

*Empire State*

ARCHITECT



MAY-JUNE . . . . . 1944  
VOLUME IV NUMBER III

- SAFETY IN HOUSING
- POST WAR PLANNING
- PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ARCHITECTS
- AMONG THE CONSTITUENTS
- ANNOUNCEMENT

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# Empire State Architect

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

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- Robert Teichman.....50 Broad St., New York 4, N. Y.
- Ralph E. Winslow  
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The above Nominating Committee is announced at this early date that the members may have ample opportunity to survey the field for logical material and time for inter-committee communication that a strong and functional slate of officers may be presented at the Annual Meeting in early December.

CHARLES ROCKWELL ELLIS, *President*

## \$25,000,000 YEARLY

### FOR NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

An interview with Don L. Essex, Director of School Buildings and Grounds Division of the State Education Department, appearing in the May 15th issue of "New York State Journal."

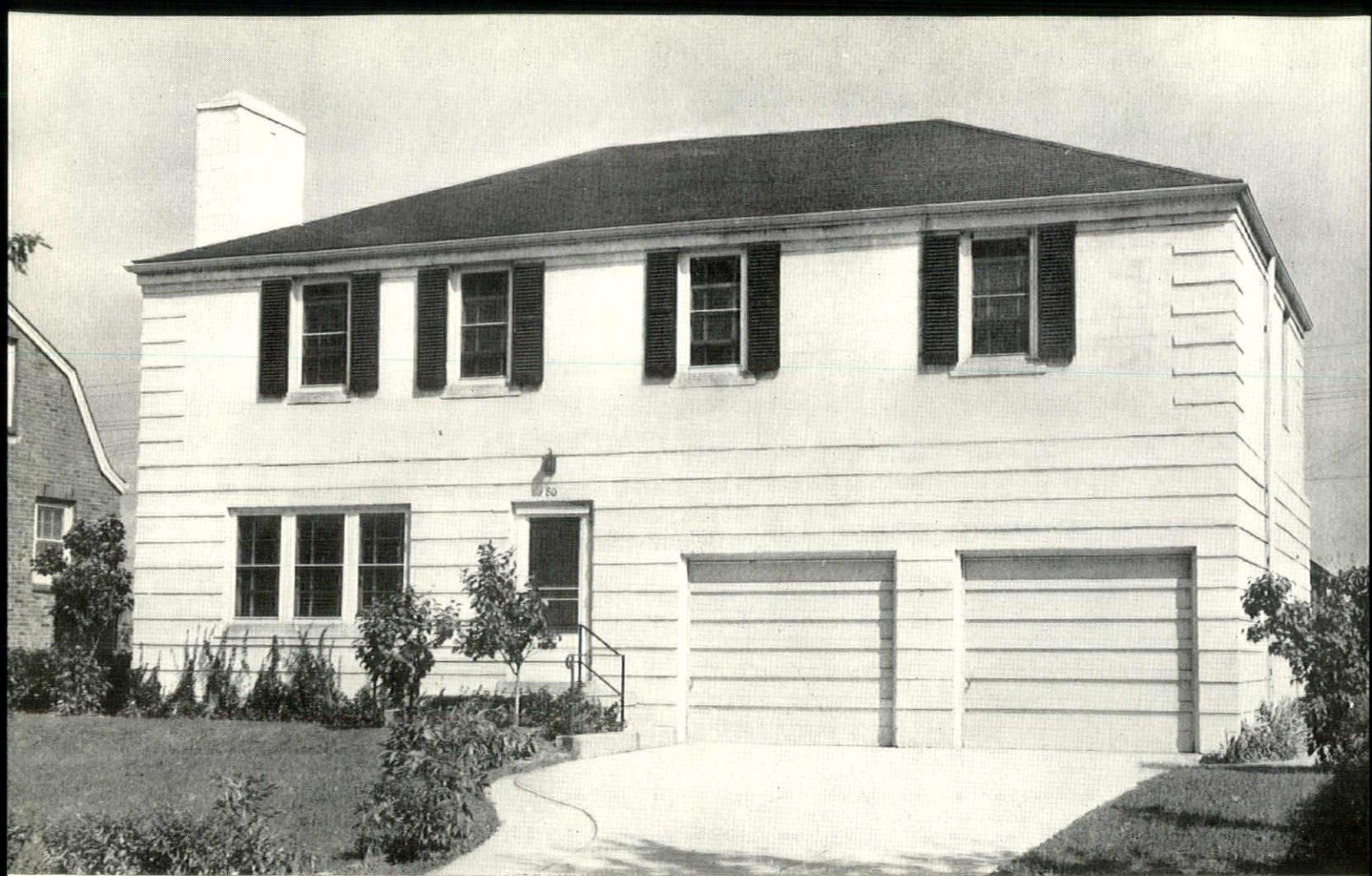
School construction and repair after the war will cost \$25,000,000 annually in contrast to last year's expenditures of \$600,000.

The figure was set by Don L. Essex who said last year's low costs were due to the lack of manpower and materials. One of the principal reasons for the high estimate after the war, he said, will be an extensive movement for centralized districts, meaning new and larger schools with larger athletic facilities.

In districts with populations of less than 50,000, Dr. Essex said no permanent school has been built in the last two years, and less than a dozen temporary buildings have been put up in war production areas. Boards of education, he said, are doing little to improve existing structures.

"There are pressing needs now which we are helpless to do anything about," he said, "and the physical condition of many school plants is steadily deteriorating. For this reason, many schools will have to undertake a general overhauling program after the war."

Since the beginning of the year only 14 approvals of more than \$500 have been issued to schools making improvements. The latest case was a reconversion to oil by the Berne-Knox Central School.

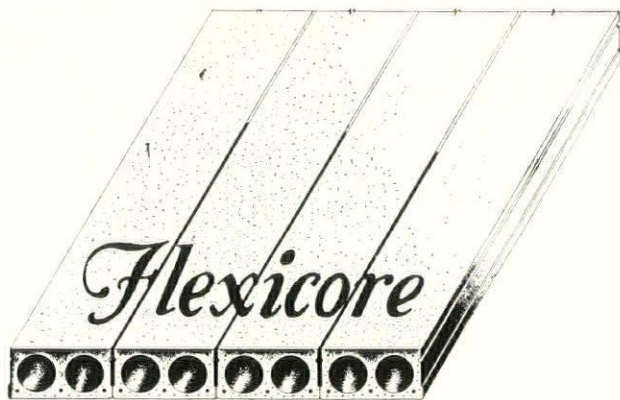


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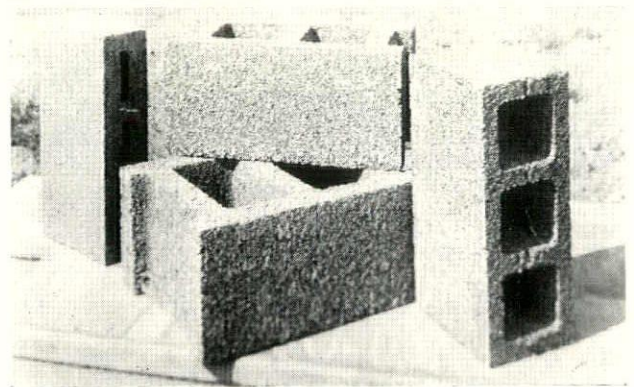
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# SAFETY in HOUSING—BUFFALO AREA

by DAVID B. CRANE

Under the auspices of the Buffalo Home Bureau a number of forums have been held in Buffalo during the last several months on the subject of "Safety in the Home." Collaborating in the program were the Buffalo Safety Council, the Buffalo Niagara Electric Company and the Safety Committee of the New York State Association of Architects.



Speakers from each of the four organizations divided the subject matter for each forum appropriately, the Home Bureau representative confining her talk to the maintenance of safety precautions in ordinary housekeeping, the Electric Company official taking practically the entire range of material related to electric wiring and appliances, the Architect speaking on the subject of safety rules and recommendations in planning and construction and the Safety Council member talking generally of accident prevention and its relation to the home.

Uninteresting as it may seem, a talk on safety can be stimulating, particularly during a period of war. National Safety Council figures on injuries and deaths resulting from accidents are appalling. The 1943 tabulation gives totals of 9,700,000 and 94,500, respectively, for injured and killed last year, through all types of accidents! Let us consider this figure for injuries. When it is pointed out that one out of about every thirteen people will be injured by an accident this year if the 1943 rate is maintained, an audience begins to sit up and take notice, particularly so when it is also shown that the total includes only those accidents which are sufficiently serious to be reported to the National Safety Council. When finally, coming further to the point, it is shown that over half these injuries—4,950,000 of them—occurred in the home, one's listeners, if they are listening at all, are literally listening with their mouths.

To the home-owner or housekeeper the figures on deaths are equally astounding. Of the 94,500 killed by accidents in 1943, railroad accidents claimed about 4,500, public accidents exclusive of motor vehicles 15,500, occupational accidents 18,000, motor vehicle accidents 23,300, and accidents in the home 33,000. Stop for a moment and think of it! Compare the figure of 50,000 Americans killed in the whole of the first world war and the approximately equal number of American men killed to date in over two years of the present conflict.

In 1941 the men killed accidentally in the draft age alone was enough to fill almost two army divisions. In 1943 it was estimated that accidents amounted, in lost time to a complete shut-down for a full year of war plants employing 150,000 persons. And accidents in the home have been on the increase rather than on the decrease. There is food for thought here for architects as well as for home owners and housekeepers.

Regarding the part of the Architect in these Buffalo discussions, by the time the precautions regarding housekeeping and electric lighting and wiring are adequately covered there remain but two main categories into which most accidents may be classified—i.e. fires and falls. There are of course other items such as asphyxiation, provision

for storage space so as to make the housekeeper's accident prevention simpler, etc. But in general almost every accident that is not attributable to faulty electric lighting or wiring and appliances, or to carelessness on the part of the housekeeper, can be traced either to fire or to some contributing factor in a fall.

In connection with fires the Architect brings out four main points—how to prevent fire, how to extinguish it, how to keep it from spreading, and how to assure escape. Each point is then exemplified, the more interesting details such as fire-stopping in a frame house are described, and finally a few stories are told to show how proper planning could have prevented a death or injury. One example in particular was of interest. A fire broke out in a one story bungalow in one of the nearby state parks last year and the occupant was burned to death, simply because the windows were protected with heavy screening to keep out the bears, and the stove where the fire started was placed directly beside the only exit.

Falls are then discussed, with primary emphasis on stairways where for the most part they occur. A few stairway rules are given, together with other details such as the swing of doors into stairways and stair halls, and several accidents of this type are then described. In each case the Architect endeavors to point out with care how proper attention and experienced wisdom on the part of the designer could have prevented the mishap.

Generally speaking the participation of an Architect in such discussions is a healthy thing for our profession. Without any salesmanship methods whatsoever the value of an Architect becomes increasingly evident as the speaker mentions phrases such as "fire-stopping" or "rise and run." The public will not remember the details. But they will know who told them, and they will consider an Architect in the future in a little less oblivious sort of light.

Radio or some other type of more far-reaching publicity is badly needed. The trouble with the Buffalo Home Bureau forums is that they are only a drop in the bucket. Radio programs must, however, be carefully prepared and must be of sufficient interest to divert attention from other programs. Most architects are too busy and too poorly equipped as advertisers to prepare this type of enterprise. The employment of a capable advertising firm would perhaps be a solution. Competent experience of this type would no doubt find the way in which best to utilize, for the promotion of safety, the public's yen for stories of tragedy.

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# AMONG THE CONSTITUENTS

## Central New York Chapter, A.I.A.

The Spring meeting of the Chapter was held in the Hotel Seneca, Rochester, New York, April 22, 1944, where luncheon was served to thirty-five members, prospective members and guests.

Following the luncheon President Leonard Waasdorp introduced the members assigned to the Chapter by the Institute since the last quarterly meeting in January, and also those present whose applications for membership are pending.

Mr. Rollin H. Burden, reporting for the Membership Committee, said that eleven applications had been received from the Syracuse area. President Waasdorp congratulated the Committee on its fine accomplishment and added that present applications when approved would bring the membership of the Chapter to one hundred.

Professor D. K. Sargent, State Chairman of the Committee on Safety in Housing, spoke on the work being accomplished throughout the state and of the participation of the Syracuse Architects.

Under the heading of Legislation, Mr. William Kaelber reported on the work of the National Council of Registration Boards, stating that sixteen states were now members of the National Council and that twenty-three states were using the Syllabus of the National Council.

Resolutions appearing elsewhere in this issue were passed on the death of Horace Hutton and Clarence Martin.

Discussion on the publication of a Quarterly Bulletin was introduced by President Waasdorp. Professor L. C. Dillenbach moved and it was carried that such a Bulletin be published and the matter was left in the hands of the Rochester officers.

Mr. Ryan, representing the Kawneer Company and in charge of their traveling exhibition of competitive renderings, "The Store Front of Tomorrow," was introduced. Mr. Waasdorp requested Mr. Ryan to convey to the President of the company the thanks of the Chapter for the very fine display.

Regional Director Edgar I. Williams of New York City, following his introduction by President Waasdorp, highlighted the meeting by historical and timely remarks appearing under another caption in this issue.

CHARLES WM. ELDRIDGE, *Secretary*

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## Rochester Society of Architects

The Rochester Society of Architects held its annual dinner meeting at the University Club, Tuesday evening, May 16th. These officers were elected.

President.....	Irving E. Horsey
First Vice-President.....	Keith A. Marvin
Second Vice-President.....	Donald K. Smith
Secretary.....	Cyril T. Tucker
Treasurer.....	Clifford S. Fairbanks
Directors for Two Years.....	Roy Williams, Roland A. Yeager
Directors Continuing from Last Year are	
	Clarence A. Damuth, Joseph P. Flynn

Six men were elected to membership.

Leonard A. Waasdorp gave interesting developments in the field of post war planning. His committee has met five times with a city-wide group sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

The architects have also been invited to participate in a joint committee also represented by the Builders Exchange and by organized labor. This group plans to give the public a better understanding of the size and importance of the construction industry. It will study such problems as working standards, apprenticeship, re-capture of maintenance work and arbitration. The architects have many opportunities to coordinate these problems as well as others concerning labor and management.

The amount of industrial, commercial and housing work expected to be available after building restrictions are lifted are increasing rapidly.

KEITH A. MARVIN, *Chairman*  
*Public Information Committee*

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## Syracuse Society of Architects

The Syracuse Society of Architects, again under the able leadership of President L. C. Dillenback and with the full cooperation of its members, has completed another successful year.

A summary of statistics and activities follows:

**Membership:** Syracuse Society of Architects, 34 members; New York State Association of Architects, 24 members.

**Attendance:** An average of 14 members present based on a 26 meeting period.

**Business and Programs:** This organization has written and submitted to the state legislators an amendment to the Architects' Registration Law relating mainly to the architects' status in reference to future housing developments. This promotional work was wisely directed by Mr. James R. Vedder who also arranged a

joint meeting with the Assemblymen, Costello, Breed and Parsons, at which time the proposed bill was carefully outlined to them. Their support of this bill was guaranteed. Prof. D. Kenneth Sargent also received approval from other state departments. Representatives of the construction industry were our guests at a joint dinner meeting held at the Hotel Syracuse and Mr. Vedder again outlined our proposed bill. The bill was enthusiastically supported.

Another phase of our program was the rewriting of the constitution for the Syracuse Society of Architects and the study and adoption of the Constitution and By-Laws of the New York State Association of Architects. Considerable interest was displayed by our members and according to the records numerous revisions were made proving definite and satisfactory accomplishments.

The study of Postwar Planning has absorbed much of our time. In the beginning—the early fall, our Mayor Thomas Kennedy met with us and generously pledged his support to the local architects and private enterprise. The proposed Postwar City Plan for Syracuse, N. Y., was introduced to this society by Mr. Sergei Grimm, Director, with much helpful explanation by Prof. William P. Crane and Mr. Reginald Isaacs, members of the staff. This society has met jointly with representatives of many interested groups to carefully study these documents and approve numerous reports.

Mr. Harry A. King was named chairman of a joint committee to revise certain Postwar City Planning reports. Mr. Merton E. Granger is serving as chairman, along with an interested committee, who have started work on a proposed Downtown Postwar City Plan which will be submitted to the city by the local architects.

The Better Builders' Association and this society, under the chairmanship of Mr. Thorvald Pederson, recently presented an interesting window display at the Merchants National Bank & Trust Company, for the purpose of creating public interest in home building. A better spirit of cooperation is being evidenced between the architects and the contractors.

Another joint display—a partial model home was recently erected in this bank of which the architectural work was submitted by Messrs. Sweeney and Burden for this society. Conservative publicity has been arranged for the Syracuse Society of Architects in this respect.

Varied programs have also been presented at our meetings such as miscellaneous talks by Miss Win Parrish, a representative for the American Red Cross, subject: "Merits of the Red Cross"; Mr. Phil Crowell, President of the Technology Club, subject: "Benefits of Tech Club Membership"; and Mr. Warren Nelson, Production Manager, Imperial Wallpaper Company, Glen Falls, N. Y., subject: "Design and Production of Wallpaper."

**Social Activities:** The Annual Outing of the Syracuse Society of Architects was held in the fall at Hinerwadel's Grove, being directed by Messrs. Granger, Woese and Sweeney. Numerous contests, including a confused baseball game, were held and many pointless prizes were awarded. Quantities of clams, other nourishment and liquids were consumed. Mr. Woese submitted a surplus of six dollars to the treasurer of this society. This act is something for the records.

**Honors:** Mr. Charles Rockwell Ellis was re-elected president of the New York State Association of Architects, the reward for doing an outstanding job for the previous year.

**American Institute of Architects:** Approximately ten more of our members have submitted their applications to the American Institute of Architects and all have been accepted.

**Fellowship:** The war, with all its harm, has served to better unite us architects. We have been compelled, in many instances, to work together for a common purpose and thus have really learned to know one another. After all, fellow architects are at least tolerable. Let us definitely continue our business friendships and strive for a much improved profession.

Respectfully submitted,  
ROLLIN H. BURDEN, *Secretary*

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## SYRACUSE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS ELECTS OFFICERS

At the annual meeting held June 1st, 1944, the following officers were elected for the next fiscal year.

Merton E. Granger.....	President
D. K. Sargent.....	Vice-President
Curtis King.....	Secretary and Treasurer
L. C. Dillenback.....	Director for Three Years
F. B. O'Connor.....	Director for Two Years
James R. Vedder.....	Director for Two Years
W. C. Moulton.....	Director for One Year
Paul B. Sweeney.....	Director for One Year

The retiring officers received truly grateful thanks for their guidance and unrestrained services to the Society during the past two years.

## WILLIAMS VISITS C. N. Y. CHAPTER

Genial and inspiring Edgar I. Williams, Regional Director of the New York District of the American Institute of Architects, favored the spring meeting of the Central New York Chapter, A.I.A., with his presence.

The meeting was held April 22nd, 1944, at the Hotel Seneca, Rochester, New York.

Director Williams was introduced by Chapter President Leonard Waasdorp, and spoke of the healthy growth of The Institute, due to the increase in membership and sketched briefly The Institute's history from its first inception in 1857 by Richard Upjohn, the hardships endured through the reconstruction days after the Civil War, and its forward development after the era of the World's Fair in Chicago. He said that The Institute had passed through its academic stage and was waxing strong, encouraged by the State Boards and Registration laws. That the Institute had changed its attitude on many things during the past fifteen years and was ready to take its place and play its part in the new social order of politics in our great democracy, mentioned in passing, that already it was being recognized and its advice sought by the Government Bureaus.

Mr. Williams also stressed the point that the certificate of membership in the Institute was not an open sesame to a public project, but was a sign, a badge of obligation of service in The Institute, which was becoming of greater service to the profession as a whole.

He was very enthusiastic as to the post war period and the future, and advised the Architects not to attempt to sell America short, for there would be an abundance of work for all the practitioners in The Institute, which now formed 35% of the profession.

Architects, he said, will figure prominently in the construction of a "World of New Cities in Europe" and in the modernization of cities in this country.



### IN MEMORIAM

The Central New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects records with sorrow the passing of Horace T. Hatton.

After extensive training for his chosen profession in Philadelphia and other cities he became associated with some of the ablest architects in Rochester and began his own practice there in 1906. This practice he ever conducted on the highest plane of integrity and professional ethics. The aspiring student found him always kind and courteous, and generous of his time and advice. He was an architect of proved ability and a citizen of sterling quality.

In deepest appreciation of his contributions to the profession, as well as of a character marked by lofty ideals, high principle, and steadfast devotion, the Central New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects directs that this tribute to Mr. Hatton be entered in its minutes and copies sent to members of his family.

The tribute to Horace Hatton was executed by Wilfred Armstrong Campbell, member of the Central New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and honorary member of the Rochester Society of Architects.

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# PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ARCHITECTS

by OTTO R. EGGERS, F. A. I. A.

Architecture is good or bad, dependent solely on its merit and not upon the status of the individual who produced the design. It is not my point here to weigh and analyze what is good architecture as distinguished from bad architecture. I have my own ideas, of course, but I am not asking anyone to accept my conception of good architecture.

I am, though, puzzled at what seems to be a growing schism between architects in private practice and architects in government agencies—federal, state and municipal. My bewilderment increases as I wonder why there should not be a very close relationship between all architects rather than a chaotic disunity.

Perhaps I am not close enough to the facts, because for quite a few years I have been tied to a pencil and have not mingled enough with my fellow architects or taken part in their arguments both pro and con. During the last few years certain conditions have been brought home to me more forcibly than ever before. If I could illustrate this, rather than write about it, I would sketch the United States in the background, woefully lacking in new construction, while in the foreground I would show the architects, first debating individually in small groups, then each group debating in turn with other groups. I do not mean to be hard on our own profession and imply that as architects we might have been good lawyers. On the contrary, I want to be constructive. I sincerely hope a way can be found speedily for all architects to be members of one national organization. If this is not feasible at the moment, why not have a joint committee selected from the existing societies?

That there is a cleavage today between private architects and architects in government agencies on the subject of public construction is just a truism. It is a perennial matter in some state legislatures, in courts of law, in organizational periodicals and in architectural meetings. This problem has come home to me because of the war, and in thinking about what will be the state of affairs after the war. The problem appears to be more complicated than it may actually be, if some real, statesmanlike architects were to sit down together and agree to agree rather than, as at present, just standing off in corners presuming much without doing anything about it. I think both groups can take a little blame for this.

It is just not true that good architecture can come only from the ranks of the private architect; it is equally false that because an architect is part of a government agency his architecture must be bad. Such suppositions are grossly unfair. During the past two years it has been my privilege to meet some of the architects and some members of their staff in the Navy Department. I do not single them out purposely but simply because it came about due to business with this Department. I was most agreeably surprised to note the high architectural quality of the work done, and being done, by the men of this Department under the inspirational leadership of Mr. Howard Sullivan. This staff has a true vision and zeal for good architecture.

The architectural department of New York State, under Commissioner Haugaard, has been responsible for some fine examples of good architecture. I have seen some Veterans' Hospitals, which I believe they designed in their own Bureau, which are real contributions. There are probably many more examples, but this suffices for the moment on the question of relative merit.

There is a definite need for architects in governmental departments. There are problems at times, particularly

those of security, which for many reasons can be more efficiently and expeditiously handled within a bureau. I advocate that architects in government agencies should occupy a distinguished position, be adequately paid, and that all architects should collaborate to increase the caliber of such government architects. Good architects within governmental bureaus can concentrate on problems peculiar to a governmental function, and with even limited assistance can prepare sound schematic plans. Government architects should play a major role, moreover, when public buildings are being constructed, and serve as liaison officers between the government, the private architect, and in certain instances the general contractor.

I can understand the problem of many men who are in the government service. They went, perhaps, in the beginning, just to a job. Their services were extended; their salaries may not have been comparable with those in private endeavor, yet there were pensions, promotions, and other considerations. That job became a matter of fifteen years, possibly twenty or more. Maybe retirement was not too far away. Now a specter appears in the form of no job at all, because the work will be done by private architects. Yes, it is a human problem, and there will be the problem of those who will return after this war. These are questions in which all architects should be interested.

There is a side to this question which is fundamental. I would like to mention it here, but its ramifications and application should evolve into a *modus operandi* through clear thinking and planning by broad-minded architects of both groups. Public buildings, particularly those of importance, belong to the people. The private architect is an important part of our system of free enterprise. Aside from the question of architectural attainments, the question of free enterprise is more fundamental than any provincial disputes. Wherein free enterprise prospers, this country will prosper; what weakens free enterprise weakens the fiber of this country.

I am not impressed with what I hear about Government economy in the practice of architecture. If economy is responsible for certain poor examples of architecture, and there are some, then I think we have effected economy unwisely and detrimentally.

We as architects have a double-barreled responsibility. We have had a specialized training and our nation has a right to expect much from us. We are a young nation, relatively, and we can stand much abuse, but we will mature, and as we do so, we must grow apace culturally as well as industrially, agriculturally and scientifically. Our architecture is one of the most important exponents of our culture. We have also music, art, literature and other cultural attainments.

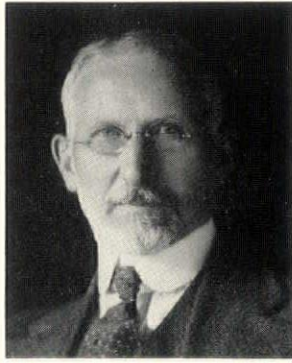
This problem is not such a big problem after all. There are, and will be, government architects; there are, and will be, private architects. Both, as architects, have their sphere of usefulness. Much is lost by not knowing each other better in an organized way; much could be gained if all could meet and discuss mutual problems frankly, with complete recognition of each other's position. Would that this were so, and especially a few years ago! The engineers have done a wonderful job, but so have the architects. Is it not possible that with cooperative team work both groups of architects could look out upon the future from a somewhat higher elevation?—*Journal of the American Institute of Architects*, March, 1944.



## CLARENCE AUGUSTINE MARTIN

Clarence Augustine Martin, Professor of Architecture, Emeritus, died at Sarasota, Florida, January 5, 1944, being 81 years old.

For thirty-six years he served Cornell University and the College of Architecture, unremittingly and with distinction. As Assistant Professor, Professor and Dean he gave his best and his all. To every associate from janitor to the President of the University he was a faithful and helpful friend, sparing neither his time, his strength nor his material resources.



To many generations of students he was familiarly known as "Pa." As is so often the case this nickname reflected something real and deep-seated. To hundreds he was in fact a father-away-from-home. The Standards, academic and ethical, which he set for them were high and sound. His completed record is one of kindness, loyalty, and rugged integrity.

Born in Medina County, Ohio, in 1862, his early training included an apprenticeship to the difficult and exacting trade of the wagon builder. This early mastery of tools gave him the foundation on which he built a rare understanding and appreciation of the fine craftsmanship which must underlie accomplishment in Architecture. For years this was the key to his contribution to the College as well as to the development of individual students. He would pass his hand over a finely finished piece of wood and convey more understanding by a gesture than often goes with many words.

During his service, it is now clear, the College was largely formed around his standards and his ideals. Also during those years the College rose to a position of recognition and distinction.

In 1899 he published a volume on "Details of Building Construction" that reflected clearly his high standards of workmanship and sound procedure. For years it was not merely a college textbook but the standard reference book, familiar to draftsmen in hundreds of offices throughout the country. It remains today a sound and useful manual on the subjects covered.

His work was also known and appreciated in the profession at large. He was a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and one of four founders of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. He was one-time president of that Association and author of its "Standard Minima."

He gave of his time, his energy and his resources to all sorts of individuals and institutions. To his church, his fraternity and to the civic life of his community he consistently contributed whatever, at the moment, was most needed.

Throughout his career as a teacher he carried a small amount of professional practice without ever allowing it to take precedence over or to interfere with the needs of the school or the students in his charge.

During World War I, at the age of 57, he not merely held together, almost single handed, the remnants of his

College but he played a useful part in a difficult and unprecedented project of building reinforced concrete barges.

When, in the course of time, his retirement from teaching became mandatory, he accomplished that difficult transition gracefully and effectively. Re-establishing himself in Florida, he resumed professional practice to a moderate extent and at the same time continued his contributions to civic and community life in his new environment.

In 1942, at the age of 80, and in the emergency of a new war, he again put on the harness and assumed full time responsibilities in contention construction.

Full of years, and of accomplishment to the full, he has passed on. But his kindly view of life and his high professional ideals will live on in the life and work of hundreds of those whose good fortune it was to spend a few of their formative years under his benevolent influence.

ARTHUR N. GIBB

GEORGE YOUNG, JR.

Committee for the C. N. Y. Chapter

## POST WAR PLANNING

### STATEN ISLAND CHAPTER, A. I. A.

The Staten Island Society of Architects look forward to a very busy and prospering post-war era in the building field thruout the country. Accumulated savings of war workers and the return of millions of service men back to civilian life will necessarily create a large demand for additional housing. Enterprising builders are keeping their blueprints dry and are ready to turn the first spadeful for the coming boom in building. Chambers of Commerce and local political sub-divisions are lining up potential housing and public building requirements so that all will be in readiness when V day arrives.

As Staten Island is one of the least developed boroughs in Greater New York residential building will be in great demand. The Northfield Building Loan Ass'n has organized an educational campaign to acquaint future home owners on the proper planning and architecture of the small home. Our group has been invited to participate in this activity. Borough President Palma has invited the S. I. Society of Architects to present our ideas on proposed projects for consideration, and states "Post-War Planning must be practical and the services of trained groups and individuals is naturally to be desired".

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# POST WAR PLANNING

*This is the third in a series of reports of Post War activities by the affiliate organizations which will appear regularly throughout the year.*

## SYRACUSE TRIES PLANNING

The end of any plan of course is action . . . construction, and until this phase is reached the Syracuse Plan will mean very little to any but those "in" on the planning procedure.

The layman and some architects are usually practical fellows and never fail to ask of any proposal—"Where's the money coming from?" It is at this point in the discussion that such people have to be taken aside for an explanation of what General Planning is and how it differs from Project or Construction Planning. At Syracuse an effort was made to perform this duty by means of a series of half hour weekly radio broadcasts to Syracuse and Onondaga County citizens. These explained in as popular terms as possible the direction of thinking in the over-all or General Planning, though even here it was necessary to bring in details for added seasoning. The programs did, however, very realistically begin the long hard task of educating the client for a spot check showed a following of 15,000-20,000 listeners in the County.

At the inception of the Planning Program begun by the establishment of a citizen Syracuse-Onondaga Post-War Planning Council by the Mayor a little over a year ago successful efforts were made to attract as many volunteer committees and individuals as evidenced interest or had specific fundamental data to offer. This made it possible to record much of this research with a very small paid staff. The great number of citizens actually taking active part in the planning program is a feature of the Syracuse Plan.

It is the General Plan phase of the work that is just being completed at Syracuse. The General Plan consists of policies and standards for future growth and action based upon recommendations of interested groups or experts, amateur or professional. It is based upon research into the very fabric of the city—its people and where they live—its economics and how they live—its areas of industry, homes and business. The General Plan determines what ought to be done, where things should go if and when money is available. The most immediate use of such a plan is as a guide for expenditure of maintenance and replacement funds, money which would be spent plan or no plan, not to speak of private expenditure.

Syracuse University besides contributing its Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Post-War Council was of invaluable aid in the research phase of General Planning. Studies of Population, Geography and Economics were directly attributable to this source of available information.

Once convinced of the desirability of this stock-taking process as a basis for future possibilities the Chamber of Commerce undertook a study of Industry and Employment, and its Safety Division with the help of their national body made a report of recommendations.

The County, chiefly agricultural, was represented by a Citizen Committee formed from various agricultural groups who had ideas for improving life on the farms of the area, and proposed an Agricultural Center to be built in connection with the Regional Market. The County Park Board also contributed a report of what might be added to their facilities as well as a very enlightening account of how the existing county parks are used and the costs involved.

City, County and State Highway representatives together with an adviser from the National Automotive Safety Foundation discussed Traffic Facility ideas. Proposed solutions in the Traffic Report emphasized the fact that the Downtown section of the city is a specific problem by itself.

A land use study of this Central District by the City Planning Commission brought protests from certain groups, a sure sign that the reports were being read or partly read, that more people felt that they should be sitting in on the formation of the plans. Here it might be proper to inject the remark that words are more expressive than maps or plans to put across the idea to the citizen that a City Plan is something to be carried out over a period of years that possibly changes will be in process before original recommendations are entirely carried out. For example people here generally feel that more and better parking space for automobiles is needed in the downtown area. Few now agree that helicopter parking is any problem at all. A map showing a helicopter parking field was criticized as "blue sky" planning whereas had the same area been labeled "parking" the excitement would never have occurred.

The Housing Authority made a study of all housing from the financial and physical standpoint with some definite recommendations for the future. Lengthy analysis of sore spots in the city had been made at the inception of a Public Housing Project in 1937

and this data was available. Mention of Public Housing or even use of Federal Funds was anathema to some groups, yet they readily agreed that every citizen should have a decent home. This of course was the stalemate existing before Public Housing was ever tried, and the problem is not restricted to Syracuse.

There were Committees reporting on Education, the Arts and Religion.

There were tendencies for separate groups to overlap. The Council of Social Agencies undertook a report of Health, Welfare and Recreation but in the case of Recreation did not at first realize that the City-Planning Commission and Housing Authority were interested from their points of view and that the City Parks Department also had some data to offer.

This example illustrates what the planner has to coordinate. The effort comes in getting all groups to collaborate on setting of standards, to reach essential agreement before issuing a report rather than to distill one report from two or three leaving everyone unhappy about something.

The above is evidence why at least one trained planner (be he of architectural, engineering or landscape antecedence) is necessary to any collaborative venture in City-Planning. Another reason is that such a person is inclined to be impartial unless on the side of perfection. He has no axe to grind and only wants to see progress and action come from the effort.

Complete analyses of existing and proposed Education or Recreational or Shopping facilities have each taken as much as a year to complete in many cities. At Syracuse goals were agreed upon and standards outlined in these categories leaving area by area research for later development.

A Land Use Plan really the framework for all the studies and reports was prepared by the City Planning Commission. Some of its detailed proposals are under fire but again there is general agreement on the objectives such as segregation of various types of land use, better consideration of topography, and commitments as to future expansion of utilities.

The above lengthy series of Reports was made by or to the Research and Planning Group (Technical Group) of the Post-War Council. This group was one of three originally established, the other two being (a) the Public Participation Group: responsible for the radio programs already mentioned and for the establishment of a speakers' bureau to answer the demands of local clubs and organizations to know what was being proposed; and (b) the Ways and Means Group: originally established to discover methods of raising funds over and above annual budgeted expenditures. Realizing the scale of the problem this group proposed that a small share of the State Gasoline Tax be returned to cities for aid in solving modern traffic and parking problems and recommended a State Sales Tax with a sizeable percentage returned to the cities for financing the many other projects needed for a better City and County.

Very few Maps have been made thus far and the majority of these are quite small, the only sizeable ones being the Existing and Proposed Land Use, a Map of the Central District and a Traffic Arteries Map.

It has been pointed out by many that the automobile has been more or less adequately cared for outside the city but once inside speeds are reduced and hazards both for motorist and pedestrian increase. No city has yet solved this problem. It will undoubtedly require a State or Federal impetus. However it was felt that standards for these Traffic Ways should be agreed upon.

Originally all streets were qualitatively classified as Primary, Secondary and Local. A Primary Artery was to be of Limited Access (no abutting use of land) opposing lanes of traffic divided by a parkway strip of 20 feet, buffer strips of fifty to seventy-five feet for protection of adjoining properties from traffic noises, odors, etc. No grade intersections were to be permitted and interchange points were to be at four to eight block intervals.

A Secondary Artery was to be a lower quality artery to feed from local streets to Primaries usually carrying fewer cars than the Primary yet opposing lanes of traffic were to be separated and again there was to be limited access.

Local streets were to be much as present streets with, however, all fast traffic or through traffic distilled off and many local streets closed at primary or secondary intersections.

Residential neighborhoods or communities would be bounded by these arteries and would be studied together with standards for proper location of schools, stores and recreation space so that infrequent crossing of primaries or secondaries would be the rule.

After carrying on for a few months planning by these standards many were amazed at the land acquisition required to properly insulate these traffic arteries and it was decided to lower the standard for secondary arteries permitting access from driveways but allowing right turns only and retaining separation of opposing lanes and using lights and signs for intersection control. Local streets were permitted to freely intersect secondaries much as at present; few would be closed.

The Education Committee in line with this decision also decided that Secondary Arteries were no barrier to small children going to school so standards for school location were thereby influenced.

You will have to pardon the author's aberration from the discussion of General Planning to insert the above detail. It is merely to illustrate how the policy of one committee may affect the work of others.

So much for standards and how they change.

Architects are inclined to believe that they can do city-planning. This is partly true even without dragging in the cliché on the architect's powers of coordination, for Planners disagree as violently as do architects and the strongest hand usually dominates a city plan just as it does in the design of a building. But the client the citizen, in this case represented by Committees has a way of levelling things off.

Thus there was a preliminary checking of all ideas good and bad by the various Technical Groups. Now it is proposed that these ideas be re-checked by more "practical" people, city officials and groups such as bankers, real estate and others.

The danger in all this lies in the possibility that selfish interests each thinking from one point of view only may vitiate the whole program. Nevertheless it is members of such interests that compose what we call "the city."

This method of procedure will no doubt determine whether good planning more needs public participation or public education. Since attempts at City Planning without public participation have accomplished little, even a few proposals carried into action will be a positive accomplishment. Detailing of these re-checked ideas will be the next step and will bring the construction stage and its potential employment possibilities that much closer.

WILLIAM P. CRANE, *Architect and  
Professor of Architecture, Syracuse U.*

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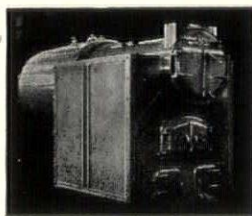
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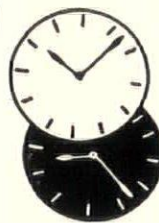
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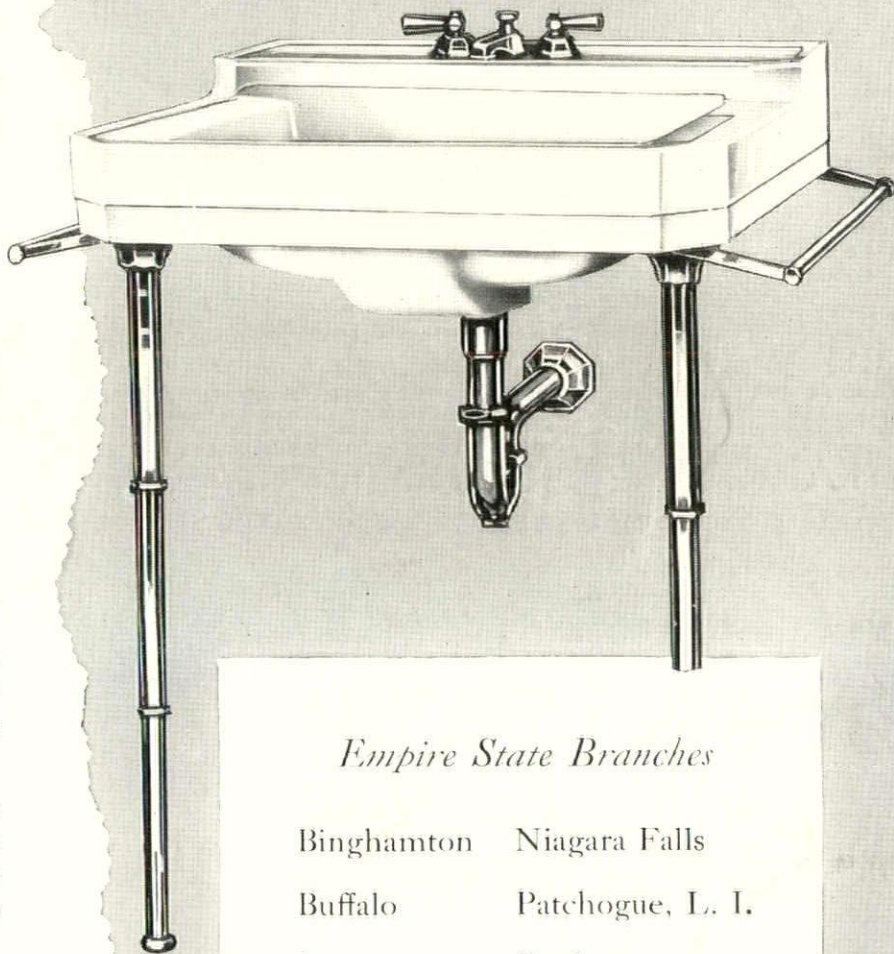
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