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Editor's Note

Coming Events:

• The 1956 Convention of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Madison, Wisconsin, Loraine Hotel, February 22 and 23. On the program are Bruce Goff, Siegfried Giedion, Harold Rambusch, Andrew Green, and excellent materials exhibits.

• The visit of the famed Producers' Council Caravan of Building Products to Milwaukee. Currently on a nation-wide tour, the Caravan will be on display at the Auditorium April 18th and 19th. Details in our next issue.

COVER COMMENT

This month's cover picture is of the Fox Point-Bayside Elementary School north of Milwaukee. Planned as a "satellite" school to the existing system, the von Grossmann design is pictured also on pages 9 and 10.

1956 Annual Convention Speakers

Experts on Design, Esthetics, Law

Plans for the 1956 Annual Convention of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Institute of Architects slated for February 22 and 23 at the Loraine Hotel in Madison have been just about completed.

Bruce Goff, Oklahoma architect, will be the principal speaker at the annual banquet. Siegfried Giedion, Swiss architect and educator, and Harold Rambusch, noted interior decorator, will lead seminars on the 23rd. (Biographical features on Giedion and Rambusch appear on pages 5 and 7.)

The Business meeting will include discussions on the current dues schedule, and action to be taken as a result of the passage of Bill 688A in the 1955 Wisconsin Legislature allowing all engineers to function in the field of building design regardless of qualifications. Andrew Green, Pennsylvania attorney who has studied architectural legislation throughout the country, will lead a seminar on this subject.

Slate of Nominees for Board of Directors Now Complete

The slate of nominees for Division Directors and Directors at Large has been completed and ballots will be mailed to Corporate members early in February.

Under a new By-Law, six Directors will be elected for two-year terms and five one-year terms. Beginning in 1957 and continuing on alternate years, five and then six Directors will be elected each year.

Division nominees, whose nomination by custom is tantamount to election are: Madison Division, Joe Flad, two-year term, Joe Weiler, one-year term. Northeast Division, Karel Yasko, two-year term, Ed Bernels, one-year term. Milwaukee Division, Herbert Grassold, two-year term, Roger Herbst, one-year term (the Milwaukee Division began this system last year and Roger Herbst is a hold-over).

Directors at Large nominees are: Carl Gausewitz, Madison; Louis Sibertz, Madison; Leonard Reinke, Oshkosh; Maury Lee Allen, Appleton; Alvin Grellinger, Milwaukee; Maynard Meyer, Milwaukee; Arthur Reddemann, Elm Grove; John Brust, Milwaukee; Ted Eschweiler, Milwaukee; Fitzhugh Scott, Jr., Milwaukee.

The three nominees gaining the most votes for Director at Large will be elected for two-year terms, the two nominees receiving the next largest number of votes will be elected for one-year terms.
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Giedion Theme to be Demand for Imagination

Siegfried Giedion, contemporary architect, author, teacher and historian, will address the 3:00 p.m. seminar at the Seventh Annual Convention of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Thursday, February 23. He will speak on "The Demand for Imagination in Contemporary Architecture.

Currently Giedion teaches the History of Architecture at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland, during the spring term, and returns to the United States and Harvard during the fall. Best known as an author on architectural history, Giedion has among his literary accomplishments, "Space, Time and Architecture", which is in its tenth printing; "Mechanization Takes Command", "A Decade of Contemporary Architecture", and "Walter Gropius, Work and Teamwork". Editions of several of his works have been translated in Italian, German, Japanese, Spanish and French. Now in preparation is a volume in "Architecture and Community Life", which is to be published by the Oxford University Press.

Giedion's understanding of the history of architecture is described by Joseph Rykwert in the Burlington Magazine (April 1954) as: "... then, with the appearance of Space, Time and Architecture, he became the most important, and indeed the only serious, historian of nineteenth and twentieth century architecture. This may seem a far-fetched statement; but I am not aware of any historian who has been able to weld such a mass of heterogeneous, original and highly important research into a unified whole." In Space, Time and Architecture Giedion analyzes the work of James Brogardus, Baron Jenney Leiter, John Wood, and others.

In "Mechanization Takes Command" Giedion states that "... disharmony of contemporary society lies in the division between thinking and feeling, bred from a century's exclusive concern with production." Rykwert comments: "Reading 'Mechanization Takes Command' leads one to experience this tension within oneself as one learns how mechanization has mastered and ruined the soil, food and man-made environment; how it has affected our notions of comfort ... The process which he demonstrates is that of the growth of full mechanization ... in a society geared for production ... and how, by exalting the isolated and capricious criterion of individual taste as an environment composed of unrelated fragments was created."

Bykwert's observation of Giedion is that "... his enthusiasm, his penetration, the overwhelming elegance of his arguments will survive all criticism." He completes his essay by quoting a Giedion statement from the Architectural Review: "one cannot plan cities if one does not believe in life."

A Swiss citizen, Giedion received his Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of Munich. His many affiliations include General Secretary of the International Congress for Modern Architecture since 1928, Honorary Member of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and Member of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Brussels.
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Stained Glass

by Rambusch

The noted interior decorator, Harold Rambusch, will be the guest speaker at the Thursday morning Seminar on February 23. The president and director of Rambusch Decorating Company of New York City is internationally known for his stained glass work, and it is that subject on which he will speak. A pictorial story in Business Week (December 14, 1952) described Rambusch’s work (including murals, fabrics, mosaics and interiors) as “half art, half engineering.” In view of the recent trend to contemporary church architecture, Rambusch’s comments are expected to be of interest to Wisconsin architects.

Rambusch received his education at Pratt Institute, Art Students League in New York, and at the Royal Art Academy in Copenhagen. In his youth he worked as a designer for firms in England, Norway and Austria. He is a past vice-president of the Architectural League and past President of the Stained Glass Association, a member of the Beaux Arts Institute of Design, American Institute of Decorators, and the Liturgical Arts Society.

Locally Rambusch’s commissions have included the altars, mosaic work, stained glass, illumination and painting for St. Raphael’s Cathedral in Madison, for which John J. Flad and Associates were the architects. His other important works include the auditorium and lobbies of Radio City Music Hall, the lobbies of the Empire State Building, metal mural for the S. S. Independence, and the Roxy Theatre in New York City.

In contrast, Rambusch, during World War II, was responsible for the camouflaging of numerous air fields and factories, the development and manufacture of airport blackout ventilators, and for special lighting of combat control rooms. He was knighted by the King of Denmark in 1951.

Harold W. Rambusch whose work has been described as “half art, half engineering”
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