

St. John's Cathedral Group in the heart of Cleveland's business district SEE STORY ON PAGE 10

### IN THIS ISSUE ...

UNCTIONAL COLOR AND THE ARCHITECT	1.		Page	7	
HE ROOTS OF ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION			Page	8	
N A.S.O. CERTIFICATE OF AWARD WINNER			Page	9	
ATHEDRAL SQUARE		1	Page	10	
HIO SENATE AND HOUSE MEMBERS			Page	27	





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# HITECT

### OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARCHITECTS SOCIETY OF OHIO

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RCHITECT

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Volume VII

JUNE, 1949

Number Six

### Functional Color and the Architect By FABER BIRREN

Some years ago the selection of color for most architectural projects was largely a matter of "good taste." The attitude was an artistic one, with the color scheme bold or conservative depending on the emotional propensities of the architect or his client.

To some extent this situation has not changed. Home interiors and exteriors still have good reason to express the personality of those responsible for them as designers or owners. Individually in a hotel lobby, a cocktail lounge, an exclusive shop may effectively and profitably follow the creative viewpoint.

Yet as architecture in the last twenty years has become more functional and less ornate, so has the selection and use of color in many types of buildings become more utilitarian. The emphasis has gone from appearance to purpose.

As technical advancements make building more and more complex, the architect finds himself increasingly dependent on trained authorities in such fields as acoustics, air conditioning, illumination—and now color. This specialization requires scientific background and research method. While an architect might wish to be all things in all fields, he must look to help from others simply because he cannot have the capacity nor find the time to attain such omniscience. Too, in the best interests of his client he realizes that "nearly right won't do;" he must find answers to problems through sources that are best qualified to deal with them.

Color coordination in architectural projects when capably handled cannot help but add to the architect's prestige. Whereas much engineering work concerns things that are definitely behind the scenes, color is the medium that is very much in prominence and therefore very important in so far as human impressions are concerned. The architect who does a good job of color is sure to find his efforts commended, for color is integral with design and form. The service of the color coordinator or functional color specialist thus holds particular merit because it has vital bearing on the reactions of the general public.

#### THE MODERN APPROACH

To dip briefly into history, the use of color in architecture was once symbolic. Before the Renaissance an elaborate ritualism was followed that had to do with religion, astrology, mythology, the planets, the points of the compass, and other such involvements. Spiritual and emotional qualities for color came later with the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. It was not until then that things abstruse were pursued and the artist freed to convey his "feelings" without reference to symbolic conventions and traditions.

### ON THE PAGE OPPOSITE

A CITY CLUB—Design by Roger W. Williams, A winner of one of the four A.S.O. Certificates of Award. See page nine. Today, however, a new *functionalism* for color has come into existence. Like the symbolism of olden times it is less concerned with individual feeling than with a search for broader and more social values having to do not only with man's pleasure but also with his efficiency, comfort and well being. The old attitude of letting one man's personality dominate color choice in architecture is being replaced (and rightfully) by an objective study of the human needs and desires of all men.

An Architect or a home owner may insist that his fancies be indulged. Yet the indulging of fancies will hardly do for

-a store owner who wants to sell merchandise by appealing to the taste of his customers;

—a hotel keeper who wants to have his suites satisfy his guests rather than himself;

-an office manager who wants to improve the efficiency and morale of his staff;

-a factory manager who wants to improve the efficiency and morale of his staff;

-a factory owner who wants to lower accident frequencies;

-hospital trustees concerned with psychotherapy and aids to convalescence;

-school boards concerned with child welfare and child health;

-mayors and town planning commissioners wishing to have the public favor municipal projects rather than complain about extravagance in high office.

Such problems as the above are not, of course, to be solved very well through guesswork, insight or individual persuasion.

#### FUNCTIONAL COLOR

Where color in architecture may be judged esthetically, one man's opinion is perhaps as good as another's. As in the art of painting, the virtues of one school of beauty over another (radical, conservative), have no criteria other than arbitrary prejudices or preferences. With functional color, however, this is not altogether true. Functional color may be defined as a system or method of color application, in which definite objectives are set up and in which results are determined by measurement. In other words, beauty is made subservient to utility—and pleasure becomes a by-product of purpose.

A person with a soul for the artistic may object to an impersonal attitude toward color. Yet it should profit any architect to have a better knowledge not only of the medium of color but of the physiological and psychological makeup of human beings. It is one thing to guess against the heart's desires of the public and another thing to have a sympathetic understanding of them. It is one thing to say what is good for men and another thing to know through trial and analysis.

#### ABSTRACT COLOR

Even in the esoteric realms of beauty, the factors that constitute beauty and ugliness, that inspire appeal or (Continued on page 20)

### The Roots of Architectural Education L. B. HOLLAND at Cincinnati Meeting

There is an accepted convention that school days are to be looked upon as the happiest of our lives. I do not suppose those who launched this notion were thinking not of days in an architectural school, but rather of grammar and high school days. Maybe the saying is true and maybe not, but certainly our school days are the experience most common to all of us, and our most common memory.

Why is it that without too much protest we endured the methodical week-day grind of lessons and home work? Because it was the thing to do we did not question it, because our parents made us go, we went. And they, our good parents sent us through the mill in the belief—no doubt quite justified—that all our lives would be the better and the happier for our schooling, and furthermore, because the law would have raised cain with them if we hadn't gone.

But for most of us assembled here, such school days were not enough. Not satisfied with that preliminary routine, we proceeded to plunge

headlong into long years of arch-

itectural schooling. I wonder if

anyone can tell me why. This

time there was no state compul-

sion, nor was it the customary

thing to do for only a small per-

centage of our school mates took

to the T square and triangle.

Perhaps in a few cases, some

relative was an architect and

hoped we might become a help-

er and an office heir. But for

the most part, I presume, we

entered of our own initiative or

What

unenlightened impulse.



L. B. Holland

lay back of that impulse? Was if the belief that all our lives would be the better and the happier for our architectural schooling?

It would be nice to think that some of us had the foresight to discern that it was the ideal preparation for the good life, but I doubt if any had such prescience. I know that when I was an undergraduate I had no idea what a surpassing liberal education I was getting: I realize it now.

For education as I see it, is not properly the acquiring of a bag full of tricks, useful or showy, but the development of one's personality, head and heart and hand, to its fullest capabilities. And I honestly believe that compared with architecture there is no other course, in any institution of learning, so well designed to further such development.

To support my thesis I would quote two ancient authorities. The first is St. Paul, "Prove all things," he wrote to the Thessalonians, "Hold fast that which is good." And the second, perhaps a century earlier, the architect Vitruvius, who thus declaimed, "Architects, who lacking culture, strive to be skillful with their hands, can win no authority equal to their labors; and others who put their trust in theory and books alone, obviously pursue a shadow rather than reality. Whereas those who are accomplished in both fields, like men at all points, are promptly invested with such authority as they seek—He who would be an architect—must have a natural talent and at the same time take kindly to instruction. For neither talent without training nor training without talent can make the perfect craftsman. He should be a well read man, a skilful draftsman, learned in mathematics, a follower of scientific progress, a diligent student of philosophy, acquainted with music, not ignorant of hygiene, cognizant of legal matters, and should have some knowledge of astronomy and astronomical calculations."

Now of course, Vitruvius' list of virtues was somewhat that of a sales catalogue, for he was trying to sell himself to the emperor as an architect, complete with all accessories. But architectural requirements have little changed in these last two thousand years, and though our architectural curricula do not list quite all the mental garments Vitruvius believed the well dressed architect should wear, they much more nearly provide such a wardrobe than any other collegiate programme that I know.

Let us look at the facts. At many colleges the candidate for a bachelor's degree in Arts and Sciences may browse through wide fields of knowledge, but, as a rule, the wider and more varied the pasture the less interested the browser is in any part of it.

the browser is in any part of it. On the other hand, the graduate or semi-graduate professional courses call for concentration to the limit, and the accumulation of a mass of accurate factual knowledge. For the lawyer must memorize the law and the findings of the courts, the engineer must know his formulae and the foibles of the sliderule, the doctor hidden intricacies of our anatomies. Yet after all, such knowledge is in essence only glorified trade-school equipment, even such illumination as the graduate student may get from the lamps of philosophy and psychology are focused with precision upon his professional work.

But the architectural student leads a double life. He is collegiate undergraduate and professional student as well. Like Alexander of the song, he is a "swoose," half a swan and half a goose. On the one hand his labors have the intensity of law or medical training. There is no other undergraduate who begs so insistently to be allowed to work not only late at night, but often all night long. He may by temperament be improvident of time, but he soon learns the value of that commodity, and its low modulus of elasticity. And since the architect, as someone said "Like Caesar's wife, must be all things to all men," his strictly professional or tradeschool studies range through most of the fields Vitruvius specifies, in both the arts and sciences, for the development of technical proficiency in engineering as well as skill in drawing and color composition. In addition-and perhaps, considering "the fleeting character of superficial skills," of greater influence throughout his whole life-he has a modicum of courses in English, and History as exemplified in the history of the arts. At Miami he even has a required jigger of the music Vitruvius prescribes.

Moreover, both the liberal professional subjects and the professional liberal subjects, the bones and muscles of his architectural anatomy, are vitalised by the ichor of life in education which comes—or at least may come from the study of design. And here I would note that to my mind, Vitruvius' requirements are unduly limited, since the practice of architecture demands not only skills and knowledge, it requires also, imagination, organization, administration, integrity and diplomacy, none of which can be directly taught, but all of which can be stimulated by a conscious philosophic approach of the student to his problems in the drafting room. For architectural design is basically the practice of speculative reason; first the analysis and comprehension of the definite elements involved in a problem, then the organi-

(Continued on page 24)

8 [June, 1949]

### Miami University A.S.O. Certificate of Award Winner

Winner of one 1949 A. S. O. Certificate of Award was Roger W. Williams of Miami University whose thesis was the Montgomery County Court House (Dayton, O.). Roger Wolcott Williams was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1924, being, therefore, twenty-four years old at

present. Mr. Williams' father is M. R. Williams, A.I.A.,



a partner, with J. Douglas Lorenz, of Lorenz-Williams of Dayton. Roger Williams attended Oakwood High School in Dayton, entering Miami University in 1942. He served in the Army Air Force from 1943 to 1946. Reentering the Department of Architecture at Miami in 1946 he has been an excellent student, as was his brother, Mr. Gareth Williams, before him.

Mr. Williams was painstaking in his preliminary investigations, consulting a large number of the

Roger Wolcott Williams

officials whose work would be accommodated in the building, and investigating similar buildings, as well as local conditions affecting the particular project. Mr. Williams followed the recommendations of the preliminary official report which stressed the utilitarian nature of the building and its relationship to structures which

### A.S.O. Convention-Cleveland, October 13 and 14

are to be built later. Aside from Mr. Williams' own reports of a fact-finding nature, his thesis consisted of ten large sheets, well drawn in black line. These, together with the model, were the basis of Mr. Williams' effective verbal presentation of his study to the faculty jury. Possibly it was unnecessarily restrictive that neither Mr. Williams or his classmates utilized their ability in colorful, pictorial delineation when they developed their drawings. Instead of this they generally furnished complete structural computations and finished working drawings.

He recently won a fourth prize in the Chicago Tribune's "Better Rooms" competition. Mr. and Mrs. Williams reside at 616 Garden Road, Dayton.

In the July issue we will feature additional A. S. O. Certificates of Award Winners.



Close up detail view of model of suggested Montgomery County Court House at Dayton, Ohio by Roger W. Williams, winner of A.S.O. Certificate of Award from Miami University. Below is an overall view of the Model submitted by Mr. Williams. A series of drawings on "A City Club" by Mr. Williams appears on page six of this issue.



ARCHITECT

## CATHEDRAL SQUARE

By ROBERT W. STICKLE, A.I.A. Stickle, Kelly & Stickle, Cleveland, Ohio

A large group of buildings under construction in the heart of a metropolitan area must of necessity attract attention—particularly when the buildings are ecclesiastical and the project involves the renovation of historic landmarks.

Cathedral Square, in downtown Cleveland, consists of one new structure and three renovated structures. It was contemplated that the group, when completed, would include the Cathedral, the Rectory, St. John's College and the Diocesan Chancery building, housing all the departments of the Diocese of Cleveland.

Many observers have been under the impression that portions of the old structure were retained for sentimental or historical reasons. In fact, a number of persons and groups advanced such proposals. Actually, however the portions of the old buildings which were retained, were salvaged for their economic rather than their historical value. The many thousands of existing square feet of masonry walls and footings paid for themselves in the reduction of construction costs. In fact, although summer air conditioning was introduced and an entirely new mechanical installation was made, the complete cost of the Cathedral including furnishings was held to approximately 40c per cubic foot. This construction cost would hardly have been possible under present day costs, had an entirely new structure been erected.

St. Johns Cathedral, major building of the group was enlarged from an 800 capacity to 1,600 seating capacity and the sanctuary was extended and planned to function liturgically as required by Cannon Law.

The Rectory, which includes an elevator and 22 suites of rooms each with baths and study rooms attaches to the east end of the Cathedral. This building is air conditioned with summer cooling and also has an entirely new mechanical installation. Many other facilities such as kitchen, dining rooms, laundry, Bishop's Suite, storage rooms, etc. are included in the building. The Diocesan Chancery building is a six story office building with very complex planning to contain under one roof all of the departments of the Diocese of Cleveland. The building contains 2 elevators and is entirely air conditioned.

The wholly new structure in the group, St. John's College, contains 20 class rooms, biology, chemistry and physics laboratories, a 50,000 volume library, a lecture hall seating 2200, a cafeteria, a chapel and the necessary administration facilities.

(Continued on page 15)

Above and right: St. John's Cathedral after and before modernization. Crab Orchard Stone for exterior supplied by the Interior Marble and Tile Co. Left: Moravian tile for aisles and corridors furnished and installed by Interior Marble and Tile Co.

### CINCINNATI ARCHITECTS MAKE STUDENT AWARDS

The two most recent meetings of the Cincinnati Chapter, American Institute of Architects, have been for the purpose of inspecting the two architectural schools in the Chapter area and to make awards provided by the chapter for meritorious student work.

The first of these meetings was held in Oxford, Ohio, at Miami University, on May 1. At that meeting Mr. George Edward Porter, President of the Cincinnati



MIAMI STUDENT RECEIVES FREDERICK G. MUELLER PRIZE. Left to right: Professor William McLeish Dunbar, Head, Dept. of Architecture, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; Mr. Kermit Carl Parsons, winner of the prize, and Junior student at Miami University; Mr. George Edward Porter, President of the Cincinnati Chapter, American Institute of Architects. In the background is Mr. Parsons' winning drawing.

Chapter, awarded to Junior students from both Miami University and the University of Cincinnati the Frederick G. Mueller prizes, given each year by the chapter in memory of the former member whose name it carries. The prize winner from Miami was Kermit Carl Parsons, while the Cincinnati winner was Otto Bauer-Nilson.

The principal address of the Oxford meeting was given by Dr. Leicester B. Holland, F.A.I.A., Professor of Architecture at Miami University, on the subject, "The Roots of Architectural Education." Following the conclusion of his address, the visiting architects and their ladies reviewed the exhibit of student work and the prize-winning designs. The occasion for the second meeting of the Cincinnati architects was the University of Cincinnati's annual Spring Exhibit and Dinner, May 27th. At this meeting the A. I. A. Medal was awarded to Jack E. Hodell for the highest scholastic average, as had been the Scarab Medal. The runner-up for the A. I. A. Medal was Arthur Lee Burns, who was given a book. The Architects Society of Ohio Award was made to Donald E. Clark. Mr. Clark also received a prize of one hundred dollars for the most outstanding senior thesis, awarded by The Pierson Lumber Company of Cincinnati. Many other



PRIZE WINNERS IN FREDERICK G. MUELLER 1949 COMPETITION. Left to right: Edmund H. Smith, Kermit Carl Parsons, and James A. Dickson, all of Miami University; Leonard P. Cohron and Clare H. Day of University of Cincinnati.

awards were presented to students in the related applied arts courses offered by the college.

Mr. Siegfried Weng, Director of the Dayton Art Institute, gave the evening's address on "Integrity of the Arts." Following his address, more than two hundred fifty guests visited the U. C. College of Applied Arts exhibits, featuring student work in architecture, landscape architecture, interior decoration, industrial design, costume design, and related fields.

CINCINNATI WINNER OF FREDERICK G. MUELLER PRIZE AND PRIZE WINNING DESIGN. Otto Bauer-Nilsen, winner of the Frederick G. Mueller Prize at University of Cincinnati, with his solution of a problem to design a music center for Eden Park, overlooking the Ohio valley and the business section of the city. Mr. Bauer-Nilsen is a native of Norway, havng come to the U. S. shortly before entering the university.



ARCHITECT

### DAYTON CHAPTER VISITS WISHING WELL

The Dayton Chapter, American Institute of Architects, held its regular meeting at the "Wishing Well," Centerville, Ohio, on May 26, 1949, twenty-five members were present.

A short business session was held immediately after the dinner. The President, Mr. John Sullivan, Jr., reported the progress for plans for the Walter Schaeffer Memorial Book Collection. Some selected books will be purchased immediately. It was suggested that colored slides on Modern Art and of interesting buildings in Dayton be considered as part of the Memorial.

Emery Ohler, 3rd Vice-President of the Architects Society of Ohio, reported on the progress of Senate Bill No. 241, urging all members of the Dayton chapter to write to their representatives listed elsewhere in this issue.

James A. Reed was appointed Dayton chairman of the Competition Committee for the 1949 A. S. O. convention.

Herb Starrick informed the members that the National Planning Conference is to be held in Cleveland on October 10, 11, and 12. The annual A. S. O. convention is also being held in Cleveland on October 13 and 14. An excellent opportunity to make this trip a "double header."

Carl Lohrey, of the Dayton Chapter, Ohio Society of Professional Engineers, who was a guest of the Chapter, announced that the Architects-Engineers picnic would be held on June 16th. Entertainment and a baseball game between the Architects and the Engineers would be the high spots. The Picnic is to be stag. James Reed was appointed chairman of ticket sales. Bob Buettner's talk on his visit to Paris and Switzerland last fall, illustrated with 100 colored slides, was greatly enjoyed by the entire membership. (Bob took all photographs and made his own slides.)

### National Magazing Features 1948 A.S.O. Competition Prize-Winning Building

The American Lumberman & Building Products Merchandiser featured on its cover and as its principal article in the March 26, 1949 issue, the buildings of the James Lumber Company, Springfield, Ohio, which were designed by James Allen Reed of Dayton, Ohio. This design had been given the award in its class in the 1948 Architects Society of Ohio Competition at Dayton, and this fact is prominently featured in the lumbermen's magazine.

Mr. L. Morgan Yost, nationally-known architect and vice-president of the Chicago Chapter, A. I. A., is the architectural editor of the American Lumberman and Building Products Merchandiser.

### Plans Announced for 1949 A.S.O. Competition

The Executive Board of the Architects Society of Ohio instructed its Convention and Competitions Committees to prepare rules for the 1949 A. S. O. Architectural Competition at the earliest possible date. There will be ten classes of awards, the same as last year, and each chapter is urged to encourage the submission of as many designs as possible. The "Ohio Architect" will endeavor to publish as many of the submissions as possible in subsequent issues of the magazine.





Such questions seem simple—but the architect knows how complicated they can be. Very often he finds that the apparent, simple answer isn't the *right* answer. Often, too, several problems are so inter-related that all have a direct bearing on the correct answer to each.

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The decorative possibilities of **PLYTEX** are unlimited. It takes a beautiful natural finish by using plain lacquers or suitable wax. Oil or water stains create rich effects. The new, popular blond finishes can also be attained. Many unusual and sparkling two-tone effects can be created with paint.

Home builders will welcome this beautiful, decorative plywood. The ready-to-finish panels are easy to apply and suitable for wall finishes in even medium price homes. PLYTEX is ideal for living rooms, dining rooms, breakfast nooks, libraries, studios, bars or recreation rooms. PLYTEX can also be used to create unusual exterior contrasts by applying it on gables, dormers or entrances. It's a perfect decorative wood for country clubs, cabins and country homes.

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PLYTEX, with its distinctive grain, is also recommended for use in offices, libraries, lounges and showrooms as well as for outstanding displays and backgrounds. PLYTEX will help you develop "plus" business from your industrial, commercial and professional accounts.

**PLYTEX** is inexpensive. It is available in 48" wide by 96" long by 5/16", 3-ply panels. **PLYTEX** panels are exterior grade only.

Write, wire or phone for prices and a sample of **PLYTEX** the new, different, decorative Plywood—DO IT TODAY!



SE Residence Plan Examiner, City of Cincinnati

By DONALD F. HUNTER

But, my friends, the ad continues in a heavy blocked and italicized paragraph:

This is not for you if you happen to be one of those unfortunates who live in a community where there is an ARCHAIC BUILDING CODE and a nasty old building inspector who insists on enforcing it.

By innuendo, they slyly suggest that the old goat be poisoned, that the citizens march upon the city hall by the thousands and demand that the building code be repealed forthwith!

so that you too may know the pure and unmitigated joy of REALLY living in this most modern machine for living yet designed. Throw

care to the winds-

Why should you worry whether or not the roof will blow off?

-our unconditional guarantee assures you-

if the thing does fold up around your ears some dark and stormy night, the El Foldo people will mail you another one just like it the very next morning—C.O.D.

Your dream home can be erected in a few short hours by unskilled mechanics with a few simple tools.

A can opener, a box of bobby pins and a roll or two of scotch tape!

All this and heaven too - for \$10,000! And a few miscellaneous extras too numerous to mention (It says here in fine print.)

Now, maybe there are a few reasons why John Q. Public would like to consign some building inspectors to the nether regions, and perhaps there are some building codes that seem to the rank and file to be nothing more or less than a set of fossiled "Thou shalt nots" handed down from about the time of Moses, prohibiting anything that even faintly resembles progress. But, when it comes to this question of providing homes for the millions of Americans who need them - some of them desperately - thank heaven that there is at least one guy that recognizes this spider and the fly set-up.

For, if you could take all of these brain storms that have been proposed as the heaven-sent answers to the ageold question and lay them all out side-by-side, you'd have yourself a line of shanties leading from here to the nearest dump, and all before very many payments had been made on the gold-embossed mortgages. The El



Foldo Jiffy-Pak house is just an example. There are also the little old single wall houses in which few selfrespecting hens would stoop to lay an egg-barracks set up on piers (handy for mopping the floors; just drill a hole in the floor and let the water run out), doll-sized houses with rooms not big enough to swing a bob-tailed cat in, and shell houses (we sell you the shell; you finish it up yourself in the evenings after work or whenever you get the money). That's the kind of stuff that's all too often filed for approval.

Usually, it is proposed by some promoter who sees a quick buck or two and doesn't give a hoot about what happens after the deal is closed. They're in the game for what they can get out of it and they seem to be doing well with the suckers, when they can get hold on one outside of the law. These suckers, more to be pitied than censured, must be protected from these sharpies and from themselves. Yet, they are often the ones that yell the loudest to the top brass that the building code and the building department are preventing them

from having this nice little vinecovered cottage of their own—and all for \$10,000. Of course, such deeply moving human interest stories are just like cream for the cats on the tabloids and they furnish some delectable morsels for the mongrel hounds from over Joe's way.

But, I'll stand on the record! When the building official insists on people complying with the law in building a good prefab or conventional house as against these Johnny-come-lately answers to the maiden's prayer, he's not only protecting them in a manner in which they seem to be abysmally ignorant; he's also protecting everyone else in the community who receive regular communications from the county treasurer in the form of tax bills. So, the next time you come across anyone striking medals to pass around to deserving souls, get him to strike off one for that nasty old building inspector. He's really not such a bad guy after all! Outside of the sharpies, the only people that have any real cause of complaint against him are the aspirin tablet people, for he's saving some poor souls from a whale of a lot of headaches in the years to come.

Norton Construction Co. Commercial — Industrial NEW AND ALTERATIONS 1150 East 26th St. Cleveland TO. 1-7133

WE REPAIR ANY MAKE TRANSIT OR LEVEL Prompt reliable service Surveying Instrument Co., Inc. 118 St. Clair Ave., N. E. MA 1692 TAPE REPAIRING



### Cathedral Square (Continued from page 10)

The keynote in the planning and design of all the buildings comprising Cathedral Square was utility. This however, had to be coupled with harmony of design and a minimum of maintenance. Also necessary was character of design which had to be dignified and in keeping with the traditions of the Catholic Church since the buildings represent the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.

Choices of materials were made with a careful consideration not only to their utility but also with a view toward their future appearance after several decades in the industrial smoke of a large manufacturing city. For this reason, Crab Orchard Stone was selected for the exterior of all buildings. This served to tie the structures into an integral whole. Further, since tests indicated the material to be self-washing and practically non-absorbent, a low maintenance was assured.

Decoration and furnishings, are a departure from the stereotyped conventional solutions to these problems and illustrate the modern trend in church appointments.



DISTRIBUTORS ALSO OF SMITHWAY DOMESTIC WATER HEATERS AND HOUSE HEATING BOILERS DESIGNED FOR RADIANT HEATING

### ADAPTATION OF ARMCO BUILDING WINS NATIONAL HONOR

The adaptation of a standard "Steelox" metal garage building made by the Armco Steel Corporation of Middletown, Ohio, for use as a drive-in restaurant was awarded Honorable Mention in a national contest sponsored by "Institutions Magazine" and announced at the annual convention of the National Restaurant Association at Atlantic City, May 24th.



Located at 3250 Central Parkway, Cincinnati, the building is owned and operated by Mr. David Frisch under the name "Frisch's Big Boy Restaurant." Only twenty feet square, the portable unit was chosen because of a short term lease, and was designed for equally efficient use during the rush summer season or during the cold winter months. Architect for the project was John W. Hargrave.

### CLEVELAND CHAPTER NEWS

The Annual Picnic of the Cleveland Chapter will again be held at the country home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Draz on Falls River Road, Chagrin Falls, Ohio June 25, 1949. This is a real testimony to the genuine hospitality displayed by Mr. and Mrs. Draz who have been hosts for the picnics for the past few years.

Bob Little is chairman of the program committee and is ably assisted by Lottie Helwick, Herman Field, Doug Mayer, Wilbur Riddle and Dick Vrooman. Al Harris will take over the preparing and serving of shrimp as only he can do.

A baseball game between the old timers and architectural students will be featured.

Last but not least, there will be an election of officers which will be held in the old barn. Of course, the ladies are invited and any out of town architect who may be in the near vicinity. A good time is guaranteed to all who attend.

### A.S.O. Convention—Cleveland, October 13 and 14

A cowboy boarded our liner at Santa Fe, N. Mex., on a day when gusty mountain winds made flying pretty rough. In spite of the hostess's numerous requests, he refused to fasten his seat belt.

"Young lady," he snorted, "for 10 years I've rode everything I ever mounted, and I ain't about to be saddle tied now. Let'er buck! I'll ride 'er."





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MILLER & VOINOVICH Architects Cleveland, Ohio



### THE SECRETARY'S COLUMN

Officers of the Architects Society of Ohio met in Columbus on May 25 prior to the second hearing in the Ohio Senate on revisions to the Architect's Registration Act. At the Board meeting the Education Committee reported the winners of the first A.S.O. Awards, one from each of the four approved architectural schools in Ohio. The Public Relations and Publicity Committee reported on its activities, and cited fine benefits which several advertisers had obtained by making their products known to Buckeye architects thru this magazine. Entering the second year of publication under its pre-

sent contract, the maga-

zine has increased in size,

has been mailed on time

each month, and has used

every bit of news and il-

lustrations of Ohio archi-

tecture which has been

sent to it. Architects, self-

styled bashful fellows, have

been slow about sending in

their contributions with-

out direct solicitation. The

editors of the magazine

would like to publish at least one illustration of

Ohio architecture from

each of the six A.I.A.



John W. Hargrave

SANDSTONE

Fresh, Firm and Beautiful as the

BEREA

chapter areas each month. So why make their volunteer work so hard?

In recent weeks several communications have come from disgruntled clients complaining about their relationships with architects. Some have requested information as to the methods of lodging formal complaints. The answer is simple-complaints about breach of law are referred either to a Court of Common Pleas or to the State Board of Examiners of Architects; complaints about ethical conduct are referred to the A.I.A. chapter if the alleged offender is a member of the Institute. The implication is plain, however: As financial times become more restrictive, clients will consider all their relations in a construction project with suspicion. Therefore, it becomes imperative that every architect record his agreements in writing, either by formally signed contract, or at the very least, by a letter confirming any verbal agreement and mailed to the client immediately after conclusion of the transaction. Let's avoid vague generalities, in order that we may prevent embarrassment, resentment, and ugly accusations caused by misunderstanding.

The largest class of graduates ever to leave our campuses and student drafting rooms has started in search of its ideals and a means of livelihood. The A. S. O. Awards have singled out four men for their fine work as students, and for their awareness of the architect's obligations beyond mere technical proficiency. The selections were made by the college faculties. Several professors indicated that the selections had to be considered very carefully between several outstanding candidates. These men and women-many of them matured veterans-have set new scholastic standards, have prepared themselves for a place in the profession. Some of them may have inflated ideas of their ability and worth to the office of an architect, but most of them ask only a chance for a fair test. Are we Ohio architects going to make a place for them, or will they be forced into industry where they will be heartily welcomed?

(Continued on page 19)



Here, Berea Sandstone, smooth and split face, adds its warmth of color to the attractive, architectural conception. After fifteen years, Berea Sandstone is still attractive and

giving lasting satisfaction. Quarried in Ohio, this superior building stone can be quickly made available for your projects. Write us!



### ELECTRIC DEHUMIDIFIER

Excess moisture can be a costly intruder in a home or business! Every year, many thousands of dollars worth of damage to household goods, machinery and stocks of merchandise is caused by rust, corrosion, damp-rot, mold and mildew - to say nothing of the annoyance of dripping pipes and sweating surfaces, inconveniences



brought on by common dampness. The new Frigidaire Dehumidifier removes moisture from the air efficiently and automatically by means of electrical refrigeration. Humidity in confined areas is reduced to a constant, safe level . . . and at a low operating cost.

Plugs in any convenient electrical outlet. The new Frigidaire Dehumidifier can be installed for service in just a few minutes, and easily moved at any time to where it is needed most. There are no messy, bulky chemicals which need constant replacement, no heaters or revolving drums to worry about. The compact unit can be installed

either with a permanent drain or, for temporary service, can be used with the handy container supplied.

The Frigidaire Dehumidifier is powered by the same world-famous Meter-Miser used in millions of Frigidaire Refrigerators, and is designed to give many years of effective low-cost protection. For details call Frigidaire Sales Corporation, 1729 E. 22nd St., Cleveland, Ohio.

### SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE APPROVES AMENDMENTS TO ARCHITECT'S LAW

Following its second hearing on Senate Bill No. 241, the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee approved the bill and recommended its passage to the Senate. By the time this magazine is published, it is hoped that the bill will have been passed by the Senate and sent to the House of Representatives for its action. Since the end of the present legislature session will come early in the summer, every effort is being made to place the bill on the calendar for action.

In its form as recommended to the Senate, the authors of S. B. 241 agreed to changes in language which would exempt certain types of structures, such as tunnels and ductwork for telephone cable, farm buildings, or buildings built by owners for their own private use from requiring the services of an architect or professional engineer.

Under the revisions proposed, the public would be protected from the ignorance of persons constructing buildings without knowledge of the laws of structural safety, and the state enforcing agencies would be given the powers they now lack to protect the people from such offenses. It is not uncommon for new buildings in Ohio to be condemned immediately upon completion because of the hazards found by inspectors from the State Fire Marshall's office. The state building codes, long considered inadequate, do not cover formulae for the calculation of structural safety of roof trusses or floor construction, although the code does state what floor loads must be figured. It is interesting to note that every approval of plans for public buildings which is given by the Office of the Department of Factory and Building Inspection in Ohio carries this note:

"Please be advised that the construction elements of these drawings have not been checked, and therefore such elements are not included in nor covered by this approval. The sufficiency of these elements to meet all code requirements is the responsibility of the author of the drawings. See letter accompanying this approval."

When Senate Bill No. 241 becomes law, the architects of Ohio will face an even greater responsibility to the Commonwealth, and the Architects Society of Ohio challenges the profession to measure up to its obligations.



### Secretary's Column (Continued from page 17)

Plans for the annual A. S. O. Convention are almost completed. Conflict with another Cleveland World Series seems remote at the moment, but there will be other activities of interest in Cleveland, Herb Starrick of the Dayton Chapter points out that the National Planning Conference will be held in Cleveland on October 10, 11, and 12, followed by the A. S. O. convention on October 13 and 14. Herb suggests a "double header" trip; it sounds like a fine idea.

Don't forget to mention Senate Bill No. 241 to your State Senator or Representative, asking for his personal support of the measure. This is not a "gravy" bill, but one which fills a public need; for seventeen years archi-tects have passed rigid registration examinations, and they have proved their ability to safeguard public safety in buildings. Now the state can entrust to them the responsibility for such safety, and S.B. No. 241 does just this. If you'd like to know your Representative's name, you'll find it on another page of this magazine.

John W. Hargrave, Secretary

A.S.O. Convention-Cleveland, October 13 and 14

### LOCAL FIRM APPOINTED ACOUSTICAL CONTRACTOR

Appointment of The Mid-West Acoustical & Supply Co., Cleveland, as exclusive acoustical contractor for Simpson Acoustical Products in the state of Ohio is announced by Simpson Logging Company, Seattle,

Mid-West maintains branch offices and warehouses in

Akron, Columbus, Dayton, Springfield and Toledo, and are the largest acoustical contracting organization in the

Principal product in the line is Simpson Acoustical Tile, a perforated fiber acoustical material manufactured from Douglas fir fibers at Shelton, Washington.

One of the oldest and largest lumber products concerns in the Pacific Northwest, the Simpson Logging

Company developed and perfected in their research laboratories a perforated fiber acoustical material having several outstanding improvements. Tests accepted by the Acoustical Materials Association show that Simpson Acoustical Tile has the highest noise reduction coefficients of all drilled fiber acoustical materials in most widely used thicknesses and types of mountings.

The one-half Simpson Acoustical Tile mounted on a solid backing gives an average sound absorption of .60 (.65 on furring strips). These high sound absorption values often permit use of one-half inch material to

meet the minimum needs for quieting the average room at less cost than the thicker materials formerly necessary.

Another noteworthy improvement is the perfection by the Simpson laboratories of an outstanding new "Hollokore" drilling process which results in round, clean perforations. Because of the clean perforations there are no loose fibers to encourage unsightly paint bridging when refinishing. The Hollokore drilling process is used exclusively on Simpson Acoustical Tile.

A more recent development is the perfection by Simpson of a washable standard finish. Claimed to be one of the most important improvements in perforated fiber acoustical material, the secret finish has caused a sensation in the trade. The acoustical tile may be washed with ordinary soap and water, to restore the sparkling new appearance. (Continued on page 24)





### Your Client will be interested in PREFERRED UTILITIES Guaranteed Heating Equipment



### Color and the Architect (Continued from page 7)

lead to disinterests, have to a large extent become known through psychological inquiry.

For example, definite visual relationships exist between color and form. Hues of short wave length (greens, blues, violets) are not easy for the eye to focus sharply. They appear blurred at a distance and hence fail to lend themselves to detail or angularity. Colors of long wave length, on the other hand (reds, oranges, yellows), are sharply focused on the retina of the eye and for this reason can be given more pattern, sharpness, intricacy.

Pale colors (yellow, ivory) appear lighter in "weight" than dark colors (maroon, black). Ornament, texture suggest nearness; plainness and "filminess" of color suggest distance. These observations have been set forth by researchers in the psychological aspects of seeing. They well supplement good taste and are handy equipment to support the less palpable urges of the spirit.

#### PUBLIC TASTE

It is a mistaken notion among many artists and architects that simple colors are vulgar colors. People at large are said to have primitive and therefore rather boorish taste. Yet history will show that pretension, not humbleness, is likely to be more ephemeral. Much of Colonial art and architecture was once looked upon with disdain by sophisticated English Tories. In home decoration, textiles, ceramics the forms of beauty that tend to be revived generation after generation and to be ever exciting and stirring to the public are those based on folk art and peasant art. And even the best of many "fussy" styles of interior decoration (French Empire, Georgian) trace back to the elemental hues of classical times when colors were frank and unassuming.

If the architecture of public buildings, hotels, theatres, housing developments, stores, is to be compelling in color treatment, then obviously the universal qualities of human taste should be respected. To most persons the preferred hues of the spectrum are blue, red, green, in this order. Where light colors and dark colors are judged, the former will be liked best. Pure colors will win out over grayish ones.

These facts are as practical as they are important to success in the use of color under many circumstances. A sophisticated artist might conceivably decorate a sophisticated shop in subtle tones of chartreuse, beige, puce and such—and find the venture a success. He would probably not know, however, that the same hues in a mass-market or so-called syndicate store would drive average customers away. Indeed the mass-market buyer would dislike the store every bit as much as she would dislike merchandise in similar hues. The sophistication of the store would run contrary to her own emotional



predilections and she would feel uncomfortable in its environment.

#### BRIGHTNESS ENGINEERING

Functional color in the realm of the esthetic relies chiefly upon a clear knowledge of public prejudices and preferences. It brings into architecture the same research methods used by manufacturers of consumer goods in the styling of their products. The desires of the public are carefully studied, and the findings are applied to bring most satisfaction to most people.

Where the functional method is applied to more utilitarian spaces—offices, factories, schools — the road is straighter and more direct. The factors that constitute a good seeing condition are readily measured. It is known, for example, that abuse of the human eye leads to severe dilation of the pupil, rapid blinking of the lids, reduces sensitivity for the nerves on the retina, reduced power of accommodation and convergence, muscular tension, fatigue and nervousness. The medical profession has set up instruments to record all this.

Functionally, if light and color may be "engineered" to minimize the above reactions, then personal opinions about color are more or less irrelevant. Where human efficiency and welfare are concerned, the architectural color coordinator has at his command a whole series of tried principles and practices. He can avoid the inconsistencies of taste for a meaningful and scientific procedure. He can tell whether or not his results are a success by presenting technical proof. He does not have to be at the mercy of anything vague or abstruse. After many years of experimental trial and error, of

After many years of experimental trial and error, of scientific study, it is today known that an adverse seeing condition exists where there is too little light, too much light, offensive glare, distractions caused by excessive brightness on the outer boundaries of vision, extreme differences in color value which demand constant changes in the opening of the pupil of the eye, prolonged concentration on near objects or fine details, lack of convenient and pleasing color areas for visual relaxation.

The above causes of eyestrain and fatigue (and of lowered human efficiency) become a check list to guide the specification of color in interior architecture. If an architect is to serve the best interests of his client and of the people who will occupy an edifice, then he must become versed in functional color and brightness engineering or find someone to act for him. It will no longer suffice to let feeling prevail in lieu of facts.

#### COLOR AND ILLUMINATION

From the promotional efforts of the lighting industry, many architects are of the belief that good and efficient seeing are directly related to degree of light intensity. This unfortunately is not true. It is academic to say that illumination is meaningless except in terms of the areas, surfaces and objects it reveals to the eye. The eminent lighting authority, M. Luckiesh, has written: "A visual task is inseparable from its environment . . . High visibility, ease of seeing, and good seeing conditions are overwhelmingly the result of good brightness engineering."

What may be new to the architect is recognition of the fact that brightness and color dominate human vision; control of them is very often more significant than light level itself and more difficult to engineer. Indeed many color problems begin where the illumination problem ends.

A few years ago seeing prescriptions were approached almost wholly in terms of light intensity, the factor of color being considered secondary. As greater lighting efficiency was achieved through technical advancement, good illumination of adequate intensity became economical and practical. Almost at once it became obvious that more light too frequently caused trouble. It often aggravated rather than relieved eyestrain. In some instances human efficiency was seriously impaired. The most common error has been to use too much whiteness or brightness for the sake of high foot-candle readings.

ings. Where, for example, an equal volume of light (footcandles) may be delivered upon working surfaces, one having a white surrounding and one a softer background tone, human eyes may reach two different adjustments. Although the illumination level on the two tasks may be the same, the white surrounding will constrict the pupil opening of the eye and fog vision. The softer surrounding will more than likely cause no such interference, and the occupants of a room will be able to see more clearly and with less strain.

What should be understood these days in the consideration of illumination and color is that if extreme contrasts exist in the same field of view, the general





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### Color and the Architect

light level of an interior must be kept down. High general light levels become tolerable and effective only where the colors of walls, floors, machinery, and equipment can be held relatively light in tone and kept as uniform in brightness as possible. Where the latter condition is attained, light levels approaching full daylight may be permitted. Without the proper control of color and brightness, the factor of light alone will not meet visual requirements. Again, the importance of color and of the functional color coordinator—is emphasized.

#### THE PSYCHOLOGY OF COLOR

Where the application of color is related to the optics and to the physiology of seeing, there isn't much room for argument, because the difference between good and bad or right and wrong is a matter of adhering to proper "engineering" and well established scientific practice.

Yet even in the realm of the emotional, a number of important facts have been learned in recent years. The psychic qualities of beauty may be less dependent on human "soul" or "spirit" than upon matter-of-fact responses of the human organism.

D. B. Harmon, for example, has observed that the human organism tends to orient itself to the brightest area in its environment. High brightness may condition the body for muscular activity and make intellectual activity difficult. Physical tasks may well be performed in a brilliant environment, but tasks requiring severe mental and visual concentration are best performed against softer and less aggressive backgrounds.

Where an interior may be generously lighted and where walls and furnishings may all be on the brilliant side, the psychologic make-up of an individual may unconsciously rebel at confining and sedentary tasks. In the emotional sense, extreme room brightness tends to draw attention to the room at large, to invite a wandering interest. More suppressed colors draw attention to details within the room and set up effective aids to concentration on them.

There are a number of other psychologic manifestations regarding brightness and color. Kurt Goldstein writes: "As a matter of fact, the whole organism . . . through different colors (and brightness) is swung toward the outerworld or withdrawn from it and concentrated toward the center of the organism." He refers to disturbed equilibrium, different estimations of time, weights, lengths, under different colors—complex phenomena which may one day have much influence upon man's application of light and color. Brightness may be associated with "emotionally determined actions." A deeper environment may create "the condition of meditation and exact fulfillment of the task."

From the functional standpoint these conclusions would mean that elementary school rooms, hospital rooms given over to convalescents, interiors devoted to recreational purposes, environments in which the good and vigorous life is to be stimulated should be treated with warm hues. On the contrary, intellectual activities, secondary school rooms, spaces devoted to chronic hospital patients, environments in which thoughtful processes are to be inspired should be treated with cool hues.

#### TOMORROW'S ARCHITECTURE

Although color is frequently no more than a coat of paint five-thousandths of an inch thick, it may have vital relation to human comfort and welfare, and it may attract more notice and attention than form and design. Very often the painstaking time and effort devoted to architectural planning and engineering may be overshadowed by the contents of a mere bucket of pigment ground in linseed oil.

22 [June, 1949]

The thing that often seems most important to the public is that which greets the eye-color. It is human to look upon design and form with a sort of intellectual reserve, liking or disliking the shape of things as the mind directs. But where color is the object of interest, more profound reactions stir within the human breast. For color is something deep and compelling.

Surely it may be said that good architectural design can be ruined by a poor color treatment. Yet where the color effect may be bad, no amount of good design will save it.

There perhaps is no longer any question about the value of color and the desirability of applying it wisely to achieve practical and profitable results. The need of the moment-if one exists-is to state the advantages of color in more certain and factual terms and to undertake a training program so that the best of scientific practice will be more widely understood. For color as a science and not alone as art can accomplish many wonders to improve American architecture and to add to the prestige of the American architect.

#### THE CASH VALUES OF COLOR

Item 1. The economic values of color have been the subject of extensive study in recent years.

According to a survey made by the National Industrial Conference Board in 1947 among some 350 industries,

64.7 per cent of the companies stated that color had improved lighting.

27.9 per cent reported production increases. 30.9 per cent noted an improvement in the quality of work performed.

19.1 per cent commented favorably on reduced eyestrain and fatigue.

14.7 per cent credited color for reduced absenteeism.

In general, 75 per cent of the companies were entirely or well satisfied with their color programs; 5.9 per cent were not satisfied; 19.1 per cent had no opinion one way or the other.

Item 2. A two-year study made in Washington, D. C. by the Public Buildings Administration and the U.S. Public Health Service showed a 5.5 per cent increase for work efficiency in a large office. In cash value, this 5.5 per cent production improvement was equivalent to a saving on gross payroll of \$13,229.00 among some 95 government employees.

This would mean that good seeing conditions (as against the neglected facilities often found in the business world) are worth about \$139.25 annually per average employee.

Item 3. A safety color code devised by Faber Birren and adopted in substantial part as a national standard by the American Standards Association has had a significant record. The United States Army Service Forces has reported a reduction in accident frequencies in some government plants from a rate of 46.14 to 5.58. In one Quartermaster depot, disabling injuries were cut from 13.25 to 6.99. The same code, carefully supervised, has reduced accident frequencies 42.3 per cent over a period of 18 months for the New York City Transit System. The color application was supplemented by a concentrated safety training program and had dramatic results among 38,000 employees.

A.S.O. Convention-Cleveland, October 13 and 14

Barfly to neighbor at bar: "My wife is the most wonderful woman in the world, and that's not just my opinion -it's hers."





### Acoustical Contractor (Continued from page 19)

Other noteworthy features of Simpson Acoustical Tile include: finished bevels; high light reflection without glare; pentachlorophenal treatment as protection against decay, termites, mold and mildew.

"We feel extremely fortunate in securing the exclusive distribution of Simpson Acoustical Products for the state of Ohio," states Howard G. Wiley, president, The Mid-West Acoustical & Supply Co.

"Simpson Acoustical Tile with its many improved features is the finest perforated fiber acoustical material on the market," he added.

In addition to its acoustical and insulating board products plant, Simpson Logging Company is one of the Pacific Northwest's oldest producers of Douglas Fir plywood, doors and lumber.



### Architectural Education (Continued from page 8)

zation of these elements so that their demands can be rationally and consistently satisfied, finally the presentation of the result as a solution at once convincing and agreeable. One who has acquired skill in speculative reasoning of this sort about varied, and preferably, often quite impracticable arcitectural problems, avoiding the lures of fashion and fantasy, and the straight-jacket of prejudice, has gained a skill which may be applied to any problems, real or imaginary, which he may meet in life. For he has developed in himself-perhaps quite unconsciously a basic philosophic method. And this, coupled with a knowledge that the world is very wide, and by no means young, that men are very varied, and very unoriginal and very closely related to ourselves, is all that could be hoped of any education, however wide, however deep.

If you ask professional educators of today how one may best develop the logical faculties of the young, the answer comes frequently, and promptly, by the study of mathematics. That is by mathematics not too much given to routine and memorized formulae. In the middle-ages it was the practice of well regulated dialectics by which the schoolman sought to develop an incontrovertable routine of reason. Doubtless logical powers were thus developed to some degree, though rather at the sacrifice of imagination. Today our modern scientific thinking is not the practice of pure logic, but rather a sort of controled reasoning. It depends on a technique of hypothesis and experiment, of theory and practice in combination, imagination teaming up with material application. And that is exactly the basis of architectural design. It is a technique that becomes familiar only through much exercise under criticism, as with the logic of geometry or scholastic sylogisms. It involves the teaching of theory based on observation, rather than the recitation of useful facts, and as with modern science, it entails a respect for theory, coupled with a willingness to abandon readily, but not impetuously, any theory disproved by practical application. In other words it entails the proving of all things, and the holding fast that which is good.

Is this just a preparation for the practice of architecture, or is it an ideal preparation for the practice of life?

But hindsight is commoner than foresight, and appreciation of the architect's training just as training in the abstract, can hardly be expected before the course is done. The students of my day, like those, I fancy, of the present, had for the most part, little time for theory or philosophy, but with hungry eyes set on a definite career, sought primarily to accumulate a store of work-a-day facts and styles and skills. It is easy for the ideal of the



trade to supplant that of the profession. I can imagine that to some the practical routine of the optometrist, more quickly acquired than the rounded knowledge of the physician, may seem all that an eye doctor would need, and there are those who seek and suffer an architectural course only for the sake of the coveted degree and the chance to pass the state board examination for registration. It is not education that they seek, and what they get unwittingly is simply bonus. They have enrolled for the long five year course simply in the hope of becoming architects.

But why, in Heaven's name, should one want to become an architect?

Is it a call one has, as some have a call to enter the ministry or to become doctors or teachers? I doubt it. For while all architects claim that architecture is a public service, that without them no proper community could exist, this attitude is shared to some degree, with justice, by the butcher, the baker, the candle-stick maker and the mortician. It is not pre-collegiate attitude, but one that grows with communal responsibility. The young architect rarely considers himself indispensable. Those who, as entering freshmen, take vows of architecture in order to dedicate themselves to the service of mankind, can only be those who in high school have read Isben's Master Builder, and I think their number must be very few.

Is it the desire for public place and power that sparks the incipient architect, as some take to the law with thoughts of legislative authority? No, my own observation would mark the architect as among the most retiring of men. Since Thomas Jefferson, there have been to my knowledge but two to sit in Congress and to both the idea of public office came by chance and fairly late in life. I doubt if state or local politics have lured many more.

Inertia could rarely lead one to the architectural school; few skid into architecture by accident.

There is the will-o-the-wisp of wealth. Can one seriously expect to get rich at architecture? A few have done so, but sometimes only at the price of marrying a wealthy client. In general the living which the profession gives is none too rich, and in depression days it may be very poor indeed. In fact a recent contributor to the Journal of the A.I.A. maintains that architecture should be a hobby, only practiced for amusement while a man supports his family by other means, or in declining years when one has retired from gainful activity. And indeed, if one feels that he must "make money" beyond the \$8000 a year net, which our colleague sets down as mere living expenses—home overhead and incidentals, he is probably right. A reasonably comfortable living is not what the world calls wealth.

But surely one does not spend five years of one's youth to learn a hobby unless the hobby be a heroic one, a challenge, a dare, like mountain climbing, which men attempt at risk of life and much expense and hardship, for no reward except the glory of saying, "I have done more, or at least as much as my fellows who have tried; I am proud of myself?"

I think that something of this sort, call it pride, the desire to express oneself, the urge of emulation, is perhaps the greatest compulsion toward architecture. We have always been surrounded by buildings, and if we have eyes to see—as the born architect must have—we like some, we dislike others. And to ourselves we say of the poor ones, in callow ignorance, "I could build a better house than that," and of the good ones, "what fun to have built it." The urge to try starts very young; time sometimes shows us we are not the masters that we fancied we might be, and all sense of competition may happily be shed, but the dream of what one would like



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### **Architectural Education**

to do, the sense of creation in seeing one's plans take bodily shape continues. If it is a hobby, architecture is the hobby of the Gods, composed of dreams as well as of achievement. An expensive hobby? Perhaps, but it costs to be a God, and being one may free from many mundane needs.

I know very well what started me on the road to architecture. It was the house of Mrs. Sineckson, a fine four-story brick dwelling built directly across the rather narrow city street from the house in which I lived. I must have been near seven at the time. I had not seriously started going to school. The scaffolding rose as the building rose, every so often a narrow line of boards on which the brick-layers stood, men with whiskers and plaster speckled derbys who buttered the bricks and laid them close with great dexterity. I can still hear the click of the trowels as the bricks were snipped or tapped in place. From teir to teir there were steep ladders up which the hod-carriers—yes, hod-carriers, mostly Irish, for this was very long ago—with loads of a dozen bricks or a schloop of mortar on their shoulders, climbed endlessly to keep the brick-layers supplied. Day after day my little nose was glued to the window pane in watching them. And sometimes a man would come, whose derby hat was undented and whose coat was free from mortar, and he would climb the scaffolding and walk upon the uncovered joists and with large plans would give directions to the workmen. The brick-layers and the carpenters enchanted me, but he was above them all. How I envied him, how I wanted, like him, to climb sheer ladders and walk in perilous places. My grandmother told me he was the architect, and at an age when most boys dream of being locomotive engineers, the architect became to me the ideal man.

As years went by my plans seemed wholly changed. One does not usually become a locomotive engineer, but somehow my boyish dream materialized, and though I have followed various paths since architectural school days, I must confess I still look upon the architect as the ideal man, with feet in the foundation trenches, well below the frost line, and sky-hooks in his hair.

And architecture, I would say, is a conviction, not a hobby. It is sometimes a work-a-day faith, sometimes an obsession, never an amusement for idle hours, or a pastime for inactive age. It is a craft that calls one young, and those who have once followed it are architects at heart for all their lives, no matter where their fates may lie. And the rewards it offers, in all ways great, are the toils and trials and satisfactions of the task itself. For, as the fable says,

"There is work that is work, and there's play that is play; and there is play that is work, and there is work that is play, and in only one of these is happiness."

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A British delegate to the U.N. went to a baseball game one afternoon. In the first inning each team scored a run, and two "1's" were posted on the scoreboard. From then on it was a tight game, and two long strings of zeros went on the board. Along about the tenth inning, the Englishman had to leave for a committee meeting. On his way out, a small boy shouted, "Hey, mister, what's the score now?"

"Bless me," was the answer, "I lost all track-it's way up in the millions!"

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