

AMERICAN INSTITUTE
OF
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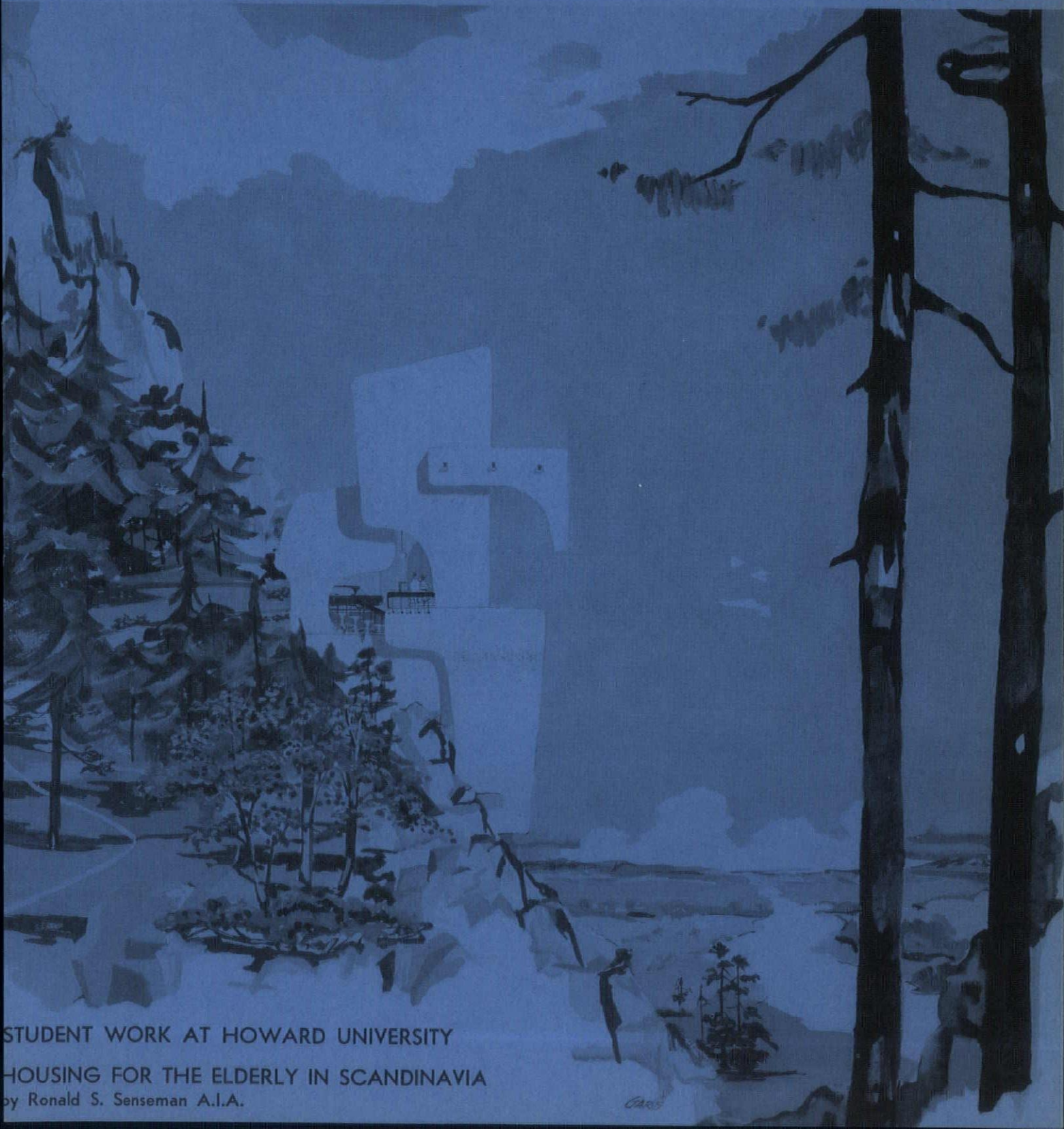
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of Maryland

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MARCH 1962

POTOMAC VALLEY ARCHITECT



STUDENT WORK AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY
HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY IN SCANDINAVIA
by Ronald S. Senseman A.I.A.

Caro

POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER OF MARYLAND

American Institute of Architects

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Changes in advertising copy should be directed to: Mr. Joseph Dennison, 7705 Georgia Avenue, Washington 12, D. C.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

12 Noon, April 4

Brook Farm Restaurant

7101 Brookeville Rd., Chevy Chase, Md.

MAY MEETING

May 2, 1962

New Corporate Member

The Potomac Valley Chapter welcomes its new Corporate Member, Robert Gustave Melby, Sr., A.I.A. Mr. Melby attended Washington and Lee High School and Columbia Technical Institute, and is a native of Arlington. During World War II he served in the South Pacific with the U.S. Navy. Returning home after the war, Mr. Melby went to work in the office of Lester V. Johnson, under the G.I. Bill, where he trained as an architect. He has also worked for Allen J. Dickey, A.I.A., and Stanley A. Arthur, A.I.A. In November, 1962, he established an office at 1250 E. Montgomery Avenue, Rockville, and in January, 1962, an additional office at 320 S. Sixth Street, Arlington. Mr. Melby is a resident of Potomac, Md.

A.I.A. AWARDS

The American Institute of Architects has awarded Gold Medals to painter Stuart Davis, industrial designers Sundberg-Ferar, Inc., photographer Ernst Haas, and consulting engineers Amman and Whitney, and a Citation of Honor to author-critic Lewis Mumford.

The medals were voted by the A.I.A. Board of Directors on nominations of the Committee on Fine Arts Awards, whose members are L. Bancel LeFarge, F.A.I.A., chairman, Gordon Bunshaft, F.A.I.A., and G. E. Kidder Smith, F.A.I.A.

Eight buildings are to receive its 1962 Honor Awards, the nation's highest professional recognition for architectural merit.

The lone First Honor Award went to Foothill College in Los Altos, California. Architects were the office of Ernest J. Kump of Palo Alto, in association with Masten & Hurd, San Francisco.

Award of Merit winners were: Housing Group of single family residences by Roger Lee Associates of California; a Residence in Connecticut by Ulrich Franzen of New York; a Development house in La Jolla by architects Killingsworth, Brady, Smith of Long Beach, California; Tennis Pavilion at Princeton University by Ballard, Todd and Snibbe of New York; St. John's Abbey Church in Collegeville, Minnesota, by Marcel Breuer and Associates of New York; Convent of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, Pennsylvania, by Deeter & Ritchey of Pittsburgh; and a High School in Sarasota, Florida, by Paul M. Rudolph of New Haven, Connecticut.

Selections were made by a jury including architects Arthur Gould Odell, Jr., F.A.I.A., Chairman, of Charlotte, North Carolina; Charles R. Colbert, A.I.A., New York; Paul M. Heffernan, A.I.A., Atlanta, Georgia; Karl Kamrath, F.A.I.A., Houston, Texas, and Paul Hayden Kirk, F.A.I.A., of Seattle, Washington.

The Institute has also voted its first Architectural Firm Award to Skidmore, Owings & Merrill of New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Portland, Oregon.

The firm was selected by A.I.A.'s Board of Directors for maintaining a high standard of excellence that has distinguished its architecture over a wide geographical area and in many building types.

Awards will be presented at the Annual A.I.A. Convention May 7-11 in Dallas.

Letters

To the Editor:

Your journal gets better every issue — a fine job of architectural reporting and feature articles. (I once edited the modest Washington - Metropolitan Chapter Bulletin.)

J. Rowland Snyder, A.I.A.

To the Editor:

I have been reading the Potomac Valley Architect with interest, but would like to comment on the fact that you do not mention the names of the Engineers, Structural and Mechanical, who contributed their part to the design of the projects you mention. In your last issue (Jan. '62) Ayrlawn Elementary School was pictured. The Structural Engineer is Carl C. Hansen and the Mechanical Engineers are Kluckhuhn and McDavid on that project. I would be pleased to see the mention of the Engineers in the coming issues.

Sincerely,
Zivan Cohen

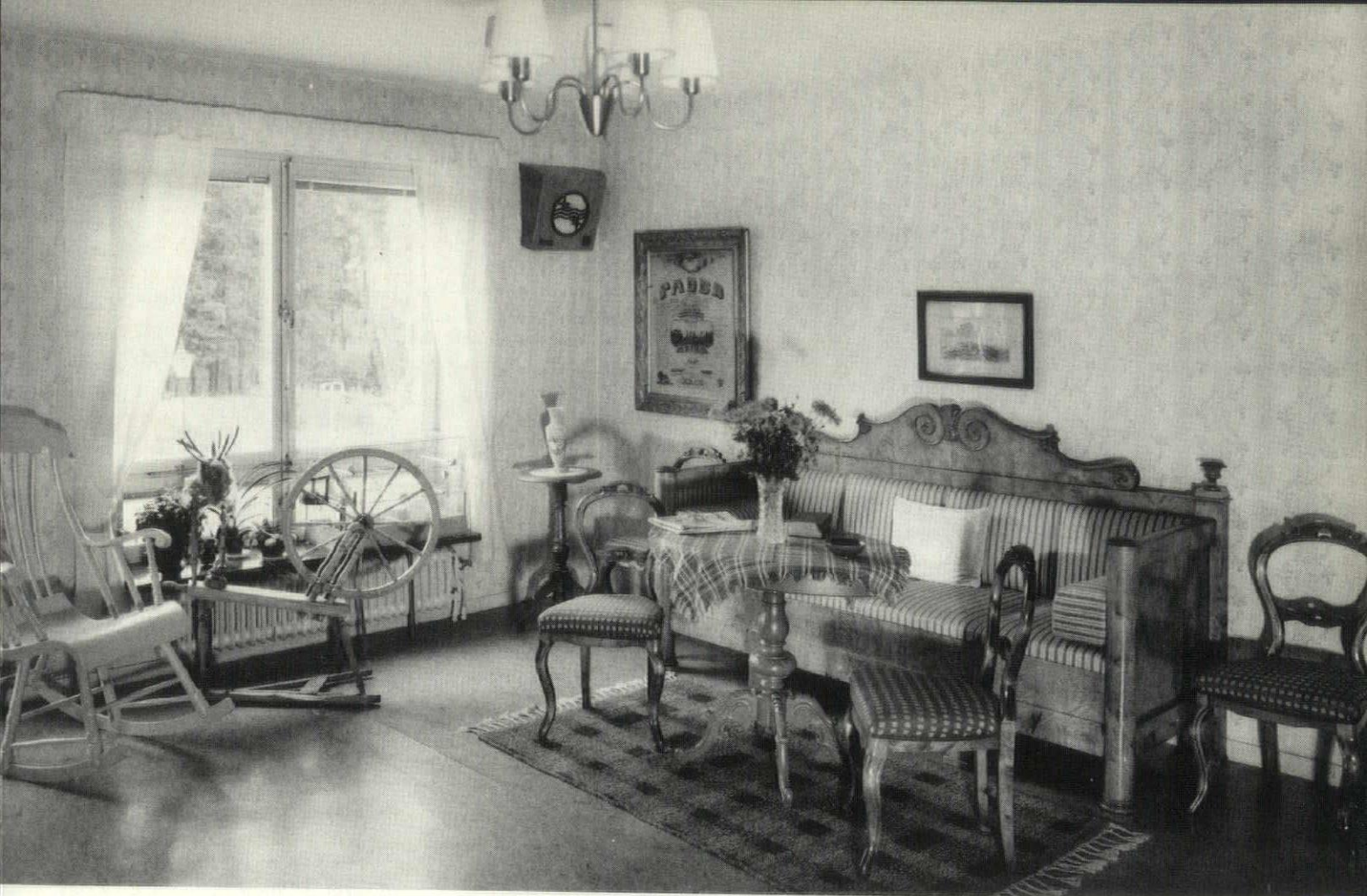
Fee Schedules Available

The Office Practice Committee announces that the official "Recommended Schedule of Minimum Charges" has been published and is now available to the members of the Chapter.

Two copies have been mailed to all members free of charge, and additional copies may be obtained at 10 cents per copy, through the Executive Office — JUniper 8-1125.

Potomac Valley Chapter Biennial Competition

The Biennial Competition for Awards in Architecture held by the Potomac Valley Chapter of Maryland is scheduled for this spring. The program for the competition is included in this issue. All architects registered in Maryland are eligible to submit entries. There is no restriction on the location of the work. All entries must be submitted before 5:00 P.M. Friday, June 1, 1962.



HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY IN SCANDINAVIA

by Ronald S. Senseman, A.I.A.

I have recently returned from a ten-day tour of nursing homes in Denmark and Sweden, on which I was accompanied by the administrator of the Wheaton Nursing Home, Robert Bainum. The purpose of our trip was to make a study of domiciles for the elderly in every type of home, old and new, large and small, in these countries. Altogether, we visited twenty homes, all under the national and local social program, except two which were privately owned. Five of the homes we visited were in the Copenhagen area, five in the Malmo area in southern Sweden, four in the Goteborg area in western Sweden and six within the area of Stockholm.

I shall not attempt here to cover the subject of the social program in these countries, except to say that all patients sixty-seven years old or over are entitled to certain funds from the country to pay for their care. Those patients who have excess moneys in the bank do pay something in addition to the regular charge. Some of these homes and their facilities date back one hundred years or more. It was, therefore, interesting to see a

cross section of their development from a hundred years ago to the present day, from a very old building to one that had just been completed but not yet occupied.

The outstanding factor in these homes is the attempt on the part of the directors to make them as much like a real home as possible. This is accomplished by the use of the resident's furniture as much as possible, and his personal effects, such as pictures, clocks, and bricabrac. The one exception to this is the beds which are furnished by the home. Incidentally, all personal furniture must be approved by a committee before it is brought into the home. The resident's valuables are not permitted in the room, however. And, because the old folks can use their own furniture, those physically able do their own dusting. The more difficult cleaning, such as scrubbing, is done by the help. Indeed, every room we entered was an insight into the personality of the occupant; and except for the language barrier and the time element, we could have spent days talking to those fine old people.

The interior decor in these homes also contributes to the general atmosphere of culture and comfort. Excellent use of color is made. Many of the buildings have their walls generously covered with fine paintings, sculpture and murals which are donated by the communities or bought through the Flower Fund which is sustained by donations in memory of a lost one. These donations of funds to the homes are common practice, and only the florist suffers.

To carry further into the entire building a sense of homelike atmosphere many of the exteriors are done in residential scale and character - landscaping with patio, terraces and garden walks with sculptured fountains. Some of the larger and newer homes, however, are a high-rise type; but being located with other high-rise apartment buildings they are in keeping with the area. And, as in most of the architecture in the Scandinavian countries, there is always a pleasing relation of window areas to walls, both vertically and horizontally.

Again, in the interior of these homes we saw many different approaches to the

dining problem. Some homes provide central dining; other homes divide the dining area into small groups, a system which seems to be preferred. These dining groups number approximately sixteen to twenty persons. There is also provided a small coffee room where patients have a small locker space and a space provided in a standard refrigerator. The hot plate is linked to a light in the corridor so that the nurse can tell when the plate is in use. These areas seem to be well used and serve a real purpose.

There is also a nicely furnished day room for each small group of rooms, which is used sometimes for dinner parties or special events. Most homes have small chapels and prayer rooms used for assembly and prayer services. It appeared that all these areas fulfill an important part of the everyday life.

In view of the fact that the residents do not like to sit or congregate in large rooms, every effort is made to provide small areas for conversation or reading. In some cases an offset in a hallway is used (which incidentally reduces visually the apparent length of the corridor) where two or three chairs and a lounge and table are provided. These areas are furnished in a very homelike manner that invites the resident to sit down. Some homes have single loaded corridors with bay windows in front of each pair of doors. This is to encourage the patients to get out of their beds and into these sitting areas at least once a day.

We noticed the absence of wheel chairs in the homes. Of course, they do try to keep only ambulatory patients in their homes; but these people do get older and sick. Thus, they have the two types of service in most homes. In the larger homes there are three types of services. There, also, they send the very sick and incontinent patients to hospitals, so these homes offer ready and truly limited care facilities.

I would say that an air of contentment prevails in all the homes, which fact is borne out by the waiting lists to get into every home. Also, the cooperation of the patients is assured because if the patients are ejected from a home for any reason, it would be difficult to get into one again; all of which creates quite a different atmosphere from that which prevails in the nursing homes in this country where patients pay their own way. Many times the patients are less cooperative and more demanding of the



Housing for the elderly, Sundbyberg, Sweden. Typical of the residential character of the neighborhood. Interior view on preceding page illustrates the furnishing of a sitting area.

help. I am sure this is not and never would be the case in Sweden.

Most of the rooms in these homes in Scandinavia are private. Some rooms are for couples with a sitting room and a bedroom. Most of the rooms average one hundred to one hundred forty square feet and are provided with a water closet and a lavatory. Baths are central for supervision and control; baths are usually given every two or three weeks.

To make the bathing easier for those who are incapacitated, a collapsible bathtub of plastic is used. We were so impressed with the usefulness of this tub that we had one shipped back here to the Wheaton Nursing Home.

I do not wish to convey the impression that every home we visited in these countries includes all the many things that I have mentioned, but we did find that we picked up ideas from each home, sometimes from the person in charge or from the nurse or the therapist.

The occupational therapy departments, the heart of the homes, vary widely. However, basically, they are all doing a tremendous work in this very important field. Periodic sales of the articles made by the patients help support the department. Many of these items are works of art, particularly the tapestries and the ceramics.

Another aspect in housing for the elderly

in these countries is the increase in the policy that enables elderly people to stay in their own homes or flats. Hot meals are taken to their homes once a day, and help is available for bathing. Flats (low-cost) are now being built for the elderly in conjunction with other apartment developments so that they will be an integral part of the new apartment community. Central bathing facilities are provided in all of these buildings where they bathe under supervision.

One deficiency that we noticed is the lack of proper egress from these buildings. Many of them have only one stairway, and that was open. They also have many dead end corridors, and by our standards they would not be fire safe. Even the high rise buildings are not adequately protected.

Since we have many nursing homes on the boards in my office, I feel particularly rewarded for the effort put forth to make the trip. I feel that at the present time we are years behind these homes abroad, but with President Kennedy's interest in the care of our senior citizens, and with the effort HEW and FHA are putting forward combined with the efforts of private enterprise, we should be in a position to hold our heads up in a few short years and know we too are taking care of our elderly people.

"KITSCH"

as defined by Wolf Von Eckardt

Kitsch is a German word and rhymes with rich. We need it in our language, especially here in our fair Potomac Valley which is rich in kitsch. We need it, just as we needed the new word gobble-dygook with which national capital kitsch is frequently defended.

Kitsch is the effort to prettify (like wrapping mediocre glass cages in gold anodized aluminum grills), to ingratiate (with Williamsburg insurance palaces) and to make the heroic sentimental and the sentimental heroic (like the two Jima monument or the proposed Freedom Wall).

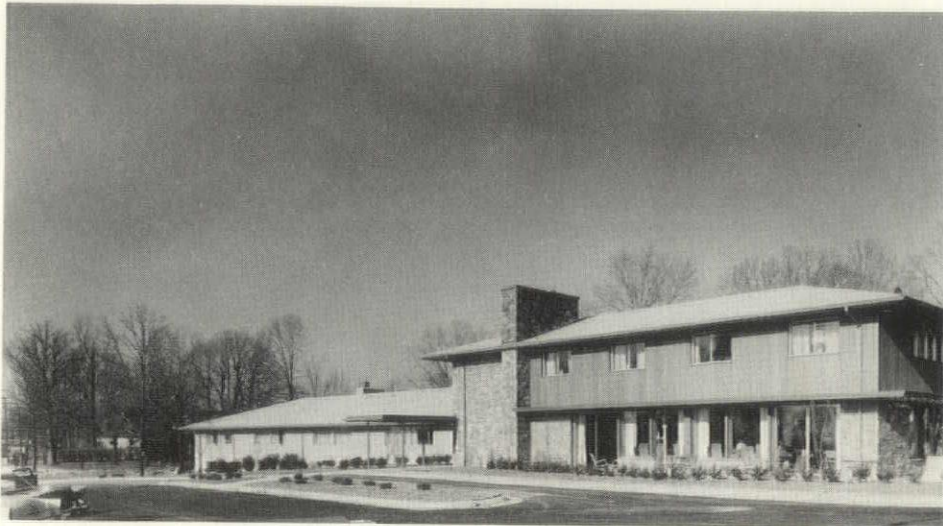
Kitsch is too much of a good thing. The Washington Monument is a good thing. Little gold replicas of the Washington Monument are kitsch. But let's not confine ourselves to souvenirs. Mount Vernon is also a good thing. I'm not quite sure, however, that I want to see quite so many miniature versions of it in the guise of motels.

Kitsch is those highbrested maidens who put their muscular shoulders to all kinds of glittering wheels on the mosaic in the lobby of the AFL-CIO building.

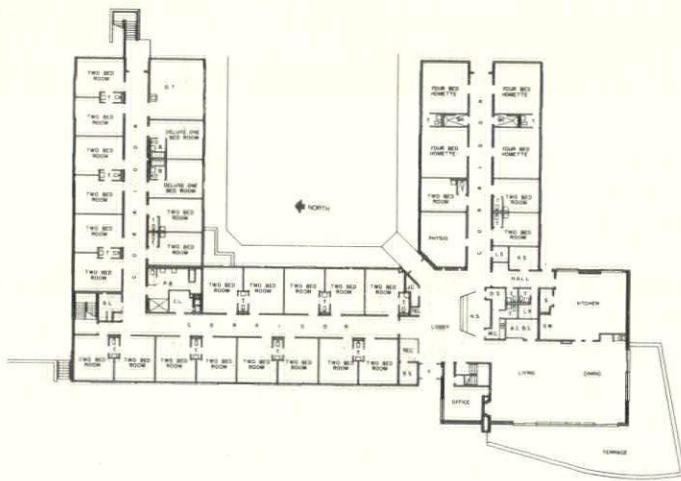
Kitsch was pretty safe as long as it was behind the times like the Grant monument, valentine cards, wedding cakes and the Jefferson Memorial. But now that kitsch has gone modern it has become a menace. Take those Howard Johnson-style squared off "Colonial" churches in our suburbs, for instance. Our bulldozed woods are full of modern kitsch split-levels which would dearly love to be Cinderella Homes if they only dared. But lest we blame it all on the homebuilders again, let me hasten to add that the neo-Nervi or pseudo-Torroja crimped and/or barrel-vaulted concrete canopies you find glued to a lot of buildings lately are not much better.

Perhaps kitsch, in addition to being schmaltz, mawkishness and too-muchness is the difference between design and styling.

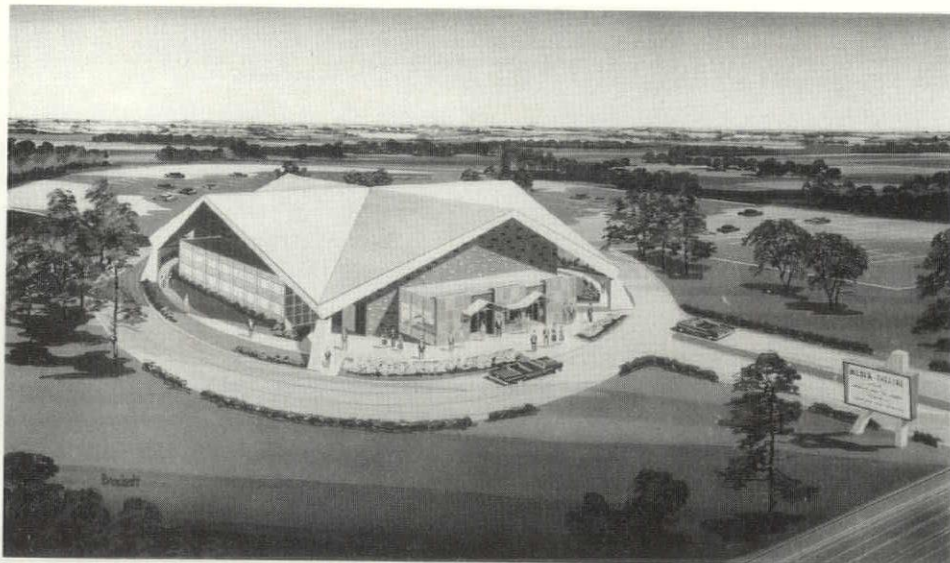
It is what we'll most likely end up with in memory of FDR if the Washington Post, Fritz Gutheim and the Fine Arts Commission continue to triumph. But it won't matter. We won't be able to see it for the highway loops, anyway.



— Ann Every Photo



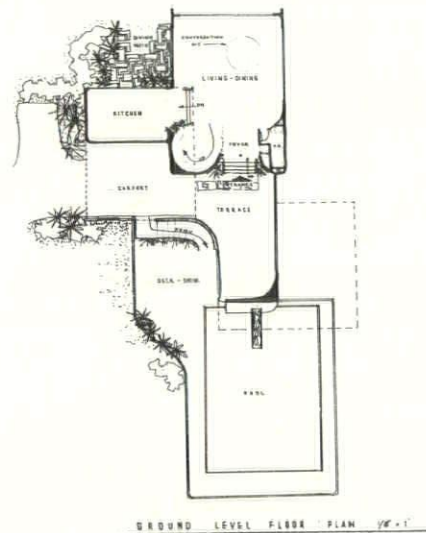
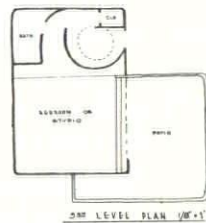
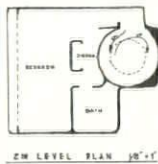
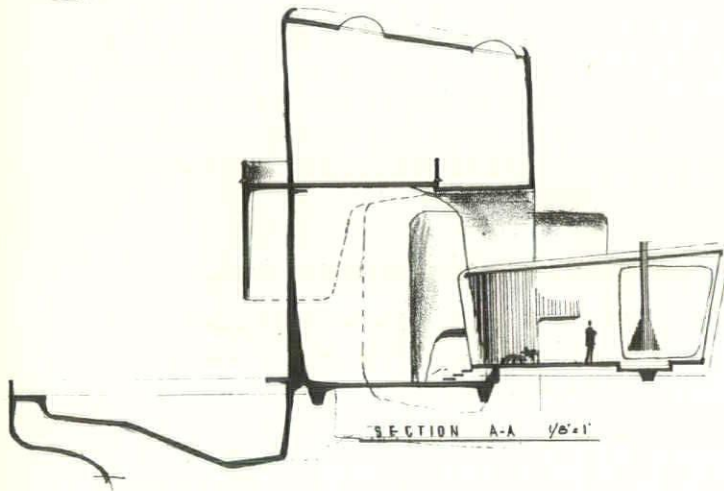
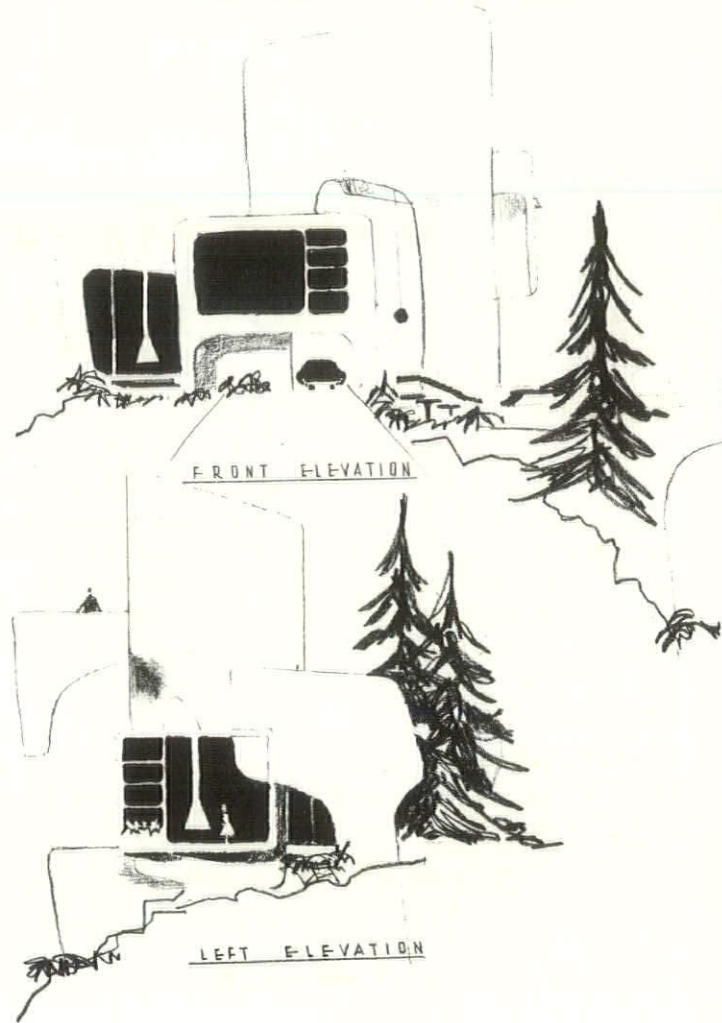
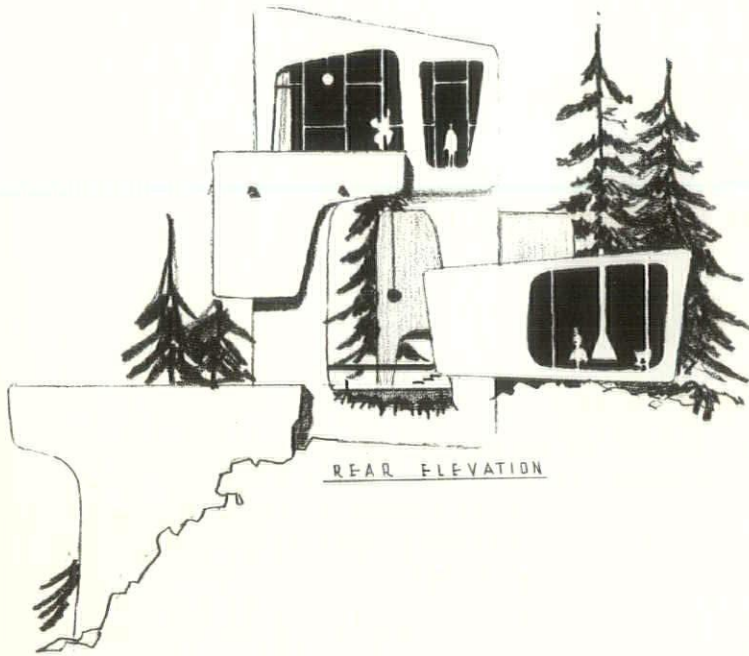
Wheaton Nursing Home. Ronald S. Senseman, Architect; Scullen & Marchigiani, Structural Engineers.



Moving picture theatre and offices for the Wilder Theatre Corporation, Norfolk, Virginia. The 1000-seat theatre will be the first unit of a multi-million-dollar development on 27 acres on Virginia Beach Boulevard, Princess Anne County, Virginia. Office wings flanking the projection room will house administration offices for the corporation and other lessees. Architect: Warren G. Sargent of Loewer, Sargent & Associates, Architects & Engineers, Silver Spring, Maryland.

STUDENT WORK

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A RESIDENCE IN THE COUNTRY

Three-day sketch problem in Architecture 123 by Gary Bowden

THE POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER OF MARYLAND

of the

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

announces

COMPETITION FOR AWARDS IN ARCHITECTURE 1960 - 62

Program

ELIGIBILITY:

All entries shall be buildings designed by architects registered in Maryland. An architect registered in Maryland may submit any of his work. To be eligible, a building must have been completed within the four-year period of May 1958 and the date of entry and must not have been previously entered in this competition. Subject to the foregoing conditions as to authorship of the plans, entries may be made by the architect, by the owner or by the general contractor.

CLASSIFICATION:

Entries will be considered in the following classifications:

Group I Residential

- A. Cost of \$25,000 or under
 - 1. Custom
 - 2. Speculative
- B. Cost of over \$25,000
 - 1. Custom
 - 2. Speculative

Group II Public Buildings

- A. Schools
- B. Churches
- C. Community Buildings, Fire Houses, Country Clubs, Courthouses, Jails, Moving Picture Houses, Swimming Clubs, Yacht Clubs, Tennis Clubs, etc.

Group III Commercial buildings, including stores, warehouses, office buildings, hotels, shopping centers, etc.

Group IV Apartments, or group housing.

Group V Remodeling in all classifications.

Suggested awards to jury are: one or more awards of merit in any or all classifications and any number of honorable mentions in any or all classifications as deemed worthy by the jury. The jury may also award a single best of competition award to an outstanding entry if deemed worthy.

MANDATORY:

1. Mounts: All entries shall be on artists' or equivalent rigid board size 30" x 40". One building only to a mount, not more than two mounts to a building. Elaborate presentations, raised lettering, wood mounts and raised mounts are strictly prohibited.

2. Photographs: All photographs shall be non-glossy black and white. One photograph may be up to 17" x 21" in size, a maximum of three additional photographs 8" x 10" may be included at the discretion of the entrant. One 8" x 10" glossy print must be enclosed in an envelope on the back of the mount for publication. Additional similar photographs may be requested of award winning projects for newspaper release.

Photographs Shall Be Submitted as Follows:

Group I One or more photographs of the exterior and also some interior if desirable in the opinion of the architect.

Group II Same as Group I.

Group IV Such pictures and layouts as deemed proper by the entrant.

Group V Before and after pictures sufficient to make clear what has been done.

3. Plans: Groups I, II, III, IV shall be required to submit the following:

Site plan and all major floor plans drawn accurately to scale, with numerical or graphic indication of scale. Plans may also be submitted for the other groups at the discretion of the architect.

4. Descriptive Data: The following information shall be included on a card attached to the back of each entry.

- A. The group classification by name (res., public bldgs., etc.). Also the division A-1 or B-2, etc.
- B. Name of architect (this shall be submitted, covered by appropriate means).

- C. Name of owner.
- D. Name of general contractor.
- E. Location.
- F. Time of completion.
- G. Any other information as the architect may wish to include.

JURY:

The jury will consist of three outstanding architects whose names will be announced in advance of the exhibit. They will be well-known and outstanding in their profession and fully qualified to act as jurors and critics of the exhibit. The name of the architect will not be uncovered until after the judges have made their awards.

AWARDS:

The jury will be instructed to make awards as previously suggested or as they see fit in any classification provided the excellence of the work submitted is meritorious. Certificates of award signed by the jurors, the president of the Potomac Valley Chapter and the chairmen of the committee will be issued to those receiving awards of merit in architecture.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Announcement of awards will be made at a dinner meeting of the sponsors to be held in June, time and place to be announced. The Certificates of Award will be issued to the architect, the owner and the general contractor for each building selected by the jury for the award.

CLOSING DATE AND FEE:

All entries must be received at the office of Mr. Eugene A. Delmar, A.I.A., 1107 Spring Street, Silver Spring, Maryland, before 5 p.m. Friday, June 1, 1962. Each entry must be accompanied by a check, payable to the Treasurer, Potomac Valley Chapter, American Institute of Architects, in the amount of \$10 for the first mount and \$5 for each additional mount. Checks to be mailed to Treasurer, Potomac Valley Chapter, A.I.A., 8055 13th Street, Silver Spring, Md.

EXHIBITION:

The buildings submitted will be placed on exhibition at the time of the dinner. They will also be shown in other places as they are made available in both counties. At the end of the exhibit each architect will be notified that his entry is ready to be called for.

INSURANCE:

All entries will be insured during the time they are in the hands of the committee. Each entry (1 or 2 mounts) shall be insured against damage, etc., to the extent of \$500.00 per entry.

RENDERINGS:

The committee would like to have a number of renderings submitted for hanging with the exhibition not only to add color and interest to the exhibit, but also as a revelation to the public of the architect's work. No renderings, however, shall be submitted which represent studies for any item under consideration for award. No award will be made for any rendering. One (1) rendering may be submitted free of charge with each entry. There will be a flat fee of \$5 for each rendering that is not accompanied by an entry.

MODELS:

Models will be very welcome and will be displayed free of charge.

DINNER:

All interested persons, especially those who enter the exhibit, are invited to be present at the dinner with as many of their friends as may wish to attend. The cost of the dinner will be announced later. Any who cannot attend the dinner and the public are cordially invited to view the exhibit at place of dinner or thereafter at other places where it may be shown.

All correspondence regarding this competition
should be addressed to:

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