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WEEKLY BULLETIN



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Volume 24

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, JUNE 6, 1950

No. 23

CREIGHTON SPEAKS TO THE DETROIT CHAPTER

Editor of Progressive Architecture tells students and architects of the architectural magazines and the practicing profession

Thomas H. Creighton, editor of *Progressive Architecture*, was the speaker before the Detroit Chapter on the occasion of its joint meeting with members of its student branches, May 24. His subject was "The Architectural Journals and the Practicing Profession." About 100 students and fifty corporate members were present, in what proved to be one of the most interesting and constructive meetings of the current season.

As is his custom, President Morison opened the meeting and reported briefly on the Chapter Board meet-

ing, which took place just prior to the dinner meeting. He announced that at a full attendance of the Board, Erwin K. Prisel was elected to associate membership, Ernest Wilby, F.A.I.A. was elevated to the status of Member Emeritus.

The President reported that the Board had authorized Talmage C. Hughes to accept, at his own expense, the invitation of Michael T. Waterhouse, F.R.I.B.A., President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, to attend the Institute's Annual Conference at Bristol, England, to receive, on behalf of the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A. the Gold Medal of The R.I.B.A., for presentation to our distinguished Fellow and Chapter member, Mr. Eliel Saarinen, at a special ceremony of the Chapter.

After expressing gratification at such a good attendance of students and other members, President Morison called upon Talmage Hughes to give a brief report on the recent A.I.A. Convention at Washington, D.C. He then called upon Malcolm R. Stirton, Chairman of the Chapter's Committee on Education and Registration, which includes student activities, to preside at the presentation of scholarship awards to the three student branch chapters. Mr. Stirton stated that he did not believe many of the corporate members realize the importance of our student branches. Ten years ago the first branch was established at the College of Architecture and Design at the University of Michigan. Now we have three branches, the

other two being at the University of Detroit and at Lawrence Institute of Technology. There are about 300 student affiliates. Mr. Stirton stated that The Institute is recognizing this growing interest in students, which, he said, is for the purpose of a better understanding between the students and the corporate members of The Institute and to assist them in getting started in the right way.

Mr. Stirton called upon Clair W. Ditchy, national secretary of The A.I.A., to present The A.I.A. awards. Mr. Ditchy in a few well-chosen words presented The A.I.A. Medal and book, *Mont Saint Michel and Chartres*, by Henry Adams, to George Siegal of Detroit, a student at the College of Architecture and Design, University of Michigan. He also presented a copy of the book to William Emery McGrew, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Mr. McGrew is a student in the same school.

Mr. Stirton next presented the Detroit Chapter Scholarship Awards to Theodore Daubresse of the University of Detroit, Louis Schneider of Lawrence Institute of Technology and to Robert Tveit of the University of Michigan.

Professor L. Robert Blakeslee of the University of Detroit presented that school's Gold Medals to Frank Dyzewski for outstanding accomplishment in design and to Francis Wimsatt for leadership in student activities.

Professor Ralph W. Hammett, of the

U. of M. was called upon to do the honors for that school. Before doing so he recognized Carter Strong, president of the student branch, vice president Gerald Diekema; Nina Pence and Virginia Miller. Professor Hammett then presented the Alpha Rho Chi Medal to Robert William Van Summern.

Earl W. Pellerin, head of the architectural department at Lawrence Institute of Technology, presented Frederick Strauss, Jr. and Louis Klei each with a copy of the book *Space, Time and Architecture*, by Sigfried Giedion. He also made an award to the student who had given most to his chapter, Richard Wood.

President Morison thanked the participants in the program and called upon Talmage Hughes to introduce the speaker.

As an introduction to his talk, Mr. Creighton stated that he felt that a magazine that was too smug and sure of itself was not a good thing for the profession. On the other hand, he said, one could not afford to be wishy-washy. He said that such magazines pay close attention to criticisms, though they were sometimes quite confusing. Some want more of certain types of material while others might say there shouldn't be any at all. The speaker was certain that no magazine could please every subscriber.

Mr. Creighton asked the question, "how does one determine what is to be published in an architectural mag-

azine?" He then proceeded to give some of the answers. At present, he said, there is an over-abundance of suitable material, and he cautioned architects to not be disappointed if everything they submitted was not used. When he became editor of Progressive Architecture four years ago, he said, he called in his staff and endeavored to arrive at some agreement as to what an architectural magazine should contain, what it should be. Before defining an architectural magazine, he said, one should define a magazine, which he understood to be a medium of communication, the way people talk to each other through the printed word. An architectural magazine, then, should be a source of current information, on what is going on in the profession, but not so complete as a reference book. Instead he sees it as something that can be read and discarded. If there is anything an editor hopes to avoid, it is that subscribers will cut and file, for then it may never be used. Rather he hopes that the material will be examined immediately.

Creighton said that the magazine is a unit of a tremendous industry, just as architects are members of their profession. His is a member of a big group of magazine publishers and they get together for their common good. He listed some of the objectives:

To give you news of the profession, though not spot news in the sense that

a newspaper does. To provide you with information about events, in the nature of adult education. He pointed out that symposiums do this on an occasional basis, but the magazine does this every month. To attempt to relate its own field to the general overall field.

The editor admitted that the magazines are not perfect, perhaps there is not enough about legal matters, office practice and other features. However, effort is being made to correct this.

On the matter of architectural criticism, Mr. Creighton said that no way had been found to do this safely. On one occasion his magazine had criticized a building somewhat adversely and immediately received a telegram stating that suit would be brought, because already competitors were showing it to prospects to indicate that the architect was incompetent. He was able to talk him out of it. Creighton had tried to institute a round-robin wherein several architects would criticize each other's buildings but this had not been successful.

The speaker asked, "why does an architect want his work published?" He said that nine out of ten times it was because he thought it good publicity that might lead to more work. This, he believes, is missing the point. The magazine should try to improve the standards of the profession. He could see no reason for publishing something that any one could see in his own town. The purpose should be to bring to attention something that otherwise might have escaped, something new or useful.

Speaking of The A.I.A. publications, the speaker did not think they compared favorably with those of the Royal Institute of British Architects or the Royal Canadian Institute of Architects.

In the question and answer period Clair Ditchy took exception to the comparison, saying it was unfair to consider the Journal of The A.I.A. with that of the R.I.B.A. It was, he said, like comparing Progressive Architecture to the Architectural Review, between which, he allowed, there is no comparison. Further, Ditchy said, the R.C.I.A. Journal is the only architectural publication in Canada.

The question was asked as to why the difference between the architectural critic and the drama critic. The latter can go as far as he likes without fear of being sued. Mr. Creighton stated that a drama critic is free to see a play and then pan it. The worst that can happen is that the theatre can refuse to give him any more passes, but he can buy his tickets and continue to do the same. It is true that the critic can do great damage to plays and to actors but there

seems to be no danger of law suits. Aside from the aspects of law, Mr. Creighton said, the architectural magazine must have the support of the architects. It is inconceivable that one could continue long without it.

This seemed to have a connection with the editor's statement to the effect that good architecture is where you find it and that he believed that good work should be published regardless of the author, even to speculative builders, contractor-architect organizations, or even "non-registered architects" (as if there were such a thing). It would seem to this writer that if there is an over-abundance of good material and the magazines want the support of the architects, they would confine their activities to the legitimate practicing profession. In fact, the title of Mr. Creighton's talk was "The Architectural Journals and the PRACTICING PROFESSION." Why, then, should they feature the work of the known enemies of the practicing profession?

Mac Stirton asked how the national mags feel about having work published locally, before submitting to national publications. Mr. Creighton's answer was that they did not mind at all, and in fact in many cases good material came to their attention in just that way.

President Morison closed the meeting by saying that it was one of the best we have ever had. He thanked Suren Piliarian and the program committee for their good work.

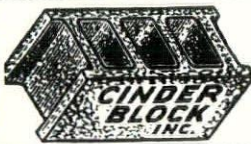
We should like to record that Mr. Creighton would accept no fee and his expenses were borne by his publication. This, we feel, is a very nice gesture.

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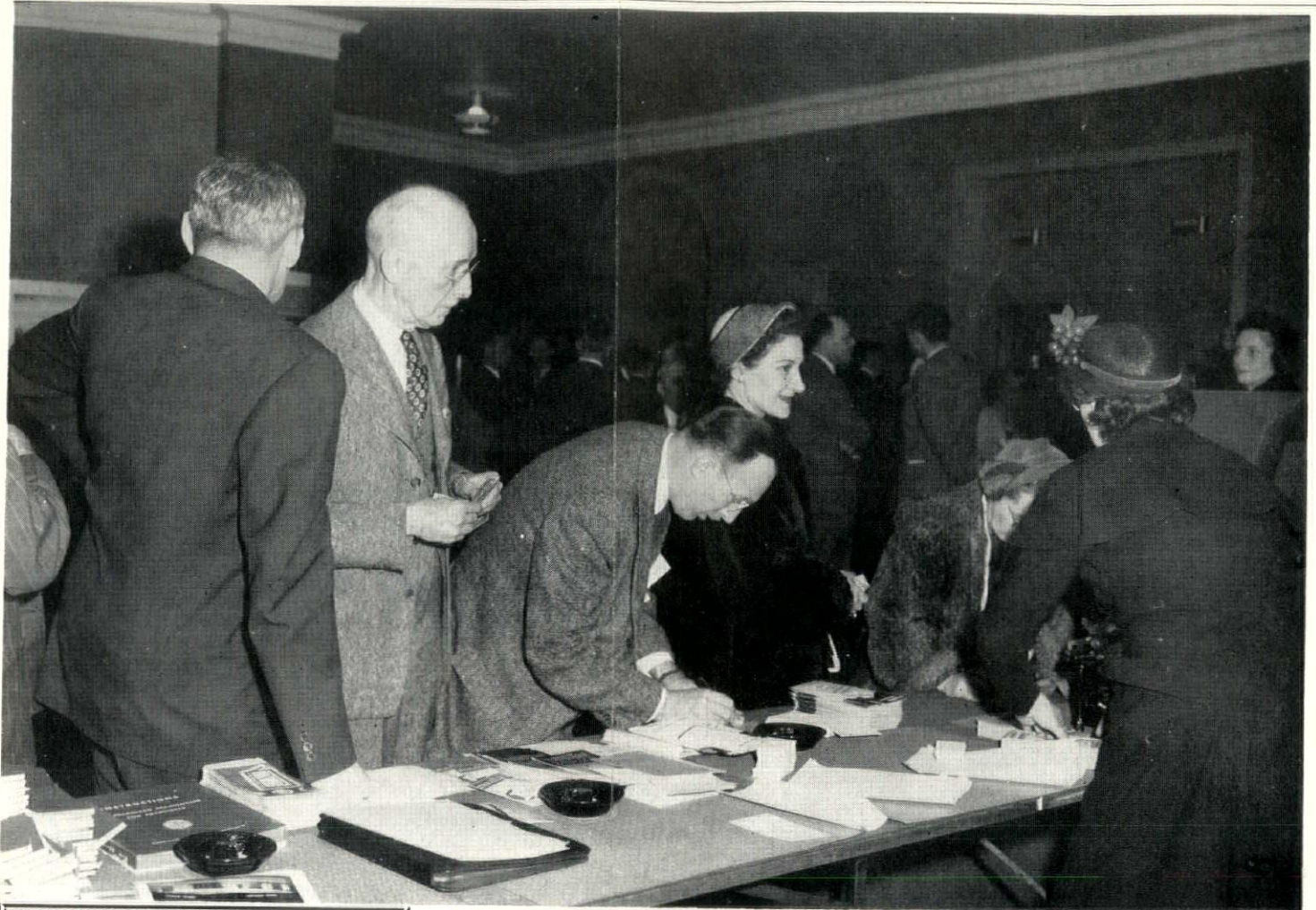
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SHOWN ABOVE is a portion of the speakers table, on the occasion of the appearance of Sir Patrick Abercrombie in Detroit, May 3.

The Special Committee and members of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Society of Architects entertained Sir Patrick at dinner just prior to his lecture in the auditorium at The Engineering Society of Detroit.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Don Kimball, Pete Vander Laan, Leo Bauer and Sir Patrick.

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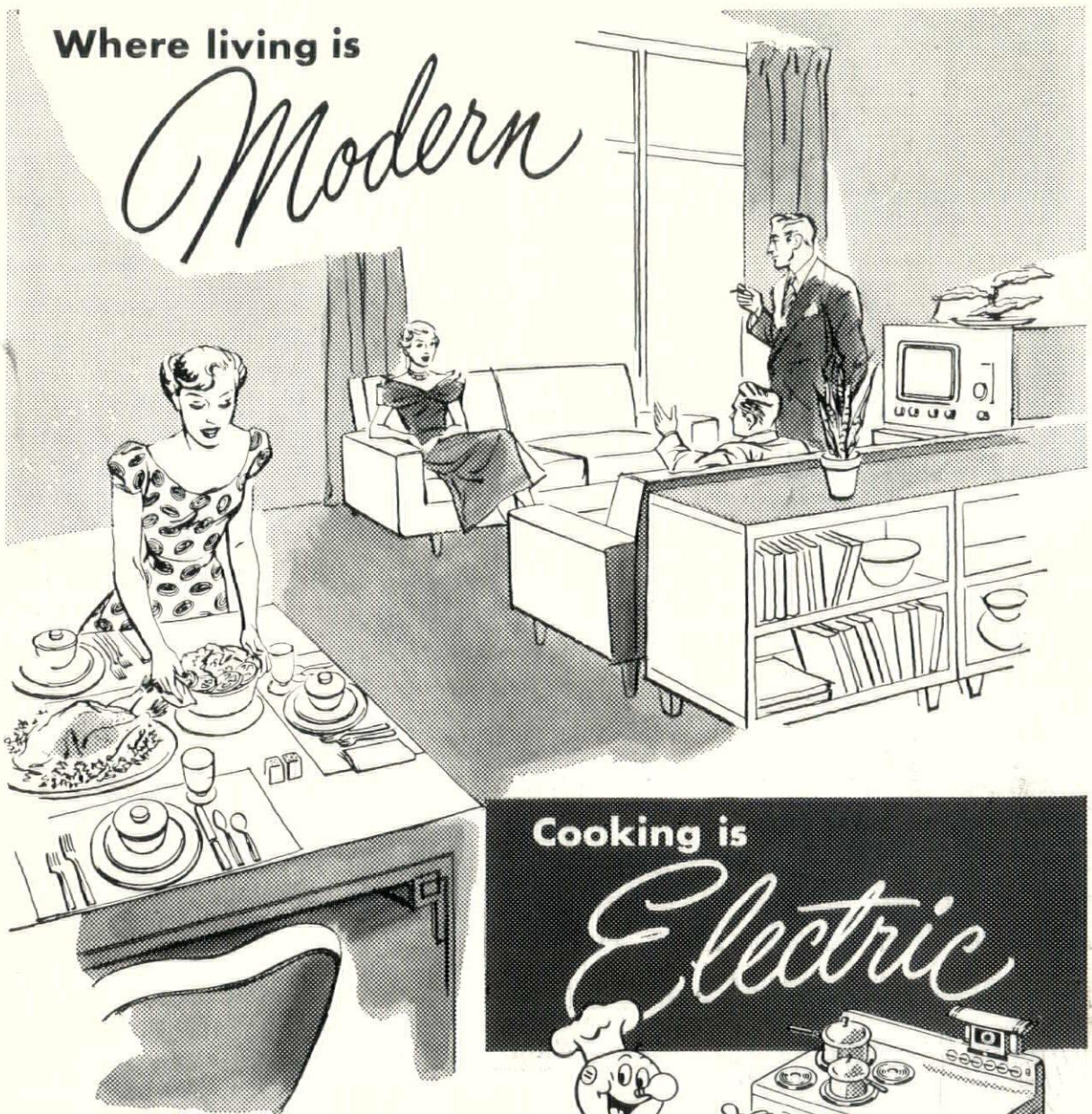
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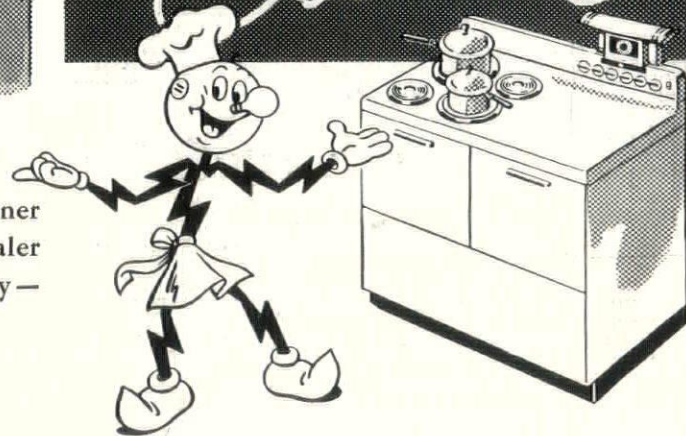
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The Second Annual Concrete Conference held April 26 and 27 at the University of Michigan was attended by nearly 300 persons engaged in the construction industry. The conference, sponsored yearly by the Portland Cement Association, received the full cooperation of the University of Michigan, the Michigan Society of Architects, the Michigan Chapters of The A.I.A., the Michigan Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Associated General Contractors of America.

The first major talk was presented by John H. Banker, construction consultant of the Portland Cement Association. His subject was "Forms: Materials and Methods." According to C. E.

Bottom, discussion leader, Mr. Banker touched upon a subject of utmost interest to contractors especially as it applied to construction economics. "All should benefit from his remarks and should be able to put many of the suggested practices into force," Bottom stated.

A luncheon address delivered by Walter L. Couse, National President of the Associated General Contractors of America, stressed the need for cooperation between architects, engineers, and contractors in the construction of buildings and other works.

E. B. Oberly, construction consultant of the Portland Cement Association, began the afternoon session with a paper on "Exposed Concrete" which was followed by a lively discussion period. A discourse on "Prestressed Concrete" by H. M. Stoll, regional structural engineer of the Portland Cement Association, followed by a motion picture and discussion period concluded the first day of the conference. In his discussion, Professor F. N. Menefee called on the Portland Cement Association to be the leaders in an effort to rationalize terminology as it applies to prestressed concrete.

Again addressing the group, John H. Banker opened the second morning session with a talk on "Heavy Duty Floor Construction." In the discussion period that followed J. G. Martin, District Engineer of the Portland Cement Association, pointed out that everyone connected with the building industry

seemed to know how to build good concrete floors and attempted to obtain an answer to the question, "Who is it that offers the greatest obstruction to getting good concrete floors?" Many admitted that persons in a supervisory capacity spent too much time in their offices when floors were being installed.

Robert P. Briggs, Vice President of the University, delivered the luncheon talk and spoke on "The Physical Plant of the University of Michigan."

The conference was concluded in the afternoon with a "Demonstration of the Mixing, Placing and Finishing of a Heavy Duty Concrete Floor Surface" under the direction of J. H. Banker and E. B. Oberly. The general expression heard during the floor demonstration was, "I didn't think they would ever be able to finish such stiff concrete!"

Those attending the conference termed it as being very successful and worthwhile.

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Volume 24

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, JUNE 13, 1950

No. 24

Tau Sigma Delta Honorary Fraternity *- Scholarship, Leadership, Character*

By Ernest H. Trysell, A.I.A., Detroit, Michigan
From the Fraternity Monthly

Tau Sigma Delta has been developed to provide a national collegiate honor society open to all advanced students majoring toward a degree in Architecture and its Allied Arts of Design in the American colleges and universities wherein an accredited department, school or college of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Allied Arts is established.

The immediate objectives of the Society are to emphasize scholarship, leadership, and character; to stimulate mental achievement and effort; and to reward those students who attain high scholastic standing in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and the Allied Arts of Design by the reward or prize of membership. The Fraternity aims to be of service to the school in which it is functioning, strives to promote high ideals in Architectural education, and provides a collegiate organization which assists in the promotion of worthy endeavors which tend to be of benefit to the Architectural and Allied Arts professions.

An undergraduate student shall be eligible for selection to membership when he shall have completed at least five-eighths of the technical and professional requirements for the initial degree in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, or the Allied Arts provided he shall have attained a scholastic average grade of not lower than the minimum grade of the highest 15 per cent of such group of students. Higher standards may be set by a chapter to suit the desire of the faculty at the school where a chapter is located, but no lower standards are permitted. In

Prof. Thomas K. FitzPatrick, A.I.A., Chairman of the Department of Architecture, Iowa State College, is President of Tau Sigma Delta; Prof. Verle L. Annis, College of Architecture, University of Southern California, Secretary - Treasurer; Prof. Paul Henry Coy, College of Architecture and Design, University of Michigan, Corresponding Secretary; Prof. P. H. Elwood, Head, Dept. of Landscape Architecture, Iowa State College, immediate Past Grand Chapter Master.

Ernest H. Trysell, A.I.A., of Detroit, is immediate Past Grand Chapter Recorder. He was organizing member and an active member of the Grand Chapter of Tau Sigma Delta since its formative period at the University of Michigan.

The organization has now more than 2,000 members. A new Chapter has just been installed at Tulane University School of Architecture, with Prof. Buford L. Pickens, A.I.A., as Advisor.

Another chapter is being installed at Kansas State College Department of Architecture through the approval of Prof. Paul Weigel, Head of the Department.

the calculation of points per unit of college credit earned, special emphasis is placed on courses in Design which are weighted with higher points per unit than the general subjects. The student eligible for selection is voted upon by the active chapter membership at which time consideration is

given to character, initiative, leadership, creative ability, and other impponderables. The list of candidates so voted upon favorably is submitted to the faculty of the department in which the student is registered for faculty approval, and no student is notified of his selection until so approved. The candidate must therefore first pass the test of outstanding scholarship, secondly meet the approval of his fellow classmates, and finally pass the more mature judgment of his teachers.

Elections are also made from students enrolled as candidates for the graduate degree. The chapters are extended the privilege of electing to honorary membership such persons of high repute in the professions of Architecture and Allied Arts as the faculty may recommend; the chapter also elects members of the faculty of the department in which the chapter is established.

Members are elected without discrimination as to race, color, or creed. Elections shall be irrespective of membership in or affiliation with other recognized organizations or associations. The Society elects both men and women.

History

Tau Sigma Delta was organized in 1913 at the University of Michigan at the suggestion and guidance of the faculty in Architecture and Landscape Design who selected the first group of senior honor students to be the founding members. After three years of trial, the system of elections was extended to other universities. With gradual growth, it became necessary for the best interests of the schools at which chapters became located to extend elections to honor students who were majoring toward a degree in departments allied with Architecture and Landscape Architecture. Also, for the continuity of the workings of a chapter from term to term, it became proper to elect from the junior groups who were about to become seniors. Thus

Tau Sigma Delta developed from a senior honor society in Architecture and Landscape Architecture to become inclusive of both juniors and seniors in Architecture, Architectural Engineering, Architectural Design, Landscape Architecture, Painting, Sculpturing, Planning, Decorative Design, Interior Decoration, and all the Arts Allied with Architecture. And with that development it became necessary to establish the rule that each chapter shall have its origin in a School of Architecture and be controlled by that school; no chapter is established in an art school, as such.

Tau Sigma Delta proved its worth steadily. It overcame the obstacles precipitated by World War I, the subsequent inflationary period, and the resultant era of world economic "recession and adjustment," and the later effects of World War II. To be sure, progress was delayed by these crucial tests of the times, and four of its chapters became inactive; however, the Society emerged strengthened by those tests.

The list of active chapters of Tau Sigma Delta includes Alpha, University of Michigan; Delta, Syracuse University; Gamma, Carnegie Institute of Technology; Epsilon, University of Pennsylvania; Eta, University of California; Iota, University of Washington at Seattle; Kappa, Iowa State College; Lambda, University of Southern California; Mu, University of Texas; and Nu, Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Xi Chapter at Tulane will be installed this year. Three new chapters are in the process of formation, and one inactive chapter has petitioned for resumption of elections.

Zeta of University of Liverpool, in England, had its charter withdrawn by agreement when the Fraternity ruled to limit its chapters to within the United States.

The Fraternity is incorporated under the State Laws of Michigan as a "not-for-profit" association and educational society. Tau Sigma Delta derived its name from the first letter of each of the words of its Motto, "Technitai Sophoi kai Dexioi," which translated means "Craftsmen, skilled and trained." The T or Tau represents the T-square; the D or Delta, the triangle; the S or Sigma is the summation of all other instruments — knowledge, attributes, and ideals as required of a member of Tau Sigma Delta in his chosen profession. The badge or gold key of the Society consists of the crossed Greek letters of T, D, and S, a suspension ring

at the top, and a pendant at the bottom. The Key is worn either as a watch chain charm or as a pin; purchase is optional and at manufacturer's cost to the Fraternity. The colors of the Society are white and gold; the flower is the red rose. The bulletin is **The Technitai (The Craftsman)** and is issued at irregular intervals to the chapters only as a means of inter-chapter information.

The Greekletter name might indicate that Tau Sigma Delta is a secret society, but far be it from such. Each chapter is a faculty-controlled organization to serve best the interests of the school; in fact, the strength and life of a chapter is dependent upon such control. (See TRYSELL Page 7)

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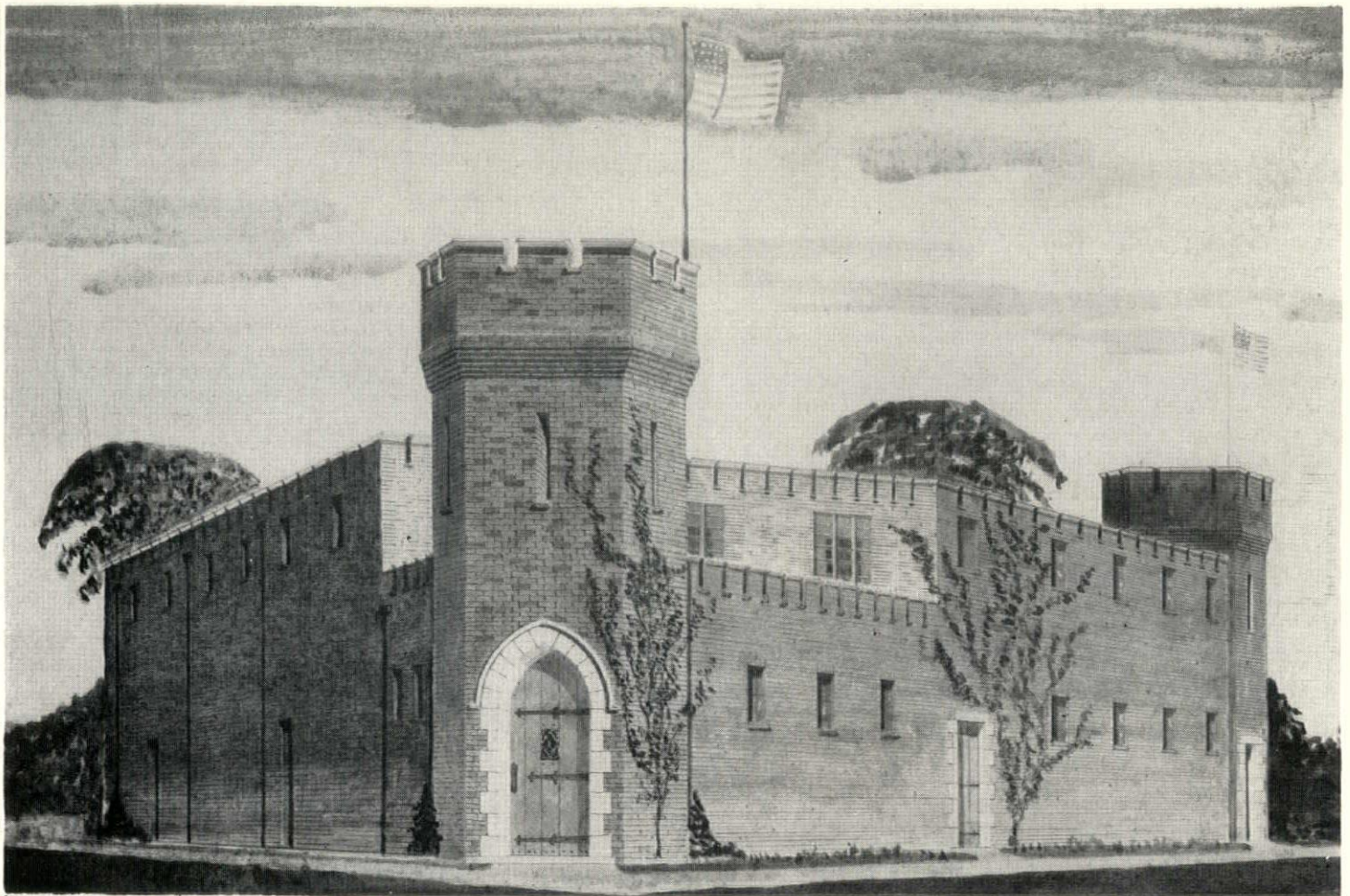
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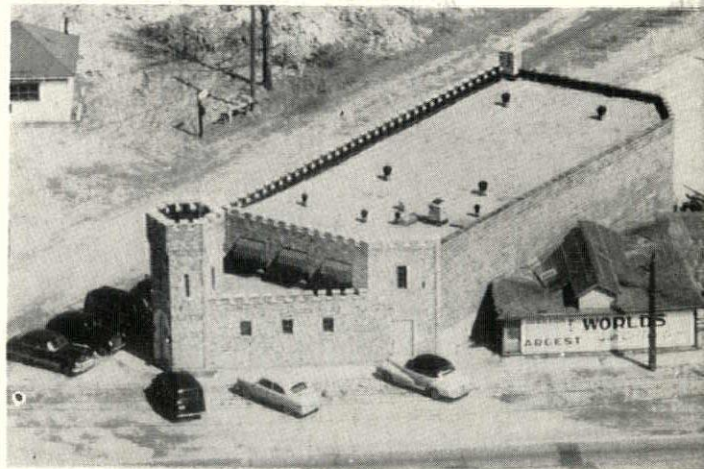
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In the practice of architecture, it is an every day occurrence to design a building embodying the use of new materials. The various loads and spans are itemized and the desired sizes of beams, girders, columns etc. are calculated from this information.

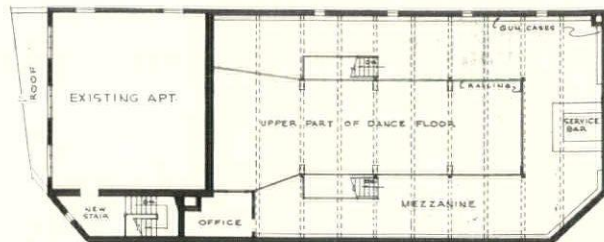


BY W. GLASSON COOMBE, A. I. A.

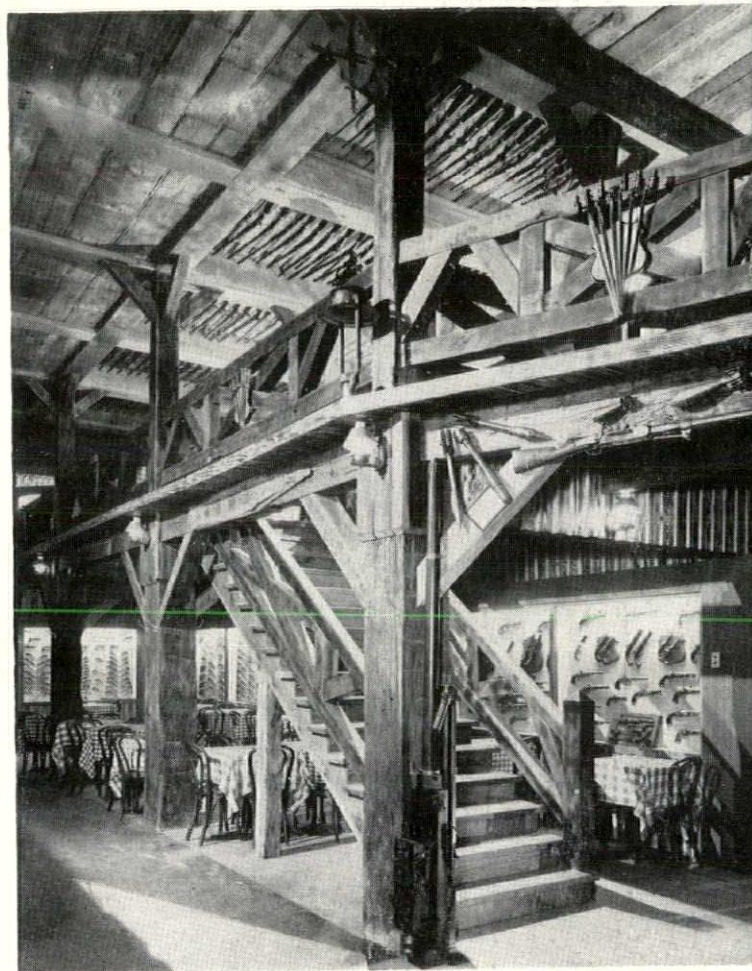


Seldom is one called upon to design a building wherein about eighty percent of the materials are of a used nature with a further mandatory stipulation that they be used to their fullest extent. The latter was a prerequisite in the contemplated remodeling and addition to Andy Palmer's Military Inn, Dearborn, Michigan.

In 1949, Mr. Palmer acquired a building which was one of several comprising the old Dearborn Arsenal located in West Dearborn and constructed during the Civil War. This building was carefully wrecked, and the materials, consisting of common brick, stone and timbers were removed to the site of the then existing Military Inn located at



MEZZANINE PLAN

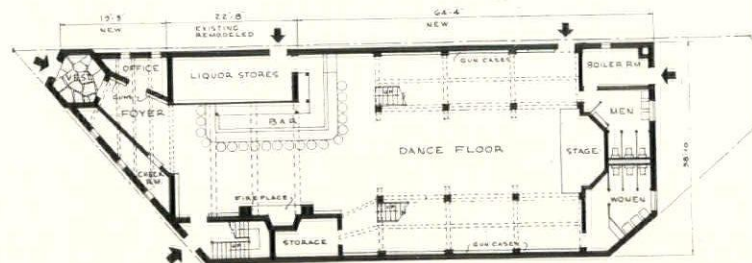
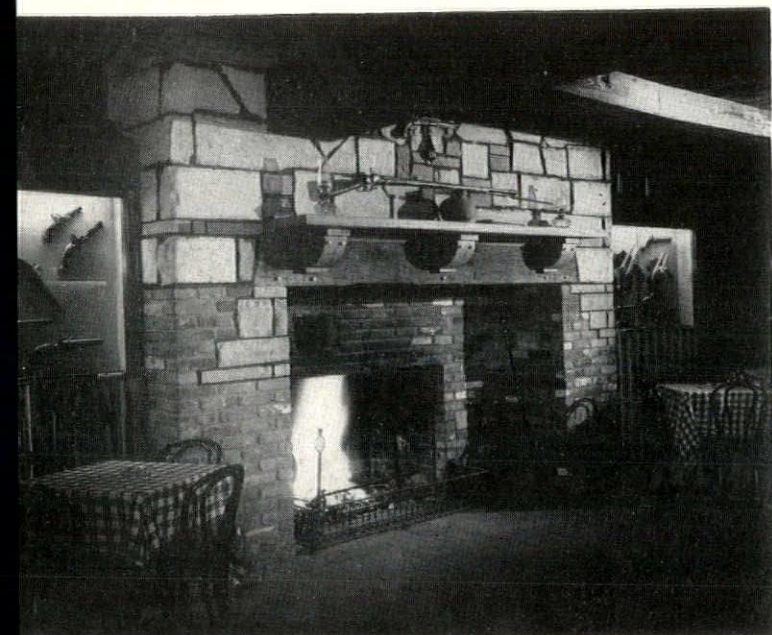


Telegraph and Warren Roads.

I recall the feeling of dismay that was mine upon first seeing the stock of available materials on hand, because it was necessary to personally examine and count them accurately, several days being spent in the process of doing so. The next step was to carefully itemize and catalogue everything for future reference.

The first step in the accomplishment of the design was to procure an accurate survey showing the existing building and lot lines, followed by a consultation with the owner, which evolved some facts hitherto unknown regarding the man for whom the structure was to be built, and the purpose and extent of the

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to be accomplished. It was learned that Palmer had a dream which he wished to consummate into actuality. His hobby had been (and still is) collecting, and he wished to build a permanent show place for his trophies and boasts of being the "World's Champion." The building was also to have accommodations for the sale of liquor and dancing.

In developing the design, the first problem to surmount was the acute and obtuse angles presented by the lot lines with each other, and a hexagon vestibule within a tower was found to be a solution. Elaborating further, a funnel shaped foyer was planned to accommodate a check room and gun cases, the latter to inform the patron immediately of the theme of the building.

From the foyer, one enters into the bar room wherein a fireplace is placed opposite the bar and is reflected in the mirror of the back bar. This room is designed for coziness, the bar being L-shaped and not too long in any direction so that on "off" nights, the lights may be dimmed in the dance floor area beyond, and the activities confined to a small area, thereby arresting the possibility of a patron feeling that he is a "small mouse in a large barn" which is so often the case in establishments of this kind.

Digressing at this point, I should like to discuss the type of architecture used inside and out, and which will be as brief as possible. I assure you the inside style was not "cribbed" from Fletcher's History of Architecture nor too much of anything else previously seen. Some might call it "Garrison style," others "Western Frontier," or our worthy sage Mr. Roger Allen might come up with something as delightful as "Battle Creek Renaissance," but architecture in my opinion is not described by a lot of words, nor does it have to be authentic to the letter insofar as the layman is concerned. It has a story to tell, and I believe that it is adequately told in the building under discussion.

There is a mezzanine running around three sides of the dance floor, accessible by means of two stairways, built of oak, the treads being made of 3" thick material, the hand rail of 4" x 6" also the railing extending around the periphery of the mezzanine. Located at the rear



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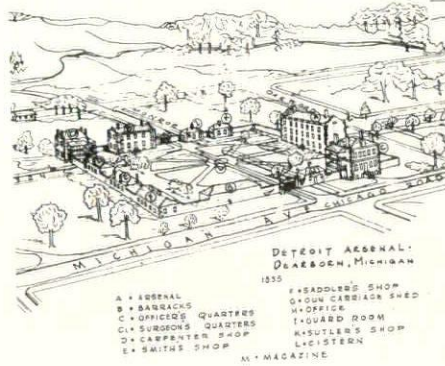
of the mezzanine, is a service bar which relieves the necessity of going downstairs for refreshments. A private office is located at the front end of the mezzanine with windows so positioned as to give a complete view of the entire operations.

The only place where it was found necessary to use new materials was in the roof which is of poured gypsum over clear span steel joists, the latter being covered with wood, and also the ceiling which is of planks 2½" thick which were available as previously discussed.

The columns supporting the mezzanine are of 14" x 14" solid oak, the beams of 7" x 14" and the joists of 6" x 9". As stated previously, the engineering calculations were executed in reverse, the spans being determined from the section modulus available, rather than computing the section required for a given span.

It is noteworthy that the oak and poplar used throughout was in such excellent condition. After electrically sanding, all wood was burned slightly with a blow torch to recover some of the age lost by sanding. The intent to keep the building old in character was achieved by the use of natural materials, no plaster or other coverings being used anywhere. The walls are of exposed brick except where gun cases occur and the main floor is laid with pumice cement.

The exterior is of English Mediaeval style with all the familiar "razzle dazzle," to impart a feeling of housing a



garrison or fortress. The bricks are of course hand made, some bearing dates inscribed thereon as far back as 1837, and while irregular in shape, impart a rugged and interesting feeling to the facade which has a minimum of windows.

Jobs of this kind cannot be entirely planned on the drawing board, but require constant supervision and cooperation on the part of every sub-contractor, the owner and the architect. I wish to extend my thanks to the several contractors and Mr. Palmer for all the splendid help given me and shall always cherish the memory of having had a part in the undertaking.

Plans are now in progress for another addition to be built this year, which was incorporated in the original rendering herewith presented.

Fiberglas Demonstration

By T. G. Seemeyer

If your wife should forget and put the ice cream in the oven and the hot coffee in the refrigerator don't get too upset about it. They'll both remain unchanged provided she wraps a batt of Fiberglas around each of them, as was demonstrated May 16 at a luncheon and show sponsored by John J. Hartnett of Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation at the Detroit Leland Hotel.

This was one of eight similar demonstrations given by the company during the week to which architects were invited in special groups to view the amazing and diversified uses of Fiberglas.

John Vyverberg was in charge of the show which is on tour of the main cities of the country, and Detroit was fortunate enough to be one of the first.

Entertaining the guests, besides Hartnett, were his Detroit staff which included genial Wright Hitt, George Leisnering, Warren Rowley, George Cantrick and Charles Hall.

"Fiberglas is in your Life—for Good!" was the slogan over the stage where everything from sheer filmy blue marquisette curtains to a coldroom self-supporting wall were shown to have evolved from the amazing basic 204 individual filaments in a strand of Fiberglas. We learned that there is enough Fiberglas in a small marble to stretch a single filament of Fiberglas the distance of 90 miles.

Architect Frank Barcus was requested to draw signed cards from a Fiberglas tray, and the lucky numbers won choice door prizes of which yours truly carried off a swell Fiberglas insulated picnic lunch hamper.

Among the architects attending the May 16 luncheon, besides Frank, were John Blair, Joseph French, Louis Blume, Byron Mills, Stanley Bragg, Arthur Schmidt, Louis Redstone, Fred Strauss, Paul Tilds and Russell Radford.

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TRYSELL from Page 2
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As a recognition of the Tau Sigma Delta standing as a strictly honorary society, the Association of College Honor Societies has admitted it to full membership as the departmental honor society in Architecture and Allied Arts.

Organization
 The government of Tau Sigma Delta is vested in the hands of the officers of the Grand Chapter, the Advisory Council, the institutional chapters, and the annual meeting.

The Grand Chapter has control of all matters pertaining to the Fraternity as a whole between the annual or special national meetings. Its officers are chosen from alumni and Faculty members for a term of four years. The Grand Master, or president, is Prof. Thomas K. FitzPatrick, Ames, Iowa; the Grand Recorder, or secretary-treasurer, Prof. Verle L. Annis, Los Angeles; The Grand Scribe or corresponding secretary, Prof. Paul Henry Coy, Ann Arbor, Mich. The latter is the representative of Tau Sigma Delta on the Council of the Association of College Honor Societies. The Advisory Council membership is made up of the following: H. O. Whittemore, Ann Arbor; George T. Clayton, Syracuse, N. Y.; George S.

Koyl, Philadelphia; Arthur B. Gallion, Los Angeles; Robert L. Lepper and John Knox Shear, Pittsburgh; Arthur

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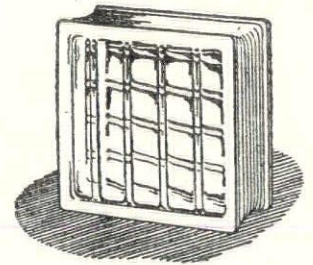
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Retiring from the Grand Chapter are Prof. P. H. Elwood (Grand Master) and Ernest H. Trysell (Grand Recorder). It was the earnest desire on the part of the retiring officers that their duties be turned over to other interested Tau Sigma Delta members with the coming term, both having earned relief after more than thirty years of gratuitous service to Tau Sigma Delta.

The chapters adopted a constitutional amendment on Jan. 15, 1949, providing that the annual meeting of Tau Sigma Delta "shall be held at an appropriate time just preceding the annual convention of The American Institute of Architects. The place shall be the city designated by The A.I.A. for its convention. The meeting of the Fraternity shall be held at a time and place specified by the Grand Chapter to suit the calendar arrangements of The A.I.A. convention."

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Volume 24

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, JUNE 20, 1950

No. 25

BRITISH BUILDING TEAM'S REPORT

Asks Sweeping Reforms After U. S. Tour

Acclaims Efficiency and Productivity of American Methods

Contrasting the efficiency of the American building industry with the lack of production in England, the official report of the 17-man British Building Team, which visited the United States last summer, urges sweeping reforms of British building practices and relaxation of government controls.

Citing the initiative, efficiency, economy and productivity of American builders, the report asks "responsible authorities" of the British Labor Government "to ease or remove existing onerous restrictions on private enterprise house building."

"The speed with which American buildings of all sizes are erected remains one of the Team's deepest impressions," the report stated.

"The outstanding lesson to be learned (from the U.S. tour)," the report concluded, "is that the British building industry must be mobilized to eliminate everything which stands in the way of greater efficiency—be it inadequate preparation of work, bad organization by architect or contractor, or the continuance of unnecessary or restrictive controls or practices—so that each member of the industry can, in his own sphere, perform the best work of which he is capable."

Extolling the American free enterprise system, the introduction to the report said: "Every member of the Team was greatly impressed by the spirit of initiative and cooperation which appears to characterize each section of the American industry, and which is shown in the attitude of all towards the work in hand . . . direct material incentives to self-advancement, coupled with penalties for failure to keep abreast of the times—these are factors reflected in the speed and efficiency of construction in the U.S."

Pointing out that the great preponderance of U.S. building is privately financed and that this factor stimulates the spirit of initiative, the report added:

"The operatives (craftsmen) no less than the employers realize that if the industry prices itself out of the market there will be hardship for all."

Impressed by the high level of productivity of American building craftsmen and their general attitude toward their job, the report said:

"From a comparison of work—the Team concludes that the out-put per man-hour on similar site operations is about 50% higher in America than it is in Britain. This is primarily due to the greater speed at which the operatives work and the ready supply of materials to craftsmen.

"It is recognized that the American craftsman has many advantages—in better organization of the job, the supply of unskilled labor, breaking down of craft operations, easier travel to work (generally in his own car) and better food—but a large part of the difference . . . can be accounted for only by the individual attitude towards work . . . The whole American way of life is a challenge to the individual to give of his best . . . The British operative must, like the American, realize that his standard of living is linked to the efficiency of the industry and depends on his personal contribution."

Pointing out that the average hourly wage of building craftsmen in America is more than four times that of Britain, the report disputes the argument that

the high wages here are made necessary by the high cost of living. "The proportion of wages spent on necessities is lower and the general standard of living considerably higher in America than in Britain," it said. The report presented a detailed table, comparing the length of time a building craftsman in London and one in New York has to work to earn the price of essential articles. As an example, the table revealed that a New York craftsman works 13 hours and 43 minutes to purchase a \$40.75 suit of clothes. A comparable London craftsman works 81 hours and 8 minutes for the same article, an increase of 591 percent.

Impressed with the effective pre-construction planning of work by contractors, architects and engineers and the efficient administrative organization which directs a construction project, the British Team commented: "The efficiency of the American building contractor can be simply explained. Operating in a free and competitive market and being supplied at the earliest possible date with full information of the work to be done, he has both the incentive and the opportunity to organize the constructional work and carry it out with speed and economy . . . Effective coordination and correlation of the work of sub-contractors is one of the most striking features of American contract organization."

Based on its observations, the British Team concluded its report with 21 specific recommendations for improving efficiency and productivity in Britain. Emphasized in the recommendations were administrative organization; cooperation between architect and contractors with resulting effective pre-construction planning; increased mechanization of the building industry and more energy-giving foods for craftsmen.

DETROIT AREA BUILDINGS

The following is a list of buildings in the Detroit area, as nominated by the recent post card ballot, as being of possible interest to visitors:

Contemporary

COMMERCIAL

- Buhl Building
- Davidson Brothers Warehouse
- Detroit News and WWJ Radio Studios
- Federal Department Store at Grand River and Greenfield
- Fisher Building—6 votes
- General Motors Building—3 votes
- General Motors Research Center—2 votes
- J. L. Hudson Company
- Michigan Bell Telephone Company at Birmingham—3 votes
- Penobscot Building
- David Stott Building

DOMESTIC

- Gregor E. Affleck residence on North Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills by Frank Lloyd Wright— 2 votes
- Houses by George J. Bery of Oak Park
- Dow house at Midland
- FHA Housing Project in Birmingham
- Alexander Girard residence in Grosse

- Pointe
- Goodenough residence in Grosse Pointe
- Howard White residence at Owosso

EDUCATIONAL

- Art Institute—5 votes
- Main Library—5 votes
- Rackham Memorial Building—4 votes
- Coburn Elementary School at Battle Creek
- Copernicus Junior High School
- Cranbrook—17 votes
- Michigan State College at Lansing
- Lake Orion School at Lake Orion
- Roosevelt High School
- Schools by Eberle Smith
- University of Michigan Union Building addition
- University of Michigan Student Publications Building
- University of Michigan Administration Buildings
- Wayne University new buildings—3 votes
- Western Michigan College of Education

INDUSTRIAL

- Ford Motor Company, Rouge Plant— 7 votes
- Ford Museum
- Ford Rotunda
- Willow Run—2 votes

RELIGIOUS

- Duns Scotis Monastery
- Kanley Memorial Chapel, Kalamazoo
- Sacred Heart Seminary
- St. Aloysius Church—2 votes
- St. Anthony Shrine
- St. James Roman Catholic
- St. Paul's Episcopal—2 votes

MISCELLANEOUS

- Ambassador Bridge
- Windsor Tunnel
- Dr. S. S. Berke's Clinic Building
- Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital
- Parducci Sculpture Studio
- Veteran's Memorial—9 votes
- Woods Theatre

Historical

COMMERCIAL

- City Hall
- Majestic Building
- Wayne County Buildings—2 votes

DOMESTIC

- Croswell residence at Adrian
- Judge Samuel Dexter residence at Dexter

EDUCATIONAL

- Mackinac Island
- Old Museum on East Jefferson Ave.

RELIGIOUS (Churches)

- Fort Street Presbyterian
- Mariner's
- Metropolitan Methodist
- Sts. Peter & Paul Jesuit
- St. Anne's

MISCELLANEOUS

- Fort Wayne
- Greenfield Village—10 votes

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ACOUSTICAL FURRING

A discussion has arisen regarding the installation of Metal Suspension for Acoustical Ceilings, as to whether it should be specified under the Plastering Contractor or the Acoustical Contractor.

We of the Acoustical business strongly believe that it should be installed under the Acoustical Specifications for the following reasons:

QUALITY—Lathing for plastering can permit large tolerances as the plaster takes up the error. Acoustical lathing must be exact and level. The Acoustical Contractor insures the proper base for his tile by using Lathing Sub-Contractors specializing in this work, who know the specific requirements of the special suspension systems in use.

RESPONSIBILITY — Split responsibility is costly and should be avoided. If the Acoustical Contractor does a complete job, he alone is responsible for the finished job. Experience shows less than 3% of all acoustical work has plaster borders where the work adjoins. Proper detailing solves this simple problem.

COST—All lathers act under a sub-contract and enjoy one standard wage rate. However, the cost for suspension may be lower if done by the Acoustical Contractor, because:

1. The Acoustical Lathing Contractors are more skilled in application of Acoustical Suspension Systems.
2. The Acoustical Contractors buy suspension parts in quantity.
3. One scaffold usually suffices for the lather and the tile erectors.

For a true picture of relative costs, the Acoustical Contractors and Plastering Contractor should each figure his own work on a completely competitive basis.

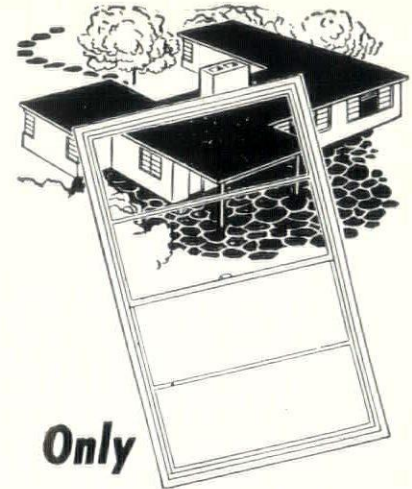
TIME—Lack of coordination between trades causes costly delays. The Acoustical Contractor knows just how to adapt his modular ceilings to receive light troffers, ducts, grilles, etc., and can then avoid many troubles which would occur with a split responsibility for his work.

Our combined experience over many years involving thousands of jobs has proven we can do the best job when we control our work.

At this time, we also wish to express our appreciation for the ever increasing acceptance of our products which has contributed to the steady growth of the industry.

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GEO. H. MIEHLS, President of Albert Kahn Associated Architects and Engineers, is back at his desk after a six-weeks tour of Europe, during which time he and Mrs. Miehls visited France, Italy, Switzerland and England. Mr. Miehls reports his enjoyment and appreciation of the hospitality of the various places visited and the friendship of the people but to him the view of the Statue of Liberty was most delightful because here in fact was home.

HAROLD H. FISHER, A.I.A., of Detroit, was speaker at the Great Lakes Regional Conference of the Illuminating Engineering Society in Buffalo, N. Y., May 22-23. Featured was an exhibition of student work. The problem: a downtown building as combination headquarters for A.I.A. and I.E.S., in Cleveland. The Cleveland Chapter, A.I.A. had joined with the Cleveland I.E.S. in sponsoring the competition.

Women who have lived in several different houses, even though these houses are the same size, will tell you one is much more difficult to do house-keeping in than another.

Usually this is the architect's fault. Too many male architects overlook the idea of planning a house that will be easy for a home manager to handle.

All male architects should take a course in housekeeping.

After that they should do some house-keeping. Then they will be in a position to plan houses that will make house-wives happy.

ERNEST WILBY, F.A.I.A., of Windsor, Ont., has been made a Member Emeritus of The American Institute of Architects and its Detroit Chapter.

GEORGE S. KINGSLEY, A.I.A., a member of the Detroit Chapter, formerly of Douglas, Mich., has moved to Florida, where his address is 1611 Plunkett St., Hollywood, Fla.

KENNETH C. BLACK, A.I.A., of Lansing, was the speaker before the recent meeting of the Friends of the Library in East Lansing. His subject was "Modern Library Needs" in which he outlined the possibilities for increasing library facilities in East Lansing. Mr. Black's firm, Lee Black and Kenneth C. Black, is architect for the East Lansing Civic Center.

ROBERT C. GAEDE, of Cleveland, Ohio, is the winner of the George G. Booth Traveling Fellowship Competition, for 1950, at the College of Architecture and Design, University of Michigan, it is announced by Wells I. Bennett, Dean of the College. Mr. Gaede plans to travel and study in European countries.

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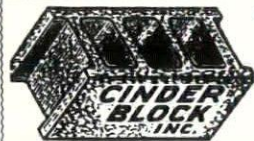
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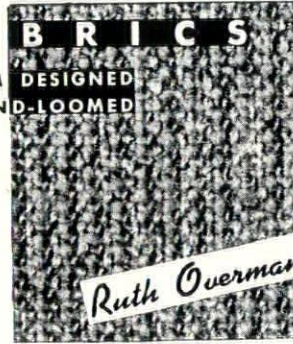
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Volume 24

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, JUNE 27, 1950

No. 26

MASSACHUSETTS FAIR-BIDDING PROCEDURE

By FRED WILLIAMS, Chairman Legislative Committee
Heating, Piping and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association

For many years efforts have been made to obtain the separating and awarding of contracts for the three mechanical trades as separate contracts in cases involving public work.

Our National Association has always stood firmly for this principle and, together with the national associations of the other mechanical trades, contends that it should apply to Federal work as well as to all state and municipal work.

Every open-minded person must admit that the separation of the three mechanical contracts from the general contract is fair, equitable and economical whether considered from the viewpoint of the general contractor, the sub-contractor or the public.

Seven State Laws

In spite of this, however, only seven states have succeeded in having laws placed upon their statute books which make mandatory the awarding of separate contracts on public work. The states now having such legislation are Arkansas, Louisiana, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio and Pennsylvania. This means that in most of the other states and in Federal work the mechanical trades are given little or no protection and are left to the mercy of those general contractors who practice the so-called "shopping" procedure.

Fair Bidding Procedure

Here in Massachusetts, while we have never been able to obtain the actual separation of contracts, we have a statute which sets forth a fair bidding procedure which must be strictly adhered to in all cases involving public work. This statute, commonly known as Chapter 480, was enacted in 1939 and may be found incorporated into and amending Chapter 149 of our General Laws.

The provisions of Chapter 480, which we will call the "Massachusetts Plan," while not as drastic as those to be found in statutes calling for the com-

plete separation of contracts, are such as to give protection to sub-bidders, fairness and uniformity to bidding procedure and regulations under which we have operated for many years. The majority of the sub-contractors feel that this plan has operated successfully and that the mechanical trades have benefited because of its having been placed upon our statute books.

In many states the possibility of having the principles of separate contracts enacted into law is so remote that the milder but equally satisfactory principles of the "Massachusetts Plan" might be offered as a substitute, with fair hopes of being adopted.

I appreciate that there is nothing more tiresome to the average person than a dissertation on the law, it seems so mysterious and its terms so confusing that a proper interpretation seems almost impossible. There is nothing mysterious or confusing about the "Massachusetts Plan," it sets forth in clear, definite terms the procedure which each and every contractor must follow in order to be eligible to obtain a contract for public work. I feel that you will be hearing a great deal about the "Massachusetts Plan" in the near future and, for this reason, should be familiar with its principles. I shall attempt, therefore, to give you a short analysis of it, refraining from legal phraseology as far as possible.

Legislative Developments

At the present time an attempt is be-

ing made to amend the "Massachusetts Plan." At the last session of the legislature a bill was introduced, the purpose of which is to change many of the features of the present law. This bill failed of passage last year, was referred to a recess commission which held a public hearing on December 6th, and will probably be presented to the 1950 session of the legislature in an amended form. In discussing the various phases of the "Massachusetts Plan" I shall refer to the amendments proposed in this bill so that you may have an idea of the changes which will take place should the bill become law.

Present Provisions

The "Massachusetts Plan," by the wording of its title, clearly states that its provisions shall apply to every contract for the construction, reconstruction, alteration, remodeling or repair of any public building by the Commonwealth, or by any county, city, town, district, board, commission or other public body. The present law applies to all work, the estimated cost of which exceeds \$5000 in the case of the Commonwealth or \$1000 in the case of the others. The bill now pending before

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the legislature seeks to increase these figures to \$10,000 in the case of the Commonwealth and \$5,000 in the case of the others.

The law further specifies that the contract shall be awarded on the basis of competitive bids to the lowest responsible and eligible bidder. The law proceeds to prevent any misinterpretation of the terms "lowest responsible and eligible bidder" by stating that he is the "lowest bidder possessing the skill, ability and integrity necessary to a faithful performance of the work." This particular provision of the law is frequently invoked when an irresponsible sub-bidder, with neither proper training nor sufficient experience and without adequate financial standing, seeks to obtain a job at a ridiculously low figure.

As is the usual procedure, each bid must be accompanied by cash or a certified check in the amount of 3% of the value of the proposed work, but in no event less than \$100 nor more than \$50,000.

The award of any contract shall be made within thirty days after the opening of the bids therefore, or, if governmental approval is required within

thirty days after such approval. When the contract has been executed and delivered, all bid deposits are returned to the bidders. However, if the successful bidder fails to execute the contract within ten days after notice, the amount of money he deposited with his bid shall become the property of the awarding authority, as liquidated damages.

General Contractor Requirements

For the sake of uniformity all general contractors bidding on the project are required by the statute to file the same form of bid. The general contractor must file a bid for the complete project as specified and he must also include the names of all the principals and such minor subcontractors as are designated in the proposal form. To accomplish this result, each bid must be divided into two items:

Item 1, covering all the work of the general contractor, being all the work not covered in item 2.

Item 2, covering the balance of the work, being all work by sub-contractors listed therein.

The present law refers to "principal sub-contractors" without specifying what constitutes a principal sub-contractor. In the proposed law it refers to "major sub-contractors" and clearly specifies those who shall be considered: plumbing; heating and sheet metal; electrical; plastering; roofing, and painting."

Up to this point the statute deals with the requirements up to which the general contractor must live, now it proceeds to specify the procedure which the sub-contractors must follow in order to comply with the law.

Sub-Contractor Requirements

Each sub-contractor is required to deliver or mail to the awarding authority a copy of the bids which they are submitting to any or all the general contractors who are bidding on the project. These copies must be delivered to the awarding authority by 12:00 noon at least two days before the date of receipt of the general contract bids. This procedure is most beneficial for the sub-contractors because no change can be made in the figures submitted by any sub-contractor after delivery to the awarding authority. The amount of any sub-contractor's bid cannot be exposed by the awarding authority because, while the sealed bids remain in the custody of the awarding authority, he is not permitted to open them until after the general contract has been awarded.

In order that the general contractors may know what sub-contractors have filed bids with the awarding authority, a list of those filing is mailed on the day of filing to each general contractor who is bidding on the project. This is a protection for the sub-contractors for

no sub-contractor whose name does not appear on this list can be used by a general contractor. However, these sub-contractors are given the privilege of specifying what particular general contractors are to be permitted to use their figures. This is accomplished by an endorsement which appears on exterior of the envelope containing the bid and which reads as follows:

"The above proposal is being sent to the following general contractors:—

This proposal may not be used by any other general contractor without the consent of the undersigned."

In case the sub-contractor is willing that his bid be used by any of the general contractors bidding on the project he makes no specific endorsement, thus making his bid available to any contractor desiring to use it.

Submittal of Bids

The statute demands uniformity in the method of submitting bids by sub-contractors. The sealed envelope containing the bid must contain on its exterior the following: **See BIDDING, Page 6**


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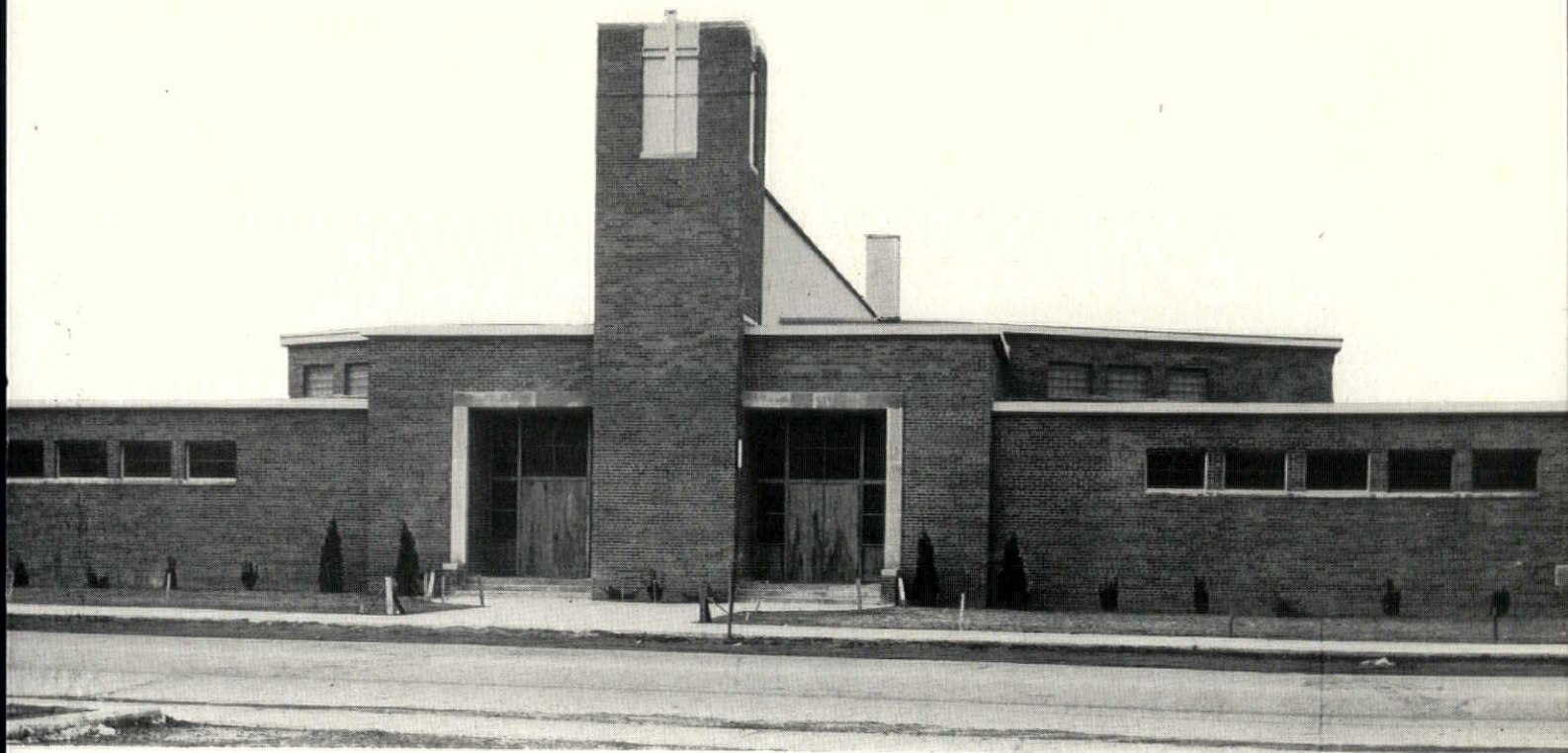

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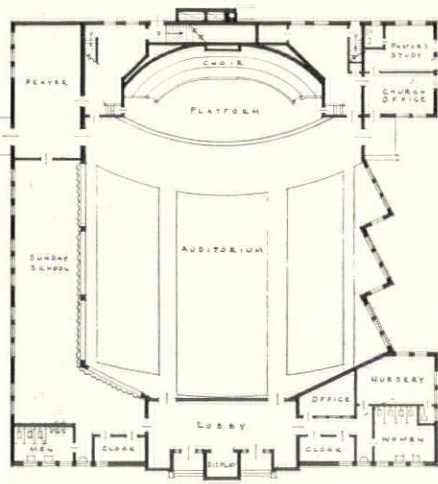
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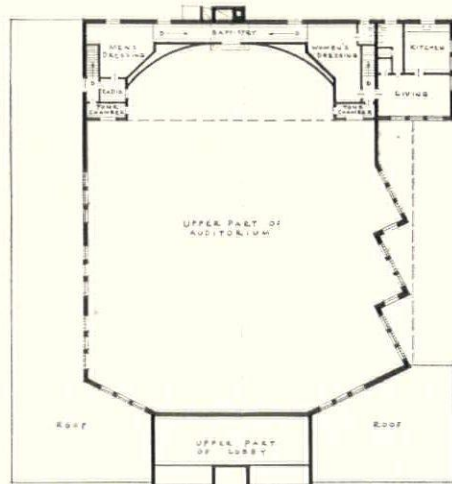
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The acoustics of the auditorium presented a problem with voice to be heard from the platform and also from any part of the auditorium during testimonial services, choir music, organ, piano and orchestra music. Provision was also made for the regular radio broadcasts. Correction for acoustics was made by using acoustical plaster on the ceiling and back wall; the east wall was built saw tooth shape; the ceiling is flat but the floor slopes down from the lobby a distance of two thirds the length of the auditorium and then up toward the platform. This dip in the floor also greatly improved the sight lines. Tone chambers for the organ are provided in the second floor on each side of the platform.

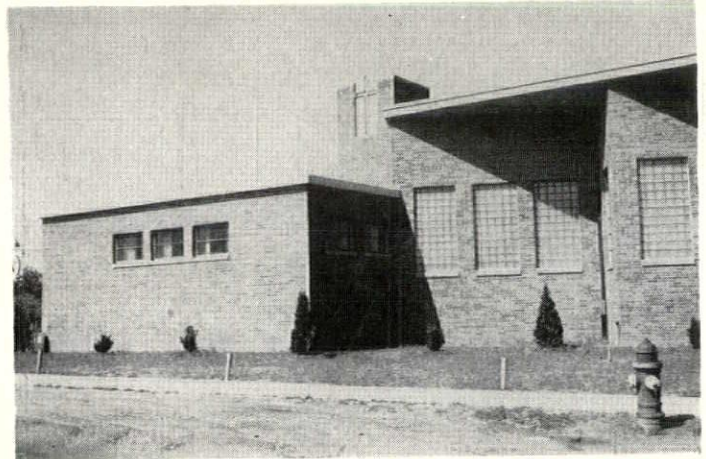
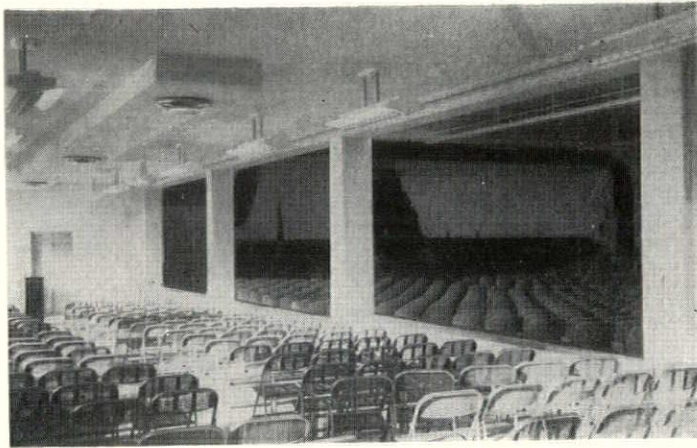
Modern-fold curtains were installed between the auditorium and a twenty foot side aisle, on the west side of the auditorium. The side aisle is used for overflow crowds and Sunday school classes and will accommodate 300 persons seated on movable chairs. Directly in back of the side aisle is a prayer

The Brightmoor Tabernacle, founded in 1925, recently completed its new edifice at 22420 Fenkell Avenue, Detroit, Michigan.

The entrance doors on each side of the central tower lead into a large lobby. The space inclosed by the tower walls serves as a room for the display and distribution of church literature. By separating the entrances the movement of people through the lobby was greatly facilitated. To the right of the lobby are the women's cloak room, toilet room and nursery or "bawl room" as one of the members of the building committee suggested calling it. To the left of

the lobby are the men's cloak room and toilet room.

The auditorium seats 1000 persons. The services are long so theater seats were used in place of pews. The platform is large enough to accommodate several speakers, two grand pianos and an organ. Directly in front of the platform there is space for an orchestra of 20 pieces. Back of the platform there are seats for a choir of 85 persons. Back of the choir, at the center of the platform, is the baptismal pool. Baptism is by immersion and a ramp leads to men's and women's dressing rooms on either side. During the baptismal ceremonies



room which will accommodate 150 persons.

On the first floor to the right of the platform are the church offices. Above the church offices on the second floor is an apartment for visiting evangelists. The radio control room is located on the second floor with a window on the platform side.

A public address system was installed but is seldom used, except for the speaker in the nursery.

In general, fluorescent lighting was use.

The furnace and mechanical equipment are located in the basement below the platform. A split system of heating was designed for the building but in

order to cut costs a forced warm air system was installed.

A unique system of structural support was employed for the roof. The steel trusses ten feet on center span the auditorium at the center. The span steel joists are supported by the bottom chords of the trusses. The space between the trusses is used for warm air ducts. This also el

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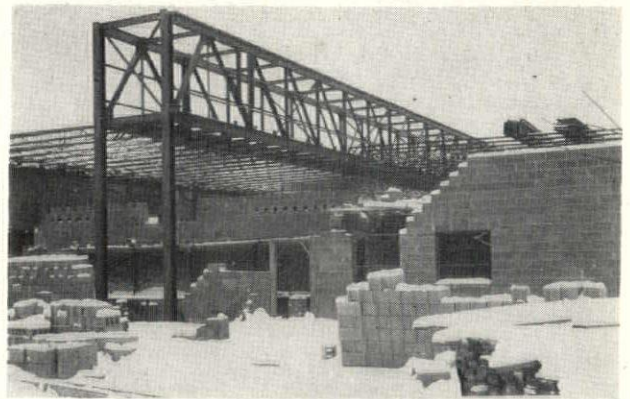
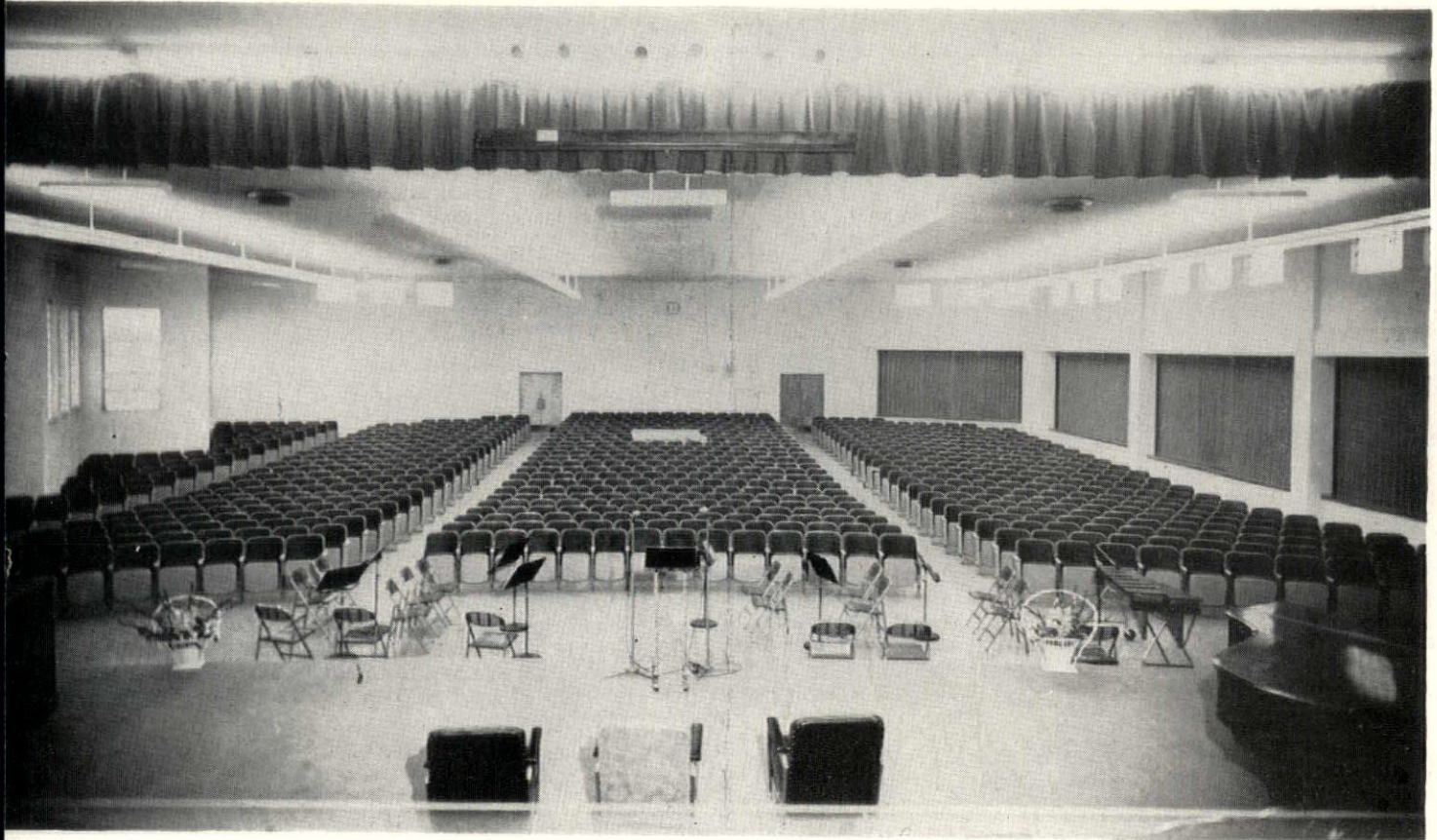
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six feet of masonry wall height. The two exterior walls facing the streets are of face brick. In the future a Sunday school annex will adjoin the west wall.

On three sides of the tower there are stainless steel crosses which are lighted by neon lights.

The Rev. Bond P. Bowman is pastor of the Tabernacle.

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BIDDING, from Page 2

terior certain information consisting of the name and location of the project, the closing date for the bids, and a list of the sub-contractors whom he is including in his bid, if the portion of the work they are bidding on involves labor and materials. In order that this uniformity may be strictly adhered to, it is expressly stipulated in the statute that no sub-bid shall be considered unless it has been filed with the awarding authority in accordance with the above requirements.

After the awarding authority has selected the general contractor, the sub-bids are opened and examined. It is at this point that the awarding authority determines if the sub-bidders who have been named by the successful general contractor possess "the skill, integrity and ability necessary to the faithful performance of the work." In order to aid the awarding authority in determining if his qualifications are satisfactory, the sub-bidders proposal must carry the answers to the following questions which appear on the said proposal:

1. Have been in business under present business name _____ year

2. Ever fail to complete any work awarded?
3. List one or more recent buildings with names of general contractor and architect on which you served as sub-contractor for work of similar character as required for the above named building.
Building Contractor
(a)
(b)
(c)
Architect Contract
Amount Your Contract _____
4. Bank reference.

If it is found that the sub-bidders qualify under the statute and that they execute the contract and file the necessary bonds, there are no further requirements with the exception of satisfactory performance and completion of the work.

If, however, the sub-contractor named by the general contractor is deemed to be unsatisfactory or he fails to sign his contract within a specified time, then the law specifies the steps which shall be taken by the awarding authority.

If the named sub-contractor is rejected, and it is decided to consider sub-contractors other than those named by the general contractor in his proposal, the awarding authority and the general contractor get together and consider those on the list who have filed, choosing one who is agreeable to both parties. But here again the law steps in to protect sub-contractors. It specifically states that if the general contractor's figure for the entire job, with the new sub-contractor's figure substituted for the one rejected, is no longer the low bid, then he is no longer qualified to receive the award and another general contractor is selected, and his proposal is examined in the same manner. Any re-adjustment of the general contractor's figure as contained in his proposal must be considered in conjunction with the other general contractor's proposals submitted to determine if he is still the low bidder.

The sub-contractor selected must sign the sub-contract within ten days after notice of his selection or the awarding authority can keep, as liquidated damages, the money deposited by him with his bid and, together with the general contractor, shall select from the sub-bidders who have conformed with the bidding procedure the next lowest bidder at the amount named in such sub-bid, and the total contract price shall be revised, as I have stated before, in accordance with the change in the figures as submitted.

It often happens that the successful general contractor performs with his own employees some trade or sub-trade

which is listed in item 2 of his proposal, and he intends to do such work on the particular project with his own employees. This, of course, is his privilege, but the statute requires him to follow the procedure laid down for all sub-contractors and he must submit his name and the amount for such work in his proposal for the general work, under item 2.

A general contractor may offer his services as a sub-contractor to any of the other general contractors bidding on the project but his proposal must comply with the regulations for all regular sub-contractors. His proposal will then be considered together with the other filed sub-bids. Such a bid on the part of one general contractor to another always receives the closest scrutiny from the awarding authority. It is the general practice that such a proposal will not be considered unless the general contractor can show to the satisfaction of the awarding authority that he does customarily perform such work and is qualified to do the character of work required by the specifications.

As I promised in the early part of this article, I have attempted to describe as simply as possible the operation of the so called "Massachusetts Plan" and to set forth the procedure which it has set down and to which it demands that the general contractors and the sub-contractors must adhere.

We sub-contractors here in Massachusetts do not claim that the statute is perfect in its operations but the majority do feel that we have been afforded a great deal of protection by its terms.

It is evident that the authors of this statute intended to be fair to everybody concerned and to give full protection to both general contractor and sub-contractor. This, I believe you will agree after having read this article, has been accomplished.

While I do not advocate the adoption of the so-called "Massachusetts Plan" in its entirety, I do feel that it contains many exceptionally fine provisions which can be easily justified and which, if properly presented, might be adopted in those states in which the direct separation of contracts is frowned upon.

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BALDWIN MEMORIAL ARCHIVES OF THE A.I.A.

NAME
Branson Van Leer Gamber of Detroit, Michigan.

BORN
August 19, 1893 at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

DIED
October 12, 1949 at Detroit, Michigan.

PARENTS
Branson Van Leer Gamber and Margaret O'Brien Gamber.

MARRIED
Gula B. McElwee on July 20, 1915 (Divorced 1936).

CHILDREN
Gula Margaret (Mrs. Frances J. Zaher), Branson Van Leer III (deceased).

EDUCATION
Brown College Preparatory School and Drexel Institute of Art and Science, both in Philadelphia; continued studies through B.I.A.D.; head of Detroit Atelier (later Atelier Derrick); awarded Honorary Master of Science in Engineering, Detroit Institute of Technology, 1941.

TRAINING AND PRACTICE AS PRINCIPAL

1907-22. Draftsman, designer and chief draftsman, Day & Klauder, Philadelphia; one year in Toronto; came to Detroit in 1919 and was employed by Albert Kahn, Donaldson & Meier, George D. Mason, Robert O. Derrick.

1922-49. After registration as an architect in Michigan on January 11, 1922, he became associated with Robert O. Derrick, A.I.A., was admitted to partnership (Derrick & Gamber) in 1935. In 1945 William H. Odell was admitted to the firm. The excellence of

his design, his thorough manner and attention to detail led to the firm's doing much creditable work, in a wide range of projects, both large and small.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICE

His natural bent for leadership in architectural organization and his desire to help the young men was soon discovered when he became a member of the Detroit Atelier, B.I.A.D., and head of its successor, Atelier Derrick. He became a member of The A.I.A. in 1926, served in various offices of its Detroit Chapter, including president for three terms. He was also President of the Michigan Society of Architects, Chairman of The Institute's Committee on Unification, State Association Director, and member of the National Architectural Accrediting Board. He was made a Fellow of The Institute in 1944. Also member of The Engineering Society of Detroit, Michigan Engineering Society.

OTHER AFFILIATIONS
Catholic; member Alger Post, American Legion; Detroit Board of Commerce, Detroit Historical Society, Founders' Society of The Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit Athletic Club.

PUBLIC SERVICE
Detroit's Mayor Jeffries appointed him a member of the Detroit City Plan Commission, and of the Detroit Housing Commission, of which he was vice-chairman. He was appointed Michigan Director of the Historic American Buildings Survey and later became Regional Director. For five years he directed the work of the Civic Design Group of Metropolitan Detroit, a voluntary membership of 50 architects, who made studies to solve Detroit's planning problems. Attended U. S. Army Infantry Officers Training Camp, 1918.

PUBLISHED MATERIAL
Branson Gamber's thoroughness and his ability to express himself in a clear and concise manner, resulted in many of his articles being published in the professional press. During his term of office as President of the Michigan Society of Architects, his comprehensive series of articles on "What is the Michigan Society of Architects Doing?" did much to increase membership in the Society, to make it one of the strongest in the country. It was during his term as State Association Director of The Institute that the job of unification was completed.

GENERAL BACKGROUND
A letter from the Octagon (January 23, 1950) enclosing the record of Frank Conger Baldwin as a guide stated, "We feel it would be most fitting that the first summation of this nature by the Detroit Chapter should commemorate

the life of your late, very distinguished member, Branson V. Gamber, F.A.I.A." ous effort to advance the ideals of The Institute in 1926, his citation read, "Admitted to The Institute in 1926. A prominent practitioner of proved ability in executing large commissions, both public and private, he has been advanced to Fellowship in The American Institute of Architects for his efficient, intelligent and enthusiastic leadership in Institute affairs, and his constant and vigorous effort to advance the ideals of The Institute, and his contribution to city planning for the city of Detroit."

Of his seeming unlimited capacity for concentration and thoroughness, his partner of long standing, Robert O. Derrick, said, "I leaned on him for so much for so long, for the answer to so many questions, it seemed to me that he knew everything."

Branson Gamber was especially fond of the office of Day & Klauder, where he gained his early experience. He admired its work and he loved the men behind it.

Of a jovial good nature, he made many friends throughout the country. He had a good voice, which he often

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joined with others, to the enjoyment of informal gatherings.

For years he sang in his church choir.

Following his death this letter was circulated among a little group of architects:

"It was with deep regret that I read in The A.I.A. Journal for December of the death of Branson V. Gamber, F.A.I.A.

"Well do I recall how outstanding he was among the 'Vagabonds' during their European Tour in 1928. He was level-headed, diplomatic and entertaining; taking sides with neither the Yanks nor Rebels.

"During subsequent years I observed his progress and had the privilege of seeing him quite a few times. Especially do I remember him at A.I.A. Conventions at Williamsburg in 1936, Miami Beach in 1946, Grand Rapids in 1947, Salt Lake City in 1948, and this last Spring in Houston.

"It was a pleasure to see his rise to prominence in his profession; becoming an outstanding Detroit Architect; President of the Michigan Society of Architects; a Fellow of The Institute; a member of important committees in The A.I.A.; and numerous other affiliations.

"Will you now, at this moment, bow

your head in prayerful thought of this fine fellow architect and gentleman who has now passed into the great beyond."

PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONS

Some of the buildings of which Derrick & Gamber were architects:

Detroit Federal Building and Post Office; Recreation Building and Ford Museum at Greenfield Village; Charles Godwin Jennings Hospital; River Terrace, Hibbard, and Heather Hall Apartment buildings; Detroit Garages, Inc.; Pierce School in Grosse Pointe and addition to Grosse Pointe High School.

Compiled by Talmage C. Hughes, April 28, 1950.

WESTERN MICHIGAN CHAPTER

The Western Michigan Chapter, A.I.A. held its May meeting in Muskegon on Wednesday, May 23. Dinner at the Century Club was preceded by a visit to the new B. C. Cobb Power Plant. Chris Steketee, of Grand Rapids, Chapter President, presided at the dinner meeting, at which Elmer Manson, of Lansing, gave a report on the recent Institute Convention in Washington, D. C.

In charge of arrangements for the inspection of the power plant was Raymond Withey of Consumers Power Company and Carl Kressbach of Jackson, architect for the building.

JOHN COBURN

John S. Coburn, architectural photographer, of 2033 Park Avenue, Detroit, died suddenly of a heart attack, while walking near his office on the evening of June 19. At this writing, little else is known as to the details of his untimely passing.

John was well and most favorably known among the architects of Michigan, having served many of them for a number of years. He was a most likable person, capable and conscientious. His work ranked with the best, as he had a keen sense of composition and was able to obtain results that placed him in the forefront of architectural photographers of the nation.

He had long served the Weekly Bulletin, the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A. and the Michigan Society of Architects. He regularly attended their meetings and took photographs for publication and to serve as a running account of our organizational activities.

We shall miss John, his pleasant smile, his eagerness to please and the contributions to our profession.

LEON SNYDER, JR., A.I.A. announces the removal of his offices to the Snyder Building, 38 North Washington Avenue, Battle Creek, Michigan. Telephone number remains 3-1862.

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ROBERT M. POCOCK, formerly with Zonolite Co. has joined Petroleum Systems, Inc., 2914 East Grand Blvd., Detroit, as assistant to Robert Phillips in calling on the Architectural profession.

Dear Mr. Cleland:

My thanks for your letter of May 15th notifying me of my elevation to Member Emeritus of The A.I.A.

Am now traveling in the eighties and of necessity have to limit my doings in large part to home and garden, and live the quiet life.

However, be advised that the latch string on our front door hangs loose and that a visit from any member of the Detroit brotherhood or by any of my U. of M. students will be welcome.

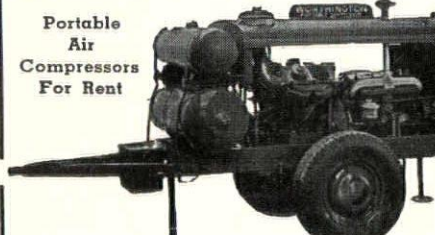
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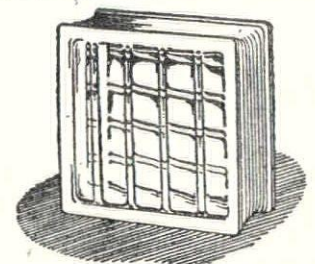
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