## THE

# OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



Opposing Architectural Competitions

The Architect of the Future

Organizing the Construction Industry

The Lender's Point of View

With the Chapters

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The College of William and Mary

As of Interest

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#### The News of the Convention

THIS number of THE OCTAGON will be mailed prior to the opening of the Sixty-eighth Convention.

Therefore, the June number will contain information about the Convention, including the President's Address, the Board's Report, a summary of the Treasurer's Report, and all resolutions adopted by the Convention.

It is hoped that funds will permit the publication of Convention papers and reports during the summer months.

## THE OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects

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## Opposing Architectural Competitions for Public Buildings

By ROBERT A. ECKLES, A. I. A.

I HAVE read the article in the April issue of THE OCTAGON which recommends competitions for selection of architects on public work.

I have not had an opportunity to reread the article nor to analyze it carefully but I am of the opinion that the gentlemen sponsoring the article are unduly concerned about the possibility of securing more Federal Government work for private architects and improving the architects' standing in public estimation.

I think it should be observed that the Federal Government employed practically no private architects for post offices and similar buildings previous to the initiation of the building program in 1930-31. There were a great number of private architects employed during the years of the depression. The laws do not require the Treasury Department to employ private architects but probably because it was impractical to expand the Supervising Architect's office in the Treasury Department rapidly enough to start the work contemplated they did commission outside assistance. It is my opinion that this policy was not favored by the existing bureaus who naturally prefer to have such work handled by permanent employees. It therefore seems entirely natural that at the earliest opportunity they did cease to employ private architects using any convenient excuse as a reason.

It is true that the employment of private architects for Federal work, as well as some other types of public work, depends to some extent on political activities. It is also true that certain types of political activities have, and will, favor the use of

the Government architectural forces rather than that of independent architectural offices. It seems very unlikely that the Federal Government was influenced in this matter by the difficulty of selecting architects through any ordinary channels, political or otherwise. We hear no such complaints about the appointment of lawyers by the hundreds, as well as all other types of business and professional men who secure government positions.

The second point is made regarding the standing of the architect with the general public. It is my opinion that the standing of the architect has materially improved during the past few years. I continually run across evidence from all types of people such as building and loan associations, bankers, speculative builders and industrial leaders who now concede the value of architectural services where they have not felt the necessity for them in the past. I believe that the public is slowly becoming more appreciative of architecture and that the architect personally rates higher.

To introduce a public competition method with the approval of the A. I. A. will cause great confusion in the public mind, and do much to put the profession back where it was thirty years ago. It is my understanding that it was a very common belief on the part of building committees, school boards, etc., that the way to select an architect was to have a "competition" by submission of "pictures." This very undignified proceeding has been gradually eliminated as far as my observation goes and the selection of an architect has been based on better procedure. Politics and salesmanship no doubt

enter into many selections of architects but the mere recommendation of a public competition will not eliminate either. For every A. I. A. sponsored competition which is actually put into effect there may be a hundred informal competitions put out by building committees and similar bodies in small communities. They will understand the suggestion that a competition is desirable but will not agree to the regulations which are necessary to have any A. I. A. sponsored competition based on merit. The authors of the article entitled "Architectural Competitions for Public Buildings" dismiss this problem too lightly.

The competition system (properly sponsored) may, in certain cases, help individual architects but in small communities it will probably be a great set back in prestige for the architectural profession and may actually be worse than that. The publicity will be damaging rather than helpful. Instead of the "mad scramble," claimed for the present system, being known to a few board members, it will be before the public in the newspapers. It will provide a basis for an unfavorable comparison between this profession and others.

It is claimed that the competition system will help the younger architects. That might be, but I see no reason to expect such a result unless competitions are open to all. Boards evidently do not favor giving important commissions to inexperienced architects and would be apt to restrict competitions to invited participants (which may induce "politics" to be included in the list).

The comparison of our present policy with the English system is interesting but of no practical value. There are many features about English life and customs which I regret that we do not have, but the plain fact must be recognized that the countries are quite different in practically everything except language. More careful analysis of the architect's position in England might result in a rather unfavorable comparison between the practitioner in the small communities and in this country. It should also be noted that the statement quoting the number of approved competitions in England in one year is certainly very small compared to building here even during the depression years. I would think that this number of competitions would be very much less than the total building projects in one American State during the past year.

It is granted that there are many unsatisfactory phases in the present system of selecting architects for public work and the results are not always the best, but I am convinced that any action along the suggested course would damage our position more than it can possibly help us.

## Let Us Be Modern and Sensible

By LEIGH HUNT, A. I. A.

WE are at the cross roads of American life, if we are to believe the statements of the architects practicing in the larger centers of population.

The apostles of the modern architecture stress light and air as a modern requisite, also insulation and air conditioning. Further, they hold that the climatic conditions found in North Dakota or Florida dictate design and construction.

But is this done? The illustrations of residential work published in the architectural magazines look much alike—north or south—windows in one side of a room or, if in two, in the adjacent wall or, more often, on the corner, thus producing monotonous and sometimes illogical effects, both inside and out.

We are told that the architecture of today is the classic of tomorrow, but what is architecture? Is architecture manufactured products assembled to form a building, or is it the expression by the architect of good taste and the building public's requirements in design?

The modern house in general has flat roofs, corner windows, gas-pipe rails, steel sash, plaster walls and the absence of ornament. The furnishings are modern, the furniture either boxes or light metal frames covered with upholstery.

The scale is either giant or dwarf or a combination of both. The plan is generally true to type modern. The exterior is quite often at a different scale from the plan.

Many of the plans when studied in elevation and section show a tendency to reduce cubage. Little if any basements are shown and seldom any roof spaces. Insulation has made attics unnecessary.

The students of architecture of today see little need of studying old forms. The design motifs in general are vertical or horizontal or a combination of both, with little logic in the combination.

The elevations being the most indicative of moderness have the appearance of being drawn first, the plan being devised to suit them, with the result that livability is secondary. The interior generally depends upon furniture for character.

The designer of the modern goes to extremes, bold or delicate. Is this just to be different, or will a new acceptable period be developed on this principle? On every side we hear the word stream line. What does it mean? The 1936 automobile has a stream line grille, but if we look inside we see the 1930 radiator.

True we must be open minded, but should we design our buildings with vertical and horizontal lines using stunts to emphasize them? The great Louis H. Sullivan's slogan, "Form follows function," surely meant more than the minimum.

Each period of architecture has its day and in turn is replaced by a new style. If this new style called "modern," for want of a better name, survives our generation, we know it is because it has absorbed a charm or a picturesqueness so necessary for public approval.

A new period of architecture that will live must be sensible, practical and interesting and not merely the symbol of a machine age. If this goal be attained, modern design will carve a place for itself which will be classed as a new epoch in architectural history.

(By courtesy of The Wisconsin Architect.)

## The Architect of the Future-An Appeal and A Challenge

BY SHERLEY W. MORGAN, A. I. A.

AS a result of the depression, a situation is developing in the Schools of Architecture of the United States which should be made clear to the members of the Institute. Action must be taken before it threatens to endanger the future of our profession. We must all—teachers and practitioners alike—concern ourselves with the quality of the young men who are entering our Schools. We must take heed lest a defeatist psychology, based on the hardships of the last five years, drive away promising material at the very time when the problems ahead most demand it.

It is a common saying that the Schools are entrusted with the future of the Profession. This is true only in so far as the right material is placed in their charge. The enrollment of architectural students has been cut practically in half since the depression began. Some say that it should be reduced still further. That will not matter if it is the weak ones who are eliminated. The danger is that we seem to be losing too large a proportion of our abler material. Not more, but better students are needed.

There can be no doubt as to the future of architecture as a fundamental human activity—a necessary function of civilization. There may well be a question as to whether this vital service will be performed by architects, such as we now know them. It depends on how well the present members of the profession acquit themselves in the next few

decades, and on how successful their performance shall be in attracting to their ranks recruits of ability and vision.

We have just passed through a period of unparalleled difficulty for the practitioner. Nearly all have borne their burdens with courage and have shown themselves worthy of their calling. They have "endured hardships like good soldiers", sustained by the conviction that their work was big enough in meaning to justify sacrifice and repay devotion. They knew that the crash of an old world would require the building of a new, and that they could make a significant contribution to its creation.

Now that the opportunity for service seems again to be opening, their faith in the cause of Architecture has been vindicated. It is increasingly evident that our complex civilization requires trained planners, capable not only of analysis but of synthesis. The right kind of architect has something positive to offer to combat the forces of selfish ambition, of irresponsible power, of greed and of law-lessness, which theaten us on all sides. The creative mind must oppose the destructive tendencies of our age of transition, in whose troubled waters there is only too much temptation for the unscrupulous. Louis Sullivan strove toward an architecture that would express and preserve democracy; Le Corbusier has preached "Architecture or Revolu-

tion". We need the very best young hearts and minds to carry on such a cause.

There are great vistas ahead, great problems and opportunities calling for men's best powers. If the architects of tomorrow cannot meet the challenge, society will demand that other agencies take over their functions. Who knows what form of service they may be called upon to perform even ten years from now? Who can foresee in what direction they may be called upon to lead? Changes come with increasing rapidity in this world of invention and the machine. What youngster entering the profession half a century ago, even dreamed that the great problem of his maturity would be the skyscraper? Courage and initiative and leadership were demanded, as well as scientific knowledge and artistic ability, and the future will increasingly demand such qualities.

Men of this type do not result automatically from a system of training. They can be stimulated or retarded by education, but not created. Like the "ceiling" of an aeroplane, which is inherent in its mechanical design and cannot be changed by the most skillful pilot, every mind has its limits. No school program can guarantee a product, regardless of the abilities of those who study it. If our profession needs men of the broadest vision and the boldest initiative to carry its banner into a challeng-

ing future, it must recruit its ranks with the very ablest young men.

The Schools call on the Architects to help them attract such students-above all not to drive them away by defeatist advice. The student of today looks seriously into what is ahead. He consults all possible sources as to his future profession-almost always including several practitioners. If he is the type which we are seeking, he will not be discouraged by being told frankly that the road is long and arduous, and the rewards often meagre. He is prepared to face hardships. What he wants to know, really, is whether there is work ahead worth a life's devotion. If you can show him that, the obstacles will not discourage him, but a defeatist attitude, an admission that the game is not worth the candle, will surely chill his ardor and often make him give up the idea of becoming an architect.

The officers of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture call on the Architects of America to help us attract to our Institutions the young men best qualified to succeed to your responsibilities, and to lead on into an even greater future. We pledge you our unceasing endeavor to find the best means of developing their natural abilities through the technical and cultural training which will equip them most fully for the great work ahead.

## Appraising The Controversy

BY LOUIS LA BEAUME, F. A. I. A.

DURING the past five years or more the architectural profession has been busy, not in the practice of architecture, but in the discussion of architectural theories. Heated verbal engagements have taken place between the proponents of tradition and the apostles of progress. Both sides have often been eloquent, and sometimes logical. However, there is a vast difference between verbal eloquence and architectural eloquence, and architects must, in the final analysis, be judged by their deeds rather than their words. And now that the fury of the discussion seems to be abating, we may take advantage of our breathing spell and attempt to appraise the net results of the controversy.

There seem to be signs that some of the modernists are retreating from their extreme position; likewise some of the traditionalists seem to be moving ahead. Excess is giving way to common sense. Economic forces, no less than esthetic ideals, have

always affected the course of design. Such forces must inevitably have their effect on what is called style in architecture. The battle of the styles is over and the architect of today realizes, as perhaps never before, the necessity of a fresher and less traditional approach to his problem. Certain elements and phrases in his architectural vocabulary are gradually being sluffed off, and some new words and phrases are being coined.

If the functionalists have overstated their case, as must be soberly admitted, they have at least performed a useful service in calling attention to the need for simplification and for clean, outright architectural statement. Material functionalism as the sole attribute of architectural design is an absurdity, for architecture remains an art founded on use, but evoking a response from the spirit which hungers just as avidly for beauty as it does for comfort.

## On Organizing The Construction Industry

A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE CONSTRUCTION LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE COM-MITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

#### Why Organize

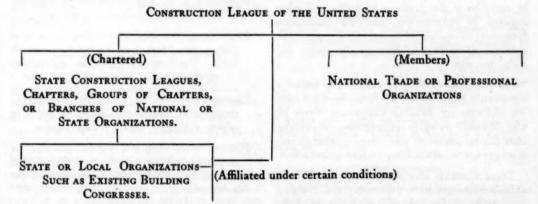
THE need of comprehensive organization of the Construction Industry has for years been apparent.

It is only by the cooperation of all of the elements of the Industry that progress can be made in correcting long existing abuses, in harmonizing conflicting interests, in action relative to legislation, and by the study of the problems and action on the projects that will advance the Industry as a whole toward good business and honorable public service.

#### Beginning to Organize

For years, trade, labor, producers of building materials and professional organizations, local and national, have worked without relation to each other or the industry as a whole. It was in 1921 that the first Building Congresses were set up in Boston, Portland (Oregon) and New York, and in 1931 the Construction League of the United States was organized with the purpose of coordinating the entire industry.

#### Form of Organisation



The Construction League of the United States has a regular membership of national trade and professional organizations, chartered membership of state construction leagues, and affiliated membership of local organizations where no State Construction League exists.

It has the following objectives:-

1. To create an agency truly representative of the whole industry through which to present the industry's viewpoint and needs to the public and the government.

To strengthen and benefit the industry internally by furnishing an agency to work out intra-industry problems.

 To supply sound advice and criticism to the individual branches by common council and open forum of architects, engineers, general contractors, specialized contractors, producers and dealers.

4. To promote unified and cooperative plans of study, research and propaganda for the proper advancement of the construction industry in the best interests of the public.

State Construction Leagues with a membership of State or local organizations have the same general objectives as the national League as applied to State problems.

Construction Councils and similar local organizations have like general purposes as related to cities, towns and communities, and have a membership of local groups and individuals.

To bring about complete and unified organization of the Construction Industry,—State and Local Organizations, Building Congresses and Councils, Chapters and Local Branches of Construction Industry Groups should take membership in their State Construction Leagues where such exist, and where such have not yet been effected, it is highly desirable that Local and State Groups should organize such.

#### Construction Councils

(Existing Building Congresses and similar local organizations.)

Through the National and State organizations mentioned the necessary means for cooperative action of the entire Industry are provided, but the initiative and inspiration comes primarily from contacts of local groups of individuals who go to make up the Industry.

Mutual understanding of each other's problems by the men of the professions, trades and labor engaged in construction, and the inspiration necessary to successful cooperation come from personal acquaintance, intimate discussion and social contacts.

For this reason, the real foundation of industry cooperation lies in groups like Construction Councils and existing Building Congresses where all who find their living in construction,—architects, contractors, producers and labor,—gather in intimate groups for sociability, conference and action.

These Councils should be composed of individuals connected with the construction industry and the local associations in each branch of the industry in the individual cities, such as the A.I.A. chapter, the A. G. C. chapter, etc. These local Councils can then be tied together through a state-wide Executive committee into State Construction Leagues. This state-wide hook-up is essential because the industry is much more effective as a state unit than as a disjointed series of local Councils.

#### Activities

The following are some of the projects suggested for study and action:

SLUM CLEARANCE AND LOW RENT HOUSING MORTGAGE MONEY

ARBITRATION COURT for settlement of disputes

without recourse to the long and expensive processes of law.

FACT FINDING for presenting facts and advising as to settlement of disputes among trade organizations.

STATISTICS—reports on market supply and demand for various types of buildings, trends of prices, etc.

RECOGNITION OF CRAFTSMANSHIP—stimulation of superior workmanship by awards.

LEGISLATION—revision of building codes and zoning laws, and proper administration of same. Watching new legislation and taking action thereon.

PRACTICE—to correct improper practices—shopping of bids, promulgation of codes of ethics, standards and contract papers.

PUBLICITY—to keep the public informed as to proper building practices and investment in building and the various activities of the industry.

SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

CREDIT INFORMATION

SEASONAL OPERATIONS—to promote regularity of work throughout the year.

STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS

FORUM

In addition to these activities of a continuing nature, Construction Councils and similar local organizations are called upon to assist in civic and industrial problems affecting interests outside the construction industry, such as emergency measures, taxation, housing, zoning and regional planning.

#### Membership

A Construction Council is essentially the binding together of groups representative of the various elements that go to make up the construction industry, for promoting the interests of construction. There should be included the local organizations of the architects, engineers, contractors, sub-contractors, material supply manufacturers, labor (optional), publishers, financiers, and realtors.

#### Contacts

Regular membership meetings encourage social and business contacts between all branches of the industry and provide opportunities for mutual understanding and joint action necessary to accomplishment. In many instances these meetings are conducted as forums with the principal address made by a recognized authority in the particular field.

#### How to Start a Construction Council

The usual method is to get together a small group of leaders representative of the major elements of the construction industry to whom the plan can be thoroughly explained, and who will have the vision to see the possibilities and who will also have the prestige and influence to attract large numbers of their particular groups. This small group will usually formulate a tentative organization plan, prepare an agenda and call a meeting of a larger group, which in turn will proceed to definite organization. At this general meeting the program might include speakers from the Construction League of the United States or its state branches, or from The American Institute of Architects who are well acquainted

with activities and accomplishments of established organizations. It might be well to interest local financial and business interests who will also recognize the advantages to be derived from a better-knit building industry. The success of the plan will largely depend on the possibility of obtaining the wholehearted interest of all the representative bodies composing the industry, and upon obtaining leaders with ability and enthusiasm.

Another method, generally only applicable to cities, is to arrange a building trades luncheon or series of luncheons, semi-social in character, to which are invited representative men from the various trades for the purpose of better acquaintance and discussion of building interests. These will often lead into definite organization.

#### Names for New Groups

Under the titles "Construction Council," "Building Congress," etc., there exist a number of local organizations comprising the various elements of the construction industry. For the sake of uniformity, in view of the effort to relate all construction industry groups to the Construction League of the United States, it is suggested that local groups formed in the future adopt the title "Construction Council of—(name of locality)"; and that state groups be called "(Name of state)—Construction League."

#### Further Information

Additional information may be obtained from Lawrence Mehren, Assistant Secretary, Construction League of the United States, National Press Building, Washington, D.C., or from William Orr Ludlow, 101 Park Avenue, New York City, Chairman, Committee on Industrial Relations, The American Institute of Architects.

### A Correction

In the article, entitled "Architectural Competitions for Public Buildings," published in the April number, Bertram Goodhue was credited with winning the competitions for the United States Military Academy at West Point and for St. Thomas Church

in New York.

The authors of the article request that a correction be made, to the effect that the winning of these two competitions should be credited to the firm of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson.

## School for Politico-Planners

By Frederic E. Towndrow, A. R. I. B. A.

THE A. A. School of National Planning is now happily settled in its premises on the east side of Bedford Square, and Mr. Rowse and his colleagues have just issued their first printed prospectus and curriculum. A very good prospectus it is. For our part we intend from time to time to refer to the activities of the school, for we consider that its establishment is of the greatest importance at this juncture in the affais of the community.

But what, our readers may ask, is this school "up to," this School of Planning for National Development (to give it its full title)? In what way does it differ from the other schools or courses in town-planning? How is it related to the requirements of the Town-planning Institute, and the ordinary statutory work of town-planning departments under local authorities? And why on Earth! National?

I will try to answer these questions. In the first place, the school is a post-graduate course. All its lectures take place in the evening, though studio work and research may be done during the day. It is intended for architects, engineers, town-planners, economists, budding politicians and others who are concerned in the present and future business of planning the ostensible fabric of society. By the words "ostensible fabric" I mean all that part of it which is seen, that part of it which is the furniture and machinery of civilization: buildings, roads, railways, cities, open spaces, factories and harbours.

This school differs from other schools in respect of its broader groundwork. It may be that it is biting off more than it can chew. But the attempt is significant as well as courageous. Its intention is to produce a type of planner who is not only equipped in respect of statutory town-planning, under existing local authority administration, but one who in the future will be able to deal with wider issues in the social and economic life; trained men ready against the day-ten or twenty years hencewhen planning on a national scale will be a fact and not a dream. If this sounds Utopian, one has only to think for a minute and realise that at the moment the world is in such a queasy state of political and economic ferment that anything might happen to-morrow. The most established institutions may soon be crumbling over-night.

But lest we indulge too far in such speculations, the course at the School of Planning is also so designed that its students may qualify for membership of the Town-planning Institute and take up posts in town-planning departments under the various local authorities. The school is recognized by the Institute for exemption in respect of qualifying exams. The course takes two years. But what is most important is that it includes the study of such related subjects as economics, social science, public administration, local government, and law, in so far as they generally affect planning.

Of course, it would be impossible in such a short time to study, with any thoroughness, all these related subjects, for they would comprise almost the whole of human knowledge. Yet in the future they must form an essential part of the general education of the planner, the administrator, and politician.

Moreover, following upon the two years' course there is a Research Course for those who wish to take up a special branch of study or who wish to get down further to the main principles operating over the whole field. One prays that some of our budding politicians will join this school, for politics at the moment is a chancy game where little or no scientific knowledge is employed.

It is obvious that as soon as one attempts to plan, whether it is a small estate or a slum-clearance scheme, one is up against all sorts of factors emerging out of an unplanned state of society. Logically, in order to plan a new street one ought to plan the whole city, in order to plan the city one must plan the region, and then not only the region, but the whole country. And apart from these ostensible factors there are the more diffused, yet more intimate, factors of an unplanned legal system—the laws of land and property, an unbalanced financial and economic system, a state of poverty in the midst of plenty, a mental condition of medieval ignorance and prejudice in the midst of twentieth-century enlightenment and scientific achievement.

Architects alone cannot plan the whole state. But there must be some with a more extended vision who will join on to others outside our immediate ranks and link up in other fields of planning.

It is for such men of the future that the school has been established. It shows the amazing courage of foresight. It is planning for the future that is now upon us.

Courtesy of Architectural Design and Construction.

#### The Lender's Point of View

By F. S. CANNON, Architect

THE point of view of the executive of a home financing institution towards sound planning, design and construction is not inimical to that of the practicing architect. Having practiced architecture for many years and having served five years as President of a lending institution whose principal activity is the financing of homes, I can safely make the above statement. This must be so for the reason that the institution is lending funds for the construction and refinancing of homes over a long period of time and the security or collateral value back of the mortgage has to be sufficient to protect the investments made by the financing institution. Adequate protection includes the elements of the same sound home construction in which the architect is interested.

My institution is of the mutual thrift-lending type, which serves for the most part, in financing the small home owner. This year marks the 105th anniversary of the organization of the first association founded near Philadelphia. In the intervening years the mutual thrift and home-financing movement has advanced into first place in volume of assets in the home mortgage field and has remained basically unchanged in lending and savings principles throughout the years. Today there are upwards of 10,000 of these financing agencies of varying degrees of activity. The assets of these institutions also vary from a small volume, usually dictated by the size of the community, to those metropolitan associations having assets of fifty million dollars or more.

Within recent years much has been accomplished in this financing field towards the standardization of practices and policies. Pioneer work of building and loan leaders, state and national trade organizations, has been most effectual in securing progressive legislation, providing for public inspection, curbing the activities of irresponsible institutions and so on, down to that legislation of most recent time, represented in the establishment of the Federal Home Loan Bank System with its Federal and domestic savings and loan association member organizations. The tendency of all this legislation and cooperative organization is to improve the position of this type of agency in the home-financing field.

We lenders, as well as architects, all know too well that standards in home building and community planning in the more recent past have been far from creditable and the resulting high cost of shelter for the average family is a heavy handicap to our whole economic stability. Home owners have been unmindful and consequently too tolerant of the inadequacies of poor materials and workmanship, ginger bread architecture, excessive costs and an absolute lack of orderly development of residential neighborhoods. So far as shoddy construction is concerned the evils can only be corrected by providing intelligent plans and specifications and the qualifying of contractors for their dependability and the providing of adequate supervision.

There is sufficient evidence in existing examples of early Colonial architecture and the Greek Revival period to believe that architects and skilled mechanics were at one time seriously interested in the problem of the small home. However, in the rapid expansion of the country the interest of the architects was diverted from the small home problem and in the intervening years the architects as a profession have drifted away from this very important field of construction. As a result of their remissness the problem today from an architect's point of view is a difficult one, for he not only must comprehend the planning and designing of a small home, which means study of available materials, appointments and economies in construction to meet market conditions; but he must have a working knowledge of lending practices and policies, and further, he must understand the needs and desires of the prospective home owner in the low price field. A re-entry into this field of construction can be accomplished, but only through patience and understanding. Cooperating with lending institutions in the home financing field is perhaps one of the best ways to accomplish this.

It is of real interest to many of us who are lending money on new small home construction that the directors of The American Institute of Architects have endorsed a program including technical advisory and supervisory services for the prospective small home owner, on a basis that can be of benefit to all parties concerned. The approval of this vital program of cooperation can only become effective, if and when, both the architect and the manager of the financing institution join hands to really "sell" the service to the prospective home owner.

As the financing group realize the fine spirit of the architect toward this new service, I am sure that in each locality there will be developed a satisfactory working agreement of financial as well as professional value to the architect and the realization of a better loan basis, as far as loan collateral value is appraised by the savings and loan manager. The suggestion is made that a visit with the managers of the active and aggressive associations in your territory should develop into a satisfactory working partnership for the creating of far better homes than we have built heretofore in America.

## The College of William and Mary

THE College of William and Mary in Virginia is the outward and visible sign of the power of an ideal. When the first permanent settlement of the English race was made at Jamestown on May 13, 1607, the germ of this college was already in being, for those hardy adventurers were by their nature compelled to keep and foster in its fullness life and education as they had known them in England.

To "discover pearls and gold," to found a new kingdom beyond the seas, and "to set up outposts against our ancient enemy, Spain," were aims which their prospectus set forth most intelligibly and in response to these suggestions the necessary money was subscribed and King James was induced to give the charter under which the Atlantic seaboard from Maine to Florida ultimately became a colony of England.

In that unique period of English history strange new forces of uncontrolled power and of illimitable sweep were at work. The seeds that blossomed in the glory of the Elizabethan Age were already bourgeoning. The nation was tingling with unaccustomed impulses, and men's powers seemed adequate to their imaginings. The new horizon of the West stretched away into the unknown and, as the gold of the Incas fired the greed of the exploiter, so the possible vast extension of military and political influence captured the imagination of the statesman, and the whole people moved as a unit to this new and glorious field of national extension.

In such large and generous prospects that furtive King James the First had no part. A little cod fishing off the Grand Banks, perhaps some pearl fishing in the waters of Chesapeake Bay or Pimlico Sound, were the height of his expectation, and we may be sure that had he foreseen the real results of his royal charter in the enlargement of free government and the stimulation of free education he would have delayed his royal sanction until the Spanish and French between them had laid unbreakable hold on the New World.

There was something in the air of that new land that the king had not reckoned with; something more vital than the deadly mosquitoes, the quartan fever, or even the hatred of the dispossessed Indians. That force was the unchained spirit of man. Within eleven years of their landing the settlers and their supporters had secured, in 1618, a charter for the "University of Henrico." A tract of land had been set apart at Dutch Gap and a considerable sum of money had been collected for carrying out this purpose, when, like a thunderbolt, fell the Indian massacre of 1622, and for seventy years the plan of comprehensive education had to be laid aside.

Meanwhile, the questing spirit of Virginia showed its force by setting up in 1619 the first representative body of self-governing citizens on this continent. Through privation and prosperity, under the crown as under the commonwealth, the Old Dominion held to its plan for a place of adequate instruction, and in 1693 a royal charter was granted by Their Majesties, William and Mary, to a college to be called by their names. This college, the first in America to receive its charter from the crown under the seal of the privy council, and the first and only American college to receive a coat of arms from the College of Heralds, began its notable career in 1694, when its original buildings were opened for use.

The same courage and persistence which enabled Commissary James Blair, the representative of the Bishop of London in Virginia, to obtain this charter led him to secure Sir Christopher Wren, the genius of St. Paul's Cathedral, to design the buildings for this infant undertaking.

The original structures were the Wren Building, still the central and dominant part of the whole plan, the President's House, and the Brafferton House, all of which are standing as at first designed and erected, though the Brafferton House alone has not been the prey of flames.

The President's House was seriously damaged by fire originating by mischance while the house was

occupied by French troops during the Yorktown Campaign. Louis XVI, at his own expense, repaired the building, which was later restored to its original form through the generosity of John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

More unfortunate was the experience of the Wren Building, which was completely burned in 1705, in 1859, and in 1862. With painstaking skill the architects and research workers who were restoring Williamsburg at Mr. Rockefeller's direction took over the task of restoring the Wren Building as it was when first erected. So today that structure is historically accurate, with the sole exception that now it is heated, artificially lighted, and is fireproof.

The Brafferton House, which was given by Sir Robert Boyle, the renowned British scientist, in 1723, as a school for Indians, has survived intact.

The appeal and power of William and Mary do not, however, arise from its buildings, interesting though they are. For we may truly say that in this case it is the spirit that has perpetuated the buildings and not the buildings which have kept alive the spirit. Rebellion, revolution, civil war, have swept up and down the peninsula on which this college is situated. Indian massacre, disease, starvation, have laid its people low. Three times has the College been well-nigh obliterated by fire. The capital of the state was moved from Williamsburg to Richmond in 1779; the wealth of the Tidewater tobacco growers declined as the lands became exhausted; and the supremacy of the college itself was lost when Virginia founded the university at Charlottesville, but the vitality of William and Mary was indestructible. At each new crisis the power of judgment and decision had guided the course of the college aright.

Drawing its students from the planters of Virginia, William and Mary, in the eighteenth century, had furnished such colonial leaders and thinkers as Richard Bland and Peyton Randolph. With the coming of the Revolution it was this college that provided the intellectual power of Thomas Jefferson and George Wythe. When independence had been won under George Washington, who at seventeen—though not a student—received the first commission from this college as a surveyor, and who became its

first chancellor under the republic, William and Mary gave to the new government men of light and leading. Her students, Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, and John Tyler, were presidents. The first attorney-general, and one of the members of the first supreme court, Edmund Randolph and Bushrod Washington, were educated within her walls. The greatest chief justice who ever sat, John Marshall, was taught the principles of jurisprudence by George Wythe, who also taught Marshall's great opponent, Jefferson.

Following the War between the States for a while the college faced great difficulties in that period of poverty and hardship, but the tradition of service to learning and to citizenship was too potent, and the need for a continuing school among the descendants of those who made our nation was too obvious for William and Mary not to survive.

Dr. Lyon G. Tyler, who died on February 12, 1935, served the college in the capacity of president from 1888 to 1919, and under his loyal and devoted leadership William and Mary recaptured much of its former importance in the field of education and built a firm foundation for fostering its wonderful traditions.

Under Dr. J. A. C. Chandler, in 1919, a new lease of life came to this ancient institution. Today, rejuvenated and equipped to meet the demands of a new period, with a student body not alone from the Tidewater, but from many northern and southern states as well, William and Mary, with an enrollment of 1,200 in the regular session and 800 in the summer session, is once more meeting the needs and solving the problems of its time.

It is significant that the most cherished tradition of this college is the fact that it saw the need for teaching modern languages, economics, municipal and constitutional law, and modern history, when the universal practice was to follow the same routine of instruction that had prevailed from the Middle Ages; that quick perception of new fields for intensive instruction and for public service is the mainspring of William and Mary's activities. With the modern plant now at its disposal, this ancient college will set out again to meet modern needs in scholarship and service.

From the College Catalogue.

## With the Chapters

EXCERPTS FROM MINUTES, BULLETINS AND REPORTS

#### Chicago.

The appeal for the cooperation of the Chapters, made by the Institute's Committee on Housing, was the principal topic of discussion at the regular meeting of the Chapter held at the Architects' Club of Chicago on April 14th.

The committee on Housing of the Chicago Chapter has carefully considered the resolution of the Board of Directors, together with correspondence from the Chairman of the Housing Committee of The American Institute of Architects, pertaining to the resolution. The need for organized architectural service in the small house field, backed by the endorsement of the local chapters of the Institute. is evident. Such organized service, in the opinion of this committee, would not damage the practice of the individual architect who may now be engaged in small house work. There is such a small proportion of small houses receiving competent architectural service, that the proper organization of groups as suggested in the resolution, together with the resulting publicity as to the need and availability of architectural service in this field, should increase public interest in, and demand for architectural service for small houses to an extent that there will be a wider field, both for the architect who may be a member of the group, and the architect in independent small house practice.

This committee feels, however, that each local chapter should proceed with the greatest possible care and judgment in the matter of publicly endorsing any local organized group. Such endorsement should be given only after the chapter has assured itself that the organization and operation of the group is in accordance with certain fundamental principles.

There was considerable discussion of the organization of the group to render this small house service, as to membership, professional qualifications, fees and service, relations with builders, and relations with lending institutions. It was moved and carried that the program of the Chicago Chapter be governed by the general principles stated in this report, and that these general principles be presented to the Board of Directors of the Institute for their consideration as a basis for coordinating and clarifying similar activities of other chapters.

#### Eastern Ohio.

Matters of considerable interest and importance to architects and the general building industry were discussed at the recent meeting of the Chapter held in Youngstown. An extended discussion on the problem of the Small House Service was inspired by the recent communication received from the Institute Committee on Housing, and it was the opinion of the Chapter that at the present time they would decline to participate in a Small House Service. Discussion on this subject was brought to a close without formal action having been taken, inasmuch as the members felt that they were not in a position to render architectural services at less than the recognized fees.

The Secretary read correspondence from R. C. Kempton, Secretary of the Ohio State Board of Examiners of Architects, in which a copy of an ordinance adopted in Norwood, Ohio, was enclosed. This ordinance makes mandatory the employment of a registered architect or engineer for any building operation costing in excess of \$4,000. On motion of Mr. Canfield, seconded by Mr. Kissinger, the President was directed to appoint a committee to investigate the possibility of adopting a similar ordinance in Youngstown.

In discussing the possibility of Chapter participation in the approaching Building Show it was decided to limit the Committee to members resident in Youngstown. No attempt will be made to arrange high school contests, nor will models be made for exhibition purposes.

The following officers were elected to serve during the coming year:

ELLIS M. KEPPEL, President.
W. H. COOK, Vice President.
CLARENCE KISSINGER, Secretary-Treasurer.
MESSRS. FIRESTONE, OWSLEY AND MILLER,
Executive Committee.

#### Kentucky.

The regular monthly meeting of the Chapter was held in the Architects' and Builders' Exhibit. The recent request from the Chairman of the Institute's Housing Committee for Chapter cooperation was discussed, and President Oberwarth is greatly encouraged by the members' reactions to this appeal. The action of the Institute Committee was unanimously endorsed and an effort will be made to organize a group within the Chapter to render a Small House Service.

The letter from Stephen F. Voorhees, President of the Institute, in regard to the Convention at Williamsburg was read and received with much enthusiasm. The next meeting of the Chapter will be given over to the discussion of matters to come before the Convention and delegates will be elected and instructed.

William O. Ludlow's letter to the construction industry, calling for the cooperation of the industry and architects generally, was read and received with much interest.

Mr. Harry Alexander of the City Planning and Zoning Commission spoke on the subject of "Slums—their effect on social life and the need of their eradication."

Mr. Stuart Allen of the Public Works Administration spoke on the subject of "Low Cost Housing—is there a need for it?" Mr. Allen pointed out that the term "Low Cost Housing" should be changed to "Low Rent Housing" inasmuch as the experience of the Federal Housing Administration so far has shown that "Low Cost Housing" is by no means low.

E. T. Hutchings, A. I. A., Chief Architect for the Low Cost Housing project in Louisville, spoke on the planning and construction of low cost housing and of the splendid spirit of cooperation existing between those responsible for the local projects and the officials and heads of the departments in Washington.

Frederick L. Morgan and Stratton O. Hammon were appointed a Special Committee on Architectural Service for the Small House, and were instructed to make a report on progress to date and the program of future activities.

#### Oklahoma.

At the annual meeting of the Chapter, held in the Mayo Hotel in Tulsa, on April 6th, the following officers were elected:

JOB. E. SMAY, President.

LEONARD H. BAILEY, Secretary-Treasurer.

Under the guidance of Past President Senter the past year's activities show a marked increase in

interest, especially in cooperation with the Federal Housing Administration in the matter of small house plans.

It was agreed to admit an additional number of associates during the coming year.

The Chapter will make every effort to secure modifications in the registration laws of the State of Oklahoma which, in their opinion, will make these laws more effective.

Members are looking forward with a great deal of interest to the visit of C. Grant LaFarge during the latter part of April.

#### Oregon.

President Aandahl presided at an especially well attended meeting held at the Ainsworth Coffee Shop in Portland. Roi L. Morin referred briefly to the data being gathered by relief workers in preparing "The American Guide", a WPA project. This collection of volumes is the first comprehensive attempt to publish an American Baedecker. One of the important sections of this Guide is concerned with architecture, and every important building in each locality is to be listed, with the name of the architect, date, style, use, size, cost and other interesting facts.

The data for Multnomah County is being collected by Miss La France, and Mr. Morin urged that each chapter member give her every assistance possible when she calls, or to list his own buildings with complete information and mail same to Mr. Roi L. Morin, 1601 Public Service Bldg.

A. Glenn Stanton reported on a letter received from the National Committee on Education, urging greater activity along lines of education by the "Mentor" system. It was moved and seconded that Mr. Stanton's recommendations be accepted and that Mr. Zantzinger be informed.

Mr. Clausen reported on the "Buffalo Plan" of the Small House Service Bureau. It was moved the report be accepted and that the Chairman of the Institute Committee on Housing be informed that the Chapter considers the plan against the best practices of Architecture and should be rejected.

The meeting was adjourned after Mr. Herzog moved that the Exhibition Committee arrange to hold an exhibit early in April.

#### Philadelphia.

In regard to the Small House Service a special committee was formed to study the possibilities of organizing the architects within the Chapter in compliance with the request made by Richmond H. Shreve, Chairman of the Institute Committee on Housing under date of February 10th. The Committee reported as follows:

"Believing that there is a large potential field of work that does not ordinarily reach the office of the architect, largely because the necessary fees cannot or will not be paid, it is proposed that an association of those interested be formed to attract such work through an adequate publicity campaign and a fee commensurate with the service rendered. Furthermore the advantages of focusing public attention on the profession are recognized.

"This can be accomplished by cooperation, and the reduction of work involved in preparing plans, specifications and superintendence. In lieu of furnishing individual plans, stock plans would serve as the basis of service. Such plans when prepared could be used as many times as the demand and the interests of the community allowed. Minor changes would be charged for on an hourly basis and schedule of such charges, consultations, visits to the site, etc., set up.

"In this connection the committee feels that superintendence (minimum standards to be set up) is essential and should be mandatory. It is also suggested that the association seal be given all projects carried out by them as tangible evidence to the buyer of a dequate Architectural service. We believe that this seal would have recognized commercial value.

"As to publicity, we feel that it cannot be stressed too strongly. The press, radio, exhibitions, direct contact with the F. H. A., banks, lending organizations, etc., are some of the means at our disposal. We definitely feel that we must sell this service if we are to succeed. This is also an added advantage to the profession, inasmuch as added attention will be focused on the architect.

"We believe that if work is secured in sufficient volume, it will be profitable to the members. To maintain high standards, members would submit plans, which would be subject to selection by a jury. Members whose plans proved most widely used would profit in direct proportion, and recognition of the cooperative work would be in the form of dividends. Obviously the entrance fee, the overhead and the return would be related to the number joining such a group, and cannot be discussed in detail here.

"Each member of the Chapter will be given an opportunity to signify his interest in forming such a group. Those who are interested will immediately organize and set up a managing committee or board of directors.

"This organization will then decide for itself the precise methods of operating, schedule of fees, publicity methods, etc., which have been outlined as possibilities.

"It is further suggested that two classes of membership be created, active and supporting.

"For those who believe that something of this nature is desirable, but who have not the time to take an active part, a contributing membership, may be possible.

"We recognize that we must guard against being in competition with ourselves. Since this is designed to reach the client who probably avoids architectural service entirely, we may possibly lose an occasional small client who would be attracted to the group by reason of this service.

"These details must, however, be left to the board of directors, when organized.

"Such an organization should have a name, and, as there is increasing recognition of the consumer, we suggest:

#### "Consumers' Small House Service"

Mr. Dunlap moved, and it was seconded from the floor, that the report be accepted with approval, and the organization proposed set up by the Chapter. Mr. Hahn proposed that this be amended to include study by the Executive Committee and power to them to set up the necessary machinery, at a special meeting. Mr. Dunlap accepted the amendment.

After considerable discussion from the floor the motion and amendment thereto were withdrawn.

Mr. Martin moved that the report be received and a copy thereof sent all Chapter members together with the President's invitation to a special meeting in the near future for action on the recommendations of the report. This motion was seconded from the floor and carried unanimously.

#### San Diego.

A well attended meeting of the Chapter was held recently in the Chapter headquarters in the Commonwealth Building in San Diego. Several applications for membership were announced. The Treasurer's report was received and adopted.

The pending constitution and by-law amendments which will be taken up at the Williamsburg convention were discussed at length.

Mr. Requa was delegated to submit a report on the Architects' Exhibit at the Exposition and on the possibility of assigning a day dedicated to architects.

The meeting adjourned after an extended discussion of the Small House Service as advocated by the Institute Committee on Housing.

#### Santa Barbara.

One of the most enjoyable meetings in recent months was held at Richeda's Restaurant, in Guadalupe, California. Dinner was served preceding the business meeting, which was very well attended. Guests of the Chapter on this occasion were Messrs. C. Leo Preisker, County Supervisor; York Peterson, City Engineer of Santa Maria; Rudolph A. Polley, Architect, and George Waters.

Mr. Lewis M. Crawford acted as host and the meeting was turned over to him after the reading of the Minutes and the Treasurer's report.

Mr. Preisker spoke enlighteningly on the question of the relationship between architects and supervisors of county work and of methods best suited to the efficient execution of county projects. He indicated that in his experience he had found it advantageous and profitable to adopt a "give and take attitude" between contractor and owner rather than a "hard boiled, letter of the law" policy. Mr. Preisker dwelt at some length on the subject of the present method of supervision on all building operations throughout the county and was of the opinion that such work could be better handled by the three cities now maintaining a Building Department.

Mr. Peterson told of his experiences as City Engineer of Santa Maria and suggested that Santa Maria and other small communities in the county should adopt a building code. Other matters of importance were discussed and the meeting adjourned.

#### Scranton-Wilkes Barre.

At the April meeting of the Chapter, held at the Fox Hill Country Club at West Pittston, Pennsylvania, Louis Hancock presided in the absence of President Charles Levy. Minutes of the previous meeting and committee reports were read and approved. The coming convention was discussed at length and delegates and alternates were appointed. The matter of architectural competitions was considered and it was decided that the subject should be studied and analyzed with particular reference to comparison of the methods of the Royal Institute of British Architects and the recommendations published in the April Octaoon.

The matter having to do with the new Building Code of the City of Scranton was placed in the hands of George M. D. Lewis.

Officers for a term of two years were elected as follows:

SEARLE H. VON STORCH, President. EMERSON WILSON, Vice President. ARTHUR P. COON, Secretary-Treasurer.

#### Washington State.

The College Club of Seattle was the locale of a recent meeting of the Chapter designated as "Past Presidents' Night". Nineteen members were present in addition to Past Presidents Meyers, Alden, Huntington, Loveless, Thomas, Borhek, Holmes, McClelland.

Andrew Willatsen outlined the work being done by the Domestic Architecture Committee of the Chapter which is preparing a report for the Institute Committee on Housing with reference to establishing fees and services.

J. H. Vogel moved that the Exhibition Committee prepare an exhibit for the convention of the Real Estate Board at the Olympic Hotel which will include exhibits from five northwestern states.

Various committee reports were accepted and approved, following which entertaining talks were given by the past presidents.

## As of Interest

#### ARCHITECTURAL GRAPHIC STANDARDS.

By Charles George Ramsey, A. I. A. and Harold Reeve Sleeper, A. I. A.

(John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, \$6.00)

This exhaustive treatise on building construction, the First Edition of which was offered to the profession in 1932, has enjoyed such popularity and wide sale that the authors considered it advisable to revise and elaborate on their initial effort and are now offering the Second Edition, which has been brought up to date, incorporating the many changes in construction methods adopted during the last four years.

The preface to the Second Edition reads in part as follows:

"Modern Technology, although as yet only gnawing at the fringe of building construction, has introduced new materials, new standards and new methods during the last three years. Economic changes \* \* have presented to the industry new stepfathers in the form of trade associations, new corporations and important reorganizations. All these factors have a direct bearing on the everyday practice of those in the industry, and a book which has been accepted as a standard in this field must now be revised in order to serve accurately as a reference. In order to accomplish this it was found necessary to change, at least in part, some fifty per cent of the plates in the first edition.

"Soon after the first edition had been issued it became apparent, from the widespread use of the volume, that it was supplying a real need for condensed, reliable, graphic data. It was immediately decided to plan a larger volume so that important omissions could be included, and in order to cover any new materials and methods which gained acceptance during the period between editions. As a result of carefully selecting the most important material some fifty new plates have been incorporated in the second edition. Repeal of Prohibition has made it necessary to include data in respect to bars; subjects related to the mechanical trades have been augmented; in consideration of air-conditioning, insulation has been covered. The index has been completely revised in order to include all new material. The related sequence of all plates has been maintained by introducing all new sheets in their logical position. • • • "

#### BOECKH'S MANUAL OF APPRAISALS.

By MAJOR E. H. BOECKH

(The Rough Notes Company, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana. \$5.00)

Boeckh's Manual is one of the most thorough compilations of data on real estate values and particularly building costs, ever offered to the profession. The Manual, of some 270 pages, carefully analyzes all types of building construction and includes photographs of representative properties in each class, together with work sheets and simple formulae, which enable the architect, realtor, or appraiser, to quickly and accurately arrive at an estimate of the cost of a building.

Variations in building costs with respect to localities, and fluctuations of costs of materials and labor, are arrived at through building cost index numbers which are published from time to time, enabling the user to determine the current replacement value of any type of construction.

The system is based on a combination of the cubic and square foot cost methods, carried to a degree of precision never before attained. The data has been calculated from definite average specifications for each type of building and at definite prices for labor and materials. Over 3,300 cubic foot cost figures are given, covering 97 types of buildings. For each type costs are shown for from three to six kinds of wall construction and from five to ten units of ground area. This data is supplemented in other sections of the Manual by complete tables and data on costs of individual items, depreciation, insurance exclusions, etc.

The inspection is a simple matter of checking on the work sheets the items found and the grade or quality of workmanship and materials.

The required figures and corrective charges and credits are quickly found in the Manual, noted on the sheet and totalled to make a complete appraisal report.

The local index control makes possible the con-

version of the resulting base reproduction cost figure into cost at current local prices for materials and labor by multiplying with the index number as a percentage.

Boeckh's Manual should be invaluable to the

architect in estimating the cost of new work or in appraising old work. Anyone familiar with building construction can, with the use of the Manual, arrive at an appraisal comparable in accuracy with that of the trained appraisal engineer.

## Applications for Membership

April 29, 1936.

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:

Alabama Chapter - - - - - Henderson L. Holman, Jr.

Albany Chapter - - - - - - HAROLD F. ANDREWS

Boston Chapter - - - - - - WILLIAM HERBERT JONES

Brooklyn Chapter - - - - - CHARLES JAMES DEPERI

Florida Central Chapter - - - - JAMES GAMBLE ROGERS, II

Nebraska Chapter - - - - - CECIL C. COURSEY

San Diego Chapter - - - - - ROBERT R. CURTIS, KENNETH MESSENGER,
GEORGE A. PALLISER, RALPH F. SWEARINGEN

South Carolina Chapter - - - - IRVING CORYELL

Washington, D. C. Chapter - - - JAMES THOMAS CANIZARO

Wisconsin Chapter - - - - - EDGAR H. BERNERS

You are invited, as directed by the By-laws to send privileged communications before May 29, 1936, on the eligibility of the candidates for the information and guidance of the members of the Board of Directors on 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.

CHARLES T. INGHAM.

Secretary.

