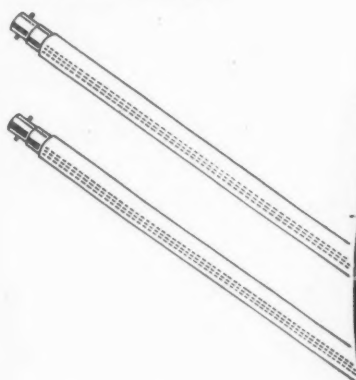


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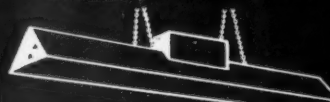
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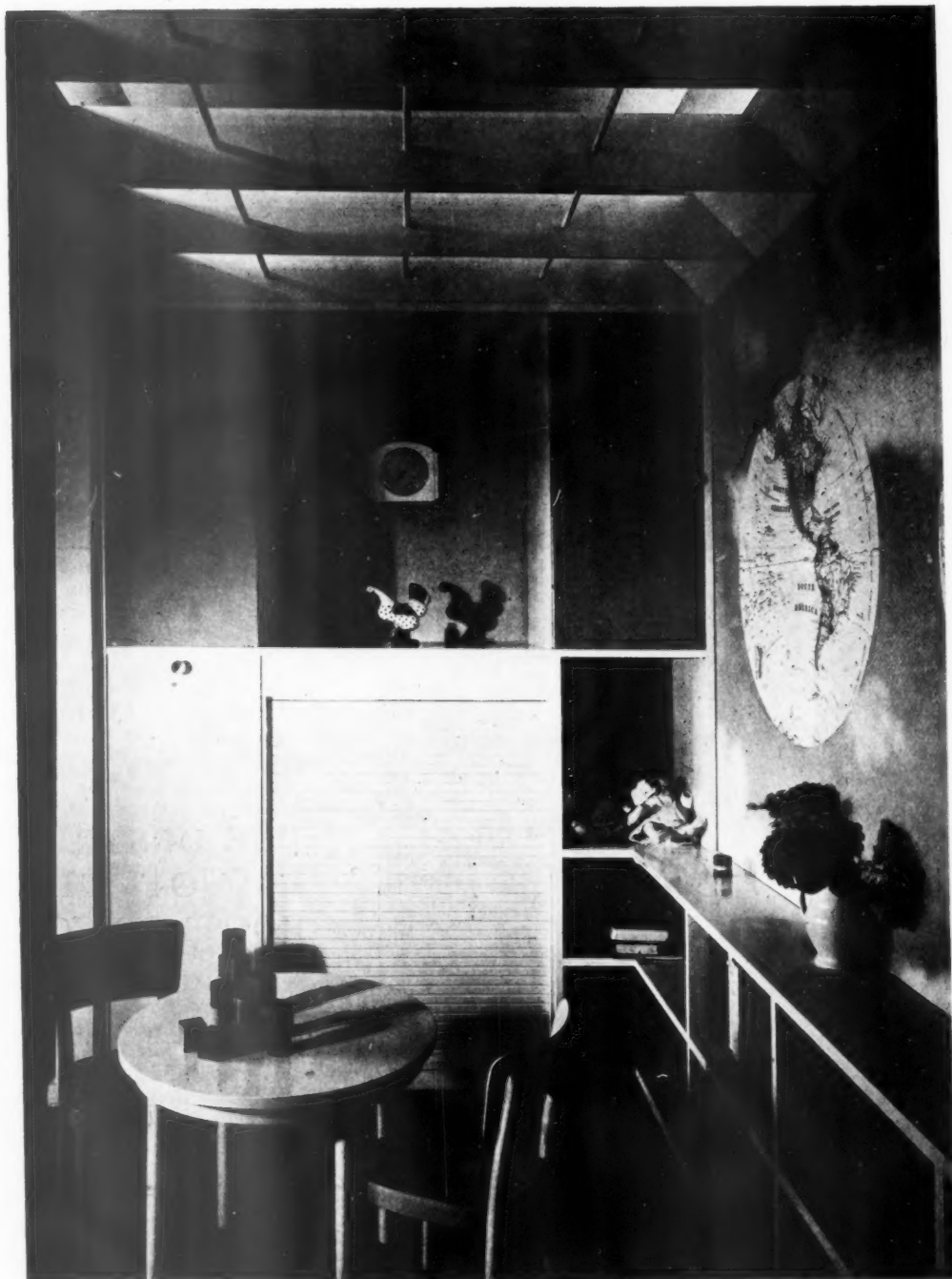
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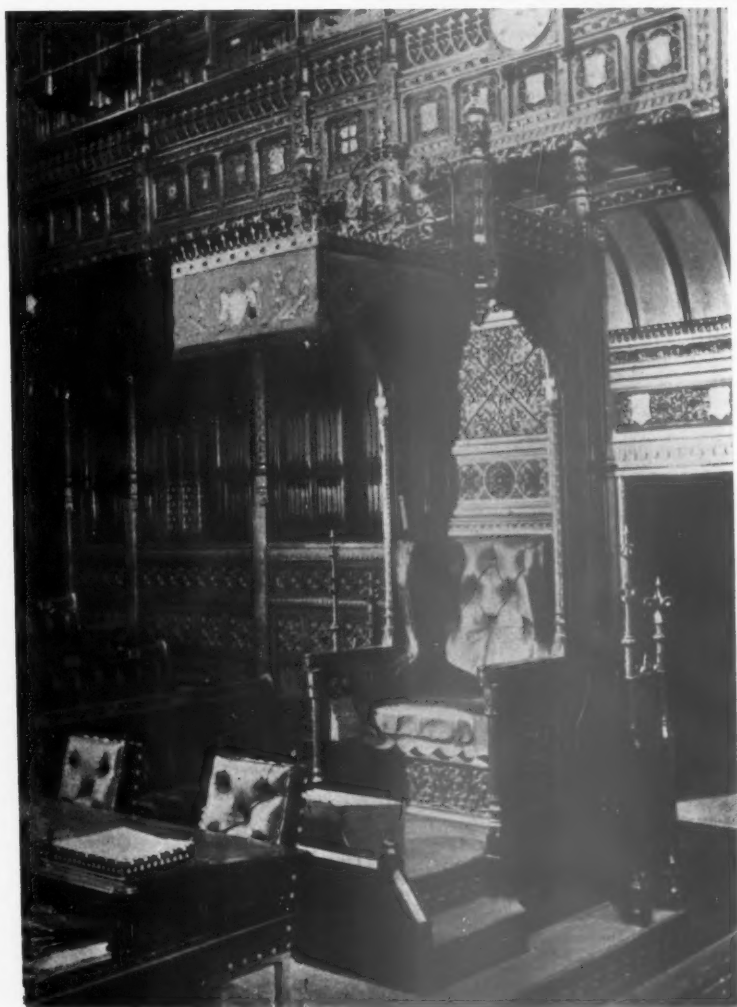
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NURSERY IN SUSSEX



Nursery in a house at Birdham, Sussex, designed by Davies and Moro. Part of the ceiling is lowered, in the form of a wood trellis, to give a height agreeable to the children; the ceiling above the trellis is flood-lit and painted sky-blue. The wall behind the two hemisphere maps, one of which is shown, is also sky-blue. The rest of the paintwork, cellulosed to prevent finger marks, is white, with the sliding cupboard doors in various light colours. A portion of the wall is covered with blackboard cloth. The nursery has its own entrance and vestibule. Further views of the house appear on pages 338-344.



THE DESTRUCTION OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

On the night of Saturday, May 10, during a severe air attack on London, the Chamber of the House of Commons was gutted by fire. The Chamber, the centre of British political life for nearly a century, was one of two main focal points of the new Houses of Parliament, built to the designs of Sir Charles Barry after the fire which almost wholly destroyed the old Palace of Westminster on October 16, 1834.

Although the Houses of Parliament is the most famous of Gothic Revival buildings, its architect's habitual means of expression was Classic, and the building is Classic in plan. The Gothic detail, both internally and externally, was the work of Sir Charles Barry's collaborator, Augustus Welby Pugin. The building of the Houses of Parliament was begun in 1840 and completed in 1867.

Above is a photograph of the Chamber as it now is, looking towards the Speaker's chair. On the left is a detail photograph of the Speaker's chair and the Government side of the House taken before the fire, showing Pugin's Gothic detail in oak.



TECHNICS AND POLITICS

TWO letters in the JOURNAL have taken *Astragal* to task for a note published on April 24. These letters and *Astragal's* note concern the extent to which it is profitable for a technical society to express political views or advocate political changes.

The JOURNAL feels this matter to be of considerable importance, and that the present political truce is a very good time in which to discuss it. For there can be no doubt that many aspects of physical reconstruction which intimately concern architects will become the subject of bitter political controversy when the war ends; and therefore it would be useful for all the professional and technical organizations in the building industry to have made up their minds how far they would be wise to take part in these disputes.

The correspondence published in the JOURNAL arose from a note on March 6 in which *Astragal* suggested that skilful public instruction in the aims of planned reconstruction before the end of the war would offer the best chance of countering the inevitable opposition to that reconstruction.

This note produced a letter from the Hon. Secretary of the Committee of Technicians in the Building Industry, of which following paragraphs are part:

Necessary as public discussion and information of that sort are, surely it is futile to imagine that this alone can achieve anything while those who have the power to obstruct still hold it. They are not going to be talked out of it. They will continue to control the government in their own interests as long as they are allowed to.

Surely, therefore, a genuine first step towards reconstruction is to replace the government by one in which vested interests shall have no power and which will be free to replan the people's land and resources in the sole interests of the mass of the people.

Astragal considered the advocacy of these views by a technical society to be foolish, in that a technical society which voices views on matters lying entirely outside its proper field diminishes its influence on technical matters. The writers of two subsequent letters disagree with this opinion in which the JOURNAL shares.

To see this matter clearly it seems necessary to begin with the meanings of words and the assumptions commonly drawn from those meanings. A technical society, whether the Committee of Technicians in the Building Industry or the R.I.B.A., is generally assumed to have been formed for technical purposes. Those purposes may be collective bargaining on behalf of its members, to study technical problems, or to guide the public on matters connected with its own technique. But whatever its aims, if they cannot be readily and fairly accurately guessed from the society's title, then the society is misnamed. The individual members of such a society may hold the strongest political views; but those views must not be expressed in any public comment on technical questions which the society makes, nor must they

prevent its members examining a particular technical problem with complete clearheadedness.

The fulfilment of these conditions is vital to a technical society's attainment of any measurable public influence. If a man wants the architectural profession's opinion on a question, he wants its technical opinion, not a political manifesto; and if technicians who set out to enquire into a problem are politicians first and technicians second, it is certain they will end by muddling the readers of their report even if they do not begin by muddling themselves.

This clearheadedness about the proper limitations of public statements by a technical society is nowhere more necessary than in the building industry. Every matter of great public interest which affects that industry has political aspects: slums, ribbon development, town planning. It is vital that no society of building technicians should shrink from informing and guiding public opinion on these matters to the best of its ability through fear of these political aspects. But if this guidance is to have full influence as unbiased expert opinion the society must confine itself as closely as is possible to purely technical considerations. If it is necessary to move off its own ground at all (in quoting medical opinion on hospitals or educational opinion on nursery schools) it should quote the best available opinion and not put forward its own views on matters outside its field.

There is, of course, a risk that a technical society will be so careful to stick to its own last and so fearful of being accused of political motives that it will fail to make public pronouncements on matters which lie plainly within its own field. A most painful instance of such failure was that of the architectural profession in the matter of collateral security in the building of cheap houses. A very large number of dangerously shoddy houses were being built throughout the land, local byelaws were being clearly set at defiance and large numbers of poor people were being fraudulently victimized. And of all the architectural societies only the A.A.S.T.A. had the energy and the public spirit to take action.

That some technical societies in the building industry fail to guide public opinion in the right way is, however, no reason for another society setting out to do it in the wrong way—particularly if that way is certain to fail. And failure is certain for a technical society which advocates a change of Government as a first step towards the solution of a technical problem. For a layman reading such a pronouncement will assume that the members of that society are prone to search, in their examination of such a problem, not for a technical solution, but for additional evidence—any additional evidence—which will lend support to their political views.



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NOTES & TOPICS

PALACE OF WESTMINSTER

WHEN one looks up the history of the Houses of Parliament it is surprising how much of it is written in fire. Up to 1512, Westminster Palace had been the royal residence, seat of government and courts of justice for over two centuries, and during that period no considerable portion of it appears to have been burnt. But in 1512 a very big fire led to Henry VIII's removal to Whitehall, and the large remnants of Westminster Palace, including the Star chamber, St. Stephen's Chapel and Westminster Hall, were used by Lords and Commons and law courts for the short space of another three centuries. St. Stephen's Chapel itself was the actual House of Commons.

On October 16, 1834, was the second big blaze; and, judging by the well-known prints, it was a very big blaze indeed from which survived only the crypt of St. Stephen's Chapel, Westminster Hall and some law courts, designed by Sir John Soane, attached to it. The new Houses of Parliament (also called the New Palace of Westminster or Palace of Westminster, to make it more confusing for Americans and, of course, ourselves) were designed by Sir Charles Barry and Pugin, and were executed, under a fierce running commentary from the public, between 1840 and 1867.

Reference books disclose two points of professional interest of which I was ignorant. A large amount of cast iron was used in the construction of the buildings; and the miserly Gallery accommodation, at least in the House of Lords, was the deliberate intention of that august assembly. The Lords' announcement that they intended to exclude women in particular from listening to debates caused a successful siege and invasion of the House by some scores of peeresses headed by a half-dozen most eloquent duchesses. On the whole, Barry must have had a lot of fun.

The photograph on the next page shows the south wall of the House of Commons after the fire of May 10, with one

of the river-front towers in the background. It has now been announced that the Chamber sustained a direct hit by a high-explosive bomb when it was on fire and when, presumably, fire parties were already at work on it. Against so rare and tragic an occurrence it is not possible to take precautions.

SCOTLAND ASKS SCOTS TO DO BETTER

One of the commonest remarks of Englishmen who want to show their fair-mindedness about Scots is that they are a well-educated people. But if there are not too many Scots present someone will almost certainly qualify this tribute by saying, "Yes—except in all those things which add graciousness to life." And this is an accusation which Scotsmen will not find very easy to refute, twist as they may.

Scotland has a bleak, or at least a bracing, climate, and large parts of it far from fertile. But any contention that these handicaps have made it impossible for Scotsmen to waste time on the fripperies of Art is stultified by a glance at the achievements of Norway under much worse circumstances. The alternative defence that most of the best artists or architects whom Scotland does produce are at once lured away by Sassenach gold is equally suspect; for it is reasonable to suppose that nearly all such men would stay in Scotland if they could find enough of their fellow-countrymen to give them encouragement.

The trouble is that they can't. Either Scots in general never had any visual aesthetic appreciation or some powerful force has been exerted to kill it and to prevent resuscitation. And a small book* just published, by Alan Reiach and Robert Hurd, makes one believe it was the second misfortune which took place.

The photographs of new and old building in Scotland show that while "designing" buildings was still only a matter of continuing a local building tradition, Scotland had as fine a vernacular architecture as any other country. But when ease of transport broke down this system, active distrust of visual beauty of all kinds, which must have been implanted in Scottish breasts by image-breaking Covenanters, placed Scottish building in even worse case than England's. Some of the cautionary buildings in *Building Scotland* have a mechanical starkness, a purposeful grimness which makes them seem designed to mortify the flesh.

Messrs. Reiach and Hurd have tried to jolt Scotsmen into the decision to wipe out the last century of building, after this war is over, by showing the close affinity between traditional Scottish building and the best modern architecture. Every Englishman will hope the jolt will prove effective.

BUILDING CENTRE MARKS TIME

That the Building Centre has been compelled, for a week or two at least, to suspend operation will be heard with sharp regret by architects. In wartime the Centre's usefulness as a catalogue in the solid could not of necessity be as great as in peacetime. But its high-speed information service proved more useful than ever before, and there was no architect who did not feel better for a walk amongst

* *Building Scotland*. A cautionary guide by Alan Reiach and Robert Hurd. Published by the Saltire Society, 33, La Crosse Terrace, Glasgow, W. 2. Price 2s. 6d.



so many things which he could hope to use again—sometime.

★

It is nearly ten years since the Centre was opened, and the speed with which visits to it became a normal part of the design and specification of any job showed how much it was needed. To be able to nip round to the Centre and inspect a new product in the solid, under unbiased and well-informed guidance and "without obligation," greatly reduced the anxieties of specification for London architects. And architects anywhere in the Home Counties did not take long to follow suit. Sometimes one was tempted to think, as more and more new methods and products entered the building world, that it was only the Building Centre that kept architects tolerably sane.

★

Of course, the Centre had its drawbacks in the days of peace. It persisted in showing everything; and this policy had cons as well as pros. An architect who went in to look at tiles often became enchanted with new lever handles, and no harm was done; but, unfortunately, clients used to show the same deplorable inability to concentrate on the matter in hand.

★

Building owner and wife, led by their architect, used to pass the photo-electric "clonk" at the entrance at a brisk pace and lay straight for the few chaste objects on which the architect had set his heart. But only very rarely did the clients get there, and back, without a score of joyous swoops upon exhibits which glazed the architect's eyes with horror and from which they were detached with the greatest difficulty, and sometimes only with high feelings.

JOBS AND THE MEN

In a note published last week, I stated that there seemed reason to believe that the Central Register was not proving a very efficient means of bringing together architects who wanted a job and Departments who wanted architects.

The potential advantages of the Register are obvious and great. It cuts out, for architects, the labour of finding out who wants architects and to whom one applies, and the distasteful necessity of trying to get to know a man who knows a man. And it cuts out, for Departments, separate advertising, competition and the nuisance of arranging an interview for a man already snapped up by someone else.

But to work well a Central Register requires skilful operation at the centre and a certain minimum of responsible co-operation by individual architects. One or both of these components of a successful Register seems to have been lacking in the past few months. And therefore it is not surprising that the Home Office has decided, as is announced in the panel below, to have two strings to its bow in future. And it is possible other Departments will follow the Home Office's example.

ASTRAGAL

HOME OFFICE ARCHITECTURAL APPOINTMENTS

The Home Office announces that architects who desire to apply for any of the architectural appointments under the Home Office and Ministry of Home Security are at liberty to apply direct to

THE ESTABLISHMENT DIVISION,
HOME OFFICE,
WHITEHALL, LONDON, S.W. 1

This procedure is supplementary to, and does not supersede, the normal procedure of application through the Central Register.

NEWS

TOWN PLANNING AND THE FAMILY

At a meeting of the Housing Centre, on May 6, Mr. F. J. Osborn lectured on Town Planning and the Family. Mr. John Dower presided.

The lecturer said that home, industry and civic government were the three first principles in planning. The suburban planning movement gave value to these principles, so did speculative builders and building societies, and so had the great national housing movement of 1919 and onwards. It was important that planners should consider their position carefully before assuming that they had to provide the physical equipment for a further encroachment of communal time on time spent in the home, or for a more general employment of married women in industry and trade. Subsidizing of restaurants, school meals and extra-domestic social life generally might be necessary in wartime, but along that route less was left to spend on the family home, there was less to do in it, and the members of the family used it less. The inevitable logic of this was less floor space, fewer or cheaper appliances, less house pride and pleasure in the home and less family spirit.

Mr. Osborn considered that elasticity in legal standards of density was indefensible. Ideally there should be only one imposed standard, a maximum of tolerable density. If pressure was to be regarded there should be two standards, a pressure standard and a free standard; but we did not need a series of standards grading down through twenty, ten, eight and six to four houses to the acre. Such matters should be left to local demand and local lay-out. The standard should be such as not to prejudice either way the use of any site for two-storey or multi-storey buildings: it was indefensible to draft model clauses so that more people could be housed on a site in flats than in two-storey houses. Temporary overcrowding could not be avoided, but we should never plan or build for permanent site overcrowding. Temporary overcrowding could be cured by administration, but buildings could not be so easily scrapped.

The density standard could best be expressed in terms of the number of square feet of floor space within walls per unit of land area. Even where there was pressure, the floor area should not exceed 12,000 sq. ft. per acre, equivalent to twenty houses at 600 sq. ft. each, and accommodating at the present average size of families about 72 persons per acre. If families were above the average, there might be temporary overcrowding at 100 persons per acre. Where there was no pressure, he suggested 10,000 sq. ft. per acre, corresponding to about 60 persons per acre. All these figures included access roads but not public open space. Including this as well as access roads, he would suggest as an absolute maximum 10,000 sq. ft. of floor space per acre. This was for pressure areas, but for non-pressure areas the figure should be 7,500 sq. ft. per acre. Not all open space need be within a housing area, but all should be within walking distance.

BUILDING INDUSTRIES NATIONAL COUNCIL: NEW PRESIDENT

Mr. R. Coppock has been elected President of the Building Industries National Council for the ensuing year. He is the first building trades operative to be elected to this office. Mr. Coppock is the general secretary of the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of the London County Council, and President of the International Federation of Building and Wood Workers.

LAW REPORTS

Meikle and Others v. Maufe and Others

IN the Chancery Division on Tuesday, May 13 Mr. Justice Uthwatt resumed the hearing of an action by Mr. Joseph Abraham Meikle, F.R.I.B.A., of Cantling Avenue, Tulse Hill, Mrs. Clara Ellen Smith (widow) of Bath Road, Bournemouth, and Mr. Douglas Chaplin of Uphill Road, Mill Hill, against Mr. Edward Maufe, A.R.A., M.A., F.R.I.B.A., of Pickering

Place, St. James's, and Heal and Son, Ltd., furnishers, etc., of Tottenham Court Road.

Mr. Meikle's claim is in his personal capacity and the plaintiffs, Mrs. Smith and Mr. Chaplin, is in the alternative as executors of Arnold Dunbar Smith, deceased, for damages and infringement of the copyright in the architectural drawings and plans made by Cecil Claud Brewer and Arnold Dunbar Smith for part of the building occupied by Heal and Son, Ltd., in Tottenham Court Road and in the building as an architectural work.

The defendants deny the infringement alleged.

Mr. C. Harman, k.c., and Mr. J. Mould (instructed by Lee and Pemberton, solicitors) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Shelley, k.c., and Mr. Guy Aldous (instructed by Sydney Redfern and Co., solicitors) represented the defendants.

Mr. Shelley drew his Lordship's attention to certain authorities and submitted that in the circumstances of this case and in accordance with the authorities he had cited there was an implication that the plans and drawings of any building might be used for any reasonable extension, and his case was that the extension in the present case was a "reasonable extension."

The first witness called for the defence was Sir Ambrose Heal, who said the firm of Heal and Son was founded in 1810 and witness entered the firm in 1893. In 1900 he collaborated with Mr. Cecil Brewer, who was a third cousin of witness, for a room to be exhibited at the Paris Exhibition of that year. Witness said he had also done a good deal of designing work. In 1911 and 1912 witness discussed with Cecil Brewer, as architect, the matter of a new building for the firm. From 1913 he had many discussions, and Mr. Cecil Brewer built the new building. He had no recollection of discussing the matter with Dunbar Smith. Witness was the first person to suggest the colonnade and Brewer took up the matter, and the result was the new building erected in 1914. In 1935 he approved of the sketch for the extension of the building further south, and he appreciated that it was a repetition of the building on the north. After Mr. Smith's death, whilst the north building was being erected, Mr. Meikle finished the building.

Cross-examined, Sir Ambrose, in reply to Mr. Harman, adhered to the view that the plans were the plans of Mr. Cecil Brewer. From talks he had with Smith and Brewer about the plans, he thought that the author of the plans was Cecil Brewer.

Mr. Wm. Henry Ansell, President of the R.I.B.A., said he had been an architect since 1900. He was familiar with Heal's building in the Tottenham Court Road and had inspected some of the plans and the building itself. In his opinion the plans of the interiors of the northern and southern buildings were quite different. Dealing with the façade of the two buildings, Mr. Ansell said the design of the extension of the façade by Mr. Maufe was the only reasonable way, and witness thought the only way and the right way, and it continued the rhythm of the building.

Mr. Shelley: Have you ever put up a building and have you known cases where an architect has extended the building and copied to some extent your original design?—Yes.

Did you raise any objection?—No. Witness said he had known cases where two different architects had been employed on one building.

Witness said he had been entrusted with work to add to a building and he had written to the architect of the building and told him the facts.

Have you ever been asked for a fee for the right to use the old building?—No, I have never been asked for a fee for a building I was enlarging.

Cross-examined by Mr. Harman, witness agreed in one of the large rooms, part of which

was designed by Brewer and extended by Maufe, there was unity of design, but he did not think there was any architectural similarity in the interior of the building. The moulding Mr. Meikle complained had been copied was an original design of witness's. Smith and Brewer's building was a building of originality and merit, and it was the right thing to continue the character of the work in the extension.

Mr. Ansell admitted that though some features were derived from the plans, of which Mr. Meikle claimed the copyright, they were not an exact copy.

Mr. Herbert Austin Hall, a former member of the Council of the R.I.B.A., practising since 1905, said he had viewed the building in question.

Mr. Shelley: Do you agree with the view that the extension was a reasonable and proper way to extend the building?—I do.

Mr. Maufe, the defendant, was then called. He said he was an A.R.A. and a Fellow and vice-President of the R.I.B.A. When he undertook the work in question he approached Mr. Meikle for certain drawings, and he ultimately paid £42 for certain drawings. Mr. Meikle said the drawings were his personal property. Witness admired the building of Smith and Brewer as one of merit. The extension work was very difficult work. With regard to ornamentations, he received sketches from Heal's and they worked upon them.

Mr. Maufe said he deliberately tried not to make the new building look different from the building of Smith and Brewer. Structurally his plans were different. The whole object was to try to make Smith and Brewer's building look like the new extension. He had designed a hospital and it was extended later. The extension was given to another architect, and when witness learned that the new architect sought a copy of his drawings he willingly gave them.

Mr. Harman cross-examined. Mr. Maufe said he maintained that he did not copy Smith and Brewer's plans and drawings, but followed them and developed them round the corner of the building.

Mr. Hamilton Temple Smith, managing director of Heal's, said he was sure that Mr. Brewer was the designer of the frontage of the northern portion of the building.

On Wednesday his Lordship viewed the premises and was accompanied by leading counsel, Mr. Harman, k.c., and Mr. Shelley, k.c.

On resuming the hearing, further evidence was called for the defence.

Mr. Hamilton Temple Smith again went into the witness box and was questioned by Mr. Harman in regard to the lease of certain premises acquired by Heal's for the extension of their premises.

Sir Giles Scott, R.A., F.R.I.B.A., was the next witness. He said he had inspected Heal's building, and in his opinion it was not possible to extend the building without repeating to some extent the general design of the building. There was no other way in which it could be done from the artistic point of view and commercial point of view, so as to have a long frontage. There was no other way of achieving unity with the building. He had known cases where another architect had been engaged to carry out buildings in extension, which had been originally designed by another architect.

Mr. Shelley: In your experience have you ever known of money being paid for a licence to repeat architectural features in design in an extension?—No, not in my experience.

Mr. Frederick Saunders, F.S.I., in practice as a quantity surveyor since 1908, said, prior to 1914 he was chief assistant to Mr. Watkins, the quantity surveyor to Heal's in connection with the Smith and Brewer building. Witness often came into contact with Smith and Brewer, and there were often discussions as to the possibility of extensions. There was a meeting on the site with the representative of Heal's, and Smith and Brewer were there, when the matter was discussed in general. The effect of the discussion with regard to the extension was that it could not take place for twenty years because

of the lease of the public house at the corner which would have to be acquired. Witness acted as quantity surveyor for the extension from 1935 onwards. The cost of the whole work was £90,500—four-fifths being the cost of the building and one-fifth for the accessories.

Mr. Joseph Armitage, a carver and modeller, said he worked in connection with the Smith and Brewer building. The enrichment around the window frames he designed and Smith and Brewer adopted it. As to the lion's head, witness produced a full-sized drawing to Smith and Brewer and that was adopted for the building.

This concluded the evidence.

Mr. Shelley then addressed his Lordship and said his Lordship was cognizant with his submission that there was no copyright in the building. Then came the question as to the authorship of the plans. He contended that because these plans bore the name of Smith and Brewer it did not follow that they were the authors of the plans. He conceded that there was a copyright in the plans, but to whom did it belong? His submission was that the plaintiffs had not proved their case in regard to the authorship. In the circumstances of this case he said that the plans could be used free from any condition. The signature on the drawings was no assertion of authorship.

On Thursday Mr. Shelley continued his speech. He said he would agree that if there were no implied term in the contract between Smith and Brewer and Heal's at the time of the building of the northern section of the premises, that the frontage could be extended in the same form by any architect, he would admit that there was infringement in the design of the façade of that section. But his submission was that there was such an implied term.

He contended that there had been no infringement in respect of the interior of the building. There was only inevitable development of an existing state of affairs. In his view development was not infringement, otherwise the position would be impossible. One was always entitled to make use of an earlier work for the purpose of developing a subject. There was no copyright in the essentials of an earlier work, it was only in process and form. It would be ridiculous to say that an architect had a monopoly of a style of architecture.

Mr. Harman then reviewed the case and said that the defendants had abandoned part of their defence, so that all questions of consent or acquiescence by Mr. Meikle had gone.

The suggestion that there was an implied agreement was a mere afterthought, it never appeared until the defence in the action and it really only existed in the mind of the astute lawyers. It was not thought of by the parties.

When challenged by Mr. Meikle's lawyers as to why and under what right and by what licence they had copied the building, they answered: "Because you gave consent." They did not suggest any implied right or term. It was merely a lawyer's afterthought.

Counsel pointed out that had Heal's contemplated an extension when the building was erected from Smith and Brewer's plans, they could have bought the architect's plans and drawings. The architect was paid on the cost of the building, and if an extension were contemplated he would get more. There was no reason why he should be deprived of that because of some implication. In the case of any extension or repeat, the architect was entitled to consideration by way of licence or otherwise. He submitted there was copyright in a building.

His Lordship said counsel need not trouble about that.

Mr. Harman then dealt with the question of authorship, and submitted that the plans and drawings were the joint work of Smith and Brewer, and that the beneficial interest in them had been assigned to Mr. Meikle.

Dealing with the interior, he thought that Mr. Maufe's evidence made it clear that he would reproduce Smith and Brewer's drawings.

Mr. Harman observed that when his Lordship visited the premises he had difficulty in finding

out which room he was in, and counsel's suggestion was that Mr. Maufe not only made a copy, but made a very good copy.

He submitted that Mr. Meikle in all the circumstances was entitled to damages.

At the conclusion of counsel's speech, his Lordship thanked counsel for their assistance and said he would reserve his judgment.

It was mentioned that the plans and drawings in court numbered about one thousand.

Mrs. Borders Loses Her Case

ON May 9, before Lord Maugham, Lord Russell of Killowen, Lord Wright, Lord Romer, and Lord Porter. The House of Lords allowed the appeal by the plaintiffs, Bradford Third Equitable Benefit Building Society, from a decision of the Court of Appeal, reversing a decision of Mr. Justice Bennett. The following report of the appeal is reprinted from *The Times*.

By their action the society claimed from Mrs. Elsy Florence Eva Borders, of Kingsway, West Wickham, Kent, possession of her house on the ground that subscriptions due under a mortgage deed dated October 10, 1934, were more than three months in arrear. Mrs. Borders denied the validity of the deed and set up a counter-claim for damages for alleged fraudulent misrepresentation contained in statements made to her at an interview on February 9, 1934, at the offices at Bromley, Kent, of Morrell (Builders), Limited, who built her house, by a person acting on their behalf.

Mr. Justice Bennett dismissed the claim for possession, holding that the society had failed to prove execution of the deed by Mrs. Borders or her husband. He also dismissed the counter-claim on the ground that, although misrepresentations had been made to her on the faith of which she had bought her house, she had failed to prove that the society were responsible for those statements.

The Court of appeal allowed an appeal by Mrs. Borders. They allowed her to amend her counter-claim by alleging misrepresentations contained in a printed brochure by means of which Messrs. Morrell advertised houses built by them at the Coney Hall Estate, West Wickham. That brochure contained, *inter alia*, statements that so far as relevant, that their houses were particularly well built.

The Court of Appeal held that the statements in the brochure were false, and that the brochure had been issued to Mrs. Borders with the authority of the society. They accordingly allowed her appeal, directing an inquiry as to damages.

The society appealed.

Mr. H. J. Wallington, K.C., and Mr. Robert Fortune for the society; Mr. Comyns Carr, K.C., and Mr. C. H. A. Lewes for Mrs. Borders.

Lord Maugham, in giving judgment, said that it was proved to the satisfaction of Mr. Justice Bennett that no representative of the appellants was present when the statements were made to Mrs. Borders at the interview at Messrs. Morrell's office, and so Mrs. Borders's counter-claim was dismissed. No misrepresentation by the appellant at any other time than February 9, 1934, had been alleged. The Court of Appeal allowed Mrs. Borders to amend her pleadings, and it was then claimed that the appellants had made or affirmed fraudulent misrepresentations to her in the brochure. The statements in that document amounted to an assertion that the houses on the estate were and would be particularly well built. That assertion was fraudulently untrue. The amended pleading based the claim on an alleged authority given by the appellants to Messrs. Morrell to hand the brochure to Mrs. Borders. There was, however, not a vestige of ground for thinking that Messrs. Morrell had—and they clearly did not need—any such authority. The brochure was their document, printed long before the appellants appeared on the scene. It was not alleged that the appellants' secretary ever knew or had an opportunity of knowing that Mrs. Borders's house was damp and badly built. The honesty of the directors of the appellants was, as the Court of Appeal had stated, not in question. He (Lord Maugham) had difficulty in understanding the precise meaning of the repeated phrase in the judgment of the Court of Appeal that the appellants had "associated themselves with the fraud"—which meant the fraud of Messrs. Morrell.

His Lordship said that there was nothing in the correspondence, passing between the appellants and Messrs. Morrell and on which Mrs. Borders relied, to suggest that the secretary of the society ever did anything to make Mrs. Borders believe that any statement in the brochure was true, or that he knew that any of the statements was untrue. No inference of dishonesty on his part should have been drawn by the Court of Appeal. The essentials of an action for deceit had not been established. The appeal must be allowed, and the counter-claim dismissed, with costs in the House and in the Court of Appeal.

The other noble Lords concurred.

Solicitors: Messrs. Henry Boustred and Sons for Messrs. J. Eaton and Co., Bradford; Mr. W. H. Thompson.

LETTERS

H. R. SIMMONS

"ARCHITECT"

G. B. J. ATHOE

(Secretary, I.A.A.S.)

Untechnical Technicians

SIR,—According to Astragal, "the composition of the Government or the Commons is not in any sense whatsoever a technical question." Can it be said that the building of houses, air-raid shelters and factories has nothing to do with the form of government in power? Can it be said that it is of any use to produce plans upon plans with whatever technical brilliance and then to wait for some benefactors, who will not be architects nor, presumably, engineers or doctors, to bring us a government which will appreciate our worth?

And Astragal thinks that architects will diminish their influence on technical questions if they say that this is also a technical question. Does he mean that they will diminish their influence as did the actors and musicians who were threatened by the B.B.C. with the loss of their jobs?

Astragal, the advocate of political sterility, can scarcely accuse such men of immaturity.

H. R. SIMMONS

[This letter is referred to in this week's leading article.—Ed. A. J.]

Welwyn Revisited

SIR,—As a resident of some seventeen years, I endorse Astragal's remarks about shopping facilities.

Welwyn certainly gives housewives limited variety of choice.

Mr. Osborn refers to the shopping organization as "unique," and this is undoubtedly true of its monopolistic nature. In grocery and provisions, for instance, the only competition is given by one branch Co-operative store inadequately housed.

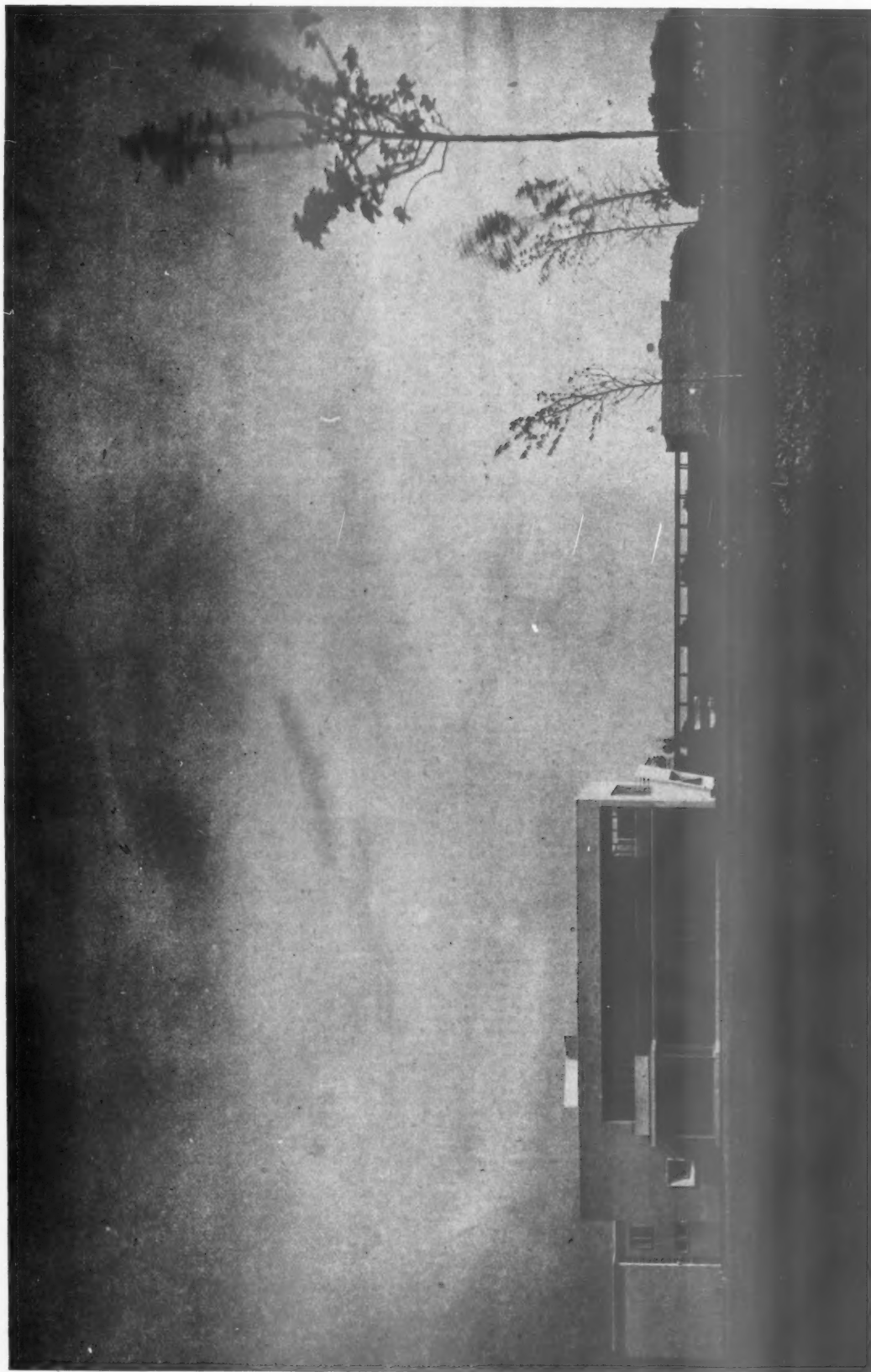
"ARCHITECT"

Architects and Camps

SIR,—There is no small amount of controversy in the allied professions, and even in the lay press, on the subject of the Government's employment of civil engineers on work more suitably performed by architects and surveyors. The criticism of this policy is particularly applicable to the case of camp lay-out and construction. And is the work of the quantity surveyor, as watchdog of expenditure, being adequately recognized when Government contracts are being issued? The only answer so far vouchsafed by the Ministry of Works and Buildings is the appointment, announced in *The Times* on April 22, of a civil engineer to be Director-General, Works and Buildings.

G. B. J. ATHOE

H O U S E A T B I R D H A M , S U S S E X
D E S I G N E D B Y D A V I D A N D M O R R O



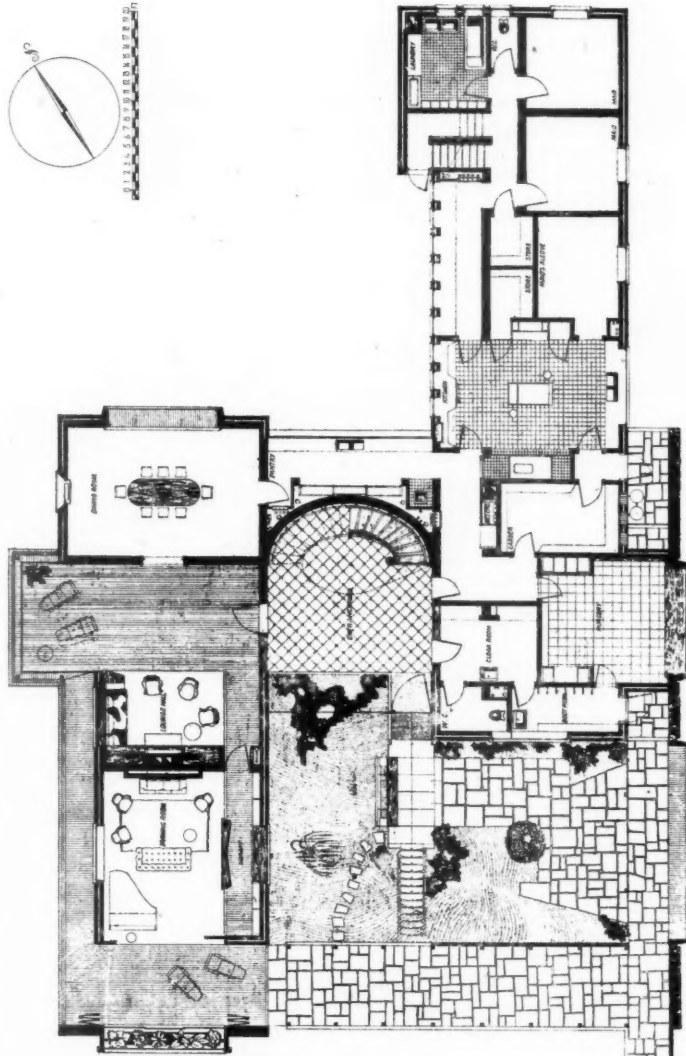
SITE—A roughly rectangular meadow of fifteen acres, bounded on the west and the north by the sweep of Birdham Creek, one of the arms of Chichester Harbour. The main view is west, down the river to Itchenor, but there is also a striking view northwards to the downs. Access is from the south-east corner.

PLAN—The accommodation required suggested a plan consisting of two structurally independent blocks linked together by the main staircase and certain common services. This coincided with the desire for a loose and decentralized scheme, by which alone the house could be sited comfortably and naturally on the flat open land.

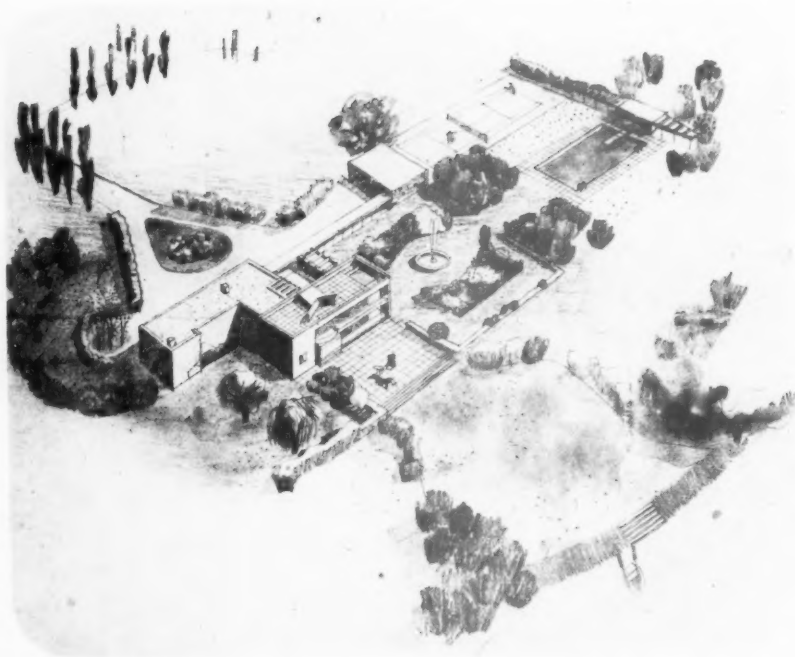
CONSTRUCTION—Walls are load-bearing brickwork, with cavity, faced externally with Uxbridge flint bricks, ivory shade and internally with flettons. Floors are, west

block, reinforced concrete; east block, timber. All exposed concrete, such as balcony soffits and window frames, was cast in plywood shuttering, and the result was so clean that painting was the only finishing required. Window sashes are finished white in dark brown frames. The steel surrounds are pale blue and the same blue is used for all external concrete soffits. Rubble masonry is in ochre-coloured sandstone. The concrete coping on the east block was cast *in situ*, and the beams over the entrance were precast, both painted white.

Facing page: The garden front, planned to make the most of the view down Birdham Creek. Left: The entrance front.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



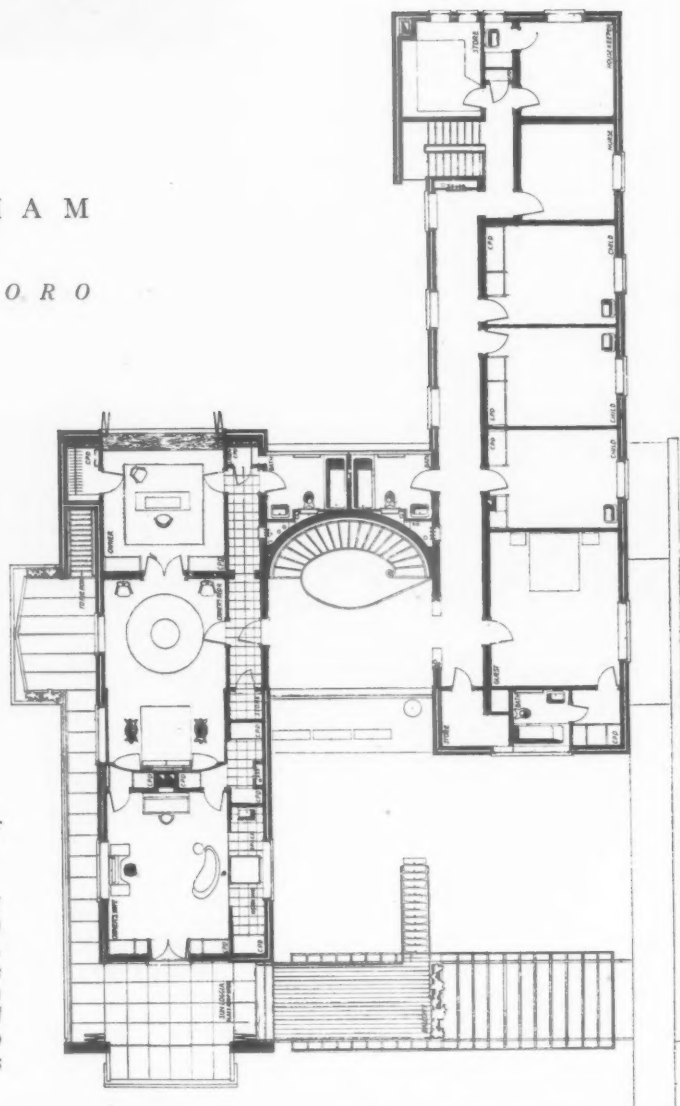
HOUSE AT BIRDHAM

BY DAVIES AND MORO



Top : The architects' perspective. Above : A distant view of the house from the shore of the Creek.

Right : First floor plan. When the double doors separating the owner's suite from the dressing-room-study are thrown open, the full view of the downs is visible from the bed. Double doors give on to the glass-roofed sun loggia on the south. A balcony runs round the suite and passes through the sun loggia, on to a wooden sun deck, whence a steel stair leads down into the garden. There is also a stair to the roof from the other end of the balcony. The roof has a curved wall to give shelter from the wind.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



Above : Looking from the courtyard into the entrance hall. The glass walls of the hall, shown illuminated from within, span between the brick walls of the two main blocks of the house on either side.

sweep of the drive conceal the view from the visitor approaching by the drive, and when he reaches the entrance court it is still cut off, this time by the house itself. He first sees it from the entrance hall, through a grey-tinted plate-glass panel in the door to the living-room. The faint tint in the glass is designed to lessen the intensity of the view and give it the character of an eighteenth-century engraving. Clear plate glass from floor to ceiling in the living-room gives the view its full development. In the photograph, shown above, can be seen the elliptical main staircase within the entrance hall.

ENTRANCE COURTYARD—Is designed as an outdoor extension of the hall, and to emphasize their unity the exterior brick walls run right into the house, ignoring the glass screen that butts up against it. The flower-bed at the base of the screen also continues on its inner side and is flood-lit from beneath the canopy. The view westward, across the harbour to Itchenor, called for special planning. The garage wall and a row of poplars following the

HOUSE AT BIRDHAM, SUSSEX • DESIGNED BY DAVIES AND MORO



LIVING-ROOM—In the living-room the portion surrounding the fireplace has a lower ceiling than the rest of the room and exposed beams. It has a dull gold inset carpet, elsewhere there is a floor of teak strips. Built-in fittings consist of radio, cocktail-cabinet and

log-box, all of natural ash and polished copper. The steel column has a mantle of ash strips, which stop short at top and bottom, the remainder being covered with goat leather.

Above: The living-room.

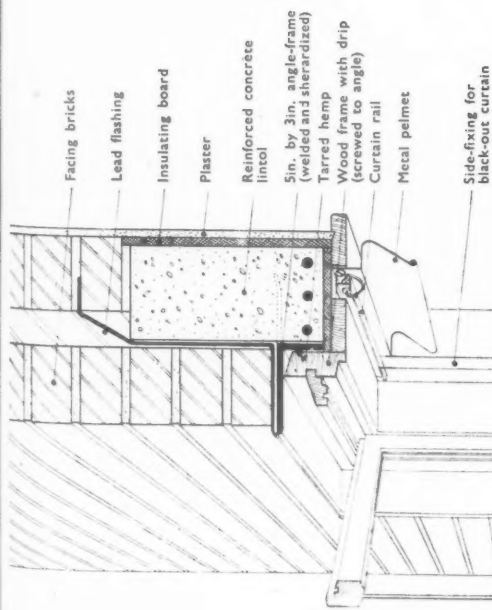
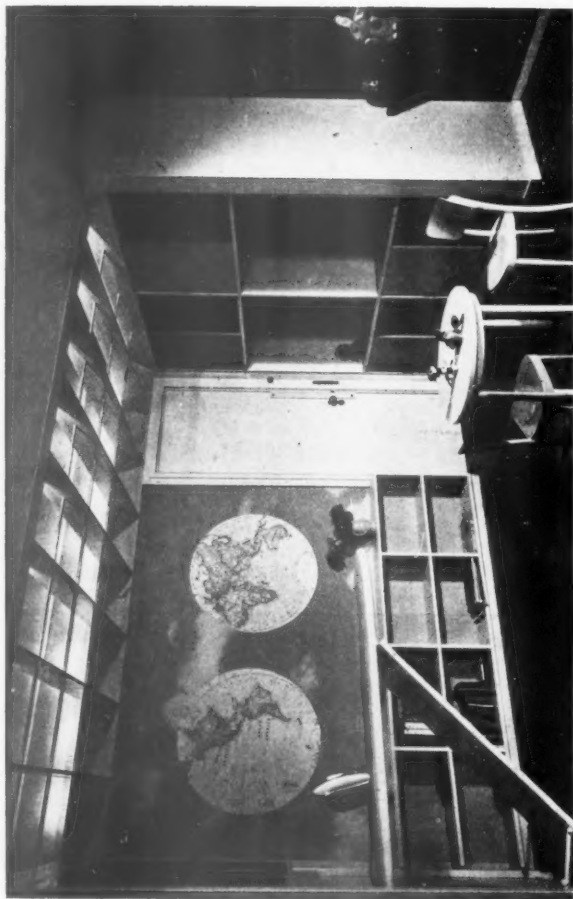
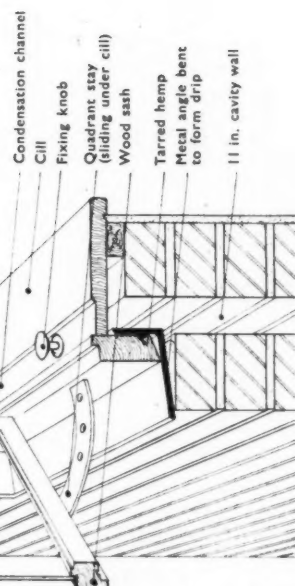


Diagram showing the construction of the standard casement window. Right, the nursery; and the flower window which stretches across the entire length of the south wall of the drawing-room.





STAIRCASE — Laminated wood strings, cellulosed white, span from floor to floor. There are no risers, and each tread has its own piece of grey-blue carpet fitted into a depression. The nosings are of natural waxed mahogany, grooved to prevent slipping. The uprights of the balustrade are of T sections, with the web tapered off at top and bottom. The use of a section which changes its silhouette as it turns gives an effect which emphasizes the curve of the stairs. This is intensified by painting the flange standing radially to the eclipse a different colour. Handrail, mahogany.

Above: The bay window in the living-room commanding the view down river.

Right: The elliptical staircase in the entrance hall.

The general contractors were Y. J. Lovell and Son, Ltd.

For list of sub-contractors see p. xxiv.

HOUSE AT
BIRDHAM
BY DAVIES
AND MORO



SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED THIS WEEK:

★ *HOW can one gasproof a small hospital?* - Q708

★ *FROM what department do I ask permission to carry out building work costing £250?* - Q712

★ *WHAT is the best means of protecting a stained glass memorial window from blast and splinters?* Q714

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL

INFORMATION CENTRE

THE Information Centre answers any question about architecture, building, or the professions and trades within the building industry. It does so free of charge, and its help is available to any member of the industry.

Enquirers do not have to wait for an answer until their question is published in the JOURNAL. Answers are sent direct to enquirers as soon as they have been prepared. The service is confidential; and in no case is the identity of an enquirer disclosed to a third party. Samples and descriptive literature sent to the Information Centre by manufacturers for the use of a particular enquirer are forwarded whenever the director of the Centre considers them likely to be of use.

Questions should be sent by post to—

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL
45 THE AVENUE, CHEAM, SURREY

—but in cases where an enquirer urgently requires an answer to a simple question, he may save time by telephoning the question to—

VIGILANT 0087

The reply will come by post.

Q708

ARCHITECTS, HANTS.—We have to recommend suitable measures for GAS-PROOFING a SMALL HOSPITAL or sick quarters attached to an Aircraft Factory and shall be glad to have your advice in the matter.

The building is 104 ft. long by 35 ft. wide, single storey, having 4½ in. brick in cement walls, cement pebble-dashed externally, concrete floors, asbestos slating on timber framing, breeze block partitions, steel windows, pine doors, etc., with internal wall surfaces plastered generally.

It seems obvious that a gaslock should be provided to each entrance door, but the biggest problem to us is the gas-proofing of the windows, as these must be kept in commission for natural ventilation. We feel the best treatment for windows would be to provide each with efficient gas curtains, but these would be rendered ineffective if a gas attack were accompanied by bombing which might blow the glazing in. Blast and gasproof steel shutters would solve this problem, but would prove expensive as the steel windows are of non-standard size—namely, 5 ft. high by 3 ft. 6 inches wide.

We regret that we cannot be of much assistance to you as we know of no

other method of gasproofing windows apart from gasproof curtains or steel shutters. It might be best to use gasproof curtains and to apply anti-shatter net to the glass, and thus lessen the danger of it breaking. It hardly seems worth while going to any very great expense in connection with the building, as a high explosive bomb would very easily damage the roof and the walls, quite apart from the windows. There is no official publication which would help you to any great extent, but you might care to obtain the "Specification of Materials and Fittings to be Used in the Erection of New and the Adaptation of existing Buildings for Cleansing Stations for A.R.P. Personnel," obtainable free from the Home Office, A.R.P. Publications Department, Horseferry House, London, S.W. 1, as this gives some information on gasproofing.

Q709

ARCHITECT, LONDON.—*I should be very glad if you could furnish me with the present address of Messrs. Structures Waterproofing, Ltd., formerly of Blackburn Road, West Hampstead, N.W. 6. Correspondence sent to that address has been returned by the Post Office marked "Gone away," and there is no reply to telephone calls to that address. If you do not happen to know their new address, perhaps you could suggest other possible sources of information.*

We have no knowledge of the address of Messrs. Structures Waterproofing, Ltd. Telephone enquiries report that the telephone has been discontinued and that no new number has been taken over by a firm of the same name. The Post Office inform us that they have not received notification of any new address. We can only assume, therefore, that the firm is no longer in business.

We cannot suggest any other source of knowledge, although, of course, you might obtain some information if you made verbal enquiries locally.

Q710

LAYMAN, DUNDEE.—*Do you know of any books or have you had any articles describing buildings (five-storey) which have been gutted out internally and the INTERNAL WALLS REPLACED BY GIRDERS and STANCHEONS joined up to the external walls and gables?*

We can find no reference to books dealing with the conversion of ordinary brick buildings into partially

steel-framed ones. Libraries no doubt contain articles or illustrations about particular buildings which have been converted in this manner, but we cannot believe that they would be of any value to you, as each building must be dealt with on its own merits.

The design of the steelwork must be dealt with in relation to the particular building, and which is not peculiar in any way because the ends of the beams have to be built into existing walls instead of into new ones. The question of the stability and suitability of the existing walls cannot be solved by any reference to other buildings. If you have any particular problem we will answer it to the best of our ability, but we cannot undertake the duties of an architect or structural engineer, and we would advise you to consult an architect about the whole problem, who would be able to consider it in connection with the actual premises and would no doubt be prepared to let you have a preliminary report for a comparatively small fee.

It is probably relevant to mention that at the present time you would be unlikely to obtain steel for any repairs to a building unless work of great importance is carried on within it.

Q711

ARCHITECT, LONDON.—*I am responsible for making several claims for compensation for War Damage and have been studying the new WAR DAMAGE Act, the meaning of which seems fairly clear. The only thing which is at all mystifying is how to set about presenting the claim. We are told that NEW FORMS will be used and that filling them up will be so simple that professional advice will not be required.*

As I have already completed estimates for the reinstatement of the damage, I hope that my work will not be wasted. Can you tell me whether it is in order for me to complete the ordinary V.O.W.1 Form as the local authorities are still supplying this type of form, and also whether they should still be sent to the District Valuer?

At the time of writing, the War Damage Commission has not begun operations, and the new form (Form C.1) is not available. We understand that the new forms will be available very soon, and that, although they need not be accompanied by an estimate, an approximate estimate of the cost of reinstatement will be required in due course. The chief difference is that for a "Cost of

Works" claim, the estimate must be based on current prices, whereas the old claim for "Reinstatement" was based on 1939 prices.

At the present time it will be quite in order for you to send an ordinary V.O.W.1 Form to the District Valuer. Full details of the new scheme will be made available shortly.

Q712

ENQUIRER, MIDDLESEX.—*I want to go ahead with a £250 alteration job, and the builder says it is not allowed, but that alterations are only allowed up to £100. What is the special department I should get in touch with?*

We assume that the alterations in question are to a private building. There has been a restriction for some time on such work where the cost is likely to exceed £500. On the 14th April this limit was reduced to £100, and in future no private building can be undertaken without the consent of the appropriate authority if the estimated cost exceeds £100. The appropriate authority in your case is the Licensing Officer, H.M. Office of Works, Abell House, John Islip Street, London, S.W. 1. Telephone: Victoria 4422.

Q713

ARCHITECT, YORKSHIRE.—*I have to treat a built-in bookcase which has been affected by DAMP. It stands against a semi-outside (side wall of a covered loggia) 11" cavity wall, and the cause of the dampness is somewhat obscure, particularly as the trouble is recent and the house was built in 1914. I am expecting that the remedy will be ventilation of the cavity between the inner brick skin and the plywood backing of the bookcase, with possibly further ventilation of the cavity between the two brick skins.*

The point is, can you tell me the best way to treat the BOOKS that have been AFFECTED BY the MOULD? They are mostly old volumes of "Punch" (No. 1 onwards), and are, therefore, rather susceptible to damage.

The best methods of treating books affected by damp scarcely comes within the scope of the Information Centre, wide though that scope is.

We suggest that you write to Dr. Plenderleith, Laboratory, British Museum, London, W.C. 1, stating the nature of the binding, the approximate age of the books, and the extent to which the binding, paper and print has been affected. It would be wise to enclose, if possible, some sample.



The Cutty Sark in dock after her re-purchase from the Portuguese. The condition of her Teak planking astonished experts.

Architects specify Burma Teak, *Tectona Grandis*. Its stability, durability and exceptional weather resistance, so abundantly proven in the story of the *Cutty Sark*, are the reasons why. Personal inspection can confirm these points.

Do you know *Cutty Sark*, one of the loveliest things man created? She was built some 75 years ago and lies, today, at Greenhithe, for your inspection and appreciation.

She sailed through the suns of the China Seas; through the snows of Cape Horn. She was driven as few ships are ever driven—she once averaged 15 knots for 36 hours when crossing the Indian Ocean. Famous as a tea-clipper, famous as a wool clipper, she could take it.

She was built of Teak upon iron frames. It was noted that her planking did not become water-soaked with old age and cause her to lose speed. At twenty she was as fast as ever; while, when over forty, was still good for 16 knots! Teak is water repellent.



The only true Teak is *Tectona Grandis*—see "The British Standard Nomenclature of Hardwoods."

BURMA TEAK

Issued by the Burma Teak Shippers.

4 CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C. 3

Q714

ARCHITECT, ARGYLL.—*Stained Glass Memorial Window.* Can you advise as to the best means of PROTECTING a STAINED GLASS memorial WINDOW in a church against blast and splinters from exploding bombs? The question has been put to me, and it occurs to me that you may have some definite information as to blast and splinter effects in some of the less seriously damaged churches in London and elsewhere, and what protective measures, if any, were taken.

Glass in leaded lights is liable to be damaged by blast, and although the glass is not so liable to splinter as ordinary glass in larger panes, we have known cases of glass being fractured and coming being broken by a comparatively distant explosion.

Some protection against blast can be obtained by encasing the window both sides with boarding on a stout framework securely fixed; 1½" boarding would be suitable, although, of course, the thicker the better.

Protection against splinters can only be obtained by 13½" brickwork or its equivalent, and there is no doubt that if the glass is valuable it is advisable to remove it and store it in a place of safety. If light is

essential, the stained glass can be replaced by glass substitute or wired glass.

REFERENCE BACK

[This section deals with previous questions and answers.]

Q692. April 24, 1941.

This question dealt with the restriction on private building, and a correspondent has written to say that the restriction applies to building work exceeding £100, and not to that exceeding £500, as stated in the question and answer. This is true, but we might mention that the answer was correct at the time it was sent to the enquirer.

THE BUILDINGS ILLUSTRATED

HOUSE AT BIRDHAM, SUSSEX (pages 338-344). Architects: Davis and Moro. The General contractors were Y. J. Lovell and Son, Ltd. Subcontractors and suppliers included: Brown and Tawse, Ltd., steel reinforcement, structural steel, welded steel stairs, rain-water pipes, pressed steel roof for garage, water-proofing for all roofs, metal balustrades, insulating and building boards; G. N. Haden and Sons, Ltd., invisible panel heating and hot water; H. J. Cash and Co., Ltd., electrical work

and light fittings; Mettallbau Koller, steel windows; Alpine Windows, Ltd., wood windows; Uxbridge Flint Brick Co., facing bricks; Modern Floorings Co., cork lino and composition floors; F. G. White and Co., Ltd., marble flooring, stone paving, decorative stone and marble work; Wachal Flooring Co., Ltd., external and internal teak flooring; Treloar and Sons, close carpeting; A. H. Edwards and Son, Ltd., drive and forecourt; Ian G. Walker, garden; Carter and Co. (London), Ltd., floor and wall tiling; Shanks and Co., Ltd., sanitary fittings; A. Johnson and Co., Ltd., Savestane stainless steel sinks; Fredk. Tibbenham, Ltd., elliptical staircase and flush doors; Stic B. Paint Sales, Ltd., external painting; Dryad Metal Works, Ltd., door furniture; James Clark and Eaton, Ltd., glass; J. Starkie Gardner, Ltd., special reflector, window stays and decorative metalwork; Rowley Gallery and Decorative Art, Ltd., picture window, frames and showcases; E. Pollard and Co., Ltd. C. and A. Muller, built-in joinery and specially designed furniture; Morley Upholstery Works, upholstery, specially designed chairs and cow-hide settees; J. Avery and Co., Ltd., Venetian and black-out blinds; Nettlefold and Sons, Ltd., door furniture; Tuke and Bell, Ltd., sewage disposal; Chas. P. Moody, sliding door gear; J. Lewis and Co., Ltd., Heal and Son, Ltd., Gordon Russell, Ltd., Fortnum and Mason, Ltd., furnishing materials; Kandya, Ltd., J. Line and Sons, Ltd., A. Sanderson and Sons, Ltd., J. Perchorn, H.A. Morris and Co., wallpaper; Jas. Williamson and Son, Ltd., Lancaster cloth; Pel, Ltd., kitchen stools; Incor. Assn. for Promoting General Welfare of Blind, doormat, laundry and flower baskets; F. G. Kettle, cardboard drawers; Benham and Sons, Ltd., stainless steel plate-racks; Harvey Nichols and Co., Ltd., Celanese curtains; Peter Jones, Ltd., wrought-iron furniture; Pilkington Bros., Ltd., dome light; G. A. Harvey and Co., Ltd., stairs to roof; Hewitt Engineering Co., Ltd., gravity feed boiler; Esse Cooker Co., cooker.

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