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LAKE PLACID AGAIN CHOSEN
AS NYSAA CONVENTION SITE

The Board of Directors of the New York State Association of Architects takes pleasure in announcing the selection of the Lake Placid Club, Lake Placid, as the location of the 1953 State Convention. For those members, wives and guests that were in attendance at the 1952 Convention at Lake Placid, this is indeed a welcome selection, as every one thoroughly enjoyed themselves despite the weatherman's poor offering.

This year, a larger convention gathering is promised. A tentative program has already been approved by the convention committee and from all reports it will far surpass that of last year. Several changes have been made regarding exhibits, etc. For those who complained of 'cold feet' while visiting the many commercial exhibits in the Olympic Arena will hearten to the news that the commercial and architectural exhibits will be given space in the Lake Placid Club itself. The Arena will also be open to the public for those who wish to watch the ice skating of the many Olympic Hopefuls.

Plan now to reserve three or four days in October to attend the convention. It is the perfect tonic for tired minds and bodies, and offers one last vacation fling before old man winter grips the north woods in his icy grasp.

See you at Lake Placid.

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

General Chairman: M. W. Del Gaudio
Secretary: Simeon Heller
Treasurer: Charles R. Ellis
Registration: Simeon Heller
Publicity: Charles R. Ellis
Hospitality: William G. Distin
Recreational Activities: Roswell F. Pfohl
Architectural Exhibits: Carl W. Clark
Commercial Exhibits: G. Morton Wolfe

ON THE COVER
Laboratory — Mount Sinai Hospital
Kahn and Jacobs, Architects
York and Sawyer, Consulting Architects
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ARCHITECTURAL RATES AND FEES

The following article is the first of a series to be published pertaining to services, rates and fees in accordance with a directive of the Board of Directors (see January-February Issue, FEES.)

LOCAL SCHEDULE OF RECOMMENDED MINIMUM RATES
CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Types of Buildings

TYPE A. Structures of utilitarian character, such as industrial plants, garages, warehouses and repetitive dwelling units.

TYPE B. Structures of conventional type, such as apartment buildings and hotels, banks, office buildings, institutional buildings, schools, stores and theatres.

TYPE C. Structures of specialized requirements, such as churches, hospitals, laboratories.

TYPE D. Residences.

Schedule of Recommended Minimum Fees

TYPE A. Fees for building in this group shall be on a graduated scale, for projects costing $250,000.00 or less, the fee shall be 6% of the cost, and reduced proportionately to a minimum of 3% for projects costing $2,000,000.00 or more.

TYPE B. 6% to 7%

TYPE C. 6% to 8%

TYPE D. 8% to 10%

For alteration work 3% shall be added to the basic rates.

The above minimum fees include all of the Architectural services as described in Art. III, A.I.A. Document 177, and also includes all usual or ordinary structural and mechanical engineering services as set forth hereafter.

Where fixed fee schedules have been agreed upon between State, National, Regional, or local architectural organizations and the State, Federal or local authorities, such agreed schedules shall take precedence over this schedule.

An additional charge shall be made where Federal Aid funds are involved. This charge is proper due to the unusual amount of clerical work required of the Architect. It is suggested that an additional percentage fee be charged upon the amount of the Federal funds involved.

The Central New York Chapter of the A.I.A. has also made a tentative draft of a suggested A.I.A. Basic Schedule of Architectural Services to be a revised A.I.A. DOCUMENT 177 as a uniform basis for Chapter Schedules of Charges. The following is a reprint of portions of that tentative draft along with a brief summary of many of the provisions.

"Foreword: To the Architectural Profession

The profession of architecture calls for men of the highest integrity, business capacity, and artistic and technical ability. An Architect's honesty of purpose must be above suspicion; he acts as professional advisor to his client and his advice must be absolutely unprejudiced; he is charged with the exercise of judicial functions as between client and contractors and must act with entire impartiality; he has moral responsibilities to his professional associates and subordinates; finally, he is engaged in a profession which carries with it grave responsibility to the public. These duties and responsibilities cannot be properly discharged unless his motives, conduct, and ability are such as to command respect and confidence.

Licensing and Registration Laws

In order to ensure that no one shall be permitted to practice the profession who has not a reasonable theoretical knowledge of both construction and design, supplemented by adequate experience, the practice of architecture is now regulated by law throughout the United States.

The basis upon which the constitutionality of a licensing or registration law rests is the exercise by the state of the police power for the protection of life, health and property.

The various State Boards of Registration have set up a National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, whose aims is to facilitate admission to interstate practice."

The following is a summary of the remaining portions of this draft in outline form:

I. Selection of an Architect
   A. Direct selection
   B. Comparative selection
   C. Design competition selection

II. Owner's responsibilities
   A. Relation with Architect
   B. Financial limitations
   C. Survey, Borings and tests

III. Architects' Services
   A. Preliminary services
   B. Working drawings and specifications
   C. Execution of the work

IV. Reimbursements and extra services
   A. Reimbursements
   B. Separate contracts
   C. Extra services and special cases
   D. Supervision of the work

V. Compensation
   A. Percentage of construction costs
   B. Fee plus costs
   C. Other systems

VI. Cost of the Work

VII. Payments

VIII. Miscellaneous provisions
   A. Ownership of documents
   B. Successors and assignments
   C. Arbitration

The next issue will contain a resume of the rates and fees as set up by the Buffalo-Western New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.
The office of Robert A. Green was the recipient of one of the three Awards of Merit to be given by the New York State Association of Architects at their 1952 State Convention, for the design of the Ardsley Elementary School (see Nov.-Dec. issue). Recognition of other schools designed by this office has been afforded by a leading national architectural magazine, and now the Empire State Architect, has the privilege of publishing sketches of a proposed new hospital for the town of Westwood, New Jersey.

Departing from the school design field and entering into the so called "specialized field" of hospital design, appear to have been a natural transition step for Mr. Green. The problem of diversified activities and the need for compactness of plan is common to both the modern school and hospital. In both instances, cost plays a very important role. Having already demonstrated that a school can be built within a reasonable budget and without sacrificing design or efficiency, Mr. Green appears to be about to repeat this truth in the hospital design field.

The design problem at Westwood, was not a new one. To build a low cost, easily expandable, low maintenance hospital to serve several suburban communities. The initial building provides for 80 beds at a cost of approximately $10,000 per bed, however, provisions for two additional nursing wings (see plan) will increase the capacity of the hospital in such a way as to lower the actual cost per bed price.

The hospital is to be built on a sloping plot of ground with the main arterial wing oriented directly north and south giving east-west orientation to the nursing wings. Separate entrances and parking facilities have been provided for the public, doctors and services, and the landscaping appears to be handled so as to achieve a restful, parklike surroundings.
The foundation is to be of reinforced concrete while the superstructure will be cavity wall construction; brick faced with exposed Waylite units. The floor and roof construction will be long span plank "Dox" system and the roof will incorporate numerous Wascolite skylite units to brighten the interior corridors. The Interior finish, keeping low cost and low maintenance in mind, will consist of asphalt tile and ceramic tile floors, exposed Waylite unit walls and acoustic material ceilings.

Interior doors will be flush panel birch and exterior doors and windows will be aluminum. Heating is to be done with convectors units with air conditioning units installed in the operating and delivery rooms. Lighting will be both incandescent and fluorescent.

The cubic contents of the building is 414,000 cu. ft. and the square foot area is 37,200. Actual bid costs are $605,323, however, the total cost, including equipment and fees approaches $800,000.00.
PROFESSIONAL SOLIDARITY

By Arthur C. Holden, F.A.I.A.

This is the second of a series of articles written by Mr. Holden, which deals with the timely subject "Professional Solidarity". The first article appeared in the January-February Issue of the EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT.

IV

Group Participation Among Architects

If half the energy that has been put into protest against the imagined invasion of the profession by outsiders had been used to devise machinery for improving the architect's services to the client, the profession would today enjoy more understanding clients and the "outsiders" would either have long ago been absorbed into the profession or would have dwindled away for lack of support.

At this point it is well to stress the issue as to whether each architect should aim to make himself the all-wise personal practitioner. Perhaps this is an ideal that may be attained by architects as great as Frank Lloyd Wright. On the other hand, it might be a more attainable ideal if each architect deliberately aimed to become the analytical, understanding co-ordinator capable of taking the lead in developing what I choose to call the "group mind." Indeed, the consummate genius of the caliber of Wright may be the coordinator of the group mind without himself being really conscious of how his genius has stimulated and drawn out the intellectual contribution of those who work with him.

There are those who contend that all genius is instinctive. Nevertheless there lies within most men a divine spark which, when once touched off, brings to light from within them latent qualities of which they may have been unaware. It is as much a mistake to think that a particular quality which is developed first is the only quality of which a man is capable as it is to think that many diverse qualities can be developed simultaneously. The architect, by the nature of the service which he performs, must develop many different qualities, all equally important. But the mistake he too frequently makes is to think that he can bring all these to maturity at the same time; or even after having developed well-rounded qualities to think that all of them can be exercised at the same time.

In a subsequent paper I shall attempt to show how the latent qualities of the architect may better be developed by a conscious attempt to improve our professional solidarity and organization, and how, by putting emphasis upon the group the public may be given a better understanding of the significance and value of architectural services.

In closing, I want to stress three functions in architectural service that can be more easily appreciated if they are considered separately:

1. The architect who serves the function of project architect has the responsibility for the decisions necessary for the design of a project. This is a basic architectural service.

2. The architect gains a specialized knowledge from each project he completes; if he has not already acquired the knowledge needed for a project he ought to have the privilege of calling on a brother member of the profession for the specialized knowledge essential for the design of the project.

3. The architect must know how to adapt the project to the physical site selected by the owner as well as to fit it into the social environment in which the owner must operate. Here again the architect may greatly extend his services by enlisting the aid of a specialist in community design.

I want to emphasize here the point that it is advantageous to the interest of the owner to provide him with a service that furnishes three separate types of service which may be combined in one architectural office, but which can be more easily understood when expressed by three separate architects: one who is charged with the responsibility for decisions necessary for the preparation of the drawings and the completion of the work; one with the responsibility for the technical efficiency of the finished product; and one for the coordination of the work with its living environment.

If the profession could have exercised the same imagination with respect to human relations which it is credited with using with respect to physical creations, it might have long ago grasped at the disposition of owners to consult hospital, school and other types of consultants, and made use of this propensity to put forward architects from among its own membership who have indeed become specialists. In pursuing this advantage the Institute might have worked out a technique to make the architectural specialist more readily available to all project architects. This would have increased the reliance of the prospective client on practicing architects generally because they would have found that each individual architect was supported by the stored-up specialized knowledge and experience of the A.I.A. as a whole.

In the relation between the function of project design and the function of relating the project to the long-range life of the community, there is likely to be considerable conflict. Because the project architect is wholly paid by the client, he has the responsibility for pushing the project and giving first weight to the client's immediate interest. There is no one to look out for the broad interests of the community. So long as the proposed construction conforms to law, the city and state have no interest in it; in fact the powers of the municipality are negative and potentially prohibitory. The Institute has as yet done very little to try to help in the development of positive coordinated planning either on the part of the municipality, or failing in this, to attack the question as to how the needed techniques of group planning are to be developed. It is true that the Institute did, some years ago, through its Committee on Postwar Planning, make a statement of the need for new attitudes toward public service and community planning on the part of architects. It did not seem possible then to suggest a way for obtaining the funds to make it possible to do more than "talk about" farsightedness and coordination in planning.

In a second paper I shall offer a few preliminary suggestions for a program for activating a greater degree of professional solidarity.

(to be continued in the May-June Issue)
MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL
Kahn and Jacobs, Architects
York and Sawyer, Consultants

Mount Sinai Hospital has solved its expansion problems by expanding its basement area, engulfing a former city street and reproportioning this service space into a more economical 'service base' which is integrated to serve both present and future needs. New excavations have given the architects space to replace former separate dining rooms and kitchens with a central kitchen and employee-staff dining room and to incorporate off-street loading with huge sub-basement central storage.

The hospital was in need of a new 100 bed Maternity Pavilion and out patient department along with the usual facilities demanded of each. The only space available for expansion was a block front 100' x 420' facing north on 99th Street. Using diplomacy, the hospital officials persuaded the city to deed over the road bed of 99th Street, thereby making a plot 160' x 420' available. By expending the basement north, excavation gave cheap space easily absorbed as storage space.

An interesting feature of the new Maternity Pavilion is the manner in which the distinction between the rich and poor patient has been achieved. In all essentials, the distinction with regards to medical care is nonexistent, for medical care is the same for all. The wards are made smaller and are interchangeable with semi-private rooms while the semi-private room is interchangeable with the private room. The so called "snob appeal" is created by routing private and semi-private patients through a lounge entering off Fifth Avenue (see photograph) while the out patients and ward patients are routed through the out patient entrance off the ambulance court in the rear. Separate waiting areas, offices, and elevators further segregate the patients.

Welded structure, originally chosen because of the desire for quiet construction, resulted in a structural saving of about 5% because of the lighter steel it permitted. Exterior treatment was carried out with a combination of brick and marble.

Above the ground the additions consist of a new maternity wing and a small research laboratory. By joining the two, and attaching the new maternity pavilion to the existing private pavilion at the same floor levels, a flexible system for varying loads between maternity and general patients is created. The maternity wing occupies the entire 160' frontage on Fifth Avenue affording patients a view of Central Park, while the sandwiched buildings create an interior court 80' x 300'. The interior court is planted with greens and serves also as an off street loading and unloading area along with providing an ambulance court.

Typical Single Room

Plan of 2nd Floor (Typical)
Among the Constituents

Cyril T. Tucker and Charles V. Northrup

"Among the Constituents" has been among the missing for the last two issues. We wonder if we were missed. Your correspondents apologize for their share of this omission. The editor has been very patient with us and we will try to send along the stuff in time to make the next issue.

In self defense we wish to say that we are not among the constituents enough to get all the news from all the constituents. We must get most of it from chapter and society publications and the chapters do not send it along. We are not aiming this at chapters like Brooklyn, New York, Bronx, Buffalo and Westchester who send us material regularly.

This is meant to be a column of news, personal news about people and chapters. The big news stories get in the E.S.A. anyway. What we are supposed to do is cover all the smaller items and circulate them. Here is what we have to peddle this time.

Buffalo-Western New York Chapter

Mort Wolfe is working hard on a committee for a new elevator code for Buffalo. He has invited people from other cities interested in codes to a meeting in Buffalo on Saturday, February 21st.

Art Konikoff has opened an office at 604 Court Street, Portsmouth, Virginia.

From the Buffalo area we hear that a plan has been tried which at the same time publicizes the architects and makes money for other groups (not the architects). Tours of selected homes are made under the sponsorship of college alumni groups, churches, etc. A charge is made for the trip and the proceeds go to the sponsor. The tourist see good houses and the architect of each is credited. Ground rules may be obtained from the Buffalo Chapter. Officers of the chapter are:

Trevor W. Rogers, President
Rand Building, Buffalo 3, N. Y.
Franklin F. Foit, Vice-President
232 Delaware Ave., Buffalo 2, N. Y.
Gordon Hayes, Secretary-Treasurer,
250 Delaware Ave., Buffalo 2, N. Y.

Executive Committee

Milton Milstein 1934
Will Alban Cannon, Jr. 1934
David B. Crane 1933
Frank Mazuroski 1953
Guy H. Baldwin 1952
W. Newell Reynolds 1952

Brooklyn Society

Officers installed in January are:

President John J. Tricario
232 Delaware Ave., Buffalo 2, N. Y.

First Vice President Harry Silverman
First Vice President John J. Tricario
Second Vice President Frank Randazzo
Treasurer Harold Dangler
Secretary Jack Sherman
Financial Secretary Harry Finkelstein

Directors for 3 years Louis Feldman
Dominick Salvati

A new member of the Society is Louis Belkin.

At the annual dinner of the New York Society of Architects, held last month, the Sidney L. Strauss Memorial Award was given to Mac Cantor. At the same affair, Mac was voted Treasurer Emeritus and received a parchment scroll. A better man could not have received such honor. The Brooklyn Society, at its December meeting voted similar honors. Mac was made President Emeritus and a resolution was adopted signifying the event. The resolution in suitable scroll form will be formally presented at the next meeting on January 22, 1953.

Bronx Chapter

This Chapter, through its attractively covered "Bulletin" keeps its members well posted on local laws affecting construction and filing procedures in the various boroughs. They tell of a practice engaged in by some of their members which they suggest might be mutually beneficial to all.

A member architect who might have a temporary hull in his practice could reduce his payroll costs during that period by loaning out one or more of his draftsmen to a fellow architect who might at that moment be pressed for help. It might work, but we have a feeling that as conditions got good everybody would want to borrow, and when things were bad all would want to loan. They have inaugurated an interesting practice of publishing biographies of their members and we take pleasure in quoting one on their President, Leo Stillman.

SHAKE HANDS WITH . . . the 100% Bronxite, Leo Stillman. A resident of the Borough of Universities since 1910, a graduate of Public School 50, Vyse Avenue and 172nd Street, a student at Morris High and Theor. Roosevelt High, Leo has continued as a resident right up to this day.

After attending City College, Leo started his professional career in 1923 by studying at the Corbett-Koyl Atelier of the Beaux Arts Institute while at the same time working for Nathan Rotholz as a draftsman. Starting out on his own soon thereafter, he has continued his practice with considerable success to this day with offices on East 149th Street.

Were he just content to rest on his architectural laurels, the story would end right here, but Leo envisions himself a great singer and often dows out a lovely melody on the radio with his sonorous monotone voice, to the consternation of his wife who really likes music and him too, except during these lapses. She taught him to play the ukelele, thinking that that would still his voice and satisfy his musical ambition. But, no! Now he slings the uke over his shoulder and gives out with a one note rendition of "Home on the Range." (Leo, for your next lesson, tune up your uke and learn to sing another note; there are right in the scale.)

Except for that vice and a fanatical love for bridge, Leo Stillman is the perfect gentleman, well liked, modest, and hard working enough to have merited the honor of being the first Secretary of our Chapter, and now its President.

SHAKE HANDS WITH . . . a fellow member who has done as much as any other architect to change the face of northeast Bronx, Richard E. Grino.

Born in Manhattan, Dick moved to the Borough of Universities at the tender age of 3 to consider himself a Bronxite. From P. S. 45 on 189th Street, he went on to Evander Childs High School; from there to Mechanics Institute and then to Columbia University, graduating in 1936.

Somewhere along the climb he found time to attend Leonardo DaVinci Art School where he was able to give vent to his love for freehand sketching.

Dick’s office is located at 4740 White Plains Road. From his drawing boards come many designs and plans for residences and commercial structures not only in the Bronx, but in Mt. Vernon, Yonkers, New Rochelle and other towns in Westchester.
Soft spoken, though firm in his convictions, Dick has won the esteem of his fellow architects and his clients for his own self-respect as a professional and for the dignity of his bearing.

Central New York Chapter

In December the chapter gathered at Rochester for the regular bi-monthly meeting. Carl Kaelber read a paper on curtain wall construction which sparked a good discussion pro and con on the subject. The chapter is attempting to schedule several of these technical papers by members. It proves to be an excellent idea from the standpoint of member interest. Another very interesting paper was read by Charles Groom at the February meeting in Syracuse on Soil Mechanics.

Officers are:
President..............D. Kenneth Sargent, Syracuse
Vice President......Thomas W. Macksey, Ithaca
Treasurer.............Frank C. DelleCese, Ithaca
Secretary.............Cyril T. Tucker, Rochester

Rochester Society

The Society has continued to hold its weekly luncheon meetings with good attendance. The speakers have been varied and interesting, covering subjects ranging from one member's amateur acting experiences to demonstrations of high frequency welding of plywood paneling. This latter sounds complicated, but the ease with which the demonstrator fastened plywood wall finishes to the structure without nail holes or damage to the pre-finished surface using an electric hand tool resembling a flat iron, showed a very practical application of modern technical engineering.

During the month of February, the Society is holding luncheon meetings jointly with the Rochester Engineering Society. Discussions at these meetings are held to topics of mutual interest to both groups. There have been talks by engineers of the Rochester Gas & Electric Co., on lighting; by architects of the Eastman Kodak Co., on the construction of their new distribution center, and by "that necessary evil" Thomas H. McKaig, architectural engineer of Buffalo, on "Economics of Building," which some people thought was going to be on "Economics in Building." These democratic February meetings are customary and will certainly be continued in future years.

The directors have considered the format of a television program dealing with the activities of architects, similar to that which has been successful in the southwest, and have endorsed the proposal to obtain a permanent Executive Secretary for the New York State Association.

New York Chapter

December 12 was the occasion of an unusually pleasant luncheon meeting organized by President Hugh Ferriss. It was to meet and hear the views of the women members of the chapter, who numbered 17. Of this total 14 were present, percentage wise a staggering success.

In answer to Mr. Ferriss' question as to how the chapter could make its activities and meetings of more interest to the women members, Eleanor Pepper said that the way to develop a real interest in the chapter is to work for it. This is also true of the males.

The December issue of the "Oculus" of this Chapter gives a healthy round-up of the work of all committees, showing a broad and moving program. They report an interesting meeting on Atomic Blast Protection, a subject we believe New York should be more interested in than anyone else. Abe Neiman, Boyd Anderson and Fred Severud discussed economic and structural factors of this kind of protection. They brought out that it is not prohibitively costly to design new construction for greater blast safety, and in existing buildings at least a portion of the building can be reinforced for the necessary protection. We would like to pass on their (illustrated) inclusion of a gem from the library of Geoffrey Platt.

We never bothered to look up the meaning of the word "Oculus," the name of the publication of this chapter, always taking it for granted that it meant the "all seeing eye" or something like that. Since we have gotten a copy of Henry Saylor's Dictionary of Architecture and have looked it over from "abacus" to "Zotheca" we discover that Oculus simply means "hole in the roof." However, through this hole comes notices of events galore. Jan. 13th, guided tour through the United Nations Building. Jan. 21st, a seminar on "A Fresh Approach to Home Lighting," Feb. 24th the 84th Anniversary Dinner at the Hotel Biltmore, where among more impressive talks and awards will be an address on "Scottish Fifths" by Frank McLloyd Wrong, noted architect on leave from the "McCannell Institute of Ancient Rites." Feb. 26th a talk on the "Gateway" and similar buildings in cooperation with the Aluminum Corporation of America. On March 11th an address by...

Why should, of all things, man unruled
Such unproportioned dwellings build?
The beasts are by their dens expressed,
And birds contrive an equal nest;
The low-roofed tortoises do dwell
In cases fit of tortoise-shell:
No creature loves an empty space;
Their bodies measure out their place.
But he, superfluously spread,
Demands more room alive than dead
And in his hollow palace goes,
Where winds, as he, themselves may lose.
What need of all this marble crust
T' impark the wanton mote of dust?

--Andrew Marvell
(1621 - 1678)

Continued on Page 39
Growing older has its compensations. With the graying, or the losing of one's hair, greater wisdom is supposed to come as a by-product. As a matter of fact, your opinion on your particular corner of the construction field is probably worth as much as mine—perhaps more. However, I will pass out to you a few ideas of my own based on the economic factors and trends as I see them, which may be applied, revised, discounted or disagreed with by you as you see fit.

May I divide my arguments into four major categories as follows: — Labor Trends, Material Trends, Design Trends and Miscellaneous Economic Factors. By inserting the fourth point I can automatically increase their categories from four to eight or eleven or any number I desire. This is a simple device by means of which I can appear to be concise and definite while at the same time I can wander all over the map.

Under the heading of Labor Trends, let us start out by admitting that labor costs are going up. Wage controls are being permitted to expire as of April 30th, just a short time ahead of the date at which most building trades contracts come up for renewals. Obviously these contracts will be renewed at a higher rate, and this increase will be reflected in the cost of buildings. Aside from contracts, the old law of supply and demand still holds—it cannot be repealed. For the next year or two, the labor supply in our area (Western New York) will feel the effect of the thru-way projects. Over the longer period, we as border cities will gradually, in my opinion, feel another trend. Canada is embarking on the greatest boom in her history, and already some of the western cities are losing labor to the Canadian field.

Perhaps it is wishful thinking, but I have an idea that we are approaching a period of better labor relations—of less feather-bedding—fewer jurisdictional disputes—better cooperation between the mechanic and the contractor looking toward their mutual benefit. If this situation materializes, we may very well be able to pay better wages without any appreciable increase in building costs.

Material Trends—here again the old law of supply and demand still works. Probably the brightest spot in the whole picture of materials is the steel situation. How many years is it since structural steel has been on a really competitive market—probably ten or twelve, isn't it? The steel capacity is 38 per cent above the highest World War II figure—25 per cent above pre-Korea. Even admitting this increase is at present absorbed in military use and in strip steel for furniture, automobiles, refrigerators, etc., the fact remains that there should be available in the next year, nine and one-half million tons of structural shapes, as against a total of four and one-half million tons shipped in 1940. Steel will definitely be back on the competitive market.

With the tremendous increase in the facilities for the manufacture of aluminum, it is generally conceded that in addition to competition within the industry itself, steel will be in competition with aluminum for certain construction uses before long. At the present moment however, the aluminum production is limited by power shortages in the northwest with the result that the aluminum shortages will probably continue through much of this year. It will be interesting to watch this battle for the market between these two metals in the few years ahead of us. Whatever happens, in my opinion, the building industry will profit by it.

In another corner of the builders market, the picture is not so bright. Portland Cement is already in tight supply with practically no new production facilities being added. This fact, taken with the tremendous demand for highway construction which lies ahead of us, definitely means a probable increase in the price of concrete—and consequently also in the price of concrete masonry, which has in our territory replaced clay tile to such a large extent. Off-setting this increased cost of concrete masonry, is a probable reduction in the cost because of more large scale production of blocks with greater efficiency.

I believe, and I am not alone in the belief, that all this adds up to fairly level prices ahead on a new plateau. If you have any clients who are waiting for prices to come back to normal, call their attention to the fact that they are now normal. Just as the ten cent local phone call, the two cent post card and other similar higher prices are normal. The February 1953 Engineering News-Record Cost Index for Building Construction is 425.24. This compares with 422.4 last July which is practically stationary. And remember too—fully twenty-five percent—perhaps more—of the cost of every structure today goes into taxes somewhere along the line. Although Dan Reed may have a little of this, it will be so small a shaving that none of us will ever see building costs effects by price cuts.

Undoubtedly we are going to try a lot of new ideas in construction. Many of them are now being used although some of them are still higher priced than they should be. Many of us can't understand why welded construction should continue to cost more than bolted or riveted construction—nor why steel rigid frames should cost more than steel trusses, but they do. Perhaps the new competitive market in steel which we foresee, may help put some of these things in a little better perspective. Then too there are the newer methods still more or less in the experimental stage—of which we expect so much—such methods as pre-stressed concrete beams and tilt-up side wall construction. However, don't look for any great reductions in construction costs from any of these. We have all lived to see many innovations which should have, and did have, each in its own little niche, cut costs without cutting the overall cost of construction, such as wide flange beams, bar joists, 3000 pound concrete and others. But we must admit that our standards are higher today than they were some years ago. During the early days of the P.W.A. we built schools for 38 c a cubic foot, today we are paying a dollar, but it isn't the same building. It is a much better one, with lower maintenance costs, better lighting, better heating, better plumbing, with audio visual and public address systems. Our building standards are higher, even as our living standards are higher.

Of course, regardless of what prices may be, we don't get work unless some one wants to build. What are we going to do in the years ahead? Although some of us
BUFFALO PRODUCERS' COUNCIL ENTERTAINS
MEMBERS OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Approximately 300 people from all phases of the construction industry, were entertained at the annual Producers' Council Material Exhibit held in February at the Hotel Lafayette in Buffalo. In the afternoon, there were approximately 150 students who visited the exhibit, from the University of Buffalo and the New York State Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences. Cocktails were served from 5:30 to 7:00 to member of the American Institute of Architects, Niagara Frontier Builders Assn. and the Construction Industry Employers Assn. Also the Building Owners and Managers Assn. of Buffalo. Dinner was held in the Crystal Room for some 170 members and guests at which time, speakers from the various phases of the construction Industry, spoke.

Mr. C. E. Kaiser, President of Producers' Council, represented the manufacturers of quality building materials. He gave a short historical background of Producers' Council and also told of improvements of manufactured products since the end of World War II. Further, that the average new building of today, sq. ft. per sq. ft. is a far better equipped product than was the new structure built 10 and 15 years ago. Mr. Park Metzger, Metzger Construction Co., represented the general contractors, while Mr. Stanley C. Podd, spoke in behalf of the architects. An additional speaker was Col. Philip R. Garges, who presented the U.S. Corps of Engineers picture, as concerns the construction industry in the Niagara Frontier.

The following members of the Buffalo Chapter of the Producers' Council were represented with booths and exhibits.

Philip Carey Manufacturing Co.
Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co.
Reynolds Metals Co.
H. H. Robertson Company
Sargent & Co.
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The Stanley Works
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Republic Steel Corp.
U.S. Plywood Corporation
The F. W. Wakefield Brass Co.
Yale & Towne Manufacturing Co.
Zonolite Company
The Mosaic Tile Company
National Gypsum Company
Overly Manufacturing Company
Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation
Otis Elevator Company
A. O. Stilwell Co. Inc.

EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT
The school in the village of Common Center had never been adequately heated. Finally the Board had engaged an Engineer to design a new system.

When he arrived on the scene, he found the authorities aghast because a few hours before it had been discovered that the chemical toilet tank was leaking into the well—both were in the unfinished basement space of this little four-room school and two feet apart. Plumbing became paramount—heating was forgotten. And Speed was essential.

Albany demanded a new well with chlorinating equipment, a new septic tank with disposal field, and new inside toilet rooms. The disposal field area exceeded the school property, so an adjacent pasture was taken on a long term lease, which permitted the owner to continue pasturing his cattle, and permitted him to order the School to cease using the land, if his 75 year old well became polluted by the sewage disposal.

Since the school had other neighbors, judgment dictated a test of every well within a 500 foot radius. B. Coli were found abundantly in the 75 year old well. All the other wells were reported in much the same condition except that owned by the janitress who lived next door. In spite of the fact that her well was only thirty-five feet away from the family cess pool, it was approved.

When the sturdy eighty year old father of the board president was informed that his well was bad, he paused in splitting a heavy maple block to remark, “I have lived here all my life, and ain’t been sick a day in my life, so I guess that water can’t be so bad.” Apparently he thrived on the terrible bacillus coli.

The work was pushed vigorously, and before the annual meeting it was completed. But in this quiet community an undertow of dissatisfaction had set in, and on the day of this meeting, the Engineer was importuned to be present at the meeting that night to defend himself and the board members. The plumbing system had been paid for out of the heating appropriation!

Usually school annual meetings are poorly attended. But not this one. Men came in from the far corners of the district. They looked glumly at the new toilet rooms, and merely shrugged their shoulders.

Upon request, the Treasurer read every item of expenditure made during the past year, which included the total cost of the plumbing system. An ominous hush fell on the meeting. The Treasurer droned on. Then he read, “To engine oil, $75.00.” Several men leaped to their feet demanding to be heard. “Who sold that oil?” “How much per gallon?” The president ran a service station, and he had sold the oil. Then came the election. The president and two of his supporters were voted off from the board. Not one word was directed against the plumbing system, or the high handed method of finance. Would the Heating system have fared as well?
APPOINTED

Robert S. Hutchins, F.A.I.A., has been appointed by Mayor Impellitteri to the position of architect member of the New York City Art Commission succeeding Alfred Easton Poor whose term has just expired. The term of office is three years.

ASSOCIATES

Lawrence Grant White and James Kellum Smith take pleasure in announcing that Newton R. Smith and Earl Purdy have become associates of the firm of McKim, Mead & White, 101 Park Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW PARTNERSHIP

William G. Distin, Saranac Lake architect, announces that he has taken Arthur W. Wareham of this village into partnership in the practice of Architecture. The new firm will operate under the name of Distin and Wareham, and the office will remain at its present location, 18 Main Street.

Mr. Wareham, a graduate of Pratt Institute, has been a resident of this Village since 1946. He was formerly employed in firms in New York City and Washington, D. C., and spent several years in South America as a Hospital Architect. He received his New York State Registration in 1950 and has been associated with Mr. Distin since that time.

This office was first established by Wm. L. Coulter in the late eighteen nineties, then later, practice was carried on under the firm names of Coulter & Westhoff; Westhoff and Distin and for many years by Mr. Distin under his own name.

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THAT NECESSARY EVIL – THE ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEER  
BY THOMAS H. McKAIG

Several years ago on a vacation trip, I struck up a chance friendship at a resort hotel—one of those friendships which yielded me several interesting evenings. Through a chance remark I learned that he was a member of a team which was at this hotel for the purpose of attempting to convert it from a losing investment to a break-even or perhaps a profit. When I told him that in my first job after leaving college I had done the structural design on some twenty or more hotels—my employer having been a hotel architect—he invited me to sit in on a session with two of the other members of their foursome currently at the hotel. They were an interesting group—the big boss having been a practicing hotel manager and managing vice-president of a chain of hotels for some years—the other members being a specialist on hotel engineering—a top notch hotel accountant—and, I believe—a hotel dining room specialist. Among the four of them they had all the answers pertaining to what makes a hotel click.

We spent one evening together from about 7:30 to midnight—and as an architectural engineer, I bore the brunt of the blame for the mistakes which have been made by the architectural profession in general—and the architects of certain hotels in particular. If I had been able to make a tape recording of that session, I would have had the material for a good saleable book. I started the discussion with the question “When are there going to be some hotels built in America?” and the general direction of the answer was “when the people who have the money to spend and the proper town in which to build—will employ somebody like us to tell architects and engineers how to build so that said hotels can be operated at a profit.”

On the face of it, the statement sounded egotistical but when I heard of an $800,000 hotel—which I knew about—where the group had spent $200,000 in changes and turned a deficit into a $100,000 a year profit in three years time, I had to admit maybe their egotism had good foundation. What were the basic specifications for such a hotel? To begin with—no large public spaces. “What! No Conventions?” “Only if the Chamber of Commerce or the City subside this space. It could never be made to pay, and if it did pay the city would soon build its own auditorium, with no tax to pay—with overhead costs carefully hidden—and leave the hotel holding the bag with a white elephant.” They cited several instances to prove the point.

I wish I could remember all the details we talked about. “Windows?” “One over one—that is, one large light in each sash.” “What about replacement costs?” “The only time a window gets broken is when some guest gets high and heaves a bottle through the window—and he’s glad to pay for the replacement.” “But the hotel pays for the window washing and that costs money.” In fact on one job it cost so much that they replaced six over six with one over one and paid for the job in four years. And so on for hours—with a repeat session a few nights later.

Probably by this time you are saying “So what?”—if you have continued to read this far. Well, in my opinion, sometime somebody is going to build a hotel or two—and if they ask you to get the plans out, get in touch with me and I’ll give you the names of these specialists.
NEW CLASSES FOR TRAINING ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTSMEN

Among the 600 Architectural and Building Construction students, who have already been enrolled for the Spring Term at the Institute of Design and Construction, 26 Court Street, Brooklyn, a specially qualified group of High School graduates have been chosen by Vito P. Battista, Director of I.D.C. for the "Work and Study" class for becoming an Architectural Draftsman.

Mr. Battista, who is Co-designer of the Brooklyn Civic Center, established the "Work and Study" class to help talented students to complete their education by assisting them to jobs in Architects' offices where they can put their training to practical use. The classes began on February 16th.

Mr. Battista pointed out that the plan has already received wide support in the Architectural fields, with many well known Architectural firms ready to hire these young students. He further stated "This course is unusual in that the student not only learns drafting-board technique, but is given extensive training in Building Construction subjects to completely round-out his Drafting training. Even the Municipal Building Department procedures for filing plans will be included." The teaching staff will consist of practicing Architects and Engineers who will instruct the students with immediate needs of the Building Construction and Defense industries.

The day school is directed by the well known educator Jacob Gray, P.E., formerly in charge of the Architectural Courses at Brooklyn Technical High School. The subjects to be given the first year include Architectural Working Drawings, Building Materials & Methods of Construction, Architectural Design, History of Architecture, Applied Mathematics, Mechanical Equipment of Buildings, Building Laws and Building Codes, Building Construction Superintendence, Architectural Specification Writing. These courses will not only prepare the students for jobs in Architects' offices but will also qualify them for City, State and Federal Civil Service examinations for the post of Junior Architect.

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A FEW TYPICAL EXCEL HOSPITAL INSTALLATIONS

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<th>Architect</th>
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<td>Skidmore, Owings &amp; Merrill</td>
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<tr>
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<td>New York, N. Y.</td>
<td>Skidmore, Owings &amp; Merrill</td>
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<td>Cannon, Thiele, Bet &amp; Cannon</td>
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<td>Cannon, Thiele, Bet &amp; Cannon</td>
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<td>Sisters of Charity Hosp.</td>
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<td>White Plains, N. Y.</td>
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<td>W. C. A. Hospital</td>
<td>White Plains, N. Y.</td>
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