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1931—And 1932

BY ROBERT D. KOHN, F. A. I. A.

Editor's Note: A number of newspapers early in December asked the President of the Institute for a statement as to progress in architecture and building, for publication in their reviews of industry on or about the first of the year. This statement was, therefore, written for lay-consumption. It is printed here because it should interest the architect as well as the layman.

WHILE the past year has been one in which the architectural profession and the building industry have suffered from the prevailing lack of new work, indeed have had to meet very serious problems of unemployment, the year should not be looked upon as one entirely lost. There has been progress in many fields which should be recognized.

There has been marked improvement in the quality of architectural design. In recent years architecture has been freeing itself from some of its historical restraints. Tradition is not ignored in the best work, but its function is understood. Much of the spirit which now animates our design is indeed informed by study of the architecture of the past, but there is less imitation of its merely surface indications. In the design of some of our high buildings and of interior architecture, there is an indication that we are on our way toward developing a modern expression based on materials and methods of construction. At the same time we must deplore the mere uninformed aping of pretended modernisms.

There have been during the year 1931 distinct signs of progress in architectural design and even greater progress in public appreciation of the real value of beauty in public places and buildings. It is no longer necessary to prove to the informed citizens that the good-looking city or building is an asset, not only sentimental but practical. If that principle were only generally accepted, there would be plenty of work to do in the transformation of our American cities.

Aside from the actual building work, there was developed during the past year a better under-

standing of those matters in which the architectural profession must take the lead, as in the case of the housing problem. Architects have been prominent in the work of the committees of the President's Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership, some of which have produced worth-while reports.

Certain constructive suggestions embedded within these reports should be saved from the usual fate of such conferences. It is recognized that a large majority of such documents are mere collections of facts about well-known conditions. There are signs, however, that there may be a follow-up on the recommendations of the Committee on Design and the admirable findings of the Committee on Large Scale Operations.

The American Institute of Architects has taken a step forward through a new committee on the Economics of Housing and Site Planning. Those interested in the study of the fundamental economics of housing are no longer considering the building of a house, or even the building of many houses, as being the housing problem.

Architects are now studying this subject from the point of view of large scale operations, rental versus ownership, the variable economic conditions of the classes of society to be housed, the effect of obsolescence and blighted areas on taxation, etc. The problem is being studied now as it never has been before, with all of the old prejudices and assumptions thrown aside. The work of 1932 will surely result in more light being thrown on these complex subjects.

During 1931 we heard a great deal about governmental architecture, federal, state and

municipal. Architects have urged that we ought to secure for public works the skill, the taste, and the technical methods which have distinguished the great private buildings of this country. They have urged that governmental architecture should be freed from the formalism of official architectural bureaus.

While the architectural profession is undoubtedly interested in seeing this work done by qualified men in private practice, they urge a change from bureaucratic control primarily because of a conviction that thereby better architecture will result; and designs will be more consistent with local needs and climatic conditions. The building industry as a whole has supported the architects in this contention, believing that if a larger share of this work is in the hands of architects in private practice better contractors are likely to be employed, men familiar with the various localities, men who will have better relations with local labor and a more general knowledge of local materials. The current year ought to show definite results from this movement.

Perhaps the most promising developments of the year 1931 were those that led toward a better coordination of the efforts of the various functional elements of the building industry. Since 1921 the movement to establish local Building Congresses in various communities has made real progress. In the past year Congresses in Detroit, Memphis, and Northern California were organized. Three or four other cities are just starting similar movements. Perhaps fifteen cities are now so organized.

But now a still broader plan of action has been started, the beginnings of a national movement to provide a center of cooperation for all of the national organizations within the building industry. It is called the Construction League of the United States. It is a conference body only,

each constituent organization learning through this medium what the others are doing, and then deciding for itself whether or not it will help to further such measures as tend to improve the quality of the public service of the building industry.

The architects of the country have encouraged the formation of this Construction League (as they promoted the Building Congress movement) in order that the industry might progress towards a better understanding of its powers, the functional relationships of its parts, and the interdependence of each element upon the others. If we are ever to attempt planned production in this country, or an economic council to guide industry, our building industry, in the year 1931, put itself in the way of getting ready to do its part by supporting the organization of the Construction League.

I leave to the prophets to say whether the outlook for 1932 is good or bad, as far as actual work of construction is concerned. I can see no great upward turn in the volume of construction for 1932 even at present price levels, since new buildings can only be financed when they show the customary (or even an extraordinary) profit on investment. Something might have been accomplished for the upbuilding of the construction industry in 1932 had we been ready with a plan to raise special relief funds to be used as secondary financing for low cost housing, slum removal and reconstruction, and similar ventures in betterment.

But, as it is, the architects are devoting themselves to doing their share to keep the wheels moving, and to make of the building industry a conscious unity with a common purpose, despite the diversity of its functions. The professional men are and must continue to be the leaders in this movement.

Federal Employment of Private Architects

January 13, 1932.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE:

In the December number of THE OCTAGON, the Committee on Public Works reported to the membership the introduction of a Bill (H. R. 6187) in the House of Representatives—by Hon. Robert A. Green, of Florida. The purpose of the proposed legislation is to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Treasury to contract for professional or technical services of competent persons, firms, or corporations for the architectural and engineering designing and planning of such Federal buildings as are now or may in the future be placed under the jurisdiction of his Department.

On January 13, Hon. David I. Walsh, of

Massachusetts, introduced identical legislation in the Senate (S. 2956).

The architectural and engineering professions thus become greatly indebted to Senator Walsh, who has so ably presented for the consideration of the Senate the legislation now well started in the House by Representative Green.

The statement submitted to the Senate by Senator Walsh, with reference to S. 2956 is appended hereto, in order that the entire membership of the Institute may be fully informed and prepared to discuss the status of this Bill with those who are interested.

LOUIS LABEAUME, *Chairman,*
Committee on Public Works.

STATEMENT PRESENTED BY SENATOR WALSH

The American Institute of Architects, acting in collaboration with all of the major factors of the building industry, is sponsoring legislation designed to decentralize the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury. A bill providing for the employment of architects and engineers outside of the Treasury Department, and resident in the different sections of the country where Federal buildings are to be erected, has been introduced into the Seventy-second Congress.

The purpose of this bill is to bring to the service of the Government the ablest professional ability in the Nation. The country is entitled to these services, and the employment of skilled architects and engineers outside of the Federal bureau will inevitably result in the creation of a more vital architecture appropriate to the regions in which Federal buildings are to be erected.

It can not be denied that to restrict the designing of our Federal buildings to a single department, no matter how efficient, must inevitably narrow and stereotype the expression of our architectural ideals. Moreover, we share the belief of a large body of public opinion that the rapid growth of governmental bureaucracy, which we have witnessed during the past few years, should be checked. We oppose the further encroachment of the Government into the field of private initiative. The Government of the United States is no more qualified to design our buildings than to paint our pictures or write our books.

This bill would leave the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury to function solely as a supervising bureau, guarding the interests of the Government in all the practical necessities of its building operations, and retaining its control in regard to the maintenance, alterations, repair, and supervision of all public buildings.

In any emergency such as this speed as well as efficiency must result from the prompt allocation of various projects to architects resident in the general sections in which public buildings are to be built. Moreover, the employment of architects

outside the Treasury Department must bring to the service of the Government the abilities of men familiar, not only with local conditions and customs, with climatic factors influencing design, and with regional methods of construction but of men thoroughly conversant with the use of appropriate and economical materials. Thus the practical results of the passage of this bill would be to insure not only vitality of design truly reflecting our national genius but a more diverse use of our national resources and a distinct saving in our building budget.

The validity of these arguments has been recognized by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury in the contracts already made with architects outside the department. These employments have been made under a permissive clause in the Keyes-Elliott appropriation bills, under which the Federal building program of the Treasury Department is going forward. When these appropriations are exhausted the discretionary power granted the Secretary of the Treasury for the employment of outside architects will lapse. It thus becomes important for the entire building industry and the taxpayers to secure the passage of this legislation now.

The responsibility of the Government for the encouragement of good architecture is without parallel. Its Federal buildings are symbols of its greatness. The elimination from the services of the Government of the knowledge, gifts, and inspiration of all architects, except those confined within the Treasury Building, would reduce our architectural dimensions to those of a single architect's office and limit us to the architectural control of one man, whereas the Government should have at its disposal every bit of architectural ability that the Nation possesses. Architecture is the most far-reaching and ubiquitous of all the arts. By our architecture our civilization will be judged. Building is one of the most important activities in the country, and the beneficent, practical results of this bill will be felt in every quarry, mill, and manufacturing plant of the country.

The Sixty-Fifth Convention

WASHINGTON, D. C.—APRIL 27, 28, 29, 1932

THE program of the Sixty-fifth Convention—a convention which will mark the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of The American Institute of Architects—is in the making. (The first notice concerning the Convention—and nominations of officers—appeared in the December number of *THE OCTAGON*.)

President Kohn, who was in Washington on January 18 and 19, in connection with Institute

affairs, appointed the Convention committees. The personnels of these committees will be announced in the February number, when the acceptances are complete.

The Board left with the Officers and the Executive Committee the responsibility of developing the Convention program. An outline of that program will appear in the March number of *THE OCTAGON*.

One of the major subjects for consideration and action by the Convention will be the proposed Unification of the Architectural Profession. Two committees—one representing the Institute, headed by Edwin Bergstrom, of Los Angeles, and another representing the State Societies, headed by Robert H. Orr, of Los Angeles—have been steadily at work since the San Antonio Convention. They have had the difficult problem of developing a basic plan on which all important groups can agree. That plan must include those basic principles of organization necessary for a real unification of the architects of the United States. The two committees have had meetings, and have conducted an extensive correspondence. A report by the Institute Committee was made to the Board at its November, 1931, meeting. A brief resume of the conclusions reached was printed in the December number of *THE OCTAGON*—page 8.

It is believed that by the time of the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Institute, this February, the two Unification Committees, acting as a joint group, will have an approximately final report, which the Executive Committee can endorse, approve, and submit to the membership, with accompanying amendments to the By-Laws of the Institute.

It is hoped that the Unification report and amendments can be submitted to the Chapters during the month of March, and in ample time for discussion and consideration before the Convention.

Another important Convention feature will be a session devoted to many phases of site planning and housing, under the leadership of Frederick Bigger, Chairman of the special committee on Economics of Site Planning and Housing. At this session W. R. B. Willcox, F.A.I.A., of Eugene,

Oregon, will make a report which should be of great interest to every delegate, not only as an architect but as a citizen. He will discuss "The Effect of Various Methods of Taxation Upon Architectural Practice," a subject which should develop the sentiment of the architectural profession with respect to a problem which has become a critical one in our national and community affairs.

As heretofore, there will be an evening session devoted to Architectural Education, under the auspices of the Committee on Education—Charles Butler, Chairman.

Another session of the Convention will be allotted to consideration of the Plan of Washington, under the auspices of the Committee on the National Capital—Horace W. Peaslee, Chairman.

It is quite probable that the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws—Edwin Bergstrom, Chairman—will have a series of general amendments to the By-Laws, with the object of improving the administrative procedure of the Institute and more closely coordinating its activities. These amendments if ready for consideration will be sent to all of the Chapters at least a month before the Convention.

As heretofore, the Convention will conclude with a dinner, which may take the form of a celebration in honor of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Institute. From 1857 to 1932 is a long time. The Institute has a record of achievement and of solidarity which is unique in the annals of professional societies in the United States. It is fitting that the Seventy-fifth Anniversary be observed, and with a considerable amount of both satisfaction and inspiration.

FRANK C. BALDWIN,
Secretary.

Le Brun Travelling Scholarship Competition Year—1932

THE Executive Committee of the New York Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, as Trustees of The Traveling Scholarship, founded by Pierre L. LeBrun, announces a competition for the selection of a beneficiary. The programme will be issued about January 15, 1932, calling for drawings to be delivered about March 15, 1932.

"Fourteen hundred dollars . . . is to be awarded, . . . to some deserving and meritorious architect or architectural draughtsman, resident anywhere in the United States, to aid him in paying the expenses of an European trip, lasting not less than six months."

"Any architect or architectural draughtsman, a citizen and resident of the United States, not

under twenty-three or over thirty years of age, who shall, for at least three years, have been either engaged in active practice, or employed as an architectural draughtsman and who is not and has not been the beneficiary of any other traveling scholarship, shall be eligible to compete."

All those wishing to enter the competition should arrange at once for nomination by a member of The American Institute of Architects. Nomination blanks can be obtained from the Secretary of any Chapter, A. I. A., or from the Le Brun Scholarship Committee. Nominations should be sent to Chester H. Aldrich, Chairman, Le Brun Scholarship Committee, Room 530, 101 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.

The Structural Service Department

F. LEO. SMITH, TECHNICAL SECRETARY

Devoted to the advancement of knowledge of materials, methods of construction and equipment for buildings, and to a better understanding of the art and science of architecture.

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.

Yesterday saw the development of the profession of architecture. From lowly beginnings, structures intended primarily as shelter from the elements, protection against wild beasts and unfriendly neighbors, we have seen the art of building steadily progressing through the centuries. We gaze with admiration at the stupendous bulk of the pyramids, the beauties of the Parthenon, the majesty of the cathedrals of the Middle Ages, and the towers of our modern cities reaching into the skies.

The work of the architect touches every phase of human activity. He has exerted a powerful influence in the advance of civilization, contributing to the need for shelter—from the most modest home to the modern temples of industry.

Today the architect stands at the cross road. The complexity and the magnitude of the demands of modern architectural practice are compelling him to choose that tree-lined, flower-bordered path which leads only to aesthetic accomplishment; or the steep, difficult path which leads to technical perfection; or that broader road which will lead him to his rightful place as the creator of beautiful architecture not only pleasing to the eye, but economically planned and constructed, safe and secure for its intended purpose.

Tomorrow we face another era of prosperity. Our opportunities still lie before us, and our success or failure will depend entirely upon our ability to meet the demands of increasingly complex developments and improvements in the art and science of building.

It is certain that the architect will be compelled to have a thorough knowledge of the business of architecture. He must have at his command authoritative information, and he will need a comprehensive understanding of new materials, equipment, and methods of construction so essential to the creation of real architecture. The Structural Service Department is dedicated to these purposes.

Members of the Institute are invited to write to the Structural Service Department, on any matters on which it might give advice.

Review of Structural Service Activities.

Although many years have passed since the Institute first recognized the vital importance of the technical problems involved in the practice of

architecture, there are still many architects who are not informed as to the purpose and activities of the Structural Service Department.

The Fifty-first Annual Convention of the Institute (1918) adopted a resolution creating a Committee on Structural Service. The duties of this Committee were "to coordinate and correlate structural phases of the Institute's activities, and to cooperate with departments of the Federal Government, states and municipalities and with affiliated organizations in matters where the Institute may properly render service toward improvement in structural materials, their safe and efficient application, and toward higher ideals in providing for the health, safety, and comfort of the occupants of all buildings."

The Committee immediately established contact with a number of these groups and cooperated with them in their work. A Standard Filing System was prepared for the purpose of simplifying the problem of readily locating useful trade literature and information on technical subjects.

The desirability of a closer relationship between the architect and the producer was recognized and a Producers' Section of the Structural Service Committee was created as a sustaining body to collaborate with the Committee. It was the purpose of this group to promote sincerity and reliability of statement in advertising, to afford an opportunity to the producer to receive from the Institute advice and counsel as to the character of advertising, and to assist in furthering the use of the Standard Filing System.

In 1923 the Producers set up an organization of their own, known as "The Producers' Council, affiliated with the American Institute of Architects." The Institute, in turn, established a Scientific Research Department to cooperate with The Producers' Council in its activities, to participate in the work of technical groups, and to keep Institute members intelligently informed as to developments and improvements in the structural field.

In 1927 the name of the Scientific Research Department was changed to "Structural Service Department."

The Board of Directors, in its report to the Sixty-first Annual Convention (1928) stated in part that: "The Institute, through the Structural Service Department, has been represented at many meetings dealing with problems relating to building construction. The Board considers these

contacts of great value to the profession and to the Institute. The results obtained are full justification and ample return for the annual appropriation * * * which the Institute makes to the Structural Service Department. The Department has continued the work of rendering service to individual architects in their technical problems, and members are urged to use this service, for which there is no charge unless extensive research is involved."

At the present time the Structural Service Department is cooperating with the various bureaus, divisions and committees of the U. S. Department of Commerce, the American Standards Association, the American Society for Testing Materials, the National Fire Protection Association, and other groups in the preparation of standards, codes and recommended practice relating to building materials, devices, equipment and methods of construction. Files containing a wealth of technical information of interest and value to the profession are available to Institute members to assist them in their individual problems. The Producers' Council and its members have the benefit of the advice and counsel of the architects.

The Structural Service Department affords an excellent opportunity for Institute members to make a worthy contribution to the art and science of building by participating in its work through suggestions and constructive criticisms.

Stephen F. Voorhees Honored.

The American Standards Association has honored Stephen F. Voorhees, F.A.I.A., of Voorhees, Gmelin and Walker, Architects, New York City, by electing him a member of the Board of Directors of that organization to serve for a term of one year.

Mr. Voorhees has made many contributions to the structural and technical development of the practice of architecture and has been actively interested in the work of the Structural Service Department of the Institute for many years. His appointment will afford the Institute an opportunity for a closer relationship with the American Standards Association.

A. S. A. Standard Specifications for Elevators.

Sullivan W. Jones, F.A.I.A., Chairman of the A.S.A. Sectional Committee A-17 on Safety Code for Elevators, Dumbwaiters, and Escalators, reports the completion of a revised elevator code which has been published and is now available. A copy of this code may be obtained from the American Standards Association, 29 West 39th Street, New York City.

The first edition of the American Standard Safety Code for Elevators was published in 1925. Its preparation disclosed a lack of knowledge of the design, construction and functioning of auxiliary devices. Consequently, in 1926 the committee established a research fellowship at the Bureau of Standards and initiated a research program to develop the information required for future code revision.

A Sectional Committee, functioning under the procedure of the American Standards Association, began the preparation of a safety code for elevators in 1928. The project was sponsored by the Bureau of Standards, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and The American Institute of Architects. This revised code, which was published during the summer of 1931, should be made the basis for specifications for all elevator installations. To facilitate such use of the code, the committee has undertaken the preparation of a standard specification for elevators.

The expectation in the preparation of such a code is that it will be adopted by states and municipalities, and that by such adoption, safety requirements for elevator installations will be uniform. Accomplishment of this highly desirable and advantageous end will be greatly expedited by the use of the code as the basis for architects' specifications.

The committee cautions the architectural profession against the use of any alleged standard specifications for elevators not approved by the American Standards Association, because of the character of specimens of such specifications which have come to its attention.

Standard Wood Mouldings.

The Central Committee on Lumber Standards has recently completed a revision of the 7,000 series of Standard Wood Moulding Sizes and Designs. These revised designs and assemblies have been formally submitted to the U. S. Department of Commerce to supersede the original series of mouldings first published July 1, 1925 and now included as a part of Simplified Practice Recommendation R 16-29, Lumber, Fourth Edition, dated July 1, 1929.

This revision of the original series was prepared by a committee representing manufacturers, distributors and users of lumber, millwork and mouldings, The American Institute of Architects representing the interest of the consumer. The moulding designs and the examples of their application are the original work of Emory Stamford Hall, F.A.I.A., Chicago, Illinois, a member of the Special Moulding Committee.

The proposed revision contemplates changes in the moulding patterns only, and other material appearing in the current edition of Simplified

Practice Recommendation R 16-29 dated July 1, 1929 will not be changed at this time. Any organization or individual interested in the manufacture, sale or use of lumber is qualified to indicate acceptance of the revision.

Copies of this publication may be obtained from the Central Committee on Lumber Standards, 713 Transportation Bldg., Washington, D. C., at 20c per copy.

House Insulation: Its Economies and Application.

The National Committee on Wood Utilization of the U. S. Department of Commerce has prepared a treatise on the subject of insulation materials and their application. A group of its members representing consumers was established with the cooperation of the Structural Service Department, A.I.A. This committee made a thorough study of insulation materials and, as a result, a report entitled "House Insulation: Its Economies and Application" was published. This report, in pamphlet form, consists of fifty-two pages and includes a number of illustrations showing the application of insulation to residential construction.

Tables showing the heat-resisting values of different types of wall construction and the effect of different materials and methods of installation are of especial interest to architects. Since there is but little other reliable information on insulating materials, with the possible exception of reports from testing laboratories and trade literature issued by insulation manufacturers, this treatise will serve as a convenient reference book on the subject.

The National Committee on Wood Utilization has informed the Institute that in view of the cooperation and valuable assistance given by the Structural Service Department in the development of this booklet, a complimentary copy will be sent, during the month of January, to every Institute member.

A.S.T.M. Committee on Mortars for Unit Masonry.

The December issue of the A.S.T.M. Bulletin contains an outline of the personnel and organization of the new Standing Committee C-12 on Mortars for Unit Masonry. The scope of the work to be undertaken is covered as follows:

"Research to promote knowledge of properties and tests of mortars for unit masonry and development of methods of tests and specifications for such mortars. It is intended that the activities of the Committee shall be closely correlated with other interested committees of the Society."

† Professor Charles M. Gay, A.I.A., School of Fine Arts, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, represents The American Institute of Architects as a member of this Committee. The Technical Secretary of the Struc-

tural Service Department has been designated as alternate.

One of the most important activities of the Committee will be the correlation of research investigations that have been carried out on masonry mortars and a determination of the present gaps in existing knowledge. A subcommittee on Correlation of Research is, accordingly, contemplated in the Committee's organization. Since many features of specification requirements and test procedures are involved, a rather extensive subcommittee organization, consisting of sixteen groups, has been determined upon by the temporary advisory committee.

Soundproof Partitions.

‡ The Acoustic Laboratory of the Bureau of Standards has recently made sound transmission measurements on a set of wall panels. These panels were constructed of cinder block and clay tile and were built with instructions to use workmanship such as would ordinarily be employed in a construction job.

Wall panels were laid up in a mortar composed of one part Portland Cement to one part lime to five parts sand by volume, and were plastered on both sides with a $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch coat of gypsum plaster and a white finish coat.

These test panels were built into an opening in one wall of a room especially constructed so that the other walls were as nearly soundproof as possible. The source of sound was a loud speaker located in this room and caused to rotate continuously to break up the interference pattern. The intensity of the sound was measured on each side of the wall within and without the room in which the source of sound was located and the results were calculated from the indicated difference in intensity.

Scheduled Meetings of A.S.T.M. for 1932.

§ The following meetings of the A.S.T.M. on subjects of interest to the architect have been scheduled:

Committee E-9 on Research meets in Detroit, Michigan, January 13th.

Committee A-1 on Steel meets in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, January 14th and 15th.

Committee E-10 on Standards meets in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in February.

Committee D-9 on Electrical Insulating Materials meets in New York City, March 3rd and 4th.

Committee D-1 on Preservative Coatings for Structural Materials meets in Philadelphia, in March.

The Annual Meeting of the A.S.T.M. will be held in the new Haddon Hall Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey, June 20th to 24th, inclusive.

A Plan for Housing

DISCUSSION OF DR. UNWIN'S PAPER BY FREDERICK BIGGER, A.I.A.

DR. RAYMOND UNWIN of London, recently President of the International Federation for Housing and Town Planning, has been long known as an architect. He has become more widely recognized during the last two decades for his town planning activities, both as a private individual and while holding office in the British Ministry of Health.

In a recent publication Dr. Unwin discusses the purposes of planning, with particular reference to "a plan for housing."

Confusion and Waste to Give Way to Orderly Development

Beginning with the passage of the British Town Planning Act of 1909 Dr. Unwin outlines the rapid spread of activity in designing the future development of municipalities in Great Britain. He says: "As the population of a town increases, all the central functions need to expand. Such expansion has had to take place at the expense of houses, . . . A constant confusion of reconstruction, and great waste of money has resulted. Today we are trying to substitute considered and planned development for such haphazard growth; to select the sites which offer the greatest facilities for industry, to equip them with the necessary services and reserve them for such important use. Other sites are allocated for shops or other commercial development. The greater proportion of the area is, however, reserved for residential and housing use. Healthy lands, readily accessible from the industrial and commercial areas, and lands having pleasant amenities, as far as possible, are chosen. The number of dwellings which may be built to the acre is limited, . . . Land is also reserved for open spaces, sometimes a belt of such land separating the dwelling areas from the industrial. . . . It is clearly very important that dwellings which may remain in use for 100 years should be built in the right places."

Foresight and Trained Imagination Must Be Used

Dr. Unwin speaks of the heritage of charming English cottages, and urges that there be a little extra care in design, and a little judgment in the choice of materials appropriate to the locality, and a little thought in the planning of the groups of housing which are to be undertaken now and in the future. He points out that these buildings need not be costly; and he rightly emphasizes the fact that one of the chief needs is the use of imagination, the ability to see the life going forward in the dwellings that are to be built, and to see the daily occupations and recreations of the communities that are to be created.

Capable Architects and Beautiful Materials Are Available

"There are plenty of young architects available, able and willing to supply thought and the designing faculty, to the training of which years have been devoted," says Dr. Unwin. A great variety of building materials of much beauty is available. It is because the public has not cared enough about it, that so many of our buildings are ugly. It is because so many are erected without the help or guidance of an architect, or of anyone else who has been trained in design.

Build "Plenty of Good and Comely Dwellings"

Dr. Unwin urges his countrymen, and we know he would urge us, to go steadily forward with the building of plenty of good and comely dwellings in places chosen after careful regional and town planning studies. A decent dwelling place for every family in the community—that is his ideal. Violent fluctuations in the building program are demoralizing to the building industry, and wasteful in many ways. Slum clearance, and new building in those areas, will come more quickly, in his opinion, when there is a surplus rather than a deficiency in the number of dwellings.

The British Anxiety

Dr. Unwin's paper was prompted by the anxiety of British architects and town planners to see what would happen to the "Town and Country Planning Bill," which was approved by all the political parties in the last parliamentary session. He closes his article thus: "The powers which it (the Planning Bill) would confer, if passed, are as necessary a preliminary to economical slum clearance as to effective preservation of rural amenities through regional planning; both are necessary to our well-being. It is especially true in regard to housing that 'nothing is done until it is well done'; and it is not well done until it is done beautifully."

American Problem Different in Only One Essential

When we turn from this article to re-examine conditions in our own country, we are confronted by similar phenomena. Elephantiasis of urban development; no "high command" to devise protective programs for metropolitan regions, with few exceptions; these are outstanding. Our troubles are like those of Britain. To improve conditions she subsidizes housing; we do not. That is an important difference. But how do these conditions, and these needs, affect the practice of architecture? Are architects generally well enough informed and experienced enough to take part

in the guidance and control of the environment of the buildings they create?

Social Contribution and Individual Opportunity

We believe that architects are chiefly interested in the successful execution of the individual projects entrusted to them. All members of our profession will certainly not be lured far from this field; but we believe an increasing number will turn, voluntarily or by compulsion, to a study of the larger field and to an examination of the

forces with which their architectural practice is entangled. I plead—although it may not be necessary to do so in these illuminating times—that the few who thus turn to examine questions of community planning may be looked upon as a research division. They can hardly be responsible for anything detrimental to architectural progress; and their work may very well be a clearing of the desks for greater individual opportunity for architects and a larger professional contribution to social well-being.

Architectural Models for the Blind

BY HUGER ELLIOTT

Director of Educational Work, Metropolitan Museum of Art

THOSE of us to whom the shapes of buildings are matters of almost unconscious knowledge—we who are thrilled by the beauty of architecture—must be touched when we realize how absolute is the ignorance of the blind concerning the world of form that means so much to us.

In two or three schools for the blind a beginning has been made in bringing such knowledge to children by means of models and blocks, and by having them measure rooms. But the vast majority of those who cannot see have no realization of the aspects of buildings. Could the blind in the various institutions of the country have the advantage of tactually exploring models of buildings, of gardens, of park developments, it would mean more to them than we who see can possibly realize.

In many offices models are stored away—of no further use to the architect, who nevertheless is reluctant to have them destroyed. These models, of whatever kind, would be valuable additions to the teaching material in schools for the blind.

Miss Kathryn E. Maxfield, of the American Foundation for the Blind, 125 East 46th Street, New York, N. Y., has written to the various institutions of the country asking if a gift of models would be welcomed. Below are listed those schools whose heads have written to say that they would gladly receive them, with the name of the official to be addressed. The list is given alphabetically by states. If you have one or more models that you can give, will you not telephone or write to the nearest institution and offer your help? And although your model may soon be worn away, at least it will have served a fine purpose in bringing some realization of architectural form to those who can know of it in no other way.

INSTITUTIONS DESIRING MODELS

- The Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind, Talladega, Alabama. D. A. McNeill, Superintendent.
 Arizona State School for the Deaf and the Blind, Tucson, Arizona. Roy F. Nilson, Superintendent.
 Colorado School for Deaf and Blind, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Thomas S. McAloney, Superintendent.
 Connecticut Institute for the Blind, 10 Holcomb Street, Hartford, Connecticut. Gordon Hicks, Superintendent.
 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, St. Augustine, Florida. A. L. Brown, President.
 Atlanta, Georgia. J. J. Childs, Teacher of the Class for the Blind.
 State of Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind, Gooding, Idaho. C. J. Settles, Superintendent.
 Chicago, Illinois, 6827 Ridgeland Avenue. John B. Curtis, Supervisor, Public School Classes for the Blind and Partially Seeing.
 The Illinois School for the Blind, Jacksonville, Illinois. R. W. Woolston, Managing Officer.
 Iowa School for the Blind, Vinton, Iowa. F. E. Palmer, Superintendent.
 State of Kansas School for the Blind, Kansas City, Kansas. Eleanor A. Wilson, Superintendent.
 Kentucky School for the Blind, Louisville, Kentucky. Catherine T. Moriarity, Superintendent.
 Louisiana State School for the Blind, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A. J. Caldwell, Superintendent.
 John Dibert School, 4217 Orleans Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. Elfrieda Dieck, Principal.
 The Maryland School for the Blind, Overlea, Maryland. John F. Bledsoe, Superintendent.
 Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind, Watertown, Massachusetts. Gabriel Farrell, Director.
 Board of Education, Department of Special Education, 453 Stimson Avenue, Detroit, Michigan. Gladys L. Dunlop, Supervisor Braille & Sight Saving Classes.
 Michigan School for the Blind, Lansing, Michigan. C. E. Holmes, Superintendent.
 Minnesota School for the Blind, Faribault, Minnesota. M. R. Veve, Superintendent.
 The Board of Education, Minneapolis, Minnesota. George F. Meyer, Supervisor, Sight Saving and Braille.
 Franklin School, St. Cloud, Minnesota. Freda Schowalter.
 Mississippi School for the Blind, Jackson, Mississippi. M. L. Batson, Superintendent.
 The Piney Woods Country Life School, Piney Woods, Mississippi. Laurence C. Jones, Principal.
 Missouri School for the Blind, 3815 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri. S. M. Green, Superintendent.

INSTITUTIONS DESIRING MODELS—*continued*

- Montana State School for the Deaf and the Blind, Boulder, Montana. Howard Griffin, President.
- State of Nebraska School for the Blind, Nebraska City, Nebraska. N. C. Abbott, Superintendent.
- Public School 14, Jersey City, New Jersey. Anna Mahlenbrock.
- Robert Treat Braille and Sight Conservation Classes, Board of Education, Newark, New Jersey. Janet G. Paterson, Head Teacher.
- Public School Number Two, Board of Education, Passaic Street, Paterson, New Jersey, Katherine Taylor, Instructor, Department for the Blind.
- New Mexico School for the Blind, Alamogordo, New Mexico. P. A. Smoll, Superintendent.
- Board of Education, the City of New York, Division of Blind and Sight Conservation Classes, 131 Livingston Street, Brooklyn. Francis E. Moscrip, Inspector of Classes for the Blind.
- Board of Education, Buffalo, New York. Lauretta F. Riester, Director, Extension Department.
- The New York Institute for the Education of the Blind, 999 Pelham Parkway, New York, N. Y. Edward M. Van Cleve, Principal.
- State School for the Blind and the Deaf, Raleigh, North Carolina. G. E. Lineberry, Superintendent.
- Ohio State School for the Blind, Department of Education, Columbus, Ohio. J. Frank Lumb, Superintendent.
- Oklahoma School for the Blind, Muskogee, Oklahoma. Mrs. O. W. Stewart, Superintendent.
- Oregon State School for the Blind, Salem, Oregon. Walter R. Dry, Superintendent.
- The Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, 64th Street and Malvern Avenue, Overbrook, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. O. H. Burritt, Principal.
- South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind, Cedar Springs, South Carolina. William Laurens Walker, Superintendent.
- South Dakota School for the Blind, Gary, South Dakota. Otis O. Rule, Superintendent.
- Tennessee School for the Blind, Nashville, Tennessee. I. S. Wampler, Superintendent.
- Texas School for the Blind, Austin, Texas. W. E. Allen, Superintendent.
- Institute for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Colored Youth, Austin, Texas. J. D. Martin, Superintendent.
- Utah School for the Deaf and the Blind, Ogden, Utah. Frank M. Driggs, Superintendent.
- The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, Staunton, Virginia. H. M. McManaway, Superintendent.
- School for Colored Deaf and Blind, Institute, West Virginia.
- West Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, Romney, West Virginia. Parley DeBerry, Superintendent.
- Wisconsin School for the Blind, Janesville, Wisconsin. J. T. Hooper, Superintendent.

St. Louis Architectural and Building Exhibit

BY P. JOHN HOENER, A.I.A.

THE St. Louis Chapter at the present time is quite active in its interest in the Permanent Architectural and Building Exhibition which is being formulated and installed in the St. Louis Mart Building. The St. Louis Mart Building houses a "Merchandise Mart" which includes display and warehousing of all types of manufactured goods and products, and office space for executive and representatives quarters. The Permanent Architectural Building Exhibition is a unit of the St. Louis Mart intended for the purpose of displaying a comprehensive group of representative building materials under actual construction conditions. In this respect it parallels the function of other building exhibit bureaus.

The building exhibit is prominently located on the first floor of the Mart Building and occupies a space of approximately forty thousand square feet.

The Mart officials, especially Mr. E. S. Porter, manager of the Permanent Architectural and Building Exposition, realizing the importance of having the interest of the practicing architects conferred with the Executive Board of the St. Louis Chapter requesting the active interest of the membership of the Chapter.

After an exhaustive investigation the Execu-

tive Board of the St. Louis Chapter recommended, to the membership, approving the project and sponsoring the activities which will develop under the contemplated program.

The entire program of activities has been placed under the direction of a special sponsoring committee whose duties are to ascertain that all activities will be conducted in a way which will react favorably to the profession of architecture. This sponsoring committee is composed of Mr. I. R. Timlin, Chairman, Mr. F. Ray Leimkuehler and Mr. John A. Bryan. The firm of Hoener, Baum & Froese has been retained to serve as supervising and designing architects, and the floor plan for the space of exhibitors and the general motifs for the space of exhibitors have been developed by the supervising architects collaborating with and under the criticism of the sponsoring committee. One of the conditions of sponsorship by the Chapter was the requirement that all display areas must be designed by architects who are members of The American Institute of Architects.

Advertising and display literature have been prepared, the architects being called into conference at meetings with the advertising directors, and officials of the Mart. This to ensure a proper

presentation of architectural services and to render suggestion in the sketches to be used for display presentation.

The value of the entire exhibition is of course dependent upon the interest of three groups, first the public, second the building industry, manufacturers and contractors and finally the architects. So far the architects have been the active group, and the Mart is emphasizing in all of its sales presentation the value of complete architectural services.

The floor plan is so arranged that a definite traffic line is developed which gives balanced value to each exhibitor's display, culminating in a civic group which consists of a home, a chapel and a school room. These units constructed in actual working sizes and completely furnished and equipped.

Selection of design for the home was by means of a competition among the members of the St. Louis Chapter and of the St. Louis Architectural Club. This competition was conducted by the sponsoring committee, the supervising architects serving as professional advisers and the judging was done by a committee appointed from members of The American Institute of Architects. Five substantial cash awards were made and arrangements are now under way to publish the competition submission and also to display the prize winning original drawings in one of the leading stores. Again in this publication the emphasis is placed on architectural service.

Considerable publicity has already been received in the St. Louis papers and the program contemplates a continuing of this publicity.

Radio station KMOX ("The Voice of St. Louis") has broadcasting studios on the second floor of the Mart Building and the principal entrance to these radio broadcasting facilities is at the entrance to the Permanent Architectural and Building Exhibition space, so all visitors will pass the conference rooms assigned for the use of the St. Louis Chapter and its members.

Arrangements have been made for radio broadcasting, and the Chapter will be in charge of that section of the programs devoted to the development of the Permanent Architectural and Building Exhibition. It is the intention to have active participation in these programs by members of the profession. This supplements a program of broadcasting which has already been given over another station by members of the local Chapter.

The Permanent Architectural and Building Exhibition will have, as floor and activities director, a person recommended and approved by the sponsoring committee, whose duties will include the arranging for special exhibitions of architectural and artistic merit. Special attention to be given to correlate these exhibitions with

seasonal subjects and with meetings of various civic groups and women's organizations.

A complete catalogue filing system is contemplated in order to make available, quickly, and in current issue, all literature issued by manufacturers which may be of interest to the architects and to the building public.

The entire Mart project is backed by a group of substantial business men of the City of St. Louis and sufficient finances are provided to insure the continuing of the entire project in a comprehensive way.

The following paragraphs were taken from a comprehensive booklet covering the exhibit:

"An important section of this exhibit, known as the Civic Center, will contain three completely built and equipped structures—a home, a church and a school—demonstrating outstanding types of architecture. . . .

"Every type of modern electrical appliance for the home will be shown here in the proper setting. A model electrical kitchen, complete in every detail. . . .

"Six thousand four hundred and thirty square feet . . . are given over to the efficient display and demonstration of all kinds of modern heating and ventilating equipment. . . .

"Few building materials can be shown to best advantage by themselves. Not until they become part of a complete and attractive building do their full beauty and utility become apparent. . . .

"The central feature of this exhibit, one which will attract thousands of interested visitors, is the appealing bungalow, with basement. . . .

"Everything that goes into the building or equipping of a modern home will be included here. The design, adjudged the winner in an architectural competition conducted by the St. Louis Chapter of The American Institute of Architects and the St. Louis Architectural Club, was drawn by Alfred H. Norrish of the firm of Mauran, Russell and Crowell. . . .

"With the Exhibit will be a conference room and office for the St. Louis Chapter of The American Institute of Architects. Here in the heart of the building display, architects will gather for discussion or for conference with their clients. A complete A. I. A. catalog file will be maintained and will be in charge of a competent librarian, ready to furnish data on any product displayed in the exhibit, or others. A representative of the St. Louis Chapter will be on hand at all times to answer questions for building prospects, to give preliminary architectural advice if they wish, or to put them in touch with competent architects."

With the Chapters

Brooklyn Chapter—November Meeting.

"The monthly dinner meeting of the Brooklyn Chapter, A.I.A., was held Monday evening, November 30th, at the Brooklyn Elks Club. Charles C. Wagner, President, presided.

The meeting was well attended and Albert L. Brockway, Regional Director, reported on the progress of the proposed unification of architects interested in the State of New York and of the danger to the architects' business if licensed professional engineers of any of the twenty-seven classifications were allowed to practice in New York State.

Robert Teischman, President of the Long Island Society of Architects, and Jame F. Bly, President of the New York Society of Architects, were also present and two-reel motion picture graphically portraying the application of welding to a small residence building was shown."

Central Illinois Chapter—Annual Meeting.

"The annual meeting of the Central Illinois Chapter was held in Peoria, Illinois, on the 12th of December at the Creve Couer Club. A delightful fried chicken luncheon preceded the formal meeting.

"The luncheon was followed by a talk by Prof. Mackintosh, of Bradley University, covering the various relations and developments of all the arts, but particularly as they affected architecture. This was followed by a rather interesting and lively discussion by the members along the lines suggested by the address which discussion was only terminated by the President in order to permit the opening of the formal business session.

"The recommendations of the Nominating Committee as to officers for the coming year were read. By proper motion, second and vote those named were unanimously elected as the officers of the Chapter for the ensuing year, as follows:

For President—R. S. Gregg, Peoria.

For 1st Vice-President—E. E. Lundeen, Bloomington.

For 2nd Vice-President—R. J. Hotchkiss, Peoria.

For Sec.-Treas., Ernest L. Stouffer, Urbana.

"Wm. H. Conway was nominated to fill the unexpired term of Mark Whitmeyer as Director (1 year), and Philip R. Hooton was nominated as the new Director (for 3 years). There being no further nominations, by proper motion, second and vote the nominations were declared closed and the Secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous ballot.

"By proper nomination and vote Wm. H. Conway was elected as the third chapter delegate to the next annual convention, the President and

Secretary being delegates, ex-officio. By similar nomination and vote the following alternate delegates were elected:

P. R. Hooton, 1st Alternate.

L. H. Provine, 2nd Alternate.

H. E. Hewitt, 3rd Alternate.

"The President and Secretary were further empowered by resolution adopted to appoint others as alternates if such action should be necessary.

"By resolution adopted the President was instructed to appoint a committee to look into the proposition of preparing a leaflet to be sent to school boards on the general subject of "How to Select an Architect," similar to one prepared by architects in Iowa and New Jersey. It was suggested that it might be wise to cooperate with other state agencies, such as the Chicago Chapter and the Illinois Society of Architects.

"Attention was called to the growing number of violations of the Architectural practice laws, particularly by lumber companies. It was decided that the Chapter should do what it could to help with the prosecution of any particular instances brought to the attention of the officers."

Detroit Chapter—Secretary's Report.

The following paragraphs are taken from a report by Arthur K. Hyde, Secretary of the Detroit Chapter, covering the work of the Chapter for the year ending October 15, 1931.

"Among the new developments in which the Chapter has taken an active interest, the formation of the Detroit Building Congress is probably most conspicuous in its potentialities. From its inception President Gamber has given generously of his time and effort to the work of organization. It should be a source of pride for all members that the Detroit Chapter has played a leading part in the formation of this body. With W. G. Malcomson as its chosen chief we may rest assured of its future success.

"Among other outstanding accomplishments of the past year I briefly mention:

"A new form of co-operation with the Michigan Society of Architects and unaffiliated architects accomplished through weekly luncheon meetings. A local effort toward a unification of the profession resulting from a suggestion of W. G. Malcomson.

"A revived effort toward proving the futility of free sketches and unregulated competitions. Several misinformed clients have been guided in this matter and the position of architects in general has been elevated thereby.

"A start has been made in the work of compiling data for the writing of a Chapter history.

"A committee has been appointed jointly with M. S. A. whose duty it is to assemble informa-

tion relative to the employment of practicing architects for state, county or municipal work and to stand in readiness to combat any future attempts of local governments toward the appointment or election of state, county, city or departmental architects."

* * *

"The serious unemployment situation has presented the problem of caring for draftsmen who are in need. A special committee was appointed under the chairmanship of D. H. Williams to create a fund from which to make loans or disbursements for relief. The Chapter has also been represented on the Mayor's Unemployment Committee."

* * *

"We have lent our support to the plan for Unification of the architectural profession throughout the country as contained in a report of the committee appointed at the last convention."

Florida Chapters—Joint Conference.

"F. J. James and George Jacobs spoke concerning various chapter interests and efforts. R. T. Pancoast explained the operation of the Miami Board for fostering cooperation among architects, general contractors and sub-contractors. Mellen C. Greeley talked on matters of appraisals and their influence in securing first mortgage loans. Professor Rudolph Weaver spoke relative to plan services of the Small House Bureau; Nat G. Walker explained in detail the origin and functions of the Bureau; and Franklin O. Adams and George Pfeiffer extended this subject. Professor Weaver talked on proposed Fellowships and Institute influence upon Federal Building operations. Mr. Greeley stressed desirability of Chapter members interesting themselves in community and civic activities. Immediately following a number of members present reported upon their individual cooperation in such matters, during the present year."

Georgia Chapter—November Meeting.

"Richard W. Alger discussed the question of taking action to prevent a named individual from obtaining advertisements from contractors, sub-contractors and material men for a booklet published under the name of the Georgia Architects. There being no evidence that the individual was not going to publish such a book and the Georgia Chapter of the A.I.A. having no control of the use of the name "Georgia Architects," it was felt that nothing could be done about the matter except to notify the various organizations that the Georgia Chapter was in no way connected with the Georgia Architects." (See Notice of Fraud, page 20.)

Kansas Chapter—October Meeting.

At the meeting of the Kansas Chapter at Salina, Kansas, seventeen members were present. A report of the Membership Committee indicated the possibility for considerable growth of Chapter. The report of the Committee on Public Information showed that the chapter was keeping in touch with the work of the Publicist of the Institute, and was availing itself of Mr. Grady's assistance. It recommended that each member be requested to prepare a symposium for the members in his own county and file copies of same with the Chairman of the Chapter's Public Information Committee.

Other committees made interesting and helpful reports, followed by informal talks on the following subjects:

- Federal Buildings by Private Architects—H. G. Overend.
- Moisture Through Masonry Walls—Harold English.
- Financing of Building Construction—Lorentz Schmidt.
- Architectural Jurisprudence—A. R. Mann.
- Architects' Professional Fees or Charges—W. E. Glover.
- Originality in Planning—Gilbert Geery.
- Contacts Between Schools and Architects—Paul Wiegel.
- When, How and Should an Architect Specialize—Frank C. Squires.
- Developments in Rural Architecture—Henry Wichers.

Kentucky Chapter—December Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of the Kentucky Chapter on December 29 indicates prompt and effective action is being taken by that chapter in enlisting support for the Public Works legislation—H. R. 6187 and S. 2956.

The state's registration law was a major subject of discussion at the December meeting. It was pointed out that there was room for much improvement in the present law, and that members of the Registration Board have not been able to decide what should be the real purpose of the law—to protect architecture as a profession or the title "architect" against promiscuous use.

The point was brought out that a state building code might help in the application of the registration act.

Nebraska Chapter—November Meeting.

"The U. S. Treasury Department, we are informed, has instructed architects who are doing public work to employ as consulting engineers only those who have no 'entangling alliances.' Engineers, whether structural or mechanical, are to have no connection with, or interest in (direc

or indirect) any person, firm or corporation which makes, handles, sells or otherwise provides materials, devices or appliances which are to be used in the building.

"At first glance such an order seems to reflect on the ability of the many high grade engineers who draw salaries from manufacturers or jobbers of building materials. We think, however, that the real reason for this safeguard lies in the fact that such engineering service is usually offered to architects without any direct compensation from the architect to the engineer or to his boss.

"Unless a new and better arrangement is devised by the manufacturers whereby their engineering talent is separated from their sales force and is at the service of the architect for a proper fee, we predict that some day an enlightened and outraged public will require that kind of a stipulation in every contract between a client and an architect."

New Jersey Chapter—November Meeting.

"The Secretary, C. W. Fairweather, stated that he had been in touch with Mr. W. D. Heydecker, Secretary of Regional Plan Association, Inc., relative to our duties in the event of the Chapter accepting his invitation to become a member of the Association and that Mr. Heydecker had stated that he was anxious to have individual members in different parts of the State serve on committees in the several localities of the State. On motion duly made, seconded and passed, the Chapter voted to become an affiliate member of the Association with dues of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) per annum.

"J. Osborne Hunt stated that the State Board of Architects had recently circularized the Building Inspectors of the State, stating the requirements of the law relative to the filing of plans and the secretary expressed the thanks of the Chapter for this work.

"After the usual dinner Dr. F. O. Anderson gave a most interesting and instructive talk on damp-proofing masonry construction, the same being greatly enjoyed by the members, by representatives of the Associated Contractors, who were guests of the Chapter, and by various contractor guests of the members."

Philadelphia Chapter and T-Square Club—Joint Meeting.

The minutes of the annual joint meeting, held November 30, of the Philadelphia Chapter and the T-Square Club gave a comprehensive report of the Joint Architectural Exhibition Board, of which Harold T. Carswell was chairman.

The joint board placed before the meeting, for consideration, the idea of discontinuing the year book in the present form and the question of taking the necessary steps to bring about a national architectural year book to be published

and sold under the auspices of The American Institute of Architects. ". . . as a National Year Book of American Architecture—and if desired, of the Allied Arts—representing from Convention to Convention the best work of the year, it should form a valuable addition to every library, public, private and architectural."

Washington State Chapter—Recent Meetings.

November

"*Fee System for Permits*—Clyde Grainger reported for the Ordinance Committee on the proposed fee-system for building permits in Seattle. Mr. Grainger reported that his committee was opposed to the fee-system as outlined.

"A motion was made by Arthur P. Herrman, duly seconded and carried, that the Chapter instruct the Ordinance Committee to bear pressure on individual Councilmen against the proposal.

"*Coordination of Building Industry*—J. Lister Holmes made a motion which was duly seconded and carried, that the question of the coordination of the building industries, as brought up at the open meeting referred to above, be referred to the Building Industries Contact Committee to appoint a sub-committee to cooperate with the Washington State Society of Architects.

"*Joint Meeting with Students*—Mr. Stoddard moved that the annual banquet be eliminated this year and that the Entertainment Committee try to arrange a meeting in January in conjunction with the students of the Department of Architecture, University of Washington, and that the committee act in consultation with the Executive Board, in this matter. Motion was seconded and carried.

"*Honorary Member*—It was moved by D. P. Thomas and seconded by C. F. Gould that the Secretary confer with the Spokane group, with the view of electing some member of the Construction and Industry Committee, of the Spokane Chamber of Commerce, to honorary membership in the Chapter in recognition of the splendid work done there towards the decentralization of the government architectural bureau. Motion was carried.

"At the conclusion of the business meeting, the Secretary, Lance E. Gowen, gave an illustrated talk on the 'Ruins of the Khmer Civilization in Cambodia,' showing mostly slides of the temples at Angkor."

December

"Following the business session of the Washington State Chapter meeting, December 3, Mr. Seegar of the Cascade Fixture Company pre-

sented an interesting demonstration of the effects of different kinds of lighting. This was accomplished by means of a 'light box' with ingenious methods of control so that light could be thrown on objects with changes of intensity, color and direction. This showed very vividly how form varies under conditions of lighting. Two reels were shown in moving pictures of the Seattle Light development on the Skagit.

"At the conclusion of this most interesting demonstration and instructive films, Mr. Seegar and his assistants were thanked on behalf of the to the Chapter by President Borhek."

West Texas Chapter—December Meeting.

"A discussion took place regarding the Small House Service Bureau. After no definite decision was arrived at, a Committee on Small House Construction was instructed by the President to investigate in detail the workings of the Architects' Small House Service Bureau and make a report to the Chapter.

"A motion was made and carried that a committee be appointed to investigate the feasibility of passing a local license law. This committee consisted of Raymond Phelps, *Chairman*, Richard Vander Straten and Leo M. J. Dielmann.

"Robert Ayres brought up for discussion the Architectural Work which is being done by the Architectural Schools of Texas A. & M. and the University of Texas on new buildings being erected by both of these institutions. A motion was made and seconded that the Legislative Committee, consisting of Raymond Phelps, Atlee B. Ayres and Leo M. J. Dielmann write a resolution condemning work done by the Professors on this State work. The resolution to be submitted to the Executive Committee before sending to the proper authorities."

Wisconsin Chapter—November Meeting.

"The regular monthly meeting of the Wisconsin

Chapter took place at the City Club on Wednesday noon, the 11th of November, 1931.

"The Committee chairmen were called upon for reports.

"Carl F. Eschweiler spoke for the Draftsmen Committee. He reported that thus far eleven men had enrolled in the work of the atelier, and of the decision of the committee to teach history of architecture by means of lectures and slides. He brought up the question of assistance for some of those that were worthy of such. T. L. Rose therefore moved that the interest from our bond be used for the purpose of scholarships. After considerable discussion it was agreed that the committee find out how much money is available and that they use a portion of the same to assist those most worthy but only for the payment of fees. The committee was given full power to act immediately and was directed also to report back to the Chapter.

"S. J. De Gelleke reporting for the Civic Advisory Committee said that no matters had come up requiring the attention of this group. Mr. De Gelleke reporting also for the Legislative Committee said that the new examining board was functioning but that thus far no action had been taken regarding the grandfather act.

"Bruce Uthus spoke on the recent meeting of the Building Congress of Wisconsin. He reported that a permanent organization was formed. He explained the objects and the purposes and that the Chapter would be entitled to two delegates to attend regular meetings. The Wisconsin Chapter has formally applied for membership and has at the present time a committee of three sitting in with the group.

"The meeting then adjourned to view the showing of a film depicting the design and construction of an all-welded steel frame house which had recently been erected in Cleveland. This was shown through the courtesy of the Lincoln Electric Company of Cleveland, Ohio."

Executive Committee—Spring Meeting

Washington, D. C., February 26 and 27

The Spring meeting of the Executive Committee of the Institute will be held in Washington February 26 and 27. The Committee will have before it preliminary reports of the Standing and the Special Committees, the tentative program of the Sixty-fifth Convention, and various major problems arising from the work of the Institute

and the position of the architect in the building industry.

Communications concerning matters of Institute policy or welfare intended for the Executive Committee, should be addressed to the Secretary, Frank C. Baldwin, The Octagon, Washington, D. C., and should be on hand not later than February 20.

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Items of Interest

Robert D. Kohn—On Olympic Jury.

President Kohn has accepted an invitation from the Director of the American Fine Arts Section for the Xth Olympiad to serve on the Jury for Architecture at the Exhibition of architecture, painting, and sculpture, to be held at the Los Angeles County Museum from July 30 to August 14, 1932.

A reference was made to this competition on page 31 of the November number of THE OCTAGON.

Myron Hunt—On Jury of Fellows.

President Kohn recently appointed Myron Hunt, of Los Angeles, to fill the vacancy on the Jury of Fellows caused by the death of John Galen Howard.

The Jury will hold its spring meeting at The Octagon on February 4. Recommendations for Fellowship which have been on file with the Jury of Fellows for the period of time required by the By-laws will receive consideration at that time.

James Monroe Hewlett, Director, American Academy in Rome.

The Trustees of the American Academy in Rome recently appointed James Monroe Hewlett, Fellow of the Institute and Chairman of its Committee on Allied Arts, director of the Academy for three years beginning October 1, 1932. This means a residence in Italy for a period of at least three years. Mr. Hewlett's host of friends in the architectural profession, and in the allied groups, extend to him their congratulations and best wishes.

Ely Jacques Kahn, Director of Department of Architecture, Beaux Arts Institute of Design.

Ely Jacques Kahn, of the New York Chapter, has been recently appointed Director of the Department of Architecture of the Beaux Arts Institute of Design. Mr. Kahn succeeds Mr. Cusachs, and by virtue of this appointment becomes an Honorary Member of the Committee on Education.

John P. B. Sinkler, Director of the Department of Architecture, Philadelphia.

J. Hampton Moore, Mayor-elect of Philadelphia, recently announced the appointment of John P. B. Sinkler as Director of the Department of Architecture in the cabinet of the new municipal administration. Mr. Sinkler is a partner in the firm of Bissell & Sinkler, a Fellow of the Institute, past president of the Philadelphia Chapter, member of the Zoning Commission and chairman of the Height Committee of that body.

Frederick Bigger, President, American City Planning Institute.

Frederick Bigger, Chairman of the Institute's Committee on Economics of Site Planning and Housing, was elected President of the American City Planning Institute at the recent meeting of that organization in Detroit.

Samuel R. Bishop, Representative on Conference Committee.

Samuel R. Bishop, Chairman of the Institute's Committee on Health and Safety, has been recently appointed by President Kohn to act as the representative of the Institute on the Conference Committee of the "Third Annual Greater New York Safety Conference," to be held in February, 1932.

A Correction.

On page 18 of the October issue of THE OCTAGON, under "Indiana State Library Building—Awards," the name of Paul Cret was inadvertently omitted in listing the names of those architects whose designs had won recognition in the Indiana Library Competition. Mr. Cret's design was placed second by the Jury.

School Building Classification—Committee Appointed.

President Kohn recently appointed a committee of three—William B. Ittner, Charles T. Ingham, and Albert L. Brockway, Chairman—to study the School Building Classification of 1919, adopted by the Institute in that year. The committee will recommend such revisions as seem desirable to bring the classification up-to-date.

Roadside Beautification Planned by New Jersey.

Expenditure of \$150,000 is planned by the State next year for roadside beautification, according to an announcement by the Highway Commission. The amount is in addition to \$1,000,000 set aside for employment relief, a portion of which will be spent on grading projects improving the appearance of State routes.

The announcement was made to a delegation representing various women's organizations of the State, who appeared before the Commission to protest against the location of billboards near the George Washington Bridge at Fort Lee and the Victory Bridge at Perth Amboy. The complaints were referred to Assistant Attorney General Walter H. Bacon, Jr., for investigation. It was pointed out that the jurisdiction of the State extends only to its right-of-way.—*U. S. Daily.*

President's Conference.

There was presented in the December number of *THE OCTAGON* a summary of President Hoover's Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership, which met in Washington, December 2-5, 1931. This was a summary by Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, Secretary of the Interior and Co-Chairman of the Conference.

Other comments on the Conference, based on an interview with Dr. Gries, follow.

The Conference made possible a closer coordination and cooperation in similar or closely related activities covering the problems of housing.

It brought out the fact that consideration is being given to those families who are much farther down the economic scale, as far as cost of homes and incomes are concerned, than have ever before received similar consideration and that assistance to this class, in their home-building and home-owning problems, will reach many more families than would otherwise be affected.

The Conference tended to create a sympathetic view by each group of the home building industry to the problems and viewpoints of the other groups of the industry. The distribution of representatives of the many groups throughout the committees of the Conference was particularly helpful in bringing to these committees the viewpoints of all groups involved in the problems studied and discussed. Those representatives should carry back to their respective groups the viewpoints of the other groups and thus give to each a better understanding of the problem as a whole than would have been otherwise possible.

The points brought out during discussion at the committee meetings of the Conference, are being considered and the tentative reports of the committees are being revised in accordance therewith.

The Correlating Committee on Education and Service, or a similar committee, will make a study of the committees' final reports and will make the information given therein, available to all factors of the home building industry, so that the recommendations of the Conference Committees might be utilized to the greatest possible extent.

The final reports of the committees of the Conference will be published in a number of volumes which will be available to the public.

Inquiries regarding committee reports, and other matters pertaining to the work of the Conference, should be addressed to Dr. John M. Gries, Executive Secretary, President's Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership, New Commerce Building, Washington, D. C.

Convention—California State Association.

At the Fourth Annual Convention of The State Association of California Architects, held at Riverside, October 9-10, the following officers were elected: Albert J. Evers, President; Robert H. Orr, Vice-President (by system of rotation); Harris C. Allen and Louis J. Gill, Second Vice-Presidents and A. M. Edelman, Secretary.

Following are a number of resolutions adopted by the convention:

—approving, in principle, the Unification Program and pledging the support of the Association to put the program in operation when completed;

—restating and confirming previous position regarding the commissioning of architects in private practice for architectural services on

governmental buildings; and commending the governor of California for distribution of public work to private architects;

—commending California periodicals, newspapers or magazines for policy of giving space and favor to promotion of good architecture;

—approving movement for organization of Building Congress in California and urging architects to take an active and leading part;

—restating and reaffirming position as regards clearing of highways of defacements;

—instructing Executive Boards to appoint committees for study of architectural services in connection with small buildings;

—inducing financial institutions to require services of architect on buildings on which loans are made as a means of adding to value and security of the loan;

—commending managements of Architects Reports and Architects Daily Reports and urging members to show appreciation by whole-hearted support and cooperation;

—commending Millwork Institute of California for manner of presentation of technical data.

Convention—Florida Association of Architects.

The Nineteenth Annual Convention of the Florida Association of Architects was held at St. Petersburg, December 11th and 12th. It was an enthusiastic, constructive and successful Convention according to a very interesting report submitted to *THE OCTAGON* by C. Sedgwick Moss, Secretary of the Florida Central Chapter. The report would be published in full in this issue but for the limitation of space.

The Convention approved the Building Congress movement as presented by Franklin O. Adams, Director of the South Atlantic Division, which movement incorporates the idea of "Certified Buildings" through cooperation in matters of finance, insurance, design, contracts (general contracting and sub-contracting) and in matters pertaining to the manufacturers' interests.

The Convention approved the preparation of a suitable medal and certificate to be presented annually to a member of the Association for individual outstanding services to the Architectural profession.

The Convention also endorsed President Hoover's Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership and approved the extension of Association membership to be inclusive throughout the State.

The following Officers and District Directors were elected: Henry L. Taylor, President; Richard Kiehnel, First Vice President; and A. R. Moore, H. J. Klutho, George Jacobs, C. S. Moss, Nat G. Walker and R. T. Pancoast, District Directors.

The next meeting of the Association will be

the Semi-Annual Meeting at Gainesville in June, 1932.

Notice of Fraud.

Information has been received that a former editor of a Florida publication has been obtaining money from architects, contractors, sub-contractors and the allied trades through misrepresentations.

The story is: The Florida Association of Architects had a mid-year meeting in Gainesville, Florida, last April. The editor to which above reference is made, offered to publish the proceedings of that meeting in his paper, the particular number to be called "Florida Architects." Without authorization he used the names of prominent architects to secure advertisements. The paper was never published. It is alleged that he endorsed checks drawn to the order of prominent architects and cashed them. It is further reported that he was arrested; was released under bond; and then disappeared.

It is believed that similar misrepresentations are now being made in other southern states. Architects are advised in this matter, so that they may protect themselves against loss.

See "Georgia Chapter," page 15 of this number of THE OCTAGON.

The World's First Skyscraper.

Was the Home Insurance Building (Chicago) the world's first skyscraper? The controversy over the question has been engaging the interest of architects and builders for many years. During the demolition of the Home Insurance Building, October, 1931, daily inspections were made. Following are the summaries or conclusions of two committees:

(a) *The Joint Committee on Materials and Methods of the Illinois Society of Architects and the Chicago Chapter of the Institute:*

* * * * *

"In summarizing our findings, it must be kept in mind that this building was constructed during a transitional period and represented real pioneering in the adaptation of metal framing to tall structures. It contained the essential elements of true skyscraper construction—there was a complete skeleton framework, floor loads were carried by both interior and exterior columns, wall loads were transferred to columns and columns were supported on independent footings. The fact that some of these elements existed in a rather primitive manner, and that the framework did not conform to our modern ideas of rigidity, should not be allowed to cloud our judgment of a courageous and creditable undertaking. We are therefore in complete accord in recognizing the Home Insurance Building as the first tall structure of metal skeleton construction.

"In his book on "Skyscrapers and the Men Who Build Them," Col. A. A. Starrett gives full credit to Mr. Jenney for first putting the skyscraper idea into practice. While we are in agreement on this point, our study has convinced us that the skyscraper was not a specific invention but was the result of an evolution in building construction. A great many minds contributed to its development and it seems to us that Jenney, Holabird, Roche, Burnham and Root are all justly entitled to share in the glory of this great American achievement."

* * * * *

Submitted by the Committee November 13, 1931,

Raphael N. Friedman, A. L. Lloyd, John O. Merrill, Chas. H. Prindeville, Hugo Schmidt, Ivar Viehe-Naess, Clark Wright, Tirrell J. Ferrenz, *Chairman.*

(b) *The Committee appointed by the Marshal Field Estate:*

* * * * *

"As in the case of every great invention, skeleton construction in its completeness was not nor could it have been discovered by any one man nor expressed in any one building. The early buildings for this reason are all more or less transitional and experimental. Each learned from the experience of the preceding and added its contribution in the development of the idea. It is, however, entirely possible, from a consideration of the evidence, to appraise the relative importance of each in terms of its originality and its influence on the work which followed. Acting on this conviction we have no hesitation in stating that the Home Insurance Building was the first high building to utilize as the *basic* principle of its design the method known as skeleton construction, and that there is convincing evidence that Major Jenney in solving the particular problems of light and loads appearing in this building discovered the true application of skeleton construction to the building of high structures and invented and here utilized for the first time its special forms.

"We are also of the opinion that owing to its priority and its immediate success and renown the Home Insurance Building was in fact the primal influence in the acceptance of skeleton construction; the true father of the skyscraper."

Submitted by the Committee, November 24, 1931,

Ernest R. Graham, A. N. Rebori, Charles B. Pike, Mark Levy, Earl H. Reed, Jr., Richard E. Schmidt, Benjamin H. Marshall, O. T. Kreusser, Alfred Shaw, Thomas E. Tallmadge, *Chairman*, W. B. Mundie, who helped design the Home Insurance Building, ex-officio member.

Meanwhile

BY EVERETT U. CROSBY

Good enough times are somewhere ahead. Accept it as a fact, but that no one knows just when they will come, and that speed in arriving is not important, although in our impatience or distress it is hard to appreciate this.

Meanwhile

Largely forget the bogies of Europe, the Far East and remote places generally.

Also the gyrations of that wheel of chance—the Stock Exchange.

Remember, commonsense is as valuable as ever.

Realize the government and civilization of this young, virile country are bound to endure and develop for generations to come, and that natural laws which always work and always are at work will restore our normal status, and not artificial man-made laws which often retard.

Rejoice that the large majority of us have our jobs and much more. Enjoy *today* our health and friends and this great abundant land.

Learn how much of happiness comes from these sources and not from a ceaseless rush for money, power or prominence, and how we need not be largely dependent for entertainment on what we buy.

Act persistently to trim every budget—home, business, town, state, federal, until they more than balance, by reducing outgo where we cannot for the present increase income.

We would, overnight, be living in Utopia if every person, every nation, ceased to fear, hate, criticize and antagonize anyone, but instead helped, co-operated with and appreciated everyone.

January 1, 1932.

Applications for Membership

January 25, 1932.

Notice to Members of the Institute:

The names of the following applicants may come before the Board of Directors or its Executive Committee for action on their admission to the Institute, and, if elected, the applicants will be assigned to the Chapters indicated:

Central New York Chapter -- EARL HALLENBECK

Chicago Chapter - - - - - ALFRED SHAW

Cleveland Chapter - - - - - FRANCIS K. DRAZ, J. ELMER REEB, GEORGE CARSON SMITH

New Jersey Chapter - - - - - ARNOLD VOORHEES COOK

New York Chapter - - - - - ASHFORD SCLATER ELLIS, ERARD A. MATTHIESSEN, LYFORD ROME, WILLIAM G. THAYER, JR.

You are invited, as directed by the By-laws, to send privileged communications before February 25, 1932, on the eligibility of the candidates for the information and guidance of the members of the Board of Directors in their final ballot. No applicant will be finally passed upon should any Chapter request, within the thirty-day period, an extension of time for purpose of investigation.

FRANK C. BALDWIN, *Secretary*.

Members Elected from June 23, 1931, to December 31, 1931

<i>Albany Chapter</i> - - - - -	JOHN M. RYDER
<i>Boston Chapter</i> - - - - -	HARLAND A. PERKINS, CEDRIC HUBBELL START
<i>Brooklyn Chapter</i> - - - - -	CHARLES G. RAMSEY
<i>Chicago Chapter</i> - - - - -	PHILIP A. DANIELSON, WYBE J. VAN DER MEER, RICHARD F. VOELL
<i>Cincinnati Chapter</i> - - - - -	STANDISH MEACHAM
<i>Cleveland Chapter</i> - - - - -	J. L. RODRICK
<i>Colorado Chapter</i> - - - - -	HAROLD R. SMITH
<i>Columbus Chapter</i> - - - - -	EDWARD F. BABBITT, WOOSTER BARD FIELD
<i>Connecticut Chapter</i> - - - - -	THOMAS RAYMOND BALL
<i>Detroit Chapter</i> - - - - -	WILLIAM H. REID, JR.
<i>Louisiana Chapter</i> - - - - -	HERBERT H. LAND, D. CURTIS SMITH
<i>Madison Chapter</i> - - - - -	BERNHARD J. DOCKENDORFF, ALBERT EDWARD PARKINSON
<i>New Jersey Chapter</i> - - - - -	JOSEPH SANFORD SHANLEY
<i>New York Chapter</i> - - - - -	LEWIS A. COFFIN, JR., FREDERICK M. GODWIN, DANIEL P. HIGGINS, FREDERIC CHARLES HIRONS, C. FREDERICK HOUSTON, HAROLD REEVE SLEEPER, FREDERIC JAMES WOODBRIDGE
<i>North Carolina Chapter</i> - - - - -	ERIC GOODYEAR FLANNAGAN, ANTHONY LORD
<i>North Texas Chapter</i> - - - - -	SHIRLEY SIMONS
<i>Northern California Chapter</i> - - - - -	JOHN B. MCCOOL
<i>Philadelphia Chapter</i> - - - - -	ALFRED V. DU PONT, W. MARSHALL HUGHES
<i>Pittsburgh Chapter</i> - - - - -	BERNARD H. PRACK
<i>Rhode Island Chapter</i> - - - - -	ORESTO DI SALA
<i>St. Louis Chapter</i> - - - - -	CARL N. ATKINSON
<i>San Diego Chapter</i> - - - - -	FRANK L. HOPE, JR., LILIAN J. RICE
<i>South Carolina Chapter</i> - - - - -	C. R. MACDONALD
<i>Southern California Chapter</i> - - - - -	WILLIAM H. KRAEMER, SAMUEL EUGENE LUNDEN
<i>Toledo Chapter</i> - - - - -	THOMAS D. McLAUGHLIN, LYNN TROXEL
<i>West Texas Chapter</i> - - - - -	NAT W. HARDY
<i>West Virginia Chapter</i> - - - - -	FREDERIC FARIS
<i>Wisconsin Chapter</i> - - - - -	ELLIOTT BUTLER MASON

