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VOLUME XXII
NUMBER 4 1958

July-August, 1958
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The following seven pages show several of the firm's recent projects.
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Entrance Detail

Council Chambers
With prominent speakers accepting bids to talk and special events shaping into final form, the Minnesota Society of Architects' annual convention and the associated regional conference of the AIA's north central states chapters will include interesting things to talk about and the experts to talk about them. It all adds up to a sparkling event well worth attending. The place is the St. Paul Hotel in St. Paul, Minn., and the dates are October 2 and 3, which are a Thursday and Friday.

Seminars have come to be a cornerstone of these meetings and this year's series includes those which will hear Marcel Breuer, Ralph Rapson, Larry Perkins and others of similar standing in today's world of design. These men will bring not only their unique ideas of methods of design but will back them up with definite examples of these ideas put into tangible form—the final buildings. The seminars allow for discussion and so their ideas and the ideas of those attending the meetings will combine to create ever greater interest.

Various offices will present some of the top interest recent projects and some projects still in the crystallizing stages. Among them, according to Gene Flynn, general chairman for the conference, will be the Veterans' Memorial Building in Milwaukee, the General Mills Building in Minneapolis, plans for a new University of Minnesota School of Architecture building in Minneapolis and Victor Gruen's work to date on the redevelopment plans for Downtown St. Paul. Tours of interesting points in the Twin Cities are also being planned.

The two luncheons will have as speakers Herbert Beyer, prominent designer who was formerly a Bauhaus associate, and Mr. Bendiner, author of the column called "Life Through a Martini Glass." Other social events during the two days will include a social evening at the St. Paul Gallery of Art, followed by a smorgasbord at the University Club. Twin Cities artists will show some of their work for this special evening.

The traditional dinner dance will be held on Friday, during which winners of the second annual Minnesota Honor Awards Competition will be announced. The event will also honor some of the former professors of architecture at the University of Minnesota.

The women's auxiliary of the chapter will have a series of special events for the ladies who attend the convention and the conference and these events are being planned with a special view of the interests of those who will be in attendance.

A special invitation is extended to all architectural students of the region to attend the conference. The committee in charge pointed out that students will find not only much of technical interest in the proceedings but will also meet and talk with men and women in the practice of architecture and from them get added orientation for their careers.

A footnote to the program announcements appears in the fact that the Saturday following ending of the convention-conference the University of Minnesota football team meets the University of Pittsburgh in a game in Memorial Stadium.

"In summing up early plans for the conference," Mr. Flynn said, "we would be remiss if we did not repeat our invitation to all in the practice of architecture or in the allied fields to plan to be with us for this big event in October. We plan to make it mighty well worth the time spent in St. Paul by making our program an outstanding and varied one!"

U OF M WILL PUBLISH BOOK ON PURCELL & ELMSLIE

A recent note to the NORTHWEST ARCHITECT staff from William G. Purcell, now a resident of California, said that the University of Minnesota Press is planning a book on the well known firm of Purcell & Elmslie. Mr. Purcell's house which was included in our recent monograph on 100 years of Minnesota architecture is typical of the work of these two men. They have a definite tie-in with the work of Louis Sullivan, with whom Mr. Elmslie was once associated. Mr. Purcell is well known to readers of NORTHWEST ARCHITECT as he wrote extensively—and intensively—for the magazine during the early years of its publication.
Louis Sullivan's famous Security Bank & Trust Company building in Owatonna, only Minnesota structure to be included in the AIA Centennial Exhibition, has been remodeled so its banking functions can be carried on with use of every modern banking facility yet the basic Sullivan design has been preserved. Its rededication at a special meeting of the Minnesota Society of Architects on June 12 was the occasion of honoring the completion of an outstanding job of saving an important structure.

The dedication brought together some famous persons in the profession and in other businesses. Principal speaker was James M. Fitch, associate professor of architecture at Columbia University, and in his audience were Mrs. Ivy Baker Priest, treasurer of the United States, Clifford C. Sommer, president of the Security Bank & Trust Co., Harwell H. Harris, AIA of Dallas, Brooks Cavin, president of the Minnesota Society of Architects, Douglas Haskel, editor of Architectural Forum, and many others.

"During the planning of the AIA Centennial, its exhibition included only one building in Minnesota, the Security Bank of Owatonna," Robert L. Bliss, preservation officer of the Minneapolis chapter, told the meeting. "Local interest was renewed by the proposed exhibition, as well as by the discovery that the bank was to be remodeled. Recognizing the changes in banking procedure, it seemed possible to meet the new needs and retain the character of the building.

"Action was initiated by the Minnesota State Art Society which was later joined in the effort by the AIA historical preservation committee and University of Minnesota School of Architecture and architectural historians, which resulted in a meeting with officers of the bank. The delicacy of the design problem required the most sympathetic understanding of the Sullivan tradition and Harwell Harris was suggested to the officers as a design consultant. A. Moorman & Company were associated for the working designs drawings and supervision.

"The joint committee members were Stanton Catlin, formerly curator at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Donald Torbert, associate professor of art at the University, John Lindstrom, and Victor Gilbertson of AIA's Minneapolis chapter, Ralph Rapson, head of the university's school of architecture, H. Fred Koepker, assistant professor in the school, and Robert L. Bliss."

Suggestion of Mr. Harris as the design consultant was based on his reputation as a follower and student of Sullivan's style and his standing in the profession. With his help the job of remodeling was accomplished so the resultant bank of 1958 is geared to modern banking methods but the changes are definitely in harmony with the original Sullivan structure.

The original Sullivan decorations have been refinished and the rich glow which was there in 1908 again
warms the visitor to the bank. The DeNardo Studio of St. Paul did the art work and used 200 shades of various colors to match the originals. All changes in the interior were kept below the terra cotta wainscoting, about 10 feet from the floor. Where retouching was not needed the decorations were thoroughly cleaned. The entire job took about 18 months to carry through.

It was pointed out that restoration of the structure was complicated by minor changes made in it during its 50 years of life. Expansion area required by the bank was obtained by adding to the building an adjoining structure and joining of the two areas was done in such manner that there was no injury to the entire Sullivan feeling of the original space. The original brick could not be matched today so brickwork was removed carefully, the bricks cleaned and relaid in new areas where required by the revamping of the structure.

Commenting on the job for a newspaper story, Mr. Harris said that “this, to me, is the most powerful Sullivan building and our problem was what we put back in for we couldn’t actually be Sullivan but we didn’t want the new elements to interfere.” He pointed out that in the usual remodeling the effort is to make the remade structure look “new.” Too often decoration is destroyed, walls sheared clean and painted white, as though the owners were ashamed of the old building. That, of course, was not the case in the Owatonna bank.

He said he was particularly pleased with the fact that the structure will continue in its original function as a bank, not become a museum piece, for function is basically important in any architectural project, be it a new building or a restoration.

In recognition of the work done, the Minnesota Society of Architects presented Mr. Sommer a certificate of appreciation, which read:

“Proud possessor of one of our country’s great architectural treasures, the president and board with rare understanding and sound judgment have brought about the modification of their building to incorporate the advantages of today’s technology while maintaining a sensitive respect for the dignity and beauty of the initial creation. We, the architectural profession, salute this enlightened leadership—successive generations will echo our acclaim.”

In this talk Mr. Fitch told the group:

“America did not handle Louis Sullivan very kindly when he was still alive and it is, I take it, partly in recognition of this neglect that we are here tonight celebrating the rededication of one of his most famous buildings exactly half a century after its first opening. The lapsed time since Sullivan’s death should give us a better perspective of the man and the problems he faced. Sullivan presents us with an almost classic example of the symbolic relationship which always exists

These pictures show views of the interior of the bank as it is today. At top is the main entrance and west wall, in center is the south wall with the tellers’ counters and the new part of the bank in the background and the lower picture shows the bank’s east wall as seen from the main entrance.

JULY-AUGUST, 1958
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between a great artist and his culture for the mark of a great artist seems to be precisely that he 'can't live with his times and yet cannot live without them.' Only in retrospect can we see that such a man was ahead of his times—that is, that he saw more clearly than the lay audience around him the future they both faced. This is never an easy process, either for the artist or his audience. It places them, in a very real sense, at war with one another. This was the case with Sullivan and, because of some inner weakness or conflict, it destroyed him.

"Like many other historians I have asked myself what was this inner flaw. Why did Sullivan retire from the world at the age of 43, at the height of his powers and prestige, when his protege Frank Lloyd Wright is still undefeated at twice that age? The answer seems to lie in the very structure of his personality and intellect. He was a generalist in a culture which has, at least up to date, always belonged to the specialist. He tried to resolve, singlehandedly, the contradictions between the poetic and the practical. He sought, as he himself often put it, for 'that rule which admits of no exception,' which applies with equal force to every problem, at every level.

"This was a laudable ambition and one which might conceivably apply to certain areas of pure science but he, poor fellow, tried to apply it to that most complex and exasperatingly eclectic of all professions, architecture. And he tried to do it at a time when architecture was just emerging into something of a fully professional stature, in a Midwest that subscribed much more to the philosophy of Armour, Judge Gary and George Pullman than to that of Jane Addams, Governor Altgeld or Carl Sandburg.

"The Chicago of 1900 must have been a town pretty hostile to poet, artist and philosopher but however brutal its power or Philistine its standards, there must have been personal, internal weaknesses in Sullivan to force his virtual retirement from the world of affairs just when he had completed his chef d'oeuvre, the Carson, Pirie and Scott Building. What these weaknesses were can, on the face of the available evidence, only be guessed at. Sullivan was notoriously reserved about his private life. It is not accidental that he writes his life story in the third person and then names it 'The Autobiography of an Idea.' Even the late George Emslie, who worked with him longer and knew him better than any other professional associate, told me before his death that Sullivan was always an enigma to him. We know that Sullivan drank very heavily but today that would be diagnosed as an effect, not a cause. The problem remains: what made him retire from the glittering world of affairs into a sort of vegetable existence on the Gulf Coast?

"Actually, we can see in both his writings and his architecture not only the evidence of external pressures but also of internal conflicts. There are two Sullivans at work here, not one. One of them is the brilliant, analytical rationalist, the man who could take LeBaron Jenney's steel frame and convert it into the classic prototype of the skyscraper, the man who could analyze the cultural problems of American democracy with such perspicacity, the man who could think like the best scientist when he says that the origin of all form lies in function.

"The other Sullivan is quite as powerful but entirely different: a profound deist, a mystic, a poet who mixes a certain grandeur with plain mush, a nature lover much closer to Thoreau than to Darwin. We can trace these two Sullivans in his writings. We can see them in conflict very clearly in his architecture but you can very seldom find them in perfect equipoise in either area. It is to this unresolved conflict inside himself, as much as to that between himself and his Chicago audience, that Sullivan owes his defeat.

"I should say that, architecturally, Sullivan won this equipoise only three or four times in his career: in the Getty tomb, in the Carson Pirie and Scott Building, in the Farmers & Merchants Union Bank in Columbus, Wisconsin, and here in Owatonna.

"In Carson, Pirie and Scott we have a diamond-shaped celebration of the essential nature of the cubicular steel frame. Unlike the earlier skyscrapers, neither vertical nor horizontal movement is over-emphasized, the structure is static and the story is told without the least
adaptable to the architectural plan

Hope's Window Walls

Illustrated is an example of the flexibility of design made possible for Ralph Rapson, Minneapolis architect through the use of Hope's Steel Window Walls. The great strength and rigidity of the rolled steel subframes was a vital factor in the structure. Gable units were set up for later reception of cathedral glass.

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poetic deviation from the geometry of the steel skeleton. Only at the street level store front does the other Sullivan, the ornamentalist, appear and even here he is strictly disciplined. The show windows are framed in a delicate, cast bronze screen of almost Oriental splendor and sensuality, unmatched so far as I am aware by any other American architectural ornament. When it swells to form the circular entrance loggia or erupts like a fountain over the side street carriage entrance, it is an architectural sculpture much closer to Hindu temples than to State Street drygoods. Here Sullivan has accomplished what is theoretically impossible, combine ornament of barbaric richness with a structure of Puritanical simplicity. The success of this startling juxtaposition rests upon the careful way in which the architect has isolated them, both structurally and esthetically, so they complement instead of destroy each other.

“In the banks in Columbus and Owatonna, with a building program at once simpler, smaller and more personal, the poet in Sullivan is in command. He himself had said that there were only two systems of construction, the post and beam and the arch and vault. The skyscraper was the apotheosis of the first. His banks are a demonstration of the latter.

“Here in Owatona, with solid loadbearing masonry walls, he could exploit the sheer sculptural power of the arch and his ornament could be an integral part of the fabric. But the bank plan gave him another opportunity which the skyscraper never did, a great three-dimensional interior volume which could be moulded and manipulated in response to purely lyrical impulses, as the modular steel skeleton could never be. Because of this he was able to produce a banking room which, in power and coherence, is even more impressive than the mass of the building when seen from the outside.

“There are several ironies implicit in tonight's occasion, all of which the older sardonic Sullivan of the Autobiography would have enjoyed. The first, obviously, is that he himself has become an important part of history, of the past, his buildings sufficiently appreciated by his descendants to be preserved as historic monuments. For it was to loosen the dead clutch of the past upon American architecture that he spent most of his life fighting. He was savage in his attacks on the way his contemporaries used the past.

“We architects, he wrote in 1923, offer 'Tudor for colleges and residences, Roman for banks and railway stations and libraries or Greek, if you like, some customers prefer the Ionic to the Doric. We have French, English and Italian Gothic, Classic and Renaissance for churches. Residences we offer in Italian or Louis Quinze.’ This kind of gothic grave-robbing of the past drove him to fight and it is largely due to his fight that the practice ended, permitting architects of our generation to speak, for the first time since the Italian Renaissance, an artistic language of our own.

“But it was not the past per se that Louis hated. It was the use by his culture of the art forms of another to hide, like a fig leaf, its own timidity or lack of creative power. He devoted precious little time to history for it was the present and the future that obsessed him. But he had a fine sense of history when he wrote, 'the flow of building (which) we call Historical Architecture
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"There is another irony here tonight which would have delighted Louis Sullivan. It was not a great metropolitan bank which gave Sullivan a commission when his prestige was at its height in Chicago but a small-town banker, Dr. L. L. Bennett, here in Owatonna, when Sullivan was disowned and disinherited because of his refusal to go along with the eclectic hoax of the Columbian Exposition of 1893. And it is very significant that it is still a small town bank (I hope we may call yours that, Mr. Sommer?) which respects his work and celebrates it on an occasion like this.

"Chicago, to match Owatonna, would have to rescue the Auditorium Theater or the Schiller Building from the obscene decay into which they have been allowed to lapse. Sullivan, of course, did nothing to win the affection of those big city bankers who were wrapping fake Roman façades around their counting houses. He went after them hammer and tongs: 'I do not relish Roman-temple banks and the common-sense Roman temple bank particularly disagrees with me,' he says in Kindergarten Chats. 'I am going to insist that the banker wear a toga and sandals and conduct his business in the venerated Latin tongue, oral and written.'

"His imaginary student protests, 'I really don't see why, as a matter of common privilege, a man shouldn't make an imitation Roman temple if he wishes to do so.'

"'I don't either,' Sullivan replies, 'if he will make it in his own back yard, for his own private use, gratification or amusement but when he puts it on the people's highway and labels it modern architecture, there are those who will cry humbug and, what is worse, prove it.'

"These polemics did not sit well with the bankers and, by and large, they reacted as you might expect, they cut him off without a dime. But Sullivan's battle against Philistine architecture brought him into collision with many people besides bankers. Indeed, by the turn of the century fashionable taste, the whole of Chicago's polite society, seems to have turned solidly against him in favor of eclectic architecture. It is a fascinating comment on the Midwest of 1908 that it was not the metropolis but the hinterland which embraced his avantgarde theories. It was not Philip Armour or Mrs. Potter Palmer who responded to the


logic of his argument but small-town people like Carl K. Bennett and Mrs. J. R. Wheeler. Mr. Bennett, son of L. L. and vice president of the bank, wrote a piece for The Craftsman significantly entitled, 'A Bank Built for Farmers: Louis Sullivan designs a building which marks a new epoch in American Architecture.' The piece is a model of sober common sense. He writes, 'The classical style of architecture so much used for bank buildings was at first considered but finally rejected as being not necessarily expressive of a bank . . . and defective when it comes to practical use.'

They consulted architects, he says, but because those interviewed 'preferred to follow precedent or to take their inspiration from the books, it was determined to make a search for an architect whose aim it was to express the thought or use underlying a building, adequately, without fear of precedent.' They looked through art and architectural magazines, came upon Sullivan and hired him.

"Bennett describes the main features of the building. One thing of which he was very proud was the new women's room, designed for farm wives in town with their children. They could wait here, he says, while their husbands transacted their business in the Farmers' Exchange. For their comfort, he writes, it had 'a warmer and richer color scheme (than the rest of the bank) and is provided with high-back settles, low rocking chairs and small tables and writing desks.'

"Mr. Bennett does not tell us, in this article of fifty years ago, whether Sullivan's radical design ever caused any misgivings on the part of the customer of the bank or the citizens of Owatonna. But J. R. Wheeler, president of the Farmers and Merchants Union Bank of Columbus, Wisconsin, for whom Sullivan designed a building in 1919, confesses that 'he was scared to death by those first drawings. . . . I was sure that the bank would terrify the natives. I was almost ready to call the whole thing off and run for cover. It was Mrs. Wheeler who . . . talked me into going ahead.' And Mrs. Wheeler, who was she? Where did her convictions come from. She tells us that she had seen and admired some buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright, had-
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1893 SIXTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY 1958
found a postcard of an earlier Sullivan bank (perhaps this one). Moreover, she had studied the Froebel system in the Chicago Kindergarten Training School, the same Froebel, incidentally, who made such an impression on Wright's mother when his theories were first exposed at the Philadelphia Exposition in 1876. Froebel had taught the motto 'Do nothing unrelated' and that is what Mrs. Wright urged upon her husband. The bank went ahead and 'from my original timidity,' Mr. Wheeler tells us, 'I eventually advanced to the point where I began to worry that somebody else might copy the bank.'

'There is something most heart-warming about this sort of principled discussion of architectural problems —Mr. Bennett's concern about the comfort of farm wives, in town on some bitter winter Saturday, the shopping done and no place to wait while their husbands finished their trading, Mr. Wheeler's worry as to whether progressive farmers practicing experimental farm techniques would accept architecture of the same progressive sort and Mrs. Wheeler's straightforward insistence upon applying to general life the standards of behavior she was taught in school. No wonder Sullivan found these clients to his liking; in them he was confronting the rank-and-file of Middle Western democracy, the very people in whose innate good sense and ultimate worth he placed his trust.

"It was on behalf of these people that he asked architects 'not to betray but to express the life of your own day and generation.' It was in their behalf that he asked his fellow architects 'to infuse into (their buildings) the true life of the people, to impart to them the best that is in people, as the eye of the poet, looking below the surface of life, sees the best that is in the people.' And it was in their behalf that Sullivan himself did two of his finest buildings.

"The professional architects in this audience tonight may well have some personal reservations about the decorative ornament which Louis employed on this building. That would not be surprising. We have all become so acutely self-conscious in these matters, so unsure of our taste, so unwilling publicly to commit ourselves to one or another of the various schools of art available to us today that we take the easy way out, we simply use no art or ornament at all. Yet none of us, I warrant, can look at the exhuberant confidence of the ornamental work in building without feeling, at base, a little ashamed of our own timidity, a little envious of Sullivan in his confidence and courage.

"The place of art in modern architecture confronts us with a dichotomy which Sullivan was first to observe and first to attempt to solve. He said—and he was desperately serious when he said it—that architectural form should flow out of architectural function. But he never made the vulgar error of thinking that mere mechanical or structural function were the only values to be expressed in architecture. Above and beyond them stood social and cultural functions and these too had to be given expression in symbolic form. The architect, no less than the poet, had to extract and celebrate these functions. To this end he spent a large part of his life trying to develop a vocabulary of architectural ornament in the same way that Walt Whitman evolved a whole new vocabulary of poetic imagery based upon the experiences of the people.

"That he may not have fully succeeded is due to a number of factors. The first is obviously one of time, his place in it and the amount he had at his disposal. He stood at the Great Divide of American architecture: and he was anticipating esthetic problems which, for the great majority of his audience, simply did not yet exist. No one life would be long enough to solve them. As he put it, 'such a system (i.e., a complete vocabulary of architectural ornament) could scarcely be expected to reach its fullness of development short of maturity.'

"Then there was the problem of his audience. Socially, it was very complex; exactly whose values were to be celebrated, those of Mrs. Potter Palmer, the great North Shore society leader, or those of Mrs. Wheeler, the small town kindergarten teacher? Or perhaps there could be some sort of average between the two? Sullivan could not answer that problem single-handedly in one life time. There was, finally, the technical problem of his medium. Symbols are elusive and constantly changing phenomena. They can be expressed more quickly, more cheaply in written work or painted canvas than in the architect's immensely more obdurate materials of brick and steel. For these reasons, Sullivan's ornament may seem more dated than his structure. But this does not minimize the heroism of his effort or the correctness of his vision; he has posed for us a problem which we have yet to solve.

"I should say, parenthetically, that I had seen only black and white photographs of the bank as it is tonight and they scarcely prepared me for the tact and brilliance with which the architects of the renovation, Harwell Harris, Frank Moorman and Marlow Ihling, had reorganized the interior of Sullivan's great banking floor without in any sense distorting his original composition.
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“Knowing his own work, I am sure that Mr. Harris has different, perhaps even better, concepts of architectural ornament than those of Sullivan. But he also has, I know, a strong sense of historical continuity, of the significance and value of this building as a part of our cultural heritage. It is a measure of his power as an architect how unobtrusively he has changed the facilities of this room, just as it is a measure of the essential modernity of Sullivan that his building could absorb the changes with no important structural alterations. Since modern American architects are going to face more and more problems of this sort—I mention the current controversy over the proposed alterations to the U. S. Capitol as only one example—they should study Harwell’s work here with interest.

“Louis Sullivan confronts us here tonight with one final ironic question, how do we propose to handle future Sullivans, future pioneers, future generalists when they appear? Will we exile them to the Mississippi backwoods when they challenge the conformism which is smothering our country today? We generously subsidize the specialists to design rockets to get us to the moon and overpay ‘practical men’ to build them for us but what will happen to the peaceful, ‘impractical’ generalist who calls attention to all the work still needed here on earth?

“Sullivan was not popular with many of his contemporaries because he saw the general implications of current developments and insisted on pointing them out. Take, as an example, the skyscraper. If any man can be described as its inventor, in its final architectural form, it is he. Yet listen to the generalized conclusions he drew about its future thirty-five years ago. ‘It may have its aspects of beneficence but so long as man may say, ‘I shall do as I please with my own,’ it presents aspects of social menace and danger... the tall office building loses its validity when the surroundings are uncongenial to its nature and when such buildings are crowded together upon narrow streets or lanes they become mutually destructive.’ This was unpopular talk with real estate men then and it would be considered treasonable today. Yet, with our cities a chaos of traffic today and more tall buildings adding constantly to the anarchy, whom has history vindicated, Sullivan or the practical men who brushed him off as an idle dreamer? America needs more Sullivans, not fewer, and Americans should pay more heed to their advice when they appear.”

MINNEAPOLIS SUBURBS ACT TO CREATE BUILDING CONTROL BOARDS

The Minneapolis suburbs of Richfield and St. Louis Park have taken recent action leading to the creation of boards of architectural control, at least in part patterned after the New York City code. Both communities’ actions are being debated in council sessions and details ironed out. At least one architect will be on each of the boards, preliminary reports indicated. In St. Louis Park some felt that recourse from decisions of the building inspector should go before the council as a whole.

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At Owatonna:

The montage reproduced above shows some of the many persons present at the bank rededication. We identify them from left to right in the numbered pictures: 1—Douglas Haskel, editor of the Architectural Forum, Brooks Cavin, MSA president, and Prof. James Fitch of Columbia University. . . 2—Harold Spitznagel, regional AIA vice-president from Sioux Falls, S. D., C. C. Sommer, bank president, and Prof. Fitch. . . 3—Ed Lundie, FAIA, St. Paul, Harry Hartle, president of Owatonna Canning Co. and bank director, and E. L. Gardner, Ellerbe & Co., St. Paul. . .

4—Pres. Cavin presenting the MSA certificate to Pres. Sommer. . . 5—Prof. Fitch speaks. . . 6—Clair Armstrong, MSA vice-president, and Gordon Schlichting, Armstrong & Schlichting, Minneapolis, comment “It looks good to me.” . . . 7—Mayor Myers welcomes the architects and Robert Bliss outlines background of the restoration. . . . 8—Warren Kane, Architect in Austin, Minn., and Kenneth Lyne, Blooming Prairie contractor for the work. . . . 9—Joe Weickelbaum, AIA, Rochester, Robert Howe, past president of the St. Paul chapter, and Ken Pieper, AIA, Rochester. . . .


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This sketch illustrates how the new Minneapolis First Bank will look on its completion in 1960.
AIA
Elects Richards as New President, Spitznagel as North Central States Regional Director

John N. Richards, FAIA of Toledo, Ohio, was elected president of the AIA at its recent Cleveland convention and from this area Harold T. Spitznagel of Sioux Falls, S. D., was elected a regional director for the North Central States District. More than 2,000 architects attended the big annual event and saw Mr. Richards succeed Leon Chatelain, Jr., Washington, D. C., as head of the group. Mr. Chatelain was not a candidate.

Director Spitznagel is well known to readers of NORTHWEST ARCHITECT as an exponent of "grass roots" thinking in design. He is an active member of the South Dakota AIA chapter and served as its president in 1955. He has been a member of the AIA's national committee on public relations. His firm is Harold Spitznagel & Associates.

Philip Will, Jr., FAIA of Chicago, went from second vice-president to first vice-president and Henry L. Wright, FAIA of Los Angeles, was elected second vice-president. Edward L. Wilson, FAIA of Ft. Worth, was re-elected secretary and Raymond S. Kastendieck of Gary, Ind., treasurer.

When Pres. Chatelain relinquished his office to his successor he was presented with the new "President's Jewel," designed by Ralph Walker, FAIA of New York and past AIA president. Mr. Walker, who was the centennial gold medalist of the AIA, presented the design to the group to be worn by the incumbent president, who would take the jewel with him on stepping down from the presidency as a memento of his service. Pres. Richards also received a jewel.

A Minnesota architect was awarded an honor award in the Third Annual Homes for Better Living Program, the only award to be achieved by anyone from this area. Donald E. Hustad won the citation for a balconied, barrel-vaulted house in Wayzata, Minn., this and other winners being selected from among more than 250 designs submitted from the district. There was no fellow of the institute named in this area this year.

The $25,000 Reynolds Memorial Award went to seven Belgian architects for design of the aluminum Transportation Pavilion at the Brussels fair. Five First Honor Awards and nine Awards of Merit were made to buildings considered outstanding by the committee. As reported in our last issue, John W. Root of Chicago won the 1958 Gold Medal.

In one of his first moves after being installed as president of the AIA, Mr. Richards urged Congress to "heed the will of the American people and the advice of the nation's architects" and enact legislation promptly to block alteration of the U. S. capitol building until expansion needs can be studied. This step followed overwhelming approval of a resolution at the convention to continue AIA's opposition to proposed capitol changes.

Other resolutions approved during the sessions included one to re-establish the former committee on fees and contracts, one to establish a building code com-

Newly inducted Pres. Richards is shown in our top picture as he addressed the convention. In the lower picture Ralph Walker (right) makes the presentation of the president's jewel to 1957-58 Pres. Chatelain as he relinquished his office. Pres. Richards also wears the new president's jewel.

Director Spitznagel
mittee, one to bring committees up to full regional membership, several dealing with public works planning and community work and several of thanks to those responsible for planning and handling the huge convention.

In recognition of affiliated activities a number of awards were made or announced during the convention. Among the 92 firms which had displays at the meetings those cited for the most effective showings included U. S. Ceramic Tile Company, Portland Cement Association, Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp’n., and Armstrong Cork Company’s floor division. These citations were in cooperation with the producers’ Council.

In the annual competition for the best building products literature winners of highest awards included the Kawneer Co., Perlitte Institute and U. S. Steel Corp’n. A first-time, special citation was made to the Structural Clay Products Institute and its affiliates, the Facing Tile Institute and Architectural Terra Cotta Institute, for a unique method of bringing to the attention of architects the names and products of an organization.

Among the certificate of merit and honorable mention winners in the literature section were Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co., Anemostat Corporation of America, Blumcraft of Pittsburgh, Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co., United States Gypsum, California Redwood Association, United States Plywood Corporation, Marble Institute of America and Overly Manufacturing Co.

In addition to a sparkling series of individual speeches at the various sessions, the convention had an extensive program of panel discussions. They covered developing today’s building program, which was chaired by Mr. Spitznagel, how to set up an office, educational responsibilities, research in architecture, where to find construction money, working with the home builder, university circle development, how to make better cost estimates, professional status as a valuable asset and chapter affairs.

Other organizations, professional and student, held coinciding meetings at the time of the big convention.

AIA PUBLISHES PR MANUAL

A new manual on public relations for chapters has been published by the American Institute of Architects. The series of papers are reprints of articles which appeared originally in The Journal and were written by Robert R. Denny, public relations counselor to AIA.

The chapters of the booklet are devoted to public relations as a problem in design, PR and professional ethics, newspaper publicity, TV and radio, chapter speakers’ bureaus, dealing with the government and PR in the individual office.

Another publication of the AIA recently was “Facts About Your Architect and His Work.” Intended to carry the message of the value of the architect in design to those who comprise his group of clients, the 30-page booklet is well done, readable. Architects can use this as a message item to their customers and it can be obtained from AIA for 30 cents each or, if 25 or more are ordered, for 25 cents.

JULY-AUGUST, 1958
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The Role of the Architectural School in the Eyes of the Profession

By Philip D. Creer
TSA-FAIA, Director,
School of Architecture, University of Texas

Reprinted from The Texas Architect

The eyes of Texas architects, as well as those of the rest of the profession, often turn these days toward the architectural schools and their recent graduates. What the architects see and what they think of the schools and their efforts to meet the needs of students who must soon face a professional life in a rapidly-evolving world is of considerable moment. The practitioners themselves are moving toward a larger responsibility in architectural education. They are in accord with the thought that the schools must train the future architects to be more fully aware of the nature of man and his environment, before they can cope with the problems of shaping that environment.

The profession's opinion of the role of the architectural school is quite clearly stated in "The Architect at Mid-Century." That extensive and penetrating self-analysis of the profession, produced by the American Institute of Architects' Commission for the Survey of Education and Registration, has this to say:

"The objective of professional education is the transformation of raw recruits into mature practitioners. The process by which this is accomplished depends on many factors, such as, content to be taught, skills to be cultivated, students' capacity for growth, the capabilities of teachers, methods employed, and the length of time available. It is the nature of a profession, which by definition, requires the continuing enhancement of competence, that education for its practice is for each member a life-long obligation."

The report also stated that:

"Within these reasonable limits . . . the schools have plenty of scope to pursue their necessary and legitimate objectives. They will do well to maintain the closest liaison with the profession in order to adjust content and method to the changing needs of practice. And, by the same token, the profession, too, must apply its highest wisdom, most sympathetic understanding, and most penetrating vision to the problems of education. The very term 'professional education' reveals by its compound form the necessity of enlightened and harmonious co-operation."

Despite so clear a statement of fundamentals, the path from education to practice is not always smooth, well co-ordinated journey. The criticisms heard repeatedly from both the professional and educational segments of the "enlightened and harmonious co-operation" would indicate that there is room for considerable improvement. There are, of course, dedicated practitioners and teachers whose lives have been spent nurturing that co-operation but, by and large, both the profession and the schools fail to achieve their fullest potential in advancing the profession through education.

In this instance we are concerned primarily with the role of the schools, but much could also be said of the role of the profession in architectural education. Practicing architects generally have strong opinions on what the schools should teach and how well (or badly) they are doing it. Most of these opinions have to do

CLOSER CO-ORDINATION
STUDY NEEDED—AL LARSON

In the profession of architecture there is a greater scrutiny of the relationship between the practicing architect and the architectural schools. It is admitted that a more friendly and more co-operative relationship would greatly enhance the usefulness of the schools in preparing young men to take a more practical and important part in the profession upon graduation. There has been but little practical study made of the situation. Each school goes on year after year with a time-worn pattern of architectural education and the architect, often criticizing but seldom assisting, vaguely hopes for the best.

The medical profession and a few engineering schools, notably Northwestern, have an internship program which enhances the value of education and makes those graduate doctors and engineers far more important in their professions than are, by comparison, any architectural graduates. There is little or no contact by the profession with the high schools and trade schools which are doing a really competent job in architectural drawing, but could do more, either as a preparation for a university course or for absorption directly into the profession as draftsmen. The architectural schools must assume a more important and a more practical role in the field of architecture.

Philip D. Creer has made a significant and thought-provoking contribution on the subject of architectural education. Mr. Creer is well qualified to discuss this important problem. Not only a successful practicing architect, he was head of the Department of Architecture of the Rhode Island School of Design since 1933 and is now director of the School of Architecture at the University of Texas. He is a Fellow in the Institute and has been a regional director.

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with the practical aspects of the graduates' introduction to practice. Take the architects' opinion of what the schools should teach:

A glance at the questionnaire returns from the practitioners (Table 42, “Architect at Mid-Century”) reveals a surprising agreement with the schools' opinions as to the relative importance, desirability and unimportance of the subject matter for curricula. Understandably, small variations, percentage-wise, show the practitioner somewhat favoring the practical courses and the schools favoring the humanities. Therefore, the criticisms, which exist, are directed not so much at what is taught, as how it is taught. Since the practicing architect rarely visits the classroom (of which, more later) his evaluation of teaching effectiveness must be through observation of the end product of the schools, the graduates who apply for jobs.

The most frequently repeated criticism of the product, of course, is that architectural school graduates cannot draw. Instead of belligerently asking the professional critic, “How well could you draw when you got out of school?” the schools would do well to admit the charge and consider that immediate correction of the fault (to whatever degree it exists) would represent the greatest single boon to “harmonious co-operation” with the profession imaginable—and the easiest to achieve. This is not to suggest that architectural schools be turned into trade school category. By demanding a higher standard of craftsmanship in every level of every course involving drawing, however, much could be accomplished.

The second most frequently heard criticism is leveled at the lack of humility and the exalted self-esteem exhibited by many graduates. To the ears of the prospective employer the king's ransom in starting salary airily requested—nay, demanded—by the bright-eyed applicant seems seriously out of place. Particularly when the practitioner remembers that when he and his classmates sought their first employment they were frequently happy to slave for nothing and even paid for the privilege at times. Alas for the good old days, they are gone forever—and a good thing they are, probably.

In fairness to today's graduates it must be pointed out that many of them are veterans with wives and children and the plain economics of the situation require that they seek a living wage. Recognition of this factor is important. However, the students and the schools must bend every effort to raise standards of practical competence in order to more nearly earn that living wage. The profession must lend every assistance to the practitioner's mind from time to time and in varying degrees of importance. To name a few: The student's slavish addiction to the latest clichés as illustrated in the most recent issues of the trade journals, the hero worship of a half dozen controversial figures in the architectural scene, the tendency to disregard structural and mechanical requirements of buildings as well as proper site development and the relationship of the building to its environment, etc.

Altogether this gives the impression that the architectural schools are failing miserably at their job. There are, however, many practitioners who frankly confess that the students being turned out today are better prepared to meet today's needs than were those of a generation ago. Further, the bulk of the comment today regarding the schools of architecture indicates an intense and growing concern on the part of the entire profession for the welfare of the schools and a belief in the importance of the task they are trying to perform. The schools should meet the profession's concern with immediate action to eliminate the causes of criticism (Continued on Page 56)

WRIGHT APPRENTICE RUBS UP SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

A meeting of students at the University of Minnesota-Duluth heard Robert Pond, a Frank Lloyd Wright apprentice, rub up some of the things he considered wrong with the teaching and students of architecture and allied arts recently.

He pointed out that college students in these fields are “confused and don't seem to know where they are going.” Mr. Pond, who is from Detroit, contended that students should not have a choice of various points of view in the field of architecture. The student should choose one school of thought and not be sidetracked, he said.

“In general the college students in the allied fields of architecture are being trained as followers and not leaders,” Mr. Pond declared. “When they graduate and join the ranks of industry they are incapable of doing individual work. They are robots. They do just what they are told.” He said colleges are killing the concept of architecture. He illustrated his point by introducing some schools of thought of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.

“Design comes from the inside of the person,” he said. “The structure is to be an outward expression of the inner feelings of its occupants and it is the designer's job to discover what these are. The buildings on the new UMD campus are basically the same as those all over the country. They tend toward the stoic and have no lasting aesthetic value. A building should be constructed in such a manner that it becomes a ‘living part’ of the surrounding environment. It should not be conspicuous.”

Mr. Pond was in Cloquet at the time as an architectural representative of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation to supervise construction of the first service station designed and built by Wright. The structure is being built for the Lindholm Oil Co., Cloquet, and work is expected to be completed in late September.

munity service. Other shortcomings crop up in the practitioner's mind from time to time and in varying degrees of importance. To name a few: The student’s slavish addiction to the latest clichés as illustrated in the most recent issues of the trade journals, the hero worship of a half dozen controversial figures in the architectural scene, the tendency to disregard structural and mechanical requirements of buildings as well as proper site development and the relationship of the building to its environment, etc.

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NORTHWEST ARCHITECT
GILBERTSON NAMED TO HOSPITAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL

Victor C. Gilbertson has been appointed to the State
Advisory Council on Hospital Construction for a three-
year term by the State Board of Health. This council
acts as an advisory board to the State Board of Health

Mr. Gilbertson

and it determines policies relative to the Minnesota
State Plan for Hospitals, Public Health Centers and
related medical facilities.

Mr. Gilbertson is a member of the architectural firm
of Hills, Gilbertson and Hayes in Minneapolis and is
a past president of the Minnesota Society of Architects.

Before a state can receive federal grants for con-
struction purposes it must submit an over-all state plan
for hospital and medical facilities to the Surgeon Gen-
eral of the United States for approval. The initial plan
for the State of Minnesota was completed in 1948
after a comprehensive study of existing facilities and a
determination of present and future needs. The original
law required planning for facilities in each of the fol-
lowing five categories of institutions: general hospitals,
mental disease hospitals, tuberculosis hospitals, chronic
disease hospitals and public health centers.

On July 12, 1954, the Hospital Survey and Con-
struction Program was amended to include four types
of projects—nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities,
chronic disease hospitals and diagnostic or treatment
centers.

SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER PRESENTS
SECOND HOME PLANNING CLINIC

The South Dakota Chapter, AIA, recently presented
its second clinic on home planning open to the public
at a meeting in Sioux Falls. Wallace Steele was chair-
man of the event and attendance indicated that the
public is keenly interested in what the architects and
others in the construction industry have to present for
their guidance.

The clinic was designed to provide answers to some
of the problems confronting the family which plans to
build or remodel a home. Experts on all phases of home
construction were on hand to answer questions relating
to home planning and interior design, air conditioning
and plumbing, materials and construction costs and
FHA and home financing.

“One of the things we learned from putting on the
first clinic,” Mr. Steele stated, “was the need to divide
the group into different sections rather than a general
panel discussion. This time we had four discussion
groups which allowed those who attended more time
for specific problems they have in home planning.”

The AIA produced film, “What Is A House,” was
shown at the beginning of the clinic program. Mem-
ers of the committee in charge of arrangements are
Ralph Koch, Ed Griffin and Charles Sloan.

KURKES DISSOLVE PARTNERSHIP

William F. Kurke and his son, John M. Kurke, of
Fargo, N. D., have dissolved their partnership in Kurke
& Associates. The elder Mr. Kurke said the partner-
ship, which was formed in 1946, is being dissolved so
he can take a more active part in other interests. He
will continue in an advisory post with the remaining firm.

The elder Mr. Kurke started his career in 1913 in
Fargo and the younger Mr. Kurke joined the firm after
working for the Boeing Aircraft Corporation during the
war as an architect in Seattle. Among designs of the
firm are the Fargo Forum Building, Pioneer Mutual
Life Insurance Building and many others. The firm
was an associate on design of the state capitol in Bis-
marck.

MONTANA STUDENT CHAPTER MEETS

A joint meeting of the Montana AIA Chapter and
the student chapter at Montana State College was held
recently preceding graduation at the college. Tobias
T. Stapleton of Lewistown, student chapter president,
and H. C. Cheever, head of the school of architecture
at the college, were hosts at an open house preceding
start of the actual sessions.

MONTANA STUDENT CHAPTER MEETS

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the student chapter at Montana State College was held

JULY-AUGUST, 1958
TWIN CITIES METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION LOOKS TO 900-SQUARE MILE "MEGAPOLIS" BY YEAR 2000

With a background of forecasts which indicate that growth of the Twin Cities area population may require 900 square miles of space to take care of it by the year 2000, the Twin Cities Metropolitan Planning Commission recently held its annual meeting and heard a preliminary progress report from C. David Locks, executive director.

The five-county area covered by the commission's work has experienced a 22 per cent population growth since 1950, Mr. Locks said in his report. The counties covered are Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota, Anoka and Washington.

Mr. Locks' report on the commission's progress in the four months it has been in operation was followed by the election of officers and three members of the group's executive committee. Re-elected chairman was Dr. C. C. Ludwig of Minneapolis, professor of political science and public administration at the University of Minnesota. Only new officer elected was Adolph T. Tobler, business representative of the St. Paul Trades and Labor assembly, who was named vice-chairman to succeed Architect P. C. Bettenburg. Re-elected secretary-treasurer was Mrs. A. V. Maki of North St. Paul.

Only new member to be elected to the commission's nine-man executive committee was Arnett W. Leslie, chairman of the Minneapolis Planning commission.

The report by Mr. Locks, former St. Paul planning director, focused attention on the need for intelligent planning to meet the area's future growth. He pointed out that the population of the five-county area has jumped from 460,000 in 1900 to 1,400,000 in 1958 and growth will be steady in the future.

A pronounced movement in population from the city to the suburbs was shown by figures indicating there are now 103 incorporated communities in the area, as compared with only 31 in 1900.

"As late as 1930," said Mr. Locks, "80 per cent of the area's population lived in St. Paul and Minneapolis. However, only 63 per cent of the area's inhabitants are living in the Twin Cities in 1958."

It was disclosed that application is to be made for matching federal funds needed in expanding the commission's operations.

Meantime, progress in the redevelopment planning for St. Paul was being studied by a committee of five businessmen who went to Los Angeles to see the loop master plan designed by personnel of Victor Gruen Associates, who were hired to make the study by Greater St. Paul Development, Inc., a group of local business and civic leaders. The group reported the principal goals of the downtown revitalization study are:

- The most productive use of the land, including the gradual upgrading of the area, as to structures and uses; flexible grouping of uses to minimize distances and servicing difficulties; a plan that will stimulate the

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vigor of private enterprise and discourage deleterious uses.

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A reintegration of commercial and non-commercial activities; a stimulation of the social, cultural and civic aspects of the downtown environment.

CLINTON'S McCANNS DESIGNS OWN HELICOPTER

Architect A. Hew McCann of Clinton, Iowa, has spent years and thousands of dollars designing his own helicopter, which is now in the test stages. The machine has approval of the CAA and a number of Iowa pilots are interested in progress of the tests.

The machine reportedly is of radical design. It is made up of a circular cockpit around which a circular torque tube revolves. Power is transmitted to the torque tube by an automobile tire which is mounted on a regular airplane engine.

"The chief advantage of this design over a conventional helicopter," Mr. McCann said, "is that it allows low speed, high lift airfoils to be successfully applied."

Mr. McCann is a light plane pilot and on a trip a couple of years ago he "started thinking about how I could travel 40 miles by air and sit down right by the place I was working . . . this is the design I came up with and I believe it will be easier to control and land in smaller places than the conventional helicopter."

MIKUTOWSKI OPENS SO. ST. PAUL OFFICE

Frank Mikutowski has opened a new office for the practice of architecture in South St. Paul, Minn. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Architecture, from which he took his degree with distinction in 1949.

Mr. Mikutowski has worked for and been associated with several Twin Cities and San Francisco architectural companies and was on the University of Minnesota faculty for a year. A corporate AIA member, he is registered in Minnesota and holds a National Council of Architectural Registration Boards certificate.

SILLETTO JOINS DES MOINES FIRM OF WOODBURN & O'NEIL

New associate of the Des Moines, Iowa, architectural firm of Woodburn & O'Neil is Charles B. Silletto. The Woodburn & O'Neil firm was formed four years ago.

Mr. Silletto, a native of Denison, was most recently associated with the firm of Architects Associated and before that was with Tinsley, Higgins, Lightner & Lyon for a number of years. He is a graduate of the Iowa State College.

"LIGHTING IN STYLE"

A "Star" chandelier, 12 feet across the points, lights the entire central dome (100 feet in diameter) of the Cathedral.

Smaller, matching chandeliers provide pleasant illumination in the transepts.

CATHEDRAL OF ST. PAUL

Architect: E. L. Masqueray
Architects For Current Work: Bettencourt, Townsend, Stolte & Comb

JULY-AUGUST, 1958
NORTH DAKOTANS HEAR ABOUT URBAN RENEWAL

Members of the North Dakota Chapter, AIA, at their regular spring meeting in Fargo recently heard discussions of urban renewal as well as conducting their regular business. President Herman Skaret of Fargo presided over the session.

Earl Stewart, executive director of the Fargo Urban Renewal Agency, spoke on this phase of the work and other speakers were Charles Hoffman of Bismarck and David L. Markusen of Minneapolis, head of the aeronautical research division of Minneapolis-Honeywell.

MONTANA BOARD ELECTS

Members of the Montana State Board of Architectural Examiners recently elected Sigvald L. Berg of Helena as president, Chandler C. Cohagen of Billings as secretary, Angus V. McIver of Great Falls as treasurer and H. C. Cheever as executive secretary-treasurer. Mr. Cohagen was elected delegate to the National Council of Architectural Registrations Boards.

MINNEAPOLIS AIA CHAPTER HAS SUMMER GOLF SPREE

At the recent annual summer golf outing of the Minneapolis AIA chapter, when members of the Producers Council were dinner guests of the architects, the golfing was full of excitement and humor and the dinner talk revolved merrily around both aspects of the afternoon. Gene Hickey of Larson & McLaren was general chairman of the outing, assisted by John Magney, Minneapolis AIA chapter president, and Jack Hustad of The Hustad Co.

For the second consecutive year Clair Armstrong of Armstrong & Schlichting was winner of the Northwest Architect Trophy, his 70 being lowest among those who actually golfed. Typical of the fun, on and off the course, are our pictures, in which we identify from left to right, all being architects unless otherwise identified.

In the group of four pictures are (top) Champion Clair Armstrong (center) receiving the Northwest Architect Trophy from John Magney, with Chuck Wetzler, Minnesota-Dakotas Chapter Producers' Council president, looking on. . . . (second) Don Setter, Larry Hall, Vic Gilbertson and Jim Bofferding. . . . (third) Clint Fladlund, Don Erickson, Red Homuth of Western Mineral Products and Horace Matson. . . . (bottom) Duke Johnson and Con Aas of Northern States Power, Mearl Peterson and John Newhouse of NSP.

On the opposite page are—1—The Clairs, Armstrong, the champ, and Loretz of NORTHWEST ARCHITECT. . . . 2—The prexies, John Magney of AIA chapter and Chuck Wetzler of PC chapter. . . . 3—Harley Johnson with boatload about to cruise. . . . 4—Larry Hall, Duke Haldeman of Haldeman-Homme, Inc., Don Setter and Sid Stolte (this fellow is being shy?). . . . 5—Mearl Peterson, Clarence Harkins, Adrian Born and Harold Andrews. . . .


More pictures of the Minneapolis golfing outing are shown on the opposite page—1—Doug Dunsheath of Insulation Sales on his cruiser with a boatload of architects. . . . 2—Art Bjerken and Clair Loretz of NW Architect. . . . 3—Willard Hamilton of Haldeman-Homme, Austin Lange, Kerm Johnson and Cecil Tammen. . . . 4—Jack Bissell of Inland Steel Products and Jim Horan. . . . 5—Doug Dunsheath of Insulation Sales, Olie McCann and Earl Bartholome of Insulation Sales. . . . 6—Chuck Wetzler, Doug Dunsheath of Insulation Sales, R. V. McCann and John Magney. . . . 7—Frederick Mosse, Clair Loretz of NW Architect, Red Hornuth and Jack Hanson. . . . 8—Clark Hudson, Mas Matsumoto, Doug Baird and Harv Andrus of Armstrong Cork . . . 9—Jack Loveless, Chuck Wahlberg, Ken Whitehead and Bob Hanson. . . . 10—Merle Abbott, Gene Hickey and Ken Walters. . . . 11—Carl Hustad of The Hustad Co., Ed Hanson, George Entrikin, Wen Ringheim of LCN Closers, Jim Fenelon, executive director of MSA, and Ken Whitehead. . . . 12—Ted Hidding of Twin City Tile & Marble, Ed Baker, Gene Hickey, Glen Cording and Joel Glotter. . . . 13—Hank Bogucki, Art Bjerken of Fiat Metal Mfg. and Gordon Matson . . . 14—Gene Conner, Dick Stein of Pittsburgh Plate Glass and Chuck Wetzler of Structural Clay Products Institute.

MONTANA CHAPTER ELECTS KNIGHT

Kenneth K. Knight of Great Falls has been chosen as president of the Montana Chapter, AIA, to succeed Oswald Berg, Jr., of Bozeman. Other officers picked included Richard Taylor of Kalispell as vice-president and A. Calvin Hoiland of Great Falls as director.

ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

(Continued from Page 49)

described above and to develop a closer liaison with practice. This can be accomplished without either lengthening the period of undergraduate study or material increase in already tight budgets.

It was pointed out earlier that the practitioner rarely visits the classroom and is therefore not fully aware of the scope of current offerings nor of the difficulties of expanding and improving them but he cannot, or does not wish to, invite himself to participate in the school program.

Yet here is a great reservoir of untapped professional knowledge and experience which could and should be utilized in education. Instead the schools struggle to finance visiting lecture programs of big names. Every chapter of the AIA must boast many talented men who, if not called on more than once or twice a year, would be willing and eager to share with the students some portion of their knowledge and experience without recompense.

Such service might take any of several forms: informal seminars with upper classmen, lectures on aspects of professional practice, jury duty on student problems, committee work with school staffs and co-ordination of the Architect in Training Program. Bringing the profession into personal contact with both faculties and students would work a three-way gain of unlimited possibilities. Perhaps it is not so starry-eyed or impracticable as at first appears. From such contacts might also come programs for adult education, non-architectural student participation in architectural and cultural courses, refresher courses for the profession by the profession at the architectural schools, lecture programs on new technologies and the like. Some of these services are already in effect in some areas. If the schools will undertake to intensify their efforts to "maintain the closest liaison with the profession" the resulting gains in architectural education could be phenomenal.

It might be worth a try.
Specifications: Regional Conference
St. Paul, Minnesota
October 2-3, 1958
Be There!
HENNING OF NDAC IS CHAIRMAN OF FARGO HOUSING REVIEW BOARD

Named to the chairmanship of the Housing Review Board appointed by the Fargo, N. D., Urban Renewal Agency recently was Knute Henning of the department of architecture at the North Dakota Agricultural College. Other members of the committee are Jack Shirek, Earl Stewart, Mayor Herschel Lashkowitz, James Fay and Dr. C. Maxwell Brown.

The committee will begin reviewing needs of some 16 families which will be displaced in the Civic Center area. Frank Magloughlin, relocation planner engaged by the agency, gave a report on government requirements in finding housing for displaced families.

The Urban Renewal Agency, at a recent meeting, adopted a resolution asking the Federal Housing & Home Finance Agency for the first loan for the Fargo project, $475,000, to be used to pay project expenses such as purchasing land and administration expenses.

The agency also voted to retain the same architects that are preparing plans and specifications for the city hall-auditorium to prepare specifications for demolition of buildings and site clearance in the 1 1/2-block Civic Center area. The architects are Ralph Rapson, University of Minnesota; Thorshov & Cerny, Minneapolis; and Seifert & Staszko Associates, Fargo.

PRESTRESSERS TO HOLD CHICAGO CONVENTION IN SEPTEMBER

The annual convention of the Prestressed Concrete Institute will be held in Chicago from September 21 through 25 and will cover problems in this new field from technical production through merchandising and selling. Included will be a report of the recent Berlin congress which attracted prestress experts from all over the world.

On the preliminary agenda are subjects of fire ratings, USSR and US practices, long span structures, plant certification, concrete and grouting for prestressing, yard handling, transportation, erection techniques and interpretation of specifications in relation to inspection.

In this same field of work a delegation of six American engineers visited the Soviet Union to inspect progress in reinforced and prestressed concrete construction recently.

The delegation consisted of Professor T. Y. Lin (chairman) of the University of California, Berkeley; Walter H. Price, chief, Engineering Laboratories, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, and past president of the American Concrete Institute; Ben C. Gerwick, Jr., a contractor in San Francisco and president of the Prestressed Concrete Institute; Prof. Boris Bresler, University of California, Berkeley; David P. Billington, Roberts and Schaefer Company, consulting engineers of New York; and James D. Piper, vice-president for promotion, Portland Cement Association, Chicago.

The delegation visited major Soviet laboratories and construction projects in Moscow and Leningrad. In one laboratory, they witnessed the testing of full-scale prestressed members of 100-foot spans and visited a special unit working on development of automatic machinery for factory production of large concrete structural units.

In both cities, the delegation observed some of the major housing developments being constructed principally of large precast concrete members and then visited the factories where the concrete members are being mass produced. The assembly-line production being developed in these recently constructed factories they reported as "most impressive."

In Leningrad, the delegation observed a large precast and prestressed concrete shell roof being built and tested for projected industrial and exposition buildings. In Moscow, a new 350-foot span prestressed bridge under construction was inspected and the design offices were visited.

The delegates gave talks on American engineering before about 500 Soviet engineers and architects in both Moscow and Leningrad. A great many questions were asked and an interchange of ideas followed each meeting. In addition to their technical visits, the delegates attended the opera, ballet, Soviet Cinerama, the circus and a soccer game. Mrs. Lin and Mrs. Piper accompanied the delegation.

MILWAUKEEANS HEAR SMALL HOMES EXPERT

R. A. Jones, director of the Small Homes Council at the University of Illinois, talked on trends in today's residential construction before a recent meeting of the Milwaukee Builders Association, whose members wanted to correlate their work with what is happening in the design field. The meeting also heard discussions of methods and labor problems.

SCHJELDOME IS UNUSUAL OCCUPANT-PRODUCT STRUCTURE

A giant air-supported "Schjdome" to house the Balloon and Special Fabrications Division of the G. T. Schjeldahl Co., Northfield, Minn., manufacturer of plastic balloons, buildings, adhesives and machines for making plastic bags, has been designed by Thorshov & Cerny, Minneapolis architects.

So far as is known this will be the first time a plastic manufacturing firm has fabricated its own factory of its own product, G. T. Schjeldahl, president of the firm, said.

The building will be somewhat quonset-shaped, with ends of solid construction, 300 feet long and 30 feet wide. It will feature an attached hemispherical "bubble," which will house restrooms, heating and air compressing equipment and a special employeelunchroom.
The building was completed from start to finish within the span of three days, complete with concrete base, complete wiring and plumbing, including toilet and heating facilities. Mr. Schjeldahl emphasized that the Schjeldome will become a permanent installation although its costs will be less than for any other kind of permanent shelter. He explained that the plastic skin of the building has an estimated life of up to ten years.

"After that time," he said, "we can shed our cocoon and replace it practically overnight and at a cost comparable to that of a paint job for a conventional structure."

Special solar heating equipment will be installed in the novel, transparent structure to aid in heating the factory in winter. Mr. Schjeldahl said the transparent skin of the 10,000 sq. ft. building will admit as much as two million BTU's of heat per hour on bright winter days (an ordinary furnace for a home has an output of about 90,000 to 120,000 BTU's per hour). He estimated that the structure can be paid for in heat cost savings within the next five years. In summer, special reflectors and shades and an air conditioning system will keep the interior of the building cool, he explained.

Cecil Tammen, partner of Thorshov & Cerny, designers of the building, said that plastics offer a "completely new concept in shelter."

"As architects," he commented, "we are continually searching for better and more effective ways to serve our traditional role of improving the working and living conditions of mankind. The use of plastic in this dramatic new form offers a great promise toward the fulfillment of this search."

Schjeldahl said his purpose in erecting the giant air-supported factory is threefold: (1) to provide needed factory space for his concern's own operations, (2) to demonstrate the speed with which a complete new factory can be put up and (3) to provide an operating "demonstrator" to show other manufacturers how they can utilize Schjeldomes in their own operations. He said his firm will make available all plans and costs of setting up such air-supported structures, step by step.

BRUNNER, HEOFFEL & BOHRER
DESIGN ROLETTE COURT HOUSE

The new Rolette County court house, which is a World War II memorial structure, is in the preliminary design stages with the Minot firm of Brunner, Heoffel & Bohrer doing the designs, sketches and estimates.

MAROLF WINS FELLOWSHIP

Leo A. Marolf of Davenport, Iowa, won an $1,800 Ryerson Fellowship in Architecture this spring at the University of Illinois.

MASON CITY LIKES AIA ACTION

Recent selection of John W. Root to receive the AIA Gold Medal was welcomed in his former home, Mason City, and special mention of the award was made in the daily paper's column called "Straws."

JULY-AUGUST, 1958
National Lathing and Plastering Bureau Meets in Minneapolis
The third annual convention of the National Bureau for Lathing and Plastering was held recently in Minneapolis, drawing leaders of the industry from all parts of the United States and from Canada to a program filled with technical discussions of today’s problems in the industry.

Loyd G. Peterson, Minneapolis, president of the national bureau, opened the convention on April 21st and the convention was opened by Russell W. Anderson, president of the Minnesota bureau. A report on bureau activities by Joe M. Baker, Jr., executive director of the national bureau, was among the early features.

A seminar on skin and curtain wall construction was held under the supervision of J. D. McNulty, past president and technical adviser to the national bureau. The advertising program of the organization was also considered at length. Charles Remnant, president of the Manitoba bureau, spoke for that group of delegates. Donald R. Wadle, managing director of the Metal Lath Manufacturers Association, also addressed the meetings.

A recreational program was woven into the general program and there were special events for the ladies of the delegates. A highlight of the social program was a fellowship breakfast sponsored by Western Mineral Products Company, Minneapolis, to which L. J. Venard, Western Mineral president, welcomed the delegates.


The lower two pictures show (left) Messrs. Peterson and Anderson during the sessions and (right) Mr. Peterson and Minnesota’s Gov. Freeman as he spoke to the group.

Mr. Peterson, W. L. Martin of executive board of national bureau and Mr. Venzie.

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The beautiful new DuPont Plaza Center, Miami, Florida, chose McKinley Ventilated Sun Cornices for protection against sun's glare and heat, and for attractive appearance.

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JULY-AUGUST, 1958
TWIN CITIES BUILDERS SWAT SOME LITTLE WHITE BALLS

Hundreds of golfers and eaters braved an afternoon broken by rain and the fun poking of a mixed group of builders and architects during the annual golf tournament of the Minneapolis and St. Paul Builders' Exchanges. Result—they all had fun, as shown in our pictures.

Low gross was won by Sid Partridge with a 70 and the Silver Trophy Cup remained with the Minneapolis golfers. A great many other prizes were also passed around for good scores and for good luck.


In the numbered montage opposite are—1—Norman Hesselroed and Robert Bowen of Hauenstein & Burmeister and Don Erickson. . . . 2—Bob Chadwick of Western Mineral Products, Roy Bertelsen of Minneapolis Builders Supply and Roy Drew of The Drew Agency. . . . 3—Ray Thibodeau of St. Paul exchange, Jack Bohman of St. Paul Home Builders and an unidentified gentleman. . . . 4—John Link and Maurice Johnson of Standard Iron & Wire. . . . 5—Dick Steenberg of Steenberg Construction, Mag Olson of C. W. Olson Mfg., and Paul Carlson, vice-president of the Minneapolis exchange. . . . 6—Wallie Swanson of Trubuilt, Ken Walters and Jim Bauman of The Chamberlain Co. . . .


17—Dick Meyer of Hauenstein & Burmeister, Jim Hansen of Minnesota Wood Specialties, Mike Trebstoske and Jim Stillwell of Dov Box System. . . . 18—Floyd Johnson, Harold Roberts and Harold Budke of Oscar Roberts Co.
PELLA SHOWS ST. CHARLES LINES IN SPECIAL EVENT

Architects who are directly concerned with design of school structures were the guests of Pella Products recently for a special showing of the company's St. Charles custom school storage furniture and a luncheon in St. Paul.

Among the many who were there from both cities are those shown in our pictures at left and on the opposite page. In the top picture at left are Pella's president, Curt Johnson, with architects Greg Molitor and Bob Jackels. The lower picture shows Bob Jones and Brooks Cavin, president of the Minnesota Society of Architects.

In our page montage are—1—Bob Pope, Don Branscom and Bill Estebo with Art Haglund and Orv Branslund of Pella. . . . 2—Jim Voigt, Agnes Larson, superintendent of home economics in the St. Paul schools, Ron Schermeister of Pella and Ken Buetow, St. Paul city school architect. . . . 3—Frank Clark and Myron Kehne. . . . 4—Roland Barrie and Jim Kellett with Bob Jones of Pella. . . . 5—Harry Schroeder, Gerald Anderson, Milo Williams and Clayton Page. . . .

6—Bob McGee and his assistant, Valerie Stupnitsky, of Albert G. Plagens Co. . . . 7—Florence Glindmier, Don Rezab, Don Hanson of Pella and Bill Davies. . . . 8—Bob Pope, John Huspeni of Pella and Gordon Yeazel of St. Charles. . . . 9—Gordon Yeazel, Jarl Seppanen and R. D. Corwin. . . . 10—Bob Maloney, Harold Raak, Phil Agnew, Bill Montague of Pella and Ed Schlick.

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TWIN CITY CHAPTERS SEE U. S. STEEL CURTAIN WALL MATERIAL

Architects of the Minneapolis and St. Paul chapters recently were guests of the United States Steel Corporation at a breakfast meeting and saw a special motion picture on curtain wall construction. About a hundred of the area's architects attended.

Two films were shown at the meeting, the first of which traced the development of the curtain wall concept from its origin in 1883 by William L. Jenney to today's skyscrapers and the other showed the background of the "Chicago Dynamic" program and its methods of bringing home to Chicago business and other leaders the basic needs and ideas of urban rehabilitation.

Following the showing there was a special question and answer period, presided over by George E. Danforth, chairman of the department of architecture at Western Reserve University and special consultant to U. S. Steel. G. C. Hill, U. S. Steel's district sales manager, conducted the meeting.

Brooks Cavin, president of the Minnesota Society of Architects, pointed out what St. Paul is doing to modernize its building code and

Among those present we picture (l-r) ... top, Messrs. Cavin and Danforth and Roy N. Thorshov of Thorshov & Cerny ... next, Mr. Hill, Mayor P. E. Peterson of Minneapolis and Mr. Danforth ... third, Harry M. Erickson, Duluth building inspector, and Mr. Danforth ... bottom, Mr. Hill, Gerald Buetow, St. Paul chapter president, William Clapp, president of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Danforth.

Interested architects at the meeting included (l-r), at left, Frank Meisch of Thorshov & Cerny and Bob Pope of Bettenburg, Townsend, Stolte & Comb and, right Elizabeth and Winston Close, Ralph McKenzie, of Flour City Ornamental Iron and Herbert Crommett.
said that curtain wall was "no fad" but a truly accepted form of modern architecture. Its real danger, he warned, was in poor imitations of good curtain walled buildings and resultant debasement of the points to be considered in such design.

Charles LeCraw of Pittsburgh, in U. S. Steel's market development division, said there are more than 1,500 curtain wall buildings in this country.

S. L. Stolte of St. Paul, co-chairman of the state committee on a unified building code, reported on progress of his group's efforts and said it had reached the stage of public hearings on the technical aspects.

In other aspects of the meeting architects were told that to control costs of such design it is important for them to work closely with the fabricators and pool their know-how to best advantage in solution of specific problems on specific structures.


PUSH-BUTTON CENTER TO CONTROL COMFORT IN N. Y. SKYSCRAPER

Air conditioning is being automated in a new office structure rising at 110 William Street, in New York's financial district. An electronic "eye" in the basement of the 31-story building will insure the comfort of all its tenants by spotting immediately any temperature change in the structure's 680,000 square feet of office space.

The automatic system, developed by Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Company and known as the Supervisory Data Center, contains more than 100 check points on the panel.

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R. C. Conrad, U. S. Steel personnel vice-president, right, presents a film to the university's Ralph Rapson.

INTERNATIONAL PRESTRESSED CONCRETE CONGRESS DRAWS 1,200

More than 1,200 prestressed concrete experts gathered in Berlin recently for the Third International Congress on Prestressed Concrete. From the United States there were about 100 representatives.

Cost reduction was an important topic for the seminars and talks, which included many in the evening to get through a heavy agenda. It was pointed out that reduction of cost can be solved by careful selection of type of buildings and shape of construction and by reasonable methods of construction. Prefabrication requires special consideration and has, in some countries, already been developed toward industrial production. It was further brought out that more and more prestressed concrete and steel constructions are on the same route, with regard to design as well as performance. In this match prestressed concrete has some advantages of which the producer gains profit.

CONSTRUCTION MAY LEAD WAY OUT OF RECESSION

The construction industry may well be leading the economy out of the "reluctant recession of 1958," according to Dr. George Cline Smith, vice-president and economist for the Dodge Corporation. He said that preliminary figures for May showed construction contracts continuing the upward movement they began in April.

"Because construction is by far the nation's largest fabricating industry," Dr. Smith said, "the strength now being shown by contracts cannot help but be reflected in better business in many other sectors of the economy."

Dr. Smith said he was not trying to be facetious in referring to the recent downturn in business as "the reluctant recession."

"The recession is more severe than either of the others in the postwar period," he said, "and to the unemployed, to profitless industries, to merchants in unemployment areas, it is no laughing matter. But it is definitely not a cataclysm and it is one of the

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most stable recessions in history. It has several peculiar features. It has been a recession without a panic; there have been no runs on the banks or collapses in the stock market.

"It has been a high-spending recession, with the consumer comporting himself nobly in his effort to keep business up by spending all he has, and maybe a little bit more. It has been a high-price recession. Few prices have undergone any severe drops and in many sectors of the economy inflation still seems to be dominant. Despite the spread of unemployment, it has been a high-employment recession. Total employment in April this year was only a tiny fraction below April in the boom year of 1956 and, while unemployment has reached about 7½ per cent of the labor force currently, you must remember that it was more than 17 per cent in the so-called 'normal' year of 1939.

"It may very well be a short-term recession. Signs are multiplying that various lines of business are looking up. I wouldn't expect any quick return to boom levels of business activity but I do think the direction from here on out should be steadily, if modestly, upward."

GEODESIC DESIGN IN LARGEST CIRCULAR BUILDING

The "world's largest circular building without internal supports," an all-steel dome, is under construction in Baton Rouge, La., by Union Tank Car Company of Chicago. Ten stories high, the geodesic structure is believed to be the first major industrial use of a dome structure in this country. It will house regional maintenance and tank car repair facilities for Union Tank Car Company in Baton Rouge.

Dimensions of the 'Union Dome' are 375 feet across its interior base and 116 feet high at the center. Total floor area enclosed by the dome is 110,000 square feet. It is a clear-span dome, containing no internal supports whatsoever. It is also the first geodesic dome to be made entirely of steel.

Designs for the "Union Dome" are based on patents for a geodesic dome held by R. Buckminster Fuller and were developed by his firm, Synergetics, Inc., of Raleigh, N. C. The dome will consist solely of 320 steel panels fabricated in 12 basic sizes and welded together. The panels were fabricated, from standard 1/8 inch steel sheet and 4 inch tubing.
CANTON BUILDS MODEL OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE

The Federal Inter-State Highway program became a very personal matter to Canton Redwood Sales Co.-Canton Redwood Yard when the state highway department took its old office to make room for the new Highway No. 100 South in Minneapolis.

"It turned out happily for us, though," commented Ed Canton, president of the companies, "for it gave us the opportunity to build a new office patterned to our needs and a working display of many of the new items that the Redwood industry has produced during the past year."

The exterior of the office features a rough-sawn Redwood board-on-board design (1 x 6 on 1 x 8) finished with Redwood PAR stain. St. Croix Valley stone adds a colorful contrast to the deep tones of the Redwood. A Redwood patio is built into the east side of the building and recently a 12 foot by 36 foot Redwood sun shade was added to the west end.

Tom Van Housen of Ellerbe & Co., St. Paul, carried the St. Croix stone to the interior, placing it on one wall of a foyer which leads from the lobby to the two private offices. The lobby area is separated from the city desk and work areas by a screen of spaced Redwood 2 x 2's set on a diagonal.

Redwood paneling was used liberally throughout the interior, using the same grade and pattern throughout the open area. A salesmen's office contains a variety of other patterns and grades for display purposes. The bookkeeping office has acoustical tile down to desk height and is adjacent to a walk-in fireproof record storage vault.

The full basement includes a lunch room, large meeting room, a printing and mailing room and another storage vault. The building is air conditioned.

Also constructed by Canton recently was a 66-by 120-foot clear-span wooden arch type warehouse building. This building, constructed for under $1.25 per square foot, has a capacity of 500,000 board feet of lumber. Bob Canton, sales manager, said "we investigated every type of building design and found that the wood arch type building is by far the most economical for weatherproof storage of the type we were seeking. We now have warehouse space for 1,500,000 board feet of Redwood, which is about our peak inventory."

"More than 20,000,000 feet of Redwood is consumed annually within a 300-mile radius of Minneapolis," Mr. Canton said, "and our retail yard customers can't anticipate their requirements entirely so it has been necessary for us to increase our distribution yard inventory to care for increased Redwood sales. We want to make it possible for the architect to specify anything in Redwood that he wants and be confident that it will be available."

Interesting footnote is that Mr. Canton said this area now has a per capita consumption of Redwood that is double that of the nation as a whole.

U. S. PLYWOOD PANEL STRESSES BIRCH BEAUTY

Birch, one of the "woodsiest" of all woods, has been introduced by United States Plywood Corporation in a new prefinished V-plank panel containing all the natural beauty of birdseyes, knots, pin curls and color variations in grain. The new panel,
moderately priced, is called "Charter Birch."

The prefacing emphasizes the birch characteristics which generally are eliminated for the sake of uniformity among panels. Each Charter Birch panel therefore has the unique quality which can only be achieved by retaining and emphasizing the random nature of the growth of the tree.

"Charter Birch is manufactured and prefinished at the U. S. Plywood plant in Orangeburg, S. C., which last year introduced the world's only automated wood finishing process," the company said.

LAYNE ACQUIRES HUGE EARTH DRILLER

A huge earth-drilling machine that bores holes in the ground up to eight feet in diameter or as small as eight inches in diameter is being introduced by Layne-Minnesota Co., Minneapolis. Lee Rogers, president of the firm, said the newly acquired drilling rig has applications of interest to architects, contractors and engineers.

It can drill holes from 25 to 45 feet in depth and of any width up to eight feet in an "incredibly short time." The machine develops 385,000 foot-pounds of torque (one foot-pound of torque is equal to the twisting pressure exerted by a one-pound weight on a one-foot-long wrench).

Rogers said that one of the main uses of the versatile machine will be to drill shafts which can be filled with concrete to form footings for building foundations. The machine was built by the Williams Mfg. Co., Dallas, Texas.

He added that it can also be used to drill "man-size" holes into which engineers can descend and inspect the ground strata at different levels.

The machine's drilling speed depends on the type of ground being bored, Rogers explained. It is designed, he said, so that when large boulders are encountered, the engine will stall rather than tear up the equipment.

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The machine is capable of swinging in an arc up to 240 degrees for hole location. In addition, it can be moved as much as two feet from front to rear so holes can be accurately spotted without moving the rig.

Mr. Rogers said the drilling machine will be added to the firm's complement of drilling rigs, which includes cable tool rigs from the smallest to the largest built, rotary equipment from small sizes to the largest—capable of drilling to depths of 5,000 feet—reverse rotary drills, caisson drills, calyx and coring equipment.

The new drilling machine will have a limited application in the drilling of water wells, he said.

DUPONT PLAZA SELECTS McKINLEY SUN CORNICE

The designers of the new Dupont Plaza Center for those in the building industry in Miami, Florida, chose Ventilated Sun Cornices by the O. O. McKinley Company to protect against glare and heat from the sun and to accentuate its trim architectural lines. This structure was designed by Frank A. Shufflin, AIA, and John E. Peterson, AIA.

Twenty-five hundred feet of McKinley Sun Cornice, with a projection of two feet, were planned into the building.

"McKinley Ventilated Sun Cornices have been carefully engineered—in conjunction with leading architects—to provide superior protection from the heat and glare of the sun, for windows, entry-ways, etc.," company officials said. "Their design is such that ample light and air are permitted to pass through, while glare and heat are efficiently reflected. McKinley Ventilated Sun Cornices are fabricated of T6 temper, Alloy 6063 extruded aluminum sections with stainless steel and cadmium plated steel hardware. Their finish is a beautiful soft satin, protected by a heavy coating of CH68 butyrate lacquer."

Dupont Plaza Center is an eleven-million dollar project in the business heart of Miami. It has been designed and built to house representatives of the building and allied industries—architects, engineers, decorators, builders, contractors, etc.

Its primary function is one of coordinating industry interests, its owners reported. A permanent exhibit of the world's finest building and decorative products is to be maintained in the center to let people from all over the world see and examine...
actual products as an aid to effective sales programs.

McKinley Ventilated Sun Cornices, as well as McKinley Marquee Canopies, McKinley Sun Shades and other McKinley Sun Control Products, will be on display in the permanent exhibit of the McKinley Co.

Details on McKinley Sun Control Products can be obtained from the company at 4531 N. Keystone Ave., Indianapolis 5.

MOLIN ANNOUNCES NEW STAFFER, NEW INFO FILE

Molin Concrete Products Company has named Thomas K. Salick to be its sales representative in St. Paul, eastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin and has announced publication of a new file of information on architectural details of precast concrete.

Mr. Salick will contact architects and other designers on the use of Flexicore floor and roof units. A native of Milwaukee, he was educated at Marquette University and was formerly associated with the Wausau Concrete Products Co.

In the new file are section drawings of sills and copings in 46 different sizes, a complete section on precast items for municipal sewer work, precast beam and column details and new load charts on lightweight channel roof tile and 10- by 16-inch Flexicore. The data sheets are generally available.

Molin has been in concrete work since 1897.

IMPROVED BASEBOARD HEATING ELEMENT ANNOUNCED

Spi-Rol-Fin Corporation (Edwards Engineering Company) of Pompton Plains, N. J., has introduced a new type of Box-Fin baseboard convector radiation heating element, which reportedly has a number of advantages over conventional heating elements in that it is considered stronger, more rugged and has greater resistance to damage through mishandling.

The new Box-Fin convection heating element is formed by expanding normal tube to press fit an accordion pleated finning. Lengths are therefore easier to cut and solder. In addition, the Box-Fin gives increased convection surface, the makers said.

The new Box-Fin element can be supplied with cover lengths precut from 2 to 20 feet in one-foot increments for wall to wall installation.

Further information can be obtained from Spi-Rol-Fin Corporation, 133 Greenwood Avenue, Pequannock, N. J.

HUISMAN OF FILON ELECTED PANEL CHAIRMAN

The Fiberglass Reinforced Panel Council of the Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc., comprised of panel manufacturers and suppliers of raw materials, has elected George R. Huisman as chairman and Leonard S. Meyer as vice-chairman.

Mr. Huisman is vice-president of Flexicore, precast beams & columns, lightweight channel roof slabs, special precasting.

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manufacturing for Filon Plastics Corp. and Mr. Meyer is with International Molded Plastics, Inc. Mr. Huismann succeeds John S. Berkson, president of The Alsynite Corporation of America, who was the council's first chairman.

Organized to encourage industry research and consumer education for flat and corrugated glass fiber reinforced plastic panels, the council voted at its annual meeting to expand and intensify its program during the coming year. Three main subcommittees were set up: a technical committee under the direction of Leonard Meyer, a code committee headed by F. X. Ambrose of The Alsynite Company of America and an advertising and promotion committee headed by Sylvan Perry of Filon Plastics Corp.

During 1957 the Council was instrumental in the approval of a Commercial Standard (CS21-57) for Glass-Fiber Reinforced Polyester Corrugated Structural Plastic Panels.

COMPLETELY AUTOMATIC PARKING GARAGE
The world's first completely automatic parking garage, to be owned by Columbia University, is to be constructed in New York. Site is a 10,000-square-foot plot of land extending from 42nd Street to 43rd Street, 200 feet west of Eighth Avenue, presently occupied by a parking lot.

Associated with the venture is the Otis Elevator Company, which will manufacture, install and maintain all equipment and controls con-
The eight-story garage will house 230 automobiles and provide reservoir parking facilities for an additional 46. The revolutionary parking process to be incorporated in the garage was invented by Mihai Aliniucisano, 38-year-old civil and mechanical engineer who is president of Speed-Park, Inc. Involved are a number of basic inventions for which patents have been issued or are pending in the United States and abroad.

Completely automatic in all respects, the garage will noiselessly park or discharge as many as three automobiles per minute. The single attendant acts solely as cashier.

When the motorist arrives, the cashier removes a numbered key from a central control panel and hands it to him as his parking "receipt," while an individual meter begins recording the time and corresponding charge for the "locker" to which the car has been assigned. An elevator door opens and the car is picked up under the tires by a conveyor and moved laterally into the elevator. The door closes and the elevator proceeds to the proper floor, where the car is automatically transported to the locker whose number is on the key in the motorist's possession. No metal contact is made at any time—the conveyor touches only the automobile's rubber tires.

On returning to the garage, the motorist gives his key to the cashier, who replaces it in its original position in the control panel. The parking process instantly is initiated in reverse and proceeds while the cashier is collecting the metered fee. Within 57 seconds, on the average, the automobile has arrived in the outgoing driveway.

The Columbia University garage will be the first of a series of Speed-Park facilities to be constructed in principal cities throughout the nation, and ultimately abroad, with individual capacities ranging from 60 to 2,000 automobiles. The Otis Elevator Company has entered into an exclusive contract to manufacture, install, and maintain the equipment and controls in all Speed-Park garages. The Speed-Park address is 342 Madison Ave., New York 17.

---

Mr. Gramling

Do You Have Your "Pocket Guide" for Brick and Tile Construction?

Since the publication of the original edition of the "pocket guide" three years ago, new information on clay masonry construction has become available. This booklet has been prepared as a quick reference volume for those who design and use clay products. Subjects covered are: Product Classification, Modular Coordination, Properties of Products, Mortars, Properties of Walls, Wall Design, Construction, Maintenance, Reinforced Brick Masonry, Floors and Roofs, Estimating Tables, Fireplaces and Chimneys.

If a Structural Clay Products staffman has not placed one in your office, write for one now.
standing work in the field of ceramic
tile, he was appointed chairman of
the committee on awards. Leon
Chatelain, Jr., Washington, D. C.,
president of the American Institute
of Architects, a featured speaker,
heartily endorsed the proposed pro-
gram and offered complete co-opera-
tion.

October 2 & 3
St. Paul Conventions
BE THERE!

COMPETITIVELY
PRICED
"BUDGEX"
PARTITION
ANNOUNCED

GR Products, Inc., of Grand
Rapids, Mich., manufacturers of
"Soundex" partitions, has an-
nounced addition of "Budgex" par-
titions to its line. "Budgex" parti-
tions features include a sound-re-
tarding core of acoustical spun glass,
flush surfaces and baked enamel
finish and are competitively priced,
according to the manufacturer.

"Budgex" office partitions are of-
fered in three popular heights, 42"
flush, 42" plus 12" glass; and 42"
plus 24" glass. They are made in a
variety of standard lengths and in
standard eye-ease colors.

"A unique feature of the Budgex
partitions lies in the fact that any
partition can be sawed off on-the-
job to form a desired length," stated
Benjamin Cueny, General Manager
of the Company. "This permits
easy adjustment of runs to fit any
space. A variety of lengths permits
the ordering of partitions by the
linear foot.

"'Budgex' partitions are easy to
install and can be locked together
with no other tool than a screw-
driver or edge of a 25c piece. Rub-
ber-footed legs are quickly adjust-
able to uneven floors."

Illustrated literature on the par-
titions can be had from GR Prod-
ucts, Inc., 2417 Eastern Ave., Grand
Rapids, Mich.

1958 FIR PLYWOOD
CATALOG ANNOUNCED

The 1958 Douglas Fir Plywood
Association's three-part, 20-page cat-
alog presents basic information on
fir plywood standard grades and
specialty products for architects, en-
gineers, builders, product design en-
gineers and building code officials.

The first section covers general
information on plywood needed in
the construction and design field,
including tabulated data on plywood
grades; FHA and building code re-
quirements; properties and design
data; construction details and struc-
tural drawings of floor, wall, and
roof applications; and engineering
data for use of plywood for con-
crete forms. Also listed in the table
of contents are veneer descriptions,
western softwood plywood informa-
tion, quality control and working
and finishing plywood.

The other two sections cover fir
plywood properties for product de-
sign, and descriptions of specialty
products, including overlaid fir ply-
wood, Texture One-Eleven and de-
corative panels. Sample copies of
the booklet can be obtained without
charge from Douglas Fir Plywood
Association, Tacoma 2, Wash.

MINNEAPOLIS
BUILDERS SUPPLY
COMPANY
234 Foshay Tower
F. Federal 2-7327
CEMENT
LIME
PLASTER
FACE BRICK
BUILDING TILE
BUILDING SPECIALTIES
WATERPROOFING
MATERIALS

NORTHWEST ARCHITECT
SWEDISH METHOD FOR "GAS CONCRETE" TO HAVE ST. PAUL PLANT

A $1,250,000 plant for making gas concrete by a Swedish method is planned for construction in the St. Paul area, according to Dean Roland, Denver businessman who said that Durox of Colorado has been making this new building material for many successful buildings there. The plant here will be that of Durox of Minnesota.

Durox is made of cement, lime, silica sand and aluminum powder, which "rises" and forms a lightweight concrete similar to that with air entraining materials. Mr. Roland pointed out the product has a very high insulating quality, fire and water resistance.

On the board of directors in the capacity of consulting experts are two Twin City architects, P. C. Bettenburg of St. Paul and Carl Graffunder of Minneapolis. The plant, to be located on a sand vein east of St. Paul, will be financed by a public stock offering of 750,000 shares of common stock at $2 per share.

This type of lightweight concrete has been used in Swedish construction since 1924 and, according to Mr. Roland, it now is utilized in 60 per cent of home construction and 40 per cent of all kinds of construction in that country. Its introduction to this country's construction industry was made about a year ago in Colorado.

The Durox units, after mixing of ingredients, are autoclaved for 12 hours. Resulting material can be readily cut, even with a hand saw, and can be bored, nailed and hewed. It can be used in the form of blocks, panels and slabs and is cut to dimensions required. Custom mixes are also available, which allow for special load-bearing strengths up to 1,400 pounds per square inch. Weight varies from 25 to 45 pounds per cubic foot.

STONE DIES

Harry A. Stone, founder and chairman of the board of Independent Nail & Packing Co., died recently at the age of 90. He founded this company in 1913.

Final Word . . .

Attend in October.
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*Northwest Architect*
A winner in the better school design competition conducted by "School Executive" Magazine, the Burnsville school near Savage, Minnesota has gained national recognition. PRESTRESSED CONCRETE CHANNEL SLABS of 12" depth spanning 32'-0" were used for 20,000 sq. ft. of roof area over the primary and elementary grade classroom wings. By this wise choice of a structural material, the architect provided his client with many advantages. The permanence of concrete construction, with its low maintenance and high fire protection, coupled with the low depth, light weight and high strength of Prestressed Design furnishes great economy, as well as construction speed. For "Prize Winning Construction" use PRESTRESSED CONCRETE on your future structures.
Visit Our Yard and See — REDWOOD IN ACTION —

Designer—TOM VAN HOUSEN of ELLERBE CO.
Builder—H. K. LINDAHL & SON

SEE—Our modern office with an exterior of rough sawn Redwood Board on Board, Redwood Paneling used liberally on the interior and Redwood Millwork throughout.

SEE—The largest variety of Redwood items to be found in any one yard in the world with over one million feet of Redwood in inventory.

SEE—New Redwood items such as our 1x10 "3-way Rustic" v-joint (one rough face) and a complete stock of Simpson Redwood Plywood. Ask for samples.

Redwood does not rot, holds paint or natural finishes longer than any other wood (and most other materials), available in lengths to 20 and has proven itself over the years to be one of your most versatile and economical building materials.

TOP PHOTO—The lobby features a screen of Redwood 2x2's set on a diagonal to separate it from city desk area.

MIDDLE—1x10 Redwood V-joint Paneling creates a warm, quiet atmosphere in this private office.

BELOW—Landscaping will be completed when final grade is determined by new service road. The building extending above and behind office was an existing warehouse.