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EDITORIAL

The Dow Chemical Company

More than a quarter century ago, researchers in the Midland laboratories of The Dow Chemical Company perfected a commercial process for polymerizing styrene. Today, Dow researchers are working with behavioral scientists to probe the ties between structural and social factors in housing.

There is a strong cause-and-effect relationship between these occurrences . . . and a continuum consisting of a steadily broader and deeper activity related to construction materials and methods in general.

Louis N. Carmouche, manager of Dow's Functional Products and Systems Department, summarizes this way:

"Dow's interest in housing and construction grew from our work in plastics and their structural uses. We found and proved out such uses, so that today Dow markets a significant volume of what we term Construction Materials. And more are in various stages of development.

"But our emphasis now goes beyond individual products. We're targeting on systems—systems for identifiable segments or components of structures, and systems for complete dwelling unit or clusters of residences."

Two such systems, Carmouche notes, form the bases for proposals submitted by Dow in HUD's "Operation Breakthrough." Both involve applications of Styrofoam brand plastic foam—the expanded form of the polystyrene plastic Dow first produced back in the 1930's. But the applications, and systems, differ:

—In one, Styrofoam is the core material in sandwich-type panels used for walls, floors, and ceilings of factory-built modular units. Grouped together, the modules form one or more complete dwellings.

—In the second, Styrofoam in a thin shell erected by Dow's spiral generation technique forms the roof for a dwelling unit. This is an on-site operation, with the roof formed on a lower-level hexagon-shape structure assembled from factory-built component modules.

Carmouche points out that nationally known architects were associated with Dow in the Breakthrough proposals. The firm of Geometries, Inc., Cambridge, Mass., provided architectural design for the panel structures; Tarapat-MacMon-Paulsen Associates, Inc., of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, designed units for the thin-shell system.

Other participants in the Dow proposals to HUD include companies which would manufacture the modules and perform on-site assembly, and consultants specializing in sociological aspects of housing. Dow, as prime contractor, would assume over-all management responsibility.
"These proposals," Carmouche comments, "bring out two points in Dow's approach to the markets and needs we see in the national and world-wide housing and construction picture. First, we see Dow's role as encompassing the development of new materials of construction, the innovation of beneficial applications of such materials, and the evolution of procedures for putting them into use.

"Second, we see the architect as the key figure in transforming the new and innovative into the accepted and established. This has been a function of the architect throughout the history of the profession. It takes on new importance today, when technological change plus social change present the architect new challenges and new opportunities in design and engineering."

Applications of Styrofoam for low temperature insulation illustrate this progression. This plastic foam's properties—rigidity, low thermal conductivity, resistance to water penetration, structural strength—makes its use as insulation a logical early choice for exploration.

Dow's early research trials were far-ranging. Board stock of Styrofoam went into cavities in stud walls. Boards and sheets were nailed, glued, cemented—to sheathing, to concrete, to blocks, to brick.

In floors, Styrofoam was tried between layers of concrete. In built-up roofs, it was sandwiched within felt. In foundation excavations it was tried for exterior applications, interior applications, and even both.

And it became the core for an almost bewildering variety of sandwich-style wall panels—faced on both sides with plywood, on both sides by aluminum, on both sides by rigid plastic sheets. And then the combinations—plywood on one side, aluminum on the other—in all the variations.

From such experimentation, Dow evolved its first recommendations on construction industry uses of Styrofoam for low temperature insulation. And as the material began to gain acceptance and recognition for those uses, the expectable began to happen—in two ways:

First, Dow researchers working with Styrofoam evolved improved procedures and practices as well as a number of accessory and related materials. Second, and most significant, architects desirous of working with the material initiated suggestions and inquiries that extended the plastic foam's potential.

As Carmouche says:

"The architect proved an active force in bringing us to today's situation. He helped make it practical—as in our 'Breakthrough' proposal—to take a sandwich panel with a core of Styrofoam that began as a research idea and utilize it as the basic element in design of a much-needed structure."

Dow officials are confident that much the same style of evolution awaits other construction materials the company produces. Those commercially available—some of them already finding rapidly expanding markets for full-scale applications—include:

Sarabond brand mortar additive. Incorporated in portland cement mortars, Sarabond becomes the key to a high-bond mortar permitting unusual design flexibility—plus savings in space and costs. Sarabond enables the architect to utilize brick walls a single width in thickness but having significant load-bearing capabilities.

(The capabilities of Sarabond brand mortar additive should be of special interest to Michigan architects, since Dow may soon introduce this material in Michigan markets. Previous marketing, with resulting applications in a wide number and variety of office, commercial and industrial buildings, has been concentrated in the Denver area.)

Threadline brand adhesive mortar. This is a four-component material for concrete masonry—featuring strength, economy, and ease of application. Use of Threadline on concrete block walls makes possible thinner wall sections and substantial savings in a complete installation. An unusual aspect of Threadline is its method of application—by means of a caulking gun.

(Michigan architects can inspect two Detroit-area uses of Threadline. This was the key ingredient in the "Monowall" system of load-bearing concrete block walls utilized in erecting the 24 units of low-cost housing in Nagel..."
Model of service station with a multiple hyperbolic paraboloid roof designed by Alden B. Dow, FIA, Midland, Michigan.

Styrofoam plastic foam. This plastic material has found a multitude of uses in insulation services. Among these are applications as wall, roof, floor, and perimeter insulation in both residential and commercial buildings. It is also used as an insulated base in construction of thin-shell roofs.

A specific variety of this foam—Styrofoam SM brand plastic foam boards—is designed for use as a sheathing material for residential or agricultural construction. It is a so-called “skinned” material with tongue and groove edges along all four sides. Since it is not affected by moisture, will not sag after installation, and has no food value for rodents or vermin, it is widely favored for insulating buildings for poultry, swine, and cattle.

Deraspan brand insulating panels. These panels have a core of Styrofoam with laminated skins of plywood. The plywood may be finished with facings appropriate to interior or exterior use.

Early construction at the Martin Luther King, Jr. homes in Detroit showing walls of concrete block constructed with Threadline brand adhesive mortar. The current project involves 58 buildings containing 480 living units.

Thin shell construction in service station at Midland utilizing Styrofoam for the hyperbolic paraboloid roof.
Principal current market for Derapan panels is for quick, low-cost erection of low-temperature buildings.

Thurane brand plastic foam. This foam is a flame retardant expanded plastic material providing permanent, low-cost insulation properties. The superior insulating properties of Thurane, compared to other plastic foams, permits use of lesser thicknesses for equal performance.

Spiral generation is a technique developed by Dow for the on-site forming of “Dow Domes”—spherical structures formed from boards of Styrofoam brand plastic foam. Such domes can be reinforced and covered with concrete. Besides growing use in commercial buildings, spirally generated domes have found rapid acceptance in waste water treatment plants for covering trickling filter units.

Ethafoam SB brand sealant backer rod. This product is designed for use as a backing for caulks and sealants. A polyethylene foam, it will not absorb water, is chemically resistant, and will not adhere to the sealant. The cross-section is ideal for elimination of stresses in the adhesive.

There are other specific products, and a number of systems. One of these is a Thin-Shell System for hyperbolic paraboloid roofs, utilizing Styrofoam FR brand plastic foam boards as form liner and permanent insulation base for concrete. It has the advantage of eliminating much false work and form work.

Another Dow development is the Miller System, specifically designed to utilize plastic foams in comfort insulation. It is an all-adhesive system for use over masonry walls—and makes furring strips unnecessary. Styrofoam, Thurane and other plastic foams can be utilized in this system.

What lies in the future?

For understandable reasons of competition, Dow officials prefer to avoid specifics. But Carmouche offers as an example of possibilities a product just emerging from Dow’s continuing research—Dow Ceramic Foam.

In structure, this material resembles plastic foams, having a closed cell structure. But it is a totally inorganic, rigid, vitreous material. Dow Ceramic Foam is incombustible, resistant to chemical and solvent attack, and has broad application throughout a wide service temperature range from cryogenic to 1000° F.

Beyond all this, it has a high strength-to-weight ratio, excellent abrasion resistance and impact resistance qualities. And it can be easily fabricated with commercially available saws, routers, and similar tools.

“Right now, we see Dow Ceramic Foam as an ideal insulation material for certain uses,” Carmouche says. “But we are still in early development, so the material’s future is far from established.

Moreover, we’re certain that those application parameters are going to be extended by agencies outside Dow once they begin to innovate with Dow Ceramic Foam. And we expect that, as in the past, many architects will welcome the chance to explore the possibilities of a new material.”

A flying saucer? No, it’s a novel way to contain and control odors, ice and fog associated with outdoor tanks at sewage disposal and water pollution control plants.

Nagel Plaza, a 24-unit complex featuring innovations in construction techniques suitable for low-cost housing, is situated a few blocks from areas ravaged during the Detroit riots of 1967.
Styrofoam Dome for Low Cost Home

A hexagon shaped home with a styrofoam dome spun at the construction site and pre-assembled, bolt-together steel walls, adaptable to low-cost mass production, has been designed by Tarapata-MacMahon-Paulsen Associates, Inc., as a means of meeting the critical shortage of inexpensive housing.

The tri-level homes could be produced in quantity for a cost of about $14,000 or about $8 per square foot, plus land, according to Peter Tarapata, FAIA. Conventional multiple housing priced at $16 per square foot is currently considered "low-cost".

Specifying materials and methods already tested and proved on a small scale, TMP supplied a design that has been submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of HUD's "Operation Breakthrough," an attempt to find cheaper ways to build 26 million homes for moderate and low income families in the next decade.

If the TMP design is accepted by HUD, Dow Chemical Company of Midland, Michigan, which commissioned the design and proposes to be prime contractor for any HUD contract awarded on the concepts submitted, is ready to turn out the revolutionary houses by the thousands, in cooperation with other firms.

Dubbed the "Thin Shell" by Dow, and the "Honeycomb" by others because of the geometric design created by a cluster of the homes, the six-sided dwellings would be inexpensive to build, durable, easy to maintain, as well as being comfortable, attractive and distinctive.

According to Dow experts, the probable minimum useful life of this type of house is estimated conservatively at 40 to 50 years.

Each home is planned for three or four bedrooms with usable space in excess of 1,800 square feet. Although it is suitable for single or multiple applications, the latter was kept in mind as being more responsive to HUD's requirements. Homes would be placed in clusters of as many as 12, while maintaining private yards and patios.

A systems approach is the base of the "Thin Shell" proposal. The ideas by Dow and TMP are not just for a house, or a house design, or a way to use a particular material, but comprise a complete package.

The system consists of a unit called the "support module," which is designed as a structural chassis into which can be inserted all of the elements necessary for the functioning of a household—kitchen appliances, bathroom fixtures, heating units, storage cabinets and others.

Six such units placed on a concrete floor slab and bolted together form the hexagonal alignment of the exterior walls. Plumbing and electrical wiring would be fitted into the support module at the factory, providing for simple on-site connections.

The enclosure above the support
module is an unusual feature in that it would be a shell of styrofoam (plastic foam) that would be literally "home spun" to specifications at the building site by spiral generation techniques developed by the Dow Housing Division. This "home dome" would be weatherproofed with a polyvinyl skin applied during production of the shell.

The system was devised to minimize the time of on-site construction, the need to ship large, empty structures, and the use of on-site skilled craft trades; and to maximize the use of highly efficient, factory-built, compact components, and utilization of on-site semi-skilled or unskilled labor.

Because one of the basic design objectives was to provide open family spaces, only one-third of the more than 1,800 square feet of the unit is divided to floor-to-ceiling type partitions. The remainder is free-flowing family space, subtly modulated by the use of levels and low divider partitions. Organized into a split-level arrangement with the entrance at the intermediate level, living areas above and sleeping quarters are below.

Variations of architectural design can be achieved by the factory substitution of a variety of surface materials to the wall panels, support module interior and exterior, and floor panels.

The inherent qualities of water-proofness and insulation in a styrofoam shell, as well as the sidewall panels, make the housing unit quite suitable for all extreme climatic conditions.

Structures built by spiral generation have already received code acceptance in such locations as Bloomfield Hills, and Midland; and Lafayette, Indiana. Glen Paulsen, designed the recently completed Roper School in Bloomfield Hills which employed the technique of styrofoam spiral generation.

Supplementing and extending Dow's own capabilities in the systems proposals are a number of associates and consultants, besides TMP Associates. "The teams thus established," Dow says, "command a broad sweep of applicable skills, even to 'research in behavioral patterns'."

Among the consultants are the Research and Design Institute of Providence, R.I.; Dr. James G. Miller, of Cleveland, vice president of Cleveland State University and a pioneer in behavioral studies; and Stratford E. McKenrick, of Baltimore, who has had a long career in public service related to government housing programs.

For planning purposes, the Baltimore area has been identified as the site for the first prototype. Other locations considered were Houston, Los Angeles and Minneapolis.

1. Artist's conception of dwelling units designed by Tarapata-McMahon-Paulsen Associates for the "Operation Breakthrough" project of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Factory pre-fabricated modules would be assembled at the building site to form the first story of the two story home. The "thin shell" dome would be spun of styrofoam on-site. Homes of this type could be grouped in clusters and would offer an unusual degree of spaciousness for the ground occupied at a cost of about $44,000 plus land.

2. "Honeycomb" configuration of five adjacent units. Floor plans depict typical upper and lower levels, from left to right respectively.

3. Cut-away side view of Tarapata-McMahon-Paulsen designed home with Dow's "Spiral Generation" dome forming the upper story and roof. Split level arrangement provides for entrance at an intermediate level with sleeping areas below and living areas above.
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U of M Honors Sanders

Walter B. Sanders, FAIA, was one of twelve members of the faculty of U of M presented with an award for distinguished scholarship, teaching and or service to the University. As a Senior faculty member, Sanders was honored with a $1000 Distinguished Achievement Award at the annual Faculty-Staff Convocation. Funds for the awards totaling $10,500 were provided by alumni groups of the university.

Fleck Addresses Auditors

Paul G. Fleck, P.E., executive vice president of Albert Kahn Associates, Inc., recently addressed the Detroit Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors. A 160-member organization, the local chapter of AIA includes representatives from more than 150 firms in Detroit and vicinity.

In his talk, “An Audit of A & E Professional Services,” Fleck discussed design and building procedures from inception of a project to completion, with special emphasis on estimating and controlling costs, contract documents and bidding procedures, etc.

Mr. Fleck has held his present post with AKA since 1966. Active in professional affairs, he has served on a number of committees for the Engineering Society of Detroit where he recently Co-Chaired the Construction-Engineering Activities Committee for ESD.

Nominations Open for 1970 Library Buildings Award Program

The American Institute of Architects, in cooperation with The American Library Association and The National Book Committee, has announced the opening of nominations for the 1970 fifth semi-annual Library Buildings Award Program. The awards recognize excellence in the architectural design and planning of libraries.

Members of the jury will be: John Dinkeloo, AIA, chairman, Hamden, Conn.; Norman C. Rice, FAIA, Philadelphia; Jordan L. Gruen, AIA, New York; Edoma Low, Professor of Library Science, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Ralph A. Ulveling, Professor of Library Science, Wayne State University, Detroit; Miss Cora Bomar, Department of Library Science, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, and Charles E. Reid, National Book Committee, Paramus, N.J.

Entries may be submitted by registered architects practicing in the United States for libraries which have been erected here or abroad, completed after January 1, 1965. The program is open to buildings in the following classifications: academic (junior college, four-year college, university, special); public libraries (including county and state), and school libraries (up to and including secondary schools).

The jury will select one or more of the entries for First Honor Awards for Distinguished Accomplishment in Architecture and as many entries as it deems worthy for Awards of Merit D.C., February mM-pO in Architecture. They will meet at AIA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., February 10-11, 1970.

A brochure detailing criteria for the award has been mailed to all members of the AIA. Entry forms must be completed by December 12, 1969, and submissions in brochure form must be received by January 23, 1970. Further information is available from Mrs. Marie Murray, Manager, Awards Programs, at The American Institute of Architects, and from Mrs. Ruth Frame, Library Administrative Division Executive Secretary at The American Library Association, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Senator Replies to the West Front of the Capitol

Senator Hart wired President Jackson B. Hallett “Pleased to report Senate yesterday rejected extension funds for restoration of Western Front of Capitol. I voted to support this amendment.”

Philip A. Hart, U.S. Senator.”

LeBrun Traveling Fellowship

To Winner of Design for Prefabricated Modular Unit

The New York Chapter, The American Institute of Architects announces the subject of the competition for the 1970 Le Brun Traveling Fellowship. Applicants are asked to design a simple modular shell with utilities, for various public uses, capable of multiple expansion and rapid erection.

The winner of the design receives a prize to $3,000 to be used for travel and architectural study outside the United States.

The competition is open to United States citizens between the ages of 25 and 30 who have at least a year and a half of architectural office experience. They must not previously have been awarded a traveling fellowship, and must be placed in nomination by a member of the AIA.

Nomination forms are available after December 1, 1969, with the program scheduled for mailing January 15, 1970. Submission of the design must be by March, 1970.

For further information and for nomination forms, write the New York Chapter, AIA 120 West 40th Street; New York, New York, 10018.

UW Appointment

Former Editor of the Bulletin, Robert M. Beckley, AIA, has joined the faculty of the new School of Architecture at the University of Wisconsin. The present facility for the school is on the Civic Center Campus in downtown Milwaukee; future plans call for the school to be located on the University campus.

Employment Practice Conference Set for Chicago

The Joint Committee on Employment Practices has established the program for its third annual conference to be held on December 5, 1969, “Employee/Employer—A Relationship in Transition.”

This third in the series of annual conferences will be held at the Arlington Park Towers, adjacent to Chicago’s O’Hare Field.

Papers will be presented at the all-day conference on “Creativity and Motivation,” “Employee’s Right to Representation” and “Future of the Professions.” Emphasis will be placed on the employees’ environment. Panel discussions will include recent case studies on unionization vs. professionalism and will feature live presentation of “Employees’ Views.”

The afternoon session will be devoted to workshops on “Technicians,” “Professional Development,” “Personnel Politics” and “Labor Law.” All workshop sessions will be summarized at the conclusion of the conference.

The Joint Committee on Employment Practices is a coordinating body of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, American Institute of Chemists, American Society of Civil Engineers, Consulting Engineers Council/USA, Council for Photogrammetry, and Professional Engineers in Private
Practice of National Society of Professional Engineers.

Program announcements and reservation form were available in November. Those wishing to receive this information may be placed on the mailing list by writing to: Robert Allan Glass, AIA; Secretary, JCEP; American Institute of Architects; 1735 New York Ave., N.W.: Washington, D.C. 20006.

$6,500 Brunner Scholarship Available for Architectural Research

The New York Chapter, The American Institute of Architects, announces that application form for the Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship are available at the Chapter office, 20 West 40th Street, New York City.

The purpose of this annual scholarship is "to further the development of architecture in the United States by . . . advanced study in some special field or architectural investigation which . . . most effectively contribute to the practice, teaching, or knowledge of the Art and Science of Architecture." Each candidate may be proposed by the Chapter and developed by the candidate. The study, which normally takes one year, concludes with a submission to the Chapter.

Anyone who practices architecture or a related field and who has a broad professional background is eligible.

Deadline for submitting applications is January 15, 1970. They should be sent to the Director, Administration & Finance; New York Chapter, The American Institute of Architects; 20 West 40th Street; New York, New York, 10018, accompanied by a $5 application fee. Announcement of the recipient will be made by June 1, 1970. Bernard Rothzeid, AIA, is chairman of the jury for this year's Brunner Scholarship.

NAARCO

Noel E. Jackson has been promoted to the position of executive vice president and general manager of North American Aluminum Corporation, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Jackson has been with the company since 1967. Prior to that, he was associated with the firm of Lybrand, Ross Bros., & Montgomery in Detroit.

NAARCO serves the aluminum architectural and industrial markets, from billet to finished product. Facilities offered are custom design, engineering, extrusion, fabrication, anodizing and assembly.

New Location

The firm of King & Lewis Architects, Inc., are located in new offices in The Honeywell Center, 17515 West Nine Mile Road, Suite 825, Southfield, Michigan 48075-Phone 356-6316.

Richard A. Backus

New Appointment

DeClerk Industries, Inc., Center Line, Michigan, has announced the appointment of Richard A. Backus to the newly created position of executive vice president in charge of the company's operations.

He was formerly vice president of market development for American Cement Corporation.

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E. H. Webster Elected To Office in AISC

The executive vice president of Whitehead & Kales Company E. H. Webster has been elected president and a member of the Executive Committee of the American Institute of Steel Construction.

In this capacity he will help direct the national organization representing some 300 firms which account for the major portion of the annual output of fabricated structural steel in the United States.

Born in Hulmeville, Pa., Webster was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania where he received a BS degree in civil engineering. He first joined AISC in 1953 and was elected to the Board of Directors in 1962 becoming second vice president in 1965 and first vice president in 1967. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the National Society of Professional Engineers.

U of C Appointment

Bruce E. Erickson has been appointed Head of the Department of Architecture, College of Design, Architecture, and Art at the University of Cincinnati. He succeeds Richard H. Wheeler, who will remain as Chairman of the Division of Architecture.

Hagerty Appointed Director, University of Detroit News Bureau

Donald F. Hagerty has been appointed director of the University of Detroit's News Bureau, with responsibility for furnishing news media with information on all campus activities and developments excluding theatre and sports.

He will assist in a communications program designed to reach all faculty, students, alumni, parents and friends of the University.

In addition to his duties as director of the News Bureau, Hagerty will edit the "Faculty Newsletter" and the "Alumni News."

Hagerty comes to U. of D. from the Michigan Catholic newspaper, a nationally known weekly publication, where he was an assisting editor and reporter for over two years.

Daverman Promotes Four

Four members of Daverman Associates, Inc., have been promoted to new positions of leadership within the firm.

William Vanderbout and Calvin Lane have been promoted to Project Coordinators and as such will assist the firm's directors in maintaining close liaison between the company and its clients.

The two promotions were announced by the Executive Committee of Daverman's Board of Directors, noting that "the new positions are continuous with Daverman's continuous growth throughout the U.S. and its emphasis on personalized client service.

Both Vanderbout and Lane are registered architects and both have been Associates within the firm for a number of years. Vanderbout has been serving as Daverman's Production Administrator for the past six (6) years and has been with the firm since 1954. Lane has been Director of the Design Department since 1964 and has been with the firm for nine (9) years.

Named to fill the Production Administrator position replacing Vanderbout is Greg Slaybaugh, engineer and head of the Daverman Civil Engineering Department. The Directors also promoted Slaybaugh to Associate status and indicated that his role will be to coordinate all scheduling of jobs, technical excellence, efficiency and personnel matters.

Earl Van Allsburg, architect and a Daverman Associate, has been promoted to replace Lane as Director of the Design Department. Van Allsburg is a veteran of 14 years service with the firm.

Daverman now has a total of 24 Associates and eight Directors. The firm has projects underway in 18 states and maintains offices in Petoskey, Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin; Menlo Park, California and Montego Bay, Jamaica, West Indies.

Reynolds Jury Announced

Appointment of the jury for the 1970 R. S Reynolds Memorial Award for distinguished achievement in architecture with use of aluminum was announced today by the AIA, which administers the program.

George E. Kassabaum, FAIA, of St. Louis, immediate past president of the Institute, was named jury chairman.
Other members are William W. Caudill, FAIA, of Houston; Samuel M. Brody, FAIA, of New York; Ian MacKinlay, AIA of Orinda, Calif., and Boyd Auger of London, England. Mr. Auger was the recipient of the 1969 Reynolds Award, being honored for his design of the Gyrotron structures at the Man and His World Exposition, Montreal, Canada.

The jury will meet February 25-26 at AIA headquarters.

CORRECTION
The Monthly Bulletin regrets that through an editorial error Wesley E. LaRoy was recently given credit for awards for the Stoney Creek Bathhouse, which was actually to the firm of Wakely Kushner Associates, Inc., during the period of his association with that firm.

Letters
October 20, 1969

Dear Mr. Hallett:

The tear-sheet from the September 22 edition of the Detroit News bearing the Resolution of the American Institute of Architects has been received.

I find it most encouraging that responsible groups such as yours are more and more becoming involved in taking a stand on matters affecting our society and its environment.

My congratulations to your Society, and thank you for bringing this to my attention.

Most sincerely,
George W. Kuhn
State Senator

October 20, 1969

Dear Mr. Hallett:

May I acknowledge and thank you for your letter in behalf of the Michigan Society of Architects and the copy of the American Institute of Architects resolution that money and will are needed to reverse the decay of America's cities.

I agree and I am gratified to find an organization of AIA's caliber joining with other private organizations in recognizing that a truly national commitment is necessary to solve this problem. I am encouraged, too, by the Administration's Operation Breakthrough program, its emphasis on the quality as well as the quantity of our spending, and its stepped up campaign against organized crime, a major contributor to dangerous and degrading urban environments.

But I'm sure that you and your colleagues are as concerned as I am about the current conditions of war and inflation which hinder the launching of a full-scale effort to meet the housing needs of the next decade. The President is dedicated to correcting these conditions that are taking such a terrible toll in lives and resources. And I support his efforts.

All good wishes and thank you again for bringing the AIA resolution to my attention.

Sincerely,
William S. Broomfield
Michigan Congress

Obituary

J. I. Disc

J. Ivan Disc, 82, died October 23 at the Arnold Home in Detroit.

A native of Glen Rock, Pennsylvania, he was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

He came to Detroit in 1919 to join Albert Kahn's architectural firm. In 1922, he started his own firm designing the Methodist Children's Village, Boulevard Temple Building and many Detroit public schools.

Mr. Disc is survived by a son Joseph I. Jr.; a daughter, Mrs. William J. Trongh, three brothers and three grandchildren.

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