



211
(1946)

NORTHWEST ARCHITECT

50,000 Carpenters S-T-U.

by William Gray Purcell

Page 5

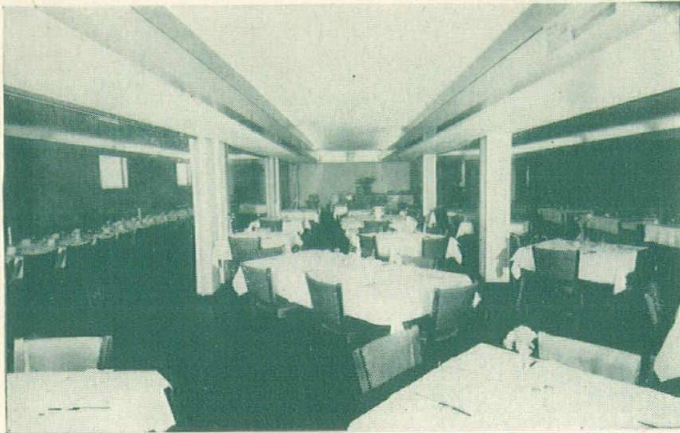
Jury Reports On Design Competition—Prizes Awarded For State Veterans Service Building.

Page 10

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Northwest Architect is pleased to present the Jury's Report together with reproductions of the four prize winning designs resulting from the competition recently held for the design of a State Veterans Service Building to be erected on the grounds of the State Capitol, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

The first prize-winning design was submitted by W. Brooks Cavin, Jr., a young architect from Washington, D. C., who in addition to receiving the \$5,000.00 first prize will in associateship with an established architect licensed to practice in Minnesota to be selected by Mr. Cavin but subject to approval of the State Veterans Service Building Commission, function as the architect for the project.

The other prize winners were announced as follows: Suren Pilasian, Detroit, Michigan, second prize of \$2,500.00; Don Hatch, New York City, third prize of \$1,500.00 and Rolin C. Chapin, Architect, and Henry Stone, Associate, Minneapolis, fourth prize of \$1,000.00.

The major floor plans and the North elevations of the first and second prize-winning solutions are illustrated and the North elevations only of the third and fourth place designs. Because of the great reduction necessary in making the reproductions a great deal of the detail and general excellence of the original drawings has been lost, however it is believed that their publication together with the jury's report would be of sufficient interest to our readers to warrant their presentation despite the engraving limitations involved.

The program for the competition which was approved by the Competition Committee of the American Institute of Architects through its subcommittees of the Minnesota and Saint Paul Chapters, was prepared by Roy Childs Jones, F.A.I.A., Professor and Head, School of Architecture, University of Minnesota. Mr. Jones also acted as professional adviser during the competition.

The jury was comprised of Leon Arnal, Minneapolis; Harvey Wiley Corbett, New York, and John W. Root, Chicago.

The competition attracted nation-wide attention and entries were received from 87 competitors.



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An interior view of "The Flame" in Duluth—sound-quieted with Vercooustic.

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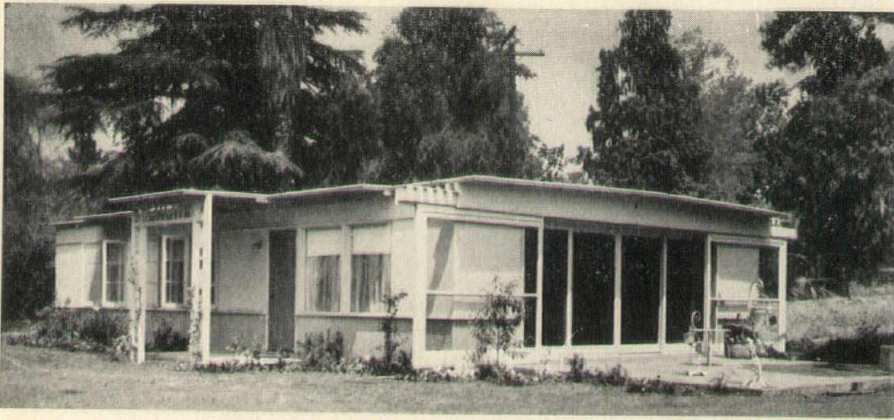
NELSON MASTER ROOFS

Minnesota

NORTHWEST

50,000 CARPENTERS S-T-U.

"TAKE WHAT YOU HAVE, AND MAKE SOMETHING OF IT" GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER



THIS HOUSE is built with a system of 4' x 8' factory pre-fabricated completely equipped and prime-painted units for walls, partitions, floors, and roofs. It offers one solution for rapidly erected, soundly constructed and long life buildings of acceptable appearance. We describe methods for producing and erecting such dwellings with detailed recommendations for several economical procedures.

A PREFABRICATED HOUSE that does not look prefabricated because the architecture is assigned to the satisfaction of the people who are to live in it and not to the mechanics of its construction.

By William Gray Purcell

THE MEN OF 1775 who followed Daniel Boone over the Blue Mountains into Kentucky, made good shelter and furniture with no more tools than an axe, auger and knife. Their ingenuity was a Yankee trait. But Man has always been ingenious when unspoiled by prosperity — upon achieving which he has been very ingenious in avoiding work. Thus he drove himself back again into new kinds of misery. The perennial interest in Robinson Crusoe and the popularity of the American "Western" story in movies, shows how every new generation enjoys practical work and is especially taken up with any account of "make-do" under emergencies that are leading someplace.

Practical application of this universal spirit of ingenuity to our current difficulties is hindered by a curious blind spot, and almost everybody has one of them. People see well enough how things worked out for the American pioneers, and they know what a grand time Crusoe really had. And so it appears logical, what with our desperate need for houses, to seek some primitive spot with plenty of trees, game, water, fish and, if possible, a faithful servant, black or white, who will do most of the hard work for the love of it. The advertisements assure us that such a project would be life complete — the perfect dream realized. "Retire (into your dream!) at age fifty on two hundred dollars per month," (ante now raised to \$250 and going up, previous annuity buyers get along the best you can on your now \$150, or less, income equivalent).

But that wasn't how it happened in our virile past. The ingenious hero didn't go about until he discovered conditions that would enable him to do what he could do and liked to do. Quite the contrary, he faced peremptory circumstances. For him there was no choice of "take it or leave it." His desperate situation was the fixed factor and invention was his only salvation. Only in later years could he look back upon the tough breaks and realize that it had been a good life after all.

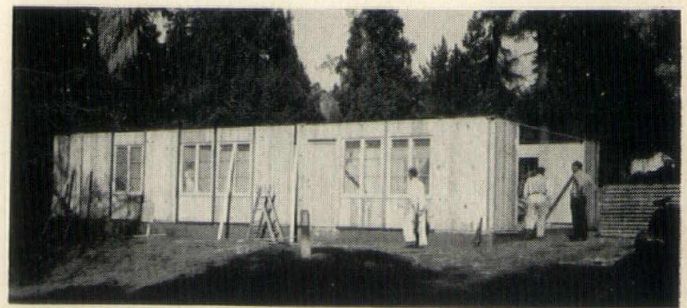
◆ *Young Citizen — War Veteran* ◆

YOU CAN HAVE A GOOD LIFE now and expand your days and your family, but following the Oregon Trail won't help you a bit. "Running away from it all" to

ARCHITECT

somewhere that exists only in the romance of somebody else's success story, will only run you in circles. Somehow you've got to organize "The Simple Life" within yourself and begin to live where you now stand. You must accomplish this new impossible by an ingenuity which is related to your tools, your aptitudes, character and whatever is available however unpromising. And you can't do it by yourself. You must relate your efforts to others of similar temper and need. There must be some form of planned community of effort, and this despite the flood of oratory and printer's ink which has attempted to scare us away from planning our own economy and uniting for mutual aid without benefit of the much admired profit motive.

Now, since we must assume that you now have an income job to pay for your home, you will at once be asking just who is going to build this home of yours? An ingenious answer to your question has been given by William Roger Greeley, F.A.I.A., a resourceful architect of Washington, D. C. I have asked permission to report his views to you:



THE HOUSE at the top of the page looked like this when six men had worked three and one half hours erecting it. Instead of the regular system 4' x 8' floor units of wood, a cement finished floor slab had been previously completed. The finished floors are carpeted over damp-proofed quilt, or with colored asphalt tile borders over firm insulation, with free rugs over thick carpet liner quilt.

✦ Says Architect Greeley ✦

THE ONLY WAY to meet an emergency is by emergency methods.

If the Pilgrim Fathers had been limited to an eight-hour day, this land of ours would still belong to the Indians.

Years of all-out production for war—which is to say “waste”—have left us impoverished. We lack food, clothing and shelter. With an alarming dearth of all these things, we stick to the methods and moderation which developed in times of plenty. We somehow expect by normal effort to produce abnormal amounts of goods and services, and to do this in jig time.

Extra goods result only from extra efforts. “I can’t never buttered any parsnips.” Extra efforts consume extra hours, and extra hours are what we Americans possess in unprecedented numbers. If we had a mind to use them we could have our food and housing and automobiles in abundance.

✦ Yes, We Have No Houses ✦

FOR AN EXAMPLE let’s take just one community of two million people here on the Atlantic Seaboard. Among other things it woefully lacks houses to live in. One out of eight of its inhabitants is able-bodied enough to work 10½ hours a day instead of the present average of 7½ hours. In other words, 250,000 of its citizens can devote 750,000 hours a day by way of extra effort to make up for the waste of war and to meet the dire needs of the new day. 750,000 hours a day is 225,000,000 hours a year. Let us throw away 25,000,000 hours to provide for days off on account of sickness or of vacations or pleasant dissipation of one sort or another. That still gives us . . .

✦ Two Hundred Million Hours,
Extra Hours (in only one city) ✦

THIS IS A VERITABLE NIAGARA OF POWER, unharnessed now, but capable of prodigious accomplishment if harnessed. If we fail to rise to the occasion, the potential productivity of this two hundred million hours of leisure time in a single metropolitan community measures the amount of our impotence to meet the emergency.

It is possible for citizens to organize the wasted hours of their day? Can they be led to realize the opportunity? Are there definite examples to point to—vivid, simple, convincing?

✦ Here Is One ✦

A MASSACHUSETTS VILLAGE needed a playfield. It had a site, but the ground was rough and uneven, and the cost of grading figured out to be about \$15,000. The village was poor; \$15,000 was not to be had. *The people decided to dip into their reservoir of spare time.* They met Saturday afternoons through the fall, bringing shovels, hoes, plows, horses, tractors; and, on the part of the ladies, doughnuts and coffee in practically unlimited amounts! The result was twofold. First, a playfield was created at no cost, thereby saving \$15,000. Second, a morale had been created among the

citizens which gave them a sense of comradeship never experienced before, and a feeling of power and independence in facing future problems. If the first result was valuable, the second was invaluable.

✦ Here Is Another ✦

FOUR FRIENDS DECIDED TO BUILD four houses in a New Hampshire village, so that they could live there in a little colony. They sought the advice of an architect, bought materials, occasionally employed a little help, but themselves built the houses in the spare time of a single spring, summer, summer vacation and fall. They were none of them skilled artisans, except as nowadays a man has become so used to repairing and painting his own house that he is far from a novice in the art of construction.

✦ Imported Thrift ✦

A SCOTTISH BOY who had come to this country and become a printer, bought some land and a small house, married and raised a family of twelve children. As the children began to leave home he organized his spare time, evenings and week ends, around a fascinating project. He determined to build, single-handed, a Scottish castle, reminiscent of one familiar to his boyhood. Now, at the end of twelve years, the castle is complete, and the builder has experienced the extraordinary satisfactions of well-harnessed leisure devoted to the realization of a great ambition.

Twelve years of spare time equal one castle; equal, in terms of labor and material, six small houses.

✦ Help Yourself ✦

NOW, TO TRANSLATE THE WORK of one pair of hands for twelve years into terms of 250,000 pairs for one year, we could produce 125,000 small houses as the achievement of well-directed, out-of-hours employment in just one large community. On the 200,000,000-hour basis for this one community we would have the leisure time of four men for eight months for each little house.

For the Entire Nation
They Could Build

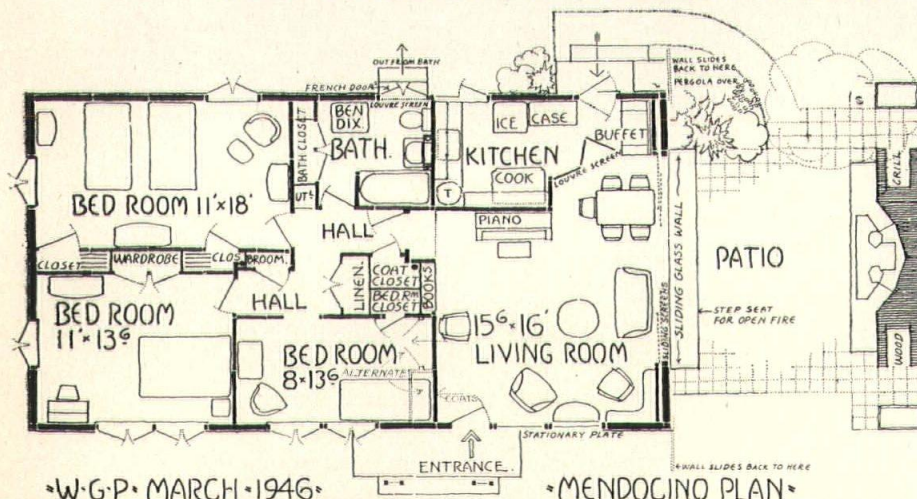
✦ Seven Million Five Hundred Thousand ✦
GOOD HOMES
In Just One Year

BECAUSE OF HABITS of carelessly spent leisure and of our American habit of looking to others to make and sell us everything, we are throwing away 125,000 small houses per year—potential houses—and losing two hundred million hours of creative, stimulating, rewarding activity.

Dispute the reasonableness of these figures. Divide them by two if you prefer. Divide them by four. Divide them by anything you please, and you still will have a Niagara of human power dashing itself aimlessly into the abyss. Harnessed, this man power would pull us together and build for us not only homes but self-respect with which to furnish them.

*This article appeared in substantially this form in the March, 1946, issue of the *Journal of the American Institute of Architects*. Contributed by Wm. Roger Greeley, F.A.I.A. of Boston, Massachusetts.

This is the floor plan of the Pasadena house shown on the opposite page.



W.G.P. MARCH 1946

MENDOCINO PLAN

HERE we have a development to 1050 square feet of the Pierce plan shown on page 8. Property restriction was 1000 square feet minimum. This Mendocino plan shows that designing with fixed units need not restrict flexibility of convenience arrangement and tends to establish an interesting unity within varied design patterns. Only two exterior and four interior half panels were required to meet partition demands. The unit divisions are shown. Such houses are twice too expensive to meet the real national need. However, the system can be made to produce economical houses @ \$4,500, and is a very good method for cooperative procedures.

HERE is a unit plan that can be built by contract, in conventional construction, at Sept., 1946, prices, for about \$8,500 provided you can get the materials. If manufactured by California Prefabrication System (see Mendocino Plan, pages 5 and 6) or by Pierce System stressed-envelope prefabrication, 100 at a time (see page 8). The cost at Sept., 1946, prices would be

\$6,000 to \$6,500, depending on the climate. The system-built house would be the better and more durable house. The materials would be easier to get and one third less of them required. Eighty per cent of the work would be completed indoors free of weather complications by rain or cold.

◆ *Labor Union Veto?* ◆

SOME OF OUR READERS may assume that publishing the above proposal to use this vast reservoir of spare hours is really a threat to union labor because of their refusal to build by various systems of unconventional construction. But union craftsmen would be wise to face the fact that if ingenious men can put together a beautiful, convenient, inexpensive and soundly desirable unit-assembly dwelling, such citizens will certainly find some way to secure the benefits to themselves.

Forty years ago the journeyman "carriage makers" did not want to build "gas buggies," they feared competition. Inevitably, the United Automobile Workers" appeared to speak for the men who wanted to do the larger work. If carpenters and plumbers are unwilling to erect new world utilities, some "United Dwelling Assemblers" will no doubt appear and the carpenters can continue to "carpenter" as best they may. Meantime, a Union, Guild, or Association which for want of a name we will designate as "Spare Time United," will be organized to help those white collar men build their own homes. So lay aside your golf clubs; pitch in evenings and Sundays for the nation. In some such way we will get ourselves enough homes with neither let or hindrance by the C.I.O. or A.F.L. America and its needs are not here to serve the unions, but unions appear as a result of some need. If they won't build prefabricated or unit assembled material, they may have a new craft-union knocking at their doors—or NOT. There would never have been a U.A.W. if there were no automobiles to be built. If a need changes or disappears entirely, that union will also go the way of the "carriage whip makers," the "lamp chimney blowers," "wheelwrights," "coach-lamp makers," "horseshoe-ers," etc.

NEWS NOTE from N. Y. Times: "On Saturday, June 8, 1946, the last eighteen members of the "Horseshoe-ers" met in Des Moines, Iowa, talked over old times, looked at the future, and decided to call it quits."

◆ *Shall We Join the Union?* ◆

ARCHITECT GREELY'S RECOMMENDATION is no threat to any union. I am myself a union man in good standing, having joined the A.I.A., our Architect's Union, in 1913. I have upheld our wage scale, the restrictions on new members, trade practices to keep down competition, and all other requirements and benefits. The A.I.A. can hardly claim to have accomplished for its members what Sidney Hillman's United Shirt Makers have done for their members. But give us time. We may yet accomplish group insurance, co-operative purchasing, summer vacation camps, credit unions, old age benefits, a greater success in driving the "builders" out of our trade papers. Who knows, the A.I.A. might in time join the A.F. of L. or the C.I.O. and thus be able to guarantee to its members as good pay as the Realtor's or Lawyer's unions now secure to their members for services much less complicated than producing buildings. We architects might even put on a strike so that no one could build *anything* without employing a union architect or at least paying him as a standby while an engineer did the job. No telling what A.I.A. might do for its members!

◆ *How Organize?* ◆

LET'S TAKE A PRACTICAL INSTANCE that succeeded. Now down in Peoria, Illinois, men and women who like to make things, and many who didn't know they could, wanted homes, but were short of cash and of capital. So they got together with local realtors, investment bankers and material dealers, and built the homes with their own hands in their "spare time." They traded work when some neighbor was better in some specialty craft. Few were actual craftsmen in the building trades.

None was earning more than \$150 per month and the resulting houses are professional jobs that will stand comparison with any in their class, mostly five room houses costing five or six thousand when built, worth eleven to fourteen thousand in the 1946 OPA-less house-resale market.

More specific information about one way in which such projects can be carried out was given in the columns of NORTHWEST ARCHITECT, Volume IX, Number 5. We give you a résumé:

◆ *"A Home Building Co-Op"* ◆

PEOPLE WHO NEED HOUSES should form a "company" as the old eighteenth century exploring corporations used to call themselves, and certainly in no sense to be a "committee." We propose organization for work, not the usual meeting with drink-talk-eat-talk-talk-smoke-talk. Such a modern company should be organized under our time tested American system of State or Federal Credit Unions and State Co-operatives. The Co-op would provide the production organization, the Credit Union would supply the financing. Everything necessary to organize these mutuals, including professional advice and direction, is supplied free on request to your state or Federal government.

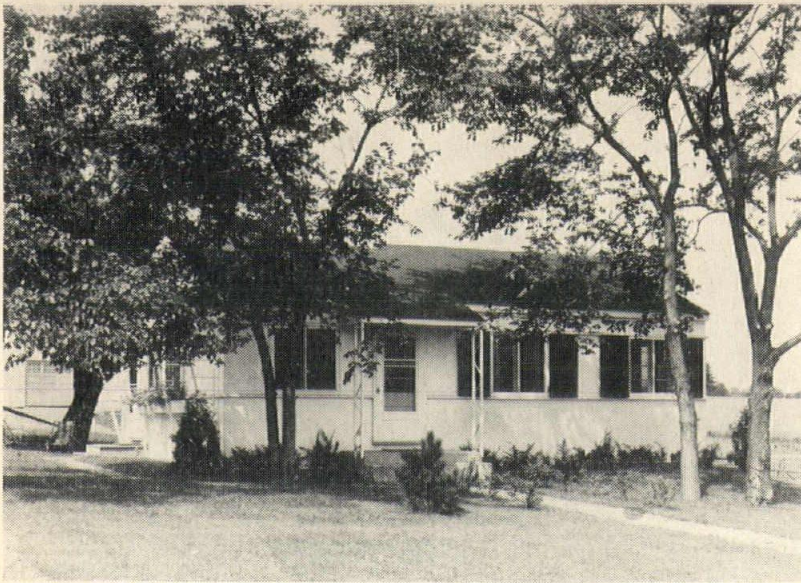
Executive committee teams controlled by the company should preferably include, say, an architect, a building contractor, a realtor, a lawyer, a landscapist, an investment banker, housewife, engineer, designer, draftsman, utilities specialist, decorator, home economist, etc., etc. Each of these executives will associate himself with those amateurs joining the enterprise who feel they would be most successful with the expert's particular specialty. From the executives select an activating kernel of men who are good self starters. Hold no lunch meetings. Such a project must be treated with respect. It is worth a definite appointment for organization work and a definite calendar assignment of hours in which work decided upon will be done.

Of course, securing building and equipment materials will be the most difficult problem, but by the time these proposals come off the press the manufacturers' strike which during the first half of 1946 kept us short of glass, lumber, oil, pipe, plaster, hardware, nails, cement, etc., will be called off and the flow of building material will at least have begun.

◆ *Actual Performance* ◆

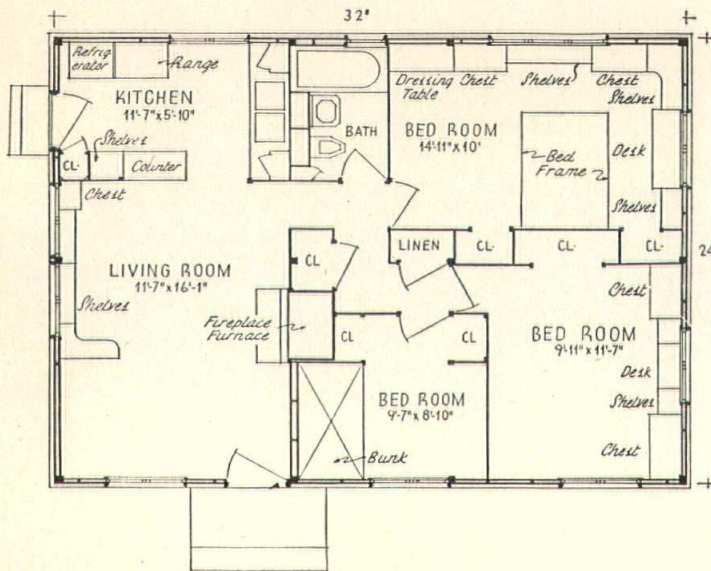
LAST ISSUE I REPORTED ON some very successful experiments in deprefabricating the plan and design of factory built houses. And there will be more about this, but these "California-Prefab" system houses are too expensive — around \$9,000 for 1,000 square feet. The problem to be solved is really low cost houses for our younger citizens. This has not been overlooked and I will give you here a quick preview of a laboratory experiment in Portland, Oregon, with which I am co-operating at the present moment. Tests and procedural agenda are ready for a five room house that virtually by-passes all scarce materials; reduces wood used by 90%, almost eliminates painting, hardware and nails. This dwelling has no plastering, hardwood flooring, or building paper. It cuts overhead charges 20% and labor another 15%, at the same time producing a better, more durable and more attractive house than its frame prototype.* The first of this plan is finished and occupied. The second, much more efficient, with most of the bugs eliminated is on the way. I may be able to give you a full report on this by Spring. But go ahead—don't wait for us. If we can do it, so can you.

*See Oct., "Arch Forum," page 122, also p. 68, ¶ 7, Van Evera Bailey, A.I.A. Archt.

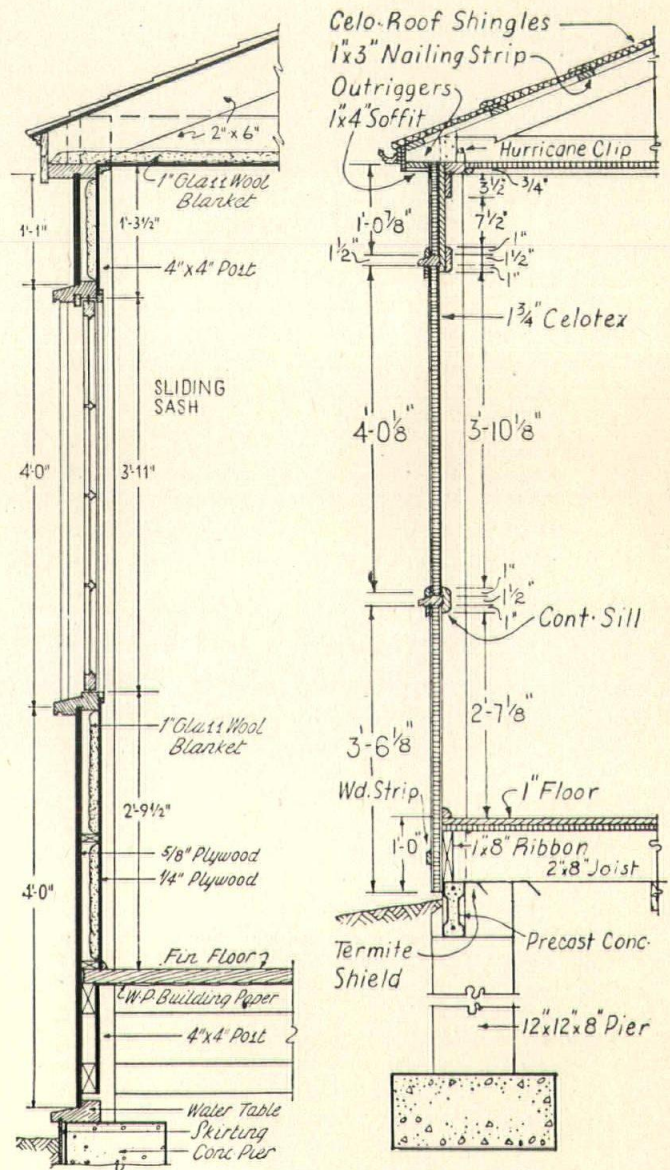


PLANNING has finally reached the laboratory level where every factor of living convenience, structural ingenuity, availability of material, man power skills and personal finance are accounted for. The shape of everything is a complex recorded in simplicity. On the other hand amateur plans, the best of plan books, contractors rehashes of pre-war successes, much professional architectural service, are all largely useless where not actually dangerous to the coming owner. They both threaten the young husband's morale and his family's economic stability because he finds out too late that they cannot be realized. After a start is made to build them, today's practical difficulties force the project toward a result which bears little relation to the pleasing plans originally planned for — and shockingly costly.

THOUSANDS of these John Pierce Foundation dwellings were built at Oak Ridge for the Atom Bomb project. They are the best looking homes in the community; one of the very few true prefabrications, that is to say, the "system" is subordinated to the job of producing a home. Here is no cheap shelter machine. That it looks like a conventional house is the result of sound analysis, and not of the designer's wishful thinking. Strange architecture, consciously aimed at, is as unreal as are sentimental design patterns. "Looks" except as an unfolding expression of the basic living and valid social-continuity characteristics of a project, should properly be disregarded no matter whether strange or familiar.



THIS is the "Pierce Foundation" floor plan. They have many others. As a complete place to live with three good bedrooms inside an area of 768 square feet it sets a new standard, justifies all the research made to produce it. This is a post-and-stressed-envelope system using a minimum of building material. The 12 posts required are also shown in the alternate construction details at the right. The interior partitions are plywood dividing membranes and non-supporting. This house was more fully described in the Northwest Architect, Vol. IX, Nos. 5 and 6, 1945. The John B. Pierce Foundation, 40 West 40th Street, New York 18, New York, was the bequest of a former president of the American Radiator Company.



ONE HUNDRED HOUSES of this type should be built as one manufacturing operation in order to secure the essential economies of the system. However, they could be erected on scattered building lots without any great loss.

Wyatt is out!, Veterans sold out! No low cost homes for anybody! Well men, "let's up and at em".

◆ Analysis of Portland Project ◆

MR. VAN EVERA BAILEY, whose work you have seen illustrated nearly every month in some one or other of the Architectural Magazines, is the brain and sparkplug of the Portland low-cost-project laboratory. He writes in part as follows:

"Conventional constructions in building have become expensively out of reach due to the adding together of the building parts to a point of cost and confusion where the whole organism must be analyzed and re-designed with the thought in mind of simplification. If studs are erected for vertical structure, sheathing applied for bracing, paper applied for waterproofing, siding and plaster applied for looks, insulation applied for warmth, paint applied to the two sides to "save the surface" then for goodness sake, if all that is necessary, isn't there now some way of *doing them all in one operation*, and if not, let's try to find the way."

That is exactly what Mr. Bailey is now doing with a brand new machine completed and on the job to produce such a simplified building fabric and to a large extent in a single operation. A better system we think it is, than Le Tourneau's clever "setting hen" entire-house-form on wheels.

Mr. Greeley and myself report these working examples because we are trying to lift this terrific need away from words and good intentions and *to actually get homes going up* wherever there is an architect who is able to step out of the conventional drafting room atmosphere and assume executive leadership in his community. If you are not an architect and don't need a house yourself, move in to help someone else get a house. Little theaters, playgrounds, game protection, fraternal organizations, Y.M.C.A., Boy Scouts, societies and a hundred other non-profit enterprises claim much time and energy in all our communities. People put their best talents into such work. Let's put this ability and enthusiasm into supplying the need for inexpensive homes. Let's really do it! Now, this very evening, the telephone is at your elbow.

That apparently no architects and no soldiers and no citizens have leaped up to produce homes for themselves without benefit of contractor is some kind of a comment on our current lack of the ingenuity factor. Apparently outside of Peoria the pressure is still not great enough to bust the boiler of conventional means and methods.

So we have to ask you again:

◆ Just How Badly Do You Really Want a House? ◆

DO YOU STILL EXPECT Uncle Sam or Uncle Shylock to provide it? Or are you willing to use your wits right where you stand. No capital, no building material, no equipment and no skill outside your regular job. You did it over there, why can't you do it over here? The ex-

ecutives who carried out the unbelievable puzzles of modern warfare were raised up from buck privates. Why not produce top drawer building directors and perfect craftsmen out of bank clerks, interns, salesmen, delivery drivers, dentists, housewives, boys and girls. "Hire yourself, and collect the interest" (instead of paying it). "Capital is not dollars and a capitalist is not necessarily a man who has a lot of money. If you doubt it look it up. I did. I was surprised. Did you ever read the literature sent free by the U. S. Government or your State Government about how a Credit Union works and why? In this way you can co-operate scientifically to raise capital to produce *anything*. Don't "let George do it" while he calls it some high sounding title such as, say, the "Abraham Lincoln Normalcy and Rust Co." or the "United States Stewardry and Accordance Association" in order to make it sound like some sort of an official "National" institution and thus more easily collect his 11% to 17% profit. Your State or Uncle Sam will even send an expert to explain to you how to be your own investment banker. He will supply you all the agreements, record sheets, books and other "paper" necessary to set you up in business. In the words of Patrick Henry—"If this be some foreign "ism" let the un-American Committee make the most of it" because "co-operation" was put on the statute books by Republican law makers, approved by simon pure American presidents, and was helping people help themselves a half century before the New Deal was ever heard of.

◆ Back to Where We Started From ◆

IT SEEMS as if the housing problem were not so much a need for more ingenious plans, but for a re-planning of the young American Family to fit this new and costly world. The pioneers of 1775 raised big families in a one room cabin and had plenty of fun along with the hard work. Today with a separate bath and kitchen and some double deckers in place of the old trundle beds the boys and girls should be able to make do up to two or three small children. In any event, no wise veteran is going to mortgage himself and his estate (and possibly his widow) for the next 25 years. The "GI" bill of rights also lists Uncle Sam's right to go right on collecting on houses than in ten years may, and probably will, not be worth the balance due on a buyer's contract. Wouldn't it be better to live in one room and buy the added space you are going to need five or six years from now at 50% discount? In 1952 you would also have in your own hand the five years' interest, together with the interest it has earned, amounting to \$600 or \$800 cash money. And what is more important to both pocket book and morale, the "equity" is your "bought-on-credit-contract" home will not have been washed down the drain by inevitable deflation. You couldn't stop the boom. Can you weather the bust. Better get your cyclone cellar ready now. W. G. P.

Jury Reports On Design Competition

Awards Prizes For State Veterans Service Building, St. Paul

The Jury, following the procedure set forth in the program, and after carefully studying the 87 sets of drawings submitted in the Competition, endorses and recommends for the First, Second, Third, and Fourth prizes the following designs:

- For First Prize No. 22
- For Second Prize No. 50
- For Third Prize No. 41
- For Fourth Prize No. 37

The Jury does not endorse any other design submitted.

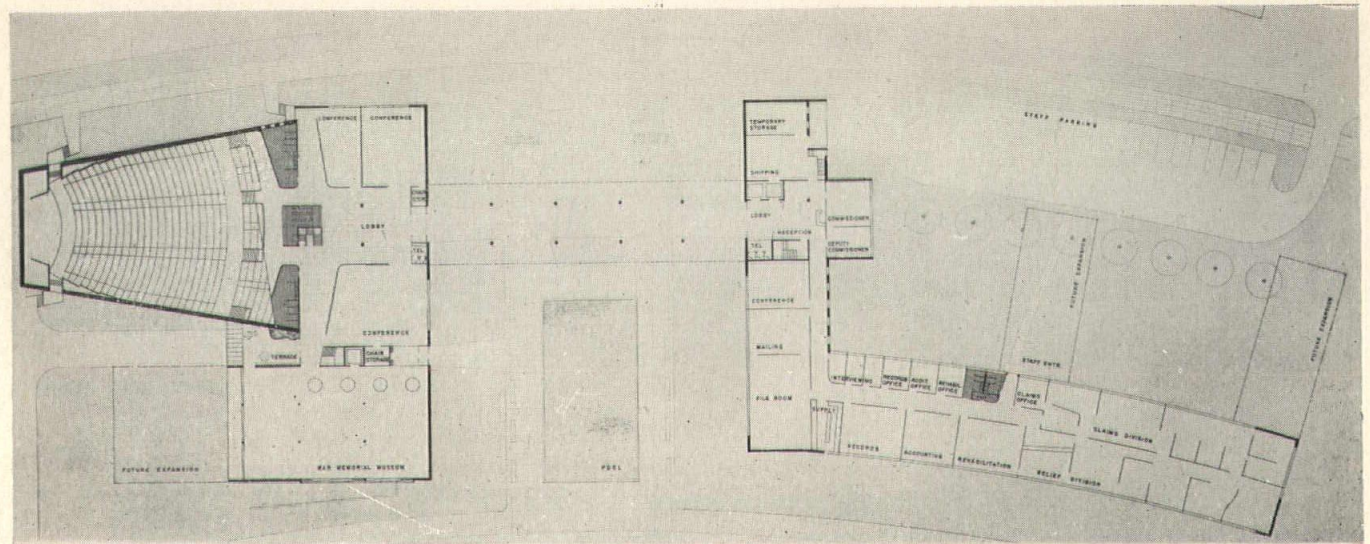
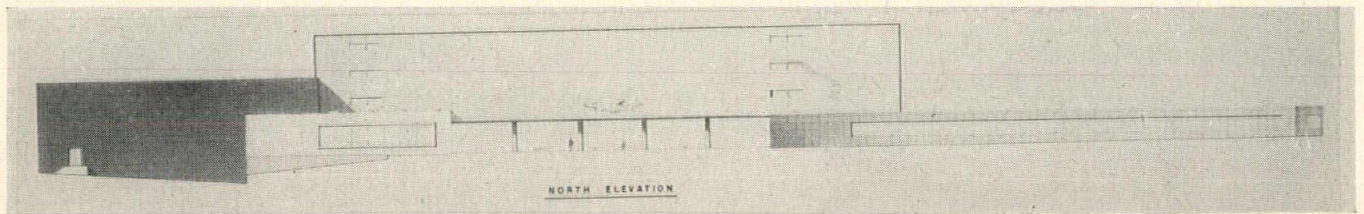
The Jury commends the Program as workable, clear, and stimulating.

Before proceeding with a brief analysis of the endorsed designs, the Jury would like to call particular attention to the following important paragraphs in Part II, Section 2 of the Program:

struction and maintenance of a War Veterans Service Building upon enlarged and beautified capitol grounds.' "(From Sect. 4, Subdiv. 4)

'The State Veterans Service Building shall be designed to provide, in addition to public rooms, quarters for the State Department of Veterans Affairs and the state organization of any war veterans organizations chartered by the Congress of the United States and of the auxiliaries of such Veterans Organizations.'

Obviously the general form and exterior treatment of the building should harmonize with the general scheme for the Capitol Grounds Project and with the existing adjacent buildings. However, the harmony desired is not to be interpreted as meaning literal similarity with such decorative details as the dome or the classic columns, cornices and other embellishments of the Capitol and its neighboring buildings. The



First Prize

"The building has a twofold purpose which can be expressed by the following quotations from the Veterans Service Building Act:

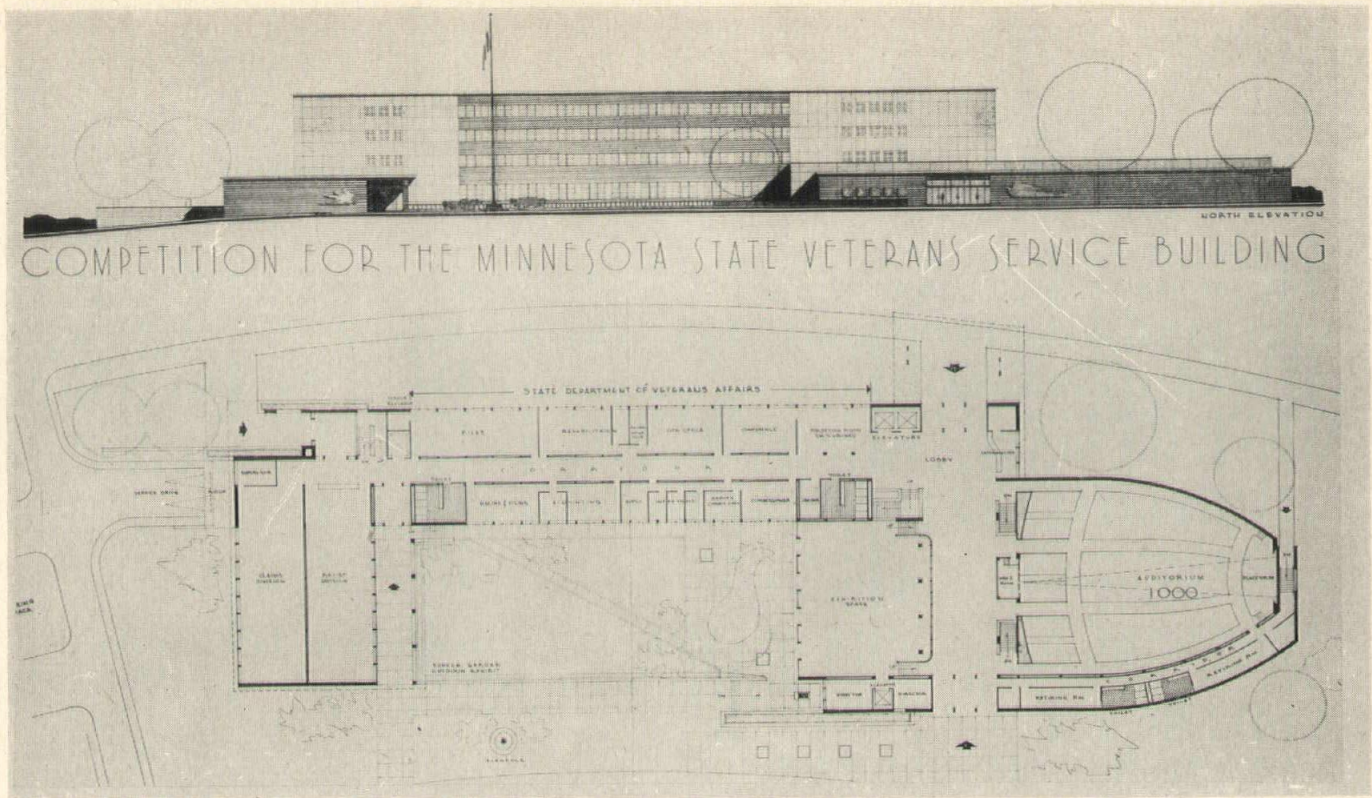
"(From Sect. 1)

"The State of Minnesota declares that it is fitting and proper that the sacrifices and service freely given by the men and women of Minnesota as members of the armed forces of our country during the wars which it has fought for the preservation of freedom be recognized by the people of Minnesota through the con-

Commission desires a building planned to function easily and effectively, endowed with aesthetic qualities befitting its twofold purpose, and having the scale, proportions, dignity and exterior material that will make it seem at home in its surroundings."

The Jury concluded from its interpretation of these general recommendations, and from its analysis of the purpose of the building, that although the structure through the services it renders constitutes in itself the memorial, the design should nonetheless express

NORTHWEST



Second Prize

in its conception a character appropriate to such a memorial. The Jury further accepts and concurs in the suggestion made in the Program that the design of the building need not follow the character of the Capitol or other buildings in the same general area.

In the opinion of the Jury and as set forth in the Program, the requirements of the building fall into three general categories: 1. General Public Facilities, consisting of Auditorium, Museum, Conference Rooms, etc.; 2. State Department of Veterans Affairs; 3. Veterans Organizations. The Jury consequently, in analyzing the submissions, looked first for a simple, logical, architectural arrangement of these three groups and of their subordinate elements; and second, for a quality in design indicative of the special character of the building.

Design Placed First

In the design endorsed and placed First, the author has arranged the three main Groups in a masterly way. Two ground floor groups—Auditorium, Museum, and Conference Rooms on one side, the State Department of Veterans Affairs on the other—flank a central Monumental plaza and are ingeniously linked by a three-story office building containing the third group—that for Veterans Organizations—spanning and above this central plaza. By this device the author not only links the three Groups of the design but provides an open shelter over the entrances. This symmetrical central plaza on the North-South axis of the Capitol Grounds affords a fine opportunity for the creation of a monumental approach in which the suggested reflecting pool is an important element. The plaza and the disposition of the building around and over it create a monumental composition consistent with the memorial purpose of the building. The designer has skillfully recognized the character and conditions of the site. The North elevation, through an ingenious balance of wall surface

and opening, turn towards the Capitol a façade of great dignity and simplicity. In contrast, the opposite elevation facing the City is appropriately more utilitarian in character, a clear expression of the plan behind it. In looking from the Capitol, the dominating element of the building is symmetrical on the main axis of the grounds. The two lower elements, though not symmetrical in themselves, are well balanced, the one shorter and higher, the other longer and lower. This disposition conforms to the general symmetrical scheme for the grounds, yet it is far more interesting than a rigidly symmetrical arrangement.

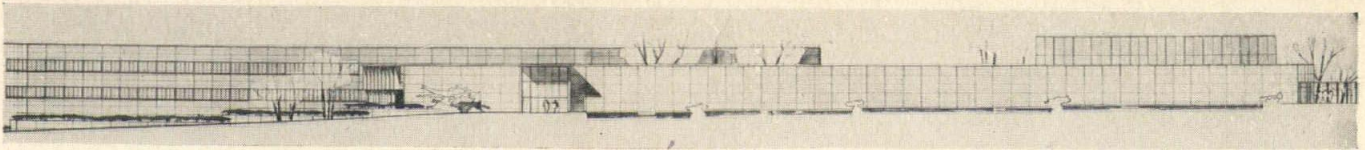
It is interesting to note that the requirements called for in the Program have been developed well below the permissible cubic contents. Allowance for either substantial additional areas or for increased costs is thus provided.

Design Placed Second

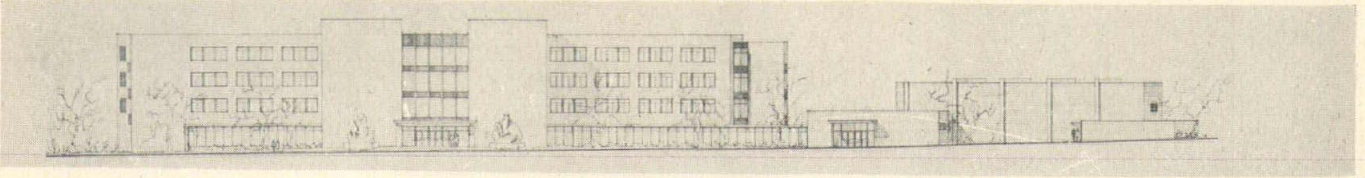
The design endorsed and placed second arranges the main Groups of the plan in a manner generally similar to the design placed first. The plan is skillful and efficient. The Department of Veterans Affairs is not quite so well arranged as in the design placed first. Generally, however, the composition is compact and economical. The exterior, in the opinion of the Jury, does not express the memorial character of the building so effectively as does the design placed first.

Design Placed Third

The design endorsed and placed third again shows the same general grouping of the principal elements of the Program. It is, however, far less compact and less clearly expressed. This design has not achieved the simplicity of the first. This scheme accepts the memorial character of the building through the creation of a simple memorial wall facing the Capitol.



Third Prize



Fourth Prize

Though this wall crowds the future road to the North, as shown on the plat, restudy of this road and the North Side of the building might permit development of an interesting conception.

Design Placed Fourth

The design endorsed and placed fourth shows in plan an entirely different conception from those found in the three first premiated designed. Here all the General Facilities have been located on a ground floor and all offices have been placed on the three floors immediately above. The State Department of Veterans Affairs occupies the first of these office floors. Although separated from the ground level by a ground story,

it is easily accessible to the public from the Capitol side, and therefore is judged to conform to the original and supplementary provisions of the Program in regard to its location. The fact that the Auditorium constitutes an independent unit by itself, although connected by an enclosed gallery to the main part of the building, is recognized as a good conception. The Jury wished that the qualities expressed in planning had been carried to the same degree as far as the external appearance of the building is concerned.

Leon Arnal, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Harvey Wiley Corbett, New York, N. Y.
John W. Root, Chicago, Illinois

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

The overwhelming part of any national housing program should, can, and will be done by private enterprise for private enterprise. It is an indubitable fact however that a large number of families cannot pay rents which a private owner must charge to pay off the cost of the building and at the same time maintain it in a sanitary decent condition at a profit to himself. Everyone knows the complete fallacy of continuing to allow slums and blight to rot out the very cores of our communities. Therefore, there is definitely a place for public housing or publicly assisted private housing or, in plain words, a subsidy, in order to accomplish an over-all housing program. It would seem then that an intelligent approach to the problem would dictate that private housing advocates and public housing people work together in the development of a balanced program rather than to try to call each other names and attempt to kill each other off. Housing after all is a local responsibility and yet very few localities have developed any comprehensive means of determining their entire housing need through a democratic participation of ALL interested groups. The architectural profession should be at the forefront in such participation. America is being rebuilt in a fashion every day. Either its rebuilding will be planned in the true sense of that word or it will be left to chance. Such a choice is of course no choice at all. WE MUST PLAN.—H. W. F.

Master Builders Give Concrete Facts

The current issue of *The Trowel*, published by The Master Builders Co., Cleveland, Ohio, has been designed to give men in the construction industry a complete picture of all the presently known facts about concrete maintenance.

The 12-page publication is illustrated with photographs of many kinds of maintenance jobs, shows concrete disintegration and its causes, discusses methods of preparing disintegrated concrete structures and repairing them. The booklet, which can be obtained free from the company, also covers other problems of concrete workers such as bridge maintenance, highway improvement, "armorplating" floors, controlling shrinkage of machinery grouts, restoration of buildings, repair of hydraulic structures, repairing railroad structures, waterproofing, and sealing and decorating concrete and masonry surfaces.

The subjects of these repair techniques range from residences to huge dams and the illustrations clearly show the various steps discussed. Text is kept to a minimum and many of the procedures are dealt with almost entirely by photographs. The contrast between maintenance work which has been delayed too long and that which is taken care of promptly is drawn in the booklet and every effort has been made to produce a handbook of practical engineering information rather than a merely theoretical discussion of the problems.

The Master Builders produce a number of products for use in maintenance and other concrete work like Embeco for grouting and reintegration, Metallic Waterproofing, Mastertex for decorative and protective coating, Masterplate for floors, Masterkure for membrane curing of concrete and Pozzolite, a cement dispersing agent.

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CARNEY MAKING IMPROVEMENTS IN PLANT

Work is being pushed on plant improvements which will increase production capacity of The Carney Company, Inc., so its quarries and plant at Mankato, Minn. can do an even bigger share of supplying home and similar construction materials during this time of material need, according to Harry E. Carney, Jr., president.

The modernization and expansion program now under way will cost \$250,000 and the company is spending \$150,000 of that on its cement mill. This work includes work on the huge quarries and stone crushing plant which will contribute to a planned production of approximately 700,000 barrels of cement each year, starting with 1947.

In its insulation plant the company is making many changes, including installation of a new batt machine which will double the company's production of Golden Fleece insulation batts. Final production is expected to hit about 50,000,000 square feet of batts per year.

Mr. Carney said the main quarry holdings of the firm contain 30,000,000 tons of stone and miscellaneous holdings add 10,000,000 more tons. These quarries yield all kinds of stone needed by the firm which, organized in 1883, now produces and distributes rock-wool insulation, natural cement for blended concrete, masonry cements, lime and crushed stone products. Distribution of Carney products is in the western half of the United States.

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KLAWITER JOINS NEW FIRM

Frederick C. Klawiter, well-known practicing architect of St. Paul, has returned to his former home, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, to become an associate member of the newly organized architectural firm of E. F. Klingler & Associates of that city. Mr. Klawiter assumes complete charge of all architectural activities.

Mr. Klawiter, who is registered in the states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and Montana, has successfully met the tests and requirements of the

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURAL (registering boards), and for over ten years was a member of the American Institute of Architects and is a member of the Minnesota Association of Architects.

Prior to entering private practice, Mr. Klawiter has held many important positions with various prominent architectural firms in St. Paul, Milwaukee and Chicago, having designed several nationally famous buildings.

Concrete Shrinkage Control Discussed

A 34-page booklet discussing shrinkage of concrete and mortar has been issued for free distribution by The Master Builders Co., 7016 Euclid Ave., Cleveland 3, Ohio, under the title "The Action of Embeco in Concrete and Mortars."

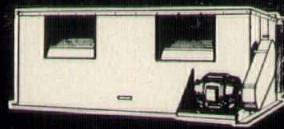
The booklet outlines the role of shrinkage in durability, serviceability, factors affecting shrinkage and its control and elimination. Use of the product Embeco, and its principle of metallic aggregate, in machinery and heavy equipment grouting, cement gun work and patching and repairing concrete also are considered. Charts, graphs and other illustrations enhance the practical value of the publications.

Shrinkage of Concrete and Mortar Discussed in Practical Booklet

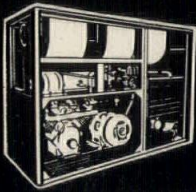
Shrinkage of concrete and mortar—its important influence on durability and serviceability, the principal factors affecting it, and its control and elimination—are discussed in the 34-page booklet, "The Action of Embeco, in Concrete and Mortars."

Explaining the principle of specially prepared metallic aggregate in controlling shrinkage, this booklet describes the use of Embeco for Machinery and Heavy Equipment Grouting, Cement Gun Work, and Patching and Repairing Concrete. Charts, graphs and useful technical data add to the practical value of this booklet. A free copy may be obtained by writing—The Master Builders Co., 7016 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland 3, Ohio.

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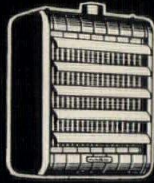
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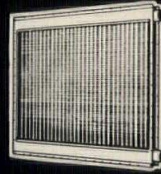
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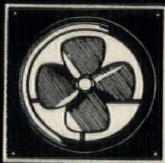
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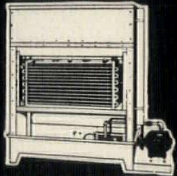
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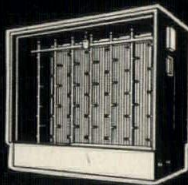
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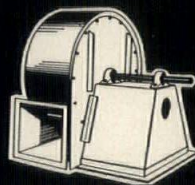
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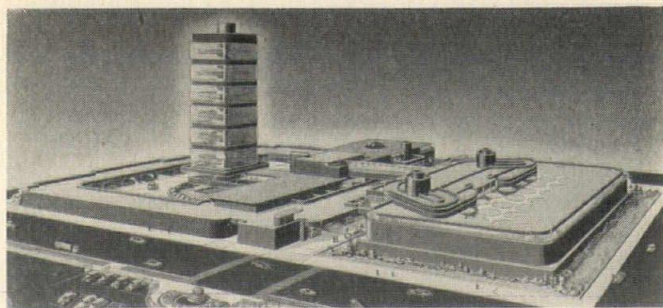
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A Haven For Work



A fifteen-story glass tower, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, is the feature of a modern wax research laboratory to be built this year in Racine, Wisconsin, by S. C. Johnson & Son, Inc.

The new building will be a companion to the Johnson Administration Building which was also designed by Wright and completed in 1939. That structure represented a great advance in office building technique and has attracted many thousands of visitors from every civilized country in the world. The company feels that the new research building will be in the nature of a public service in that it will give unsurpassed facilities for the development of better wax products for home and industry, and at the same time represent a contribution to business architecture as did the first Wright building.

The new Johnson's Wax Laboratory is a compact, tall stack, rising 156 feet in the air, serviced directly from a circular masonry stem connected to floors at the center of each of the fifteen levels that make up the building. Each level is to be brilliant with sunlight in every part and air conditioned, heated, serviced complete from the central shaft. Construction will be directed by B. E. Wiltscheck, who also directed construction of the Johnson Administration Building.

Wright, known the world over for independent thinking and architectural innovations, says of the principal feature of his latest contribution to business architecture:

"This Johnson Research Tower—this tall free-standing experiment station on behalf of the American housewife—is to be a thing of great beauty in itself. It will stand free in a spacious court, adjacent to the present Administration Building, completing an entire free-standing block. This tall shaft of brick, glass and

(Continued on Page 17)

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(Continued from Page 16)

reinforced concrete will house in proper and natural relationship flowing downward, the Wax Research Laboratories, Development Laboratories, Control Laboratories, and library. Surrounding the laboratory stack will be two- and three-story buildings housing the Technical Service Department, Pilot Plant, Advertising Department, Photographic Department, demonstration and lecture rooms.

"A complete modern house-unit, designed to exemplify various finishes and treatments to be applied by the American housewife to her home, is one of the many units, complete in itself, making up this harmonious group which together will constitute one of the truly great examples of architecture in the business of modern times.

"In design and construction this new research unit harmonizes perfectly with the early administration work-unit wherein a great spaciousness was divided freely into convenient uses without sacrificing the freedom and purpose of the building as a whole."

Wright, who rarely has seen eye to eye with conventional architects, has well demonstrated that complete architectural unity need not be gained at the expense of practicability.

In the original Johnson Administration Building it was Wright's ambition to create as inspiring a place to work in as a cathedral is to worship in, and his comment today is:

"The Johnson Administration Building is better adapted to worshipful work than the cathedral ever was to workful worship!"

He believes that the new Johnson Research Building will also prove an inspiring example for American business, "inspiring business to make itself more effective by making itself more presentable."

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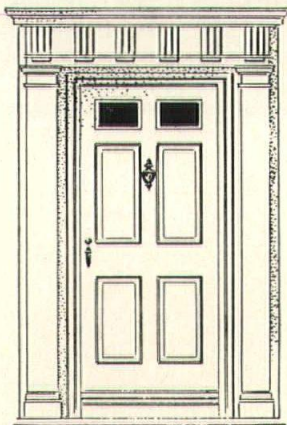
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