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P. O. Box 291
Concord, N. H.

New Hampshire Architect is published monthly at 181 North Main Street, Concord, N. H., under the direction of the President and board of directors of the New Hampshire Chapter, American Institute of Architects, to promote the objects and public relations of the chapter. Advertising rates furnished upon request.

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OUR COVER

General View of Chapel of St. Anselm’s New Monastery.

—All photos of Monastery by Laurier Studio, Manchester, except where designated.
The President's Message

For in the Market-place, one Dusk of Day,
I watch'd the Potter thumping his wet clay:
And with its all obliterated Tongue
It murmur'd—"Gently, Brother, gently, pray!"

*RYBAIYAT OF OMAR KHAYYAM*

SHILLALAH—

I am quite certain that the prime desire of the lawmakers is to correct laws which abuse and to enact new laws which help and I am equally certain that the newspapers presenting an "issue" endeavor to be impartial. However, there are times when all the facts are not presented by all the parties concerned, at which point it becomes extremely difficult for both the lawmakers and the press to help and to become impartial. Then again there are many times when all facts have been presented and the resultant law and reporting are more than normally biased.

In either case it would do well to pull our heads out of the clouds and become aware of the "ways of the world"; perhaps we should have a mental shillalah!

There are actions displayed by us adults which give substance to the rising popularity of books on psychology and the "who dun it?" books.

MUD - MOLDS—

The complete trimming of all seemingly non-essentials may answer the tangible worries of costs, but in this sacrifice of a robe we may only own a mud-mold.

COMPLEXITIES—

Don't look now but haven't our cars, homes and lives become terrifically complicated? Sort-of-strange that as we lighten our chores we increase the evidences of delinquency. Is there a moral here?

MODERN ART—

The March 1955 Fortune illustrated article "The Modern Art of Business" states: "The news today is that paintings and sculpture more and more frequently are being commissioned as integral parts of new business buildings. The desire for prestige or publicity is partially responsible for the change, but so is the genuine wish to make the functional buildings warmer and more inviting."

It is heart-warming to the people of the arts to know that such interest in softness and warmth is growing yet to me the real appreciation rests with those who will daily live with just a bit lighter heart; strange isn't it that the elderly lady watering her window-box of geraniums knew this all the time.
NEW HAMPSHIRE ARCHITECT SCHEDULE
1955

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Leo Provost
Horace G. Bradt
John A. Carter
Orcutt and Marston
John D. Betley
Maurice E. Witmer
Alfred T. Granger Associates

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September 1, 1955
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Manchester, New Hampshire
Seated at the head table at the joint meeting of the N. H. Chapter, A. I. A., the Associated General Contractors of N. H. and Vt., and the N. H. Society of Engineers included: Paul Harvey of Manchester, secretary of the AGC; Henry Newell of Concord, secretary of the Engineers; Dr. George Kline Smith, economist for the F. W. Dodge Corp., New York City, who spoke to the gathering; Richard Koehler of Manchester, president of N. H. Chapter, A. I. A., Guy MacMillin of Keene, president of the AGC; Robert Snodgrass of Nashua, treasurer of N. H. Chapter, A. I. A.

PREDICTS NEW ALL-TIME CONSTRUCTION RECORD

Speaking before a meeting of the N. H. Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the Associated General Contractors of N. H., and Vt., and the N. H. Society of Engineers, held recently at Concord, an official of the F. W. Dodge Corporation, construction news and marketing specialists, predicted that 1955 probably set a new all-time construction record in New Hampshire and throughout the nation.

Dr. George Cline Smith, economist for the F. W. Dodge Corp., New York City, who spoke to the gathering.
the Dodge organization, said that contract
orders for construction in New Hampshire
1954 showed a phenomenal increase of
55 percent above 1953.
"This increase" Dr. Smith said, "was
one of the highest in the nation. The
average increase for the 37 states for
which Dodge collects contract award sta-
tistics was only 13 percent."

Dr. Smith predicted that 1955 would be
record year for all major categories of
construction except factory buildings. He
recast that the most significant in-
creases would be in single-family homes,
schools and highways.
"Current housing activity" he said, "is
extremely high levels, and it is quite
possible that these levels may not be
maintained throughout the year. Never-
evertheless, the total for the year will very
likely set a new record both for number
of homes started and for dollars spent."
Approximately 100 members and guests
the three organizations attended the
dinner at the New Hampshire Highway
Hotel in the Capitol City.

Guy MacMillin of Keene, president of
the Associated General Contractors of
N. H., and Vt., brought greetings to the
meeting from his organization and spoke
briefly on the aims of the AGC. Henry
C. Newell, president of the N. H. Society
of Engineers also spoke for his organiza-

RECOMMENDED READING

There is a series of three articles in
recent NEW YORKERS on Wallace
Harrison, one of America's most successful
architects. The first one was in the issue
of November 20, 1954, the next November
27, 1954 and the final one December 4,
1954.

These are of absorbing interest, well
worth digging up out of the Public Library
to read.

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A noted American architect has suggested a solution to one of the nation's most pressing problems—school construction.

Eric Pawley's answer is "good architecture."

Pawley is staff executive of a special committee on school buildings of the American Institute of Architects. The group's purpose is to publicize school-building problems and recommend solutions.

The committee has recommended that houses and other buildings not to be used as stop-gap classrooms, on the grounds they are "impractical and retrogressive."

Pawley, in the 12th of the committee's special studies, said good schools and classrooms should not be any more expensive than poor schools and classrooms.

* * *

"As architects," he said, "we are not interested in spending one cent of school money extravagantly. We are convinced that we can design a proper environment for teaching and earning without extra expense. It does not take money primarily—it takes professional ability."

* * *

Pawley said each school presents a separate problem.

"Good architecture," he said, "works with its region and climate. It encourages safety and is fire-safe—not a combustible trap. It is easy to take care of and to maintain in good condition."

One of the most important features a good architecture can offer a school's plan is flexibility, he said. This allows for construction of additions and represents large future savings.

"The place to look for real savings," he said, "is in... new concepts, as well as in such areas as revisions of obsolete building-and-school-code and financing requirements, excessive insurance regulations and in working with the climate instead of against it, to reduce the overload of expensive mechanical equipment in our buildings."

TOO BAD—

It was a very hot day, and the sergeant was having some awkward moments with the awkward squad. At his wit's end, he called a halt and wiped his brow.

"I'm cussed if I know what to do with the lot of you," he growled. "There's some shady trees over there," the recruits suggested hopefully.

"I know," the sergeant said, "but I haven't got any rope."

There's nothing like a dish towel for wiping that contented look from married faces.
England Committee in Session

The Executive Committee of the New England Regional Council met in Providence on Friday, February 25. Conrad Green of Rhode Island presented a report of his educational committee of which he is Chairman. It was decided at an educational seminar would be held next fall probably on the subject of secondary school design.

The Annual Meeting of the New England Regional Council will be held on Saturday, April 16, at the Brookline Country Club. The program for this meeting will be confined to Regional business and good fellowship, as this seemed to present a splendid opportunity for New England architects to rub elbows and improve endships.

Delegates from the New Hampshire chapter are Eric Huddleston, Dickehler, Gene Magenau and Bill White.
In 1825, the largest towns in New Hampshire were Portsmouth, Dover, Gilmanton, Sanbornton and Londonderry. Concord was next in size with about 3,000 inhabitants, only about half of whom lived in the village. Except for the new State House built by Stuart J. Park, there was no building of architectural pretension in the town.

About this time, John Leach of Dunbarton came to Concord and was commissioned to build a meetinghouse for the newly organized First Baptist Church. This building still stands on North State Street across from the Y.M.C.A. and has been somewhat modified, but is the oldest church building in Concord. The first Directory of Concord (1830) lists its builder as “carpenter and joiner” but he had aspirations to become a designer of public buildings and houses quite in advance of village standards.

In 1826 he built the distinctive brick block at 214 North Main Street for the Merrimack County Bank recently occupied by the Christian Mutual Life Insurance Co. after remodelling but leaving the exterior almost intact. In 1829 Leach designed and built the first Unitarian Church in Concord—later destroyed by fire. Several of his houses are standing: on the north corner of Fayette and South Main Street which was built for Samuel and Philip Farrington of Hopkinton, grandsons of Philip Farrington, a leading pioneer in Pennycook Plantation; and the house at 36 South Main Street, recently razed to make way for the new Eagle Lodge, distinctive as showing the influence of the Greek Revival. Gen. Joseph Lo, first mayor of Concord in 1833, once lived in its north tenement. Both these houses were built prior to 1830.

On the present site of Fitch-Murray Court, Leach built a large wooden house “famous for its bow windows and other architectural features.” This house, given over to stores with tenements above, stood for

(Continued on page 12)
"Sanborn Block" on North Main Street, South of the State House.

The First Baptist Meeting House and Chapel on North State Street.
(Continued from Page 10)

many years until surrounded on all sides with modern brick blocks. Another of Leach's buildings was the massive brick "Sanborn Block" directly south of the State House where Capitol Street has since been cut through and where President Franklin Pierce once had his law office.

In the same neighborhood with John Leach's finest work, the Bank Building at 214 North Main, is another beautiful little brick house on Washington Street which bears all the marks of his artistry. However definite proof is lacking that this was one of his houses.

Leach continued to live and work in Concord, and finally in 1852 built a well-proportioned but unassuming brick house for himself at 10 Fayette Street, corner of South State Street. This had his characteristic fine brickwork, including an unusual brick cornice and a curved staircase of simple beauty. The front entrance portico is thought to be a later addition as John Leach would never have brok out with the "carpenter Gothic" door which is there. In addition to ordina residential use, this building served many years as dormitory and infir for the well-known St. Mary's School of Girls, and more recently as a hairdress parlor.

Now No. 10 Fayette Street has go full circle, once again it is being used by Concord architect—the firm of Lyford & Magenau. Many of the neighbor houses have also been converted into office for doctors, insurance agents, and the l

Whether this represents decay or pro gress in urban development is a debat question, but since such changes are evitable, it is fitting that the home Concord's first architect should a centu later become the office of another archi at whose hands his buildings will rece sympathetic treatment.
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The design of this building attempts to provide a continuity and coherence in a present day structure to the traditions and requirements of a very ancient monastic order.

The structure is in no way a copy of ancient monastic buildings, yet it provides for monastic living as established by St. Benedict over 14 hundred years ago at Monte Cassino, Italy.

The plan shows how the traditional elements were maintained and how they were freely arranged for purposes of function, siting and possible future development.

The main wing is the housing unit, containing the individual cells for the monks. The chapel and refectory are in separate wings, easily accessible to all, yet somewhat isolated to express their importance in the life of the community.

(Continued on Page 16)
The layout of the chapel and refectory are in keeping with tradition. In the chapel the choir stalls are arranged facing each other and in the refectory the tables are ranged near the long walls, and the chairs are placed only on one side, between the wall and table so that the monks sit facing each other across the room. Both these rooms have a redwood plank ceiling supported on the purlins between the trusses, the redwood contrasting with the dark brown of the trusses and purlins. The chapel and refectory combine with the housing unit to form the cloistered gardens.

Materials in all cases were chosen for long wear and ease of maintenance, the floors in areas of heavy usage are slate quarry tile. Walls are the natural bri or plywood, as the needs indicated, as dividing walls between the cells are prefabricated plywood wardrobe.

Since a stark, slick design would have asserted itself too strongly on the landscape and destroyed any continuity with existing buildings, it seemed that a quiet design was in order. Then too, religion being very old, perhaps needs no new startling language to express itself. The building on the whole represents a happy cooperation between the client, the architect, and the contractor.

(Continued on Page 20)
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(Continued on Page 22)
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