

THE
OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



The Washington Situation
Advertising—by Monograph and Photograph
Edward Langley Scholarship Awards
School Medal Awards
Department of Technical Services

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THE 1942 ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE REPORTED IN THE JULY OCTAGON

SPOT NEWS

War Production Board.

The W.P.B. has announced a series of interpretations of Conservation Order L-41 placing all construction under rigid control. This Order (W.P.B. 831) makes it necessary for builders to obtain authorization from W.P.B. to begin residential construction costing \$500 or more; agricultural construction costing \$1,000 or more; or commercial and other construction costing \$5,000 or more during any continuous 12-month period.

It was ruled that where a building is used for two or more purposes, it should be classified according to its predominant use.

Estimating cost need not include the cost of used material, including equipment which has been taken from a building and is to be used in other construction work, provided there is no change of ownership. It is not necessary, likewise, to include in the total cost estimate the cost of labor in incorporating such used material.

Construction Bureau.

The Bureau of Construction, recently established to coordinate all construction functions of the W.P.B., has moved to New York with headquarters in the Empire State Building.

Lumber Shortage.

There is indication that the available lumber in this country is not sufficient to meet all the needs of the war construction program. It is, therefore, surmised that lumber will be obtained only in cases where building is absolutely essential.

Public War Housing Progress.

Housing Units—cumulative to May 30	Family Dwelling Units	Trailers and Portable Houses	Single Dwelling Units
Programmed (includes some units for which no funds are available).....	337,505	19,787	61,484
Construction contract awards.....	219,870	13,345	27,396
Available for occupancy.....	100,909	7,814	10,863

War Housing to be Streamlined.

Housing situation is being re-examined to make sure all available space in critical areas is being used. Billeting of war workers is under discussion but Government hopes it will not have to resort to this as England has had to do. Housing situation, not serious in some areas, is acute in others. Is essentially a war worker problem.

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The Washington Situation

BY virtue of procedure, time honored in the printing craft and now encouraged by war, there is inevitably a passage of time between the hour when these articles are written and when THE OCTAGON is published and in circulation. There is no streamlining in this field of activity which pursues its orderly way and precludes the possibility of "scoops", in this journal at least. It is difficult in these days when events take place with confusing rapidity to compose an article whose news value will be stimulating when it appears in print.

As we have called to your attention before, we supplement these articles by bulletins issued at irregular but fairly frequent intervals. The bulletins are to a certain extent efficient and are culled from the releases that pass over the Representative's desk and are embroidered with occasional surmises which he can offer with a certain degree of reliability.

The country, and Washington in particular, is replete with the publications, periodicals, news letters and columns, each purporting to be the one and only invaluable source of true inside vital news. Many of these are studied and their general character has set the current fashion for the dissemination of quick news. Their aim is to be super-succinct to a degree, and like the Army's new field rations they are small packages of assorted vitamins with little bulk.

At first one was struck with the pithiness, the aptness, and the freshness of the paragraphs, but somehow or other the savor is gone and in place of pithiness one finds only words, the aptness is not too accurate, and the freshness has given way to repetition. A sort of pall or a thin but effective smoke

screen appears to have been drawn across the news. It is not the fault of the authors of the columns. The damp paw of censorship is at work and those of us who are here in Washington are driven to draw our own conclusions and make our own surmises.

The tenor of our conjectures does not presage an expansion or even an indefinite continuance of construction. Paradoxically, while the customary activities of the building industry are being increasingly curtailed by circumstances, now passing almost wholly within the control of the armed forces of the United Nations, the position of the architect in general is continually improving. There is a growing consciousness on the part of the Government that the architect is a man of considerable ability and possesses many talents which may well serve the country today. We are, therefore, encouraged for we believe that when the inevitable Post-War Planning Program assumes tangible form the architect will attain his proper position with some measure of ease. It must not be assumed, however, that the architect can rest on his oars. Such service as he may be privileged to perform now, whether it be on a construction project, in the Government service, or in the armed forces, must be of a calibre to insure his consideration as an important element in the body politic when the war is over.

It is difficult for us to obtain the figures that we would like to give you, for instance—the number of war projects which are benefiting by the service of the architects and engineers in private practice and of the number of housing projects on which the architects are engaged, and the number of the profession now serving in various fields of concrete en-

deavor. Someday those figures will be available, but at the moment they are in a constant state of flux and it is too early for the score to be tabulated. We believe that the contribution of the architects to the war program is and will be a notable one.

We do not believe that we can predict the immediate future of the building industry. It is obvious that many materials with which we work are needed in the production of the implements of war.

Plans in the form of legislation and proposals for the Post-War Program are already germinating and we feel certain that the time is bound to come when the Program will be the major issue before the country. "Planning" is a word which is susceptible to many interpretations and we must not jump to the conclusion that it refers at this time to the drawn document. There is a vast amount of economic and legislative planning to be done before we as architects can be called actively into the play. However, during this preliminary period the thought, study and cooperation of the profession can do a great deal toward assuring a satisfactory program to take form with the dawn of victory.

Housing Fees.

We have seen the scale of fees for housing projects following a curve of diminishing return to the architects and there has been no indication given to us that the slope of the curve will change, or even level off in the near future. By resolution, action and letter, many chapters and individual members of The Institute have gone strongly on record protesting the compensation to the architect on housing projects. The architects occasionally assume that The Institute can wave a wand and restore that amount of profit to which the architects feel they are entitled. It must be remembered that the Governmental housing agencies are accountable to the country (through Congress) and not to The Institute for expenditures of the taxpayer's money. We are told that Congress is already somewhat startled by the amounts paid for professional services on housing projects and the agencies find the task of justifying those payments one that calls for a thorough knowledge of the architect's costs and profit or loss. We remind the profession that The Institute does not have this knowledge at its disposal, for the profes-

sion has not informed The Institute and The Institute not being in practice itself cannot guess.

In discussing this question with the agencies, The Institute is confronted with two distinct disadvantages: First, it seems no architect has ever refused a housing project on the grounds that the scheduled fee is inadequate and, furthermore, when an architect has completed one project he generally attempts to get another, all of which would seem to say that the architect has not lost money in the venture; secondly, in order to justify an argument for an increase in fees The Institute must be supplied with complete knowledge with regard to architects' costs and profits on housing projects under the various schedules and programs. This factual data has never been placed at the disposal of The Institute by its members. On the other hand, the agencies claim to have a complete knowledge of the facts and the assumption is, therefore, that the architects have been obliged to give information to the Government which has not been available to The Institute. Resolutions and protests are futile unless they are backed up, and backing up means factual knowledge and not wishful thinking.

The Institute is ready and always welcomes the opportunity to champion the cause of the profession, but The Institute must be familiar with all the facts and details and must have evidence to substantiate the claims made or implied by the resolutions offered in the names of the component organizations.

It must surely be recognized by this time that we are practicing and living in a far different world than that for which we are trained and for which many of the former tenets of practice were formulated. It is essential that the professional man in private practice render a service to the Government that will merit the consideration and respect of the Government for the professional man and it is essential that the compensation for this service be adequate and just. The conditions under which we labor are perhaps strange and new to us and it is quite likely that old standards and procedures, except for the basic standard of proper compensation for proper service, will not apply. We think it will be found that the Government is not hostile but that it seeks an adequate adjustment to the new life.

EDMUND R. PURVES

Washington Representative, A.I.A.

Post-War Architectural Pattern

There are plenty of indications that present conditions are raising hob with architects. Some whose talents and connections fit into the defense picture, are too busy for comfort. Others, less fortunate, have too little to do.

It is from these latter men that there will come new ideas to contribute much to the pattern of architecture after the war. The others are too busy working in today's tradition to think about the future.

The going will be tough for many capable architects, as it will be for many men in other professions and businesses. But architecture has come through tough times before, and from this present fire of adversity there will, in our opinion, emerge new and useful contributions to architecture and building. There are three that look reasonably sure.

First, we believe that it is utterly impossible for men with the leisure for abstract thinking, men with training and imagination, to avoid the development of new means and methods for giving the buyer more for his dollar. How it will be done we don't know, but we are sure that the war's end will see sounder methods of pre-fabrication, new short cuts

to bigger value, new ways of doing the old things better, faster, more economically than ever before. The need for it is in the air, and where a human need is as urgent as this one, there has always arisen a man who could do the trick.

Then, we believe it quite possible that from this same group of men there may come a new technique of design—a strong and vibrant handling of the modern conception of mass and line—a fresh, functional type of design that will forever free the public mind of the belief that "modern" means grocery-box houses.

Lastly, we very much hope that from these times will come a better understanding, by the public, of the function and status of the architect—a greater appreciation of the architect's works—and a fuller recognition of his place in the community. We do not profess to know the answer to this old problem, but we are sure that it eventually will come through the profession becoming more articulate, more insistent on recognition being accorded its members in every city and town.

Courtesy of The Von Duprin Magazine, April, 1942

An Appreciation of Clarence H. Blackall

Clarence H. Blackall, active and virile architect, of Boston, died March 5, 1942, having made a name for himself in every department of his profession. He was an able draftsman, skilful in the use of water colors, a lover of music and a good linguist. Like a busy man he found time for many things.

In 1883 the Rotch Travelling Scholarship was established. And the following year Mr. Blackall won the competition scholarship that made him the first beneficiary. From 1891 as a trustee and secretary until shortly before his death March 5, 1942 he, in large measure guided its destinies with great judgment and signal success. It is fitting and pleasant to record the tributes from William Emerson, who succeeds him as secretary, and from Mrs. Horatio A. Lamb, sister of the original founders and trustees, and present president of the Scholarship

From William Emerson:

"The history of Mr. Blackall's long years of service to the Rotch Scholarship bears ample evidence, not alone of his devotion, but of the many men, later distinguished in their profession, to whom the Scholarship was an open sesame to a world of almost infinite possibilities.

"It was just this purpose that the Scholarship was created to achieve—to give students of promise an opportunity to know their architectural world, and through this knowledge to strengthen and enrich their profession.

"How well such men as Henry Bacon, H. Van Beuren Magonigle, Austin W. Lord, Louis Newhall, Frederick C. Hiron, Otto Faelton, Neils Larson, and more recently, Edward D. Stone and Louis Skidmore, have profited by this opportunity, bears

tribute both to the wisdom of the Scholarship's founders and to the spirit that has guided its management."

And from Mrs. Lamb:

"In the death of Mr. Blackall the Rotch Traveling Scholarship has lost one who has guided its work for fifty years. He was the first to win the Scholarship and from that time became an honored Trustee and its Secretary. To him we are deeply grateful. Without his wise leadership, his untiring devo-

tion, and his great interest in each scholar, we should never have achieved the successful record of these many years. I found him the understanding friend and such he was to every one who worked with him. We are fortunate indeed to have so distinguished and able a successor to him as Dr. William Emerson, and to Mr. Blackall this knowledge was a keen satisfaction."

The Scholarship is not to be awarded this year on account of the war.

H. D. C.

Monographs Supported by Advertisements Photographs of Architects in Advertisements

At the special meeting of The Board of Directors held in New York, March 19-22, 1942 the Rules of The Board and Interpretations of the Standards of Practice were amended. In order to interpret more liberally the provisions of those documents pertaining to the issuance by architects of monographs supported by advertising and the inclusion of photographs of architects in advertisements of building products, etc., The Board took action in substance as follows:

The Rules of The Board and Interpretations of the Standards of Practice heretofore adopted are amended to eliminate therefrom any provisions which make it unprofessional conduct and, therefore, subject to discipline, for a corporate member to permit the use of illustrations of his work in publications

supported in whole or in part by advertising; and, in lieu of such provisions, the Interpretations are amended to provide that such practice is disapproved and undesirable, but is not the subject of disciplinary action.

The Rules of The Board and Interpretations thereof, heretofore adopted, are amended, to eliminate therefrom any provisions which make it unprofessional conduct, and, therefore, subject to discipline, for a corporate member to permit a photograph of himself to be used in any advertisement of a manufacturer or purveyor of building materials or building services; and in lieu of such provisions, the Standards of Practice shall state that such practice is undesirable, but is not the subject of disciplinary action.

Recognition of the Architect

Governor Dwight H. Green of Illinois, Chairman of the Illinois State Council of Defense recently announced the appointment of Thomas E. O'Donnell, A.I.A., Associate Professor of Architecture of the

University of Illinois to represent the Central Illinois Chapter of The Institute on the Works and Housing Advisory Committee of the Illinois State Council.

This recognition of the profession is gratifying.

Joint Committee on Standards for School Buildings

President R. H. Shreve has made the following appointments to represent The Institute on the joint committee representing The American Institute of Architects and the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, to prepare standards for various types of school buildings with particular reference to facilities for health, physical education, and recreation:

John H. Scarff, 1012 Keyser Building, Baltimore.

Herbert J. Powell, 2102 Sherwood Rd., San Marino, Calif.

James T. Canizaro, Lampton Bldg., Jackson, Miss.

Frederick W. Garber, 616 Walnut St., Cincinnati.

Walter H. Kilham, 126 Newbury St., Boston, Mass.

Floyd Naramore, Dextor-Horton Bldg., Seattle.

William J. Sayward, Palmer Bldg., Atlanta, Ga.

Lawrence B. Perkins, 222 N. Bank Drive, Chicago.

James Kideney, 505 Franklin St., Buffalo, N. Y.

The Department of Technical Services—Notes

BY THEODORE IRVING COE, TECHNICAL SECRETARY

Institute Representatives for Collaboration with the Department of Technical Services.

The announcement of the appointment by President Shreve of Institute representatives in the several Chapters who will collaborate with The Department of Technical Services fills the need for such contacts which has become more apparent during the development of the present emergency conditions.

Through such contacts it will be possible to readily obtain a cross-section of professional opinion concerning matters of interest to the profession and to branches of the construction industry interested in the production of materials and construction techniques.

It will also serve to constitute a nation-wide group which can be of assistance in promoting the cooperation of architects in the development of codes, standards and related subjects and helpful in matters which are not only of immediate interest and concern to the profession, as it faces conditions arising from the present emergency, but those new problems which are likely to arise in the post-war period.

Representatives

Paul W. Hofferbert Ala. Ralph O. Mott Arkansas
J. Russell White Albany D. K. E. Fisher, Jr. Balto.
Appointment Pend. Arizona Chester N. Godfrey Boston

H. C. Bowman Brooklyn Alan C. Reed New Orleans
James S. Whitman Buffalo Harold R. Sleeper N. Y.
W. G. Jameson Cent. Ill. Anthony Lord N. C.
Frank H. Day Cent. N. Y. S. G. Wiener N. Louisiana
B. K. Johnstone Cent. Pa. J. M. Bennett N. Texas
H. L. McMath Cent. Tex. A. P. Coon Northeast. Pa.
L. J. Deissenborn Chicago W. G. Corlett North. Calif.
H. E. Hannaford Cin. W. W. Meyers N'thw't. Pa.
Wm. H. Conrad Cleveland John Wesley Robb Okla.
Roland L. Linder Colorado Irving G. Smith Oregon
H. D. Smith Columbus Robt. R. McGoodwin Phila.
Louis A. Walsh Conn. Edward B. Lee Pittsburgh
Appointment Pend. Dayton Albert Harkness R. I.
Joseph H. Jones Delaware Wm. P. Lodge San Diego
John C. Thornton Detroit *Appointment Pend.* S. Barb.
J. F. Wehrell Eastern Ohio John A. McPherson S. C.
Norman F. Six Fla. Cent. Walter P. Marshall S. Ga.
F. T. Hannaford Fla. No. A. S. Nunn South Texas
Maj. R. D. Weakley Fla. S. E. T. Heitschmidt S. Calif.
Ernest D. Ivey Georgia *Appointment Pend.* Spokane
L. C. Kingscott Gr. Rapids Austin E. Fitch St. Louis
Appointment Pend. Hawaii *Appointment Pend.* St. Paul
Oswald A. Tislow Ind. Benj. F. McMurry Tenn.
J. Woolson Brooks Iowa Alfred A. Hahn Toledo
E. M. Robison Kan. City Raymond L. Evans Utah
Ed Forsblom Kansas Pendleton S. Clark Va.
Osian P. Ward Kentucky M. L. Colean Wash., D. C.
John H. Stevens Maine Wm. Aitken Wash. State
Dale Robt. McEnary Minn. R. H. H. Hugman W. Tex.
N. W. Overstreet Miss. Wilbur A. Meanor W. Va.
C. C. Cohagen Montana *Appointment Pend.* Westchester
Josiah D. Sandham Nebr. Leigh Hunt Wisconsin
Robt. J. L. Cadien N. J.

The School Medal Awards For 1942

The School Medal of The Institute, established in 1914, is awarded each year to a student in each of the recognized architectural schools, who is qualified by his scholarly standing and character and who has had not less than three years of residence and work in any of the recognized schools.

The award is made under the direction of the Committee on Awards and Scholarships after the student has been proposed by the faculty to The Secretary of The Institute.

A copy of Henry Adams' book, "Mont St. Michel and Chartres" is presented to the winner of the Medal, and a second copy of the book is usually awarded to the runner-up. Many of the schools present the Medal and the books with appropriate

ceremony at commencement time, and in many instances, local chapters of The Institute participate.

The recipients of the School Medal Awards for 1942, and their schools, are as follows:

Ash, Alfred F.	Columbia University
Beadle, Frank Forrest, Jr.	Agr. and Mech. Col. of Texas
Braswell, William F., Jr.	University of California
Bridge, Richard Huntley	Mass. Institute of Technology
Bushong, Robert E.	Ohio State University
Cain, Howard Bruce	Cleveland School of Architecture
Carlson, Millard Joseph	University of Nebraska
Carney, John Bernard	University of Notre Dame
Chitty, Frederick William, Jr.	Syracuse University
Gores, Landis	Harvard University
Graffunder, Carl	University of Minnesota
Graheck, William	University of Oklahoma

(Continued on page 8)

Higuera, Antonio	Catholic University of America	Moore, Jack	University of Florida
Holzinger, Karl John	University of Illinois	Mueller, Robert M.	Cornell University
Hurst, Samuel Thomas, Jr.	Georgia School of Technology	Murtagh, Gilbert	New York University
Jenter, William Fritz	Yale University	Nolan, Ardell	Tulane University of Louisiana
Johnson, D. R.	University of Cincinnati	Pentecost, A. R., Jr.	Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Larson, George Wilbur	Illinois Institute of Technology	Russell, Carl, Jr.	Oklahoma Agr. and Mech. College
Leavitt, David Livingston	Princeton University	Russell, Roland L.	University of Southern California
Lewis, Carol Byron	Kansas State College	Salmon, Frank C.	University of Pennsylvania
Looker, Charles Burdick, Jr.	Rensselaer Polytechnic Insti.	Stevenson, Orissa	University of Texas
McClure, Royal Alfred	University of Wash. (Seattle)	Walter, Allan Maynard	Wash. University (St. Louis)
Monk, Clarence B.	Pennsylvania State College	White, Frederick Hampton	University of Kansas

Edward Langley Scholarship Awards For 1942

Dean Walter R. MacCornack, Vice-President of The Institute and Chairman of the Committee on Awards and Scholarships, announces the following Edward Langley Scholarship awards for the year 1942:

1. Charles B. Genther of Oklahoma—to complete studies at the Illinois Institute of Technology in

Regional Planning in preparation for teaching.

2. Arnold Wasson Tucker of Boston—to study prefabricated housing constructed and under construction and to report on various phases of it.

3. Arthur Riehl of Oregon—to study defense housing and civilian protection in preparation for teaching of those subjects.

Corporate Members Elected, Effective June 6, 1942

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Name</i>
ALABAMA	Charles Lenning Hendrick	FLORIDA SOUTH	George Bruce, Upton Clary Ewing
BROOKLYN	Joseph Levy, Jr.	GRAND RAPIDS	R. V. Gay, Carl C. F. Kressbach
CINCINNATI	Walter Frank Griffin		St. Clair Pardee, Raymond Milo Stupert
	Edgar Dowlin Tyler	INDIANA	Edwin Christopher Berendes
CLEVELAND	George Theodore Cramer		Joseph Karl Bertram, Gerald C. Brubaker
	John Franklin Fierbaugh, Alfred Wilson Harris		William Stuart Bailey Carlson, Frederick H. Graham
	Ben Krinsky, Pasqual R. Laurie		Charles Eugene Hamilton, James Branham Hawkins
	Forrest Osborn Rennison, Urban G. Schwerzler		Fran E. Schroeder, Karl Richard Schwarz
	Roy Wilbur Weit, Eric F. Wajohn		Kenneth W. Williams, Roy Allan Worden
	Arthur V. Wyatt	KANSAS CITY	Frank Poole McArthur
COLUMBUS	John Quincy Adams, Jr.	NEW JERSEY	William Luff Brunner
	Walter Stewart Anderson, Eugene Benham		Barnett Sumner Gruzen
	Carl Ellsworth Bentz, Thomas Earl Brand	NEW YORK	Kent Crane, Charles Bertram French
	Marion A. Carter, Earl F. Cleland	NORTH TEXAS	Sylvan B. Haynes
	Gilbert Harold Coddington, William Arthur DeVoss		William Thomas Strange, Jr.
	Charles Morgan Donaldson, Will Eesley	OREGON	John Kistner Dukehart, Albert W. Hilgers
	C. Curtiss Incho, Louis F. Karlsberger		Frank Roehr, Irving Gardner Smith
	Merle R. Maffit, Comly Edwin Maule		Richard Sundeleaf
	Carl Eugene Meinhardt, William Mills	PHILADELPHIA	Julian Francis Abele, James Linton Cherry
	Noverre Musson, Ernest Neitzer, George Bertram Older		William Edward Frank, William Ott Frank
	Ralph Ray Orr, Frank Joseph Pichler		Thomas Norman Mansell, Paul Monaghan
	William J. Richards, Leo S. Rovtar		Howard Josephus Wiegner, Sr.
	Robert Doerrer Rush, Robert Harper Scott	SOUTH TEXAS	Jack Wellington Knostman
	Ray Sims, Frederick William Stritzel	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	Robert Field, Jr.
	Daniel Wilson Weiny		Eugene Montgomery Pierce, Walter Louis Reichardt
CONNECTICUT	Keith Sellers Heine		Whitney R. Smith
DETROIT	H. Sanborn Brown, William C. Bunce	WASHINGTON STATE	Donald J. Stewart
	Harold Dewing Ilgenfritz, Johnson Darby Kenyon		
	Arthur Herman Henry Messing		
	Raymond Chester Perkins, *Cyril Edward Schley		
	Gordon Ammon Sheill, *J. H. Gustav Steffens		
	Ward Garside Swarts		

* Reinstatements.

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