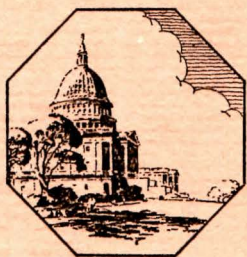


Journal of The American Institute of  
**ARCHITECTS**



December, 1946

---

**The Veterans Emergency Housing Program**

---

**A Center for United Nations**

---

**What is "Fireproof"?**

---

**Examinations in Paris—II**

---

**Utah and the Small House**

---

**Thoughts on Exterior Color Schemes**

---

**Hospital Survey and Construction Act**

---

35c

**PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
SMALL HOMES COUNCIL  
MUMFORD HOUSE

# JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

DECEMBER, 1946

VOL. VI, No. 6

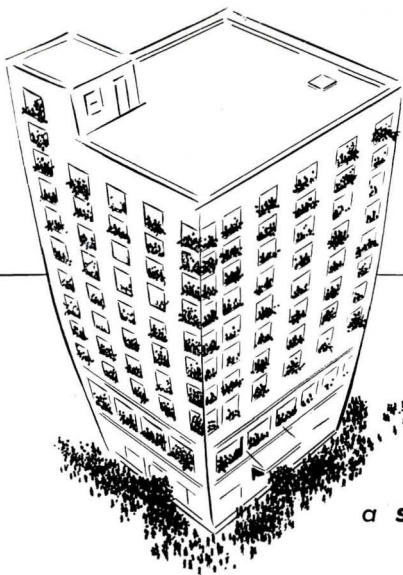
## Contents

The Veterans Emergency Housing Program . . . . .	243	Thoughts on Exterior Color Schemes . . . . .	273
Editorial from <i>Better Homes and Gardens</i>		By <i>Julian Ellsworth Garnsey</i>	
Reply by Wilson W. Wyatt		Examinations in Paris—II . . . . .	279
Hospital Survey and Construction Act . . . . .	250	By <i>Huger Elliott</i>	
A Center for United Nations . . . . .	252	The President's Visit to the Chapters . . . . .	284
By <i>Lewis Mumford</i>		UNESCO . . . . .	285
What Is "Fireproof"? . . . . .	263	By <i>Albert Harkness, F.A.I.A.</i>	
By <i>Maurice Webster</i>		The Producers' Council and the B.P.I. . . . .	287
Utah and the Small House . . . . .	269	The Editor's Asides . . . . .	289
		Index to Volume VI . . . . .	291

## ILLUSTRATIONS

Tower of Wellesley High School, Wellesley, Mass. . . . .	259
<i>Perry, Shaw &amp; Hepburn, architects</i>	
Community Building, Berea, Ohio . . . . .	260
<i>J. Byers Hays, architect</i>	
Saint-Lo, Normandy—July, 1944 . . . . .	277
Do you know this building? . . . . .	278

The *Journal of The American Institute of Architects*, official organ of The Institute, is published monthly at The Octagon, 1741 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. Editor: Henry H. Saylor. Subscription in the United States, its possessions and Canada, \$3 a year in advance; elsewhere, \$4 a year. Single copies 35c. Copyright, 1946, by The American Institute of Architects. Entered as second-class matter February 9, 1929, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C.



**a suggestion**  
for over-populated  
buildings

• Many business firms (like families) have had to "double up" . . . crowd extra personnel into offices already cramped because of inability to rent additional space.

Many apartment buildings are housing twice the number of residents for which they were planned . . . hotels are using every foot of available space to accommodate the unprecedented flood of travelers, sightseers and harried home-hunters.

In such over-populated buildings, passenger traffic may have become too heavy to be handled satisfactorily by the original elevator equipment.

There is a proven remedy for this condition. It is Otis Elevator Modernization. Hundreds of outdated or inadequate elevator installations have been

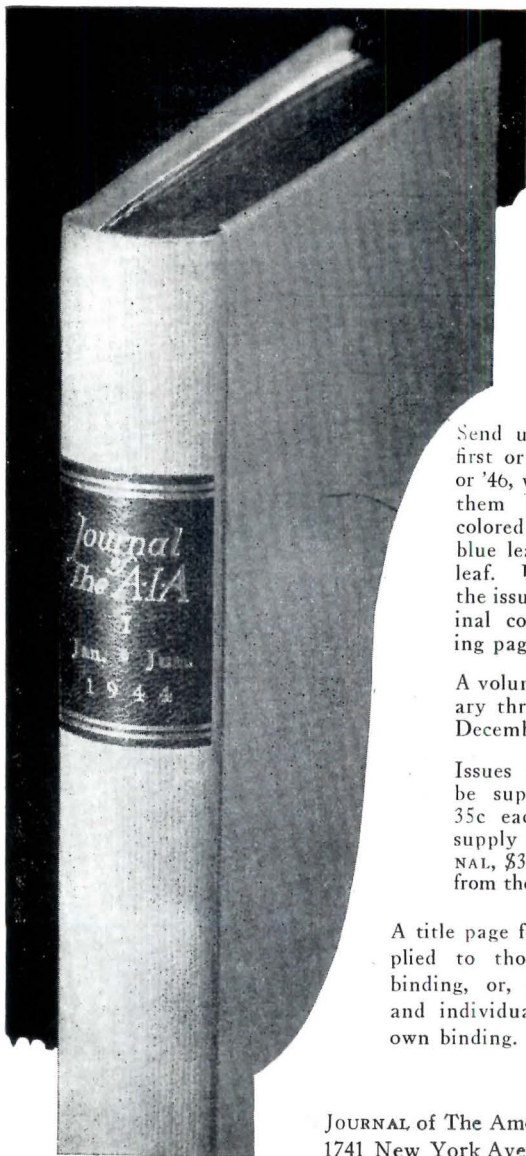
changed over, and the service improved, to meet the greater demand of present conditions.

In many office buildings a changeover to Otis Peak-Period Control has made possible faster and more efficient elevator service — in a number of cases even with fewer elevators.

An Otis survey of your elevator needs is the first step. For the finest in vertical transportation tomorrow, call Otis today.



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
SMALL HOMES COUNCIL  
MUMFORD HOUSE



Bind  
Your  
Copies  
of the  
**Journal**

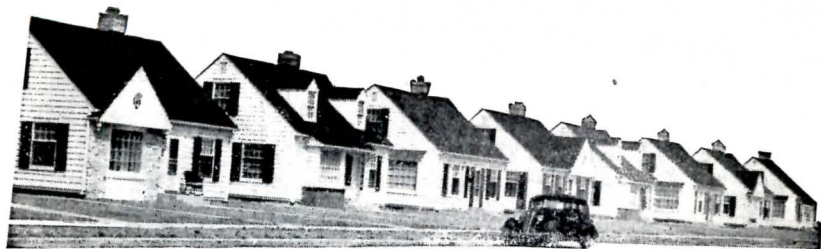
Send us your loose copies for the first or last six months of 1944, '45 or '46, with \$1.75, and we will have them bound for you in straw-colored buckram or linen with dark blue leather label stamped in gold leaf. Unless instructed otherwise, the issues are bound with the original covers but without advertising pages.

A volume contains six issues—January through June, or July through December.

Issues missing from your file can be supplied, while they last, at 35c each. Bound volume, if we supply all new copies of the JOURNAL, \$3.25 — and we still have them from the beginning.

A title page for each volume will be supplied to those ordering this standard binding, or, upon request, to libraries and individuals who prefer to do their own binding.

JOURNAL of The American Institute of Architects  
1741 New York Ave. N.W., Washington 6, D. C.



THESE GRADE  
TRADE-MARKS ARE YOUR  
INSURANCE OF QUALITY



EXT. - D. F. P. A.



PLYPANEL D.F.P.A.

DOUGLAS FIR PLYWOOD ASSOCIATION

Tacoma 2,  
Washington



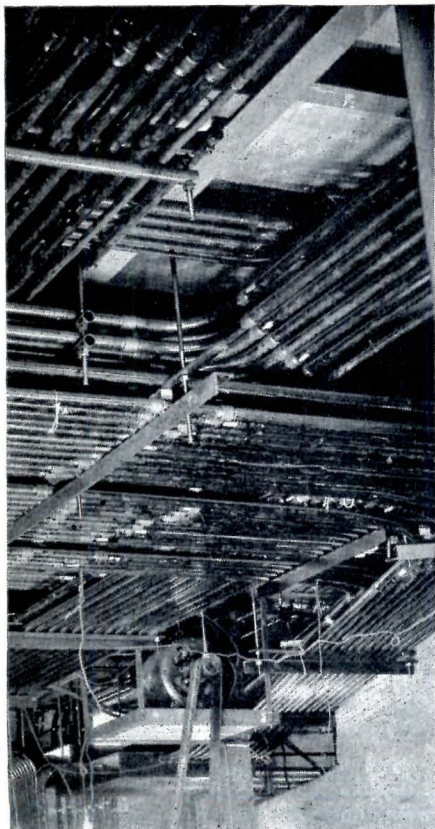
## Douglas Fir Plywood is Helping in the Construction of Housing for Veterans

Durable Douglas fir plywood—the engineered wood which cuts building time and costs—is now helping speed thousands of veterans' homes. A substantial portion of the industry's current production is allocated, on government order, to the Reconversion Housing Program.

Naturally, this means a tight supply situation for housing which does not come under the program, and for all other construction and industrial uses.

It is a fact, however, that more Douglas fir plywood is being produced today than in pre-war years. When the present overwhelming need for housing has been met, more and more of this modern "miracle wood" will become available for general use. Anticipate your needs well in advance. Keep in touch with your regular source of supply. Plywood's many advantages are worth the wait!

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE . . . USE CONDUIT (Full Weight Rigid Steel)



This system of Buckeye conduit, installed in a large department store a generation ago, still provides dependable wiring protection to owners and tenants.

## RACEWAYS to lasting safety

WHEN you're planning wiring systems for the buildings of tomorrow, safety is naturally a first consideration. Not only safety, but *permanent* safety!

The electrical industry has long since agreed--and incorporated it in the national code--that the one safest system for the lasting protection of electrical wiring is that employing heavy-wall steel conduit. This is the only system approved for use in hazardous locations and occupancies, as being dependably moisture, vapor, dust, and explosion proof.

So for positive protection, install permanent raceways of full-weight, rigid steel conduit--"Buckeye" conduit. Wiring is easily changed to meet changing day-to-day needs, yet the conduit remains in place, as raceways to lasting safety.

Youngstown "Buckeye," the world's most widely used standard-threaded, full-weight, rigid steel conduit, is sold by leading distributors in all markets.



# YOUNGSTOWN

THE YOUNGSTOWN SHEET AND TUBE COMPANY

GENERAL OFFICES - YOUNGSTOWN 1, OHIO

Export Offices - 500 Fifth Avenue, New York City

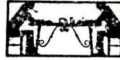
Manufacturers of

CARBON - ALLOY AND YOLOY STEELS



Ask your distributor for:

Youngstown Buckeye Conduit. Pipe and Tubular Products. Sheets. Plates. Electrolytic Tin Plate. Coke Tin Plate. Bars. Rods. Wire. Tie Plates and Spikes.



## The Veterans Emergency Housing Program

In the November issue of *Better Homes and Gardens* appears an editorial under the heading: "Should the Home-starved Vet be *Forced* to Build? We Say No!" In part the editorial is reprinted below. Following it are the comments of Housing Expediter Wyatt

UNPLEASANT though it is, this must be said.

The present housing program is not building homes for veterans.

It is, instead, building tomorrow's tenements, tomorrow's slums.

And it will continue to do just that until the government does three things:

1. Removes the restriction that says no house may be built for more than \$10,000.

2. Permits home building for both veterans and non-veterans.

3. Discards O.P.A. price restrictions on materials.

It is within the government's power to do this. And do it immediately.

Great, bleeding-hearted America. "Nothing is too good for our boys." Bah! Even now as we trim them, we give them the most colossal trimming of our time. Because we love them, we say.

We take their savings. We lend them the rest—cheap, inflated dol-

lars they'll have to pay back someday when they're not so cheap.

Nobody mentions deficiency judgments, nor payments that must be met month after month for the veteran's remaining days.

And then we build, big-hearted us, this fine five-room home for \$9,995. Or "this fine, conveniently located basement home for \$4,000; build the rest of the house later." Row upon row. Miserable, desperate things. Forty- and fifty-foot lots. Room to squeeze the car through, maybe. Tax lands, bottom land, oat field, anything.

Planned neighborhoods? Hell—shoot a couple of streets through. That'll make more money.

Bedrooms 10 by 10. Tramp on your wife when you get out of bed.

Green lumber, poor workmanship, not even enough nails to hold it together. "The sap runs out when you lean against the planks in the attic." Checking, cracking, joints parting, cabinets warping

away from the walls. "No, we haven't had much trouble. The roof leaks, the kitchen floor is heaving, and the living-room ceiling is falling down. But nothing serious."

Beside these homes for veterans, the jerry-built houses of the last war look like enduring mansions.

Not long ago one of the country's largest prefabricators closed the doors of his plant. The four-room house that he had sold for \$3,250 in 1939, complete, now costs \$8,700. That was \$1,500 over the government's ceiling price and, in the manufacturer's own words, "not worth it to any buyer."

In this particular house, in 1939, "trimming out" cost \$170. Now it is \$415. Plumbing and heating used to cost \$700. Now subcontractors asked \$2,200.

Building materials, largely because of increased labor costs in manufacturing, have gone up only 47 percent since 1940.

Overhead, profit, taxes, and insurance on building at the site have risen about 64 percent.

Hourly wages for all kinds of labor at the site have gone up 52 percent in the same period.

But under the government's lack of labor policy, labor efficiency at

the site has plunged between 35 percent and 50 percent.

Together the increased wages and tumbling efficiency have jumped the total cost of labor at the site from 90 percent to 100 percent. This site-labor cost is about 35 percent of the cost of the finished house.

So there is why houses cost what they do today.

And who, under the present program, is the victim? The veterans, many of whom are members of building labor unions themselves, victimizing themselves.

Last February Wilson Wyatt, our emergency housing administrator, said again and again that half the houses built must sell for not over \$6,000, or else the program would fail. The war department surveyed veterans and found that only 16 percent could pay more. Recent Bureau of Labor statistics bear this out.

And yet, though the houses can't be built for \$6,000—not anywhere near it—we persist in building only for the veteran and saddling him with a bloated debt he shouldn't carry.

Comes a bust, and the house isn't worth what the veteran has yet to pay on it. Does he walk out? No, or the judge claps a deficiency



judgment against him, and somehow, sometime, he still has to pay.

Or the government, alert to his vote, says hey, you can't throw him into the street. It isn't right. We'll write off that debt.

And who then pays? The taxpayer. And who are the veterans if not taxpayers?

Make no mistake. The bill for this folly has got to be paid.

The government's goal was 1,200,000 houses started this year. Harsh as it may seem, it is perhaps well that the program fell apart so badly that only 194,200 had been completed by the end of July.

Under O.P.A. ceilings, building materials simply aren't getting to most of the retailers and builders. Take lumber. Southern dealers, as we write, estimate that 75 percent of the lumber produced in the South is moving through black markets.

It means that the normal channels of distribution are by-passed, lumberyards empty; so that houses, once begun, often stand idle for months, crying for material to finish them.

Even when lumber is cut and marketed legally, O.P.A. controls divert some of it away from housing.

It is a similar story for other

materials. . . . Yesterday I nosed around the lumberyards. In one the owner was a veteran, a lean, dark, unsmiling man, a man with a limp. He was 41. He wanted to build. . . . "Five months ago I got out. I grabbed my plans and went down to the housing office. 'But that'll cost 15 thousand,' they said. 'Of course,' I said. 'I want a house.'

"They shook their heads. 'You'll have to appeal to Washington,' they said. I appealed. I haven't heard anything since. It doesn't make sense."

It doesn't. He is older, established, settled. He can stand today's inflated price. He can pay a premium for what he wants now and charge it off to a higher standard of living. When the bubble breaks, he can absorb the shrinkage.

If you let him build, he vacates a house when he moves into his new one. A cheaper, older house. Someone—someone with a backlog, who is also stepping up a bit, but not overstretching—buys it. And this man's house, in turn, is vacant. At today's prices it's no bargain. Maybe it's old, no shower, and the bathtub has claw feet, and you have to shovel coal.

Still, it's a place the veteran can afford. The payments each month

leave him something to live on. His wife has a baby—he can still manage. As he gets settled, knows where his job is, knows his future, he can buy something better. Or he can build. Perhaps a good house, where there's the sun, and wind, and space.

This is the stepping-up cycle by which young veterans can get places they can afford. It's how young families have always moved

up. When, before, did a man ever try to start with a new job, a new wife, and a brand new little \$9,500 mortgage on a little piece of slum? . . .

Upon our request for his side of the story, Wilson W. Wyatt, Housing Expediter, makes the following comment on the above editorial from the November issue of *Better Homes and Gardens*.

*Mr. Wyatt:*

"I thoroughly disagree with the editorial, both on facts and on principles.

"The editorial's basic premise is that under the Government's veterans emergency housing program, the home-starved veteran is *forced* to build. This is a complete misconception of the facts. The veteran is simply given *first chance* to buy or rent homes built under the veterans emergency housing program. Builders must hold any new home built under the program for 60 days if the property is for sale, 30 days if the property is for rent, for application from veterans. If by the end of these periods, no veteran has applied, non-veterans may do so. At no time is any home-seeking veteran *forced* to buy or

rent, if he does not care to use his preference privilege.

"The opportunity to buy ahead of non-veterans is of outstanding value to veterans today if for only one reason—the homes being built under the program are selling for less than old homes of similar quality and for less than similar homes built without use of the veteran's priority. Moreover, the greatest inflation has taken place in the small, once moderately priced existing homes most desired by veterans. The value to the veteran of having first chance at renting new apartments is obvious.

"Second, the editorial charges that the houses built under the veterans emergency housing program are of poor quality and that

they are in poorly planned neighborhoods.

"The quality of building under the veterans' program appears quite similar to that of building done before the program for the same market. The percentage of inferior construction found by FHA inspections has been small. Since June 10, moreover, all housing built for sale under the program must conform with FHA minimum construction standards.

"As to the planning of the neighborhoods, the Federal Government offers every possible assistance to local communities in planning good, livable communities. But this is primarily a responsibility of the local community and of the conscience of the private builder. It is not clear whether *Better Homes and Gardens* feels that the Government has been negligent in not taking over the zoning and planning functions now exercised by local governments or whether removal of the present controls, as advocated by the magazine, would somehow force the unscrupulous builder to reform overnight and start building dream subdivisions. The National Housing Agency has called on the local communities to do a planning job from the beginning of the veterans emergency

housing program. It has no legislative authority to do anything more in this field than it has already done.

"Third, the editorial charges that under the Government program, homes will necessarily be poorly built and in poor neighborhoods unless three things happen: that the \$10,000 limitation is removed; that non-veterans as well as veterans are allowed to build; that OPA ceilings on building materials are lifted.

"The purpose of the \$10,000 limitation has been to house more veterans more rapidly than could be accomplished without the limitation. With x amount of materials available, it is obvious that this material would build more \$10,000 homes than it would build \$20,000 houses. And it has been doing so.

"I feel impelled to add that in the sellers' market of this past year, it is almost certain that without a \$10,000 limitation, few houses would have been built under that price. I believe *Better Homes and Gardens* would have found it difficult to explain to a veteran of moderate income why \$25,000 and \$50,000 homes were being built while few, if any, reasonably priced homes were going up for him.

"As to giving non-veterans building preference, they are, as I've pointed out, entitled to buy houses if no veteran exercises his preference to buy them. Certain hardship cases among non-veterans are also allowed to build.

"OPA price control on building materials have been basic to the whole effort to get any reasonably priced housing constructed at all. This has been a period of generally high and rising costs in all parts of our economy. It is only because price ceilings have been in effect on building materials that prices and rents on new homes have been kept as low as they have been. Nor has production suffered under these controls. With incentive price increases granted by OPA and the housing program's premium payment plan, production of 16 key building materials have shown the phenomenal jump of 89% from January 1 through August, the latest date for which the index is available at this writing.

"The editorial blames rises in the cost of building materials and in the cost of on-site construction on the Federal Government. It does this by an interesting process of reasoning. It attributes the bulk of both of these increases to increased labor costs and lower pro-

ductivity of labor. These things, it is stated, have occurred 'under the Government's lack of labor policy.'

"It is not clear what steps the Government should have taken to satisfy *Better Homes and Gardens*, but presumably these should have included a federal order preventing building trades workers from growing older and other orders forcing contractors to pay and workers to accept lower wages, and arbitrarily forcing unions to indenture and contractors to hire a specified number of apprentices. Directives to carry out these points would seem to conflict with provisions of the Constitution designed to give our citizens a certain amount of personal freedom.

"The final recommendation of the *Better Homes and Gardens* editorial is that new houses should not be built for veterans, but for non-veterans who have been able to accumulate greater savings during the War. Veterans would get homes through what is described by the attractive name of 'the stepping-up cycle'—a new name for the 'trickle' theory of housing.

"That is the system where a rich man builds a lovely, expensive new house and someone a little less rich moves into the home thus va-

cated, and so on until the veteran finally—at the bottom of this ladder—moves into some sort of a back-street dwelling.

“*Better Homes and Gardens* describes this leftover home as follows: ‘At today’s prices it’s no bargain. Maybe it’s old, no shower, and the bathtub has claw feet, and you have to shovel coal.’

“But the editorial asserts it is better for the veteran to wait until this over-priced antique dwelling trickles down to him than to give him preference to buy one newly built at a controlled price.

“I’ve already pointed out that inflation in existing homes is substantially higher than that of new homes and that homes being built under the program sell for far less than similar used homes. I can hardly conclude then, as the editorial so blithely does, that old highly inflated homes are the only ones ‘veterans can afford’, while newly built ones are not. Curiously enough the lead article in the same issue of *Better Homes and Gardens* specifically advises home seekers *not* to buy old obsolete homes. Why? Because, to quote the article, ‘the older the house, the more of today’s high market value is “scarcity premium” which will evaporate . . . after the edge is

taken off demand.’ Prophesying ‘a sharp decline in the value of old houses . . . as soon as 1948’, the article goes on to say that ‘as soon as enough houses are available to permit a buyer to be discriminating, he’ll give full weight to obsolescence, largely ignored today.’ Today’s buyers are gravely cautioned to select comparatively new small homes.

“I am only wondering why *Better Homes and Gardens* in its editorial in the same issue wants to give a veteran no preference but to buy the old obsolete houses on which he, on the magazine’s own admission, stands to lose most? To paraphrase the editorial, ‘When before was a man urged to start with a new job, a new wife and a brand-new little mortgage on an obsolete house that’s ‘no bargain’ and ‘bound to face a sharp decline in value as soon as 1948’?



“In summation, the editorial completely ignores these important facts:

- (1) That the veteran is not forced to buy anything, but is given a valuable preference, the right to buy or rent ahead of non-veterans;
- (2) That there has been an increase in all prices during the War

and post-War period; that this has brought about increases in profits along with increases in wages, and raised all building costs as it has all living costs. *Better Homes and Gardens* does mention in passing that profit is also one of the factors which contribute to the total cost of a home!

(3) That homes being built under the program are selling for less than similar used homes, which are what the veteran would have to buy under the *Better Homes and Garden* program, and which the

magazine asserts elsewhere are poor investments today.

(4) Finally, that while the Government through FHA can and does require new houses to be built to minimum standards, it is the responsibility of the local community and private builders—not the Federal Government—to plan and develop good livable neighborhoods for all new housing.

“I believe that none of us with an honest concern for housing home-starved veterans speedily and well can overlook these facts.”

## Hospital Survey and Construction Act

THE TITLE “S. 191” has appeared more than once in these pages and seems like an old friend. Fortunately it is no longer merely a Senate bill, for it became on August 13th a public law of the land—Public Law 725. Under its provisions an appropriation of 375 million dollars is authorized during the next five years for the construction of hospitals and health centers. Three million dollars is also authorized for State-conducted surveys of need. These must be made preliminary to the granting of Federal funds for construction.

The Act provides latitude for

each State to develop its own program of hospital and health center construction, to be administered by State authorities under standards specified by the United States Public Health Service. The Surgeon General will be assisted in establishing standards by a newly created Federal Hospital Council consisting of eight members to be appointed by the Federal Security Administrator.

“This Act sets for the first time a national policy which makes it clear that hospitals in the future must be planned, located and operated in relation to the overall

health needs of the people," Thomas Parran, Surgeon General, U. S. Public Health Service, said. "This policy, as evolved through the leadership of hospital authorities of the country, is recognition of the integrated role that hospitals and health centers must play in the future. Adequate hospitals, health centers and related physical facilities are the essential workshops, without which it is not possible to provide even a minimum of modern health and medical services."

Any State may initiate action by submitting a request to the Surgeon General for funds to carry out an inventory of existing hospitals, and to prepare a plan for the construction necessary to provide adequate care for all the people. In making the request, the States must designate a single State agency to carry out the survey and planning and must appoint a properly qualified advisory council to consult with the State agency. The proportionate share for each State of the total Federal appropriation for survey and planning will be determined by the populations of the several States. However, Federal funds must be matched by two to one in defraying the survey expenses.

Allotments for the actual construction of facilities will not be made until the State plan based on the survey findings has been approved. Construction allotments to individual States will vary in amount. Population will be one factor, and in addition, the average per-capita income will be used in the allotment formula in such a way that States with a lower per-capita income, where there is relatively greater need for medical facilities, will receive proportionately larger allotments per capita.

Applications for funds for individual construction projects must be channeled through the designated State agency. Here again, Federal funds may not exceed one-third of the cost of a project. Before any single project is approved by the Surgeon General, sufficient evidence must accompany the building request to show that two-thirds of the total cost of construction is available from other-than-Federal sources, and that financial support is adequate for the maintenance and operation of the institution after completion.

Formation of a Division of Hospital Facilities to assist Surgeon General Parran in carrying out the provisions of the Hospital Survey and Construction Act has been an-

nounced by the United States Public Health Service.

This division will absorb the functions of the Hospital Facilities Section of the States Relations Division, Bureau of State Services, which was abolished simultaneously with the creation of the Division of Hospital Facilities.

Headed by Medical Director Vane M. Hoge, the newly formed

division of the Bureau of State Services will be responsible for carrying out the functions which the U. S. Public Health Service is authorized to perform in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Serving as Chief of the Office of Technical Services is our fellow member, Marshall Shaffer, whose work in the former Hospital Facilities Section is widely known in the profession.

## A Center for United Nations

*By Lewis Mumford*

Excerpts from the author's address before the R. I. B. A. in July last. The whole address would amply repay anyone's time spent in reading it (*R. I. B. A. Journal* for August, 1946), but our space permits only a sparse reprinting of excerpts.

WE HAVE TO CONSIDER this organization, not merely in view of the pressures and compromises that called it originally into existence, but in view of the momentum it carries over from a wider past in world cooperation, and in view of potentialities which must be fulfilled in the future if the human race as a whole is to survive. . . . So, in projecting the requirements for a World Center, we must face the future once more in the imperative mood; stating our needs, formulating our demands,

projecting our purposes—knowing, of course, that we shall not satisfy all our claims and requirements, but that the future will be poorer unless we make them. . . .

This is no time for plans, for grudging half-measures, for future projects that will be indistinguishable, in either scale or purpose, from past precedents. The physical sciences have broken all our precedents; and if we are to restore the human balance the social sciences and the social arts, like architecture and town planning, must



be equally bold, and when need be equally ruthless of mere precedent. . . .

Now I need hardly remind you that the planning of a center for the United Nations has so far been based upon a series of obsolete political premises—the premises embodied in the original Dumbarton Oaks proposals, and only slightly modified in the final charter that came forth from the San Francisco Conference. All those efforts were actually obsolete before they were brought into existence: the charter itself was the work of men who were reluctantly performing in 1945 the work that their opposite numbers should have performed in 1899 when the first Hague Conference was held. If the selection of a site for the United Nations continues to be governed by the view of this organization that was originally in the minds of its founders and accorded with their limited and narrow purposes, the solution would be as simple as it would be negligible. All one needs for such a site is a plot convenient by plane from Moscow, London and Washington, a plot as secluded as possible from prying eyes and listening ears. I regret to say that the present choice of a suburban site in Westchester County hardly

meets even these limited requirements.

But mark this: before the Assembly had concluded its first session the United Nations had grown beyond its original premises: it had become something more than an instrument whereby the three major victorious powers might lay down the law for the rest of mankind without making honest provisions for keeping it themselves. We cannot stop short at any halfway point in this development: for to stop is to make ready for war, or rather for the new successor to war itself, unrestricted extermination. . . . But the goal toward which we must now head should be plain: it is a world government, operating on behalf of a world community. Each of us, in his purely national capacity, is only half a man: the other half of ourselves is bound up with the whole wide world. The task of building a new world center is to dramatize this fact and make it visible. We have to create more than an instrument of government: we have to shadow forth a new life.

If one carries these preliminary considerations to their conclusion one must put to one side, I submit, the belief that the headquarters of the United Nations may be

small, inconspicuous, secluded, designed on the principle of protective coloration, a structure whose littleness will permit it to be lost and almost forgotten in some great metropolitan area, or removed, for the sake of extra parking space and extra housing quarters, to some suburban site within easy distance by car or train from a great city and its charming distractions. The very requirements set up in the United Nations charter for economic, social, educational and cultural facilities, as well as political ones, demand a community conceived on a larger scale: something more than the building of a modest Trading Estate for politics. We need a place where new organs of the common life can develop freely, where they can be spaciously and handsomely housed, a place that will also attract to itself old organs conceived for international service, like the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, like the International Institute of Bibliography, or like the Geneva School of International Education. We need a site adequate to house a world university for postgraduate studies. Our political thinking will be poor and meager unless it is constantly fortified by parallel efforts in many other fields: for if the world is to learn the ways of cooperation, among the first people to be educated for their international tasks, to be educated and constantly re-educated by every means we can bring to bear, are our statesmen. . . .

The site for a new world capital must be carved out of a city that is already in existence and that already performs no small part of the functions that the United Nations center must encourage. Such world cities belong only partly to their immediate regions and country: they have become big, they have become economically powerful, they have even become centers for higher education and research precisely because they have reached out for goods and men throughout the planet. If a form for international life has existed anywhere it has existed there. London, Paris, New York, Rome, Berlin, Buenos Aires, to say nothing of Hong-Kong, Tokyo or Honolulu, were true world cities, in which the quickening processes of cultural interchange colored everything from the food people ate to the thoughts they brooded upon. . . .

Some of the greatest world cities, like Berlin and Tokyo, have

actually become heaps of rubble and charcoal; and unless more humane purposes are formulated, and unless more intelligent plans prevail, the remaining metropolises of the world are headed to an even more sinister fate. The world cities of the past will either be liquidated by a benign intelligence, as the plans for Greater London and Manchester now propose, or they will be obliterated by the powers science has placed in man's all too ape-like hands. If we would avoid the second terminus we must conceive a new kind of world city, more directly designed to embody the good life and to further the processes of international cooperation. And the first place where such a demonstration may take place is, I suggest, in the new center for the United Nations.

What I should like to lay down for discussion, then, as a consequence of my previous analysis, are the following proposals:

First: That the site for the new center be found within an existing world metropolis. Such a center is already completely equipped, not merely to offer many essential international services, but to provide human hospitality for all manner of strange guests, taking their

differences and their peculiarities for granted as no merely provincial city can bring itself to do. The land acquired for this center should be on the order of one to three thousand acres; and the new international city should be created by a large-scale process of slum clearance and replacement, financed wholly by the United Nations and including provisions for the resettlement, under local administration, of the people and the industries that may be displaced.

Second: That the new world center should be set up, legally, as an independent municipality, bearing its share of the expenses for municipal services provided by the greater metropolis itself, but otherwise acting as an autonomous unit. This center should be conceived not simply as a group of assembly halls and administrative offices, but as a balanced urban community, completely equipped for living, capable of growing up to the point where it would hold a population of between twenty-five and fifty thousand people in permanent residence, with perhaps as many as a fifth of that number as transients. Such a community would contain ample domestic provisions for the permanent staff of the United Nations, including the

schools, hospitals and other services needed for their sympathetic care; likewise it would be prepared to house the personnel of the affiliated international organizations, in such a fashion as to promote meeting and social intercourse as well as professional collaboration. . . .

Third: That the new world center be conceived, both in the method of designing it and the process of building it, as well as its further administration, as an example—as a paragon, if you will—of the new world order we are now in the course of building. In its design, in its layout, in its actual structures such a city must make bold departures from the standard form of the classic periods of planning no less than from the standardized disorder of most of our contemporary metropolises. Such a city must distinguish itself, not only by its clarity of design and its growing unity of treatment, but by its studious retention of the human scale, by its resolute avoidance of the pompous and the grandiose, by its insistence upon measure and purpose in every element of the design. This city must be cut to the measure of a different kind of man from the powerful, domineering, semi-neurotic types who have left

their marks so unmistakably on the great capitals of the past. Yet such a city, though exemplifying the principle of balance, will make no effort to be wholly self-contained: the very choice of a site proclaims this fact. For the essence of community, from the sociological standpoint, is that no part of it can remain isolated from the whole, no part can be completely independent or work out its salvation without acknowledging its continued dependence upon other groups, associations and communities.

Fourth: That a series of such centers be projected for all the major continents and sub-continents, both as a means of providing services of an international nature for these regions, and as a method of demonstrating the essential principle of social relativity, whereby any part of the world may, temporarily, become the center of its life. The building of such international cities would, I believe, alter the center of gravity of the political world, and alter it for the better. It would not merely satisfy ambitions and hopes on the part of other peoples than the dominant nations of the past and present, which we ignore or suppress at our peril: it would also provide

a demonstration lesson in international cooperation that would go far deeper, because it would be continuous and prolonged, than the lessons some of us faintly began to learn in the fighting of a global war. Each new center that we started to plan would deepen our commitments to peace and comity.

All this may seem a very large order indeed; for it demands a marshalling of resources, a dedication of professional work, a daring in social inventiveness, which so far only the project for tapping atomic power and creating the atomic bomb has called forth. Yet the creation of the atomic pile should prove to us that there is no objective, however seemingly extravagant and remote, that men cannot, by a pooling of their minds, accomplish, if the will and the purpose are there. Compared with the atomic bomb project, only a small part of the building of a world center for the United Nations lies altogether within the realm of the unknown and the unexplored. If there is any novelty at all in these suggestions, it lies only in the fact that they have been brought together and applied to the special case in hand.

The first proposal, that for placing the new community in the very

heart of an existing world metropolis, may seem the most radical and difficult suggestion; but actually it is a step for which the historic parallel and the historic precedent actually exist. I refer, of course, to the relation of Vatican City and the city of Rome. . . .

In choosing the first of the world centers to be built, after all the geographic, climatic and social data have been appraised, the final decision would probably be governed by the degree of interest shown by competing municipalities for the privilege both of serving as host and of attracting international aid for the remaking of its own urban structure. Very possibly a blasted city like Hamburg or Leningrad might offer opportunities and incentives that New York, clinging to its costly obsolescence and the inflated values derived therefrom, would not provide. Even in New York, however, it would not be difficult to find plenty of land on Manhattan Island itself whose clearance for a world center, by gradual stages, would immensely revitalize the whole city. Both the honor and the opportunity for the city that was chosen would be great. . . .

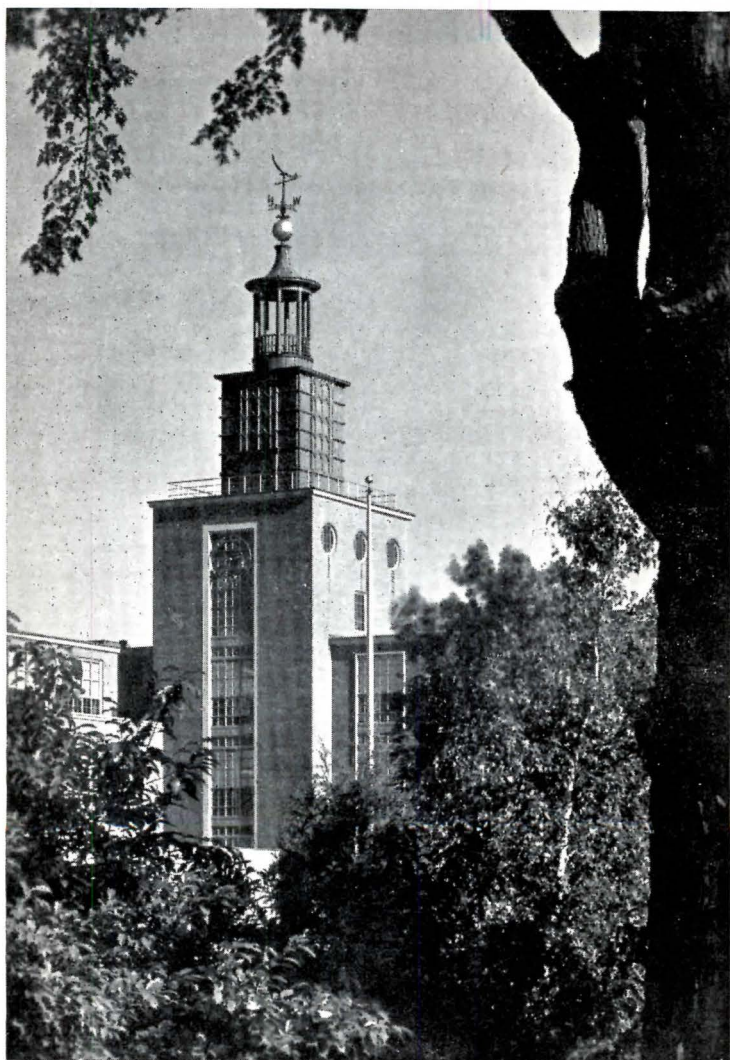
The fourth proposal, finally, may seem the most light-hearted

of all, since there is no evidence that our political leaders and mentors would even in their present state of mind consider building a single whole community, to say nothing of a grand series. And yet, if the other three proposals were granted I should hold on to the fourth as essential to the completion of the main idea. The minimum need for a world as big and complex as ours, containing over two billion human creatures, is for at least six or seven centers, which would represent every great cultural area. There are no longer physical obstacles to this process, as there would have been even fifty years ago; the process of instantaneous communication and manifold have made it possible to keep identical permanent records in each of the world centers with little more effort than it takes to make the original. No great international corporation operates from its home office alone; and why should we think that in the political and cultural relations of mankind we can work on any more niggardly basis? The provision of more than one capital does not imply that the members of the United Nations organization would be in a state of nomadry: nothing could be more disruptive either to normal

social life or the processes of administration. But the choice does not lie between a single fixed center and an indefinite series of shifts.

If as many as six world capitals were in existence each might be occupied by the central staff for a five-year period in rotation; and in the course of a generation each of the major population areas would have the distinction of becoming temporarily the center of world affairs. Not merely would this arrangement give more than lip service to the recognition of political and cultural equality between the peoples of the world: it would also have the great spiritual advantage of inducing the leaders and governors of the world to make Canossa-like pilgrimages to other centers far below the edge of their ordinary horizon, seeing world problems from the altered perspectives that a fresh position in space actually gives one. Finally, such an arrangement would help put an end to the sterile totalitarian dream, the dream of an Alexander in one age, a Napoleon in another, and a Hitler in a third, that a single nation, a single culture, or a single group might ever dominate and control the multifarious activities of mankind. . . .

One charge will immediately be

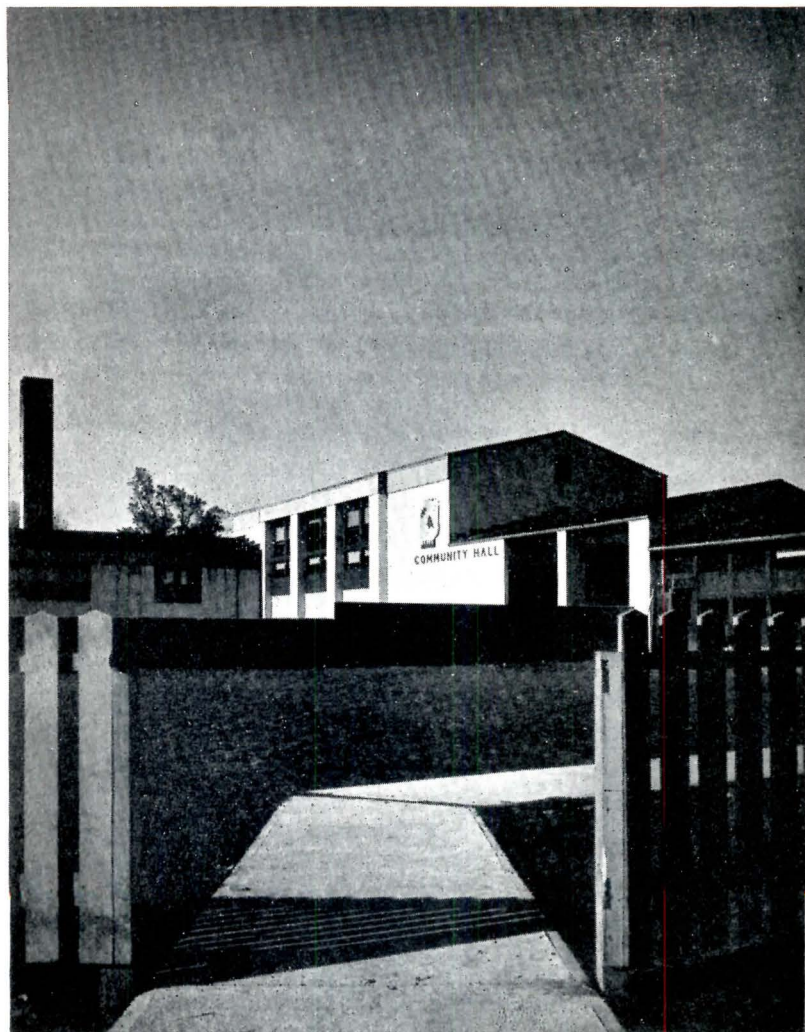


TOWER OF WELLESLEY HIGH SCHOOL, WELLESLEY, MASS.

PERRY, SHAW & HEPBURN, ARCHITECTS

*Photograph by Haskell*

*Journal  
The AIA*



COMMUNITY BUILDING, BEREA, OHIO

J. BYERS HAYS, ARCHITECT

*Photograph by R. Marvin Wilson*

*Journal  
The AIA*

260



brought against such a program as I have outlined, even had I been prudent enough to confine it to the building of a single city. And that is the charge of extravagance. Where is the money for such a gigantic enterprise to come from? Is it not singular that we never ask these questions when we are confronted with the demands of war: there is no extravagance, no waste, no practical demand too colossal to keep us from opening our purses and robbing generations to come of their inheritance. That paradox is too bitter to be meekly swallowed. There will never be peace or security in the world till we are ready to give as much for the purposes of life as for death, to spend as much on childbirth as on funerals, as much on building cities as on their demolition. If our present needs do not bring about a transvaluation of values here we will write the death warrant of our peoples. Should the proposals I have put forward prove ill-conceived let them be condemned out of hand; but if there should be any merit in them let no one seek to put a limit to their fulfillment by mere considerations of expense.

For actually, once the costs of

land acquisition and resettlement were written off, these new quarters would be self-sustaining, and to finance them we would have, not the limited resources of a municipality or a country, but the total productivity of mankind. At present we have only the roughest notion of what the expenses of mankind in this last war were; but one city could probably be acquired and built on the most generous scale possible with less money than was spent by the world in six months of fighting; and even if it took a whole year's expenditure it would still be the soundest possible investment that our generation could make. Where our heart lies our treasure will lie also; and if the treasure be not forthcoming that will be a proof, and a sad proof, that our hearts are still untouched. Every pound, dollar, and rouble would be well spent if, in the process of conceiving and building a world center, we gave mankind the vision of a new goal, the method for a more effective kind of cooperation, and the hope for a more benign and life-furthering civilization. . . .

We shall never do justice to the future, either politically or architecturally, if we let our imagina-

tions be sterilized by the images of old St. Petersburg and Versailles, Karlsruhe, Washington and Whitehall. We must have something better to give the world than any of those cities have even hinted at; nor can that something better be expressed in terms of the modest suburban estate of which the present committee of the United Nations seems with pathetic modesty to be thinking. For the suburb is not a symbol of world cooperation but of romantic isolationism, of withdrawal and retreat. Whatever else the world center of the United Nations must be by way of accomplishing its political and cultural functions, it must at least be an adequate symbol. . . .

No one master mind could design such a city: no single generation could achieve it. Like the unity of the world itself, it will have to be made and remade as we discover the provincialities and partialities of our earlier attempts at order. He who enters this international city should be forced

by the architecture itself to drop some of his nationalism, some of his tribalism, at its green barriers, even as the Moslem faithful leave their shoes at the entry of the mosque. Such a city, if we achieve it, will be the expression of disciplined and humane personalities brought together from every part of the earth; people alert to the bottomless dangers of our age, but determined to ride them, as seafaring people are determined to keep afloat on the stormiest waters. Recently I was talking with a distinguished Polish architect and planner who had survived three years in the worst of the German concentration camps. He told me about his experiences there. "One learned," he said, "that life by itself may become cheap, soiled, and worthless. But at the same time, those who managed to survive without dishonoring themselves learned another lesson: to serve life is everything." It is in that spirit that we must conceive and design and first work out a program for the world centers for the United Nations.

"Neither the acquisition of information nor the development of special skills and talents can give the broad basis of understanding which is so essential if our civilization is to be preserved."—DR. JAMES B. CONANT.

# What is "Fireproof"?

By *Maurice Webster\**

Reprinted by permission from the article copyrighted by *The Atlantic Monthly* in their issue of October, 1946.

**F**IREPROOF is a very reassuring term when you don't know what it means. To say that a hotel is of fireproof construction means that it has been so designed as to eliminate the possibility of more than a minimum and predictable fire loss. Fireproof construction is the child of fire insurance and any safety to occupants is merely a by-product.

Had you been on the nineteenth floor of the LaSalle Hotel on the night of its great fire last June, you could have taken comfort in knowing that the fire could rage up to a temperature of 2000°F. over a period of four hours before there could be any danger of failure in the supporting columns. That no one could have survived such an ordeal is beside the point.

The hotel management could take comfort in knowing that with the replacement of superficial decorative surfaces, the hotel would

again be ready for business. In the words of a consultant of the Underwriters' Laboratories, "Such a building should be designed like a good stove, capable of containing an intense fire for a considerable length of time without danger of structural failure."

The story of those hotel fires in which many lives are lost follows a pattern which is so repetitious that certain conclusions seem inevitable. This is the general pattern: An area in the ground floor—dining room, bar, lobby, or connecting store—bursts into flame so rapidly that fire-fighting equipment cannot prevent the first nearly explosive combustion. The enormous expansion of flaming gases creates its own draft, carrying smoke and fire up open stairways and elevator shafts. Each well or shaft is like a chimney except that the outlet at the top is safely sealed, while

---

\* Mr. Webster, an architect graduated from Cornell in the class of 1916, was a member of the Investigating Jury appointed by the Coroner of Cook County to investigate the recent disastrous fire in the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago. He was also on the Jury that investigated the General Clark Hotel fire, in which fourteen persons died.

holes in its sides lead into bedroom corridors.

Temperature and atmospheric pressure in bedroom corridors rise rapidly, forcing smoke, carbon monoxide and fire through transoms into bedrooms. Where windows leading to fire escapes are open the pressure carries smoke and flame across these exits, making them deadly. No fresh air can come in any window, for the pressure is always outward, except at the very base of the fire.

Panic conditions are created in corridors. Illumination and exit lights are completely blacked out by thick rolling clouds of smoke which blanket the ceilings. Guests cannot find exits through these dangerous corridors. The result is death from suffocation or burns. The post-mortem shows carbon monoxide.

For the safety of occupants these are the factors of prime importance: first, of course, to prevent fire; second, to extinguish fires in their incipient stages; third, to prevent the spread of fire; and fourth, so to channel the fire and fumes of combustion as to prevent their spreading in upper portions of the building and killing by asphyxiation. A great deal has been said on the first three subjects, but the

proper venting of fire and gas is not very well understood, as the contradictory laws written into our building codes show. It is this subject that I should like to emphasize.

An understanding of the behavior of gases in combustion is necessary in the design of proper venting. When air is heated from 70° F. to 1500° F.—which is the temperature at the center of substantial construction fires—the air expands to about four times its original volume. Added to this expansion is the expansion through combustion of any solid matter consumed, such as woodwork, furniture, or paint, which expands to between 100 and 150 times its original volume. This combination of heated air and gas is very light and its expansion causes great pressure when confined. It will break out adjacent windows or expand horizontally, spreading the fire into other rooms, when it cannot rise. In most of our worst fires, open stair wells or elevator shafts have carried the suffocating gases into bedroom corridors, where the greatest loss of life has occurred.

The enclosure of elevator shafts and stair wells is a very important safety measure, but even this has failed when not combined with

proper venting. Automatic door closers—which close at a temperature of 155° F.—are standard equipment, but they are not infallible. The trouble is that people are constantly blocking open the doors to these enclosures, for the convenience of guests or to obtain natural ventilation in corridors. Any safety measure which depends on vigilant and constant supervision will fail at times.

No stair well or elevator shaft is safe unless surmounted by a large vent which will open when fire or excessive pressures have entered. The first reaction of most unobservant people is that this vent is very dangerous, as it will make a draft and increase combustion.

In evaluating the merits of this device it is necessary to consider: (1) what will happen when fire and smoke have entered a shaft which is sealed at the top; (2) what will happen when it is wide open at the top.

In the first case, when fire or smoke has entered the shaft it is no longer of any use as a safe means of escape. The fire and dangerous gas, being blocked at the top, will travel horizontally wherever there is an opening, usually carrying fire into other portions of

the building. Where a corridor door is open, all occupants of that floor are endangered by carbon monoxide and fire. All exits on that floor and those above have been made hazardous.

An open vent may stimulate combustion in the fire below, but it is futile to try to smother the flames except by some types of extinguishers. There will always be enough oxygen to support combustion, and if the intensely heated gas is not vented, it will either blow out a window and flame up the outside of the building or will spread into other rooms.

If the stair well or elevator shaft is so vented as to leave it wide open at the top when fire has entered, the fire will rush up and out as in a chimney. Then it will make little difference whether or not some corridor doors are open, because suction will always be *into the shaft*. Little fire or smoke will enter the corridor. For the scientifically inclined, a reference to Bernoulli's Theorem (explained in any high school physics book) will be found to be pertinent. The fire below will be led towards this shaft, intense heat and inflammable gas will be drained off, and the danger of horizontal spread of fire will be reduced.

The LaSalle Hotel fire gave an instructive demonstration of these facts. The fire broke out and spread with extraordinary rapidity. The cocktail lounge was completely enveloped in flame within two minutes of the discovery of the fire. It swept into the lobby with great pressure before it blew the plate-glass windows out of the cocktail lounge. Less than two minutes later the whole lobby was ablaze and fire roared up the open stairways.

Occupants testified that within five minutes of the discovery of the fire, corridors as high as the seventeenth floor were so blanketed with smoke as to make lighted 60-watt bulbs completely invisible.

There was a small ventilator leading out of the cocktail lounge into an elevator shaft. This was much too small to have any appreciable effect on the pressures blowing the fire into the lobby. Flames shot into the shaft and rose twenty-two stories, being drawn by three 24-inch ventilators at the top. When the temperature of air going through these ventilators rose to 155° F., the ventilators snapped shut as required by a misguided ordinance. This instantly forced all rising gas out through elevator openings into corridors on all

floors. Flames broke very quickly into the elevator shaft at the first floor.

So far the fire had followed the typical pattern. Many people had already been exposed to carbon monoxide, and flames were licking corridors from the mezzanine to the seventh floor.

By this time windows leading into the court were breaking out from the stair wells and elevator shaft. All windows in the elevator shaft from the second to the twenty-second floor, and in the stair wells from the second to the sixth, were avenues of fire: these openings formed vents which began to draw the flame and gases out. The fire department arrived. Firemen testified that there were not the usual pressures at entrances from expanding gas. As guests groped their way to fire escapes through blackened corridors, the dangerous pressures had subsided, and when windows leading to fire escapes were opened, no smoke blew out to rise in a column and endanger those above. Nearly a thousand people were safely evacuated by fire escape, since all normal public exits led through the lobby.

A study of the building after the fire showed white paths of

clean floor leading out from under bedroom doors, all pointing in the direction of the elevator shaft. At other places the white marble was black as slate. This indicated clearly that once the windows had broken out in the shaft a positive suction had been established toward the shaft.

It is possible to carry out this principle to such an extent that no fire will develop a higher pressure in a corridor than exists in the bedrooms. Under these circumstances a bedroom in a fireproof building would be nearly 100 per cent safe from fires originating outside the room itself.

Most national advisory codes support the principle of venting by recommending skylights of plain glass or clerestory windows having an area of not less than 75 per cent of the cross-sectional area of the stair well or elevator shaft. This glass will break out under intense heat and the fire will vent itself. Fire-fighting authorities with whom I have talked have preferred a fusible link or some other more positive and rapid means of opening. It is the practice of firemen to get on the roof and break these skylights when they have not broken of themselves.

Many municipal codes and some state codes require solid concrete slabs over stair wells and shafts and, as in the LaSalle Hotel, require any ventilation to be self-closing when fire has entered the shaft. These codes are in direct conflict with one another and with common sense.

Automatic venting is required almost universally over fly galleries in theaters and in motion picture projection booths. Industries handling explosives, volatile oils and paints have made wide use of this safety measure.

Safety to occupants of buildings is written into our building codes. The writers of these dull and infuriating documents seem to have fallen under the spell of the beautiful word "fireproof," for they often relax their requirements for exits, enclosures, and other prime safety measures when considering the "fireproof building."

Codes often permit 100 per cent of public exits to be channeled through lobbies without requiring rigid limits to combustible material or the protection of sprinklers. Minor stupidities in codes are frequent—such as a code requiring exit lights to be at ceilings, when, under conditions that make it urgent to find an exit, lights at ceil-

ings are invariably obscured by smoke. Glass transoms over bedroom doors are fire hazards frequently overlooked by codes. Yet we know that transoms break out and permit the spread of fire, as in the recent Congress Hotel fire.

Spread of fire is conditioned by surfaces. Old "mill construction" permitted no paint or varnish other than cold-water paint because it was found that oil-bonded paints spread fires very rapidly and gave off a dense black smoke. This was rediscovered by the Navy after a disastrous transport fire in mid-Atlantic. The Navy and the Bureau of Standards have done considerable research in this direction and have developed some very good paints.

If you doubt the hazards produced by many coats of paint, take a piece of tin one foot square having fifteen coats of oil-bonded paint thereon, and place it over a lighted burner on the kitchen stove. Then note how the eyes sting; note the black smoke on the ceiling and the anguished cries of the housewife. Multiply this effect several thousand times and you will have a reasonable facsimile of a hotel corridor in a bad fire.

It is suggested that the use of oil-bonded paints be discouraged in

stair wells and at least on ceilings of corridors, lobbies, and cocktail lounges. Ceilings are critical because heat always stratifies and hugs the top of any enclosure, looking for a way up and out.

We are rapidly covering the ceilings of our corridors and principal rooms with acoustic materials. So far as I know, no study of the relative flame-spreading characteristics of these varied materials has been made. Such a study seems imperative.

We must not permit our codes to multiply construction costs by more and more restrictions and requirements. By overdoing it we can make their enforcement impossible and turn them into instruments of extortion. A study of codes to eliminate present unnecessary exorbitant requirements and to plug up dangerous omissions—this, combined with education, will encourage voluntary compliance where it is most urgently needed.

These are my conclusions drawn from a study of many dangerous hotel fires: first, that these fires generally originate in ground floors or basements; that most deaths occur on the bedroom floors; and that most of these deaths are due to suffocation or entrapment.



Thus it follows that for safety we must give close attention to:—

1. Hidden spaces and closets, where fires are born.

2. The amount of combustible material and the flammability of surfaces in lobbies and connecting areas. Sprinkler systems should be installed where conditions permit.

3. Proper protection between lobbies and sleeping areas.

4. Proper venting to keep gas and combustion pressures out of bedroom corridors.

In my opinion, and in the opinion of several other members of the investigating juries, all of the fourteen lives lost in the General Clark Hotel fire could have been saved by the expenditure of about \$2,000 for self-closing doors into corridors and by substituting plain glass for wire glass in the skylights. And in the LaSalle Hotel all but the employees who remained

in the lobby cashiers' cages too long, and possibly the telephone operator, might have been saved by the same changes. At a considerably greater expense the installation of automatic sprinklers would probably have saved all sixty-two lives lost in the LaSalle Hotel.

Finally, let me add one very human footnote. If you are really interested in safety, you will be most careful about smoking in bed. This practice contains more individual hazard than that of inhabiting a fireproof hotel. Some day a practical flame-proofing will be developed for bedding. In the meantime some communities have made it illegal to smoke in bed. Does enforcement seem impracticable? Well, a stiff fine and the fear of an irate landlord might have an inhibiting effect. Otherwise we shall have to continue to rely on fire.

## Utah and the Small House

**A**NOTHER effort by architects to solve the perennial small house problem has recently been launched by a group in Salt Lake City. It is unusual chiefly in the "trust agreement" binding the architect-members and a full-time

manager together and to their respective functions. A copy of this agreement is before us, and, while it is too long to print verbatim, excerpts from its nine single-spaced typewritten pages and from three more pages of rules and fees should

give a fairly accurate picture of the project.

"WHEREAS, the usual planning of low-cost housing is of a common and standardized nature, and individual architectural design is customarily lacking in such housing, and,

"WHEREAS, it is the desire of the member-architects that the services of the architectural profession be extended and made available to the great mass of low-cost home builders to whom such services have been unavailable in the past, and,

"WHEREAS, it is the desire of the member-architects to contribute to the general improvement of housing in this community by making individual architectural designs and architectural services in connection therewith available to individual home builders at low cost,

"NOW THEREFORE IT IS AGREED THAT:

"I. The named parties hereto shall contribute their talents and resources and make available for sale house plans and architectural services in connection with house plans. This shall be accomplished by assignment of house plans to the Trustee, in trust, and the sale of such house plans and architectural services in connection therewith shall be for the benefit of the member-architects, the profession of architecture, and for the benefit of all the people. The Trustee shall conduct the affairs of the organization thus formed, and this organization shall be known as

"Homes Architectural," and shall be referred to hereinafter as the Organization.

"II. Since it is the purpose of the Organization to extend the service of the profession of architecture to the public, it is the desire and anticipation of the named parties hereto that new member-architects will join the organization from time to time from the ranks of the licensed architects of the State of Utah. It is therefore agreed that none but a duly licensed architect in the State of Utah may join the Organization as a member-architect by applying for admission as outlined hereinafter. . . ."

Then follows (Section III) a list of the present member-architects and the Trustee, with the amounts of capital contributed: \$1,000 from the Trustee, \$150 each from individual practitioners and \$250 from partnerships.

The Trustee (Section IV) is to "enter upon a promotional, advertising and organizational campaign in order that the Organization will be properly prepared to engage in sales and service activity on or about January 1, 1947." He is to rent an office, employ an experienced draftsman, prepare a suitable portfolio of house plans assigned to him by the member-architects, open books of account, and furnish a bond for the performance of his trust.

The member-architects (Section V) "shall select from their number a Board of Approval, whose

function shall be to examine and approve, or disapprove, all house plans submitted by the member-architects. . . . The Board of Approval shall not approve a house plan unless it conforms to the Regulations Relating to House Plans. . . .

"Each house plan . . . shall be offered for sale by him for a price to be computed according to the Schedule of Prices and Investment Values of House Plans. . . . When a house plan is approved by the Board of Approval and assigned to the Trustee for sale, the Trustee shall enter upon his books of account the investment value of such plan, as computed from the Schedule referred to herein, and shall credit the member-architect submitting such plan with the amount of its investment value. . . . In the event that one year passes, during which a house plan is not sold by the Trustee, said plan will be withdrawn from the market by the Trustee at the end of the current quarter and the account of the member-architect submitting said plan will then be debited to the extent of the original investment value. . . .

"In the event that a house plan is sold by the Trustee without any change therein being effected, the member-architect submitting the plan, and whose name appears thereon, shall be responsible for its conformance to the building and related codes of Salt Lake City and the State of Utah. In the event that the purchaser desires changes

in the plan, the Trustee will cause such changes to be made, and the submitting architect will not be responsible for the plan as changed unless he approves the change in writing, or unless he makes the change himself. The Trustee shall require the purchaser to pay the cost of such a change, as determined by the Schedule of Prices. . . .

The member-architect retains his working drawings but agrees to furnish prints and specifications on 48 hours' notice, subject to a penalty.

Moneys received by the Trustee through sales are divided thus: 50% to Trustee, 33% to the member-architect who prepared the plan, and 17% into a common fund for later distribution.

"It is anticipated that the Trustee may desire, or in an emergency will find it necessary, to have prepared and to contribute a house plan to the Organization for sale. In the event of such an emergency, the Trustee is authorized to sell a house plan prepared by him without first having obtained approval of the plan by the Board of Approval, but shall sell such plan, without approval, one time only. Thereafter, the plan will be submitted to the Board of Approval, and will be offered for sale by the Trustee thereafter only if approved by the Board. . . .

"In order to further the architectural services to be rendered by the Organization, it is agreed that if a purchaser of a house plan desires the services of a member-

architect to supervise the construction of a house planned by the member-architect, such supervision will be rendered, at the option of the submitting architect, and if rendered, will be compensated for by payment by the purchaser to the Trustee at a rate to be determined from the Schedule of Prices. . . . Any sum so received by the Trustee will be paid directly to the architect performing the service."

Quarterly accounts are to be rendered and, after paying all income taxes from the common fund, the cash in the latter is to be paid to the architect-members in proportion to their respective investments.

A member-architect is free to withdraw at any time from participation in the Organization. He is also held free of any liability in contract arising from the activities of the Trustee.

As to rules and regulations:

All plans will be grouped and priced according to floor area.

A member-architect will present to the Board of Approval: one or more original promotion drawings to be used for reproduction (color is permissible); one set of working drawings meeting FHA requirements; one set of specifications, "flexible in choice of materials where such choice will not detract from the appearance or workability

of the house." Promotion drawings must be on 20" x 30" heavy mat boards, with vertical composition, and with specified margins and title strip. Working drawings must be on standard multiples of letter size, such as 17" x 22" or 22" x 34", and must include heating, plumbing, electrical, structural and other details. Specifications are furnished as clear readable copy and are reproduced by the Trustee by multigraph or ditto machine.

Prices for plans are:

Area	Sales Price	Investment Value
550— 800 sq. ft.	\$45	\$85
800—1200 sq. ft.	55	95
1200—1600 sq. ft.	65	110
1600—2400 sq. ft.	75	130

"Provided: That any plan submitted to the Board of Approval prior to October 1, 1946, shall receive twice the investment value shown above for its class; and, any plan submitted to the Board after October 1, 1946, but prior to November 15, 1946, will receive one and one-half ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ ) times the investment value for its class, as shown above. . . ."

Changes in plans are charged for at \$5.50 per hour. Supervision is provided at the rate of \$5.50 per hour.

"There was a time in my house when if you wanted to turn on the radio, all you had to do was click a little knob. Now if you click a knob, the toilets get flushed, the sprinkler system goes on, and the Good Humor man arrives."—BOB HOPE



## Thoughts on Exterior Color Schemes

*By Julian Ellsworth Garnsey*

MOTHER ARCHITECTURE has long nurtured three children: Painting, Sculpture and Landscape Architecture. Her fourth offspring, Color, has until recently been ignored or given grudging consideration. This treatment of Color by his maternal ancestor may be due to the fact that he went out to play with Home Furnishings, Women's Clothing, Movies and some lads from the wrong side of the architectural tracks called go-Geddes or Industrial Designers. The latter received him with open arms and, partly as a result of their association with him, began to cut into mama's field of operations. Some serious thinking led her to invite the little fellow back into the architectural family, which he should never have left, where he is taking nourishment and growing up rapidly.

However, there is still some doubt as to how he should be treated, now that he is in favor again. Is he a capricious, unpredictable fellow with whom nobody can get along? Or are there proven

and sure ways by which he may be tamed and brought to heel in the service of Mother Architecture?

This paper will deal with problems of exterior color only, to the extent that space limitations permit. Groundwork has been laid for it by two previous articles in the JOURNAL. ("Color and Color Harmony," February, 1946, and "The Architect's Color Problems," May, 1946).

The exterior color scheme of any building should receive consideration at the very outset of the architect's thinking about his elevations, and should develop along with them, undergoing modifications parallel to the customary progressive changes and refinements in form. Few designers realize or will admit that color, whether one wishes it or not, either reinforces or negates the form itself. If this statement be doubted, the proof lies in answers to these questions: Will not vertical dark stripes increase the apparent height of a building, and horizontal ones, its length?

Does not a dome colored in blue or green seem to float more than one in orange or red? Which seems farther away: a verde-antique or a porphyry column?

If the point be granted, let us cite an example of its practical use. Consider a bank which has been designed in plan to have an open loggia enclosing the front entrance, and having two columns dividing its opening into three spaces. The architect desires the loggia to appear as deep as possible but, land values being what they are, he cannot afford much actual depth. His solution will be to choose a dark value for the rear wall, perhaps bronze, and a light-valued advancing color such as Tavernelle or Hauteville for his columns. The reverse scheme would result in exactly the opposite and undesired effect. Incidentally, those light columns would have to be thinned in profile because a light object against dark seems to expand—another example of the effect of color value upon form.

A further reason for studying color relations early in the design is that, very shortly, the client will expect to receive some kind of a picture of the kind of building he will finally have. Few architects,

accustomed from their youth up to orthographic projections, will believe how little a client really comprehends right-line drawings. So a "rendering" will be required, but what kind? Certainly not the ancient 45-degree, shades-and-shadows convention, nor, one hopes, the tricky cobwebs of white lines on solid black, or vice-versa, favored in some circles today.

The client understands best a literal color sketch, showing green grass, un-Dali trees, blue sky with or without fleecy clouds, and the true local colors of his building, modified by the fall of light appropriate to orientation and a given time of year. Not long ago an architect said to the present writer at a time when studies for his building were still at sixteenth-inch scale: "Take an imaginary walk around my building and when you see a paintable view, unlimber your imaginary kit of water-colors and make a sketch. Do half-a-dozen or so of such." To tell the truth, he later said that the final results were too tight and that a good dose of physic was indicated for the renderer. Nevertheless, one of the sketches was chosen by the client to hang on his office wall, and the general procedure was, and is, entirely satisfactory for show-

ing a client what he will get for his money.

Our point here is that, to make a realistic rendering, some serious thought must have been given to the exterior color scheme. What should be the procedure?

One doubts the practicality of mathematical calculations, based upon the Munsell system, which are mentioned by Mr. Tucker. For one thing, since buildings are three-dimensional, relative areas of their colorings change in proportion according to perspective and the location of the viewer. For another, the formulae are just too darned complicated. An easier approach lies in selecting the three hues mentioned in a previous article, viz: a dominant, a relief and an accent. The dominant, largest in area—say the mass of the building—will be chosen for its relation to environment, to the function of the building and to the designer's own creative imagination.

To relate this dominant to the environment, one must decide whether the new building shall prevail over its surroundings or melt into them. If it is to stand out, by how much difference in hue, value and intensity? For example, the new store in a retail neighborhood

will not be expected to take a modest back seat nor leap into the forefront of attention like a sore thumb. It should stand out slightly but not blatantly. A few minutes' consideration of this point alone at the site will bring rich returns later.

Function may be truly expressed in color as in form. The fundamental functional differences between a night-club, a mortuary, a church, a public library, quickly suggest appropriate hues if one has a dictionary of color handy, as every designer should.

The expression of the designer's own creative imagination is a highly personal matter, for which courage, not timidity, should be the watchword. Everybody loves a brave try even if it is not superlatively successful. Confidence in his use of color may be developed by the architect through exposure to colorful objects such as fabrics, enamels, mosaic, pottery and other visual satisfactions to be found in museums or books. One brave and successful effort exists for all to see in Raymond Hood's American Radiator Building in New York, which stands as a monument to his unfettered imagination. Lest it be inferred that this argument favors powerful color effects per

se, Hood's Tribune Tower in Chicago shows his delicate handling where he felt that delicacy was required.

When the dominant hue has been chosen, two more are to be selected in relation to it. Again to simplify the matter, one may state that they will be either analogous (neighboring) or complementary (contrasting) to the dominant. The analogous system is safer but also less interesting. A common hue-circle, easily obtained, quickly identifies neighbors and complements. Here again, decisions will be based on considerations of environment, function and personal point of view. Where recession is desired, that purpose would obviously be defeated if one used a complementary relationship, and analogy would be useless where a powerful effect is desired. However, at about this point, personal preferences and bright ideas will enter, and counsel should give way to the architect's own brand of thinking.

It may not have escaped atten-

tion that hues only have been mentioned above. This was purposely done in order that the point may here be made that variations of value and intensity within any one of the three principal hues are desirable for richness. Otherwise textures would not exist. The handsomest fields of blue, for example, consist of many variations from pale turquoise to deepest ultramarine which, in sum, make up the dominant hue. The analogy here to music is obvious.

Finally, a plea is here entered for more interesting, imaginative, stimulating color in American cities and towns. A journey across the continent reveals that a depressing middle-value gray runs through from New York to San Francisco and from St. Paul to New Orleans. The visitor from Mars would infer that Americans are a sad, dispirited, uninteresting lot of people, which they certainly are not. If they were, they would be unhappy in Heaven, if the description in the Book of Revelation is correct. Only the architects can remedy this situation.

"While it is quite true that every past city civilization has had its blight and slum areas, never before have people, knowing better, frankly and openly helped to design future ones. I refer to the many housing developments in the U. S."—RALPH WALKER, F.A.I.A.





SAINT-LO, NORMANDY

July, 1944

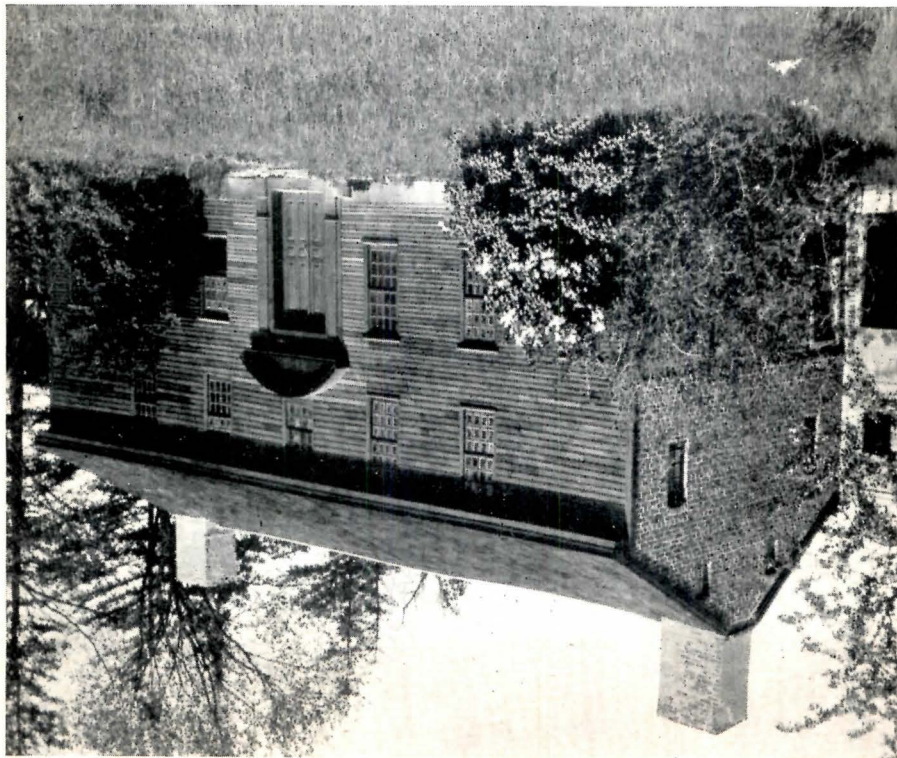
Lest we forget

THE SHORT HOUSE (BUILT SHORTLY AFTER 1732)

NEWBURY, MASS.

*Photograph from Society for the  
Preservation of New England Antiquities*

*Do you know this building?*



## Examinations in Paris—II

*By Huger Elliott*

Part I of Mr. Elliott's story, dealing with the strenuous preparation for the Ecole examinations, appeared in the November JOURNAL.

THAT AUTUMN there were more than four hundred contestants, each of whom, of course, was hoping to be one of the chosen sixty. We were assigned, alphabetically, to various rooms in the rambling mass of the School buildings, and supplied with tables and stools. Each man brought with him his board and paraphernalia (also his lunch), and a sheet of white cardboard of specified size. As we filed in, this sheet was stamped in one corner with the Government stamp and casually looked over to see that nothing had been drawn on it. We were also given mimeographed sheets describing the problem—a monument to a national hero—and the requirements: plan, elevation and section to be drawn at a given scale. No talking, no discussion of the problem was permitted. We worked to an undercurrent of muttered curses, groans and snatches of smothered song; the minutes flew by; we strove with furious intensity to create a striking design and to put it upon the

cardboard in an effective manner.

A gong sounded. We gathered our stuff and filed out, leaving our precious sheets, on which so much depended, in the hands of the bored guardian, and stepped into the fresh air; I, for one, feeling as though I had been through a clothes-wringer.

Then came a pause, a sense of being suspended in mid-air. We could rest, but hardly relax. What was to be our fate?

The designs had been hung in the huge Salle de Melpomène; the judges had considered them and finally it was announced that on a certain day the doors would open. Again excitement flared; a big crowd awaited the opening of those doors.

As the number of contestants was large, the judges had been liberal in the use of their red pencils. As I dashed around the room looking for my design I wondered if it would be disfigured by a great red streak from corner to corner. When I finally spotted it and saw that it was not so marked I felt

as a mountain climber must feel when about to topple over a precipice but finds that the rope holds. There was still a chance for me.

Soon a notice was posted concerning the tests in drawing and modeling. We went to the rooms assigned with our various materials: smaller groups, this time, since almost half of the original contestants had been eliminated by the test in Design. These sessions were not exciting. In the first, the sheet of paper upon which one was to draw was duly examined and stamped; I found myself facing a fine cast of a capital from the Erechtheion. While I drew I recalled M. Besson's precepts, but with no sense of tension. The drawing of forms in front of one is a task much simpler than the thinking out a solution of a problem in architectural design. And the test in modeling was almost dull—though one always had in mind the fact that the precipice was still there: would the rope again hold?

After an interval the drawings and models were displayed. Some of us found that we were to be permitted to face the final trial—the examinations in mathematics and in history.

Our friends already in the School assured us that the written parts of these subjects meant nothing: "They never look at those papers"—a statement which, to my sorrow, I found to be incorrect. In the math quiz I did my utmost, and handed in my paper hoping for the best. The next day was written History. The mimeographed sheets doled out to us stated that M. So-and-so had recently published a scholarly study of ancient Greece: would the contestants kindly analyze some of his views. As this sheet was studied there were loud murmurs from the Frenchmen (we were supposed not to talk): angry protests, *sotto voce*, that this was unfair—no one present, it seemed, had ever heard of the book.

Well—something had to be written. So I set to work and described in what was undoubtedly the most remarkable "French" ever put upon paper, how I had fallen asleep on the Acropolis ("A man is not responsible for what he says in sleep"): in a dream I saw Pericles and his friends mounting the great stairway—a wild medley of history and archaeology: and with care-free heart handed it to the guardian.

Then came days of weary wait-

ing, for the oral examinations went slowly. We were called upon in alphabetical order: there was no way of knowing how many of the men ahead of you on the list might, at the last minute, decide to give up the fight—so you had to hang around the examination room lest you miss your turn. To listen to the proceedings—to hear a student giving what you were fairly sure was an incorrect answer, and yet doubting your knowledge, was a nerve-trying experience. The examiner in Mathematics was calm, and very patient; he put his questions clearly and gave the student time to collect his thoughts. The friends and relatives of the contestants sat motionless and silent on their benches; we who were to be examined sat on our bench equally mute and immobile. Presently my name was called by the guardian: I made my bow to the examiner and stepped to the blackboard. There were questions and answers. Once, when I hesitated for a few moments, I thought the Professor was about to say I might sit down, but the solution of the problem suddenly came to me (at least I fervently hoped it was the solution). I was asked another question, and was then courteously

given leave to go. The examiner's face gave me no hint of his opinion of my performance.

I stepped out. The last weight was off my shoulders, but I was so fagged that at the moment I cared little whether I had passed or failed. However—I must do my duty by Mayence: one of his requirements was that immediately after the oral exam the student give him a minute account of questions and answers. This was reasonable: the value of his teaching depended upon such timely knowledge. When I recounted my hesitation he flared up: that a man trained by *him* should thus disgrace him!—it was *incroyable*: I had a feeling that he was about to fling me out of the window.

Soon I began to haunt the room where the oral examination in History was being held. The examiner, a large, jovial man with a huge white beard, sat behind a small table, a chair for the student was opposite. Near the wall stood several long benches filled with auditors. I took a seat on the bench reserved for contestants, and was presently smiling at an astonishing map of Greece being drawn on a blackboard by a young Frenchman. The amusement of the audi-

ence became audible. Soon it was my turn: I went forward, was asked to be seated and to select a slip of paper from a pile on the table. I took one and handed it to the professor, noticing that it had a number written on it. He glanced at it, flipped the pages of the *History of the World*; found, I suppose, the corresponding number—and asked me to discuss the policies of Henri Quatre. My knowledge of French was small but fortunately I knew a little about Henri; so, in a low voice, I gave him some facts concerning the monarch. Presently he glanced at his list of candidates and was, I think, about to dismiss me when he looked more closely at the sheet, paused, then took a folded paper from the drawer of the table. Addressing the world at large in a voice that the audience evidently realized was for its benefit, he remarked that M. Ale-e-o had written a charming paper concerning the ancient Greeks—and proceeded to read it aloud. The crowd began to snicker: he read on in a well-modulated voice, not a trace of amusement on his handsome face. The laughter grew unrestrained, and I sat there, blushing and furious, trying to convince myself that the poor man had a dull time

during these tests and should be allowed a little amusement, also remembering that this was the last examination. But the laughter was galling, and when he at length folded the paper and dismissed me, I stalked from the room boiling with rage but wearing, I hoped, an expression of entire indifference.

However—exams, for me, were over: now for the verdict.

The days of suspense seemed very long. The examiners moved slowly from E to N, from O to Z. But at last every candidate had had his turn, and finally a date was announced on which the marks would be posted.

When the day came I could not face the hours of waiting. I suggested to George Ford that we go to Amiens. We took an early train: wandered through the splendid cathedral, climbed the towers, examined the vaulting, made notes of details, and lost ourselves in admiration of the logic and the sense of beauty of the Gothic builders. But as we took the afternoon train for Paris excitement began to stir, and on our arrival I ran almost the entire way from the Gare de Nord to the *École*: the philosophic George had decided to wait till morning.

I was so breathless, so keyed up, that when I stood before the list I could scarcely read it. Slowly, however, the letters became legible—my name was there. The rope had held. I had passed.

I let out a whoop, and dashed to the rue Jacob. I called up from the court: Bick, who was waiting for me, answered with a yell, came plunging down the stairs, and we did a wild Indian dance all over the place. He, too, had passed. Then we caught a bus and made for the cable office: my message to my family was a single word—"IN."

Then slowly, very slowly, after long nights of sleep, after days of mere existence, the tension ebbed away; slowly came the realization that this was not an end, but a beginning. I was in the School—I must get to work.

Once in the School you took your time. To get your diploma you must collect so many points in this subject and so many in that: whether you spent four years (the average time) or twenty-four in reaching the goal was a matter of no interest to the authorities.

One must first enroll in a regular School *atelier*, not a "prep-school" affair such as Godefroy-

Frenet's. When I presented my credentials to the *Massier*, the student in authority, he immediately demanded a large fee—a *pour-boire*: my "brothers" would wish to welcome me. I was amused by his way of putting it. As we streamed out to the nearest café I wondered what this ordeal was going to be like; occasional tales went about of rather boisterous hazings. But when all were served with drink I was merely hoisted to the top of a table and a speech demanded. I felt, however, that the Parisians had heard enough of my mis-treatment of their beautiful language. In my early days, in the South, I had learned a number of real camp-meeting songs or spirituals—not at all the commercial "minstrel" stuff: songs that had odd rhythms, that called for gestures, slappings of the thighs, of continual movement of the feet. So I plunged into the most dramatic of these. This was a novelty: they applauded noisily and yelled for more. So on I went.

The favorite—I had to sing it three times in the course of the afternoon—has this refrain:

Bi-i-i 'n

By

Bi-i-i 'n

By

Stars in de sky  
Num'  
Num'mer one  
Num'mer two  
Num'mer tree

Good

LORD

Bi-'n Bi, Bi-'n By

Good

L-O-R-D

Bi-i-i-i-'n BY.

A far cry from a camp-meeting in South Carolina to the *Café Deux Magots* in Paris. But the

old spiritual helped to bridge the gap between me and my new companions: for a long time they had no other name for me than "Bi-n-by."

Times have changed: two wars have swept over the peoples of the earth. Yet I like to think that by and by students from all parts of a world at peace will again be flocking to Paris to take examinations—of whatever kind they then may be—at the *École des Beaux-Arts*.

## The President's Visit to the Chapters

**B**ACK IN BALTIMORE after a loop around the United States to visit as many chapters as possible, Mr. Edmunds displays even more than his customary enthusiasm over the state of The Institute. The vigorous activity of the chapters visited reflects the growing strength of the architect in public consciousness and community life. Every chapter visited was widely awake to the possibilities just ahead for individual practitioner and his professional organizations. The work of committees seemed particularly active and well directed, with new evidence that chapters were charting the year's aims and activities

and following marked paths instead of wandering aimlessly and without compass.

Eagerly awaited by the chapters is the Field Secretary (yet to be found and engaged) and his frequent visits. The words he will bring from one chapter to another, and to and from The Octagon, are expected to clarify the relationship of chapters to Institute and to make this relationship much closer and more effective in its functioning.

Starting his flying tour with the first stop at Des Moines on Octo-



ber 1st, Mr. Edmunds visited Kansas City, Salt Lake City, Seattle, Portland, the California architects in convention at Coronada, Dallas, Washington, and the New York State architects in convention at Buffalo. With scarcely time, back in Baltimore, to repack his bag, he was off again to meet

with the West Virginia Chapter in Charleston.

Like those who, in a trip around this country, come back with a new conception of size, President Edmunds came back with not only a new conception of The Institute's size but also its healthy vigor at the community level.

## UNESCO

*By Albert Harkness, F.A.I.A.*

A.I.A. REPRESENTATIVE ON THE U. S. COMMISSION OF UNESCO

**M**EETINGS of the United States National Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization were held in the new International Conference Rooms of the State Department in Washington during September 23-26.

The purpose of these meetings was to formulate recommendations and instructions for the delegates to the United Nations meetings. These meetings were planned to be held in Paris in November. Each nation subscribing to the UNESCO plan will be entitled to five delegates and one vote.

The members of the United States National Commission comprised representatives of the Federal Government, certain members

at large appointed by the Secretary of State, representatives from state and local governments mostly from the educational field, and representatives of fifty national organizations nominated by the organizations and appointed by the Secretary of State. There were ninety members of the Commission. Representatives of certain additional organizations will bring the number up to one hundred.

The large proportion of the members representing educational interests strongly influenced the character of the discussion. In view of the general problems involved, this was probably as it should be.

In general, the deliberations of the Commission and its various sub-

committees showed the finest kind of collaboration.

"The purpose of the Organization," as stated in its constitution, "is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture. The Organization is not conceived of, in other words, as an international undertaking to promote education and science and culture as ends in themselves, but rather, through education and science and culture, to advance the peace of the world."

It was generally felt that, if UNESCO can contribute materially towards the general understanding and sympathy among the peoples of the world, any proper means however novel or costly would be justified.

It must also be realized that it is as important to help the people of this country to understand Europeans as it is to help them to understand us.

In the report of the Commission to Secretary of State Byrnes, three kinds of international collaboration were recommended.

"(1) International collaboration for the PRESERVATION of men's knowledge of themselves, their world, and each other.

"Here the Commission recommends that the American delegation advance and support proposals for action looking toward the rehabilitation of libraries, museums, scientific laboratories and educational institutions and other depositories of the materials and tools of art and learning.

"(2) International collaboration for the INCREASE of men's knowledge of themselves, their world and each other through learning, science and the arts.

"Here the Commission feels that the American Delegation should advance and support proposals looking toward the development of conditions more favorable to the creative and investigative work of artists, scientists and scholars.

"(3) International collaboration for the DISSEMINATION of men's knowledge of themselves . . . through education and . . . instruments of communication."

Under this heading was recommended a world-wide radio network capable of laying down a strong and consistent signal in all major areas of the world.

It was further recommended that "The American Delegation should advance and support proposals for the exchange of students, teachers,

scholars, artists, artisans, scientists, government officials, and others, active in the various fields of the Organization's work."

Under this last heading The American Institute of Architects may be of great value through its Committee on International Relations and the proposed International Congress of Architects planned for the near future.

It must be remembered that The

Institute had planned in 1939, in collaboration with the State Department, an International Congress of Architects which was cancelled by the War.

Architects and builders throughout the world look to the United States for leadership in the technique of building if not in architectural design. It is hoped that this may in some way be turned to the advantage of world peace.

## The Producers' Council and the B.P.I.

THE PRODUCERS' COUNCIL will devote its principal attention during the next year to the problem of increasing production of building materials and equipment, improving and streamlining the distribution system, and developing means of lowering the cost of building, Tyler S. Rogers, the Council's new president, has announced.

Methods of stabilizing the construction activity so as to eliminate costly ups and downs in the volume of building and even out employment for on-site and off-site workers also will receive special emphasis.

The Council will not engage in legislative activity, and hence will

not register under the Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act, although officers of the Council may appear from time to time before Congressional committees, if invited, to state the views of building product manufacturers on pending legislation. Such appearances are excluded from the terms of the Act.

"Fact-finding will constitute a basic part of the Council's work," said Mr. Rogers. "With a sound foundation of fact, we shall tell our own industry, the public and any interested government officials to what extent it is the lack of labor, of raw materials, of new production equipment, or of freedom to reflect actual costs in product

prices, that is handicapping our efforts to meet the unprecedented demand for materials.

"We shall cite the facts about any unrealistic price controls which may be creating black markets or upsetting normally effective distribution channels. In addition, we shall present knowledge of technological advances in materials—and particularly in improved construction methods—to the builders and building trades mechanics who can use this knowledge to lower the cost of housing. And finally, we intend to continue and accelerate our economic and technical research so as to provide better value for the consumer's building dollar."

Recently elected to membership in the Council is the Kimberly-Clark Corporation of Neenah, Wis., with R. B. Sawtell as official representative and W. W. Cross as alternate.

Representatives of 200 companies and associations engaged in the manufacture of building materials and equipment have formed a new fact-finding and economic research organization to be known as the Building Products Institute.

Douglas Whitlock, formerly chairman of the Advisory Board

of The Producers' Council, was elected chairman of the group.

"The purpose of B.P.I.," Mr. Whitlock said, "is to assemble, analyze, and disseminate facts about the production of building materials and equipment and about the progress of construction, including housing.

"The B.P.I. also will analyze and make recommendations with respect to proposed legislation affecting the construction industry and will cooperate with other branches of the industry in preparing recommendations designed to stimulate a maximum volume of construction, to lower the cost of building, and to stabilize construction activity.

"In addition, the B.P.I. will study the effects of existing Federal controls under which the building industry now operates.

"Emphasis will be placed on the collection of facts and figures with which to check and verify statistical information released by various Federal agencies with respect to construction trends and activity.

"The services of nationally known consultants will be retained. Miles L. Colean, former assistant Administrator of the Federal Housing Administration, will be B.P.I.'s economic consultant."



## The Editor's Asides

THE PROFESSION may now assume a new dignity over the fact that an architect has just been elected a Member of Congress. He is Frederick A. Muhlenberg of Reading, Pa., representing the Thirteenth District of the Keystone State. Just what effect on Congress or on architecture this impact will bring must be left to future historians.

IT MUST BE somewhat disturbing to U. N., entirely aside from its world problems, to be alternately welcomed as an honored guest and dismissed as an undesirable neighbor. The dwellers up Greenwich, Connecticut, way were inhospitable and said so. Official New York City groverwhalened U. N. and offered it Flushing Meadows on a silver platter. The delegates had scarcely settled down in their seats in the building Aymar Embury designed for New York State in the World's Fair of '39, when a letter appeared in *The New York Times*: eight architects say "Here's your hat, what's your hurry?" Talbot Hamlin, J. Mar-

shall Miller, Leopold Arnaud, Albert Halse, W. H. Hayes, Eugene Raskin, Don Hatch and Charles Rieger argue that the home of U. N. should be in no great city. They see it as a place of pilgrimage for world citizens, a world capital representing in design the best efforts of all countries. Flushing Meadows, they say, is entirely unsuitable, and, besides, who gave any individual or city department the right to give away park land belonging to the citizens of New York?

A far broader piece of thinking on the subject of a fitting home for U. N. is to be found in Lewis Mumford's address before the R.I.B.A., sketchily reprinted on page 252.

THE ramifications of the veterans' housing program, like the ramifications that develop from all efforts to control the laws of supply and demand, are spreading like the runners of a wild strawberry plant. There aren't enough nails available. Why?: because there aren't enough nail-keg staves and

headings being produced. Therefore the Housing Expediter will pay 4 cents for each nail keg above a fixed quota; he will pay 1½ cents for each set of keg heads produced above a keg-head quota; he will pay 40 cents for each bundle of staves imported from Canada; he will pay, for closed stave mills (those not operating during September 1—October 31, 1946) 20 cents for each bundle of staves produced, plus 20 cents additional for each bundle produced above 2,400 bundles per month, multiplied by the number of stave mills owned by the company.

I foresee further ramifications: the bookkeeping staff required to keep track of the above is certainly likely to be stymied for lack of pencils. Looks as if we might soon have to start paying premiums on the number of young cedar trees planted, above a quota—to make more pencils, to keep track of nail-keg staves and headings, to get more nails, to build more houses for veterans who are wondering where they'll get the money to pay for and furnish such houses.

FEBRUARY 1, 1947, is the deadline established by the Insurance Act of 1946 for veterans who

would reestablish their G.I. Term Insurance. A folder telling the veteran how to get the most out of G.I. Insurance may be had for the asking—address R. A. Cavanaugh, c/o Illinois Commercial Men's Association, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago 30, Ill. Or, information is always available from any office of the Veterans Administration.

J. BYERS HAYS, of Cleveland, who took time off from his practice for a three months' accelerated course at M.I.T. on City and Regional Planning, became convinced that every qualified architect should be made or induced to attend a similar course. The trouble is that Frederick Adams, who gave the course, has not repeated it in all its fullness since the first experiment.

THE INSTITUTE'S War Memorials Committee, of which John F. Harbeson, F.A.I.A., is chairman, has set itself a job. The members are making a list of the great memorials of all time. Reminds me of the more leisurely days of a generation ago when the architectural press was trying to reach a consensus of opinion as to what were the ten best buildings in the United States.

# INDEX

VOLUME VI: JULY—DECEMBER, 1946

*References to illustrations are printed in italics.*

- Advertising for Architects, by O. H. Murray: 233
- American Academy in Rome, The: 74
- Anderson, Remodeled Country House of Col. Henry, Dinwiddie County, Va.; Duncan Lee, architect: 221*
- "Architect-Engineer", by Dennis E. Donovan: 187
- "Architectural Engineering"? Why, by Sherley W. Morgan, F.A.I.A.: 84
- Architectural Immunity, by Daniel Paul Higgins: 225
- Barney, William Pope: Future Trends in Architectural Education:
- Baulsir, Charles P.: The Structural Engineer in Modern Building Construction: 135
- Bennett, Richard M.: Design and People—I: 51; II: 118
- Bethabara Moravian Church, Old Town, Forsyth County, N. C.: 174*
- Better Homes and Gardens*, Editorial from: 243
- Books & Bulletins: 91, 185
- Brumbaugh, George Edwin, F.A.I.A.: 19*
- Building Products Institute, The Producers' Council and the: 287
- Butler, Charles, F.A.I.A.: The 1946 Delano and Aldrich Scholar: 81
- Cellarius, Charles F.: Today's Draftsmen—I: 99; II: 168
- Chapters of The A.I.A., by J. Fraser Smith: 213
- Chapters, State Associations and Other Architectural Organizations, News of the: 43, 228
- Chapters, The President's Visit to the: 284
- Churchill, Henry S.: City Planning from the Viewpoint of the Architect: 159; Urban Planning As an Institute Program: 6
- City Planning from the Viewpoint of the Architect, by Henry S. Churchill: 159
- Cleveland, Frank E., F.A.I.A.: 19*
- Color Schemes, Thoughts on Exterior, by Julian Ellsworth Garnsey: 273
- Community Building, Berea, Ohio; J. Byers Hays, architect: 260*
- Competition, Minnesota Veterans' Building: 44
- Crum, R. W.: "Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen—": 109
- Customs House (1706), Yorktown, Va., before and after restoration by Duncan Lee, architect: 125*
- Delano and Aldrich Scholar, The 1946; by Charles Butler, F.A.I.A.: 81
- Design and People—I, by Richard M. Bennett: 51; II: 118
- DeWald, Ernest T.: Inventory of Destruction in Italy: 114
- Dimensional Coordination Abroad: 133
- Director of Education and Research: 158
- Dismal Fate of Christopher Renfrew, The, by Robert W. Schmertz: 206
- Displaced Architect without Documents, A, by Pian Drimmalen: 233
- Donovan, Dennis E.: "Architect-Engineer": 187
- Drimmalen, Pian: A Displaced Architect without Documents: 233
- Editor's Asides, The: 45, 93, 140, 188, 236, 289
- Education, Future Trends in Architectural, by William Pope Barney:
- Educational Field, News of the: 80, 234
- Elliott, Huger: Examinations in Paris—I: 200; II: 279
- Elmslie, George Grant: Sullivan Ornamentation: 155
- Emerson, William, F.A.I.A.: Ellis F. Lawrence, F.A.I.A.—1879-1946: 21

JOURNAL OF THE A. I. A.

- Examinations in Paris, by Huger Elliott: I: 200; II: 279
- Faulkner, Kingsbury & Stenhouse, architects: Observation Stand for a Tennis Court: 29*
- Faulkner, Waldron: Organic Architecture: 69
- Fellows, Newly Elected: 16
- Fellowship Honors in The A.I.A., by Edgar I. Williams, F.A.I.A.: 195
- "Fireproof"?; What Is, by Maurice Webster: 263
- Fisher, D. K. Este, Jr., F.A.I.A.: 19*
- Fleming, Maj. Gen. Philip B.: Low-Cost Housing in Hyderabad: 76
- Form and Function [proposed book]: 82
- Ford Mansion in Morristown National Historical Park, The: 78*
- Fraser, James Earle: Let Our New Monuments Inspire—and Endure:
- Fur Shop in the Jay Jacob Store, Seattle, Wash.; George Wellington Stoddard and Associates, architects: 212*
- Garnsey, Julian Ellsworth: Thoughts on Exterior Color Schemes: 273
- Gibberd, Frederick, F.R.L.B.A.: Office Organization in England: 179
- Gill, Harrison: The Veterans Training Program: 187
- Gold Medal of The A.I.A. to Louis Henri Sullivan: 3
- Gutterson, Henry Higby, F.A.I.A.: 19*
- Harkness, Albert, F.A.I.A.: UNESCO: 285
- Hays, J. Byers, architect: Community Building, Berea, Ohio: 260*
- Higgins, Daniel Paul: Architectural Immunity: 225
- Honorary Corresponding Membership, Nominations for: 58
- Honors: 16, 75, 127, 199
- Hospital Survey and Construction Act: 250
- Hughes, Talmage Coates, F.A.I.A.: 19*
- Hunt and H. C. Chambers, architects, Myron: Thomas Jackson Library, Webb School for Boys, Claremont, Calif.: 173*
- Hyderabad, Low-Cost Housing in, by Major General Philip B. Fleming: 76
- Industrial Designer, What and Why Is an?, by Philip McConnell: 217
- Industrial Plant of the Future, The—II, by George H. Miehl: 25
- Italy, Inventory of Destruction in, by Prof. Ernest T. DeWald: 114
- Jeffrey, Lt.-Col. William E.: The Veterans Administration Hospital Program: 8
- Johnson, Mrs. Irwin M.: The Women's Architectural Leagues: 122
- Justement, Louis, F.A.I.A.: 19*
- Kaufmann, Lippincott & Eggers, architects: Offices of the Union Oil Company, Los Angeles, Calif.: 115, 116*
- Lawrence, Ellis F., F.A.I.A.—1879-1946, by William Emerson, F.A.I.A.: 21
- Lawrence, Ellis F., and some of his work: 20*
- Lee, Duncan, architect: Customs House (1706), Yorktown, Va., restoration by: 125; Remodeled Country House of Col. Henry Anderson, Dinwiddie County, Va.: 221*
- Lewis, William Mather: Useful Ones [Memorials] Best Honor the Hero:
- Loebl, Jerrold: The Social Significance of Urban Planning: 104
- Low-Cost Housing in Hyderabad: 77*
- Maginnis, Charles D., F.A.I.A.: Honoring Louis Sullivan: 208
- "Magnolia Mound", Baton Rouge, La.: 30*
- Marx, Samuel A., F.A.I.A.: 19*
- Maya Builders, The, by Herbert J. Spinden: 55
- McConnell, Philip: What and Why Is an Industrial Designer?: 217
- Menhinick, Howard K.: The Tennessee Valley and Its Development: 147
- Miami Beach Souvenirs: 67-68*
- Miehl, George H.: The Industrial Plant of the Future—II: 25
- Mielziner, Jo: Opportunities in Theater Design: 128
- Morgan, Sherley W., F.A.I.A.: Why "Architectural Engineering"? : 84
- "Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen—", by R. W. Crum: 109

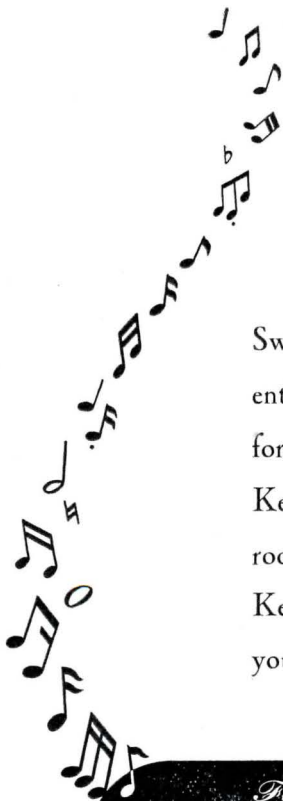


- Mumford, Lewis: A Center for United Nations: 252
- Murray, O. H.: Advertising for Architects: 233
- National Commission of Fine Arts: Report on War Memorials: 63
- Office Organization in England, by Frederick Gibberd, F.R.I.B.A.: 179
- Offices of the Union Oil Company, Los Angeles, Calif.:* Kaufmann, Lippincott & Eggers, architects: 115, 116
- Organic Architecture, by Waldron Faulkner: 69
- "Organic Architecture", by William G. Purcell: 232
- Owen, Allison: Remembering Louis Sullivan: 90
- Parker, William Stanley, F.A.I.A.: Programming Municipal Expenditures: 59
- Perry, Shaw & Hepburn, architects: Tower of Wellesley High School, Wellesley, Mass.:* 259
- Porter, Lockie & Chatelain, architects: Scottish Rite Temple, Washington, D. C.:* 163, 164
- Prefabrication Code: 89
- President's Visit to the Chapters, The: 284
- Producers' Council, The: 83, 134, 231, 287
- Programming Municipal Expenditures, by William Stanley Parker, F.A.I.A.: 59
- Purcell, William G.: "Organic Architecture": 232
- "Rebuilding America", The Sound of: 184
- Ross, Marvin C.: What Happened to Troyes, France: 40
- St. John's College, The Navy and: 44
- Saint-Lo, Normandy—July, 1944:* 277
- Schmertz, Robert W.: The Dismal Fate of Christopher Renfrew: 206
- School of Architecture, A New: 139
- "Scotch" - Boardman House (1651), Saugus, Mass.: 222
- Scottish Rite Temple, Washington, D. C.;* Porter, Lockie & Chatelain, architects: 163, 164
- Short House, The (after 1732), Newbury, Mass.:* 278
- Small House, Utah and the: 269
- Smith, J. Fraser: Chapters of The A.I.A.: 213
- Spinden, Herbert J.: The Maya Builders: 55
- Stoddard and Associates, architects, George Wellington: Fur Shop in the Jay Jacob Store, Seattle, Wash.:* 212
- Strickland, William, architect: United States Mint (1835), New Orleans:* 126
- Structural Engineer in Modern Building Construction, The, by Charles P. Baulsir: 135
- Sullivan, Honoring Louis, by Charles D. Maginnis, F.A.I.A.: 208
- by William W. Wurster: 209
- Sullivan Ornamentation, by George Grant Elmslie: 155
- Sullivan, Remembering Louis, by Allison Owen, F.A.I.A.: 90
- Sullivan, The Gold Medal of The A.I.A. to Louis Henri: 3
- Tablet Marking the Birth Site of Louis H. Sullivan, Boston:* 211
- Teachers of Architecture Needed: 139
- Tennessee Valley and Its Development, The, by Howard K. Menhinick: 147
- Tennis Court, Observation Stand for a; Faulkner, Kingsbury & Stenhouse, architects:* 29
- Theater Design, Opportunities in, by Jo Mielziner: 128
- Thomas Jackson Library, Webb School for Boys, Claremont, Calif.:* Myron Hunt and H. C. Chambers, architects: 173
- Today's Draftsmen—I, by Charles F. Cellarius, F.A.A.A.: 99; II: 168
- Troyes, France, What Happened to, by Marvin C. Ross: 40
- UNESCO, by Albert Harkness, F.A.I.A.: 285
- United Nations, A Center for, by Lewis Mumford: 252
- United States Mint (1835), New Orleans;* William Strickland, architect: 126

- Urban Planning As an Institute Program, by Henry S. Churchill: 6
- Urban Planning, The Social Significance of, by Jerrold Loebel: 104
- Utah and the Small House: 269
- Veterans Administration Hospital Program, The, by Lt.-Col. William E. Jeffrey: 8
- Veterans Emergency Housing Program, The: 243
- Veterans Training Program, The, by Harrison Gill: 187
- War Memorial, What Kind of? Debate by James Earle Fraser and William Mather Lewis: 33
- War Memorials: Excerpts from a report adopted by the National Commission of Fine Arts: 63
- Webster, Maurice: What Is "Fireproof"? : 263
- Wellesley High School, Tower of, Wellesley, Mass.; Perry, Shaw & Hepburn, architects: 259*
- Williams, Edgar I., F.A.I.A.: Fellowship Honors in The A.I.A.: 195
- Women's Architectural Leagues, The, by Mrs. Irwin M. Johnson: 122
- Wurster, William W.: Honoring Louis Sullivan: 209
- Wyatt, Wilson W.: Reply to Editorial from *Better Homes and Gardens*: 243



# "RHAPSODY IN CORK!"



Sweet music to our ears is the new enthusiasm over Kencork—not only for monumental buildings (users of Kencork since 1899) but also for rooms. All next year we'll feature Kencork in big color ads. Why don't you get hep to Kencork for the home?

*Fine Floors — Since 1899*

**DAVID E. KENNEDY, INC.**

58 SECOND AVENUE • BROOKLYN 15, N. Y.

ATLANTA

BOSTON

CHICAGO

CLEVELAND

PITTSBURGH

SAN FRANCISCO

WASHINGTON



## Standard Contract Documents

These contract forms have stood the test of time, have reduced to a minimum lawsuits and misunderstandings, have made for good will between Architect, Owner and Contractor. They expedite business. Orders are filled at The Octagon the day they are received. The Documents can also be had from most dealers in architectural supplies.

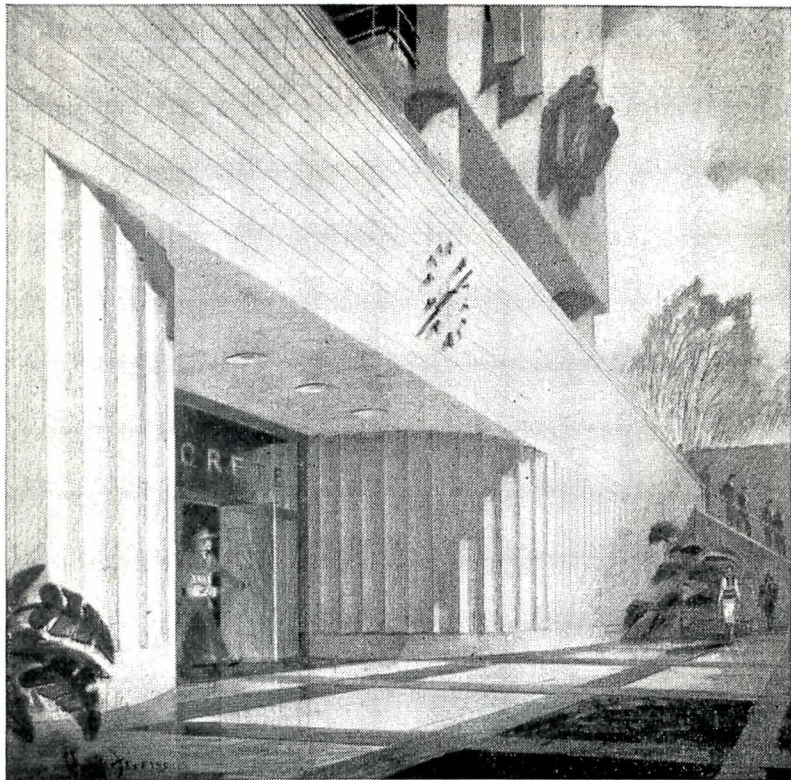
Agreement and General		Letter of Acceptance of	
Conditions in Cover.....	\$ .50	Subcontractor's Proposal...\$	.10
General Conditions without		Cover (heavy paper with	
Agreement.....	.35	valuable notes).....	.02
Agreement without General		Complete set in cover.....	.75
Conditions.....	.15	Review of the Standard Docu-	
Owner's Protective Bond.....	.10	ments—by William Stanley	
Form of Subcontract.....	.10	Parker.....	1.00

## BOOKS

Handbook of Architectural Practice (Revised 1943 edition).....	\$ 5.00
Standard Filing System for Architectural Plates and Articles—Doc. No. 261.....	1.00
Standard Filing System for Building Materials, Appliances, Equipment—Doc. No. 172.....	1.00
Charleston, S. C. (Vol. I, Octagon Library of Early American Architecture).....	20.00
Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue—Architect and Master of Many Arts... ..	30.00

Transportation prepaid on orders amounting to \$1.00 or more. Orders, communications and remittances (checks, money orders, cash or stamps) should be sent to—

The American Institute of Architects  
The Octagon, 1741 New York Ave., N. W., Washington 6, D. C.



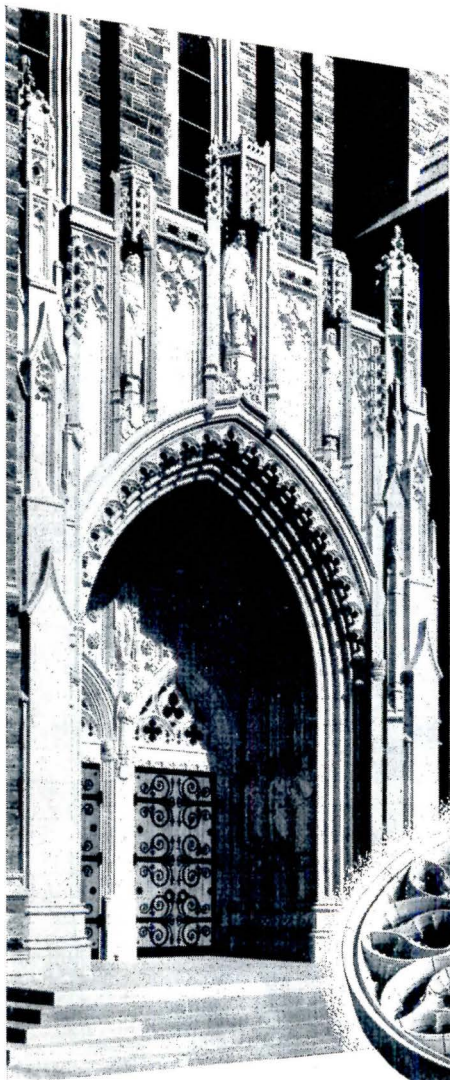
## **ARCHITECTURAL CONCRETE**

Whatever design effect an architect may conceive can be executed economically in firesafe Architectural Concrete. Here, in the second of a series illustrating the adaptability of Architectural Concrete, Hugh Ferriss shows entrance detail applicable to apartment houses, hospitals, schools or industrial buildings.

### **PORTLAND CEMENT ASSOCIATION**

DEPT. 12-68, 33 WEST GRAND AVENUE, CHICAGO 10, ILLINOIS

A national organization to improve and extend the uses of concrete . . . through scientific research and engineering field work



"BEAUTY... doth of itself  
persuade the eyes of men  
without an orator"

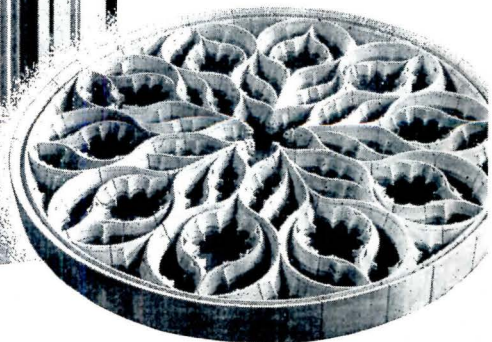
—SHAKESPEARE

★ Indiana Limestone is America's most frequently specified stone not only because of *its own* ineffable beauty, but because it is so oratorical a medium of the *further* beauty and utility created by the architect.

It is free of cleavage plane, uniquely suited to machine finishes, *moderately priced* and tested for exact fit before shipment from our companies for such uses as those here pictured—entrance detail, Duke University Chapel (Horace Trumbauer, architect) and the huge rose window of Holy Rosary Church, Pittsburgh (Cram & Ferguson, architects).

You are welcome to the personal counsel of our Technical Division, backed by a century's experience in all applications of every variety of Indiana Limestone.

INDIANA LIMESTONE INSTITUTE  
P. O. BOX 471 • BEDFORD, INDIANA



You are invited to forward plans and specifications to the institute for competitive cost estimates by our member companies

# THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

(Terms expire 1947)

JAMES R. EDMUNDS, JR., President  
130 W. Milton Street, Baltimore 1, Md.

SAMUEL E. LUNDEN, Vice President  
458 S. Spring St., Los Angeles, Calif.

ALEXANDER C. ROBINSON, III, Secretary  
915 National City Bldg., Cleveland 14, O.

CHARLES F. CELLARIUS, Treasurer  
St. Paul Building, Cincinnati, Ohio

### REGIONAL DIRECTORS

(Terms expire 1947)

LOUIS JUSTEMENT, 2011 K Street, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C. .... Middle Atlantic District

ANGUS V. MCIVER, P. O. Box 15  
Billings, Mont. .... Western Mountain District

RALPH O. YEAGER, 200 Opera  
Bldg., Terre Haute, Ind. .... Great Lakes District

(Terms expire 1948)

ARTHUR WARD ARCHER, Com.  
Kansas City, Mo. .... Central States District

EARL T. HEFTSCHMIDT, 417 S. 10th St.,  
Los Angeles 31, Calif. .... Sierra-Nevada District

RICHARD KOCH, 908 Queen and Crescent Bldg., New Orleans, La. .... Gulf States District

JOHN L. SKINNER, Ingraham Bldg., Miami 32, Fla. .... South Atlantic District

(Terms expire 1949)

PAUL GERHARDT, JR., 1012 City Hall, Chicago, Ill. .... Illinois-Wisconsin District

WILLIAM G. KAELBER, 311 Alexander St., Rochester, N. Y. .... New York District

JOSEPH D. LELAND, 814 Staller Bldg., Park Sq., Boston 16, Mass., New England District

### STATE ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR

(Term expires 1947)

BRANSON V. GAMBER, 615 Hammond Bldg., Detroit 26, Mich.

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD

(Terms expire 1947)

JAMES R. EDMUNDS, JR., Chairman  
ALEXANDER C. ROBINSON, III, Secretary  
SAMUEL E. LUNDEN

CHARLES F. CELLARIUS  
WILLIAM G. KAELBER  
BRANSON V. GAMBER (Alternate)

### HEADQUARTERS

1741 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

EDWARD C. KEMPER, Executive Director

HENRY H. SAYLOR, Editor of the JOURNAL

EDMUND R. PURVES, Director of Public and Professional Relations

WALTER A. TAYLOR, Director of Education and Research

THEODORE IRVING COE, Technical Secretary

Official address of The Institute as a N. Y. Corporation, 115 E. 40th St., New York, N. Y.  
The Producers' Council, affiliated with The A.I.A., 815 15th St., N.W., Washington 5, D. C.

