IN QUEST OF EUTOPIA

By FRANK WALKER, F.A.I.A.

An address before the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A., on February 28, 1947

I have been asked to talk about contemporary architecture and, in thinking over the subject, I came to the conclusion that I was less interested in its details and much more interested in its reasons for being and—later in its position in our lives. If I have a theme at all which I might put briefly, it is as follows: All life is lived; all art is created within a convention of kind which can in turn be either stultifying or exist as a background and stimulus to invention.

Lately, I have been reading a great many "Utopias" and the ideas expressed in them have struck me as being generally indicative more of a hoped for heaven than of a realizable earth. I have been amused to discover that by merely adding the letter "o" to the word U.T.O.P.I.A., its entire meaning is changed. At least so Greek scholars tell me. And so the word Utopia which means actually "not place" becomes much more interesting with its other spelling, i.e. E.U.T.O.P.I.A. or "good place."

This explains much to me for in the Utopias—the "not places"—the leading thinkers of the world have placed their dreams of a better society and largely because, however, the world has realized that, indeed, they are "not places," it has not bothered much to seek them out. Whether the addition of that single letter—changing the meaning to "good place"—would have also changed its influence one can hardly guess.

But through long history as each new philosopher has added his "not place" to the list—from Plato's "Republic" through Moore's "Utopia," to Bellamy's "Looking Backward," they have generally found them by clever fictionized travellers' accident or as the result of some mysterious coma, they always tend to go forward by coma, the comas tend to go forward by looking backward. Each time the world of intelligence, at least, has learned that one more influential thinker believes the society in which he lives can be bettered.

It is historically true that man has got himself continuously into urban chaos, for no sooner does a civilization develop to a point where most of its contributing population becomes thoroughly urbanized than the faults of its social life become glaringly apparent. Most of the causes which underlie the writing of Utopias have had their basis in the conscious knowledge that world cities, especially, so congest their population, so increase the nervous tension of living, that they cause, finally, complete physical and cultural sterility; that the more the city becomes a megalopolis the more strongly becomes, in contrast, the very decline of the civilization itself—that as it constructs its most powerful, its greatest form it has already begun to decay.

The problems facing our American way of life are similar, for we too are faced with the same desires and the same difficulties which have affected every civilization in the past and these, moreover, have been accelerated by forces which in their very nature would have seemed to have made possible a larger individual independence and a more understanding development of an urban form—one which might avoid the severities so evident in the civilizations engendered by past city forms.

As every "Utopia" must have had its contrasts, so now permit me to build up for you a dismal picture of our society so that you will recognize a "Eutopia" when you see one.

It is necessary here to note that our civilization begins to show signs of urban sickness; for our people who were once self-reliant, producing and checking adequate leadership have now become supine and are becoming, rapidly, unable to meet the diverse conditions which confront them. The pioneer civilization of America finding no further physical frontiers, no new natural resources for easy exploitation, but an intensification of centralized production of useful and useless products alike, becomes nervous and concerned for its security and therefore no longer faces the world with the same self-assurance. A people no longer connected directly with the land and becoming increasingly urbanized has come, also, to look for "master men" to solve their difficulties—difficulties which are largely psychological and which have been increasingly stressed during the past decade, especially, for the political advantage of a party in power.

Our civilization needs diagnosis for we do not have any confidence in our educational system nor in our teachers. It is a world of false values for it is willing to pay the unskilled more than the well trained. It is a world in which competent teachers and librarians, for example, are paid less than the street cleaners and bar...
WALKER—(from Page 1)
tenders. It is a world in which the com-
mon man, wholly on the specious theory
that there are more of him, is in the
ascendant over the uncommon man.

It is a world in which the average work-
man no longer cares, for according to a
recent Gallup survey—although the ma-
jority do not believe that hard work or skill pays in
attaining future benefits and always these
considered benefits are thought of as being monetary.
For work has become a task impersonal in character, performed
in gargantuan places. We are, therefore,
now developing the terrifying aesthetic of the
common man in which there is the
loss of a refining quality of selection.

The world is controlled by the aesthetics
of non-selection, the acceptance of the
rough swawn, the run of the mill—a satisfac-
tion in the steel pipe because it is steelply,
plywood used indiscriminately. All
work has acquired a lowering of accept-
ance standards, a constant acceptance of
the idea "what's good enough".

Our civilization is sick because it does
not produce an art of its own—you might
say that America has never produced its
art—yet it now seeks for a cultural
expression it no longer can find in its
European past—within primitive cultures.
It seems to gain present robustness only
by an imitation of savage brutality. I have
t long thought that the rejection by the
people of America of the Chicago School
of Architecture as it appeared in the 1880's
was not so much a rejection of a Nouveau
civilization; not so much the "hanging on
to" of European home traditions as much
as it was a subconscious appreciation that
it did not in itself offer enough. That we
in America needed much more because,
for a people rich in skills and resources,
offered too little opportunity for leisurely
enjoyment. It was too austere and en-
tirely without grace.

It was like the large factories, much too
efficient, much too practical. Lewis Mum-
ford in "The Golden Day" sensed that qual-
ity in this thought—"In the bareness of the
Protestant Cathedral of Geneva one can
see the beginnings of that hard-barracked ar-
chitecture which formed the stone tem-
enies of Seventeenth Century Edinburgh,
set a pattern for the austere meeting houses of
New England, and finally deteriorated into the miserable shanties that line Main
Street. The Chicago Exposition in 1893
offered them an opportunity to exploit
skills and techniques which they thought
would lead to a fuller life. That it too
was mere imitation of past grandeur is
ture but at least it was in line with the
best of the European background from
which our civilization was nurtured and
more, one which offered a great variety in
possibility of resource uses. It is in-
teresting to observe that at the same
time there was an increase in the conscious-
ness of the need for a richer architecture
and "the city beautiful," America also be-
came aware, socially, of the "city beauti-
fled which the middle civilization was producing; i.e., we see the development of the
settlement house, going along with the
city improvement society.

No lovers, not matter how ugly them-
selves, except to procreate and birth an
ugly child. Where ugliness comes, there
is regret and sorrow; although love may
find beauty even in deformity. Perhaps
that is why the city planners who think
efficiency of finance, of sanitation, four
leaf clovers, etc. find the aesthetics of city
design unnecessary—unfortunately, for
their ugly ducklings have, so rarely in our
times, become swans.

There can be no true urban efficiency
without beauty. The materialistic city will
fall largely in that it is not sufficiently ef-
ficient in relation to man's emotional needs.
The sign world is not organizing a society in
which culture can grow on a wide basis
because we are spending and will contin-
ue to spend most of our efforts on engines
and agencies of destruction. In a world
rich in natural resources, rich in scientific
invention, we continue to demand our liv-
ing with abject paraphernalia and a squar-
rel about theories rather than methods. At this moment we
are taxing ourselves to maintain a war
budget many times greater than the whole
national budget of 1928. In a world in-
terested in "good places," we should be
turning this expenditure to the creation of
life's necessities.

We know little of our own cultural back-
ground. We are vastly ignorant of the
culture of other peoples. With great toys
in our hands, (which if let go will boomer-
ang to destroy us), we face out into
chaos with the inferiority情 children.

We are going through without much con-
scious understanding of the ways in which
they took their form, without much pro-
phesy as to what these ways will mean in
the future. And, besides, these city forms
are increasingly raising the contrast
questions of self-reliance and an increase
in income possibility to maintain them.
There are lessons to be learned in the
waste and non-production of urban play—
for work, as play has largely disappeared
under the great housing developments with
their lack of individual tenant responsibil-
ity. The "vertical garden city" is an an-
achronism for who finally pays for the
work to be done on the large areas of
unoccupied urban lands. It will be performed
by the draft labor or an increased
income burden to the common man—the
worker. It is even now evident that the
costs of the City's physical services have
reduced the amount of space allotted to
simple emotions.

A "Cassandra like" Will Rogers merely
by reading the newspapers could with little
difficulty add further notes of chaos, frus-
tration and increasing tension that would
be not only urban, but country-wide and
international as well.

The city grew up when the first settlers
landed on the heavily wooded shores of the
Atlantic seaboard (so heavily forested,
in fact, that most communication between
the settlements was difficult and held
largely by water: the few animal and na-
tive Indian trails being practically impos-
sible to follow), the Ameri-
can community has been a town without
walls. The log palisades soon rotted away
as the settlers pushed their way across the
Atlantic coastal plain. America was the
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and the continuing necessary invention with which to meet the needs of tomorrow. This necessity for invention in the modern world is vital because if you change the climate in which it breeds a painfully built civilization will fail. As you will remember, in sharp contrast invention in the form of Radar and the Spitfires recently saved one from defeat.

Too much modern thinking about architecture has the strength of dogma—and unfortunately achieves therein but a poverty of motif and finally only a richness in monotony). The present battle therefore would seem to be against a new academy—a new conservative group of values. A group of values often neo-romantic rather than truth seeking.

And yet a certain stability in value is necessary; for culture itself has as a broad definition the organization of values in human society. Even in these days of smaller and madder universes there still may be psychological differences between the qualities expressed in an aeroplane, for example, and those in a shelter to be occupied as a home. There may be even a different basis of definition as to what is the fundamental economy which is the determinant of each.

The very reasons for success in the mass production of one may be why it does not solve the other. Most mass produced objects are faced almost immediately with swift obsolescence. Our world is posed with the problem of how this rapid rate of obsolescence can be adjusted to our real needs and how it is possible that a fundamental part of our social background may be given stability.

Heretofore in human experience the home has been thought of as stable. It is to be wondered whether the curve of civilization does not rise and fall on the degree of that stability.

One other consideration—because it will determine the civilization which we are building. More and more the statement is made that IT, meaning some government, generally either the state or the Federal government, should do something about it—meaning housing, the wages paid school teachers, the deficits due to the present unequal tax assessments affecting our pocketbooks all up and down the line. Now government should not be an abstraction. It is really an agreement between you and me—that we will cooperate in preserving each other's efforts rather than indulging in a primitive desire to destroy them. Laws are merely contracts between us to further that end. Each of us has an individual responsibility to make in these agreements—these contracts work. We may not ever in a responsible society believe that government, i.e., you and me, really owes anyone a living or a shelter for which our responsible individual effort has not been made.

Any society that forgets these simple fundamentals of individual responsibility is definitely on the way to "bread and circuses." Government then may only be thought of in its relation to a fundamental individual will within collective effort. Now this concept is important to remember because I believe that ways of life and the character of architecture and the enveloping city have strong interrelationships.

As a man walks in space he separates that space to meet his many requirements. He builds a fence, he erects a wall; if these are without joy he has enslaved himself. If he has become enslaved his architecture will be largely and surely utilitarian and of course not a great show of stink symbolism as his masters make strong their position. For masters, too, need symbolism to enforce their force—i.e., with stark symbolism on the tank, on the airplane, on the grim barracks where the police live.

The architecture of the European modernist prophesied this in the twenties during the rise of totalitarianism. This grim architecture with its lack of joy, in its very starkness foreshadowed our present world difficulties for it accompanied the rise of a servile state of man: which, too, was considered to be universal and to last a thousand years. In direct opposition I believe the following: "One of the tests of cultural adequacy is the diminution of the formal control aspects of culture—No group life is possible without social control. But in an adequately organized society control is automatic and informal—dependent upon conscience and inner compulsion not on force and brutality. An adequate culture is not based on fear but on utility. Where formal control predominates witch hunting is essential."*

My quest is for a rich life and one lacking in dogmatic monotony, and I believe because I have been saying it since 1930 when I made an intensive study of an architectural revolution throughout Europe I repeat. I believe the following: "One of the tests of cultural adequacy is the diminution of the formal control aspects of culture—No group life is possible without social control. But in an adequately organized society control is automatic and informal—dependent upon conscience and inner compulsion not on force and brutality. An adequate culture is not based on fear but on utility. Where formal control predominates witch hunting is essential."**

*Author unknown.

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land of rich opportunity but its culture roots were firm in the European lands from which the settlers came and to which they went their wealth for fine manufactured articles—making for better living amenities, amenities still to be observed in large and small houses alike; and doubly so in their fittings.

America was the natural home of Eutopia. We were a great land uninhabited except by natural and primitive man. Here pioneers could make a new world. In the widely separated settlements, in the different viewpoints, there was a community life accompanied at the same time by individual life as trappers and lone farmers.

It was perfectly natural, therefore, that the community form here in America became loosely knit, the city growing not in the concentric rings of the continental model but in far-reaching ganglia. There is more resemblance between the American city growth and the English city; in fact the expansive urge of the English colonizing adventurer has given a great deal of character to the way in which our country and our cities developed.

The American city form, however, is the result of many factors. One, the pioneer spirit which sent men away to seek greener grass when the too many smokes of their neighbors made them sneeze; two, the great continent needing a tying together which made the railroad a rapidly growing means of transportation, developing finally into the greatest system in the world; the invention, in practical sense, of the telegraph and the telephone and the tremendous improvements which have made the wide world smaller. It might be noted as well that they offer the opportunity of making the city larger, that for the first time in man's history the small community can be as well informed, as comfortable, have as much stimulus and, more important, be as companionable a place as the great city.

I have gone into this consideration of the past because I think it has a large value in contemplating Eutopia because I strongly believe that it is only in fully appreciating the historic growth of the American city, together with the impact of the scientific and engineering world upon it that we can foresee not only the physical but the political requirements as well for the immediate future. I believe that coming out of the understandable past are the seeds of better living. Tradition after all is but a part in a two-way perspective, a datum toward the past and in understanding the future. Tradition is the life motif running through from one generation to another. Culture, like a symphony, is without a life motif, will wash out each preceding passage by its successor. The whole culture is then lost in its entire framework.

Further, I do not believe the city of the future is going to be solved solely by slab shaped buildings with an extensive use of steel and glass. Nor are the possibilities of architecture to be solved within the limitations imposed by a single formula.

We live in a time of intense inquiry and the sign of the times in all sciences is controlled curiosity and not imitation. No scientist ever believes he has the complete answer. The scientific ideal is to proceed with the best information possible; i.e., all the knowledge we possess of the past, and then with further and further close observation come into the range of future possibilities.

What is not implied, however, is the idea that architects having an objective view of civilization "inecessantly and tumultuously transformed by the triumphs of science, and so should use the products of science as the materials of expression." To me, is the great fault of modern architecture: it uses the products but not the methods of science: which here should be used for the understanding of man himself.

The battle now enjoined is no longer between the styles of yesterday and the style cliches of today but is between the fixation of today's irrational standards.
the development of those regional dis-similarities that people have always taken pride in." Here is an indication of spiritual unrest in the minds of editors who were pioneers in acclaiming revolution. This unrest within present day standards is wide spread. Richard Lauterbach reports a conversation with an intellectual in Russia, who said: "There is a crisis in the Soviet Union.—not a crisis of economics—you will have that. I think. Ours is chiefly a crisis of the spirit. There is great evidence that the wellsprings of creative energy which every social earthquake releases are dangerously close to drying up. Perhaps they were drained too much in the war. Burned up you say—we are so weary. The slogans are weary, the words have lost their life. Even the new banners look old and tired. But the people want something new."

In other words we need a world of invention and selection which can only mean the rise of a new group of aristocratic minds who will give leadership to sound living—and here is where serious philosophic consideration should be given: for in trying to hold the so-called virtues of the immediate revolution we are merely establishing questionable values—in which the egg crates of the C.I.A.M. take the place of the Greek column. There is a continuing need for developing a straightforward response to the larger needs of present day living. One wonders, however, whether it is necessary for every man to be dramatized and be made to represent his time. And whether for either the humble or the great a new concept of architecture might not find release from the clumsy qualities of much modern design which is largely a negation of the elegant possibilities inherent in present day materials and world resources.

In the world we live there are too many jurisdictional picket lines in endless and fruitless motion keeping us from the rich life to which our genius entitles us. In closing, I would quote:

"These lofty trees, these groves on ancient lands
By streams in slow meander from the sea,
On hills enthroned in grace and glancing sun:
There men have sought and found their life to be
In quiet quest, where peaceful days are won."

RALPH WALKER.
February 28, 1947
Detroit Chapter, A.I.A.

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WEEKLY BULLETIN
When Tal Hughes and Roger Allen suggested that I join in the panel discussion at your annual meetings, I hastily accepted the opportunity to voice my thoughts on the subject of the relationship of the architect to the municipal agencies concerned with building construction, since I feel so strongly that this relationship is all too distant, and that in general, our profession is not doing the job it is capable of, for which it has been trained, and most certainly, which it is represented to the public as the function of the architect, either with municipal agencies or others more generally. We have done a much better job of selling the idea to the public than we have in delivering the goods. I am told that in merchandising, no matter how well a product is advertised, it will not receive repeat sales if it does not fulfill representations or the wants of the purchaser. Transposed, this is to say that we architects cannot expect the public to respect our services if we do not perform.

Some of you may wonder how this theme relates to the subject of the panel. May I hasten to elucidate that due to my position as Commissioner of Buildings of the City of Chicago there are constantly brought before me, drawings prepared by those who represent themselves as architects. I regretfully report that I am repeatedly embarrassed for my profession at the inadequacy of these drawings. The ambiguities or omissions are such as to require repeated verbal elaboration. The proportion of permit rejections on first submission is surprisingly large. Certainly if the plan examiners of the Building Department are constantly reviewing similar data, that cannot comprehend the intentions of the drawings, due to inadequate information, it is difficult to comprehend how the average mechanic in the field can do so, unless he is psychic. Is it any wonder that the typical builder more or less sets aside the approved drawings on the job and proceeds with construction as he thinks best, and as he is verbally directed by his superiors?

Then, too, there is an obvious appearance that in general, architects do not keep themselves versed on code requirements. They have hand books and guides in their offices and follow those with which they are most familiar, until it is forcibly brought to their attention that amendments of the laws have occurred or local provisions differ from those of other communities and it is high time they toss out the antiquated data and comply with contemporary regulations. This, as you can appreciate, not only results in delay of starting construction and increased expense of revision of drawings, but most important, often necessitates further negotiations with contractors relative to variations from the original proposals, (the old "extra and credit" headache.) It is hoped that you appreciate that these thoughts are voiced "entre nous" in hope that we all realize the importance of doing a better, more complete service. Naturally, there are many of you to whom these remarks should not be directed, other than to urge you to persuade your associates to fulfill their obligation. Criticism, if constructive, is still a bitter pill, but is reputed to be more palatable than a sedative of complimentary innocuousness.

Closely connected with architectural planning are building codes and their enforcement. We architects as a part of the construction industry have complained of antiquated or complex codes, alleging that they have materially contributed to increased construction costs. Much progress has been made in the design and construction of buildings during recent years, but little change has been initiated either in the character or provisions of building codes. There are groups which are considering and developing up-to-date provisions; particularly meritorious is that of the Building Officials Conference of America, which has been in work for over a year and will shortly be presented to the industry for review and recommendation. Our mutual friend on this panel, Mr. Joe Wolff of Detroit has been quite active in its development. To the best of my belief, architects are conspicuously absent from participation in deliberations with municipal authorities on this score.

In the interest of more efficient and more economical construction, and most certainly in the interest of greater ease in the practice of our profession, those sections of building codes which do not permit designers to take advantage of approved modern methods should be revised as a result of our effort and stimulus. This is but another manner in which we can and should self-sincerely participate in municipal affairs.

Records indicate approximately 2,000 local building codes, a few county codes, and an increasing number of state building regulations. Certainly, we as architects are concerned with the ramification of restrictions and requirements incorporated therein. Few of us limit our practice to the area protected by but one code. Therefore, it is most certainly our concern to actively work with the municipalities toward uniformity of building code regulations.

Codes are accused of blocking progress in the building industry, of stifling initiative, and of necessitating undue expensive construction. After some holocausts, as we unfortunately have recently experienced, codes are perhaps properly characterized as deficient in certain of their-
Gerhardt—from Page 1

requirements. Architects cannot participate in voicing these objections or criticism unless they actively strive to correct the ills. It is our profession which should know the proper and adequate provisions of a building code. If we are not instrumental in aiding our local municipalities in adopting this legislation, we are remiss in our obligation. We should be of such civic service that the mayor or city councilmen of our community would always look to us for guidance on matters of building.

It is as you know, most difficult to excite this interest of the architect during the time when regulations are under consideration by legislative bodies. The committees of our Chapters or State Societies strive unsuccessfully to have the members even voice their opinions or desires, either to said committee or later to the legislators. They maintain a "let George do it" attitude until they come up against a problem which is made difficult by said new law, and then grumbling is heard.

Perhaps it might unfortunately be said that this attitude is a typical American custom and privilege. We like to gripe (as I am now doing), and only too generally, concern ourselves not at all with government.

The current issue of Readers' Digest contains an article which sustains this viewpoint by stating that Americans are unwilling to do much about the structure of government because they do not find their expectations in life upon what the government does. Whereas this premise may be sound, it would appear that greater interest in government and its regulations by architects would without question improve our stature, as well as obviate unnecessary restrictive prohibitions.

Some architects have taken the position that building codes are unnecessary, that an architect when he passes examination for registration proves he is able specifications. Boards of Examiners agree that there is much to be desired in the plumber and inspector, exhausted by crystal ball gazing, design work in conformity with good practice and code requirements.

"I believe further that as a means of securing adequate design and understandable specifications, Boards of Examiners of Plumbers will have to provide for the examination of architects and engineers before they are permitted to set themselves up as qualified to design plumbing and related installations, and also that plumbing inspectional jurisdictions will write into plumbing codes a provision that

To indicate that we are not yet prepared to accept this status, let me point out a few instances which have during this past year alone come to my attention.

#1 A hotel fire in a multiple story building with but one means of egress. This condition, I hasten to add, was not a Chicago episode.

#2 A paper read before a recent convention of The American Society of Sanitary Engineers in Boston, which in part contains the following quote,

"I believe that many inspectors, plumbing contractors, and journeymen will agree that there is much to be desired in many architects’ and engineers’ plans and specifications, and that in many instances the plumber and inspector, exhausted by crystal ball gazing, design work in conformity with good practice and code requirements."

"I believe further that as a means of securing adequate design and understandable specifications, Boards of Examiners of Plumbers will have to provide for the examination of architects and engineers before they are permitted to set themselves up as qualified to design plumbing and related installations, and also that plumbing inspectional jurisdictions will write into plumbing codes a provision that

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WEEKLY BULLETIN
Gerhardt—from Page 4—enrrmental proceedings he is in a position to serve with the least inconvenience, effort or disturbance to routine.

Before leaving this platform, may I digress on a subject of state-wide level of interest? Again speaking more particularly of conditions existing in Illinois, but which I am sure apply to Michigan as well, namely, the difficulty of the enforceability of state registration of architects or state wide building codes. This difficulty is due to (1) insufficient distribution of Architects throughout the state, (2) the unwillingness of architects to take all assignments offered them, (3) the inability of certain architects to take on the scope of our ability, (4) the lack of cooperation on the part of the individual architect to aid in enforcement by seeing to it that buildings are constructed with architectural aid, and in accordance with code requirements. It is our business to see to it that these laws are complied with and enforced. We must report violations, providing concrete evidence as well, not merely complaints. We cannot expect public authorities to carry the burden alone. Architects must and should take a more active part in this phase of government administration.

It is essential that we as individuals actively participate as many as possible phases of public affairs, selfishly for greater ease of practicing our profession and for pleasant life as citizens. Such activities as Urban Planning or Plan Commission Activities, Park and Recreational Developments, Airports, Zoning, and the like are within the scope of our abilities. All are pertinent to the functions of a municipality or community and are a means closer relationship between the architect and municipal agencies of one character or another. Your opportunity and your duty lie in that direction.

The architects themselves must assume the task of moulding the desirable public opinion regarding architects. Too large a proportion of the public still feel that the architect is primarily an exterior decorator, concerned purely with aesthetics and merely incidentally considering engineering costs. This feeling quite naturally extends to our aldermanic and administrative boards, for they are mostly lay people. By becoming active among these people we can convince the public that we are honest, practical individuals with superlative knowledge, ability, and experience in the field of not only design, but construction, and economics of buildings as well. Let us individually determine to continue our interest in and knowledge of municipal affairs by greater participation therein.

**DUES IN THE A.I.A., DETROIT CHAPTER, M.S.A.**

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<td>25</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>35</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Then dollars is required with application for admission fee and one year's dues (National), in advance. The Institute at Washington prorates the first annual dues, according to the quarter in which one is elected to membership. The full five dollars is required with application but, in case one is elected after the first quarter, 1/4, 1/2, or 3/4 of this will be credited toward the next year's dues, depending upon the time of election.

Chapter annual dues are billed after election and are in the full amount, 1/4, 1/2 or 3/4, depending upon time of election.

Of the ten dollars for Chapter dues, the Chapter treasurer will forward $8 to the treasurer of the Michigan Society of Architects for dues in that organization and a membership card will be issued. This is the only way that a Michigan architect can join the State Society, by joining the Institute and automatically becoming a member of the Society.

**A.I.A. Asks Votes Training**

The American Institute of Architects has endorsed the Federal Government's efforts to expand the apprentice training program in the building trades as a means of preventing a shortage of skilled construction workers, James R. Edmunds, Jr., Institute president, stated today:

Mr. Edmunds said that the Institute had sent the following letter to members of subcommittees of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees which will pass on funds for apprentice training:

"It is understood that your Subcommittee will consider shortly the making of an appropriation for the Apprentice Training Service of the Department of Labor.

"The American Institute of Architects respectfully requests that serious and favorable consideration be given to this specific appropriation. As a responsible element of the building industry, we are solicitous for the welfare of that industry, which plays such a vital role in the national economy. We well know that the demands now being made on the building industry, which are certain to increase for some years to come, will require not only a far greater number of skilled workers than are at present available.

"We consider that the Apprentice Training Service of the Department of Labor has rendered and is rendering an invaluable service to the country in setting the pattern for, and assisting the augmentation of, apprentice training in the building trades. We also believe that the program of the Department in this respect represents a real accomplishment. It is our request that this Apprentice Training Service be continued—for the public good—and that the work so well done be recognized."
which carries with it great responsibility to the public. These duties and responsibilities cannot be properly discharged unless his motives, conduct, and ability are such as to command respect and confidence. And that means not alone the respect and confidence of the client, but of the contractor, the workmen, the public official, and the public at large.

Because I have felt so strongly on the subject for some time, at the last meeting of the Board, the American Institution of Architects, I suggested to Mr. Walter A. Taylor, the Director of our new Department of Education and Research of The Institute, that there be planned in connection with our annual convention a series of seminars or refresher courses to more readily enable the practicing architect to further educate himself on pertinent subjects. The schedule of these is now in the mails and you in Michigan have a splendid opportunity to benefit by these courses. The one held on two days immediately preceding our National Institute Convention here at the end of April.

On a tangent entirely foreign to these thoughts, may I offer a few remarks on the subject of architecture in municipal architecture. Architects can and should serve their fellow man in numerous manners other than on a strictly professional basis. The knowledge and training we have in building construction is of considerable value beyond the preparation of drawings for new structures, and this does not alone apply to municipalities, but to industries and commerce as well. However, since this panel is intended to concern itself with municipalities these remarks are directed in that vein.

In my approximate 20 year period of participation in municipal affairs in Chicago, I am particularly conscious of the extremely few fellow architects who have interested themselves in what the demands or requests of the populace actually are. It is my assumption that if they were called upon to develop municipal structures, they would no doubt resort to professional public relations, which are, we must admit, of considerable assistance, but scarcely the equivalent of personal knowledge. They are primarily designed to aid with technical data, rather than the more general problems of use as applied to particular localities. Is it any wonder that the architect is thus not reaping, since he has neglected to sow. By training he has the fundamental skill to serve the citizenry in their building and shelter problems. However, as has been repeated so often by so many, the architect has allowed a host of non related specialists to usurp portions of his field. We now have City Planners, Site Planners, Professional City Engineers, and so on, all of whom has the basic over-all concept necessary for the complete solution of a municipal problem. It is high time we return to our status as "Master Builder." But first we must re-orient ourselves. We must participate wholeheartedly, if not in leadership of organizations which concern themselves with the well being of the citizenry. We must devote a good portion of our time, perhaps some of that we have assigned at present to our leisure, to enter into active work of civic, social welfare, and similar councils or associations, and further participate in public boards and commissions concerned with such problems as zoning, housing, civic design, redevelopment, schools, libraries, and so on almost without end. We know how much can be done if only the inertia which clings so firmly can be cast off.

Objection may be raised to the effect that by active participation in a particular municipal activity, the architect precludes his opportunity to accept a commission to undertake a project developed through his efforts. That is true, but by the same token, being in close touch with the pulse of municipal affairs, the active architect is placed in a more favorable position to receive appointment or commission to develop other public projects, not immediately affiliated with his civic participation. But more lasting intangible benefits are derived in the form of acquainting the public with the fact that he has the knowledge and interest to fulfill public trusts. Look around in your mind at those architects who have been successful in executing public work and reflect whether they have not also contributed much of their time and effort in preparing to accept their present responsibilities.

Partially because of the general lack of interest, larger, cities organize permanent architectural offices.

I do not maintain that an architect maintaining a staff on public payroll will always prepare drawings for public buildings more cheaply than can those in private practice. It is, however, accurate to state that architects can better serve their client if they more thoroughly understand the requirements, and that specialists are preferred to general practitioners. (That being a controversial point, I will not dwell upon it.) The architect who is constantly in touch with municipal problems and is familiar with the departments or public activities which must use the facilities being provided, will be more apt to consider all factors, and in turn will be most likely to be considered most seriously for the work to be done.

The changing character of public buildings from monuments to administrative buildings necessitates a new concept of programming. The quality of such planning in general requires improvement. Then too, the location of a public building is, to a great extent, an important part of planning. Studies by the architect must include consideration of this factor.

I am aware of the argument that stimulating design is improbable from public projects, that it is virtually impossible for it to compare the better of the work of the private practitioner with the poorer of governmental staffs.

But again, this is not a defense of governmental agencies. It is an explanation of the lack of training in municipal affairs. Whether employed or retained, those of our profession who are more thoroughly familiar with the affairs of the municipality can better serve it.
plumbing plans bear the seal of a person who has demonstrated by examination his ability to design plumbing." 

The writer has been Chief Inspector of the City of ------- for thirty-two years. During that period I have examined, approved, and rejected plumbing plans covering many million dollars worth of construction. I feel, therefore, that I am in a position to not only criticize, but offer something constructive in the way of problems all inspectors face in securing adequate and code-observing plans.

I venture the opinion that probably only 10 percent of the architects and engineers submit adequate plans for sanitary works and plumbing. (This is a deplorable situation if true) a sad commentary on our performance. This report at that conference continues as follows:

The reasons for the inadequacies of the submitted drawings are:

1. A great many architects do not possess the basic knowledge of plumbing necessary to design same.

2. Code requirements do not specify the details which should be included in the plan covering plumbing.

3. Competition forces those who ordinarily would include adequate plumbing design in a plan to set their standard of production on a level with those who disregard good practices and code requirements.

I have just had an experience which probably illustrates what good architects regard good practices and code requirements necessary to design same. During that period I have examined, approved, and rejected plumbing plans covering many million dollars worth of construction. I feel, therefore, that I am in a position to not only criticize, but offer something constructive in the way of problems all inspectors face in securing adequate and code-observing plans.

I recently experienced a similar conversation with a newly registered architect. He expressed astonishment that such detail was expected of him. Here are still other episodes to substantiate my point that architects are not yet ready to accept complete responsibility.

A recent plea of the Plumbing Contractors Association of Chicago to the Building Department of Chicago that architects be required to prepare and submit for permit application more complete piping drawings in conformity with local codes and practices. The planners point out that the architects seem to feel that showing fixture location completes their responsibility, whereas the building codes require pipe sizes, vent line runs, anti-siphonage provisions, and so on.

Further on this subject, architects seem to overlook that a portion of their fee is usually based on the cost of the mechanical trades and that it is equally essential that clear, complete, accurate data be prepared for these portions of the work as are necessary and desirable for let us say, the structural design. We are responsible for safeguarding the public health as well as the public safety and public welfare. Let us not forget that registration as architects is enacted for that very purpose.

A review of the records of the Building Department of Chicago for the past two months indicates that 630 applications for new building permits were presented to the Department and 243 were rejected because of necessary correction or completion. Reflect, if you will, over 38% of the drawings submitted are improper!

Last fall it was deemed desirable for the Building Department to prepare and distribute through the Chicago Chapter of the A.I.A. an analysis of the most common errors in permit applications in hope that the percentage of rejection would be reduced. Those most predominant were:

1. Lack of or incomplete ventilation schedules
2. Lack of plot plan showing location of building on lot
3. Omission of dimensions, window sizes, etc.
4. Incomplete or lack of plumbing diagrams
5. "Rule of thumb" determination of joist sizing
6. Improper swing of exit doors
7. Omission of lintel sizes

All of a minor nature, but important to complete information.

Another comment of the plan examiner is that the typical architect does not familiarize himself with the special requirements for a particular type of building. For example, rather than to thoroughly study the provisions relative to a church, the architect prepares drawings based on his experience and conventional church architecture, relying on the plan examiner to find and object to the violations. Regrettably, I must add that not a few architects deliberately falsify by mislabeling intended use of space. Such conditions not only are a breach of our principles of practice, (ethics if you will,) but a serious reflection on the integrity of our profession, which represents itself as being worthy of the trust placed in it.

Speaking of principles of practice, may I quote a few phrases from the new draft of such principles now under review by the Executive Committee of the American Institute of Architects? (Quote) "He (the architect) is engaged in a profession...
Train To AIA Convention

Those desiring train reservation from Detroit to Grand Rapids for the AIA Convention on April 29, 30 and May 1 should make requests direct to Mr. Ray E. Ivory, General Agent, Passenger Division, Pere Marquette Railway, 801 Lafayette Bldg., Detroit 26. His telephone number is RandolPh 3220.

Requests should designate the time of departure from Detroit and from Grand Rapids, returning. It is assumed that most of the Detroit delegation will want to leave the Union Station at Fort and Third Streets at 5:15 p.m., April 28, and returning, leave Grand Rapids at 5:30 p.m., May 1.

The round-trip fare, including reserved seat, is $7.42. If check is mailed to Mr. Ivory he will return ticket by mail.

JOHN K. CROSS, AIA, formerly of Washington, D. C. and Baltimore, Maryland, is now located in Detroit. His address is 50 Blaine Ave. He has been active in architectural organizations at his former location, and it is hoped that he will do so here.

Detroit Chapter, A. I. A. Dinner, February 28, at the Detroit Athletic Club.

At speakers' table (left to right): Morison, Kapp, Gembser, Hughes, Chapter President Bennett, Speaker Ralph Walker, Clair Ditchy, Gabler, McGrew, Stirton and Black.

(Coburn Photo)

Gas is best... FOR FOODS THAT PLEASE PATRONS!

It's almost unanimous! The kitchen of practically every restaurant is gas-equipped. Gas is quick, clean, economical. It is dependable. And so flexible that the chef has at his instant service all heats from slowest simmer to fastest broil!

The Roma Restaurant, one of Detroit's well-known restaurants, is located at 3401 Riopelle. Its kitchen, illustrated at left, is gas-equipped.

MICHIGAN CONSOLIDATED GAS COMPANY
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13,000 “Airey” Houses For Britain’s Rural Districts

By JOAN LITTLEFIELD

Joan Littlefield is a feature writer whose work has appeared in the United States, Canada and Australia.

The Airey prefabricated house, described by the British Ministry of Health as a permanent dwelling equal in standard and quality to a traditional type of home, is to be mass-produced and distributed to rural areas of Britain. Already 13,000 houses are on order from the present production program of 20,000.

The Airey—so called after its designer, Sir Edwin Airey of Leeds—is a semi-detached unit with a tiled pitched roof. It is a “dry process” house, economical in timber, simple to erect, requiring no cranes and little scaffolding.

A contractor with no previous experience of this type of construction can put up the superstructure on a pair of Airey houses in approximately 410 man hours. This time includes the unloading of the components on the site. Unskilled labor can be used, since no “wet” trades are necessary, and the superstructure includes framing and slabling completed leaving the shell ready to receive the roof.

The Airey is traditional in structural form, resembling the simplest form of timber construction. Pre-cast concrete posts and panels take the place of timber posts and weather boarding, and these are vibrated and reinforced in precision metal molds.

Airey houses are erected on concrete slabs. The pre-cast units weigh about 36 lbs. each and can thus be easily handled. Wall slabs are assembled dry and are secured to the concrete posts by copper ties, the vertical butt joint being backed with a bituminous composition. The slabs, 3 feet long, 9 inches wide, approximately one inch thick, are laid in courses, dry, being tapered in section and having dry overlapping horizontal joints.

The windows are metal, in timber frames. The vertical uprights of the house frame continue through window openings, for which they provide the mullions, thus rendering load bearing window heads or sills unnecessary.

The internal walls are of aluminum insulating sheet, fastened to the uprights.

See HOUSING—Page 4
For Department of Buildings
Commissioner Wolff Reports

The Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Department of Buildings and Safety Engineering, City of Detroit, just issued by Commissioner Joseph P. Wolff, gives a good picture of the activities of that department and "Also portrays our overall postwar trend, as reflected in the volume of new construction and the extent of repairs and alterations to existing buildings; all dominated by problems encountered for lack of critical materials."

Commenting on the outlook for the future, the Commissioner states: "It is reasonable to assume however, some reduction in prices will result when our present turmoil subsides and we as a nation begin to realize that productivity is the very foundation of economic progress".

Continuing, "While all our regulations, when written, were based upon a premise that we, the people of Detroit, would continue, unhampered, to operate our governmental units in a normal manner, for the welfare of all concerned, we are now obliged to suffer the impacts of war with much confusion in its wake. Yet, unfettered, we manage to follow our Department's policies which accomplish that which the occasion demands. We are high-pressured on many sides to condemn and cause the removal of buildings because they are delapidated and unsightly, because they are unfit for human habitation, or because they are fire traps. These exhortations are offset with equal vehemence because the Department will not allow the lowering of our present standard in order to permit some enterprise to squeeze more tenants into some uninhabitable attic nook or cranny or in a cellar dungeon. In the meantime, the shortage of housing is still our number one problem, and will continue to be, until we all make up for the time lost in the building of homes. The same pertains to all other types of structures." Included are detailed reports of the separate departments: Halstead H. Mills, Chief Safety Engineer; Charles A. Daymude, Chief Structural Engineer; Alfred C. Brozo, Chief of Licenses and Permits; Elmer E. Herndon, Associate Electrical Engineer; Frank J. Gibbons, Chief Smoke Inspector; L. Glen Shields, Senior Associate Sanitary Engineer, and Frank E. Simpson, Chief Building Inspector. Says Daymude: "Cost data on all types of building construction for which permits are issued by this department were prepared by this Bureau as an aid in arriving at a fair unit cost based on cubical content volume of buildings. These figures have been revised and brought up-to-date. These construction costs are predicated on the actual current local prices of material and labor, and are obtained from our local material dealers, labor organizations and builders' associations, and are for use in the Detroit area only as the index percentage is calculated on our local wage rates and material prices."

This schedule of cubic-foot costs has proved valuable to architects and the building industry. It is published by the Detroit Real Estate Board and, by permission reprinted annually in the Convention Number of the Weekly Bulletin. According to Brozo: "It is anticipated that the Government will gradually release all controls covering building construction during the year 1947. Predicated on this assumption, local building activities will undoubtedly reveal appreciable increases in all types of construction as the year progresses."

"We now have on file in the attic and basement filing rooms of the building approximately 173,137 plans and applications comprising all major plans dating from the year of 1920 to 1937 inclusive, also general plans and applications covering all construction work from the year of 1938 to date. These records should be filed in fireproof vaults. The plans now on file are of real value to this department for reference purposes and likewise have proven of great assistance to owners, architects and builders contemplating additions and repairs to the buildings or for the purpose of solving other related problems. In the past year 390 plans were loaned for purposes mentioned herein."

What appears to be a good trend is brought out in the report of Mr. Herndon, of the Electrical Department in stating that his department is working together with a representative of the fire division to determine the classification of hazards. We believe that more of this could be used to advantage. Herndon also points out the urgent need for better and more adequate quarters for this important function of our city's government, when he says: "The City Service Building, with the crowded insanitary conditions, and with the dregs of humanity shuffling up and down the stairways to the Venerable Disease Clinic on the third floor, is no match for clean, well ventilated offices in private industry. So long as the City maintains a nuisance like this, we cannot hope to attract a higher class personnel for replacements to carry on the functions of the Department."
An exhibition held at the Michigan Society of Architects 33rd Annual Convention, Grand Rapids, March 7 & 8, 1947.

Shown above are views of the architectural exhibition held in Grand Rapids Civic Auditorium, in connection with the Michigan Society of Architects 33rd Annual Convention, March 7 and 8, 1947. Mr. Ernest King, of the office of Roger Allen, Society President at the time, deserves considerable credit for such a creditable show.

Allen states that the success of the exhibition was because of the cooperation of Michigan Architects, and especially that of Professor Jean Hebrard of the University of Michigan College of Architecture and Design.

Allen and Gus Langius, the new Society President, and their families have just returned from vacationing in Arizona. Allen will make the principal speech at the annual banquet of the Pennsylvania Society of Architects in the Warwick Hotel, Philadelphia, May 17. He will also be toastmaster at the annual banquet of the New York State Association of Architects at Hotel Commodore, New York City, on October 23.
Insulating board is used for the finished internal lining.

The uprights of the upper story are connected to the corresponding posts below by projecting metal dowels which fit inside each post. The uprights are also bolted to the first floor joists and roof members, thus tying the whole structure together. These joists are of light gauge lattice steel, with timber fillets for ceiling and floor fixing.

The total weight of the pre-cast concrete superstructure for a pair of Airey houses is approximately 28 tons.

Holland (Mich.) High School is setting an example in teaching safe driving habits among its students—an example which all other Michigan high schools well may emulate. If all did so, it would undoubtedly result in an appreciable reduction in the regrettable number of accidents in which teen-age drivers are involved.

The safe driving program at Holland High School is in its second year; 191 Grade 9-B students took the course last semester. It is a required subject. Each student has a minimum of 30 minutes behind the wheel of a driving car which is equipped with dual controls. Four students are taken out at a time and each one drives several times around a special course adjacent to the school's athletic field.

During the classroom period all the safety laws are explained. Reaction time, stopping distance, field of vision, and color blindness tests all are given.

J. J. Riemersma, principal of the school, stated that no effort is made to secure driver's licenses for the students, that being considered a police problem. The principal objective is to impress upon the students the need of better driving habits. They are taught above all, that "every other driver is crazy" and are cautioned to play doubly safe at all times.

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Annette B. Schilling
Mrs. Annette B. Schilling, wife of Edward A. Schilling, A.I.A., died at the family home, 1438 Iriquois Avenue, Detroit, on March 18. She was the mother of Bernard A. and Donald K. Schilling; aunt of Mrs. Russell Gorman and Arthur McDonald.

Mr. Schilling, a leading Detroit architect, has practiced here continuously for the past thirty-three years. He is a past president of the Michigan Society of Architects, past president of the Detroit City Plan Commission, and currently president of the Detroit Board of Zoning Appeals.
Train of Tomorrow

A brand new "Train of Tomorrow" will be coming around the bend into cities all over the United States this summer.

Not the figment of a surrealistic designer’s day-dreams, it will be a reality, full-size train—to provide millions with a glimpse of a glitzy example of what rail travel could be and very well may be in the years ahead.

The train is an experimental project of General Motors, aimed to try out advanced ideas for the improvement of railroad travel. It was designed by General Motors and will be powered by a General Motors Diesel locomotive. The passenger cars are being built by Pullman Standard Car Manufacturing Company. The complete train will be ready soon to start on a six month schedule of public showings in principal cities throughout the country.

It will be one of the easiest riding and safest trains ever built. And, every car will be loaded with fascinating innovations for the creature comforts of passengers—from Astra Domes and mobile telephones to cars with four floor levels and pneumatic door-openers.

Gone are the traditional upper and lower berths of yesterday. Each passenger on a sleeper will retire to private quarters, complete with his own lavatory facilities. His home aboard the “Train of Tomorrow” may be called the Gold Room on the car Dream Cloud, instead of Upper 6 in Cary 318—and there’s more to the designation than the difference in names, as we shall see.

Dozens of other new and surprising things are standard equipment on this train that is years ahead of schedule. The carefully planned styling on the interiors, using the latest paints, wallpapers and fabrics, was conceived in Detroit by GM styling experts and provides a combination of durability and beauty new to passenger train interior decoration.

To those who may be curious about why an automobile manufacturing company should be building trains, Mr. C. E. Wilson, president of General Motors, has explained: “General Motors has no intention of going into the railroad passenger car business. We are interested in the entire field of transportation and, of course, we have a special interest in railroads because our Electro-Motive Division is the leading Diesel locomotive builder. We also are interested as suppliers of other equipment to railroads: air conditioning equipment through the Frigidaire Division, anti-friction journal box bearings through the Hyatt Bearings Division, and Diesel generating equipment through the Detroit Diesel Division and the Deleo Products Division.”

Bonderizing® is already famous for assuring positive adhesion for paint finishes on all types of sheet metal building equipment . . . Provides effective protection for steel sash, electrical, air conditioning and heating units.

Night conceals many things—including some of the finest buildings in your community. Floodlighting can push back the darkness. It shows off the architect's accomplishment during the important evening hours, and makes a building more valuable to its owners. Churches, for instance, can be glowing symbols of faith after nightfall...attractive landmarks...friendly social centers. Shown here is the Epiphany Lutheran Church on 7 Mile Road near Woodward in Detroit. Six 1000-watt wide angle lamps bathe the edifice in glowing light.

Even when floodlighting is not considered for immediate installation, it is wise to provide the necessary electrical outlets so that much of the expense of trenching can be saved later. Our lighting engineers will be glad to discuss floodlighting with you and spot outlets on your plans. Call your nearest Edison office for this service.

The Detroit Edison Company
Princeton University Bicentennial Conference

"PLANNING MAN'S PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT"—Session I, March 5, 1947

Statement by William Roger Greeley

1. Social. Profound dissatisfaction with present social conditions has stimulated the imagination to picture every kind of Utopia—but evolutionary, not revolutionary, change is our chosen theme—so we take society as we find it in cities, towns, and open country.

In cities we find amenities and services not achievable elsewhere, but we find social chaos and degeneration. We would like to cause the city to grow from a chaos to a cosmos by recognizing human dependance upon community organization. We would divide the city into neighborhoods, providing their citizens with self-government, with education and recreation, with some morale building institution like the church; and where possible with industry and commerce.

In brief, we would strive for a complete community small enough for its citizens to form a cohering body politic.

The bees are our model. When their hive grows unwieldy they divide it into two separate communities.

This model for the city is at present realized to a certain extent in towns, and we should plan to strengthen and complete it.

In the open country another point-of-view dominates. It is proper that a portion of our population should be protected in their desire to live among the surroundings that nature provides, and to enjoy some freedom from human intrusions, and some opportunity for meditation and self-renewal.

2. Visual. The social unit will be stimulated and its morale improved if it is a unit visually as well as socially. It should develop an outline or boundary, and a system of its own of educational and recreation, with some morale, and a system of its own of educational and recreation, with some freedom from human intrusions, and some opportunity for meditation and self-renewal.

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2. Visual. The social unit will be stimulated and its morale improved if it is a unit visually as well as socially. It should develop an outline or boundary, and a system of its own of educational and recreational centers. More than all else it should fight against the dead-level of mediocrity caused by standardization and nationalism.

The tendency to have every shopping center in America look like every other; to produce houses by the thousand all the same, like trailers; to have mail-order lamp-posts and hydrants and street signs; this is banality not only, but it ends in apathy and stultification.

The old planet is pleasing today because of the local color and customs. The clustered tile roofed houses overlooking the shores of the Mediterranean are totally fascinatingly different from the dwellings of Marblehead, and these again from Rotterdam; and that is salvation. It means local pride, and gives to each community a soul or ethos of its own.

This is an age of experimentation. Let each community insist on its own quest for a visual basis of charm and delight.

There is enough ennui from infinite repetition of the same auto, the same fedora, the same standard store front.

In the towns we find whatever there is of encouragement along these lines. Many towns do deliberately encourage and preserve a distinctive atmosphere and lay down for themselves a "manifest destiny."

In the open country conservation of what is provided by nature comes first. Modification of the scene by man must be at a minimum, or at least in harmony with the preponderant note of nature.

Change of Address

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"On to Grand Rapids!"

The annual convention of The American Institute of Architects will be held April 29 to May 1 in Grand Rapids, Mich., James R. Edmunds, Jr., president of the Institute has announced.

More than 600 architects from all parts of the country are expected to attend. The Institute's Board of Directors will meet for five days preceding the opening of the convention and will make its report to the membership on April 29.

Seminars covering the designing of schools and hospitals and urban planning will be held April 26 and 27 and will be reviewed at the opening session of the convention when various awards also will be made.

A report from the Board of Directors and an address by Tyler S. Rogers, president of the Producers' Council, will open the second day's sessions and will be followed by a panel discussion of "Contemporary Trends in Architecture." Prof. Walter F. Bogner, School of Architecture of Harvard University, will preside over the discussion, and the panel will be composed of Guy Greer, a former editor of Fortune Magazine; Howard Myers, editor of the Architectural Forum, Douglas Haskell, Technical Editor of the Architectural Record; Prof. Carl Koch, School of Architecture of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Ernest J. Kump, San Francisco architect.

The panel will discuss the public's current building preferences, human requirements of modern buildings, effects of technological changes on design, and the rebuilding of American cities.

The Institute's annual dinner will be held on April 30, and the program on May 1 will be devoted to organization matters, including the report of the resolutions committee and the election of officers and directors.

Tube-Turn Has New Catalog on Welding Fittings and Flanges

A complete compilation of essential technical information on pipe welding and welding fittings and flanges—incorporating many useful studies never before available, together with helpful new arrangements and indexing of complete, exact data for greater convenience of buyers and specifiers of welding fittings.

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"Our object in preparing this new Tube-Turn Catalog and Engineering Data Book is to provide one of the most useful, most convenient, and most complete sources of information yet available for designers of welded piping and buyers of welding fittings."

"Every detail in this catalog is planned to make it easy and quick to find what you want. It is practical in arrangement and easy to read. The many improved features are based on preferences expressed in hundreds of personal interviews and questionnaires conducted in advance among typical users all over the country. The simple indexing method and other conveniences are explained on these two pages." These are beautifully bound and can be procured by calling or writing their Detroit office: Tube-Turns, Inc., 713 Ford Bldg., Detroit 28, Michigan, CH. 8996.

Attend Conference on Hospital Planning

Ann Arbor—Among some 90 hospital directors, administrators, architects, consultants, and others who attended the Conference at the University of Michigan, April 3 through 5, were from left to right: Alden Dow, Midland, Mich., architect; elected chairman of next year's Conference; Addison Erdman, New York City architect; Isadore Rosenfield; architectural specialist in hospitals from New York City; Wells J. Bennett, Dean of the University's College of Architecture and Design, which sponsored the Conference; and, Thomas F. Elsfe, architectural specialist in hospitals from St. Paul, Minn. Mr. Dow was elected president of the Conference.

Kitchen Specs

Detailed architects and builders specifications for American Kitchens are now available in loose leaf form of standard office file size.

These specifications are so drawn and detailed that it is possible to include these kitchens in architect's drawings or incorporate them in builder's plans with the least effort. All facts necessary for either use are to be found in the file. Included are blueprints with accurate rough-in dimensions of each unit of the kitchen ensemble.

In addition there is complete dimensional information for assembling and installing each of the conventional types of kitchens.

There are also included in the file pertinent facts dealing with construction of the units, materials used, hardware accessories and a wide range of other information that might be used by architect or builder when incorporating the American Kitchen in home building plans.

To obtain file write American Kitchen Information Service, Connersville, Indiana. There is a mailing charge of 10 cents for each file.

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Art Exhibitions in Michigan

The Fine Arts Section of the Michigan Academy of Science when meeting in Ann Arbor recently decided to do something about circulating art exhibitions through the State particularly to those communities not now able to bring together suitable collections. Seventy persons, representing various parts of Michigan and made up of artists from all fields, were in attendance. Professor Avard Fairbanks the retiring chairman was succeeded by Marshall Fredericks, also a sculptor and creator of the sculpture of the Rackham Building, Detroit. He will be assisted by a large committee whose members are three architects, Alden Dow, Howell Taylor, and Professor Roger Bailey who heads the exhibition committee. John Gil savage of the J. L. Hudson Company is to have charge of transportation and collection. Ann Arbor has been fortunate with respect to art exhibitions since 1906 when the local Art Association was formed; there followed an important and unbroken series of exhibitions, for the most part of paintings and prints. Occasionally an exhibition was brought by the architectural department. Thus after the famous competition for the new Chicago Tribune building twenty-five years ago the competition drawings were shown in Memorial Hall, among the designs being that of Eiel Saarinen who was awarded second prize, and that of Professor Albert Rousseau, then teaching advanced design in the architectural school and the recipient of an honorable mention. Avard Fairbanks who has for many years conducted classes in sculpture at the University is leaving Ann Arbor to become head of the Department of Fine Arts at the University of Utah.—Emil Lorch.

Society Board Meets in Detroit

The Board of Directors of the Michigan Society of Architects met at the Detroit Athletic Club on the afternoon and evening of Wednesday, April 9. Those attending were Messrs. Langius, Black, Dow, Zimmermann, Hughes, Brysselbout, Cole, and Pellerin. President Langius presided at this the Board's first meeting since it was organized at the Grand Rapids Convention, March 8.

Board meetings are to be held on the second Wednesday of each month, except December and July. Alternate meetings are to be held in Detroit. The next meeting will be held in Saginaw on May 14.

At the president's suggestion it was decided that, with the present plan of unification, there is no need for the extensive committee set-up in effect in the past. Instead there will be only three main committees with sub-committees under each. The main committees will be executive, Public and Professional Relations, and Education. This fill corresponds to the main departments of the Institute's national body.

Roger Allen will head the Executive Committee; Alden B. Dow, the Educational, and Kenneth C. Black, Public and Professional Relations.

Monday and Tuesday, August 4 and 5 will be the dates of the Society's mid-Summer Meeting at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island. Guest may arrive on Sunday evening, Aug. 3 and remain until Wednesday, Aug. 6.

WET Bill Approved

The Taft-Ellender-Wagner housing bill has been given qualified approval by the Urban Planning Committee of the American Institute of Architects in a statement by Louis Justement, chairman of the Committee.

In endorsing the purpose of the bill, Mr. Justement stated that Federal participation in housing is needed because neither private enterprise nor the municipalities can solve urban housing and redevelopment problems without financial assistance from the Federal government.

"Federal aid is justified also," he said, "because an overall program of redevelopment can be made of enormous importance to the national economy in smoothing out the sharp ups and downs of the business cycle."

The statement approved the establishment of a National Housing Commission to coordinate government agencies having to do with housing, but stated that the Commission could function more effectively if it consists of five members rather than as set up in Title II.

The Committee also suggested elimination of the section of the bill setting up new terms for financing housing for low income families, on the grounds that they were contrary to sound mortgage practice.

The bill's provisions for urban redevelopment were approved with reservations. "This is the most important portion of the bill. It includes all the present plans. Mr. Justement said. "If a rational

"This is the most important portion of the bill. It includes all the present plans. Mr. Justement said. "If a rational procedure can be devised for the gradual and methodical rebuilding of our cities, it will go a long way towards curing the ills of the construction industry, while at the same time providing good housing for all income groups and helping to avoid excessive fluctuations in our national prosperity. In its present form the bill does not provide that kind of a program, but it is a step in the right direction, perhaps as great a step as we should take at this time provided that we realize its limitations.

"The bill does not require urban planning to be done on a metropolitan area basis as a prerequisite to Federal loans and grants. This question will have to be faced before we can speak of real city planning in America, but it is a step that we need not take now as long as we are under no illusions concerning the type of planning we are apt to get at this time."
Architects Exam
The Michigan State Board of Registration for Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors announces that the next examination for Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors will be given at Detroit on May 8-9-10, 1947. The subject of the Design Problem for the Architectural Examination will be "A Suburban Doctors' Clinic". Application blanks and full information may be obtained by writing to the office of the Board, 705 Cadillac Square Building, Detroit (26); or RA 0017.

My Golf
It's quite a change from tough construction job
To effervesce in live fluorescent rhyme,
To dig a figure from the cranial knob,
And build a sonnet in an evening's time.
Verse is my golf, I play it stroke by stroke.
And when I make a real low score I boast.
Last week I played the course in par, no joke,
I got a pome accepted by the POST.
ROGER L. WARING.

Stratton Exhibit
The Detroit Institute of Arts cordially invites you and your friends to attend an exhibition. The Work of William B. Stratton, FAIA, in Retrospect, being held in the drawing galleries of the Institute from March 19 to April 29, 1947. Among the outstanding buildings represented in the exhibition are the Naval Armory, the Lochmoor Club, the William B. Stratton residence and the Robert Traub residence. Supplementing the architectural photographs are examples of Mr. Stratton's many related interests in furniture design, ceramics, dynamic symmetry and his sketches of Spanish architecture.

Helen Fassett Heads City Plan Commission
The City Plan Commission has its first woman president in its 29-year history—Miss Helen L. Fassett—who was appointed to the commission two years ago by Mayor Jeffries and who was elected vice-president of the group a year ago. Associated with Smith, Hinman & Grylls, architectural firm, Miss Fassett is also secretary of the Architects Civic Design Group, and a member of the executive board of the Detroit Business and Professional Woman's Club. Willis Hall, industrial manager of the Board of Commerce, was elected vice-president.

New Catalog
A new catalog on Bonderizing, the treatment for metals which preserves fine finishes by anchoring the paint, and retarding corrosion, is now ready for distribution.
The new catalog contains much new information on the Bonderizing process and its applications on steel, aluminum, zinc, and their alloys, on die castings, and on Bonderite as an aid in deep drawing of steel and aluminum.
The 44-page catalog is profusely illustrated, including pictures of test panels showing accelerated and weathering tests on various treated and untreated metals. Typical Bonderizing installations are shown, with discussions of most efficient use for various types of production.
The new Bonderite catalog is offered by the company to all interested manufacturers. A letterhead request should be sent to Parker Rust Proof Company, 2177 Michigan, Detroit 26, Michigan.
New incentives, speedier action, and increased financial stability are offered builders and sponsors of rental housing projects by recent changes in Federal Housing Administration procedures and policies.

These changes, all designed to encourage more construction of housing for rent under conditions of greater security, consist of a series of actions over a period of several months. They affect rentals, mortgage terms, tax depreciation, property requirements, procedures of various types, and other matters.

FHA is empowered under Section 608 of the National Housing Act to insure rental housing mortgages in amounts up to $5,000,000 and up to 90% of FHA's estimate of the necessary cost of a project, including land. The mortgage is limited to the cost of physical improvements and to $1,500 a room attributable to dwelling use; the latter amount will be increased by the Commissioner to as much as $1,800, if warranted by costs.

Occupancy preference is given veterans of World War II and their families. Rental units for veterans may also be created under FHA through conversions and remodeling—Title I of the National Housing Act—by construction of one to four-family units—and by rehabilitation and re-use of existing structures.

Recent changes in FHA procedures and in other matters affecting rental housing, of interest to the builder and the investor, follow:

An average shelter rent of $80 for multi-family units is permitted under the new program, as against the former maximum of $80 a unit; thus, some apartments may rent for more than $80 if the total rental for all units does not exceed an average of $80. This does not include a permissible allowance up to $8 a room for services. FHA establishes the maximum rents.

Rental must provide for an annual return of 6 1/2% after expenses and taxes, and after an allowance of 7% to cover vacancy and collection losses.

The monthly principal amortization of mortgages insured under Section 608 has been reduced by changing the minimum required initial principal payment on a level annuity basis from 2% to 1 1/2% of the original face amount of the mortgage. Thus, at 4% interest a loan will mature in 32 years and 7 months, or 5 years longer than under the 2% basis. If the interest rate is less than 4%, the lower monthly payment will permit lower rentals and still longer amortization.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue now permits the selection of a higher rate of depreciation for income tax purposes on rental housing projects. This allows a more rapid write-off of the investment during the first 10 or 12 years of operation, reduces tax requirements, and permits a larger net return from earnings.

The requirement for a working capital deposit with the mortgagor of at least 3% of the original principal amount of the mortgage has been reduced to 1 1/4%.

In collaboration with lending institutions, FHA will give consideration to readjustment of mortgage terms if necessary in the future in order to enable projects built under present emergency conditions to maintain their competitive market position and afford protection against decreased earning capacity.

Mortgages to be insured may be reviewed for the purpose of increasing the amount of commitments made in advance of construction where costs have made this necessary.

Minimum property requirements for the multi-family units, previously in effect throughout the country, are now used only as a guide. Local FHA staffs may accept alternates which will provide structurally sound and well-designed projects with continuing rental appeal.

Where elevator structures of the corridor type offer the logical and economical solution for a rental development, FHA now accepts them for mortgage insurance provided there is substantial compliance with other requirements; this change in policy revises the requirements that all living units in a structure have through or cross ventilation and permits some of the living units to have only one exposure and encourages the profitable use of smaller sites.

An increased room count is being allowed for efficiency type living units, thus offering encouragement to this type of construction where the location warrants it.

Sponsors may now submit a proposed rental housing project composed of two or more small projects where each is individually financed by a separate Section 608 mortgage. This procedure makes it possible for a mortgagor to plan and build the projects within the limitation of current labor and materials supply; it permits the mortgagor to finance the projects progressively, increases the marketability of the smaller projects, requires less rigid regulations, and furnishes certain tax advantages.

Rental housing projects composed of two, three, and four-family structures may now be covered by a blanket mortgage insured under Section 608 with release clause provisions; the blanket mortgage may provide.

See FHA—Page 6
Builder Tells Why $13,500 House Now Costs $26,000

A two-story brick, high quality home that sold for $13,500 in March, 1941, now costs $23,676.65 to build. With the builder's gross profit added, the final price tag reads $26,000.

These figures were divulged by a team of builders and realtors who Arlington, Va., both before and after the war, reports the Washington Post.

The builders said the $26,000 would have been even higher if they had been engaged in small building operations. With 159 homes under construction, they bought lumber wholesale from Southern mills, and effected other savings by mass production and on-site fabrication.

The older Broyhill said the same type house was built in April, 1946, and sold for $23,500. Since then labor and materials prices have advanced over 10 per cent.

Instead of prices leveling off this summer, all indications point to a further increase. Broyhill said builders were expecting a request from bricklayers to raise the present $2.37 wage scale to $2.50 per hour. If successful, the bricklayer would draw $20 per eight-hour day, with extra for overtime.

Similar increases are expected in other trades. The building mechanics justify wage requests by pointing out the number of days they don't work due to weather and other factors beyond their control. Thus, they say, their average weekly pay check would run far below that given for a straight 40-hour week.

Joel Broyhill said if production line methods of on-site fabrication of lumber, plus wholesale purchase of housing items, were not used on the $26,000 home, the overall increase would have been 104 per cent instead of 92 per cent.

The builders declared they were trying every method possible to hold prices in line, but "there just doesn't seem any line to hold!"

Electrical work and electrical fixtures have jumped well over 100 per cent above prewar costs. Slate roofing costs $220 more, plumbing has soared over $900, while tile is about $350 higher.

When the question, "What can be done to bring home prices down?" was asked the elder Broyhill, he replied, "We're buying in large wholesale lots and precutting and fabricating some of our lumber products. This saving is passed on to the buyer."

The National Association of Home Builders, in its "Washington Letter" to all members, published remarks made at the group's recent Chicago convention by Richard Cadwallader, outspoken chairman of the American Legion Housing Committee.

Cadwallader got the loudest ovation of any speaker when he said: "Veterans have heard too much talk about getting a house, and they are not content to live for the next 20 years in demountable units and trailers and converted barracks.

"Unless we do something about the price, it isn't going to make much difference whether builders have materials or not. Go home and decide why housing costs are so high in your town and do something about it."

"I'm here to tell you that all of you are guilty of high costs, and not just you but everybody that touches a house, from the first manufacturer of items that go in it, to the man who cuts a tree, to the lawyer who passes the title, the title company that insures it, the surveyor who surveys the ground—everybody who touches it."

Cadwallader suggested that builders "organize with mortgage bankers, veterans' posts and other groups that want to publicize all the things that are holding the high prices up. Get together and lick the problem."

WANTED—Architectural draftsmen on industrial, commercial and residential work, also mechanical and structural engineers. Permanent positions, top salaries.—Leon Snyder, Jr., Architect, 709 Michigan National Bank Bldg., Battle Creek, Michigan.
OFFICE LIGHTING today is light at work ... doing its job more efficiently than ever before. Modern fluorescent equipment gives the architect inspiring opportunities on new construction ... makes remodeling of old offices surprisingly easy.

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The Detroit Edison Company
Kimball on Tour

Edgar R. Kimball, A.I.A., Registered Architect, and a member of the Detroit Chapter, and presently associated with the Consulting Engineering firm of Sverdrup & Parcel of St. Louis, as their Chief Architect, left April 17 on a business trip to the Near East for the firm. Mr. Kimball will travel by air and be gone about 10 weeks, visiting Ireland, England, France, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Egypt, and finally the Kingdom of Sandi-Arabia, where he will be the guest of the Sandi-Arabian Government.

Sverdrup & Parcel have contracts with the Kingdom of Sandi-Arabia to develop a large public building program and other interests. While in Sandi-Arabia, Kimball will study the country, construction methods, and use of materials, in order to make the architecture indigenous to the country and meet the exacting requirements dictated by climate and geological factors. He is planning on taking a number of colored photographs.

Ed, as he was known to his friends, was also known as Major when he served in the Engineer Corps in Detroit, and also in the Mediterranean Theatre. Many remember him for active participation in the directing of much of the Army construction program in that area.

He studied with Eliel Saarinen, and just prior to the war, was associated with Mr. Saarinen in his office. He presently resides at 112 Portland Avenue, Belleville, Illinois.

It is possible that after the design work is completed in the late summer, Ed could be induced to return to Detroit. We believe he likes Detroit better than St. Louis.

“In Quest of Eutopia”

Weekly Bulletin:
The April first Weekly Bulletin which just arrived, contained a masterpiece entitled “In Quest of Eutopia.”

Because it has such inspiration for business men and women in other professions as well as in that of architecture, I am writing to try to obtain extra copies.

Considering that my correspondence covers a wide scope, would it not be to the publicity advantage of the Bulletin to fill this request? When “Time, Space and Architecture” was published in your paper, I intended writing then, but my husband bought the book and my good intention ended there.

I just noticed that copies are 5c each so will enclose whatever coin happens to be on hand, just to prevent procrastination again.

Thanking you for this attention, I remain sincerely yours.—Helen B. Brayer, Toledo, Ohio.
AT THE ANN ARBOR Conference on Hospital Planning, April 3, 4 and 5, 1947. Left to right: Alden B. Dow, Addison Erdman, Isadore Rosenfield, Dean Wells I. Bennett and Joseph D. Murphy. Mr. Dow was elected president of the Conference.

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For they know, as you do, that modern building features such as fire stops, air ducts, stud bracing and insulation make it next to impossible to conceal telephone wires in walls after the house is constructed. But pipe or conduit installed while the house is being built will provide clear passageways, making it unnecessary later to mar attractive walls and baseboards by running wires along them in plain sight.

Your customers will thank you for reminding them of the ease of installing telephone conduit when they build. For information, call the telephone business office (in Detroit, call C.Herry 9900, extension 2624) and a telephone engineer will gladly consult with you. There is no charge for his services.
FHA Rental Housing Program
(Continued from Page 1)

FHA Rental Housing Program provides for insurance of advances during construction.

Under the new "permit system" a non-veteran may construct a two, three, or four-family structure, occupy one unit himself, and rent the others to veterans. A single structure of this type may be financed under Section 603.

Rehabilitation of large structures is being encouraged by FHA offices as a source of additional family units.

FHA is surveying local situations to determine what can be done to assure expanded conversion and remodeling of existing structures to provide more rental units.

An urban redevelopment committee has been set up to work with local groups and local FHA offices on methods of using insured lending for curing large scale blight or for slum clearance.

FHA insuring office staffs are operating with prospective sponsors in making preliminary site inspections and rendering preliminary advice and suggestions.

FHA's cost estimation system has been streamlined to reduce materially the time involved in processing rental housing project applications.

Application forms, preliminary drawings, and exhibits have been simplified. Certain other procedures have been discontinued or revised in the interest of time saving.

Action has been taken to expedite handling of requests for prevailing wage determinations by the Department of Labor, as required on multi-family construction.

FHA personnel has been increased, and qualified employees freed from their duties by the relaxation of the controls are available to help private sponsors plan rental projects and expedite processing of applications.

A mobile force of cost estimators from Washington is available to local offices where their services are needed.

Rental housing and land planning operations have been decentralized as much as possible in order to speed the start of construction.

The President has granted approval to FHA for a second $1,000,000,000 of mortgage insurance authorization under Title VI, which is to be used primarily for rental housing.

Congress will be asked to extend the termination date of Title VI insurance authorization, at least for rental housing, for long enough to accomplish the desired objective.