as an examination of present processes, and recommends the continuation of a proper grant to continue this work through such a period of time as will be necessary to arrive at proper conclusions; and

That it favors a study by the Bureau of Standards of technical data to be used in the development of building codes by local authorities for low-cost, low-rent housing based on the principle of minimum reasonable requirements for safety and health, inasmuch as the building codes now in force are generally filled with extra-legal requirements which it was necessary for the Government to vacate; in order to carry out its program; and

That it favors a study of industrial unemployment; the amount of yearly construction in the various units of Government and by private industry and any other data required in order to carry out a long-range planning program; and finally

That it approves the extension of the real property inventory and other methods of fact-finding necessary in the replanning of American cities.

### IV. Study of Basic Principles for National Housing Movement.

*Whereas*, Various national organizations interested in a single point of view have presented their ideas in a national way; and there has been no correlation of the ideas of these various groups, thereby creating confusion; and since with the passage of the Wagner-Steagall Bill there will be a Central National Authority to whom suggested programs may be directed; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That The American Institute of Architects suggests that a committee of architects be authorized to study the housing program in all its phases, which shall include the relation of housing to city and regional planning; and that The Institute shall offer to cooperate with the National Housing Authority in working out a program of basic principles for the national housing movement; and that The Institute request the chapters to organize local housing committees for the purpose of acting for the profession in all matters

relating to the housing problem in their localities and to cooperate with the Housing Committee of The Institute in formulating a program to provide housing suitable to the needs of the various communities in the country.

### V. Rental versus Ownership in Low-Income Field.

*Whereas*, Current practice in the small house field is restricted almost entirely to the construction of homes for sale, and home ownership among those of modest competence is appropriate only for those of well secured continuance of employment, and since it is clear that a large percentage of such families have no such assurance and should, therefore, not be induced or forced into home ownership; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That in all communities there should be provided substantial developments of moderate cost housing for rent and not for sale, such housing to be produced in large-scale operations that can develop protected neighborhood security.

### VI. Minimum Standards for Dwelling Units.

*Whereas*, The cities of the United States now contain an unhealthy proportion of dwellings which encourage the lowest living standards, and are the cause of great economic and human waste; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That The American Institute of Architects shall, through its Housing Committee, and by it through its chapters, make every effort to arouse the public and local authorities to the necessity of adopting in each city a minimum standard for dwellings units below which condemnation and destruction become mandatory upon the authorities.

### VII. Appreciation of Governmental Cooperation.

*Whereas*, The proposals and recommendations of the Committee on Housing of The Institute have received and are receiving the impartial and thoughtful consideration of various Federal agencies charged with duties which relate to large-scale housing and small house construction; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That The Institute hereby expresses its appreciation to the Federal Housing Administration, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, and the Housing Division of the Public Works Administration, and the Resettlement Administration for the cooperation which they have extended to the representatives of The Institute, and hereby publicly records its thanks to the administrative heads of these Federal agencies and their assistants, all of whom have adhered steadfastly to the principle that the large portion of the American public dependent upon Government aid to secure adequate shelter are entitled to architectural service to be rendered by the architects of their own communities.

**Cooperation with the Real Estate Boards.****Resolved, (National Cooperation):**

That The President of The American Institute of Architects shall appoint a designee for cooperation with the National Association of Real Estate Boards and shall invite the President of the National Association of Real Estate Boards to appoint a designee to cooperate with The Institute; that such designees shall be authorized to enlist the cooperation of a designee representing mortgage and lending institutions, and these three designees acting as a committee shall be authorized to work for a better understanding of the inter-related problems of architecture, real estate and finance, through securing consideration of these problems at the national and sectional meetings of their respective organizations as well as through special conferences of representative leaders in the fields of construction, real estate and finance called to consider special phases of these problems, including the problem of taxation; and that reports of progress shall be submitted to the local constituent bodies of which these national organizations are representative; and be it further

**Resolved, (Local Cooperation):**

That it is recommended that the president of each chapter of The American Institute of Architects appoint a designee to act locally in a manner similar to the designee of The President of The Institute, and that local committees be formed to consider the related local problems arising from the inter-relationship of construction, real estate and finance, and that these local committees from time to time report on progress and coordination to the national coordinating committee; and be it further

**Resolved,** That the consensus of opinion of this Convention is that this action should be taken as described in this resolution, and that it be referred to The Board of Directors with power to carry out the will of the Convention.

**Proposed Alteration of Capitol.**

**Whereas,** The proposed alterations to the exterior of the central portion of the Capitol at Washington would destroy original work of Thornton, Bulfinch and Latrobe; and

**Whereas,** No urgent necessity for such changes has been advanced; therefore, be it

**Resolved,** That The American Institute of Architects in convention assembled, express itself as opposed to any material alteration of the central portion of the Capitol, either in form or material; and be it further

**Resolved,** That a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Chairmen of the Senate and House Committees of Public Buildings and Grounds and to the Architect of the Capitol.

**Hospitality of Boston Society of Architects.**

**Whereas,** The Sixty-ninth Convention of The American Institute of Architects has been notable for the orderly and expeditious procedure of its business sessions, thus giving to the delegates, members and guests

the fullest opportunity for the enjoyment of the elaborate social amenities provided in the program; and

**Whereas,** It is recognized that this happy result has been very largely achieved by reason of the painstaking preparation and advance cooperation of the members of the Boston Society of Architects, acting as hosts of the Convention; be it

**Resolved,** That the Convention hereby records its very genuine appreciation of the hospitality it has enjoyed and expresses its sincere gratitude to the members of the Boston Society of Architects and to those friends of the Society who so generously extended the privilege of inspection of rare and historic dwellings and other institutions that were visited, and further that The Secretary be requested to make appropriate individual acknowledgements of the courtesies enjoyed.

**Appreciation of Work of Officers, Directors and Committees.**

**Whereas,** The delegates and members attending the Sixty-ninth Convention of The American Institute of Architects note with gratification, as evidenced in the reports of The Board of Directors and the various standing and special committees, that despite the trying experiences which the profession has suffered during the period of recent depression The Institute has steadfastly maintained its high ideals and borne its banner at the forefront in the changing march of time; and

**Whereas,** The Convention recognizes that this is wholly due to the zeal and enthusiastic efforts, often at great personal sacrifice, of the officers and members of The Board of Directors, the members of the committees, the Executive Secretary, and the members of the staff at The Octagon; be it

**Resolved,** That the Convention expresses to each of these loyal workers in the cause its profound gratitude for their efficient contribution toward the notable growth of the spirit and achievement of The Institute.

**Adoption of The Board's Report.**

**Resolved,** That the report of The Board of Directors as amended be adopted as a whole.

**Wagner-Steagall Housing Bill.**

**Whereas,** The American Institute of Architects assembled for its Sixty-ninth Convention in Boston has unanimously approved the report and resolutions prepared by its Committee on Housing; and

**Whereas,** The passage of the Wagner-Steagall Housing Bill is essential to the continuation of the Government's efforts to provide adequate shelter for a large proportion of the American people; therefore, be it

**Resolved,** That The American Institute of Architects endorses the basic features of the Wagner-Steagall Bill and urges its passage at this time; and be it further

**Resolved,** That this resolution be sent immediately to the President of the United States, and that the members of The American Institute of Architects be requested to send copies thereof to their respective Senators and Representatives.



## Foreign Influences on Architectural Education in America

BY EVERETT VICTOR MEEKS, F. A. I. A.

*Address at the Sixty-ninth Convention, Boston, June 2, 1937.*

ARCHITECTURAL Education in this country, in the sense of an organized plan for the training of young men to enter the profession, is of comparatively recent date. Up until the final decades of the last century the training for an American youth in Architecture was by means of hand-books and by a sort of haphazard pseudo-apprenticeship in the employ of a builder or in the office of that "rara avis" of the time, the more or less trained architect.

Perhaps the first, certainly the most important, foreign influence leading to a truly American school of Design, came from England. Most of our earlier architecture was the natural "Colonial" expression of the prevalent "Georgian" in the mother country. And after we became politically independent, our Roman and Greek revivals were nevertheless but lively and widespread reflections of contemporary Europe. Architectural education, if any, as I have just intimated, was along the lines of the "master builder" and his apprentice.

As the nineteenth century progressed here and there competent figures began to stand out. Richard Upjohn was among the first of a newer generation to do fine building, strongly under the influence of Pugin. Thus he naturally reflected the contemporary romantic revival brought to America, again directly from England. Upjohn's natural successors were P. B. Wight and James Renwick, who continued Romanticism in its Victorian guise under the renewed impetus of the Ruskinian idea.

Germany, as well, in the mid-nineteenth century sent her influence to help mold American architectural education. This was particularly true in the sixties following an intensive German immigration of men of culture and attainment along technical lines. Of course the predominant German influence in education has been upon our general university set-up, principally in the fields of graduate work, and especially in research. But it was on this wave of incoming educational ideas that many of our architectural schools were founded. So that if, as instruments for the teaching of building construction they grew up as appendices to scientific

schools, on the design side our new beginnings were almost invariably founded on the archaeological and highly academic procedure recently set up and established in the technical art schools of Germany. Munich was the Athens of Germany. Here in 1868 was founded the Koniglich Bayerische Technische Hochschule. Here developed the Koniglich Academie der bildenden Künste. To lead us out of the mid-century slough of despond came over the Brothers Herter. The twin Vanderbilt houses on Fifth Avenue struck a new note amid the quagmires of undesigned brownstone in which parvenu New York was wallowing. Gustav Herter came to New York in 1848 after two years in the atelier of the German architect Leins. Christian studied at the Stuttgart Polytechnic and then, interestingly enough, went to Paris and entered the École des Beaux-Arts in 1855; his education thus developing under two influences.

It is only a little over seventy years ago that the first organized architectural course, properly so-called, was established in this country. In the interval previous to that there were surprisingly few architects of training in America. The buildings which date from this period immediately subsequent to the Civil War bear silent, if pathetic, witness to that fact. Our emergence from the two dark decades of the sixties and seventies is marked by the new and surprising genius of two great figures, Henry Hobson Richardson and Richard Morris Hunt. Both of these men were trained abroad. Each brought with his vivid personality a brilliant interpretation of what he had seen and what he had learned during those particularly impressionable years in Europe. Immediately new life was breathed into American architecture, highly stimulated by the methods of European design imported by them. Richardson with his robust and individual romanticism, Hunt with his new eclecticism, made commanding by an extraordinary virtuosity, literally brought European architecture to these shores. Through them the awakening came. Theirs was the new dawn of architecture. The Exposition of 1876 in Philadel-



phia, with its imported exhibits, gave further artistic impulse which completed the awakening; that of 1893 marked its fruition.

In rapid succession the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Columbia, Illinois, Cornell and Harvard set up professional instruction in architecture to meet the educational needs of the increasing group of young men who found themselves called to a profession which had lain dormant, but which was now again becoming alive and alert. This was further stimulated by an era of ever-increasing building, which swept over this country after the Civil War, and particularly after recovery from its dire economic consequence, the period of reconstruction.

Strangely enough—or perhaps not so strangely—our schools first developed out of the scientific side of already existing university instruction. Technical engineering curricula had become well established and perfected. These, with slight modification, seemed to lend themselves as pattern; for organized instruction in architecture—architecture thus emerging educationally as the science of building.

But building, abroad, as attested by the increasing flow of returning travelers, and more directly and objectively in this country by the work of Richardson, Hunt, and a few others, seemed to possess certain qualities which marked them structures as transcending mere safe and economical construction. There was that in them which touched the aesthetic and stirred the spiritual in us. It soon became apparent that the design of new buildings must be permeated by certain qualities and principles reaching to realms beyond those of mere structure and materials. Thus was the art of architecture recognized and reborn for us, thus the aesthetic element in design found not only avowedly desirable, but demanded.

Now of all the schools of Europe which had organized and integrated the best of contemporary design into a well-balanced and well-administered curriculum, there stood out one, preëminent in architecture; the *École des Beaux-Arts* in Paris. Young Americans, with a new but unconquerable desire to do fine building, discovered this in increasing numbers. A growing group began to gather in Paris at this great shrine. Such young men as McKim, Carrère, Hastings, Flagg, Trowbridge,

Whitney Warren, and Austin Lord followed Richardson and Hunt to Paris. These men returned to lead our profession during its palmyest years. They brought back with them an equipment which put them immediately in the van. No wonder their enthusiasm for what Paris had given them sought and found vent. This resulted in the forming of what was originally known as the *Beaux-Arts Society of Architects*.

#### The Beaux-Arts Society of Architects.

The first organized meeting of the group, from which the *Society of Beaux-Arts Architects* afterward grew, was held in the *Café D'Orsay* in Paris on February 22, 1889. Those present were John Benson, John Bemis, William A. Boring, George Cary, Louis De Sibour, Ernest Flagg, John La Vallé, Edgar Josselyn, Edward Tilton, Breck Trowbridge, Whitney Warren and Austin Lord.

Of these some were students already admitted to the *École des-Beaux-Arts*. Others were candidates for admission. Some of the older men—Hunt, McKim, Carrère, Hastings, and others, had preceded them as students at the *École*. On their return to America they became pioneers practicing under the banner of the *French School*. The spirit of camaraderie, so keenly developed in Paris was kept alive by meetings, dinners and gatherings at French restaurants in New York—the *Brevoort*, the *Lafayette*, the *Logerot*, *Martin's*. To this closely knit group soon came the urge to create a permanent organization with the determined purpose of recasting, along the lines of the *Paris School*, the country's inadequate methods in architectural instruction.

And so in January, 1894, the *Society of Beaux-Arts Architects* was incorporated.

Six directors were chosen. Their names stand in letters of gold in American architecture: Charles F. McKim, Ernest Flagg, Richard H. Hunt, Walter B. Chambers, William A. Boring, John M. Carrère.

Out of all of this followed naturally and quickly the urge, particularly among the younger members of the new association, further to revise the country's—to them—old-fashioned, inadequate scheme of architectural instruction. At first the going was hard in the schools themselves, which resented such youthful, robust attack, but early in the van Columbia and M. I. T. joined in the newer plan.

Who could give our young men this newer inspirational teaching? Naturally those who had been trained under its aegis; foreigners, or those trained abroad or under the foreign method. And so the European influence on American architectural education became reinforced by the importation of foreign teachers in design, and a natural development in the improvement of our educational procedure was thus launched.

#### M. I. T. Calls Despradelle.

The most important initial move was made when Massachusetts Tech. called Despradelle. Particularly fortunate in the personality selected, the new system in design was auspiciously started. New inspiration followed his advent. He worked with students eagerly, actively and inspiringly, to become adored by an ever-increasing group. His spirit and his enthusiasm have left an indelible stamp on American architectural education.

And so the procession of critics from abroad continued. Ferran and Carlu, both "grand prix" winners, followed Despradelle; Hafner followed Duquesne at Harvard; Hornbostel and Delano started the procession of returning Americans at Columbia, followed by Prevot; and John Galen Howard came back to California. To Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania came Paul Cret. If Despradelle left an indelible impression on those who went to Boston, Cret has done so in a like manner upon those who studied under him in Philadelphia.

And so the honorable roll continues. Mauxion came to Cornell for only too short a time, to be called to the colors and lay down his life for France. Grappin at Pittsburgh, Arnal in Minneapolis, Hebrard in Ann Arbor, are active today. It is only yesterday that Ferrand passed from us and the school at Saint Louis.

Another factor in maintaining student design along French lines has been the criticism in our schools by returning Paris Prize men. Licht, Hirons, Wynkoop, Bailey and Sternfeld are among the many who have come back to teach in our architectural schools. The list is an honorable one; the influence widespread.

As the call for missionary work in education had been asserting itself more and more firmly among the men returning from Paris, ateliers were estab-

lished which were available for young men in offices, with men like Don Barber as patrons, in New York, and then, as the atelier scheme spread, in the larger cities of the country under Masqueray, Perkins and others. Projets, as we all know, were developed on common programs and judged together in New York by a jury of outstanding men in the profession, returned from the Paris School. One by one collegiate schools of architecture recognized the quality of work thus produced and the stimulus of the periodical concours toward higher quality in design. They joined the system. Ateliers and schools sent in their work and the judgments grew in size and scope. The organization at first was informal but effective.

In those days, and well through the first decade and a half of the present century, the work of the students was directly under the eyes of the leaders of the profession. As I look back now I cannot but be enthusiastic at the willingness of busy, successful architects with large offices to come, give their time, and serve on the juries. The other important element on the juries was composed of the critics of design themselves. Of course there was "log rolling," just as there was, and is, today on the juries in Paris; but the net result was stimulating in the highest degree to the student body throughout the country. And those were days of extraordinary progress in architectural education.

Any estimate of service to the profession, through devoted volunteer support of the Beaux-Arts Institute of Design, would be woefully incomplete without whole-hearted recognition of the continued, loyal interest and support of Lloyd Warren. His example and inspiration kept the organization vibrant with life. His passing was an outstanding loss to architectural education.

And so under these men from France, trained in her great school, there developed into our teaching certain underlying principles that are so fundamental, and so universal, that now, as the "concours system" is waning, there stands out all the more clearly the undoubted contribution made to us and the real debt we must acknowledge.

First of all our architects brought back the "case system" in education, far ahead of its apparent invention by lawyers and law schools. I believe the contrast between the older method of law instruction and the studying of law by "cases" offers a

real parallel. In architecture the projet, properly designed and carried out under proper criticism, offers a measure of reality to the student only to be surpassed by the development in actual practice of a problem in the office and for actual realization.

#### Result of European Influence.

In the second place contact with Europe and the close association with the critics of the French ateliers sowed the seed of organic design which our better schools have continued to develop and integrate more fully into American criticism. The old pre-Beaux-Arts days were characterized—as was the architecture of the time—by fitting the parts and functions of a building into a more or less skilful copy of an existing building in Europe; often without any recognition as to the appropriateness—if there were any—of adapting the particular building to the specific new purpose, to its site, or to the newer climatic conditions. From Paris, on the other hand, came the emphasis on plan as dominating design. We took this wholeheartedly. Now we have gone further as we teach the design of buildings from the “inside out” rather than from the “outside in.” And may I say in connection with this that our students are developing a three-dimensional sense—dispute it, if you will—through which they are becoming able to imagine and often practically to visualize, the complete structure as they develop the more and more studied plan. Plentiful use of plasteline and the model is becoming more and more universal as the projets develop. I have just left a group of students, on the last lap of their individual final theses, working in a drafting room very largely occupied by models in various stages of restudy and revision. The result is that today the student as a matter of course puts together his building properly to relate form and function, composing from the point of view of logic and convenience, as well as from that of form and mass. This turn toward truly organic design we owe primarily to Paris and the French emphasis on plan.

And in the third place I believe we owe to the French influence final and fundamental recognition of the element of fine art in architecture. Our schools here, as I have already pointed out, had grown for the most part out of scientific curricula; the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Lawrence Scientific School and the Columbia School

of Mines were cases in point. The coordinating of the aesthetic element with that of the structural is one of the splendid accomplishments of the past fifty years of American architectural education; even if, and latterly, in spite of the fact that there have been impulses to reverse the process; to differentiate and actually to eliminate the aesthetic. This is hardly the time or place to point out that should this “unscrambling” process be successful, it would mean that the end attained would approximate architecturally the state of affairs which obtained in the sixties and seventies of the last century. God forbid. If architecture is to be architecture, it will be so—and not merely building—through this aesthetic or spiritual element which raises building from mere structure into art. There is surely something to be sought for beyond the recognized necessities of economy, efficiency and physical comfort. There is that comfort of the soul which comes from the finely designed structure. The material in life is necessary, the imponderable and spiritual are paramount.

#### The Paris Prize.

Out of the ever closer association between the Society of Beaux-Arts Architects and student design in America grew the foundation of the “Paris Prize.” Annually since 1904 the winner of the nationwide competition held by the Paris Prize Committee is sent abroad for several years. By a subsequent arrangement he enters directly into the First Class of the Paris school. Representing the best talent in design that is offered among the young student designers in America, these Paris Prize men have made enviable records over there. Returning they have reaffirmed in vigorous fashion the influence of the French School. Mention has already been made of the role many of them have played and are playing as critics of design. Here the influence is direct. But indirectly, as well, the institution of the Paris Prize has been a powerful factor in reinforcing French methods in student work. For this prize has been the most sought after of all European scholarships and has thus dominated in spirit the ideals of a tremendous number of talented students throughout the country.

There is another similar foreign influence on American architectural education which, while not in proportion to that exercised by France and the

École des Beaux-Arts, has nevertheless had a definite effect on American architects and architectural education. I refer to the American Academy in Rome. Due primarily to the enthusiastic and devoted inspiration of Charles Follen McKim, and generously backed by men who stood preëminent for art in America, this Academy was founded in emulation, it must be acknowledged, of the French Academy, and along somewhat similar lines.

In this case, as well, each year a nationwide competition is held and a Fellow has been, and is, sent to Rome for several years of graduate study and research. This is true not only in architecture, but also in the sister arts of landscape, music, painting and sculpture. Thus, as has been recognized, not only by France and America but also by many other countries which have academies in Rome, exceptional opportunities can be made available for first-hand study amid those great sources from which so much that is best in art has flowed outward from Italy to the enrichment of the entire world. There men come into contact with masterpieces of classic, medieval and renaissance art and architecture and are inspired by first-hand familiarity with the world's best. Many have returned to further our American development along classic and Italian lines.

Perhaps from the intimate association which students of architecture enjoyed at the Rome Academy with those in the sister arts has come the greatest benefit of all. It is not so very long ago that The American Institute of Architects, standing for—as we believe—the best in contemporary architecture, turned to collaboration between the arts in education as a sound procedure leading to the further enrichment of architectural art. At Rome many learned not only the delights, but the inspiration and value of such close association. They have returned bearing a message. The Alumni of the American Academy today are giving special attention to collaborative effort among our students in schools of architecture and the sister arts, and are thus adding an important element to organized professional training. Every year the number of collaborative teams participating in their annual problem increases. This year there were some sixty-three teams of three or four men each. Best of all there is thus brought about a continual reaffirming

of the place of architecture among the great creative fine arts.

Thus emerging through many and renewed impulses from the most stilted and stultifying approach, and consequent meaningless procedure, prevalent in architectural education in America in the nineties, we find, in the space of some twenty years, our student work in design taking its place on a par with the work in Paris. As the Beaux-Arts method grew and developed, certain flaws of a system of excessive competitive effort became apparent. Competition became too keen. Students often worked to beat the other man rather than to produce the finest possible design of which, as individuals, each was capable. I believe, however, that the actual effects of this evil have been greatly exaggerated.

#### American Schools Declare Independence.

This was only one factor of impending change, however. America really declared independence when it finally eventuated and has been demonstrated that schools here were able to teach as well and as thoroughly as the great French school. Once independence established, it then began to become apparent that there were important factors in architectural education which had perhaps been somewhat obscured by over-emphasis on competitive design. In particular, the science of construction has been developing in this country by leaps and bounds. The wise school has kept up with it. It began to correlate student work more and more rather than to continue to follow the system of courses in separate compartments inherited from an earlier epoch. This integrating process has taken place and become effective to the undoubted benefit of the student of architecture. Today he does his design with a fuller recognition of the structural features involved, and is criticized by the professors in construction as well as by the professors in design. Vice versa, the architectural element is brought out wherever possible in the development of even highly technical structural courses. The students in our schools are now led and taught, as well, to think and design in terms of a wide range of materials commensurate with modern progress. The group of exterior materials still remains limited in range to those which will resist weather, it is true; and we have not as yet revolutionized exterior design. On the interior, of course, many new materials have been made



available. Of these our schools now take cognizance and modify and govern instruction in design accordingly.

When all is said and done, however, I firmly believe that the greatest contribution that the French school has made to architectural education is the development of a special sort of "esprit-de-corps" amongst architectural students. This has remained so keen as to form a far more effective stimulus to inspired student work than the periodical competition. I believe that spontaneous, lively, enthusiastic esprit-de-corps does more actual teaching than any system, pedagogical or otherwise, that any of us can devise or set up. When esprit-de-corps is healthy and active, good work is forthcoming; when it begins to lag, the quality of student work begins to slip. This we learned when we went to Paris. We brought it back from there. The very term itself can be expressed better in French than in any other language I know of.

It will be recognized, that the emergence from the domination of the so-called "Beaux-Arts idea" has produced certain important developments beyond the system and not a part of it. First there is the natural progress made in the knowledge of the use of structural methods and materials, unfolding progressively as our curricula outgrew the all-absorbing dominance of design and the overpowering interest in the periodical design projet. The necessity for correlating properly the fields of structural knowledge is being felt and met and is bringing about a saner and more mature point of view in architectural education, as well as a better balance between the various pedagogical elements.

Contributing further to the waning of the Beaux-Arts influence has been a certain inevitable falling off of the interest of the early leaders of the system of which I have just spoken, and particularly the falling off of an influx of new blood from abroad. In proportion as our schools have become effective the necessity for going abroad has disappeared. When I was a student in Paris there were about 115 American students in and about the school. Today I doubt if there are two or three men there. As a matter of fact men are actually returning to America to finish their education. Consequently, and perhaps to be regretted, the Beaux-Arts scheme here no longer receives sufficient new blood to keep it as alive and effective as formerly.

#### Utilitarianism.

Of course the great factor in education, as well as in the profession, which has made us sit up and take account of stock has been the depression and the resulting era of utilitarianism in architecture. This utilitarianism went hand in hand, in certain instances, with what I have ventured to term a kind of defeatism characteristic of the immediate post-war design in France and in Germany; perhaps inevitable, but none the less to be deplored. Out of the cataclysm is coming, however, a very interesting, and it must be acknowledged sane point of view towards stylism. Progressive young designers have now discovered that the use of a borrowed style during a generation may tend to make that style itself old-fashioned for the next. It took a world war and its aftermath to make evident the possibilities of getting away from eclecticism or choosing among the styles. I wonder if perhaps we may not now be embarked along a reasonable path toward the development of style itself. If along this road we fall into a few mudholes and strike a few obstacles, in the form of new "isms," we shall come through, I believe. We are emerging from such a phase, for instance, as the "gas pipe and cardboard" style, into something which again becomes architecture and takes on architectural expression. And I am sure that we are hurdling the school of the ugly which grew out of the plan of being different for the sake of being different, an unconscious but nevertheless serious psychological aberration, which only a worldwide disaster such as the war could produce. Perhaps after all it is not fair to ascribe these evils to Europe alone, for adherence to "ism groups," such as these, have marked our own designers, perhaps in not so great a degree as in devastated France or impoverished post-war Germany.

Nevertheless there are further elements in the continental educational program which we could follow to the undoubted improvement of our system of architectural education. In particular two "fetishes" have persevered in America during all the years in which we have planned, modified and changed our curricula toward ever better instruction. It is now time that they be discarded and buried forever. I refer to the "credit system" and the planning of an architectural course on the "year basis." There should be no such thing as specific

credit toward a total of say 132 units and then the degree. A professional course should be perfected and then specified and required. Certain fields of specialization may be advisable. If so, these in turn, should be clearly specified and adhered to. As for the other artificial measure, the "academic year," I believe it an absurdity. Promotion should be progressive and occur whenever accomplishment calls for it. Some men absorb quickly, some slowly. That a common pace should be set is devastating for the brilliant scholar and demoralizing for the poor one. Fortunately some of us are getting rid of these two evils. It is perhaps fair to believe that the stimulus thereto has arisen out of our experience in European schools.

#### The "Mentor System."

As we acknowledge reality and get away from the fetters of precedent and convention, we in the educational field, naturally turn to the profession, for which we are training young men, for constructive suggestion in turning away from pedagogical systems which may have become outworn. Through its Committee on Education The Institute and its members have come into contact more and more closely with our schools. And now a third factor has appeared with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards which determines fitness, through its constituent members, for practice. Thus with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture we have three representative bodies small enough to meet in common. Recently attention has been given by these to the transition from school to practice. A constructive program has been devised and proposed which I believe will go far to formalize necessary experience supplementary to school, and to bridge the gap. With the institution of a "Mentor System," whereby a student gets intimately in touch with a representative member of the profession and upon graduation develops his three years of experience and practical supplementary training under this mentor, I believe we may be solving in a practical way the problem of necessary supplementary educational experience. In the old days the professional architect and the student reacted upon each other through the Beaux-Arts Society, its educational program and juries. Today, in perhaps more direct fashion,

the absorbing of students into the profession can be accomplished naturally under the guidance of a friendly "mentor" of ability and experience.

For let me repeat: The schools do not, and can not use the precious and only too short five years to train "draftsmen." Nor can we devote exclusively any of these five years—an apparent maximum—to training "craftsmen." What we must aim at is to afford carefully planned, organized instruction, unobtainable elsewhere or later on, which will equip, at least along lines of theory, sound construction and creative development, young men to assume—after reasonable practical experience—the title of "architect," serve their clients and adorn the profession.

And so since the mid-nineteenth century it is fair to say that steady progress has been made in architectural education. Student work has kept pace with an astounding architectural and structural development in this country. I sometimes believe that our students have not only kept pace but are outstripping the slow process of style. Certainly their design is forward looking and prophetic. We have moved far indeed from Ferguson's famous definition of architecture, given in all seriousness:—"Architecture is nothing more or less than the art of ornamented or ornamental construction." The measure of scornful gaiety with which the student of today greets this sincere, if naïve, estimate by the great writer on architecture of his time, is a measure of the progress in architectural education achieved since then. And yet such a point of view seems to me no worse than the complete defection of the extreme mechanistic school, or the school of the ugly, both of which would have us eliminate beauty or art from architecture. This swinging from extreme right to extreme left might be confusing to our students, but I am continually impressed with the sanity of the present day young American studying architecture, who seems vigorously able to steer his way between the Scylla of fake stylism and the Charybdis of fake extremism. Happily for architecture, he is realizing that there are certain "imponderables" that breathe a living spirit into its works, certain "immutables" that form the basis of a true aesthetic. Together they affirm to our clear-seeing young men the creed that while architecture is a splendid welding of art and technique, architecture is still the mother of the arts.

## Essentials for Creative Design

BY DR. WALTER GROPIUS

*Address at the Sixty-ninth Convention, Boston, June 2, 1937*

**F**EELING greatly honored at being asked to give a brief statement about my ideas of education before The American Institute of Architects, I ask you not to expect my contribution to be a ready-made scheme for an American architect's training. For, being a newcomer in this country, I am very anxious first to make myself acquainted with the conditions peculiar to the United States, their history and tradition, their art and industry, before I may feel entitled to make any specific suggestions for reforming architectural education in this country. So I am going to confine myself to making more general remarks, which I believe to be universally true, regarding education towards creative design.

There are, I should think, many symptoms indicating that Architecture is setting out again to play a leading and comprehensive part in the generation to come. That is to say, that Architecture has to come to terms with the machine and is to take the lead in forming the whole entity of our towns with its help. We have no other choice in the matter. If we fail to achieve this, the rapid current of modern development may sweep us aside. I insist emphatically upon leaving to Architecture and to the Architect the leading rôle in art and art training which became lost to them during the transition from hand to machine work in our own era. This is not a question of giving one profession intellectual precedence over others but a natural arrangement in keeping with their different natures. A painter, a sculptor, or a craftsman builds up his work personally with his own hands, whereas the work of the architect is dependent upon the collaboration of numerous assistants. Painting, sculpture, hand work and machine work are all to be developed again in an organic relationship with the art of building. Thus we should help the coming generation of architects to become again the backbone of the whole building profession, to develop abilities of leadership by virtue of which there can be unity in the work as a whole in spite of a multiplicity of collaborators.

I feel bound to deal first with the basic mentality and the aim of architectural education before its outline can be drawn. So may I make clear what in my opinion should be this final aim of architecture and what picture of the ideal architect should be drawn for our students.

### *The Ideal Architect.*

The ideal architect needs, first of all, high human qualities. He has to deal with all sorts of people in the community, so he must build up in himself those social qualities which alone can help him to equalize the various temperaments among his many collaborators. He has to create an atmosphere of his own by means of his human capacities, his creative power, and his experience. He has to be the coordinating organizer who, starting out from social conceptions of life—conceptions which are valid for the whole community—welds all biological, social, formal and technical problems into a homogeneous whole. For architecture is an interpretation of life itself; in its highest embodiment it is the sublimest art, a social art. As Mother of all arts, architecture has to fulfill two different demands made by man: the purpose or objective of a thing, and its expression or form. The problems concerning the purpose or object of the thing are of a super-individualistic nature; they represent organic evolution as we see it in nature. For example, the development of a technical apparatus such as the machine is the result of the intellectual work of numerous engineers who, like links in the chain of development, build up on the efforts of their predecessors. On the other hand, the demands which we impose on the expression—that is to say, on the form of a thing—are of a purely spiritual nature. The form, the design, is not a product of the intellect, but of human desire and inspiration. Assuming leadership in both the intellectual and spiritual work means nothing less than building up an organic relationship between the needs of the people as a whole and their formal expression in architecture. This unity can be

achieved only by a strong character and by power of inspiration. Inspiration cannot be taught, but what we can do is to encourage young people to attack that great, complex task of genuine architecture by stimulating their indigenous inspiration and by fitting them for mastery of technique as well as for mastery of space. Every one will agree that a sound technical training is a necessary part of an architect's training, but it is only a part; and to develop this aspect of education at the expense of the creative qualities of mind and heart is a misunderstanding of the cause of architecture.

#### Science of Technique and Science of Space.

Architectural education has to cope with two entirely different problems. The art of building deals with the science of technique only—that is to say, with materials and construction; the art of architecture deals, in addition to that, with the science of space. Thus, the latter is much more comprehensive than the first. The architect must master both of them. He cannot be a good architect without being a skillful builder. That defines the wide range of his necessary manual and mental training and its different methods of approach: towards building, on the one hand; towards design, on the other.

#### Unity of Education.

If the unity of both is our aim, the unity of the whole training should be our main concern also in education, avoiding anxiously any too early specialization. Here we should learn from former periods of human activity. In the last original cultural epoch of Europe, in the time of the great Gothic architects, the art school was unknown, but close contact existed between the artist and the working life of the people. Craftsmen, artists, and architects of all grades had a common training-ground—the workshop. Their education was based on mere practice, everybody within his individual limits—architects, painters, sculptors and craftsmen—taking part in the totality of the building work.

#### "Art for Art's Sake."

It was much later, with the introduction of the academies, that the world of production and the artist slowly began to drift apart. Meant in the beginning as a scholarly supplement for the work done in the so-called "state manufactures" of

France, forerunners of our modern factories, they gradually became isolated and their relationship to the life of the community as a whole ceased to exist with the increasing development of the machine. Practice and design were slowly superseded. Unfettered by practical considerations, the academy withdrew the artist entirely from the work-a-day world and lulled him in a dream of genius, leaving him unequipped for the struggle of existence. His skill became merely a graphic and pictorial one and was therefore doomed to end in aesthetic speculation. Preoccupied with the making of the "genius," the academy forced the majority of her pupils, who could not hold this highest rank, to become social drones. True national art, pulsating through every branch of human activity, gradually died. Belonging in its character to former ages of monarchy, the academy thus resulted in a deadlock towards the architecture of today. It became the typical embodiment of the "l'art pour l'art" mentality and its chosen instrument. The old conception of the basic unity of all art in its relation to life and to the social strata of the community was therefore lost and gradually replaced by that aesthetic "art for art's sake" and the even more dangerous philosophy it sprang from, "business as an end in itself." The common attitude towards the arts turned consequently into a sentimental longing for historical forms by accepting aesthetic "*ressentiment*" and good taste as a substitute for creative art. This fatal obsession, still dominating the feeling of our present generation, needs to be overcome before true creative art, adopting the machine as the modern vehicle of form, may permeate again the community as a whole.

#### "Formative Art" and "Fine Art."

But what is creative art? When Goethe as a young man first saw the Strasbourg Cathedral, he discovered the difference between "formative art" as a new creative vision and "fine art" as a well balanced discipline towards a classic system of aesthetic norms. "Formative art" is what matters most in *our* time, where the new means of production—the machine—has changed the whole social background of our life, depriving the old forms of their former vital expression. Only formative art can create new genuine expression. A new conception towards formative art is beginning to



make itself felt. Today we insist upon the form of a thing following the function of that thing; upon its creator's desire for expression following the same direction as the organic building-up processes in nature and not running counter to that direction. We insist upon harmony again being achieved between intellect and desire. We are once again striving towards unity in the cultural world around us out of the boundless diversities in which the individual feels himself helpless and alone. The age just passed with its "isms" and its historical imitations was perhaps merely the reflection of our unconscious desire to probe the secrets of the whole visible world in order, in our longing for totality, to overlook nothing of importance in building up our new world.

But we have still to face the widespread heresy that art and architecture are just luxury, that fatal legacy from a generation which arbitrarily elevated some of its branches above the rest as the "fine arts" and, in so doing, robbed all arts of basic identity and common life. By depriving handicrafts and industry of the informative services of the artist, particularly of the architect, the academic education drained them of their vitality. But art is *not* one of those things that may be imparted. Whether a design be the outcome of skill or creative impulse depends upon individual propensity. But if art cannot be taught or learned, a thorough knowledge of its principles and sureness of hand can be. Both are as necessary to the architect of genius as to the ordinary artisan.

So if we agree from a clarified aspect that the academic education of the architect has become too aesthetically emphasized as a discipline towards "fine art" and, further, that it is "formative art" which will matter again in the future, our educational system towards creative design must be properly adapted to this aim.

#### Preliminary Training.

The fact that the architect of today is from the outset left too much to traditional specialized training, which merely imparts to him an eclectic knowledge and does not make clear to him the meaning and purport of his work, nor the relationship in which he stands to the world at large, can be counteracted first of all by putting at the beginning of the training not the "trade" but the "human

being" in his natural readiness to grasp life as a whole. The old idea of school has to be overcome and replaced by a working community. The powers and talents which are inherent in everybody should be united in free group labour, and such a community "will not learn for the school, but for life" and by itself will develop into a mature, organic life. The basis of that preliminary training should be a comprehensive course introducing the pupil to proportion and scale, rhythm, colour, light and shade, and allowing him at the same time to pass through every stage of primitive experience with materials and tools of all kinds in workshops. This will enable him to find a place where, within the limits of his natural gifts, he can obtain a secure footing. The more many-sided the aim, the more versatile the training must be. It depends upon the individual—how talented he is as a man, as an artist, as a technician—whether he will reach a higher or lower degree of perfection, the rank of a leader or merely that of an assistant. The different capacities must be sifted out carefully. Therefore, the preliminary training should be a general one, so as to enable all sorts of artists—architects, painters, sculptors, art hand-workers, and industrial designers—to receive effective training. This preliminary training would develop and ripen intelligence, feeling, and ideas, with the general object of evolving the "complete being" who, from his biological centre, will be able to approach all things of life with instinctive certainty and will no longer be taken unawares by the rush and convulsion of our mechanical age. The objection that, in this world of industrial economy, such a general training implies extravagance or a loss of time does not, to my mind and experience, hold good. On the contrary, it will not only give the pupil greater confidence, but it will also enhance considerably the productiveness and the speed of his subsequent specialized training. Only when understanding of the inter-relationship of the phenomena of the world around him is awakened at an early age, will he be able to incorporate his own personal share in the creative work of his time.

The training has to be sufficiently broad to enable each talent to find its own way. Its concentric structure has to embody all the essential components of design and technique right from the beginning

in order to give the student an immediate insight into the whole field of his future activities: the art of building and the art of space. It should not implicitly impart merely a knowledge of facts and norms but also things which constitute the most essential condition of every kind of creative work such as spatial perception, knowledge of materials, power of presentation; in addition to that, an understanding of business and industry and—the proper handling of materials and machines. The "how" of the training is therefore primarily of greater importance than the "what." If manual skill, the understanding of materials, and the powers of observation and thought are first properly trained, any specialized training can be absorbed rapidly without effort.

#### Professional Training.

The subsequent professional training has merely to give breadth and depth. It should differ from the preliminary training only in degree and thoroughness and not in the essence. Also in this more advanced part of the training, manual skill in handling materials and tools seems to me indispensable for an architect's training. It not only brings him into closer contact with the means of production and the manufacturing processes of today, but gives him, in addition to that, responsibility towards his own design. For manual practice only provides him with the right vision as to how his design may be executed. And he arrives at self-expression according to his *own* form. This manual training is not to be regarded as an end in itself but as an irreplaceable means of balancing theoretical knowledge. Building practical pieces of handwork of any kind—for instance, furniture—is as valuable a training as abstract spatial compositions in materials without any other purpose than training the student's sense of space and proportion. Making tentative experiments on materials—for example, observing the contrast between rough and smooth, hard and soft, tension and repose—he discovers for himself, by exercise of his hands, the peculiarities of materials such as their structure, texture and surface.

Simultaneously the student studies the buildings' construction, their representation and computation; but, here again, the more general studies of mechanics and physics should be thoroughly

studied before technical *results* are given by the teacher, in order to stimulate the student's mind towards his own creative thinking according to the laws of nature.

#### Training in Design.

The training in design must run parallel with the training in the science of building. The designer must learn a special language of shape in order to be able to give visible expression to his ideas. He has to absorb a scientific knowledge of objectively valid optical facts, a theory which guides the shaping hand and provides a general basis on which a multitude of individuals can work together harmoniously. This theory is, naturally, not a recipe for works of art, but it is the most important objective means for collective work in design. It can best be explained by an example from the musical world: the theory of counterpoint which, though in the course of the ages it may have undergone certain changes, is, nevertheless, a super-individualistic system for regulating the world of tones. Its mastery is required lest the musical idea should remain lost in chaos; for creative freedom does not reside in the infinitude of the means of expression and formation but in free movement within its strictly legal bounds. The counterpoint of space existed in former times in Greek and Gothic art, particularly within the old mason guilds. The academy, whose task it should have been from the middle ages, when it was still a vital force, to tend and develop this theory of the optical arts, failed because it lost touch with reality. Intensive studies must be made, therefore, to rediscover this grammar of design and to develop it, in order to furnish the student with the objective knowledge of visual facts such as optical illusions, material and abstract space, rhythm, light and shade, proportion, colour, and scale. Instead of receiving arbitrary, subjective ideas of design and ready-made results, the student gets that objective tuition in the basic laws which alone enables him to acquire the mental equipment necessary to give tangible shape to his own creative instincts. Careful cultivation and further investigation of these natural laws would do more to further true tradition than any fine arts instruction in old forms and styles. The study of old forms possesses significance only as a means of

showing the *way* in which our forefathers mastered the laws of nature.

#### The Final Aim of an Architect's Education.

To sum up, if we want to raise the standard of the architect's profession we must make it again socially and economically indispensable to the whole community; that is to say, we must definitely overcome that unpleasant state of being regarded by ignorant people as a costly aesthetic luxury within the building profession. We must "go the whole hog" by reuniting the art of building and the art of space.

The most essential factor of our educational system must be the unity of its entire structure in all stages of development. It must grow concentrically, like the annular rings of a tree, embracing the whole from the beginning and at the same time gradually deepening and extending it. Dividing the training into individual sections carried out separately as regards time and place, instead of simultaneously, must destroy its unity. The curriculum of the young architect must become again a comprehensive *hand and brain* training without any short-cuts which would turn out architects only half-educated. The authoritative layout of this curriculum must avoid any too rigid schedule, providing its framework rather than its component details.

The curriculum must include: craftsmanship, co-operation on building sites, and experiments with building materials, combined with thorough studies in space and colour, in draughtsmanship, in engineering and in the elements of town and regional planning. The drawing-board training of today, too bloodless, too aesthetically emphasized, must be balanced by more practical manual work, as drawing is an auxiliary means only.

The student must be taught to think responsibly and exactly, in materials and structural units instead of water-colours, in three-dimensional and spatial relations instead of two-dimensional pictures.

Teaching the methods of approach to the problems concerned, rather than giving too many fixed results, will broaden the student's vision and make him independent and mature.

Our educational aim for the coming architect is, therefore: a man with an open mind for the new social, formal, and technical problems of our time, who seeks to create a unity of his work, the functions of which correspond genuinely to our present conditions; a man who tends to find the right expression for our new civilization of the machine-age; a man of new vision.

I cannot finish this paper without giving my best thanks to the organizers of this meeting for having afforded me the opportunity of giving evidence of my ideas in architectural education.

May I say that I feel deeply impressed by the enormous scale of American architecture and particularly by the charming Colonial houses in this part of the country. It may seem rather a daring enterprise that I, as an European architect, venture to add my experiences to the bold planning and amazing technical perfection which you have achieved. So I hope you will feel after this evidence, that I do not intend to introduce a cut-and-dried style from Europe. Having started my new duties at Harvard, I want to make my students realize how inexhaustible the means of creation are if they make use of the innumerable products of our age and to encourage them in finding their *own* solutions. My ideas have often been interpreted as the peak of rationalization and mechanization. This gives quite a wrong picture of my endeavours. I have always emphasized that the other aspect, the satisfaction of the human soul, is just as important as the material aspect and that the intellectual achievement of a new spatial vision means more than structural economy and functional perfection. That is what makes our task so manifold and complex. More than ever before it is laid in the hands of us architects to help our contemporaries to lead a natural and sensible life instead of paying a heavy tribute to the false gods of make-believe. Good architecture should be a projection of life itself. So it should be our highest aim to produce a type of man who is able to visualize an entity rather than let himself get absorbed too early in the narrow channels of specialization.

## Speaking of Conventions

I LIKE conventions! Architectural conventions! I like the getting ready, the meetings around the hospitable mahogany of Ralph Gray, where the committee discusses—and tests—the exquisite examples of Hubert Ripley's suggestions for refreshing the spiritual man in the great week to come—samples that always elicit ah's and oh's of unalloyed admiration and a general stretching of legs under the table. It is the lighter amenities of the convention that appeal to all of us; the sterner stuff will be taken care of by the housing enthusiasts and the civic designers, who wrestle with the problem of leading the masses to water with the optimistic hope that they will drink. It is of the amenities I sing. I pray for fair skies and gentle winds and balmy weather and let the seminars catch the hindermost!

And so the week approaches, preceded by preliminary parties. Professor Killam sings his swansong—the terror of the architectural student after a long, intrepid and rich career at Harvard is stepping down, and the plaudits of his host of friends accompany him. He delivers a disquisition on architecture and architectural education that brings them up standing, fire in his eye, a magnetic and convincing ring to his voice, a challenge to his message. I'm a middle-of-the-road man, he explains; no nonsense with the boys; they should not teach the teachers nor should the teachers be blind to the temper of the times. A forceful man, Professor Killam, true, sincere, lovable and one who will leave a large gap in the wall.

I like conventions! The delegates are coming in under the welcoming arch of The Somerset—they have been trickling in all day—from West and South, and they have a warm reception. Warm, indeed, for the weatherman outdoes himself in his ecstasy to make New England skies smile, spouting the mercury against the top of the glass. In the blue lobby,—what an attractive gallery of New England houses has Kenneth Reid set out in Pencil Points, blue jacket adorned with Cod and Pilgrim, a veritable *vade mecum*—in the blue lobby,—and what's this row of photographs?—brain twisting, but not for Mrs. Levi nor Maurice Feustmann. In the interior blue lobby, where the indis-

pensable Kemper, moving always quietly and competently, has established his band of charming and efficient nymphs at a long diagonal table, the electric fans buzz, but make little stir in the air, nor flutter the rows of yellow, red and blue badges. But heat does not affect them; this is nothing to Washington. Frank Sullivan declares it positively cool. (Perhaps he, too, has heard sleigh bells jingle from frosty midwinter snow scenes nearby.)

Coats are off in the Mahogany Room, while John R. Fugard and Thomas Cope carry on with tact and dispatch a discussion on state organization; shall The Institute relinquish all save high hats, honor, Prince Alberts, gold medals and obituaries to a lusty brother state organization? Arthur Holmes of New Jersey rises to suggest a compromise—and when New Jersey speaks, we listen. Ralph Gray, immaculate in coat and vest, skillfully dissects, elucidates, and probes the Pennsylvania resolution. He is temperate and dispassionate; there is no need for two parallel organizations. The Institute started to bring order out of chaos; let it continue with the aid of state organizations inside the fold. And so agree W. H. Malcolmson and Clair Ditchy of Detroit; and so, too, Walter McCornack. Ralph Flewelling of Southern California, where State Associations flourish, does not favor disassociation. . . . A resolution not to split is the harmonious ending of a hot session.

What genial hospitality we find as the clans gather! In a bosky nook of Newtonville, Director and Mrs. Ripley revitalize, in their spacious rooms and on their vine-clad terrace, their incoming friends. How pleasant it is in the cool of the evening to sit on the terrace of The Somerset with travelers from California—John Bakewell and Warren Perry, Frederick Meyer, Edwin Bergstrom—and reminisce of the old days, of Willis Polk. Max Furbringer joins the gathering. There's Julian Levi—no convention is ever complete without him—and Roy Jones.

And June first dawns.

The convention opens with a goodly gathering in the ball-room to listen to the words of welcome



from Bishop Lawrence who, as President Voorhees says, is of graciousness the epitome, and of architectural acumen astonishing. He talks to us as a fellow architect—of Bulfinch, of Olmsted, of the growth and general development of orderliness and civic beauty and individual sacrifice for the common good. A masterly introduction to our convention, at which point some are of the opinion that all was said that could be said and that we might then and there adjourn! But we have many more high moments in store for us. President Voorhees calls upon past presidents to rise and show themselves. Robert Kohn, in white, stands up; much-beloved H. H. Kendall. Others will follow, for six presidents will have come: Ernest John Russell, Irving K. Pond, D. Everett Waid, and R. Clipston Sturgis. He speaks of his past two years in office, and slides in a potent word for the New York Fair of 1939, pointing out that there is to be another fair in San Francisco in 1939, and judiciously remarks that the choice of the *locale* of the 1939 convention will not rest with him. Edwin Bergstrom reads his report . . . a doughty man in whose hands lie the sinews of war, and in what hands better? And Secretary Ingham rises for The Board's report.

There are no problems of the profession other than to enjoy ourselves, and we slip away to join William Emerson at Rogers for lunch. For many of us, nurtured at this fount of inspiration, this will be the last opportunity to walk the halls of Rogers . . . for it disappears, passes into memory, next year, with all the associations, the triumphs and despairs that have gathered themselves between its walls. How pleasant to see the old familiar faces: Harry Gardner and William H. Lawrence. We feel that things cannot go very far wrong if they are still behind the scenes.

Concord is lovely—even if the day is warm; the flood beneath the rude arch (now imperishably concrete) is at its most enchanting as it meanders off into lush meadow-land. The farmer lad starts from his granite block to repel the British. Isn't this rugged base just a bit out of character with the fineness of the bronze? Emil Lorch suggests it is so . . . but perhaps this ruggedness recalls the character of those high-spirited early farmer boys. It is pleasant under the trees to talk here with

Pierre Blouke and Jefferson Hamilton of the complexities of \$7,500 houses. We linger. A cozy place for a battle, not big and ranging like Gettysburg; and on its edge, according to the sign over the door of the little house, Emerson and Thoreau have gone into photographic partnership. The old Manse drowns across the field.

Gore Place, Watham, a fine old brick house with its sweeping arms atop a gently-rolling lawn. What an afternoon for The President's Reception! A marquee is set out, with chairs nearby, under the trees. A gentle breeze moves up from the lake. Is it strange that the reception transfers itself *en masse* from the stately rooms to this charming spot? Indefatigable and of stalwart arm are Gordon Allen, Ham Robb, Andy Hepburn and Lovell Little, in white jackets;—smiling, debonnaire, and talkative in gay groups. Henry Shepley, Mrs. Shepley, Mrs. Gropius, President Voorhees and Mrs. Voorhees move among the throng. Charles D. Maginnis, with the happy prescience of honors to come, and Mrs. Maginnis at his side, expands on everything, and buoyantly. We rather shun the house—it is all so attractive outside—and inspect its fine interiors fleetingly. There's Ellis Lawrence and Alfred Granger and Holman of Nashville in white, Dempwolf from Southern Pennsylvania, Meeks from Yale, and Fred Godley, Charles Butler and Dick Shreve. And all the rest of us.

But the "Pops" await us and we must bid farewell to the fine old Place; and presently we find ourselves warmly ensconced in Symphony Hall, at little tables very near together with cooling drinks, and Mr. Fiedler waving his baton over all. What heart-stirrings when the orchestra breaks into *Les Pompiers*! Julian Levi is the only one who can follow the number word for word and not a skip. He trembles with joy—would that he had his casque and had had an opportunity to rehearse a bit. He would have led a chorus from the stage.

If the delegates got nothing else from this convention, they certainly had an electric experience of Boston's famous east wind, for in it came, in the still watches of the night, and forced many of us to draw up a blanket. O noble east wind, revivator, and saviour of many a sweltering hour under the Gilded Dome. But I wonder if that inde-

fatigable, far-ranging Russell Whitehead ever noticed it. He moves gracefully in a world of his own.

There is to be no voting for officers at this convention, no balloting, no wondering who is to guide our destinies, for with no opposition to the slate of Officers and Directors, they are swept into office *viva voce* by acclaim: Charles D. Maginnis, and Frederick H. Meyer, all-embracing and competent Charles T. Ingham, and Edwin Bergstrom. It is with genuine and universal enthusiasm that the vote is cast. Maginnis is a fine man to lead us.

And so the convention draws to the meat of its business—the knotty problem of the architect in public works.

Frank Sullivan leads the discussion with the suggestion that private architects should be selected from a qualified list. And the battle is on. Edgar Williams points to the value of competitions. Charles Klaunder now appears—imperturbable and greatly to be admired—he has a method of handling clients that should be incorporated in the Code of Professional Practice—he is for competition. Electus D. Litchfield reads a paper, takes up the plight of the architect from the Milwaukee convention, and carries him to the present moment. He must be defended from himself, from civil service employees who would preëempt the whole field to themselves. William Lescaze, our modernist of glass walls and rigorous interiors, who identifies himself as one of those queer birds who does only modern architecture—Lescaze has a dashing way about him, reminiscent of the sea, the latest cut in trousers, the last word in shirtings, of ubiquitous pipe—and he knows whereof he speaks. Would that the acoustics of the blue hall were better able to convey his rippling accent to the delegates—Lescaze would have none of the Secretary of the Treasury choosing from a list of prequalified architects (why always “pre”?—perhaps because of the never failing innate caution of the architect in writing his specifications) of choosing from a list of prequalified architects for a slice of the federal pie—undemocratic in this great demos of ours; and with the able assistance of Ralph Flewelling—those Californians certainly breed ready ideas, the air is clearer there, the sun brighter—offers a dexterous amendment (we missed the eager corrective figure of Goldwin Goldsmith of Texas, our

lightning calculator of Roberts’ Rules) that competition might go hand in hand with selection. And so The Board of Directors has another problem on its hands—the mutual, harmonious, satisfying of youth and its lusty vigor of new ideas with age and its wise, undeniable experience. Frank Sullivan bows to the amendment—though his committee had worked hard to create a formula to satisfy the Secretary, whereby all rights and privileges would be cautiously guaranteed and all possible incriminating footsteps precluded. Frank Sullivan does it well. He has the ready word, the air.

Noon swings on and the caravan awaits outside; our fleet of busses . . . and we are surging toward Marblehead. The good Lord has been gracious to us and given us a brilliant day. The Eastern Yacht Club doors receive us, its spacious verandahs spreading a gorgeous panorama of boat-filled harbor before us. There are innumerable round tables. There are ships, models and photographs. Yachting history has been made between these old walls. There is *apéritif*, and there is lobster *thermidor*—and withal a universally hearty appetite. Wit, joyousness and gaiety flow. We note the magic hand of Frank Chouteau Brown, prodigious HABSer, at one table. His front door, not far from the Clubhouse, has been—and is—ajar. At another table, Frederick Garber, his head—you know his head—wrapped from the rigors of the sea breeze in a knotted handkerchief, sits opposite Dwight James Baum. Think a moment on that picture. Major Totten and Mrs. Totten are with them, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter McCornack, all hard at investigation of the mysteries of the sea. The complexities of the profession yield to the lure of the ocean.

Eventually, after letting out our belt a hole, we ferry across the harbor to wander through the narrow and quaint streets of the old seaport town. With all the seductions that modernism may present, it was pleasant to see the pull that the old proportions and styles still had on the sightseers; clandestine rules were brought out; heights of rooms and subtleties of paneling noted; so that it was indeed a difficult task for transport-director Robbins to “re-bus” the throng. Compelling were the Lee House, the empty King-Hooper House with Sam Chamberlain doing the honors—alas, its fu-

ture seems precarious—and then! ah, then, we discovered the steep ascending street that led to a dark blue door, inside of which were Mr. and Mrs. I. Howland Jones with extended hands of welcome. Their porch gives among other things such a beautiful glimpse over the harbor through a magnificent wisteria vine dripping with purple clusters that we tarry despite desperate honking of horns.

Salem opened its many treasures to us—the exquisitely furnished Pingree house, the House of Seven Gables, and the majestic march of Chestnut Street house-fronts. It was quite a job to get back past Suffolk Downs and through the crowded tunnel to William Emerson, Everett Meeks, and Walter Gropius.

A noble gathering, this second evening in which it was gratifying to find so many students and draftsmen—filled the convention hall of The Somerset, with our chairman of the Education Committee at the helm and worthy he was for such a job, steering adroitly between traditional Scylla and modern Charybdis. A word of introduction, and Dean Meeks advances, superb, expansive, smiling. He places his manuscript on the desk, begs for an extra quarter of an hour, and reads. He proved to be historical, tracing the inception of appreciation of architecture to the efforts of Hunt, to Richardson, McKim, Chambers, Boring and Carrère, to our never-too-much-to-be-held-in-admiration Despradelle and Paul Cret. (Here Gropius, who has sat back in his chair, solemn and serious, consults his printed pages; here Emerson jots down a discreet note.) Meeks continues. He points to the value of the Beaux Arts system, of the Academy at Rome, of what they have brought to education, breathing that imponderable but vital essence of esprit-de-corps through the schools. Architectural education has come far; no longer Fergusson's precept: Architecture is the art of ornamented construction. Out of the war-cataclysm has come a new style and saner point of view. It took this war to get away from eclecticism. But even now the cardboard style is going and "ism" groups and fetishes are vanishing. The ordinary credit system and arbitrary academic year should follow into night. Architecture is still the mother of the arts. Good architecture is the projection of life, itself.

Meeks sits down. Perhaps the extra *quart d'heure* was not necessary, but we learn he has no quarrel with modern tendencies.

And Walter Gropius arises—thin, severe, serious, attractive, inspired. The room, despite the great gathering, is absolutely still. He puts out the light and raises his manuscript. In rapid, well-enunciated English, he lays his thesis before us. Architecture is setting out again to take a leading part in the generations to come, and to do so must come to terms with the machine—(poor human life bedevilled on all sides by the omniscient machine, from which escape seems as impossible as from Alcatraz). We are becoming coordinating organizers. The academic education of the architect has become too aesthetically emphasized as a discipline toward "fine art" and has lost touch with actualities in a sentimental clinging to old forms. The age of "isms" just past we must discard (here Emerson looks at Meeks, who sits imperturbable and serene). Academic training has killed creative impulse. The theory of counterpoint regulates the world of tones and its rules apply to architecture: free movement in strictly legal bounds. We must go the whole hog by uniting the art of building with the art of space.

He sits down; he has made a profound impression. There is much applause. He smiles. If I were a youngster I should be drawn to his banner—and yet, what is there to his pronouncement that we oldsters do not recognize? Weren't our old friends mentioned by Dean Meeks doing their best for us along these same lines? "Machine" had not raised its head, but spatial perception in our day was circulation, and the "how" was also more important to us than the "what." Was it not our older credo reasserted in modern language? Surely there's no quarrel. Scylla may lie down with Charybdis—as was most charmingly demonstrated by D. Knickerbacker Boyd and Frank Voorhees to a gathering of friends in the Grill afterwards, over silver fizz and baked Alaska—a combination that Professor Gropius tried, not unsuccessfully, to come to terms with.

It is always a pleasure to sit under the impressive figure of the undisturbable Louis La Beaume—architect, museum director, sartor resartus—Louis of resource in any emergency from headaches to



captious speakers, equally at home with prince and peasant. Prince and peasant? Our day is dated! Though Louis makes no reference to it, perhaps he is pondering the fate of nations today and the divagations of that little chap Eros in France.

He takes the gavel firmly in hand this morning, and Ralph Walker pinch hits for Saarinen on Civic Design (that more-engaging suit that our familiar Town Planning has put on). He refers to Bishop Lawrence's eloquent words on Bulfinch and Olmsted, and asks Arthur Holden to tell us how the architect may be paid for this work, and Frederick J. Adams why the architect should be interested in it, and they both do so, incisively. Zoning laws must be changed to bring the neighborhood back. They cite the effectiveness of the Colonial community. They use as an example for effective development the juncture of a north-south river crossed by an east-west railway line. Louis shudders, he feels St. Louis has been implied—but, we notice, he does not lose his poise.

What an intricate and far-flung problem is that of Housing, and what yeoman's service has not Walter McCornack brought to this activity, still, after five years, he opines, in the laboratory stage. The convention is stirred to express itself on this subject, and its perplexities, with hope that it may not all go to the speculative builder. Perhaps we expect too much of the lending agencies, that they will lay their enterprises in our laps—perhaps we are too aloof to our civic responsibilities. But good work has been done in Chicago, John Fugard pointed out, and Clement Fairweather, in New Jersey—that volatile, articulate state. Albert Evers reports for the Pacific Coast that the pattern is the same. Electus D. Litchfield tells us what New York is trying to do. Moise Goldstein of New Orleans and J. Frazer Smith of Tennessee ask some pregnant questions as to ways and means. Let us not criticize the problem, says Stanley Parker wisely—let us rather appraise the projects. McCornack offered seven resolutions and they were passed with alacrity, virtuosity and breath-takingly by Chairman La Beaume, who, showing a breadth of facility, hardly gives the opposition, until the end, a chance to voice itself. Rebuilding large areas in our cities is on its way. The small house problem is tending more and more in the direction of large scale housing developments.

And did Ex-Governor Eberhart give us a diverting half-hour? Shades of Calhoun and Daniel Webster! Ask Louis how he liked that one about the horse and the ass. We missed Miles Colean and Walter Pettit at this session. They speak with authority and are pleasant to listen to, but they had their innings in the afternoon. As a final little fillip to this discussion, we had a tilt on the real-estate fraternity. Robert Kohn, at all times suave and eloquent, was never more so than when he rose to object to particular advances being made to it; why then not others? There were others, and he named 'em, gentry of guile, of a quite different caste. D. Knickerbacker Boyd—he of the interesting Altoona Experiment—objects to coupling the two professions; Ex-President Waid regrets this comparison, and Kohn is happy to withdraw his allusion. Arthur Holden, remarking that we have no monopoly on good intentions, resolutely holds for coöperation with the aforesaid fraternity and he gets it. It's nice to get the blood up and it takes a day or two to do it. A convention is too much on its good behavior when it first shakes hands.

Fortuitously, to harmonize the meeting at this point, Ex-President R. Clipston Sturgis appears. It is good to see his fine, keen face, his youthful figure, his impeccable dress; to hear his slightly Oxford accent. He pays eloquent tribute to the work of Edward C. Kemper and to his undeviating devotion and skill in handling a changing group of architects since Mr. Sturgis put him in charge. He brought the welcome news that, returning from England and Europe, he could assure us that everything we've done in small house development is emphatically more to be desired than like accomplishment on the other side.

For many of us this was enough, though the insatiable went on through the afternoon. We, however, jogged over to Cambridge to visit some of the handsome old houses on Brattle Street: Elmwood, the house of James Russell Lowell, to which has been so skillfully added a wing by our fellow member, Miss Howe, that some asked which portion she actually designed—the house or the wing. The door was open wide at William Emerson's house, with Billy and his charming wife to greet us. We met many friends here. Jean Hebrard was particularly pleased with the neat arrangement of



firewood on the side-porch—and was still pondering the implications of Dr. Gropius of the evening before. And the Longfellow House—Vassall-Craigie, if Bob Bellows is in earshot—stately and full of poetry and history, and mouldings.

Alas, that the heavens were threatening and when we arrived at Lowell House in Harvard College the tea that Professor and Mrs. Coolidge had spread for us in the enchanting court, lined by blazing azalea, had to be moved into the Commons Room. But what did that matter? It was large; it was elegant with its scenic *decors*, and the chairs distinctly easy; and tea was most inviting, and a fire, too—which one would have hardly expected after Monday and Tuesday. The environment of education has moved apace; Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch and Abbott have put the *cachet* of grace, refinement and good taste upon the simple walls we oldsters used to know. Why ever graduate, said one of the brethren—echoed undoubtedly by many a carefree youngster to be told just why in no uncertain tones by a stern papa.

No pilgrimage to Boston made by an architect is complete unless he visits the *sanctum sanctorum* of the profession, the Architectural Club on the steep slope of Somerset Street. And many found themselves there to wander over the building, imbibe the atmosphere, and something else; and to realize that here alone is the last place on earth today that the orders are taught! It was a joyous, long drawn out assembly, with even Pope Barney's automobile getting into the spirit of the thing and careening over Beacon Hill.

That evening, if it had not rained, we could have wandered in the court of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, with fountains playing and strung with Chinese lanterns—class-day-wise. It's a pleasant place to linger, under the eyes of Apollo and the Muses, and the bronze charioteer. But the halls of the Museum are spacious and the orchestra discoursed music to us in the Tapestry Room, where Director and Mrs. George H. Edgell received the delegates. And once again the skill of Ripley was found on the fair napery spread on the table in the corner—a delectable punch. Messrs. Renoir, with his enchanting and gay *Bal à Bougival*, Gauguin, van Gogh, and their confrères provided other *divertissements* until the last note faded and the marble floors began to come through our shoes.

A perfect June day for the final day. It opens like a flower, and Frank Sullivan again takes the floor, this time to speak for alteration to the east front of the Capitol. Page on page of precept and example, he gives as quotations from testimony before Senate Committee. He is eloquent, full of his subject. He and his Committee had studied the problem. Egerton Swartwout has written of the historical side of the case; the Capitol is a work of many architects, with constant changes and enlargements. Sullivan, with him, makes vigorous plea for the extension as replacing defective sandstone and preserving the work of Thornton, Latrobe and Bulfinch. Away with mystery and sentiment! But does Leicester B. Holland, Chairman of the Committee on Preservation of Historic Buildings, let it go at that? He does not. Up he jumps—short, alert, brisk—to his feet! He marches to the rostrum. There is no doubt in his ringing periods of the historical value of the building as it now stands. What are the gains that warrant such sacrifice? Trivial to the loss of historic material and the slow fruition of the present design. Marble? It is not appropriate. He has already written it a piece of parvenu vandalism if the change be made. He is forceful; he is incisive; he is cogent. And now, now, now, we are getting upon architectural grounds! At last . . . at last . . . architects talking about architecture! There is a real snap to the air. Why should The Institute remain silent on the matter? Congress looks to an authoritative source for guidance. We cannot be silent. Bakewell leans forward to catch the details of the painted dome. Emil Lorch is very attentive. Charles Maginnis springs to his feet—tranquilizing, mollifying, warning, admonishing, and suggests the assembly is not qualified by knowledge intimate enough to act officially. Dr. Holland will not admit this; he rises to new heights. He would give no lecture in history, draw no red herrings, but standing on Massachusetts Bay will say—for God's sake leave it alone! And our sentiments thus drawn upon we do—severely, in a well-rounded resolution.

I'm not quite sure of the validity of Dr. Holland's argument. Maginnis may have seemed unduly cautious, but he may have been right after all.

Between the opposing forces, however, there certainly was staged a vigorous controversy—most

healthy sign—on architecture, from which the delegates did not shy away . . . and they put The Institute on record as taking a stand on an important aesthetic point. *Pro bono architecto cum publico!* And that ought to mean something!

---

Mrs. Gardner's Palace, Fenway Court, was at its loveliest in the afternoon sunlight, and one must have been indeed a modernist to have gotten nothing out of the flowers in the courtyard, the simple great rooms, their antique furniture, their pictures and their tapestries. Over-crowded, you say—a trifle—but remember that Mrs. Gardner lived on the top floor and entertained in the lower rooms.

---

The Sixty-ninth Convention draws to a close, with white fronts and charming ladies. Controversies are put aside and the mind attuned to the infinite—ininitely pleasant little meetings before the dinner in the upper chambers of The Somerset, with much mirth and gaiety; and eventually we find our seats. Already at the head table sit the distinguished arbiters of our fate: Hoit, Evers, McCornack, Shreve, de Gelleke, Ingham, Voorhees, Bergstrom, Ripley, Crowell, Nolting, Goldstein and Lee. Add La Beaume and Maginnis and Mr. Roosevelt might move them bodily into the Supreme Court. He could do no better. Countless round tables fill the hall where late the embattled Capitolists fought and bled. Smart blue, silver-embossed menus tell us that *bouillabaisse*, Boston style, will shortly tempt us. It does. After we clear away the cockle-shells, we dip into a fine flavor of the ocean. And what a dinner! No speeches. Time on the march under the skillful hand of Stanley Parker shows us The Institute in 1857; in 1891; today. What happy, simple days those were of '57 in Delmonico's. A whiskered lot in high hats and solemn faces, with much the same predicaments as our own. A bit gayer perhaps at Jake Wirth's, in 1891. (Roger Griswold need never be out of a job.)

Among an inspiring throng of Fellows, the new

Fellowships are given out and Louis Simon gets a great hand. And so does Edward Hewitt. They deserve it. Honorary members. New directors take their places; and an ovation greets that fine old patriarch, Hubert Ripley, as he steps from the dias and is escorted to his table to make way for his successor, Albert Harkness. He is entitled to a furlough. He has worked long and fruitfully in the vineyard.

With a stroke of the gavel and a most engaging twinkle of the eye, President Voorhees shears off his official head and Maginnis comes forward, amid plaudits. Neatly and deftly he assumes his responsibility; the glory and the pomp depart, leaving the presidency behind. Though now it is a lenten season for architecture, the Corinthian capital in eclipse, a season for it to sit contentedly in its skin, he is not to be defeated. There is ample room between Vice-President Frederick Meyer of San Francisco and himself for wide development. He gives a pretty acknowledgement to Voorhees for his past record. Then comes a word from lithe, Ex-President Irving K. Pond, almost twin of the A. I. A., who even at eighty does not let the grass grow under his feet (*vide* Life June 14 and read his *Big Top Rhythms*) and with a final knock of the gavel, the convention is history.

Not quite, however, for next day Wallis Howe, president of the Rhode Island Chapter, and Pete Jackson guide many of us through the charm of Providence to a Lucullan feast at Squantum, after which, they were inhospitable enough to sweep us gasping past a row of particularly enticing chairs spread invitingly upon the lawn. But it was worth the high effort that we made to get by them, for we never would have enjoyed the lovely gardens of Mrs. Moses Taylor—where many of the directors joined us—or continued to Newport for a glimpse of the challengers and cup defenders riding at anchor not far from the lawns of Mrs. J. Nicholas Brown, whither she had bidden us to tea.

*On dit quelquefois au village. . . .*

I like conventions, architectural conventions.

H. D. C.

## Closing of The Convention

ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY PRESIDENT CHARLES D. MAGINNIS

AT the end of the dinner, which marked the last session of the Convention, retiring President Voorhees inducted into office the new Officers and Directors.

Mr. Voorhees said: "And now comes the most difficult part of all—the laying down on my part of a most delightful experience. But it is an even greater pleasure to turn over to our new President this gavel of authority. His selection is an outstanding one, and it is particularly pleasing to all of us, and certainly to me, that we have come to Boston to find another President of The Institute.

"I am going to ask Past-President Henry H. Kendall, and the President of the Boston Chapter, Henry R. Shepley, to conduct Charles D. Maginnis to this place—which he shall soon occupy with full authority."

*(The audience arose and applauded as Mr. Maginnis was escorted to the dias.)*

In accepting his new office, Mr. Maginnis said:

IT is a familiar habit of royalty to scatter honors where it has been worthily entertained. With more extravagant gesture The Institute now withdraws from the hospitality of Boston, leaving its presidency behind. Our welcome, indeed, was eager and warm-hearted, but it scarcely deserved so princely an acknowledgment.

In these singular circumstances the worthiness of the particular head upon which this honor has descended might well be considered a negligible matter. Yet I am too familiar with the thoughtful and even anxious temper of The Institute not to impute a significance to that action which moves me very deeply. No one reaches the presidency of such a body as this without a weighty sense of its high tradition, and no one who has served, as I have, on the fringe of that office, has any illusion as to the weight of its responsibilities.

I have a new cause for being impressed by the philosophic serenity of The Institute in these days of novel and revolutionary thought. To some, the wistfulness with which it still holds the sentiment of Williamsburg and Boston may well seem an anachronism and a perversity. To me it is wholly admirable. The new order may well benefit from the encounter with occasional areas of intellectual friction, for Boston, as you know, is more a state of mind than a mere geographical idea.

It is not necessarily a part of my function to reveal my individual credo, yet I cannot resist the impulse to say that while I am ardently opposed to the idea of flinging history into the waste basket, I am on the other hand not one of those despondent souls who believe that all hope has fled

because the Corinthian capital has gone into eclipse. I wonder sometimes how long we can be content to live with the new austerities. But as austerities are good for the soul, may it not be that this is a Lenten time for Architecture, when it has chosen to shed the pomps and the vanities for a time, to sit contemplatively in its skin? *(Applause)*.

Be the significance what it may, I have faith that, in the large purpose to achieve a fitting expression for the genius of this new age, the American profession will not fail, whatever the provocation, to find testimony of our own cherished institutions and our own national individuality.

And now I must try to find words with which to convey for you, for me, and for the whole Institute body, the sense of the great obligation we owe to the retiring President and the men who have with him conserved the fortunes of The Institute in some of the darkest days of its history.

Mr. Voorhees has left for his successors an intimidating record of accomplishment which is possible only to one who brought to his task a high intelligence, a wide experience of affairs, and a devotion the measure of which we never shall know. I like to think that these admirable capacities are now to find a larger, a more vivid exercise in the development of the World's Fair in New York.

With me is associated Mr. Frederick H. Meyer, of San Francisco. Between us lies ample room for the development of problems which can engage our interests for the next year or so. In this spacious atmosphere we must learn to find and to deal with all the complexities which are associated with our arduous stewardship.



*[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

*[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

*[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*



