URIS BROTHERS' BUILDINGS

488 MADISON AVENUE
575 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

EQUIPPED WITH

TYLER

ELEVATOR ENTRANCES

Main floor elevator entrances of stainless steel in 488 Madison Ave. Building.
Emory Roth & Sons, Architects. Uris Brothers, Owners and Builders.

EQUIPPED WITH

TYLER

ELEVATOR CARS

Elevator Car of stainless steel
and oak in the 488 Madison Ave. Building

THE W. S. TYLER COMPANY • CLEVELAND 14, OHIO
NEW YORK • BOSTON • PHILADELPHIA • CHICAGO • ATLANTA • DALLAS • SAN FRANCISCO • LOS ANGELES • ST. CATHARINES, ONT.
They pinned the responsibility on us!

YES, the architect and builder on this big 120 unit Hiramar job solved one big problem right away. They pinned responsibility for performance of materials on National Gypsum by using Gold Bond Building Products all the way—Gold Bond Rock Wool Insulation, Gypsum Sheathing, Gypsum Wallboard and perforated Tape Joint System and Gold Bond Sunflex Paint.

You get two big advantages when you specify Gold Bond exclusively on your jobs. First, you know you're getting products that are specifically engineered to work together. Second, you avoid divided responsibility when the performance of all the materials is guaranteed by one reliable Manufacturer—National Gypsum Company. So on all your jobs from now on, whether residential or commercial, specify and use Gold Bond products all the way. They're all fully described in Sweet's.

NATIONAL GYPSUM COMPANY
BUFFALO 2, NEW YORK


EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT
NATURALLY, IT’S BRICK

Large housing projects demand definite and stringent qualities in construction materials. Naturally, they must be fire resistant for occupancy protection. Naturally, they must be economical to construct and economical to maintain for financial reasons, and naturally they must be colorful and pleasing in appearance for aesthetic reasons. And since these requirements are inherent qualities in the material most universally used in all types of structures, when it comes to a choice for any job, big or small, why naturally, it’s brick.

STRUCTURAL CLAY PRODUCTS INSTITUTE
1949 GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL
NEW YORK, N. Y.
We present the **ALL NEW**

**Case ONE-PIECE**

with lower bowl and important sanitary developments

With the $1000 Case One-Piece, modern development in water closet design attains a new standard of beauty, performance and utility. The $1000 carries on the immensely popular idea sponsored by Case in the original one-piece water closet. New mechanical features assure the positive, *quiet flushing* action people desire in the up-to-date bathroom. The bowl has been lowered one inch, incorporating the findings of the latest research on posture. For maximum health protection, the riser pipe of the ballcock is enclosed in a china channel completely separated from the water in the tank. The body of the ballcock is located well above any possible water level.

An open atmospheric vent obviates all possibility of back-syphonage under any conditions. Of particular appeal is the fresh exterior styling, designed to convey the feeling of quality inherent in this fixture. The $1000 is built to the highest specifications, is attractively priced, and is available in white and 26 popular colors. See it now at your Case distributor—or write for folder. W. A. Case & Son Mfg. Co., Buffalo 3, N. Y. Founded 1853.

... *and a new matching lavatory*

The handsome new style motif of the One-Piece water closet is duplicated line for line in this companion lavatory, the new *Windell* $780* with specially designed fittings. When installed together, each fixture complements the other's beauty.

Size 24" x 20".

---

*U. S. Pat. (One-Piece) — D139563, 2252078, 2290438.
(Lavatory) — D131194.*

**Case** Fine Vitreous China

**EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT**
STRESTCRETE

Completed residence with 6" Strestcrete roof cantilevered on four sides.

ROOF, FLOOR and WALL SLABS

STRESTCRETE is a slab system for roof and floor construction utilizing machine-made units of either light or heavyweight concrete and pre-stressed steel. Units are cured and then assembled at the source of manufacture to length and depth with area of steel, to carry required load from support to support without vertical shoring.

In assembling units into slabs, steel is pre-stressed to approximately the stress required in the designed loading of the roof or floor section. In this way these slabs at full load will have little or no deflection under all conditions. Minimum of concrete grout is poured between slabs in the form of a joist for coverage of steel and to key slabs together. Concrete finish may or may not be poured as required for additional strength and wearing surfaces.

STRESTCRETE slabs are manufactured in depths of 3", 4", 6", 8", 10" and 12", in widths of 16" to 48", spanning up to 30 feet.

STRESTCRETE slabs can be used in all types of building construction as roof and floor for structural steel or poured concrete frame, as roof decking or roof slabs suitable for arched, flat, gabled and saw-toothed roofs.

With STRESTCRETE you get economy and speed of construction, since this system permits installation as soon as bearing walls or beams are completed. The next story may begin without delay.

STRESTCRETE undersurfaces may be left exposed providing a ceiling ready for painting or a minimum thickness of plaster.

STRESTCRETE slabs are aligned and grouted in true flat position, resulting in the entire surface being in the same plane. This evenness of surface makes possible the application of built-up roofs and all types of floor finishes, such as linoleum, asphalt tile, wood, and carpeting from wall to wall.

Installation of STRESTCRETE on the job is simple. Slabs are placed onto bearing walls or beams by crane without interference with other workmen on the job. No shoring or forms are necessary, thereby cutting erection time in half.

STRESTCRETE is ideal for WARM AIR panel (radiant) heat.

STRESTCRETE slabs are fire-safe and termite-proof. Slabs of lightweight aggregate with hollow cores cut dead weight approximately 30 per cent and enhance the soundproofness and insulation value.

OTHER ANCHOR PRODUCTS
Celtcrete and Concrete Blocks
Flexicore pre-cast floor and roof slabs

DISTRIBUTORS FOR
Thorn Aluminum and Steel Windows, for commercial, industrial and residential buildings.
Medusa Portland Cement Paint, for concrete wall surfaces.
Medusa Floor Coating, for concrete floors.
Dur-O-Wall reinforcement for concrete masonry walls.

For more information about Anchor Concrete Products and for Strestcrete booklets, write:

ANCHOR CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC.
WABASH AVE. at 2450 WILLIAM ST.
BUFFALO 6, N.Y.
INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

The New York State Association of Architects is most desirous of having all registered architects in our state as members. As you know, "In union there is strength." Therefore, every available architect ought to add his weight to the membership in order that we may count in whatever program, legislative or educational, that your organization undertakes to do. We are particularly desirous of having the young men of the profession take an active part since it is imperative that we build leadership to be able to advance in our state.

Another reason for a strong organization is that New York State is looked upon as a leader and a good many of our policies are followed by other states. We can, therefore, be a potent factor in dealing with national issues.

There are many benefits to be derived from your association with your fellow architects.

Such meetings as the Annual Convention held in various cities throughout the state in the fall offer many the opportunity of listening to technical seminars on current problems. Members can also attend meetings at which all current legislation, etc. is aired before the entire group as are architectural policies, and also the meetings at which noted speakers and well-known architects throughout the state assemble and discuss pertinent subjects.

Membership for the young practitioner in particular, should be a must on their program because only through such associations can one be guided to maintain the standards of the profession. This should also apply to all non-members who seek to better their relationship as well as their standard of practice. Non-members need only to talk to members of the N.Y.S.A.A. and they too will be convinced of the benefits to be derived from membership in our organization.

NICHOLAS J. MASucci
Chairman of Membership Committee
311 Alexander Street

Clip the printed application below, fill in and mail to any of the Membership Committee as listed on Page 34 and become a member immediately.

FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS SEE PAGE 20

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS

Name .................................. Date ................................

Mail Address ..........................................................

License No. ..........................................................

Architectural Organizations .....................................

I hereby make application for membership in the New York State Ass'n. of Architects, and if elected agree to abide by the provisions of its constitution and by-laws.

Herewith are the current dues of $2.00

(Signature)

Recommended by .................. Elected .................. Date ..........................
BUILT BY
Blanchard

BY SPECIALIZING IN CONSTRUCTION
and leaving the creative design to others, Wm.
L. Blanchard Co. helps assure for owners the
best possible results. One of our associates,
however, is a consulting architect and A.I.A.
member. His familiarity with New Jersey
building problems is readily available to New
York architects planning structures in this area.

BY SPECIALIZING IN NEW JERSEY,
we maintain a thorough knowledge of local
labor conditions, costs and sources of materials.
This knowledge may be of value to you in the
ey planning stages, to help avoid expensive
revisions of drawings later on. It also is of value
to the owner in obtaining satisfaction at mini-
mum effort and at minimum final cost.

***BUILDERS SINCE 1860*** 90th ANNIVERSARY***

We are prepared to serve you in this area

Our Own Who's Who will be sent on request

Wm. L. Blanchard Co.
Wm. F. Blanchard, President
55 Poinier Street, Newark 5, New Jersey
Telephone: Bigelow 8-2121 - Ext. 26

EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT
PURCHASED STEAM
FOR TWO GREAT NEW MADISON AVENUE BUILDINGS

The new buildings at 488 and 575 Madison Avenue with their long horizontal bands of glass and masonry are harbingers of the new age of beauty, comfort and utility in office accommodations.

Each of these buildings will use about 17,000,000 pounds of steam a year for its heat and hot water requirements. By eliminating boiler plants, both buildings have increased their profitable space. In 488 Madison Avenue the basement area is rented, while 575 Madison Avenue will house a parking garage for its tenants—the first office building in New York to offer this convenience.

No wonder both Uris Brothers, builders, and Emery Roth & Sons, architects, believe that the truly modern building is no place for a boiler plant. They know that quite aside from its cost in terms of space and money, no private steam plant can match Purchased Steam Service in terms of overall comfort, cleanliness, dependability and economy of operation.
In dairies or industrial plants where high humidity is a problem... the answer is FLEXICORE pre-cast floor and roof slabs.

Unlike many other materials, FLEXICORE is not affected by high humidity. It will not deteriorate... it will not rot... it will not buckle.

The problem of high humidity is especially acute in milk processing plants, dairies, dry cleaning plants, laundries, car washing establishments. Many Architects, in designing structures for these industries, have recognized the outstanding qualities of FLEXICORE. FLEXICORE has been used in buildings constructed for Sterling-Amherst Dairy, Sparks Dairy, Brookside Farm Dairy, City View Dairy, and many others.

Said one dairy owner: "Flexicore is ideal for dairies. We've had dairymen here from all over the state inspecting our Flexicore ceiling and roof."

FLEXICORE is ideal, too, for use over crawl-space. Because it is not affected by high humidity or lack of ventilation, there are no maintenance or upkeep costs as there are with other materials.

FLEXICORE is fire-safe and is an outstanding product where combustible materials are used.

Among the many other advantages of FLEXICORE is speed of erection... the slabs may be lifted directly into place from the truck, eliminating additional handling on the site. FLEXICORE slabs may be installed in building additions or alterations without interrupting normal business.

OTHER ANCHOR PRODUCTS
Colocrete and Concrete Blocks.
Reinforced Linets - Sills.
Strestcrete Floor and Roof Slabs.

DISTRIBUTORS FOR
Thorn Aluminum and Steel Windows for commercial, industrial, and residential buildings.
Medusa Portland Cement Paint, for concrete wall surfaces.
Medusa Floor Coating, for concrete floors.
Dur-O-Wall reinforcement for concrete masonry walls.

For more information about Flexicore and Anchor Concrete Products, write:

ANCHOR CONCRETE PRODUCTS INC.
WABASH AVE., AT 2450 WILLIAM ST.
BUFFALO 6, N. Y.
1950 STATE CONVENTION

BULLETIN NO. 2

ARCHITECTS – ATTENTION ! ! ! ! !

Your Convention Committee reports:

Attendance.

Hotel Syracuse is a busy and popular spot.
Advance accommodations limited to 200 rooms.
Bring your sons, wives and daughters.
Make your reservation now.
Students — One or more students from each accredited school of Architecture in the State will be guests of the Convention.

Architectural Exhibits.

Program of Honor Awards will be in Member hands soon.
A.I.A. requirements. Entry fee $5.00 per subject.
Limited space. Reserve now.
Judgment by an impartial, out-of-state jury.
Certificates of award for winning designs.

Commercial Exhibits.

Sixteen commercial exhibitors have reserved space.
Products are of general interest.
Certificate of award for best display.

Registration.

Fees have been reduced.
a) General registration $1.00.
b) Administration fees, $1.00 added to each meal.

Speakers and Seminars.

Program of Seminars and Speakers educational and interesting to all.
An internationally known person expected to speak at annual dinner.

REMEMBER — November 2 - 3 - 4.

Advance information indicates that the 1950 Convention of the New York State Association of Architects to be held in Syracuse November 2, 3 and 4th will be the most successful in every respect since the war.

Webster C. Moulton, Convention Committee Chairman, has been aggressively at work, as recent bulletins to members of the state association indicate, and is spurring his sub-chairmen to whip their programs into shape with a view to having all arrangements perfected no later than July 1st.

Sub-Committee Commercial Exhibit Chairman, F. Curtis King, reports the following commercial exhibitors have agreed to take 15 booths:

Mrs. F. Curtis King, General Chairman of the Women's Committee, has also been active and tentative plans have been made that will assure an interesting time for the wives of visiting architects. Included are luncheons, one of which will probably be held at Syracuse's new Corinthian Club, center of women's club activities. Also tentatively programmed is a visit to the Onondaga Pottery Company, home of Syracuse China.

Good news for many is the reduction in registration rates instituted this year. A fee of $1.00 is to be paid at time of registration and a $1.00 surcharge is to be applied to the cost of each meal, to cover administration expenses. This means that those unable to attend all of the meetings will not be paying a disproportionate share of the costs.

The program of speakers and seminars is being put together with great care, according to William S. Distin of Saranac Lake, who is Sub-Chairman of that Committee. The policy for this year's program is to select seminar subjects of general importance to all architects, avoiding specialized methods and materials of limited application.

(Continued on Page 19.)
Lasting as the Pyramids

We are justly proud that HANLEY DURAGLAZE BRICK graces the exterior of these two new and beautiful architectural giants on New York's Madison Avenue.

The modern commercial edifice pictured at the right is constructed with #725 HANLEY DURAGLAZE BRICK. Oyster white with medium speck, this ceramic glazed brick is especially suited to exterior use, for it is entirely impervious to stain and weather resistant to extreme climatic changes.

The streamlined industrial monument shown below, now nearing completion, is constructed with No. 525 HANLEY DURAGLAZE BRICK, pearl gray with medium speck.

HANLEY DURAGLAZE BRICK is also available in the following controlled shades:

- #501 - Pearl Grey
- #523 - Pearl Grey - Light Speck
- #525 - Pearl Grey - Medium Speck
- #723 - Oyster White - Light Speck
- #725 - Oyster White - Medium Speck
- #729 - Oyster White - Heavy Speck

Also manufactured by THE HANLEY COMPANY
Face Brick, all colors and textures
Ceramic Glazed Brick and Facing Tile
"IMPERVO" Floor Brick and Quarry Tile

HANLEY COMPANY
101 Park Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.
Murray Hill 9-4134

AGENTS IN ALL PRINCIPAL CITIES
Detroit Office: 14545 Schaefer Highway
THE LOGISTICS OF 488 MADISON AVE.

By Richard Roth

As the Eohippus had to go through evolutionary stages to develop into the horse of today, so had the Sullivan and Holabird office buildings to develop to take their present form. Speed, endurance and agility bred the Equidae into its surviving descendant. Proper use of light, air, new materials and methods of construction brought about today’s sound structures.

The building evolution produced by structural steel framing reduced the exterior wall to little more than a protective curtain against wind and weather. The evolution that demanded better working conditions created a need for controlling light and air as well.

Diehards have been loathe not only to surrender the expression of the use of the vertical column but more often than not have introduced additional vertical pilasters. These were not only not necessary to basic construction but actually were detrimental to the most effective use of interior space; not only hampering planning but creating just another feature to be treated and terminated gracefully. Thus the direction towards today’s design has been both an uphill and strenuous fight. Yet the direction has been as consistent and inevitable as it is fluid wherever there has been the desire to express the ultimate with available materials, methods and usages.

Today’s form is, to a great extent, a further growth of the design so brilliantly illustrated by the South American architects, who with their limited resources gave significance to the basic economic use, namely, floor slab and control of light and air. This trend, unconsciously perhaps, has been seized upon and adapted to our own way of life. But since we are not hampered by the devastating rays of a Rio de Janeiro sun nor by lack of ferrous metals, we could, with our abundance of steel, aluminum and glass, move forward within the confines of our local laws and express the economic usage of space.

In attempting to present a study of large-tenant office building space for a minimum rent and maximum utility, 488 Madison Avenue, is used as an example. In designing space which is to be used by multiple tenants, the architect faces the problem of not only pleasing the builder, but also the builder’s tenants. He therefore has to work not only to include many varied viewpoints, but to insure the owner of the longevity of his investment. To create what is new alone is not sufficient. Today’s modern can too easily become tomorrow’s “old hat,” by becoming not only inflexible but dogmatic in an attempt to be different. The architect therefore has to be sure that what he is designing will be functionally and aesthetically sound 20 years hence. In assuring a tenant light and air and efficient coordination of office space, the architect knows that while there will be newer and more dramatic designs developed, still he has fundamentally designed well.

In 1947 this office designed a building at 59th Street and Park Avenue, which was well received by the owner and tenants. The site was considered by real estate people as a marginal office building location since the plot was at a dividing line between a long-established residential district and the still-to-be-de-
developed business district. We had the feeling that the best solution to this problem was to face the building towards its business associates, and therefore a sweeping continuous modular open corner treatment of the windows was evolved, and this formed the basis for our design. We were timid and we experimented; we used the strip window for only a portion of the building, the remainder was designed in the conventional manner.

As a result of this experimentation, we found the strip windows to be the most advantageous for, where the vertical piers between windows were used, we experienced our only difficulty in office layouts.

The successful renting of this building so convinced us that we were correct in our solution that we decided that 488 Madison Avenue would be developed along similar lines, giving the advantages of the ribbon windows to all rentable areas of the building. From this point on it was a comparatively simple matter to treat our exterior frankly and the mass was openly an expression of usage within the rather rigid confines of zoning and costs.

Early in the preparation of preliminary layouts for prospective tenants it was found that there was a definite ratio between the allowable depth of a room to the window area and that the greater the glass area the deeper into the solid core could space be planned. Therefore with continuous windows we no longer had a fear of excessive interior space.

Despite this advantage, we had received objections on the depth of the offices from the prospective tenants at 505 Park Avenue, when preparing preliminary layouts, but knew we could state that this bias was not based on fact, but on deep-rooted work habits.

Pioneering is always laborious and only because we felt sincerely that we were basically sound in our judgment did we continue to educate tenants and ultimately convince them—to their own profit—that our space and light allotment was correct.

Tenants had long been accustomed to working in the usual office building designed with four foot window, four foot pier, four foot window, four foot pier, ad infinitum. In other words, if a room were approximately 8'-0" wide, it had but one window, and at best could be 14 or 15 feet deep; if it were 12'-0" wide it still had possibly one, or if fortunate, two windows; and the depth of the usable space at the most was 20 feet. Distances further from the first column from the outside wall, formed entirely interior space and even though artificially ventilated or even air conditioned, were not only dark and confining, but lost their effectiveness as productive work rooms. These spaces were usually allotted to files, storage, reception room, etc.
With the continuous windows, however, it was immediately found that spaces had an open feeling and therefore could spread deeper, since the balance between windows and floor area was more equitably assigned. The former arbitrary office planning gave way to a new flexibility in layout.

By the time preliminary tenant sketches were completed, it was often found that actually there was insufficient interior space for what had normally been assigned to these storage, files and reception rooms, and another problem was almost created in that the tenant assumed he was renting too much outside space and therefore paying too high a rent for those purposes that ordinarily require only the less expensive interior allocating. Renting agents then had to convince tenants that no longer was the interior dark space obvious and all floor areas to a great extent had equal value.

Once we decided on the continuous window, the determination of what the module should be was of tremendous importance, for not only did the window module spacing have to be proper for the tenants' office sub-divisions, but had to be worked out to proper economical column-spacing. The decision to use the 4'-2" window module and the 4½" mullion was determined because we found that we then had the proper balance between planning and steel framing. To solve the problem of bringing our exterior heating and ventilating lines up, and still keep the feeling of the continuous light, we set our columns back from the building face so that the spandrel and windows carried through and we further created a detail which allowed us to recess our vertical pipes within the flanges of these columns.

(Continued on Page 32.)
BUFFALO – WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER

The following has been gleaned from reports of the various committees reporting at the annual meeting of the chapter which was held January 10, 1950. This gives a brief resume of the chapter’s activities for the past year.

The local papers have provided some publicity attendant Chapter affairs in connection with the Tony Carlino house. Included in the write-up regarding Tony’s troubles in obtaining a building permit in the Town of Amherst was a fine photograph of Tony and a model of his house.

The Chapter gained considerable publicity in connection with the Edward H. Moeller Scholarship Fund.

REPORT OF THE HOME BUILDING INDUSTRY FOR 1949

It was the conclusion of the members of this committee that our most useful function would probably be that of improved relations, specific education, and the furtherance of good will between our profession and the Home Building Industry and the Home Purchasing or Home Building public.

On the occasion of National Home Week, at the suggestion of the Chapter president, our committee met to formulate a brief article for newspaper publication.

Mr. Tom Imbs was active on a committee to explore cooperative housing with the Builders Association, thereby gaining much good will for our profession.

The chairman, Mr. John N. Highland, was moderator of one panel and a member of a second panel with several other members of the A.I.A. at the Chicago Convention of the Home Building Industry. Progress in industry relations has resulted in the Architectural Clinic being moved to one of the dominant spots in this year’s February Convention of the National Association of Home Builders.

REPORT OF THE RATES & FEES COMMITTEE FOR 1949

On one or two occasions it was suggested to the Chapter that consideration be given to the inclusion as a reimbursable item, of the fees paid to mechanical engineers. Private inquiries among certain of our members indicate not only the legitimacy of such practice (it is generally done elsewhere in the State) but the feeling that many desire that we return to the National form of contract calling for such reimbursing.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF BUFFALO BUILDING CODE FOR 1949

The Committee on Revision of the Buffalo Building Code, comprised of Mort Wolfe and Donald W. Love has met frequently with representatives of the City of Buffalo, Engineering Society of Buffalo and other interested groups.

Revisions to the laws during the past year included the adoption of the Multiple Dwelling Law in place of the Tenement House Law, adoption of a new concrete code permitting the use of controlled concrete and adoption of law permitting use of light gauge steel construction.

Now under study and scheduled for passage during 1950 are laws concerning exits from buildings not covered by the State Labor Department or by the Multiple Dwelling Law, regulations covering foundation design which would allow soil stresses based on actual conditions rather than on the present 7000# maximum.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FOR 1949

Labor is asking for wage increases and it is very possible that it may be necessary to grant increases particularly because electricians were given an 18 per cent increase last year. Due to the apparent desire of President Truman that wages should be increased to provide greater spending power, labor probably will insist upon a small increase which may not affect private building construction to any great extent. Labor is strong enough at this time to have released much public work to take up the slack if private buildings are held up. It is understood that there is much public work ready to be released if and when it becomes necessary to give employment to building labor so the threat of private buildings being side tracked because of high wages will have very little influence on the demands of labor for higher wages.

The Chapter now has a total membership of one hundred and seven members, of which eighty two are corporate members.

Professor Ralph E. Winslow, head of the Department of Architecture at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, was elected president of the Board of Examiners to succeed George Bain Cummings, F.A.I.A., whose term expires July 31 of this year and who has declined reappointment to the Board.

The other member of the Board whose term expires this year is Lorimer Rich of Brooklyn.

CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER

The last regular meeting of the Chapter was held at the University Club in Rochester on March 25, 1950. This was the first meeting conducted by the new officers. It was certainly no new experience for such “old hands” as Storrs Barrows, President, and Cy Tucker, Secretary.

The following are quotes from the Secretary’s minutes:

“The President brought up the proposed amendment to the by-laws, as outlined in the last “Straight-Edge,” the one which gives him an extra six months in office, and on his plea, supported by a motion from Mr. Larkin, seconded by Mr. Leonard, the amendment was adopted.”

(Continued on page 31.)

EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT
ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBIT

1950

PROGRAM

GENERAL INFORMATION:
The 1950 Convention will exhibit representative work by members of the New York State Association. Exhibit will form the basis for Certificate Awards to be presented for merit in design.

ELIGIBILITY:
Association members may submit any number of entries completed or commissioned since January 1, 1945.

CLOSING DATE AND SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:
Entries shall be shipped Express Prepaid to Francis E. Hares, 215 Fitch Street, Syracuse, New York. Same shall be at the Syracuse Express Agency on or before October 30, 1950.

CLASSIFICATION:
a) Commercial
b) Domestic
c) Ecclesiastical
d) Educational
e) Industrial
f) Institutional
g) Public Works

AWARDS:
Certificates of Awards will be made for outstanding designs in the above classifications. Awards will be presented to:
a) The Architect submitting the design.
b) The Owner of the building project.

JURY:
The jury will be appointed by the Honors Committee and will consist of members of the profession chosen from outside New York State.

PUBLICATION:
Premiated designs will be given publicity in the architectural press as well as in publications throughout the state. Any copyrighted material must be accompanied by a release giving unrestricted rights to publication.

EXHIBIT:
The 1950 Architectural Exhibit is expected to make history. Select your entries carefully. Ship at an early date. The committee reserves the right to select entries for hanging. Space is limited.

MANDATORY RULES FOR SUBMISSION:
1. ENTRANCE FEE
Each architectural entry shall be accompanied by a fee of $5.00 per mount, payable to Francis E. Hares, 215 Fitch Street, Syracuse 4, New York.

2. MOUNTS
Mounts shall be of stiff board 30" x 40" and not less than 1/4" in thickness. Each entry limited to two mounts.

3. COMPOSITION
The composition may be at the discretion of the entrant, provided the mandatory requirements are met. At the lower edge of each mount there shall be left a space 4" high full width of mount.

4. PHOTOGRAPHS — Completed Building
a) Exterior — A minimum of two photographs which together shall show all principal exposed sides of the building.
b) Interior — A minimum of one photograph. Photographs shall be monotone, matte finish.
   a) Main facade 11" x 14"
   b) Minor view 8" x 10"

5. RENDERINGS
Photographic copies of renderings may be substituted for photographs where eligible projects have not been completed.

6. PLANS
a) Site plan — at small scale.
b) Floor plan or plans—sufficient to explain the solution.
c) Plans must be at scale, but may be shown by any medium.
d) Scale at discretion of entrant, minimum 1/16".
e) Scale must be shown graphically.

7. DESCRIPTIVE DATA
a) On face of mount—
   Type and location of project.
   b) Supplementary information—
      Owner's special program requirements—special or unusual conditions of site or problem. Supplementary information limited to one typewritten page 81/2" x 11", placed folded in a blank open business-size envelope and securely fastened to face of mount at the lower right hand corner.

8. ANONYMITY
On the back of each mount shall be lettered within a small space:
a) Name and location of project.
b) Name of Architect.
c) Name of Owner.
d) Name of General Contractor.
The identification shall be covered by opaque paper securely fastened and sealed at all edges.

MODELS:
Architectural models and other threedimensional exhibits are welcome but will be shown only as space permits, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT ONLY. Models will not be eligible for Certificate Awards.

INSURANCE:
While at the convention, mounted exhibits will be insured for fire and theft at the rate of $25.00 per mount. Reasonable care will be exercised in the handling of all material but the convention committee will not be responsible for any damage beyond its control. Models at owners' risk.

ENTRY RETURN:
Entries will be returned at the close of the Convention, Express Collect.

EXHIBITION COMMITTEE
Francis E. Hares

ENTRY BLANK FOR ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBIT

Firm
Address

Number of Entries
Number of 30 x 40 Mounts

Amount Enclosed $    (payable to Francis E. Hares)

Mail this blank to:
Francis E. Hares
215 Fitch Street
Syracuse 4, N. Y. on or before October 2, 1950.
REPORT OF THE SEMINAR ON HOUSING

1949 N. Y. S. A. A. CONVENTION, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

ROBERT D. SIPPRELL, CHAIRMAN

The Seminar on Housing was conducted under the chairmanship of Robert D. Sipprell, Executive Director of Buffalo’s Municipal Housing Authority. Three brief and well-prepared addresses were presented, each approaching the housing design problem from a different angle.

The Sociologist’s Approach

Professor John P. Dean of Cornell University led off with what Chairman Sipprell declared was really the fundamental approach, that of the social effect of public housing design on the families who live in the projects. Professor Dean frankly stated that the various studies that have been conducted to date were too limited in scope to lead to any dogmatic conclusions, but the observations he reported did disclose some startling facts and raised questions which any conscientious designer would like to have answered positively so that plans could be prepared to meet actual rather than theoretical needs.

Several studies under state or federal auspices disclosed that people did not, in fact, use central laundries nearly as much as planners expected they would. Many with communal facilities at their disposal preferred to hang clothes in their own kitchens even at mealtimes. Many had washing machines and sewing machines, items which the planners did not allow for in laying out the units. A number of families, after making representations to qualify for public housing space, bought new furniture entailing monthly principal and interest payments nearly equal to the rental subsidy contributed by the government.

Among the interesting facts concerning the inter-relationship of families when they move into public housing projects are that those who live at the ends of the courts make fewer friendships within the projects than those who live in the center units, yet, generally speaking, social relationships are not so much influenced by architectural or structural lines as those connected with practice and religion.

While too many data are not at present available, there are enough to point to the conclusion that we should learn some of the significant things about what public housing does to people. For public housing is a social experiment in which people are transplanted from one way of life to another.

Where health clinics and similar social service agencies are provided with space in the projects such facilities are used more freely than when located elsewhere in the community. The problem of providing housing for the aged seems to have received very little consideration. Most of these aged people are single people, widows or widowers. Many are ailing. The kind of life that can be provided for them should receive real study. Something other than the standard dwelling unit seems to be indicated, with special safety provisions and perhaps food preparation facilities.

What kind of unit will best serve the family consisting of a father who works and small children but no other adults? Practically all housing design is aimed at the statistical average family with no consideration given to all the unit relationships and different kinds of family life that comprise our society.

These observations and questions suggest simply that so far we have not begun to scratch the surface as to what housing does to people and for people. Unless we evaluate people in their interrelations we will miss the main impact of the public housing design problem.

Public housing was initiated out of consideration for the lives of families living in the slums. While governing policies are evaluating buildings and their operation, let us be even more deeply concerned with the effect on the families who are being moved into the public housing projects.

The City Planner’s Approach

Mr. Samuel Ratensky, Chief of Planning, New York City Housing Authority, recalled that public housing was first undertaken as a result of the work of social reformers. Emphasis was on establishing minimum standards and minimum operating and maintenance costs over an expected building life of fifty to sixty years. But during the past fifteen years public housing has become a great factor in the rebuilding if not the replanning of cities. The environmental standards of all public housing have been so noticeably superior to those of private housing at any rental level that it has had a far-reaching and beneficial effect on the design of investment building. And finally, through sheer volume, the housing projects noticeably affect the general pattern of the city.

Housing projects should be communities where people want to live, dwellings with domestic character and scale which provide some gratification, however simple, for the human spirit. Unfortunately, we have, by and large, conspicuously failed to achieve this last objective. But there has been increasing recognition of our larger responsibilities in formulation of standards and quality of design. True, we are bound by a general framework of standards and many standard details and specifications; but these need not inhibit the architect’s freedom in arriving at a plan solution or in disposing his buildings on the site.

The past year has seen a wide variety of plans, several variations of the cross plan, the in-line plan with and without offsets and the simple rectangular plan. Fortunately no single plan type or any specific building height shows any outstanding economic advantage, so each project problem continues to be solved in the terms of its particular requirements and according to the architect’s skill.

In both state-aided, fully subsidized projects and city-sponsored housing at higher rental levels, improved design is evident in larger rooms, more efficient layouts and a less institutional treatment of public corridors and building entrances.
First, the Relationship of the Project to the Neighborhood. No project shall be designed as an island unto itself. Its social and community facilities are designed to serve the surrounding area. Questions of limiting project size and securing variety within neighborhood patterns are receiving study.

Second, Building Shapes, Types and Relationships. These studies seek greater variety of building shapes, building heights and site arrangements and the use of as yet untried plan types for a greater variety of building forms.

Third, Exterior Design Elements. This section explores the possibilities of fuller and more successful treatment of entrances, passageways, bays, balconies, parapets, roof railings, roof terraces, etc.

Fourth, Exterior Wall Treatment. This section studies new methods of wall treatment with conventional as well as new materials and the use of colors and textures.

The entire study is concerned with improving the appearance of projects, because we feel that in our concern with minimum standards of fundamental design and amenity we have created too many projects without interest and without joy.

A valuable and interesting start in answering this challenge to the architects who will design future projects has been made in certain sections of the recently published report of the Housing Committee of the New York Chapter, A.I.A. entitled "An Evaluation of the Work of the New York City Housing Authority."

The Maintenance Engineer's Approach

The third speaker on the Panel on Housing, Mr. R. Skagerberg, Chief of Plants and Structures, Public Housing Administration, noted that it has become more and more apparent that there is need for a program of "Operations Research" with respect to multi-family housing developments. That program has, in fact, gotten underway as a collaborative effort by the Public Housing Administration and the National Association of Housing Officials.

With the objective of bringing about better maintenance practices, N.A.H.O.'s Maintenance Committee has developed information on management problems that would be useful in design and construction. These findings are documented in their book, "Maintenance Men Look at Housing Design," commonly referred to as "The Yellow Book." It is now available from NAHO headquarters in Chicago.

The following condensation of his condensation touches only the highest of the high spots in the book.

PAINTING is the largest single item of maintenance cost in the present low rent program. Cost now is ten million dollars a year and this will be expanded to fifty million dollars a year under the new program.

Labor constitutes over seventy-five percent of total painting expense. This makes it sound economy to use only the best paints for each purpose and to minimize the areas of surfaces that will require repainting. This suggests the use of special materials for wall surfaces, window frames, doors, etc. Indoor paints should be really washable and where tenant participation in repainting is not permitted, management should require that tenants keep their dwellings clean by regular washing.

CONDENSATION is an increasingly serious problem due to technological developments in materials, design and construction which result in reducing the flow of air into and out of dwelling space to the extent that indoor humidities become excessive. Unvented or incompletely vented gas and oil burning equipment adds considerable quantities of water vapor. Cooking, bathing and other living processes contribute more. Storm sash reduces visible condensation, but actually increases the inside atmospheric humidity.

Entrance of vapor into the dwelling atmosphere should be minimized by installing positive vents at ranges and water heaters. Crawl space floors should be kept above grade and covered with vapor impermeable materials. If below-grade crawl spaces are unavoidable, they should be covered with three inches of concrete with the footing drained. The room side of solid masonry walls or frame walls filled with insulating material should be vapor-sealed to keep harmful condensation out of the wall structure.

CORROSION falls into four main categories.

1. Atmospheric corrosion of metal sash, gutters, down-spouts, flashings, etc. Considerable investigation is necessary in this field. Control lies in use of non-corroding metals where possible and in proper priming, painting and repainting of other metals.

2. Domestic Water Systems. Since the corrosion here is generally an electrolytic process, control calls for using the same kind of metals throughout the system and various coatings or non-corroding linings for tanks. In some areas where the water is particularly corrosive, the use of water-treating chemicals is indicated.


4. Underground Piping Systems. The corrosion process here is electrolytic, due to the natural anode-cathode flow of current between dissimilar metals. This corrosive action is accelerated by stray currents from overhead high tension lines, etc. Control lies in providing anodic metals underground and connecting them to the piping to complete the circuit. Magnesium thus used caused the current to flow to rather than from iron. A more positive method is to use a graphite anode and a mild generated current to direct the flow from the graphite to the underground pipes.

PROPER LANDSCAPING METHODS. The right planting treatment can reduce maintenance cost to the minimum. Plants that will stand adverse conditions and which require a minimum of pruning and shearing should be chosen. Under planting is preferred to over planting. Generally speaking the ideal planting consists of a good turf, ample trees for shade and to soften building lines and the minimum of shrubs needed to direct and control traffic. Walks should be of ample width, particularly at entrances. Steps between grade levels should be avoided, but where unavoidable, they should be supplemented with ramps alongside for bicycles and baby carriages.

MASONRY TROUBLES. These are largely preventable by writing rigid specifications and maintaining close inspection. High cement mortars tend to shrink excessively, causing hairline cracks.

Porosity, a common cause of leaks, results largely from poor workmanship in laying bricks. We repeat, rigid specifications and close inspection are necessary to prevent much of this trouble.

Wall cracks and racked-down corners are largely preventable by adequate provision for expansion and contraction of roof and floor slabs and long masonry walls.
DIRECTORS’ MEETING  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ MEETING,  
NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS,  
held at the Architectural League, 115 East 40th Street,  
New York City, Saturday, March 18, 1950.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m., Henry V. Murphy, President, presiding.

Members Present:

Members not present were:
James Kidney, Charles R. Ellis, George A. Bocum, Victor V. Martelli, and James Whitford, Jr.

The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting held December 3, 1949. Motion was made that the minutes be approved subject to a correction on Page 5, that “Multiple Dwelling Law” be changed to read “Multiple Residence Law.” Seconded. Carried.

The chairman announced the death of Frederick L. Ackerman. Hciny V. Murphy, Chairman. Mr. Cantor stated that all bills on licensing were defeated except the “Conrad Bill” which undoubtedly would be defeated too.

Mr. Del Gaudio reported that he was in receipt of a letter from the New York Society of Professional Engineers expressing appreciation for cooperation with their society on legislative matters.

Committee on Ethics and Professional Practice. Mr. Blattner, Chairman, spoke on the preparing of contracts by architects. Mr. Cummings, speaking as a member of Mr. Parker’s committee of the A.I.A., commented on the work the committee is doing in connection with the legal ruling of a Michigan circuit judge that a layman is allowed to practice law in reference to drawing up contracts. If this ruling is confirmed by the State Supreme Court it may invalidate the standard contract form issued by the A.I.A. Motion was made by Mr. Prince that exhibitor on A.I.A. documents be tabled until further advised by Mr. Cummings. Seconded. Carried.

Committee on Housing. Mr. Del Gaudio, Chairman, announced that a schedule of increased fees, effective December 15, 1949, for work to be done under the auspices of the New York State Division of Housing was published in the March-April issue of the New York State Architect. A meeting will be held in 6 months with Mr. Herman T. Stichman, State Commission of Housing, for still further consideration of increased fees. The New York State Society of Professional Engineers has been invited by the architects to confer on fees but has not responded as yet. Motion was made by Mr. Prince to adopt the report as written. Seconded by Mr. Seelig. Carried.

Novon Recess
Motion was made by Mr. Goldberg that the secretary have the charter which was granted by the A.I.A. to the N.Y.S.A.A. suitably framed and a photostatic copy of the charter inserted with the minutes.

Committee on State Department of Labor Rules and Regulations. Mr. Seelig, chairman, urged that all constituent organizations write to Albany on Assembly Int. 2140, Print 2249, Senate Int. 1740, Print 1868. This bill is “To amend the Labor Law in relation to the membership of the Board of Standards and Appeals.”

Committee on Revision of Constitution and By-Laws. Mr. Weston, Chairman. No report.

Committee on Fees and Contracts. Mr. Goldberg, chairman, listed the members of the committee.

Unification Committee. Mr. Del Gaudio, Chairman. Motion was made by Mr. Barrows that Mr. Del Gaudio be authorized to serve as the delegate to the 1950 A.I.A. Convention. Seconded by Mr. Wolfe. Carried unanimously.

Old Business
Committee to Meet with the N. Y. School Boards Association, Inc. Mr. Cummings, Chairman. Mr. Cummings reported and recommended that this committee be continued to work with Mr. Dyer of the School Board Association for their fall meeting. Mr. Empire State Architect. A meeting will be held in 6 months with Mr. Herman T. Stichman, State Commission of Housing, for still further consideration of increased fees. The New York State Society of Professional Engineers has been invited by the architects to confer on fees but has not responded as yet. Motion was made by Mr. Prince to adopt the report as written. Seconded by Mr. Seelig. Carried.

Respectfully submitted.

Jr. JOHN W. BRIGGS, Secretary
I would like to report briefly on my trip to Cuba to attend the Seventh Congress of Pan American Architects, held in Havana in April, 1950.

It was my first trip to Cuba and needless to say after having left Buffalo on a cold, blowy, snowy day—April 7th, I was completely delighted to.deplane on a very warm sunny day with the temperature around 75°—April 8th at Havana.

On my way from the Airport to the Hotel Nacional I formed my first impression of the country which was to stay with me—the great contrast between palace and hovel—it occurs in every country of course, but here it seemed to strike me more quickly. There is a very small middle class or so it seemed.

The cleanliness and contemporary nature of the new architecture impressed me immediately—there is practically nothing done that smacks of eclecticism. The old historic architecture is there for you to view for contrast and it looks nice with its greatly ornamented facades viewed against the simplicity of the contemporary surfaces.

The cantilever balcony and canopy, cantilevered terrace steps as used on every building—or so it seems, and the lightness of the construction is delightful.

Why are we so cautious about the use of the concrete cantilevers here—they don't even seem to worry about great areas of honeycombed concrete—maybe it has something to do with their weather.

The Cuban Architects organization “The Collegio Provincial de Arquitectos” is a closely knit group—each graduate of Architecture at the University of Havana must join the Collegio before he can practice—all fees are set by the Collegio and each architect pays a percentage of his fee back to the Collegio—thereby setting up security for himself and his co-workers in the way of retirement funds and hospitalization. They own several successful buildings in town and have a beautiful building for their own use. We could learn something from these Cuban Architects—they are much more respected in their community than the American Architects. I am in error in calling ourselves American Architects—I was aware of the fact that all of the Pan American Architects call themselves Americans—we have no priority to use that name.

The sessions were all good and I hope to be able to report on them in later issues of the Empire State Architect. Simultaneous interpretation for the Estados Unidos de Norte America delegation aided us greatly. We should all be able to speak Spanish—it’s a must for me from this month forth. However, most of the Professional People of the other Pan American countries do speak or understand English and make it easier for people like me.

The social life was well planned and beyond anything I had anticipated including the music of military bands, cocktails with the President of Cuba, Dr. Carlos Prias Socoros, the American Embassy, the University of Havana, the Mayor of Havana, the Commissioner of Public Works, one to top them all at the Collegio de Arquitectos and a concert by the Havana Philharmonic.

More of this later but on your itinerary for 1952 be sure to place Mexico City the site of the VIII Congreso Pan Americano de Arquitectos.

Mucho gracio to the Architects of Cuba for a wonderful vacation.

George Dick Smith, Jr.

P. S. The United States Architects won the highest awards for examples of executed work at the Congress and also won the First Grand Prize of Honor for its exhibit of 600 panels of photographs and models. Mexico was second and Cuba was third. The exhibit was probably the most comprehensive modern exhibit ever to be shown.

1950 STATE CONVENTION
(Continued)

Frank Brodrick, genial Chairman of Hospitality, has been busy with the members of his committee in preparing to instill that feeling of well-being that he wants every visitor to this year’s convention to have. A cocktail party and supper for early convention arrivals on November 1st, is being planned under the auspices of the Syracuse Society of Architects, to get the entertainment program off to an early start.

Again this year, one or more students from each of the accredited Architectural Schools of the State will be guests of the convention.

The entire tenth floor of Hotel Syracuse has been reserved for the use of the convention. Simplified architectural exhibit program rules governing entrees and conforming to national A.I.A. convention standards have been prepared by Sub-Chairman, Francis E. Hares of Syracuse, and will be in the mail to all members shortly.

Just a block from the hotel is the site of the new Onondaga War Memorial Auditorium, designed by a firm of local architects, which will be just about enclosed by convention time. This is particularly interesting because of its multi-use program and the wide-span concrete arch construction.

Many convention visitors will be interested in the extensive Electronics Park, of General Electric. Also unusual is the Solvay Process plant of Allied Chemical & Dye Corporation, which has been undergoing complete reconstruction over the past few years, with a new million dollar Soda Ash Plant now under construction.

The Convention Committee is placing major emphasis on the positive and educational values to be derived from a powerful and well balanced program. Also it wants the participating architects to enjoy themselves every minute of their stay in Syracuse.

Chairman Moulton stresses that it is important that every member should make his reservation direct to the hotel management, advising them at the same time that the reservation is for the Architects’ Convention.

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LETTERS

57 Academy Road
Albany 3, N. Y.
March 30, 1950

Empire State Architect

% Charles Rockwell Ellis, Chairman
606 City Bank Building
Syracuse 2, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

The Legislature of the State of New York has terminated its deliberations for the time being. The past session like the preceding one was, so far as building legislation is concerned, characterized by collective symptoms of indigestion. We, as architects, are not so much concerned with the malady as with the cause. The immediate causes in this case were a number of proposed laws or changes which were so poorly written and immaturely conceived as to be indigestible.

Last year the Governor sold the architects, engineers and others in this State a pig in a poke by enlisting preliminary endorsement of the idea of producing a performance type code for construction specifically relating to housing. The enabling legislation when finally produced was for something wide of this mark. The law, as passed, confers power on the code commission to write rules governing all features of any type of building. At present it provides for local enforcement in municipalities only, with the rest of the State still out in the cold. It also permits municipalities to disclaim responsibility for its enforcement if proper legal action is taken within a certain time limit after notice has been published in an obscure pamphlet. Even if the municipality does not enforce: even though the rest of the State is out in the cold, such areas are constrained to approve any structure which conforms to the new code regardless of any other regulations to the contrary.

During the last legislative session bills were introduced designed individually to accomplish the repeal of the Governor's new Code Commission, the exemption of the Grange from the provisions of the State Standard Building Code, the creation of a Division of Public Safety and several others. There will shortly become available a report of the Joint Legislative Committee on Statewide Building Codes recommending a broadening of the State's coverage of safety features of structures and the amendment of the General Business Law relating specifically to exit facilities of hotels outside of municipalities.

All of these objectives are no doubt worthy of serious attention. The one attribute that militates against their accomplishing anything worthwhile is that not one recognizes the fact that there is already in the framework of the State's organization a functioning unit in the Labor Department which can be expanded and implemented and properly guided to accomplish these objectives. Not one recognizes the fact that the particular subject covered has a definite inter-relationship with other subjects. In other words, all these ideas should be considered in relation to the whole problem and not as piecemeal legislation designed to favor one pressure group or change one facet of the law, oblivious of the effect on other facets.
All of these ideas and proposed changes reveal a growing dissatisfaction with things as they are. This is not surprising since to any thinking individual it has been apparent for many years that there is need for a unified control of building safety and health requirements. The unit entrusted with this all-important matter when properly functioning will cause increased employment of architects and engineers. Why? Because the codes that govern the operation of this agency can be so worded as to put emphasis on the need of employing persons properly qualified by training and experience to prepare plans consistent with the safety requirements of law and code. These plans must be approved prior to commencement of construction operations. With reasonable codes, proper enforcement and unified backing of the professions, these things can come to pass.

To do these things it will be necessary for the professions to demand and get representation on all code committees, to search out and prepare a careful wording of all sections of law pertaining, and to have a complete and thoroughly coordinated plan of organization set up for the agency which is to administer the codes and laws. It is essential that these moves be conceived in their entirety. Piecemeal legislation will invite too much influence by pressure groups. The changes to law should lay down general principals and limitations only, leaving the details to the actual codes and administration policy. In this way the law which is slow to change will act as a brake on any extension of powers and the codes can be more readily changed to match the progress of building practices.

If the professions fail to take up the cudgels in the interest of proper controls they are liable to suffer in one of two ways: (1) they will allow the present movement of disorganized sniping, if successful, to disrupt the present controls so that without effective enforcement, unprincipled and unqualified builders will undertake the planning and construction of structures which rightfully and morally should be in the province of the architects or engineers. Such conditions will eventually yield more stringent rules and laws after the harm has been done. (2) They will permit the present system of piecemeal code writing and indiscriminate variation granting to continue. Instead of perfecting codes and eliminating requirements not specifically confined to the preservation of life, limb and health as authorized by law, they will have new codes, new harassing requirements and still have to consult several sources to obtain full information on a specific project. If they are conscientious and comply with all of the requirements, they will still be chagrined to find that their competitors are getting away with murder simply because they took the time and effort to get a variation regardless of moral issues. This variation emanating from the same source that imposed the rules in the first place.

This discourse is written simply and solely as an individual in the ranks of New York State architects, who happens to be in a position to observe the trends mentioned both within and without the administrative organization of the State. It is sincerely hoped that the New York State Association of Architects will see fit to take united action to remedy these conditions for their own good as well as to correct procedures which are embarrassing to enforcing officials.

Very truly yours,
Ogden W. Brown

EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT
New Developments in Concrete Construction

Densification rather than vibration is the new method of preventing shrinkage cracks in precast concrete slabs. Continuous pressure exerted on all four sides literally pushes the mass together, filling in the voids caused by internal shrinkage as the concrete sets, explained Engineer Fred Severud at a Technical Committee meeting.

He also described the new Yountz-Slick method of simplified concrete construction. In its simplest form, columns are erected and the floor slab poured around them. When the floor slab is set another slab is poured directly on top of it. When the second slab is thoroughly set it is lifted up the columns to the desired height and anchored there. In multi-storied structures the process is repeated floor by floor. This eliminates the need for a forest of framing and results in a 75% reduction in the cost of forming. Wall slabs are poured at ground level, left to set for seven days then raised to their vertical position. First major job to employ this method is a building at Trinity College, San Antonio, Texas.

Space, Light and Color

Color consultant Julian E. Garnsey at a Technical Committee luncheon meeting emphasized the importance of color knowledge in architectural practice. He reminded his listeners that each color is influenced by adjoining colors, not only by reflection but also by the tendency of the eye to create its own after-images of complementary colors. He asked his listeners to recall Cezanne's plastic color theory, but warned against such misuse of color as putting cool, receding colors in the foreground and warm, advancing colors in the background to give results that are negative and confusing.

Mr. Garnsey stated that colors should be selected at the site where they are to be used—not in the quite different light of the drafting room. Area relationships of colors should also be considered, since reducing or enlarging the comparative areas of the different colors noticeably alters the effect of them in combination.

Casement vs. Double-hung Windows

In a November, 1949 meeting of the Technical Committee quite a discussion developed as to the relative merits of casement and double-hung windows. Time ran out before a dominant preference for either type was established, but the trend of opinion seemed to favor the double-hung windows for northern climates.

Stainless steel was preferred over other metals for sash and rock wool insulation in broad Mullions was recommended to reduce heat transfer. The use of zinc chromate or bituminous paint was recommended to prevent corrosion where metal sash comes in contact with mortar. The old weight and cord method of balancing double-hung sash is still considered best.

Foundation Problems of Manhattan

With bed rock outcropping in some places and more than 150 feet below the surface in other places, founda-
and owners. He advocated one-level plans, garages in front, picture windows overlooking individual gardens and rooms designed for specific uses defined in advance by the family.

Kitchen space, according to Mr. Agle, should have continuity with provision for garbage grinder, trash can on wheels, ventilation over stove, food mixer, dishwasher, etc. Bathrooms should be planned to provide privacy for reading, etc. Baths should have forced ventilation since windows are seldom opened. A warmer surface than tile is desirable.

He claimed that the bathroom mirror would be more useful if located alongside instead of over the wash basin, that the laundry should be located near the bathroom and bedrooms and that a great deal more bathroom space should be provided. While he conceded that some of the suggested improvements would increase the initial cost, he felt that increased livability, rentability and reduction of operating and maintenance expense favored their incorporation into the home plan.

The A, B, C and D's of Marble

Romer Shawhan, Managing Director of the Marble Institute of America, gave a highly interesting talk on the geology, production and availability of marble. He said that all marble, including the closely related limestone, is carbonate of lime formed by the shells of the myriad generations of crustaceans deposited on the floors of prehistoric seas. The combined action of pressure, heat, water and time transformed these masses into crystalline aggregates of compact structure. Variations in the original carbonate formulas created varieties in colors and markings. Marble is usually quarried, but some of it is mined by a painstaking process to avoid damage to the blocks and the mother rock.

Modern gang saws at the marble saw mills are not unlike their historic Roman prototypes. Cutters have as many as forty-six sawing compartments with multi-bladed, power driven saws. Each saw frame has as many as seventy-two toothless blades running back and forth over the surface of the rock under a continuous stream of sand and water. Cutting speed averages about one inch per hour.

The commercial grades of marble A, B, C and D indicate their relative uniformity and working qualities and not entirely the value of the material. Group D, for example, includes many of the most beautifully colored marbles which are prized for their decorative qualities.

Over one hundred and twenty different marbles of practically every color and textural gradation are produced in the United States from such widely separate areas as Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Tennessee and Vermont. In addition to these, over one hundred richly colored marbles are regularly imported from different parts of the world.

ON THE COVER

The Office Building at 575 Madison Avenue, New York City Now Under Construction - Designed Along the Principals Stated in Article By Richard Roth Emery Roth & Sons, Architects
Architects designing buildings to be erected in the City of New York are faced with various problems because of the large number of city departments that are concerned with building construction within the metropolitan area. These departments include the Department of Housing and Buildings, the City Planning Commission, Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, Department of Health, Fire Department, Department of Marine and Aviation, Board of Standards and Appeals, and the Park Department. The State Department of Labor also is concerned with certain phases in building construction.

The various societies and chapters in the metropolitan area have heretofore been required to set up committees to deal with the heads of the above mentioned departments, and because of the number of societies and chapters, with similar committees, the meetings with these officials have been repetitive, expensive in time, and not wholly satisfactory to the profession.

Representatives of the various societies and chapters have been meeting during the past year to set up a single group or committee or council which would have the sole responsibility for dealing with heads of the various departments in the city administration as representing the architects of the city as a whole.

APPENDIX "A"

Statement by Arthur C. Holden, Regional Director, A.I.A.,
On the Occasion of the Presentation of the Charter to the New York State Association of Architects.

This is a formal and important occasion, and yet it is one which brings great joy to those of us who are privileged to take part in it. At this meeting of the Board of the New York State Association, it is my privilege, having been duly authorized by the American Institute of Architects to do so, to present to your President, Henry Murphy, this Charter, which is formal evidence that the New York State Association of Architects is the official representative of its parent organization, the American Institute of Architects, within the confines of this state.

It is a particular pleasure to have as witnesses to this ceremony not only the members of the Board of Directors and the officers of the State Association, but also a representative of the State Legislature, Senator MacNeil Mitchell; the Architect of the State of New York, Cornelius J. White; representing the New York Chapter, its secretary, Mr. Charles McLaughlin; and also our beloved past-president of the New York State Association, Matthew Del Gaudio, the first man to serve as State Association Director of the American Institute of Architects, and to whose efforts we owe the improvement of the organization of the Institute, the establishing of state associations, and the broadening and strengthening of our membership.

A very important objective of the architects represented by the council or committee will be to obtain uniform rulings applying to the city as a whole, so that a practitioner doing work in any one of the five boroughs in the City of New York will be required to follow only one set of rules and regulations.

Another objective of the committee or council will be the carrying out of preliminary discussion among the societies and chapters on all legislative matters.

Tentative drafts of by-laws affecting this committee or council have been prepared, discussed, and submitted to the various societies and chapters for approval.

There still remains to be settled the selection of a suitable name for the committee or council. Several names have been submitted, these being:

"Architectural Council of Greater New York."
"Federation of the Architectural Societies and Chapters of Greater New York."
"Joint Committee of Architectural Organizations in Greater New York."

The successful formation of this committee or council to represent all architects in the metropolitan area is another step in the complete unification of the profession.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946

Of Empire State Architect, published six times a year at Buffalo, New York, October 1, 1939.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Julian L. Kahle, 21 Clarendon Place, Buffalo 9, N. Y.; Editor, George D'Arcy Smith, 1328 Prebend, Buffalo 2, N. Y.

2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereafter the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation and if any individual owner is a trustee, the name and address of the individual owner must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.) Julian L. Kahle, 21 Clarendon Place, Buffalo 9, N. Y.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are not any, so state.) NONE.

4. The two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the corporation but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing all the full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affidavit has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest, direct or indirect, in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as stated by him.

5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers is 20.

(Signed) JULIAN L. KAHLE
Publisher

28
THAT NECESSARY EVIL, THE ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEER

By Thomas H. McKaig

In my last letter, I mentioned several frequently overlooked design problems relating to foundations. This time let’s carry on with some of the same type of problems relative to the design of the superstructure, with particular references to the steel design.

One oversight in design which I have frequently encountered is the selection of a lintel without giving thought to torsion. I have seen a number of cracks in the brickwork several feet above a windowhead because the angle carrying the face brick was almost suspended from the flat face of a channel, or because the overhang outside the channel was too great, or because in some way the torsional action was completely overlooked in the design. It is a much easier job to design a lintel which is free from torsion than it is to induce torsion into the design and provide a satisfactory lintel to take this torsion.

In addition to torsion induced into lintel design, there are torsional effects on beams,—particularly spandrel beams, which should be provided against if possible. The outstanding example of this type of torsion is in the case of the curved beam over a corner entrance or some other similar position. This can usually be broken up into short lengths and supported by cantilevers. A more difficult design in our modern architecture is the case of a concrete cantilever canopy carried out from the bottom flange of a steel spandrel which carries the concrete floor slab above.

Also on the subject of steel design,—just how good is the lateral support of the top flange of your beam. In itself this is a compression member, subject to the same reduction of stress if unsupported as is a long column. I do not recall that I have ever seen a beam fail under normal loading because of improper lateral support, but I have seen plenty of cracked plaster and shaky floors which could be directly attributed to the fact that perhaps wood joists were resting directly on the beam with no attachment to stiffen the beam. Remember, it isn’t the joist we are worried about, but the beam.

In my last letter I spoke of eccentric load on footings. This time I want to remind you that an eccentric load on a column can easily double the fiber stress on that column, and although I have never seen a complete failure caused by this oversight alone, I have seen cracks which indicated that the column was deflecting as a result of this eccentricity. It is not always possible to avoid eccentric loads, but columns should always be designed to provide for this eccentricity.

A brief canvass of the boys in the office for their ideas is expanding this list of minor failures far beyond my original ideas. Perhaps you too have some to add, from which we may all profit.

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What are you going to say, Mr. Project Promoter, when they ask, "Gas is cheapest, isn't it?" Better get that main extended, because that couple has probably seen the comparative-cost-per-BTU chart.

What are you going to say, Mr. Contractor, when they say, "Gas is quickest, isn't it?" Make up your mind, Sir, once and for all. Put a vessel of water on a top burner of a modern gas range built to "Certified Performance" standards, and an identical vessel on a range top using any other means of heat. Time them. Then you can answer with assurance, "NOTHING COOKS LIKE GAS."

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The matter of delegates to the convention was broached with the statement that the Chapter was entitled to ten delegates. A showing of hands indicated that there were plenty of applicants, which decreased when it was announced that new members get the preference, increased when it was announced that delegates' expenses would be mitigated to the extent that the $300 from the Chapter plus that received from the Institute would cover prorated, and decreased again when it was announced that those whose expenses were paid or partly paid, should keep copious and accurate notes of the proceedings.

The meeting stood in silence for a few minutes in sorrow at the death of Linn Kinne of Utica.

"The meeting adopted a resolution of sympathy and wishes for a speedy recovery to Mr. Conway Todd, seriously ill in the hospital at the time." Conway has since greatly improved.

The Chapter will hold its next meeting at Coopers-town over the Memorial Day week-end. This was a great success last year and a good attendance is expected again this year.

New officers elected at the February meeting were:
- President, C. Storrs Barrows;
- Vice President, D. Kenneth Sargent;
- Secretary, Cyril T. Tucker;
- Treasurer, Frank C. Delle Cese;
- Directors, Dean Dillenback, F. B. O'Connor, W. C. Moulton.

ROCHESTER SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS
The Society will hold its annual meeting and election of officers at the University Club on May 24th. At this time the Society is pleased to have as guest of honor, Mr. Henry Murphy, President of the New York State Association of Architects.

This closes the formal activity of the Society for this year except for a promised picnic in midsummer. Informal luncheons on Wednesday noon at the Chamber of Commerce will continue for those who merely wish to eat and visit for an hour.

WESTCHESTER CHAPTER
The office of Arthur Peyser announces that Millard F. Whiteside is now an associate.

Lawrence M. Loeb has moved his office to 406 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains.

Henry H. Moger, Jr., has opened an office at 250 Main Street, White Plains, for the practice of architecture.

Harry Allan Lucht, from West Englewood has again done an outstanding public relations job for the profession.

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This condition has been handled previously in a number of ways, one of which was by a series of structural struts alternating with a series of steam lines. This created a mullion of approximately 10" and not only effected a vertical which we were trying to avoid, but also detracted from the continuous window strip by the excessively wide mullion.

The solution to these technical problems helped evolve the basic exterior design, since with these acres of glass ribbon little more adornment could be added. Furthermore, due to our rigid zoning regulations and otherwise prohibitive cost of land and building, we were forced to take full advantage of allowable space. This, in turn, created the design of the two story setback, in itself, not only not too bad in design but giving half the tenants of the upper reaches of the building the additional coveted use of terrace space.

A further word should be said about our zoning laws, which confine a tower to 25% of the area of the plot. With a plot of 20,000 square feet (fairly normal for downtown New York office building space), towers are held to an area of approximately 5,000 square feet. After deducting for walls, elevators, stairs, toilets, air conditioning rooms, etc., the net usable area is about 3,500 square feet, and this, for our present large area tenant is uneconomical, because it means renting three or four floors, which in turn means that not only is a tenant paying within his own square footage for extra toilets, elevator shafts, etc., but also means a duplication in personnel, such as receptionists, mess-

(Continued on Page 35.)

The Structural Steelwork

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1950

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Harry L. Ybek, 1754 Alvan Avenue, Brooklyn, New York; Brooklyn Chapter.
Alfred A. Lampa, 2380 Pacific Street, Brooklyn, New York; Brooklyn Chapter.
Kenneth K. Stowell, 119 West 40th Street, New York 18, New York; Westchester Chapter.
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engines and filing clerks. In the location in which 488 Madison Avenue is situated, this type of space for the type of tenant desired, would have been useless.

Considerable controversy has arisen over what is now termed the "baby-skyscraper" vs. its father the skyscraper. We admit that economics gave birth to the son. Despite the labor pains, it is our judgment that the conception should not only be sanctioned but should be more completely exploited.

In our economy the value of the land has to dictate the maximum mass coverage. While it has been argued that the tower is the best rentable area of a building, recent studies of renting in the New York business district have, however, shown that the last space to be rented has been as a rule this small confined upper portion.

It is true that office space 400 feet up in the air can be most attractive to a tenant. However, it is even more attractive, and certainly more practical for a tenant to obtain the same square footage 20 stories lower at three-hundredths of what the rent would be further up in the clouds. It need only take a casual study of our skyscrapers to see how many useful square feet of floor area are used for the dead run of elevators, ducts and stairs. It is not difficult either to be convinced that this dead run of elevators is just so many additional minutes taken in travel which could easily be eliminated by holding the height of the building down to an economic minimum.

Through the flexibility of plan layout and the enthusiastic reception by tenants accorded to both the (Continued on Page 39.)
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THE LOGISTICS OF 488 MADISON AVENUE  
(Continued)
economic and practical usability of space, it has become our firm conviction that the ribbon window is a forward functional step in design of this specific type of office building, under our present cost of land and construction and our present zoning restrictions. To believe that this use, or that the use of mass as design, or even to take the baby skyscraper as a final solution, is a fallacy. However, their use in this one building is a step in a forward direction for solving this particular problem. As time marches on, as social and economic conditions change, so will all planning be adjusted and revised. The Eohippus became the horse and what the horse will become no one can vouchsafe.

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More and more boards of education, and officers of banks are finding how advantageous and economical it is to build with Lightweight Concrete Masonry Units.

Shown in the photographs on this page are a new bank and a new school in which Lightweight Concrete Masonry Units were used to outstanding advantage.

The Architect for the Center Reach School specified 8 inch painted walls, while the Architect for the Bank of North Brookhaven specified painted exterior walls.

Both Architects have designed modern structures of different architectural style in which Lightweight Concrete Masonry Units have enhanced the beauty of the buildings.

Important are the fine insulation and acoustical qualities that are built-in to Lightweight Concrete Masonry Units. They help keep interiors quiet, and they keep buildings warm in winter and cool and dry in summer.


Particularly advantageous to both the bank and the school are the Firesafe qualities of Lightweight Concrete Masonry Units, offering vital protection to currency and securities; to pupils and audiences using the school, and at the same time offering lower insurance rates.

Painted Lightweight Concrete Masonry Units have a beautiful texture that lends character to the structure. Exposed, the need for plastering is eliminated, resulting in a big savings. And colored concrete blocks are now available. Various tints and colors at the specification of the Architect may be obtained.

For any information you may want concerning Lightweight Concrete Masonry Units, consult any of the members of the National Concrete Masonry Association listed below. They'll gladly be of service to you.

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Municipal Hospital in Tallahassee, Fla., illustrated above, is an excellent example of the modern structural beauty that can be achieved by designing in architectural concrete. Structures like this are distinctive in appearance yet their imposing character and individuality is only the outward mark of the many other desirable qualities of architectural concrete.

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Municipal Hospital, Tallahassee, Fla., is a five-story, 150-bed structure, 48 x 284 ft. in size. Yonge & Hart, architects and engineers; Southern Builders, Inc., contractor.