

# Journal of The American Institute of ARCHITECTS



MILTON B. MEDARY

March, 1949

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Guest Editorial: George Bain Cummings, F. A. I. A.

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Nominations for Officers—Supplementary List

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Frank Lloyd Wright, Gold Medalist

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Fine Arts Medal to Louis C. Rosenberg

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Washington's Sesquicentennial

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The Neighborhood Theory in Planning

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National Architectural Accrediting Board  
Report

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35c

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

# JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

MARCH, 1949

With the aim of amplifying, as through  
a microphone, the voice  
of the profession

VOL. XI, No. 3

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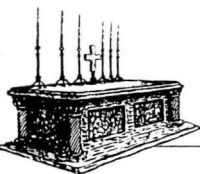
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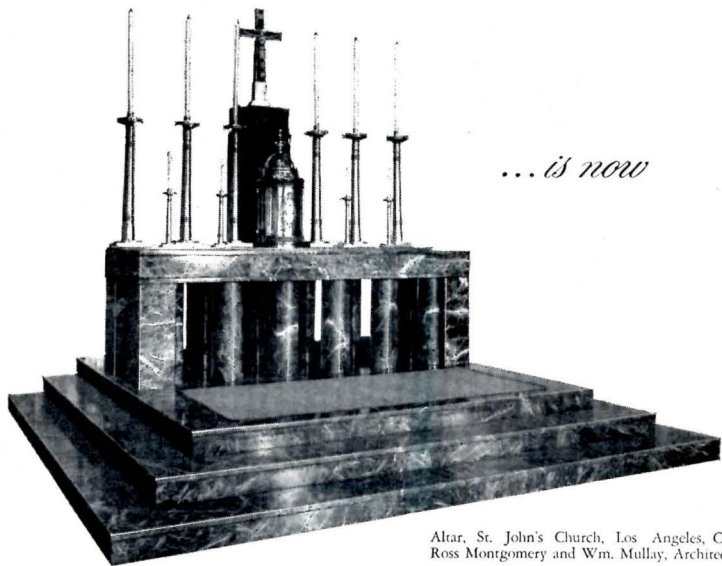
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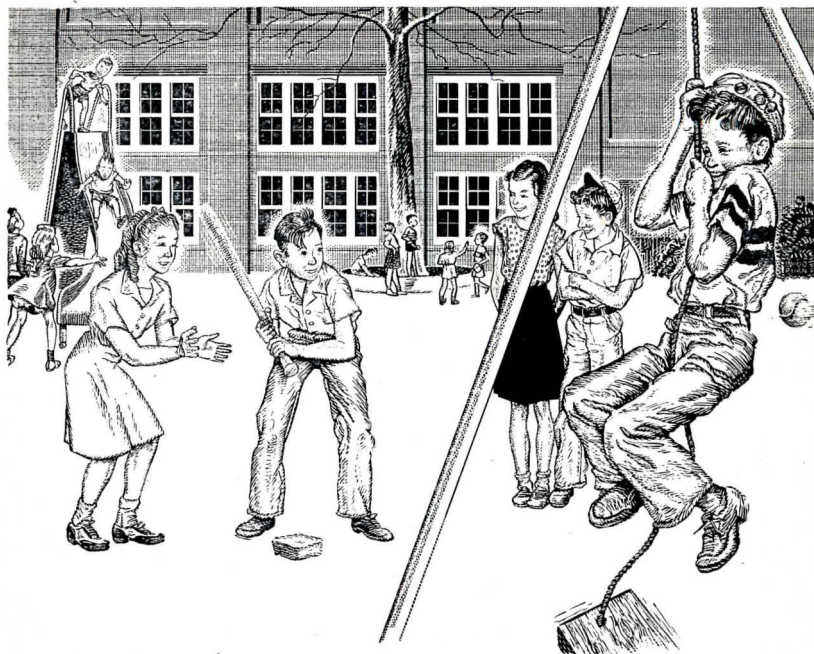
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IN America we take Freedom for granted. It is hard for us to understand why anybody would willingly give up his freedom, to live under a rule that dictates every move of his life.

Yet we must face the sobering fact that right here at home there are plenty of people who are working to curtail, and eventually to abolish personal

freedom, and substitute rigid central controls over our activities. Too often these misguided groups and individuals work harder at their self-appointed tasks than do we who think we prefer freedom.

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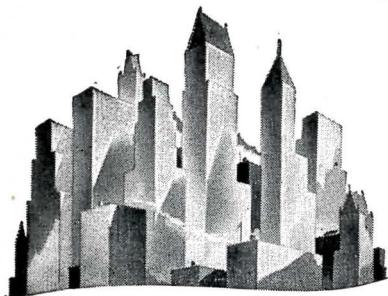


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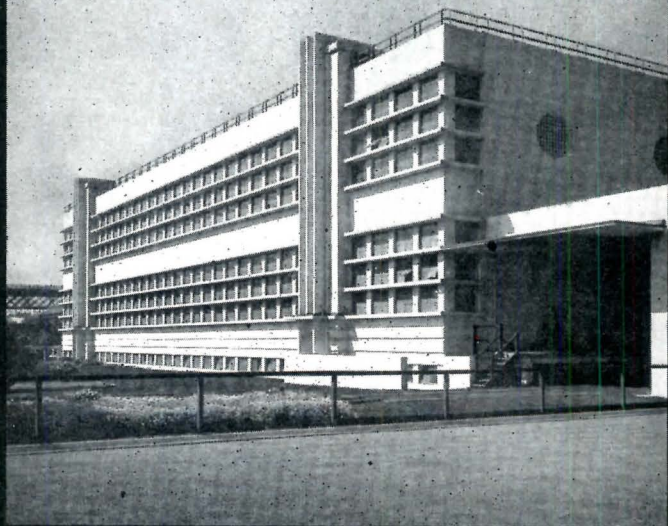
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*Here is the eighth in our series of Guest Editorials. Instituted on the premise that a lot of high-pressure conviction is being bottled up for lack of a convenient outlet, these editorials appear to be serving as successive relieving valves. The opinions expressed will continue to be the uninhibited ones of the Guest who occupies a particular month's driving seat. If you would express approval or disapproval of his argument, please do so in the JOURNAL. This month's Guest Editor is—*

*George Bain Cummings, F. A. I. A.*

## Standards of Professional Practice

THIS SUBJECT seems to be both perennial and moot in the councils of The Institute: perennial, perhaps because our way of life is constantly evolving; moot, perhaps because each successive generation of those entering the profession must come intellectually to its own acceptance of published standards; both perennial and moot, perhaps because human nature has its frailties.

The Board of Directors, at its annual meeting in June 1948, adopted the following resolution: "That a new Committee on Standards of Professional Practice be established to restudy the present document so that it can be restated in a manner which can be

properly interpreted and still be reasonable . . ." The new Committee was duly appointed and reported in a preliminary way to The Board at its semi-annual meeting in December. Following that report The Board resolved: "That the Committee on Standards of Professional Practice be requested to restudy the present A.I.A. Document No. 330, Parts I and II, amplifying the same in light of difficulties encountered under it, or simplifying the same in order to furnish reasonable answers to ethical questions which have been brought forward by members and chapters, and so that it will be less difficult for the Judiciary Committee to act on disciplinary cases

brought before it." The Board also suggested to the Committee: "the desirability, wherever possible, of retaining the existing document and its phraseology . . ."

The items of conduct which seem most frequently to raise question are:

1. "Paid publicity."
2. Whether the architect can be at the same time, a professional man and a business man.

It seems to this architect that it is a very great and high privilege to serve his fellowmen in organized society by the profession which he makes. It seems to him that this privilege, conferred by society, is to be reciprocated in the spirit of *noblesse oblige*, by accepting the full responsibilities that are attendant upon that profession. It seems to him that as a minimum he must do two things:

1. Continue ever to improve and increase his competency and the quality of the service he renders.
2. Act ethically, in the spirit of the Golden Rule, as the well-mannered gentleman.

He would covet for himself the earned tribute paid to Louis Sullivan: "His profession of architecture was a lifetime dedication of

all his energies of mind and spirit . . . He demanded of himself an emotional and spiritual expenditure to endow each building with its own identity of beauty . . ." As his guide, he finds ever sound and moving the language of A.I.A. Document No. 330, dated May 1, 1947, entitled "Standards of Professional Practice." And when he reads—as he often does—Part I, "Responsibilities of the Profession," he invariably finds the directive he needs to determine his own conduct.

Consider the entire first paragraph, beginning, "The profession of architecture calls for men of the highest integrity, business capacity, and artistic and technical ability . . ." and ending, "These duties and responsibilities cannot be properly discharged unless his motives, conduct, and ability are such as to command respect and confidence." Consider the first sentence of the fifth paragraph: "The fulfilment of that purpose is advanced every time the Architect renders the highest quality of service he is capable of giving." The first sentence of the next paragraph: "The relation of the Architect to his client depends upon good faith." The ninth paragraph: "The Architect in his investments and in his



business relations outside of his profession must be free from financial or personal interests which tend to weaken or discredit his standing as an unprejudiced and honest adviser, free to act in his clients' best interests." The eleventh and twelfth paragraphs: "The architect may offer his services to anyone on the generally accepted basis of commission, salary or fee, as architect, consultant, adviser, or assistant, provided that he rigidly maintains his professional integrity, disinterestedness and freedom to act." "He will refrain from associating himself with, or allowing the use of his name by, any enterprise of questionable character." And the last paragraph: "Every architect should do his full part to forward justice, courtesy and sincerity in his profession. It is incumbent on him in the conduct of his practice to maintain a wholly professional attitude toward those he serves, toward those who assist him in his practice, toward his fellow architects, and toward the members of other professions, and the practitioners of other arts. He should respect punctiliously the hallmarks

I have sometimes asked myself whether the two facts that we have mediocre art, and excellent history of art, can be connected.—A. KINGSLEY PORTER in 1928

that distinguish professional practice from non-professional enterprise."

Yes, in such simple and splendid expressions this architect finds the directive he needs to determine his own conduct. He knows that he "can be at the same time, a professional man and a business man" *provided* he fulfils all of the conditions quoted above. As to paid publicity, in the light of what he perceives and feels after reading the whole of Part I, it seems abhorrent to him.

He proposes that the present Document No. 330 stand without alteration for at least five years from the date on which it was promulgated; that The Board and the office of The Institute render interpretations when requested, in accordance with it; and that there be published from time to time, and eventually appended to the Document a summary of such interpretations. But let's retain the present language so that we may learn it by heart and quote it upon occasion—to others if need be, but certainly to ourselves.

Planners talk glibly of the "neighborhood unit," as if it were an established unit of measure. Is it?

## The Neighborhood Theory In Planning

By *Reginald R. Isaacs*

PLANNING DIRECTOR, MICHAEL REESE HOSPITAL, CHICAGO

Condensed from articles published in the Journal of The American Institute of Planners (Spring 1948) and in the Journal of the National Association of Housing Officials (July, August, 1948). This condensation is reprinted from the News Sheet of the International Federation for Housing and Town Planning (September 1948). In these articles the author acknowledged his indebtedness to Dr. Harry J. Walker of the University of Chicago for assistance in relating the sociological data to the problem of planning.

THE CONCEPT of the "neighborhood" as the basic unit in city planning gained wide acceptance following its first clear formulation in 1926 by Clarence Perry for the New York Regional Plan Association. Perry defined the neighborhood as an area of a town usually bounded by main traffic roads with the elementary school as the focus of activities and containing all recreational and shopping facilities necessary for a self-contained residential unit. Roughly a quarter-mile square in area to accommodate Perry's maximum of a half-mile walk to elementary school, from the farthest dwelling, the neighborhood would contain 5,000 to 10,000 persons. When related to the character of site and the prospective residents, it purported to

give both form and stimulus to the common life of the area.

The proponents of the concept are convinced that it is possible to import the physical and social amenities of the rural and small town into the city, in which, they believe, "people can find friendliness, relaxation, convenience, and safety, as well as opportunities for self-expression and citizenship on a manageable scale."<sup>1</sup> A few well-meaning planners, still insisting that there be neighborhoods, recommended bravely, but perhaps futilely, that they be heterogeneous in regard to ethnic and economic groups and types of housing accommodations.

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<sup>1</sup> James Dahir, *The Neighborhood Unit Plan*, p. 5, Russell Sage Foundation, 1947.

Others, particularly some sub-dividers and lending institutions widely promote the neighborhood theory, but in their adoption of it insist on a homogeneous population. This latest edition of the Underwriters' Manual of the Federal Housing Administration states that:

"... The presence of incompatible groups in a neighborhood tends to lessen or destroy owner-occupancy appeal.

Protective covenants are essential to the sound development of proposed residential areas since they regulate the use of the land and provide a basis for the development of harmonious, attractive neighborhoods suitable and desirable to the user groups forming the potential market."<sup>2</sup>

Most housing planners want some or all of the goals promised. Who will argue that safety, convenience and amenity are not desirable? It is assumed that in a democracy most planners would want to end the ghetto segregation of people by racial, religious, or economic groups. But even the neighborhood as an adequate physical formula is open to question.

In earlier days, neighborhoods were the fundamental areas of

association for rural people, who constituted the great bulk of the population. Before good transportation, communication, industrial development and the growth of the large cities, neighborhoods were usually economically self-sufficient and neighboring did take place within the limits of pedestrian distances. The families in the neighborhoods possessed so many traits in common that they constituted a cumulative social group of a high order of cohesion. Frequently, the families of a neighborhood were all related to one another. Nearly always they had known each other a lifetime. Differentiation along economic, religious, racial, occupational, and educational lines was slight. Ordinarily there was one school and town hall government. The mores attained a high degree of homogeneity.

But is it possible for this kind of neighborhood to persist in the urban environment today? Many social scientists have provided convincing evidence to the contrary. Thus Louis Wirth states:

"... a city may be defined as a relatively large, dense, and permanent settlement of social heterogeneous individuals... The bonds of kinship, neighborliness, and the

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<sup>2</sup> FHA, *Underwriting Manual*, January 1947, Washington, D. C.



sentiments arising out of living together for generations under a common folk tradition are likely to be absent or, at best, relatively weak in an aggregate the members of which have such diverse origins and backgrounds. Under such circumstances competition and formal control mechanisms furnish the substitutes for the bonds of solidarity that are relied upon to hold a folk society together . . . Increase in the number of inhabitants of a community beyond a few hundred is bound to limit the possibility of each member of the community knowing all the others personally.

“ . . . The distinctive features of the urban mode of life have often been described sociologically as consisting of the substitution of secondary for primary contacts, the weakening of bonds of kinship, and the declining social significance of the family, the disappearance of the neighborhood, and the undermining of the traditional basis of social solidarity.”

From observation, it is readily seen that the people become members of groups larger than neighborhoods and merely reside in residential areas in contrast to living in rural or village neighborhoods as was true in the past.

The neighborhood proponents make much of the psychological and social advantages of creating a sense of belonging and of the use of neighborhood planning to

eliminate the causes of social disorganization. The reputed “loneliness” of the city dweller and his nostalgic longing for home in the suburbs, they contend, is to be cured by the neighborhood panacea. Yet the “flight from the farm” also had incentives other than loss of rural economic opportunity. Included in these were new contacts, economic opportunity, anonymity, and personal freedom.

Ignoring such evidence, planners maintain that the concept is possible of achievement and have in the last twenty or more years planned and built what purported to be neighborhoods. Examples are few and occur only in some rural areas and suburbs, in some residual and by-passed city areas, and among cultural or immigrant groups. All of these, however, eventually break up. Residents of some areas have been temporarily successful in holding neighborhoods together by resisting the encroachment of new groups through the use of restrictive covenants, social and political pressure, and even by resort to such violence as mob action, bombing and stoning.

Even were the neighborhood theory a valid one, it would be necessary to challenge it on the basis of its use as an instrument for

segregation of ethnic and economic groups—those whom the FHA once termed “inharmonious,” and more lately, “incompatible groups.” Many city planners have also, deliberately in many cases, adopted and adapted the neighborhood for purposes far beyond the purposes embodied in the concept. Too often to be merely happenstance, the physical barriers and prescribed limits of service areas form gerrymandered boundaries as bases for the planned segregation of people by religious, racial or economic groupings.

The neighborhood is an excellent device and framework for the organization and enforcement of covenants and deed restrictions against FHA’s “inharmonious groups.” Today, the fear of minority group infiltration is substituted for a common denominator of neighborhood consciousness. Too often an area is referred to as a Negro, Polish, Jewish, Catholic, German or Swedish neighborhood, and the people themselves referred to as Polish-Americans, Japanese-Americans, or Swedish-Americans rather than *Americans*. “It is true that social islands such as Fifth Avenue, Little Italy, the black belt and the ghetto did come into existence as a result of the un-

planned and chaotic growth of the city. The vague neighborhood hardly seems to be an alternative to these islands, but rather a perpetuation of them.”<sup>4</sup> And their perpetuation is desired by conservative real estate interests. For example:—

“It is, of course, substantially impossible under our present social and economic system to effectively control people’s movements. . . . It is, therefore, extremely difficult to prevent the encroachment upon other neighborhoods of people of inharmonious economic, social, national and racial groups.

“. . . It is extremely difficult, almost impossible, to keep up people’s morale in a threatened neighborhood unless they feel contained. Only real boundaries between them and the danger of infiltration will allow them to feel effective in combating the danger . . . . There are, however, many possibilities for creating artificial boundaries . . . . The complete closing of streets, and the creation of small parks can also for a time delay pressure even from great population movement.”<sup>5</sup>

The proponents of the neighborhood lay claim to its efficacy as a means of stimulating the citizen’s

<sup>4</sup> Martin D. Meyerson for the Michael Reese Hospital Planning Staff.

<sup>5</sup> From a confidential Federal agency report on the conservation of neighborhoods, Washington, 1944.

awareness and participation on a scale commensurate with his political abilities. It is quite apparent however, that the efforts to develop neighborhood cells within city structure results psychologically only in causing people to look and think introvertly within the relatively narrow confines of their neighborhood and not to the purpose and well-being of the city or metropolitan area.

Although most people would benefit by living in an intelligently organized community, present-day artificial boundaries do not seem to have produced the desired result.

Since the neighborhood unit concept must be rejected for its structural inadequacies, sociological impossibilities, and the proven fact that it lends itself as an instrument for implementing segregation, the question is raised as to what constitutes an adequate and acceptable basis for the planning of residential areas. The problem is not susceptible of facile solution and only the direction in which planning may proceed can be suggested. Steps towards the goals of residential area safety, convenience and amenity can not be achieved without close collaboration between sociologists, political scientists, planners

and architects, economists, health experts—and the people whose lives are involved in the planning.

In attacking the problem, such a group of technicians and citizens at large must be fully cognizant of the need:

1. To re-examine the concepts and methods presently utilized in planning.
2. To recognize the fact that the city is an ever-changing dynamic organism.
3. To plan for all citizens according to standards developed on a sound and democratic basis, and not in terms of local areas in a manner which requires setting one area and one group against another.
4. To recognize the relationship of city planning to the planning of the larger metropolitan area.
5. To recognize that utilization of the results of research is the only sound basis for planning.

It cannot be overstressed that city planners should not rely alone on research that has already been done on the character of urban life. For example, Svend Riemer points out:

“We need information on the reasons which induce the population to move to the periphery of our large urban centers. . . There



are no comparative studies which investigate the relative advantages of family living in either the peripheral or central urban locations, in either mixed or relatively homogeneous neighborhoods. . . There is absolutely no information available upon family housing histories which would make it possible for us to consider the advantages held by different parts of the city for different phases of the family-life cycle. . ."<sup>6</sup>

Many planners have accepted unquestioningly the assumption

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<sup>6</sup> Svend Riemer, "Escape into Decentralization?," *Land Economics*, February 1948.

that groups of diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds cannot live together harmoniously in the same neighborhood and that the settlement of one cultural group in an area inhabited by another automatically depresses property values. Despite much evidence to the contrary such assumptions are widely accepted in the planning profession. The time has come to prove the falsity of these beliefs by the organization of research to supply the factual data that will correctly interpret the nature of city life, the character of city growth and population composition.

## A Dinner to Kemper

By *Charles D. Maginnis*, F. A. I. A.

**K**EMPER'S DEPARTURE from The Octagon after his long occupancy was not an event which could be fittingly accomplished merely by his donning his overcoat and shutting the front door. Left to himself he might indeed have chosen precisely that manner of his going. But The Institute, tenacious of the proprieties, insisted upon a demonstration. A conspiracy of the Past-Presidents artfully drew him to New York recently where, in the intimacy of the Century Club, he was compelled to

submit to a triumphant assault upon his modesty. The immense deprecation with which he met this experience is not to be expressed, and those who know him best can imagine the behavior of his diffident and glowing countenance throughout the memorable evening.

I have never witnessed an assembly of the Past-Presidents, and could not readily calculate their capacity for continuing symbolism. We seemed equally startled to see that so many of us had survived.

Sturgis was missing, regretfully and regrettably, and Ashton wired that, after an unequal engagement with a blizzard of extraordinary violence, he had had to capitulate. Actually present, in historical order, were Hammond, Kohn, Russell, Voorhees, Maginnis, Edmunds and our President, Douglas Orr. It is to be hoped that the sartorial formality and the dignity of the setting brought to our guest the assurance of more than our individual dispositions. How ably Kemper had guided our footsteps through the intricacies of office, we had already given our testimony. Everything was favorable to the mood of a relaxed and temperate conviviality, in which there was no occasion to wander for good and delightful discourse.

Dinner over, The President presented our guest with a superlative fishing-rod as the instrument of an unsuspected passion to which he seems resolved to dedicate his inactivity. It was to some a disappointment that he had elected the primrose paths of dalliance instead

of the more obvious and energetic business of writing a volume of recollections. In acknowledging the gift, which he scanned with knowing and approving eye, the departing Director was so moved that I would not have been surprised had he protested that the whole business was a mistake and that he hadn't meant to leave at all. Clearly, however, the resolve had been tested as well as its consequence upon his own feelings.

So Kemper hies himself to the brooks. There is no need to disparage the playful trout which through the ages has held a singular allurement over the sportive imagination. We are aware that its capture is an elaborate and scientific business that has engaged the skill of philosophers. Kemper may be merely going on to higher experiences. In the midst of his preoccupation, he is bound to feel the new pulsations of the architectural drama, and only a small bait will be needed to draw him occasionally into his familiar atmosphere.

## News From the Educational Field

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA announces the appointment of Athelstan F. Spilhaus as Dean of the Institute of Technology.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY reports that a recent survey of graduates from its College of Engineering shows an average starting salary

of \$252 a month, an increase of \$25 over the 1947 average.

HENRY S. CHURCHILL, of New York, has been named an Associ-

ate in Planning at Columbia University.

Columbia also announces the appointment of Maxwell H. Tretter as a Lecturer in Housing.

The architect wrought a mighty work in Washington fifty years ago; in 1950 another will be due—or overdue.

## Washington's Sesquicentennial: An Occasion and An Opportunity

*By the Hon. Robert Woods Bliss*

CHAIRMAN, JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL CAPITAL\*

An address on the occasion of a Federal City Dinner in Washington, January 27, 1949.

IT IS MY PRIVILEGE to welcome you this evening on behalf of the three organizations whose guests you are, and to speak for a group of national associations—The American Planning and Civic Association, its Federal City Committee of One Hundred, and the Joint Committee on the National Capital—which, in turn, were brought together for group action

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\*The member-associations of the Joint Committee: American Federation of Arts, The American Institute of Architects, American Institute of Planners, American Planning and Civic Association, American Society of Landscape Architects, Garden Club of America, National Association of Real Estate Boards, National Sculpture Society, National Society of Mural Painters.

in behalf of the District of Columbia, their capital as well as ours.

This Joint Committee on the National Capital is an informal, two-way organization through which these national civic, cultural, and professional associations—outstanding in their *recognition of responsibility* for the adequate development of their capital—may have a listening-post to keep informed on what is going on or what is being sidetracked, and channels through which to bring reinforcements in case of emergency.

This “recognition of responsibility” is nothing new with these nationally conscious professions. A



half-century ago, The American Institute of Architects initiated a crusade which launched the Mc-Millan Commission and led to the revival of the L'Enfant Plan, and a systematic park-planning and public-building program. A quarter of a century later, The American Civic Association, through its still-vigorous Committee of One Hundred and cooperating Federal City Committees all over the country, took the leadership in advancing legislation toward two ends which need furthering at this time: First, it supplemented previous park planning by ways-and-means legislation for actual park acquisition, resulting in the Mount Vernon Parkway and extension parks in Maryland and Virginia; Second, it supplemented park and public building planning with the first move toward city planning as such, through the establishment of The National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

All these associations are now banded together and seeking opportunities to cooperate on worthwhile undertakings whenever occasion offers. It so happens that both occasion and opportunity are just around the corner. The occasion is the coming Sesquicentennial of the District's establishment

as the seat of government; the opportunity is to do now some of the things we have left undone.

In considering possibilities, we should turn the clock back to the Centennial of 1900, so that we may set our sights on the right objectives.

In 1900, there was a local Citizens' Committee, which projected a celebration to include:

Commemorative exercises in Congress;

The cornerstone laying of a permanent memorial;

A grand parade of military and civic organizations; and

A culminating reception and ball.

Of these featured projects, only the Memorial Bridge to Arlington remains in the memory of man; BUT, of the incidental possibilities, merely considered by the Committee, the following achievements are recorded as ultimately accomplished:

The Municipal Building; the Hall of Fame; the restoration of The White House; the reclamation of the Anacostia flats; the enlargement of the Capitol grounds; the Triangle development; and the Supreme Court Building.

These accomplishments were not in the original program. On this

occasion, therefore, let us not set our sights too low. Let us weigh our programs against time and consequence. By what *permanent* benefit will our Sesquicentennial be remembered on the next occasion, fifty years from now? Will commemorative exercises, exhibits, pageantry leave any more *lasting* mark on our future than on our past? What can we do to achieve something more lasting than the memory of a previous Exposition or World's Fair?

Considering now the various opportunities presented by the current occasion, and again checking back with the Centennial, the outstanding product of 1900 was a plan and a program, "The Plans of 1901," which became such a fetish that it was long thought to be the ultimate of planning, whereas it was merely a projected park-and-public-building development. It was not until a quarter of a century had elapsed that the setup was broadened to cover the region as well as the city, and to deal with *all* the elements of city planning. The base was broadened, but the foundations were still left inadequate. Even our Washington Monument, imposing as it looked for decades, had to be underpinned—and we have something of the same task

before us. Our Planning Commission, which should be implemented for real accomplishment, lags behind lesser cities for lack of adequate agency participation, lack of staff, lack of authority and lack of funds even to make its findings known to the public concerned, to the handicap and discouragement of those who struggle against such odds.

The remedy is at hand: it is action on the Budget Bureau's scholarly analysis of the planning situation and its recommendation for corrective legislation. If we can help to bring this legislation into being, placing planning on a firm basis, giving it the needed funds to do its work and saving needed park and playgrounds lands for posterity, we shall have done our share—and we shall have made this Sesquicentennial long to be remembered.

We now come to the "ways and means" of accomplishing our objective. We have the feeling that our National Capital would fare far better if our Joint Committee's "recognition of responsibility" were more generally shared throughout the nation. Once upon a time there was included in our authorizing legislation the ideal that the development of the capital park

system should be on a "Peter's Pence" basis—one cent per annum from each man, woman and child in the continental United States. The idea was appealing but, somewhere along the line, it got bogged down. It would help tremendously if we could expand our own feelings of partnership in this undertaking, instead of entertaining as mere guests those who should be proud to be greeted as co-workers in the upbuilding of our capital. How can we accomplish this result, how gain interest and backing for the needed legislation and appropriation?

The Sesquicentennial paves the way. As a member of the Sesquicentennial Commission, I can make no commitments, but I am only too glad to place before the Commission the program discussed in the current sessions of our Joint Committee. It has been pointed out that in the report of the Committee on the District of Columbia, from which emanated the legislation establishing the Sesquicentennial Commission, the recommendation of the District Commissioners that the celebration "partake of a national character" was featured. The obvious conclusion is that something must be done on a nation-wide basis as well as the head-

quarters celebration of the anniversary. It is proposed that the nation-wide program be founded directly upon stimulating a constructive *interest*, an *informed* and a *continuing* interest, in the development of an adequate, and truly representative, national capital.

The specific proposal is that the Sesquicentennial Commission sponsor a series of essays on the background and future of the National Capital, based on reference reading and limited to high-school students. The contest would begin in the Congressional Districts and culminate in the worthwhile prize of a trip to Washington for the best essay in each state and membership in a Junior National Capital Committee. This one project would bring about in every constituency the sympathetic understanding of requirements and limitations so urgently needed for the District of Columbia. The same idea could well be expanded to bring forth advanced theses on planning and programming from college undergraduates; and even upper-bracket team competitions on fiscal and governmental problems in the manner of the recent competition for Boston's advancement. It should be remembered that it



was not the de luxe book on a bigger and better Chicago that put across the Chicago plan; it was the Wacker's Manual which gained the interest of school children and resulted in over-enthusiastic support of every proposal to bring about the realization of the plan.

This proposal offers an opportunity to every group interest in the nation, to crystallize and demonstrate its ideals. There's every reason why Washington should set national standards in schools, playgrounds, parks, housing, transportation, hospitals, and every other phase of city and regional development. The latter is especially important, as the city has long since burst its bounds and must now be planned as a metropolitan area with inter-state problems.

This is not wholly a task for Congressional commissions and national committees. We must keep in mind also that Citizens' Committee of the Centennial which, notwithstanding its short range,

left its mark on Washington. We have just such another committee on the books, one organized in December 1946 to represent the Citizens' Associations, which sponsored the Bill for the Sesquicentennial Commission. That was merely a beginning—and time for action is limited.

To summarize, I can find no more fitting words than those of an editorial from the *Washington Star* of December 22, 1946.

"Washington, both as the seat of Government and in its character as a residential community, will profit by the Sesquicentennial as it did by the Centennial, if the same enthusiasm, the same devotion and the same generous willingness to labor constructively for a common purpose, which were manifested in the former case, are again demonstrated in the latter.

It should be everybody's task, everybody's duty, everybody's achievement in 1950 just as it was in 1900."

Let us all confess that Modern Architecture *is*, first of all, in the nature of a spiritual conviction—detail, curtail, appropriate or falsify it how you may. If this primal spiritual insight *as conviction* is lacking, no more than reiteration of certain bald, machine-age commonplaces will be the barren result. . . FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT in 1932

## To Frank Lloyd Wright, the Gold Medal

THE HIGHEST HONOR in The Institute's power to bestow is given, for the year 1948, to Frank Lloyd Wright. It will be presented to Mr. Wright on the occasion of the Annual Dinner at the Houston Convention by President Orr, who will read the citation. The Gold Medal is awarded in recognition of most distinguished service to the profession of architecture or to The Institute.

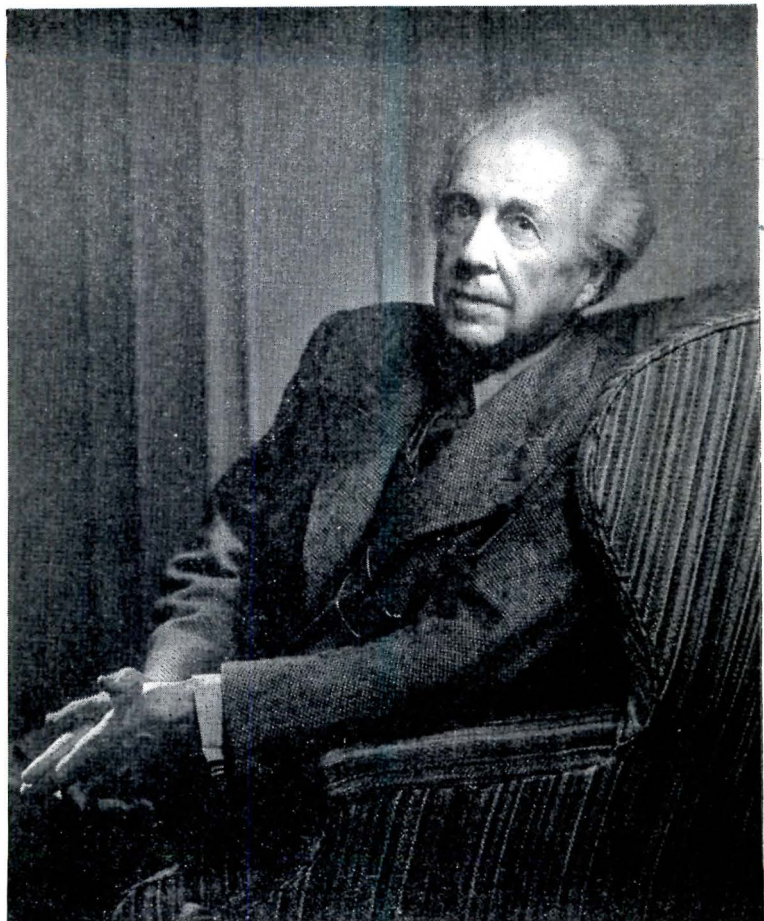
This honor comes to a man already loaded with honors. In 1941 King George VI presented him with the Royal Gold Medal for Architecture upon the nomination of the Royal Institute of British

Architects. As long ago as 1914 Mr. Wright was made Architect of the Imperial Household by Japan. Wesleyan has conferred upon him the honorary degree of Master of Arts; and Princeton followed with the degree of Doctor of Fine Arts. He is an Honorary Member of many of the national architectural societies throughout the world—England, Holland, Cuba, Brazil, Mexico, Finland, Uruguay, Germany.

Former recipients of the Gold Medal of The American Institute of Architects, since it was established in 1906, have been the following:

- SIR ASTON WEBB, R.A., London—1906
- CHARLES FOLLEN MCKIM, New York—1909
- GEORGE B. POST, New York—1911
- JEAN LOUIS PASCAL, Paris—1913
- VICTOR LALOUX, Paris—1921
- HENRY BACON, New York—1922
- SIR EDWIN LANDSEER LUTYENS, London—1924
- BERTRAM GROSVENOR GOODHUE, New York—1925
- HOWARD VAN DOREN SHAW, Chicago—1927
- MILTON BENNETT MEDARY, Philadelphia—1929
- RAGNAR OSTBERG, Stockholm—1933
- PAUL PHILIPPE CRET, Philadelphia—1938
- LOUIS HENRI SULLIVAN (posthumous), Chicago—1943
- ELIEL SAARINEN, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.—1946
- CHARLES DONAGH MAGINNIS, Boston—1947

MARCH, 1949



*Photograph copyright by Karsh*



FRANK  
LLOYD  
WRIGHT  
THE INSTITUTE'S  
GOLD MEDALIST  
FOR 1948

*Journal*  
*The AIA*  
115





WILLIAM G. KAELBER, F.A.I.A.  
1886-1948

Regional Director of the New York District, A.I.A.  
From May 10, 1946 until his death on Nov. 21, 1948

*Photograph by Leon Frères*



## A Tribute to William G. Kaelber, F.A.I.A.

*By Leonard A. Waasdorp*

WILLIAM G. KAELBER, much beloved Rochester architect, died November 21, 1948. It was nearly forty years ago that I first met Will Kaelber, then a draftsman in the office of Gordon & Madden, and little did I realize that, as his surviving partner, I would write his obituary. To have been with him these many years was not only my good fortune but a great privilege, as it was to others who enjoyed his association.

To me, Will Kaelber symbolized the "America of Opportunity." Born in Rochester, where he received his elementary school education, his interest in drawing made him seek an architectural education. He attended special classes at Mechanics Institute, while working for local architects. It was not long before his employers recognized his ability and capabilities, and his advance in the field of architecture was inevitable. Quiet and reserved, he took advantage of every opportunity for home study, and in but six years the firm who had hired a draftsman

offered him a junior partnership.

In 1918 he formed a partnership with Edwin S. Gordon, and many important commissions were executed by the firm of Gordon & Kaelber. During the period of our partnership, which was formed in 1937, our association was most pleasant. It was always refreshing to have Will's rapid analysis of an architectural problem, and to have his help and support in the solution.

Devoted to the profession of which he was a member, he ably represented it wherever service was called for, never sparing himself even though poor health sometimes made it a burden. The many offices held in The American Institute of Architects, in the Central New York Chapter and the Rochester Society, were but recognition of his ability.

Many honors came to William Kaelber during his professional career. He received The Institute Fellowship in 1932, and was elected to Directorship of the New York Region in 1945. He was

a member of the New York State Board of Examiners of Architects since 1933, and its President since 1946, Vice-president of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, member of the National Architectural Accrediting Board, President of the American Architectural Advisory Committee, Vice-president of the New York State Association of Architects, Past-president of the Rochester Society of Architects, a member of the Rochester Engineering Society, and Past-president of the Central New York Chapter of The Institute.

Passionately interested in city planning, he was the unanimous

choice for the Chairmanship of the Rochester City Planning Commission, and Rochester, his home city, benefited by his vision. He was in a large part responsible for the program of city-wide planning for an improved Rochester which is currently under way.

He was the recipient of the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Rochester in 1943, and it is no wonder a Rochester newspaper, the morning following his death, quoted from an inscription written by the son of Sir Christopher Wren for his famous father's tomb in St. Paul's: "If you would see his monument, look around you."

## National Architectural Accrediting Board Report for 1947-48

*By Roy Jones, F.A.I.A.*

PRESIDENT OF THE N.A.A.B

THREE NEW SCHOOLS were added to the List of Accredited Schools during the year: the University of Florida, the University of Kansas, the Agricultural & Mechanical College of Texas. In addition to visiting and appraising these schools, two special activities were carried on by the Board, an account of which follows:

For several years, a revision of the factual criteria for school appraisals have been in progress. This was completed and adopted during the current year. The results are embodied in a new Factual Pattern Map. The criteria in use heretofore were set up in 1945 and were of necessity based on pre-war data derived from the Young-Goldsmith



Study of 1938. These obviously have become out of date and inadequate to measure post-war conditions. The new criteria are based on the accumulated knowledge, experience, and judgment gained by the Board since its activation. Their object is to set up reasoned, consistent, quantitative standards which may be assumed to assure conditions favorable to the development and maintenance of the quality of architectural training.

The second activity of the Board was to work with the A.I.A. Education Committee in its very laudable effort to define the objectives of architectural education. The Board's officers corresponded extensively and met twice with the Education Committee. As a result, the following statement, prepared by the president and approved by the Board, was submitted to the Chairman of the Education Committee as an expression of the Board's point of view:

The Board assumes that the profession, through its Education Committee, should set up the general definitions and objectives of architectural training; including *vocational*, (at the sub- or extra-collegiate level); pre-professional and full professional (at the col-

legiate level); practical experience (after or coincidental with the professional); and examinations for practice (in collaboration with the NCARB).

The function of the NAAB, as the present members now regard it, would then be to evaluate the potentialities of schools to carry on their respective kinds of training. So far, in practice, the NAAB has limited its field to the schools offering full professional training. Whether it has the authority or should be given the authority to include other types of schools is something to consider.

The NAAB's study and experience have made it seriously concerned with several aspects of the national architectural training picture. Recommendations about them have been made in its reports. Such definite actions as appeared to be within the Board's authority have been taken. Some of the recommendations can be implemented only by action or influence of the profession as a whole. The several aspects referred to are summarized below:

1. The very large number of professional schools in proportion to the number of students, teachers, graduates and practitioners. This proportion is startlingly out of line

with that of other professional schools, even granting that architectural instruction is more highly individualized than in other professions. The Board has some interesting data on this point which it will be glad to make available if and when needed. Appropriate action by the Education Committee to encourage a more effective and economical concentration of training facilities would be most helpful.

2. The duplication of schools in certain areas unjustified by distance apart, population served, available resources, or local professional needs. Some regions, and even some single states, have more schools than they need or can adequately support. Sometimes two publicly supported schools within a single state, a short distance apart, must split resources which if combined would barely support one school. By contrast, certain regions have no schools at all. The merging of existing schools in some areas, coupled with the establishment of new schools in other areas, if and when a need could be demonstrated, would strengthen architectural training facilities from the national point of view. To do so would need the united support of the profession.

3. The tendency to multiply the total number of professional schools, together with the fact that so few of the students who enter these schools stay on to graduate (in 1938 it took  $2\frac{1}{2}$  entering students to produce one graduate), may well indicate a need for vocational and pre-professional schools. It is probable that many of the present so-called professional schools, whether established or proposed, would serve a better purpose if directed toward other objectives. The NAAB has so suggested to institutions, chapters, or committees who have asked its advice, but with small success. It seems to be an American tendency to want to be either "in the big time" or nothing. Probably the only way to counteract this is by forceful persuasion, coupled with some scheme of honorable recognition for excellence in each school's special field. Here again the profession through the Education Committee could help mightily to implement a constructive policy.

4. The wide disparity in the *amount* of technical training provided by different professional schools—twice as much in some as in others. The recent action of the NAAB to limit accrediting to five-

year or longer curricula, coupled with setting up as desirable a division between technical and general studies ranging in years from 3½ and 1½ to 4 and 1, should help to correct this weakness. Supporting action by the Education Committee would be most helpful.

5. The confusion as to content and objectives of so-called architectural engineering curricula. This will presumably be remedied in time by the action already taken by the NAAB, supported by the resolution recently adopted by the Education Committee.

As regards the specific question of professional school curricula, the following comments may have some significance:

Complete professional school training up to the first professional (or undergraduate) degree should include a balanced amount of general and technical training, including—

1. *Background studies*—social, humanistic, mathematical, scientific.

2. *Applied sciences*—meaning applied mathematics, theory of structures, building materials and methods, building equipment.

3. *Architectural History, Theory and Professional Relations.*

4. *Creative Exercises*—Design and its necessary drawing skills, integrating and using all the preceding theoretical studies.

All of these tend to bring the student to a certain point of development of his own powers which leads, when supplemented by practical experience, to registration and practice.

By general consent and NAAB practice, this program needs five years of post-high-school collegiate study—1 to 1½ years of general background studies (Item 1 above) and 4 to 3½ years of technical studies (2, 3, and 4 above).



To properly carry on such a program, a school should provide:

1. A location favorable to frequent contact with stimulating architectural developments.

2. Sufficient autonomy within its parent institution to assure its identity and its control over curriculum, faculty appointments, standards of admission and graduation.

3. Teachers in sufficient number and quality to cover all the several phases of architecture and to provide the individual criticism so essential in the creative field. (NAAB standards imply the need



of from 6 to 8 teachers simply to cover the various fields, regardless of how few the students.)

4. Adequate physical facilities as to student and faculty work space, library, and exhibition space.

5. Financial support commen-

surate with creating and maintaining the characteristics outlined above.

The above report was submitted orally to the ACSA and NCARB at the Salt Lake City meeting in June 1948.

## Report of Our Delegate to the V Congress in Spain

*By Santiago Inglesias, Jr.*

THE WRITER was officially invited to attend the V Congress of Architecture, Urbanism and Housing by the Instituto Nacional de la Vivienda de España and by the Federación de Urbanismo y de la Vivienda with headquarters in Madrid. The writer was appointed by the Hon. Jesús T. Piñero, Governor of Puerto Rico, to represent the Government of Puerto Rico and the Planning Board. At the same time, The American Institute of Architects honored the writer by appointing him delegate to represent the American architects in the Congress.

The writer left New York City on September 17th via Newfoundland, Azores, Lisbon by plane and thence by railroad to the Spanish frontier and to Vigo, the starting point of the Congress. We can

refer to this Congress as a moving one, because we stopped in all important cities of Northern Spain, principally Vigo, Pontevedra, Santiago de Compostela, La Coruña, el Ferrol, Gijón, Fuenterrabía, close to the French border, and then to Victoria, Burgos and Madrid.

The Congress was given opportunity to visit all these cities in which visit took part the most prominent architects of Spain, Portugal and some of South America. Exhibits were shown of all the works of urbanism and architecture being carried on in Spain. As to housing, we went up to see about 20,000 units built in North and Central Spain. Each unit consists of 3 bedrooms, living-and-dining-room, bathroom, kitchen and a small porch. The average cost per unit in U. S. money, I

MARCH, 1949

figure, is about \$2,000, and the rent for the same by miners and industrial workers ranges from \$2 and \$3 (U. S. money) per month. The general design and construction of these housing units is excellent, with provisions for parking areas, nurseries, commercial centers, nice patios with a strip of grass and trees; they are generally built of reinforced concrete, tile, granite and Spanish ceramics.

We had the opportunity of going through the former devastated areas of Northern Spain, where such cities as Guernica and Irún have been built anew, including streets,

sidewalks, new plazas, churches, municipal buildings, government offices, residential sections, sport stadiums, with new principles of architectural design and urbanism. I want to mention the fact that the work of the different planning commissions which we visited show that Spain is at the lead in the art of planning, especially the ones in the cities of Bilbao, Oviedo, Gijón and Madrid. I understand that in the southern part of Spain the same superiority is found.

After my attendance of the Congress I returned via Rome, Paris, London and New York.

## Fellowships Available

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS announces the eighteenth annual consideration of candidates for the Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellowship, yielding \$1,000 for advanced study of the fine arts in America or abroad. The Fellowship is open to graduates of the University's College of Fine and Applied Arts and to graduates of similar institutions of learning, candidates being not over 24 years of age on June 1, 1949. (Veterans may deduct the time spent in service). Applications should reach the Committee not later than May

1. Requests for application blanks and further details should be addressed to Dean Rexford Newcomb, College of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.

THE ROTCH TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP will be offered again this year in the amount of \$3,000 to cover the expenses of a student of architecture who will be selected by the Committee, for six to eight months' study and travel abroad. The closing date for receipt of applications is May 2. Applica-

tions for information as to requirements and other details should be made to William Emerson, Secretary, 107 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, Mass.

The College of Architecture and Design, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, announces that the George G. Booth Travelling Fellowship in Architecture will be offered again this year. There will be no formal competition in de-

sign, but upon request applicants will be issued an application form to be completed and returned not later than May 15, 1949. This Competition is open to all graduates of the School who have not reached their thirtieth birthday on the date mentioned above. Prospective candidates should write at once to the office of the College of Architecture and Design, 207 Architecture Building, Ann Arbor, Mich.

## What the Well-dressed Delegate May Wear in Houston and in Mexico

By *Walter T. Rolfe*, F. A. I. A.

THE EDITOR'S irresistible plea for *conventional* advice on what to wear at Houston, Mexico City and Acapulco, leaves me wondering to whom the letter should have really been sent. How many times have I gone to convention with (or without) precise clothes information, only to discover that it can snow in L.A., rain in Atlantic City and get cold in Salt Lake City! Who really knows? As our Mexican friends say.

Well, here goes! March, mid-March, in Houston usually calls for cool weather. It may be still, and again the wind may blow your

floppy hat. It may also be hot. Too, it may freeze. The fastidious may hesitate to wade ankle-deep in a little too arduous dew. However, "us men natives" would have a medium-weight suit as well as a light-weighter along; top coat too, a light one (one that is right with rain). We'd disdain the rubbers and the umbrella—maybe. Us baldheads would wear hats, but if we didn't want to—we wouldn't. Neckties and shirts are optional, depending on where you're from and what local customs you prefer. We wear 'em usually.





JOSEPH D.  
LELAND,  
Boston  
Regional  
Director  
New England  
District



BRANSON V.  
GAMBER,  
Detroit  
State  
Association  
Director

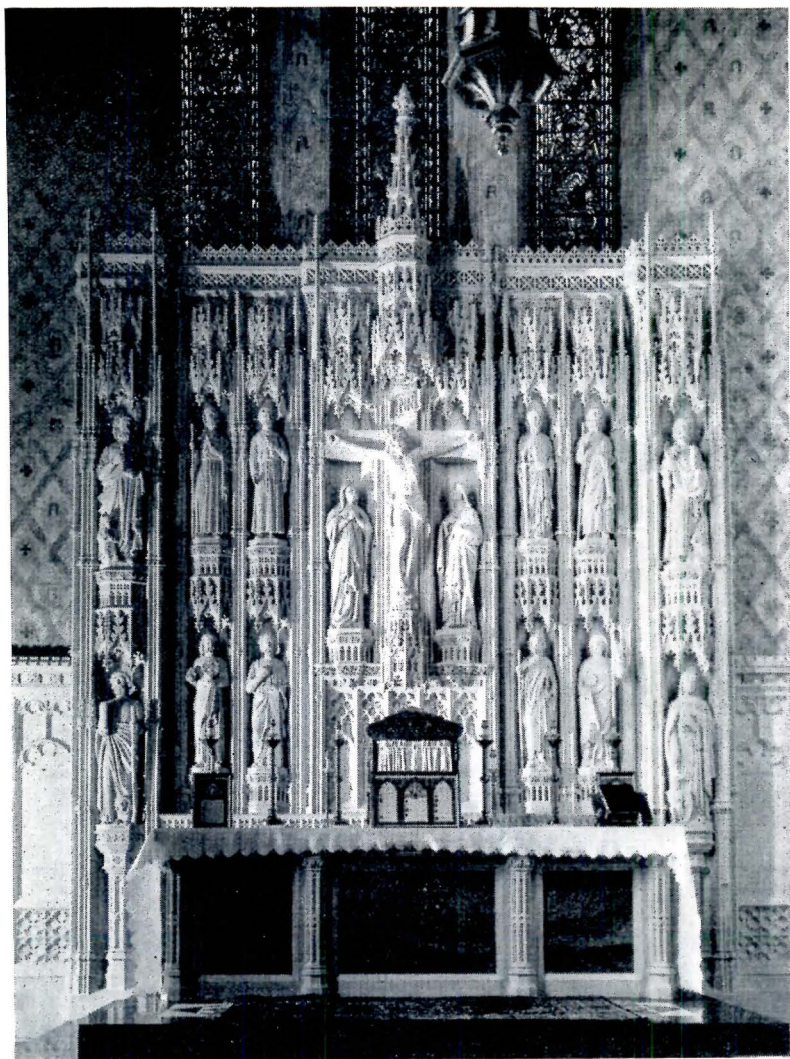
Directors of Regions and State Associations, A.I.A.  
Whose Terms of Office Expire This Year



GEORGE BAIN  
CUMMINGS,  
Binghamton  
Regional  
Director  
New York  
District



PAUL  
GERHARDT, JR.  
Chicago  
Regional  
Director  
North Central  
States District



REREDOS OF ST. LUKE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

STUDY, FARRAR & MAJERS ARCHITECTS

*Photograph by Charles Trefts*

You can *dress* for dinner in black or white, if you're a man—and if you're not, brother you're on your own!

We would take the same clothes to Mexico City. Travel light so you can carry a few precious things back with you. Acapulco calls for slacks and sport things, among other things. The swimming jiggers might come in handy in Houston (for the really big rains) also.

So much for the men. You ladies will do as you please, anyhow, but after it is all over you probably would agree that a suit was a good choice. Of course, a lighter dress with your big "flower" hats would sho' come in handy on the balmy days—if we get our

allotment that week. A wrap at nights is a must when it's chilly. For the formal occasions, use the ones you have plus those you can't resist buying (bless your little hearts). In the past it's a long dress for the Annual Dinner. A print, a sheer or what have you—maybe cotton—could be just right (or wrong) for general wear.

Mexico is somewhat more predictable. Houston is Texas and only fools and "furriners" predict the weather in Texas. But as to clothes, I feel completely confused and I trust you are the same. The temperature in Houston at the Ides of March can run from 20° to 95°, hence the accuracy of our sartorial suggestions.

Some of the thorns that infest the builder's path—and the architect's.

## What Price Building?

*By Edward A. Wehr*

Excerpts from an article by one of this country's few builders who holds a degree in architecture. Reprinted by permission from *The Charette*, Pittsburgh's journal of architecture.

**N**O SUBJECT of general public interest in recent years has been less understood or more misrepresented than the construction industry. This sprawling collaboration of architects, engineers,

builders, general contractors, subcontractors, and the building trades with their staggering variety of skilled craftsmen, must be made clear to the public if the American people are to appreciate the magni-



tude and importance of this most vital of our national industries.

During the present demand not only for housing but for all types of construction, the shortage of skilled mechanics may make it seem desirable for the building trades to put in more working time. But shorter hours and a shorter work week are the interminable goals of organized labor, and the building trades have been highly organized now for years. Short hours, instigated of necessity during depression years, are today the accepted practice of the industry. It is not likely that the trend will be reversed.

Increased production is generally thought to be the cure for today's high building costs, but it must be remembered that, as a whole, the building industry is still a craft. It is not streamlined for precision. There are approximately 27 separate agreements with the various building trades necessary to any building operation and these agreements must be negotiated annually, while in most other large industries such as steel, coal and automotive, it is necessary to negotiate only one agreement. Industry-wide bargaining may be the answer.

Large consolidated industries have more resources with which

to negotiate and influence public opinion than does the individual builder, whose failure to agree in any one craft negotiation can, in a short time, tie up any large construction job. Under these adverse conditions, builders have consummated agreements with the unions as best they could, though many such agreements were often far from advantageous to the builder.

Another problem the industry must face is the invasion of its ranks by new, inexperienced men. We have recently witnessed in Pittsburgh the operations of a few unscrupulous builders whose unethical, dishonest practices have brought temporary disrepute upon the whole profession. These misdoers are always a minority in any profession and by continued vigilance the industry as a whole can escape the blame for such malefaction. Fortunately the building industry has never been subject to such critical examination and public discontent as has, for instance, the profession of medicine, the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, and the unwholesome alliance between opticians and optical-supply houses.

On the other hand, the building profession has never been accorded the public respect which its vital role in everyday life justifies.

Much of the credit for our American standard of living and our enviable national mortality rate is given to certain advances in science, medicine and surgery, while actually the healthful way of our American life would not be possible without those engineers and architects who design and equip our modern building with sanitary, heating, and ventilating devices which contribute so much to the preservation of health today.

Perhaps the most common criticism levelled against the building industry today is the complaint that bricklayers who formerly laid 2,000 bricks a day now only lay 300. The layman who innocently passes on this telling argument does not stop to think that before the general introduction of heavy concrete walls and brick veneer houses, all walls were built of stone or solid brick, sometimes two feet thick, with only four inches of facing carefully laid, the balance of the bricks being slushed in solid almost as fast as a man could pile bricks. In our modern building there is seldom more than just a four-inch facing against wood, concrete or terra cotta backing, where each individual brick has to be carefully laid, plumbed and joints struck. Even chimneys consist of a mini-

num number of bricks all carefully laid around various sized flues.

If building workers are as unproductive and slow as hearsay has them, how is it that unprecedented building records were set during the war years when the most able-bodied men in the industry were off in the armed services? And how does slow productivity account for today's unequalled building activity?

Any self-respecting member of the building profession might complain about the obscurity in which he is forced to work. Little or no publicity is ever given to the men who construct our physical environment. Architects, engineers, builders—all are frequently confronted with unexpected conditions which arise, particularly in foundation work, where very urgent and important decisions must be made promptly on the job to prevent disastrous results to life and property. These vital decisions require long experience in the building field, plus the valuable advice and help that can come only from the workers on the job. Answers are not in the books of any nearby building library. A building is the result of months of thought and work by architects and engineers, fol-

lowed by careful coordination of materials and crafts by an experienced contractor. Yet when a building is completed, little or no credit is ever forthcoming to the conscientious men involved in the actual operation. But the real estate operator is not so ignored. When the building is finally up for sale, out pops a prominent sign announcing, "This Building Sold by Rudolpho Bumblewit." The architect's fee was based on the cost of the building. The contractor may have lost his shirt on it, due to changing conditions or increasing prices, but Mr. Bumblewit's commission is based not only on the value of the building alone, but on the value of the land *and* the building. Often he has previously received a commission on the sale of the land.

Similarly, a large and important bridge, tunnel, or other engineering feat is completed and turned over to the use of the citizenry with never a mention of the engineers, architects, builders, nor the skilled workmen, some of whom may have lost their lives in the performance of duty. But when the project is unveiled, a handsome sculptured plaque is embedded at the approaches, acquainting posterity with the politicians

under whose benevolent administration the work may or may not have been conceived.



In recent years a development has occurred in the construction industry which bears careful watching. It is the slow abrogation by architects, engineers and builders, of their traditional role as the representatives of the owner as well as the designers of the plans and specifications governing conditions under which contract construction work is to be performed. They abrogate this traditional role of theirs to lawyers, business managers, financial consultants and other assorted laymen who know little or nothing about the process of building. These outsiders often insist upon inserting in specifications clauses that are patently unfair to the builder. The Standard Documents of The American Institute of Architects, including contract forms which have been approved by the Associated General Contractors of America, Inc., represent the best thinking of the architectural profession and the contracting industry and have stood the test of time. Departure from the provisions of the Standard Contract between Owner and



Contractor only leads to complications and often increased costs.

Unlike painter, sculptor, actor and writer, the architect is seldom given the publicity and appreciation which his essential work deserves. It is safe to say that perhaps not a handful of Pittsburghers can name the architects of such Pittsburgh landmarks as Carnegie Museum, Mellon Institute, or the Cathedral of Learning. But in building, a faulty or bad design by the architect, or poor construction by the engineers or builders, is never buried and forgotten. The work stands as a discredit to those

responsible for it the rest of their days.

And finally, a builder is frequently asked why he or any rational human being will start and continue permanently in this rather complicated work which is rarely rewarding and not always remunerative. Perhaps the answer lies in a speech which Benjamin Fairless recently delivered. "Success isn't a matter of position or possession," said Mr. Fairless, "It's a frame of mind, feeling of fulfillment, an inward recognition of a job well done or a worthwhile service rendered."

## The Training of the Architect

*By Olindo Grossi*

CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE, PRATT INSTITUTE, BROOKLYN

A paper delivered at the Convention of the New York State Association of Architects, Albany, New York, October 1948

I HAVE BEEN PRESENT at several meetings in the past year where practising architects have voiced disappointment in the training of the architectural student. No one to my knowledge feels that this training is more than adequate, not to say perfect. In view of the fact that the scope of the present architect includes all phases of living, architectural study becomes

a lifetime pursuit rather than a four- or five-year curriculum. Nevertheless, schools are most seriously trying to turn out well-rounded men with a vision and a philosophy.

In view of the fact that the trend in general education is toward the dissemination of basic knowledge and clear thinking, increased importance is given to the non-

professional studies in the fields of the physical and social sciences, the fine arts and communications. However, only a few of the great many courses desired can be included. These maturing and cultural studies are intended to afford a base from which the student may progress with his more specifically professional courses in this formative period. The latter courses too are offered in as broad a manner as we know how. Certainly a basic knowledge of heat transfers or thermodynamics is more important in this age of invention than only specific knowledge of a few heating systems.

In the teaching of architecture at Pratt Institute, we analyze and integrate the three approaches related to materials and methods, planning, and esthetics. Courses are taught which not only introduce the student to these values but are closely related to the design problems, so that many design *rendus* show materials, structure, and research data.

Our design problems and courses are intended to cover a general field of training but no disciplined procedure per se is followed. A great amount of experimentation is encouraged, which

tends to keep students and faculty alert, thinking, analyzing.

Each problem in design is progressively more difficult and more comprehensive, requiring the integration of knowledge gained from other courses. For instance, in a present third-year problem, the students were given a schematic program written by a library staff that will act as a client. With research work the students have developed more completely the required planning facilities of this program. Before starting to plan, however, they have also developed studies on building code and zoning requirements, typical details of floors, walls, stairs, doors and windows, and miscellaneous other data. These details, one assigned to each student, are general and varied, so that the class has become familiar with typical details that have applied to other similar structures. The class, equipped with a knowledge of pertaining techniques, has now gone on to the more creative phase of designing the library and will render it as a set of working drawings.

Other recent successful experiments in problems include group or team projects in large housing developments by seniors, and town planning problems for second-

year students in which each developed a separate building—each related, however, to the town as a whole.

In the advanced class in engineering, students progress further than the typical practitioner's needs. Research has been done in relation to design in fields such as the structural theory of welding, structural analysis of Q-flooring, and structural design of elevated highways and underground parking areas. It is felt that such engineering facility will form a sound and advanced basis for architectural practice. Courses in working drawings and specifications are a further development of the students' design problems. The professional engineers on our staff, besides teaching courses, act as consultants on student problems in design in the drafting-rooms, much in the same manner in which they conduct their own professional practices. All members of our staff are active to different degrees in practice, for we strongly feel this aids in teaching.

The Department of Architecture, founded in 1890, has established a tradition of practical training. This we are desirous of continuing. Another tradition or association in which we are pleased

to participate is that of the well-known Art School with its many art and design studios.

In the more purely esthetic phase the architectural student starts with two- and three-dimensional abstract design where he is taught relationships between lines, dots, and planes, solids, textures and color, rather than the simple reference to the historic orders. This study of creative value is tempered with paralleling courses in materials and the logic of planning.

In theory and design we are strongly influenced by the pioneers of modern architecture. These pioneers, Frank Lloyd Wright, Walter Gropius, Mies van der Rohe, Le Corbusier and a few others, have brought forth teachable philosophies in keeping with modern techniques and requirements of our times. While these men are still considered leaders, effort is made to keep the students' thought processes alert to changing future philosophies and concepts. Perhaps, the greatest sin of architectural education of several decades ago was that it was more backward looking, though some architects survived it nevertheless.

At Pratt Institute, we employ the technique of open judgments



for the grading of design problems. This has proven very worthwhile, as the student is encouraged to be articulate and verbally rational as well as expressive graphically. The student is permitted to set forth his approach to the problems, the difficulties he experienced, and the reasons why he developed the solution submitted. Convincing verbal presentation has on occasion bettered the grade.

The teaching of architecture is not considered a cloistered affair, but rather dependent on contact with the city, its people and buildings, and the architectural profession. We are fortunate to be in a large city. In addition, we also have a Student-Associate Branch of the Brooklyn Chapter, A.I.A. This affords the students opportunity of associating with the members of this active and truly friendly and benevolent chapter.

Our relation to the city is further exploited by many senior students who may have a lighter schedule due to advanced entrance standing or accelerated programs, and are able to work part time in

architectural offices. This transitory training is of great value as it minimizes the change from school to practice. Summer work in offices on construction jobs has also been available to students recently for this office experience.

A truly bright spot in the training of the architect is that currently the many applicants afford us a high degree of selectivity; there were 40 chosen from 600 applications each of the last three years. The job of training is naturally made easier with a superior student.

In summation, I feel we teach advanced work in all phases of architectural study, but I do not feel that in itself it is enough to label a graduate a finished product, and we can only look to our alumni for the measure of success and their continued progress which may evaluate our current efforts. While I have mentioned courses and their integration in the overall study of architecture, basically the development of analytical and creative thinking by the student is of prime importance.

## Competition Awards

IN the Kentile-Forum design competition, the jury consisted of: and Cameron Clark, architects; Theodor Muller, decorator and Maxine Livingston, an editor of Morgan Yost, Richard Bennett

*Parents' Magazine*. C. Theodore Larson was professional adviser.

First prize (\$1500) went to George Cooper Rudolph, New York architect for his design of a candy shop.

Another first prize (\$1500) was awarded to G. Russello and B. Johnson of Detroit, for their design of a suburban home kitchen and breakfast area.

In a third class of the competition, first prize (\$1500) was won by A. Albert Cooling of Los Angeles for his design of a living room.

Second prizes (\$750) went to: Mrs. Barbara Upshaw Siegel of Chicago for the candy shop; George Cooper Rudolph of New York for the kitchen; and Robert Pattison of Elyria, Ohio, for the living-room.

Third prizes (\$500) went to: Thomas Weatherwax of Philadelphia for the candy shop; Harlan E. McClure of Minneapolis for the kitchen; and Mary Royer of Los Angeles for the living-room.

There were also thirty-five honorable mention awards of \$50.

IN THE COMPETITION sponsored by The Museum of Modern Art and the *Architectural Record* with the purpose of discovering hidden talent, the jury was made up as follows: Wallace K. Harrison, Morris Ketchum, Jr., Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Eero Saarinen, Chairman Joseph Hudnut, Philip C. Johnson and Kenneth K. Stowell were professional advisers.

First prize (\$1,000) was awarded to Joseph Yusuru Fujikawa of Chicago; Second prize (\$750) to G. Lee Everidge of Oklahoma City; Third prize (\$500) to Edward Chase Weren, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.; Ten Honorable Mentions (\$50) each to: Herbert S. Johnson, William R. Reed, Louis F. Mammier, Clifford G. Foreman, Edward M. Farney, Spero Paul Daltas, George E. Rafferty, Elnor M. Hoops, Mary Ellen Linberger, James V. Hirsch.

## Honors

TO ROYAL BARRY WILLS, of Boston, the Massachusetts State Association of Architects has awarded its Certificate of Honor

for 1948, with the following citation:

"A charter member of the Massachusetts State Association of

Architects, he has achieved outstanding recognition for his designs of residential construction throughout our country. His unerring good taste and modern approach in the design of residential structures have constituted a distinct contribution to contemporary architecture in that field.

"His enthusiasm and unusual devotion to the profession is further attested by his generous as-

sistance to worthy students of architecture."

JOHN S. BOLLES has been elected chairman of San Francisco's Building Industry Conference Board.

WILLIAM ADAMS DELANO, F.A.I.A., of New York, has been elected an Honorary Corresponding Member of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

## Nominations of Officers

### Supplementary Notice to Members of The A.I.A.

In the January, 1949, BULLETIN there were published all of the nominations for officers-directors made by petitions of corporate members and filed with The Secretary as of January 25, 1949.

However, the deadline for filing nominations by petitions was not reached until February 3, 1949, and between those two dates additional nominations were made as follows:

For First Vice-President and Director:

*Marion I. Manley, Coral Gables, Fla.*

By members of the Florida South, Massachusetts, Min-

neapolis, and New York Chapters.

For Second Vice-President and Director:

*Pietro Belluschi, Portland, Ore.*

By members of the Florida South, Massachusetts, Minneapolis, and New York Chapters.

For Secretary and Director:

*Roy Norman Thorshov, Minneapolis, Minn.*

By members of the Florida South, Massachusetts, Minneapolis, and New York Chapters.

CLAIR W. DITCHY  
*Secretary*

MARCH, 1949



# The Fine Arts Medal for 1948

## CITATION:

To LOUIS CONRAD ROSENBERG, scholar, teacher, architect, modest recipient of American and foreign honors: we salute you.

You have been endowed with rare talents, and never-ending industry has seen them superbly developed.

Your skill with needle, pen and

pencil has brought us magnificent records of ageless architecture; they will long be treasured in our archives.

In recognition of these qualities and abilities and their reflection in our devoted profession, The American Institute of Architects is honored in presenting you with the Fine Arts Medal.

## Calendar

*March 13-14:* Thirty-fifth annual meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, Rice Hotel, Houston, Texas.

*March 15-18:* 81st Convention of The American Institute of Architects, Rice Hotel, Houston, Texas.

*March 21-23:* 18th Annual Conference, American Institute of Decorators, Hotel Pierre, New York City.

*March 29-April 1:* Third International Lighting Exposition and Conference. Sponsored by Industrial and Commercial Lighting Equipment Section of National Electrical Manufacturers Association. Stevens Hotel, Chicago.

*April 2:* Second Annual Symposium of the Engineers' Council of Houston (of which the South Texas Chapter, A.I.A. is a member), Rice Hotel, Houston, Tex. Theme: "Conservation of Our

Natural Resources." Reservations may be made through Mr. Dean F. Saurenman, P. O. Box 3048, Houston 1, Texas.

*April 11-15:* Institute for Hospital Engineers, sponsored by American Hospital Association and The Hospital Association of Pennsylvania, Buck Hill Falls Inn, Buck Hill Falls, Pa.

*May 13-14:* Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Society of Architects of The A.I.A., Hershey Hotel, Hershey, Pa.

On the program will be a symposium on hospitals.

*May 19-21:* Southern Hospital Conference for a discussion of hospital design and administrative hospital problems, Buena Vista Hotel, Biloxi, Miss.

*June 29-July 2:* The annual conference of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Nottingham, England.



## Architects Read and Write

*Letters from readers—discussion, argumentative, corrective, even vituperative.*



### THE POLL OF THRILLING BUILDINGS

By C. L. V. MEEKS, New Haven, Conn.

PRESIDENT, SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

A NUMBER of people, architects and historians, have spoken to me, with intense interest, of the results of Mr. E. B. Morris' poll published in your December issue. The mixture of ancient monuments, simplified classicism and wholly contemporary buildings struck us

as singular. We wondered if there was an age-level factor. Would it not be interesting to break down the poll by ages to see if there is a greater degree of consistency of taste among the younger men, the middle-aged and the elder statesmen, as groups?

By EDWIN BATEMAN MORRIS, Washington, D. C.

I WAS INTERESTED in the inquiry from C. L. V. Meeks, and at the Editor's suggestion have compiled certain information from questionnaires which were the basis of the poll to which Prof. Meeks refers.

In setting the *modus operandi* of the poll, I did not give much thought to age brackets. I felt that the fewer classifications and weights there were the better, since it was to be an opinion of the architectural field as a whole. I think my list was not too bad as a cross-section. I had been building it up for several years, adding to it the names of men who had attended meetings I had fostered. These men, in general, came to the meetings on invitation by the A.I.A. chapters of the respective cities in which the meetings were

held, and their reason for attending, and thus being included in the list, was based on whether they wanted to come or not.

There is bound to be a certain emphasis upon youth in any unrestricted poll—because there are more young men than old ones. The bottom of the triangle is broader. My list contained no spot for statement of age—my number of replies might have been reduced if it had, since humans are sensitive about youth and age—and I can therefore only guess that young men predominated.

That is rather an interesting point. I have found, in my later discussions concerning the poll, that young men by reason of their foreign military service, have broadened their horizons. The young architects who saw service in

MARCH, 1949

India, for instance, gave the Taj Mahal a play; and those who were in the European invasion were apt to write in Chartres or Mont St. Michel.

In an endeavor to discover for my own satisfaction after reading Mr. Meeks' letter, more of what went on, I took a random plug in the melon to find out what I could. I started through the list alphabetically and picked out the questionnaires of 10 men whom I knew to be 60 or over, and of 10 I knew to be 40 or under. Checking over these questionnaires, I found this to be the order in which their voting placed the buildings. For brevity I omit buildings having but one vote.

#### UNDER 40

- \*Folger
- \*Lincoln Memorial  
Nebraska State Capitol  
Chartres  
Parthenon
- \*Rockefeller Center  
National Gallery of Art

#### OVER 60

- \*Folger
- \*Lincoln Memorial  
Chartres

\*Asterick denotes buildings in all 4 lists.

- \*Rockefeller Center  
Nebraska State Capitol  
Williamsburg

I then did the same thing, going from the last of the alphabet, and picking the first 10 over 60, and the first ten under 40, with the following result:

#### UNDER 40

- \*Folger
- \*Lincoln Memorial
- \*Rockefeller Center  
Cranbrook  
Nebraska State Capitol  
Philadelphia Savings Fund  
Society  
St. Thomas's, New York

#### OVER 60

- \*Folger
- \*Lincoln Memorial
- \*Rockefeller Center  
St. Thomas's, New York  
U. S. Capitol  
Notre Dame  
Pan-American Building  
Morgan Library

This is interesting as showing close relationship of parts of the poll to the whole. It also tends to prove that taste and appreciation remain constant; are not undernourished in youth, nor withered in maturity.

## Department of Understatement

*San Francisco, Feb. 10 (U.P.)*  
—A proposal to build a mile-high building big enough to house half

the city's population, overcome the school shortage and provide underground parking for 80,000 auto-



mobiles was submitted to the mayor by Architect A. McF. McSweeney.

The 440-story building would have 100,000 apartments for 400,000 persons. It would have 1,000 stores and shops, 50 schools, 50 movie theaters, 50 night clubs, 20 churches, 10 hospitals, 10 gymnasiums, railway and bus offices. In addition, it would have 10,000 offices and 300 elevators.

A 20-foot-wide walk would circle the interior from the 2300 to the 4300-foot level.

The building would cost from four billion dollars to seven billion dollars.

"It would be a landmark," McSweeney said.

—From the *Washington Post* of Feb. 11, 1949.

## The Editor's Asides

THOSE WHO OCCASIONALLY YEARN for the sight of a skilled craftsman doing his stuff are to have an opportunity in Cleveland during May 18th through 22nd. The skill shown may not be that of a seasoned master craftsman, but it will be well worth watching. From a field of about 5,000 brick mason apprentices of not more than two years' training, eighty finalists, representing every State of the Union, will compete in a mass exhibition of masonry skills. Co-operating in this effort to name the nation's outstanding brick mason apprentice are the Bricklayers', Masons' and Plasterers' International Union, the Structural Clay Products Institute, the Associated General Contractors of America, and the U. S. Department of Labor. Buttering a brick, laying

it to line and striking a neat joint look so easy, but so does playing a violin.



THOSE WHO may have been thinking of Williamsburg, Virginia, as a finished job may be surprised to learn that Mr. Rockefeller and those administering Colonial Williamsburg, Inc. do not so regard it. There is now underway a new construction and restoration program involving another ten million dollars. Singleton P. Moorehead, who, as a member of Perry, Shaw & Hepburn's organization, first served the Williamsburg restoration in 1928, has been at the job ever since. He has now been named advisory consultant to the corporation's department of architecture. A. Edwin Ken-

drew is vice-president and resident architect. Mario E. Campioli, recently of Eggers & Higgins, New York, succeeds Mr. Moorehead as director of the architectural department.

*The Chemical Digest*, from which we reprinted "Splitting the Infinitive" (August JOURNAL) has belatedly learned the name of the author. It is Norman R. Jaffray of Santa Barbara, California. That any addition to or correction of a piece of printed matter once released, will catch up with its fore-runner, is a vain hope. Nevertheless we launch it.

AT THE ANNUAL PRESS DINNER, which is a feature of the Grand Rapids Furniture Market, the toastmaster had introduced a speaker, offering the usual thanks and bouquets thereafter. He then conducted the ceremony of honoring the year's outstanding furniture designer. With a few gracious words of thanks to those who had attended, and with a toastmaster's obvious satisfaction at having gotten through his job without unduly boring his hearers, he dismissed the gathering.

As the several hundred guests

arose and began milling to the exits, a commotion at the speaker's table sounded above the scraping of chair legs. "Hold on a minute," shouted the toastmaster. "I forgot our main speaker! Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Roger Allen."

So far as we know, the gag has been neither patented nor copyrighted by Michigan's master of the dead pan.



MANY HAVE ASKED to what extent the sun can compete with conventional methods of heating. Massachusetts Tech is going to find out. A four-room "solar" house has just been opened and will be occupied by a student family while M.I.T. engineers will measure the heat trapped from sunshine and the loss of heat during sunless hours. In the New England climate it is not expected that solar heat can compete economically with coal, gas or oil. The experiments should, however, serve to indicate under what conditions of climate solar heating might be expected to carry the load. In the experimental house, water is heated in a sloping unit of 400 sq. ft. on the roof and is pumped into an insulated 1200-gal. tank, later to give up its heat

through a radiant ceiling panel. When the sun's heat is inadequate an electric heater cuts in. A large south window in the living-room will collect additional heat during sunlight hours. It is estimated that the 1200 gallons will rise in temperature daily a few more degrees than is lost at night, thereby storing heat for sunless days. It is an experiment worth watching.



TO THOSE ATTENDING the Houston Convention who may be driving their cars with the idea of seeing as much as possible of the country en route, South Carolina's Charleston beckons. During the period March 21—April 16 there are scheduled a number of tours in which the visitor may enter nineteen of Charleston's finest houses and gardens. Through the efforts of Historic Charleston Foundation, a non-profit educational institution, these tours among the city's architectural and historical treasures are being made available for the second year. Some of us had an advance look in December 1947, and will long remember the experience. But you should make hotel reservations in advance, for Charleston is a mecca in the spring. Further details of

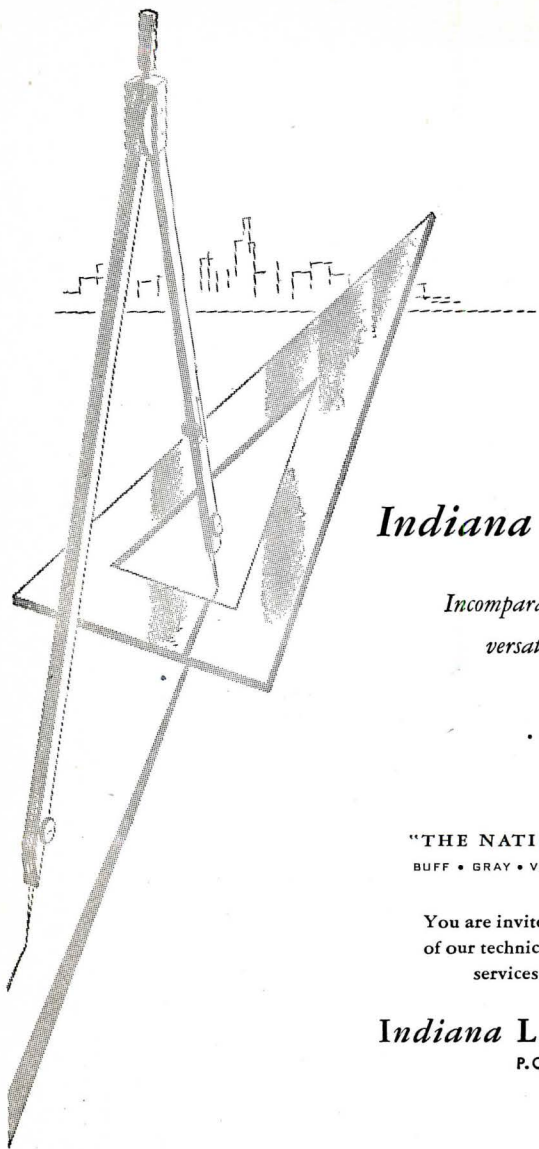
the tours may be had from Historic Charleston Foundation, 135 Church Street, Charleston, S. C.



THE WHITE HOUSE is closed for repairs and alterations. Time has caught up with the old house, and it will be many months before it is again habitable. The interruption in its functioning gives opportunity for a more impersonal appraisal. Is it necessary to the preservation of our national symbolism that a President be required to live in a second-rate apartment, into which he and his family are locked at night and released at sunrise? Is it a necessary accompaniment of Presidential duties that he and his family be denied the intimate privacies of home life?

The White House will remain an enduring symbol, used for formal gatherings, state dinners, the cynosure of several thousand visitors daily, but can we not give the President a *home*, such as Dumbarton Oaks, or the former Stimson house, Woodley, where he might escape for the night and weekend to an environment more in keeping with the natural life of mankind? Must the goldfish bowl remain uncovered day and night for four long years?





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When Engineers' Fees are included in the Architect's Fee (Doc. No. B-102) . . . . .	.05	Form of Agreement between Owner and Contractor (Cost plus Fee Basis) . . . . .	.10
Form of Agreement between Owner and Architect on the Fee plus Cost System . . . . .	.05	Circular of Information on Cost plus Fee System (Owner-Contractor) . . . . .	.06
		Performance Bond; Labor and Material Payment Bond . . . . .	.10

### BOOKS

Handbook of Architectural Practice (1948 printing) . . . . .	\$ 5.00
Architects' Specifications—How to Write Them, by Goldwin Goldsmith, F.A.I.A. . . . .	5.00
Standard Filing System and Alphabetical Index—Doc. No. 172—(1948 edition) . . . . .	2.00
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# The Handbook of Architectural Practice

*Third Printing, Revised 1943 Edition*

Prepared under the direction of WILLIAM STANLEY PARKER, F.A.I.A.

"The architect, by expressing his ideas in forms and words of exact contractual significance, by controlling machinery for their embodiment, by giving just decisions between conflicting interests, by bearing himself as worthy of his high calling, gives to his art the status of a profession. It is with that aspect of the architect's work, professional practice and its servant, business administration, that this Handbook is concerned."

The Board of Directors of The Institute reviewed and approved the Handbook prior to its publication, and found it to be a comprehensive exposition of the best in modern architectural practice, apart from design.

The Handbook is commended by the Board to the seasoned architect, to the draftsman, the office manager, and the architectural student—and to him who prepares for the examination of state registration boards.

Fifty-two chapters make up the book, under the following Part headings:

REGISTRATION OF ARCHITECTS	THE LETTING OF CONTRACTS
THE ARCHITECT AND THE OWNER	THE EXECUTION OF THE WORK
THE OFFICE	THE ARCHITECT AND THE LAW
SURVEYS, PRELIMINARY STUDIES AND ESTIMATES, WORKING DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICA- TIONS	OFFICE RECORDS OF COMPLETED WORK
	THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS AND ITS DOCU- MENTS

Size, 8½ x 11, 204 pages, bound in heavy durable paper, with gold stamping—convenient for use in the library, office or drafting-room. Price \$5 per copy, except that architectural students may purchase copies for \$4, provided the orders are countersigned by the Deans of their Departments of Architecture. Remittances should accompany orders, or the book may be sent collect. No charge for postage or wrapping.

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Here we hope to find the answers to many new approaches to building *and living* with aluminum. Designed by Alcoa architects and engineers, this new home embodies over 60 different aluminum applications...load bearing exterior wall panels, insulation, hardware, wiring, doors and windows, to name a few.

These applications have proved out in laboratory tests. Now we want to find out how these new uses stand the test of being lived in, through summers and winters, celebrations and quiet evenings at home, under the impact

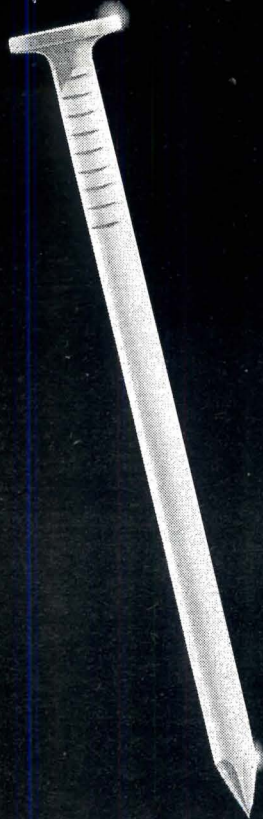
of storms, velocipedes and birthday parties for five year olds.

As we find out the answers, good or bad, we will tell you about them. We don't expect architects to risk their reputations and their clients' money on proving out new ideas in aluminum. That, we think, is our job. This residence is one example of many Alcoa research projects now under way. Today, although aluminum is not readily available in all its forms, we are proceeding with dozens of experiments which we hope will help you plan better, more economical, more livable homes in the years to come. ALUMINUM COMPANY OF AMERICA, 1992 Gulf Building, Pittsburgh 19, Pennsylvania.



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