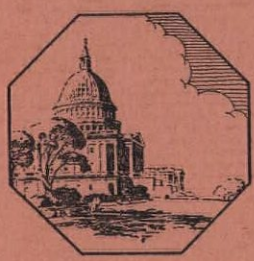


Journal of The American Institute of ARCHITECTS



November 1944

The Nation's Capital, Tomorrow

Tile for the Roosevelt Library

Unification in Pennsylvania

California Registration

More and Better Hospitals

Thoughts on War Memorials

A Debate on Nationalization of the Land

35c

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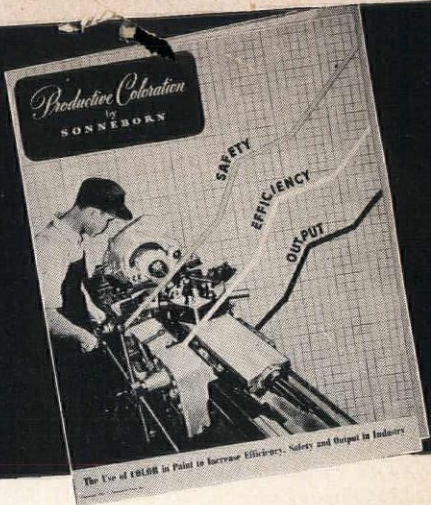
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The *Journal of The American Institute of Architects*, official organ of The Institute, is published monthly at The Octagon, 1741 New York Avenue., N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Editor: Henry H. Saylor. Subscription in the United States, its possessions and Canada, \$3 a year in advance; elsewhere, \$4 a year. Single copies 35c. Copyright, 1944, by The American Institute of Architects. Entered as second-class matter February 9, 1929, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C.

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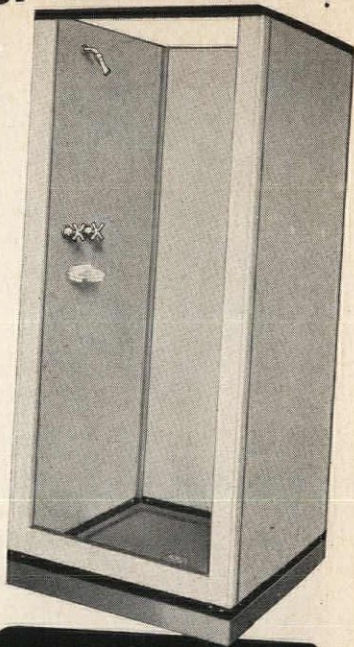
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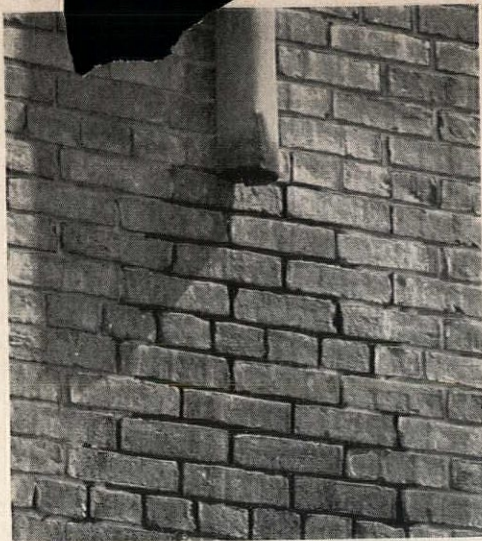


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The Nation's Capital, Tomorrow

By Gilmore D. Clarke

CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

An address before the members and guests of the Joint Committee on the National Capital, Washington, D. C., February 18, 1944.

AN eminent Justice of the New York State Court of Appeals, in a majority decision ordering the removal of a large and particularly offensive billboard erected on the approach to an important bridge across the Hudson River, wrote in part that "beauty may not be a queen, but she is not an outcast beyond the pale of protection and respect. She may at least shelter herself under the wing of safety, morality, or decency." The Commission of Fine Arts, established by Congress in 1910, has taken an active part in the development of the National Capital and formulated a continuing artistic policy ever recognizing Beauty as Queen.

As a result of the partial and even total destruction of many of the capitals of Europe, Washington now takes a place preëminent, a position which must be maintained throughout the subsequent years. It is the artistic eminence

of this City which chiefly concerns the Commission of Fine Arts, embracing as it does the design of public buildings, of parks, and of bridges, as well as the appropriate embellishment of these constituent elements with the art of the sculptor and of the painter.

During the last decade the Commission has witnessed material changes in the general character of artistic creation, particularly within the field of architecture; changes in our economic and in our social life are clearly manifest in every phase of human endeavor. Insofar as the National Capital is concerned, changes in architectural expression fortunately have been gradual for, as you are fully aware, the Commission has not sanctioned the abandonment of the classic background which was the basis for rebuilding the City in the years of its renaissance, stimulated by the Senate Park Commission in

1901. While recently we have not invited the incorporation of those details on buildings which particularly distinguish Greek and Roman monuments, we have urged adherence to beauty of form, to excellence of proportions, and to permanence of materials, all attributes of design exemplary of the art of the architecture of the past. These attributes, we believe, must continue to dominate the design of our important governmental structures as well as of certain other buildings erected as important elements in the great unfinished fabric which is Washington. In some of the finest buildings of the Capital the architects departed from a slavish adherence to details represented in classic forms but, nevertheless, followed the fundamental basic principles of design which guided the artistic leaders of the Greek and Roman Worlds and of the Renaissance. For example, no one, to my knowledge, has ever expressed the opinion that the home of the National Academy of Sciences by the late Bertram G. Goodhue, or the Folger Shakespeare Library by Paul P. Cret, are incongruous in the Washington scene. Thus, as architectural designs are simplified, we make room for rich embellishment by sculptor

and by painter and thus provide a greater distinction in our buildings, a distinction which will tend to make them wholly American in their flavor. The strict and rigid compliance with the tenets of the classical school in architecture, which have obtained altogether too long in Washington, must be abandoned in favor of a fresh approach to the problems which will confront the designers of new buildings in the future.



I wish I had time to tell you of some of the monstrosities and of ill-considered projects which the Commission of Fine Arts have prevented over a period of more than three decades. These preventive accomplishments may be said to lie buried in the files; they constitute the records of disapproval of all manner of unsuitable and inappropriate designs which, fortunately, will never be realized. Many of these grave errors would have changed materially the face of this City had they taken form in stone, in mortar, and in steel. The most notable among the recent examples of preventive action was the decision by the President of the United States, on the recommendation of the Fine Arts and Planning Com-

missions, to change the proposed site for the Pentagon Building from the location first proposed in Arlington, on the extension of the axis of the Mall west of the Potomac, to a position three-quarters of a mile South. This action prevented the construction of this huge building in an area originally designated as part of the National Cemetery and now so dedicated.



Through authority granted under the Shipstead-Luce Act, approved by Congress in 1930, the Commission of Fine Arts exerts an effective control over the design of all buildings erected on private property bordering upon certain of the public lands of the Capital, and consequently they have prevented the construction of many buildings and other structures which would have destroyed utterly the dignity of the Central Composition and of the lands bordering upon Rock Creek Park. Our methods of control at all times have been reasonable, so that to date it has not been necessary to test this Act in the Courts. Now, after fourteen years' trial, it appears that reasonable esthetic control over private building development is most likely to be

held a constitutional right of government, not only in Washington, but in other cities as well.

In the period post-War we look forward to the demolition of all temporary buildings erected for this War, as well as the so-called "temporary structures" erected along Constitution Avenue during the early days of the last conflict, to the end that Washington may once again take on an atmosphere of great dignity becoming its importance as the Capital of this Nation. We are prepared to aid the Congress in solving the inevitable problem of War Memorials, and to assist the appropriate agencies of the Government in carrying out a program of construction of public works aimed to fulfill certain needs of this City and to serve also as a means whereby many of the men of this community, now in the Armed Forces and in war industry, may find employment during a period of from 18 months to two years after the cessation of hostilities, while business and industry are being geared to take up the full burden of employment.

We shall aid in the protection of the majestic Valley of the Potomac, to beyond Great Falls, against encroachments incompatible with

the best uses of this area. Articles in the public press have indicated that plans are contemplated which, if carried out, would forever destroy the artistic integrity of the valley. Even a compromise scheme is undesirable here; we cannot build dams, no matter how well done, and at the same time continue to enjoy the beauty of this indispensable asset of the Nation's Capital. The Commission of Fine Arts took an important part in defeating the last attempt to despoil this single remaining untouched remnant of Nature's achievement in this region, and we shall continue to advocate the full protection of this

magnificent valley for enjoyment by future generations of Americans.

Finally, we shall continue to follow our policy of close collaboration with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, with the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, and with other agencies, both public and private, in an effort to promote every action aimed to protect and to enhance the beauty and the convenience of this City and its environs to the end that it may forever stand unexcelled among the capitals of the world.

Community Planning—Now and Here

By Lawrence E. Mawn

THE ARCHITECT is a bit befuddled. He wonders how it is managed. He reads in the architectural journals that it is his work. He is to play the part of community planner.

Speakers at chapter meetings enlarge on the role. Its opportunities are explored and its importance is stressed. The work is outlined in appealing text and charts and graphs. His back straightens and his eye is alight as he envisions the

giant power shovels taking their avid bites on the sites of his planned projects.

Alone—and the fervor wanes, the zeal cools. He is puzzled. What groups to join? What movements to align himself with? Or worse still, there are no groups working in his community. It is a small city of homes—modest but livable. There are no particular slum areas to be cleared out. The citizens seem satisfied with things

as they are. There is no chance or need in this town for planning. Better to think of it as a fad, passing quickly! It belongs only in the large slum-ridden city! Better to forget it! So he thinks.

Let him forget it not yet! The especial experience of a small group of architects are prescribed reading at this juncture. The simple listing of them is not intended to point up an old, pompous moral. It is not a finished tale of noble endeavors and high success. It encompasses only the start of a community planning movement. The importance of starting to plan—*now* and here—is all of it. To give heart and courage, purpose and direction to start the wavering and hesitant architect-planner is its objective. Just that.



The first facts that were disclosed to this small group were: community planning and its necessity are not new ideas to many of the people, and many groups are already at work. It seemed rather unflattering that architects had not been consulted in the first stages. There was no suspicion discernible that any help from them was needed.

The town, in the case, is a satel-

lite of a large city, has 50,000 population, almost the comfortable limit. There is a large group of war in-migrants. Future population increases seem certain.

Its kind is not uncommon. It has the grid pattern of streets; two important traffic and shopping streets skewer longitudinally through. The business district wanders desultorily down several streets till it grows tired, stops. The municipal buildings could happen to any city in the nation—and have to most. The City Hall brashly pushes its dubious classic facade out to the building line, could be a branch bank. The Municipal Court - Police Station next to it is undignified, has no architectural tie to its adjoining relative. Some of the schools are outmoded. The hodge-podge is the usual pattern, the accepted, the tolerated. What else is there?

There are no great differences in social, financial, cultural levels—no dark slums, no great wealth. The average is lower middle class. On the broad view, it was astounding to learn that this town received the highest rating, among cities of its class in the nation, on points that make for good living. So, why plan?

On the quick glance, it is not

at all the place to need or foster planning. Yet, planning was afoot. Several groups were having a go at it. The uncertain planner-architect can be certain that a similar movement is underway beyond his own hedges and lawn. Delay in action throws the control to inexperienced and unskilled hands. His disinterest or inertia now may allow this energy to be dissipated. The long-haired planners may dream it up, out of this world. The romantics may gear it down to a better-gardens drive. The hard-headed may channel it to more sales, the greater good of the few.

This group of the three resident members of the local area chapter met privately to canvass the subject, to agree upon a program—to map a campaign. After several discussions, common ground was found to be the need for a relocated and intelligently designed civic center, greater recreational areas and the development of the neighborhood community centers—shopping, recreational and cultural—about the district primary schools, of which there are nine.

The latter part of the program was informally discussed with officials of the School Board to determine its feasibility. An intelligent

and practical interest was manifested. It was then discussed with the officials of the local Chamber of Commerce. Its enthusiastic reception was encouraging. It appealed to these officials as desirable; they could sponsor and tie it in with their own planning activities.

Discussions with other public officials developed interesting results. Municipal Bureaus were building up a stockpile of after-peace jobs. There were some blank spaces which these community planning activities would fill in.

The planning movement was publicly launched by an exhibit of planning placards designed and compiled by the Museum of Modern Art of New York. Facilities for this exhibit were cheerfully provided in the City Hall. The exhibit, which constitutes a pictorial primer of planning, was loaned by the local A.I.A. Chapter.

First public meeting of the Community Planning Conference was planned for an evening three weeks after the close of the exhibit in the City Hall. The exhibit will then be shown in local high schools.

The Community Planning Conference is the name of the public organization which is being formed to foster the planning movement.

It was felt that its successful longevity depended on public backing. The group of architects remains and cooperates as the Planning Advisory Group.

Meetings of the Conference are designed and will be conducted to develop and foster generally the interest of the citizens in community planning. For the first few meetings, noted planners in the region have been invited to speak. After interest is of sufficient growth, backing will be sought for the points of the planning program as outlined in the preliminary meetings of the Planning Advisory Group. The means of attaining the goals will be outlined and a citizens' campaign inaugurated.

The make-up of the Conference will be representative of all classes and groups, in order to obtain the high success, which is indicated as not at all impossible. The Committee for Economic Development

of the Chamber of Commerce has agreed wholeheartedly and eagerly to support the movement. The support of the Parent-Teachers Association is considered as very important and is being secured. Other civic bodies will be invited to take an active part.

Surprising it is—a short space of several weeks, and steam is up, the movement is underway. The start is brightly auspicious. It is not too soon to be convinced that here is an example of action and cooperation for community planning that will be of national interest.

The very first and awkward steps are outlined here to serve as a *modus agendi*. There are no perfect campaign formulæ. No ready-cut plans can be used. The battle is half won, the work half complete, the moment it is started. The necessary and only directive is—start moving in, *now!*

Unification in Pennsylvania

By Searle H. vonStorch

PRESIDENT, PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS

UNIFICATION, the problem, which for many years has been so frequently discussed and debated, is about to be solved in Pennsylvania. The problem is about to be solved because, finally, it has been approached in the manner in which any architectural

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problem should be approached— with a clear presentation, a full recognition of the factors involved, and a complete understanding of the requirements and objectives. The solution was made simple, direct and functional.



This problem of unification came about because of the existence of two architectural groups within each of many states: The Institute, represented by its chapters, and the state associations or societies. These associations or societies came into being because The Institute, as constituted, provided no organization which could effectively serve the profession at the state level. Individually or collectively, the chapters had little recognition at state capitols. The state associations, because they were organized as such, and because they claimed larger memberships, were generally more successful in serving and protecting the practitioner, and in securing such legislation as would benefit the public at large; therefore the association became an organization to which the practitioner wished to belong.

We therefore decided first, that The Institute, because of its objectives, because of the service that it

had rendered the profession, and because of its prestige, should be the organization to serve the profession and the organization to which we, the architects, should give allegiance; second, that therefore The Institute should create or permit to be created a state unit, which could function in the manner of the present state groups, yet be completely a part of The Institute.

In analyzing the state associations, it was recognized that, generally, these associations offered membership to every registered architect—this for the purpose of impressing state legislatures or state departments. To obtain this membership, every architect was considered a member, with voting power accredited to those who paid dues. In practice here in Pennsylvania, this didn't work out, as most men obtained all the benefits at no cost and a limited few carried the burden of service and of financing the organization. Our next decision, therefore, was that this new state unit of The Institute should have only one class of membership, that with dues, and that every legally qualified architect of good character should be given the opportunity of joining, and further, that every effort should be

made to make this state unit of such benefit to the practitioner that he could hardly afford not to belong.

Having thus determined our program at the national and state levels, we considered the local bodies. These are to be component parts of the state unit. We compared the five chapter areas as against the eight state districts now existing in our association, and decided on five chapters slightly changed geographically from the present chapter areas. With this decision we completed the basic structure of the organization.

As to the details, it seemed advisable to have a single dues-collecting agency. This to be at the state level, and the treasurer of the state unit would remit, from the total dues charged, The Institute's portion directly to The Institute and a predetermined portion to the local chapter. While we fixed a single membership classification at the state level, we recommend associate or junior memberships at the local level only, for the benefit of draftsmen or student architects. The national body, in accordance with its by-laws, of course, will create any honorary or other degrees it sees fit. A decision was made to arrange our budget to

include the services of a full-time executive secretary rather than depend on voluntary services of men of whom it would be asking too much to devote the necessary time. To arrange such a budget will, of necessity, mean a sharp increase in our dues schedule. Two plans have been suggested, but no action has been taken. In the meantime, and for the first two years, we are asking pledges in denominations up to \$200 to underwrite this budget, and in this endeavor we have been quite successful.

Thought has been given to the method of handling delegates to the national convention. It is probable that we will ask The Institute to assign to the state unit the number of accredited delegates to which we are entitled on a state membership basis. These delegates would then be prorated by the state unit to the respective chapters as may be agreed upon.



At the Cincinnati Convention in 1943, The Institute Board reported to the convention regarding unification as follows: "That the ideal of unification is that The American Institute of Architects be the national organization of all qualified architects of good char-

acter in the United States, formed into state associations consisting of one or more chapters of corporate members of The Institute." Subsequently The Institute's Executive Committee defined "state associations" as meaning state chapters or units. And further, The Institute's Unification Committee, meeting at Memphis in December, 1943, recommended the adoption of their report, which included in effect, most of the things we had decided upon. On the basis of these actions, we felt that our program was complete and in accord with Institute intent and ideals.



During the year 1944, all board meetings of our association have been attended by representatives of the chapters. Complete unity has prevailed, and at these meetings it was decided to canvass all registered qualified architects of good character and invite them to membership in a new organization which, if approved by The Institute, will go into effect about January 1, 1945. The present association as now constituted will cease to exist. This new state association of The Institute will be called the Pennsylvania Association of

Architects of The A.I.A. It will be composed of five chapters, which will carry the same titles as the present Institute chapters in the state. We plan not to use the word "chapter" at the state level, although it will actually be such.

At the present writing, we are in the middle of our membership drive. We now have, in present members and new applications received or pledged, more members than the combined membership of the chapters and non-Institute men of the Association. Our goal is 80% of all registered architects in the state.

This plan seems to us the only logical solution. It is simple, direct, and functions from every angle. It provides an organization complete at national, state, and local levels, having the purposes and objectives of The Institute. It functions either from the top or from the bottom, and should simplify administration by the national body, the latter holding each state responsible for its own activities.

We believe that all of the foregoing can be accomplished without too much required revision of Institute by-laws. The Institute can, and already has, chartered many state chapters. A clause will have to be inserted giving the chapters

permission to sub-divide, as approved by The Institute, and probably some change will be necessary to handle the dues collection. When, as and if all state associations cease to exist, whether by this plan or any other, those portions of the by-laws pertaining to state associations would be deleted.

Therefore, feeling that this plan is sound, is in no way involved or complex, and would provide for The Institute all that would be required to make it a unified body of and for the profession, we propose to put it in effect, with The Institute's approval, at the beginning of next year.



Thoughts on War Memorials

THE INSTITUTE'S COMMITTEE on War Memorials, under the chairmanship of Paul P. Cret, has been deliberating by correspondence preliminary to a formal report to the Board.

From this correspondence the following are tentative expressions of opinion on the part of some of the committee members:

There are two kinds of war memorials, we are told: "Living War Memorials" and, I suppose, dead ones. Looking for further enlightenment, I found that "living memorials" are . . . "a pulsating thing . . . places that knit people together as a community . . . something which is of use to the community"; definitions which apply as felicitously to a radio announcer,

or to a crowded trolley car. Can we still hold to the old-fashioned view that the purpose of a memorial is to perpetuate the memory of men and their deeds, and its "use," to bring forcefully to a nation memories of what it has accomplished in the past and a resolve to carry the task further?

The great argument against war memorials which are just war memorials, and not something that someone happens to desire and cannot get someone else to pay for, is that there are too many of them, most of them ugly. I agree on both counts. But why not in the same way forbid all statuary because there are many statues and few masterpieces, or stop the printing of books because too many of them

will be thought unreadable by our children?

The Civil War Memorial on the court-house green of the average county seat, with its rock-faced pyramidal base; its four soldiers, three-quarter life size, flanking a column and its dejected eagle, is certainly no masterpiece; and yet, does it not fulfill its mission better than an 1875-style swimming-pool or band stand, in the improbable assumption they had survived to our day? A characteristic of many "living memorials" is that they die young.

There should be only one memorial for each community, but utilizing an appropriation proportional to the population. All "neighborhood memorials" should be discouraged and all efforts united toward one worthy aim. No other names than those who made the supreme sacrifice should be inscribed on war memorials.—PAUL P. CRET, F.A. I.A., Philadelphia.



I would say—let a war memorial, if it is to be designed and built, be beautiful, dignified, and appropriate. None of these qualifications excludes usefulness, but if it be useful alone it will lack that commemorative character which should

be the very essence of a memorial.
—WILLIAM EMERSON, F.A.I.A.,
Boston.



One great class of monuments is the religious building. In these there is a useful purpose, but only one, and the edifice is a frame for that purpose. It has long been recognized that any other use for such a building weakens its first purpose. We are dealing in general with that which would represent the altar itself, and I suggest that here is perhaps a definite indication of direction. One cannot conceive of an altar serving any other purpose and remaining an altar inviolate.

Reaction of the beholder to a memorial is certainly affected by its beauty, but to the layman I believe it is a matter of its "impressiveness." At any rate, a singleness of purpose is a first requisite of that quality and setting has much to do with it. Luytens' Monument in the Strand is, to my mind, a poor composition in itself, but set where it shoulders the busy worker, jolts like an exclamation point and is impressive.

Can one think of any object, large or small, serving one purpose and, at the same time, acting as a

constant reminder of another idea?
—ARTHUR LOOMIS HARMON,
F.A.I.A., New York.



We are talking primarily, I believe, of public War Memorials; that is, those financed by public funds or solicitation as distinguished from those privately financed, commemorating individuals or specific groups. In the latter category I am thinking not of "neighborhood memorials" which, I agree, should be discouraged, but those of religious, fraternal, educational and similar groups.

Such memorials should and usually do have private settings. Some are very beautiful and fulfill their mission impressively. On the other hand, some are among those for which "City authorities don't dare to refuse a site." I recall a Civil War General astride a prancer in Louisville which has always been known as the "questrian" statue. It often is difficult to draw the line, but as far as war memorials are concerned, I am in favor of discouraging the use of public sites for private memorials.—GEORGE MARSHALL MARTIN, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Honors to Architects

FREDERICK J. ADAMS and LAWRENCE B. ANDERSON, associate professors on the faculty of the School of Architecture and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, have been promoted to full professorship.

LEIGH HUNT, F.A.I.A., has been appointed chairman of Milwaukee's newly constituted Housing Authority.

WALLACE E. DIBBLE of Longmeadow, Mass., has been reap-

pointed by Governor Saltonstall an associate member of the state's Board of Standards and Appeals.

SYLVANUS B. MARSTON, F.A.I.A., has been reappointed Chairman of the Pasadena City Planning Commission, a post which he had given up at the call of more important war work.

DOUGLAS WILLIAM ORR, F.A.I.A., of New Haven, Conn., has been appointed by Governor Baldwin as a member of an Advisory

Committee to the Connecticut Housing Authority.

Prof. JOHN E. BURCHARD, recently Director of the Bemis Foundation, has been made Director of

Libraries, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with the immediate task of planning a broadened program of library service, including a new library building.

More and Better Hospitals

By Henry H. Saylor

THE man-eating shark has long since been displaced as a popular subject of condemnation, giving place to the governmental bureau as the pet peeve of people generally, with the architects stressing particularly the design bureau. There is at least the hint of uncertainty in the practitioner's insistence that he is concerned, not so much because the design bureaucrats are crowding him away from the feed trough, but rather because the people are not getting the quality of architecture they deserve.

In his calmer moments he prescribes the functions of a bureau: to gather facts, set up general standards, act as a clearing house for technical information, all of which is put at the disposal of the private practitioner entrusted with the full responsibility of designing and supervising the project in accordance with local needs and local practice.

Well, as a matter of fact, there is such a bureau, fashioned in accordance with the architects' own specifications. Nor is it a new and untried experiment. It has been functioning for three years with conspicuous and mounting success, yet today it seems known to but few. Possibly most of us have been so busy sounding off in condemnation that we have failed to notice this fitting subject for acclaim.

When in 1941 the Community Facilities Bill was enacted, making Federal funds available for the construction of hospitals and health centers, the need for professional guidance became evident. As a result, the United States Public Health Service, as a part of its States Relations Division, established a Hospital Facilities Section. Its personnel includes specialists in medicine, hospital administration,

nursing and hospital architecture and equipment. The new unit's function was, and still is, to furnish, upon request, advice and consultation services to local health agencies, to architects and to state and Federal agencies concerned with the administration of hospital building programs.

Hospital planning involves complex and interrelated questions of function, form and engineering. Many architects have had insufficient opportunities to become fully acquainted with the highly specialized problems in this field. Physicians, who are usually consulted by the architects, are not as a rule sufficiently conversant with the problems of interrelationship and integration of the various service units, and cannot usually give the kind of comprehensive advice necessary to insure maximum efficiency with minimum expense. What may work out best in one locality may not be best for another. Obviously some sort of clearing house for technical information, some continuing body of research, investigation and comparison, could cut down the amount of trial and error involved in our progress. The Hospital Facilities Section supplies this need. It is small in personnel. Its Senior Architect is Marshall

Shaffer, A.I.A., whose experience in private practice includes hospital work on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. The type of technical aid offered by the Section has been rather fully illustrated in contributions to the magazine *Hospitals*,¹ and to *Architectural Record*² and *Pencil Points*³.

One would think that the architectural profession might be supposed to know the Section as a source of technical aid in planning, yet this knowledge is not, apparently, as widespread as it deserves to be, at least in our own country. Architects in other lands seem receptive: Mexico, Argentina, Cuba, Canada, Sweden, Australia, South Africa, England, Iceland, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, Chile, the Dominican Republic, China, Norway and Russia—all these have requested and have received technical data from the Section. The standards, typical details and the like, developed through the observation and varied professional

¹ "Planning Suggestions and Demonstration Plans for Acute General Hospitals"—*Hospitals*, the Journal of the American Hospital Association, July, 1943.

² "The General Hospital"—*Architectural Record*, August, 1944.

"Public Health Centers,"—*Architectural Record*, July, 1942.

³ *Pencil Points*, April, 1944.

skill of the Section's personnel, whether proffered to a Federal agency, a state health organization, or a practicing architect—and always *upon request*—are without any strings. Neither in fact, nor by implication, has there been any element of compulsion in the acceptance of these aids. Here they are; if they are of value to you, use them. And for those who may have need of such information, I would add that the Hospital Facilities Section, States Relations Division, United States Public Health Service, can be reached at 2000 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington 14, D. C.



Now let us have a look at the country's post-War hospital needs and how they might be met.

On July 12 last, Surgeon General Thomas Parran of the United States Public Health Service gave to a committee of the Senate his views on present and future needs of hospital and medical care.⁴ These views mark the end of one era of hospitalization and the beginning of a new one. Charity as

⁴Hearings Before The Subcommittee On Wartime Health and Education of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor; Part 5, (July 10-12, 1944).

a dependable factor is rapidly fading; prepaid health insurance has risen like a floodtide, though it does not protect the low-income group nor those unemployable by reason of physical infirmity—and these groups have always been the major financial burden of the voluntary hospitals.

In the past, voluntary hospitals have just happened, located not by need but by some philanthropist's accident of residence. It seems rather obvious that, as Dr. Parran urges, all health programs within a state should be concentrated in one state agency; that existing facilities should be surveyed, mapped and integrated, and future additions made in accordance with population needs and a master plan for the state. Unquestionably the hospitals of all types, the health centers and other health facilities should and will be planned, built and operated with the object of insuring to every citizen the maximum benefit from all that medical science has to offer. The public health, surely no less than public education, deserves integrated planning on the state level.

The State of Kansas, stimulated by War needs, has already done what should be done by every state in the Union. Kansas plotted her

available hospital beds and her physicians per unit of population, by counties. Taking a 25-mile radius as standard minimum distance for hospital center coverage, it was found that there were too many centers in some places, none at all within a 25-mile ambulance ride for many citizens. Seventy-two per cent of the counties did not meet minimum standards of three hospital beds per 1000 population. Fifty per cent of the counties did not meet the minimum standard of 1 physician per 1500 population. What the situation is in other states it behooves us to find out.



In the nation-wide picture, according to Carroll P. Streeter, managing editor of *The Farm Journal*, approximately 40% of our counties are not yet covered by a local, district, or regional public health unit, and many do not have even one public health nurse.

Two types of our health facilities, in addition to hospitals, are due to assume great importance in the immediate future, according to Dr. Vane M. Hoge, Senior Surgeon of the Hospital Facilities Section, State Relations Division, United States Public Health Serv-

ice. They are institutions for the care of the chronically ill, and public health centers.

A wide distribution of facilities obviously depends upon our having these facilities graduated in size and scope of service according to the size of the community to be served. Three types of units are generally accepted as necessary: the large teaching hospital; the secondary service center; and the small rural hospital or health center.

Dr. Hoge sums up our post-War hospital construction program as calling for:

1. A health planning committee for each state, representing the hospitals, the medical profession, dental profession, the public health services, the architectural profession, welfare, and the general public.
2. Based on a comprehensive survey, a program providing that all parts of the state shall be adequately served.
3. An estimate of total capital cost, and the probable allocation of costs.
4. A plan whereby the standards of small hospitals can be maintained through service connections with larger institutions.
5. A state agency to carry out

the program of the state planning committee, and to administer grants-in-aid and other support from local, state and federal sources.

6. A state advisory council, with representation similar to that of the planning committee named above, to assist the state agency in carrying out its program.⁵

Dr. Hoge reminds us of our hospital construction experience following World War I. An accelerated tempo of building reached its peak after ten years, followed by a drop of 724 institutions by the end of the second decade. It was a stupendous waste of effort and money, due to lack of compre-

⁵ "Blueprint for Postwar Building and Service," presented at the Hospital Association of Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, April 13, 1944. Published in *The Modern Hospital*, June, 1944.

hensive planning, and must not be allowed to happen again.

Many, if not all of the states have set up boards or commissions for post-War planning. Dr. Hoge urges that each of these should have a special committee concerned with health and hospital facilities.

Many of our past hospital building efforts, and the program under the present Lanham Act, have developed as federal-local relationships. Whether to create employment, or to relieve War-created local needs, the federal-local relationship does not contribute to a balanced program for the state as a whole. Only through the control of a state's own professional judgment, based on some such plan as summarized above, are we likely to reach the goal of equally distributed, high-standard health protection.

Langley 1944 Scholarship Awards

Two Langley Scholarships for 1944 have been awarded by The American Institute of Architects, in the amount of \$2000 each, to Miss Roslyn Ittleson and Mr. Xanti Schawinski of New York. The purposes set out in the proposals of both candidates provide for an attempt, under the direction of Mr. Simon Breines, Arnold Brunner Scholar, to make the processes and objectives of city planning more intelligible to the public. Award of the Arnold Brunner Scholarship by the New York Chapter, A.I.A., had been given Mr. Breines in order to carry out a similar purpose.

Arts & Architecture's Competition

THE magazine *Arts & Architecture*, with the cooperation of U. S. Plywood Corporation, has announced a competition for the design of a small house for the average American—"an American who, for the first time, is faced with the necessity of planning in . . . a world in which standards have changed, attitudes have been reshaped, and the future has become a matter of, at best, hopeful speculation." Two sheets 16"x20" are required, with plot plan, 1/8"-scale floor plans, four

1/8"-scale elevations and a small perspective. Judges: Fred Langhorst, Charles Eames, J. R. Davidson, John L. Rex and Gregory Ain. Prizes: \$1250, \$500, \$250 and five of \$100. Closing date: Dec. 20, 1944 (postmarked). Full program in September *Arts & Architecture*, or obtainable from Sumner Spaulding, F.A.I.A., professional advisor, 3305 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles 5, Calif.

The competition has A.I.A. approval.

The WGN Competition

IN VIEW OF the interesting problem in design that is presented in the WGN Chicago Theater of the Air Competition, it is unfortunate indeed that the terms of the program fail so conspicuously to measure up to the generally accepted principles safeguarding the interests of professional competitors as long defined by The Institute. The Institute's Committee on Architectural Competition has labored long and earnestly to secure the sponsor's conformity to what experience has established as proper safeguards for potential competitors,

but without success. The Jury, as announced, has no architect member; the winner is not commissioned to carry his project into execution; and "the sponsor, in utilizing any prize-winning entry, has the right to adapt, revise, change, take from or add to it or combine it with one or more plans, suggestions, ideas or treatments portrayed or suggested in any other prize-winning entry."

The Institute's Committee on Architectural Competition has withheld its approval from this competition.

Tile for the Roosevelt Library

By Edwin Bateman Morris

ON a certain occasion an artistically minded friend of President Roosevelt's drew a picture of the White House in blue pigment on a white tile, in general imitation of the Delft tile technique. The President, appreciative of art and particularly of art with an historic flavor, was greatly interested.

Out of this interest came eventually a scheme as a gift from several of his close friends, for a mantel at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park, to have all facing of tiles in the Dutch manner, blue upon white. The scheme was that they were to represent buildings with which in his public career the President had been more or less closely connected, together with certain scenes and symbols which he liked, or which were otherwise considered appropriate. It is also now proposed to use a duplicate set of the tiles which show Washington buildings in the basement library room of the White House.

The matter was guided by the able hand of Lorenzo B. Winslow, architect of the White House.

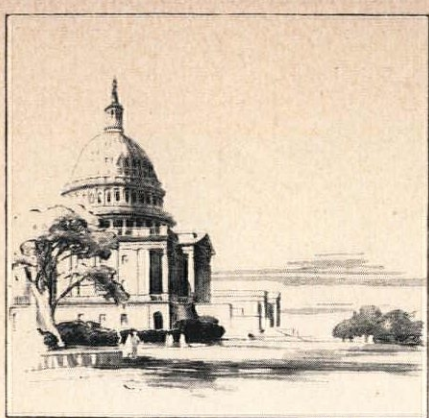
Commissioner Reynolds, head of the Public Buildings Administration, whose organization had designed the Roosevelt Library, took considerable interest in the project when it was brought to his attention, and had prepared a set of sketches covering the subjects as mentioned above. Some of these are reproduced on these pages.

The sketches were of particular merit and aroused a desire that the transfer to the tile preserve not only the composition and idea but also the loving touch of hand, a feat not too easy of accomplishment.

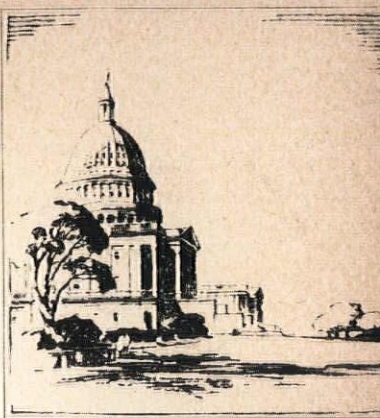
It lead to a little investigation by one of the companies in the tile industry, as to the best method of keeping the old Dutch flavor and at the same time faithfully reproducing the technique of the architectural delineation.

Architectural delineation is an art of sensitive placement of lines and delicate adjustment of tones. Tile surface decoration is a treaty between esthetics, on the one hand, and the texture of clay and of the stencil medium on the other.

The problem is related to the



From the original pencil drawing
by William J. Hartgroves

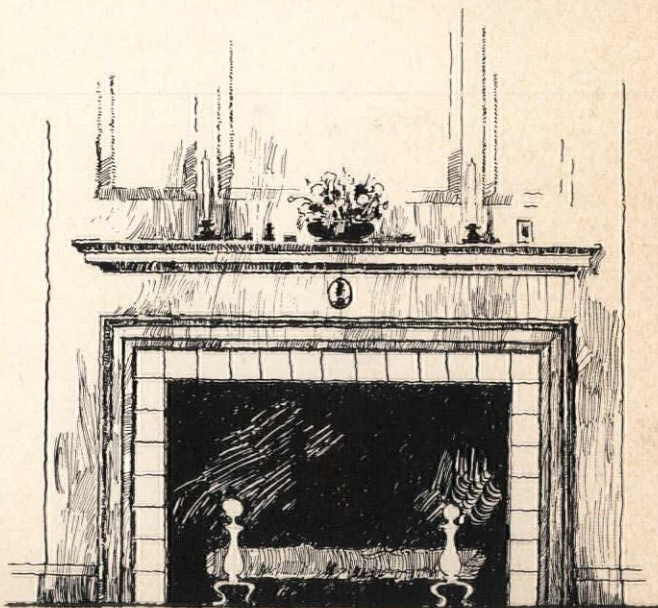


From a photograph of the tile
itself, blue upon white

TILE FOR THE ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

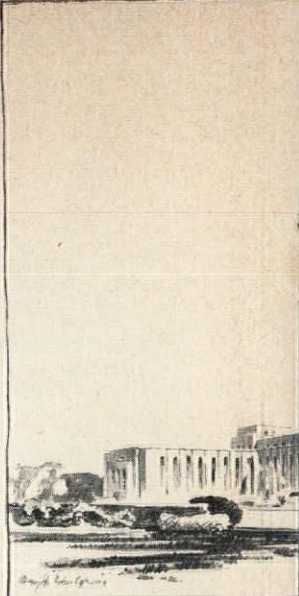
(See article on page 230)

Below, the fireplace in The Roosevelt Library
at Hyde Park, N. Y. Pen drawing by E. B. Morris





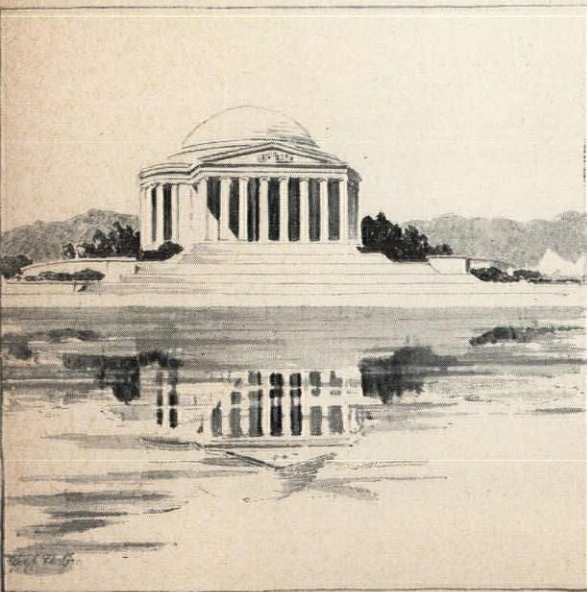
White House West Wing



The Navy Hospital

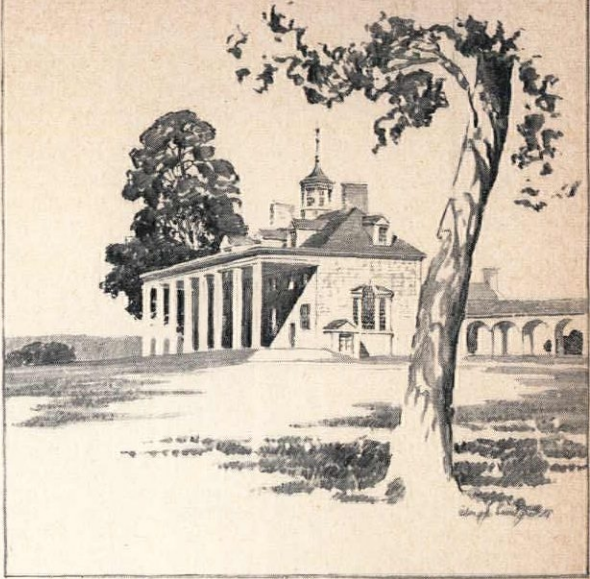
SIX SUBJECTS FOR THE ROOSEVELT LIBRARY TILE

The Jefferson Memorial



Washington Monument

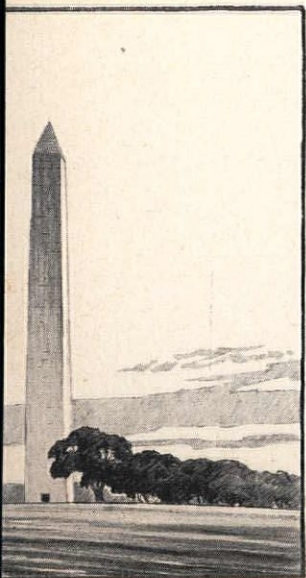


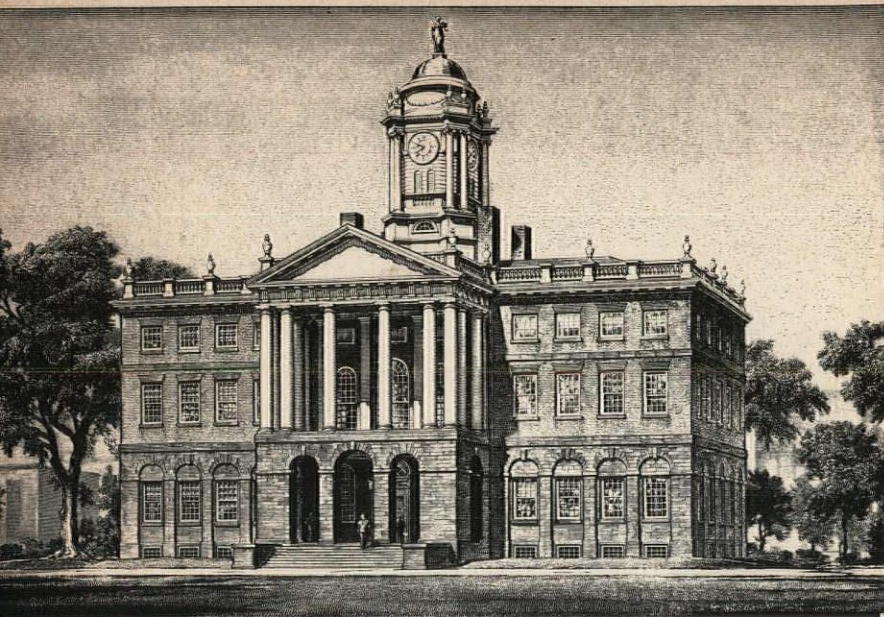


Mount Vernon

FROM THE PENCIL DRAWINGS BY WILLIAM J. HARTGROVES

The Lincoln Memorial





Do you know this building?

THE OLD CONNECTICUT STATE HOUSE,
HARTFORD, CONN.
CHARLES BULFINCH, ARCHITECT
From a woodcut by Morton C. Hansen.
Reproduced by courtesy of The Case,
Lockwood & Brainerd Company

problem of picture reproduction upon paper. If the paper is a smooth coated stock, a fine-screen halftone will reproduce upon it. If the paper is granular, the engraving must be a line cut, strong enough to take hold. The quality of wet clay and the idiosyncrasies of silk screens, even spiderweb fine, were the reproduction-surface problem here.

The drawings had to veer a little from the suitability for halftone toward the suitability for line reproduction. Some of the sweet nuances of delineation had to be revised a little. A nice compromise between delicacy and round-

house punch had to be arrived at. And it was done. Charm of drawing was maintained, though reproduction was through a capricious web upon clay, a material of very definite nature which can be persuaded by careful and understanding handling but never driven.

The mantel when finished, therefore, promises to be an interesting collection of good drawings in a technique full of the flavor of the fourteenth century, when the Delft fathers began to think of tiles as pictures. The mantel will be a pleasant architectural record, to bring to memory calm scenes in an eventful period.

The New York Panel of Architects: Its Purpose

By Electus D. Litchfield, F.A.I.A.

IN Mr. Simon Breines' article, "Selecting Architects for Public Works—New York's Experience," in the August *Journal*, there are fundamental considerations upon which the adopted procedure was based, and ends to be served, which appear to have been overlooked by him.

The architect is unique among professional men in that he has

but one established and recognized charge for his service—whether he has just received the certificate of registration, which permits his practice, or whether by long experience and outstanding ability he is recognized as a leader of his profession. He does not compete on the financial basis of his service.

Municipal buildings, as a rule, occupy ample and important sites,

and the citizens rightly expect of them a permanent and distinguished character. Moreover, they are often large and important institutions in which there is opportunity for the exposition of the architect's genius and real opportunity for service to the community. The commission to design such buildings has long been considered honorable and desirable.

Were there not a fixed fee for the architect's service, the public might still expect and demand that the City's work be placed with the professional best qualified for such service, irrespective of the cost of his services; but whereas, in the selection of the architect, the amount of the fee is not involved, it becomes the duty of the administration to select the architect who will best do the job.



How is such a selection to be made? and who is to make the selection? As Mr. Breines said, it was Mayor La Guardia's desire that a method be set up that would be free from politics—that would provide for the selection, based on merit, of a panel of architects *most eligible* for appointment.

In consultation with Judge Thacher, Chairman of the Charter

Commission, there was written into the New York Charter a clause which provides for the publication by the Mayor in the *City Record*, on or before the 15th of January of each year, of a list of qualified architects from which all municipal appointments for the ensuing year must be made. The clause in the Charter was deliberately worded so as to place complete authority for the list with the Mayor, depending on public opinion and the architects themselves to see that the list and the method of its selection should be as nearly as possible beyond criticism.

The panel and its selection had but one object—and that was to obtain for the City of New York the best service obtainable. The list was not set up to provide jobs for architects nor to foster the architectural profession. Under Mayor La Guardia it has served to spread New York City's work among a larger and more generally distinguished group of architects than under previous administrations.

In the working out at his request, of a method of selecting annually a panel for nomination to the Mayor, the presidents of the several representative architectural societies of New York, together

with the president of the Municipal Art Society of New York and the president of the Fine Arts Federation of New York (nine in all), were asked to serve on what has been known as the "Committee of Nine."

The function of this committee which, owing to the varying terms of office of the nine presidents, is new each year, is simply to name a jury of three (and an alternate for service in case of the illness or disability of one of them) to review the makeup of the questionnaire issued annually by the Municipal Civil Service Commission to every registered architect in the City; and to amend each year, as it may deem wise, the rules under which the jury acts, including instructions to the jury as to the number of architects to be selected.

The rules provide that the jury make its selection of the practitioners most qualified for service for that year, on the basis of the applicant's answers to the questionnaire and six photographs of his executed work.

There is, then, a new professional committee for the selection of the jury and a new jury of selection each year. A fresh opportunity is given each year for

any architect to set forth his qualifications and to submit examples of his executed work.



Mr. Breines says "The impartiality of this method seems genuine and no one has questioned the integrity of the several juries." This is high praise. In making its recommendations to Mayor La Guardia, the original committee spoke of the panel as a "roll of honor." The original panel contained but 40 to 50 names. For a number of years, and perhaps still, some twenty firms have always, from year to year, been unanimously selected by the naming juries. The others—a varying list—have been selected by majority vote.

Owing to pressure of one kind or another, the list has gradually been increased in number to 134. With New York's large program of post-War work, it may be questioned whether so large a list is desirable. Certainly, there is considerable room for difference in ability and quality of service between No. 1 and No. 134. With no apparent gain to the City, there is greater opportunity for political pressure with a list of this magnitude.

It must be remembered that the panel is selected by competition—a competition of the record of achievement of the applicants. Six photographs of executed work may be submitted. The submission by an applicant of one really distinguished building, has, no doubt, more than once resulted in the inclusion of a new name in the panel.



Whether the City would be benefited by a competition (competitors to be placed) for inclu-

sion in the panel, as proposed by Mr. Breines, is problematical.

The suggestion in Mr. Breines' article that the selection of some appointee from the panel has, in some instances, been governed by relationship to an official, is uncalled for and unfair. If criticism is in order, it can rest only with the professional jury which nominated the particular architect for the panel. Within the conscious judgment of the jury, the panel contains the names only of men with whom the City may, with advantage, place its work.

California Registration

TOUCHING upon the matter of alleged difficulty in securing registration as an architect in California—see "California Architects in Survey," Sept. *Journal*—the following is a letter addressed to the secretary of the Central Valley of California Chapter, A.I.A., by Winsor Soule, F.A.I.A., President of the State Board of Architectural Examiners:

Your letter concerning the discussion of your Group regarding the California Examination for Architect's license has been received. As you may know, no ques-

tionnaire has ever been sent out by the Board relating to all of these points, nor has the Board in the past officially sought this information from its records.

It has been assumed by the Board that the profession at large would readily understand that a profound depression, lasting over ten years, would have the effect of raising "ages" of architects and reducing the number of new men applying for licenses. The Board has information that these two conditions do, in fact, exist in other parts of the country. However, in

1942 the Board of Architectural Examiners took a poll of all registered architects in California, numbering at that time 1275. From this, five hundred replies were received, the data from which was analyzed as follows:

| | MINIMUM | MAXIMUM | AVERAGE |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Age of registered architects..... | 27 | 83 | 48.9 |
| Age when registered as an architect..... | 22 | 70 | 35.8 |
| Age at graduation..... | 22 | 41 | 24.7 |
| Architects engaged in private practice or partnerships—40.8% | 30 | 83 | |
| Architects employed by private firms and governmental agencies—59.2% | | | |
| Of those employed by the Government, having Civil Service Status—45% | | | |

| | MINIMUM | MAXIMUM |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Architects licensed, but not practicing—2.2%..... | 44 | 66 |
| Architects in Armed Forces—4.4% (Army, 1.2%; Navy, 2.2%; Air, 1%) | | |

You will note that the average age in 1942 was 48.9 and not 54 as you have been informed.

Of interest to your Chapter will be the data on results of the June, 1944 written examination for candidates desiring to be licensed in California. Fifty-nine candidates took the examination, in whole or in part, and as a result, 24 passed all three groups of questions and are eligible for license. Of 31 taking the examination for the first time, 8 passed all three groups.

As an index to the relative diffi-

culty of the three groups of questions, 16 of the 31 passed each of the three groups:

1—Architectural Design and History and Theory of Architecture.

2—Structural Design and

Mechanics of Materials.

3—Architectural Practice and Mechanical Equipment.

In the engineering group, which is considered most difficult, 20 men who previously failed the written examination in this group, retook it and 16 of the 20 passed. The average age of the applicants was 34.3; the youngest applicant 25 years of age and the oldest 51 years of age. The results of this examination, and the subject matter of the examination itself are comparable to previous years.

The Board of Architectural Ex-

aminers anticipates that the present number of registered architects in California, approximately 1300, will be considerably increased with the return of service men, and the

cessation of war industries which have absorbed so many men who would normally be candidates for architect's license.

Signed, WINSOR SOULE

British Architects Debate Nationalization of the Land

Excerpts from a report in *The Architectural Association Journal*, March, 1944.

A MEETING of the Architectural Society, London, on Feb. 8, 1944, heard a debate on a subject suggested by the Society's Students' Committee. Dr. L. Dudley Stamp, chairman, called upon the Proposer to move:

"THAT THE HOUSE CONSIDERS THAT NATIONALIZATION OF THE LAND IS INDISPENSABLE FOR NATIONAL PLANNING."

Proposer: MR. DONALD HARRISON. The land of this country is the property of the Crown, and therefore of the State. It devolved in the past on private individuals, usually because of some service to the king. Gradually the political make-up of the State changed and the king and nobles lost their absolute power but maintained their freehold of land. Whereas under the feudal system the landowner had many responsibilities in re-

spect of his land, changing political circumstances diminished those responsibilities, until now the landowner has no responsibilities to the State. . . .

The growing complexity of civilization and urban development, and growing need for greater responsibility in land ownership has been recognized by the passing of the Public Health Acts and Town Planning Acts. It is important to realize, however, that the whole of our existing town planning legislation has had to be designed in a negative spirit, in an attempt to control the private owner, whose interests may be directly opposed to the interests of the community. Our present restrictive town planning legislation gives powers of compulsory purchase; it is recognized that in certain cases the community must have an overrid-

ing power to purchase land. When we talk about the nationalization of land we are really talking about the nationalization of the rights in land, many of which have already been dealt with, so that it is not such a revolutionary proposal as is sometimes assumed.

I suggest that what we require from the land is that its development and use should accord with the best interests of the community, and that any incremental value it acquires due to development should revert to the developer; i.e., in most cases to the community. The only way to ensure that the development of land benefits the community is for the community to own and control the freehold in land. If you nationalize the rights in land, I take the view that you also nationalize the land.

The Uthwatt proposals¹ are concerned largely with nationalizing the rights over land, but with attempting to avoid the nationalization of the legal title. There are four principal proposals in the Uthwatt Report. The first, nationalization of all development rights, leaving only agricultural rights in

private ownership. It is further proposed that when the land actually comes to be developed it shall be taken over by the State and leased to the developer. In the case of all land hereafter developed, therefore, complete nationalization is implied. In the case of already built-up land, it is proposed that the planning authority should be given the right to purchase all "reconstruction areas," which are defined as areas which are ripe as a whole for rebuilding. There again the proposal is to nationalize these limited areas, which seems the most expensive form of nationalization possible, because the development of such areas will improve the value of contiguous land, which will have to be taken over when ripe for development at its enhanced value. To cover this it is proposed that "local authorities should be given general powers to buy land compulsorily for recouping purposes." This would allow the local authority to purchase other land than that required for development, but which may increase in value as a result of the development, thus giving the local authority the benefit of the increment.

In those three proposals the Uthwatt Committee have felt them-

¹ Report (to Parliament) of the Expert Committee on Compensation and Betterment (1941).

selves bound to advise the nationalization of land in so far as there is to be any national planning, despite the fact that they say specifically that they are against the nationalization of land. On the other hand, they say: "If we were to regard the problem provided by our terms of reference as an academic exercise . . . immediate transfer to public ownership of all land would present the logical solution." . . .



Opposer: Miss A. MACKINNON.

I am conscious of being a layman amongst experts, but my excuse is that the nationalization of land, before it can become a reality, must pass through the flames of a democratic vote; it is a question which must be decided by ignoramuses such as myself.

We on this side of the House deplore as much as anyone the chaos and overcrowding of our towns, the maldistribution of our population, and the sacrifice of some of the best of our agricultural land. We deplore the system of comparatively unrestricted private use of land which has brought about this state of affairs. We agree that planning in future must be positive; it must be bold

and comprehensive, national and not piecemeal, and, above all, must not be thwarted by the cost of meeting individual claims for compensation.

It is primarily with the latter issue that we are concerned tonight. How can we devise a system of public control of the use of land which will make it possible to plan on a national scale without incurring prohibitive claims for compensation? It may be that, academically, the logical solution of this problem is the nationalization of land, but we are not asked tonight to say whether full nationalization of land is ultimately desirable; but whether nationalization of the land is indispensable for national planning.

To claim that nationalization of the land is indispensable for national planning is a counsel of despair. The problems involved would be formidable, and would require a long time for their solution; whereas if we are to seize the present opportunity to plan and to rebuild our country, time is an essential factor. . . .

Is anyone on the other side of the House prepared to say that with the present Coalition Government, pledged to avoid controversial issues, and in the present

Parliament, we can achieve full nationalization of the land, so that when the last shot is fired we shall be able to create the conditions which will make comprehensive planning possible? For that reason alone we must seek some other and more practicable alternative. . . .

Some of the most constructive and original work of the past has been due to private enterprise. Admittedly large-scale private ownership has been responsible for some of the worst development, but it has also been responsible for the spaciousness and dignity of the building of the eighteenth century. On the other hand some of the dullest and most unimaginative building has been due to municipalities. Do not let us, for the sake of some clear-cut theory, lay the dead hand of the Treasury on all development and reduce the design for the whole country to the level of outlook and building construction of some local authorities. . . .

There is an analogy in the control which the State exercises over children. We recognize that a child should be brought up by his parents, but if the parents abuse their power and the child is not given the opportunity for right

development, the parents can be deprived of their right of full control. We do not claim that all children should be nationalized, as Mr. Harrison claims that all land should be nationalized.

If all land is taken over by the State, where shall we find a body of civil servants with the necessary ability, practical experience and imaginative outlook to administer it? The proposal presupposes a comprehensive reform of the Civil Service and its method of recruitment. (Cries of "Why not?" Hear, hear.") . . .

Do not let us be led away by what we may consider to be ultimately desirable. We are asked to say that nationalization of the land is indispensable for national planning. It may be desirable, though I doubt it, but it is certainly not indispensable. . . .



Mr. J. R. BELOFF: The nationalization of land is often represented as a Party issue, but we have to make up our minds tonight not whether it will be acceptable to this or that Government, but whether it is indispensable.

As a proof that it is not indispensable, our opponents invoke the

Uthwatt Report. The amazing thing about the Uthwatt Report, however, is that although by their terms of reference the Committee were compelled to seek a solution of the complex problems of compensation and betterment without resorting to land nationalization, they almost admit that nearly every proposal they put forward leads to nationalization. They recommend the compulsory acquisition at the 1939 values of all developed land in urban areas, if and when required for planning, such land to be leased to private developers. We want to go further than that, however, and acquire all urban land. If not needed for immediate development, it will be left with the present owners, who will hold it on lease. . . .

If land is to be acquired at uncertain dates in the future higher prices will have to be paid for it. We maintain that nationalization is the cheapest form of obtaining planning, because it ensures that all betterment will accrue to the State, and the complicated problem of taxing increment on land values will be avoided. As for gaining public support for the proposal, that is a question of propaganda. That is one reason why I ask you to vote for nationaliza-

tion, so that we may make it known to the country that we—for what we are worth—favour this proposal.

Miss MacKinnon makes a tremendous bogey of bureaucracy, but is it true to say that a local authority or a Government department is incapable of bold and imaginative planning? Is not the L.C.C. plan for London a very bold and imaginative piece of work? The posters, films and exhibitions of the Ministry of Information are not at all the sort of things conjured up by the word bureaucracy. There is every reason to suppose that the Government will be more capable of carrying out imaginative planning than will private developers, and it will not be done for private profit. . . .



Mr. CLOUGH WILLIAMS-ELLIS: . . . It is very difficult—not here, because you are technicians, but outside—to get this question looked at dispassionately and scientifically; it always becomes a moral issue. People have complexes about land as acute and as violent as about sex or money or drink or any of the other important things in life. Often when talking at town planning functions, where everyone has

discreetly ignored the question of the ownership of the land, I say "What about the land?" and I am looked on as though I had introduced some obscenity into a drawing-room meeting.

That is the lay attitude; but here we have to face this problem. The only test is that of expediency. Will it deliver the goods we want? Will it promote the general public welfare? The silly, inadequate test of "Will it pay?" we have, I hope, forgotten forever. Economic Man is dead; we are in the era of Sociologic Man, a very different creature.

Whether it will or not is very difficult to guess. Technically, economically, and certainly from what may be called the narrow planning point of view, there is no question whatever that public ownership is the thing, but if it were not acceptable to the people at large psychologically, and therefore sociologically, it would be, if we remain a democracy, a political impossibility.

It would be much easier to form a clear conclusion if the division of opinion followed clear-cut economic or Marxist lines and if all the landowners were solidly against nationalization. But they are not, which makes it very tiresome.

Look at that outstanding product of this Association, Richard Acland, giving away 17,000 acres as though they were pre-War cigarettes. That is a very fine gesture, and most embarrassing for the other big landowners! . . .

Some of us have seen this common ownership of land at work in Russia, where as a town planner I have been several times and felt very envious. In Russia you are allowed to have your individual piece of land and so satisfy your natural land-hunger—I suppose it is natural—by having your house and garden, and, nobody else having more, you do not expect much more yourself.

But rational arguments are not enough; in a democracy you have to carry people with you. How is it to be put across? I suggest that the only way to do it is by practical demonstration. I do not see any insuperable difficulty in designating one of the counties of England—or Wales—as a temporary guinea-pig to try it on. . . .



Mr. ARTHUR COLLINS: Although I appear here as a director of one of the largest building societies, I am not able to speak on behalf of building societies; but

I should like to make one or two observations on our experience in the building society world. It may be remarkable to those outside the building society movement that nine people out of ten who acquire their own homes through a building society will reject anything but freehold interest unless nothing but leasehold is obtainable in the district. I am driven to the conclusion that there is a pride in the ownership of land as land. Whether the nationalization of land, which would deprive everybody of their ownership, would affect that kind of mental attitude remains to be seen.

The building societies have advanced money for the purchase of nearly four million houses, and about three million people who have bought their houses through building societies are today landowners. What is going to be the effect of depriving these people of the ownership of their land? Will it do any good? I am not sure. Will it do any harm? I am a little more sure about that. Will these three million people be inclined to vote for any Act of Parliament which will deprive them of their land?

In Russia, community ownership does not apply merely to land but

to all property, all industry, and almost everything that can be transferred to the State. That does not mean democracy as we understand it. Our problem is to fit State ownership of land into our democratic way of life, and no one has yet been able to solve it. . . .



MR. ALAN SLATER: . . . The essence of the whole business is this: Is control enough, or is ownership also necessary? Control we already know; we have had it during this war. If we are fobbed off with control of the land, we shall find that those who have vested interests in the land will establish quite satisfactory private ownership over the public control. . . .

Mr. Collins suggested that it was undemocratic to have, as in Russia, public ownership not only of the land but of the means of production in all spheres of life. Personally, that is my definition of full democracy, and I agree with him that ownership of the land in isolation is not only insufficient but unjustifiable.

I have recently been sitting on a committee dealing with the housing problem, and these are the resolutions which sum up our la-

bours: (1) Without common ownership of the land the labour of the planners will be fruitless. (2) Without common ownership of the essential building materials the task of the builders will be impracticable. (3) Without vital democracy the man-power available for building can neither be co-ordinated nor filled with enthusiasm for its work.

The name of Sir Richard Acland has been mentioned. He is reported to have said the other day—and I agree—"There will be a revolution in this country of ours during the next ten years. The only question is, will it be a revolution in the minds of the people or in the streets of our cities?" It is in the realm of planning and its relation to the ownership of land that this revolution is apparently now taking place in the minds of the students of the A. A. School, and perhaps of the people of this country.



Summing up: Dr. DUDLEY STAMP: The Proposers seemed resolutely to refuse to draw a distinction between control and ownership. . . . I must remind you of the actual words used in the Uthwatt Report: "We have no doubt

that land nationalization is not practicable as an immediate measure, and we reject it on that ground alone. We state our objections. . . . "We must not, therefore, accuse the Uthwatt Committee of recommending land nationalization.

It has struck me that on both sides of the House this question of money has been looked on wrongly. A great deal was made of the gigantic cost, but, if you want nationalization of the land, it will not cost anything. There are two ways of doing it. One method is to confiscate, the second method is to buy the land at a valuation. That does not involve handing over money; but handing to the owner an equivalent in script, Land Bonds, which will bear an interest which represents what he had before. The cost to the nation is nothing.

Finally, on both sides there has been brought forward this question of "land hunger," and again the evidence is on both sides. I went to Russia when the Russian experiment was new. I must be one of the very few Englishmen who have been elected an honorary member of the Moscow Soviet. There was then no private ownership of land, but the hunger for

private possessions was very strong, and the New Economic Policy recognized the ownership of small plots of land. On the other side of the picture, most of you know Pearl Buck's novel "The Good Earth," which is an epitome of the point of view of the people of one of the great and coming nations of the world. Do not let us be persuaded, therefore, by one side of the evidence only.

Before putting this motion, I want to emphasize the form in which it is put before us. It is: "That this House considers that nationalization of the land is in-

dispensable for national planning."

If we vote for the motion, then presumably the work of national planning which has been started should be put on one side until we have nationalization (cries of "No") because we are not voting on whether nationalization is a good or a bad thing eventually; it is its expedience of the moment which is in question. I put the motion.

The motion was carried by 48 votes to 21, the announcement of the result being greeted with applause.



Highlights of the Technical Press

Architect and Engineer, Sept.: Parkmerced, San Francisco's First All-Rental Community Housing Project, by Mark Daniels; Leonard Schultze and Associates, archts.; Frederick H. Meyer, resident archt.; Thomas D. Church, lands. archt.; 9 pp. t. & ill.

Magazine of Art, Oct.; Monuments, Memorials and Modern Design—An Exchange of Letters, by George Howe; 6 pp. t. & ill.

The Architectural Forum, Oct.: Commercial Remodeling; 6 post-War remodeling projects, 20 com-

pleted alterations; 76 pp. t. & ill. Drywall Construction—experiments of Franklin O. Adams, F.A.I.A., in Florida; 4 pp. t. & ill.

Architectural Record, Sept.: Dauphin County Court House, Harrisburg, Pa.; Lawrie & Green, archts.; 14 pp. t. & ill. Building Types Study—Churches; 30 pp. t. & ill. Time-Saver Standards—Household Closets; 2 pp. dwgs.

Interiors, Sept.: Retreat in Mexico—vacation home Raymond Loewy designed for himself; 5 pp. t. & ill.



Architects Read and Write

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



PUBLIC HOUSING BACKGROUND

BY GEORGE H. GRAY, F.A.I.A.

THE Board of Directors' statement on public housing, appearing in Bulletin No. 27 is admirable. It must be heartening to all those who feel that this is a public question of prime magnitude, one in which the public may rightly look to the architectural profession for a judicial informed opinion.

In defining public housing the Board has already done much to clarify thinking — Mr. Fisher's comments contribute to the same end.

The Board urges that the subject be "fully discussed" at special chapter meetings. Mr. Fisher refers to "critical debate" in these meetings. May I suggest that what is needed prior to discussion is a reasonably exhaustive study of facts. If we can agree on authenticated facts, discussion should be highly constructive, and the final opinion of the Institute one which the public should respect. If we cannot agree on facts then the procedure will deteriorate into that

type of "debate" in which each will endeavor to prove his preconceived ideas—ideas which may be the result of an objective study of the facts or may be the highly emotional reaction to what each one suspects to be the facts. The specific suggestion which I would make is that every chapter immediately organize a committee large enough to represent divergent views, and that the chapter discussions be lead by this group.

Mr. Fisher mentions two admirable books for study. To this I would add a few others. First, there is "The Proceedings of the National Conference on Post-War Housing," held in Chicago last March. In this conference practically every phase of housing was discussed by bankers, realtors, architects, engineers, labor-industrialists.¹ Next, a brief document by Roland R. Randal, a prominent realtor, who has served on the Philadelphia Housing Author-

¹ Address: 512 Fifth Avenue, New York 18. \$1.75.

ity, and knows both sides of the question.² Finally, for committees which wish to dig deeper, there are the Annual Reports of the National Association of Housing Officials,³ in which are factual statements by the heads of the various

² "A Private Realtor's View of Public Housing"—Citizens' Housing Council, 470 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N. Y.

³ 1313 East 60th Street, Chicago.

federal agencies concerned with housing, so that the series gives an authoritative summary of the activities of these departments since their start.

A mere poll of "opinion," with no definite assurance that the opinion was based on a study of facts, would not be apt to add to the prestige of the Institute as a professional body.

POCKET SIZE

IN THE AUGUST ISSUE two members expressed mild criticism of the size of the new JOURNAL. For my part, I hope the size will remain as it is for the "duration" and six months at least. In the Army there is a necessary, but appalling, waste of time spent in "chowlines," roll calls, etc. I

utilize some of this time by reading the many constructive articles contained in the new JOURNAL, which, due to its compact size, conveniently fits into the pocket of my fatigue jacket . . .

PVT. J. TREVOR GUY, Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri.

WHO CONTROLS THE INSTITUTE?

BY NAT G. WALKER, F.A.I.A.

MY EARLIEST CONTACT with The Institute was to hear it satirically spoken of as "The American Academy of Fine Arts of Boston, New York and Philadelphia." A great many years back the Board unbent and became democratic to the extent of inviting a few "upstarts" to membership who lived in St. Louis and San

Francisco. Then, in a burst of glowing virtue, they agreed to forgive the Civil War and permitted the formation of a Southern Chapter in Atlanta. Later, they finally agreed to the terms of the Chicago Group and took them in as a body. The younger men, when first becoming members of The Institute, have repeatedly complained that

they were given no attention, and that things were controlled by the "Older Group." The strange thing about this is that no one group ever holds continued control over Institute affairs or policies. Of the men who were on the Board and committees following the last war, very few are still seen at the conventions.

Independent groups (sometimes called reactionaries) within The Institute have ever been highly critical of the policies and acts as established by the Board and its committees. Following the last war, I can recall many of these men who labored to clearly set down what they thought represented the views of the membership: Faville, Favrot, Fenner,

Waid, Kohn, Hewlett, Morris, Garfield, Zantzing, Donn, Medary, Barber, Kendall, Howard Walker, Hammond, Perkins, Dunning, Sullivan Jones, Emerson, Lorch, Sayward, Parker, Albertson, Lansing Holden, Waddy Wood, Ellis Jackson, Myron and Sumner Hunt, and many others of this grand company. One would have thought that The Institute could not operate without them, but where are they now? Except for just a handful, only Kemper remains. He guides but never intrudes. The younger men in turn have always followed. That is why The Institute is a vibrant and democratic body. It does reflect the membership, and the violent criticism of rebellious inside groups keeps it so.

IN LIEU OF TAXES

MORE THAN 175 communities throughout the country will receive substantially increased revenues from low-rent public housing projects as the result of a new policy on payments in lieu of taxes.

Local housing authorities have been authorized to make such payments in amounts equal to 10 per cent of shelter rents collected on

low-rent housing projects built under the provisions of the United States Housing Act, provided the communities in which they are situated meet requirements for local contributions on such projects. Previously, payments in lieu of taxes generally were made on a basis of about 5 per cent of shelter rents, but there was no uniformity throughout the country.

The new policy is based on the principle that public housing should pay to local governments the largest amounts possible in lieu of taxes

within the framework of a program which provides housing for the lowest income families.

—NATIONAL HOUSING AGENCY.

New Members of The Producers' Council

RECENTLY ELECTED to membership in The Producers' Council, with the names of their Official Representatives and Alternates:

Asphalt Tile Institute, 19 W. 44th St., New York, N. Y.; Harry L. Moody, Managing Director.

The Gate City Sash and Door Company, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; M. D. Ebert, Vice-President; E. P. Jones, President, Alternate.

The membership now totals 94, of which 74 are companies and 20 are associations.

Books & Bulletins

CITIES OF LATIN AMERICA—HOUSING AND PLANNING TO THE SOUTH. By Francis Violich. 256 pp. 6"x9". New York: 1944: Reinhold Publishing Corp. \$3.50.

The author brings an indictment against us: "As students, our lack of schooling in the history, geography and culture of the Latin-American republics has been nothing short of scandalous. As adults, our lack of accurate knowledge of the peoples, their politics, their economic and social problems, remains inexcusable." To which indictment we can only plead guilty, and we do so in shame. Primarily a study of city planning and housing by one of our own architects and city planners, the book also

goes far towards bringing us the basic knowledge of social, political and economic structure in our southern neighbor countries that we have so blindly ignored. On both counts it should go on the list of Required Reading.

NATIONAL FIRE CODES FOR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT. Compiled by Robert S. Moulton. 512 pp. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x9"; illust. Boston: 1944: National Fire Protection Association, 60 Batterymarch St.

Suggested ordinances, standards or recommended good practice requirements, offered in an advisory capacity by the N.F.P.A. The aim of the Association's Committees responsible for the codes and stand-

ards is to specify measures that will provide reasonable fire-safety without prohibitive expense, interference with established processes, or undue inconvenience. New editions are adopted periodically to keep the texts up to date. The present Code includes sections on six occupancies: schools, department stores, factories, hospitals and institutions, places of public assembly and hotels and apartment houses.

DECORATIVE ARTS IN THE NETHERLANDS. By Paul Bromberg. 62 pp. 6¼" x 9¼", paper cover; illustrated with photographs and plans. New York: 1944: The Netherlands Information Bureau, 10 Rockefeller Plaza. 60c.

A brief sketch of the industrial arts, including some architecture and its accessories, with an appreciation of that pioneer in the arts, Dr. Jan Francois Van Rogen, recently a victim of German violence.

NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN AND CONTROL, AN ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEMS OF PLANNED DIVISIONS. By Henry S. Churchill, Planning Consultant, and Roslyn Ittleson, Research Assistant. 40 pp. 8½" x 11". New York: 1944: National Committee on Housing, Inc. (512 Fifth Ave.) \$1.

A presentation of the practical problems likely to be met in setting up the essential requirements of planned communities. One ma-

JOR problem—fitting the job to the capacity of the existing small-scale builder—is accented and recommended for further study.

MANUAL OF POST-WAR PLANNING FOR CITIES AND TOWNS IN RHODE ISLAND. 40 pp. 6" x 9", paper cover. Providence: 1944: R. I. State Planning Board (1405 Industrial Trust Bldg.)

A guide for planning authorities, setting up a practicable framework. On the publication committee is John Hutchins Cady, F.A.I.A.

PLANNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR TOWNS IN ILLINOIS. By Carl B. Lohmann. 40 pp. 6" x 9", paper cover. Urbana, Ill.: 1944: University of Illinois.

A modest primer of community planning, written for the understanding of the layman.

THE ENJOYMENT OF THE ARTS. Edited by Max Schoen. 336 pp. 6" x 9"; illust. New York: 1944: Philosophical Library. \$5.

Dealing with painting, sculpture, architecture, industrial design, poetry, drama and theater, the novel, the movies, music, and art criticism, the book recalls an attempt in 1923 by The Institute to enrich esthetic appreciation by "The Significance of the Fine Arts." Laszlo Gaber, who writes the chapter on architecture, is assistant professor of architecture at Carnegie Institute.

The Editor's Asides

AMERICA'S \$64 Question: What can be done, in the process of creating acceptable residential communities, with the country's surplus of approximately 15,000,000 subdivided unimproved building lots?

ANOTHER \$64 Question: Of the 800,000 to 1,000,000 dwelling units to be built annually for a decade after V-Day—two-thirds of them single-family houses—how many are to have the benefit of an architect? And just how?

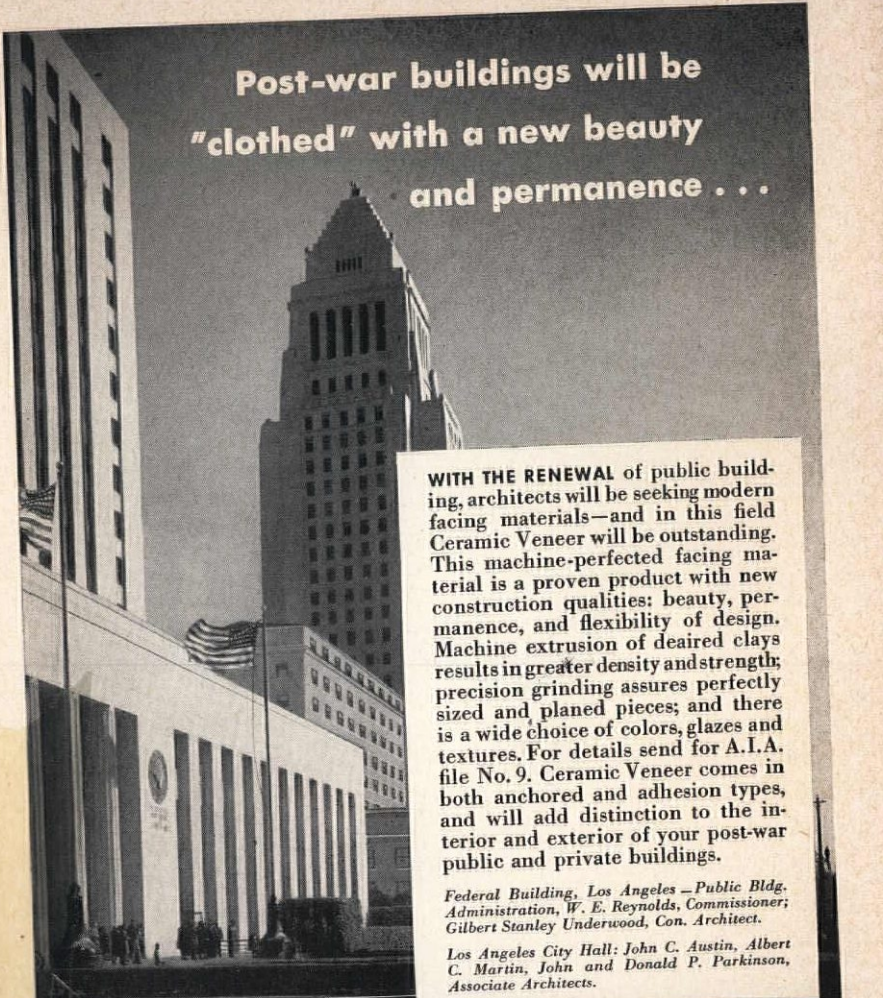
IF YOU OR I pictured our contemporary architectural history as a period of transition with a lunatic fringe marking both boundaries, let's hold everything. George Howe gives himself a workout in the October *Magazine of Art*. Anyone who has fancied that Traditionalist vs. Modernist sums up the picture has a shock coming to him. Howe introduces us to Internalists and Externalists, to Introverts and Extroverts, to the Federal Front school, to the Animal-cracker and Basket-Work school, and the Fancy-Dress Functionalism school. In fact he winds up and hurls missiles in all direc-

tions. If you would relish a bit of iconoclasm with all stops out, read what George Howe has to say. I had no idea that architecture was so complex.

A RECENT ANALYSIS of the *Journal's* circulation by states reveals some interesting figures. New York leads, as might be expected, with 718. Michigan, through its progress towards unification, has jumped to 437. Pennsylvania, California and Ohio are closely bunched with 395, 345 and 344. Altogether, The Institute's membership growth of 15.6% in the last ten months has put a heavy pressure upon the *Journal's* rigidly limited paper allotment.

IN A RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY, maintenance is no less important than the original planning. And maintenance may fail through one family's economic inability to keep the pace. In this respect, single ownership and rentals have a distinct advantage over individual ownership.

CONGRATULATIONS and good wishes to the Southern California Chapter, A.I.A., on the occasion of its Fiftieth Birthday, Oct. 10.



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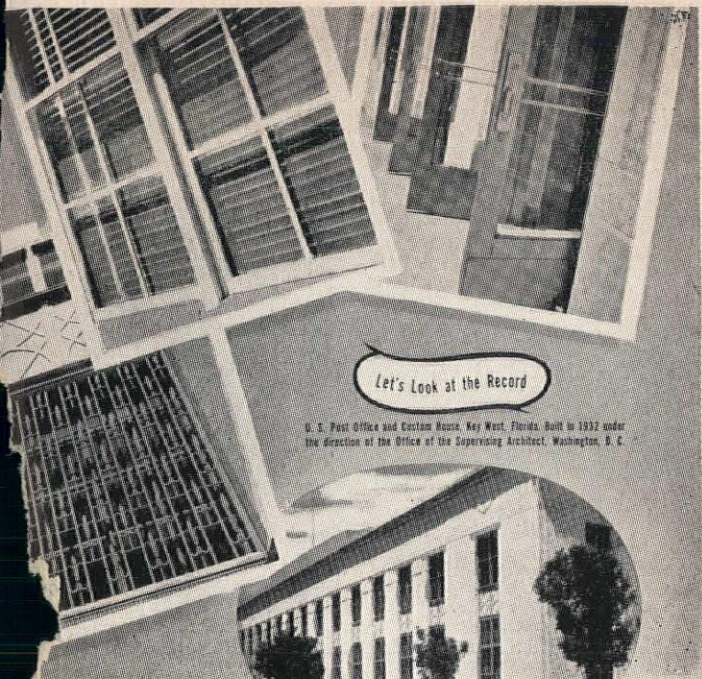


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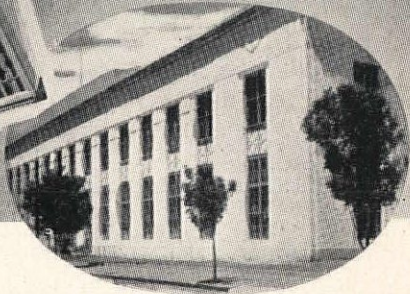
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Let's Look at the Record

U. S. Post Office and Custom House, Key West, Florida. Built in 1932 under the direction of the Office of the Supervising Architect, Washington, D. C.

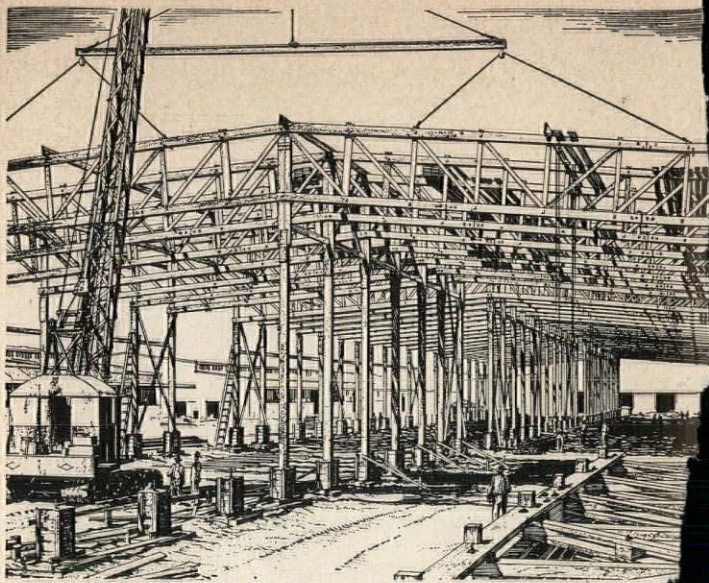


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