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May 1947

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The Architectural FORUM

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BUILDING MONTH. Almost everybody said the buyers' strike in housing was here. Consumer resistance to the high price of new building had set in hard, they said, and housebuilding, backbone of construction, was paralyzed. To the mounting evidence of residential building disaster, the *Engineering News-Record* last month added its influential testimony. ENR had surveyed 22 cities, found new houses lagging in the market, builders hesitating to start more construction. Government records on March starts bore this out. In this month, which marks the opening of the building season, only 48,800 houses were started as compared with 60,400 in March last year.

But there were many careful observers who were not so quick to cry disaster. Government statisticians, for example, were waiting for April figures on housebuilding starts

before revising their building forecast for the year. March, they said, had been a month of exceptionally bad weather in most sections. Moreover, March a year ago had been an abnormally busy month, with builders everywhere rushing starts to take advantage of a brief interval of freedom from some government controls.

It seemed undeniable that an indefinite number of new houses were sitting on the market, waiting for buyers. But one-fourth of all married veterans were living with relatives, in trailers, in furnished rooms. What was happening? Had house customers simply got used to doubling up, decided to sit out a drop in housebuilding costs?

Some of them had. But there was reason to believe that the buyers' strike against new house prices was both more limited and more specific than was popularly supposed. The houses waiting for buyers were all houses built in 1946. There was little question that they were over-priced. Their prices reflected the fact that last year—if you were lucky—it took eight months to finish a house. They reflected the premiums paid for short materials, the hours labor waited on the job for the missing items to show up.

Shorter Building Time. By last month, average housebuilding time was down to six months; here and there builders were already back at the old three-month clip. By the time the building season was in full swing, government statisticians said, all but the stumblebums would be finishing houses in four months. This means that whether or not the cost of materials and labor stay up, the price of a finished house is bound to fall.

Are builders, with unsaleable houses on hand, afraid to make new starts under the much better building conditions prevailing this season? There was some hesitancy. Builders, like the rest of the nation, were waiting to see which way the big price winds were blowing. But many builders were going ahead. They knew they could get out from under last year's overhang by cutting selling prices. And they knew they could build cheaper this year than last.

If some of the customers for new houses were holding off, a tremendous number of home owners were making improvements and repairs. Prices on many material and equipment items were being forced up, not only by the pressure of new construction, but by the record level of demand for maintenance and repair—\$61/2 billion this year, Commerce Department statisticians figured. FHA was making Title I improvement loans at the rate of 20,000 a week. Stabilization This Year? What would happen to building costs this year and next was still a billion dollar question. But the question could now be put a little more precisely. Most Building men thought that costs had reached their peak. But would costs stabilize at present levels—or would they drop this year to stabilize in 1948 at a somewhat lowel level (some forecasters guessed 25 per cent)?

The month had been filled with rumors that the President was about to summon building materials producers to Washington, appeal for price cuts. But the President was still hoping that industry would take the initiative on price cuts. (Last month he acknowledged the crucial position of construction in the nation's economy by apopinting veteran construction analyst Robinson Newcomb, FWA construction consultant, to his Economic Council.) The materials producers were meeting and thinking about what could be done. But so far only a few price cuts had been announced in the building field. (These were: Milcor Steel Co. on louver ventilators, HomeOla Corp. on sectional steel stair units, Gillespie Varnish Co. on a number of items. The Trane Co. had dropped escalator clauses, was quoting firm prices.) Labor's Part. There were few signs that labor was taking any responsibility for building cost stabilization. Last month common laborers walked out in Denver. stopped construction of 4,000 houses. In Milwaukee the carpenters struck for a 30cent-an-hour increase. The threat of a lumber worker walkout hung over western Washington.

Housebuilding costs were higher than they had ever been-as were all construction costs (see graph, p. 11). But the paradox of housebuilding's price crisis is the plain fact that a house is still the best buy any working man can get for his dollars. Housebuilding costs have risen less than any other cost of living item. Housebuilding costs are up 68 per cent over the 1935 59 period. Meat prices are up 99 per cent. all food prices, 83 per cent, clothing prices, 78 per cent. Yet housebuilders could not take too much comfort from these statistics. The reason: house buying is an expenditure that can be delayed (see below). When meat and clothing prices rise, consumers do not stop eating meat and wearing shoes. But when housebuilding prices rise, they can stay doubled up. And that is what many of them are doing now.

Frank Scherschel



UNITED NATIONS design consultants are almost all here now. At work in planning office are (l. to r.): Sven Markelius, Sweden; Le Corbusier, France; Ssu Ch'eng Liang, China; Vladimir Bodiansky, France; Oscar Niemeyer, Brazil; Wallace Harrison, U. S. planning chief; Gyle Soilleux, Australia; Nickolai Bassov, U. S. S. R.; Ernest Cormier, Canada; Max Abramowitz, U. S.; Matthew Nowicki, Poland; John Antoniades, Greece. Absent board members: Julio Vilamajo, Uruguay; Gaston Brunfault, Belgium; Howard Robertson, Great Britain.

WASHINGTON

CONGRESSMENS' VIEW Opposition to public housing and continued building controls stiffening.

the regularity of the building cycle. The buyers' strike in housing, although not so big as it looked in the headlines, was big enough to mean that only 800,000 houses—instead of the 1,000,000 which everybody had expected—will be built this year. Commerce Department analysts were waiting for April figures before officially revising their forecast for the year, but said tentatively that present rate of housebuilding will mean a 200,000 unit drop under the 1,000,000 total earlier expected for 1947.

It seemed clearer than ever that no public housing would make an appearance to add to the total of housing starts before the year's end. The Taft-Ellender-Wagner housing bill (S. 866) had squeaked through the Senate Banking Committee by only one vote. This show of opposition, many said, was enough to discourage Senator Taft from bringing the housing bill on the Senate floor until he could be sure of more support.

In the House, the drop in residential building was adding new pressure to the already strong push for abandoning government control of nonresidential construction. It was probably enough to assure House approval of Representative Jesse Wolcott's bill to kill off this and other building controls. But Senate reaction was much less predictable.

As it went before the House at the

month's end, the Wolcott bill would revoke all the provisions of the Veterans' Emergency Housing Act except FHA Title VI lending authority. But it called for continued rent control with no increase in ceilings through December 31, 1947 (a date which could be extended by Presidential proclamation). As a sop to embattled landlords, it provided for a 15 per cent increase in rents where tenants and landlords voluntarily agree to such a boost in a lease running until December 31, 1948. The bill also carried a provision which drew worried looks from cautious FHA: government insurance of private loans to producers of prefab housing.

MARKET

BUST IN 1951? Some cyclical forecasters think Building disaster is inevitable.

Is Building activity now dropping to hit depression bottom in the early 1950's? More than Building's future hung on this glaring question. Many believed that the answer would also tell the fate of the nation.

Building men, as they always have, looked for the answer in the past, in the price graph, in the cabalistic charts of the business forecasters. They could have got answers as various by looking in the stars. Only the bravest forecaster attempted to look as far as 1950; few could even agree on the shape of 1948.

Like the Birds. Of those who rushed bravely ahead, the cyclists were outstanding. These

were the fellows with a "science of prediction." What made the science tick, not even the scientists knew. Two of them, who last month published a popular discussion of business' favorite science (*Cycles* by Edward R. Dewey and Edwin F. Dakin), thought there might be a "building instinct. . . aboriginally associated in man's being with the mating instinct," just as it is in birds.

But many an economist who would wince at the mention of a "building instinct" had documented the fact that building cycles do exist as a regular rhythm. The St. Louis real estate oracle, Roy Wenzlick, has made a small fortune out of his demonstration that real estate activity follows a regular rise and fall, with depressions about 18-20 years apart. A scholarly investigation by Clarence D. Long sponsored by Princeton University backs this up.

Since the statistical evidence of the more remote past upon which the theory of building cycles is based has been mostly collected by proponents of the theory, dissident analysts have been unable to challenge it on the basis of factual evidence. But even among the cyclical adherents there is disagreement on whether these regular fluctuations are distorted by war or other widespread economic dislocations.

Lemming's Way. Dewey and Dakin think they are not. Building boom and building bust, they say, follow their course with all the inevitability of a lemming's suicide. Economists Warren & Peason agree and glumly suggest that the "welfare of an individual is often determined by the time he was born. If he is old enough to start business at the low of a building cycle, which is accompanied by a falling value of gold and rising prices, his chances for success are very good. If he is born at such a date that he starts in business at the peak of a building cycle, accompanied by falling prices, his chances of success are small."

According to this "inevitable" school, the



TIME Chart adapted from Cycles

next building bust is due smack on the nose in May, 1951 (see cut, p. 10), a timetable which should enable any Building man to figure out his exact relation to the lemming.

Roy Wenzlick, however, believes that World War II split the residential building boom due about 1942 as a camel-back one, with the second hump making its appearance after the war. This deferral may also defer the building trough.

Department of Commerce analysts agree and argue that prewar construction shortages which were about to precipitate a boom have been carried over into the present period. And they are being reinforced by war-caused stimuli: the high marriage rate, bumper baby crop, war building curtailment, big population shifts, war-born technological advances calling for new productive facilities.

Prices are not Decisive. Are present high buildings costs precipitating a downtown in the building curve? Most people think so. But a surprising number of economists say that building prices, while they may cause a brief recession, have little to do with starting the long swings of building fluctuation. Government studies show that building costs rise as building activity increases, and fall off very slowly or even advance slightly when building activity slackens. If, however, building costs rise high enough to be out of line with general prices, they are more likely to cause a building recession. Residential construction is, of course, more sensitive to rising building costs than industrial and commercial construction-a fact which the industry is now witnessing.

Building is the biggest part of the nation's annual outlay for capital goods, and building shut-down can shake the nation. The reason why building expenditure fluctuates more sharply than any other type of outlay is very simple: A building is about the most durable product we know how to produce. It seldom actually wears out, but is merely made obsolete by technical advances. When necessary, new purchases for replacement can be postponed almost indefinitely.

The whole enterprise of cyclical forecasting is simply a business of trying to figure out exactly when building customers will decide to postpone new purchases and when they will decide to undertake them. Some of the factors which seem to carry more weight than the Dewey & Dakin "building instinct" are: national income, employment outlook, market outlook for manufactured goods, appearance of new products, government tax policies.

Horizon Unlimited. In sharp contrast to the cyclical theorists who believe that a building bust is inevitable are some possibilities presented by a giant statistical analysis to be published this month by the Twentieth Century Fund. (America's Needs and Resources by J. Frederic Dewhurst and Associates.) This study, which required four (Continued on page 12)



PRIVATE

BUILDING UNLIMITED. Twentieth Century fund economists suggest that a high continuous level of building activity may be ahead, and count heavily on high and stable investment in industrial and commercial facilities to help maintain this level. Charts show how much construction activity of various types could be expected in 1960 (demand), assuming a population of 155 million, a working labor force of 60 million, a national income of \$161 billion. Charts are based on 1944 prices.



BUILDING LIMITED. Rising prices cause fear that Building may price itself out of market. Many analysts now think prices have reached peak, will level off in plateau for a while. Building costs are still no higher that the general price level. But the fact that Building, unlike other expenditures, can be deferred makes the rise more dangerous than other price rises.

years and the work of some twenty specialists, is no forecast. It is a painstaking study of how the U. S. has spent its money over the past and how it might spend it in the future---if almost everybody who wants one has a job and if there is a high level of national income.

This piece of research charts the sharp fluctuations in capital goods expenditure which mean depression. Sample: residential building, the most volatile of all expenditures, showed a 90 per cent drop from the peak year of the twenties to the lowest depression year. It also measures the enormous production capacity the U.S. will have in 1950 and in 1960-figured on the basis of only 5 per cent unemployment and a 37.7 hour work week. This would mean about \$16 billion worth of construction in 1950 and \$19 billion in 1960 (see chart). But even these record levels of construction activity, the Fund researchers say, would fall short of meeting the nation's need for construction. Their estimate of need: replacement of all substandard buildings and provision of minimum standards of health and decency in family living.

Building could take its pick of economic analysts. Clearly, its market was immense, its productive capacity enormous. It had only to find the way to match the two.

BUILDING MONEY

HOUSES FOR RENT Trousdale starts 8,000 units in new Los Angeles suburb.

Sprawling Los Angeles, city of mammoth land deals, got word of a new one big enough to notice. Housebuilder Paul Trousdale laid down \$31/2 million for one of the choicest tracts in southern California: 600 Baldwin Hills acres, only 15 minutes from downtown Los Angeles. The purchase assured a June construction start on a colossal rental housebuilding job of 8,000 units and marked Trousdale's appearance in the foreground of the West Coast's enormous building picture.

Like the Kaiser-Burns housebuilding enterprise, newcomer Trousdale stepped forward holding the hand of a financial giant. The bank of California's astute old A. P. Giannini is putting up \$50 million on the Baldwin Hills job. But the Giannini millions are a construction loan. Trousdale has always put up stockholders' money for land purchase. Stockholders are, for the most part, his own employees. This, Trousdale thinks, is one reason why he has been able to create a building organization efficient enough to net a \$900,000 profit on a \$900,000 investment in 3,500 houses for war workers. A one-time builder of luxury houses for movie stars, Trousdale switched to low-cost housing during the war, has decided to stay in the mass market.

Trousdale's Baldwin Hills acreage adjoins a fast-growing business district, where the new May Co. store is located and where the Broadway department store and other

commercial structures are now being built. His rental development will, however, have its own shopping center. The site will be laid out to allow for schools and 20 acres will be earmarked for a recreation area including tennis courts, swimming pool, playgrounds.

Architect Allen Siple's plans call for 800 structures, ranging in size from two to twenty units, of wood frame construction in what is known locally as California Colonial style. Each will be built around a central patio with exterior stairways and rambling balconies. Garages will be detached, grouped and adjoining service vards. Lots will be 68 to 110 ft. wide and up to 250 ft. deep. Trousdale expects rents to range from \$45 to \$80 per month.

CHICAGO MILE **Realtors plan \$200 million more glamor** for glittering Michigan Avenue.

Against the slum-pocked miles that sprawl westward from Lake Michigan, Chicago's near North Side sparkles like a diamond set in an old tin can. The near North Side begins where the city's proudest skyscrapers (Tribune Tower, Wrigley building, London Guaranty Trust) overlook Lake Michigan. Most Chicagoans would say it ends where the ugly old McCormick mansion squats across from the city' most popular public beach. Some time ago two of the smartest real estate operators in the business decided to take a walk up and down this glittering 11-block area, where store fronts and swank hotels elbow each other. It was a profitable walk. By the time New York's William Zeckendorf and Chicago's Arthur Rubloff had finished their stroll they had agreed on a fabulous plan to pour \$200 million worth of improvements into this already fabulous area and boost its volume of retail business from the present annual volume of \$30 million to something like \$600 million.

Last month Rubloff and Zeckendorf, to the clatter of banner headlines in Chicago's enthusiastic press, unwrapped an elaborate table model of the proposed Magnificent Mile. (Said Rubloff: "We're willing to put our own money into it-why, I paid for the model myself!") The model, made from plans by architect John Root, showed the realtors' visualization of a bevy of new store buildings fronting on Michigan Boulevard, backed by landscaped shopping promenades and surrounded by taller apartment buildings.

Decentralization Check. Chicago's applause was a little less than expected. Many whose property was outside the glamorous precints of the Magnificent Mile wished that \$200 million worth of improvements could be attracted to some of the blighted areas edging the Loop instead of pouring into the city's handsomest neighborhood. But Rubloff argued that the luxury development would stop decentralization. North shore suburbanites would move back to the proposed apartments, he said. The city would reap hundreds of thousands of new tax dollars. Moreover, the present plan, which covers only Michigan Avenue frontage and the adjoining eastward lakeside strip, would eventually be extended to take in some of the run-down blocks west of the Avenue.

Of the \$200 million worth of proposed new building, only \$23 million was immediately in sight. As agent for Gimbel Bros., owner of Saks womens' apparel store, Zeckendorf had bought a block site for a new Saks \$7 million building. One block away Walter Hoving's Bonwit Teller store (see FORUM, March '47) will locate in a \$2 million structure. Webb & Knapp (Zeckendorf is executive vice-president) own a 60,-000 ft. frontage between the two stores, plan a \$10 million 16-story building catering to radio and advertising tenants and including street level shops. Acting for a syndicate in which he has a financial interest, Rubloff had acquired 42,000 sq. ft. and said construction of a \$4,200,000 department store for an unannounced tenant would begin



Myron Davis the minute he could get a federal permit to build. Other owners in the area plan expansion and remodeling of existing buildings.

But Rubloff was sure plenty of other building dollars would roll in. "We'll precipitate the big-

RUBLOFF

gest boom you ever saw. Up to now, people lacked the vision and foresight to expand this area. We couldn't lose money on this if we stood on our heads. The Loop must expand, and it can only do so northward; on the south side, there's no nucleus. I'm letting the other real estate people in on it. I'm not being selfish, there's room for everybody."

City's Share. Rubloff expects some of the building dollars to come from the city, and will soon focus his spectacular sales ability on Chicago's new mayor, Martin H. Kennelly. (The State Street merchants could be counted on to bend the mayor's other ear.) Rubloff wants the city to move the ancient pumping station at Chicago avenue to a "less important site" (the equally old water tower would, however, be retained in the center of a landscaped plaza). He wants a civic auditorium. He wants the city to install a recreation center with a skating rink "like Rockefeller Plaza." He wants two municipal below-ground parking levels to accommodate 1,500 cars at a time (there are only four garages in the area now). He wants some streets widened, and the below-level "double-decking" of Michigan Boulevard extended.

All this would cost the city about \$50 million. But Rubloff figures that this outlay could be amortized in a few years by the revenue from parking facilities and by leasing the municipally owned recreation facilities. Then the rest of the \$200 million

would come flowing in from private investors.

The Million-Dollar Question. The promoters of the spectacular Chicago plan were already the most spectacular names in real estate. Rubloff started his firm at the bottom of the depression on \$1,500 worth of credit from a sign painting company, made \$57,-000 the first year out of managing distressed properties. By the time he got interested in the near North Side, he had negotiated some of the biggest deals in Chicago real estate for buyers like Prudential Life, Equitable Life, Greyhound bus. Rubloff's big deals inevitably led him to New York's Zeckendorf, who found Rubloff a useful ally in Chicago transactions. (Says Rubloff modestly: "Zeckendorf is the great genius in real estate -he's an operator and I'm just a broker.")

For Zeckendorf, who had already dazzled New York by plans for a rooftop airport covering 144 Manhattan blocks and a \$50 million shopping center in Flushing, who had assembled the United Nations site and driven a commercial wedge into a hitherto impregnably residential section of Park Avenue, the Chicago development was something less than hair-raising. But some of the less spectacular members of the real estate brotherhood noted that Zeckendorf told the mortgage bankers' meeting last month in New York that the Flushing project seemed to be withering from lack of financial backing. They hoped the Magnificent Mile would not be rechristened the Missing Millions.

REALTORS' CHICAGO PLAN

The Rubloff-Zeckendorf proposal calls for a half-dozen new store buildings, to be surrounded by taller apartment blocks. Below is view of area looking south, toward the loop.





MAGNIFICENT MILE AS IT IS NOW, LOOKING NORTHWARD TOWARD LAKE SHORE DRIVE SAME ELEVEN MICHIGAN AVENUE BLOCKS WITH \$200 MILLION IN NEW BUILDING ADDED



PREFABRICATION

SCANDINAVIAN BID Finns and Swedes are trying to break into house-hungry U. S. market.

Finnish and Swedish prefab producers have for the last year been hungrily eveing the Great U. S. Housing Shortage. The Scandinavians, whose prefab industry is based on their immense timber stands, know that their efficiently designed, low-cost prefabs are a fat blue chip in the international export pool. But hoped-for U. S. purchases have until now been blocked by buyers' wariness of the building trades unions. Last month the first Swedish prefab to brave a possible union blockade sailed into Baltimore harbor. Its destination: Greenville, S. Carolina, where department store owner Henry B. Simpson was thinking about retailing the Swedish houses through stores in twenty southern cities. The first Finnish



Finnish prefab

prefab was on its way, consigned to a U. S. buyer still veiled in mystery.

This trading opportunity was opened to Sweden and Finland when the Housing Expediter asked the President (under Patman Act authority) to waive import duty on lumber and lumber products. The Housing Expediter was aiming at lumber imports from Canada and Mexico to supplement short U. S. supply, but the Scandinavians were delighted to discover that their prefab houses could be classed as lumber products. Without the exemption, foreign prefabs would pay duty amounting to one-third their cost. With it, they can quote a competitive price. Timber Houses, Ltd., the Finnish combine representing 75 per cent of the nation's prefab capacity, quotes a price that would figure less than \$3.50 per sq. ft., f.o.b. Finland, with reductions for quantity orders. This would compare with an average U. S. prefab cost of \$6.50 per sq. ft. for a house erected and including land.

Both countries tried unsuccessfully to get government guaranteed market contracts like those offered to U. S. prefabers. The Finns also got more than a spark of interest from New York's bargain-conscious Gimbel Bros., but negotiations fell through. The State of New York thought the Finnish prefabs would be fine for its emergency housing program, but winced at the thought of a labor walk-out.

Although the U. S. needs the Scandanavian houses less than any country in Europe, the Finns and the Swedes desperately want U. S. credits to buy capital goods here for rebuilding their industries. They are a good deal less anxious to sell to Britain, an interested customer but already six months behind in her own export deliveries. The Finns have found Poland a good customer: 4,000 prefab houses plus some raw materials went to Poland's mining areas, brought back 500.000 metric tons of coal. For Finland, Russia looms as an imperative prefab customer: on Russian order are more than one million sq. meters of prefab housing and eleven completely equipped prefab factories, to be charged against \$300 million war reparations.

HOUSES

NO. 1 LANDLORD Will government sell permanent war houses at bargain prices?

Last month the nation's Number One landlord faced a job few owners would care to tackle: he had to get rid of 940,921 dwelling units—a whacking \$1.372 billion worth of government-built war housing.

Federal Public Housing Commissioner Dillon Myer was in the limelight and on the spot. His giant brokerage job was hemmed in by a formidable legislative fence of preferred customers. It was hamstrung by the housing pinch: Myer could not sell the government-built units in a way that would mean tenant dislocation. It was nervously susceptible to the charge of unfair competition from private enterprise: whatever Myer did about this big wad of real estate would impinge directly on the business of all those who buy and sell propentry or build houses for many years to come.

A lot depended on landlord Myer's ability to steer clear of the many kinds of explosives with which the war housing disposal job was mined. If Congress decides to put up \$4.7 billion for more public low-rent housing, FPHA would boss the job. But how well FPHA managed to avoid public complaints in unloading war housing would have a lot to do with Con-Eisenstaedt gress' decision on whether there will be any more of a government housing job to boss.

Myer had already polished off one small part of his job. Cities had bought 5,398 demountable houses for sale or rent to veterans—but this was only a drop in the big bucket of 78,000



demountables. Of the 320,000 temporary houses built during the war, 77,500 had been moved to new locations for housing veterans at an average cost of \$2,978 per unit.

MYER

But it was around the \$733 million

worth of permanent projects that the real dynamite was laid. For these, Congress had already named preferred customers: 1) federal agencies; 2) municipalities; 3) veterans; 4) present occupants. Back of this preferance line-up lay some fair buys for the private investor. Last month Congress threatened to bypass this line-up, and back of the move some saw the shadow of the real estate brotherhood, who had found a way to turn the fair buys into juicy bargains.

The by-pass: a House subcommittee had told Commissioner Myer to sell no permanent housing project to any customer who could not put up the cash. This threatened to force property sales at distressed prices to investors able to mobilize quick cash. It automatically barred two customers on the preferred list—cities (who would use the projects for low-rent housing) and mutual ownership corporations (which were being formed by many present tenants who hope to buy).

Commissioner Myer pointed this out to the subcommittee and asked them to think things over once more. But the whole question of how many war-built projects will be converted to low-rent housing and how many will go to private investors remains unsettled. Congress must approve each case of conversion to low-rent housing. Dillon Myer said a list showing need for low-rent housing as indicated by applications from cities would not be ready for Congress before next January. How Congress looks at this will determine how much of an inning the private investor will get.

Wide World



LORD & TAYLOR DESIGNS AWARDS went this year to (I. to r.) Louis de Rochemont, for developing a new type of documentary motion picture and for his past work as producer of "March of Time"; Bernard Herrmann, for his work as composer and as CBS symphonic conductor; Agnes de Mille, for revitalizing the ballet as a popular art; Alfred H. Barr, for bringing modern art to the American public as director of the Museum of Modern Art.

DESIGN

FIVE DOLLAR PLANS New firm opens mass market for architecture with model houses.

Because architects skim off only the cream of the design market and do not even try to serve the family of average means, an alert newcomer has moved into the building industry to lap up the milk. Home Planners Inc. figured that the milk would amount to at least \$1 million this year.

Home Planners Inc. is to custom-trade architectural service what Bond Clothiers are to Cornelius Vanderbilt's tailor. Magazines, operative builders, and a bevy of small-time promoters have already tried to apply mass production methods to architecture with nothing like million dollar results. The new Detroit firm's spectacular success turns on a dramatially simple notion: that there is no house customer without an arge to set up a doll-house model and see just what his house will be like.

By last month approximately 100,000 house customers were down on their hands and knees happily fitting together 1/4 in. scale Home Planners' models of houses they could expect to build for from \$8,000-\$18,000. For the cardboard model, the eager customer had paid \$1.50. He had selected it from an 80-page book offering 25 "Designs for Convenient Living" and many a helpful hint on planning, building, and financing a house—also supplied by Home Planners at \$1.50. Beside the model lay a complete set of working drawings (including radiant heating installation) and outline specifications. Cost: \$5.00.

This million-dollar business was born. quite accidentally, of an advertising promotion stunt. Timken's oil burner division had asked bright young (33) designer Richard Pollman to plan a set of houses which it featured in advertisements. Pollman had an impressive record of market appeal, demonstrated by the 1,000 houses he designed for Detroit's shrewd operative builder Harry J. Durbin and by the lowlying ranch houses which he had designed and built for the contract market with architect Irving Palmquist. But neither Pollman nor Timken was prepared for the register of market interest which the ad series rang up. When Timken got 500,000 letters asking for Pollman's plans, admanager Dean H. Robinson figured that he had got hold of something that might even be bigger than oil burners.

It was ad-manager Robinson who proposed that Pollman's plans be dramatized by cardboard models. Commercial artists were called in to help engineer them. Philip G. Filmer, director of General Motors' photographic division, became president of the firm. Pollman is executive vice-president. Architect Palmquist also joined the firm as vice-president.

Two months after Home Planners, Inc. started making its pretty paper houses, (Continued on page 16)



HOME PLANNERS' MODELS are attractively finished and expertly engineered. The paper houses reach the customer as two sheets of heavy die-cut cardboard. It takes about 30-50 minutes to fold and glue them together. Vicepresident Pollman says the models are not toys, require at least the intelligence of a 12-year-old for assembly. Scale furniture is printed on the cardboard scraps, to be cut out and used to furnish the 1/4 in. floor plan appearing on the model's enclosing envelope. More customers buy models than blueprints.

Sears-Roebuck ordered \$250,000 worth and earmarked space in the spring catalog, where the model houses are used to boost sale of building materials, equipment and home furnishings. Since then, material dealers, manufacturers, banks, realtors and builders have been steadily falling in line. Home Planners sold 1,600 books, 300 models and 200 blueprints at the Chicago builders convention and Cleveland's Home and Garden Show. Borg-Warner's Norge Division is building its current sales program around Home Planners' models, as is Timken. The U. S. Savings and Loan League and several building trade journals have agreed to feature Home Planners houses and act as the company's dealers. A big advertising puff will be carried in a

Chicago Architectural Photo Co., Culver Service, Perkins & Will



AUDITORIUM THEATER, which holds 5,000, will be left intact by remodeling. College library will be installed under heavy trussed arches (top cut) of hotel dining hall, which runs length of Michigan Boulevard frontage. Stacks will be in old kitchen.

half-dozen consumer magazines. What's more, Home Planner houses are actually getting built (the firm has no part in any building operations).

There are only the tiniest clouds on this limitless cardboard sky. Some states require that registered architects prepare all house plans-but a small fee will usually get a local registrant's signature on the firm's plans. Architects have publicly deplored the scheme (Ex-president Clair W. Ditchey of the A.I.A. Detroit chapter: "I question whether this program will produce good houses") without noticeably depressing the Home Planner' sales curve. Biggest problem so far: many dealers handling the cardboard houses are too lazy to erect models as a sales come-on. Pollman is now cagily preparing assembly lines in Detroit and Chicago from which the models can be shipped erect.

Since the Pollman cardboard houses promise to have an ever-widening effect on the consumer market, architects might take what comfort they could from the generally fair quality of the designs. Few stoop to Cape-Coddling; most reflect Pollman's bent in a contemporary direction.

AUDITORIUM NOW SAFE New college starts careful remodeling of Adler & Sullivan masterpiece.

"You can't get a building for an interracial student body", a Chicago real estate agent told Edward Sparling in 1945. Sparling was a college president with a new idea about colleges—admit anybody who could learn, ask no questions about race or religion. Last month his Roosevelt College, already famous for its liberal crusade, was starting to remodel the building it had got: the Chicago Auditorium Theater building, one of the richest parts of the U. S. architectural heritage.

Chicagoans and all others aware that the Auditorium stands as the key transitional building in modern architecture could be grateful that the Adler & Sullivan masterpiece was safe at last from the periodic threats of razing which have overhung its bankrupt latter days. Architects could be grateful that remodeling was in the hands of Perkins & Will, top-rank modernists with an appropriate reverence for the building in which Louis Sullivan had turned his back on Romanesque and found his own way. Said Lawrence Perkins: "We're very sentimental about the job."

The great theater, where Dankmar Adler worked out acoustics as yet unsurpassed and invented mechanical principles for raising equipment from below the stage which changed theater design throughout the world, will be left almost intact. (Said Frank Lloyd Wright, who worked on the Auditorium as a draftsman: "Stage craft has not advanced much since that day".) Topmost seats in the superfluous upper gallery will be closed by shutting a monumental trap door, already provided for that purpose. Exposed electric light bulbs on the ceiling arches (see cut) will be removed, and concealed lighting substituted. This is all, except for a general washing of the hall's great golden face.

Major remodeling problem is to knock out partitions in the hotel and office building part of the 10-story structure and reassort space as classrooms, faculty offices, conference rooms, student, lounges, book store, etc. Biggest remodeling headache is making the building conform with legal fire requirements, a consideration foremost in every architect's mind since the LaSalle hotel fire. "We are going to have to punch new stairways and enclose towers and put smoke stops all over the place and consume much of our budget that way," Perkins said.

When the city widens Congress street, bringing it to the face of the building, an arcaded sidewalk will be added inside the south wall to preserve this exterior. Such an arcade is fortunately already provided for by the massive solid granite arches used at the base of the building.

President Sparling said he hoped to make Roosevelt College's new home a cultural center for the whole Chicago community. This would have been pleasing to the group of Chicagoans who, 17 years after the Chicago fire, gave Adler & Sullivan the biggest commission any U. S. architect had ever had and then opened their great hall for "workingman's concerts" where 10 cents would buy a seat.

Sparling bought this famous building for \$400,000 and the assumption of \$1,300,000 in back taxes. (He later had to pay another \$400,000 to a hold-out owner for a tax-free north strip of the building.) Cost of building the Auditorium in 1880 was \$3,200,000.

MATERIAL

ROOFERS' FUTURE High building costs are good news.

The old-time fairweather roofer is busy evolving into a year-round home improvement service and expects to harvest \$100 million worth of home improvement service this year in the northeastern U. S. The roofers met last month in New York's Grand Central Palace and took a new grip on the future. They explain it very simply: "From now on, when it rains you're not out of business."

New housebuilding has already meant a drop in roofers' business which they estimate as between 20 and 50 per cent. Unlike most of their competitors for the Building Dollar, the roofers eye the rising cost of new construction with undisguised enthusiasm. Said one member cheerily: "Soaring costs of new houses mean that we are being handed on a silver platter the greatest opportunity in our history." On their part, the roofers predicted that prices on most types of home improvement services would be down in six months.

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MICROCLIMATOLOGY

LETTERS

Forum:

I have been most interested to read Helmut Landsberg's article on microclimatology (FORUM, Mar. '47). It is, I think, the best thing of its kind I have ever seen.

Being an enthusiastic amateur geographer, I would like to follow the subject of microclimatology further. Can you refer me to any writings or publications in the field? Has anybody done an exhaustive study of any city or community from a microclimatic point of view?

Your work has inspired me to try a micro-study of Louisville's climate.

GRADY E. CLAY, JR.

Louisville, Ky.

Further information on microclimatology may be found in Helmut Landsberg's book, "Physical Climatology", and in "The Climate of the Layer of the Air Near the Ground", a classic German treatise by Rudolf Geiger. The latter book was translated by Dr. John Leighly for the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S., but was not put on public sale. Copies may be obtained from the Climatic and Physiographic Division of the Soil Conservation Service in Washington—En.

Forum:

The article on microclimatology (FORUM, Mar. '47) is a corking piece of research masterfully presented and, for a person fascinated by the behavior of the elements, a most diverting discourse.

I was particularly intrigued by the remarks on people's lack of microclimatic discrimination in residential site selection. It is amazing. Last spring my wife and I acquired six acres of land in New Canaan which we think are nearly ideal. The property is a long rectangle running north and south. At the lower end is a sizable pond framed with willows, tupelos and witch hazels. From the north edge of the pond the land rises gradually through an apple orchard and a garden area for about 600 ft., where the inclination becomes marked and an oak and birch wood begins. Roads are such that the house may be situated on the slope in the edge of the oaks, looking south over the orchard to the pond.

This land sold for the same price per acre as other pieces in the neighborhood situated so that a house would necessarily face north with the land a northwest slope. Occasionally it pays to be an architect.

During the completion of one of my jobs in Puerto Rico there was an interesting episode caused by localized climate. It concerned a bank building where the president complained that the air conditioning system functioned unsatisfactorily in his office, although accurate readings indicated almost ideal conditions. His office was on the east side of the building and he complained of discomfort in the afternoon.

About that time it was necessary for me to take a plane trip to the States. We rode quite close to banks of tall cumulus clouds and there was perceptible radiation from them as the plane sped by. That furnished an idea. On returning to San Juan it was established that the white building across the street from the president's office was the trouble-maker. Reflected radiant heat was pouring through a window onto the back of the complaining Don. Lowering the venetian blinds was the cure.

Being saturated in theories of air movement at the moment, I recently had the temerity to argue with our structural designer on the size of supporting members for a large glass opening in the lower floor of a tall building. The opening is 60 ft. long by 18 ft. high.

Through application of wind stresses of a hundred-and-fifty-mile hurricane, we had come up with something resembling the steel pylons of the George Washington Bridge. My feeling was that winds could not strike this part of the building head on. They would be diverted by the tunnel action of the street and surrounding buildings. The engineer acquiesced and we have lacelike, glass supports and an opening which can be looked through. I hope the architect was right.

CHAUNCEY W. RILEY, Architect Long Island City, N. Y.

Forum:

In the last issue of your magazine you referred to an "off-shore wind" as one which comes from the water toward the land.

According to Webster's dictionary, this is an error, the off-shore wind going from the land out toward the water. There has been a good deal of controversy about this question since reading your article, so I would greatly appreciate your giving me the authority for your use of the term.

WARREN TREMAINE

Santa Barbara, Calif.

FORUM editors admit an off-shore error. According to meteorologists, a wind is named for the place or direction it comes from (east, valley, etc.). Contrary exception is the off-shore wind, named for where it's going—ED.

BELL TELEPHONE HOUSE

Forum:

As the housing problem now dominates the building scene, I believe a broader coverage of the conventional small home would be of interest to your readers. By conventional I do not mean the uninteresting crackerbox style of architecture.

A broad coverage, including plans, elevations and details, of small homes by outstanding architects, such as the home by Granville Keith, Architect, pictured in the Bell Telephone System advertisement (FORUM, Mar. '47), would be of great use.



Current and Choice

To me this picture was the most interesting thing in that issue, and my curiosity was aroused as to the floor plan and details of this house.

M. G. LOSEE

Artesia, N. M.

For non-crackerbox houses worthy of Reader Losee's attention, see FORUM, Apr. '47, pp. 79-81; 92-3; 115; 120-23; 126-28-ED.

NO PTERODACTYL

Forum:

In your March news story on Hoving and Pahlman's new Boston department store, correction please!

P. 16, Col. 1, L. 40: "Common" not "Commons," which is generally a place to eat. "Boston Common" has no "S." Anyway, the site is even closer to the "Public Garden" than to the "Common."

P. 16, Col. 2, L. 4: No pterodactyl skeleton. It was a bowhead whale skeleton!

C. L. MORGAN

Arlington, Mass.

Congratulations to alert natural historian Morgan, right on both counts-ED.

SKEWERED, BROILED AND EATEN

Forum:

As a designer and builder of functional homes—low cost, for workmen, American— I am often at variance with the local keepers of the *status quo*. These are the citizens who emit anguished cries whenever a change is proposed. Not necessarily a bad change; just any change.

(Continued on page 26)

Now Gutter Linings Can Give EXTRA YEARS OF SERVICE

Gutter lining is Revere 24 oz. cold rolled copper. Length of sheets 4'0". Transverse seams are $\frac{34''}{4}$ locked and soldered seams, without cleats. Longitudinal seams and expansion joints are also planned in accordance with Revere's manual.* Photograph and detail courtesy of Nicholson & Galloway, Inc., New York, Sheet Metal Contractors.



• Of all the commonly used sheet metals, copper is the most enduring when exposed to the elements. And now, as a result of Revere's research, important new facts are available which enable you to design or install copper gutter lin-

ings, flashings and roofs that give extra years of service.

This research has clearly proved that control of three fundamental factors will insure long-service copper installations. They are (1) weight and temper of the copper, (2) design and distribution of expansion joints and (3) strength of transverse joints. Observance of only one or two of these factors may lead to premature stress failures. When all three are controlled maximum length of service is assured.

The findings of this study have been compiled into a 96-page booklet.* It is complete with charts and detailed information so arranged that you can read and apply final figures that insure the finest sheet copper construction.

C

This book has been widely distributed to architects and sheet metal contractors, and in all probability is in your office files. Be sure to refer to it. If you do not have a copy, write for one now on your office letterhead. If you wish further information, the Revere Technical Advisory Service, Architectural will be glad to help you.

*"Research Solves Problems of Stress Failures in Sheet Copper Construction."



For competent, authoritative assistance....Quick



Simplicity

makes this efficient, trouble-free shaft seal

DIFFERENT

In the York Allis-Chalmers Turbo Compressor, leak-proof sealing is secured through impingement of stationary carbon rings on either side of a "Meehanite" seal ring which rotates with the shaft. The carbon rings are enclosed in nonferrous bellows secured to the compressor housing, and contact with the seal ring is maintained by spring pressure. Oil circulated by the main oil pump lubricates the rotating faces of the shaft seal and carries off

the heat of friction. A gravity tank maintains an oil head on the seal when the compressor is idle. Since this high efficiency seal has few parts to get out of order, maintenance is negligible.

This unusual shaft seal is but one of the many exclusive design features of the York Turbo Compressor and is representative of the thoroughness of York engineering throughout its complete line of refrigeration and air conditioning equipment. York Corporation, York, Pa.

YORK Refigeration and Air Conditioning

HEADQUARTERS FOR MECHANICAL COOLING SINCE 1885

York-trained refrigeration and air conditioning engineers complement York mechanical advancements and the completeness of the York range of equipment, provide architects, consultants and contractors with assistance in planning, purchasing, installing and operating mechanical cooling systems.

In the Cleveland Area, for example, District Manager Yoder, and fourteen sales engineers devote their full time to the problems of York customers in this district.



H. S. Yoder, **District Manager** C. J. Schurman Sales Manager Assisted by: L. W. Cordrey L. R. Craig J. O. Currie R. W. Geltz C. G. Gillespie F. J. Goff W. P. Kohn L. Lewis L. P. Quinlivan J. A. Schurman G. O. Weddell A. P. Wolff D. J. Wood



CLEAN Design

You, like the designers and engineers at Norge, know that "clean design" entails functional efficiency as well as symmetry of line and surface. Clean design characterizes all Norge products.



Norge is the trade-mark of Norge Division, Borg-Warner Corporation, Detroit 26, Michigan. In Canada: Addison Industries, Ltd., Toronto, Ont.



Pure sparkling water for drinking and cooking has moved from the "luxury" to the near necessity class for the modern kitchen. Sparkler home type filters provide continuous-flow filtered water at low cost, and are easily installed in either new or old construction.

Sparkler filters completely remove all chlorine and other off-tastes and odors, all sediment, color, pipe rust, algae, etc., and deliver clear, sparkling, pure water

for drinking and cooking.

The Sparkler W-8 and W-5 units, should be installed by tapping the supply pipe at the kitchen or utility sink or laundry and delivering the filtered water through a separate faucet. In this way filtered water is available with the greatest convenience and, by restricting filtration to drinking and cooking, a longer period of continuous flow is possible between filter pad changes. For the average family, a filter pad will last from four to six weeks and replacement can easily be made by any home owner.

Simple construction; easy to change filter pad.

The five models listed below are the filters usually selected for home installation; larger sizes up to 10,000 gal. per hr. are available for institutions, hospitals, or commercial requirements.

W-8 100 120 6" 9" 20 1bs. W-5 191/2 60 4" 6" 11 1bs. SPA 7 30 3" 4" 31/2 1bs. Construction: Solid bronze; SPA is chromium-plated. Filter Media: Low cost preformed pads. SPARKLER HORIZONTAL PLATE TYPE WATER FILTERS Model Sq. Ft. GPH Height Width Length (approx.) 14.W-4 3.2 200 38" 21" 21" 250 lbs. Construction: Galvanized steel or unpolished stainless steel tank; hard rubber or stainless steel plates. Weite filtration. Gives complete information.	Model	Filter Area in Sq. in.	Capacity GPH	Height	Diam.	Shpg. Wt.
Construction: Solid bronze; SPA is chromium-plated. Filter Media: Low cost preformed pads. SPARKLER HORIZONTAL PLATE TYPE WATER FILTERS Area CAPACITY OVERALL DIMENSIONS SHIPPING W Model Sq. Ft. GPH Height Width Length (approx.) 14-W-4 3.2 200 38'' 21'' 21'' 250 lbs. 14-W-8 6.4 400 42'' 21'' 21'' 250 lbs. Construction: Galvanized steel or unpolished stainless steel tank; hard rubber or stainless steel plates.	W-5		60	6'' 4''	6"	II lbs.
Construction: Galvanized steel or unpolised steel tank; hard	SPA	7	30	3"	4"	31/2 lbs.
Area Model CAPACITY Sq. Ft. OVERALL GPH DIMENSIONS Height SHIPPING W (approx.) 14-W-4 14-W-8 3.2 200 38" 21" 21" 250 lbs. 14-W-8 6.4 400 38" 21" 21" 250 lbs. Construction: Galvanized steel or unpolished stainless steel tank; hard rubber or stainless steel plates. steel tank; hard	Construc		cost pret	formed pads.		
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rubber or stainless steel plates.	14-W-8	6.4	400 42	21"	21"	350 lbs.
	Construc		rubber or sta	inless steel pla	ites.	
	PLCT -	AKREE				
SPARKLER MANUFACTURING CO.			MUNDEL	EIN, ILLING	ois	

Because of these experiences, I am especially sympathetic toward a recent discovery of the Antipodian Archaeological Association. The evidence indicated the fate of the first functionalist. He tried to sell his associates the idea that a little dry cave with a small fire in front of it would be an improvement over the open forest as an abode. He was voted a menace to society and eaten by those he sought to help.

When, before a local august body of public-spirited citizens, I was taken to task for declaring that I built the only modern homes in our bailiwick, sez I: "Gentlemen, would you consider an automobile modern if it were designed to look like an ox-cart, even if you didn't have to yoke up the beasts to go places?" "No," sez they. "Then, gentlemen," I goes on, "how does putting an electric range into an imitation Cape Cod cottage make a modern home, if you do not live on Cape Cod?"

That is where *I* was skewered, broiled and eaten. But they didn't enjoy me. Tasted too much like cinder block on plywood, with Insulux dressing.

HARRY W. MILLER

Kenmore, N. Y.

LETTERS

Forum:

As the operator of a retail lumber yard for a quarter of a century, I have always been receptive to new ideas in the building industry.

The FORUM has supplied me with many of these ideas, and each issue is read from cover to cover in search of them. But your recent issues have been giving too much space to a minority group in the job of furnishing homes for our fellow citizens.

Customer acceptance is the yardstick by which all merchandise must be measured, and in various national as well as local checking polls, it has been found that a very, very small minority, are even interested in anything but conventionally built homes.

It sounds impressive when we read of some company with ten or more million dollars, that promises to produce 2,500 or 5,000 homes per year through mass production, but when the total of these homes is placed beside the total to be built, it is apparent that the vast majority will still be of conventional construction.

The small-town lumberyard in itself does not make an impressive figure, but when one realizes that this small yard is part of a giant organization already set up and in operation; that it is one of thousands of lumber and material plants producing at a speed never before attained; that it represents millions upon millions of invested capital and manpower, one realizes its importance. Most of us remember when "Made in Germany" and "Made in Japan" were considered marks of merit. That was a wonderful example of propaganda selling and the same seems to be true of these remarkable homes, produced overnight at a turn of the crank. The manufacturers have done such a wonderful selling job on these homes that the FORUM and other national magazines have given them thousands of columns of free advertising, mostly based on their own claims.

But the vast majority of homes to be built within the next generation (and that is the job we are all looking at now) will be of the conventional type . . .

The dream cities, automobiles, highways of the future make entertaining reading and so do these dream homes. But please let us get our feet on the ground, grab hold of the job at hand, and when THAT job is done, go back to our dreaming again . . .

> WM. A. COCHRAN, Mgr. Millstadt Lumber Co.

Millstadt, Illinois

Forum:

Perusing the March '47 issue of the FORUM, I am confronted with the impassioned plea of one Charles E. Krahmer for the perpetuation of the traditional system of house building and with a condemnation of the fundamental ideas of prefabrication for fear that the American family life may be stifled via standardization, and that we face the horrid prospect of being cast in a "common mold."

May I state that I am most interested in this theory that there is something uniquely individual in the American family enclosure and manner of living.

Excuse me if I contemplate the millions of us who are apartment-bound, or the greater numbers who dwell in jerry-built suburbia, or worse yet, the many whose family lives are contained in the deteriorating dwellings of the Victorian Era. What a tiny fraction of us can afford or experience a "custom-built" home life in the traditional manner. Better a sound, "common mold" reaching all via prefabrication.

ROBERT C. GAEDE

Shaker Heights, Ohio

WRIGHT WRANGLE

Forum:

Recent months have been devoted to an interchange of vitriolic thought over the quivering body of Frank Lloyd Wright. But in all the shouts, both pro and con, none has mentioned Wright's happy disregard of the primary fact of a house: i.e., that it is a shelter. According to reports, his roofs leak, his windows are drafty, his floors buckle. The famous Falling Water, built (Continued on page 30)



for Radiant Baseboards

CONVECTORS AND RADIANT PANELS

Radiant baseboards mark a new advance in the art of creating comfort with radiant heat. And-just as for radiators, convectors and panels-B & G *Hydro-Flo* Heat brings full realization of the many benefits made possible by radiant baseboards.

B & G Hydro-Flo Heat takes full advantage of the basic superiority of forced bot water as a heating medium. It establishes ideal comfort conditions because of its ability to measure out heat in the exact quantities required by the weather. When the outdoor temperature becomes colder, the average temperature of the water in the system is automatically increased to compensate for the greater heat loss. If the weather turns mild, the temperature of the circulating water is lowered accordingly.

> The net result of this *variable* water temperature is a *uniform* room temperature, regardless of weather changes. It obviously means greatest operating economy, as only *just enough* fuel is burned to satisfy the heat demand.

B & G Hydro-Flo Heating Systems have universal application

Hundreds of thousands of B & G Hydro-Flo installations are in successful operation today . . . in homes . . . in apartments . . . and in low cost bonsing developments where economy of operation is an essential to owners with modest incomes!

PLUS THIS EXTRA FEATURE! Year 'round hot water from the same boiler that heats the house

Here's the feature that makes women enthusiastic about B & G Hydro-Flo Heat! The automatic controls of the system permit operation of the B & G Water Heater not only during the heating season but every month of the year. Virtually limitless quantities of low cost hot water are available at all hours of the day and night.

and night. Hence every household task from dish washing to house cleaning is shortened, made easier. Every gratifying little luxury of personal care and cleanliness can be enjoyed to the utmost... and there's always plenty of hot water for such modern labor-saving devices as dish and clothes washers.

The B&G Sales Kit will help you profit from this preferred heating method—send for your copy.

 $B \in G$ Hydro-Flo Heat equipment can be installed on any bot water beating boiler. It is simple and dependable, with an established record for long, carefree service.

PEC

10

EAT

Simplified Cooling



Economical, Easy-to-Install **Air Conditioning For Doctors**

DOCTORS benefit in many ways from air conditioning. A survey reveals that, in addition to making doctors and patients comfortable, air conditioning greatly improves staff efficiency, shuts out disturbing outside noise and contributes to the composure of patients under treatment. Because of compactness and flexibility of design, Chrysler Airtemp Packaged Air Conditioners fit exceptionally well into plans for such offices. They occupy very little floor space, and require only one electrical and two water connections. Completely selfcontained and automatic in operation, these packages are engineered for long life at low operating and upkeep costs. For details, architects are invited to write

AIRTEMP DIVISION OF CHRYSLER CORPORATION, DAYTON 1, OHIO In Canada: Therm-O-Rite Products, Ltd., Toronto

utomaticall © 1947 Chrysler Corporation



Packaged Air Conditioners are products of Chrysler Corporation engineering skill, famous around the world.

PACKAGED AIR CONDITIONERS

COMMERCIAL REFRIGERATION

HEATING

AIR CONDITIONING



A house is no better than its sheathing...

AND NO SHEATHING IS BETTER THAN THIS!



O NE important contribution to better construction is Fireproof Gold Bond Gypsum Sheathing with the new asphalt treated core. The big rock-like panels are now supplied with surfaces, edges, and even the gypsum rock center thoroughly processed with a water-repellent treatment. Insures full protection against moisture and all kinds of weather. In these times of hurried production,

one consideration of utmost importance to architects and builders is *uniform quality*. With Gold Bond Gypsum Sheathing there is no such thing as unseasoned or "green" material—no danger of expansion or contraction. Every panel is absolutely uniform as to size, thickness and quality.

Gypsum Sheathing insures great structural strength and provides permanent fire protection for the wood framing. The big panels— $2' \ge 8'$ —can be applied in a lot less time than narrow strips of old style sheathing. Fewer joints, too, and these are wind-tight because of snugfitting T and G edges. You'll find Gold Bond Gypsum

You'll find Gold Bond Gypsum Sheathing described in detail in our section in Sweet's. The cost? Less than old style inflammable sheathing.

NATIONAL GYPSUM COMPANY . BUFFALO 2, N. Y.

Over 150 Gold Bond Products including gypsum lath, plaster, lime, wallboard, gypsum sheathing, rock wool insulation, metal lath products and partition systems, wall paint and acoustical materials.

Born with a 2000-year-old reputation . . .



EAGLE Ready-To-Use WHITE LEAD PAINT

Preferred painting material of American planners and builders since Thomas Jefferson's day, white lead's 2000-year-old reputation is still unmatched for durability, beauty and economy.

Now you can specify a new, convenient form of pure white lead. It's more useful to your clients, easier to use for painters. We give you Eagle *Ready-To-Use* White Lead Paint, in gallon form, ready to open, stir and apply:

White lead protection that's extra smooth!

This marvelous new Eagle-Picher paint brings you a new plus—greater brushability, greater smoothness —and until you try Eagle RTU yourself you can't possibly know what we mean. It covers evenly, leaves practically no brush marks. Its flexible film clings fast despite wear and weather. It dries to a brilliant white gloss that doesn't crack or scale, but chalks gradually, actually preparing the surface for eventual repainting.

Eagle Ready-To-Use White Lead Paint comes in two forms: Primer Sealer Coat and Outside White Finish Coat. One, two and five gallon pails. Made by a company with 103 years of experience. Eagle RTU is being made available as rapidly as possible.

THE EAGLE-PICHER COMPANY





around a burbling brook, is alleged to be so damp that at times it is almost uninhabitable. There is even an apocryphal tale that the master himself was once caught sitting in the fireplace at Taliesin West to escape a rainstorm in the rest of the house. Wright's designs are unquestionably beautiful examples of form and texture. But are they livable?

May I endorse Bronze Wood's views on Frank Lloyd Wright's "critics" (FORUM,

The best comment on this class of person that I have ever read is the following from the "Memoirs of Thomas Berwick," the famous English engraver of the early 19th

"There is no species of hatred greater

than that which a man of mediocrity bears

to a man of genius. His reach of thought,

his successful combinations, and his sudden

felicities are never forgiven by those whom

nature has fashioned in a less perfect

Your most interesting presentation of

Architect Hermann Herrey's Community

Theater (FORUM, June '46) brought back

to my mind plans for a "Reform Theater"

designed by me in collaboration with Dr.

Wilhelm Treichlinger some years ago. It

was commended by the assembly of the

"Convegna Volta" in 1934 but the subse-

quent political complications prevented us

The aim of both Mr. Herrey and our-

selves is identical in one respect: namely,

to abandon the orthodox "peephole" stage,

to create a greater interest on the part of

the audience and to permit a "three dimen-

sional" play by uniting actors and audience in one room. Both schemes also provide

However, whilst Architect Herrey's stage

surrounds the seating area, our plan pro-

vides for the seating area to surround the

stage which is thus open on three sides

with an adjustable back to provide reso-

nance, entrances to the stage and to take

The "room creating" effect of movable

spotlights in the light gallery and other

points near the stage contributes largely in

(Continued on page 34)

settings symbolising the scenes.

defining the area of the scene.

similar seating capacity.

from putting the plans into practice.

T. H. d.W. COLEMAN, Architect

Chicago, Ill.

Forum:

Dec. '46).

century.

mould."

Forum:

Birmingham, England

THREE-DIMENSIONAL STAGE

LETTERS

JAN SHOLTA

Penton Profit \$2,515

on \$3,351 investment

THE PENTON BUILDING, Cleveland, Ohio Home of The Penton Publishing Company. Built in 1922. Webster Heating Modernization Program completed in 1940. Heating Contractor, The Smith & Oby Company.

I I I I I I I

Perhaps you can do in 1947 what Penton did in '40. When the 9story Penton Building in Cleveland, Ohio, was built in 1922-23 it was equipped with a modern Webster Vacuum System of Steam Heating which operated efficiently for many years.

In 1939, the Webster Moderator System set new standards, obtained for the Penton Building through a unique Heating Modernization Contract. Three years later, on May 5, 1943, E. L. Shaner, President of Penton, released Webster from its guarantee of performance, reported savings of \$2,515.82 and added "We are completely satisfied with the manner in which our building now is being heated and commend Warren Webster & Company for the satisfactory way in which it has fulfilled its contract".

Your case may be parallel to that of Penton in 1939. Why not check on the possibility of a Webster Heating Modernization program for your own building?

WARREN WEBSTER & CO., Camden, N.J. Representatives in principal U. S. Cities :: Est. 1888 In Canada, Darling Brothers, Limited, Montreal


What do you demand in a building material for Rental Housing?



WALTER R. MCCORMACK, Architect

Are these the things you're asking about?

Availability? That's mighty important today. You'll find modular brick and tile available in real quantity for rental housing.

Economy? From both an immediate and long term point of view modular brick and tile are economical. At today's cost levels they are reasonably priced. In modular sizes they simplify planning and estimating—reduce costly cutting and chipping on the site.

Wherever used, brick and tile practically free you from costly repair and maintenance charges. The constant demand these charges make on property income is greatly reduced. Investment returns and resale value are protected for years to come.

Durability? Clay masonry always has been known for its ability to take it. Whether you have brick for exteriors or tile for interiors, you'll note that rental housing made of these materials stands up under all kinds of punishment. **Beauty?** A wide range of textures and colors makes it easy to add good looks to your housing at no extra cost.

Adaptability? Whether the design be traditional or modern, any design can be achieved with modular brick and tile. They adjust easily to architectural thinking.

Fire-safety? Both the owner and the tenant get definite protection from fire when brick and tile are used in rental housing.

If you have any other questions about modular brick and tile, we'll be glad to receive your inquiry.

Architects are invited to write for two FREE booklets: "The ABC of Modular Masonry," for those interested in the development of coordinated dimensions; and "Modular Sizes of Brick and Tile," an aid to current design. Address the Structural Clay Products Institute, Dept. AF-5, 1756 K*Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.



SCDI

OSTRUCTURAL CLA





Pictured here are a few of the 182 comfortable homes built during the past year by John R. Worthman, Inc., in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. These and similar homes are an ideal answer to the current housing shortage. Each of 35 Worthman homes now under construction is being speeded to completion, thanks to the Ingersoll Utility Unit.

INGERSOLL UTILITY UNIT SAVES TIME AND SPACE IN MAJOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

Hundreds of Leading Builders Everywhere Are Including Utility Units in 1947 Projects!

All over the country forward-looking builders, convinced of the efficiency, convenience and adaptability of the Ingersoll Utility Unit, are ordering thousands of these single-engineered assemblies for immediate installation. In modern housing developments in New York, Dayton, Detroit, Indianapolis, Boston, San Francisco, in towns and cities everywhere, more and more of these easy-to-install units are daily proving the means to economy of space and lower all-around cost. With each part engineered to fit snugly in its place, this practical, compact and sturdy unit, complete from one source, contains everything needed for comfort and homemaking efficiency.

One of the buildings that will house 544 attractive, modern apartments being built by Nettleton & Baldwin, Inc., Seattle, Washington. Each will include easy-to-install, time and space-saving Ingersoll Utility. Units. Adaptability of the unit to individual plans enables them to incorporate more living space for less money in these multiple-unit dwellings.



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AAS

J. A. Jones Construction Company, one of the country's largest builders, is installing Ingersoll Units in the 59 houses in this project, Country Club Hills, Charlotte, North Carolina. One of several veterans' housing developments in that section, this modern community offers comfortable homes with attractive, spacesaving kitchens and bathrooms, plus efficient heating plants.



Ingersoll Steel Division Borg-Warner Corp., Dept. F5 310 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago 4, 111. Please send me complete descriptive literature on the Ingersoll Utility Unit. Name

.

.State

Firm

Address

r

1

City ...

PRODUCT OF BORG-WARNER



The number of new homes planned for construction during the present three year building period has been estimated at more than one and a half million. A \$12,000,000,000 investment in better living.

As yet, most of these "dream houses" are still only blueprints, but before long they'll be real homes—with real people living in them. The kind of life those people will enjoy tomorrow is the responsibility of every member of the building industry today.

That's why, all over America, conscientious architects, contractors and building supply dealers are unanimous in their recommendation of Lo-"K" flameproofed Cotton Insulation. With the complete facts at their disposal on every insulating material, they've found conclusive proof that dollar for dollar, inch for inch, Lo-"K" is America's best insulation buy.

... Because Cotton Out-Insulates All Others !

Lo."K" gives greater insulating efficiency — thermal conductivity rate, only 0.24.

Lo."K" is lighter in weight, only .875 lbs. per cubic foot. Lo."K" is easy to handle. Blanket roll cuts installation time and

roll cuts installation time and costs, fits snugly.

ulating ctivity Lo."K" is economical. Pays for itself through greater fuel savings. Lo."K" is flameproofed. Resists blowtorch temperature of 1800° F.

Lo-"K" lasts indefinitely. Highly resistant to moisture, mildew and vermin.



As the average play on that stage is of a "moving" character numerous approaches to the stage platform are essential and these are provided not only through the back screen but also through two doorways below the balustrade running parallel to the back walls and bordering the seating area, and also by means of ramps which replace the outer section of the stage floor when lowered to the first floor level.

Change of stage settings is achieved by lowering the whole or parts of the stage to the basement, removing the setting to one of the flank storerooms, and replacing it by another stage setting pre-assembled in the opposite flank room on a movable platform.

I thought this scheme might be of interest to you as an alternative way of tackling the set-up of the contemporary theater.

FREDERIC ROSENBAUM, Architect Melbourne, Australia

WACKY-SHACKY

LETTERS

Forum:

Probably few, if any, of the FORUM's editorial staff would admit ever having read a book as dated as *Don Quixote*. But it is long past time for someone to write something of the kind in reverse. The naive, wide-eyed laudation of everything in modern wacky-shacky architecture as evidence of progress sometimes appears as ridiculous as does an all-out attack on a tumbledown windmill. Absurd, you say. Well, let's take a gander at the first three feature articles in the March FORUM:

Why kid yourselves and your technically trained readers by giving tacit approval to the really unjustified structural complications of a "roof built like an airplane wing" of the David-Dailey house? Or inform us that one tier of skewed windows makes Mr. Dailey's apartment design "angled to the view," and that, in the same design, "all waste space has been eliminated" in a plan actually unique in its wastefully complex solution of a simple planning problem? Also, why quote the owners' statement that the service arrangement of the Jackson-Noyes house "allows the least possible waste of steps or effort" while the plan indicates a walking distance of some 20 ft. from the far end of the kitchen to the dining room service door? And, further, why insist that this same house is a "modern counterpart of colonial neighbors" when the entrance side illustration shows the second story expectantly poised as if all set for someone to yell "contact" before soaring over the hills and far away?

Yes, I and a number of my colleagues (who don't take time to write letters to the editor) feel that editorial comments should (Continued on page 38)





ON GUARD FOR INDUSTRY! WHEELING EXPANDED METAL



PROTECTS. Wheeling Expanded Metal is ideal for window guards, ventilating partitions, grilles.



VENTILATES lockers, partitions, grilles, shelving. Admits light and air. Sanitary, easy to clean, protective.

GUARDS dangerous machinery, conveyors, stairways, elevators. Easily formed to fit special installations,



FENCES. Good to look at and great for protection, Stands guard for years and years.

WHEELING EXPANDED METAL stands as a never-failing watchman for industry . . . preventing accidents . . . safeguarding property day and night.

This rugged construction metal guards danger spots as safety enclosures for machines, belts, exposed power lines. As a strong, good-looking fence it keeps undesirables outside. As walls for lockers, it provides both ventilation and protection.

Wheeling Expanded Metal is suitable for hundreds of other uses. Write us for information on the wide variety of weights and mesh sizes.

WHEELING CORRUGATING COMPANY WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA

Atlanta • Boston • Buffalo • Chicago • Cleveland • Columbus • Detroit • Kansas City • Louisville Minneapolis • New Orleans • New York • Philadelphia • Pittsburgh • Richmond • St. Louis





- [A] The smooth, attractive exterior surface is of %" Exterior-type Douglas fir plywood, applied in vertical panels with joints carefully butted. Exterior-type plywood is made with completely waterproof phenolic resin binder, especially for permanent application.
- [B] Interior-type plywood was used on interior walls and ceilings. Joint-free finishes were attained in kitchen and bath by covering panels with muslin and painting over. One bedroom was papered. The second bedroom and living room panels were painted.
- [C] Plyscord (the sheathing grade of interior type Douglas fir plywood) was specified for rigid, durable roof sheathing. Plywood was also used under the linoleum in kitchen and bath, for a smooth, cupless, ridgeless base.

PLYWOOD'S MANY ADVANTAGES KEEP DEMANDS GREATER THAN PRESENT SUPPLIES

Douglas fir plywood production is greater now than in prewar years. Today's demand, however, is unprecedented—and raw material availability is the controlling factor in attaining higher output. This uneven demand-supply ratio naturally means that plywood may not always be readily obtainable at any given time and place. Keep in touch with your regular source of supply as to price and delivery information. For technical data, write the Douglas Fir Plywood Association, Tacoma 2, Washington. "one of my most successful houses"

says Architect Edwin J. Peterson,

"AFTER SEVEN YEARS, IN PERFECT CONDITION—INSIDE AND OUT"

BUILT in 1940, this attractive home demonstrates the many advantages to be gained through Douglas fir plywood Dri-bilt construction. Architect Edwin J. Peterson of Spokane used plywood for both interior and exterior surfaces because it lent itself so admirably to his clean-cut, modern design and provided permanent wall surfaces that would withstand extremes in temperature. The plan was laid out on 4-foot modules, taking advantage of the erection-economy offered by standard 4'x8' panels. Mr. Peterson says: "After seven years, this house is in perfect condition. The interior panels proved to be excellent for a variety of finishes, such as the plain painted living room, the papered bedroom and the canvas-covered bath."



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This new building wire, in the branch circuit sizes, is finished in nylon and is called "Neolay."

modern new wire

It's the smallest diameter, lightest weight building wire on the market. The nylon-smooth finish and small diameter facilitate installation.

Laminated walls of Laytex (90 per cent pure rubber) insulation give high dielectric strength. On top of the Laytex is a layer of flame retardant Neoprene.

The larger sizes—No. 6 AWG to 1,000,000 CM—are supplied with an aluminum conductor, RH insulation and a Neoprene jacket. This construction provides a cable that is unusually tough and strong, and exceedingly light.

Investigate! Write United States Rubber Company, Wire and Cable Department, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York 20, N.Y.



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- Screens, storm sash and weatherproofing-all in one permanently installed unit-with NOTH-ING TO CHANGE, NOTHING TO STORE; Rainproof, draft-free, filtered-screen ventilation by finger-tip control from inside-in any season,
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Greater economy on 1/2 less fuel. When you specify RUSCO . . . you assure your client the

ultimate in convenience, comfort, safety and economy. Details of Rusco Window Insulation are in Sweets 18a-14, or you can obtain literature for your files by sending coupon.



LETTERS

be confined to the informative discussion of elements which are not made self-evident through the illustrations, rather than to merely reflect the expression of shallow opinions or flamboyant cliches which may seem very chi-chi to the tyro, but exasperate an intelligent reader to the point of allergy to any real architectural or structural merit which an overpraised subject might have. Let's leave the editorial superlatives to the writers for the amateur homebuilders who read Good Housekeeping and the LHJ.

JIM T. POMEROY, Architect

Orland Park, Ill.

1) Reader Pomeroy refers to the "structural complications" of a "roof built like an airplane wing." Internal bracing, a construction princi-ple borrowed from the airplane wing, actually simplifies the structure of the roof by eliminat-ing crossiles.

simplines the structure of the tool by eminate ing crossties. 2) Unless Reader Pomeroy resents the inclusion of an interior court, FORUM fails to find waste space in Dailey's well-articulated apartment

plan. 3) A large kitchen like that in the Noyes house anaturally requires more walking than a mini-mum work space. The one in question is con-veniently located to serve both dining room, front and service entrances.

4) When better superlatives are written Forum will write them—ED.

MISPLACED CAPITOL

Forum:

... I deeply and sincerely admire the firm stand that FORUM has taken on modern architecture. My greatest personal interest in your publication is in the timber homes of California which you so frequently feature. To us in South Australia who have similar conditions to plan for, these particular homes are full of interest and excitement. My own house, on the drawing board at the moment, has been profoundly influenced by much of the thought expounded

between Forum's covers-a case of backing convictions with coin. Incidentally-quite incidentally-I note in your Dec. '46 issue that you write of the Royal Melbourne Hospital well and accurately except for this statement: "The Royal Melbourne Hospital in Australia's capitol city . . ." Melbourne is not Australia's capitol city, although the Victorian readers of FORUM will no doubt swell with pride at the suggestion. However, you can expect violent reactions from New South Wales and wholesale cancellations from Canberra subscribers. Here in S. A., though, we're reading the article, enjoying it and thanking FORUM for the laugh. Aside from that error, congratulations on a work of outstanding merit. You will never lack

support from "Down Under." RAYMOND G. WHITE

Colonel Light Gardens, S. A.

FORUM blushes with embarrassment at such a slight to loyal Aussie supporters-Ep. (Continued on page 42.

How to Insure Longer Life for FENCE INSTALLATIONS

Specifying Anchor Chain Link Fence is the answer! It can't be beaten for rugged construction and exclusive design that means extra years of maximum protection. And there are four big reasons for this performance:

1. Deep-Driven Anchors hold the fence permanently erect and in line, in any soil or weather, yet permit easy relocation where necessary. 2. Square Frame Gates remain free from warping and sagging. 3. U-Bar Line Posts are rust-free, rigid and self-draining. 4. Square Terminal Posts improve strength, durability and appearance.

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"Anchor Protective Fences" is both a catalog and a specification manual. a catalog and a specification mattan-Shows many types and uses of An-chor Chain Link Fence . . . pictures installations for many prominent companies and institutions . . . con-tains structural diagrams and specification tables. Just ask for Book No. 110. You'll find it both useful and informative. We'll be glad to send you a free copy. Address: ANCHOR POST FENCE DIVISION, Anchor Post Products, Inc., 6635 Eastern Ave., Baltimore 24, Maryland.









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Every specification for built-in furniture should read "cushioned in Firestone *Foamex*." Why? Because *Foamex* is the one-piece, air-and-latex cushioning that lasts the life of built-in furniture! It meets every high-quality demand...comfort and resiliency...yet it costs less to apply and to maintain! And *Foamex* comes factory-cut in custom or stock sizes!

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THIS bathroom shows how Kohler plumbing fixtures may be combined in a convenient, inviting arrangement for the home of average size. All the visual and practical advantages of Kohler quality are here-well-matched designs; clean cut lines; good proportions; lustrous, easily cleaned surfaces; and working parts that function smoothly and reliably. Homeowners know that Kohler quality means first quality-an investment that assures efficient health protection and adds permanent value to the home.

The Kohler fixtures illustrated are the

Chesapeake vitreous china lavatory, with roomy basin, handy ledge and Centra fitting; and the Cosmopolitan Bench Bath, made with durable, gleaming enamel on time-tested, non-flexing cast iron, and equipped with the Triton shower mixer. The quiet, smooth-acting Wellworth closet completes this matched set.

Kohler quality is now a 74-year-old tradition, maintained through every step of production, which takes place in one great plant, under one supervision. Write for whatever additional information you need. Kohler Co., Dept. E, Kohler, Wisconsin.



This Kohler bathroom occupies space of moderate size, 7' 6" x 8' 6", with Kohler fix-tures and compact, conveniently located cabinet, shelves and other facilities.

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POLITICAL DOUBLE CROSS

Forum:

IFTTERS

The questions asked in a letter by veteran Edward Wm. De Laet (FORUM, Feb. '47) have aroused me to seek greater attention at Washington for the veterans' housing plight. Manifestly it is an error of public policy to promise the vets much in the line of housing and then suffer conditions such as he described in Dayton. ("There is no place to rent . . . To get a decent home . . . it would cost me \$15,000 . . . Why have big buildings made such great strides while homes sit uncompleted?")

If this veteran is correct, innumerable others must feel that they are getting a political double cross and that is not good for anybody.

I do not keep close tabs on construction but my impression is that the 1946 record was about \$10 billion compared with the 1947 target of, say, \$12 billion; the 1946 fire loss aggregate was much more than \$1/2 billion. I fancy that at least one-third of 1946 building was residential and I understand that at least \$4 billion of the 1947 target will be residential—say 20 per cent multi-family rental units, involving perhaps one million units. This in spite of the fact that the 1946 record was less than half a million units.

With such large figures in the national construction equation and so many unknown variables, it is hard for the lay person to judge the merits of the questions raised by Mr. De Laet. However, it does seem that his questions should obtain serious consideration and I plan to send his letter to the President with a request for study.

The railroads need three million new freight cars, but only 7,000 are built monthly. CPA allows commercial construction which might wisely be suspended pending the nation's attempt to transport its products and house its veterans properly. FRED BROWN WHITNEY

St. Petersburg, Fla.

BATHROOM BLUES

Forum:

I appreciate your publication of my two houses in the February issue, but must reject as superficial and hasty your advice on the placing of the bathroom. The main entrance is not the door off the nursery, but the one you have marked with an arrow on your published plan. The students have their separate entrance, as has the nursery. The nursery also has a double buffer—wall and wardrobes—between it and the hallway used by students, and also the dining room. With these precautions taken, and having in mind that the day students are occupied in the studio and dining room most of the *(Continued on page 46)*

FACE the facts!-



Electric Water Heaters are in demand because they are: (1) SAFE (fumeless, flameless); (2) CLEAN (smokeless, sootless); (3) ADAPTABLE (short hot water lines; no flue or vent); (4) TROUBLE-FREE (as electric light); (5) ECONOMICAL (plenty of hot water all the time at low cost).

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WATER HEATER!



CAN YOU Afford to

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Let's face the facts. The houses you build today can haunt you in the future—or they can stand as monuments to your foresight and good judgment.

One way to be sure of a future reputation as good as you enjoy today is to *wire your houses for Electric Ranges!* Surveys among American women can help you look ahead—because survey after survey shows that women want, and intend to have, Electric Ranges in their homes today and tomorrow.

To do the job right requires only: 3-wire service from point of cut-in to the distribution panel; a minimum of two No. 6 wires and one No. 8 wire; a 60-amp. switch with overload protection and a 3-wire circuit from the distribution panel to the range outlet in the kitchen. Make this your minimum wiring specification.

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THE RANGE SERVICE OUTLET

TO KEEP THEM MODERN ...





... with this quickly-erected Milcor system

WII CON

The Milcor Furring System improves the mechanical efficiency of erecting furring over masonry walls.

Only *two* separate units — the same ones used to build Milcor Solid Partitions — provide the steel to hold the metal lath: (1) a standard runner which is used at both floor and ceiling; (2) a standard channel stud. Confusion in handling materials is eliminated; time is saved.

The lath wall is a structure complete in itself, from floor to ceiling—plastered one side only. It can be placed at any distance from the masonry wall and in no contact with it; clips and ties to the outside wall are unnecessary for ordinary height. This permits using any type of insulation.

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F-278A



ONE of the largest housing undertakings in the St. Louis area since the war is the Clayton Gardens project-125 dwellings, designed by Bernard McMahon to meet the latest standards of living comfort and built by the John C. Gross Construction Company.

Called "Homes of Distinction," these houses, ranging in design from ranch type to Colonial, include such progressive features as interior gardens, built-in radios, accordion-acting leather doors, weatherstripped aluminum windows and *Moduflow*.

CONTROL SYS

EM

It's to be expected that Moduflow would be found in these homes because this heating control system is one of the new features that distinguishes any truly up-to-date home built today. In large homes and small, in community developments and single unit projects, Moduflow has literally "taken hold." And there's good reason for this acceptance. Moduflow puts an end to the drafts and chilly periods caused by intermittent heat supply and instead furnishes heat continuously with the supply always in balance with heat loss. When you specify Moduflow control for the homes of your clients, you're assuring them of the ultimate in heating comfort—a must in every home of distinction. Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Company, 2601 Fourth Avenue South, Minneapolis 8, Minnesota In Canada: Toronto 12, Ontario.

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Wherever you ask, you'll find housewives like Roper's fine selection of cooking tops ... with a choice of four, six or eight top burners. Other fine features, too. Specify "ROPER GAS RANGE" and you're sure of a splendid reaction. For ROPER is designed to fit into the modern kitchen ... designed to make your job easier and more effective.



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time they are in the house, the bathroom was placed where it would be convenient for the day students without disturbance to the nursery...

R. M. SCHINDLER, Architect Los Angeles, Calif.

Apologies to contributor Schindler for a mild criticism which shouldn't have been made at all-Ep.

TECHNICAL REQUEST Forum:

LETTERS

Mr. Bogdan Teodorovich, an engineer connected with the Ministry of Public Health in Croatia, has appeared at our office to request, in behalf of the technical students in Yugoslav universities, periodicals useful to architects, engineers, chemists and other students.

As you know, Yugoslavia has been the victim of great destruction and faces not only the problem of rebuilding homes, schools and other structures, but also the problem of training those who will build the necessary structures.

NAT. EINHORN Executive Director American Committee for Yugoslav Relief

New York, N. Y.

Readers who wish to contribute may address Mr. Einhorn at 235 E. 11th St., New York—ED.

EXPANDING CREDIT

Forum:

As much as I appreciate your kind opinion expressed in the February article on the General Panel Corporation, certain rectifications are necessary. Our present stage of development is based on my close cooperation with Mr. Walter Gropius with whom I have worked for many years on this design. Realizing how important Mr. Gropius' contribution has always been to our system, your emphasis on my own work makes me blush.

In connection with the design of the machines of our production line, it is correct that I have designed the layout of the factory, but I have not designed the actual machines.

These machines, jig tables and high frequency roller presses which you mention are designed by Allan Frodsham, our production research man. Having started as a carpenter in his youth, through his remarkable knowledge and talent for mechanical operations, he succeeded in designing all of our equipment. This is perhaps one of the most important contributions in enabling us to reach our present stage of development.

KONRAD WACHSMANN New York, N. Y.

To prefab-maker Wachsmann FORUM's admiration for becoming modesty—ED. (Publisher's Letter on page 50)

SANITATION + ECONOMY + DURABILITY



BRADLEY MULTI- SHOWERS

Employee wash facilities, to be complete, require some form of shower convenience, for workers like to leave the dirt and grime of their jobs behind them when the day's work is over. Modern progressive industries, recognizing this need, have selected Bradley Multi-Stall Showers for maximum sanitation, economy of operation and longlife durability. Employers also report that such installations keep necessary wash-up *time* to a minimum.

One Bradley 5-Stall Shower unit requires only 3 plumbing connections in comparison to 15 needed for 5 "single-stall" units. This simplified installation plus complete absence of corners and dirt-collecting pockets cuts cost of upkeep and janitor detail. Savings are also realized through lower hot water costs made possible by reduced water consumption.

Whether you are building a new plant, modernizing an existing structure or expanding present facilities, Bradley 5- or 3-Stall Shower units can be installed quickly and easily on any kind of floor including wood. BRADLEY WASHFOUNTAIN CO., 2235 W. Michigan St., Milwaukee 1, Wis.

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Carey has added cold process built-up roofing for bonded roofs

If you are concerned with new flat roof construction, or with replacement, repair or maintenance of existing roofs, here's important news: A completely developed line of Cold Process Built-Up Roofings is now available from CAREY.

IN SHORT, you can get Cold Process Bonded Roofs from a manufacturer who already has more than 50 years experience in Hot Process Roofing. You can count on fast, economical, practical roof construction in areas where Hot Process equipment is unavailable... Cold Process Roofs can be applied on any type deck (bonded when applied by Carey Approved Roofers) ... no heating equipment necessary, no fire hazard to contend with. These Cold Process Asphalts are suitable for either mopping or spraying application, can be used with either rag or asbestos felts. CAREY'S vast store of practical knowledge is available to help you solve any roofing problem. But even if you have

none at the moment you'll want to ... WRITE FOR YOUR FREE COPY ... of this informationpacked booklet. It contains 35 detailed specifications for **CAREY** built-up, bonded roofs. Eight of its 24 pages deal with the new Carey Cold Process Bonded Roofs. You'll find it handy to have... a helpful reference book. A free copy is yours for the asking. Address your request to Dept. AF-5.



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Illustrated at right Style 523-B Beneke Plastix Seat

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Whether you are building or remodeling, your clients will be well satisfied with "Pyrofax" gas service. The easily installed above-ground unit provides continuous service. For complete details see our catalog in Sweet's or write to "Pyrofax" Gas Division, Dept. A-1, Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Corporation, 30 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N.Y.



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A LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Dear Reader:

The other day an ex-New York architect came back to see how Manhattan was doing for itself. Versed in the ways of our City, he climbed on top of a Fifth Avenue bus and headed north.



Nearing midtown traffic slowed the bus and our friend had ample opportunity to inspect both sides of the street. Suddenly, he blinked. That unfamiliar building opposite familiar St. Patrick's Cathedral—could it really be *new*? The sparkling freshness suggested it was, but how, with that good old Triglyph, Metope and Torus. Still looking as the bus drew abreast of the building, he blinked again, shook himself several times and was heard to mutter, "Best damn job of sand blasting I've ever seen!"

This leads rather nicely to the rumor that the Fifth Avenue Association is considering setting up a Board of Experts to pass on architecture before it is mortared into place. Motivation for this committee, as for all of its predecessors throughout the world, is that important thoroughfares or even whole cities must be protected from the inexperienced or the incompetent who might commit aesthetic mayhem.

Such control has long watched over Paris, and certain altogether pleasant sections of London, we understand, are "protected." We have no wish to alter such arrangements. Equally, we have no wish to see *our* present freedom of design reduced. The U. S.—and if not the whole U. S., certainly New York City—is a melting pot. Its architecture lacks continuity and orderliness, to be sure. But it does not lack virility, for which we maintain Vignola is no substitute.

Granted certain recent additions to Fifth Avenue are, taken alone, deplorable. But "the greatest shopping thoroughfare on earth" rises above occasional vulgarity, a fate to be preferred to the inevitable banality that comes with censorship.

What is true of Fifth Avenue is no less true of our public buildings, whether in New York or, for that matter, the Nation's Capital. Where censorship rules, the commonplace is never far behind. It is not a matter of good appointments or bad appointments to such a Board. Distinguished men serve with devotion and without compensation but never to the public's long-run gain. Sooner or later every art commission comes to believe that pretension is the symbol of civic virtue.

The above is offered without criticism of the individual—any individual. It is only when such individuals cease to act as individuals but lean into the wind as an official group to pass upon or reject the works of their neighbors that violence is done. Then anonymity and mediocrity rule.



Infallible are the signs that building is returning, not to normalcy—but returning. The sign we consider most infallible boasts the name of Levitt and Sons. For the benefit of the uninitiated, William Levitt, Brother Alfred and Pere are pace-setting home builders who have, for some years past, operated in and around Manhassett, Long Island. The Levitt





stand. The Levitt story has been told many times in many places, but one facet has been neglected—Levitt's advertising. Without superlatives and, in fact, without tear-jerking sentiments, Mr. Levitt has long practiced the gift of making home ownership sound

irresistible—but only if the roof has been nailed down by Mr. Levitt. Above left is a recent example.

To be among the first to explore the newest trick up the Levitt sleeve, a sleeve which incidentally until recently was made of khaki, turn to Page 70. H.M. Q. What is the effective technique for insulating the narrow spaces around windows and air ducts? A. See Balsam-Wool Application Data Sheet Section C No. 1. Q. What are the thermal resistance values of various building materials? A. See Balsam-Wool Data Sheet Section A No. 4. Q. What methods can be used to ventilate flat-roofed construction effectively? A. See Balsam-Wool Data Sheet Section B used to ventilate flat-roofed construction effectively? A. See Balsam-Wool Data Sheet Section B used to ventilate flat-roofed construction effectively?

for Busy Architects . . . Balsam-Wool Data Sheets

Through its twenty-five years of experience, Wood Conversion Company has collected a wealth of valuable information on applying insulation. This information is embodied in a series of Balsam-Wool Application Data Sheets. These sheets are offered to you without cost or obligation. Mail the coupon for your set!







drawn for FULL-SCALE Kitchen fumes and cook- COMFORT

ing odors don't show up

on the blueprints . . . but they do when the house is built and lived in. Architects who recognize that the natural rate of air change is not enough to prevent stagnation, plan for controlled air circulation . . . by specifying





The average size kitchen is freed of cooking odors in a

matter of minutes-and stale air drawn from adjoining rooms. Steam-fog and dampness are quickly eliminated from bathrooms . . . soapy vapors from laundries-easily and positively controlled without house-chilling, open window drafts.



ATTRACTIVE, UNOBTRUSIVE . . and quietly efficient! Model V 1106: cleanly streamlined for smart appearance; powered by the precision-made Victron motor to move 700 cfm; fan and outside weather-tight shutter operate auto-matically by pulling beaded chain.

WOMEN LIKE THIS FEATURE . . . Grille is quickly removed for easy cleaning; snaps on and off without tools or tugging.

Write for specifications, or refer to Sweets Architectural 1947 file 29B.







FORUM







Believers in "a radical architecture: essential, fundamental, thorough, and underived" are Navy veterans PAUL SCHWEIK-HER and WINSTON ELTING, who bring to the design bench varied backgrounds in painting, architecture and engineering. Their Chicago offices turn out a surprising diversity of commercial and industrial buildings, houses (p. 57), schools and churches.

RAYMOND LOEWY'S most lavish postwar fantasy, outdistancing the front-back Studebaker by a perfumed lily pad, is his own vacation house at Palm Springs (p. 62). This lush structure falls into the category of "specialized building design"-an addition to the already famous services of the huge industrial design office with which Loewy is challenging architects on the home ground.

Born in suburban Philadelphia, JOHN I. MATTHIAS has wandered far to acquire his design philosophy that "home is a place for the development of the human being, both physically and spiritually." High points of his exotic itinerary include China, Japan, and a 31/2 year wartime swing around the Pacific Theater. Invaluable in solving California's shelter problems (p. 65) is his study of Oriental architecture.

LEVITT & SONS are the Manhasset, L. I. developers (p. 70) who promise that when the public wants modern, Levitt will build it. At present their eyes are firmly fixed on cute but lucrative colonial cottages. The company, strictly a family affair, was founded by father Abraham in 1929, is now headed by sons William (left) and Alfred (right), respectively president and vice president.

HARRISON GILL and partner MARIO BIANCULLI each boast dual training as architect and engineer. Bianculli has been widely recognized for his contribution as principal architect for famed TVA, while Gill has attained prominence for his house and metal craft designs. Their prototype design was the basis for the Burlington Library in Tennessee (p. 78).

MORRIS LAPIDUS is one of an increasing number of New York architects who are solving the space problem with old-





on Chicago's Michigan Boulevard (p. 92), combines architecture and product development, is an exponent of modern organic art as it applies to all fields of industrial design. Study in the U. S., Canada and England preceded the last fifteen years spent as head of his own Chicago firm.



Architect and Industrial Designer ALEXANDER GIRARD was born in New York, has lived in Italy and England, and studied architecture in all three habitats. Among his design souvenirs are the International Detrola Corporation Radio Plant (complete remodeling), offices for the Ford Motor Company and his own attractive headquarters (p. 94).

The collaboration of WILLIAM LESCAZE and ROBERT L. DAVISON to develop a new lightweight wall system (p. 97) brings together the diverse backgrounds of Zurich, Switzerland and Waterloo, Iowa. Lescaze, famed Swiss-born American architect, studied under the great Karl Moser in Zurich. Davison, former Research Director of the Pierce Foundation, has specialized in prefabrication.

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The PLANNING BOARD



The Truscon Planning Board says: "Right now, April 15, our shipping schedules read like this: Series 46 Double-Hung Windows, 12 to 14 weeks; Reinforcing Bars, 4 to 6 weeks;

Light Tube Doors, manually operated, 10 to 12 weeks; Structural Doors, manually operated, 12 to 14 weeks; shipments of doors with motor operators are contingent upon our ability to secure electrical equipment. Keep in touch with the Truscon sales representative in your district for latest information."

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Recent expansion operations at the State Capitol Building, Tallahassee, Florida, included the exclusive use of Series 46 Truscon Double-Hung Steel Windows in large sizes. These windows permitted the generous introduction of Florida sunshine and fresh air into the structure, while helping enhance the architectural design of the building.

The Series 46 Double-Hung Steel Window is designed especially for use in important office and public buildings or for openings where Underwriters' label of approval is

State Capitol Building, Tallahassee, Florida



required. Maximum window sizes of 6' 0" by 10' 0" for single units and 10' 0" by 10' 0" for integral twin units are obtained through the use of heavy 12 gauge staff bead and sill sections, 16 gauge frame sections and tubular shape 18 gauge sash members. Weatherstripping of spring bronze at head, meeting rail, sill and jambs provides constant weatherstightness and easy operation. Lever type lift handles are a convenient operation feature. The molded design of the tubular sash sections and muntins materially adds to the appearance. New billet steel, electrogalvanized, combined with Bonderizing and baked-on paint applied to all exposed and interior surfaces insures long life and low maintenance. Screens, storm sash and window cleaner bolts are available for this design when and if desired. Write for new catalog giving complete mechanical and installation details of the Series 46 Truscon Heavy Double-Hung Steel Windows, together with the data on the entire line of Truscon

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Reinforcing Bar

line of Truscon Steel Windows and Industrial Steel Doors.

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These concrete reinforcing bars are special rolled sections of high grade steel, with a series of longitudinal and diagonal ribs so designed as to provide the maxi-

mum bond with the surrounding concrete.

Truscon concrete bar fabricating plants are strategically located throughout the country in order to economically serve our customers. Bars are fabricated in these plants to meet the engineering requirements of individual jobs. They are delivered to the job cut to length, bent, bundled and properly tagged. If desired, our engineering department furnishes completely detailed placing drawings for the convenience of the steel erectors. Write for details.

Truscon Steel Company Announces Purchase of Knapp Brothers Plastering Accessories

Plastering Accessories Truscon Steel Company announces the purchase of that portion of Knapp Brothers Manulacturing Company's facilities developed for the manufacture of Bull Note and Scalloped Edge Corner Beads, Special Base Grounds and Screads, Picture Mold, Casings, Fittings and other plastering accessory items. The equipment and dies are being moved from Joliet. Illinois to Youngstown, Ohio and it is expected that production on these products will begin within the next six to eight weeks. Knapp Brothers bave been manufacturing Plastering Accessories and Trim for approximately forty years and bave an excellent reputation for quality products both in the architectural and building fields. This standard of guality will be continued. The acquisition of these products from Knapp Brothers Manufacturing Company will give Truscon Steel Company a more complete line of plastering accessories to supplement their present line of metal lath items.

Steel Doors for Every Industrial Purpose

Give serious consideration to the in-and-out and interior traffic problems of the structures you are designing, for you can do much to



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There's a range of Truscon Steel Doors to meet every type or size needed in any type of structure, from 2' 75%" swing type for residences, schools, stores, etc., to great mechanically operated doors for airplane hangars with openings of hundreds of feet in width. The types include swing and slide industrial doors, two-section vertical lift doors, two-section turnover doors, accordion doors, crane and canopy doors, pier doors and hangar doors. Write for details.

New Literature

A new catalog describing Truscon Steel Joists, Steeldeck Roof, Metal Lath, Concrete Bars and Reinforcing now is ready. Write for your free copy today.



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New Detroit schools use advanced



Ann Arbor Trail Elementary School N. Chester Sorensen Company Joseph Peter Jogerst, Architects and Engineers



Dr. Zina Pitcher Elementary School Geo. D. Mason & Co., Architects



methods to insure quality lighting

More Uniform Task Brightnesses Throughout Classrooms — Lower Brightness Contrasts in Child's Field of Vision Made Certain by Scientific Use of Daylight

N^{EW} and improved methods of using daylight for classroom lighting are being built into a group of new schools in the City of Detroit. Designs are by some of the leading architectural firms in Detroit under the supervision of G. L. Schulz, Director of Building, Detroit Board of Education.

Low Brightness Contrasts. In the schools pictured here and in others still in various stages of design, the brightness of the light-transmitting source has been reduced and the effectiveness of the light source has been retained through scientific direction of daylight.

The result is less interfering brightness to be tolerated and higher brightnesses above eye line to be utilized—a higher ratio of useful brightness to tolerated brightness. This means lower contrasts than are typically found in schools—the lowest contrasts that have yet been obtained through daylight utilization—approximating those recommended by lighting authorities.

Predictable Task Brightnesses. Through the medium of prismatic glass block, daylight is transmitted into the classroom and redirected upward toward the ceiling and upper half of the room. Task brightnesses near the window are reduced. Task brightnesses farthest from the windows are increased. Diversity in task brightness from desk to desk across the room is reduced.

And the actual results are now predictable. It is possible to design a school classroom with prismatic glass block and forecast task brightnesses, wall and ceiling brightnesses and brightnesses of the fenestration itself for any condition of outside lighting.

Visible areas of bright sky are greatly reduced and dependence on manual regulation of light-transmitting areas is minimized.

To make the job complete these new schools are employing up-to-date techniques in artificial lighting and interior decoration and treatment. Scientific use of daylight does not minimize the need for good artificial lighting or good interior treatment. Furthermore, the new principles of lighting employed in these schools have been adapted to well recognized and well established standards of classroom design.



The result is good functional architecture-planned to give the child the best seeing environment possible, and to secure all that good lighting can contribute to his health and educational growth.

Insulux prismatic block No. 351 has been developed for accurate daylight control. The pattern, utilizing the four faces of the block, turns light upward. The ceiling acts as a huge reflector to re-direct light downward.



Now Available for the First Time ...

New Comprehensive Data on Daylight Applied to Classroom Design

Anyone familiar with the problems of daylight use will recognize the accompanying predictions of daylight utilization in these schools as little short of revolutionary.

These are not just pleasing generalities. All of these factors of quality lighting have been measured and evaluated by recognized lighting authorities. The background information has been correlated and adapted to standard classroom design by the Owens-Illinois Glass Company.

Almost all of this information is original unpublished work, now available for the first time. It will give the architect the design data he needs, and will answer a multitude of questions on interior brightnesses and brightness contrasts. This information will be sent in reply to your letter, or, for convenience, use the coupon.

	IS GLASS COMI ts Division, Dep o			
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Unlimited flexibility in planning kitchens of any size or shape—that's why Curtis sectional kitchen cabinet units help you provide kitchens which fit the owner's needs *exactly*.

There are 21 basic unit types of Curtis wall and counter units—and a total of 75 sizes, not including special cabinet accessories. Yet all dimensions of units are standardized to fit in with other standard kitchen equipment and all Curtis units fit together to present a modern, streamlined and handsome appearance.

size or shape of kitchen can be a Curtis Kitchen!

Naturally, Curtis kitchen cabinet units are made of *wood*—for Curtis' experience with thousands of individual kitchens has shown that wood cabinets provide *lasting* satisfaction. All units are furnished prime coated —ready to finish in any color to suit the owner's taste and preference. Let us send you our new 24-page color book "It's Fun to Plan Your Own Kitchen"! Or see your Curtis dealer soon for your copy. Modern, beautifully styled hardware is furnished for each cabinet, to be applied on the job.

Curtis kitchen units are designed and constructed to permit installation with the minimum of labor. Expert machining and workmanship produce units which, when bolted together, are firm, square, and perfectly aligned. These cabinets are made like fine furniture —with a combination of quality features found in no other type of cabinets, but true of all Curtis Woodwork for over 80 years. The kitchen here shows a typical installation of Curtis stock wood cabinets.

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The Architectural FORUM Magazine of Building



BOLD HANDLING OF SIMPLE MATERIALS MARKS ARCHITECT'S HOUSE AND OFFICE



BRICK AND WOOD HIGHLIGHT TREATMENT THROUGHOUT

House in rural Illinois features a plan



LIVING AND SLEEPING WINGS EMBRACE A GRAVEL COURT WHICH PROVIDES FOR SHELTERED OUTDOOR LIVING. ALL TREES WERE IMPORTE



LIVING ROOM BOASTS AN ENORMOUS FIREPLACE. HEARTH REPEATS BRICK OF WALLS. CEILING BEAMS ARE CALIFORNIA REDWOOD

of marked simplicity vigorously translated into structure and detail

The thorough integration of plan and structure which characterizes this house is what happens when the architect builds for himself.

The site contains 71/4 acres sloping gently down to a small stream that runs parallel to the north boundary. The property is in the heart of farming country, seven miles from the nearest town and twentyseven miles from Chicago. The house site is back about 500 feet from the road with the driveway approaching its northwest corner. The living area is oriented to the west, the bedroom wing to the south. A narrow brick terrace within the L of these two wings forms two sides of a gravel courtyard which is screened on the south side by a dense planting of arbor-Vitae. This creates a generous outdoor living space, sheltered from the wind, and, since the view to the south is blocked by the hillside anyway the planting is logical. The west end of the court however, is open to the view, with ground cover and low growing conifers separating it from the lawn beyond.

The plan, is an open one with free interpenetration of space though

completing the distinction between the working, living and sleeping areas. Only the office wing is definitely segregated to the north of the house. Both the bedroom and living room are flanked by a gallery whose glass wall overlooks the terrace and courtyard. The dining area which faces east over the fields is a part of the living room adjacent to the kitchen. The beds occupy a small alcove which can presumably be closed off to keep the larger dressing space warm. The bathroom is copartmented and has a large sunken cyprus tub in the oriental manner.

Heavy timber construction was used with $4 \ge 6$ posts and $4 \ge 12$ joists at four and eight foot intervals. The exterior finish is California redwood siding with the joints covered by $2 \ge 2$ batten, vertical and horizontal. Common brick used for the chimneys is carried to the interior for certain wall and floor areas. All fabric used for upholstery is of neutral brown or tan shades. Bright rugs, mostly Indian, furnish the color accents.



OPEN SHELVING IS USED TO SEPARATE THE LIVING ROOM AND KITCHEN



BOOKCASES ARE BUILT BETWEEN POSTS







REEZEWAY SEPARATES OFFICE WING FROM THE LIVING PORTION OF THE HOUSE



Desert house blends drama and serenity, glamor and simplicity

HOUSE IN PALM SPRINGS RAYMOND LOEWY, Owner and Designer CLARK & FREY, Architects WAALE-CAMPLAN CO. & SMITH, INC., Contractors

Of Industrial Designer Raymond Loewy's many hobbies, houses have always been closest to his heart. But whereas he used to go around picking up old mansions that intrigued him-a hunting lodge in Rochefort-en-Yvelines, a resort house in St. Tropez on the Riviera, "Sands House" at Sands Point, L. I.-in recent years he has discovered that there is far more thrill in building than in buying. First came a glamorous house in Mexico (recently sold), then this desert retreat which is his latest, but probably not his last, experiment. Intended as a vacation house, Loewy wanted "Tierra Caliente" (Warm Earth) to be small, compact and easily maintained with one servant. He also wanted privacy without sacrifice to climate or scenery. Despite the apparent wildness of the setting, land in this region is zoned in a checkerboard pattern, with every other lot retained as an Indian reservation. Since the Loewy property measures only 180 by 330 ft., the contingency of future neighbors close at hand had to be considered. The L-shaped building faces south with a screened, semi-circular patio to the east. An egg-crate pergola joining north and west wings completes the square. Wherever practical, light perforated or semiopaque materials were used to soften the transition from house to desert.



HOUSE IS BUILT AROUND A SHALLOW SWIMMING POOL WHICH







ACTUALLY PENETRATES THE LIVING ROOM. ITS REFLECTION OF SOFT DESERT COLORS AND WEIRD CACTUS SHAPES IS OF IMMENSE DECORATIVE VALUE



63



FOYER and living room are carpeted to edge of pool which has a removable guard rail. Two glass panels slide toward center, rest on boulder to enclose living room. In addition, a clear plastic insert can be fixed below water level to seal room completely. Natural Salton Sea stones, highly polished, are used as decorative "free forms" above fireplace and living room cabinet, also on the exterior.

BEDROOMS open directly to pool. Pierced wall along inside of west wing is of pecky cyprus which is also used extensively as an interior finish. Other materials are concrete slab painted chocolate brown, champagne colored brick and corrugated aluminum. Pergola is pierced at two intervals by tall trees. Shape of pool was determined by the location of boulders. It has submarine lighting, filtered, constantly—flowing water.





Photos by Julius Shulman





Making the most of a site's existing amenities is a rudiment of good planning but properties with the potentialities of this one are few. The bench of an abandoned quarry provided a flat 21/2 acre table, backed by sharply rising mountains, which at one time it accommodated the main house of the ranch that eventually became the City of Sierra Madre. The contour of the banks, existing trees and weather requirements mold the basic pattern of the present house. Its living area is oriented to the south, stands on a small promontory that commands a picturesque mountain view. The approach drive is at the opposite end of the property. A long covered walk connecting house and carport provides sheltered access, screens the pool and makes an attractive framework for seasonal planting arrangements. Wrapped around a central lawn area, the building group with its interesting roof planes has about it suppleness, harmony and a definite air of hospitality. Every effort was made to utilize existing material from the granite foundation slabs of the original ranch house to the vines and pool on the terrace side.

COVERED WALK CONNECTS HOUSE WITH POOL SHELTER AND CARPORT














GLAZED AND SCREENED PANELS SLIDE INTO WALL POCKET, OPENING SUMMER ROOM TO TERRACE. STAIR LEADS TO SECOND FLOOR STUDY

The owners' requirements in this instance were not unlike those of any average American family, although the means at their disposal were more ample. They wanted accommodations for three growing children but also realized that these rooms would not be needed indefinitely. Consequently, and with unusual foresight, the bedrooms were laid out with future simplification in mind so that eventually the spaciousness of this wing will match that of the rest of the house. For entertainment, current and future, the arrangement of the summer room, den and terrace permits them to be used individually or in combination. The owner's profession necessitates his having privacy and means for concentration. This was taken care of by a detached study over the dining room accessible only by an outside stair. All major rooms have opposite exposures, are laid out to take advantage of up and down mountain draughts that comprise the prevailing breeze during warm weather. Rough sawed redwood, used as exterior finish is also carried indoors and combined with natural plywood. Only the sash is painted. Except in the kitchen and bath, concrete floors are left exposed at ground level.

HIGH CABINET AT LEFT HOUSES SLIDING DOORS AND SCREENS





MORNING SUN the year round was a primary requisite in the orientation of the dining room. It can be opened wide on three sides, and the use of garden furniture relates it even more closely to the outdoors.





SUMMER ROOM (shown here with sliding screens in place), terrace and den were laid out to function as a single room for major entertainment. Fireplace on terrace is used for evening meals.

Photos by Will Connell

A COMPLETE HOUSE FOR \$6,990 is equipped to the hilt to attract the value-conscious

Challenging the host of house builders who have claimed it impossible to provide even shelter at less than \$10,000, these little houses sell for only \$6,990 and offer far more than shelter. Complete houses in the true sense of the word, they pack as much sales wallop as a heavily gadgeted new car, include a range, refrigerator, automatic washer, a whole wall of metal kitchen cabinets, a metal linen cabinet, built-in bookshelves, and metal Venetian blinds. Normally purchased as extras, these items are worth a retail total of about \$720. Moreover, finished stairs lead to an expansion attic, the three closets are bigger and better equipped than usual, and the radiant heated floor slab (merely painted by some builders) is finished with \$280 worth of asphalt tile.

These significant houses and figures are products of Levitt and Sons of Manhasset, foremost of Long Island's many operative builders. Having recently completed 1,000 two-story houses and having found—like builders everywhere—that the last of their 1946 houses did not sell (at \$9,990) as fast as the first, President William J. Levitt has tailored his 1947 models closer to the market by cutting size but not sales appeal.

Fabrication is fast (18 houses a day) but not spectacular. All lumber is precut, but only a few items are preassembled in the shop. About 70 percent of the labor is done at the site. Secret of Levitts' low costs lies in large-scale land purchases at the right time, production of their own lumber on the West Coast, mass purchasing of other materials, a staff of 250 experts and a group of Levitt-trained, close-figuring subcontractors who do all of Levitts' work and Levitts' only.

House and equipment are financed together with \$490 cash and a \$6,500 packaged mortgage by Washington Irving Trust Co. Interest at 4 per cent and 25 year amortization require less than \$35 per month Taxes are \$13; insurance, about \$1. Of the \$49 total, only \$3.82 represents the monthly cost of the \$720-worth of extra conveniences which help make Levitts' houses by far the most salable of any put on the local market this year. Their sales appeal was gauged last month when a test group of 30 houses was sold the day it was opened to the public -without benefit of advertising. Forthwith, the Levitts shifted into high gear toward the production of 3,000 identical units in the next 12 months, 2,000 of which will be rented to veterans at about \$60 per month-\$15 per room and another local postwar record.



DESIGN of the 1947 models by Production Vice President Alfred Levitt is completely conventional, highly standardized and aptly described by the public's favorite adjective, "cute". Varied with many and bold color combinations, the five standard exteriors (above) spring from a single 25 x 30 ft. floor plan (below). Intended for future expansion, the attic may be used for dead storage. While closets are large, no provision is made for storage of garden tools, baby carriages and bicycles.



veteran. Long Island's Levitts will build 3,000 this year for sale and rent.





CONSTRUCTION is as conventional as the design. Frame is comprised of 2 x 4 in. studs, 16 in. on centers, sheathed with plywood or composition board. Ceiling joists and rafters are 2 x 8's; roof sheathing is shiplap. Far from skimpy, specifications include copper for flashing, downspouts, water and heating pipes and waste vents. Walls and ceiling are insulated with 4 in. of cotton, and the slab is insulated from the foundation walls. While only 750 sq. ft. of gross floor area are finished, a third bedroom (178 sq. ft.) may be finished in the attic for about \$350. The entire standard expansion (341 sq. ft.) would cost about \$1,000; the deluxe expansion's two bedrooms and bath (401 sq. ft.), roughly \$1,300. Site improvements include a 4,000 gal. cesspool, a manhole for access to outside plumbing lines, 30 ft. black-topped concrete streets, concrete curbs, concrete sidewalks along through streets, access walks of slate set in concrete, and complete landscaping of the 60 x 100 ft. lots.

Detail drawings show house designed for oil-fired hot water radiant heat; renderings and photographs (next page) are of earlier model, without brick chimney, heated by gas-fired warm air. Heating coils take only about 400 ft. of pipe. Estimated monthly cost of heat and hot water: \$10.

SALES FEATURES of Levitts' \$6,990 houses are built into every room.



Photos by William W. Thomas







Kitchen is complete with range, refrigerator, automatic clothes washer, 75 cu. ft. of porcelain enameled steel cabinet space, a wood corner cupboard and a service tray which hangs on the wall to conceal electric meter and fuse box. Living room features book shelves beneath the stairs and antique finished ceiling beams (4 x 4 in.) which conceal the joints in the painted gypsum board. Bathroom's oversize dimensions make room for a metal linen cabinet. Bedrooms and hall have big closets (total area: 36 sq. ft.) with built-in shelves and wide folding doors which are louvered for ventilation.

Sales are also stimulated by metal Venetian blinds at all windows, door chimes, a brass entrance light and \$50 worth of landscaping, which, under the guidance of Abraham Levitt (the father) is used to best advantage and is prominently plugged in all Levitt advertising.

FINISHES AND EQUIPMENT

EXTERIOR: Walls—red cedar shingles or asbestos shingles, Johns-Manville. Roof asphalt shingles, The Philip Carey Co., Flintkote Co., Johns-Manville, Bonafide Genasco, Inc., and Lloyd A. Fry Roofing Co. INTE-RIOR: Walls, partitions and ceiling—plaster board with taped joints and cold water paint, U. S. Gypsum Co. Bathrooms—Wall-tex, Columbus Coated Fabrics Corp. Floors— Kentile, David E. Kennedy, Inc. KITCHEN EQUIPMENT: Range—Welbilt Appliance Corp. Refrigerator—General Electric Co. Sink, cabinets and closet—Youngstown, Mullins Mfg. Co. LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT: Washer—Bendix Home Appliances, Inc. BATHROOM FIXTURES—Briggs Mfg. Co. Seat—C. F. Church Mfg. Co. Shower—Speakman Co. ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION: PVX wiring and switches—General Electric Co. PLUMBING: Water pipes and vents copper, Chase Brass & Copper Co. INSULA-TION—cotton Cellulite, Gilman Bros. Co. STEEL WINDOWS—Fenestra, Detroit Steel Products Co. VENETIAN BLINDS—Acme Window Shade Co. 1919: Einstein Tower, Potsdam



1928: Schocken Department Store, Chemnitz



1934: De la Warr Pavillion, Bexhill 1937: Government Hospital, Haifa





ERIC MENDELSOHN

The distance from San Francisco to Jerusalem, as the airlines fly it, is 8,898 miles; from Jerusalem to London, 2,548; from London to Berlin, 575. Longer and more wearisome trips, these past few years, than mere mileage would indicate. Yet, since 1933 the architect Eric Mendelsohn has made them all, in the face of adversity which would have dismayed less resolute men. Moreover, he has made them successfully, showing as it were, as much professional as personal resilience to abrupt and violent change. He had been in England only a short time when, in collaboration with Chermayeff, he won the competition for the now-famous pavillion at Bexhill. This project on the south coast of England the British themselves consider their finest seaside building. Mendelsohn showed a similar responsiveness to new cultures and new climates, in the series of houses, hospitals and office buildings which he designed in Palestine after 1935. There, in a landscape as different as possible from that of his native Germany, he built his striking Government Hospital at Haifa. Mendelsohn is now in America, and his current designs demonstrate, once again, his adaptability to new environments.

This record is the more remarkable when one remembers that, for over twenty years, Mendelsohn was one of Germany's most successful architects, with more completed projects to his credit than any two or three of his famous contemporaries. He was, at the same time, one of Europe's most positive stylists. As a graduate of the University of Munich in 1911, Mendelsohn had been deeply involved in the Expressionist movement (an artistic phenomenon which had no American equivalent). Here his vigorous sketches of idealized grain elevators, factories and foundries attracted wide attention. His first building, the Einstein Tower at Potsdam (1919), was in this Expressionist vein. This extraordinary structure was, as Curt Behrendt aptly put it, "eloquent in its effect, filled with declamatory power . . . full of expressive movement." But it was, (as Behrendt also pointed out) "subjective . . . with too many romantic remainders and ostentatious personal elements."

As Mendelsohn matured, his work showed a steady subordination of these elements to the requirements of plan and structure. His buildings not only became simpler: they also became lighter and less forbidding. Even exile did not seriously affect this process: in England, then in Palestine and now in America his development went forward. Yet like those other individualists Wright and Le Corbusier, Mendelsohn has never lost his ability to organize his buildings into characteristic compositions of unmistakable distinctiveness.

Today, having just celebrated his sixtieth birthday, Eric Mendelsohn lives in San Francisco. It looks as though his travels are over (he expects his final citizenship papers this year). And the two new Jewish Centers shown on the following pages seem to indicate that he has lost none of his ability to absorb the lessons of new times and new lands.

Courtesy of Museum of Modern Art



In his first American buildings, Eric Mendelsohn continues the dramatic idiom which built his fame abroad

Mendelsohn's design for the new Cleveland (Ohio) Jewish Center displays his ability to marked advantage. Confronted with a 30-acre plot, wooded and sloping to the west, he has deployed his three-part building across difficult terrain with the skill of a military strategist. The Temple area (composed of the Temple proper, Foyer, Assembly Hall and Chapel) holds the triangular promontory between the two streams like a fort. From it a bridge, which houses the Administration and Library, is flung across the northern stream to connect with the School section. Next the classroom wings are deployed, fanwise, across a natural plateau. Yet, for all its spectacular siting, the project has been so adroitly fitted to the topography that little excavation is required.

The Cleveland Jewish Center will house all the religious and cultural activities of a large Conservative congregation.* Heart of the new complex naturally will be the Temple. Circular in plan and domed in profile, it has been so placed that it dominates the project—partially by its very shape, partially by having its floor one story higher than the other buildings. The dome itself is a four-inch thick, semispherical concrete shell, carried by a ring of columns interspersed with windows. Nestling against its western base, but one floor below it is a small triangular Chapel. It is reached by a glazed passage which circles the base of the Temple. Tall windows overlook a triangular garden at the tip of which, cantilevered out over the end of the promontory like the prow of a ship, is a small open-air theater.

The circular Temple will seat 1,000 persons; but to accommodate

the much larger congregations of the High Holidays, approximately three times as much space will be required. Mendelsohn has met this variation by placing the Temple, Foyer and Assembly on a single level divided by sliding or folding walls, so that all three areas can be thrown together. The fan-shaped east wall of the Assembly is entirely of glass and opens onto a covered terrace at grade level. A large kitchen and pantry along one side, and a large storage room for chairs and tables along the other, make this handsome meeting room easily adaptable to a wide variety of functions.

The ravine which separates the Temple area from the School to the north is spanned by a covered bridge. Because of its strategic location, this bridge has been widened to carry church offices along the east side and library along the west. The School is a complete, self-contained unit of the Center. With thirty classrooms and a nursery, it serves for Sunday school and for daily classes in the Hebrew language, history and religion. (This instruction supplements public school education and follows public school hours.) The classrooms are of standard design and equipment, pleasantly arranged around courts, with separate access by footpath from the lower street and by driveway from above.

^{*} There are three major gradations of Jewish doctrine: Reformed, Conservative and Orthodox, in ascending order of strict adherence to Jewish ritual law. Such differences affect synagogue design to only a limited extent, however. In all cases, the congregation faces the Ark during prayer. In some Orthodox congregations, the Torah is not read from this end of the Temple but from a special reader's desk placed in the center.





THE TEMPLE WILL BE A SERENE AND ECHOLESS PLACE OF WORSHIP-VISUALLY AND ACOUSTICALLY IN BALANCE

A light and soaring parabola frames the Jewish Temple which Eric Mendelsohn has designed for a congregation in Missouri

Similar to the Cleveland project is Mendelsohn's new center for the Congregation B'Nai Amoona in St. Louis' suburban University City. Here, within the more constricted limits of a 200 ft. square corner lot, he has organized much the same facilities into a quite different pattern. Again, the Temple dominates the group-this time in the form of a great parabolic vault of reinforced concrete - although here the Temple, Assembly and School are tightly arranged around an enclosed garden. The fluctuation between normal Sabbath attendance and that for the High Holidays is again handled by a Temple, Foyer and Assembly which can be thrown together as desired. In this case, the dividing walls are hydraulically-powered, and sink into slots in the floor. The seating capacity of the Temple is 600, smaller than that of the Cleveland Center; but in form it is equally dramatic. Daylight enters only through the giant clerestory across the rear wall and through a monitor running down the center of the parabolic shell. The line of columns supporting the shell at its apex are thin and quite deep; together with the cantilevered overhang of the shell itself, they form an effective system of sun-breaks for the clerestory.

The site of the Center, at the intersection of two important streets and overlooking Washington Square with its City Hall, Masonic Temple and several churches, is a logical one. It is, at the same time, exposed and noisy. The architect has minimized these factors by designing the building as a hollow square, placing the Temple at the interior corner. With the garden some ten feet above street level, he thus gives the interior of the project a maximum of privacy and repose.



WIDE EAVE AND THIN, DEEP COLUMNS ACT AS SUN-BREAK



John H. Lohman



LOCATED TEN FEET ABOVE A BUSY INTERSECTION, B'NAI AMOONA CENTER USES COURTYARD AND CLOISTER FOR QUIET AND REPOSE



In January 1946, FORUM presented this prototype design for the branch library shown below in finished form. Jointly developed by the Tennessee Library Board and the TVA, it is one of a series aimed at setting new standards of design for small libraries.



NEW BRANCH LIBRARY

MARIO BIANCULLI, Designer of prototype JOHNSON & WILLARD, General Contractors **BEALER & WILHOIT, Architects**

Located in a middle-class residential section of Knoxville, Tenn., the new Burlington Branch Library is the first architectural expression of a program formulated by the librarians of the state in 1945 (FORUM, Jan. '46). The library was sponsored by a group of businessmen, a garden club, a parent-teachers club and several church groups. And now that the building has been in use for six months, everybody seems pleased. "They take the greatest pride in it," says Helen M. Harris, Knoxville's head librarian. "Although it is a modern building in a conservative-not to say old-fashioned -neighborhood, it has met with complete community approval." In addition to traditional library activities, the new structure is much in demand for forums, showing of films and other small meetings. The librarians themselves also like it-especially the radiant heating and "the glorious sunlight from the front window." Both reading public and library workers find its open planning, good lighting and bright colors a welcome relief from the dimly-lit, fumed-oak interiors of the traditional library. Architects Bealer & Wilhoit have, at the request of the sponsors, followed the original prototype design quite closely.



in Knoxville reflects librarians' determination to achieve more suitable buildings for their work.



CONSTRUCTION OUTLINE

FOUNDATIONS—concrete. STRUCTURE: Exterior walls —stone with brick backing or brick walls, brick backing. Interior—clay tile. Columns—steel pipe. Floors—concrete. ROOF—built-up, 20-yr., The Barrett Co. SHEET METAL WORK: Flashing and gutters—Armco galvanized iron, American Rolling Mill Co. INSULATION: Roofs—rockwool, Johns-Manville. WINDOWS: Sash—steel Fenestra, Detroit Steel Products Co.; wood, double hung, Curtis Companies, Inc. Glass—double strength, quality B. FLOOR COVERINGS—asphalt tile, Uvalde Rock Asphalt Co. WOODWORK: Trim and doors—pine. HARDWARE —P. & F. Corbin and Vincent Whitney Co. PAINTS— Oliver Johnson & Co., Inc. ELECTRICAL INSTALLA-TION: Wiring—conduit. Switches—General Electric Co. Fixtures—Edwin F. Guth Co. PLUMBING FIXTURES— Crane Co. Pipes—cast iron. Water pipes—galvanized steel. HEATING—radiant system. Boiler—Crane Co. Regulators—Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co. Circulating pump—Bell & Gossett Co.

Billy Glenn





ARCHITECTS PROVIDED AMPLE RECESS FOR BLINDS IN SUN-FLOODED WINDOW WALL



HOUSES USA

A Brief Review of the Development of Domestic Architecture in America

Part III, 1880-1946, the Modern Approach

THE MODERN PIONEERS

In the last quarter of the 19th century, in the midst of the satisfied confusion of Eclecticism, a few men began to question the course of American architecture. To them, the falseness and often ugliness of the many building styles used both separately and intermixed was not progress. Such buildings did not even repeat the honesty and sensitivity of the vernacular American construction in wood, much less did they allow for the expression of new and revolutionary techniques such as the steel skeleton and reinforced concrete. To three courageous men in particular we owe the American beginning of the conception of Modern architecture—

HENRY HOBSON RICHARDSON, 1838-1886, was the first of the three pioneers. After education at Harvard and the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, he established a large and fashionable practice based on the French Romanesque style. It was this phase of his work that attracted many imitators, and caused the rash of gloomy "Richardson Romanesque" buildings that still frown on many American streets. In his later work, especially in commercial structures, Richardson gradually discarded Eclecticism, substituting such basic, but then rare, qualities as logical planning, directly expressed in the exterior; sympathetic use of the chosen material; frank revelation of the structural system in the visible forms of architecture.

Berenice Abbott



The dignity and power of Richardson's work are perhaps best shown in the Marshall Field Warehouse (3) in Chicago, 1885, with its rhythmic arrangements of wall surfaces and window openings. Unlike its contemporaries in Chicago of 1885, the Glessner House (2) turns a boldly unornamented facade to the street and opens broadly to an inner courtyard. The simplicity of a Richardson shingle house (1) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1882, contrasts with contemporary Eclectic uses of the same material.





Museum of Modern Art

Kosti Ruohoma

3.



Wayne Andrews

LOUIS HENRY SULLIVAN, 1856-1924, was the second of the three American pioneers of Modern architecture. He was the architect in the following generation who most fully understood the greatness of Richardson's late work. Sullivan was active in Chicago in the eighties and nineties when the steel skeleton was being developed, and it was he who first gave the skyscraper valid architectural form. The steel skeleton, which made tall commercial buildings possible, was one of the most drastic revolutions in the history of architecture: walls ceased to be supports and became weather screens hung on a steel frame.

Still perhaps the most magnificent expression of the steel structural system extant is Sullivan's Carson Pirie Scott store building (6) in Chicago, 1899-1904. The firm of Adler and Sullivan, in which Sullivan did the designing, built a series of residences about Chicago. Typical are the Falkenau Houses (4), 1888, and the Charnley House (5), 1891. Drawings for the latter were prepared under Sullivan's direction by a young draftsman named Frank Lloyd Wright, who had been with the firm since 1888.



Museum of Modern Art



FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT, 1869-, is the third great pioneer of Modern architecture. However, Wright is not merely an "old master"; he remains today the most vitally creative architect of our time. Although he has designed many types of buildings, houses have made up the major part of his work and have had the greatest influence, especially those he built around Chicago between 1900 and 1910, such as the Willitts House (7), 1902, and Robie House (8), 1908. Wright's new kind of open interior planning, and the horizontal emphasis of his masterful plastic compositions have been widely influential throughout the 20th century.



Museum of Modern Art, photos

DURING THE LAST 15 YEARS another style was imported from Europe ...

Le Corbusier & Pierre Jeanneret, 1929



Walter Gropius, 1925-26

Richard J. Neutra, 1929



has been modified by native influences . . .

Old barn in Pennsylvania



Workers' Houses, Connecticut, 1840



Frank Lloyd Wright



... and the result has been ...

CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE suited to its time and place

About 1930 there began to appear in the United States houses built in the "Functional" (or "International" or "Modern") Style, which followed closely such revolutionary European work of the 1920's as shown on the previous page. Again, American architects were importing a style. But, paradoxically, the European originators of this style had been inspired by early work of the American architect Wright, and also by the smooth and powerful geometrical forms which American engineers had achieved in such purely utilitarian structures as grain elevators. All evidence of traditional construction and design had been consciously avoided. Machine-smooth surfaces and carefully calculated asymmetry had replaced ornament and symmetry. The new style was based on a severely rational approach to problems of building; aesthetically, it was closely related to contemporary movements in abstract painting.

Although comparatively few Americans accepted wholeheartedly the severity of this new architecture, it opened their eyes to the possibilities of a fresh and unprejudiced approach to living as well as to building. And during the last fifteen years the original rigid adherence to "functional" theories has given way to a humanization of design. Some of the factors responsible for this trend have been new interest in the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, fresh admiration for traditional vernacular building, and constant development of new materials and techniques.

Modern houses in the United States today vary widely in structure and materials and form, for this contemporary architecture is not a stereotyped style but rather a point of view. Unhampered by arbitrary rules and outworn traditions, the modern architect is a scientist and artist who seeks to provide aesthetically pleasing dwellings which are truly contemporary in convenience and economy, in construction and design.



2.



House at Old Westbury, Long Island, 1940, Edward D. Stone, architect (FORUM, July, '41). This luxurious house at the top of a hill is designed to take full advantage of handsome views across a rolling countryside (1). As in many modern houses, the projecting roof slab (3) is not only a pleasing feature of the design but has been carefully calculated to protect the glass walls on the south from sun in summer but not in winter. Heating is unnecessary on sunny winter days. A wide, well-lit corridor serves also as a gallery for some of the owner's famous art collection (2).



3. Ezra Stoller



4.

6.



Haskell

5.

Bailey



House in Lincoln, Massachusetts, 1939. Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer, associated architects (FORUM, Dec., '39). The materials used are traditional — native rock and wooden boards painted white (4). The rooms are arranged in a simple two-story block, while the vertical shaft of the stairs is enclosed as a separate wing (5). Town House in New York City, 1942, William Hamby and George Nelson, architects (FORUM, Apr., '43). This house is divided into two sections separated by a courtyard and joined by a system of ramps at one side of the court (6). On the street facade, windows are shaded by adjustable wooden louvers which assure privacy as well as protection from the sun (7).

Double House in Channel Heights Development, Los Angeles, California, 1943. Richard J. Neutra, architect; Lewis Eugene Wilson, consultant (FORUM, Mar., '44). Each house is planned for convenience and carefully placed for optimum sun, breeze and view (8). In addition, the architect designed appropriate and inexpensive furniture (9).



7.

Shulman

Damora



House in Modesto, California, 1939, John Funk, architect (FORUM, Mar., '41). This home is a direct and deceptively simple solution to the problems posed by a suburban site and hot climate (10). Rooms (11) are arranged in a long block to get cross ventilation, and the whole house is set far back on its lot, separated from the street by a sunny fenced-in garden (12).







13.



11.

Summer house on Mount Desert Island, Maine, 1939, George Howe, architect (FORUM, Dec., '39). Constructed by local workmen from local materials, this house (13) seems as appropriate to the rocky coastline as the farmhouses, barns and boathouses of the area. The ceiling surfaces, painted an atmospheric blue-gray, continue beyond the walls to form generous eaves (14).



12.







On this page are three houses typical of the work of Frank Lloyd Wright during the 30's. Fallingwater, on Bear Run, Pennsylvania (FORUM, Jan., '38). This dramatic house exploits to the full a picturesque site (15) and the possibilities of reinforced concrete (16). House in Okemos, Michigan. Wright's best small houses all have a fine relation of exterior (17) to interior (18). House near Phoenix, Arizona. Made of native boulders (19), the house suggests a haven on the desert's floor (20).



16.

17.





18.



20.

Leavenworth





Guerrero

House in Saratoga, California, William Wilson Wurster, architect (FORUM, Apr., '41). This hillside house (21) is essentially two units connected by an enclosed porch and an open terrace (22), an arrangement making generous provision for the three types of living desirable in the year-round temperate climate of the San Francisco area.





21.

22.





AND THE FUTURE ...

New homes for ten million families are part of the expected building activity in the United States between 1946 and 1956. Many of these families will still prefer the escapism of imitation colonial architecture even at the sacrifice of convenience and economy. But an increasing number of Americans are learning to appreciate the advantages of houses planned with all the freedom, economy, efficiency and freshly creative beauty possible in the mid-twentieth century.





ARCHITECTURAL OFFICES in a small remodeled brownstone

are compact and economical.

MORRIS LAPIDUS, Architect

HERBERT CONSTRUCTION CO., General Contractor

Although it is only 20 ft. wide and 50 ft. long, this remodeled Manhattan rooming house provides complete and seemingly spacious office facilities for the designer's staff of 25, plus two upper floors for smaller architectural firms. Secret of the highly efficient space-use is the incorporation of much built-in furniture and cabinetwork and the frequent employment of skew lines in the interior design. The latter create not only space but also the illusion of spaciousness.

Only the structure of the \$21,000 brownstone was saved; its extensive remodeling boosted the total investment to \$61,000, of which \$25,000 was raised via a 41/2 per cent 10 year mortgage with 2 per cent amortization written by East River Savings Bank. Against annual operating expenses of approximately \$5,000 (including taxes, maintenance, services and mortgage payments, the architect-owner receives \$4,000 in rent from his two overhead tenants. (The \$2 per sq. ft. rate is less than half that charged in local new office buildings.) If he charges himself \$5,000 a year for his first floor, basement and cellar (at about \$1.50 per sq. ft.), Architect Lapidus will retire the mortgage in seven years and thereafter pay himself only a trifling \$1,000 "rent" for his attractive, made-to-order offices. Equally important, by building his own offices Lapidus has created a street facade which effectively advertises his business and his proficiency-a valuable asset which could not be gained by renting from someone else.



NIGHT LIGHTING SILHOUETTES THE CONSTRUCTION



BASEMENT DRAFTING ROOM ACCOMMODATES 12 TABLES, TWO BLUEPRINT FILE CABINETS

referer DRAFTING BASEMENT

FINISHES AND EQUIPMENT

CEILINGS—plaster, perforated Acousti-Celotex, Celotex Corp., and Sabinite acoustical plaster, U. S. Gypsum Co. SOUND INSULATION—4 in. rockwool bats, Johns-Manville. GLASS-Bandlite and structural corrugated glass, Mississippi Glass Co. FLOOR COV-ERINGS: Asphalt tile and linoleum-Armstrong Cork Co. Carpet-Mohawk Carpet Mills, Inc. WALL COVERINGS: Fabrikona-H. B. Wiggins Sons Co. Weldtex-U. S. Plywood Co. FURNISHINGS-Gerber Construction Co., J. G. Furniture Co. and H. G. Knoll Associates. HARDWARE-Schlage Lock Co., Oscar C. Rixson Co. and P. F. Corbin. PAINTS-Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. ELECTRICAL FIXTURES-Gotham Lighting Co., General Lighting Co. and Nulite Co. PLUMBING FIXTURES—Crane Co. HEATING—gas fired boller, low pressure steam, National Radiator Co. AIR CONDI-TIONING—Armo Cooling & Ventilating Co., Inc. Radiators—American Radiator Co. Grilles-U. S. Register Co. Regulators-Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co. Water heater-Rheem Mfg. Co.



CHIEF DESIGNER'S ROOM AT REAR IS SKYLIGHTED





CONFERENCE ROOM FEATURES CANTILEVERED TABLE AND SLOPING DISPLAY WALL

VESTIBULE IS LIGHTED BY FIRST-FLOOR WINDOW



Photos by Gottscho-Schleisner



FRONT OFFICE HAS SKEW WALLS, APPEARS BIG



INDUSTRIAL DESIGNER'S OFFICES

belie their location in a dark, old building.

McSTAY JACKSON CO., Designers

When McStay Jackson Co. of Chicago applied its talents to the design of new offices for its Industrial Design Division, the primary problems were the existing building's 16 ft. ceilings and lack of natural light. Both were economically and attractively solved by cutting the ceiling height in half with open grillework comprised of 1 x 4 in. pine boards 1 ft. on centers. Set flush with the grille's upper surface, fluorescent lighting fixtures brighten the rooms without being obtrusive. Outlets of the ventilating system are similarly located.

Blending with the structural character of the grilled ceiling, walls are of red brick and fir plywood finished in its natural color. Furniture is of equally severe design—much of it built-in. Contrasting with these materials, the office floors are finished in rich parquetry and (in the reception room, below) covered with a thick green shag rug. Partitions are half glazed, thus simplifying the lighting problem and increasing the apparent size of the rooms.

The original high ceiling was preserved in the design room to provide a better diffusion of light in conjunction with light-colored tile walls.





OFFICE PARTITIONS ARE GLASS AND PREFABRICATED FIR PANELS





Photos by Chicago Architectural Photographing Company



DESIGN ROOM IS BIG, BRIGHT

CONFERENCE ROOM, LIKE ADJOINING OFFICES, HAS WOODEN GRILLED CEILING AND WILLIAMSBURG RED BRICK WALL. FLOOR IS CONCRETE PAINTED A TILE RED





LARGE OFFICE OPENS TO SHOW ROOM THROUGH A GLASS PARTITION

DISPLAYS INCLUDE FURNITURE, SCULPTURE, PAINTINGS, FABRICS

OFFICES AND DISPLAY ROOM

are created from an old Detroit hamburger stand.

ALEXANDER GIRARD, Architect

Foiled in his efforts to rent suitable office space in Detroit's swank suburban Grosse Point, Architect Girard found an old hamburger stand in a good neighborhood and converted it with a minimum of time and money into attractive offices for himself and his decorator wife. For \$2,000 they pulled together the three box-like parts of the building and refinished the interior with striated plywood in its natural color, asbestos cement painted gray-blue, jute and burlap fabrics on the walls, black-painted fiber board on the ceilings and tan carpet on the floors. To give them a feeling of greater spaciousness, the showroom and main office were separated by a glass partition which may be screened with a curtain. The large windows facing the street were preserved to give the showroom an open front, but have been backed with a cellulose fabric because the continual peering of sightseers distracted the occupants and their customers and because passing children are tempted to use the big windows as snowball targets.

Practicing all phases of design, the Girards laid out their modest building to accommodate all types of samples and displays, including building materials, wall finishes, furniture, fabrics, paintings and sculpture. Exhibited art is both borrowed and owned and is frequently changed for the benefit of potential customers and art classes from local schools and universities.





AND WALL FINISH



NATURAL LIGHT FROM FRONT WINDOWS IS AUGMENTED BY SPOTS



SHOWROOM FURNITURE IN MOLDED PLYWOOD IS BY CHARLES EAMES. NOTE SAMPLE DRAPERY MATERIALS AGAINST WALL

DESIGNER'S OFFICE RELIES ON VERTICAL PATTERN OF FINISHING MATERIALS (STRIATED PLYWOOD AND CORRU-GATED CEMENT ASBESTOS BOARD) FOR DECORATION. THE VERTICAL METAL LATH (LEFT) SCREENS HALL HEATER.



PRODUCTS AND PRACTICE

THE CURTAIN WALL—missing complement to the skeleton frame—is brought several steps nearer commercial reality by William Lescaze and Robert Davison, whose new design promises many economies to multi-story housing.



METAL-GLAD INSULATED CURTAIN WALL, as developed in Lescaze and Davison prototype (right), can reduce weight by as much as ten times, bulk by 63 per cent, cost by 42 per cent—all with no sacrifice in performance. (Costs are estimated on basis of current prices and include all labor, materials, finishes, painting and scaffolding.) Ever since the steel or concrete skeleton reduced the wall's function to that of a mere skin, the concept of a "curtain wall" has intrigued American designers. A large, lightweight wall unit-incorporating fire- and weather-resistance as well as thermal insulation-was the obvious parallel to the development of the skeletal cage. The wonder is that such surfacing systems have not been commercially available for years. The reasons they have not, of course, are only too familiar to the building field: an unhappy cycle of restrictive building codes, restrictive trade and labor practices. Yet the demand for such a solution to the multi-story building has steadily increased. Two New Yorkers-Architect William Lescaze and Building Researcher Robert Davison-have now increased this pressure by developing a system called Metal-Clad Insulating Wall.

Subsidized by the nonprofit, privately-endowed New York Housing Trust, Lescaze and Davison last year set to work on the new system. The outlines of the problem were clear. Whatever they developed would have to be adaptable to conventional framing systems. It would have to be standardized in dimension, yet flexible enough to meet small but exasperating variations in ceiling heights, column spacings and sash sizes. Obviously, it would be a prefabricated panel, large yet easy to handle and easy to attach to either steel or masonry frame. It would have to meet current criteria of strength, fire resistance, weatherproofness, etc. Finally, the design would have to be easy to fabricate from a wide variety of available surfacing and insulating materials.

The Metal-Clad wall, as shown on these pages, meets the above specifications admirably. It is a horizontal system, the panels running in strips around the building, two to a floor. The lower panel, attached directly to the spandrel beam, is solid and carries the load. The upper strip carries any combination of window and solid wall desired, a device which frees the system of any dependence on columns and gives it dimensional versatility.



A shop-fabricated curtain wall for skeleton frames promised important economies in labor, materials, rental space. This has been apparent for decades: but, in evolving an actual prototype which any manufacturer might produce and any architect use. Lescaze and Davison had to go through a long process of selection. They cleared the first hurdle with the discovery that a non-structural skin applied horizontally was more versatile than one applied vertically. Next, the design of the individual units or wall panels: these would be fabricated out of standard sheet (stainless steel, aluminum, copper) and insulating material (from glass, asbestos-cement, vermiculite, etc.). But exactly how? It was found that, theoretically, some twenty variations of a sandwich-type panel, with and without structural frame, were possible. Nine of these were discarded as contradictory or otherwise impractical. The remaining eleven were gradually weeded out (see p. 100) until one remained: this was then developed for both installation (right) and manufacture (below).

Although the New York Housing Trust, as sponsor, had no plans for actually manufacturing the curtain walls, the program called for complete engineering data which interested manufacturers could adapt. Laboratory tests on the Lescaze-Davison prototype are not yet complete. But enough data is already available to indicate that the Metal-Clad Insulating Wall, if it ever gets into production, will offer the masonry wall a run for its money. One of the new wall panels, 4 ft. 4 in. square, replaces 115 masonry units. The complete panel weighs 225 lbs. against 1,500 lbs. (brick and hollow tile) or 2,700 lbs. (solid brick): this weight differential alone should yield important economies in the skeleton itself. The new panel is 31/2 in. thick instead of the conventional 13 in., yet it has a K factor of .12twice as favorable as brick and furred plaster. Under test, the panel resisted forces twelve times the required wind load of 15 lbs. per sq. ft. Under transverse concentrated loading, a test panel showed a bond failure (between core and skin) at 600 lbs.: final failure occurred at 1,490 lbs. The panel meets a four-hour firetest. Finally, costs per square foot are lower for the panel than for conventional 13-in. masonry walls. The designers' estimates indicate that this saving may amount to \$0.92 per sq. ft. Though this margin may be less under actual conditions, it is likely to remain substantial.



FABRICATION OF PANEL from any combination of standard materials is accomplished in six simple steps.

The manufacturing process, in the stages shown at right, is fundamentally the simplest sort of sheet metal work, requiring no elaborate dies or similar equipment. A standard break, welding equipment and presses (if core is bonded to inner metal skin) are the essential equipment.



ERECTION OF PANELS is dry, rapid, foolproof: a complete wall results.

> FIRST STAGE in erection of curtain wall consists of insertion of two anchors in spandrel beam, spaced 4 ft. 4 in. o.c., regardless of column spacing.

SECOND STAGE. Vertica steel channel studs are bolted into place. Exact alignment of studs, despite any irregularities in building frame, is possible by adjustments.

THIRD STAGE of Lescaze Davison prototype (left) differs from Republic's (right) in that the former bolts panels to studs, while the latter next attaches continuous horizontal sill and head members to studs (3, right).

FOURTH STAGE. In Lescaze-Davison design, horizontal sill and head members are now attached, while, in Republic's, wall panels are slipped into place. Prefat spline seals vertical joint in both systems.

FIFTH STAGE. With continuous horizontal spandrel strip complete, installation of window strip proceeds. Supported by panel strips below and above it, this area can have any proportion of glass and solid wall desired.





CORRUGATED ued o

REPUBLIC STEEL, aware of curtain wall's potentials, produces an experimental variant which it may ultimately market.



Swamped with a backlog of postwar demands, Republic Steel finds itself in no position at the moment to launch a new building line, prefab or otherwise. Nevertheless, with an eye on market conditions a couple of years hence, it set its Process and Product Development Division to work on a modification of the Lescaze-Davison design. The system shown hereexperimental in every sense-follows the prototype in all basic points. The outer corrugated skin and horizontal members are of stainless steel, the inside surface of enameled steel. Republic engineers have made a slight variation in erection sequence (left, above), which yields a complete hanger system before panels are bolted into place. They have also omitted as structurally unnecessary the inner corrugated sheet. (In the prototype, this is tack welded to outer surface of inside metal skin.) Instead, they have successfully bonded the insulating core to the inner skin, using both a porous silicate product and Pittsburgh-Corning's Foam Glass. Experimental work on both the system as a whole and its various parts is still continuing at Republic's Cleveland laboratories. However, there is no indication when-or if-Republican can make this system commercially available.

PRODUCTS AND PRACTICE



FINAL PANEL TYPE selected from many possible variants.

Even within the apparently simple limits of designing a 52-in. square, non-loadbearing wall panel, an amazing number of variables present themselves. Lescaze and Davison found at least twenty possible combinations—with and without frame, with and without participating insulation core, etc. They systematized the process of elimination and selection by the checklist shown above. Problems of jointing and weatherproofing eliminated the simple bonded sandwich (Type A-1 on chart) immediately. Metalto-metal contact through the wall eliminated several others (BF2 and CF2). Although the concept of folding the metal skins into girder shapes to replace a separate frame seemed attractive, tests revealed that no economical fold gave the panel edges sufficient rigidity to transmit transverse loads. This eliminated BS3, CS3, BS4, CS4. Thus, by degrees, choice was narrowed down to Type CF4 as being the most practical to develop. This design was used both in the Lescaze-Davison prototype and (without the inner corrugation) by Republic Steel. Other study: the Housing Trust research project merely developed the type with widest application.



Two of many panel types show . .



. . . possible combinations of material



FLASHBULB LIGHTING of sculptural group shows immense spread in values between marble head (center) and others around it. Problem was to light each piece to bring out inherent qualities yet prevent domination by any one.

EXHIBITION LIGHTING shows how successfully this has been accomplished. Note that marble head (left, below) does not dominate either alabaster head in center or bronzes around it.



THEATRICAL LIGHTING used by electrical engineer to create dramatic sculpture display.

A young lighting engineer named Richard Kelly last month gave New York's famous art market—East 57th Street—a lesson in how to display sculpture to best advantage. The occasion was the Knoedler Galleries' large retrospective show of the work of the late French-American sculptor, Gaston Lachaise. The show, which received high praise from the press, was not only lighted, but designed as well by Kelly. Describing his approach to the problem, he points out that the main problem was that of satisfactorily organizing a lot of small sculptural pieces into a pleasant, coherent design.

"The grouping of the sculpture was in three parts: in the first room, the idealized heads and a group of figures—including the giant nude. The portrait heads (right) were grouped in the inner room. Most of these pieces were small. They would have been lost in the tremendously high ceilings of the big rooms." So circular screens, concealing the lighting fixtures, were hung from the ceiling to establish proper scale. These suspended screens gave the figures intimacy without reducing the spaciousness of the room.

The circular screens were covered in white cotton scrim, loomed to a 12 ft. width. All lighting equipment was mounted above them on a frame of metal tubing. The points at which the spots came through the screens were painted with black paint to prevent diffusion and glare beneath. "We did not want light reflected on the ceilings or the walls," Mr. Kelly says. "The walls were covered in dark brown velvet, and—by keeping them dark—we made the sculpture appear to float."

Each sculpture within these groups, Mr. Kelly points out, was individually lighted. "There is ten times the amount of light on the head of Marin as on the woman's head in white marble. The Marin was of black bronze, which took a very hard light to bring out its bronze quality. We used an additional soft light on one side to light the shadows. The trouble with the white marble head was that it had too much impor-(Continued on page 102)



PRODUCTS AND PRACTICE

How to give RESIDENTIAL FLOORS



more beauty • longer life • unlimited design



Why limit yourself to ordinary types of flooring? Shown here are a few examples of residential Medusa White Terrazzo-the flooring that sets a new decorative note in the modern home. Here is the material that gives you the advantage of custom design with unlimited possibilities of patterns and a wide variety of colors.

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Due to its marble chip content, terrazzo is ideal for floor type radiant heating. The installation of terrazzo over heating pipes-buried in the concrete directly below-not only assures warm floors but makes practical ones too. Terrazzo provides sanitary, vermin proof, enduring surfaces that require no costly maintenance-that clean easily with soap and water.

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When you specify terrazzo, be certain your exact desires of patterns and colors can be carried out easily. Specify Medusa White Portland Cement-the cement with the successful 40 year service record for outstanding terrazzo. Pure non-staining Medusa White as a matrix, sets forth the colored marble chips in such a manner to give maximum color values in the finished floor. And, by adding color pigments to Medusa White, delicate shades for blending or contrasting backgrounds can be obtained.

Plan now for residential terrazzo-in recreation rooms, hallways, vestibules, porches, bathrooms, and wherever rich beauty and long service qualities are desired. Specify Medusa White-the original white portland cement for better terrazzo-rich in beauty-long in wear.

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"FIFTY-FIVE YEARS OF CONCRETE PROGRESS"



tance over the others in an intimate group-it stood out too much under general lighting. There had to be a different light on each one to bring out the materials. For instance, the Warburg head transmuted light through the alabaster, so it was luminous (center, lower right).

"Most of the fixtures used are from the theatrical lighting field. There are large Fresnel lens units (the round tube type). This type had to be hung low. The screen was designed to shield this equipment, although it did not completely hide it: at least, you did not feel its presence. In addition, the scrim had just enough general over-all light to soften the shadows. The Fresnel lens units have a very soft edge. One soft unit was used for the Van Vechten and Kraushaar heads-one unit on both heads as they both needed the same quality of light. Because the Van Vechten was a very light bronze and the Kraushaar a white marble, however, they could not have the same intensity, so a half filter was used to cut the beam in two.



SMALL SCULPTURES IN A BIG GALLERY would be lost under ordinary display techniques. Hence Kelly grouped them on pedestals under suspended circular screens, cut out regular lighting altogether, illuminated each piece individually.

"Besides the Fresnel, two types of baby spots were used with simple convex lenses; there were a number of compound lens spots; condensing lens, and compound lens with shutter adjustment-giving a very fine controlled beam. There were miscellaneous filters on all of them; some short focus, some wide focus, some with asbestos shield. When there are a lot of different materials, no one white light will bring them into complete relationship. So we used some color filters, for warm light and cool, to bring out the quality of the pieces. On the marble head we used, for warmth, a chocolate filter.

"The total wattage for the whole show is roughly 8,500. The ordinary lighting of the two rooms, designed for paintings and coming from the high ceilings, totaled 12,000 w. We actually cut this regular gallery lighting out altogether. A total of 27 units was used in the two rooms."

ELECTRIC SPACE HEATING proves efficient for large plant in public areas.

When officials of the Mountain City Mill Company, Chattanooga, Tenn. put in their new heating system, they found a way to cut heating costs appreciably, control temperatures throughout the plant and make more space available for productive purposes. They also helped to prove that, in areas where power rates are comparatively low, electrical space (Continued on page 104) heating is coming into its own.
G.E. ELECTRONICS PARK SELECTS G-E Q-FLOOR WIRING SYSTEM FOR COMPLETE ELECTRICAL FLEXIBILITY

Taking full advantage of its own up-to-the-minute Q-Floor wiring, General Electric has made sure that its new electronics plant will keep pace with fast-moving changes in the electronics field. With this modern underfloor system, Electronics Park will have electrical service when and where needed... as long as needed.

Flexibility for All Buildings

Robertson Q-Floors with G-E Q-Floor Wiring make a sturdy, flexible system of cellular raceways that provide for all present wiring needs, and are adequate for any future requirements. Once installed, Q-Floors permit addition of any number of outlets, without the nuisance of tearing up floors or laying more raceways.

All buildings — factories, hospitals, offices, retail stores, and other commercial structures — can be designed to stay electrically young with G-E Q-Floor Wiring. Projects large or small can benefit from the wiring convenience they provide. Give your General Electric merchandise dealer, or a factory underfloor specialist, a call — or write to Section C58-54, Appliance and Merchandise Department, General Electric Company, Bridgeport 2, Connecticut.



As modern as the equipment it will build, Electronics Park, the 157-acre General Electric installation at Syracuse, N. Y., is prepared for any future changes in electrical needs — with adaptable Q-Floor raceways.



Construction views of Q-Floor wiring installations at Electronics Park.

CONSTRUCTION DATA

Project: Electronics Park, Syracuse, N. Y. Architect: L. Rosetti, Giffels & Vallet, Inc., Detroit, Mich. Structural and Mechanical Engineers: Giffels & Vallet, Inc., Detroit, Mich. Building Contractor: Walsh Construction Company, Davenport, Iowa Electrical Contractor: Fishback & Moore, Inc., New York City



PRODUCTS AND PRACTICE

Company officials first experimented by heating several areas of their plant-a large flour mill-with electric unit heaters manufactured by Electromode Corporation of Rochester, N. Y. As a result of this preliminary test, the mill's old heating system was entirely removed and fifty unit heaters, provided with thermostatic control, installed.

Mountain City Mill Company thus became the Tennessee area's largest single user of electricity for space heating. The



main mill has five floors, with insulated ceiling and tight-fitting windows and doors. The mill was heated 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the winter months. The connected load for the mill's 598,650 cu. ft. is 655.5 KW, with fifty heater units ranging in capacity from 7.5 to 20 KW. It was found that this load could be operated for a large part of the time off the peak of the 900 KW demand of the mill's productive equipment.

When all factors were considered, mill officials found that the first full heating season with these heaters showed an appreciable saving in plant heating costs. Individual thermostatic control of the heaters tended to eliminate unnecessary operation and reduce waste, since each heater operates only when heat is required in that particular area. All electrical energy is converted 100 per cent into heat, distributed by means of fans and adjustable deflectors. Another important cost factor was maintenance of pipe and fittings.

The experience of one winter showed unusual uniformity of temperatures throughout the plant. This was due to the extreme flexibility of the system. When lowering temperatures occurred anywhere in the plant, the heaters in that section responded immediately and automatically.

Complete protection against fire and explosion hazards was achieved because of the patented enclosed construction of the Electromode heating element. There are no exposed glowing wires because the resistor is insulated and encased in a tubular sheath which, in turn, is totally embedded in a one-piece finned aluminum casting. Besides giving absolute safety, this feature tends to prolong the life of the equipment by preventing oxidation and deterioration.

"COMFORTIZED" TUBS preheated by copper coils.



HEATED BATHTUBS, developed by W. H. Armstrong of Boston, Mass., have been successfully used in several new homes. He wraps a standard tub in four coils of 3% in. copper tubing, laid on top of metal lath, and covers it with 1 in. of cement plaster. Tub can then be connected to either radiant or conventional hot water system with balancing valve located in accessible spot,

SPECIFICATIONS

Frame-One-piece heavy aluminum alloy. Jamb — Heavy aluminum alloy. Hinge — Reversible, can be installed right or left without special drilling. special Catch-Bullet type. Handle—Offset design on both sides. Finish-Anotized aluminum, Size-24"x64", for open-ing 24" wide.

be installed either right or left hinging without special drilling * * * The smart distinctive appearance of this new shower door puts any shower installation in the luxury class, yet its cost is the lowest of any door Fiat has produced. The frame and jambs are the typical solid sturdy Fiat construction built to last a lifetime. A new type of hinging arrangement, with door hung on a heavy pin top and bottom, eliminates the expensive piano hinge. * * * Illustration shows the new Low Door and Fiat Skipper shower, a combination of unusual values that cannot be equalled for low cost bathroom installations.

has exclusive reversible hinge feature. Can

In Canada— Fiat showers are made in Canada by The Porcelain and Metal Products, Ltd. Orillia, Ontario

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Used for utility railings, Alcoa Aluminum Pipe is rustproof and corrosion-resistant. It cannot cause streaking or staining of adjacent surfaces. Strong, it provides adequate protection. Attractive, it enhances the appearance of buildings. Easy to work, produced in a variety of standard shapes, sizes, and fittings, Alcoa Utility Railings may be installed quickly and at low cost.

The Alcoa Booklet, illustrated (A.I.A. File No. 14-D), contains detailed information. For copies, write to ALUMINUM COMPANY OF AMERICA, 1866 Gulf Building, Pittsburgh 19, Pennsylvania.





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WINDOWS. Standardization in modular sizes of most types of Fenestra Windows enables you to use them with greater economy with savings both in first costs and in installation. From the smallest house to the largest office building, school, hospital or factory, there's a Fenestra Window that's *right*—in size, appearance and operation.



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DOORS. These standardized doors are real time savers. For one thing, many of them come complete with frame and hardware—that cuts fitting time. All are standardized in size for maximum economy in first cost—as well as in installation time, labor and materials. Designed for easy operation. Swing, slide and overhead types available.

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Six large plants are turning out these products to meet the heavy demand. For product information, see Sweet's Architectural File for 1947 (Sections 16a-9 and 3c-1). Better yet, call us.



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plan on



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If Mr. and Mrs. Client were building their own home, they'd be sure to "build in" two important comfort features-an Emerson-Electric Home Cooler Fan for a cool, "sleepable" house on hot summer nights-and an Emerson-Electric Kitchen Ventilator for an airy odorless kitchen.

Emerson-Electric is continuing to sell these two home-comfort ideas in more than a score of popular magazines, reaching thousands of present and prospective home builders. You're sure to please your clients and make your client-job easier, when you specify and install Emerson-Electric Kitchen Ventilating Fans and Home Cooler Fans.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY announces the formation of an Advisory Committee on Community Activities. This group of 23 public and private experts is said to be the first of its kind. Among basic policy matters now before the committee are: the extent to which an Authority should supplement existing community facilities for families in its projects; who should staff and supervise their operation; for what age groups the program should be planned; and how space in the community centers should be utilized.

A SIX WEEKS "STUDYTOUR" on European Reconstruction and Community Planning, of particular interest to specialists in planning, architectural, and engineering fields is scheduled to visit England, Czechoslovakia, Poland (and probably Russia) during the coming August and first part of September. Hermann Field, AIA, of the architectural firm of Antonin Raymond & L. L. Rado, is planner and leader of the tour. Further information may be obtained from him at 101 Park Ave., New York City or from World Studytours, 417 W. 121st St., New York.

FONTAINEBLEAU SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS, France, announces that its summer courses for advanced American students of architecture, painting, sculpture and applied arts will be given from July 1st to September 1st. The program will be conducted by Jean Labatut, Architecture; Lucien Fontanarosa, Painting; R. La Montagne St. Hubert, Mural Painting and Fresco; Denis Gelin, Sculpture; Paul Fromentier and Eric Bagge, Applied Arts. Applications for admission should be addressed to: Fontainebleau School of Fine Arts, 206 E. 62nd St., New York 21, N. Y.

MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE, East Lansing, Mich. has added the study of urban planning to its major curricula. This course will now include: methods of collecting and using basic planning data, arrangement of land uses, protective regulations. traffic control and systems of thoroughfare, zoning, platting, and housing. Prof. Harold Lautner has been in charge of planning this extension in the college program.

BUILDING PREVIEWS



THE WORLD'S LARGEST DRUGSTORE and headquarters for Rexall Drug Company in Los Angeles, Calif., will be completed this summer. Its two-story reinforced concrete structure on concrete pile foundation will cover three acres and four courts for the recreational and dining use of employes. The drugstore will provide even more extraneous departments than usual (cameras to hunting knives) while a dining room will adjoin the customary soda fountain. The upper floor (also completely air conditioned) will house business, personnel and medical departments. A 300-car parking space is provided for customers and employes.

THE CULMORE HOUSING PROJECT, Fairfax County, Va. will provide facilities for about 2,000 families in its 200 multipledwelling units (construction to (Continued on page 108)

EMERSON-ELECTRIC HOME COOLER FAN

Installed in attic, this sturdy fan

forces out the day's accumulation of hot air, pulls in cool night air through open windows and doors.

through open windows and doors. Designed to give years of silent, trouble-free service in all types of

KITCHEN

VENTILATOR

Adjustable to wall thickness, this de-

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prevents spread to

other rooms.

homes

14

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WHEN YOU design public buildings, you can achieve interiors of greater beauty and utility by specifying Structural Clay Facing Tile, either glazed or unglazed.

This dual-purpose building material combines a beautiful, hard-surfaced finish with a fire-safe wall of great structural strength. A variety of attractive colors, textures and modular sizes is available to enhance the design of any Library, Court House, Memorial, Recreation Center, Museum, Institution or other public building.

Most public buildings are subjected to rough usage and harsh treatment. They require materials that will not scratch, crack, mar or decay-that will resist stains, grease and dirt. Structural Clay Facing Tile fills this need at a minimum cost.

And it's easy to keep public building interiors clean and sanitary, if Facing Tile is used. A simple soap and water washing does the job.

Production of Facing Tile in modular sizes means even more advantages-greater flexibility in design . . perfect fitting with other modular materials . . less time needed for drafting and site supervision . . less material waste . . better workmanship with less labor . . earlier occupancy.

Write to Desk AF-5 of the Institute for 90-page Facing Tile Handbook showing methods of determining modular layout procedure-FREE to registered architects and engineers; 50 cents to all others. Refer also to Sweet's 1947 Architectural Catalog. Institute Members are at your service.

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When Trouble Hits the Ceiling

Water vapor condensing on roof members causes trouble aplenty if building materials used there can't stand moisture. Upkeep costs skyrocket.

Use Wolmanized Lumber* and another of your worries disappears. It's standard structural lumber, pressureimpregnated with Wolman Salts* preservative, making it highly resistant to decay that's fostered by the presence of moisture.

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You head off decay, reduce maintenance costs, by setting your floor on Wolmanized Lumber subflooring and nailers.

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begin in July). On a 118-acre site the development will also include a shopping center of 30 stores, a theater, offices and a bowling alley. The apartment structures will cover only 20 per cent of the area, the remainder of which will be devoted to lawns, recreation areas and streets. All buildings are designed for brick masonry construction and will feature radiant heating. Albert Lueders is architect for the \$12,000,-000 project; John Campbell-builder.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



THE PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE Co. OF AMERICA announces that construction has begun on its new granite and glass office building in Los Angeles, Calif. (sketch above). Wurdeman & Becket were architects for the air conditioned structure which makes provision for open-front shops at street level with 400,000 sq ft. of office space on upper floors for Prudential's 2,000 employees. The solid shaft in the center of the building will house elevators and other utilities.

CONVENTIONS

THE SIXTH PANAMERICAN CONGRESS OF ARCHITECTS, to promote better understanding of the various problems of architects throughout the western hemisphere, will be held at Lima, Peru in October 1947.

THE ILLUMINATING ENGINEERING SOCIETY (East Central Region) has announced a two day conference in Washington, D. C., at the Statler Hotel, May 15-16.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEATING AND VENTILATING ENGI-NEERS announces that its semi-annual meeting will be held at Coronado, Calif., June 1-4.

THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL LIGHTING EXPOSITION in Chicago [November 3-7] will stress the importance of "Planned Lighting" for industrial, commercial and home uses.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS will hold its 1947 Meeting in Atlantic City, N. J., December 1-5.

FATHER AND SON



THE T. KIRK ALMROTH ASSOCIATES, father and son, specialists in package design, have located their new studio in Van Nuys, Calif. (see above) to handle all types of business and industrial design. Mr. Almroth Sr. (Continued on page 110) It's so easy to get information on General Electric HEATING 20 Mart Spectre Cuper Ener 2 GPS PAD OIL HEAT, LEADING ARCHITECTS



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

has designed outstanding exhibits in all major World Fairs starting with the Chicago Century of Progress Exposition, and in the four most recent—th eDallas, Cleveland, San Francisco and New York Fairs—father and son have worked jointly on exhibits.

EXHIBIT



A SHOWING OF WALLPAPERS by Katzenback and Warren on view at the Philadelphia Art Alliance Galleries through April and early May symptomizes the wide variety of tastes in wallpaper as well as the recent growing interest in its design. "Aquatint papers" (see example above) provide backgrounds adapted to a variety of informal rooms. The exhibit also includes novel "sculptured" (Continued on page 112)

For Elegant Home Settings IN THE MODERN MANNER



Beautiful design deep etched into crystal clear plastic . . . set into double framed shadow box with fluorescent illumination

Gracefully curved and beveled veneer frame finished in soft off-white ismountedon finely constructed, rich gold, finished box. Has third dimensional effect . . . controls light and directs interest to design. Back panel finished in rich red tone. Fourteen watt tube and electric cord furnished with each unit. Size: 22" x 22" x 5½" deep. Each \$50.00. FREE! New Plastics Catalog

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ONLY ADLAKE combines nonmetallic weather-stripping and serrated guides to stop excessive air infiltration and give you finger-tip control. Expertly designed to harmonize with either traditional or modern buildings, it gives a lifetime of beauty and service.

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ALUNDUM Stair Tile (and Floor Tile) is recommended to architects by Norton Company for an important function: to overcome both the slipping hazard and the excessive wear of stairs, ramps and floors subjected to severe foot traffic. Its ability to withstand the most concentrated traffic—without lessening its non-slip effectiveness or showing appreciable wear has been substantiated by installations that have given 25 years of service under the severest conditions. ALUNDUM Tile always provides reliably safe walkways. It retains its non-slip advantage when wet. No amount of traction will smooth its surface, reduce its non-slip protection.



wallpapers (plastic coverings of simple ridged designs); flowery Williamsburg Restoration prints; and a showing of "Architecture by the yard—including pilasters, chairrails, dado, cornice and overdoor."

INFORMATION

THE SOCIETY OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY announces a public relations service to clear up the confusion of many consumers as to the uses and applications of plastics. General inquiries of this nature may be addressed to the SPI's Public Relations Committee, 295 Madison Ave., New York 17, N. Y.

AWARD

THE AMERICAN DESIGNERS INSTITUTE, New York, announces that the first prize of \$1,000 in its contest [co-sponsored by *Garrison's Magazine*] for a "family store" design was won by Paul Canin, Industrial Design Student at Pratt Institute. Prizes of \$100 each were also awarded to: Anna Bonk, Paul Wrablich and Pamela Dohner, George Fitzsimonds and Max Hanenstein, Harry Gutmaker, and Weston Anderson.

APPOINTMENTS

ALFRED H. BARR, JR. has been named Director of Museum Collections at the Museum of Modern Art, New York City. He will direct the planning and care (including publications and display) of all present museum collections as well as acquisition of new paintings and sculpture.

EDWIN G. THURLOW has been appointed Head and Professor of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of North Carolina, Raleigh, N. C.

ANTONIN HEYTHUM is in charge of planning Syracuse University's new 5-year Industrial Design curriculum, in coordination with the university's Architecture, Art and Engineering facilities. *(Continued on page 116)*



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-that's what Modine Convectors offer you!







RADIANT HEATING Mild, radiant heat in just enough quantity to offset heat loss from window areas — that's what those arrows represent, coming from

what those arrows represent, coming from the Modine Convector Panel below the window. To this we add . . . Warmed air circulated by Convection Heating. Hot water or steam passes through copper heating unit which draws cooler, floor-line air into bottom of convector where it's warmed, rises and then passes out through grille.

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> available without special order in 6"x6" 6"x12" 12"x12" random shades 5/16" thick

* Because of our experience making cork cartridge plugs for the Navy, Kencork is now made so micromatically accurate *it can be installed without machine sanding on the job*. The tiles are coated with a heated wax at the factory—can be installed on any smooth sub-floor in one fast, clean operation and is then ready for use.



IN BATHROOMS for luxury underfoot – dry – soft – warm – sanitary

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1

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



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Their forefathers built homes of wood the building material of the ages. And today, this young couple is secure in the knowledge that wood is a better building material than ever! NDMA standards of toxic preservation for woodwork such as doors, screens and windows have helped to make it so—have added further assurance of lasting value to wood's natural qualities of endurance.

NDMA Toxic Preservative Standards are backed by the integrity of a great industry—and by the utmost resources of science. Behind the NDMA seal of approval stand the six measures which this non-profit organization maintains in the public interest.

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NEW OFFICES

WALTER GORDON AIA has opened an office in the Mead Bldg., Portland 4, Ore.

R. DUANE CONNER and FRED POJEZNY, JR., architects, are now practicing at the Kerr-McGee Bldg., Oklahoma City, Okla.

JAMES HUGHES AIA and HARRY DENYES AIA announce the formation of an architectural partnership at 187 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham, Mich.

GEORGE CAVALIERI AIA, formerly chief architect of FHA in New York, is associated with ANTHONY DEROSE AIA in general practice at 370 E. 149th St., New York 55, N. Y.

CRONHEIM & WEGER, registered architect and engineers, have opened offices at 1728 Spruce St., Philadelphia 3, Pa.

BROTHER CAJETAN BAUMANN OFM, AIA, has opened an architectural office at 44 Whitehall St., New York 4, N. Y.

VIRGEL DAVIS, architect, has resumed private practice at $106\frac{1}{2}$ W. 2nd St., Odessa, Texas.

ETHELBERT FURLONC, landscape architect and site consultant, has reopened his office at 93 Baldwin St., Glen Ridge, N. J.

GABRIEL HARMAN and ROBERT O'DONNELL are associated in the practice of landscape architecture and land planning at 628—15th St., Denver 2, Colo.

SYLVESTER LEROY SMITH, architect, and JUDSON VOCDES, JR., engineer, are associated in general practice at 315 Broad St. Station, Philadelphia 2, Pa.

DONALD STEINBAUGH AIA and JOHN WHEELER AIA have formed an architectural partnership at 509 Presbyterian Bldg., Nashville, Tenn. (Continued on page 120)



Whether it's a hospital, church, school or public building, architects know that the specification of Halsey Taylor Drinking Fauntains is an assurance that health-safety comes FRSTI. For these modern fountains were developed primarily to protect the user from contamination. Sanitation is as important as design ... Halsey Taylors provide both! Get our latest literature.

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IN HER NEW HOUSE a woman wants a planned, equipped laundry—for laundering's her most dreaded job. Offer her a planned laundry equipped with a Bendix automatic Washer. And provide space and wiring or piping for a Bendix Dryer and a Bendix Ironer. On this basis you're selling a complete house-package, and the reasonableness of the pricetag will be readily apparent to the woman.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

RICHARD BISHOP, architect, site planner and consultant, has opened an office at 401 Board of Trade Bldg., Indianapolis 4, Ind

SAUL EDELBAUM AIA announces the opening of an office of architecture, planning and design at 624 Madison Ave., New York 22, N. Y.

KENNETH WHITE ASSOCIATES, a firm for retail planning, development and design has opened offices at 516 Fifth Ave., New York 18, N.Y.

ROBERT GOLDBERG ADI, recently returned from Navy service. announces the opening of industrial and marine interior design offices at 11 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

ALFRED RUMMLER and STEWART JAMES, designers of industrial products and modern furniture, have opened an office at 166 E. 96th St., New York 28, N. Y.

KNOLL ASSOCIATES, INC. have opened a new showroom for contemporary textiles at 311/2 E. 65th Street, New York, N. Y. Arundell Clarke acts as sole agent for these textiles.

T. H. HEWITT announces the opening of a studio for the design and weaving of modern fabrics and accessories at 3782 Elmora St., Houston 5, Tex.

THE O'BRIEN VARNISH Co., South Bend, Ind., has formally changed its title to the O'Brien Corp., makers of paints, varnishes and other protective coatings.

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ARMEN TASHJIAN, Ohio architect and engineer. Mr. Tashjian designed and engineered many prominent Cleveland buildings, including the NBC Building, the Federal Reserve Bank Building, the Main Public Library, Allen Memorial Medical Library and the Cleveland Postoffice. He was also the originator of many innovations in building materials and processes.



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THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIR DOOR MANUFACTURERS

REVIEWS

NEW CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE OFFERS A WIDE SELECTION, IS DESIGNED FOR VOLUME SALES

Already identified with furniture through the Storagewall he designed in collaboration with Henry N. Wright, George Nelson has moved on to the field of light, portable units. This furniture, recently designed for the Herman Miller Furniture Co., is his latest contribution.

With certain reservations, the Nelson designs can be termed modular, but they incorporate some entirely new twists. For instance, all cabinet units are made from four sizes of board (a device that has handsomely increased the production capacity of the factory). However, the dimensions, do not necessarily share a common denominator. A choice of hardware and finish affords individuality nearly comparable to custom furniture. Three types of pulls are available-a simple metal finger slot in three sizes, a crisp glass and metal knob, and a unique handle known as "the spider" which was evolved through motion experimentation. There is a choice of blond or dark wood-primvera and walnut-ebony, gun metal, red and green lacquer.

Nelson's intention was to keep the lines and detailing as simple as possible since study has shown that, for a general market, high styling is less desirable because of the difficulty of blending it with other pieces. Not inexpensive, the Miller furniture is designed for volume production and nationwide sale, logical under present economic conditionsand since it has a truly homey quality it will undoubtedly carry a wider appeal than many other examples of "modern." Contrary to the usual policy of selling a number of small sectional pieces, in this line emphasis will be on selling larger storage units which, saving the number of finished ends, etc., are cheaper per cubic inch.

Also responsible for the design of the showroom, Nelson has incorporated a clever mural by Madi Black as part of the background. His furniture will be handled by fifteen department stores extending across the country, and, for architects and designers, through the Miller showrooms, which also distribute furniture by Eames, Noguchi and Lazlo.



SHOWROOM DISPLAYS FURNITURE BY VARIOUS DESIGNERS IN TYPICAL GROUPINGS. FOREGROUP MOLDED PLYWOOD CHAIR BY CHARLES EAMES, GLASS TOP COFFEE TABLE BY NOGUCHI

Desk contains individual typewriter unit with self-contained storage space for supplies, desk-weight Pendaflex file enclosed in a perforated metal skirt, \$275. Photos by Ezra Stolle



Occasional chair (left), cane and upholstery, \$59.50.* Platform bench (right) is used as a seat, coffee table or base for cabinets, \$49.50.



Open armchair upholstered in fabric over foam rubber, \$79.50.

Sectional, drawer and cabinet units (right) \$119.50 each—shown on platform bench. Open bookcase, \$59.50.

Gateleg table (below) has wood hinges, seats eight \$119.50. Used in conjunction with standard drawer unit shown beside it, \$139, it serves as desk. Glass front cabinet, \$79.50.





REVIEWS

Coffee table (right) has insert copper plant pan which can also be used for bar accessories. Top is of lacquered celotex, resilient and pleasant in texture. End slot is for magazines. Top slides to reveal interior storage space, \$99.50.







Vanity (below) is leather covered, has storage unit at each end, illuminated frosted glass top, catching mirror, \$229.50.

Vanity (above, right) fits between any standard sectional pieces. Top is mirror backed, \$99.50. Drawer units, \$129.50.

Bed backs have padded headboards that pull out to tilt at any angle with storage space behind, \$119.50 ea. Bookcase, \$69.50.





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ARCHITECTURE-AN ART FOR ALL MEN-By Talbot Hamlin-Columbia University Press, New York-255 pp. Illustrated. 6 x 91/2-\$3.50.

REVIEWS

Usually, when an author has ground out anything as exhaustive and exhausting as a study of the history of architecture, he is inclined to regard it as incontrovertible, final and deathless. Not so Talbot Hamlin. Peering back thirty years at his Enjoyment of Architecture he decided that it no longer "served the purpose which engendered its writing." So, by way of remedy, while basking in tropical sunshine aboard a 24-ft. motor cruiser, he did a complete rewrite which now appears under the title, Architecture, an Art for All Men.

Though not stated in so many words, it seems safe to assume that this is a book intended for the uninitiate-laymen, students, etc. In purpose and tenor it can be compared with Mumford's Sticks and Stones and Whitaker's Rameses to Rockefeller, but whether or not it can achieve equal popularity and readership is more than dubious. The style, though less involved and pontifical than Mumford's, is equally wordy. Certainly, among the arts, architecture is most in need of an enlightened public relations job, but Mr. Hamlin's scholarly, academic mind unfortunately and inevitably stands between him and the public. This, therefore, makes it difficult to gauge the exact readership to which his book will appeal. Too generalized and elementary for use as a reference work for professionals, it is also too dry and indecisive for popular consumption. While the first chapter on the appeal of architecture is heartfelt and enthusiastic, the balance of the text fails to live up to it. However, two things in the organization of the material are very much to Mr. Hamlin's credit. First, he has refrained from treating periods in chronological order but stresses structural types and systems instead. Second, (Continued on page 132)

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Apartment House, 20 E. 74th St., New York City. Architect: Sylvan Bien, New York. Contractors: S. Minscoff & Sons, New York. Adapted from the original rendering in color by J. Floyd Yewell,

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REVIEWS

and more surprising, is the large amount of space devoted to ornamentation in architecture; a subject growing daily more important and more controversial among contemporary architects. Mr. Hamlin's approach to modern is detached and energetically unbiased-so much so that the most profound statement he seems to be able to make on the subject of modern ornamentation is: "The answer to the problem of modern decoration . . . seems to lie in finding a modern type of ornament fitted to our present life rather than a defeatist surrender to stark bareness. And the possibilities of such a form of decoration are still numerous . . . manufactured material imaginatively used-the sheen of metal, the bright transparency of glass, the rich color of tile, the brilliance of sheets of plastic . . . the creative decoration of the actual structural materials like that of the precast concrete blocks of some of Frank Lloyd Wright's California houses . . . the suave and continuous modulation of surfaces-in bands, channelings or reedings . . . the decorative use of sculpture and moral painting." Such observations, coupled with the author's pat design formulae, reveal an incomplete grasp of architectural evolution to date and its more pertinent problems. As though we were to continue forever building in the eclectic pattern of the twenties, he blandly outlines, for example, the possibilities of exterior moldings: "The string course may be used to express floor levels, or it may be used merely decoratively to cut the building into pleasing vertical relationships. There is often one above the first floor, to make the bottom stories count as a base, and one near the top of the building to form with the cornice and adequate crown; the shaft between is usually unbroken."

In summary, Mr. Hamlin's book largely misses the mark as an intelligent, perspicacious introduction to architecture. (Continued on page 136)



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It is essentially dull and practically void of any imagination which might inspire readers to further thought and investigation of their own. As for the illustrative material, this too is monotonously familiar and less forgivable in view of the fine documentation Mr. Hamlin managed to round up for his *Greek Revival Architecture in America* (FORUM, May '44)---M. S.

ON TRUST FOR THE NATION. By Clough Williams-Ellis. Paul Eleck, 38 Hatton Garden, London. 168 pp. Illustrated 7 in. $x 9\frac{1}{2}$ in. 25/.

Celebrating its Jubilee, Britain's National Trust for Places of Historic Interest and Natural Beauty has published a small volume explaining its scope and authority. Corresponding in function to our State and Federal Park Services, the Trust is not, however, a government agency but a "charity" entirely supported by voluntary contributions and managed by private individuals in the interest of the public. Dedicated to the preservation of beauty, this intimately written and illustrated book takes the reader from Northern Ireland past the Scottish border to Land's End and on to the beautiful Scilly Isles. Possessing over 115,000 acres and protecting by covenant almost half again as much, the Trust's responsibilities and achievements are enormous despite the fact that at present less than 230 Britishers per million are helping its work-no great recommendation to England's national pride. But Anglophiles everywhere share the author's expressed hope: "Anything that we may still have in the way of loveliness, whether natural or man made, has, since the Great Disaster, been multiplied many times in value, not only to ourselves but to the whole world-and especially to the young. These places must be jealously guarded so that they may abide as criteria of excellence by which may be gauged the new and different beauty we must create."-M.S.



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DINING SET builds into a 4 in. wall, saves floor space.

The Fain Foldinette is a complete dining set housed in a cabinet for installation in a standard 4-in. wall. Providing a new solution to the dining space problem, it is especially suitable for use in multiple housing units, small homes and other places with limited floor space. In addition, it can be used as a table or workbench in workshops, dens, childrens'



rooms, etc. When closed, Foldinette resembles a modern built-in cabinet. Open, it provides a table 32×48 in., and two double seats. The table can be used without the seats if desired, has a mar-proof, alcohol- and heat-proof, plastic top. Seats are designed and constructed to place their entire weight upon the floor. Installation of the unit is simple. The cabinet, 36 in. wie x 57 in. high, is recessed in a new wall simply by framing around the unit and fastening to studs and header. Cabinet can be refinished to match any color scheme.

Manufacturer: Sierra Wood Products, Inc., Pasadena, Calif.

ALUMINUM SURFACING MATERIALS insulate, require no maintenance, are easily applied.

Reynolds' line of Lifetime Aluminum Building Products include, among other surfacing materials, an individual roof shingle, a clapboard siding for residential construction and a weatherboard siding panel for home, farm or factory use. In addition to design features, these products provide permanent protection against weather, are fireproof, rustproof, impervious to rot, vermin and termites. They insulate by reflecting heat, require no painting, yet hold paint well if applied. The new roof shingle is designed with a deep shadow line. Formed edges raise it away from the roof sheathing to provide an insulating air space. Interlocking sides also form an air space which prevents capillary action of water between the shingles. The aluminum surface reflects as high as 95 per cent of radiant heat from either direction, thus helping to keep interiors cooler in summer and warmer in winter. Shingles are available in two sizes: 51/2 x 181/2 in., and 8 x 141/2 in., are self-aligning, easy to apply.



▶ Reynolds Clapboard Siding comes in plain or textured aluminum .032 in. thick. Formed with an 8 in. exposed surface and heavy shadow line, it is supplied in 12-ft. lengths which weigh 5 lbs. For installation, only a hammer, pliers, metal saw and miter box are necessary. It can be applied in courses around the house or on a single side at a time.

▶ Reynold's Weatherboard Siding comes in sheets crimped to look like clapboard. Easily and quickly applied, the sturdy new sheet is 53 per cent thicker than old fashioned 28-gauge galvanized. It is erected horizontally and has a 24 in. vertical coverage. Panel has 4 in. exposed clapboard surfaces, thick butt depth and prominent shadow lines. Weatherboard comes in 8 ft., 10 ft. and 12 ft. lengths. A 10 ft. length weighs less than 9 lbs.

Manufacturer: Reynolds Metals Co., Building Products Div., Louisville, Ky.

PREFABRICATED CELLAR STAIRS for exterior cellarway.

Bilco prefabricated steel cellar stair units consist of risers, treads and side walls for the cellarway. Assembled on the ground, slid into place and caulked along the seams, they provide an economical outside entrance to the cellar. According to the manufacturer, they transform a hole in the ground into an attractive cellar entrance in a fraction of the time and at far less cost than conventional concrete, cinder block, stone or brick construction. To install the unit in new homes, the builder need only leave an opening in the foundation wall and equip it with five anchor bolts on each side for fastening the side walls of the stairs. For existing homes that lack an outside cellar entrance, the unit can be used with a Bilco coppersteel outside cellar door to provide such an entrance.

Manufacturer: The Bilco Co., 164 Hallock Ave., New Haven, Conn.

WATERPROOF BRUSH COAT seals porous masonry materials in one coat.

Tamms Agraseal waterproof brush coat, a watertight material for coating cinder block, lightweight aggregate and concrete block surfaces, seals and decorates in one coat. It penetrates deep into surface pores and dries to establish a positive seal which withstands dampness, water, alkali, oil, sun, heat, frost, ice, etc. Available in white, ivory cream, light buff, natural stone grey, sunny yellow and light green, it is also decorative. According to the manufacturer, a second coat is necessary only when a stronger color value or a smoother finish is desired. Agraseal comes in powder form to be mixed with water and is easily applied with an ordinary scrub brush. One gallon covers 50 sq. ft. for the first coat, 100 to 150 sq. ft. for second coat.

Manufacturer: Tamms Silica Co., 228 N. La Salle St., Chicago, Ill.

WATERPROOFING COMPOUND for masonry materials decorates as it seals out dampness.

Available for national distribution after several years' trial in the east, Celadri is a guaranteed masonry waterproofing that decorates and seals out moisture in one operation. It is said to cost no more than a good grade of paint, yet to completely waterproof concrete, brick, stone, stucco and all porous masonry surfaces, inside or outside, above or below grade. According to its manufacturer, other features include easy application, fast drying and hardening to a rocklike consistency that will last the life of any surface except floors. Odorless, it will not peel or rub off. Celadri is available in snow white, buff, light and *(Continued on page 142)*



BRIXMENT Makes Good Workmanship EASIER!

The pictures below show an example of good workmanship — and of bad workmanship. They also explain why mortar such as Brixment makes it *easier* for the bricklayer to deliver good workmanship.

No. 2 OF A SERIES-

THE RIGHT WAY AND THE WRONG WAY-IN BED JOINTS

When absorbent brick are used, especially in hot weather, mortar should be spread out over only a few brick at a time. The brick should be placed on this mortar immediately, before it can stiffen.



The mortar should be spread over a few brick only.



So the mortar will still be soft and plastic when the brick are bedded.



Then the mortar will stick to the brick on top of it as well as to the brick below it.

BRIXMENT makes good workmanship *easier* because it holds its moisture longer than ordinary mortars, when spread out on the wall. This enables the bricklayer to properly bed the brick before the mortar has stiffened too much.

Brixment mortar has greater plasticity, higher water-retaining capacity and bonding quality, greater resistance to freezing and thawing, and freedom from efflorescence. Because of this combination of advantages, Brixment is the leading masonry cement on the market.

LOUISVILLE CEMENT COMPANY Incorporated LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY If the mortar is spread out too far, or if any delay occurs between spreading the mortar and placing the brick, the mortar will be sucked dry and will not stick to the brick placed on top of it.



Mortar for this bed joint was spread out on the wall too far.



So the mortar dried out too much before th next course of brick was placed on top of it.



Therefore the mortar did not stick to the to brick. A good bond was not secured.

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dark gray, blue, green and terra cotta, in 1 and 5 gal. containers. Coverage is approximately 100 sq. ft. per gallon. *Manufacturer:* Celadri Corp., 644 Willis Ave., Williston Park, N. Y.

MOISTURE- AND VAPOR-RESISTANT PAPER for use in building.

Presstite Barrier Paper is a high grade, tough kraft paper, saturated and coated with gilsonite, asphalt and wax compound. Moisture- and vapor-resistant, it is used as a moisture and vapor barrier in walls between sheathing and facing materials, under flooring and for roof decks. It also has application in the construction of locker plants and other cold storage areas to protect insulation against infiltration of moisture vapor. According to the manufacturer, Presstite Barrier Paper has withstood the most stringent tests and

AVAILABLE NOW FOR QUALITY BUILDINGS



Precision built of service-tested materials, the Weisway Standard model meets the quality requirements for master bathrooms or extra baths in homes of every size and type, as well as for hotels, clubs, apartments, hospitals, schools and public buildings. Walls are 14 B & S gauge aluminum alloy finished white baked-on enamel. Receptor of Armco Iron, one piece, vitreous porcelain enameled, jet black with Foot-Grip, No-Slip floor in textured green sea shell pattern. Available promptly, through established plumbing channels. Write for details.

HENRY WEIS MFG. CO., INC. 502 Weisway Building, Elkhart, Ind.



shows a moisture vapor transmission below .40 grams per 100 sq. in. for 24 hrs. Black in color, it has good flexibility, no odor and will not shrink after wetting. It is packed in rolls of 500 sq. ft. weighing approximately 35 lbs.

Manujacturer: Presstite Engineering Co., 3900 Chouteau Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

TIMBER CONNECTORS for economical secondary connections in wood framing.

Teco Trip-L-Grip framing anchors, timber connectors for use in home and light construction, develop both shear and tension. They increase rigidity around window and door openings and provide added strength in floor and wall framing. Laboratory tested at Georgia Tech, they are specified in joining joists

to beams, beams to posts, studs to sills, rafters to plates, studs to girts and other house framing connections. In addition, they can be used in farm buildings, prefabricated housing, timber trusses, form work, etc. According to the manufacturer, Trip-L-Grip anchors reduce framing costs by



eliminating conventional cumbersome and expensive framing methods. They replace the uncertainties of toe nailing, eliminate bridging in attaching joists on trusses and notching. They afford good wind anchorage by tying rafters tight. Made of 18-gauge zinc coated, corrosion-resistant sheet steel, connectors are available in three simple types. Each anchor has scientifically located nail holes and a large hole to permit spot nailing through a covering surface. Non-splitting full bodied nails that develop maximum shear without splitting the lumber are also supplied.

Manufacturer: Timber Engineering Co., 1319 18th St., N.W., Washington, D. C.

FIRE-RESISTIVE DRAPERY FABRICS approved for places of public assembly in New York City.

Plymouth Fire-Guard Fabrics are a new line of fire-resistive drapery and decorative fabrics for use in hotels, theaters, nightclubs, schools and the home. Woven of approximately 60 per cent Fiberglas and 40 per cent flameproofed cotton yarns, they drape in soft folds, do not stretch and are highly resistant to fading. They can easily be cut, sewed or ironed, and may be dry-cleaned by conventional processes without losing their fire-resistive quality. Tested by the Better Fabrics Testing Bureau and the Board of Standards and Appeals of New York City, the fabrics have been approved as fire resistive and acceptable for use in places of public assembly in New York City. They are available in a wide range of designs, colors and shades and, according to the manufacturer, are priced in line with other quality drapery fabrics. *Manufacturer:* Plymouth Fabrics, Fall River, Mass.

HOT WATER BOILERS for small homes, feature high rate of heat transfer, compact size, easy installation.

Compact in size and easily installed, Briggs gas-fired, hot water boilers are especially designed for the small house. With increased heat transfer surfaces and true counterflow design, they provide rapid heat transfer in a unit only 30 in. high and 18 in. wide. To achieve the fast heat absorption, the water leg of the boiler is divided into two thin channels by a steel baffle. This baffle is so *(Continued on page 144)*



A STORY FOR ARCHITECTS AND DECORATORS from McGuffy's ancient "First Reader"

It seems the bus boy persuaded the chef to let him sculp a lion out of butter for a centerpiece. When the prince saw the masterpiece he said "Junior, you are too good to waste your skill on ephemeral butter, and you shall carve lions in stone to flank my drawbridge and I shall pay you well."

Most modern decorative materials are more substantial than butter, but your skill is largely wasted on some of them. Why?

Often the colorful surfaces you create receive hard usage. They receive poor upkeep, infrequent renewal, and scant cleaning. Sometimes they fade. A few years after you finish a building it has lost the colors you gave it, and it doesn't give a prospective client the right impression of your artistry.

Such things can't happen to a Formica surface. Formica is as hard and smooth as a china dish. It cleans as easily. It will not chip, crack, check, or blister. Food and alcohol and cigarettes won't damage it. It sheds dirt. The lovely colors never fade. Simple cleaning brings out their pristine richness after decades of use.



BUILDING REPORTER

installed as to allow water return connection to be placed high on the water leg, thus giving a true counterflow on return water from the radiators. A



spiral ring is installed in connection with the high return and water leg baffle in order to speed the flow and obtain percolator action of return water. This counterflow design, according to the manufacturer, speeds up circulation in the boiler to a point about five times as fast as conventional hot water boilers with low

return water inlet. The Briggs Boiler, weighing slightly more than 200 lbs., can be installed by a mechanic and helper in



To the home-owner, good water means less work, fewer plumbing repairs, better operation of all water-using home appliances. To business and industry, it means less waste, lower operating costs. To the *builder*, however, good water means goodwill!

Where local water conditions are poor, you can provide soft, clear water easily with Permutit[®] Water Conditioning. Modern, automatic Permutit equipment is as much at home today in private dwellings as in hospitals, laundries, restaurants, and industrial plants.

So when you build, build for the *future*. Include Permutit in your plans. It's a relatively small investment that will pay you big dividends. Write for particulars to The Permutit Company, Dept. AF-5, 330 West 42nd Street, New York 18, N. Y. or Permutit Co. of Canada, Ltd., Montreal.

*Trademark Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.



one day. It requires only the water supply and general hook-up to place in operation. Fully tested, it is reported to show outstanding results in fuel economies. Boiler comes in two capacities, 75,000 B.T.U. and 55,000 B.T.U. Domestic hot water coil is available for all year hot water supply. *Manufacturer:* The Briggs Filtration Co., Bethesda, Md.

COMBINATION AIR-CONDITIONING AND LIGHTING UNIT for offices, stores, small factories and homes.

Resembling an indirect lighting fixture, Luminaire is a combination room air conditioner and fluorescent lighting unit. It provides general illumination; dehumidifies, cools and circulates air by thermostatic control. The insulated dome, in addition to housing the fluorescent lighting unit on top, contains the cooling coils, circulating fan, inlet and outlet louvers. The insulated base houses the automatic, semi-hermetic condensing unit, $\frac{1}{2}$ h.p. electric motor, controls and other essentials for the air conditioning operation. Luminaire utilizes



the water-cooled principle, the same method employed in larger industrial air conditioners. Air flows out over the cooling coils at low velocity which increases the cooling capacity and eliminates drafts. Total cooling capacity is 400 sq. ft. regardless of ceiling height. As the unit cools only the living or occupancy level, the manufacturer states that operating costs are cut to a minimum. Dehumidification tests prove the unit capable of removing moisture from the air at the rate of 5 gals. every 24 hrs. at 90 degrees DB and 75 degrees WB. Luminaire is installed by tying into the nearest water and drain connections and plugging into existing electric outlets. It is suitable for use in offices, stores, small factories and homes, can be equipped with a Sterilamp to provide air sterilization if desired. The unit is 69 in. tall with a 23 in. diameter base, uses Freon refrigerant.

Distributor: Parlong Air Conditioning Corp., 344 Washington Building, Washington, D. C.

ELECTRIC RANGE LINE features new design and construction.

Frigidaire's 1947 line of electric household ranges includes five streamlined models, new in design and construction. Finished inside and out in porcelain, they have one-piece, roll-front, steel cooking tops (Continued on page 146)



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which sweep from the back across the surface and over the switches at the front. End panels are removable and interchangeable. All except the lowest price models have a fullwidth utensil drawer. Cooking features of the new ranges include: three fast-heating surface units, double-duty deep well cooker, automatic oven-timer, time signal and large oven with waist high broiler. The line incorporates two automatic DeLuxe models, one with two complete ovens; an automatic model of conventional one-oven design and two lower priced ranges.

Manufacturer: Frigidaire Division, General Motors Corp., 300 Taylor St., Dayton, Ohio.

ELECTRIC RANGE LINE designed for better cooking and greater comfort.

Hotpoint's four postwar range models incorporate new engi-



neering advances for better cooking and greater comfort. The Calrod unit has been redesigned with smaller diameter which permits more turns of Calrod per unit and increased contact with the cooking vessel. Calrod units have also been hinged to permit easy removal of reflector pan for cleaning. The 6 qt. Thrift-Cooker, when not in use, can be stored in the range's utility drawer, and the heating unit raised to operate as a fourth surface unit. Oven capacity has been increased 25 per cent by a "sealed heat" construction which places the Calrod unit outside the oven lining. An electric oven-timing clock automatically controls temperature and time, turns oven on and off. Other features of the line include: smokeless broiler, cast aluminum grill for surface cooking or broiling, and fluorescent lighting across back-splasher. In addition to a top model, RC10, the line includes two standard-size ranges with fewer accessories, and an apartment house size.

Manufacturer: Hotpoint Inc., 5600 W. Taylor St., Chicago, Ill.



PORTABLE ELECTRIC REFRIGERATOR for hotel room, office, cottage or nursery use.

Freez-Pak is a compact, lightweight, 2½ cu. ft. portable electric refrigerator designed for use in home bars, hotel rooms, offices, summer cottages, nurseries and other places demanding refrigeration. Measuring only 22 in. high, 28 in. long, 16 in. deep and weighing only 55 lbs., it operates on either AC or DC. It has an 11-lb. ice capacity or space for eight standard ice trays, and requires no defrosting due to the incorporation of a cold plate. Other features of the refrigerator include a readily accessible open type unit, a Ranco control and nickel-plate shelves. Freez-Pak is constructed with an aluminum inner and outer shell, insulated with 2 in. of Fiberglas, and is available in eight color combinations. It will be in full production by June, will retail for about \$129.50. Manufacturer: Freez-Pak Corp., Royersford, Pa.

UTILITY PAD for mounting all types of machinery, incorporates ribbed construction to give resilience.

For use under all types and sizes of equipment as mounting pads or vibration absorbers, MB Isomode pads absorb impact, reduce noise and hold machinery in place. Effective and inexpensive utility pads, they are made of live, oil-resistant

Neoprene, compounded to insure ruggedness, high efficiency and long life. Ribbed construction gives the resilience required for general application. Used with rigidly attached machines,



the pad absorbs all frame and foundation stresses present during operation. As a mounting pad it permits immediate relocation of equipment whenever desired. By eliminating the need for hold-down bolts, skids, concrete mats or grouting, it reduces cost and time required for installing or removing machinery. Standard pads are 18 in. sq., 5/16 in. thick, can be easily cut to any size or shape desired.

Manufacturer: The MB Manufacturing Co., Inc., 1060 State St., New Haven, Conn. (Technical Literature, page 150)

FOR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS ... FOR FARM AND HOME!

Weatherboard Siding. Crimped like 4.in. clapboard. 8, 10, 12. ft. lengths; 24" coverage.

Shingles. Interlocking, weat

"Snap-Seal" Roofing. Sheets in:

terlock covering all nails. 6, 8, 10, 12-ft. lengths; 24" coverage.

tight, covering all nails. Two sizes: 8x141/2 and 51/2x181/2.

Who Says You Can't Get **Good Siding Now?** - All you want! Shipped within 24 hours!

It could have happened to you. Many a home-planner accepted this new Reynolds clapboard to meet an emergency... then found it wasn't just a substitute, but something new and better.

Now, architects everywhere specify it for new straight-line perfection, never warping, never sagging ... for lifetime permanence that defies fire, rust, rot, termites...for extra insula-

tion through radiant heat reflection! Builders are talking about the easy application of this light-weight, selfaligning clapboard ... its snug, weathertight fit... the simple, practically in-



visible butt joints and handsome corner finish.

Your supplier can take advantage of quick deliveries and low price on mixed carload orders. But time's a-wasting! National advertising and promotion is building demand among your own clients. Write, wire or phone for detailed literature ... offices in principal cities. Reynolds Metals Company, Building Products Division, Louisville







IT'S NEAT-AND COMPLETE ...



Details are important when you're making a little living space do a BIG job. For example, a raceway for telephone wires will more than justify its small extra cost.

It will avoid exposed telephone wires on attractive walls and woodwork. It will provide the owner with handy, built-in outlets for future telephones.

In homes without basements, wiring channels should be installed before the floors are laid and walls are finished. Otherwise, it may not be possible later on to conceal the telephone wiring.

Your Bell Telephone Company will be glad to help you plan telephone wiring facilities for small homes as well as larger ones. Just call your Telephone Business Office and ask for "Architects and Builders Service."

BELL TELEPHONE SYSTE



THE MOST COMPLETE LI **OF HEATING SPECIALTIES**

> It's smart business to concentrate on Hoffman Specialties . . . it's the only line that offers all these satisfaction guarantees. It's the complete line. For either steam or hot water installations, Hoffman Specialties provide a single source of supply for all necessary equipment. It's the tested, quality line. Hoffman superiorities of design, workmanship and dependability are well established. Yet Hoffman



Products cost no more than the ordinary kind. Hoffman Specialties are han-

dled through recognized heating and plumbing wholesalers throughout the country. There is always a stock at a convenient location. Hoffman sales-engineers are ready to serve you.

HOFFMAN SPECIALTY CO., INC., Dept. AF 5, 1001 York St., Indianapolis 7 Ind.

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FORCED HOT WATER HEATING SYSTEM CONTROLS



Series 90 Comfort Controller balances supply water tem-perature to outdoor



lates water through the system-provides smooth, uniform comfort.

CONDENSATION AND VACUUM PUMPS



Hoffman-Economy Pumps, both Vacuum and Condensation types, have established a sound reputation with exacting engineers for their ability to keep a heating plant clear of condensate and air—quietly, economically and dependably.



Low, Medium and High Pressure Traps have renewable thermal units and seats-assuring long life, low cost service.

SUPPLY VALVES



....

Reinforced Packless construction, with reversible cone disc, and in wide selection of patterns.

FLOAT AND THERMOSTATIC



All working parts are mounted on the cover and readily accessible without breaking pipe connections.

TRAPS

AND INVERTED **BUCKET TRAPS**

Bucket, valve and seat con nected to bonnet and removed with it for cleaning, Straightthrough pipe connections. Working pressures to 200 lbs.





..................

verters, cookers, plating tanks, processing tanks, sterilizers, fuel-oil pre-heaters, etc.

HOFFMAN HEATING SPECIALTIES ARE SOLD EVERYWHERE BY LEADING WHOLESALERS OF HEATING EQUIPMENT

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TECHNICAL LITERATURE



ESCALATORS. Otis Escalators. Otis Elevator Co., 260 Eleventh Ave., New York. 22 pp. 81/2 in. by 11 in.

Written for prospective purchasers of escalators, this nontechnical brochure presents facts about Otis Escalators. Starting with a brief history of mechanically driven moving stairways, it discusses such subjects as location, maintenance and safety of escalators. A double-spread cross-section detail fully illustrates the conveyor's moving parts. Other sections include illustrations and explanations of the driving mechanism and running gear, and photographs showing installation in various types of buildings.

WATER REPELLENT TREATMENT. Hydrocide Colorless. L. Sonneborn Sons, Inc. 88 Lexington Ave., New York, N. Y. 4 pp. 81/2 in. x 11 in.

Folder describes the advantages of Hydrocide Colorless, an



invisible water repellent treatment for exterior concrete and masonry building walls above grade. It includes general information, comparative test data, application methods and coverage figures.

ROOFING-SIDING-INSULATION. Flintkote Building Materials. The Flintkote Co., 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N. Y. 14 pp. 81/2 in. x 11 in.

Information on Flintkote's line of roofing, siding and insulation materials is presented in this brochure. General descriptions, advantages, uses, application data, sizes, weights, colors, etc. are included for the following products: asphalt strip shingles, individual asphalt shingles, asbestos-cement shingles, asbestos-cement sidings, insulated sidings, built-up roofing, roll roofings and sidings, decorative insulation board, structural insulation board and insulating wool. Dimensioned patterns, colored photographs and installation pictures amplify the text.

FLOORING. Concrete Floors Designed for Comfort. The John B. Pierce Foundation, Raritan, N. J. 12 pp. 81/2 in. x 11 in. Price \$.35.

This booklet describes Comfort-Concrete, a new type of concrete flooring for low cost housing, farm service buildings and some types of industrial and commercial structures. Developed by Pierce Foundation as a public service, the formula for the new mix that absorbs 90 per cent of impact and is considerably drier and warmer than regular concrete, is here presented. Booklet outlines advantages, uses, mixing technique, pouring procedure, physical properties, test data etc. It also includes an illustrated, technical article entitled "Concrete Flooring with Asphalt Admixture" by F. O. Anderegg, Director of Building Materials Research, John B. Pierce Foundation.

GLASS. Pittsburgh Data Sheet Handbook. Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., Pittsburgh Corning Corp., 632 Duquesne Way, Pittsburgh, Pa. 72 pp. 4 9/16 in. x 7 $\frac{1}{9}$ in.

New edition of the Pittsburgh Data Sheet Handbook contains complete information on the various glass, paint and metal products of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., as well as products of the Pittsburgh Corning Corp. Covering all the advances made during the war years, it gives concise factual data on the various products together with installation procedures. Products covered include: Pennvernon Window Glass; Plate Glasses; Twindow Insulating Units; Herculite Heat Tempered Glass Doors; Mirrors; Carrara Structural Glass; Pittco Store Front Metal; PC Glass Blocks; PC Architectural Glass, Figured and Ornamental Glass, as well as general information on how to specify the various types of glass. A special section is devoted to paints showing modern paint practices and specifications. Data on the Twindow Insulating Unit includes charts on thermal conductivity, types and sizes of units and recommended installation practices. Handbook is made up of a handy pocket-size loose leaf folder containing individual sections, and is indexed for ready reference.

UTILITY UNIT. A Selection of Plans For Small Homes and Apartments Using The Ingersoll Utility Unit. Ingersoll Steel Division, Borg-Warner Corp., 310 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, III. 16 pp. 81/2 in. by 11 in.

This collection of small house and apartment plans is intended to demonstrate the complete versatility and practicability of the Ingersoll Utility Unit in a wide variety of homes and apartments. Text briefly describes the unit. Many plans offer suggestions on how the unit may be incorporated in various types of medium and low cost housing, multiple dwellings, 10 and 18 unit apartments. (Continued on page 154)

There is no substitute for TRUE CHURCH TONE

or for the glories of majestic Organ Ensemble ...

AN organ, like an orchestra, achieves its fullest-glory when all its voices are blended into one brilliant ensemble. This is particularly important in church music, to produce the soulstirring inspiration of a majestic processional or a triumphant hymn.

The new Wurlitzer Organ provides a magnificently beautiful ensemble from both manuals and pedal. Each individual tone contributes its harmonious part to produce a superb tonal climax comparable only to the traditional pipe organ. This glorious effect may be achieved gradually, through the use of stop tablets or the Crescendo pedal; or the organist may change *instantly* from any group of stops to full organ merely by pressing a combination piston.

For more detailed description of the Wurlitzer Organ-Music's Richest Voice-write Dept. FO-5, The Rudolph Wurlitzer Co., Organ Division, N. Tonawanda, N. Y.

> The WURLITZER ORGAN Series 20 Two-Manual



ONLY THE SPEAKMAN ANYSTREAM

is three different showers in one. A turn of the lever and it delivers



REGULAR SPRAY for relaxation

NEEDLEPOINT SPRAY for

stimulation . . .

or FLOOD SPRAY for a no-splash rinse. No wonder it's

the choice of architects for installations calling for the latest refinements.



Speakman makes a wide variety of showers and shower heads to meet different requirements. Shown here is the Speakman Commander Exposed Two-Valve Shower (S-1160). The Anystream Shower Head shown is the school and institution type, equipped with the lock-shield control, operated with a special key. A lock-screw prevents malicious removal. Like all Speakman plumbing fixtures, the Anystream Shower Head is rugged in construction. In the FLOOD position, the Anystream is self-cleaning thus eliminating a major source of trouble and maintenance expense. With all Speakman Showers and Fixtures, repairs may be made quickly and inexpensively, when—after long service—normal wear takes place.

Speakman Showers and Fixtures are distributed nationally through plumbing supply dealers and plumbing contractors.







AVAILABLE NOW! NEW WAYS TO MORE EFFICIENT ROOFS!

Here's extra shipping, packing and storage space...one sample of the more productive use of roof areas made possible now by new Ruberoid specifications!

R^{OOFS LIKE THIS are typical of the modern, functional utilization of an area that formerly went to waste. The factory roof illustrated here has a husky concrete surface for heavy traffic and storage. Other related possibilities are hospitals with outdoor decks for convalescents, apartment houses with gardened roofs, department stores with recreational roofs for employees.}

These are "roofs of the future," but recently evolved Ruberoid specifications make them completely possible *today!* As worked out by Ruberoid engineers, these new roofs are not impractical dreams, but thoroughly tested, down-to-earth certainties! Full details of these and other developments are available from the Ruberoid Company or from your local Ruberoid Approved Roofer. Call on your Ruberoid Roofer for help in the solution of any roof problem. His "know-how" is backed by Ruberoid's years of experience and complete line of all types of roofing materials!

The RUBEROID Co.

Executive Offices: 500 Fifth Ave., N. Y. 18, N. Y. Asphalt and Asbestos Building Materials

The RIGHT roof for any job-from one source!



Remember that Ruberoid makes every type of built-up roof-Smooth Surfaced Asbestos, Coal Tar Pitch with gravel or slag surfacing, or smooth or gravel-and-slag surfaced Asphaltin specifications to meet any need. Hence a Ruberoid Approved Roofer is not prejudiced in favor of any one type. His services assure you of one source for all materials, centralized responsibility, smoother operation, uniform quality!



Put these patented, soundly engineered values behind your own good name

It is true that all flush doors can be made to look alike — but it's what is inside that counts. Beneath the beautiful matched veneers of the $1-\frac{3}{4}$ " Paine Rezo door, prefitted to exact size, is the vital air-cell core, an open, channeled "breathing space" for övercoming humidity. This patented, cross-braced ventilated construction feature holds checking, swelling, warping to an absolute minimum. In addition the air-cell core adds great strength to lightness in weight. This trouble-free performance means longer service life, easier operation, and more satisfaction to your client over the years.

On the market since 1935, these original hollow core doors have proved themselves in over 2,000,000 installations in all parts of the country.* They will be a lasting credit to any building you design. Specify them by hame as Paine Rezo; write for a factual, detailed architects bulletin.

*Because of production limitations, Rezo doors cannot yet be shipped to the Pacific Coast.



TECHNICAL LITERATURE

SPACE HEATERS. Dravo Counterflo, An Outstanding Development in Open Space Heating. Bulletin 516. Dravo Corp., 300 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 12 pp. 81/2 in. x 11 in.

Features and advantages of the Dravo Counterflo Heater, a direct-fired unit heater for industrial and commercial use, are elaborately treated in this bulletin. Text discusses the unit's design and distribution, stainless steel combustion chamber, efficient combustion by the Counterflo method and ready fuel convertibility from oil to gas and vice versa. Other sections stress safety factors, flexibility of application, ease of installation, advantages of the Dravo Heater over other types of systems, specifications, etc. A large cut-away section of the heating unit locates 18 various heater parts and gives their features. These features are titled, "18 reasons why the Dravo Counterflo Heater is superior for open space heating."

HOME FREEZERS. The Home Freezer Handbook by Gerald J. Stout. D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., 250 Fourth Ave., New York, N. Y. 345 pp. 534 in. x 834 in. Price \$3.95.

This handbook gives practical information on home freezing, discussing and describing every operation from food preparation to freezer construction. Carefully tested, step-by-step directions fully explain procedures. Many photographs, drawings and plans amplify the text. Organized into six sections, the book opens with discussions of freezer uses in the future, how to figure freezer requirements for a family, cost of frozen foods and advantages of building a freezer. It then gives detailed directions not only for choosing the size and type of ready-built freezer best suited to individual requirements but also for building a home freezing unit. The section on home freezer construction discusses location, materials needed, types of freezers, etc.; (Continued on page 158)



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WASHROOMS. Scott Washroom Advisory Service, Third Edition. Scott Paper Co., Chester, Pa. 24 pp. 107_8 in. by 81_2 in.

To indicate how every type of building can benefit from the Scott Washroom Advisory Service, this brochure presents suggestions for washroom, locker and lounge room planning. Listing the desired highlights for well planned personal services, it includes typical layouts for small and large plant lockers and washrooms, large plant recreation rooms, school washrooms, women's lounge, lockers, etc. Other sections are devoted to a discussion of supply closets, correct placement of fixtures, elevations of a modern washroom and a presentation of Scott fixtures. In addition to covering ways in which careful planning promotes health and good will of washroom users, the booklet describes the services of the Scott Washroom Advisory Service to architects.

RECREATION ROOMS. Ideas for Playroom Planning. The Heil Co., 3000 W. Montana St., Milwaukee, Wis. 22 pp. 81/2 in. by 11 in. Price \$.10.

This booklet features a diversified collection of basement recreation room designs, suggestions and plans. Stressing the fact that automatic heating makes basement playroom design practicable, various Heil heating units are illustrated and described. A basement planning kit which contains a ruled layout sheet and a set of scaled basement and playroom appointment cut-outs is also included. (Continued on page 162)



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A. STEPHENS, designer, 2037 Claudina Ave., Los Angeles 16, Calif. HEINRICH H. WAECHTER, architect, 10 Lothian Road, Brighton 35, Mass.

R. L. ZERWER, builder, 10556 Ayres Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

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MORRIS M. ARNOLD, architectural student, 334 Helen St., Cincinnati, Ohio, requests information on materials and equipment applicable to modern homes, apartments, museums, libraries and public buildings.

DURISOL INC., lightweight building material manufacturer, 420-Lexington Ave., New York, N. Y., desires information on building materials and industrial equipment.

INDIA WATERPROOFING Co. Hassan Chambers, Parsi Bazar St., Fort, Bombay, India, desires to contact manufacturers of structural waterproofing materials with view to sales representation.

K. M. JENSEN Co., architectural, commercial and decorative design, 310 Stewart Ave., Ithca, N. Y., requests information and literature on products which may be used for interior decorative effects. (Continued on page 166)



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N. SANDERS, student, 3 Lee Road, Greenford, Middlesex, London, England, desires information on architectural uses of glass, artificial lighting and the use of color in buildings.

ELWOOD D. SUTHERLIN, JR., construction engineer, 230 N.W. 30th St., Miami, Fla., desires literature and information on materials and equipment for church construction.

H. WAECHTER, architect, 10 Lothian Road, Brighton 35, Mass., desires information for architect in Turkey on new building materials and equipment suitable for export.

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The Martha Washington by ELJER



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