

Journal of The American Institute of
ARCHITECTS



BYZANTINE STONE SCULPTURE

JULY, 1956

The State of the Institute

What Mrs. America Wants in Tomorrow's Home

Newly Elected Officers and Directors

Modest Aspirations

Roger Allen's Questionnaire

The Basic Philosophy of the AIA

Honors • They Say • Letters

35c

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WITH THE AIM OF AMPLIFYING
AS THROUGH A MICROPHONE
THE VOICE OF THE PROFESSION

JULY, 1956

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Cover spot: Byzantine sculpture in stone, 11th century, from St. Mark's, Venice

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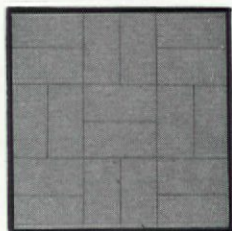
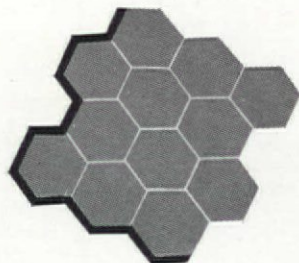
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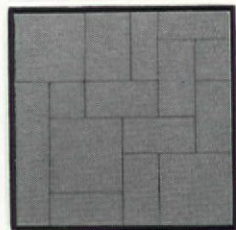
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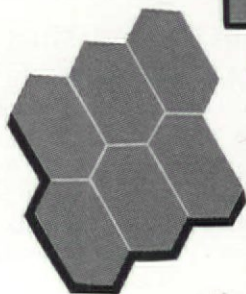
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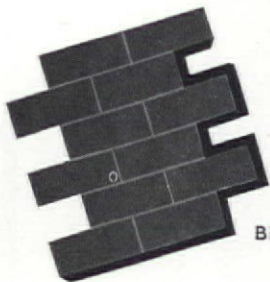
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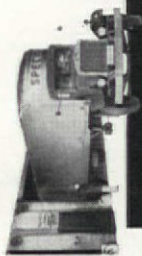
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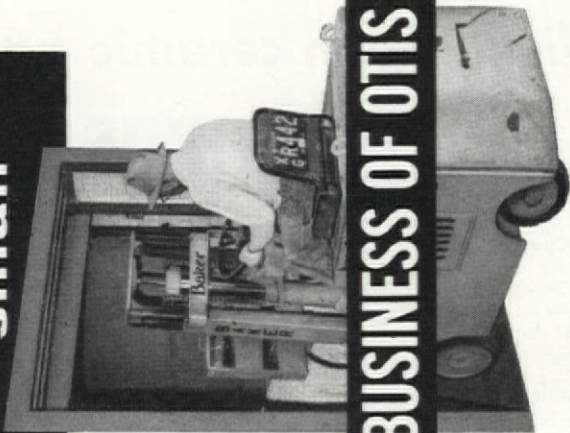


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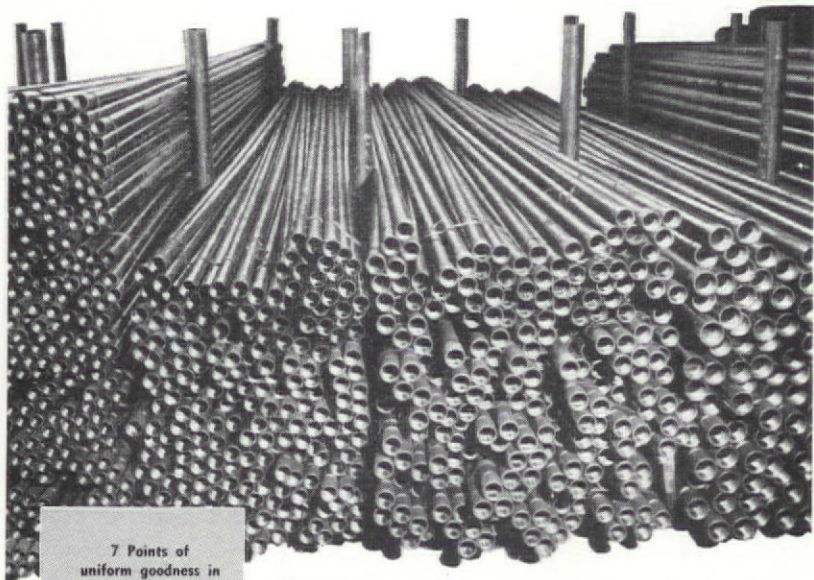
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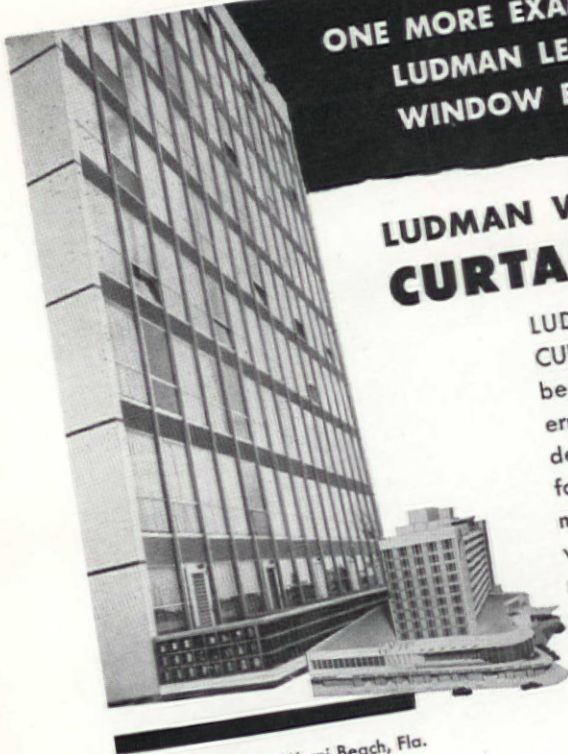
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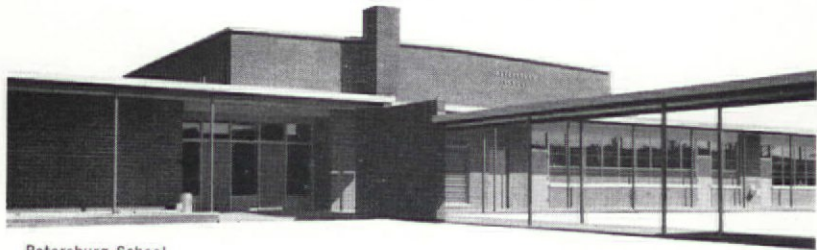
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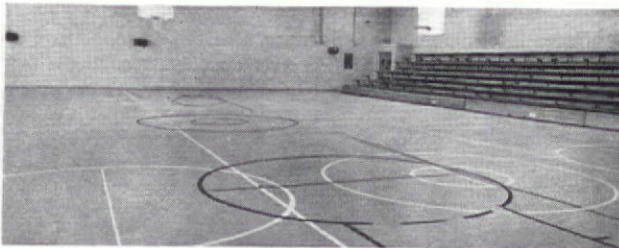
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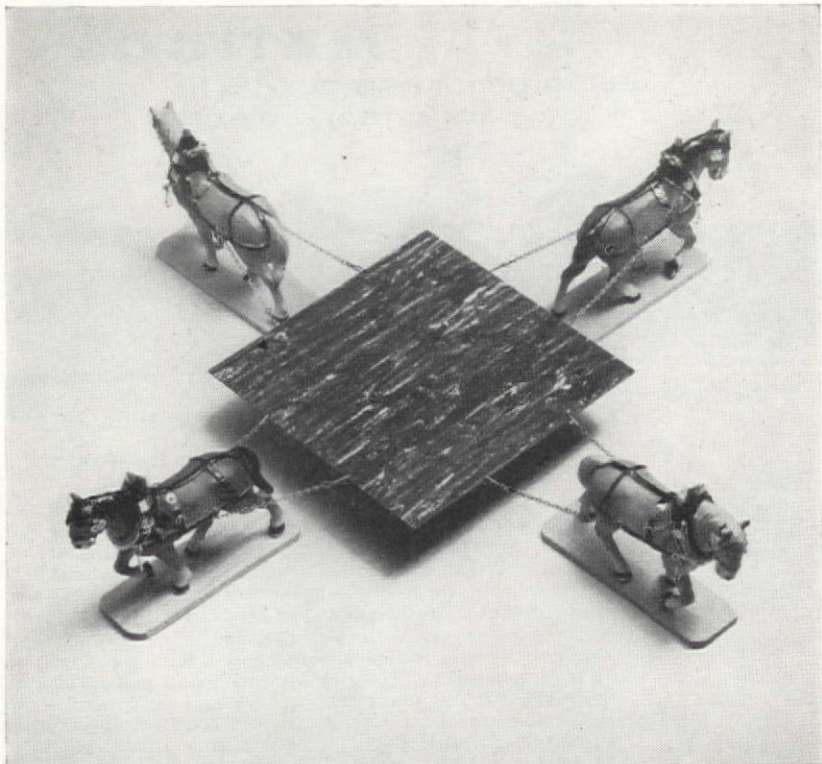
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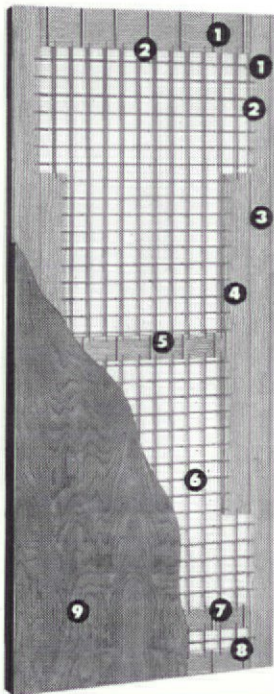
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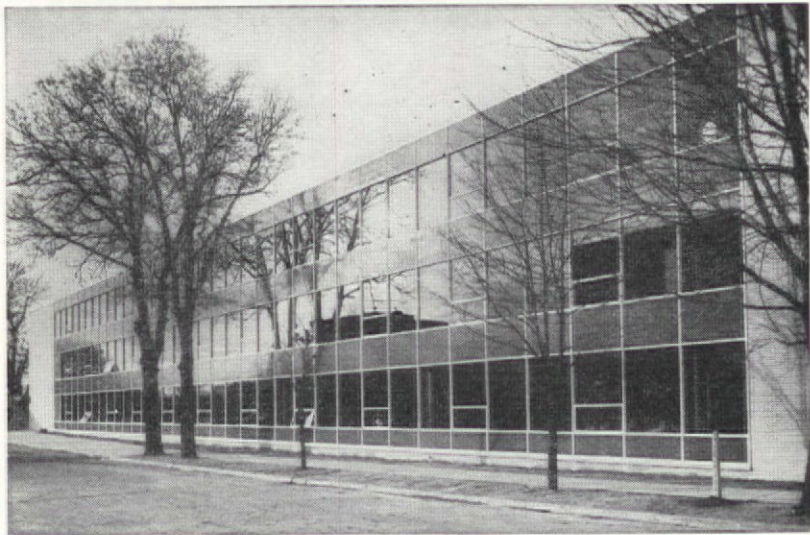
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The State of the Institute

By *George Bain Cummings, FAIA*

Our ex-president's accounting of his stewardship,
delivered at the 88th Convention, May 16, 1956

To the members of The American Institute of Architects and our guests and friends—

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On June 24, 1955, when the gavel sounded the adjournment of the 87th Convention in Minneapolis, a new administration became responsible for the conduct of the affairs of this organization and for advancing its interests and those of the profession of architecture in the service of the people of America. Now, ten and a half months later, we bring you an accounting of our stewardship.

There has already been prepared and delivered to you the Board's Annual Report. It has been in your hands five or six weeks and you have had time to consider it. Replete with candid photographs of persons and events connected with the year's activities, it gives you, with every possible visual aid, insight into the state of the Institute. Its items constitute much of the agenda of this Convention,

to be acted upon at subsequent sessions.

I shall take little of your time discussing or even mentioning the matters contained in the Board's Report. The work of each year's Board consists in duties and activities prescribed in the By-laws and in the Rules of the Board, in carrying out the mandates of the Convention, and in furthering or initiating programs and projects directed toward the attainment of the objects of the Institute. Such programs and projects may originate with members of the Board, with chapters or groups within the regional districts and states, with national committees, or with individual members. They are filtered up to the Board and become part of the total work to which the directors give a great amount of time, and to which the staff renders continuous service.

My report, in sum, is that the work of the Board is up-to-date. Many projects are on-going, re-

quiring more than one administrative year for accomplishment, and of them the Board has made an interim report. Committees that have continuity, of course have carry-over programs. But they, as well as all other committees, have rendered reports which have been carefully studied by task forces of the directors, and are commented on in the Board's Report.



Quantitatively and materially the Institute is in good condition. During the year members have been added at an undiminished rate, until we had prior to today 10,972. Today in Washington 75 new applications are being acted upon. New chapters have been created by the "budding" process. The income of the organization is at an all-time high, which reflects the general prosperity of the times. Regional organizations are maturing and regional conferences and council meetings are demonstrating brilliantly the richness in diversity of the profession. New ideas, methods, plans and programs are developing, and the reports of them are being exchanged. The new regional judiciary procedure has proved of immediate worth. The Student Forum held in Washing-

ton last Fall, and the follow-up among student chapters, has ploughed a fertile field of development that will richly reward cultivation. The integrated programs of the NCARB, the ACSA, the NAAB, and the Institute's Committee on Education are bringing about, step by step, the good purposes and proposals of the Survey Commission which rendered its report in 1954. But of greatest importance in the long view, individual practitioners are demonstrating on all sides increasing competence in the service of our society.

I have found the work of the Institute like a broad and deep river. It flows evenly, for the most part. Inexorably, there is no turning off briefly in order to establish one's footing. As it flows, it widens and deepens. As it flows, it loses by evaporation any superficialities on the surface. And the grit and dregs that it may be carrying, sink to the bottom and are left behind in its forward progress. Continually it is being fed by tributaries. Occasionally there are rocks or snags or rapids, and the president, who tries to keep a gentle but firm hand on the wheel, must make quick and adequate decisions. And of course occasionally there are wind and storm, kicking up angry white caps.

But there are other officers, and a ready and experienced crew, and one does not feel alone.

Truly, this year's work has been a team effort. Those who have stood closest to me—the two Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer—have more than shared the load and the responsibility. The twelve regional directors have carried out their assigned duties with fidelity, energy, imagination and enthusiasm. Your Board has been dedicated and devoted. It deserves your full appreciation—as each member has my deep gratitude.

It has been a team effort on the part of the staff. There are some forty-five of them in our Washington Headquarters — of varying talents and abilities—placed and directed with great skill by Ned Purves—a cohesive, harmonious, earnest and hard-working group, utterly loyal to the Institute. I have visited our Headquarters at least once a month during the past three years. I have come to know and appreciate these fine people. And I have gained the greatest respect for our Executive Director who brings qualities and ability of the highest order to one of the most complex and demanding tasks I can imagine.

The Institute must speak with a voice befitting its position of dignity and prestige, first, to the Federal Government, in both its Legislative and Executive Departments and to a host of subordinate agencies and bureaus; second, to other professional societies, to other national organizations, represented in Washington and elsewhere, all of which have aspirations quite as perseveringly pursued as are ours; third, to other comparable organizations throughout the world, whose representatives call upon us in this country in great numbers, and to whom we must reveal the good character of our country and people; fourth, to our own membership, both as chapters and as individuals. Ned might well avail himself of four telephones simultaneously, as calls come to his desk from all four of these groups, from personalities with whom he must be cordially and helpfully responsive, as the immediate voice of the Institute. I have watched with admiration—when I have been on the scene—as he effectively conducts his exacting office.

It has been a team effort on the part of the committees, all of which have worked faithfully and creditably during the year. Especially am I grateful to the chairmen,

whose loyalty to me as well as to the Institute has been so inspiring. The concept of the vertical committee is now well established, and in twelve areas of great importance to the Institute we now have two-way communication of the most valuable kind. To each and every one of the three hundred national committeemen who accepted appointments in this administration, we are deeply indebted.

It has been a team effort on the part of the officers of chapters and state organizations. They are the men on the firing line, they have pressed toward the objects of the Institute at a local level, they have recruited new members, they have endeavored intelligently and with initiative to raise the standard of individual competence among their members. As I have reviewed chapter publications and minutes of meetings, as I have had occasion to communicate with you officially, I have been proud and re-assured to perceive the high quality of attainment in the discharge of your responsibilities. You have tough, day-after-day, jobs, and the major credit for the vigor and vitality of the Institute is due you.

It has been a team effort on the part of you, the rank and file members. There are 11,000 of you,

practising all over this great country. It is you who are the vital elements of our organization, of our profession. It is you who present the useful services of the profession to the people of America. By your service the profession is judged—not by pronouncement from The Octagon. During this past year your work has largely accounted for the fact that the building industry has for the first time in history become the largest money factor in the economy of the United States. And our product is of three dimensions, and rises everywhere—creations of building that did not exist before you brought them into being. The national result is incalculable in its effect upon the bodies, minds and spirits of the people, upon the good life in America.



That is the theme of this Convention: Architecture for the Good Life. What is the good life? Your own individual definition is the best. May I suggest certain ingredients of my own definition?

I think there must be, first of all, *safety* and *health* and *well-being*. We all reach out instinctively to attain them.

I think there must be *work* and *rest*, in alternation. Work that prevents our bodies, minds and spirits from atrophying through disuse. There must be the zest, the exultation of driving ourselves to capacity, followed by a period of re-charging.

I think there must be *love* and *worship*. Love, physical for completeness, for fulfillment; but also spiritual love, the sublimest, most nearly God-like, of our attributes—love of mate and family, of friends, of people, of visions, purposes and ideals. Love of the great, good world around us, and of its Creator—love and gratefulness and submission, which is worship. As ancient as the human family is this need for love and worship, for faith is something outside ourselves. It is the lodestar of our souls.

I think there must be *beauty* and *fragrance*. Of Louis Sullivan, who was born one hundred years ago in 1856, it was said: "He demanded of himself an emotional and spiritual expenditure to endow each building with its own identity of beauty." In Santa Fe there is a remarkable exhibition in the Museum of International Folk Art. Here are collected the artifacts of diverse and wholly unrelated civili-

zations from all parts of the world. There are articles of common purpose—such as the spoon, for example—invented from necessity by each people, unknowing even the existence of other peoples or their work. The strange and striking common factor is the embellishment each people has attempted. It is a common trait of the human family instinctively to strive for beauty, for the amelioration and enhancement of environment. Recall how the narrator of the ancient story of creation reports that after each stage of His work God paused and "saw that it was good." With the great pageant of Nature ever before and around us, all our senses are ministered to, and our realization of and yearning for beauty and the fragrance of goodness becomes a demand upon life. We are imbued with the desire and purpose to fulfill our capacity for living and enjoying life, and with the urge to create beauty and to make our contribution to the culture of the human family.

And I think there must be *compensation*—recognition, acceptance, approval, reward—there must be incentive and satisfaction. For all our individual striving as architects, there is the hope that there may emerge a work of art; but

whether or no, there will be compensation—there will be satisfaction—in having tried our hardest and done our best, in having shared in creation and experienced the joy of creative power.

So, in sum, my definition of the good life includes safety, health and well-being; work and rest; love and worship; beauty and fragrance; and compensation.

“Architecture for the Good Life”? Through our architecture we provide for the safety, health and well-being of our people and we shelter all the diverse activities—personal and of the group—that are involved in making these provisions. We design the shelter for the world’s work, and for the people’s rest and for their loving and their worship. We contrive it with our hearts, that there may be beauty and a fragrance along

the way. We contrive it for the satisfaction of our own souls and consciences, and find our compensation in the contribution we are permitted to make to our day and generation, of our creative ability. Where there is no vision the people perish. In the physical environment of our civilization it is we, the architects, who must have and give vision, that our people shall not perish.

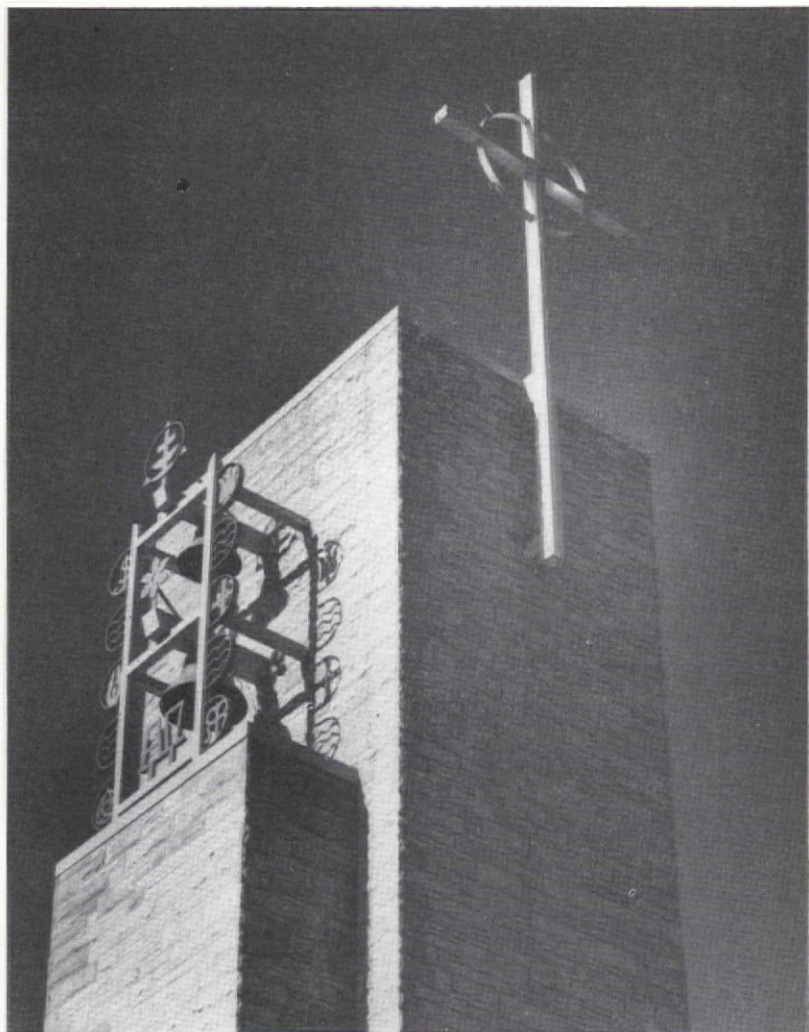
I thank you, one and all, members of a wonderful team, for your efforts that have resulted in the record of this administration. And I say to my predecessors that I am wholly aware that we have reaped where you have sown, and our gratitude continues toward you.

Such is the accounting of our stewardship. The record is submitted to you with the wistful hope that you will accept it and find it good. We have tried to make it so.

“The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ,
Moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,
Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it.”



JULY, 1956



Photograph by R. Marvin Wilson

TOWER DETAIL, CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO
ANTHONY S. CIRESI, ARCHITECT

Favorite Features of
recently elected Fellows:
ANTHONY S. CIRESI, FAIA

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OSCAR T. LANG, FAIA

Communities for the Good Life

By Clarence S. Stein, FAIA

The Institute's 1956 Gold Medalist, upon receiving the medal and citation at the Convention's Annual Dinner, Thursday, May 17, expressed feelingly his thanks and then read the address which follows:

Ladies and Gentlemen, Architects and Friends:

I really can't say anything about this. It means too much to me—this honor. There is just one thing I do want to say, though. I spent my whole apprenticeship—it was a long apprenticeship—in architecture in the office of Bertram Goodhue, and it gives me particular pleasure that I am receiving the same honor as "The Boss" received.

Now, I want to say just a little on the topic of this week—a little more than has been said, although it has been pretty fully covered—Architecture for the Good Life.

THE GOOD LIFE! Never before have so many people had so much time to enjoy a good life. But with what feeble results! The trouble is that there are so many buildings and highways all jammed together that there is not space to enjoy our opportunities. The twentieth-century Technological Revolution makes possible—in fact,

it demands—Leisure for All. This is in complete contrast to the nineteenth-century Industrial Revolution which glorified labor and crowded its slum dwellings tight around its temples of industry.

In the movie "A Nous la Liberté," Rene Clair foretold this change 25 years ago. He showed the schoolroom of the nineteenth-century with children taught as though it were a religion—"One *must* work." Adults who loafed were jailed, while those who labored did so in jail-like factories. And then mechanization took command. Ultimately it produced without human aid. Man at last had realized his fondest ambition—freedom from drudgery. And what did the workers do with their permanent holiday? In "A Nous la Liberté" everyone went fishing or dancing. Rene Clair, a quarter of a century ago, wrote this as a fantastic wish—like Jules Verne's tales.

And now it is being realized. For the first time in man's history there is leisure—an ever-increasing leisure for more and more people—anyhow here in America. And there is every prospect that it is going to increase immeasurably.

LEISURE FOR ALL: never before has the world or its architects been faced with this problem. Leisure, yes; but it has been leisure of the selected few: Hadrian's Villa, Versailles, Hunting Enclosures, the Riviera.

The architect—you and I—face the task of setting the stage for a completely new production. The actors and the producers are as yet unconscious of what is blocking the show. The old scenery is in the way; it is inappropriate. There is not space for the actors to let themselves go.

Our American way of life is symbolized by the automobile and leisure time. In our cities neither of these is of much use. Autos are frozen in congestion. Adequate places to enjoy leisure are inconveniently distant. For children, they are deathly, dangerously distant.

Leisure occupations for all require, above all, SPACE, much open space, convenient open space, verdant space. And the whole land-

scape has been cluttered with crowded, unrelated disorder. We are hemmed in by dangerous, nerve-wracking motorways. Open green places are engulfed and destroyed as the obsolete city pattern rolls out.

Much of the time we have gained by shorter working hours and longer weekends is squandered in tiresome, jerky journeys in search of open spaces. Fields and woods and wilderness grow constantly more distant, as more and more open countryside is bulldozed into dreary checkerboard monotony.

No matter how many billions are spent on our new throughway program, it cannot keep up with the increasing problem of more people going further and further to find less and less space. So, before our highway engineers flood most of our landscape under a sea of pavement, we architects must develop a saner plan for using leisure. We must bring the peaceful quiet and the beauty and the sense of great openness into every part of all our communities, as near as possible to where people live and work.

Just outside everyone's own private garden or balcony there must be spacious open commons; plenti-

ful green places attractive for leisurely loafing in the sun, or under a great tree, with lots of room for children to play freely and safely near home. Above all we need flexible space that can be used for various purposes as the neighbors get new ideas of how to spend their spare time, together or by themselves. Not in just playing games or sitting around talking and thinking, but in constructive action such as building a little community workshop or a nursery.



A moderate-size well-designed area can give a sense of spaciousness and of mysterious distance just beyond the corner. This is apparent in the exquisite gardens in Soochow, China, and in those of Japan. Here in America in a quite different way Thomas Church is making much of little, as Marjorie Cautlie did for me at Radburn and elsewhere.

For utility as well as beauty, open spaces are the basic element of design. Chinese artists and philosophers have long recognized this. Twenty-five hundred years ago Lao-Tzu said, "Clay is molded into a vessel; the utility of the vessel depends on the hollow interior." True—to permanently augment

the value of houses, group them around an attractive empty space.

Harmony and melody, essential to the good life, dwell in spaciousness, not in congestion. Great Chinese painters composed the empty areas so that they delighted the soul even more than the subjects of their pictures. And so, we are coming to understand that the all-embracing view is more essential to good living than the finest interior.

For peaceful living the open spaces on which all houses face must be "Out of this world" of hubbub, fumes, mad rushing and perpetual shadows. They must be insulated from the racket, the odors, the deathly danger of through traffic ways. Therefore they should be built into the center of the blocks, separated from the highways. At the same time the homes and others buildings that surround them must be directly accessible to motor machines.

This kind of practical modern planning is possible only if we completely eliminate the conventional street layout and build a framework and substance that grows out of our needs of both living leisurely life and being in convenient touch with work places and stores. The heart and arterial

system is the tranquil chain of parks toward which the buildings face and through which the local life of the community flows.

The highways become servants, not masters, of the community life. The main streams of traffic flow as freely and steadily as on a parkway or throughway. Buildings and grounds open only on subordinate roads. All parking is off-street parking.

This means that homes and other structures face in two directions at the same time, one toward peaceful green spaciousness, and the other toward roads and services. Thus there are two separate frameworks for the modern communities. One is for motors, the other for pedestrians. The one is gray, the other green. They fit together like the fingers of two hands, but they never overlap or interfere with each other's functions.



In the contemporary city the green openness will go far beyond the built-in-parks, flowing through and connecting the super-blocks. Not only will every building open on views of fine old trees or distant hills, but broad green belts will be close by for agriculture or forests, for great sport fields or hiking,

boating, fishing, swimming, skating, or just for solitude in the peaceful valleys or the wilds.

This is the kind of beautiful and healthful city that can be built in various parts of the United States if we start from the ground up. When they are seen and lived in I am sure that those who remain in the archaic cities will insist that redevelopment must also start from the ground up; that it must clear away all signs of the nineteenth-century pattern. Thus we can build truly green modern cities on the sites of the old stony deserts. The Regional Cities which are destined to replace our mad metropolitan monstrosities will consist of a constellation of such moderate-size communities set against a great green background of fields, forests and wilderness.

Such communities cannot be secured by the ordinary piecemeal process of city planning. A beautiful and livable urban environment cannot be boxed into cubbyholes bounded by fixed and dominating streets and lot lines. It must be created as an entity, embracing the site, the mass of buildings and their relation to each other and to the natural setting; in short, to all the visual surroundings.

You may say that this is not a

problem of architecture, it is a question of securing adequate land and planning it for leisure-time use where it is needed. But the fact is, the two must go hand in hand, the design of building and outdoor spaces for the new life and the allocation of adequate and proper land where and when it is needed.

The architect must take the leadership in this job. For it is architecture, but architecture in a broader and ever broadening field.

What we need is an architectural attack on problems much more comprehensive than the individual building. The architect must deal with the whole environment in which his building is set, of which it forms a part. In short, he must become a *community architect*.



By community architecture, I mean the creation of a complete environment of which the individual building is an essential, harmonious part—and without which the architect's work is impotent. The community may merely be a small group of interdependent structures, it may—most likely will be—a neighborhood, an urban district, a whole town or city, or even a region.

The procedure of a community

architect parallels the practice of realistic contemporary architectural offices. This is illustrated by the design of a high school, which has many community relations similar to those of a small community. These include a campus free of auto traffic, surrounded by inter-related buildings both for families or classes and for community assembly, recreation, work, dining, administration. Interiors open on outdoor rooms and courts. There are even schools within schools, just as there are communities within neighborhoods, neighborhoods within towns, towns within regional cities. In the creation of a community, as of a school, the effective architect actively participates in the whole process of development from conception to realization. In association with the municipal administrator he coordinates the functional, operational and physical requirements of the expert practitioners in many fields. This so that his design will properly relate, harmonize and translate them into a unified structural entity that will be thoroughly practical and pleasing. Thus, a town is created that works efficiently, effectively and economically from the beginning, as a setting for good living—good modern living.

The architect in the new and changing world must accept this broader field of architectural practice because only so can he protect the buildings he creates. Their appearance is dependent far more on their setting than on their mass or the design of their facades. Their usefulness is limited by surrounding structures—and even more by the movement of traffic in the streets. The most efficient steady flow of material through an industrial plant can be completely negated by blocked traffic outside its doors. The causes of the congestion, decay, blight that surround your work may have its roots in defective, obsolete arrangement of highways and structures many miles away. And so, if only for self-defense, the architect must see that there is a contemporary setting—and city—and region in which his contemporary building can play its modern role. But the primary reason why all of us must parallel our practice as architects of buildings with the broader practice of community architecture is less selfish than this. It is because America's greatest peace need is modern cities—cities that really work—that bear a sane and constructive relation to living here and now.

Many such cities must be built

here if America is to hold its leadership among modern progressive nations. The architectural profession must fill the same position in design of modern cities as it has in design of buildings. It is a duty—but a very pleasant one—a field for adventure, exploration, discovery—glorious attainment.

Note that I suggest COMMUNITY ARCHITECTURE, not CITY PLANNING, as a fitting, an essential practice for our profession. The two fields are basically different.

City planning deals with two-dimensional diagramming, with a city's framework for circulation, and its subdivision into blocks and lots. Its specifications are negative regulations and generalized limitations, such as zoning. They are not positive, specific, constructive requirements, as those for a particular building. Thus the detailed form and mass of a city is not designed, but is merely limited.

The architect's work is a dynamic activity that forms part of the realistic production of a structure or group of structures. Design and other activities of an architect's office are futile unless they lead directly to solid, three-dimensional attainment. Architectural planning is an essential step not

only toward the construction but toward the practical use of a building for specific purposes and functional operations.

I recognize and admire the able public-spirited work that city planning administrators are doing. It is essential under present limitations, but these make it impossible to accomplish the purpose of the constructive rebuilding of America that we need so badly. For what is called city planning does not create solid realities; it outlines phantom cities. It does not determine the bulk, the solid body of a city. It produces skeletons, framework for marketable lots, not vibrant communities of homes and working places for realistic and pleasant living and doing here and now in the twentieth century. The ultimate shape and appearance of these cities is a chaotic accident. It is the summation of the haphazard, antagonistic whims of many self-centered, ill-advised individuals. Under these conditions people have little freedom of choice. They can fit their buildings into one of the cubbyholes outlined by a plot plan, or fit their family's life into the monotonous repetitive patterns stamped out by the builder's machine. Look at Los Angeles!

It shows, as do most American metropolitan areas, that the only way to get modern cities and to keep them modern is by all-inclusive, architecturally planned city building, followed by permanent dynamic administration to keep their purpose and form alive.

That zoning or similar restrictive methods will not serve this purpose is apparent in the present development of the San Fernando Valley. The City Planning Department of Los Angeles made a farsighted plan to prevent the continuous sprawl of population over the 212 square miles of the Valley. They separated the moderate-size communities from each other by green belts zoned as agricultural open areas. This has come to naught. For the practical house developers have had the green belts erased where most needed, that is between the growing communities. Zoning is only a temporary barrier or protection. It cannot stand up against the flood of monotonous commonplace or the greed of land subdividers. To permanently preserve green belts and keep modern green towns green and modern requires constructive, purposeful development and operation. Positive action must replace negative regulation for cities as well as

building. That is why I am convinced that architects must be community architects.

In the development of a new culture, certain physical expressions of a civilization are affected much more slowly by technical, social and economic change. For example, our cities have lagged far behind our buildings. The Technological Revolution has given us a fresh contemporary architecture. Look at our schools, our hospitals, our factories. They reflect a new way of living and doing, new understanding, new conceptions. The architects of America are beginning to develop an architecture that is thoroughly contemporary. The buildings belong. They serve. They are tailored to our needs. They make accomplishment easier, more direct, more pleasant, as well as more profitable. Our buildings are beginning to fit today's conception of the good life. Fresh forms are replacing stale formulas. We may even be on the threshold of a golden period of American architecture. Architects are throwing off the chains that tied them to the past. They are free to mold and model

their works to express their purpose and their feelings. Free—yes, free of restriction of past rules and clichés.

But our architecture is by no means fully free, for in our cities our buildings have nowhere to go. The golden period of American architecture will have to wait until our lagging cities recognize that this is the mid-twentieth century.

Modern architecture demands a modern setting, a place where it can be properly viewed and enjoyed, a site where it can open up and stretch and change. As community architects we must create cities and buildings as a single entity, completely inter-related in design and structures. These new communities should remain continuously youthful. Therefore they must be both spacious and flexible enough to take new form with changing ways of living, laboring and loafing. We must replace dying cities with communities that fit and foster the activities and aspirations of the present time. We must build new cities as a stage—a joyful setting for the good life here and now.



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Do Not Return This Questionnaire

By Roger Allen, FAIA

(Note: The opinions expressed by Mr. Allen in this article are not necessarily the opinions of Mr. Allen. He's fickle.)

MORNINGS I come down to my office and look at the mail with the expression of a hunted creature. It is my belief that after a client, led astray by circumstances over which he has insufficient control, gives me a job, his next move is to buy three new filing cabinets to hold the carbons of the communications he proposes to send me. He then puts some anti-freeze in the postage meter.

It is a rare morning when the mail does not contain at least one questionnaire. I have been forced to the conclusion that with the possible exception of the perpetuation of the species, on which no one has as yet consulted me (and if they do, flattery will get them nowhere), there is no form of human endeavor that can be conducted without sending questionnaires to architects. Now we're sending questionnaires to ourselves, via The Octagon. If I know us—and I know us—this will cause some very fair fogginess, with light to variable typhoons and unrest on the part of Vesuvius.

It just so happens there are a

few things I would like to know about my fellow architects, myself. I do not wish to know any more about myself, as each new fact about me that comes to my attention is more depressing than the last one. I just want to know some more things about you.

I never shall, because this questionnaire when filled out will be of so highly restricted a nature that the only thing you can safely do is shred it to bits and throw it down the (pardon me) potty.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Have you ever desired to overthrow any branch of the United States Government?

If the answer to the above is "No", do you mean to sit there with a sly smirk on your face and pretend that you never wanted to overthrow the Internal Revenue Department?

2. Have you employed a public-relations counsel to inform the public that a search of the past records indicates that Bridey Murphy was a former client of your firm?

How can you lie like that?

3. Do you estimate costs by (a) the square-foot method, (b) the cubic-foot method, or (c) weighing the building in a hay scale?

4. Were you ever in the Lulu Belle saloon in Scottsdale, Arizona?

5. Nice, ain't it?

6. Do you believe our architectural schools fail to place enough emphasis on (a) coffee breaks, (b) drawing on only one side of a sheet of paper, and (c) not bumping into the Mimeograph machine?

7. Do you expect to spend the golden years of retirement (Oh, brother!) raising guppies?

If the answer to the preceding question is "Yes," watch it. We tried raising guppies in the office once and that was when I began to get this feeling that I am being followed by creatures from outer space. When I say "we", I mean a young lady in the front office decided to raise guppies. There was this aquarium—well, it wasn't an aquarium: it was a hollow glass block, is what it was. So A. N. Langius, FAIA, who at the time was practising to be a guppy rancher, or herdsman, gave us some of these gruesome denizens of the deep, you might say. You know what those denizens did: The mamma and

papa guppy ate up all the young guppies and then they ate each other up. Simultaneously. It got the young lady in such a state of indignation she can't even look at a fish any more, let alone eat one. Fortunately she is a Protestant or she might have a hard time explaining this deal to Monsignor Sweeney.

8. In the field of music, do you appreciate the haunting artistry of Elvis Presley?

You do, huh? Okay; I will send you the pieces of a record of "Heartbreak Hotel" which I managed to wrench away from my daughter, who is small but wiry. She had an advantage; she's younger than I am.

9. Among the other magazines for the entertainment of clients, do you include *Dig*, the magazine for teenagers, a recent issue of which contains a contest on "How to Win a Shrunken Head?"

10. How many of your clients already HAVE shrunken heads?

That many, huh? Well, if that's the kind of client's you're attracting, why don't you leave town under an assumed name and take up some other calling, such as tearing up questionnaires and throwing them down what I said before?

News from the Educational Field

THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA announces the resignation of William T. Arnett, who has been Dean of the College of Architecture and Allied Arts for the past ten years. Although resigning as Dean, he will resume his former position as Professor of Architecture.

To succeed to the position of Acting Dean until a suitable replacement for Dean Arnett can be found, the Board has named H. W. Chandler, who has been the University's Vice President in Charge of Academic Affairs.

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY has recently held an exhibition of "A Half Century of Architectural Education," which included a display of 71 buildings designed by former students and associated alumni. The exhibition is being booked for circulation nationally by the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

TEXAS A. & M. College has honored Ernest Langford, FAIA, who is retiring this year after 35 years on the architectural staff. Mr. Langford has been Head of

the Division since 1929. To succeed him, the College has named Charles R. Colbert as Professor of Architecture and Head of the Division of Architecture, effective September 1, 1956.

YALE UNIVERSITY announces the appointment of Louis I. Kahn, FAIA, as Professor of Architecture. It will be recalled that Mr. Kahn was one of the chief architects of the new Yale University Art Gallery and Design Center.

Miss Jane Hayward, of Elkins Park, Pa., has been named as the first recipient of the Monticello Prize, to be awarded annually through an anonymous donor, to a graduate student in Yale's History of Art Department. Miss Hayward's project at Yale is a study of medieval stained glass, under the auspices of UNESCO.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY announces that Miss Ruth Cook, who has spent 36 years developing Harvard's architecture library, had been presented with a purse for a trip around the world immediately following her retirement last month.



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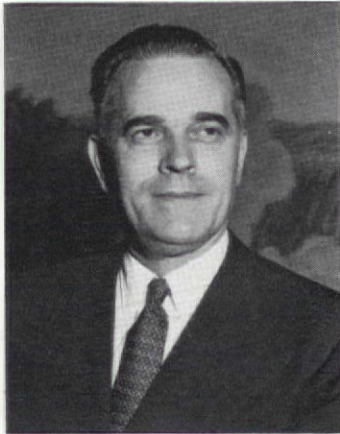
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Honors

TALBOT F. HAMLIN, FAIA, has received the 1956 Pulitzer Prize for Biography in recognition of his book, "Benjamin Henry Latrobe." It will be recalled that another honor previously reported was the Alice Davis Hitchcock Medallion, of the Society of Architectural Historians, for the same book.

LEON CHATELAIN, JR., FAIA, and EDMUND R. PURVES, FAIA, have been made Honorary Corresponding Members of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

MELLEN CLARK GREELEY, FAIA, was given a testimonial dinner on May 5th, by the Jacksonville Chapter, AIA. He was presented with a certificate of appreciation, signed by the Governor of Florida, the Mayor of Jacksonville, the Bishop in the Diocese of Florida, Protestant Episcopal Church, and George Bain Cummings, FAIA, as President of the Institute. The citation includes: "For your life, dedicated to service to others, we express to you our heartfelt gratitude and designate you as, indeed, a great man. We covet that we

with you shall march on in service together, believing that service above self is a course paved with honorable rewards, that men of destiny make their own destiny, and in doing so, make easier the pathway of all those who travel the trails of life. May your judgment, wisdom, and integrity be a continuing source of inspiration to us and may we ever be worthy to follow in the footsteps of one so noble."

WILLIAM ADAMS DELANO, FAIA, has been unanimously elected an honorary member of the Century Association in New York, "as a mark of affection and in recognition of his distinguished services to the Nation."

"A great gentleman adorned with all the graces of the old school; matching courtesy with kindness; a genial companion and a firm and considerate friend; a scholar apt with the right word at the right time, in prose or verse; an architect who has given distinction to the least and the greatest of his works covering a wide range and representing, in the judgment

of his peers, an achievement in our time second to none in the art to which his long life has been devoted; '*Si monumentum requiris, circumspice*,' and let the view take in not alone this City and Country, but Europe and the far isles of the sea."

ROGER ALLEN, FAIA, of Grand Rapids, has been awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by Central Michigan College, Mount Pleasant, Mich., in recognition of his services to the college as architect for the past sixteen years, during its period of greatest expansion.

EERO SAARINEN AND ASSOCIATES have been honored with the

Grand Architectural Award of the 1956 Boston Arts Festival for the Chapel at M. I. T.

A special commendation was given the Coletti Brothers, Boston, for their Beach Pavilion in Salisbury, Mass., and a commendation to The Architects Collaborative for their North-East Elementary School in Waltham, Mass.

LUDWIG MIES VAN DER ROHE, FAIA, has been given the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by North Carolina State College. Part of the citation reads, "Both as an architect of superlative skill and sensitivity and as a teacher of architects, he represents one of the dominant forces in architecture today."



Journalism Awards by The College of Fellows

IN ACCORDANCE with its action of previous years, the College of Fellows appointed a jury to award citations to the authors of outstanding articles that have appeared in the JOURNAL during 1955. The Jury: Roger Allen, FAIA; Raymond J. Ashton, FAIA; and H. Daland Chandler, FAIA, Chairman.

Their awards are as follows: with Jury comments:

1. "Planning in a Free Community" by Henry S. Churchill, FAIA, in the March number.

Churchill's fresh and provocative approach to our New Town planning.

2. "Charles Donagh Maginnis" by William Emerson, FAIA, H. Da-

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land Chandler, FAIA, and Archbishop Cushing, in the May number. These three articles seem proper to keep together.

Emerson's, Chandler's and Archbishop Cushing's tribute make an admirable literary memorial to a man to whom the profession and the Institute are keenly indebted.

3. "Vanbrugh's Battle of Blenheim," by George H. Herrick, in the March issue.

Herrick gives an excellent blend of architectural and social history, well written and of the kind we could do more of.

4. "Where Do You Go from Here?" by Ralph Walker, FAIA, in the January, February and March numbers.

Walker's address is selected for its vigor and stimulating picture of the wide panorama the student faces today as he leaves his school to enter practice.



LeBrun Traveling Fellowship Award

The New York Chapter, AIA, administering the LeBrun Travel-

ing Fellowship Award, announces the 1956 Fellow as John Pawlikowski of Chicago, Ill. The grant in the amount of \$3,000 is to cover the expense of six months' travel and study in Europe. The award was made on the basis of a national competition for the design of "A Town Center." First alternate is Bruce W. Beebe of New York City, and the second alternate is Miss Linn Ericson of New York City.



National Trust for Historic Preservation

David E. Finley, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Trust, who is retiring as President, announces the appointment of Richard Hubbard Howland as President of the National Trust. Mr. Howland has been Chairman of the Department of History of Art of the Johns Hopkins University. He is a noted archeologist and architectural historian, and has been identified with the preservation movement in this country.



What Mrs. America Wants in Tomorrow's Home

By *Annabelle Heath*

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY

An address made at the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Building Research Institute, Niagara Falls, Ont., May 21, 1956

I AM NOT CERTAIN who Mrs. America is or when tomorrow starts. But I do know that the houses built today will be homes for many tomorrows. If we are to have better homes tomorrow we must start building them today. For we all know that there is not going to be, at some future day, a sudden revolution in the kind of houses we build. Changes are gradual. The results of research and experimentation and testing in use.

We have recently heard from typical American homemakers what they think a home for a growing family should be like. The Women's Congress on Housing focused on single-family homes for families with children, since they represent the greater part of the housing market demand.

While 103 representatives from all parts of the country were given an opportunity at the Congress to expand their ideas, we received well over 4,000 letters with many constructive suggestions.

A recurring note was recognition that TV has changed living

patterns. The implication is that it has brought the family back into the home.

Incomes are higher, permitting all members of the family to have more possessions. There is more leisure time for individual activities, hobbies, etc. With more people in the house over more time, there is more work for mother—meals to prepare, cleaning to be done, possessions to be stored.

With full employment, even families who could afford it find it impossible to get domestic help.

All these factors have combined to make a pattern of greater informality in living.

Recognizing that technical and economic changes inevitably influence patterns of living, but desiring to remain a part of a community, women want their houses to be flexible to meet changing requirements.

These women did not give a recipe for a Dream House—they were too practical for that. They did not give a formula for a universal standardized house that

would be equally satisfactory in any area of the country—they were too realistic for that. They know that topography and climate and local customs are not uniform and must be taken into consideration for satisfactory houses.

They recognize the cost benefits of standardization—but they want it confined to those areas where it can pay dividends. They want opportunities left for individual initiative and expression.



Contrary to popular reports, they did not think that buyers should get at least 1,200 square feet of space for \$10,000. They are too informed on the cost of things to expect that. They did discuss space in relation to cost. And they did say that they want more space for certain activities and functions—but they want that additional space in the proper places. To get properly planned space in the right places, they would be willing to forego initially the convenience of mechanical labor-saving devices. They want space provided for many of them for later installation. But they want to make their own selections when they feel they can better afford them.

Perhaps one of the most interest-

ing things about the Congress was the scope and degree of agreement reached. In review, the reason for this becomes apparent. One of the women gave a key to this reason: "We have been interested in discovering geographic differences but we have enjoyed finding out how much alike in the way we feel about living values for our families." Experience in living in various kinds of housing, reading and studying plans in magazines and inspecting many new houses helped them to form an idea of the kind of house that would permit them to attain the desired living values. If these desired values for family living remain constant for tomorrow, then we have some good guides as to what Mrs. America wants in tomorrow's home.

In accordance with these values they want houses to serve them in achieving as full opportunity for personal development as possible for each member and the family as a group. They recognize that there are needs and functions which must be shared as a group, and there are the separate needs and activities of the individual members. Also they recognize that some of these activities are strenuous and noisy, others passive and quiet. Some members need to be noisy at the same time

that others must have quiet. How can these conflicting interests be reconciled?

To permit as much freedom as possible, they say areas for quiet should be grouped together and insulated as much as possible from areas of activity.

In the active area the family can be together to share common interests, joys, pleasures and misfortunes. In the quiet area each individual should have a space, no matter how small, which is his own. Within these two broad areas they wanted rooms or spaces arranged for convenient working, so that the homemaker may gain freedom from the drudgery of housework, cleaning, laundering, meal preparation, baby care, nursing of the ill, and countless other tasks. They want that free time to devote to the raising of their families.

Mother spends a greater portion of her working time in and around the kitchen. If she is to be with her family, they must join her. But to do this, the area must be expanded and the Family Room comes into being.

Now, this Family Room serves different functions in various geographic areas and is based on how much money the family can spend for the total house. In its simple

form, it is an area attached to or adjacent to the kitchen where the family can have its meals together. They don't want a built-in breakfast nook or a bar and stools—but a table and six chairs. Mother's work can be lightened by viewing the television, and the smaller children needing supervision can be close to her. The school-age children can be with her after school to be joined by Father during the preparation and eating of the evening meal. It is the "togetherness" room for the family.

Much of entertaining guests at dinner will be done here also. They point out that most of their entertaining is with other families who have children and in a similar position to themselves. Sometimes, where there is no basement for the strenuous, noisy activities of teenagers—rock and roll and such like—the Family Room is to be large enough to provide for them.



The formal living-room becomes less important. In most cases, they want it as a quiet room, away from the traffic lanes in the house. It is frequently defined as the old-fashioned parlor type of room—a place always in order, for receiving the unexpected caller. They will

accept it smaller in size than the normal living-room to compensate for the Family Room.

The most time-consuming operation, for many homemakers, is the constant daily chore of house-cleaning. This results when children playing outside have to enter the kitchen, cross the living-room and go down a hall to get to a bathroom. And then back out again, perhaps many times a day.

Much of this work could be eliminated if there was what we have called a "decontamination area" at the kitchen entry. The women didn't call it that. They simply stated that they want a little entry area, where rubbers, galoshes, snowsuits, and muddy or sandy play-clothes could be removed, and a lavatory nearby where the children—and Dad—could clean up without tracking all through the house. Here the children can also get those endless drinks of water. A toilet placed here would serve the children running in and out from playing in the back yard. And for Mother's taking care of the smaller children conveniently, while working in the kitchen. It is merely a matter of relocating the company "powder room" to a more convenient place where it is most frequently used.

They want a modified area at the front entrance. That is, some kind of a foyer or screened-off area where guests and family can remove wet clothing and leave dripping umbrellas.

They want access to the front door and the bedroom area without having to cross the living-room. Halls and passageways are much easier to clean than a whole room.

The majority prefer the laundry near the kitchen, usually in a separate small utility room. This is so they can supervise the small children at the same time that they do the breakfast dishes, wash the clothes and perhaps start the preparation of lunch. Notice the saving of time by telescoping work operations. Again, when they have areas to eliminate because of cost factor, the laundry would be transferred to the less convenient basement or the less desirable kitchen area.



They would like a formal dining-room if they can afford it. It need not be large. They want it so they can teach the children manners. They must learn the distinction between eating and dining. If they can't afford a separate dining-room, then most of them will

accept an ell of the living-room. If this is too costly, then the Family Room must take care of family meals and of special "manners teaching" meals.

A two-car garage is preferred, although in the South, carports are considered adequate. If a two-car garage can't be afforded, a one-car garage will do. If the budget is really tight, the garage is the first area to be eliminated. Most women want storage cabinets or space for lawnmowers, garden tools, etc., connected with the carport or garage.

In the quiet area they would place bedrooms, the den, and the parlor-living-room. They want the two areas separated by halls, closets and similar noise-reducing barriers.

There was unanimous agreement on a minimum of three bedrooms. If the family had more money to spend, a den in addition to three bedrooms would be desirable. If money was limited, most would like the third bedroom finished as a den.

There was general agreement that two closets at least 5' long were needed in the parents' room and one in each of the other bedrooms.

They want planned storage for articles in daily and periodic use

located conveniently near the places of most frequent use.

With a three-bedroom house a three-fixture bath in addition to the half bath at kitchen would be adequate for most. With a little more money they would like another lavatory in the main bath.

There was a preference for basements over a large area of the country. Apparently, this was based on a desire for assurance of adequate storage. Claimed substitutes for basement storage are not always fulfilled. Also, apparently, there is a strong belief that basements keep houses warmer.

Attics are generally recognized as keeping the house cooler. There is still a strong desire for attics for this reason only.

With regard to location of living areas, in general they want the kitchen facing the rear yard so they can supervise the children at play. They prefer the kitchen facing in a southerly direction. They want the kitchen to be bright. It's bad enough to have to get up and get breakfast. Why have to do it in a dreary room facing north?

The living-room is all right facing north. It gets its most frequent use in the evening. Facing north, the sun won't fade rugs, furniture and draperies.

Considered individually, none of these things are new. There have been three-bedroom houses; there have been Family Rooms, and half baths. What is new is the way in which the various parts are situated and interrelated. It is the total arrangement of the house, whether on one floor, a split-level or in two stories, which gives a significant new concept.

They recognize that the exterior should be in harmony with the interior. If the interior is designed and built for informal living, the exterior should not aspire to any formal expressions of architecture either past or present.

They were unable to define it positively. They were better able to say what it should not be. They do not want it to be in the form of a Cape Cod cottage, nor Colonial Town House, nor Southern Plantation, nor Spanish Colonial. Neither do they want it to be in the form of current styles borrowed from leading European architects, groups or schools.

This does not mean that the house is to be formless. They do want an honest expression of the functions the house is expected to perform. They want harmony in the window sizes and shapes. They have definite ideas about the shapes

of roofs, based on function. In general they want pitched roofs with eaves overhang.

They want simplicity. They do not want a mixture of materials.

They want individuality. They want to escape the standardized units of city apartments, row houses, uniformity, monotony.

They do not want a turn-key job, with no opportunity for individual choices and expressions in colors, wallpapers, equipment, etc. They do not want standardized planting. They want an opportunity left to shape the environment both interior and exterior in which they live and grow.



It seems to me that what came out of this Women's Congress on Housing was something very simple. Something so simple that my main concern is that it might be overlooked. It is family living values that the women were talking about first and houses indirectly. These living values do not change with advances in technology. Improvements in technology should be directed toward making the task that women have to perform in achieving and maintaining those values easier, more convenient. As long as we keep

this proper perspective it doesn't matter if the materials used are the conventional ones, newer metals or plastics or some now-undreamed-

of wonder material or invention. This is the challenge and opportunity that these women have given to you.

Modest Aspirations

By Hubertus Junius

I have no aspirations
To astonish men or nations,
Nor to fame am I a keen aspirant;
But, Lord, 'twill not offend me
If You see fit to send me,
Each month, a very pliant client.

I shall not complain or grumble,
I will stay forever humble,
I'll never be indignant or defiant.
If You will not neglect me
And promise to direct me,
Each month, a very pliant client.

What is the Basic Philosophy of the AIA?

AND WHAT ARE ITS ULTIMATE PURPOSES AND INTENTIONS?

By Edwin B. Morris, Jr.

DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS

THE ANSWER to the question proposed is certainly a difficult one and not on the tongue tips even of those who are most familiar with the objectives and workings of The American Institute of Architects. There are many intangibles and imponderables to be considered. The basic purposes and

objectives of a professional society have many different meanings to the many individuals who comprise the organization.

The objectives of the AIA as set down in its By-laws are: "The objects of The American Institute of Architects shall be to organize and unite in fellowship the archi-

pects of the United States of America; to combine their efforts so as to promote the esthetic, scientific, and practical efficiency of the profession; to advance the science and art of planning and building by advancing the standards of architectural education, training, and practice; to coordinate the building industry and the profession of architecture to insure the advancement of the living standards of our people through their improved environment; and to make the profession of ever-increasing service to society."



There can be no argument with the worthiness of these objectives and the entire weight and direction of the Institute is constantly aimed toward their accomplishment. These objectives are so extremely high in principle that their absolute accomplishment probably can never be attained. Thus the challenge always remains before the Institute to continue to improve its policies and operations.

The AIA will have been in existence 100 years in 1957. It is the only national organization which represents the practising architects of America. Its membership is comprised of a great ma-

majority of these practising architects. Within the last twenty years AIA membership has grown from less than three thousand to more than eleven thousand and there is hardly an architect of any prominence who is not proud of belonging to the AIA.

When the Institute was founded in 1857 there were few architects who were able to make a living through the practice of architecture alone. Most of our well-known architects in the early days of American development practised architecture as a sideline. There were no codes of ethics, no acceptable contract documents, no standards of practice, and the service which a client could expect varied in the case of each individual architect.

In these early days few architects were able to undertake large building projects. As a result the Federal Government set up its own architectural office to handle many of the needed public works. This pattern was continued as our country and government grew, and as recently as twenty years ago each Federal construction agency maintained its own architectural staff. The concept of staff architectural operation naturally sifted down through the lower levels of govern-

ment. The Institute in its infancy was unable to stem this trend, but it was persistent in its efforts. Because of these efforts, all major Federal construction work is now done by private architects, and because of alert chapter action a great majority of state, county and municipal public work is privately designed—to the great benefit of the public both economically and esthetically.

In the 100 years of its existence, the AIA has been and is largely responsible for the fact that architecture is one of the great professions of this country—one that enjoys great prestige and power. Among the many accomplishments directly attributable to the AIA are the accepted Standards of Professional Practice, the "Handbook of Architectural Practice," the schedules of fees recommended by chapters, the AIA forms of contract, and other documents which have withstood the tests of time and practice. The Institute was responsible for establishing NCARB and instrumental in setting up the reasonably equitable architectural practice acts and the state boards which administer them, in every U. S. state and territory. Legal counsel is retained, and counseling on contract and accounting proce-

dures is given by the AIA for the benefit of the profession.

The mere fact that architectural students have high-quality, accredited schools available for their education is because of the continuing AIA insistence on the establishment of sufficient and adequate schools of architecture.



For many years architects have been handicapped by the fact that there has been no method of obtaining confidential and reliable information regarding building products. Later on, as a result of AIA research and study, a register of the claimed properties of materials, equipment and services will be available to members after AIA advisory and study groups are satisfied with the substantiating evidence submitted by the manufacturers.

One of the major problems facing the profession is the lack of understanding of the architect and his services by the general public—from which the architect's clients must come. Institute activities, public-relations-wise, are effectively overcoming this lack of understanding. Individual architects, through AIA guidance, are becoming increasingly public-relations-minded

and we are approaching the desired point where each private practitioner can truly serve as a public relations front for the profession.

The respected position that the AIA enjoys in the construction industry and the mutual feeling of understanding and confidence that exists today between architects and the general public can be traced directly to the architects' professional society—the AIA. Institute prestige is reflected in the fact that many prospective clients will not consider engaging any but AIA members.

This has not been an easy task. It has not been a natural transition. The present enviable position of the AIA has been achieved only as the result of the inspiration, courage and hard work of dedicated Institute members. The accomplishments of the Institute to date bear no relation to the dues paid or the money expended. Since the founding of the Institute it is estimated that over a million and one-quarter man-hours have been donated by interested Institute members serving as officers, Board members, on committees, or in other capacities aimed toward the betterment of the architectural profession and its position in the American social and economic scene. It is staggering to

think of what the individual AIA member's annual dues would have been if all these services had had to be paid for in money.

As each generation of architects comes along its members view the Institute skeptically and many ask, "What can the AIA do for me?" This is not an unusual initial reaction of anyone entering the profession. More sober thought will in most cases produce two more questions which nullify the first: "What has the Institute already done for the architectural profession, to which I am entitled merely by virtue of having decided to become an architect?"; and "What can I do for the professional organization which has presented me with a profession into which I can enter and make my living?"

It is very easy to stand on the sidelines, criticize the direction one's professional society is taking and question how many of its stated objectives it has actually accomplished. It is also easy to accuse the organization of favoring one segment, one age group or one economic level of the profession. This sort of "Monday morning quarterbacking" can be valuable if the criticisms are constructive, but those who indulge in it should realize that "you can't steer the

ship when you're standing on the dock."

Since the present power and prestige of the profession and the Institute have been achieved at the expense of the energies, hours and funds of past and present Institute members, by the same token the future course of the Institute must be shaped and directed by the inspiration and efforts of Institute members to be.

The AIA objectives are clearly and ethically stated. The machinery now exists for an even closer approach to those objectives. The present AIA policy-makers and administrators realize the need for

gathering the young architects into the fold, giving them an understanding of the task ahead, and developing more of those dedicated individuals who will lead the Institute to even greater heights. The Institute welcomes the new generation with the hope that its ambitions and aspirations will never be stifled. History has proved that the "Young Turks" of today are the leaders of tomorrow. Our mutual goal lies in making sure that new ideas and criticisms are integrated into Institute policies only if they are in the best interests of the AIA, the profession and the public at large.

They Say:

Albert M. Cole

(From an address before the Kansas Bankers Association, Topeka, May 11, 1956)

I reject positively the theory that low-cost housing is destined to become slums, as some have claimed. Where sound construction principles prevail, where there is adequate maintenance, where neighborhoods are properly protected, the value of basic low-cost housing designed for families of modest incomes will outlive even a forty-year mortgage.

Dr. Walter Gropius, FAIA

(From "Presentation of the Royal Gold Medal to Dr. Walter Gropius at The RIBA, 10 April, 1956," in The Journal of The RIBA, May, 1956.)

This is my team, The Architects' Collaborative, has now stood its test for over ten years. My strong inclination for team work has increased with time, but I find that our set-up has often been a conundrum to friends and to the press, who do not know who is who or who does what. The English *Architects' Journal* even called me a

JULY, 1956

few days ago an enigma. Small wonder, for our society is still so obsessed with the idea of the individual genius, working in splendid isolation—a bequest of the last century—that we cannot conceive of cultural achievements in any other

sense. Still, in the eighteenth century such exalted individualism was much less pronounced, and today I believe we are well on our way again to reclaim the individual talent to work as a *primus inter pares* in a group of collaborators.



Architects Read and Write

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



FOR UNRESTRICTED COMPETITIONS

By JOSHUA D. LOWENFISH, New York, N. Y.

I HAVE JUST LOOKED at the reproduction of the competition entries of the U. S. Chancery Building in London by “eight leading American architects” and all I can say is, “Thank God for Eero Saarinen.

I am a firm believer in unre-

stricted competitions and heartily disagree with the *Architectural Record* (April 1956) in implying that restricting it to eight contestants was “. . . the most punctilious and time-honored method of selecting an architect for a great public project.”

DE SENECTUTE

By EUGENE HENRY KLABER, FAIA, Quakertown, Pa.

THE GROWING INTEREST in the problems of old people is timely. In the development of our industrial economy the oldsters have been largely shoved out of productive occupations. The seriousness of the situation warrants consideration of every proposal which will meet the needs of even a fraction of the older group, and

a myriad of schemes have been promulgated.

Unfortunately, too many of these schemes are predicated on the idea that the aged are to be segregated in groups or communities by themselves. This is the easy way, it meets the needs of some: the physically incapacitated and the lonesome and uprooted who welcome anything which will restore some

JOURNAL OF THE A. I. A.

sort of human association; there is likewise a minority who are content to bask in the sunshine, play gin with other old folks, make little gadgets of wood and clay, and occasionally hobble around to music in the semblance of a dance.

But the majority of older people want to continue living in their present environment, to have contact with their friends and relatives and to continue earning. They do

not wish to live only with those who remind them of their own aches and pains.

The essential problem is, therefore, to make old age a continuation of life and not an anticipation of death. Old people who are really alive want to be an active and valued part of the community, to live life fully to the end, ready to go when their number is up, and "good to the last drop"!

Calendar

July 9-11: 9th Annual Conference on Aging, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich., with the special subject of "Health for the Aging."

July 13-15: Seminar on Parish Plan for Architects and Priests, sponsored by University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind.

August 18-30: August tour of the Society of Architectural Historians—Albany, Troy, Mohawk Valley, Cooperstown. Further details and application forms may be obtained from Daniel M. C. Hopping, 120 Midland Avenue, Bronxville, N. Y.

September 6-9: Convention of the Northwest Region, Tacoma, Wash.

September 13-15: Central States Regional Conference, Omaha, Nebr.

September 28-29: North Central States Regional Convention, the Wisconsin Architects' Association, AIA, being host chapter. Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, Wis.

October 7-9: 7th Annual Conference of the Gulf States District, Chattanooga, Tenn.

October 10-12: 23rd Annual Convention of the Architects Society of Ohio. Hotel Commodore Perry, Toledo, Ohio.

October 10-13: California-Nevada-Hawaii District Regional Conference,

and California Council, Yosemite, Calif.

October 11-12: Noise Abatement Symposium, under the sponsorship of Illinois Institute of Technology, with study of the control of noise through architectural design. Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Ill.

October 18-20: Western Mountain District Regional Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah.

October 19-20: Annual Meeting of National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, D. C.

October 24-26: New York District Regional Conference, Lake Placid Club, Lake Placid, N. Y.

October 25-27: New York State Association Convention, Lake Placid Club, Lake Placid, N. Y.

October 31-November 2: Texas District Regional Conference, Corpus Christi, Texas.

November 8-10: Annual Convention of the Florida Association of Architects, Hotel Seville, Miami Beach, Fla.

November 12-14: Annual Convention of the Structural Clay Products Institute, Boca Raton, Florida.

November 14-16: Middle Atlantic District, AIA, Pennsylvania Society of Architects and Regional Council Meeting, Hershey, Pa.

JULY, 1956

The Editor's Asides

WHEN FIFTY OR SIXTY of us post-Convention ramblers were looking over Santa Barbara County Court House (William Mooser, Architect, 1929), our resident guide was a particularly effective source of information. We were impressed by the fact that frequently he gave credit for a bit of historical lore to some specific artist, archeologist, engineer, horticulturist, or other visitor who had been glad to contribute some pertinent fact to our guide's store of information.

"And how about visiting architects? We suppose they have had much to add to the Spanish background traditions."

"No," said our mentor, "I do not recall an architect ever having volunteered any information."

No free sketches, no free advice, no free information—that's us!

EACH YEAR the American Standards Association names those who have done most to encourage the use of Modular Measures in building. A committee for nominations is formed of representatives of Modular Measure's sponsors (AIA, Producers' Council, and the National Association of

Homebuilders—now being joined by the Associated General Contractors of America). The three men honored this year, when the awards were announced at the Producers' Council Annual Spring Luncheon the day before the AIA Convention got under way, are:

Leonard G. Haeger, Technical Director of Levitt & Sons, Levittown, Pa.; Fred M. Hauserman, President of the E. F. Hauserman Co., Cleveland, Ohio; H. B. Zackrisson, Chief, Engineering Department, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

With three such influential men in the building industry working for Modular Measure, the movement is not only fortunate, it is accelerating in geometric proportion. Promoted by AIA since 1939, it has been slow in gaining acceptance, but the men in factory and on building sites are now climbing aboard the bandwagon.

HERE IS an additional incentive to keep well: Ray E. Brown, president of the American Hospital Association, says, "Unless there is a very significant decrease in the general economic situation, we must expect hospital costs to in-

crease at about 5% annually for many years." The reason?—in part the extension of services, calling for added equipment and personnel; but largely because the hospitals have been forced to do a double step in keeping pace with general wage increases as compared with the days when hospitals benefited from a preponderance of women workers and the lack of competition for female help. Times have changed.

WE HAVE a particularly gracious letter from John B. Islip, Secretary of The Royal Victorian Institute of Architects, down under in Melbourne, Australia. That city is to be host to the 1956 Olympic Games, November 22 to December 8. Between five and six thousand of the world's athletic champions will gather there, with another eight to ten thousand visiting spectators. The hotels will be unable to cope with this abnormal influx. Mr. Islip writes us that the members of the RVIA will be delighted to welcome as guests in their homes any members of the AIA, their wives and friends, for the duration of the games. Any members able to accept this lavish hospitality should write Mr. Islip at 53-55 Collins Place, Melbourne,

C. 1. Meanwhile we are overwhelmed by such evidence of the brotherhood of architects.

IT IS A SHOCK to learn that, while redwood accounts for about 2½% of the lumber this country produces, all our lumbering processes result in a waste that is somewhat more than the lumber cut. Of course, slow but sure progress is being made toward finding profitable uses for this waste—scores of them in the case of redwood—but this tree, reproducing itself continuously for at least sixty million years, is surely worthy of a better fate than being cut down for the sake of less than half its bulk in lumber.

WHILE WE ARE complacently thinking what a great people we are and how rapid is the march of our invention, we might, as an antidote, ask what we are doing about this: Water out of control is perhaps our most formidable enemy—in flood, storm, erosion; water tables throughout the country are falling, and cities are facing water shortages, perhaps extinction, from sources which, though inadequate for projected population growth, are being polluted with public sanction.

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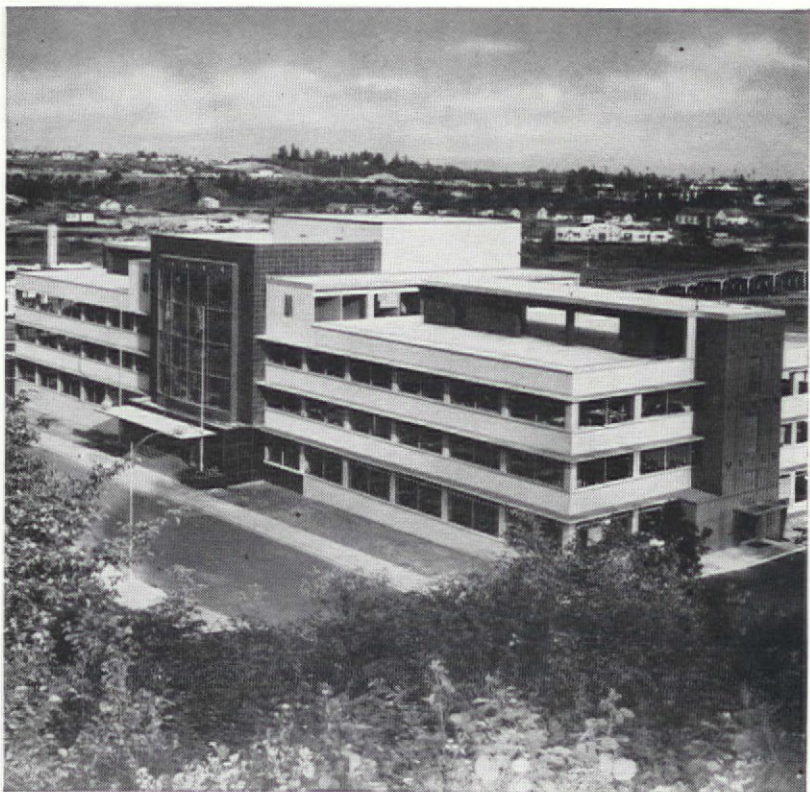
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Architect: Silas E. Nelsen, Tacoma, Wash.

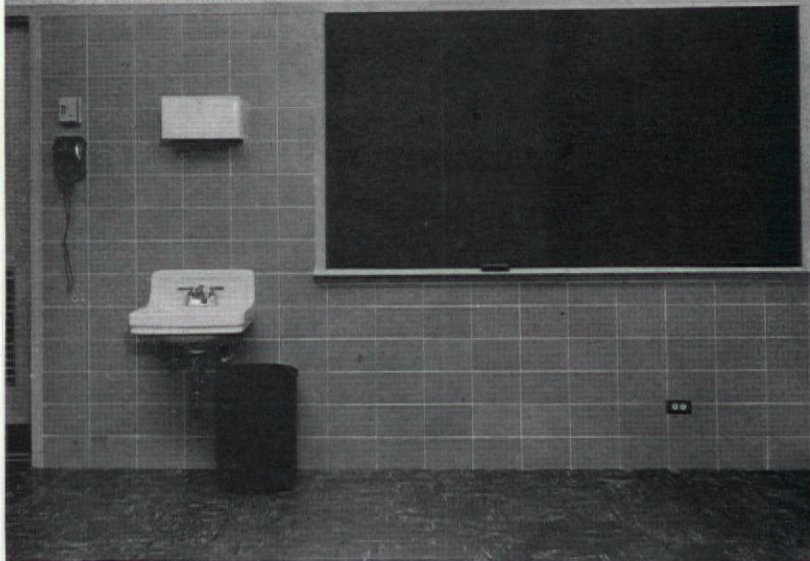
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Another Chance for Frank Lloyd Wright's Acceptance Speech

Mr. Wright's speech at the Houston Convention, in accepting the Gold Medal of The Institute, was phonographically recorded. It requires about 40 minutes for delivery, and fills both sides of four 12" disc records.

Profiting by our experience with the Maginnis records, which too often were broken in transit, these Wright records are unbreakable vinylite. The set of four can be sold at \$8, carriage postpaid. Charge accounts cannot be opened; remittance is required with order—payable to THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

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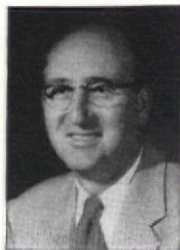
All gym floors must be designed for **ACTION** . . . and the activities on those floors should be safe for the youngsters. Basketball is among the fastest sports played on the gym floor and to be played well the players must have confidence that pivots, fast breaks and all tricky footwork are safe, steady, sure . . . otherwise well organized team play becomes pure chaos with each team member looking out for his own skin.

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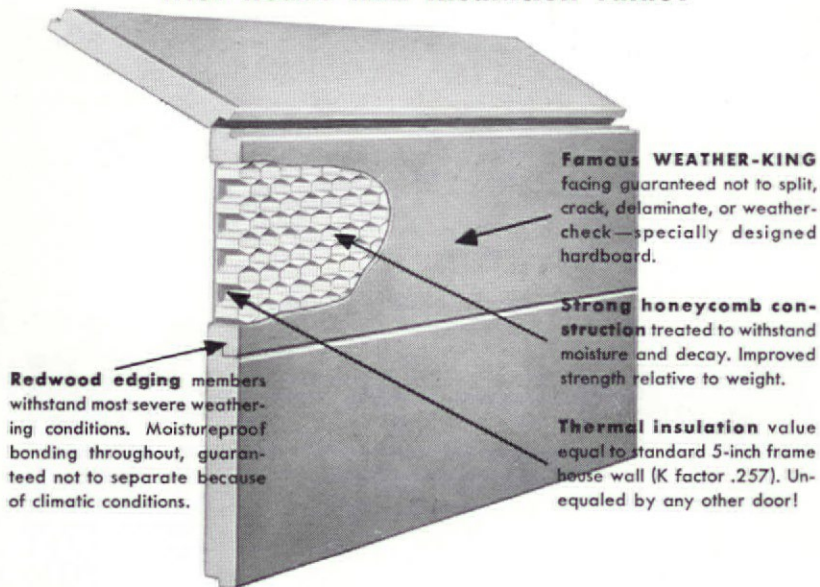
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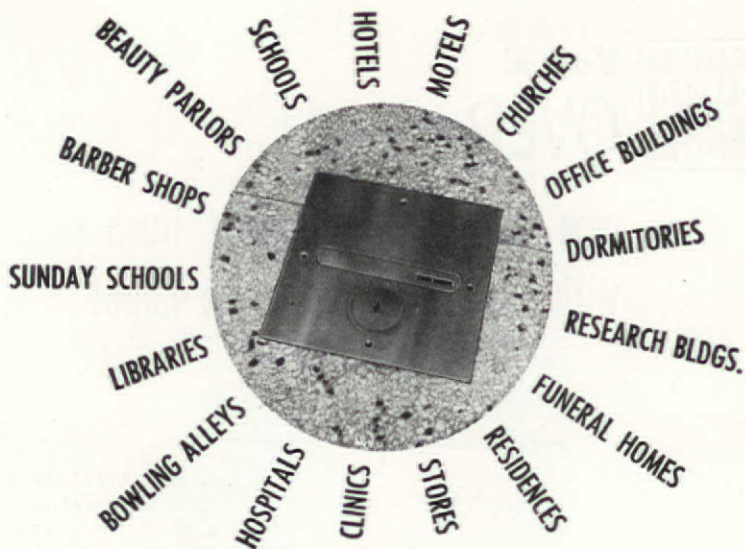
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