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Architectural Guidance in Relation to City Planning and Development

By HORACE W. PEASLEE, A. I. A.

IT IS my impression that city planning began as a more or less academic subject presented in elaborately prepared reports, largely educational, depicting "the city beautiful", these reports, unfortunately, finding final resting places on the shelves of the town library and on the tables of the subscribers to the fund. To a certain extent they represented dreams and visions for ultimate realization. Many of them now represent opportunities lost forever because the point of view of the public had not yet been focused upon the possibilities of this new field. Perhaps it was due to the fact that city planning started not from the economic point of view but with the slogan of "The City Beautiful."

We hear echoes of this in the approach today via municipal economics. Our current reports are definite and specific, dealing with details as well as generalities, and emphasizing economic benefits. We enlist public interest in restricted commercial and industrial districts, by offering safeguards for residential districts; in adequate park systems by stressing not primarily the beauties of nature but the necessity of recreational facilities; in zoning ordinances by offering protection and stabilization of property values. Traffic congestion and traffic accidents have been our justification for proper planning of highway systems. The reports of today are no longer merely literary contributions. Their sections are in executive and construction offices, being carried into execution. In all this development the "city beautiful" has been suppressed as a

slogan, but has not been forgotten as an objective.

What is it that makes the city beautiful or mars it? Ample streets, generous display of trees, beautiful parkways, may or may not be in evidence; but the impression of the beauty of a city or the lack of it is stamped upon the observer through the buildings which line its streets. Zoning ordinances may fix heights, setbacks, projections, usage, lot occupancy; but ugly buildings will more than offset all the general regulation that can be given the development of a city. Moreover, there are still towns and villages which delight the eye even though built without order and in disregard of all the principles of planning.

Offenses Against the Senses

We have ordinances of many kinds to protect the senses: ordinances against odors, ordinances against noise, ordinances against things which may cause bodily harm; but we have not yet seriously considered things that hurt the eye. The existing ordinances have been based on principles of public health, safety and welfare; their accomplishment made possible because translatable into economic terms affecting the value of property.

We are only just beginning to realize that we may also be injured through the eye. This realization is coming to bear fruit in legislation or ordinances protecting our eyes where public property is concerned. Why have we failed, so far, to take serious and definite steps for the protection of our eyes where private property is concerned, since what hurts our eyes affects the value of that property?

An address delivered before the Twenty-third Annual Meeting of the National Conference on City Planning.

Economics of Aesthetics

Assume two cases: one of a well-developed residential neighborhood, the other of an undeveloped section. In the first are good houses, built to a certain standard. On a vacant lot is erected a structure in full conformity with all building regulations, but viciously ugly. In the other section, which has yet to get its start, the first structure to be erected is a carpenter-built house, without any regard for architectural design. It is absurd to say that these uncontrolled developments, offensive to the eye alone, do not immediately depreciate the value of the adjoining properties, in the one case making it difficult for those who have put money into good houses eventually to get out of them a fair return, and in the other case stamping the undeveloped property as second or third rate, thus depriving it of potential value.

Architectural Standards

If it were possible to maintain certain decent standards of architecture in private work, the result would unquestionably be added stabilization of property values for the individual, and a distinct gain for the municipality as a whole. * * * Since architecture is unquestionably such a dominating element, some steps should be taken for architectural guidance. The term guidance is used in preference to control, because it is entirely conceivable that control might establish the perpetuation of standards inconsistent with changing requirements and points of view, and unduly limit the free expression of an able designer * * *.

In general the object of establishing guidance should not be to restrict or suppress ability but rather to improve the work of unskilled designers * * *.

Existing Agencies

Two general observations might be made at this point: the first, that there are various art commissions throughout the country whose function is almost solely related to public buildings, and whose authority is perhaps more obstructive than constructive. Public buildings comprise but a fraction of the work which stamps architectural character on a city. Some means must be found to reach private development.

The second point is that, although architectural development constitutes the largest single factor with which city planning and zoning have to deal, there are an amazing number of planning and zoning commissions throughout the country in the membership of which no architect is included. It would seem almost a foregone conclusion that in a problem as complicated and as far-reaching as architecture, the ablest representatives of the profession in each community should be drafted as technical advisers. If architectural guidance is

ever to be seriously established in its details, it should certainly be recognized in the general approach to the problem.

Getting Down to Cases

Perhaps the best way of dealing with the subject is to proceed from generalities to specific cases, and to use these as the bases of the discussion.

Until 1922, the only technical supervision in Washington had been that given through the National Commission of Fine Arts, a body of seven distinguished men drafted from the professions, of whom three are architects. This body had authority conferred by Congress, by which plans for public buildings only, and public parks, must be approved. It had no power of initiating general or detailed studies.

In 1900, The American Institute of Architects launched a movement for the restoration of the L'Enfant Plan, the direct outgrowth of which was the McMillan Park Commission and subsequently the Fine Arts Commission itself. In 1922, members of the Washington Chapter of the Institute tendered their services to the District Commissioners for architectural advice on matters relating to general planning and to guidance of the uncontrolled speculative development which was defacing the capital. * * *.

Passing over the interval of obtaining the confidence of the various interests involved and of enlisting public support for the movement, we have arrived at a system of guidance for which at the present time there is no backing whatever in law or regulation. A jury panel has been established of able Washington architects, who for nine years have freely given their services, without any compensation whatever. From this panel, three men are drawn for three weeks' service, the terms overlapping so that each week two men are carried over from the preceding jury and one new man added, establishing a continuity of thought in the work of the jury.

This jury meets once a week in the offices of the Zoning Commission, and discusses the current plans filed for building permit. On some of these plans permits already may have been granted, while others are still in course of examination. The jury discusses each building, first, in relation to its general fitness for its particular neighborhood, and, second, as to the details of the design. It serves as a group of consulting architects making detailed recommendations for possible improvement in the design of the exterior of the building only, which is the chief concern of the public; such recommendations usually being in the nature of elimination of gimcrackery or superfluous elements, tending toward the improvement of the building and reduction of its cost. This jury has the power of grading the plans as

Approved: Meeting the standards which should be maintained for private buildings in the neighborhood.

Average: A building which does not tend to improve the neighborhood.

Disapproved: The type of building which is considered "below average"; to be discouraged.

It also has the power of recommending plans for the following awards:

Distinguished: Outstanding among buildings of its type.

Commended: Meets exceptionally well the standards which should be maintained for private buildings in the National Capital.

Every sixth week a board of review, * * * examines the plans which have been recommended for higher awards. It has authority to give the Commended award from the plans, but the Distinguished award is held until the completion of a project. Before this board may also be brought any protest on an award made by the weekly jury.

It is obvious that there are two weak points in this system. The first is that the plans come before the juries in finished state; the second, that there is no legal background for the enforcement of recommendations. To a certain extent the first has been offset by urging architects and promoters to bring plans in the preliminary stages, so that the suggestions of the jury can be received in ample time for consideration by the designer. As to the second, although there is no authority for enforcing compliance with the workable and worthwhile recommendations, we may gauge the value of the system by the results obtained.

These results, in so far as they concern the architects who have been giving this service week after week and year after year, may be judged from the fact that they have received sufficient benefit from the comments of their associates on their own plans, and such sharpening of their faculties of analysis and criticism, that they have been willing to take time out of their busy days to give the service. In so far as the operative builders are concerned, it may be noted that the type of mass development of stereotyped plans prevalent when the jury system was inaugurated has almost entirely ceased. Most of the builders are putting up far better types of houses, and many of them have found it profitable to employ the services of trained architects. It is amusing to note the comment of the secretary of the Washington Operative Builders that "the last of the standpatters has now abandoned Model T."

In the case of mediocre designers, one of the outstanding results of the jury system has been a notable improvement in the work of men whose practice has been confined mainly to speculative work. Furthermore, the higher awards are being sought in connection with building operations, and the re-

ceipt of these awards widely publicized in sales propaganda.

There is no question but that the work of the council has been effective and well worth while. A similar council was inaugurated last year in Cincinnati, and a third appears to be in process of development in Detroit. It would seem, therefore, that this system, even with its lack of definite authorization, offers a feasible and definite step towards the physical improvement of cities.

Legal Precedent

Going now to the other extreme, the basis of architectural control in law, we may cite the Shipstead Bill, enacted last year by Congress: "An Act to regulate the height, exterior design and construction of private and semi-public buildings in certain areas of the National Capital." This Act states, in connection with the development of the capital city, that "such development should proceed along the lines of good order, good taste, and with due regard to the public interests involved, and a reasonable degree of control should be exercised over the architecture of private or semi-public buildings adjacent to public buildings and grounds of major importance"; and it requires that whenever application is made for a permit for the erection or the alteration of any building so situated, "the plans therefor, so far as they relate to height and appearance, color and texture of the materials of exterior construction, shall be submitted by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to the Commission of Fine Arts."

This is a law which has been in effect for over a year, and which already has demonstrated its effectiveness. In addition to the various court tests of subdivision restrictions, and favorable Supreme Court decisions, it demonstrates that a legal basis exists for the control of private construction.

It should be noted that the Act stipulates, in respect to the functioning of the Commission of Fine Arts, that "the said commission shall report promptly to said (District) commissioners its recommendations, including such changes, if any, as in its judgment are necessary to prevent reasonably avoidable impairment of the public values belonging to such public building or park; and said (District) commissioners shall take such action as shall, in their judgment, effect reasonable compliance with such recommendation." The whole procedure outlined is based on reasonable procedure. If the Government of the United States finds protection of its values necessary against damage by private construction, is it not even more important and equitable that the private citizen, with possibly his entire assets involved in a property holding, shall receive some protection from the unnecessary and unwarranted impairment of his values by unrestricted development of the properties adjoining his own?

Efforts of Associations and Subdivisions

We have discussed the need of architectural guidance and the possibility of achieving it through two contrasting systems, both based on actual accomplishment, but both approaching the subject of improving our architecture through organization or private initiative. Among examples of these systems might be mentioned the accomplishment of the Fifth Avenue Association and the enhancement of that avenue through positive and negative measures, such as awards, and elimination of projecting signs and show windows. In Washington a similar movement has been started by the Board of Trade, which biennially invites a jury of out-of-town architects to pass upon work executed during the preceding two-year period and makes awards for outstanding buildings of various types.

The movement for control of architectural development really has had its beginning in subdivision work along two distinct lines: the first, the pre-designed development such as Forest Hills, and the second, developments under supervision, such as Roland Park, Baltimore, the Country Club District in Kansas City, Palos Verdes in California. A special point differentiating the two latter developments from the ordinary subdivision restriction is the establishment of covenants running with the land, and of home associations, any member of which can stop by injunction any new construction or alteration not approved.

Another Neglected Field—God's Acre

I have tried to cover, in generality and to a certain extent in detail, the need for architectural guidance, and the opportunity and obligation of the architectural profession to serve its community in matters relating to major architectural developments. There are one or two other phases to which attention should be drawn. The first of these is a field rarely touched by the architect in these days, though originally one which called forth the highest talent available. It is interesting, though depressing, to observe that although in our homes, in our places of business, and in our public or semi-public buildings we call for the best talent of architect and sculptor—although in our cities we may have planning commissions and organized effort in general planning—when it comes to the field of the dead, in an unbelievably large proportion of cemeteries we entrust their design and arrangement to laymen, their maintenance to gardeners, and their monuments to commercial firms and stone cutters. How many of us in providing for our habitations order a house from a catalogue, or turn over our requirements to a carpenter? Yet on the other hand, how many of us call for landscape architect, architect or sculptor in our cemetery planning and embellishment, or in our monuments? In how many of our cemeteries in which restrictions exist

governing the design or placement of monuments are these restrictions other than nominal? In how many of them is the design of monuments actually passed upon by one technically qualified to judge between the good and the bad?

I speak feelingly in this matter, from an interest in the subject aroused through a comment attributed to Augustus St. Gaudens, one of our greatest American sculptors, in the report of the McMillan Commission on the Park System of the District of Columbia:

"There is nothing that needs proper supervision and planning more than the modern cemetery, for there is certainly nothing that suffers more from vulgarity, ignorance, and pretentiousness on the one side, and grasping unscrupulousness on the other; and instead of being a place to which one may go with a sentiment of respect and peace, as into a church or sacred place, the eye and the feelings are constantly shocked by the monstrosities which dominate in all modern cemeteries.

"There is no doubt that the feeling which pervades the majority of people who erect monuments to their dead is one of the tenderest; a sincere desire to do nothing even in the simplest form which is not fitting and in entire harmony with the feeling that prompts the erection of the memorials. This feeling, if properly protected and guarded, would lead to the harmonious and sober treatment so necessary for such places. A great example of the effectiveness of such restraint and guidance is the extraordinary dignity, impressiveness, and nobility of the Soldiers' Cemetery at the Soldiers' Home in this city, and also in that part of the Arlington Cemetery set apart for the privates and unknown dead. This is not attained by any large monuments, but by the very simplicity and uniformity of the whole.

"The trouble is that the majority of monuments now in the cemeteries are produced by firms who make it merely a business affair, the greater portion of them having not the slightest idea of what is good or bad, and possessing not even an elementary knowledge of architecture or even good taste. To remedy this it is absolutely necessary that the designs for all the monuments in all the cemeteries, from the most modest to the most costly, should be made by or subject to the approval of a commission composed of two or three architects and a landscape architect of the highest possible standing. They should lay out and design cemeteries and establish rules for their proper supervision, and should control the designs for future monuments in the cemeteries already existing."

Also, I speak from twelve years' experience in the design and supervision of Fort Lincoln Cemetery, contiguous to the District of Columbia. In this cemetery, which was developed in harmony with the tenets laid down by St. Gaudens, the first effort was to tie the cemetery into the park system. A mile of river frontage, and a panorama hill were offered by the directors of the cemetery as integral elements of the park system. The project was designed in its entirety along broad lines, and every effort has been made to preserve and enhance existing elements of tranquility and natural beauty, and to prevent the ill-considered transformation of God's acre into a charnelhouse of crowded tombstones. A great bulk of stones has been eliminated by the preservation of interior areas of sections as open lawn spaces, with all individual graves located by markers flush with the turf, with family monuments permitted only along driveways—these to be

softened with belts of planting, and every one of these monuments subject to approval in form and in detail, only upon the advance submission of a carefully made scale drawing.

May I leave with you the suggestion that on your cemetery boards should be placed representative architects and landscape architects in your communities, and that monuments erected in these cemeteries should receive their technical supervision.

Roadside Structures

The second element in which it is high time that control should be established relates to the extension of our streets into the highways of the countryside. How much longer are we to be endlessly taxed for pleasure drives pushing out farther and farther from the city, only to have the city follow us with billboards and signs lining these highways, pushing us farther and farther, with more and more cost of construction, into the back roads and forests, only to find these in turn defaced by needless, senseless, disfiguring billboards, and ugly service stations, refreshment stands and tourist camps?

If health, safety and public welfare must be invoked, let us first establish strict sanitary supervision for refreshment stands, wayside markets, and

camps; let us banish the billboard which claims the eye of the driver in holiday traffic, especially along curves and intersections; let us establish the same sort of supervision for casual, non-questioning camps with which we control questionable districts in our cities; but in addition to invoking these measures, let us by every possible means of legal and moral suasion shape such developments along the same lines which we are trying to establish for the betterment of our cities.

In this direction, the American Civic Association is taking the initiative, bringing together organizations interested in the preservation of our countryside. Out of this movement has developed a special alliance between the American Automobile Association and The American Institute of Architects, looking toward improvement in structures erected along highways.

One of the first and most important steps to be taken is the establishment of a division of landscape architecture in every state highway commission, with a capable landscape architect not merely for highway maintenance but to cooperate with the engineering division in developing to the greatest advantage of the highway the most scenic routes, the best possible curves and grades, the design of bridges and underpasses, and above all, the preservation of existing natural elements.

A Competition Without Drawings

By EDWIN H. HEWITT, F. A. I. A.

Editor's Note:—This interesting outline of a competitive method for the selection of an Architect is published for the information of Chapters and Members. There are many special cases to which this method might be applied with advantage to the owner and to the architectural profession. A variation of this idea can be and has been applied to the selection of a contractor. Criticisms and suggestions are invited.

SEVERAL years ago during a discussion in Convention on the perennial subject of competitions, the delegates of the Minnesota Chapter put forward for consideration a plan for determining the competence of architects by a method other than that usually employed in competitions. This was a method based upon the submission of evidence of competence, in accordance with a questionnaire.

The Chapter believed then and I personally still entertain the feeling that building owners and commissions find the machinery of competitions with paid advisers, juries, prizes, etc., a somewhat cumbersome and expensive method of choosing an architect with the requisite skill and experience to design a given project. Oftentimes the total appropriation for a building is limited by law and from this total must be deducted the expense of such competition.

Legally constituted bodies cannot shift the responsibility of final choice of such architect to the shoulders of a jury. After the jury has made its report the legal body may or may not concur, unless the law creating the body specifically states that the decision of the jury is final. For these and other reasons I personally feel that there are times when the so-called questionnaire method of determining competence is entirely justified. Such a situation arose recently in the case of a state where a large public building had been destroyed by fire. The necessity of early replacement created an emergency which had to be quickly met.

As soon as this situation was heralded in the press, architects from all over the country began writing in or applying personally for consideration, even before the — Commission had been appointed. As soon as this Commission had been

legally constituted its attention was at once engaged upon the subject of the proper selection of the architect. As the result of an interview my opinion was solicited by the Commission, and after going over the existing factors I determined to propose to them the questionnaire method, rather than to advise them to hold an expensive competition. In this case the total amount to be expended for the new building was strictly limited. The Commissioners serve without pay, but are under bond. They were required to employ a secretary, and in addition to that all fees on account of archi-

ects, engineers, clerk-of-the-works and all necessary expenses are deducted from the appropriation. If, in addition to these expenses, they had decided to hold a competition there would have been the fee to the professional adviser, in all probability the architects would have been paid to compete, and there would have been a certain number of prizes, all of which would have steadily reduced the appropriation. Even after the jury had made its report they would themselves have been compelled to accept or disagree with the jury's report, as they are the final authority. A general statement and a questionnaire were therefore prepared as follows:

The General Conditions

An Invitation to Architects to submit professional qualifications in connection with the design of the proposed _____ building for the State of _____.

The State of _____ has enacted a bill (known as House Bill No. —) providing for the construction of a _____ building for the State of _____, and has for that purpose created a Board of _____ Commissioners, defining their powers and duties, and making appropriations for such purpose.

Among other provisions in the act the Board of _____ Commissioners has the responsibility of the selection of the architect or architects, and the authority to employ and enter into a contract with the architect, provided, however, that if such architect is a non-resident, he shall associate with himself an architect who is a bona fide resident of the State of _____, duly licensed as such architect under the laws of _____.

It is further provided that the total cost of the building, including the architect's fee, engineers and other consultants, the superintendents on the works, and other proper expenses, shall not exceed \$_____.

Preliminary to such selection, and pursuant to the provision of the law, the Board of _____ Commissioners invites qualified persons or firms to offer their professional services as architect for the project, and, to facilitate and assist such applicants, has prepared a questionnaire, with a request that the desired information be fully supplied by the applicant and forwarded promptly, together with

the several exhibits, to the office of the Board of _____ Commissioners, _____, _____, on or before _____.

In consideration of the information thus put at its disposal the Commissioners will undertake to study the qualifications of the several applicants, and will ascertain by general and detailed inquiries their reputation and professional standing.

The authority and responsibility rests upon this duly constituted Board of _____ Commissioners to procure for the State of _____, within the limits stipulated, a _____ building which, meeting the requirements as finally to be determined, will take its place as a noble expression in lasting materials of the ideals of a sovereign state. To attain this result the Commissioners are constrained to seek the highest available ability and skill in the architect to be selected to undertake this task.

Each architectural firm selected for consideration is requested to submit in writing the answers to the questionnaire attached. After these have been studied and evaluated by the Commissioners, a number of applicants will be given an opportunity to submit their case in person at a time and place to be designated by the Board.

The Commission will then be in a position, if they deem it advisable, to make the selection of the architect and to enter into a contract with him, in accordance with the provisions of the above mentioned legislation.

BOARD OF _____ COMMISSIONERS, _____, _____

The Questionnaire

Applicants are not required to use these sheets, but, in any case questions should be answered as numbered and lettered.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION.

- (a) Name and address of applicant.
- (b) How long have you practiced in your present location?

(c) Furnish a brief account of your professional and educational background, such as school, college, professional schools, degrees, etc.

(d) Present organization of firm; if a corporation give essential details.

Principal or principals.
Chief assistants.

(c) Attach for reference the names and addresses of building owners of important projects, chairmen of building committees, banks, etc.

(Please note that no letters of commendation are required from your references at this time. They may be required in due season.)

(f) State average number of employees and annual volume of business during last five years.

The answers to the questionnaire should be made in the order named, and should be comprehensive enough to give the information fully without undue length. The answers should be typewritten on your office correspondence paper and be bound securely in a simple folder, with the name and address of the applicant plainly visible on the outside.

II. EXHIBITS.

(a) One complete set of working drawings of executed work, including structural and mechanical layout, details, specifications, etc., together with original estimate of cost and final cost of completed project.

(b) Photographs of the above building as executed.

(c) In addition to the above not more than three sets of photographs of other executed work, if so desired.

(d) Name of the owners of the above building, with date of construction and approximate cost.

(e) Not more than three sets of photographs illustrating competitions, whether or not successful.

The several exhibits are to be forwarded, prepaid, to the office of the Board of _____ Commissioners, _____, _____, on or before _____.

The drawings should be securely bound together, the photographs should be enclosed in a convenient portfolio, plainly marked with the name and address of the applicant, a short typewritten description securely attached to the back of the mounted photograph, giving its title, what it illustrates, etc.

All exhibits will be listed and numbered as received and will be returned to the respective owners at the expense of the Commission at the completion of the inquiry.

III. METHODS.

(a) A brief account of other work executed, including work which may be in progress.

(b) A statement of your method of handling important projects.

(Condensing your statement to the essential facts will greatly facilitate the work of the Commission in its evaluation of the methods of the applicant.)

The Architect in Civic Affairs

THE repetitious advice of the Institute to the architect—to take an active part in civic affairs—is gradually bearing fruit. This is not to say that communities and their organizations are now looking exclusively to the architect for advice in civic matters. It is to indicate that the architect, as a professional man in his community, is beginning to exert himself and to exercise certain functions which are almost exclusively his, and which are valuable to the public welfare.

Nat. G. Walker—Fort Myers.

It is gratifying to note that Mr. Walker has been elected President of the Chamber of Commerce, Fort Myers, Florida. He has served the Institute as a Director, and in many other ways. Fort Myers is one of the large and progressive cities on the West Coast of Florida. Mr. Walker's election to the presidency of the Chamber of Commerce of that city should be a source of gratification to the architects of Florida, and, in fact, to the membership at large.

Frederick H. Meyer—San Francisco.

Mr. Meyer is a Regional Director of the Institute, and a leader in civic affairs in San Francisco. He

has been elected chairman of a special committee of the Chamber of Commerce of that city to study the subway problem. Mr. Meyer, who was recently re-elected as a Director of the Chamber of Commerce, is also Chairman of its Bridge and Highway Committee.

The Dublin Conference.

At the banquet of the British Architects' Conference, in Dublin, the President of The Royal Institute of British Architects, Sir Banister Fletcher, F.S.A., said this: "But one thing is certain—that there has never been a time when the architectural profession had greater services to render to the community in a greater variety of fields than it has at the present day. For it is not only in the design of public and commercial buildings, churches and houses that the architect can render service. He is called upon to deal with the planning and replanning of cities and towns, the carrying out of great housing schemes, and the planning of the countryside with a view to its salvation from the ruin which rapid development is liable to bring to it."

Meeting of the St. Louis Chapter with City Plan Commission

Thirty-five members of the Chapter were present. President Eugene S. Klein presided.

Members of the City Plan Commission present were: William Bedell, Charles Eisenring, C. E. Goltermann, A. F. Langsdorf, and Ernest J. Russell.

Mr. Harland Bartholomew was the guest of the evening. Comprehensive and carefully prepared maps, plans, charts, and a perspective of the waterfront development were shown.

Mr. Bartholomew gave a most interesting explanation of the study of the City Plan Commission as reflected in the suggestion under consideration. The river front development contemplates a central, northern and southern series of developments. The central development includes a relief highway, connecting northern and southern extremities of the city, with thought given to the development of the river front and a use for the property east of Third Street. The northern development contemplates an air field and recreational facilities and the southern division contemplates recreational and park facilities for the river front.

Mr. Bartholomew called attention to the need of more comprehensive support of city planning, and

suggested that the situation would become rather hopeless unless a realization was had of a plan developed for a period of great future expansion.

After the talk of Mr. Bartholomew there was very general discussion and many questions were asked concerning the work. President Klein, in behalf of the Chapter, offered its support and suggested that the Chapter be kept informed of the activity of the Plan Commission, and that whenever consistent a letter be addressed to the Secretary by the Commission so the membership of the Chapter may be fully informed of the Commission's actions so far as these can be made public.

A resolution was presented in which the Chapter endorsed the sentiment of a published statement made by acting Mayor Neun to the effect that in the development of the Aloe Plaza parking of automobiles should not be permitted. The Secretary was instructed to forward copies of the resolution to Mr. E. R. Kinsey and to Mr. Walter J. G. Neun.

Those members of the City Plan Commission who were present were presented to the Chapter and after an expression of appreciation by Mr. Klein the Chapter adjourned with a rising vote of thanks.

Trees for Los Angeles

It is gratifying to report accomplishment by a Chapter of the Institute in any branch of civic development. The city of Los Angeles now has under way a comprehensive program, the purpose of which is to make that city a beautiful park. The work has been placed in a division of one of the Los Angeles City Departments. A city ordinance has been made which puts the program into operation. The movement was sponsored by the Southern California Chapter, and is receiving the careful and unremitting attention of that Chapter.

As of interest to other chapters, whose cities might be improved with more trees, the following letter by a special committee of the Chapter is quoted:

To all Members,
The Southern California Chapter.

The Department of Parks of Los Angeles has formed a Division of Forestry under authority of a recently adopted ordinance regulating the planting, removal, maintenance and care of trees, plants and shrubs on public streets and parkways.

The attention of all members of the Chapter is earnestly called to the attached papers which explain in detail the provisions of this ordinance and indicate wherein an architect may be of help in carrying forward this very important civic work.

There is a great deal of effort necessary to even overcome the loss of so many fine street trees due to the numerous street widenings, and to the lack of appreciation by property owners of the value of a well planted street. We as a group must stand definitely behind the Division of Forestry in restoring to our streets, whether residential or business, some of the charm they have lost.

If there is any organization that a member of this Chapter feels would be interested in having this entire program explained, the Chief of the Division of Forestry assures us that if information is sent to him he will be more than glad to furnish a speaker for that purpose.

The special Chapter Committee that has been in contact with the Division of Forestry would request that in case any architect particularly acquainted with this question has any photographs that indicate a well planted street either in the United States or abroad that the Division could borrow for purpose of reproduction in lantern slides they would be very acceptable. It is their desire to build up a fine group of photographs of this type which will be of inestimable value in convincing the skeptical and unimaginative property owner of the wisdom of proper street tree planting.

The pictures could be sent either to Division of Forestry, City Hall, Los Angeles, California, or to the undersigned at 708 Architects Building, Los Angeles, California.

SPECIAL STREET TREE COMMITTEE

By Eugene Weston, Jr., *Chairman*
Winchton L. Risley, *Member*
Carleton M. Winslow, *Member*.

A communication recently issued by the new Division of Forestry of the Los Angeles Park Department is quoted below:

**HOW ARCHITECTS MAY COOPERATE WITH
DIVISION OF FORESTRY
LOS ANGELES PARK DEPARTMENT**

1. By becoming familiar with the New Forestry Ordinance, No. 67,994, which became effective October 9, 1930.

2. By advising clients of new ordinance which makes it necessary for anyone desiring to plant, trim or remove a street tree to first obtain a permit from the Division of Forestry. Application for permits may be received over the telephone. See Sections 3-5-9 of Ordinance.

3. By encouraging the unified planting of trees in street planting strips or in tree wells in solid sidewalks where new buildings are designed, in accordance with Master Tree Plan, now being prepared by Forestry Division.

4. By fostering the planting of appropriate types of trees in business districts.

5. By endeavoring to preserve existing trees that are in good condition where building operations are in progress. See Section 14 of Ordinance. It would help to include a clause in specifications in regard to protecting existing trees; for example, by putting temporary wooden guards or boxing around trees during construction work.

6. By designing ornamental tree guards and gratings for trees in solid sidewalks in front of proposed buildings.

Zoning and Planning

From a brochure issued by the Division of Building and Housing, Department of Commerce—Norman L. Knauss.

Zoning is one of the most fundamental elements of city planning and, as is the case with more comprehensive city planning, it has been adopted in recent years by increasing numbers of municipalities of small or moderate size. (Seventy of the seventy-seven municipalities that originally enacted zoning ordinances in 1930 are in that group of municipalities whose population does not exceed forty thousand.) Many communities which are not yet ready, for one reason or another, to undertake comprehensive planning, are taking the initial step in that direction by making such studies as are required for the adoption of zoning ordinances. They are learning that sporadic invasions by incongruous uses may prove as harmful in a small community as in a larger one and that zoning is able to exert the same measure of control in the former as in the latter.

From a bulletin of the Planning Foundation of America—Philip H. Cornick.

The speculative values in the fringe surrounding the built-up portions of every city are supported in large part by the knowledge that public money is available for the development of those lands without cost to the subdivider. Withdraw that support once and for all, giving the fact of the withdrawal time to sink into the consciousness of the speculator, and the lands needed for parks, boulevards, and arterial highways will probably come within reach of the city planner. If we use the police power to reduce to a minimum the number of lots which can be offered for sale without first having been equipped

with all the improvements essential to urban utilization, we remove the incentives to disorderly development, conserve governmental funds for improvements and services whose need is clearly indicated, and tend to bring highly desirable marginal improvements within the realm of possibility.

From an address of Harland Bartholomew, President, National Conference on City Planning.

Probably the greatest deficiency of current city plans is lack of attention to the preservation of values or the rehabilitation or replanning of those vast areas of old residential property that are found in every city between the downtown business districts and the suburbs. Too much of our planning has dealt with the two extremities and ignored these intermediate areas.

* * *

In the smaller cities lies the hope of America. Life can be made more pleasant and enjoyable and more economical. But before we achieve such satisfactory and complete cities as we may desire, we must realize that effective city planning is an integration of the five essentials * * * i.e., good plans, proper legislation, capable administration, and thorough public understanding based upon sound financial programs.

Zoning and Planning Brochures.

The following reports of the Division of Building and Housing of the Department of Commerce represent much study of the present status of city planning and zoning in the United States. These reports and other publications relating to Zoning and City Planning, may be obtained by addressing the Division of Building and Housing, Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

Zoned Municipalities in the United States—Norman L. Knauss.

A 39-page report giving a cumulative list of all zoned municipalities grouped according to states. *Survey of Zoning Laws and Ordinances Adopted During 1930—Norman L. Knauss.*

This report, as the title indicates, is a survey covering state and municipal activities in regard to their zoning laws. It contains 24 pages.

Survey of City Planning and Related Laws in 1930—Lester G. Chase.

A 46-page report which briefly describes the City and Regional Planning Enabling Acts, passed in 1930, by Kentucky, New Jersey and Virginia, as well as the Standard City Planning Enabling Act of the Department of Commerce, which has been followed to some extent in all of them. This report also contains citations to all of the planning legislation enacted during the year, and a revised summary of all general and special Planning Enabling Acts in effect in the various states.

A Tabulation of City Planning Commissions in the United States—Lester G. Chase.

A 42-page report which, in addition to summarizing the total number of commissions, groups them according to states and shows the number of members of each commission, the number appointed and the number serving as ex-officio members, the terms of office and the titles of the executive officers.

Bibliography on Building and Housing.

The Civic Development Department, Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Washington, D. C., has issued a most comprehensive Bibliography of Building and Housing. It is in mimeographed form and covers the field of published books, agencies, and periodicals. The number of books listed is 168; the number of agencies is 48; and the list of periodicals which feature building and housing activities is 32. A limited number of the copies are available on request made direct to the Civic Development Department, Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Washington, D. C.

General Motors Corporation and The Architect

LIKE many other large corporations, General Motors Corporation relies upon competent local architects for service in the city in which the new building is to be located. The fairness and wisdom of this procedure is recognized, and also appreciated by the architectural profession. The individual architect can do his profession much good—when he has been recognized and employed by a large corporation—by going the limit in giving its building project his best talent and attention, from the making of the preliminary studies down to the supervision of the last detail of construction.

For the information of the membership of the Institute, and with the consent of Branson V. Gamber, President of the Detroit Chapter, two letters are published, as follows:

To Mr. Gamber,

From C. L. Baumann, Consulting Architect,
General Motors Corporation:

The General Motors Corporation in June 1930 organized a Dealer Building Department which renders consulting architectural service to all of its dealers throughout the world. This service is available not only to the automobile dealers but to dealers of all other divisions as well.

In rendering this service to the dealers it is our aim to gain maximum departmental productivity by means of maximum efficiency of arrangement and layout, taking into consideration the dealer's—

- (1) Area requirements
- (2) Business potential

- (3) His performance ability
- (4) His capital position

Due to the fact that a local architect does not have these factors to guide him in making up his preliminary studies, we find it necessary to provide these studies to our dealers, gratis.

Upon receipt of our recommendations the dealer is free to employ his local architect and proceed with the new construction or alteration, as the case may be, feeling that his new set-up is designed in accordance with the most modern and efficient practice.

In connection with this service, the writer would like to offer a suggestion for consideration by The American Institute of Architects and would greatly appreciate having your reactions as to the workability of same.

The suggestion in mind relates to attaining a more mutual cooperative method of procedure, between the local Architect and this Department, to the end that the dealer will be suitable and adequately housed in a representative building at a minimum cost, in keeping with his requirements and capital status, and at the same time avoid any unnecessary expense to the local architect.

To be more specific, this Department recommends for your consideration the issuance of a bulletin by The American Institute of Architects to all architects outlining the following procedure:

Before an architect, anywhere in the United States, attempts to make any preliminary studies for buildings to be occupied by a General Motors dealer (in the automobile or any other division) he first contacts with the dealer's local Zone Manager who in turn will contact through the proper channels with this Department, thereby eliminating and avoiding any unnecessary expense and delay which would be caused should the project be started without having first cleared through the proper departments.

This Department will gladly cooperate with and assist any local architect in the development of his working drawings and

specifications should he desire to consult us on any matters pertaining to the layout, construction and equipment of these buildings.

Mr. Gamber's reply to Mr. Baumann:

I have read with a great deal of interest your letter of June 8th regarding the possibilities of cooperation on the part of architects with your department. I am sure that if the archi-

teers are informed of this possibility they will be only too glad to follow your suggestion and will work with you in an effort to get the proper information and guidance.

I will be glad to arrange to have your suggestion published in the local architects' publication and will also forward a copy of your letter to the Secretary of The American Institute of Architects in Washington. I believe that they will be glad to acquaint the profession with what you are attempting to do through their national publication.

With the Chapters

Baltimore Chapter—June Meeting.

Schedule of charges. The Secretary read the letter and questionnaire received from the special committee on revision of the Schedule of Charges of the Institute. All the members present took part in a general discussion of the problems involved, and opinions as to a proper basis for such a revision varied greatly. After the views of those present were thoroughly aired, Mr. Hopkins moved that the President appoint a committee of five to canvass all data available, and to report to the Executive Committee with a full answer to the questionnaire and recommendations for Chapter action. The motion was carried without dissent.

Federal building program. The President explained in detail the letter and data sheet in regard to the Federal building program together with the results of the Executive Committee's consideration and action in the matter. The meeting was opened to discussion, questions were answered, and suggestions made for action by the Chapter. The following members volunteered to interview Congressmen from Maryland, and were requested to use their best efforts to press the matter: Messrs. Edmunds, Emory, and Wolcott to see Mr. Cole; Messrs. Crisp, Lucius White, and Jenks to see Mr. Linthicum; Mr. Buckler to see Mr. Palmisano. It was felt by those present that continuous effort should be made along this line, as the most effective method of action, and that the matter be kept under close watch.

Atelier organizations. Mr. Fisher was given the floor to explain in detail the problems of the Charcoal Club Atelier in its relation with the Club. After showing the difficulties of carrying on the work under present circumstances, he made the suggestion that the Chapter might be instrumental in a combination of the two present Ateliers, under more purely architectural guidance. General discussion followed in which a number of the members took part. It seemed the sense of the meeting that the combination might prove successful. Mr. Buckler moved that the Committee on Education, assisted by Messrs. Fisher, Emory, and Loomis, be instructed to take the matter in their charge, and

formulate a complete scheme for the organization of such an Atelier, reporting back to the Executive Committee for power to act. The motion was carried without dissent.

Kentucky Chapter—July Meeting.

Electrical inspection service. The Secretary read a letter from the Kentucky Actuarial Bureau, which had gone out to all the architects in the city, concerning the discontinuing of electrical inspection by the Kentucky Actuarial Bureau after August 15, 1931. This will leave all of the electrical inspection in the city to the City Inspector, and no inspection at all may be obtained in the County, or State, after August 15, 1931. All of the members present felt that the discontinuing of this service would be a loss to the architects, and felt that the small number present could do nothing more than to instruct the Secretary to write the Actuarial Bureau stating that, as a body, the architects would give their moral support to the proposed development of a separate company to render inspection service heretofore given by the Bureau.

Louisville Building Congress. It was moved, seconded, and carried, that the Secretary, in the next bulletin to the members, remind them of the Louisville Building Congress, and urge each member to cooperate fully, and to join the Congress; also to attend its regular meetings if possible.

Minnesota Chapter—May and June Meetings.

Annual meeting. President Tusler announced the annual meeting to be set for June 11, 1931, at Thorpe Country Club and appointed McLaren chairman, to be assisted by Bill Dorr. Bill was also instructed to be prepared to defend his title as Golf Champion of the Chapter, which he so nobly won last year.

Medal winners introduced. Professor Mann explained the Institute Medal-Chapter prize and also the Magney and Tusler prize, and then introduced the men who won these honors this year.

Cooperation from lumber company. Mr. Bissell reported on an address by Mr. George Simons, of the Simons Lumber Company, before an influential

women's organization in which he advised anyone planning to build to seek first the services of a competent architect. It was the sense of the meeting that Mr. Simons be advised of the Chapter's appreciation.

Bersback returns. Louis Bersback said he left town because he had no work. He travelled west, and then around St. Louis where he ran out of funds. He wired home for relief, and upon his return to Minneapolis he had four bucks to start in with and was afraid to go see his banker. But he seems to have survived! In California he found everyone in good spirits in spite of the times and at a meeting he said they brought up four cases, but neglected to make clear whether the spirits were in the cases or where—most likely not—after they got through with the meeting. Some fellows have all the luck! He reported meeting several architects in Los Angeles where he had an enjoyable time.

Illustrated talk by Professor Mann. Professor Mann exhibited some slides from pictures taken at the Convention in San Antonio, and also a few at Kansas City.

He then showed many interesting slides taken in Venice and Rome, with a running talk explaining the excavations, construction, etc., of ancient Rome, all of which ended a delightful evening's entertainment.

Private architects for city work. The Chapter has made overtures to the city engineer, and members have talked to the councilmen, endeavoring to have more civic work placed in the hands of architects and more especially men who are members of the Chapter. It was the Secretary's suggestion that a lot more work along this line would result in greater benefit to the local building industry, as well as produce better architecture in the city of Minneapolis.

Coordination of building industry. The Chapter's representatives attended several meetings with the Civic and Commerce Association's officers, and with other allied organizations—The Master Builders Association, the Minnesota Federation of Architectural and Engineering Societies, the annual convention of the Builders Exchange, and several meetings of the joint Building Code Committee.

Registration law amendment. Chapter representatives worked diligently on the registration law amendment bill, only to see their splendid efforts frustrated at the last moment by some unthinking, short-sighted legislator who called for reconsideration after the work was accomplished.

Meetings of Executive Committee. The Executive Committee has labored the past year trying to

formulate interesting and worthwhile meetings, always seeking the good of all the members in its deliberations. The Executive Committee held eighteen meetings this past year.

New Jersey Chapter—June Meeting.

President Bogert's report. President Bogert reviewed the work of the various committees, referring to the successful work by the Competition Committee in the case of the Glen Ridge Municipal Building Competition and stating that the Legislative Committee had been quiescent in the matter of "getting the Government out of business."

He called attention to the fact that a number of new Institute members had been secured, but stated that the Membership Committee had been handicapped by the requirement of an initial payment of \$50, which is required with the application. He also referred to the fact that the Membership Committee had been successful in several instances in persuading members who had resigned to withdraw their resignations.

Mr. Bogert spoke in appreciative terms of the work of the Education Committee in connection with the Atelier; of the Publicity Committee for its handling of the radio talks; and discussed the work of other committees.

Cooperation with contractors. Mr. Ely reported as Chairman of the special committee on matters pertaining to the building industry. He said that another joint meeting had been held with the Associated Contractors of New Jersey and that the reaction of the architects to the proposals of the contractors relative to building procedure had been discussed. He further stated that the Chapter's reply to their proposals had since been sent to Mr. Dill in written form and that the next move was up to the contractors. Mr. Ely suggested that his committee be made permanent, as he felt that there would be new business to be taken care of from time to time. President Bogert suggested that a joint meeting of the Contractors Association, the Chapter, and the Society might be held in the fall.

Public Information. The Secretary read a letter from the L. W. Ramsey Company offering its services in connection with a publicity campaign. He was directed to reply to the effect that no such campaign is possible at this time. The Secretary also read a letter from the Secretary of the West Texas Chapter outlining the plans of that Chapter for radio publicity and was directed to write expressing interest in the program.

New Jersey regional plan. After the usual dinner a very excellent talk was given by Mr. Wayne D. Heydecker on the "Regional Plan and New Jersey." Mr. Heydecker offered a scientific analysis of the probable future growth of the metropolitan area, with particular reference to the ter-

ritory of the Chapter, and considerable discussion followed. At the conclusion of this discussion Past-President Bogert turned the meeting over to newly-elected President Williams, who after a few remarks on the future program of the Chapter and Society declared the meeting adjourned.

Oregon Chapter—July Meeting.

State Association of Architects. Moved by Lawrence that the President appoint a special committee to study the need of a State Association and recommend action to be taken by the Chapter. Seconded by Stanton and passed.

Initiation ceremonial. Moved and passed that the question of ceremonial be laid on the table.

The West Texas form of agreement. Moved by Lawrence, and passed, that the Committee on Professional Practice and Competitions examine the form of agreement used by the West Texas Chapter and recommend action as to the adoption of it or similar agreement by the Oregon Chapter.

Representation at conventions. Moved by Stanton, seconded by Howell and passed, that the question of securing representation at conventions be laid on the table until next fall.

Washington State Chapter—July Meeting.

Public information. The attention of the Board was called to the method of advertising in the telephone book, adopted by the King County Medical Association, in which a large "ad" was carried and membership in the Association listed under each individual name.

Moved by Holmes, seconded and carried that similar advertising be referred to the next Chapter meeting and that the Secretary write to the Chairman of the Publicity Committee, asking that committee to report on this matter.

Federal building program. President Borhek appointed John Graham, Chairman of the Committee on Government Work Petitions, vice Harlan Thomas, who is abroad. The other members of the committee are Messrs. Arthur Herrman and Lister Holmes.

Santa Barbara Chapter—June Meeting.

Unification-Report Service. The President then called on the guest of the Chapter, Mr. Robert H. Orr, who gave a resume of the present plans for a national organization of state associations which would encompass all architects, draftsmen and architectural students. Mr. Orr also explained the present status of the "Report Service" which is about ready to be organized in Southern California.

Public information. A report was then made from the Advertising Committee by Mr. Lockard in the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Soule. It was to the effect that it had been decided not to list architects' names in the newspapers, business and professional guides. The Committee reported the running of the names of the Chapter members in a newspaper page favoring the recent water bond election. This at a total cost of \$10.

Plan service of lumber company. The President called for a report on the committee appointed to investigate the plans service department of the —Lumber Company. This report was given by Mr. Cooke and supplemented by Mr. Lockard. It was to the effect that the company was within the law, and seemed determined to continue its free plan service.

One result of the above conference with the lumber company was the suggestion that the architects appoint a committee to cooperate with a committee from the mills in working out a set of standard details for frames, etc. It was moved by Mr. Cooke, seconded by Mr. Armitage, that the President appoint such a committee.

Public works. After a discussion on the activities of the Grand Jury to curtail budgeting for public construction work it was moved by Mr. Crawford, seconded by Mr. Murphy, that the President appoint a committee to consult with the Grand Jury and others interested with the idea of promoting rather than curtailing public construction work.

Items of Interest

The Proceedings.

The Proceedings of the Institute Conventions are edited by the Publicist, James T. Grady, under the general direction of the Secretary, and of the Committee on Public Information—William Harmon Beers, Chairman.

The Proceedings are a complete and orderly record of the transactions of the Conventions and include all addresses, and most of the remarks or discussions made extemporaneously from the floor.

Why is it that the Proceedings are not distributed until three or four months after the Convention?

There are several good reasons. One is the old Institute custom that each speaker shall have the privilege of correcting the transcript of his remarks before they appear in print. This means the distribution of a large part of the stenographic report, and its re-assembling in the hands of the editor before the work of final editing can be started. Also,

the Proceedings must pass through two sets of proof—galley proof and then page proof. The book constitutes the formal record of the Convention, it takes its place in the long unbroken line of Proceedings on file at The Octagon, and it must be carefully edited.

These processes take time. It is not feasible to get the Proceedings out much sooner than ninety days after the Convention. More often it is a four months' job.

In the case of the last Convention, the stenographic report was an extensive one. It has been put through the usual procedure and the Proceedings are now on the press. The book should be ready for distribution by the end of August—to those who requested copies.

The Annuary.

Getting the new Annuary ready for the printer is not a difficult task, except for one section. That section is the first sixteen pages, which include all of the Committee appointments.

After each Convention it is the responsibility and duty of the President to appoint the Standing and Special Committees. The total number of appointments and re-appointments involved this year was five hundred seventy-six. In some cases, it is required that the appointments must be made on the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the Chapter—as in the case of the Committee on Practice, which has a representative in each Chapter. With respect to other committees having complete Chapter representation, the President usually asks for suggestions from Chapter Presidents.

When these nominations and suggestions have been assembled, the letters of appointment must be sent and acceptances secured. Sometimes there are declinations, which means that new recommendations must be obtained and new letters of appointment sent. There is an unwritten rule that Committee members must not be recorded as accepting service, or their names listed in the Annuary, until they have agreed, by letter, to accept the honor and perform the duties involved.

This procedure, which has the merit of being democratic, also has the disadvantage of being time-consuming.

As a rule the Annuary is not ready for distribution much ahead of the Proceedings. By mailing the two books under one cover, to those who have requested the Proceedings, a saving of postage and handling is effected.

The Annuary is now being printed, and will be sent out with the Proceedings. To those members who did not request the Proceedings, the Annuary will come in a separate package.

The Annuary is sent to every Member, Honorary Member, Honorary Corresponding Member, Associate and Junior, as well as to professional and tech-

nical societies at home and abroad. It is also sent to the leading libraries in the United States.

Executive Committee Meeting.

Customarily a meeting of the Executive Committee is held in late September. This year, in line with the Institute's policy of strict economy, the meeting has been omitted—unless there is some development in connection with the Public Works program or the Unification program, to make a meeting imperative. A decision on this point will be made shortly by President Kohn, in consultation with the other members of the Executive Committee.

Board of Directors' Meeting.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will occur in Louisville, Kentucky, on November 19, 20, 21, 1931.

The Kentucky Chapter will meet with the Institute Directors on the last day of the meeting, for purposes of good fellowship, and the discussion of subjects of mutual interest to the profession.

Communications intended for the Board should be addressed to the Secretary of the Institute, at The Octagon, prior to November 15.

Foundation for Architecture and Landscape Architecture.

President Kohn has appointed Louis LaBeaume, of the St. Louis Chapter, and Russell S. Walcott, of the Chicago Chapter, to represent the Institute on the Jury which will make the annual award to students of the Foundation for Architecture and Landscape Architecture. The Jury meets at Lake Forest, Illinois, on September 4.

Notice of its findings will appear in a later number of THE OCTAGON.

International Conference on Historic Monuments—Call for Delegates.

The International Museums Office of the League of Nations is organizing a conference to be held in Athens this coming October, for the purpose of studying questions concerning the protection and preservation of monuments of artistic and historic interest.

As it is to be hoped that The American Institute of Architects may be represented, it is requested that any member of the Institute who expects to be in Athens in October communicate with Dr. Leicester B. Holland, Chairman of the Committee on the Preservation of Historic Structures, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

Chapter Yearbooks for the Institute of Architects of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Mr. Carl A. Ziegler, who was the American representative at the Fourth Pan American Congress of Architects at Rio de Janeiro last year, has received a letter from the Institute of Architects of Sao Paulo, reading in part as follows:

The Institute of Architects of Sao Paulo, Brazil, composed of some of the most notable architects of that country, has written the Pan American Union expressing a desire to receive for its library any available material on architecture in the United States. As the Institute does not yet publish any journal, it cannot enter into exchange arrangements, consequently I am endeavoring to get together some free material.

I am turning to you for suggestions as to possible sources of free material, feeling sure that you will be glad to aid in building up the library of the Institute.

Mr. Ziegler has sought the assistance of various architectural magazines. He believes, in addition to the assistance such magazines may give, that the Chapters also will be glad to give their help, and in writing to President Kohn on this question he said that if the Chapters would send as many back numbers of their yearbooks as possible, he was sure that it would lead to a feeling of good will and also would enable the architects of Brazil to have a comprehensive idea of the development in architectural design in the United States during the past decade.

The Chapters are urged to follow Mr. Ziegler's suggestion and to send copies of their yearbooks for as many years back as possible to the Institute of Architects, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The Architect and Engineer.

The California Legislature recently passed Assembly Bill No. 615 (effective August 14), which reads in part as follows: "No person shall use the

title 'Structural Engineer' unless he is a registered civil engineer in this state and, furthermore, unless he has been further qualified as such Structural Engineer according to the rules and regulations established therefor by the Board of Registration for Civil Engineers."

Notice of Fraud—"Man from Mexico."

In the May issue of THE OCTAGON, architects were warned to watch out for a "prospective" client, who represents himself to be the owner of an estate in Mexico, and desires to engage extensive architectural services.

On July 10 a clipping was received from a Cincinnati paper reading in substance as follows:

Attorney Held on Hotel Bill Charge.—A man registered as ———, 68, attorney, was held, Monday, by the police on the charge of failing to pay a bill of \$63.80 at the Hotel Havlin. The manager signed the warrant. The attorney (?) told the police he had been managing a ranch in Mexico. He had no money when arrested.

This description seemed to fit the individual who has been defrauding architects. Those architects who had been approached by him were immediately notified, as was the police department of Cincinnati. No later information has been received.

Architects are again warned to be on the lookout for this swindler, who may be at large again.

Applications For Membership

August 30, 1931.

Notice to Members of the Institute:

The names of the following applicants may come before the Board of Directors or its Executive Committee for action on their admission to the Institute, and, if elected, the applicants will be assigned to the Chapters indicated:

Boston Chapter - - - - - CEDRIC HUBBELL START
Chicago Chapter - - - - - PHILIP A. DANIELSON
Columbus Chapter - - - - - WOOSTER BAIRD FIELD
New York Chapter - - - - - LEWIS A. COFFIN, JR., DANIEL P. HIGGINS,
 FREDERIC CHARLES HIRONS
Northern California Chapter - - JOHN B. MCCOOL
Philadelphia Chapter - - - - - W. MARSHALL HUGHES
Pittsburgh Chapter - - - - - BERNARD H. PRACK
Rhode Island Chapter - - - - - ORESTO DI SAIA
Southern California Chapter - - WILLIAM H. KRAEMER, SAMUEL EUGENE LUNDEN

You are invited, as directed by the By-laws, to send privileged communications before September 30, 1931, on the eligibility of the candidates for the information and guidance of the members of the Board of Directors in their final ballot. No applicant will be finally passed upon should any Chapter request, within the thirty-day period, an extension of time for purpose of investigation.

FRANK C. BALDWIN,
 Secretary.

Awards at Twelfth International Congress of Architects

By GEORGE OAKLEY TOTTEN, JR., A. I. A.
Secretary, American Section

THERE was a very interesting international Architectural Exhibition held in connection with the XIIth International Congress of Architects held last September in Budapest.

The exhibit of Germany was almost entirely in the Modern style while that of Italy was largely of the Classic style. Perhaps the most admired exhibit was from Sweden.

The American exhibit consisted of the A. I. A. exhibits that had been sent to the exhibition at Seville and photos of high buildings and plans, photos of models, and elevation drawings showing the future development of Washington, collected by the American section of the Congress.

The Exhibit was extremely creditable and the Exhibition Committee awarded honorable mentions as follows:

Honorable Mention

Awarded at the Budapest Exposition and Congress

Arthur L. Harmon
John M. Howells

B. W. Morris
William Van Alen
Corbett, Harrison and MacMurray
Cram and Ferguson
Delano and Aldrich
Holabird and Root
Raymond M. Hood and Gordon Jaeves
Raymond M. Hood and John M. Howells
Robert D. Kohn and Charles Butler and Clarence S. Stein
Maginnis and Walsh
McKim, Mead and White
Mayers, Murray and Phillip
Schultze and Weaver
Voorhees, Gmelin and Walker
Zantzinger, Borie and Medary
Sugarman and Berger
Tilden, Register and Pepper
J. R. Miller and T. L. Pfueger

Termites and Fungi—Bulletins

Editor's Note:—This list is a follow through on the articles which appeared in the March and June numbers of THE OCTAGON. There were many requests for reprints and for more detailed information. The reprints were furnished and references to other papers and bulletins appear below. It is thought that the termites and fungi have now received sufficient attention.

**Preventing Damage by Termites or White Ants*—T. E. Snyder, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1472, June, 1930.

This bulletin describes the habits and activities of subterranean and non-subterranean termites and sets forth in detail the precautions to be taken against them and the remedies available for damage which they have inflicted, and covers not only damage to wood as building material, but also covers damage to living trees, field crops, nursery stock, flowers, etc.

**Termites in Buildings*—T. E. Snyder, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Leaflet No. 31.

This bulletin of June, 1929, tells how to find out if termites are in a building before they have done much damage; how to build a house so they cannot get in and how to get them out and keep them out if they are already in.

**Protection of Log Cabins, Rustic Work and Unseasoned Wood from Injurious Insects*—R. A. St. George, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1582, July, 1929.

This bulletin tells how insect damage, particu-

larly by other insects than termites, may be prevented or checked by cutting trees at certain seasons and by treating the wood with preventative and remedial substances.

**The Preservation Treatment of Farm Timbers*—George M. Hunt, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Farmers' Bulletin No. 744, September, 1916; Revised December, 1928.

This bulletin covers preservation treatment to avoid damage to building timbers, poles and posts by fungi—especially on farms at a distance from wood-preserving plants.

**Defects in Timber Caused by Insects*—T. E. Snyder, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bulletin No. 1490, July, 1927.

This bulletin covers damage in timber caused by various insects other than termites.

* These Bulletins may be obtained without cost from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. as long as its supply lasts. They may also be obtained now as well as after the Department's supply is exhausted, from The Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at a nominal cost.

Unification of the Architectural Profession

Editorial from the Seattle Journal of Commerce

FOR THE GOOD OF ARCHITECTURE

THOSE earnest men, members of The American Institute of Architects and of the various State Societies of Architects, who are striving to complete a program in accordance with which their profession may be elevated to its rightful plane in present-day civilization, are to be thanked for their work. The plan to unite all members of the profession in a constructive move to advance architecture will prove of as great benefit to the general public as to the architects participating. Anything that benefits the profession of architecture benefits the public.

The work of the architect is enduring; more so than that of members of most other professions. Of late years, in our trend toward commercialism, architecture has suffered. Too little thought has been given much of our building work. Eye-catching knick-knacks, standardized and lacking individuality, have been foisted on the public to meet inherent demand for beauty of design. Such ginger-bread junk apparently sufficed for a time, but, like jazz, it has grown monotonous, tiresome and costly.

At present there is a national movement under way to unite all members of the profession in a great work to place architecture in its "place in the sun." Architects have not been sufficiently united in the past, and as a result their profession has been preyed upon by business vultures and financial pirates with no thought other than that of immediate gain at the expense of the general public. Architects have the power to demand and obtain proper recognition. United the members of the profession, by striving for that to which they are rightfully entitled, can boost architecture to its enduring niche in the wall of civilization. Without such unification it can be only a question of time until one of the oldest and greatest of professions becomes the prey of all manner of unscrupulous "gyps" to the lasting detriment of the people of America.



