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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



What I have to say this month in this issue emphasizing Church Buildings is best expressed by the following quotations from an address to the annual national Church Architectural Conference at Minneapolis in 1960 by Dr. Edward S. Frey.

"Church building is a human problem long before it is an architectural or a financial problem. While we tend to attribute the inadequacy of many of our edifices, even those of recent date, to obsolescence and other factors, the great burden of our woe is due to lack of straight thinking on the part of the church at the outset of its building program. Our problem-buildings stem largely from thinking more about the structure than the reasons for building it. If our buildings are to adequately express the purpose, and implement the task of enlightened congregations, building plans must begin with beliefs about ultimate things.

"If we are wrong-minded there or uncertain as to what the church should say and do, then it follows, as night the day, we shall end up with the wrong kind of building. By the same token, if we are right-minded, if we take time to get our ideas of the work and worship of the church clearly conceived, our buildings will come out right.

"The building program ought to begin with what we believe and proceed from there to completion under the church's highest and deepest convictions about the Christ Event. Our buildings must bristle with belief or they fail to advance the Christian witness in the midst of the smog of secularism which has settled down so rapidly over our present-day communities. So we say, Think! before you build. Think especially about what the building is going to do for the congregation and what the congregation should be doing in the building. Buildings are both the tools and the symbols of the church. As such they reflect both in function and in form what we believe, or they are not worth our money or our effort

"If we do not know what we believe or if we do not believe earnestly or deeply what we believe, or if we are unable to give, in St. Paul's phrase, a reason for the faith that is in us, we cannot inform the architect or open him to inspiration. Consequently the building cannot be a good tool or a good witness. Without right thinking, we may end up with a building which is nothing but an imitation of what may or may not have meant something of vital importance to men of another time and another place. At worst, we might get a speechless building when we desperately need to proclaim to our contemporaries the good news of the Gospel in an architectural idiom which is meaningful to the A merely imitative building cannot present day. move men to heed the witness of the church in these stirring times. "Costume" architecture or a contemporary building that is merely novel won't work The first, because it will immediately be either. associated with a number of obsolete symbols that play no part in today's existence. The second, because it is only a splash on the landscape and rooted in nothing but a passing fancy.

"Church architecture needs to say vital things to the times in which we live. Something that dramatically proclaims what we mean and advertises the ineffable act of our mighty God in Christ for every man everywhere in every time. Something that gives positive expression to "the creditability of the Christian message in the world of today.

"The building of the church edifice is a part of the Lord's work. The styling of the building and the ordering of its spaces should also be consonant with its purpose in today's world. An ecclesiastical architecture addressed to our time as well as to God could well be as different from traditional expressions as say, J. B. Phillips' paraphrase of the New Testament is different from the King James Version, or even the Revised Version.

F E C

"Belief, purpose, program—these are the things which ought to determine the stance of a religious edifice in a given community. If we conceive of a church building in such terms as we have here been advocating, it will be something that we shall need to think and pray about as we undertake it."

Dr. Edward S. Frey is head of the Department of Church Architecture of the United Lutheran Church of America and recipient of the 1961 Conover Award.

"Copyright by Christian Herald's Protestant Church Building and Equipment Magazine. Reprinted by permission."

S'TNEUISEAT

Sincerely,

Hackin

President, N. C. Chapter, A.I.A.





The site of this church is one square city block on which a small Lutheran College was previously located. The terrain is flat. The building program called for a sanctuary to seat 450 persons with additional seating in the transept areas; a small chapel with direct access to the exterior to seat 50 persons; educational facilities; and an outdoor altar with an amplification system for drive-in services.

The triangular motif indicating "Trinity" was used throughout the entire church in roof, walls, and floor design. This design concept is also seen in the use of three crosses, varying in height, as the dominant focal point of the entrance terrace.

owner: CONCORDIA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, Conover contractor: HERMAN-SIPE COMPANY, INC. photographer: JOSEPH W. MOLITOR

CHURCH IN CONOVER







EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN HOPE VALLEY ARCHITECTS: G. MILTON SMALL, AIA, & ASSOCIATES, RALEIGH



This project is the master plan for a church building complex to serve a congregation of about 250 families in a growing community. The parish hall, which will be used as a temporary sanctuary, and about half of the church school are now under construction. The future sanctuary will "face" on a paved court which will lead to the street, to the parking area, and to the church school and parish hall. In good weather this court will provide a gathering place under the giant existing trees. For bad weather there will be a covered walk which will connect the sanctuary, the church school and the driveway.

owner: ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, durham contractor: PIEDMONT HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION CO., durham structural engineer: W. H. GARDNER & ASSOCIATES, durham





NCAIA AWARD OF MERIT 1961



The wooden umbrella which houses this rural church in Alexander County, is the outgrowth of the basic requirements of a small progressive congregation. The resulting tabernacle type structure combines the idea and tradition of the old, the vigor of the contemporary and the sight of the future. Entering the structure from all sides gives a sense of gathering, welcome and worship and is in keeping with the tradition of the rural churches being places of meeting as well as worship. A masonry circulation shaft at the Narthex allows the Choir to move unexposed from the rehearsal and dressing room below to the Choir Loft.

owner: FRIENDSHIP LUTHERAN CHURCH general contractor: HERMAN-SIPE & CO., INC. mechanical engineer: WILLIAM R. ATKINSON photographer: FRANK J. MILLER



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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN GREENSBORO

ARCHITECTS: LOEWENSTEIN-ATKINSON, GREENSBORO



Two major problems were encountered in the design and construction of St. James Presbyterian Church.

One related to the budget of \$102,000.00, with which space was to be provided for the many activities of the contemporary church, a sanctuary which would seat over three hundred, eight classrooms, study, choir rooms, sachristy, kitchen, etc. This problem was solved through economy and simplicity of means without sacrifice of spiritual quality.

The second problem related to the site, a very steep slope and the relationship to the adjacent buildings. Some moving of land softened the angle of the slope and the building of the campanile created a position in relation to the surrounding buildings which was satisfactory.

owner: ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, contractor: BARKER-COCHRAN CONSTRUCTION CO., greensboro



—This article was reprinted by permission from the column "Pen-ultimate" which appears weekly in "The Christian Century."

ARCHITECTURE AND AN ESCAPE-HATCH RELIGION

◆ AMERICANS ARE, we have perceived, in every way religious. But they like to have escape alleys in their avenues of altars. For instance, in a recent "Religious Remarkables," a syndicated illustrated page of filler for the religious press, we noted the following remarkable: "GENERAL STONEWALL JACKSON WOULD NOT FIGHT ON SUNDAY"____ and then in small type: "if he could possibly help it." We nominate St. Stonewall as the patron saint of America's religious escape-hatchers.

Until recently there seemed to be no architectural expression for this penultimate kind of interest in ultimates. Now we have found it; if you write to the Chicago Sun-Times, Box 992, G.P.O., New York City, and ask for Design B-57—and enclose 50 cents —you will get a set of blueprints for an almost but not quite inescapably religious home. Here are excerpts from a Sun-Times blurb describing the "home with a religious heart":

... Into every home he hopes to sell, today's builder crowds as much material splendor as possible for the lowest possible cost because that is the success formula proven by experience.

The formula neglects one factor being emphasized in thousands of churches at this season of the year: Man does not live by bread alone. Rising church membership in the United States indicates that many Americans are disillusioned by a completely material life and are turning to religion to find a deeper meaning to their existence.

But as every clergyman will take pains to explain, religion has no real benefit if its practice is confined to a trip to church a couple times a year. The faithful of every creed are exhorted to take their religion to heart and make it a part of the fabric of daily life.

The author calls this an "unusual prelude" to House of the Week B-57, a unique split-level which puts religion into architecture "by providing a tiny chapel in the home." "It isn't an afterthought . . . It was in the plan from the beginning (that has a Genesis or Johannine ring, doesn't it?) and even has the traditional shape of a church, a symbolic cross." (What would Jews do?) Then the blurbist relaxes us a bit by reminding us that Architect Rudolph A. Matern, no bluenose, didn't "neglect the material in providing for the spiritual." All is there in split-level splendor; there is even a theological note: a "liberal use of brick," a "gracious appearance."

Now let us look at the blueprint's small print. Sure enough, in cruciform ostentation the plans provide for a PRIVATE CHAPEL $8'3'' \times 9'2''$ —but our suspicious eyes follow the arrow leading to a note saying: "alternate studio, den, sewing room, etc." This escape clause takes all the zing and zest out of an otherwise admirable plan. The religious heart in the home is but an option. You can sew rather than kneel in this split-level.

We might "fence the tables" at communion but we want a gate. We might hit the sawdust trail —if it cushions our feet and leads to a back door. We might engage in combat, but never on Sunday —unless absolutely necessary. We might build a house designed to include a chapel—but at the last minute we can, thanks to the spirit of St. Stonewall, the plans of Architect Matern, and the American escape clause rationale, still find Freudian enhousement in a cruciform den.



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NCAIA PARTICIPATES IN TRADE FAIR

Through the concerted efforts of the Public Relations Committee, Chairman William W. Dodge III, and the Exhibitions Committee, Macon S. Smith Chairman, and with the aid of the Charlotte Council of Architects, R. Emory Holroyd, Jr., President, the North Carolina Chapter expects to have an excellent display at the Trade Fair in Charlotte, October 12-21. Booth No. 66 on the first floor of the merchandise mart will be headquarters for NCAIA and will be manned each day by two AIA members.

Planned for exhibition are several models, a number of large mounted photographs of outstanding work of NCAIA members throughout the state. A projector will flash slides continuously on a screen. These slides will be the best work done by NCAIA members as furnished to the committee by the membership.

Many pieces of literature about architects and AIA will be available to the public and a special brochure for NCAIA has been printed for distribution. Furniture for the booth is courtesy of Thonet, a North Carolina manufacturer of contemporary home and office furnishings. Design of the booth and display arrangement is by Macon S. Smith and William W. Dodge III.

Each day during the Fair films pertaining to the various displays will be shown in the Ovens Auditorium adjoining the Trade Fair Buildings. NCAIA is furnishing three films: "The Second United States", "Buildings for Business", and "Architecture U.S.A." for this program.

It is hoped that many AIA members and others interested will visit the Fair where they will be most welcome at Booth 66.

SCHOOL DESIGNER DIES

Richard Plem Leaman, AIA, a member of the firm of A. G. Odell, Jr. & Associates of Charlotte, died on September 15, 1961. Mr. Leaman supervised the design and development department of the Odell firm. Prior to going to Charlotte, in 1956, he was associated with the Department of School Planning in Raleigh. He was co-author of the book "School Design Standards" published by the N. C. Department of Public Instruction. Mr. Leaman, 38, received his degree in architecture at North Carolina State College in 1952.

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IN MEMORIAM

The following Resolution was unanimously adopted by the Bishop's Committee in meeting on September 11:

We, the members of the Bish-op's Committee on Church Architecture of the North Carolina Conference, meeting at Duke University Monday, September 11, pay tribute to Mr. Randolph E. DuMont, the founder and promoter of this committee. He gave unselfishly of his time and effort to the development of a program whereby ministers and architects may join in a common fellowship to serve more effectively the rural Methodist churches of North Carolina. This committee was one of the many expressions of his concern for the proper promotion of the Duke Endowment Rural Church Program. His sincere desire to promote good architectural planning won for him a wide circle of friends. We mourn his passing. Our sincere and heartfelt sympathy is hereby expressed to Mrs. DuMont and family. To the Duke Endowment, we express gratitude for his leadership. We pledge to keep alive the spirit and program of this committee as a living memorial to our friend and promoter, Mr. Randolph E. Du-Mont.

MEETING ANNOUNCED

The Carolinas' Chapter of The Producers' Council has announced plans for a meeting to be held in Raleigh at the Hotel Sir Walter on October 23rd. This will be their first visit to Raleigh and many new products will be on display for architects and engineers in the Raleigh-Durham area.

NCAIA WINTER MEETING January 25, 26, 27 MID-PINES HOTEL

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Blumcraft of Pittsburgh (See our ad on page 2)

ARCHITECTURAL RENDERINGS

Ralph Johnson, Raleigh, N. C. (See our ad on page 15)

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ARCHITECT AND ENGINEER APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR FALLOUT SHELTER ANALYSIS TRAINING COURSE

Engineers and architects interested in attending a two-week course in Fallout Shelter Analysis are requested to contact the State Civil Defense Agency immediately for nomination forms.

The State Civil Defense Director has been reauested by the Federal Government to nominate professionals from North Carolina for intensive training in fundamentals and newly developed techniques of fallout shelter and design.

There will be no fees or tuition. Other expenses must be paid by the student or organization he represents.

Substantial numbers of qualified architects and engineers will be needed to support the early phases of the accelerated national shelter program now underway.

Courses will be offered at the University of Florida on the following dates:

October 9-20; October 30-November 10; November 13-24; December 4-15; January 8-19; February 5-16; February 26-March 9; March 19-30.

Courses are scheduled at Army Engineer School, Ft. Belvoir, Virginia, as follows:

October 9-20; October 23-November 3; November 13-24; November 27-December 8; January 8-19; January 22-February 2; February 12-23; February 26-March 9; March 19-30; April 2-13; April 16-27.

Subjects to be covered in 80 hours of instruction are: nuclear weapons effects, radiological shielding and analysis, general considerations for shelter planning and design.

Classes will meet Monday through Friday for two weeks. Graduates who complete the course and pass a final examination will receive a certificate of proficiency in Fallout Shelter Analysis from the Department of Defense.

Priority groups will come from State Government Agencies, local governments, key industries, large school districts, and from practicing firms engaged in design of commercial and institutional buildings. North Carolina's present quota is approximately 33. It is expected that it will be increased in the near future.



Mr. Dodge succeeds Robert W. Etheredge, Jr. as President. Named to the membership committee were Stanley Fishel, AIA, Ralph Reeves, AIA, and Truman Newberry.

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OCTOBER 12-21: Trade Fair, Charlotte N.C.A.I.A. Booth #66

OCTOBER 16: Winston-Salem Council of Architects, Y.W.C.A. William R. Wallace, AIA, President

OCTOBER 18, 25, NOVEMBER 1, 8, 15: Architect's Guild of High Point, Marguerite's Restaurant George C. Connor, Jr., AIA, President

OCTOBER 26: Greensboro Registered Architects, Maplehouse Restaurant Jesse B. Owens, Jr., President

OCTOBER 27: Eastern Council of Architects (Place to be announced) Robert H. Stephens, AIA, New Bern President

NOVEMBER 1: Deadline for material for December issue.

NOVEMBER 1: Durham Council of Architects, Harvey's Robert W. Carr, AIA, President

NOVEMBER 2: Charlotte Council of Architects, Chez Montet R. Emory Holroyd, Jr., AIA, President

NOVEMBER 2: Raleigh Council of Architects, Holiday Inn William W. Dodge III, AIA, President

NOVEMBER 6-7: Conference on U. S. Government Construction Contracts, George Washington University, Washington, D. C.

NOVEMBER 28-30: Building Research Institute Fall Conferences, Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D. C.

JANUARY 25, 26, 27, 1962: Winter meeting N.C.A.I.A. Mid-Pines Hotel, Southern Pines



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