

THE  
OCTAGON

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*A Journal of The American Institute of Architects*

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*The Washington Scene*  
*Address of General Henry C. Newton*  
*Tributes—Past-President and Past-Secretary*  
*Minutes—Chapter Presidents' Meeting*  
*Committee on Post-War Reconstruction*  
*Exhibits of City Planning at Cincinnati*  
*The Department of Technical Services*  
*Handbook of Architectural Practice*  
*New Members*

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# THE OCTAGON

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## The Washington Scene

BY D. K. ESTE FISHER, JR.

*Washington Representative, A.I.A.*

**BRIGADIER GENERAL** Henry C. Newton, U. S. A., (A.I.A., Southern California Chapter), now commanding one of the "combat commands" of the 12th Armored Division, addressed the Annual Meeting in Cincinnati following the address by Colonel Urquhart representing the Corps of Engineers, U.S.A., and the statement by the Washington Representative, A.I.A. His remarks were of such grace, force and timeliness that his audience was stirred to enthusiastic applause throughout. Much of his address referred to military matters as background and illustration, and were considered "off the record." The following excerpts contain the solid "meat" of his comments, which we are gratified to be able to present to the profession through this medium.

### EXCERPTS FROM ADDRESS OF BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY C. NEWTON THE 75TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INSTITUTE—MAY 26, 1943

**GENERAL NEWTON:** Mr. Chairman, The President of The Institute, Gentlemen of The Institute, and Ladies who are present:

\* \* \*

The reason I was concerned with speaking late in the program is because I would rather shoot than be shot at!

\* \* \*

I can't discuss very thoroughly or very completely just what the architects have been doing for the past three years; obviously I have not been very close to the profession during that time. One reason I went into the Armored Force was because I wanted to play a part in the designing of a new arm and architects have played a part in designing new arms, which actually, perhaps some of the gentlemen in Washington do not know, because they are not interested in our background, but are only

interested in our military efficiency. Personally I know several architects in the Armored Force—two of them quite well—officers of company and field grade, who through the very training they have had as architects are in a splendid position, and are doing a fine job. They are not in construction—they are in the combat units of our Armored Divisions. I feel that architectural education, the background of vision and the type of planning which we are trained to utilize, create the type of thinking that the Army can utilize in *all* of its services and *all* of its arms. (*Applause*).

One of the greatest problems we have in the Army today—advance planning—vision on the part of our officer personnel—and I speak from intimate knowledge as commandant of a school, where I have trained officers from all ranks; second lieutenants just entered the service, to colonels of the regular army with twenty-eight years of service behind them

—all coming for the first time to the Armored Force. We have had to indoctrinate these officers with the tactics and techniques of armored operation. I watched many of these officers—some with years of service—and I have often thought—if they just had a little more *vision*, if they could just grasp a plan and see an idea develop from it—that's the type of training which we architects have, and that's the type of training which the country as a whole needs more of.

\* \* \*

Now as I said a moment ago, I cannot discuss this subject of today—the architect and his present activity. I am going to discuss post-war planning which is the problem that you gentlemen are going to hear tomorrow, but I cannot be with you when that discussion takes place.

\* \* \*

I wish to present one phase of our post-war problem which I have not noted in the statements of any of our educators or any of the reports of our Chambers of Commerce, or any of our great organizations which are beginning to look into the post-war era. I refer to the problem of war casualties—the problem of rehabilitation of those men who return to these United States, like wreckage cast upon the shore. We will have that problem. That problem was severe following World War I. Following World War II, gentlemen, it is going to be a problem that you can't even conceive of.

This must include the problem of education—as we find it in the Army today. At Fort Knox we ran special training companies which never had less than five hundred students, young men, practically all American born. We were teaching those men *the first principles of reading and writing*. They were not foreigners in any sense of the word. Many of them were fine, upstanding American youths from 18 to 25 years of age who had not had any of the educational advantages enjoyed in our large cities; their environment precluded their taking part or receiving a sound, basic education.

I remember how startled I was one time when directing fire from a large control tower. The telephone operator had been on duty with me for about five hours. I called down to send up another operator. They sent a young man, about twenty-five years of age and I said, "Take the telephone." He looked at me and said, "Sir, I have never talked

over a telephone in my life." I found in the battalion seventy-three instances of men who had never used a telephone, in this age of progress and development in these United States.

It is pitiful, gentlemen, when during a test of certain units conducted a few weeks ago, I had to detail young officers to read questions to enlisted men in a combat division of the United States Army because those men themselves could not read.

\* \* \*

I am now going to discuss the post-war architect—to hold a mirror up to our profession. I will be critical, gentlemen. I practiced for nearly twenty years. I have been a member of The Institute for many years, active in Chapter affairs, and I have seen our problem grow and keep on growing in our professional work. I am going to consider that problem under the following headings: education; what we choose to call the aesthetic phases of architecture; lack of publicity and public recognition; and lack of professional leadership.

Now, you have many architects who are experts in the field of architectural education. A great number of these are in this convention today. I can only say, as has been indicated by your Washington Representative, Mr. Fisher, that our architectural education must have more meat to it from the standpoint of equipping a young man for the vicissitudes that he is going to encounter when he steps out of a university into an architect's office.

Many of our young men come out of our colleges and we know from experience (I have employed them every year from the University of Southern California) that they are of no practical value to us in our office organization at that time. Many of them have worked during the summers, worked their way through school; *those* lads have a certain amount of practical background. They can step into our offices in minor positions, and their architectural education quickly develops them and they step beyond the men who have not had the higher education. Something must be done so that the general product of our architectural training is a young man who can step in and assume at least some of the minor responsibilities in connection with the practice of architecture, in connection with the production in his office. I feel that all these young men should have courses in business administration, so that they will have some idea of the *business*

of architecture and not purely architecture in its aesthetic phases.

I think that our college students should have a certain amount of training in public speaking and debating. If any man has to be an expert at debating it is an architect. He spends half of the day with material men and the other half of the day with his client, and he needs a course of debating to take it as they throw it at him and have a quick and ready answer. And besides, nothing gives a man more poise than training in public speaking and debating. It is an essential for any type of leadership.

In our profession it seems at times that we have to reach out and try to find *someone* in our chapter who can appear before this or that group and present a problem in a sound, logical manner, in such a way as can be easily understood, and as will leave a fine impression on the listening audience. That takes training. I have talked to young men going to the university and have always stressed that point with them; a number of them have taken that advice. But, of course, debating in college is hard work and when they are pressed practically to their limits to qualify as they go through their college course, debating becomes a matter of secondary consideration. They go out and work in an office for three or four years and find they have lost their power of presentation. When they go before building committees and groups of men, they feel at a loss, at times, for words to express themselves adequately, although they are fundamentally sound of training.

I believe, also, that the education of the young man who graduates from our architectural schools begins really after he graduates, and that is where *we* must play a part. It is just like the young man who graduates from the United States Military Academy or from the Officers Training Schools of the Army—second lieutenants. I tell them they are Uncle Sam's problem children, and they are, because they think they know a lot they don't know. It is our problem to take them in hand, bring them down to earth, and lead them along their military careers, guide them and not wait until they get into difficulties and then jump on them with both feet.

That's the same problem the profession faces in taking these young men from the accredited schools into our offices, to continue their training and not just let them flounder around until eventually some

of them will go out and get certificates to practice architecture, (or in some states without certificates, if the laws are somewhat lax—I am not familiar with them). They'll find a rich aunt with a fifteen thousand dollar house to do, and what have you? In forty-eight hours you have a competitor out there trying to compete with you. How well is he equipped for the business of architecture?

That's a criticism I have no answer for, except to *do* something to train these men, and if they wish to practice architecture, for God's sake, give them something to stand on so they will be more of a credit than some of these youngsters have been.

\* \* \*

Now, considering the aesthetic phases of architecture, I feel to a very great degree that we architects are a product, in a sense, of our own environment, and we are so satiated with the idea that we are the self-ordained custodians of the culture of America that we find, at times, our heads are just a little in the clouds. We are becoming so rapidly a group of idealists that we are losing sight of our primary function as builders. We hesitate, for instance, to give attention to such prosaic problems as space-saving industrial design, and the careful and detailed analyses of building costs. There stands utility on the one hand and what Friedrich Von Schelling in one of his books called "frozen music" on the other. While occupying this pinnacle (which, incidentally, no one admits but ourselves) we are so submerged in the business of maintaining our professional prestige that at times even making a living becomes a matter of secondary consideration.

Another trouble, in this same vein, is that we have created a group of what I call "untouchables"—men who figuratively hesitate to dirty their hands with the essential architecture which, to the American people, means simplicity coupled with definite economy. We are trying to educate a people who are fundamentally not appreciative of art. We are trying to force an appreciation of fine arts down the throats of 130 millions of people, of whom only a few really appreciate fine art in all of its phases and know just exactly what it means.

Now on that issue, go back in your own minds rather carefully and examine your own conscience. Go back to your own practice of years ago, when perhaps you were fortunate enough to receive a commission to do some four or five hundred thousand

dollar estate and you worked on it for a year or so, and it was beautifully executed, beautifully done.

Let's think of that from the standpoint of the client. Did the client appreciate the beauty? She may have appreciated the grandeur, its scale, its magnificent sweep, its thoroughly equipped kitchen and all the appurtenances thereto, the marble stairs, the boudoir, the mechanical functions which she thoroughly enjoyed and understood from the standpoint of her house . . . but, gentlemen, would she not have appreciated all those things just as thoroughly had they been the product of a well-organized building concern, or some bureau furnishing some phase of socialistic planning service, *as we may have* in the next fifteen or twenty years? Perhaps the facade would not have been just as beautiful. There might have been a combination of Georgian with a Mediterranean influence, but she would not have known it. In ninety-five percent of the instances when she stood there and expressed appreciation of the stair hall to some guest, she would be expressing not what she thought but what she heard you express when you were appreciating your own work.

\* \* \*

Think back in your own minds of similar situations. You gentlemen have worked in the realm of ecclesiastical architecture. How many building committees have worried about anything else but the cost of the building and the seating capacity and how you're going to heat it? They have been hopeful that the tower of your church should be higher than the tower of the Episcopal structure across the square, and the apse more scintillating than the Catholic church three blocks away. That was their primary consideration; and that you did not exceed the budget; and that all their friends had a crack at the job!

When that church was dedicated—and I personally have built a great number of churches and sat there during the ceremony and have looked around that group of people, enthusiastic about that building—I knew in my own heart that if any more than my own staff knew whether it was Spanish Renaissance or Italian Romanesque, I would be surprised. You know that condition exists.

Clients, building committees of our churches are not found in the uneducated ten percent I mentioned, but they are in the upper strata of society,

and if they haven't any appreciation for the fine arts, I ask you, how are thirty-five hundred architects going to convince the millions? Don't give it up! We are going to fight for it, we are going to preserve that culture, but let's preserve it in such a way that it will not be at our expense!

*(Here General Newton quoted at length from the April 1943 "OCTAGON")*

That criticism which I quoted was rather frank on the part of a gentleman, I believe, from the great State of Texas. I believe that is sound; but I also believe that there can be a balance between the aesthetic side and what he calls a "cold practical business side." We can still preserve architecture as a fine art, stress the business and the economic factors involved, and be subtle enough to take care of the aesthetic phases of our design. I offer that to you for your consideration. *(Applause)*.

I feel that we as architects—and I still call myself an architect—must pull ourselves away from a land of make-believe. The day of Alice-in-Wonderland for this profession is over. We must build ourselves down to earth and speak again in terms that can be well understood by the non-cultural laity. The architect has to make himself felt as a great influence for intelligent and practical planning, for sound construction, and the utility of his structure, and he must be trained to the point where he can consider all phases of that problem in conference with his client.

There has been a reference made to a comment by General Tom Robins, Chief of the Construction Division, Corps of Engineers, that the whole background of training of architects appears to produce men of less tough fiber, less able to cope with the rough and ready type of construction than does the training and background of the engineer. Now, that is a true statement on the part of General Robins. Remember, I am considering architects. The Army cannot differentiate; an architect is an architect. They cannot say a third are acceptable and the other two-thirds are not.

The profession is faced with that attitude. We have got to overcome that misconception and we can't do it, as Mr. Fisher says, by publicity alone (although I feel some of it can be accomplished by publicity) but it has to be overcome before we can even think of participating in what we call post-

war planning. If it is not overcome, gentlemen, post-war planning is going to be a political football in these United States.

Let's think for a moment on this expression of General Robins. Whether it is sound or not, I agree with him in many instances; I agree with him through contact and working with a great number of architects. The architect has, throughout the years, served his clients and, in fifty percent of the instances, we'll say, served his clients well. I am saying "the architect." That means the young man who is first starting in his professional practice, doing his first little string of cottages, on up through the large firm that will not undertake a contract unless it is a half million dollars. They are all architects; they are all tarred by the same brush. What the inexperienced does to the discredit of the profession reflects on the entire profession. So I say fifty percent of the architects have served their clients well and in a thoroughly satisfactory manner, but I know many instances where architects have rendered hopelessly inadequate services to their clients and in some instances those men have been members of The American Institute of Architects. The trouble is that the architectural clientele whom we serve probably represents only one percent of the population of the United States. When we hurt that one percent, we have hurt the profession.

Then we have the architect of that so-called *prima donna* type—a man who is so opinionated—(you have them; go through the ranks of our chapters)—a man who is so stubborn, so sufficient unto himself, that he attempts to crowd his ideas down the throat of a client to the point where he reflects discredit on the profession. You must remember, that the business and professional relationship is remembered for years after the project is completed; what stays in the mind of the client who has very little appreciation for architecture is the relationship he had with his architect. The architect's client is an individual who makes a *one-time purchase*. The product does not wear out in eighteen or twenty-four months, like a set of automobile tires. The impression which has been created in the mind of that client by incompetent service on the part of the architect stays with him. If he builds again, *many times* he is a client who does not employ an architect; and if he never builds again he still has his first and only experience upon which he formulates in his own mind his

opinion of the profession of architecture. *We have that to overcome.*

Let's consider publicity and public recognition.

In the aesthetic treatment, I might summarize briefly; save it, preserve it, but don't publicize it. Let it be its own greatest publicity.

Of course, when I start to speak of publicity, I know that some of you gentlemen will figuratively throw up your hands in horror because you do not believe in publicity. At one time I did not believe in publicity for the architectural profession. I had to work out my practice, in devious ways of getting publicity and it was very difficult. The profession has lost a great deal because it has had that attitude on publicity. We are a profession, true. Some of you feel that we do not need publicity; that we will lose our prestige if we attempt any type of publicity.

I feel such an attitude indicates a lack of progressive thinking, and it is that attitude on publicity alone which has been one of the factors which has contributed most to the dilemma in which the architect finds himself, right here in 1943. We like to think of this profession as a profession; we glory in it; we are proud of it. It is, if you please, an art; we all agree on that. But, gentlemen, architecture is a business. It is far more of a business than the medical profession, or the legal profession. After all, architecture can briefly be defined as a business of building well. That architecture *is business* will have to be conceded before we can think very much in the terms of publicity.

Now, most of the publicity which we have had has been tendered my manufacturing firms in their advertising, by The Producers' Council through their cooperation, and by architects themselves in publicity incidental to their own work. That's not the type of publicity I have reference to. I have particular reference to a highly organized publicity campaign, directed by a capable advertising firm, to place the architects before the people of the United States, as sound, practical business men, thoroughly equipped to handle any type of building construction with a maximum of economy and a minimum of cost.

That is where I, in publicity, would want to stop. Place the architect on the pinnacle as a master-builder. Let the aesthetic phase take care of itself. As I said before, we'll preserve the art of architecture, but we'll not publicize it—it will

speak for itself—even to a people who do not recognize its language.

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Now, another solution for this question of publicity is by *contact*. Here we are quite shy. I think we as a profession *are* a little shy. (I don't, of course, think you gentlemen here are shy—I sat with The Board for nearly two hours. I was tremendously impressed by the alert, keen minds around that table last night. That is not eye-wash in any sense of the word; you represent the cream of the profession.) What did you leave behind you when you left your chapters. Contacts! Become active in your Chambers of Commerce, and don't serve only on the construction industry committee and the Art Jury. Serve on the committee on taxes, serve on the naval and military affairs committee, serve on the committee that is analyzing the progress of industry in your community. Serve where you can be with the business men of your communities. (*Applause*). Rub elbows and work with those men because those men have their fingertips on the pulse of community development far more than have we as a profession. Those are the men we have to know. Those are the men that have to know what we can do. Gentlemen, if you want entree in the major cities, you don't go to the architect to get it; you go to the successful business man, because he "knows the ropes."

Let's make that contact in the Rotary Club, the Kiwanis Club, the Lions Club, and many such similar organizations. Do you realize the influence they wield throughout America today? I was active in a great number of those clubs in Los Angeles. I even became president of one. Dave Witmer called me one day and said, "Why don't you become as active in your Chapter as you are in this club?" I said, "Well, after all, I meet the architects in the chapter once a month; I want to meet the business men of my community every week." That was the answer I gave him. And, gentlemen, if you want to put this down to the basis of dollars and cents—I can trace directly to one club, in three years, one and one-half million dollars worth of work through the friendships I made, the confidences which I created and the contacts which were presented to me in that organization. You can do the same thing.

What do you do? You go to the luncheon with your brother architects, the dinner once a month and,

if you belong, to a luncheon club (probably very few belong; the architect is conspicuous by his absence, and when there contributes very little to the organization). Look at the active rosters of those clubs and you find them crowded with physicians, insurance men, automobile dealers, bankers, business men. They are business men, and after all, your clients are business men; they are not architects. We can wield a great influence in this field of activity. It takes time and it takes energy. *There* are two possible sources for publicity and for public recognition.

I am going to say a few words about leadership. I am going to quote a part of a report of my Southern California Chapter—no reflection at all upon the president; the thought is what I am after. "As a profession we are trained planners, with a broad cultural background. We know how to coordinate work of the allied professions and of the many trades of the building industry. We consider ourselves as well equipped for this job, post-war planning, as any other group . . ."

You note—"we know how to coordinate the work" . . . "we consider ourselves well-equipped." *We do. We are. But we alone know it.* That, gentlemen, is the problem. We alone know it. That sentiment is not enjoyed by the business men of our communities, by the men who control the municipal and state governments in which we live. You know that.

To continue. ". . . We realize it is a complex problem—post-war planning—requiring the best brains of our communities, including educators, political scientists, economists, social welfare specialists, realtors, bankers, engineers and architects. . . . It is our purpose to apply ourselves to this problem and to give . . . leadership to this program as might be to the best interest of the community of which we are a part."

The writer quoted took in the entire field; he included educators, political scientists, economists, social welfare specialists, realtors, bankers and engineers. I heartily agree with that statement so far as the Southern California Chapter is concerned, but ask yourself frankly—is the architect the type of an individual who can give the necessary leadership to such a movement? Granted he should. But is he? Has he those characteristics of leadership which must predominate if he is to lead? If he leads, the profession will benefit, but if he is just a member of



the community, following along, the profession will suffer.

Analyze the leadership and analyze the membership of your own chapter. The men here are the leaders of the profession. The men who are probably presidents and officers of the chapters, say in half the instances, are the real leaders. Analyze the other fifty or seventy-five percent of the chapter membership; are they leaders? They may be able designers, reasonably industrious in the services of their clients, but are they leaders? Have they the characteristics, energy, initiative and that far-seeing, purposeful existence that mark men as leaders? Most of the men of our profession are in every sense of the word, cultured gentlemen; too many are of a retiring nature, and are more interested in spending their free hours in further reading, in personal development, than they are in engaging in committee activities or in fields other than their profession where their personality can be really felt.

Think that point over among yourselves. We have a tremendous problem—this question of leadership. As I see it now, the profession will not be able to justify its right to leadership in the field of post-war planning because the profession does not include sufficient members who are thoroughly trained first as architects; men who are trained as sound economists; and men who have had sufficient, broad business training to demonstrate their ability to lead the field of a great, broad public service. We have a few, gentlemen, but we *do not* have sufficient.

Let's analyze this question of leadership.

• • •

Leaders can be trained, and leaders can best be trained by giving them responsibility. Give the young men of your chapters responsibility; put them on the committees, whether they want to serve or not; force them to produce; they'll thank you ten years later when you have developed these men to step into the place you occupy and carry the torch of fine architecture. They don't grow on trees. You've got to train them as leaders. Leadership is leadership, regardless of where you look for it.

There are certain fundamentals of leadership. I will give them briefly to illustrate: Loyalty, initiative, intelligence and courage. Those are the fundamentals of leadership and they are just as fundamental in business as they are in the armed services of these United States in time of war.

Let's analyze those from the standpoint of our profession. Loyalty first. Loyalty to the profession which we represent. Loyalty to its principles and loyalty to its code of ethics: and that precludes the possibility of writing your own orders and actions in between the lines. Loyalty to your brother architects in the profession; and that type of loyalty precludes the vicious criticism which architects at times heap on each other's shoulders in every part of the United States, particularly when one has lost a nice fat job to some competitor. Now, how many times have you ever heard your physician criticize another physician? How many times have you ever heard a lawyer criticize the reputation of another attorney?

We need a greater discipline among the members of our chapters. Think of the discipline of the medical and legal professions over their membership. We have that discipline but seldom do we use it. We know many instances where men of the profession should be disciplined and yet we do not discipline them. That loyalty has to be built into our membership as one of the initial characteristics of leadership.

And then we need men of initiative—for leadership without ardor is a cause lost. Ardor is nothing more than initiative, and initiative is essential for the accomplishment of any objective. It is that spark plug that takes men out of the doldrums of their existence and puts them before the people. That is what we have to have as a basic element of this profession. Initiative to plan, to forecast conditions; initiative to anticipate, and then the energy to carry out what we find requires our action.

Intelligence, of course; perhaps we should put intelligence first. It is a real obligation of every architect, to be thoroughly equipped to serve his client intelligently from the standpoint of a designer, a builder, a manager of business, and a business man in every sense of the word. We are dealing with business men. We must be business men ourselves. There is an obligation which we owe to the public, if we are going to continue to occupy this pinnacle whereon we place ourselves as the custodians of the culture of these United States. We owe it to the public to be familiar with every field in which we place ourselves as authorities. We ought to strive for the goal of a hundred percent perfection.

• • •

Then, gentlemen, we have to have a little knowl-

edge of human nature; handling our clients. That in itself is an art. You know where you want to make a change and you plant the idea in the mind of the client and the next week you hear it as *her* idea. Just a little judgment, and the ability to "win friends and influence people."

We need a lot of courage. We need that type of courage which is decisive; that type of courage which means positiveness in character, because we have so much for which we are responsible; courage for the major decisions we have to make in our practice, and many times we must make minor decisions without our clients; we have to have the courage to make them. It is so easy to say yes, yes; but it is so hard to say no. Courage is that type of thing. Great occasions do not make heroes nor do they make cowards. They simply unveil them to the eyes of men, somewhat silently and imperceptibly; as we wake or as we sleep we grow stronger or we grow weaker, and at last some crisis in our lives comes and shows us what we have become.

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I feel we have reached a critical place in our professional existence as architects, and it is time we assert ourselves through the media which I have mentioned—more publicity, more public activity; make the nation as a whole more conscious of our

function and give to the profession through all its ranks the type of leadership it takes to justify the position we feel we should occupy in the post-war era. The problem we are facing today as a profession is a serious problem, but compared with the problem which we face as a nation it is dwarfed into insignificance. Your armed forces are well capable of safe-guarding the nation in the strenuous years ahead. I only wish the great mass of our people were equally prepared to solve the problems of the post-war era.

We as a united people, the people of these United States, must have the intellectual ability to perceive our duty, individually and collectively, and then perceiving it, have the courage to carry it out. It is a rather high idealism. Without a fine leadership, without somewhat of a systematic concept of life, it would not be possible for us to rise above feebleness and discouragement which will face us in the post-war era. Great sacrifices are demanded of us all and these sacrifices are not reserved especially for your armed forces. They are the sacrifices of the great mass of our people. They are demanded now, and they will be demanded to the end, and we have to accept these sacrifices willingly, because so much hangs in the balance. And with that spirit, we as a united people face the future unafraid.

(*There was applause and the delegates arose*).

## Bills in the 78th Congress

THE following action has been taken on bills and resolutions listed in the February, March and May OCTAGONS (none listed in April or June):

(S. 37)—H.R. 647

For a George Washington Carver Memorial. Reported 6/4/43; amended and passed Senate 6/15/43; reconsidered and postponed: H.R. 647 substituted and passed 6/18/43. Sent to the President 7/7/43.

S. 607

To establish an office of War Mobilization. Reported and debated 5/29/43. (No conclusion).

S. 755

(Not important to A.I.A.)

S. 953

To establish an Urban Redevelopment Agency, etc. Reference changed to *Committee on Education and Labor*.

S.J.Res. 16

For hospital in Newfoundland. Reported 5/13/43. Passed Senate 5/26/43. Referred to House Committee on Naval Affairs. (H.J.Res. 118 abandoned) 6/21/43.

H.R. 1762

Independent Offices Appropriation (including National Resources Planning Board. After debates in House and Senate and conferences between them (5/27/43 to 6/18/43) this Bill was presented to the President 6/23/43. N.R.P.B. abolished. Public Law No. 90.

## H.R. 1936

For expansion of facilities for hospitalization of dependents of Naval and Marine Corps personnel. House agreed to Senate amendment 5/5/43. Approved 5/13/43. Public Law No. 51.

The following new bills and resolutions have been introduced (as of July 14, 1943) and action taken as noted: (The Congress is in recess until September)

## In the Senate

*Committee on Agriculture and Forestry*

S. 1167. For the establishment and maintenance of forest products pilot plants, etc. 6/7/43. Mr. Holman (Oregon)

*Committee on Banking and Currency*

S. 1163. "Neighborhood Development Act" 6/4/43. (Sponsored by Urban Land Institute). Mr. Wagner (New York)

*Committee on Education and Labor*

S. 1109. To increase by \$400,000,000 the amount authorized to be appropriated for defense housing under the Act of October 14, 1940, as amended, etc., (the "Lanham Act") 5/14/43. (See also H.R. 2975). Reported 6/18/43. Passed Senate 6/27/43. House amendment (*increasing only by \$300,000,000*; also providing for removal of temporary housing) agreed to 7/1/43. Approved 7/7/43. Public Law No. 119. Mr. Thomas (Utah)

S. 1137. To provide for post-war planning, etc. "Federal Aid Planning Act of 1943" 5/27/43. (See also H.R. 2783, companion) Mr. Thomas (Utah)

*Committee on Military Affairs*

S. 1268. To facilitate termination of war contracts 6/24/43. Mr. Murray (Montana)

*Committee on Naval Affairs*

S. 1166. For an additional Naval Academy on Puget Sound 6/7/43. Mr. Bone (Washington)

*Committee on Public Lands and Surveys*

S. 1243. For construction and operation of demonstration plants to produce synthetic liquid fuels from coals, etc. 6/18/43. Mr. O'Mahoney (Wyoming)

## In the House of Representatives

*Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds*

H.R. 2762. To assist state and local agencies to complete certain projects of the W.P.A. 5/21/43. Mr. Gathings (Arkansas)

H.R. 2821. To amend the Act . . . of October 14, 1940 (the "Lanham Act"), requiring removal of all frame structures after the present emergency 5/27/43. Mr. Crawford (Michigan)

H.R. 2891. For the erection of a public building at Freeport, Bragoria Co., Texas 6/7/43. Mr. Mansfield (Texas)

H.R. 2936. To authorize the appropriation of an additional \$200,000,000 to carry out the provisions of Title II of the Act . . . of October 14, 1940, as amended, etc.—(the "Lanham Act"; for public works and community facilities) 6/14/43. Reported 6/16/43. Passed House 6/21/43. Reported to Senate 6/30/43. Passed Senate 7/7/43. Sent to the President 7/7/43. Mr. Lanham (Texas)

H.R. 2975. To increase by \$300,000,000 the amount authorized to be appropriated for defense housing under the Act of October 14, 1940, as amended, etc.—(the "Lanham Act"; for living quarters) 6/16/43. Reported 6/18/43. Debated (no conclusion: S. 1109 passed) 6/30/43. (See S. 1109). Mr. Lanham (Texas)

H.R. 3140. To provide for the orderly disposition of surplus lands and buildings, etc. . . . acquired or constructed for use in the war 7/6/43. Mr. Manasco (Alabama)

*Committee on Roads*

H.R. 2798. For Federal aid to states in construction of rural post roads, etc. 6/9/43. Passed House 6/9/43. Amended and passed Senate. House agreed to amendments 7/7/43. Sent to the President 7/7/43.

Mr. Robinson  
(Utah)

negotiation of war contracts, etc. 5/12/43.

H.R. 2783. To provide for post-war planning, etc. "Federal Aid Planning Act of 1943" 5/24/43. (See also S. 1137) (substitute for H.R. 1898).

Mr. Lynch  
(New York)

H.R. 2799. For a system of super highways 5/25/43.

Mr. Snyder  
(Pennsylvania)

H.R. 3058. To provide for post-war planning, etc. (by preparation of plans necessary to facilitate inauguration of public works, etc.; authorizes to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for advances to municipalities) "Municipal Post-War Project Act of 1943" 6/28/43.

Mr. Maas  
(Minnesota)

*Committee on Ways and Means*

H.R. 2698. To repeal section 403 of the Sixth Supplemental National Defense Appropriation Act of 1942, as amended, relating to re-

Mr. Jonkman  
(Michigan)

## Inventors: Attention!

The National Inventors Council has secured the consent of the Army to the release of a list of some of the problems in which the Army is interested. A practical and effective solution of any of them will be a *real contribution to the war effort*. Actual war experience has shown the need of various devices or methods not practically available, and has also shown the need or the desirability of substitutes or alternatives for devices and methods which are already in our possession.

The present list is being released to appropriate professional societies and research organizations in order that it may be passed along to their membership. Suggestions on any of these problems should be submitted to the National Inventors Council, Room 1313, Commerce Building, Washington, D. C., and should comprise a clear description of the proposal with such sketches or drawings as may be necessary.

### Some Problems in Which the Army Is Interested

1. A method of removing the tetraethyl lead from leaded gasoline to make it usable in stoves, lanterns and small engines.

2. An inexpensive metal suitable for Quartermaster tableware; one having requisite strength, freedom from corrosion by food acids or alkalis; durability and attractiveness.

3. Suitable substitute for rubber for insulating wire; should be flexible and durable.

4. Detectors of enemy personnel who may be approaching (unseen) on jungle trails or fences or similar barriers.

5. Sonic or supersonic means or methods of signalling in the field.

6. Improved means or methods of signalling the identification of ground troops to friendly airplanes and vice versa.

7. Improved traction devices for wheeled vehicles of all types. *Note:* Present chains and other devices are cumbersome, inconvenient to apply and remove and lack sufficient traction.

8. Tracks for tractors and other motorized equipment which will operate efficiently in snow and extreme cold.

9. Better air cleaners for use on tank engines and the like; more effective than present cleaners and requiring less maintenance.

10. Methods of quick-action water-proofing for enabling vehicles to ford water several feet deep, without stalling engines.

11. Storage battery not adversely affected by very low temperatures.

12. The detector and method of locating non-metallic land mines.

13. Equipment or methods for removing land mines rapidly from mine fields without injury to equipment or personnel.

14. Methods of rust-proofing ferrous metals, which are more durable than present methods, such as bonderizing, etc.

15. Absorbents for carbon monoxide or catalysts or other means for oxidation of this gas to render it non-injurious to personnel.

16. Means of defeating darkness to permit vision at night without aid of visible reflected light. *Note:* Probably involves an apparatus to translate infra red rays to visible light.

17. Means of long distance communication outside the present scope of radio and not restricted by line-of-sight projection.

18. Searchlights which may afford ready means for spreading the beam from narrow high intensity to 15° of greatest intensity practicable.

19. A simple non-toxic process for darkening aluminum and other metals; to make them non-reflectant to light.

20. Methods of sabotage by friendly inhabitants within occupied areas.

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## Citations for Distinguished Service

THE Board of Directors of The Institute at its meeting which preceded the annual meeting of The Institute in Cincinnati adopted the two citations which follow. These citations were read at the evening session of the annual meeting of The Institute on May 27, 1943—the occasion being a dinner session made memorable by the wit and philosophy of the Toastmaster, Louis LaBeaume, F.A.I.A., of St. Louis.

The two citations were read with eloquence by H. Daland Chandler, F.A.I.A., of Boston, were received with acclaim by those present and were appropriately acknowledged by President Shreve and Secretary Ingham.

### RICHMOND HAROLD SHREVE

You have done great things for us, and we are glad.

Through your loyalty, your vigilance, your wisdom and your courage you have led The Institute from shadow to sunshine, from strength to strength, to new heights of usefulness.

You have widened our horizons, you have kindled our imagination and imbued us with your eager spirit to press forward to greater service to our profession.

The Officers, The Board and members of The Institute take a reluctant and affectionate farewell of you as President. Wherever you go you will always be with us, warm and alive in our hearts.

Ave atque vale.

### CHARLES TATTERSALL INGHAM

Secretary of The American Institute of Architects from 1934 to 1943, we, the Officers and Board of Directors and the members of The Institute, express herewith our affectionate appreciation of your selfless, wise, sympathetic and unflinching devotion to our service.

In these significant years you have guided and guarded The President and Board and never lost that happy smile or unruffled spirit. As a token of our love and high esteem we take a very real pleasure in binding you more inseparably to our hearts and to our company by giving you life membership in The Institute.

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## Minutes of Chapter Presidents' Meeting—At Cincinnati

THE annual meeting of the Chapter Presidents of the A.I.A. was held at 8:30 A.M. on Thursday, May 27, 1943, in the Conference Room of the Netherland Plaza, Cincinnati, under the Chairmanship of Samuel E. Lunden, President of the Southern California Chapter.

\* \* \*

The Purpose of Meeting as outlined by Chairman Lunden was to take up the problems encountered by the chapters of The Institute. An agenda which had

been mailed to all chapter presidents in advance was presented outlining a few chapter problems for consideration. Those present were invited to state their opinions on the problems of their respective chapters.

Irving D. Porter, President, North Texas Chapter, stated that in order to keep their meetings interesting and because of the small active membership, they had taken up the practice of holding joint meetings with the State Association. It was found to be

conducive of good fellowship and brought about a better understanding between the two groups.

Goldwin Goldsmith, Central Texas Chapter, representing S. E. Gideon, President, stated that in his chapter the problem of membership was most serious, as many members were in the service and because of the lack of architects in the region. To enliven the meetings, they have invited city officials and department heads to attend. This has been well worthwhile, in bettering public relations, and has resulted in two architects being appointed to the planning commission and another being appointed as consultant on the development of a master plan being prepared for the city.

George Caleb Wright, President, Indiana Chapter, stated that the membership had been increased 100% by a letter campaign. They divided the architects who were not chapter members into three groups:

1. Those who under normal circumstances could be considered as future members and who had not yet been invited to become members.
2. Those who needed a little selling on the A.I.A.
3. Those who would never become members.

The third group were those who were guilty of known malpractice—or those who obtained their principal livelihood from means other than that of architectural practice (such as lumber dealers, realtors). However, a fairly broad interpretation of malpractice was allowed, as they have found that many times the charge consists of rumor that has been exaggerated and is without foundation.

William G. Ward, President, Dayton Chapter—Procedure for membership drive was to send list of all registered architects to their members for checking. If unfavorable communications are received concerning certain names on list of prospective membership, the person sending in charges is called in and the matter discussed. As a result of such discussions, they have found that most of the charges have been admittedly the result of rumor and hearsay and the result is that the member agrees to withdraw his charges or, in some cases, has been overruled. Their Executive Committee has operated on the theory that it is desirable to get a man in and if the association with others does not have a salutary effect, only then do they let the person out of the chapter. In other words, the benefit of the doubt is given.

Milton B. McGinty, President, South Texas Chapter—The chapter has charged all Associate Members an additional fee to cover cost of THE OCTAGON subscription. This keeps them in touch with the national body. They also make an effort to interest the young students, and once they are members keep them busy and active in chapter affairs. A news bulletin is issued and sent to all members. The bulletin is primarily to keep those in the armed services acquainted with chapter activity, but also to let their members know what those in the service are doing. Charge is \$1.00 per year. Dues of those in service are remitted.

Milton L. Grigg, President, Virginia Chapter—They have made a strong effort to work with colleges, and have found them an excellent source of new members.

Robert R. McGoodwin, President, Philadelphia Chapter—50 new members during past year. Their chapter has taken an active part in working with the City Planning Commission. He commented upon the fact that regional A.I.A. directors are not in close enough touch with their regions due to size of regions, and felt that each state should have a director, thus forming a structure better adapted for present and future use and for closer contacts with State Associations.

Dwight H. Smith, representing President of Columbus Chapter, stated that the high dues of The A.I.A. make it impossible for many men to become members. He felt that under present circumstances that the State Association was the organization that was closer to the younger men—but that eventually this "grass roots" group will join with The Institute.

The President of The Institute, R. H. Shreve, was invited to address the group. He commented on the worthwhile effects of such group get-togethers, and emphasized that the chapters are the source of The Institute's strength. Next to the A.I.A. Board of Directors the Chapter Presidents were the group forming the backbone of the A.I.A. He urged that the chapters keep in close touch with The Board, and that correspondence be kept up, mentioning that at times only about 50% of the chapters take the time to answer communications.

He commented upon the relationship between The A.I.A. and State Associations. He stated that close affiliation between the two groups is most essential, although he firmly held that *The A.I.A. must be*

the national representative of all architects. The permanence of The A.I.A. was stressed—its endowments, The Octagon. It does not appreciably lose members even in poor times. He ended with the thought that perhaps amalgamation will best come by means of a membership spread.

Marvin Eickenroht, President, West Texas Chapter, writes "It is our opinion that the multiplicity of dues (State Society, A.I.A., license fees) discourages many otherwise eligible architects in completing their Institute membership applications. We believe that the organization structure of architectural associations should be simplified as soon as possible by merging, completely, the state societies with Institute chapters; the resultant increase in membership should make it possible to lower overall dues to the individual member, as well as simplify payment.

"We are holding regular Chapter meetings in the evenings now, at the home of one or another of our members. We find that we get a better turnout that way; in addition, it is virtually impossible to obtain a private dining room for noon meetings anywhere downtown anymore."

Eldridge T. Spencer, President, Northern California Chapter, wrote "The question of taking into the chapter as new members all reputable architects is causing us some concern. We have not been able to establish a clear-cut policy and are approaching our several cases on the basic theory that the ethics of the profession can be more easily controlled within the profession than without. In handling the individual cases we believe that a clean-cut understanding of what The Institute is and stands for, with a person to person discussion of the same is the best practical solution.

"I should like to hear what other chapters are doing to hold their membership and their attendance at regular meetings. What type of program is best received? Are non-member and non-architecture guests invited? Are joint meetings with engineering organizations, state associations and organizations of materialmen successful?"

Samuel E. Lunden, President, Southern California Chapter—In reply to Mr. Spencer, it has been our experience that a varied series of programs is best. A half hour get together with an exhibit as a background before the dinner meeting is helpful. Our exhibits have included (1) The originals of the

Pencil Points Kawneer Store front competition. (2) Local housing projects. (3) Proposed freeway system. Meetings subjects have included—War effort—Postwar planning—Civilian defense—camouflage—Speaker on Russia—Joint meeting with Producers' Council—Post Convention meeting—Education—Public relations—Civic Center Plan, a social meeting with councilmen and supervisors and ladies present to celebrate official adoption of plan.

At our post-convention meeting each delegate reported on a specific phase of the Convention. The graduates of the College of Architecture, U.S.C., presented an exhibit of "Post War Plans for Bunker Hill," and were inducted as junior associates of the Chapter with dues waived for the first year. Attendance 67—Exhibit 6:30—Dinner 7:15—Adjournment 10:40.

W. R. Greeley, President, Boston Chapter, wrote "Fifteen months ago I established in my own office, as president, a biographical index with photographs and other data in connection with every member of the Society, asking each member to fill out a questionnaire as to his avocation, hobbies and qualifications for serving in ways outside of his professional work. This has proven valuable and has helped me to place a great many men in positions for which they were fitted.

"We are holding not only regular monthly dinner meetings and monthly business meetings but in addition have for more than a year had intermediate 'No-program' luncheon meetings to promote fellowship and give a more frequent opportunity for exchange of news among the members."

Standish Meacham, President of the Cincinnati Chapter, was unanimously elected Chairman of the Chapter Presidents for the coming year.

George Caleb Wright, President of the Indiana Chapter, was unanimously elected Secretary of the Chapter Presidents for the coming year.

Several requests made following the meeting prompt the Chairman to suggest that more time be allotted to future meetings, and that The Institute be requested to schedule the meeting as a regular part of the convention program.

Respectfully submitted,

(s) SAMUEL E. LUNDEN, *Chairman*,

(s) WALTER REICHARDT, *Secretary*,

## Committee on Post-War Reconstruction

FOR THE YEAR OF WORK ENDING WITH THE 1944 ANNUAL MEETING OF  
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

### Duties

As may be issued by The Board of Directors; and to maintain the continuous cooperation of The American Institute of Architects with other national groups in the initiation of a nation-wide effort implemented by local bodies to study the problems of post-war reconstruction as may be determined to best effectuate a wise national program.

### Personnel

The following appointments have been made by President Ashton:

Walter R. MacCormack, *Chairman*  
77 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass.

Arthur C. Holden, *Vice-Chairman*  
570 Lexington Ave., New York, N. Y.

### Executive Committee

Walter R. MacCormack, *Chairman*..... Boston  
Arthur C. Holden, *Vice-Chairman*..... New York  
Frederick Bigger..... Pittsburgh  
John H. Cady..... Providence  
H. Daland Chandler..... Boston  
John Taylor Boyd, Jr..... New York  
John Ely Burchard..... Princeton  
Matthew W. Del Gaudio..... New York  
Charles T. Ingham..... Pittsburgh  
Roy F. Larson..... Philadelphia  
Charles Dana Loomis..... Baltimore  
William Stanley Parker..... Boston  
Albert C. Schweizer..... Washington  
Ralph Walker..... New York  
D. K. Este Fisher, Jr., *ex officio*..... Washington

### Sub-Committee on International Activities

Philip L. Goodwin, *Chairman*..... New York  
Leopold Arnaud..... New York  
Harold R. Sleeper..... New York  
C. C. Zantzing..... Philadelphia  
Henry R. Shepley..... Boston

### Sub-Committee on Regional Activities

#### Regional District

J. Frazer Smith, *Chairman*..... Gulf States, Memphis  
William J. Bain..... Western Mountain, Seattle

### Sub-Committee on Regional Activities—Continued.

Branson V. Gamber..... Great Lakes, Detroit  
Robert T. Jones..... Central States, Minneapolis  
Louis Justement..... Middle Atlantic, Washington  
Charles W. Killam..... New England, Cambridge  
Jerrold Loebel..... Illinois-Wisconsin, Chicago  
Marion I. Manley..... South Atlantic, Coral Gables  
Warren C. Perry..... Sierra Nevada, San Francisco  
Charles C. Platt..... New York, New York

### Sub-Committee on State Activities

Samuel E. Lunden, *Chairman*..... Los Angeles  
Thomas K. Fitz Patrick..... Houston  
James William Kideney..... Buffalo  
Angus V. McIver..... Great Falls  
C. Julian Oberwarth..... Frankfort  
C. William Palmer..... Detroit  
Buford L. Pickens..... Detroit  
Edward D. Pierre..... Indianapolis  
Walter Scott Roberts..... Owensboro  
Kenneth C. Welch..... Grand Rapids

### Sub-Committee on Chapter Activities

Frederick W. Garber, *Chairman*..... Cincinnati  
Franklin O. Adams..... Tampa  
Julian Berla..... Washington  
Harold Bush-Brown..... Atlanta  
John R. Fugard..... Chicago  
Moise H. Goldstein..... New Orleans  
George Herbert Gray..... New Haven  
Ernest A. Grunsfeld, Jr..... Chicago  
J. Byers Hays..... Cleveland  
William G. Kaelber..... Rochester  
Arthur S. Keene..... Kansas City  
Oscar T. Lang..... Minneapolis  
Joseph D. Leland..... Boston  
Sydney E. Martin..... Philadelphia  
Frederick Mathesius..... New York  
Albert Mayer..... New York  
Philip Shirley Wadsworth..... Portland  
Hart Wood..... Honolulu

### Sub-Committee on Relations with Government

Miles Lanier Colean, *Chairman*..... Washington  
Pierre Blouke..... Chicago  
Tirrell J. Ferrenz..... Washington  
Arthur B. Holmes..... Washington  
Alfred Kastner..... Washington  
Eugene Henry Klaber..... Washington  
Francis P. Sullivan..... Washington  
Howard Park Vermilya..... Washington



## COMMITTEE ON POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION—Continued

*Sub-Committee on Education and Research*

Sumner Spaulding, <i>Chairman</i> .....	Beverly Hills
Grosvenor Atterbury .....	New York
Jean Hebrard .....	Ann Arbor
Joseph Hudnut .....	Cambridge
Talmage C. Hughes .....	Detroit
Ellis F. Lawrence .....	Portland
Hugo Leipziger .....	Austin
William Lescaze .....	New York
Thomas William Mackesey .....	Ithaca
Maurice Emile Henri Rotival .....	New Haven
Eliel Saarinen .....	Cranbrook
William Wilson Wurster .....	San Francisco

*Sub-Committee, Relations with Industry and Labor*

Harry M. Michelsen, <i>Chairman</i> .....	San Francisco
Theodore Irving Coe .....	Washington

(The Chairman to select two additional members at large.)

*Sub-Committee on Relations with Planning Groups*

Frederick Bigger, <i>Chairman</i> .....	Pittsburgh
William Stanley Parker .....	Boston
Ralph Walker .....	New York

*Public Relations Advisors*

Howard Myers .....	The Architectural Forum
Kenneth Reid .....	Pencil Points
Kenneth Stowell .....	The Architectural Record

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## Exhibits of City Planning at Cincinnati

WALTER R. MACCORNACK, chairman of the Committee on Post-War Reconstruction, arranged for exhibits at the Cincinnati A.I.A. annual meeting of city planning work being done by the Cincinnati and Los Angeles City Planning Commissions, and of the work being done in the Detroit Area by J. Davidson Stephen, member of the New York Chapter of the A.I.A. and holder of the scholarship in Civic Design at Cranbrook Academy of Art 1942-1943.

The purpose of this exhibit was to demonstrate that an approach to the planning of a city must take into account an area considerably greater than the legal city limits, and to demonstrate a procedure whereby the separate communities might be examined in detail, keeping in mind their relation to the larger concept of city planning for the area.

The Detroit Area exhibit consisted of maps and population data extended to 1990 for the United States, Region 4 (NRPB), Michigan and Detroit, together with similar data for Southeastern Michigan and the Detroit Metropolitan District as de-

finied by the U. S. Census, leading to the establishment of the Detroit Area or the "Detroit Sphere of Influence." Plymouth, Michigan, was selected by Mr. Stephen as a separate community within the Detroit Sphere of Influence. Maps and population data extended to 1990 that had been prepared for Plymouth were exhibited together with photographs of two contour models; one showing the use of an "area scale" to determine the location and extent of land use in the new plan of Plymouth 1990; and the second showing a three dimensional model of the "New Center" of Plymouth.

The exhibit of the work done in the Detroit Area had another purpose; i.e., to encourage architects to go into the field of city planning. In this connection, several members of the profession who attended the A.I.A. meeting at Cincinnati expressed a desire to have this work shown at their local chapter meetings.

Inquiries may be addressed to Mr. Stephen, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

## The Department of Technical Services—Notes

BY THEODORE IRVING COE, TECHNICAL SECRETARY

### The Permeability of Masonry Walls

For several years the National Bureau of Standards, with the cooperation of other governmental agencies, has performed a most constructive service to the construction industry in conducting a comprehensive investigation to determine the water permeability of masonry walls of various types of construction and the relative merits of cement, water paints, and other waterproofings for unit-masonry walls.

Over 400 masonry wall specimens were constructed and tested and the details and results of these tests and investigations have been published in the following series of reports, copies of which may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at the prices indicated:

BMS Report 7, Water Permeability of Masonry Walls.	10¢
BMS Report 41, Effect of Heating and Cooling on the Permeability of Masonry Walls.	10¢
BMS Report 55, Effects of Wetting and Drying on the Permeability of Masonry Walls.	10¢
BMS Report 76, Effect of Outdoor Exposure on the Water Permeability of Masonry Walls.	15¢
BMS Report 82, Water Permeability of Walls Built of Masonry Units.	20¢
BMS Report 94, Water Permeability and Weathering Resistance of Stucco-Faced, Gunite-Faced, and "Knap Concrete" Walls.	10¢
BMS Report 95, Tests of Cement-Water Paints and other Waterproofings for Unit-Masonry Walls.	15¢

These reports furnish a well documented reference library on the subject of various types of masonry materials and methods of construction and their susceptibility to the penetration of moisture or their ability to provide structures free from the annoying and all too frequently damaging results of water penetration.

The investigation was planned to obtain information on the effects of the following factors on the permeability of masonry walls:

1. Thickness, bonding of units, kind of brick or hollow unit, kind of mortar, and method of filling joints.
2. Wind pressure on walls.
3. Repointing and waterproofing treatment.

All of the materials used were representative of those commonly used in building construction and bricks were selected to include a wide range in both the rate and amount of absorption.

The tests were designated as the capillarity, heavy-rain, and light-rain test.

In the "capillarity" test no pressure was applied to the exposed surface, the water penetrating under the forces of capillarity and gravity only. In the "heavy-rain" test a static air pressure of 10 lbs. per square foot was maintained against the exposed surface.

The importance of filling all joints in the laying up of masonry was demonstrated by the tests as it was evident the favorable performances of walls depended more upon the quality of workmanship than upon any other factor.

Walls of brick having the interior joints well filled with mortar usually gave excellent performances while those with poorly filled joints leaked.

The use of mortars of medium or high water retentivity, the wetting before laying of absorptive brick and the application of a parging of mortar on the back of the facing wythe materially aid in securing walls resistant to moisture penetration.

On the average, walls with a brick facing and a backing of hollow masonry units were slightly less permeable than brick walls of equal thickness when the joints were not well filled.

The performance of walls with hollow units, when the joints were well filled, was somewhat superior in the capillarity test but inferior in the heavy-rain test to that for otherwise similar all-brick walls.

The performance of walls of structural clay tile faced with portland cement stucco was somewhat better than the average for the walls of brick.

The filling of openings in the joints with mortar, grout, or wax was effective in stopping leakage.

A series of tests was made on 131 highly permeable masonry wall specimens constructed of brick or concrete blocks and treated with cement-water paint or with other waterproofing.

The effectiveness of the treatments was measured by comparing the permeability of the walls, before and after treatment, under conditions simulating

wind-driven rain. The durability of certain treatments was observed by again testing the specimens after outdoor weathering.

Two coats of cement-water paint were found highly resistant to water penetration and more effective than emulsified resin or oil base paints.

Coatings applied to dry highly-absorptive walls were more permeable than those applied to similar backings that were damp when painted.

Cement-water paint coatings proved effective, as waterproofing, after one or two years of exposure, although some specimens were so weather-stained their appearance might have called for repainting.

On rough-textured concrete walls cement-water coatings are most effective if applied with stiff cleaning brushes.

The admixture of fine sand in the first coat of paint applied to rough-textured units, such as cinder-concrete blocks, was highly effective.

Coatings of cement-water paint of thin consistency proved more permeable than those of medium consistency, but heavy applications of a medium consistency paint were less durable than thinner coatings of the same paint.

Colorless waterproofing treatments proved of little or no value as water-proofing when applied to walls that leaked badly. Of the colorless materials tested only one was effective and walls treated with it were highly permeable when again tested after outdoor exposure.

The only effective and durable waterproofing treatment for brick walls that did not change the appearance of the walls, was repointing or grouting of the face joints.

The bituminous coatings applied to the inside, unexposed, faces of the specimens were ineffective as waterproofings and were badly blistered after a test exposure of one day.

Brush coatings of portland cement and sand were more effective than bituminous coatings, but were not as effective as trowel coatings of sand and cement prepared with or without admixtures of powdered iron and salammoniac which proved highly resistant to water penetration.

#### American Standards

A new list of the more than 600 American Standards is now available and may be obtained upon

request to the American Standards Association, 29 West 39th Street, New York 18, N. Y.

94 represent new and revised standards approved since the publication of the previous list.

A special section refers to standards developed specifically for war production needs, as requested by the Army, Navy, WPB, OPA, and industry.

#### Simplified Practice Recommendations and Commercial Standards

The following Simplified Practice Recommendations, and Commercial Standards as issued by the U. S. Department of Commerce, through the National Bureau of Standards, are available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. (Stamps not accepted).

Simplified Practice Recommendation R8-42, Range Boilers and Expansion Tanks (Supersedes R3-29). 5¢

Simplified Practice Recommendation R191-43, School Tables. 5¢

Commercial Standard CS105-43, Mineral Wool: Loose, Granulated, or Felted Form, In Low-Temperature Installations. 5¢

#### National Bureau of Standards Circulars

The following recommendations of the Executive Committee for the American Standard Safety Code for Elevators, Dumbwaiters, and Escalators, have been issued by the National Bureau of Standards, and copies may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

Maintenance of Elevator Hoistway and Car Enclosures and Equipment, Circular of the National Bureau of Standards C443. 5¢

Maintenance of Elevator Hoisting Machines and Brakes, Circular of the National Bureau of Standards C444. 5¢

#### New Book on Plumbing

"*Plumbing Practice and Design*," Vol. 2; By Svend Plum, Wiley & Sons, Inc., N. Y., \$4.50.

Reference was made in the March, 1943 issue of THE OCTAGON to the publication of Volume 1.

Volume 2, which is now available, supplements Volume 1 in bringing together in convenient form for reference and use, definitions, standards of materials, tables of pipes, fittings, accessories, etc., with practical and technical information related to the designing and engineering phases of plumbing and drainage, water supply, sewage disposal, etc.

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## CONTENTS—THE HANDBOOK OF ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

	PAGE		PAGE
<i>Part I. Registration of Architects</i>		<i>Part V. The Letting of Contracts</i>	
Chapter 1. Registration.....	13	Chapter 24. Competitive Bidding .....	46
Chapter 2. National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.....	14	Chapter 25. Methods of Contracting for the Execution of the Work....	47
<i>Part II. The Architect and the Owner</i>		Chapter 26. Letting the Work Under One, Several, or Many Contracts....	48
Chapter 3. Various Forms of Architectural Service.....	15	Chapter 27. Laws Relating to Work Paid for from Public Funds.....	50
Chapter 4. The Selection of an Architect	16	Chapter 28. The Quantity System.....	50
Chapter 5. Methods of Paying the Architect .....	17	Chapter 29. Invitation to Submit a Proposal .....	51
Chapter 6. Agreement Between Owner and Architect .....	18	Chapter 30. Instructions to Bidders.....	51
Chapter 7. Employment of Engineers and Other Consulting Specialists..	19	Chapter 31. Form of Proposal.....	52
Chapter 8. The Architect's Status.....	19	Chapter 32. Legal Details of Agreements..	53
Chapter 9. The Owner's Duties.....	20	Chapter 33. The Standard Contract Documents of The A.I.A.....	55
<i>Part III. The Office</i>		Chapter 34. The Short Form of Contract..	61
Chapter 10. Office Organization .....	22	Chapter 35. Bonds of Suretyship.....	61
Chapter 11. The Outer Office.....	23	<i>Part VI. The Execution of the Work</i>	
Chapter 12. The Drafting Room.....	27	Chapter 36. On Notifying the Owner and the Contractor of Certain Duties .....	63
Chapter 13. The Business Office and Its System .....	31	Chapter 37. Filing of Plans.....	64
Chapter 14. Accounts of Owner and His Contractors .....	32	Chapter 38. Schedule of Detail Drawings and Schedule of Progress of the Work.....	64
Chapter 15. Cost Accounting.....	32	Chapter 39. Shop Drawings and Schedules	65
Chapter 16. An Architect's Bookkeeping ..	35	Chapter 40. Schedule of Values.....	67
<i>Part IV. Surveys, Preliminary Studies and Estimates, Working Drawings and Specifications</i>		Chapter 41. Supervision and Superintendence: Clerk of the Works.....	67
Chapter 17. The Survey, and Information to be Furnished by the Owner	39	Chapter 42. Changes in the Amount of the Contract .....	72
Chapter 18. The Survey of an Existing Building .....	40	Chapter 43. Applications for Payment.....	75
Chapter 19. Preliminary Studies and Models .....	41	Chapter 44. Certificates of Payment.....	75
Chapter 20. Preliminary Estimates .....	41	<i>Part VII. The Architect and the Law</i>	
Chapter 21. The Delivery and Acceptance of Preliminary Studies. The Ordering, Delivery, and Acceptance of Working Drawings and Specifications.....	42	Chapter 45. General Aspects of Architectural Law.....	79
Chapter 22. Working Drawings .....	43		
Chapter 23. Specifications .....	44		

	PAGE		PAGE
Chapter 46. Building Codes and Other Building Laws.....	79	<i>Part VIII. Office Records of Completed Work</i>	
Chapter 47. Various Laws Affecting Employees .....	79	Chapter 51. Basic Data and Forms of Record.....	86
Chapter 48. The Architect's Liability.....	80	<i>Part IX. The American Institute of Architects and Its Documents</i>	
Chapter 49. Mechanics' Lien Laws.....	82	Chapter 52. Documents relating to Professional Practice and Business Administration .....	91
Chapter 50. Architects' Partnership Agreements .....	83		

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