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Letters

TALB0T HAMLIN ON AESTHETICS

To the Editor of the
Empire State Architect
Syracuse, New York

Dear Sir:

I have read with deep interest the article by Professor Roy Jones "Reason versus Emotion in Architecture." May I enter my protest against its conclusions? Professor Jones has brilliant and telling things to say about the value of reason in analyzing a program and the necessity of applying in our work the products—and perhaps some of the methods—of science. He implies that if our designs were more reasoned, more scientific, architects would be more used, and states that architectural education is to blame for what seems to him an over-emphasis on aesthetics in architectural design.

My own feeling is almost totally the reverse. Of course designs must be "reasonable." Of course plans should be carefully organized for use and structure should be adequate. But this is only the beginning; in architecture "reason," good planning, strong and economical construction are means only—they are never ends. The end is something quite different: true architecture aims at enriching the life of man through making his environment not only tolerable but loveable, not only an expression of his practical needs but also an inspiration to his emotions. And this creation must come from subjective, intuitive, creative imagination: it can never arise from pure reason.

It is my humble opinion that the cause of the too general public apathy towards architecture is not that our architecture is "too aesthetic" but rather that it is not aesthetic enough. It is often only superficially aesthetic—a dusting of supposedly pretty cliches over a "reasonable" and "economic" structure. If we wish to win the attention of the public, we must excite its emotions, we must satisfy its thirst for an orderly and an inspiring environment—for beauty in buildings and their arrangement. That must be, it seems to me, the aim of all architecture worthy of the name. After all, was Michelangelo especially "reasonable"? Or Richardson? Is Le Corbusier? Or Wright?

Reason, economy, function—these are necessary means of architecture. But to make them the end of architecture is to reduce architects to the level of lesser engineers or dandified real estate experts. Their true function is nobler and more socially valuable than this—it is to create beauty in man's built environment, to make buildings sing. Any architectural school which confuses means and ends, and teaches these important means as though they were the ends of design, seems to me to be doing an injustice not only to the students but also to society as a whole.

Very truly yours,

Talbot Hamlin
Professor of Architecture
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EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT
TRADITIONAL versus MODERN ARCHITECTURE

Seminar at 1950 N.Y.S.A.A. Convention

A PAPER GIVEN ON THE TRADITIONAL SIDE

By Edgar I. Williams

I want to say, first of all, that I am complimented and delighted to have been asked to present one side of this argument called "Traditional versus Modern." Whatever may be expected of one who takes sides in such an everlasting and perennial argument, I have for my part no intention, as the exponent of "Traditional," to poke ridicule at flat roofs or glass walls and the like, nor to become emotionally eggcatic about Colonial doorways or Gothic spires.

I shall make a few assumptions at the start for the sake of clarification. I shall then picture the world of today which forms the background of contemporary architecture, and finally, I shall state my premise.

My first assumption is that we are discussing architecture as an art, as differentiated from architecture as a business or a mere livelihood.

There are so many facets to a subject as broad as architecture that in a discussion of the kind which I hope Philip Johnson's and my remarks will stimulate, one person is likely to be looking at one facet while someone else is talking about another.

Of all the forces which buffet man and push him about, the one which the established man resists most is change. In fact one might be pretty safe in generalizing by saying that except for those who hold no vested rights, who have lost the courage for adventure, or who have neither the ability nor the will to shoulder their own responsibility, everybody resists change. And yet, paradoxically, everyone demands and welcomes change so long as such change does not endanger his or her physical safety or the practical aspects of his or her life. Change, whether for better or worse, is the most constant, relentless aspect of history.

We are here today to discuss change as it applies to architectural design. All of us recognize the new look of our buildings. That new look is the result of forces—imponderable forces—which guide and shape us. To assume that we can do nothing about our destiny is to concede that we have lost that spirit which drove Christopher Columbus across the ocean and which strengthened the purpose of the many other leaders who have helped shape their times.

Architecturally, where are we going today? Are we ready to throw off all the shapes of yesterday? Are we ready to redefine aesthetics or, let us say, find a new aesthetic of today as opposed to that of the past? Shall we be satisfied with the now hackneyed definition of an approach called, "functional," to the exclusion of all sentimental aims or considerations? Is the art of mouldings gone forever? Is ornament gone? These are some of the questions we may help solve today.

(Do you notice my tongue in my cheek when I say "Solve?")

We will come down to cases later on and I hope you will have much to say, but let us not get lost in the minutia of the argument. Let us stick, if we can, to basic causes rather than elaborate on the symptoms.

Therefore, to set an example, I will have no truck with such specific questions as whether or not it is preferable to have small paneled windows, sloping slate roofs or Colonial doorways in our housing projects as opposed to some other treatment; not at the start anyway. But I will talk about a process of thought and try to project it against a reasoning which seems to me to bulk up in a phantom-like shapeless idea that is loosely called Modern. We are constantly faced with statements about modern living, modern thinking, modern ways, modern this and modern that. One could substitute another word such as "Contemporary," for "Modern," but the end result would not change. We must admit that there is widespread feeling that something was wrong with the past. The man without much brains or experience who is unable to find ways to correct a difficulty, who does not know enough to find the direct cause of a weakness or breakdown, satisfies his own ego by just saying, "The whole thing is a mess." Man's immediate past has, perhaps, been a mess. We have had a couple of pretty good wars as a result of our lack of understanding of one another, or lack of leaders who could find the real causes of civilization's ailments. Here in the United States we tried to cure it by trying what was called "a new deal." There are those, I believe, who think they can find a new architecture of merit by the same process. I do not think it possible. That indeed is my premise.

If we believe, as I do, that architectural expression reflects each era in history and if we, who are the architects of today want to think in terms that will result in an enduring true expression of the finest attributes of our time, we must needs analyze our time and the people of our era so that instinctively our work becomes a subconscious expression of them both. What then is so much the character of the modern world and in what way does modern life differ from the past?

I do not believe the human animal has changed very much throughout time. It is true that the high school sophomore knows many facts which Isaac Newton did not know, but mankind is still subject to habits, ways, and functions, which are timeless. We eat, sleep and behave much as we have always done. We enjoy the company of our fellow men, we love, hate, as men always did; we are subject to curiosity; we are timid, courageous, gay, serious, etc., as we always have been.

Modern life is thus subject to the same stresses and
strains as always. Our desire for comfort, security, peace, does not change.

In man’s effort to overcome the drudgeries and provide means of obtaining the pleasanter things without hard physical effort, he has discovered and developed many devices and gadgets. These practical implements and their arrangement in buildings affect architectural expression. But to make the use of these things an aim in itself, to state as a premise that modern architecture rests on their uses is to deny the teaching of experience which shows that the significant eras of architecture were the reflection of significant eras of culture and human aspirations of a high spiritual or aesthetic quality, not the development alone of practical means of building. Those things which have survived the ravages of time and the destruction of man owe their existence, I believe, to qualities above and beyond practical considerations: in fact, to their aesthetic qualities; qualities which are above or beside logic.

I am not one who holds that the most advanced point in time is, of necessity, the most advanced point in civilization. On the contrary there seems evidence to induce the idea that we are indeed today at a low period in the ever fluctuating curve of culture. In that respect I would like to make a few further observations on the pessimistic side before I leave the big and broad generalities of today’s living. It seems to me one of the most striking defects of our times is the loss of the appreciation for quality. We are sinking into mediocrity by the impact of falseness on all sides. When Jose Ortega y Gasset sums up his “Revolt of the Masses,” he says that mass-man has not thrown over an antiquated moral code in exchange for a new one, but that at the center of his scheme of life there is precisely the aspiration to live without conforming to any moral code. It may be that a parallel may be found there for much of present day architectural thinking. Richard M. Weaver in his book, “Ideas have Consequences,” calls this an age of adulteration. I believe we would all be in agreement on that matter for there are so many evidences about us. The food we eat, the clothes we wear, the materials which are used in the manufacture of most things about us are not only diluted and adulterated but are made to imitate other things which gave strength, warmth, or happiness because of their quality.

More than one thinker today speaks of our age as dominated by egoism which limits man’s horizon. I want to cite two examples of egoism which, to my mind, reflect such a characteristic tendency of our times.

One is of a poet who is often referred to as a pioneer in the field of modern American literature. His name is Ezra Pound. He is one of the most conceited men I ever knew. He has no ear for music; he can not carry a tune and he can not play any instrument. There was a time when he had an idea to write an opera. He asked a musician friend to write down the ideas he, Pound, would give him. Pound would sit at the piano making noises with the keys; chords, dissonances, rhythms, etc. The other would attempt to interpret them. This method of concocting an opera is, of course, far from the traditional method where a musician works in the matter for which he has been trained in harmony, counterpoint and thoroughly based as well in history and techniques.

May I observe with Ezra Pound in my mind that humility before the great imponderables which art alone can best express, is rare among modern artists and architects.

Another of my examples of egoism was the wife of an early client of mine. A short time after their house was completed and furnished she suddenly was convinced that she had a superior flair for decoration. To my great surprise she opened a decorator’s shop and really did pretty well for a time. She opened a few accounts with supply houses and bought and sold fabrics and furniture for a fee. She acquired a professional air and, in fact, was quite what people expected her to be. Might I mention the House of Jansen in Paris by comparison. They have really trained decorators. One adjunct of this house is a small factory in Versailles which has been operating steadily since the time of Louis XV. It produces certain hand made textiles and such decorators’ accessories as tassels, tapes, guimps, etc. The quality of the material is, for example, obtained by using perhaps six or seven shades of thread in the weaving in order to obtain a handsome blue. May I observe in this connection that invention, new ideas, “progress,” if you would want to call it that, would, in my estimation, have value if backed by the experience, the tradition and the proved ability of Jansen personnel. It cannot come from the charlatan egoist who merely traffics in ideas and has not the experience to create them. There are many people among us who have the flair without the technical knowledge who treat architecture as if it were a pleasant avocation which requires little practical experience.

These are the people to whom my friend, Louis Skidmore refers when he says this is an age of amateurs and of mimics.

Philip Johnson can tell you the virtues of modern art more eloquently than I can. I must admit that Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue,” is one of my favorite pieces of music and I do like the work of Cezanne, who, at the end of long earnest effort professed a hope of making Impressionism as rigorously classical as the Parthenon.

Another and insidiously important factor in our modern life is advertising. This is an immoral business aimed at inducing people to buy things or participate in schemes. No holds are barred except out and out lying of a specific nature. Nothing that cannot be disproved specifically is ruled out. Newspapers, radio programs, billboards which deface our landscapes, smoke-writing in the sky, drum the everlasting prattle into our eyes and ears all day and night long.

I do not mean to overlook those important forces of our times, the surge of science, the power of industry of those practical means which have made widespread plenty possible. These forces could aid in the advancement of mankind and operate for his spiritual and cultural benefit only in releasing energy for their pursuit. But they do not provide peace, for example, as two world wars in less than half a century can testify. They are neutral factors in the development of culture.

To sum up, our modern age is an age of adulteration, an age of anxiety, of the breakdown of old fashioned morals without new ones calling for the kind of hard discipline which has heretofore been required in the practice of the arts. Ours is an age when mass-man, the egoist, no longer has respect for his superiors, in fact, he does not recognize any. This is an age of superficial change when too many so called

(Continued on Page 27.)
At the 1948 N.Y.S.A.A. Convention held in Albany, the proposed plans and a perspective rendering of the above building won an award of merit for excellence in plan and design. Today the building is a reality and is occupied and enhanced by the charm of 300 young college girls. The building works well and is the pride of the campus and the new center of student life. The snack bar, game room, lounge, music room and dining room are seemingly always well and comfortably occupied by the students. The Architect did not have control of the selection of furniture, drapes or rugs, but fortunately the Dormitory Authority acquired the services of Jane Kidder, an architecturally trained decorator who did a job which could not have pleased the Architect more—it belongs to the building. Thus, a part of a building operation that is more often than not handled poorly, was done well, as it should be.

Architects—when you plan a building and help an Owner plan a budget for said building, set aside a reasonable amount for furnishing the building properly.

This building was part of a campus development encompassed in the post-war construction program of the State of New York. The Architect planned the entire development of the new campus illustrated herein, and the Dormitory was the first unit to be built. The Library is now also under construction and with the Dormitory will completely refocus campus life. It is interesting to note that the Library was also given a mention in the Architectural Exhibit held in conjunction with the 1950 Convention of the N.Y.S.A.A. held in Syracuse.

Many plans were developed for the project and in the early stages the college administration almost overruled the judgment of the Architect by insisting on a Georgian building. The plan was a forced solution and the elevations were—well Georgian.

The plan finally selected and illustrated in this issue was one preferred and recommended by the Architect. The State Architect, Cornelius J. White was very instrumental in getting the final approval of the plan.
FIRST FLOOR PLAN OF ATTENDANT FACILITIES BUILDING

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K  JANITOR
L  LAUNDRY
M  LIVING ROOM
N  MENS TOILET
O  MAIL ROOM
P  OFFICE
Q  DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
R  SNACK BAR
S  STUDENTS OFFICE
T  TOILET
U  TRUNK & SUITCASE STORAGE
V  LOADING PLATFORM
W  GARBAGE ROOM
X  WOMEN'S TOILET
Y  TELEPHONE
Z  GUEST ROOM
REPORT OF PRE-CONVENTION MEETING
OF N.Y.S.A.A. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at the Architectural League, 115 East 40th St., New York City. Called to order at 10:00 A.M. September 9, 1950.

Members Present: Henry V. Murphy, President; Irving Seelig, 1st Vice President; George Bain Cummings, 2nd Vice-President; G. Morton Wolfe, 3rd Vice-President; John W. Briggs, Secretary; Maxwell A. Cantor, Treasurer; Matthew W. Del Gaudio, Past President; Charles R. Ellis, Past President; Morris B. Adler, Brooklyn Society; Donald Q. Faragher, Rochester Society; Adolph Goldberg, New York Society; S. Elmer Chambers, Syracuse Society; Victor W. Martelli, L. I. Society; Harry M. Prince, New York Chapter; Charles S. Ward, Queens Chapter; Martyn Weston, Brooklyn Chapter.

Minutes of Previous Meeting (March 18, 1950) read and approved.

Report of Joint Committee of Architectural Societies of the Metropolitan Area for National Defense read by Mr. Seelig, Chairman. He suggested that the Long Island and Westchester Chapters be included in the Joint Committee. Mr. Prince moved to form a State Committee to consist of the chairmen of the constituent organizations.

Report of Committee on Ethics and Professional Practices made by letter from Mr. Blatner, Chairman.

State of New York Commission on School Building in a letter signed by Mr. Blatner as Consultant and Coordinator of New Building Studies requested the support of the N.Y.S.A.A. directors in the commission’s efforts to investigate the state-wide need for school buildings and to determine the best way to spend public funds intended for school house construction. Mr. Cummings moved that N.Y.S.A.A. give Mr. Blatner full cooperation and furnish him with the names of members of committees best able to assist in this study. Seconded and carried.

Walker S. Lee, Commissioner for the State Building Code Commission, requested membership benefits on a reciprocal basis for receiving pamphlets and other literature. Secretary was instructed to reply to Mr. Lee, informing him that there is no such class of membership.

Report of the Special Committee to meet with the New York State School Boards Association regarding an Architectural Exhibit of School Buildings at the 1950 and future conventions. Motion to approve made, seconded and carried.

Nominating Committee selected by ballot of Board Members was as follows: Donald Q. Faragher, Chairman; George Bain Cummings; Harry M. Prince; Charles R. Ellis and Charles S. Ward.

Credentials Committee elected by the board were: Maxwell A. Cantor, Albert Melniker, Morton Wolfe, and John W. Briggs.

Delegates at Large elected by the board members were Cyril Tucker, Harold Sleeper, Kenneth Milnes, Morton Wolfe, George Cavalieri, Harry McConnell and Daniel Perry.

Rules of the Convention were adopted with the date for submission of resolutions on or before Oct. 2, 1950.

Committee on Legislation Reported that the sub-committee on the Multiple Residence Law is continuing and that the Conrad Bill had been “Killed.” Motion to subscribe to the Legislative Index for another year made, seconded and carried.

Report of Committee on State Department of Labor Rules and Regulations made by Mr. Seelig, Chairman. Motion that the committee be authorized to recommend legislation to amend the Labor Law to include an architect in the membership of the Board of Standards and Appeals made, seconded and carried.

Committee for Revision of Constitution and By-Laws, No report made.

Report of Committee on Fees and Contracts. Uniform schedule of fees requested for all chapters. Fee Schedule of Buffalo-Western New York Chapter reviewed. Mr. Prince strongly recommended uniform schedules of fees for private work. Mr. Seelig stressed the impracticality of setting up uniform fees. Motion to table the matter made, seconded and carried.

Nominating Committee Reported the 1950-51 slate as follows: President, Henry W. Murphy; 1st Vice-President, Irving Seelig; 2nd Vice-President, Leonard A. Waasdorp; 3rd Vice-President, G. Morton Wolfe; Secretary, John W. Briggs; Treasurer, Maxwell A. Cantor. Motion to accept made, seconded and carried.

Treasurer’s Report read by Mr. Cantor as it will be presented to the convention.

Committee on Publications. Report for operating year 1949 given and check for $3028.48 turned over to the Treasurer. Mr. Ellis, Chairman of the Publication Committee and George Dick Smith, Jr. thanked for their work.

New Business. Mr. Prince reported on Military Services proposal to provide housing for military personnel and civilians. Fees to be consistent with F.H.A. 608’s and local architects to be retained. Suggested filling resume with the District Public Works Officers. Also outlined Air Force Program for studying existing Air Fields.

Subject of retaining an executive secretary discussed at length. Motion that the President appoint a committee to study and report to the convention the feasibility, qualifications and location of executive secretary’s office and also if this would require an increase in dues—made, seconded and carried. The following committee was appointed: Donald Q. Faragher, Chairman; Adolph Goldberg; C. Storrs Barrows, Charles R. Ellis and Daniel Schwartzman.

Board was informed of the recent illness of E. James Gambaro and the secretary was instructed to write him a letter of good cheer.

Meeting adjourned.
BROOKLYN CHAPTER

The problem of Civilian Defense created by the recent world-wide Communist attempts at aggression was the main topic of discussion at the September meeting. Steps to cooperate with National, State and Local Defense Committees have been initiated with the appointments of Joseph Levy, Jr. and Daniel Streeter as Chapter representatives on the Civilian Defense Committee functioning in the Metropolitan Area of New York City.

Efforts to have a strong unified delegation which could represent the Architects in all Professional matters occurring in the Metropolitan Area have been consummated with the formation of the “Architects’ Council of New York City” on October 2nd. This group replaces the former Joint Committee. It will function with a set of by-laws approved by all Architectural Chapters and Societies in New York City. Two representatives from each of the above constituent organizations comprise its main body. Martin N. Weston and Irving Seelig have been appointed as our delegates to this Council. We are confident that this new organization will receive greater consideration than heretofore in all its future deliberations with the local authorities.

The dual pleasure derived from contributing to a worthy cause while spending an enjoyable evening among the friends and wives of our fellow practitioners was clearly revealed at the Scholarship Fund Dinner Dance sponsored by the Institute of Design and Construction on October 14th at the Towers Hotel in Brooklyn. This noble way of creating scholarships for the continued education of five talented but financially handicapped architectural students was conceived by our Vice-President, Vito P. Battista, who is Director of the above Institute. It opens a new path which can be followed by the Architectural Chapters and Societies throughout the nation.

CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER

A record number, 105 members, wives and visiting firemen from the Albany Chapter convened at White Face Inn on Lake Placid for the September meeting of the Chapter. Some of the members arrived early and stayed on over the weekend, taking the opportunity for a short vacation. Despite cold weather, carrying logs for fireplaces, and a snow storm, it was a very enjoyable get together.

The Chapter is indebted to Mr. William Diston of Saranac Lake and to Webb Moulton who arranged the affair.

The Executive Committee met in advance of the other meetings with the general business meetings following. Good food, good fellowship and fine entertainment combined to make this one of the finest meetings which the Chapter has enjoyed.

The climax of the meeting was Harley McKee’s satire on “Architects and Architecture of Central New York.” His sober, but hilarious criticism of the architecture we are doing was supplemented by Kodachrome slides which had been taken from the most unfortunate view points. By poking fun at everyone and making them like it, he sent everyone home in a happy frame of mind.

The architectural exhibits contained many fine buildings. The jury consisted of Professor Harley J. McKee, Harry E. Rodman, President of the Albany Chapter; and Mr. Lucius R. White, prominent architect of Baltimore. The awards for architectural design were made to the following members:

Small building of public nature—Brighton Town Hall—By Carpenter and Barrows.

Mention—A Branch Bank for South Glens Falls—By Ralph H. Parks.

Housing—Garden type apts. for Rochester—By Donald Q. Faragher.

Schools—Colton Pierrpont Central School—By Sargent, Webster, Crenshaw & Folley.

The Central New York Chapter, and especially the Syracuse members, hope that everyone who attended the convention enjoyed the exhibits, meetings, and speakers which were provided. The Chapter is indebted to the many individuals whose efforts made the convention a success.

ROCHESTER SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

In addition to the regular noon luncheon meetings, representatives of the Society have been meeting monthly with representatives of the Rochester Builders Exchange to discuss mutual problems of architects and contractors. The contractors have been pointing out to the architects problems which arise in following drawings and specifications, and the architects have had a chance to air their grumbles concerning completion dates. It appears that here is an opportunity for an exchange of knowledge which will be beneficial both to the architects and to the contractors. The contractor group have been able to supply information as to the availability of materials and labor which has been of considerable assistance. It is hoped that these meetings will continue and that from them some system will be devised, perhaps by a weekly letter through which it will be possible to distribute information to all concerned. The contractors are expecting to benefit by these meetings through some sort of standardization as far as plans and specifications are concerned.

BROOKLYN SOCIETY

The following list of officers of the Brooklyn Society of Architects was unfortunately omitted from the May-June 1950 issue of the E. S. A. Accept our apologies.

Harry A. Yarish ... President

Maxwell A. Cantor ... Honorary President

Arnold W. Ledger ... 1st Vice President

Frank Randazzo ... 2nd Vice President

Harold G. Danger ... Treasurer

Sidney H. Kitzler ... Recording Secretary

Harry Finkelstein ... Financial Secretary

Our apologies also are extended to Robert H. Podzenni for omission of his name in connection with the publication of the Shaw Dormitory & Women’s Gym at Syracuse University as published in the Sept.-Oct. 1950 issue of the E. S. A.

EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT
The Distinction of Brick

MOHAWK BUILDING MATERIALS CORP., RENSSELAER, N. Y.

BINGHAMTON BRICK CO., INC., BINGHAMTON, N. Y.

HUTCHISON - RATHBUN, INC., ROCHESTER, N. Y.

THE BELDEN-STARK BRICK CORPN., NEW YORK CITY
THROUGH the judicious use of Brick, designers easily succeed in imparting to what might be an ordinary structure, a quiet dignity which elevates it to a position of distinction.

Available in many shades, the colorful appearance of Brick is unquestioned. The wide range of colors and textures of Brick assures a permanent finish which is not only unblemished by weathering, but actually increased in beauty with the passing of time.

CONSOLIDATED BRICK CO., INC., HORSEHEADS, N. Y.
SYRACUSE BRICK CO., SYRACUSE, N. Y.
ACME SHALE BRICK CO., INC., BUFFALO, N. Y.
JOHN H. BLACK CO., BUFFALO, N. Y.
WECKESSER BRICK CO., ROCHESTER, N. Y.
Well, here we go again. What are we going to use to build with from here on? And if we get the materials who is going to do the work? Barring a sudden change and an all out war, this is about the way the picture looks at the present time.

Structural steel deliveries are as of the present moment being quoted at 5 to 6 months. The reason for this does not seem to be so much the military demand, which for the next year would appear to be only about 4% of the annual production; it is rather that manufacturers of civilian goods, foreseeing a shortage ahead, have started to stock-pile for an emergency. It may be that credit controls will cut down on the necessity for such stock-piling, particularly so far as it is for production of refrigerators, automobiles, etc., but the fact remains that structural steel must be saved so far as possible. To quote from a recent editorial in Engineering News-Record:—“It should hardly be necessary to go to the extremes of substituting timber, concrete and other materials commonly used during the World War II period. But it might be well to consider such steel saving expedients as lighter walls and floors in buildings.” At any rate, don’t promise too quick delivery to your client.

What about reinforced concrete? Well, the reinforcing bars are not too hard to get unless you want small bars, such as 1/4” or 5/8”. Above this, the bars will be ready for you when you need them. Welded wire mesh is a different story, however. So far as the cement itself is concerned it has been in short supply all over the country all year, and the strikes this summer made the situation a lot worse. Dealers are getting allocations from month to month, and how long it will be before the situation improves is anybody’s guess. They told us for a while that this situation would get better after the demand for highway and dam construction eased up in the fall. Now they are starting to ask “Who told you that?”

They tell us that there is a plentiful supply of lumber even if it is high priced.* The difficulty, however, is to get it from where it is in the western forests to where we want it in the east. There are not enough freight cars to bring it to us and this is something which is not fixed up overnight. Here again we are promised that the credit controls will cut down on house building which in turn will make more lumber available for construction which is not dependent on F.H.A. loans, etc.

Manufactured products in general are just a little worse than the materials they are made of. Bar joists are about 5 months delivery at present. For concrete masonry and precast roof slabs, you had better call your local dealer. He is about the only one who knows.

On top of all of these material shortages, we are again faced with a manpower shortage. It has already started to make itself felt in many areas,—perhaps even in your own office. And along with all of these shortages, what about costs? The Engineering News-Record Index for Building Costs has gone up 12.2 percent from October 1949 to October 1950. It seems to me something is always taking the joy out of this business we are in.

* Editor’s Note—As we go to press lumber prices are down about 20% over the last year's high.

FARRAR & TREFTS, INC.
Established 1863
20 Milburn Street, Buffalo 12, New York

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BISON BOILERS

Heating and Power Boilers in sizes ranging from 10 H.P. to 350 H.P.

API - ASME - ASME CODE

Quality Boilers To Give Quality Service

* See Sweets' Catalog

EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT
AWARDS

List of awards—Architectural Exhibit—given at the 1950 N.Y.S.A.A. Convention held in Syracuse:

a) Commercial
AWARD:
Carol Antell Specialty Store, New York
Architect: Seymour R. Joseph of Joseph and Vladeck, New York
Owner: Carol Antell Fineberg
Contractor: Herbert Construction Company
MENTION:
Architects’ Office Building, Syracuse
Architect: Sargent, Webster, Crenshaw & Folley, Syracuse

b) Domestic
AWARD:
Residence, Cazenovia Lake, N. Y.
Architect: Pederson and Hueber, Syracuse
Owner: Edward G. Eagan
Contractor: Joseph St. Pierre
AWARD:
Residence, Manhasset, New York
Architect: Olindo Grossi, New York
Owner: Olindo Grossi
Contractor: J. F. J. Jakubowsky
MENTION:
Van Dyke Public Housing Project, Brooklyn
Architect: Kelly and Gruzen, New York

MENTION:
Ellison Park Apartments, Rochester
Architect: Donald Q. Faragher, Rochester

MENTION:
Catholic Church, Salem, Massachusetts
Architect: James J. O'Shaughnessy, Boston
(Monroe Chapter, AIA)

Mention:
Catholic Church, Salem, Massachusetts
Architect: James J. O'Shaughnessy, Boston

(Monroe Chapter, AIA)

c) Ecclesiastical (No award given)

MENTION:
Caroline Atkinson School, Freeport, N. Y.
Architect: Frederic P. Wiedersum, Valley Stream, N. Y.

MENTION:
Lenox School, Baldwin, N. Y.
Architect: Frederic P. Wiedersum, Valley Stream, N. Y.

MENTION:
Dansville Elementary School, Dansville, N. Y.
Architect: Waaardorp and Northrup, Associate Architects, Rochester

MENTION:
Watertown Elementary School, Watertown, N. Y.
Architect: Sargent, Webster, Crenshaw & Folley, Syracuse

b) Educational
AWARD:
Passaic Comprehensive Senior High School
Architect: Kelly and Gruzen, New York
Owner: Board of Education, Passaic, N. J.
Contractor: not awarded
AWARD:
Colton-Pierrepont Central School, Colton, N. Y.
Architect: Sargent, Webster, Crenshaw & Folley, Syracuse
Owner: Board of Education, Colton-Pierrepont Central District
Contractor: Frechette and Clough
MENTION:
Monroe County Airport Administration Bldg.
Architect: Ade and Todd, Rochester
MENTION:
Terminal Bldg., Hancock Airport, Syracuse
Architect: Herbert Construction Co., Syracuse

Mention:
Monroe County Airport Administration Bldg.
Architect: Ade and Todd, Rochester

Mention:
Terminal Bldg., Hancock Airport, Syracuse
Architect: Herbert Construction Co., Syracuse

Editors Note:
Our congratulations to Francis Hares and his committee for doing a splendid job on arranging and running this exhibit and to S. Elmer Chambers in charge of the Awards Committee. Photos of the award presentations will be published later in the E. S. A.

_____________________

DESIGN COMPETITION

NAHB-FORUM

S100,000 HOUSE DESIGN COMPETITION

Purpose—"To bring better design to the small house, including better use of space and materials. ** To bring architect and home builder closer together. ** To introduce the architect to the financial and social possibilities of a largely untouched field of design."

Who May Enter—Architects, designers, draftsmen and students in continental U. S. (Jury members, families of Jury members and sponsors are excluded.)


Problem—Design a detached, one-family, low cost house suitable for a 60 x 100 ft. lot.


Approval—This competition has been approved by the American Institute of Architects.

Closing Date—December 15, 1950 (Winners to be announced in January, 1951.)
Letters

November 3, 1950

Dr. Jack Masur, Chairman

Committee on Hospital Architects' Qualifications
and Council on Hospital Planning & Plant Operation
American Hospital Association
18 East Division Street
Chicago 10, Illinois

Dear Dr. Masur:

Your release of November 1 to architects on the A. H. A. roster came after my letter to President Walker in reply to his letter asking the architects to resign from said roster. I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Mr. Walker.

I note your resolution to continue the roster, but not to publicize it. This, I submit is begging the question, which settles nothing, and at best, creates a kind of truth.

Why not meet the situation squarely? We have to have specialization in architecture as we have in medicine, and the A. H. A. had better get used to it. Hundreds of us are specializing already and the ranks are growing.

What remains is to put order into the thing. I disagree with your resolution wherein it asserts that the names on the roster are "of architects experienced and qualified in the design of hospital structures."

The present list is unfair to architects, and unfair and misleading to the hospitals and to the public for the following reasons:

1. There appears to be nothing in the present qualification procedure to show that the applicant has at least familiarity with the terminology, nomenclature and principles of hospital planning. The rules simply require certain submissions and a statement by the applicant that he is responsible. My observations lead me to believe that some architects construe this responsibility as covering the work done by their employee draftsmen or architects who have the requisite hospital knowledge and experience. Such architects know little more about hospital planning after the job has been done than they did before it was started. On the other hand there are many honest and capable architects who could show their ability if they had a chance, or who have already demonstrated their ability, but do not apply for fear they may not be good enough.

2. The present list represents a gamut of architects ranging from those who devoted years of study and practice to hospital planning to those who merely arrogate to themselves the knowledge of their employees.

3. The present list does not distinguish between those who performed the work on their own and those who did what they were told by a consultant. It would seem to me that a member of the roster should be able to design a hospital without major assistance.

For the above reasons, hiding the list in a closet and showing it only on request should not be resorted to. Either the list should be abolished and proper examinations instituted to protect the public or you should do what is being done in the case of consultants. Both the A. M. A. and the A. H. A. have rosters of consultants, but the Associations assume no responsibility for the quality or integrity of the persons whose names are on the roster. When any one asks one of the other Association for the roster of consultants, they are provided with a list from which to choose a group nearest the territory in question. When the desired names are made known to the Association, the latter sends out the professional records corresponding to the names. In this manner the client has a sound basis for a choice, and from then on the responsibility is on the client.

Needless to say, if we really want to protect the public, we must hold qualifying examinations that really qualify.

Sincerely yours,

ISADORE ROSENFIELD

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Some months ago we published an article by Dick Roth "The Successful Architect is a Specialist." Mr. Rosenfield seems to agree. If you don't, let's hear from you. It seems that a person trained to plan should be able to plan anything.
Letters

November 1, 1950

Mr. Ralph Walker, President
American Institute of Architects
101 Park Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Mr. Walker:

I am writing with reference to your letter to the architects who are on the American Hospital Association roster, asking them to resign from said roster.

Since the inception of the roster, I have received a few inquiries for my services, which inquiries were apparently induced by the fact that my name was on the roster. Nothing came of my replies and, as far as I can judge, most of the jobs went to local architects or to other architects not on the A. H. A. roster. I can think of only one job that went to a roster member. A study should be instituted to determine to what extent, if any, having one's name on the roster lands him a hospital job. Perhaps the A. I. A. would find that this roster agitation is a tempest in a teapot.

The A. H. A. roster is intended to be a listing of architects presumed to be particularly competent to plan hospitals, but this is so only in a very rough measure. At first admission to the roster were tough . . . one had to surmount a series of artificial barriers that had little to do with one's competence. On the other hand, several people were admitted to the roster at that time without examination.

In my opinion, the committee of admissions was not competent to judge a capable hospital architect and I was made to go through the eye of a needle to prove competency by piling up a quantity of evidence.

Since then the standards were considerably relaxed and, I believe, there are now at least as many capable, hospital-wise, architects off the roster as on the roster.

If from the above you should conclude that the roster is of little worth and that its members should resign and let every architect seek his reputation as a hospital specialist on his own merits, then I would counsel caution before acting, and for the following reasons.

The A. I. A. has a Committee on Health. This Committee is very close to the A. H. A. The members of this Committee, I believe, are all on the roster which we are here discussing. They also sit on the roster admissions and other committees of the A. H. A. They are capable of good and evil. They recently decreed that no architect, no matter how capable in the hospital field, could be a hospital consultant—that is evil. But they are also doing good which stems from the existence of the roster. They help arrange architects' meetings at the annual A. H. A. conventions. The meetings are lousy, but better than nothing.

They recently instituted annual architectural hospital exhibitions at the same conventions, which is also a move in the right direction; and their work, willy-nilly, helps educate the architect who is interested in hospital planning and helps the hospital people understand what architects and architecture are about.

Has this Committee, and indeed the whole roster, been censured on this issue? If we abolish the roster we run the risk of injuring the American hospital and the architect who wants to learn more about hospital planning. At present many of us are members of the A. H. A. We are joined with the A. H. A. in the public duty of helping to make American hospitals better. It is on this we have a proud record of achievement over the years.

I believe in specialization, and I believe that, like in the case of medical specialties, in order to qualify as a specialist, one should pass a serious examination, either oral or written, or both, before a board of qualified persons. Perhaps a good way to start a real list of specialists is to scrap the present one, but let us not scrap it just because it annoys those architects who think they will learn how to plan hospitals once they get the hospital job.

Sincerely yours,

ISADORE ROSENFIELD

EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT
IMPORTANT NOTICE

ALL CHAPTER SECRETARIES

The following letter was sent to all Chapter Secretaries. The following Chapters have been heard from and appointments have been made. How about yours? Get busy on the January-February issue.

Bronx Chapter—New York Society—New York Chapter—Syracuse Society—Buffalo Western New York Chapter—Staten Island Chapter—Queens Chapter.

George Dick Smith, Jr., Editor

Dear Sirs:

In order that we may produce a better Empire State Architect for 1951, we ask your aid in the following way:

Will you appoint one of your members as a correspondent for the E.S.A. His duties shall be:

(a) To send news of all chapter events of interest to our "Among the Constituents" editor, Cyril Tucker, 161 Avalon Drive, Rochester, New York.

(b) To keep your editors informed of all new construction of interest to the profession and to send in photos, plans and descriptions of new buildings of the type called for in our schedule of building types attached hereto, for each issue in 1951, the material to be sent to George Dick Smith, Jr., 1328 Prudential Building, Buffalo, New York.

(c) Make sure that the above editors receive the material on or before the deadline dates set on the enclosed schedule.

Would you kindly let me know who is appointed for this task (maybe two men would be better) and impress them with the importance of this work. We would like to have each section of the state represented in the publication but do need your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE DICK SMITH, JR., Editor

Empire State Architect

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WANTED

Architectural Writer

A leading manufacturer of building materials wants to add a capable man, with architectural background, to its advertising department.

Should be able to prepare clear, concise technical copy on building products, write specifications, edit technical copy written by others, and to support all copy with drawing where necessary.

Man 30 to 45 preferred, although age is not as important as ability and personality. Job provides retirement and insurance program. Please write in confidence to Empire State Architect, 21 Clarendon Place, Buffalo 9, N. Y., giving details of education, experience and salary bracket.

COMING EVENTS

The Second Annual Convention of the New Jersey Chapter, American Institute of Architects, and the New Jersey Society of Architects will be held on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd of June, 1951, at the Berkeley-Carteret Hotel, Asbury Park, New Jersey. A producers' exhibit, similar to the oversubscribed exhibit of 1950, will be held concurrently. Further information in re: trade exhibits, speaker and programming, manufacturers' conferences and seminars, can be obtained from the office of the Executive Director, 27 Washington Street, Newark, New Jersey.
GORDON A. WRIGHT

The death of Gordon A. Wright of Fayetteville, N. Y., September 7, 1950, brings to the architects of New York State the loss of one of its oldest men in the profession.

Mr. Wright was educated in the schools of St. Lawrence County, received a degree in Civil Engineering from Syracuse University in 1889 and in Architecture in 1892.

Mr. Wright was a member of the New York State Association of Architects, the Central New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and the Syracuse Society of Architects, and Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

His architectural commissions included many important buildings in Central New York and the City of Syracuse, including: First Baptist Church, Syracuse, N. Y.; First Church of Christ, Scientist, Syracuse, N. Y.; Temple Adath Yeshurun, Syracuse, N. Y.; Roosevelt Junior High School, Syracuse, N. Y.; Porter and Salem Hyde Grade Schools, Syracuse, N. Y.; Onondaga Orphans Home (Elmcrest Center), Syracuse, N. Y.; Onondaga General Hospital, Syracuse, N. Y.; Roosevelt Arms Apartments, Syracuse, N. Y.

The homes of Dr. Frederick Flaherty, Dr. Bernard C. Clausen and "Wolf Hollow," the home of Judge William S. Andrews; Franklin Memorial Library, Lisle, N. Y., and many central and grade schools in Madison, Onondaga, Oneida, Oswego and Jefferson Counties.

Mr. Wright began his practice of Architecture in Syracuse in 1893, following his services to Syracuse University as head of the Department of Architecture. From 1919 to 1921, the firm name was Wright & Cross; from 1921 through 1929 the designation was Office of Gordon Wright. From 1930 to 1938 Charles R. Ellis entered into partnership under the firm name of Wright & Ellis. Since 1939, the firm has been Architectural Offices—Gordon Wright, Registered Architect; Marjorie Wright, Designer.

The New York State Association of Architects record this sorrow in the loss of so studious a co-worker, and their appreciation of the research and studies he made in the early development of reinforced concrete in behalf of the profession. We extend to his family and his friends our heartfelt sympathy.

THE ONLY REALLY NEW WINDOW IN CENTURIES!

THE FOX-MADE GATE CITY
AWNING WINDOW

Made of Protexol-impregnated white pine, it's dimensionally stable—and resistant to fire, rot and vermin.

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AMERICAN SEATING COMPANY
2700 Sidney St., St. Louis, Mo.
The problem to house 300 girls in double rooms and provide dining facilities and recreational facilities for the entire campus of 1500 was a real challenge. The Architect desired to put 300 girls into as many small units as possible, preferably not over 50 to a group, with their own dining rooms and kitchen. The college desired a large dining hall for banquets and so the girls now eat in a room larger than the Ball Room in most hotels. However, the girls are housed in groups of 50—3 groups to each residence hall—3 separate entrances to each hall—3 floors to each building—or 16 girls to a unit floor with their own toilet, bath and laundry facilities. There is a small reception and control room on the first floor of each unit where the girl may meet her date. Access to the main or activities building is through a basement corridor and stair (to discourage traffic through the first floor sleeping rooms).

The basement of each unit contains a kitchenette, assembly room, trunk and storage rooms. The success of the operations is indicated by the fact that there is already a long waiting list for dormitory rooms.

THE LOUNGE
Builders of The
Residence Halls and Attendant Facilities Buildings
for
Dormitory Authority of the State of New York
at
New York State College for Teachers
Buffalo, New York

SHIRLEY-HERMAN COMPANY
INCORPORATED
General Contractors

1807 ELMWOOD AVENUE
BUFFALO, N. Y.
A study of the plan will reveal to you its complete workability. The design of the building is clean, simple and in good proportions. The materials used were Horseheads brick in a buff range with some darks scattered interestingly throughout; trim and coping are a buff limestone. Steel casement and projected sash were used—aluminum entrance doors and frames; asphalt tile floors; colored sand plaster walls; vermiculite acoustic plaster ceilings; tile baths, marble showers; basement rooms are finished with celotex block unpainted.

Lighting of all major rooms is done with silver bowl lamps in metal reflectors. Heating is steam through convectors with heat being taken from the present boiler room. Ultimately the entire state project (adjacent hospital also) will be heated from the new central boiler plant now being installed on an adjacent piece of State property.

The landscaping was planned by the State and is now being worked on—it is not as complete a job of landscaping as the Architect would like, but Budget
curtailed further development.

This is the first of a series of Dormitory buildings to be completed under the State-wide program of the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, of which Clifton C. Flather is Executive Director.

The program for the project was prepared by the Advisory Committee composed of the following men:

Ross E. Sluyter—Architect (Department of Budget);
Dr. Herman Cooper—former Assistant Commissioner of Teacher Training, now Dean of Education of State University of New York; Clifton Flather—Architect—Executive Director of the Dormitory Authority.

The building cost approximately $1,200,000 or 89.6c per cubic foot, construction was supervised by the Architect, James William Kidney. The following were contractors:

General Construction—Shirley-Herman Co. of Buffalo
Plumbing—John Knox, Inc. of Buffalo
Heating—Quackenbush Company of Buffalo
Electric—Wipperman & Mitchell, Inc. of Buffalo
Kitchen Equipment—Niagara China & Equipment Co. of Buffalo

EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT
A.I.A. URGES SPEEDY ACTION ON PLANNING REORGANIZATION BILL

The proposed dispersal of Federal Office Buildings to outlying parts of the Washington Metropolitan region requires a planning job of such magnitude that Congress should lose no time in enacting the bill to reorganize the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The Senate has already passed the measure, but it has not yet been reported out of the House District Committee.

In urging action on this important measure, Horace W. Peaselee emphasized that failure to pass the measure would cause much damage to National Capital Planning. He also stressed the importance of appointing to the commission men of the highest caliber not only from the states adjoining the District of Columbia; but also from the nation at large.

ARCHITECTS DEMAND INVESTIGATION OF NON-LICENSED PLANNERS

The Education Law of New York State prohibits anyone except licensed architects from practicing architecture or using a title to imply that he is a registered architect. Yet many builders, contractors, industrial and store designers have transcended the law by performing pseudo-architectural services which the law prohibits.

At a luncheon meeting of the New York Chapter, A.I.A., the members present, acting upon recommendation of Clarence B. Litchfield, Chairman of the Committee on Professional Practice, resolved to call for the appointment of a special committee to investigate such violations.

Said Nathan Walker, Counsel for the chapter, “We may ignore if we choose to do so any injury to the architectural profession; but we cannot shirk our responsibility to the public which has a right to be safeguarded at all times by the learning, skill and integrity of registered architects.”

The sale of stock plans for homes for sums as low as $1.00 was condemned, since the public is led to believe that these plans are adequately suitable under all conditions.

DON’T CURTAIL PUBLIC HOUSING SAYS HARRY M. PRINCE, A.I.A.

“Low-rental, fireproof public housing should not be curtailed because of the present war scare,” said Harry M. Prince, President of the New York Chapter, A.I.A., in emphasizing the importance of remembering the lessons learned during World War II.

In England, all public housing projects were stopped at the beginning of the war even though this caused much unemployment. As the war progressed and the blitzes made additional thousands homeless, the interrupted work had to be taken up with even greater urgency and at much greater cost. In our own country the deplorable conditions which faced our returning service men should not be forgotten at this time.

During World War II, Mr. Prince served as a member of the United States Commission to England to study civilian protection services. Based on facts brought out by that experience he reports that 70% of all building damage caused by bombing raids were attributed to fire and the proportion of homeless persons to actual casualties was six to one!

“If there are no public shelters such as were built in England,” said Mr. Prince, preparations should be made to intensify the clearing of slums and with public funds to construct modern, fireproof, low-rental housing which structurally offers air raid protection for those living in the critical coastal areas. Private enterprise alone has not built and cannot afford to build low-rental fireproof housing. Therefore the government must do it.”

A.I.A. SUGGESTS SOUNDER METHODS OF REDUCING PUBLIC HOUSING COSTS

In offering the full cooperation of the American Institute of Architects to Congress and Federal Housing Agencies in re-thinking the fundamentals of the public housing emergency brought about by the speeded-up national defense program, Perry Coke Smith, Chairman of A.I.A.’s Committee on Urban Planning and Housing, freely admitted that mounting building costs and uncertain material supplies have dashed the hopes of further reducing housing costs.

Speaking for A.I.A., Mr. Smith rejected the “austerity” program of smaller sized dwellings proposed by John T. Egan, Commissioner of the Public Housing Administration. He warned that boxtailed housing would defeat the social objectives of the program.

Building code reforms, dimensional coordination and improved housing technology would lead to important economies.

“Equally great economies,” he went on to say, “will come about through improved methods of purchasing building materials and sub-contracting. We need these improvements in administration to achieve really substantial savings.” As an instance of how costs have been cut through better shopping, Mr. Smith cited a steady reduction over a period of years through standardization and contractor-training in bathroom design and installation.

Sub-contractors specializing on rigorously standardized work have developed a high degree of efficiency resulting in major cost savings. In varying degrees similar results can be obtained by any public housing authority in the country.

“Congress itself must decide what the national housing standard should be,” explained Mr. Smith. “That decision must be made in terms of livability based wherever possible on objective research findings. Once that decision is reached architects can translate it into project designs that fit the needs and building capabilities in their own localities. Fair competitive building costs must be determined locally rather than nationally as Congress has attempted to determine them in the present National Housing Act.”

In a speech before the National Association of Housing Officials in Detroit, Commissioner Egan blamed local housing officials and their architects for having strayed away from a strict economical approach in the design of projects. He stated that the results of a Public Housing Authority survey of one hundred housing developments showed that more than half had produced what Federal officials considered overly large amounts of dwelling space. He announced that his agency would restore 1942 wartime housing standards as minimums for current work.

The American Institute of Architects has offered to make an independent analysis of the results of the Public Housing Administration survey.
EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT

TRADITIONAL versus MODERN ARCHITECTURE

(Continued)

artists jump from one style to another; they bite of the apple and spit it out before they masticate and digest it. Against this background we are today considering two approaches in the practice of architecture. One is loosely called traditional and the other modern. What do I mean by traditional? Is it the same thing you mean by traditional? I mean tradition in the sense that architectural precepts, experience and achievement as handed down from one generation to another form the solid ground upon which the ever changing new is rationally built. This is opposed to a tendency to see in the most vocal modernists, that we should throw away all vestiges of the past and each create his own personal brand of architecture.

A number of years ago I became curious as to the nature of the Rome Prize in Architecture in its relation to our American architectural problems. I wrote to over a hundred leading practitioners and teachers. One reply which came from the Head of the Bock School of Music was interesting, especially as a contrast to a lot of specious rationalizing. He thought the idea of getting away from home gave a man a sense of perspective and was good for him if he used the time to acquire understanding. He thought the development of fine music was like developing a fine breed of animals. Good music, to him, came from Bach to Hayden to Mendelssohn to Beethoven to Wagner, etc. Each built upon the work of the other. The past was not just thrown away.

I mean traditional in the sense that the spirit of the people of a locale deriving its character from the tradition of the people above all other considerations gives life, interest and vitality to the architecture of the locale.

This thought is opposed to the view that architecture should be international in character. Between the international concept and the egotistic personal concept of architecture, both of which I believe represent the so-called modern point of view, there is great confusion.

I find it paradoxical that those who speak contemptuously of eclecticism and advocate originality are quite ready to snatch up the cliches of contemporary Brazilian, French or other distant architecture.

I mean traditional in the sense that the past is always before the wise man, that to attempt to hide it from our sight is an expression of ignorance and not of wisdom.

Let us grant that there can be no progress without invention but let us grant also that invention in the realm of the arts must satisfy eternal truths and yearnings of mankind not just satisfy a passing phase of a troubled world.

The traditional approach is not the stagnation unwise protagonists of an egocentric cult try to make it seem to be.

These are truly stern—"hard boiled" times. It follows as the night the day that our architecture would reflect these times. Much of it has as much future as the economic fallacy that this Government can spend its way out of debt.

But it does not follow as the night the day that a people who have been so successful for over one hundred sixty years as a nation can suddenly lose sight of the basic principles of economy and self-sufficiency upon which their success has been founded.

We should, I believe, reflect anew on those principles. We should, I believe, reevaluate our heredity and develop a pride in the achievements of our own antecedents, not ignore or ridicule them. We should, I believe, try to build upon their achievements by discarding their errors, not one year seeking inspiration in Renaissance Italy, next year in Gothic France, then skipping to today's Sweden, depressed Germany or France or the experiments of modern Brazil or Mexico.

I have pointed out the faults of our era. Relentless time grinds along and the future is always full of challenge and hope. No well balanced person, whether he calls himself a conservative or a radical, a traditionalist or a modernist, can believe that architecture we can or will go back to Colonial days for our architecture any more than we will go back to them for our speech, dress or manners. But we can go back to them and to many succeeding eras for a spirit which I think we are temporarily forgetting. That is a spirit of independence, yet respect, even admiration, of our forebears. It is a spirit of tolerance and mutual aid in solving our problems. It is a spirit in which level-headedness kept pace with invention and in which humility kept pace with ambition. We never were aesthetic show-offs except in a few isolated instances. In fact, we have been too humble in that respect. Now, after one hundred and sixty years as a nation we can, I believe, find soil of our own in many widespread areas of our land sufficiently saturated with the sweat and blood of our people to nourish ideas founded upon those traditional precepts.

At the beginning of English landscape architecture as such, along about 1650, there was one Gervaise Markham who became impatient of the foreign influence in garden planning in England. He wrote a book on the value of good old home virtues at the start of which he said, "I will not be beholden to Plutus, Pliny and others, but in the true English manner thus I pursue my purpose."

My plea is, that we search ourselves and our ways so that we may be less dependent on others for ideas, that we reevaluate the traditions of our people and distill from them the spirit which above all else can give life and meaning to our architecture.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Mr. Williams' paper was enthusiastically received and Philip Johnson said he had no quarrel with the philosophy of design as presented by Edgar Williams and then proceeded to give a very fine discourse expanding some of his theories on modern or contemporary, or what have you, architecture. A recording of his talk was made and as soon as we have it transcribed and edited by Mr. Johnson we will publish it for your review.

A long discussion followed and all of the large crowd present enjoyed this highlight of the convention.
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