New Hampshire ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
New Hampshire Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

APRIL 1959

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Manchester, N. H.

PUBLISHER
LAWRENCE J. MOYNIHAN
P. O. Box 291
Concord, N. H.
Tel. CA 5-3297

New Hampshire Architect is published monthly, under the direction of the president and board of directors of the New Hampshire Chapter, American Institute of Architects, to promote the objectives and public relations of the chapter. Advertising rates furnished upon request.
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1958 — 1959

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A. I. A.
AUTOMOBILES AND ARCHITECTURE

Looking at the trend of automobile design in the past few years it is amusing to contemplate what the results might be if the car designer, or "stylist" as he is called, were turned loose on the design of buildings.

To begin with the obvious, it is sure that all facades would be made "pretty" with a liberal use of chrome, whether it was needed or not. This — of course — in the interest of "sales appeal." Doors and ceilings would no doubt be designed for that stooped-over look, and, as in his cars, he will hang a skin on the frame which fits — but not quite. In the mechanical aspects he will do a fine job. It will be finally engineered, but no doubt far and beyond actual requirements — and — if he were a bright boy he would soon learn how to keep poisonous gasses of the mechanical plant from seeping into the thing — something which tragically he has not yet learned to do in his cars.

The architect, if he were allowed to design a car might fare a little better — but not much. It is sure that his car would be designed with a due regard for the size of people — unless of course he was a fancier of the sports car. But without a question, his car would be tight enough and well ventilated enough to stop seepage of exhaust fumes. On the other hand, he might fry the occupant with an overuse of glass — but at that point he might decide to use sunshades, to overcome the objection of too much glass in the first place.

With his experience in curtain walls it will be easy for him to apply the auto body in a similar fashion. Of course there is the possibility that he may decide to be honest—or brutally frank—and expose the mechanics of the thing. The possibilities here are endless and even the traditionalist would have his say.

The results in each case, the architect and his car, the auto designer with his building, are awful to contemplate. It is best for each to stick to his own and the shoemaker to his last, but that does not mean that one cannot learn from the other.

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An exhibit of exemplary architecture in industrial, educational, residential and ecclesiastical fields is being featured during the entire month of April at the Lane Memorial Library at Hampton, N. H. Arthur C. Johnson, the library director of cultural displays, assisted in arranging the exhibit.

Three leading architectural firms of the seacoast area are participating in the exhibition: Bradt, Littlefield and Williams of Dover, William L. White of Exeter and Maurice E. Witmer of Portsmouth.

The unusual display is shown on the peg board which borders two sides of the stack area in this new wing of the library. Each of the exhibitors is displaying photographs in black and white and color of their work in these four important fields of architecture; also renderings in pencil and in water color and plans.

Bradt, Littlefield and Williams feature industrial designs, schools and libraries. The Bradt firm designed the new wing and renovations in the old section of Hampton’s public library. Mr. White shows mainly residential plans and renderings while ecclesiastical works is prominent in the showing of Maurice E. Witmer.

The public is cordially invited to visit this architectural exhibit which will be displayed during the entire month of April.
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SPRING A.I.A. MEETING
MAY 22, AT KEENE

John R. Holbrook, chairman in charge of arrangements for the May meeting of New Hampshire Chapter, A.I.A., announces that the meeting will be held on Friday, May 22 at the Keene Country Club.

The program calls for a business meeting of the executive committee at 4 o'clock, a cocktail and social hour from 5 to 6:30, followed by a dinner.

Entertainment following the meeting and dinner will be provided by Henry G. Neugebauer, archaeologist, electrical engineer and business man of Keene. Mr. Neugebauer's lecture, which will be illustrated with colored photographs, will deal with the Mayan Ruins of Mexico.

Highlight of the May meeting will be the election of officers for the coming year. A nominating committee composed of John D. Betley, chairman, Mitchell P. Diresa of Manchester and Arnold Perreton, will bring in a slate of officers.

Chairman Holbrook states that he will be at the Keene Country Club in the afternoon to tangle with any architect who would like to play a round of golf.

FRANK KENNETT, JR., A.I.A.


Mr. Kennett is married and has three children and makes his home in North Conway, where he has opened an office for the practice of architecture.

MAARTEN D. DEN HARTOG, A.I.A.

Born in Wilkinsburg, Pa., 31 years of age, married, has one son and two daughters.

Attended prep school in Boston, Washington, D.C., Roxbury Latin and St. Albans. Studied architecture at Tyler School of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, Pa.; Harvard, and a Fulbright Scholarship for a year of architectural study at Delft Technical University in the Netherlands.

Served his architectural apprenticeship with architectural and engineering firms in Boston and with Norman P. Randlett in Laconia. The Boston firms include Anderson and Beckwith, E. T. Steffian, Hutchins and French, Jackson and Moreland, Inc., and Liberty Mutual Insurance Company.

Recently opened his own office for the practice of architecture in Weston, Mass.

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS SET NEW RECORD IN FEBRUARY, UP 18 PER CENT FROM LAST YEAR

NEW YORK—Construction contracts in the United States (excluding Alaska) totalled $2.3 billion in February, setting a new all-time record for the month 18 per cent above February, 1958, according to F. W. Dodge Corporation.

In releasing the latest figures, Dodge vice president and economist George Cline Smith said that nearly every major construction category rose above last year's level.

"By far the strongest element in February was housing," Dr. Smith reported. "The number of new dwelling units covered by contracts during the month totalled 85,206, an increase of 44 per cent over February of last year. Units in apartments, single family houses and two family houses all were up by approximately the same percentage, marking the first time in several years that single family houses have been as strong as the other two types."

"But the most encouraging feature of the new figures," Dr. Smith said, "was the first upturn in industrial building
contracts since the recession. This category is an extremely important indicator of economic conditions ahead, and the fact that it rose 37 per cent over February, 1958 is highly significant of business optimism about the future.”

Non-residential building contracts in February totalled $704,337,000, down 6 per cent below February, 1958. The decline was primarily accounted for by decreases in contracts for office, schools and public buildings. Increases were reported for stores, factories, hospitals and social and recreational buildings.

Residential building contracts in February were $1,073,077,000, up 48 per cent over last year. All residential categories, without exception, were up.

February heavy engineering contracts amounted to $529,623,000, up 11 per cent above the corresponding month of last year. Within the category public works contracts were up 13 per cent, with gains in all types including highways, bridges and sewerage systems. Contracts for utilities rose by 8 per cent, with electric light and power systems down and all other major types up.

Cumulative totals for the first two months of 1959, with the percentage changes from the corresponding period of last year, were as follows: Non-residential buildings, $1,521,120,000, up one per cent; residential building $2,091,220,000, up 39 per cent; heavy engineering, $1,009,049,000, unchanged; and total construction $4,621,389,000, up 15 per cent.

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I. COMPENSATION.

On Percentage of Construction Cost:

Compensation for the normal architectural service outlined in Doc. 177, exclusive of items noted in II, is customarily based on a percentage of the cost of the work, generally referred to as the basic rate.

The rate varies according to the character of the work. Projects normally fall into the following classifications to which the reasonable minimum basic rates as noted should apply:

A. Structures of utilitarian character, such as garages, warehouses and repetitive dwelling units. 5%
B. Structures of conventional type, such as apartment buildings and hotels, banks, office buildings, institutional and dormitory buildings, educational buildings, and stores. 6%
C. Structures of specialized requirements, such as theatres, libraries, churches, hospitals and laboratories. 7%
D. Structures of monumental type, such as memorials. 8%

Residences, decorative furnishings, special interiors and alterations are subject to higher rates in accord with their special character.

II. REIMBURSEMENTS AND EXTRA SERVICES.

1. Reimbursements: The Owner should reimburse the Architect the costs of transportation and living incurred by him and his assistants while traveling in discharge of duties connected with the work, the cost of all reproductions of documents required for bidding purposes, the cost of any special consultants other than for normal structural, plumbing, heating, electrical, and other mechanical work, and other disbursements on his account approved by the Owner.

2. Separate Contracts: The basic rate noted in Section I, applies to work let under a single contract. For any portions of the work let under separate contracts, on account of extra service thereby required, a rate approximately one-third higher is proper, and if substantially all the work is so let the higher rate should apply to the entire work; but there should be no such increase on the plumbing, heating, electrical and other mechanical work or on any contracts in connection with which the Owner reimburses special consultants’ fees to the Architect, or for articles not designed by the Architect but purchased under his direction.

3. Extra Services and Special Cases: If the Architect is caused extra drafting or other expense due to changes ordered by the Owner subsequent to approval of preliminary drawings, or due to the delinquency or insolvency of the Owner or Contractor, or as a result of damage by fire or other calamity or serious delay in completion of the work, he should be equitably paid for such extra expense and the service involved.

Work let on any cost-plus basis, site development work, measured drawings of existing structures, service as expert witness, preparation of as-built drawings, alternative designs, special detailed estimates, preparation of program of project requirements, and design layout of furniture and equipment should be the subject of a special charge in accord with the special service required. The Owner should reimburse the Architect the cost of perspectives and models authorized by the Owner, and fees for filing drawings with authorities and obtaining approvals and permits.

If any work designed or specified by the Architect is abandoned or suspended, in whole or in part, the Architect should be paid for the service rendered on account of it.

4. Supervision of the Work: The Architect will endeavor by general supervision to guard the Owner against defects and deficiencies in the work of contractors, but he does not guarantee the performance of the contracts. The general supervision of the Architect is to be distinguished from the continuous on-site inspection of a clerk-of-the-works.

When authorized by the Owner, a clerk-of-the-works acceptable to both Owner and
Architect shall be engaged by the Architect at a salary satisfactory to the Owner and paid by the Owner upon presentation of the Architect’s monthly statements.

III. PAYMENTS,

Payments for the basic services outlined herein, based on a percentage of construction costs, are customarily due as follows:

1. Upon completion of the preliminary services a sum equal to 25% of the basic rate computed upon a reasonable estimated cost. It is proper upon signing an agreement, for the Architect to receive a portion of this amount as a retainer.

2. Upon completion of the working drawings and specifications a sum sufficient to increase payments to 75% of the rate of commission agreed upon, computed upon a reasonable cost estimated on such completed drawings and specifications, or if bids have been received then computed upon the lowest bona fide bids.

Throughout the development of the preliminary studies and the working drawings and specifications it is proper for the Architect to receive payments monthly, aggregating at the conclusion of each phase the amounts stated above.

3. From time to time, at monthly or stated intervals, during the execution of the work, and in proportion to its progress, payments should be made on account of the basic fee until, at completion, the aggregate of all payments shall be a sum equal to the rate or rates of commission agreed upon computed upon the final cost of the work.

4. Payments to the Architect, other than those on his basic fee, fall due from time to time as his work is done or as expense is incurred.

5. No deductions shall be made from the Architect’s fee on account of penalty, liquidated damages, or other sums withheld from payments to contractors.
NEW OFFICE BUILDING
BEEBE RUBBER COMPANY, NASHUA, N. H.

ARCHITECTS: TRACY & HILDRETH, A.I.A.
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The Beebe Rubber Company are makers of rubber heels and soles and are the exclusive manufacturers in the United States of the new "Ripple" soles. The growth of the company's business has required a number of additions to its plant during recent years. Tracy and Hildreth have served as architects for the following projects:

1954 — New Warehouse
1955 — Factory Addition
1957 — Factory Addition
1958 — New Office Building
1959 — New Factory Addition (now under construction)

The accompanying illustrations show the new office building and also give a glimpse of the factory with some of its recent additions. The Owners maintain their grounds with excellent landscaping, although the landscaping around the office building has not yet been accomplished.

The following outline covers the major features of the construction of the office building:

Area: 2900 square feet.
Foundations: Concrete.
Walls: Brick face, air space, masonry block backers except structural glazed tile on lower section.
Windows: Aluminum awning.
Roof: Wood roof rafters, wood deck.
Roofing: Vapor seal, rigid insulation, built-up roofing.
Floor: Concrete slab on grade.
Ceilings: Acoustical tile.
Partitions: Movable metal office partitions.
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NUTTING BUILDING
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This commercial building is part of a project for the widening of Main Street by the removal of what has been called the “bottleneck.” This building replaces one which was razed last year. It contains four stores, but the partitions between stores are designed to be removed easily permitting a smaller number of larger stores. Each store has a basement, the rear of which is at ground level on the sloping side.

An analysis of insurance rates dictated the floor and roof construction and the installation of a sprinkler system. These added costs will be paid for in a relatively few years by savings in insurance premiums.

A brief outline of materials follows:

Foundations: Reinforced concrete.
Exterior Walls: Brick.
Basement Floor: Concrete on grade.
First Floor: Flexicore precast slabs.
Roof: Steel joists, Steeltex, Concrete deck.
Roofing: Vapor seal, Insulation, Built-up roofing.
Windows: Aluminum store fronts and entrances.
Flooring: Vinyl tile.
Partitions: Basement — Masonry block. First Floor — Wood studs and sheetrock.
Ceilings: Acoustical tile.
Lighting: Fluorescent fixtures.
Heating: Each store has its own forced warm air heater with provisions made for future summer cooling.

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The slab on grade, plaster flooring, gypsum and oak panelling, finished brick backdrop at Chancel; the kitchen facilities for church suppers and the Sacristy are designed to fulfill the needs of the people at this time. The use of cedar siding stained and red brick, aside from its excellent maintenance abilities, lends a color at home with the rolling fields of Newington. As seen from a distance along the Spaulding Turnpike, the steel cross visible in all directions identifies the building as a place of worship. Here again the builder and his various craftsmen have executed high quality workmanship and care. You are buzzing up and down the Turnpike so often why don’t you stop a while and visit this quiet spot, it won’t hurt a bit.
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NEW PRODUCTS

Aluminum Grilles by Blumcraft

GRILL-O-METRICS, the new 3-dimensional grilles developed by Blumcraft of Pittsburgh, and illustrated in their new catalogue M-59, are available to architects for use as railing panels, sun screens, room dividers and for complete building surfacing. Unlike stamped or perforated metal grilles, Grill-O-Metrics are built of sculptured extrusions to provide structural depth.

The sparkling facets which float sturdily in space are furnished in either a dished circular pattern or in a rectangular diamond effect. The vertical background supports are furnished in black anodized finish to provide a striking contrast with the facets. The aluminum alloy is the same alloy as that used in the entire Blumcraft railing line, thus providing uniformity of aluminizing. Extrusions are used throughout, no casting nor sheet aluminum.

In addition to style “R” and style “D” shown in the Blumcraft catalogue, two additional patterns of larger facets have been developed and are included with the other Grill-O-Metric details for easy tracing.

The flexibility of the entire Blumcraft system is retained in Grill-O-Metrics. By omitting any number of facets, the architect is free to create his own pattern arrangements. Also of interest to the architect is that Grill-O-Metrics is less costly than custom-built aluminum grilles.

Architects are invited to forward their preliminary drawings of railings and grilles to Blumcraft for review by its design staff, prior to completion of the architect’s working drawings.

The new Blumcraft catalogue M-59, with details of the new Grill-O-Metrics, also contains new posts and handrail shapes. Architects desiring copies of the new catalogue and easy tracing details of the new Grill-O-Metrics are invited to write to Blumcraft of Pittsburgh, 461 Melwood Street, Pittsburgh 13, Pennsylvania.

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