

# THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL

NOV 1 1944

DEPOSIT



★ The war has both multiplied the number of Official Departments and encouraged Societies and Committees of all kinds to become more vocal. The result is a growing output of official and group propaganda. A glossary of abbreviations is now provided below, together with the full address and telephone number of the organizations concerned. In all cases where the town is not mentioned the word LONDON is implicit in the address.

AA	Architectural Association. 34/6, Bedford Square, W.C.1.	Museum 0974
ABT	Association of Building Technicians. 5, Ashley Place, S.W.1.	Victoria 0447-8
APRR	Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction. 32, Gordon Square, W.C.1.	Euston 2158-9
ARCUK	Architects' Registration Council. 68, Portland Place, W.1.	Welbeck 9738
ASB	Architectural Science Board of the Royal Institute of British Architects. 66, Portland Place, W.1.	Welbeck 5721
BC	Building Centre. 23, Maddox Street, W.1.	Mayfair 2128
BCIRA	British Cast Iron Research Association. Alvechurch, Birmingham.	Redditch 716
BDA	British Door Association. Shobnall Road, Burton-on-Trent.	Burton-on-Trent 3350
BIAE	British Institute of Adult Education. 29, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.	Euston 5385
BINC	Building Industries National Council. 11, Weymouth Street, W.1.	Langham 2785
BOE	Board of Education. Belgrave Square, S.W.1.	Sloane 4522
BOT	Board of Trade. Millbank, S.W.1.	Whitehall 5140
BRS	Building Research Station. Bucknalls Lane, Watford.	Garston 2246
BSA	British Steelwork Association. 11, Tothill Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 5073
BSI	British Standards Institution. 28, Victoria Street, S.W.1.	Abbey 3333
CCA	Cement and Concrete Association. 52, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1.	Sloane 5255
CEMA	Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts. 9, Belgrave Square, S.W.1.	Sloane 0421
CPRE	Council for the Preservation of Rural England. 4, Hobart Place, S.W.	Sloane 4280
CSI	Chartered Surveyors' Institution. 12, Great George Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 5322
DIA	Design and Industries Association. Central Institute of Art and Design, National Gallery, W.C.2.	Whitehall 2415
DOT	Department of Overseas Trade. Dolphin Square, S.W.1.	Victoria 4477
EJMA	English Joinery Manufacturers Association (Incorporated). Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1.	Regent 4448
FAS	Faculty of Architects and Surveyors. 8, Buckingham Palace Gdns., S.W.1.	Sloane 2837
FMB	Federation of Master Builders. 23, Compton Terrace, Upper Street, N.1.	Canonbury 2041
FS (Eng.)	Faculty of Surveyors of England. 8, Buckingham Palace Gdns., S.W.1.	Sloane 2837
GG	Georgian Group. 55, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.	Holborn 2664
HC	Housing Centre. 13, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, S.W.1.	Whitehall 2881
HPS	Housing Production Society. 1, Old Burlington Street, W.1.	Regent 3380
IAAS	Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors. 75, Eaton Place, S.W.1.	Sloane 3158
ICE	Institution of Civil Engineers. Great George Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 4577
IEE	Institution of Electrical Engineers. Savoy Place, W.C.2.	Temple Bar 7676
IOB	Institute of Builders. 48, Bedford Square, W.C.1.	Museum 7197
IRA	Institute of Registered Architects. 47, Victoria Street, S.W.1.	Abbey 6172
ISE	Institution of Structural Engineers. 11, Upper Belgrave Street, S.W.1.	Sloane 7128-29
LIDC	Lead Industries Development Council. Eagle House, Jermyn Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 7264
LMBA	London Master Builders' Association. 47, Bedford Square, W.C.1.	Museum 3767
MARS	Modern Architectural Research. 46, Sheffield Terrace, W.8.	Park 7678
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. 55, Whitehall, S.W.1.	Whitehall 3400
MOH	Ministry of Health. Whitehall, S.W.1.	Whitehall 4300
MOI	Ministry of Information. Malet Street, W.C.1.	Euston 4321
MOLNS	Ministry of Labour and National Service, St. James's Square, S.W.1.	Whitehall 6200
MOS	Ministry of Supply. Shell Mex House, Victoria Embankment, W.C.	Gerrard 6933
MOT	Ministry of Transport. Berkeley Square House, Berkeley Square, W.1.	Abbey 7711
MOTCP	Ministry of Town and Country Planning. 32-33, St. James's Square, S.W.1.	Whitehall 8411
MOW	Ministry of Works. Lambeth Bridge House, S.E.1.	Reliance 7611
NAMMC	Natural Asphalte Mine-Owners and Manufacturers Council. 94, Petty France, S.W.1.	Abbey 1010
NBR	National Buildings Record. 66, Portland Place, W.1.	Welbeck 1881
NFBTE	National Federation of Building Trades Employers. 82, New Cavendish Street, W.1.	Langham 4041
NFBTO	National Federation of Building Trades Operatives. 9, Rugby Chambers, Rugby Street, W.C.1.	Holborn 2770
NFHS	National Federation of Housing Societies. 13, Suffolk St., S.W.1.	Whitehall 2881/2/3
NT	National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty. 7, Buckingham Palace Gardens, S.W.1.	Sloane 5808
PEP	Political and Economic Planning. 16, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1.	Whitehall 7245
PWB	Post War Building, Directorate of. Ministry of Works, Lambeth Bridge House, S.E.1.	Reliance 7611
RCA	Reinforced Concrete Association. 91, Petty France, S.W.1.	Whitehall 9936
RIBA	Royal Institute of British Architects. 66, Portland Place, W.1.	Welbeck 5721
RS	Royal Society. Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.1.	Regent 3335
RSA	Royal Society of Arts. 6, John Adam Street, W.C.2.	Temple Bar 8274
SFMA	School Furniture Manufacturers' Association. 13, New Square, Lincoln's Inn, W.C.	Chancery 5313
SPAB	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. 55, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.	Holborn 2646
TCPA	Town and Country Planning Association. 28, King Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2.	Temple Bar 5006
TDA	Timber Development Association. 75, Cannon Street, E.C.4.	City 6147
TPI	Town Planning Institute. 18, Ashley Place, S.W.1.	Victoria 8815

## standard contents

every issue does not necessarily contain all these contents, but they are the regular features which continually recur.

## DIARY

## NEWS

from AN ARCHITECT'S  
Commonplace Book

## ASTRAGAL

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## CURRENT BUILDINGS

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## CENTRE

Physical Planning      Lighting  
Structure      Heating & Ventilation  
Materials      Questions & Answers  
Acoustics & Sound Insulation

## INFORMATION SHEET

## SOCIETIES &

## INSTITUTIONS


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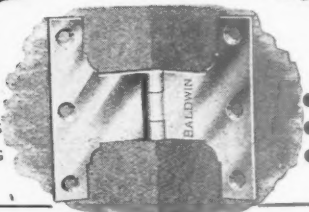
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M-W.46



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TWO STOVES IN ONE!

"A HEATING MIRACLE"—vide the Daily Mirror

ECONOMY with EFFICIENCY will be a post-war keynote for many years—and "INTEROVEN" STOVES will be greatly in demand because they save their cost in brickwork, labour and space.

The fact that they work perfectly with wood, peat or coal brings in so many enquiries that at present we are embarrassed by "controls."

Perhaps sooner than we expect the leash will be off and nobody will be better pleased than ourselves to offer the facilities and service which made "INTEROVENS" famous. Essential replacements of all pre-war "INTEROVEN" Stoves can be supplied. New Lists sent on application enclosing stamp (Govt. Order) to our new and larger showrooms:—

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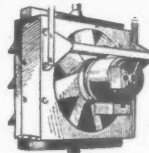
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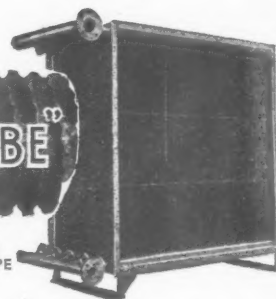
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## This waist-high refrigerator may sell the house...

War-gained experience of ways to improve industrial refrigeration, to lower cost of production, and to make the most economical use of vital materials will be used by Prestcold engineers to the great benefit of the kitchen of the future. They will be able to take the lead in making refrigerators at low cost for every type of home.

For the future health of the Nation a refrigerator is a desirable addition to every home. For the "quick-frozen" foods which will be available after the war refrigerators will become an absolute necessity to all.

Prestcold have designed a model of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cubic feet capacity for mass production at a popular price. It presents the following advantages which are well worth noting:

*Storage capacity of approximately  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cubic feet, which will hold all the perishable foodstuffs for a family of four.*

*Larder space rendered unnecessary. Dry goods and non-perishable foodstuffs would be kept in kitchen cupboards.*

*Waist - high refrigerator door, allowing access to interior without stooping.*

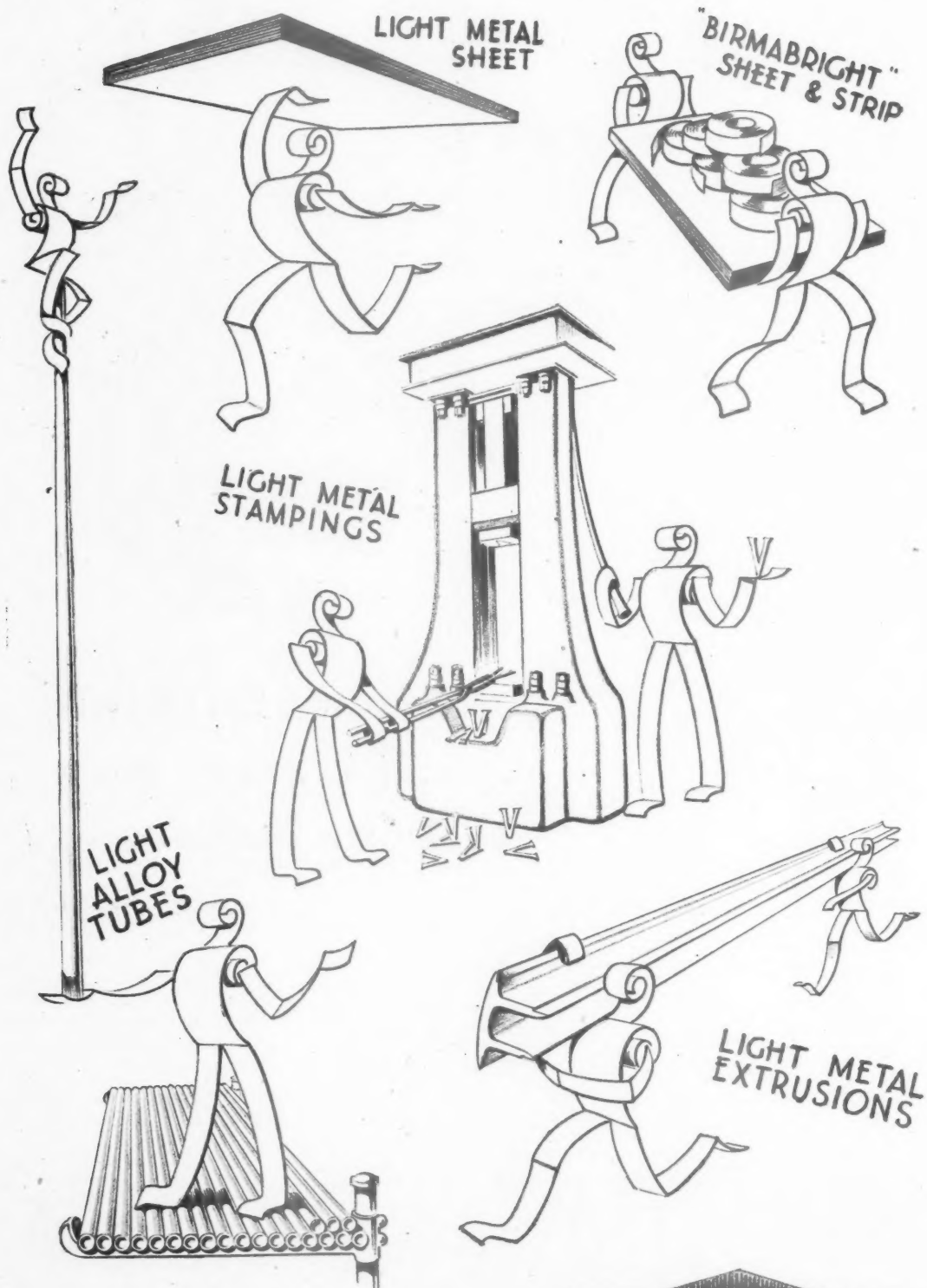
*Height - adaptable by varying position of supporting frames.*

*Refrigerator can be built into kitchen fittings with cupboard space above and below it.*

*Design provides for adequate ventilation of mechanism without the necessity for special air-bricks or ducting.*

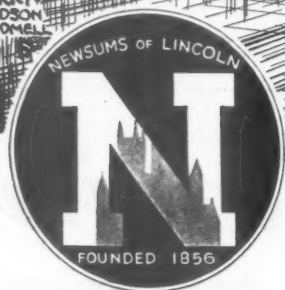
# PRESTCOLD *Refrigeration*

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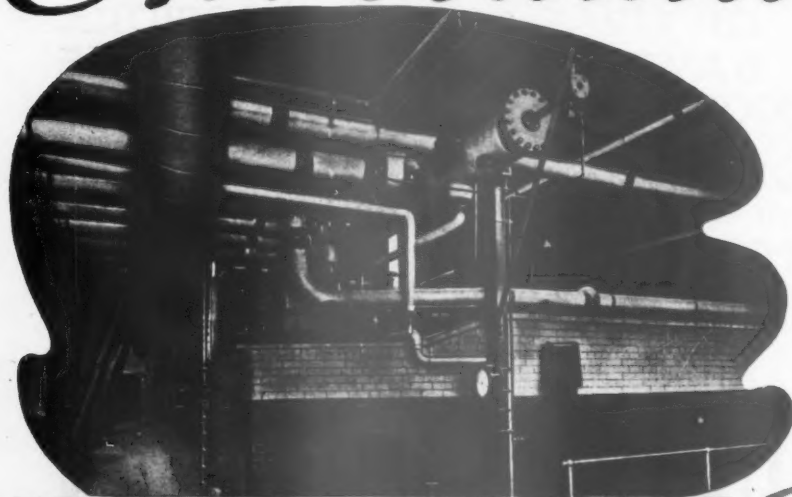
## RESEARCH GUIDES PRODUCTION

Somebody thought of it: somebody tested it: somebody made the experimental model: somebody planned its production: and in the end the enemy realised that he was up against another new weapon—made possible because research guides production in the uses of aluminium and its alloys.

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VENTILATING

HEATING

View of a Boiler House comprising Six Lancashire Boilers for servicing a very large Air Conditioning Plant by Cheethams of Oldham. Note Ventilating Duct in the Boiler House.

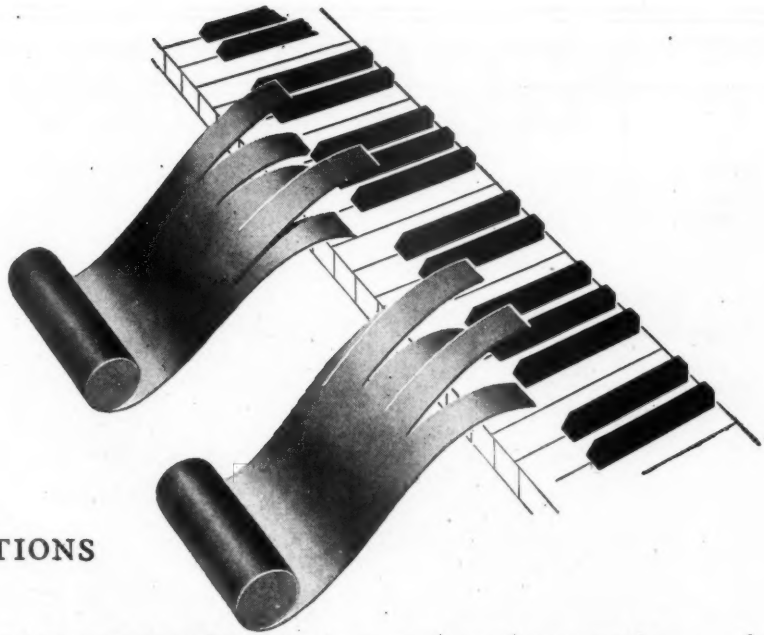
# *Cheethams*

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## THEME— AND VARIATIONS

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IBECO, like many apt solutions to difficult problems, is simple in itself. It is a tough, light, easily handled kraft paper that *is an impenetrable barrier to damp or actual moisture*. Once its possibilities are fully realised, the conscientious, practical, progressive builder will find a multiplicity of uses for it.

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**IBECO** WATERPROOF KRAFT PAPER

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LARGE-SCALE APPARATUS FOR THE COOKING AND SERVING OF FOOD

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View of part of the Staff Service  
of a large Canteen Kitchen  
Installation by



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LONDON AND FALKIRK

# BENJAMIN LIGHTING DATA

2

**SEEING—THE CONDITIONS FOR GOOD SEEING INVOLVE MUCH MORE THAN QUANTITY OF ILLUMINATION** and quantity alone will not ensure good vision.

We see by reason of the contrasting brightnesses of different objects, that is by the light reflected by objects into our eyes.

Too much contrast of brightnesses means glare which reduces our power to see and strains the eye.

Too much shadow conceals shape and hides detail. Diffusion of light is often necessary.

Dark surrounds lead to excessive contrast and a strain on the eyes. Bright areas in the background distract the attention and make concentration difficult.

Good lighting involves the choice of the right lamps and the right reflectors and their application in the correct manner.

Fluorescent Tubular Lamps will suit some purposes best; Filament lamps will suit others.



This sheet is part of a series but paper restrictions limit the number we can publish. We will gladly send the others in reply to a request by post or 'phone.

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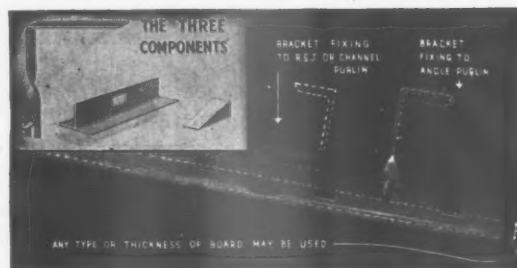
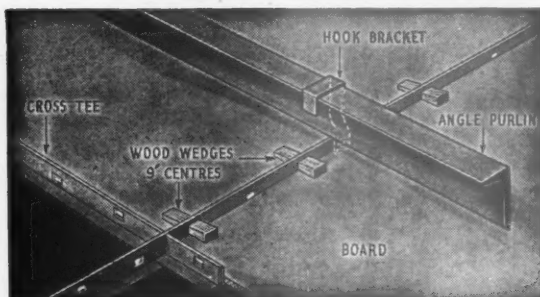


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The Wallboard is secured to sherardised, pressed steel, slotted T-section by wedges. Below are shown the methods of attaching the support to various forms of purlin.



Escalator Tunnel of St. John's Wood Underground Station. Architect: S. A. Heaps.



### 8 POINTS TO BE NOTED

1. Fixed to **UNDERSIDE** of purlins—steel or wood—covering unsightly hook bolts, clips, etc.
2. Assures the insulating value of air-space between roof and underside of purlins. No dust or dirt.
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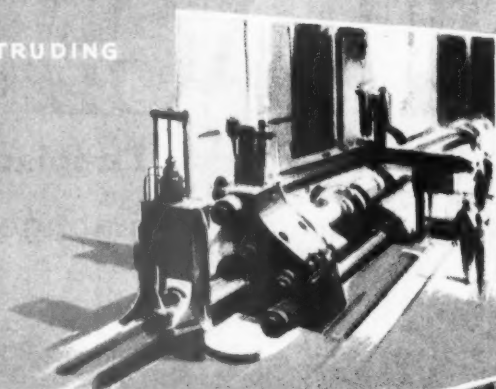
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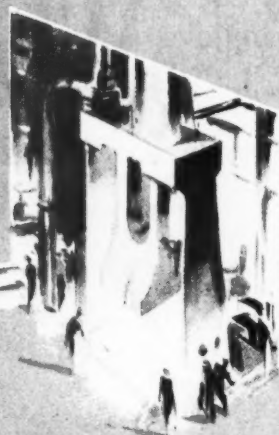




EXTRUDING

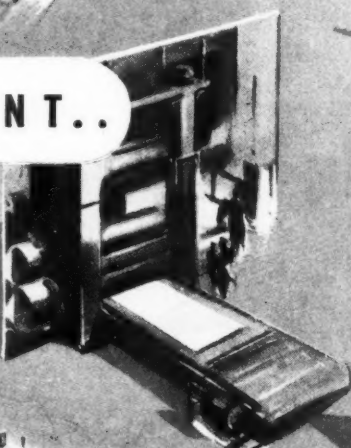


FORGING



## ANNOUNCEMENT..

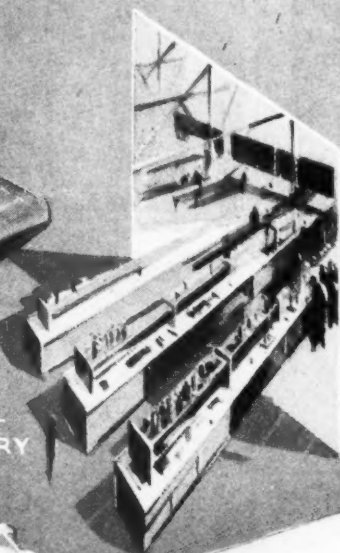
ROLLING



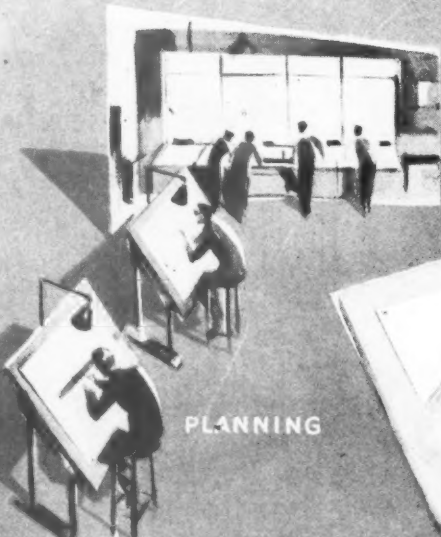
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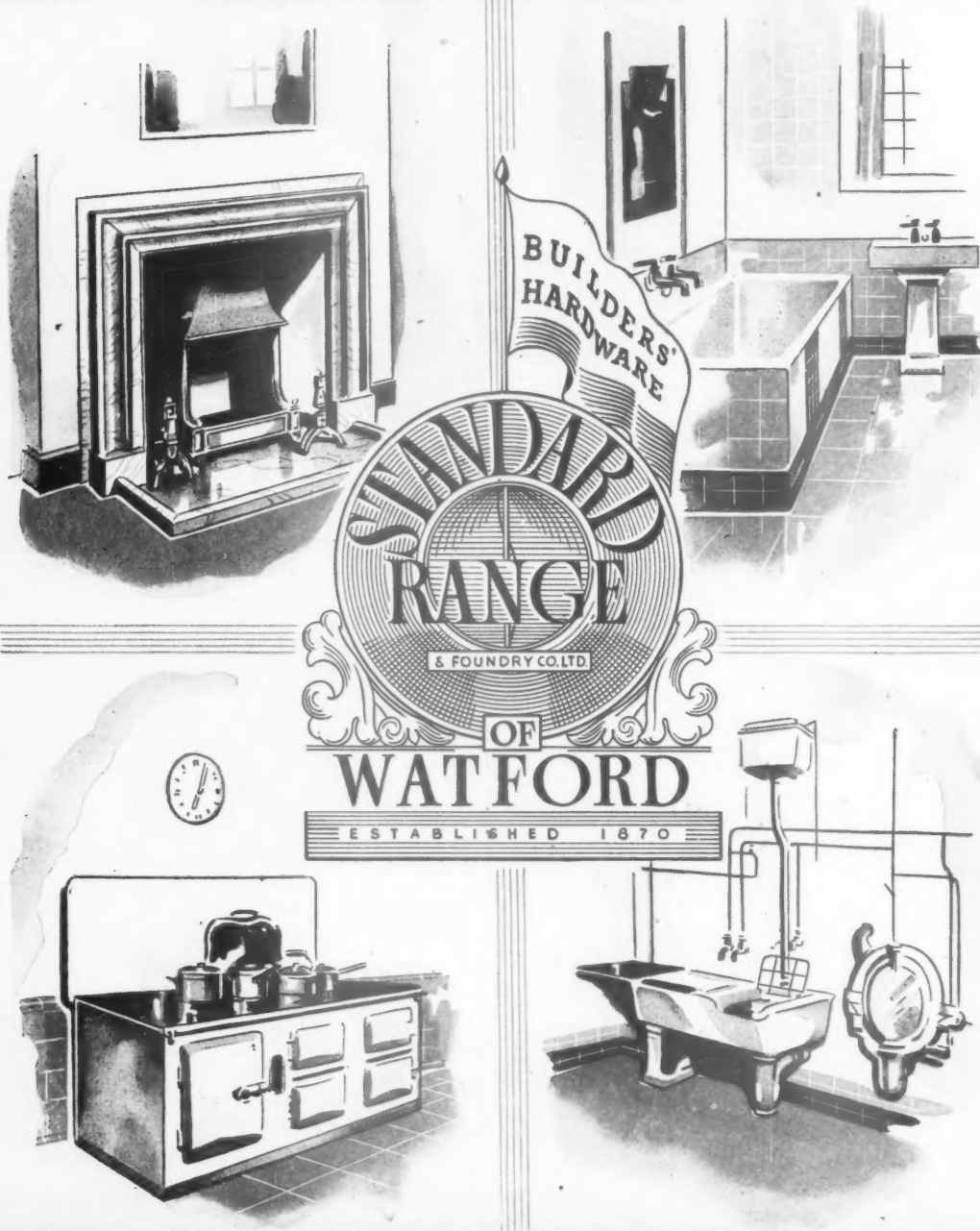


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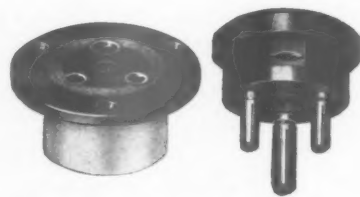
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## *Maintaining the standard of* **BRITISH CRAFTSMANSHIP**

The Fairey *Barracuda* torpedo-bomber, which achieved such success in its first major strike against the enemy, is, of course, intended for service under what are essentially modern conditions of warfare. Yet its development is the result of a strict adherence to those same principles of good craftsmanship which produced the deadly longbows of the fighting archers of Agincourt.

This awareness of a great tradition is also apparent in the production of Crabtree electrical accessories. Whether these are for peace-time application or whether—as in the case of those installed in the *Barracuda*—they are equally suitable for military requirements, the aim of their designers is the same: ultimate perfection. To the purist, this objective can never be reached, but in constantly striving to attain the impossible, the products of Crabtree craftsmen have reached such standards of excellence that they are selected for service whenever quality and reliability are of paramount importance.



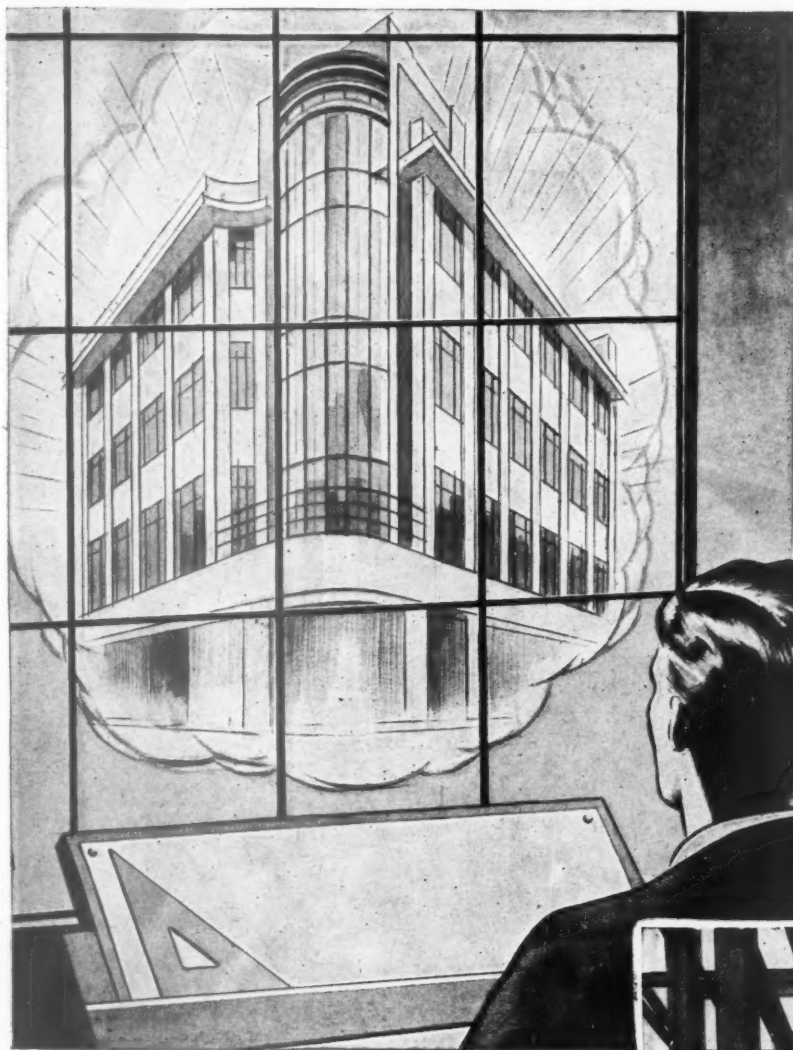
Crabtree products similar to those used  
for controlling the camera gun of the  
*Barracuda*



# CRABTREE

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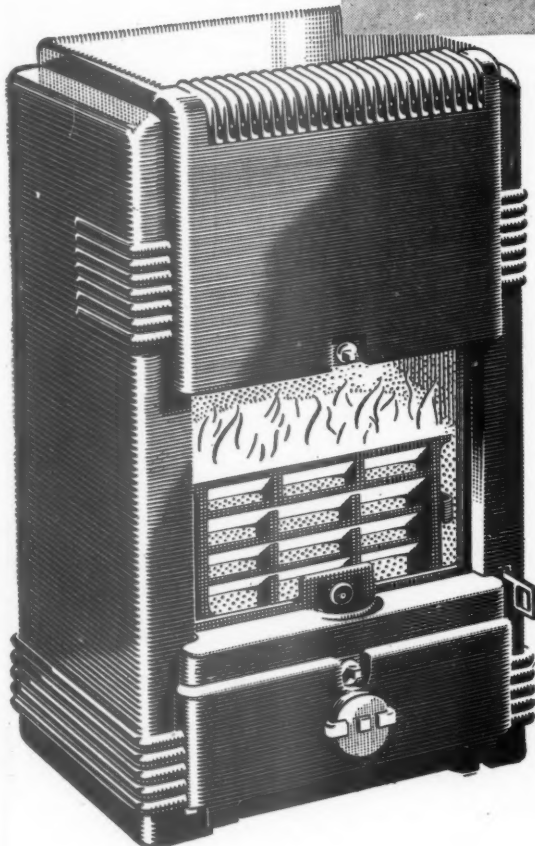
Stoneham and Kirk



## NEW-FASHIONED VISIBLE HEAT

### EXAMPLE

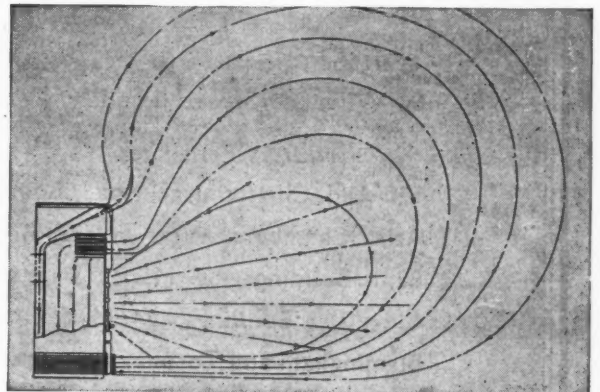
### THE OTTO HEATING STOVE



#### SPECIFICATION: (TWO SIZES)

<b>FOR OTTO No. 1</b>	- - - - -	Height 26"
		Width 17½"
		Depth 13½"
		Height to top of flue outlet 18½"
		Diameter of flue suitable for 4½" or 5" flue pipe - - 4½"
<b>FOR OTTO No. 2</b>	- - - - -	Height 30"
		Width 17½"
		Depth 13½"
		Height to top of flue outlet 21½"
		Diameter of flue suitable for 4½" or 5" flue pipe - - 4½"

**FINISHES:** Ebony black or coloured vitreous enamel, or "Alisheen" de Luxe enamel.



**ADVANTAGES:** Burns any kind of fuel, coal, coke, anthracite, peat or small logs. It can be a closed or open fire. It is a day-and-night stove, for the combustion is under control. It heats the air of a room. The diagram shows the air duct which runs below, behind and over the fire cavity. Cool air is drawn in underneath. This moves upward behind the fire where heat is

most intense. The heated air (still clean and pure) is then thrown forward and outward. The atmosphere is thus kept in constant circulation and the room is made really warm and comfortable even in the farthest corner. With the Otto Stove, heat which ordinarily would be absorbed by the wall at the back, comes out into the room giving 20% more warmth from every ounce of fuel used.

ONE OF THE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE POST-WAR HOME THAT WILL BE MADE BY

## ALLIED IRONFOUNDERS LIMITED



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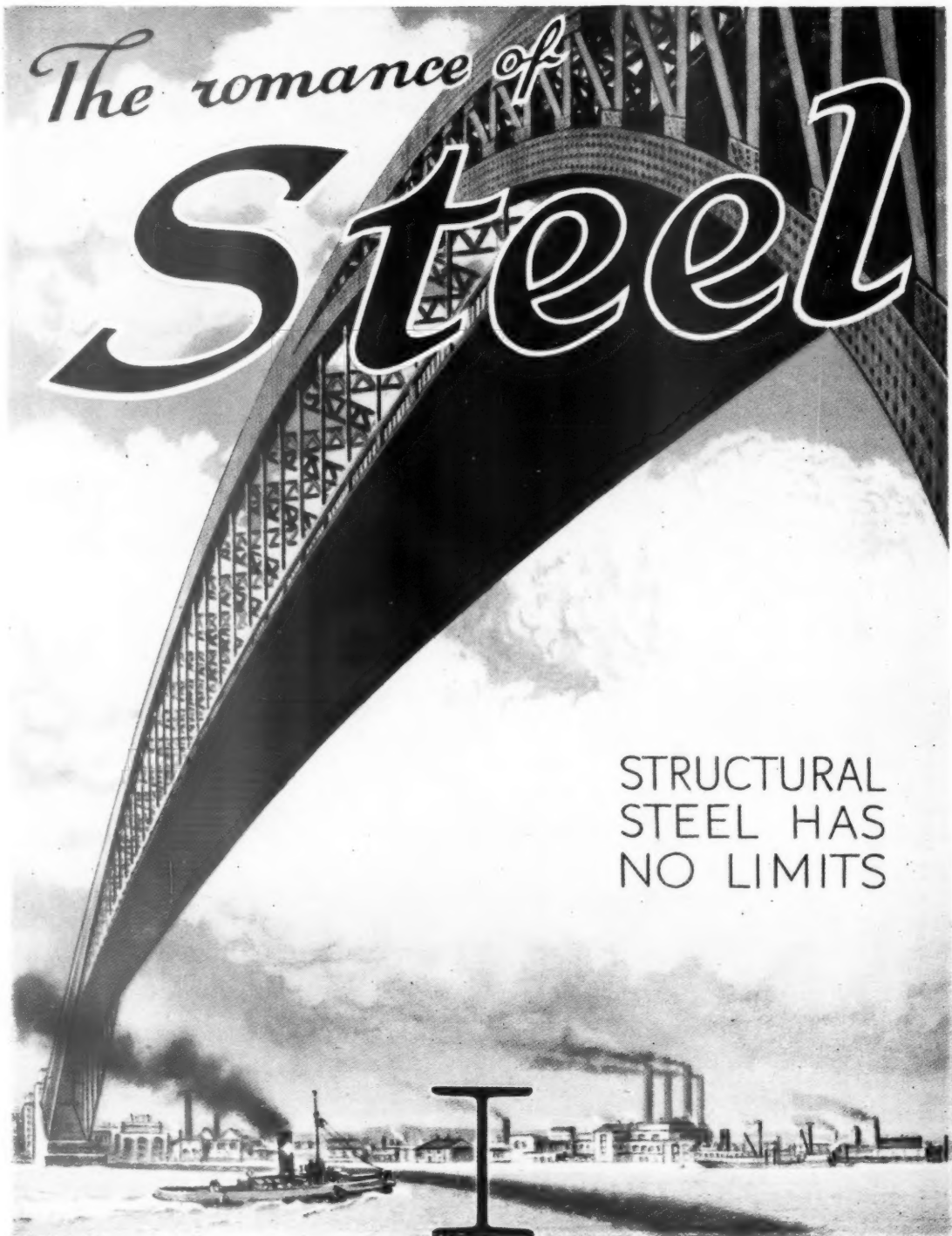
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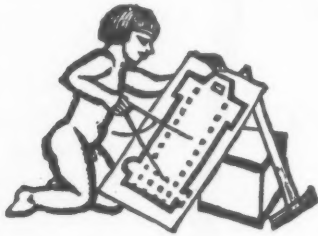
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In common with every other periodical this JOURNAL is rationed to a small part of its peacetime needs of paper. Thus a balance has to be struck between circulation and number of pages. We regret that unless a reader is a subscriber we cannot guarantee that he will get a copy of the JOURNAL. Newsagents now cannot supply the JOURNAL except to a "firm order."

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## DIARY FOR OCTOBER NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Titles of exhibitions, lectures and papers are printed in italics. In the case of papers and lectures the authors' names come first. Sponsors are represented by their initials as given in the glossary of abbreviations on the front cover.

**BUXTON.** *When We Build Again.* Exhibition and Film. (Sponsor, TCPA, in collaboration with Messrs. Cadbury Bros.) Oct. 14-21

**COVENTRY.** *Living in Cities.* Exhibition. (Sponsor, BIAE). Oct. 23-Nov. 6  
*Homes to Live In.* Exhibition. (Sponsor, BIAE). Oct. 12-23

**DONCASTER.** *Rebuilding Britain.* Exhibition. At Doncaster Council of Social Service. (Sponsor, BIAE). Oct. 14-21

**DURHAM.** *The English Town: Its Continuity and Development.* Exhibition. (Sponsor, TCPA.) Oct. 12-18

*When We Build Again.* Exhibition and film. (Sponsor, TCPA, in collaboration with Messrs. Cadbury Bros.) Nov. 12-18

**HERTFORD.** *Homes to Live In.* Exhibition. Land Army Tour. (Sponsor, BIAE). Oct.-Nov.

**IPSWICH.** *Homes to Live In.* Exhibition. At the Central Premises of the Industrial Co-operative Society. (Sponsor, BIAE). Oct. 21-Nov. 6

**LONDON.** *Water Colour Drawings of H. S. Merritt.* Exhibition. At the Batsford Gallery, 15, North Audley Street, W.1. (Sponsor, Batsford, Ltd.). Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 12-Nov. 3

*Kensington To-day and To-morrow.* An Exhibition prepared by the Housing Centre for the Kensington Borough Council. At 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1. (Sponsor, HC). 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Saturdays, 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon. Oct. 12-14

*Terrace Housing Competition.* The National Housing and Town Planning Council invite architects and students of architecture to submit in competition designs for houses suitable for State-aided schemes in urban areas to be erected in terraces. Assessor: Louis de Soissons. Premiums: £125, £75, and a further £75 to be awarded at the discretion of the Assessor. October 12 last day for submitting designs to the Secretary, National Housing and Town Planning Council, 41, Russell Square, London, W.C.1. Oct. 12

*Presentation to Sir Ian and Lady MacAlister.* At the RIBA, 66, Portland Place, W.1. All those who have contributed to

the presentation fund are invited by the RIBA to attend. The proceedings will be informal, and it is anticipated that they will not last more than 45 minutes to an hour. 2.15 p.m. Oct. 18

Gordon Stephenson (Ministry of Town and Country Planning). *Site Planning and Lay-out in Relation to Housing.* At 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1. (Sponsor, HC). 1.15 p.m. Oct. 17

Sir Albert Howard. *Fresh Food and Town Planning.* At 2, Savoy Hill, W.C.2. Chairman, Lord Portsmouth. (Sponsor, TCPA.) 1.15 p.m. Oct. 19

Miss Helen Masters (Battersea Polytechnic). *Housework and Budgeting.* Discussion No. 5 in *Education for Household Series.* At 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1. (Sponsor, HC). 1.15 p.m. Oct. 24

F. L. Barrow, of the Building Research Station. *Prefabricated Plumbing.* At the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1. Chairman, Percival T. Harrison, Vice-President of the Institute. 2.30 p.m. Oct. 25

Dr. R. F. Sudell. *The Garden.* At 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1. (Sponsor, HC). 1.15 p.m. Nov. 7

**LOWESTOFT.** *Town House.* Exhibition. (Sponsor, HC). Oct. 19-21

**NEWPORT.** *Monmouthshire Industrial Exhibition.* At the Technical College, Newport. The exhibition is designed to show not only the wide range of the County's products, but also the resources and potentialities of Monmouthshire as a site for new post-war industries and for the expansion of existing undertakings. The opening ceremony will be performed by the Minister of Reconstruction, Lord Woolton. Enquiries concerning the exhibition to:—The Hon. Organiser, Monmouthshire Industrial Exhibition, County Hall, Newport, Mon. (Sponsor, Monmouthshire County Council, in association with the Newport Borough Council and local industrialists). Oct. 12-14

**STAMFORD.** *Twenty Women at Home.* Exhibition. (Sponsor, HC). Oct. 19-26  
*Traffic.* Exhibition. (Sponsor, HC). Oct. 19-26

**WEYMOUTH.** *Rebuilding Britain.* Exhibition. At South Dorset Technical School. (Sponsor, BIAE). Oct. 14-21

## N E W S

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*Though no feature in the JOURNAL is without value for someone, there are often good reasons why certain news calls for special emphasis. The JOURNAL's starring system is designed to give this emphasis, but without prejudice to the unstarred items which are often no less important.*

★ means spare a second for this, it will probably be worth it.

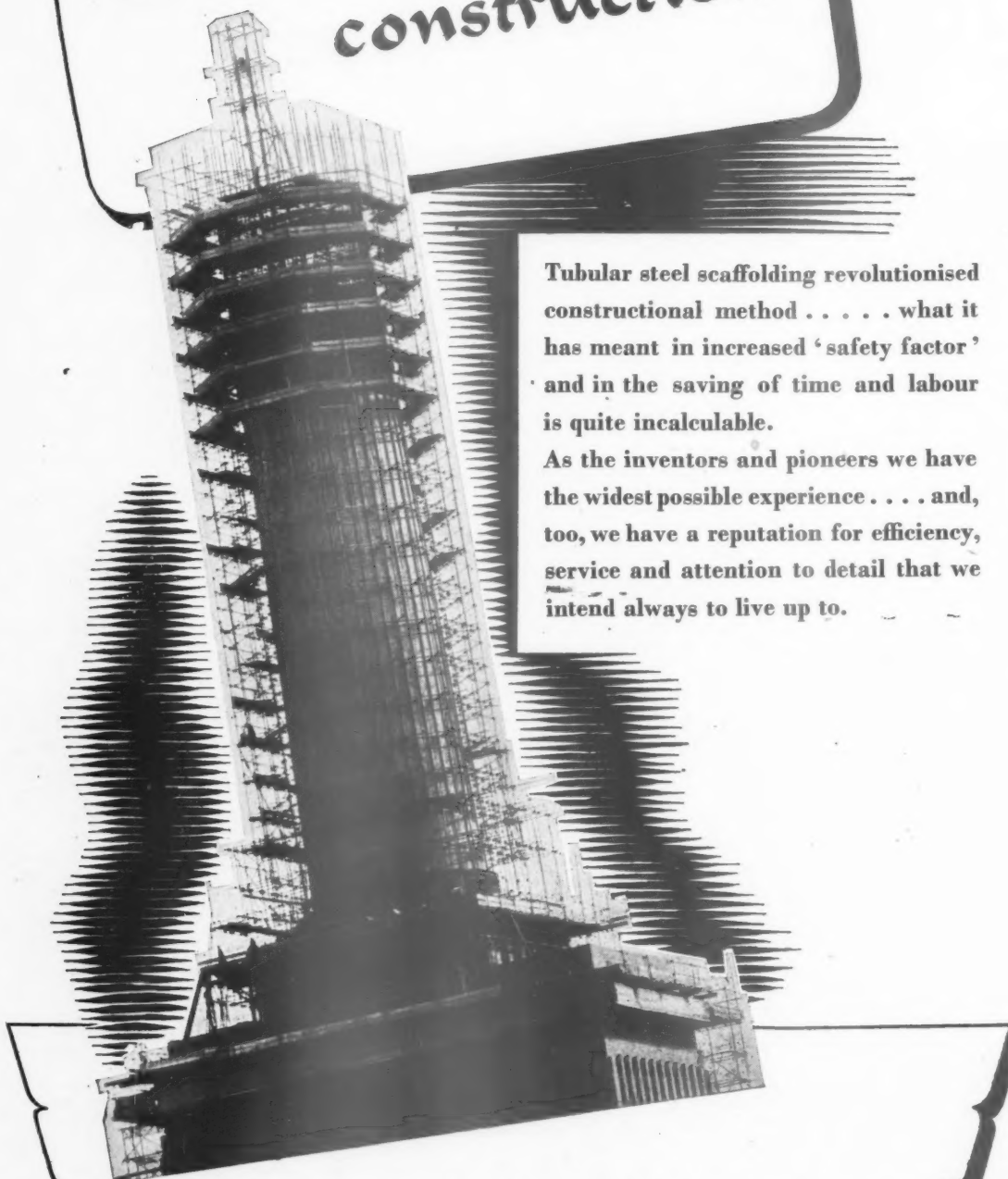
★★ means important news, for reasons which may or may not be obvious.

Any feature marked with more than two stars is very big building news indeed.

### *The Codes of Practice Committee at the Ministry of Works has issued for comment a CODE RELATING TO DAYLIGHT STANDARDS for dwellings and schools.*

The object of the code is to enable design and planning for adequate daylight up to scientific standards to be readily attained. An analysis of these standards and methods of obtaining them are given in detail, including a table of general and specific daylight factors, depths of penetration, etc., of light from windows for the varying types of rooms found in schools and dwellings, and there are appendices dealing with the design and siting of buildings as factors in daylighting, and the use of daylight factor protractors. There are also standard tables of window performance prepared by the National Physical Laboratory. These enable the lighting efficiency of any window to be ascertained readily. The application of the tables is dealt with in Part 2 of the Code, and an explanation is given of how obstruction to the admission of daylight may be assessed in various cases, and how the tables may be applied to corner, bay or dormer windows. *Code for Daylight in Dwellings and Schools. Chapter 1(A) of the Code of Functional Requirements of Buildings* is issued on behalf of the Committee by the British Standards Institution, 28, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1., price 2/-, post free.

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# From AN ARCHITECT'S Commonplace Book

**SPACE, TIME AND MEGALOMANIA.** [From Jules Verne, by Kenneth Allott (*The Cresset Press*).] The biological bias in nineteenth century science helped to restore imaginatively the so-called secondary qualities of the object, but I suggest here that the Victorian worship of mere size and magnitude is connected with the old mechanical universe and its "primary" truths of weight and measurement. To-day the evolutionary approach to phenomena puts the emphasis on time—the worship of speed is the modern equivalent of the nineteenth century worship of the Crystal Palace, the "Great Eastern," the American skyscraper, the Eiffel Tower, the Statue of Liberty and Barnum's "Greatest Show on Earth." But the worship of magnitude still persists like a vestigial organ or the twinge in wet weather reminding you of an old fracture.

*Referring to Churchill Houses at the conference of the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers at Morecambe, Mr. T. Halliday, of Cambridge, said: What the Government wants to put across the public is TIN HUTS.*

That, said Mr. Halliday, is the Government's policy in post-war housing, and the Treasury will see that the tin huts are kept on long after the war. The general secretary, Mr. Luke Fawcett, said: For many months now people on behalf of the Government have been advocates of every type of housing except that which has stood the test of time. I am dismayed to find that we are still without a definite Government programme on housing as we understand it. Mr. George Lowthling, National Executive Council, said that council houses were square brick boxes. They had nothing of a labour-saving character to help the women. At the Electrical Trades Union Conference at Blackpool, Mr. W. Lewis, Birmingham, said: There is nothing to beat the brick house. People who talk about the value and cheapness of the prefabricated type are talking moonshine.

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*The full story of the war-time travels of the BAYEUX TAPESTRY was told by Lieut.-Col. C. F. Webb, Slade Professor of Art at Cambridge University until 1940 and now Adviser to the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Section of SHAEF'S G-5 (Civil Affairs) Division at a press conference on September 28.*

The function of the section, which consists of an Adviser, Deputy Adviser and ten specialist officers in the field, is to carry out the policy of the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, by mitigating as far as possible the inevitable danger or loss to the art treasures, historic buildings and their contents of the countries in which the Allied armies operate. Lieut.-Col. Webb described how, at the beginning of the war, the Bayeux tapestry, which is over 200 ft. in length, was packed in a specially made lead box and housed in a concrete shelter at Bayeux, where it stayed until 1941. It was then sent to a country house in the region of Le Mans, and remained there until July 9, 1943, when the Germans unrolled it, photographed it in detail, and employed a German artist named Jeschke to copy it in colour. It was packed up again on August 31, and left at Le Mans until D+10, when some S.S. troops, authorized by Vichy, took it to the Louvre in Paris, where it was deposited in a sub-basement. Heavy pressure was subsequently brought

upon the Louvre authorities by Bonnard, the Vichy Minister of Education, to remove it to "East France." The authorities, however, were justifiably suspicious, and in the deadlock created the tapestry remained at the Louvre, where it still lies. Captain Marvin C. Ross, V.S.M.C.R., formerly Curator of Mediæval Art at the Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore, now deputy adviser to Lieut.-Col. Webb, described damage done to famous buildings in Northern France. Chartres Cathedral, he said, is practically undamaged, although the Mediæval City Gate was blown up with the bridge. Paris is very little damaged. Part of the Senate was burnt, but the frescoes by Delacroix have been removed. Most of the notable buildings in towns, such as Caen, Falaise, and Lisieux still stand, although large areas of the ancient parts of these towns upon which their unique character depends have been devastated.

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*The LCC Plan is a beautiful dream, but it CANNOT BECOME A REALITY until the Government makes up its mind about planning legislation, said Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*

In my view, continued Lord Balfour, the Government has no land policy at all. It proposes to postpone settlement for five years, thus creating the maximum of uncertainty for the land owner and for the local authority. If that kind of policy is put into effect, all planning will become impossible. Lord Balfour gave this warning while opening the Kensington To-day and To-morrow Exhibition at the Housing Centre.

*In the London area no BUILDING WORK COSTING MORE THAN £10 can be carried out without a licence.*

An order made by the Ministry of Works reduces the limit of expenditure up to which building work may be carried out without licence in London from £100 to £10. This is part of a big scheme aimed at facilitating the rehousing of bombed-out Londoners this winter. A great new drive to solve the colossal priority task of repairing London's houses is being launched immediately. In addition to the new Order it includes: (1) No work other than war-damage repairs is to be done for six months at least unless it is essential; (2) a pool of London's builders and a census of what all builders in the London and Home Counties area and their employees are doing; (3) emergency plans for accommodating thousands more builders from the provinces.

*The Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has made the following announcement concerning LIGHTWEIGHT CONCRETE AGGREGATES.*

In the post-war building programme it will be of importance that the full and satisfactory use of building materials should not be hampered by lack of knowledge of the range of materials available or of their properties. For some years now the various types of concrete made with lightweight aggregates have been increasingly used in building, and have been found to offer considerable advantages for a number of purposes. An up-to-date description of the different types of lightweight aggregates available, together with an account of their properties as affecting their uses, is given in a revised edition of Building Research Bulletin No. 15, *Lightweight Concrete Aggregates*, which has just been issued by the Building Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and published by HM Stationery Office, price 3d. net. This revised edition includes new data on a number of aspects of lightweight concretes, including particulars of heat and sound insulating properties, fire resistance, and their use for external walls.

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*A benefaction from the Cement Makers' Federation has enabled the Imperial College, with the approval of London University, to institute in its City and Guilds College a NEW CHAIR OF CONCRETE TECHNOLOGY*

It may not be possible to appoint its professor until after the termination of war with Germany. The chair will be instituted in the first instance for ten years, and will be attached to the existing Department of Civil Engineering. The professor will provide advanced instruction in the principles and technological application of reinforced concrete, conduct research, and consult with Industry regarding the practical experience they will give to students in training. To establish the necessary contact with Industry, an Advisory Committee is contemplated, with appropriate representation of interested bodies, which will report to the Governing Body of the College. At the end of the ten years' period it will review the working of the scheme and advise as to its continuation or termination. A feature of the scheme is an arrangement, sponsored by a number of building and civil engineering contractors, whereby bursaries will be made available to students devoting one or two years (after a preliminary study of the basic sciences) to intensive study of Concrete Technology.



### *Contrast in Character at Northolt*

This issue of the JOURNAL is devoted to describing the thirteen demonstration houses showing alternative types of materials, plans and construction suitable for immediate post-war building, which have been erected by the Ministry of Works at Northolt. Astragal commented on these houses last week, and the photographs

above illustrate his point concerning the more vital character of the two houses designed by Mr. Gibberd for the British Iron and Steel Federation, as compared with the others. Top, one of the British Iron and Steel Federation houses. Above, the Dudley urban type of traditional brick construction.

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**Immediate action is being taken by the RIBA Demobilization Committee TO SECURE THE EARLY DEMOBILIZATION OF ARCHITECTS after the defeat of Germany.**

The RIBA Demobilization Committee has had under consideration the Government White Paper on *Re-allocation of Man-Power between the Armed Forces and Civilian Employment during any Interim Period between the Defeat of Germany and the Defeat of Japan*. The Government proposals provide for men and women to be released in two classes. Class A will be released in groups, according to age and length of service. It is understood that every effort will be made to release men in their turn in whatever theatres of war they may be serving. Class B will consist of certain occupational classes of men and women whose services may be required for urgent reconstruction employment. These classes of employment will be specified by the Minister of Labour and National Service. The selection of the required number of men from a particular occupational class for transfer in Class B will, so far as possible, be based on the principles of age and length of war service. In addition, Class B will include a limited number of individual specialists for whose transfer to civilian employment application will be made through Government Departments in accordance with existing arrangements. The release of personnel in Class B will not commence until a start is made with releases in Class A. Full particulars of the proposals are contained in the White Paper, obtainable at HM Stationery Office, price 1d. net. The RIBA Demobilization Committee is taking immediate action to secure official recognition of the importance and urgency of architectural work as a preliminary step in reconstruction, and of the vital necessity of transferring architects and students of architecture to Class B, so that their early release can be arranged. The Government Departments concerned are being consulted as to the procedure to be adopted in dealing with applications on behalf of individual specialists. Members of the RIBA will be informed immediately it is possible to advise them of further developments.

**The Zinc Development Association has established an EXPERIMENTAL WORKSHOP AT OXFORD for the use of architects and builders.**

The workshop, fitted with the most modern equipment, has been established to enable architects and builders to construct practical models of their designs and to try out and develop new ideas before completing details of the finished job. An expert zinc worker is in charge. Enquiries concerning the workshop should be addressed to the Association at Lincoln House, 15, Turl Street, Oxford.

**The following appointments have been made by the WAR DAMAGE COMMISSION.**

Mr. R. G. Townend, Regional Manager, Region 2 (Leeds), to be Regional Manager, Region 5A (N.W. London, Acton) in succession to Mr. S. H. de Ville, who has resigned. Mr. A. H. W. Abbott, Assistant Regional Manager, Region 10 (Manchester) to be Regional Manager at Leeds.

## HOUSING MANUAL, 1944

**H**OUSING MANUAL, 1944, (HMSO, 2s. od.), is the fourth of a series of publications on housing that have recently issued from the Government. It follows reports on the Design of Dwellings, Rural Housing, and House Construction. The Manual is not a presentation of fresh matter, but rather a gathering together of the matter contained in previous reports and in various other branches of post-war study. The most important difference between the Manual and earlier Reports is that, whereas they were written to advise the Government, the Manual is the Government's advice to Local Authorities and others interested in housing. Whatever is contained in the Manual can be accepted, therefore, as Government policy on housing for the time being. That it is fairly inclusive may be inferred from the fact that no less than five Ministries had a hand in its production.

We welcome this Manual as an open-minded directive, and an improvement on previous works of the kind, for it sets better standards all round. The section on site planning represents an important advance, primarily in the more flexible density standards that are put forward, based upon the population of the area instead of the number of houses, and allowing a diversity of density over any area that is treated as a whole. We should see an end to the monotonous repetition in housing estates of development uniformly at 12 to the acre if these proposals are intelligently handled, since everything ultimately depends upon the quality of the personnel at the designing end. The recommendations include provision for making the housing estate into a complete community, with open space at the level of 7 acres per 1,000 inhabitants, shops, cinemas, schools, community centres, and so on, and no authority, or let us hope speculator, will be able in future to justify a failure to provide these amenities.

It is envisaged that three-bedroom houses will be the main requirement, at any rate in the early post-war years, and the space standards put forward by the Dudley Committee reappear in the Manual, which, however, does not actually commit itself on this question. We note with satisfaction that type plans, though still included, are more diagrammatic than heretofore and might allow some scope for the Architect, whose employment is recommended. Certainly our accepted way of council-house-living (which might be described as between-the-two-wars-Council-traditional) is retained as basic, with some relaxation in the matter of alternatives to the dining-kitchen arrangement. The following naïve quotation typifies a rather sorry attitude to be observed at times throughout the Manual: "The Architect is bound to make his plan with a clear idea in his own mind of the way in which this accommodation can most conveniently be used. His plan—and this means, of course, mainly the ground floor plan—must be developed out of a particular way of living in the house" (our italics). But there are other ways of living in



the home than the three vouchsafed to us in the Manual; the Japanese, and others besides le Corbusier, have not been above using the bedrooms for this purpose. We remain thankful, nevertheless, for such mercies as are bestowed upon us, because previously the council tenant had but one, not three, ways of living. The way an Englishman might live in his house is due surely for a major and unbiased investigation.

The plentiful illustrations of layout and design indicate a welcome return to a more urbanized concept of housing with the terrace predominating. The inevitably safe designs put forward for our approbation must presumably be accepted for the time being. Perhaps a few cautionary examples might have served to point a sharper moral.

It is all very admirable but there is a fly in the ointment. "Local Authorities and others are asked to bear in mind that the whole of the standards laid down in this Appendix should be attainable with little or no additional cost as compared with the brick house as normally built before the war." Need we go on? The brick house "as normally built before the war" was costing about £370 to £450 and if this little sentence is taken literally, it makes rubbish of the whole Manual. In a sane post-war economy, the absurd insistence upon an arbitrary cost measure must give way to one based upon productive capacity alone. Finance must fit the physical potential.



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# N O T E S & T O P I C S

## ST. ANDREWS SUMMER SCHOOL

Those who were responsible for choosing St. Andrews as the meeting place of the Town and Country Planning Summer School knew what they were about, for it is, surely, one of the loveliest little towns in the country—austere, spotless, shapely and compact.

You can argue, of course, that planners should confer in places like Jarrow or Preston—just to remind them

what unplanning can do. But many of the delegates come from places like these, and the serene background which places like St. Andrews provide is perhaps more encouraging to clear thinking.

An early morning mist leaned against the tall windows of the Waverley Hotel dining room. Leuchars Junction was pale-coloured and windswept—true sister to Bletchley and Didcot. The local train, skirting the expensive turf of the golf courses, dropped us into the busy atmosphere of a summer school—facetious greetings, harassed officials, lapel badges.

Outside, St. Andrews dozed in the warm midday sun. An ancient fly crawled past laden with planners. Preceded by stout briars, golfing enthusiasts strode by unseeing, their eyes glazed like those of a pilgrim, *en route* to the first tee. The cathedral ruins towered over the smelly little harbour where the boats, *Gwen*, *Waterlily*, and *Marlene* rocked on the incoming tide. A Kodak girl, *démodée* in stripes, peered dustily from a chemist's window. A party of young civil servants (from MOTCP) passed wheeling a

barrowful of ferns ("for the platform," they explained shamefacedly—as if such fretted growths could have been cultivated for any other purpose).

\*

We met that evening for a short but excellent descriptive lecture by Mr. Cant on the town of St. Andrews, and assembled next morning for the official opening by Mr. Morrison, who described, not without a faint air of wonder, the structure of his Ministry.

\*

Certain memories remained with us as we ricocheted south to London—Lord Forrester, flanked by two pianos, speaking with the suave gravity of a prelate for an hour without a single note; Gordon Stephenson's cold, and Mr. Adam's piano playing; F. J. Osborn being politely shouted down, and Dr. "Journey-to-Work" Liepmann sleeping in the sand dunes: the frankly expressed views of the Provost of St. Andrews on the Government's planning policy, and the spirited defence put up by Dr. Eva Taylor—(if it's laughter you're after, Taylor's the name)—for "that biological necessity—the Saturday night monkey-parade"; the notice which said "To the Hebdomadars' Room" (at what time one felt like asking, "Are the Hebdomadars fed?"), and the statue in the cemetery of "Tommy," the famous golfer addressing his ball with a marble brassie; the lovely County Hall of Cupar laid out with doughnuts; and the man who said anyone who called himself a town-planner was a quack.

\*

The less trivial memories are stored safely in our notebooks—the witnesses of many hours' very uncomfortable but very instructive listening.

## PETROL STATIONS

Mr. Alan Whitehead, N.R.D., has sent me some notes of his reactions to petrol stations which deserve to be recorded. Not one in a thousand of these stations built before the war had any design merit at all, and yet they are, and will become increasingly so, an important part of the landscape. If the photograph Mr. Whitehead sends is a typical German example (which I doubt), our friends, the Enemy, have, in their ponderous way, done better than we.

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"Some of the most disgusting buildings we have to-day," writes Mr. Whitehead, "are petrol stations. The idea of selling motor fuel to the mechanically shod population of this country seems to produce the most horrible conglomeration of corrugated iron sheds, moderne concrete, ye olde thatched barn and brick concentration camps that man can conceive. One type of owner seems to say, 'I have my pumps, I'm selling petrol and I don't care a damn what I look like'; the other type is so ashamed of selling petrol or of being there at all that the fairly clean shapes of the official proprietary pumps (not as good as they might be, though) are dwarfed by vast bundles of thatch perched on their noodles, the immediate background consisting of a curious building which ought to smell of pigs, but smells of gasoline instead."

\*

"How should a petrol station look, anyway? I would suggest that the accompanying illustration shows what can be designed when creative intelligence is brought to bear on the subject. This layout at Wiesbaden in Germany is in matt Wedgewood blue and off-white tiling. It is clean and well planned and pleasing to the eye. It is an addition to the

community, not an abscess. How different is the honesty of this service station in its simplicity to the absurd erections which were dotted all over the countryside before the war."

\*

"In the social planning to come, don't let us forget this important detail, which in the very fact that it is by nature a unit and liable to be put up anywhere, as traffic demands, may easily be overlooked or underestimated."

\*

"Petrol stations should be designed by competent architects, in conjunction with industrial designers and the town or country planning authorities; the petrol companies themselves should take an active interest in something that concerns public good-will. These places should be real service stations, the public relations points as it were, instead of being the slums of motoring, as many of them are at present. They should provide a stimulating field of activity for the architect and the industrial designer, and a strong case for artistic patronage by the public relations departments of those industrial undertakings whose products the service station is there to sell."

ASTRAGAL



## LETTERS

*Tom Mellor, A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I.*

*F. S. Bolland, A.R.I.B.A.,  
Editor, Arch. S. A. Journal, Plan*

*J. D. Hossack, F.R.I.B.A.*

### Inverary.

SIR,—I regret my inability to explain the caption under the photograph of Inveraray which illustrated my article in the JOURNAL of August 3.

My own caption, sir, was unlikely to offend the susceptibilities of Messrs. Anderson and Moble, or even Mic Mac Macailin Mor himself—it was simply "Inveraray" (spelt Inveraray).

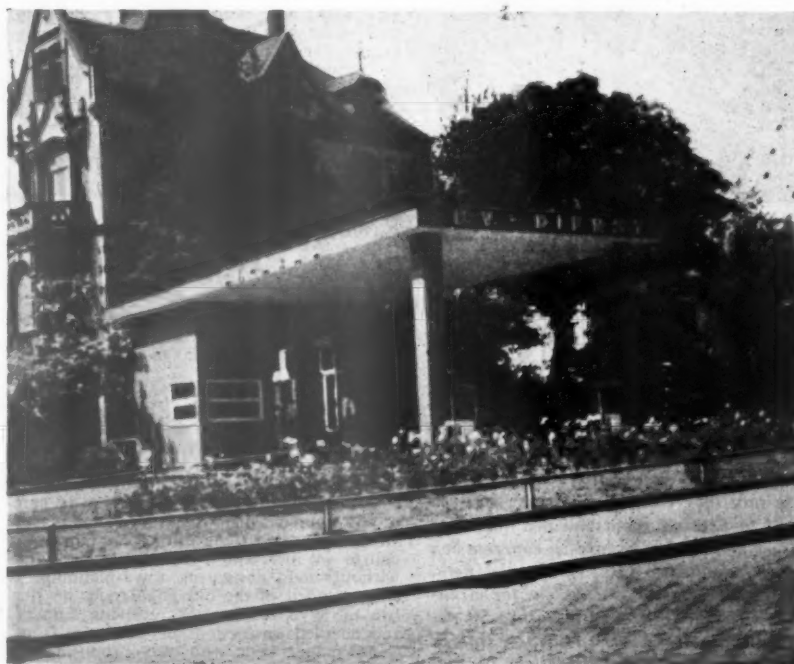
The rest of the caption, including the reference to Mr. Sharp's book, surprised me (and Scotland) on August 3.

I innocently concluded it had been added by the editorial staff of the ARCHITECT'S JOURNAL for reasons best known to themselves. I can however explain my reasons for choosing the illustration. Inveraray, like Lowther in Westmorland and Harewood in Yorkshire, is an example of classic architectural principles successfully applied on a small domestic scale, and as such is part of the background influencing present day planners who have to solve the same problem of integrating domestic units into an ordered design.

I feel very sorry for Mr. Sharp; his caption is nearly as inoffensive as mine; it is "Inveraray, Argyll." It is a pity that Messrs. Anderson and Moble have not read Mr. Sharp's excellent book, perhaps its title *English Panorama* put them off.

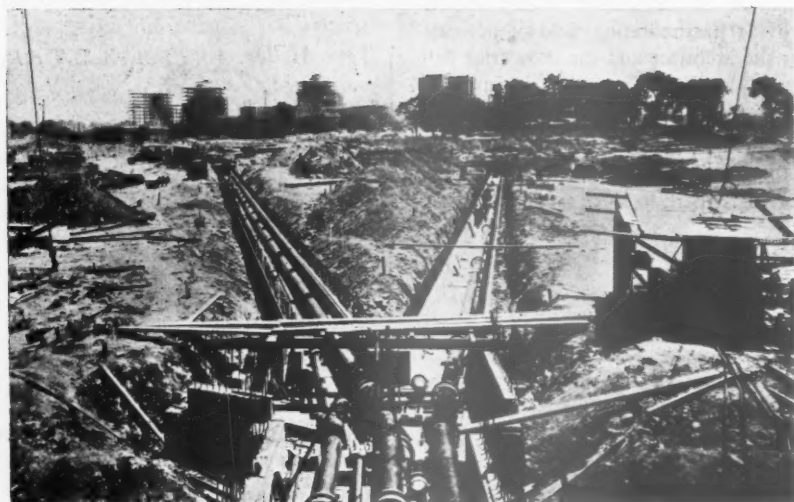
Preston

TOM MELLOR



*A petrol station at Wiesbaden. See Astragal's note above.*

## DISTRICT HEATING IN USA



District heating is being taken more and more seriously as a practical and economic proposition, Russia and America being the countries where it has been most fully developed. Above is the Parkchester Estate, USA, which provides an outstanding example of district heating by steam. Top, an aerial view of the whole estate. The heating plant can be seen on the extreme left of the estate. Above, the steam main and pipe tunnels under construction. Parkchester is a residential flat community, nine miles from the centre of New York, built and operated by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company to accommodate 40,000 people. Heat is supplied to about 12,500 flats, 5 large garages, shops, a theatre and community rooms, in all 51 buildings, occupying an area of about 130 acres. Steam is generated at a pressure of 100 lb. per sq. in. in boilers using either oil or pulverized coal. The boilers are designed for a working pressure of 500 lb. per sq. in., so that they can, if necessary, be used to generate electricity. The steam is distributed to heating rooms located in 29 of the buildings, through 14,000 ft. of fully lagged, welded steel pipe laid in concrete box tunnels. In the heating rooms abundant hot water is heated to 140° F. by calorifiers, and the steam for space heating is reduced to a pressure of 5 lb. per sq. in. for circulation through the buildings. Heat in the buildings can be controlled to within 50 per cent. of the output by dampers on the convector radiators used. It is considered that the low cost of space heating and hot water, estimated at about 28 dollars per flat per year, is achieved by the use of dry steam, good insulation of the steam mains and good insulation of the buildings themselves.

## The Battle of Birkenhead

SIR,—“Must the architect, the technician, the planner, therefore, now advance out of his particular sphere of pure technics into the political sphere, if his efforts are not to be frustrated, boycotted, shelved?” you ask, knowing full well the answer. Perhaps you might have asked your readers to turn immediately from this editorial question to your splendidly aggressive comments on the Battle of Birkenhead—then, indeed, who could fail to know the answer?

It is time for action. It has been high time ever since the Government hoisted the warning pennant over Uthwatt. We have our charters far enough advanced—now let us make it clear that we mean to see them effected. It becomes ever plainer that the battle for a fine physical environment for everyone, in this century—is only one action in the great complex struggle against the economic and social set-up of capitalism that has so amply proved itself a merchant of disaster. The battle for good planning in this country can be won in the polling booths—if you have not seen it happening in the recent Parliamentary by-elections, then watch the next municipal elections at Birkenhead. Better still, lay down your tee-square at every opportunity to fight in your own political environment. It is neither too late nor too early to be preparing for the general election, which will be fought on the issues now reflected at Birkenhead.

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL almost dares to point at the Tory majority with an accusing finger. Next time, A.J., gloves off—if you believe in the significance of the fight. Professor Reilly does fine service in laying bare once again the collaborationists of the RIBA. His plan for Woodchurch may not be the best—but of the two in question it is by far the better. Therefore, let all who can give him their active support, from now until the elections are won. The guerilla bands of the Liverpool School of Architecture will, I am sure, be operating. These and the other bands in the country, together with the maquis at Ashley Place, are eager for reinforcements in the general struggle.

You say that the decision to join in the fight rests with the individual architect and planner. It also rests with individual Journals whether or not they are the organs of militant progression. You are operating well with your Physical Planning supplements—yet could you not point the moral both more forcefully and more often?

Cheadle

F. S. BOLLAND,

Editor, Arch. S. A. Journal, Plan

## Revolutionary Approach to Teaching

SIR,—Astragal, in his recent notes, refers to a revolutionary approach to the teaching of architecture now instituted at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago.

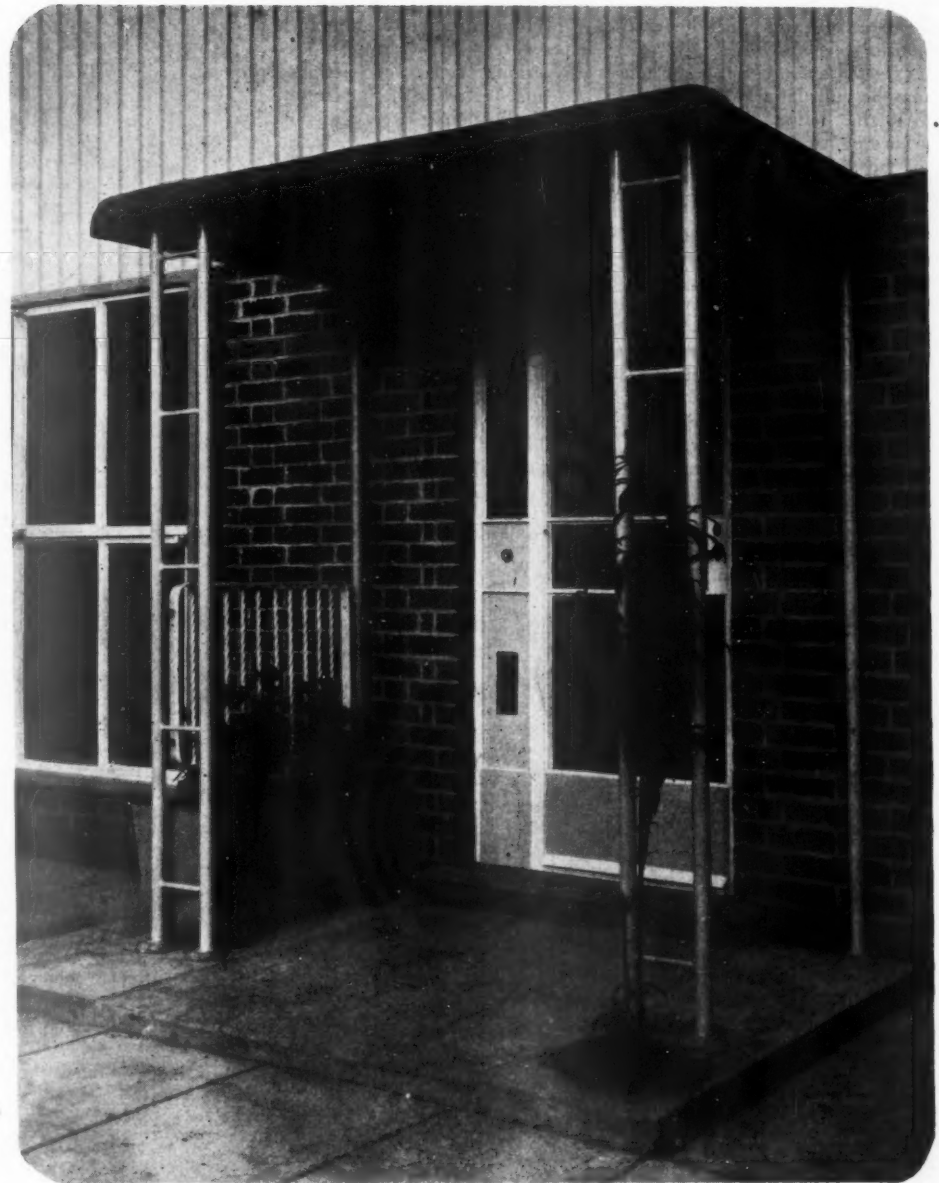
Upon recovering from “has achieved—in his thinking an integration of the three ostensibly disparate fields of mathematics, philosophy and art.” I noted that the course, besides covering “all those subjects taught in architectural schools elsewhere,” includes town planning as part of the course which covers four years.

Being aware that the normal architectural course in this country covers five years, without civic design or town-planning, I am reminded of the old Highlander on the Isle of Skye, who, after receiving lengthy and detailed instructions of his duties from a newspaper peer who was proposing to start a canning industry, replied, “An’ whit time de we git for thinkin’, Sir?”

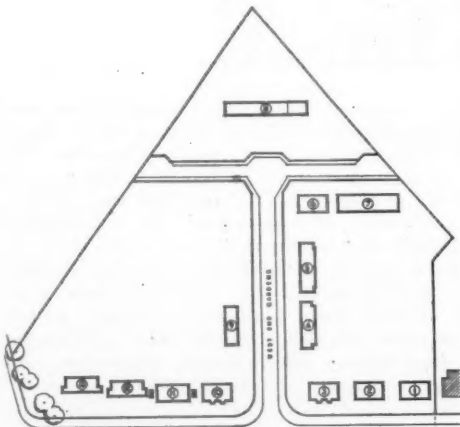
Leeds

J. D. HOSSACK

Right, the brightly coloured entrance porch of No. 12, one of the two houses of steel frame erected by the British Iron and Steel Federation to designs by Frederick Gibberd. Below, site plan.



# MINISTRY OF WORKS DEMONSTRATION H O U S E S A T N O R T H O L T



The 13 houses whose erection has been organized by the Ministry of Works at Northolt Grange Estate, Northolt, Middlesex, to demonstrate alternative types of materials, plans and construction suitable for immediate post-war application, are illustrated here.

The houses are : 1, narrow front-

age type, no fines concrete ; 2, ditto, foam slag ; 3, ditto, 11-in. brick ; 4, Dudley urban type, 11-in. brick ; 5, Dudley rural type, 11-in. brick ; 6, narrow frontage type, expanded clay ; 7, flat dwellings, steel frame and slab concrete cladding ; 8, block of four terrace houses, 11-in. brick ; 9, wide



frontage type, 11-in. brick; 12, British Iron and Steel Federation house, steel and brick; 13, ditto, all steel. A number of other houses may be built later.

All the houses have been built according to the recommendations of the Burt Committee,

Whilst the houses were building, records were kept of the comparative costs of the various methods of construction and uses of alternative materials.

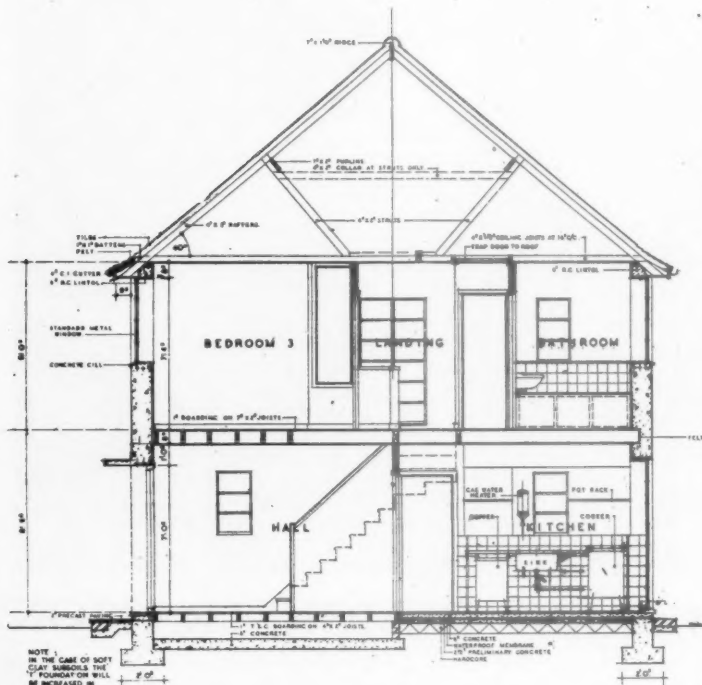
House No. 3 is the yard-stick house by which relative values and costs can be measured. The approximate nett cost of this house—850 super ft. in area, or 862 super ft. if the bay is included—is now £759 based on building 500 houses on a site, excluding cost of land and builder's profit. The site man-hours are about 2,100 per house. By comparison the site man hours

taken for the erection of the flatted dwellings are about 900 man hours per flat.

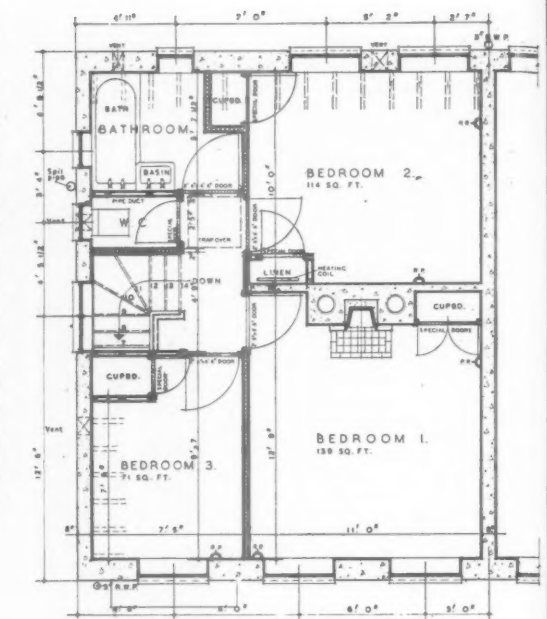
Various types of fittings are demonstrated in the houses.

All the houses were designed by reference to a panel of architects, Mr. L. H. Keay, Mr. C. H. James and Mr. T. Cecil Howitt, with the exception of No. 7, the flatted dwellings, with which Mr. Keay was associated. The architect for the British Iron and Steel Federation houses, Nos. 12 and 13, was Mr. F. Gibberd. Mr. A.W. Kenyon acted as consultative architect in all cases.

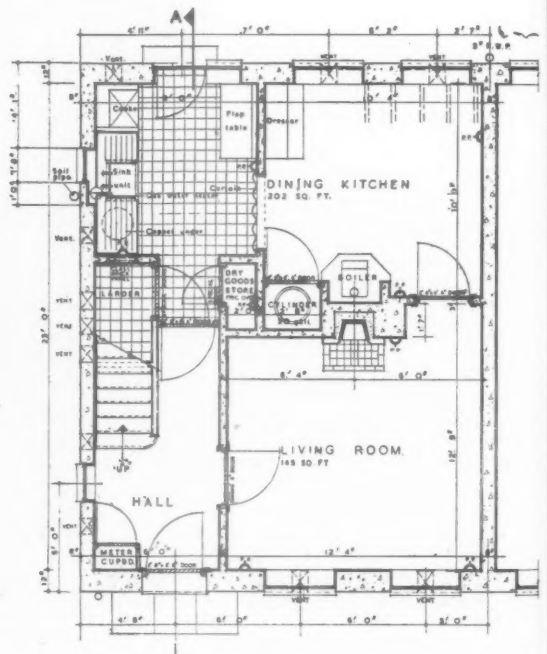
The houses are open for inspection by all interested in building, and will later be on view to the general public. Tickets to view are issued by the Ministry of Health through the Ministry of Works. After a period the houses will be used for occupation.



SECTION AA



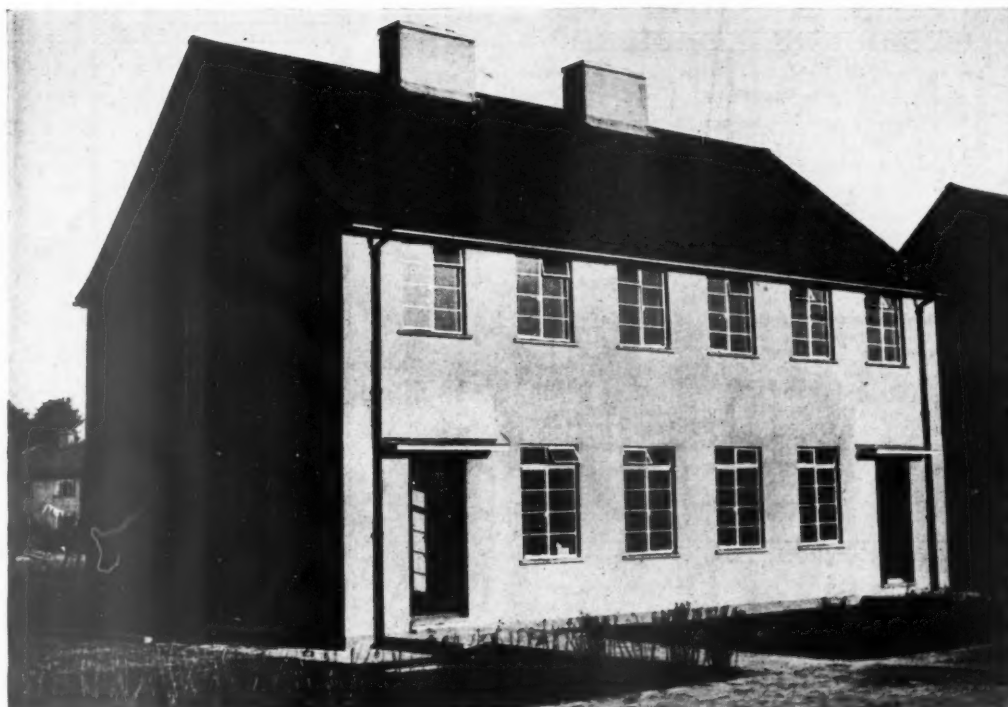
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN [Scale: 1/8" to 1' 0"]

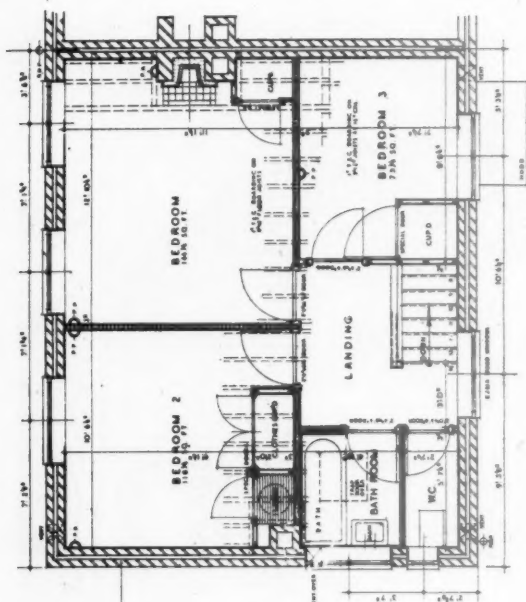
**1, 2, 3, 6, 10** The plans of all these semi-detached houses are identical (except in Nos. 3 and 10, which have bays though materials differ). They are narrow-frontage types, and have a total floor area of 850 ft. super. They have concrete foundations (as have all the other houses). Roofs, except in No. 10, are of timber with concrete plain tiles. (No. 10 has steel rafters with timber battening and interlocking concrete tiles). Floors are in timber, except in No. 10, which has steel beams. All non-bearing partitions are of breeze. Bearing partitions are: No. 1, 4 in. concrete; No. 2, 4 in. foam slag concrete; Nos. 3 and 4, 4½ in. brick; No. 6, expanded clay concrete; No. 10, no bearing partitions. External walls: No. 1, light-weight no fines clinker concrete, poured between shutters, 12 in. and 8 in. thick; No. 2, foam slag concrete, 8 in. thick; No. 3, 11 in. cavity brick; No. 6, expanded clay concrete, 8 in. thick; No. 10, light steel frame with 4½ in. brick and 2 in. breeze lining. Each house has a domestic solid-fuel boiler. Both gas and electricity are laid on. External walls: Nos. 1, 2 and 6 have a rendered and sprayed finish; Nos. 3 and 10 have a brick finish. Internal walls: all have 2-coat plastering. Ceilings: all have plaster-board skimmed. External cills: all have concrete roof tiles, except No. 10, which are steel. Internal cills: all have buff quarry tiles, except No. 10, which are steel. Windows: all are steel casements. Door frames: all are timber. Decoration: ceilings and walls all distempered; woodwork or steel, gloss paint (as in all other cases). House No. 3 is the MOW "yard-stick" house which forms a basis for measuring standards such as insulation value.



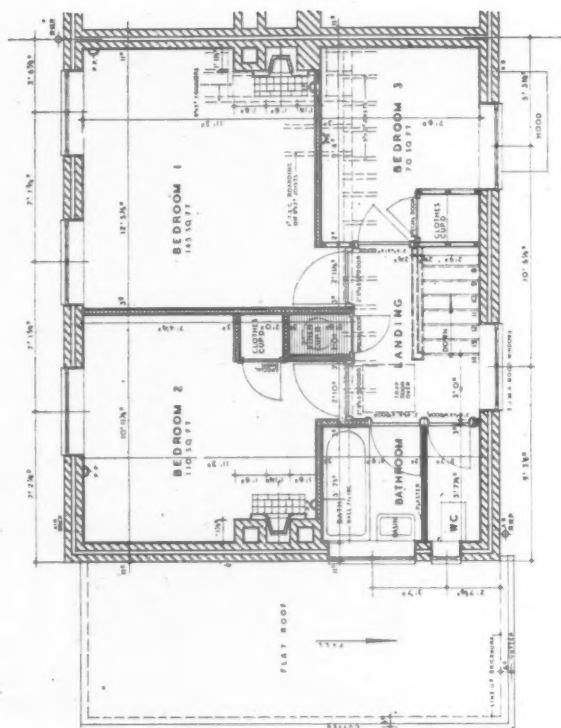


**1, 2, 3** Top. house No. 1 of no fines concrete with a rendered external finish. Nos. 2 and 6 are identical in appearance. Above, house No. 3 with bays and brick finish. No. 10 is similar.

# MOW DEMONSTRATION HOUSES, NORTHOLT

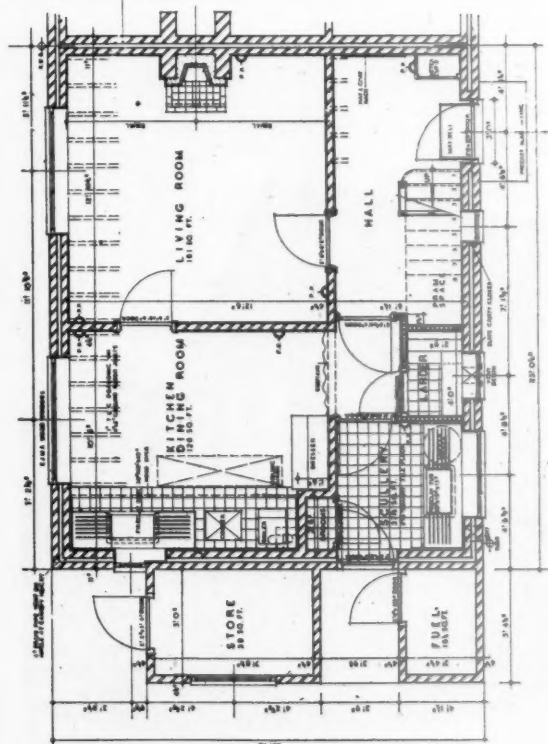


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

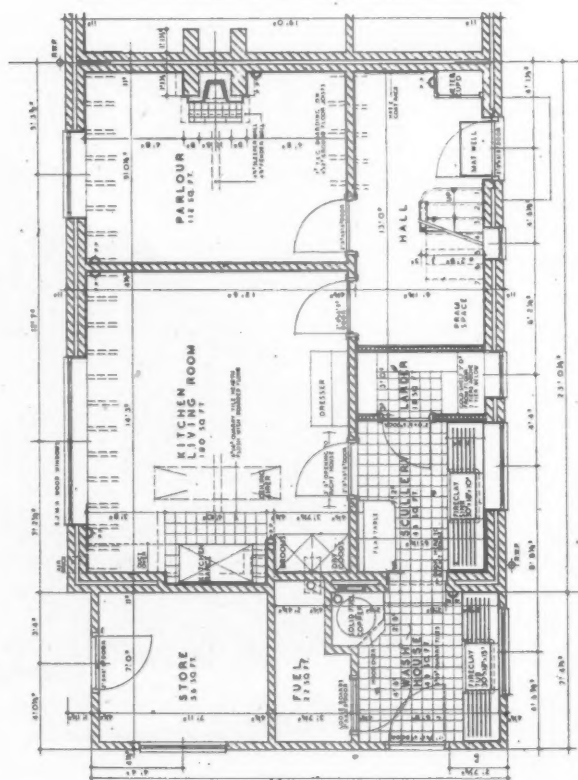


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

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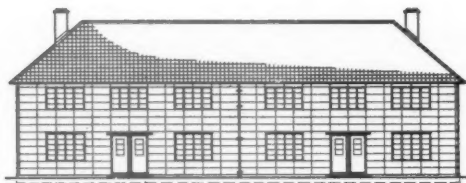


GROUND FLOOR PLAN

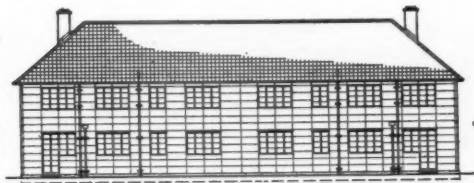


GROUND FLOOR PLAN

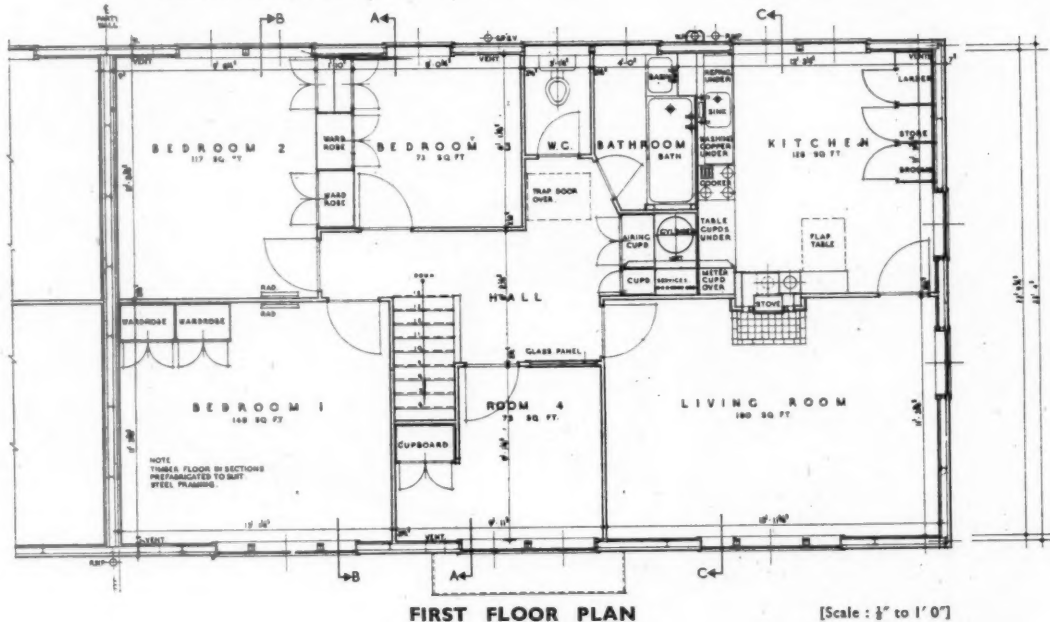
**4, 5** Houses based on the planning recommendations of the Dudley Committee. Both floors are of traditional 11 in. cavity brick construction with timber roofs and floors. Left, No. 4, the Dudley urban-type. Right, No. 5, the Dudley rural type. No. 4 has a domestic fuel boiler and has both gas and electricity laid on. No. 5 has a solid-fuel range, with electric service only. Both houses have a total floor area of 900 ft. super, with additional accommodation as follows: No. 4, scullery, store, fuel and covered entrance, making an extra 77 sq. ft. No. 5, scullery, wash house, store and fuel, making an extra 133 sq. ft. Both houses have standard timber windows. An alternative plan of No. 5, not shown above, has the w.c. on the ground floor.



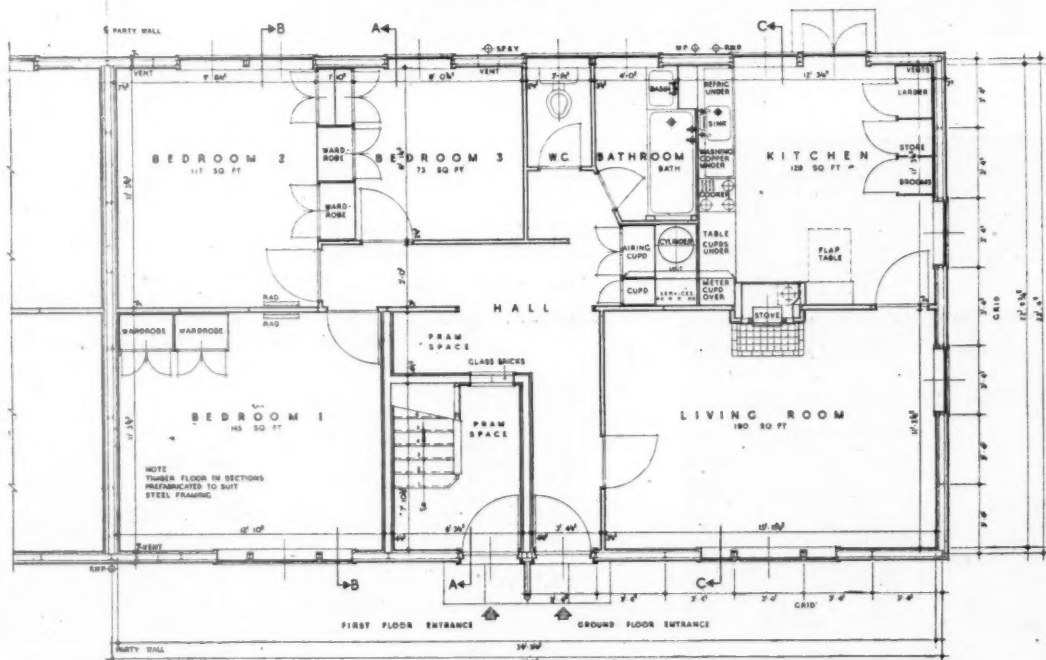
FRONT ELEVATION

[Scale:  $\frac{1}{8}$ " to 1' 0"]

GARDEN ELEVATION



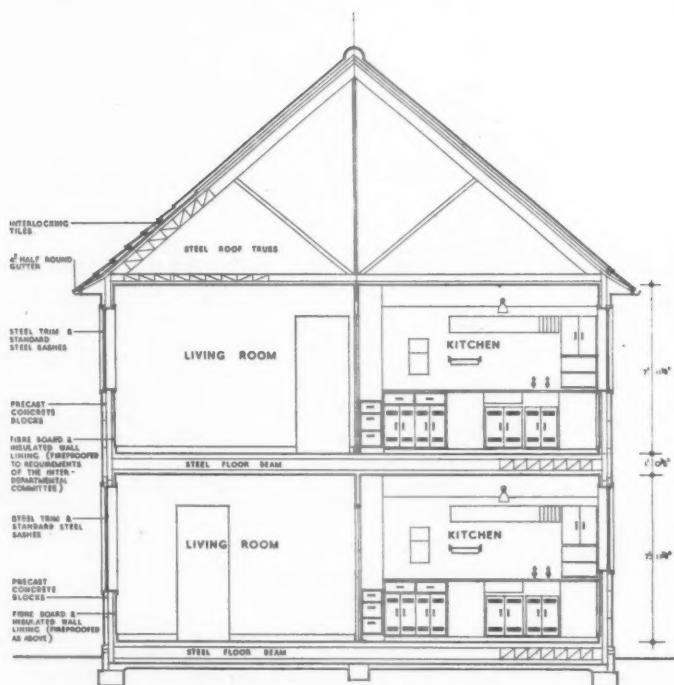
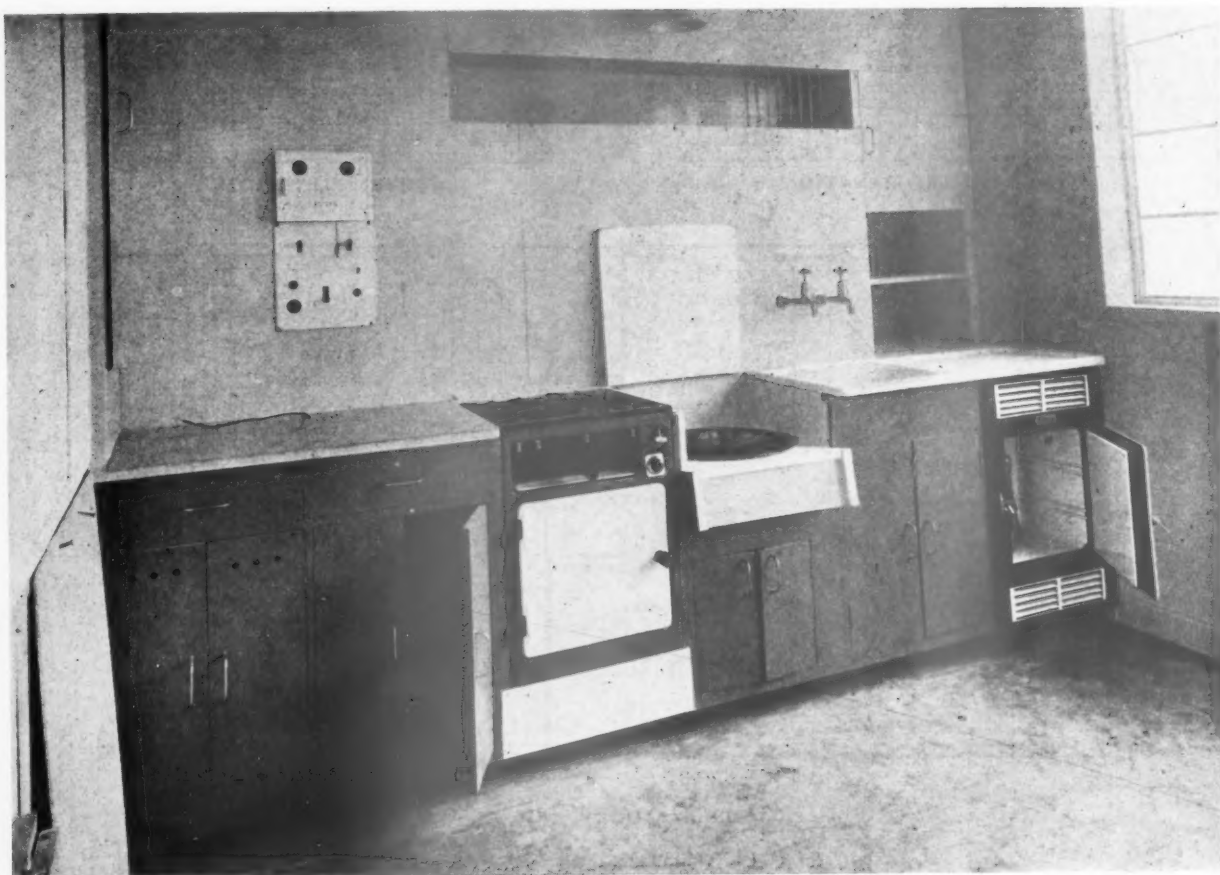
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

[Scale:  $\frac{1}{8}$ " to 1' 0"]

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

**7** Two-storey permanent flatted dwellings of 4 flats designed to reduce site labour, of light steel frame on a 3 ft. 4 in. grid. External cladding is 2 in., faced concrete slabs and internal lining of wall boarding, with a 1-in. insulating blanket of glass wool. All partitions are non-bearing, of prefabricated wallboard faced units. Ceilings are of prefabricated plasterboard panels. Roof construction is of steel rafters and timber battening covered with concrete interlocking tiles. Floors are of steel beams and prefabricated insulated timber units. Each flat has a floor area of 900 ft. super and contains 35 cwt. of steel. Domestic solid-fuel boilers are fitted and electricity is laid on, but no gas. Windows and all cills are of steel. Ceilings and walls are finished with a flat paint. The flats incorporate the bathroom-kitchen prefabricated unit, as designed for the Churchill temporary steel house. Each flat can be built in 900 man-hours. All construction is dry, except for the concrete foundations and the jointing of the concrete wall blocks.

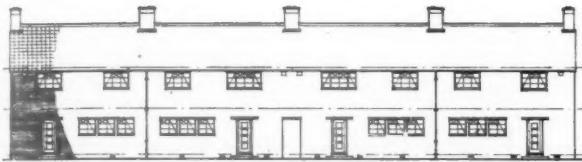
**MOW DEMONSTRATION HOUSES, NORTHOLT**



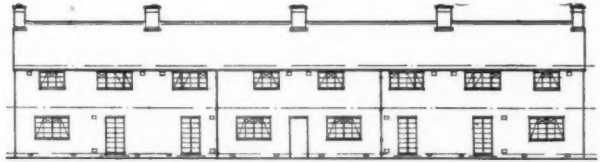
SECTION CC [Scale : 1/4" to 1' 0"]

**7** Further illustrations of the two-storey flats. Top, a view of the kitchen equipment, which is part of the bathroom-kitchen prefabricated unit as incorporated in the Churchill temporary steel house. The photo shows store cupboards, electric cooker, copper, sinks, refrigerator, etc. Above, right, section through the building. Above, left, a photo taken during construction of the patent steel frame.



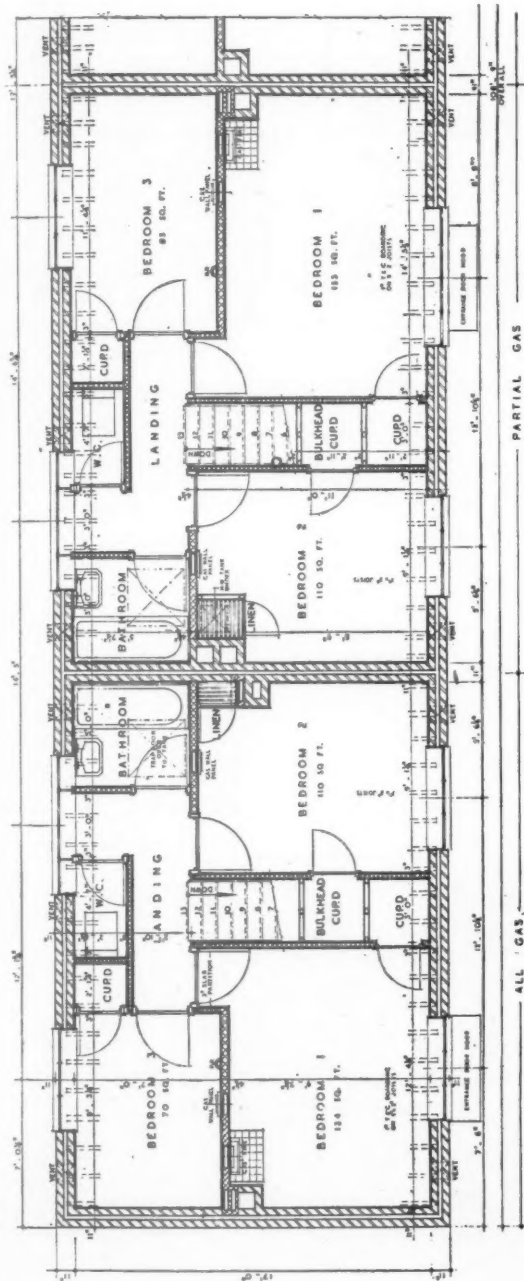


FRONT ELEVATION

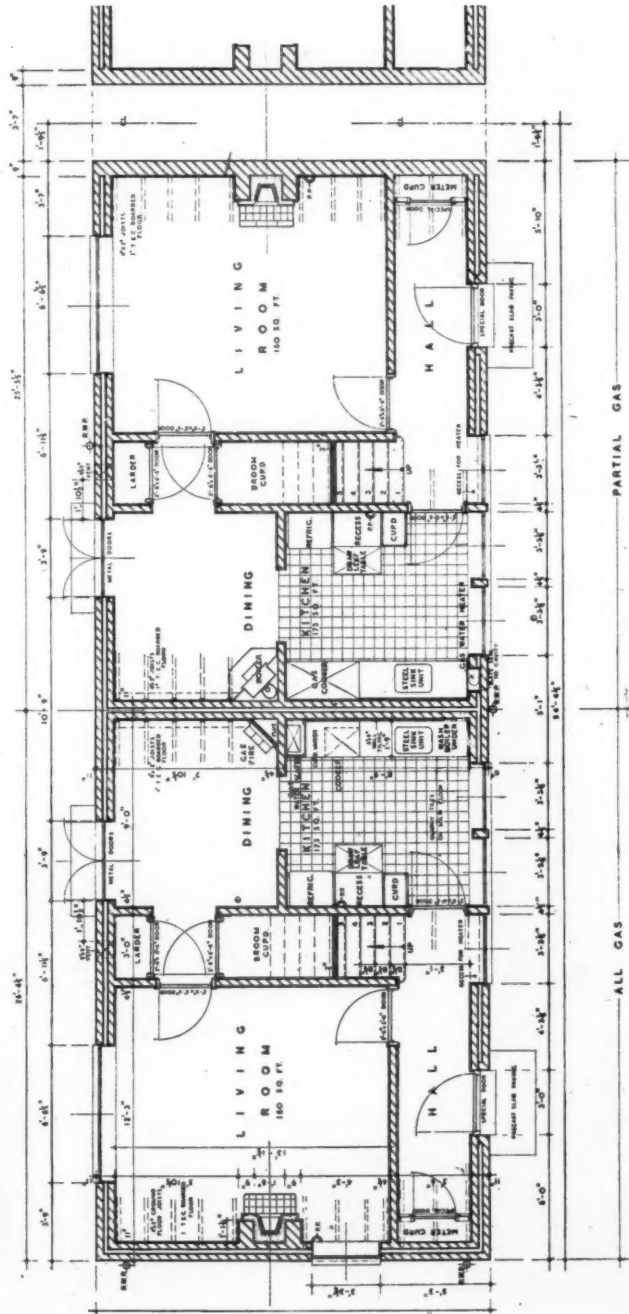


BACK ELEVATION

[Scale: 1/8" to 1' 0"]



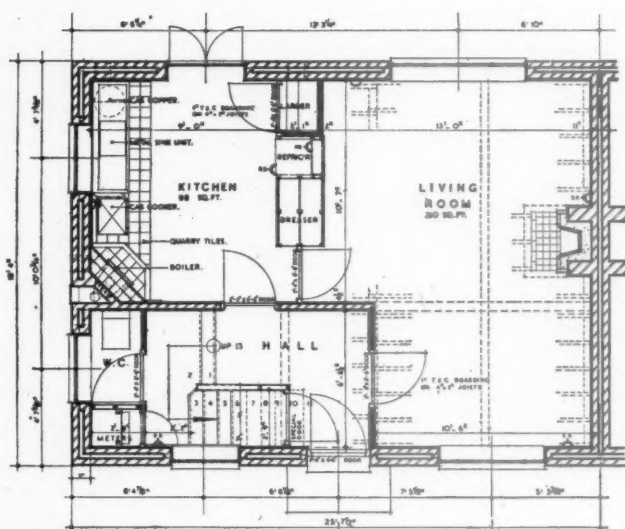
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



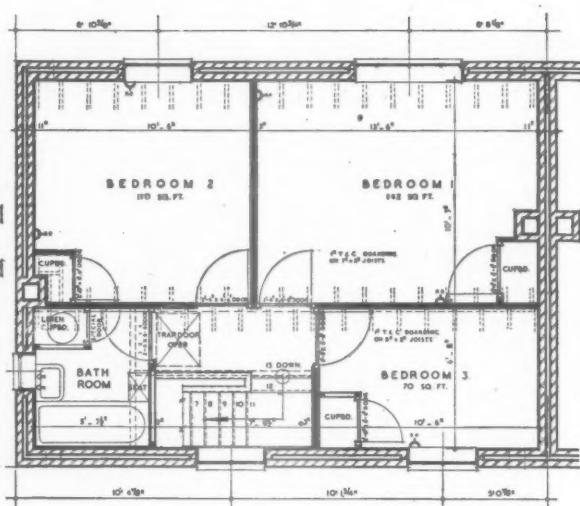
GROUND FLOOR PLAN [Scale: 1/8" to 1' 0"]

8 Block of four terrace houses of traditional 11-in. hollow brick construction with timber roof and floors. The interest of these houses is mainly in the services. One house is all electric (with electric water heater and no cylinder), one is partial electric (with a domestic solid-fuel boiler with coil heater in flue, and a 30-gallon indirect cylinder), one is partial gas (with a domestic solid-fuel boiler and gas-heated circulator, and a 30-gallon tank), one is all gas (with a gas multipoint heater and no cylinder). Each house is 850 ft. super.

MOW DEMONSTRATION HOUSES, NORTHOLT



GROUND FLOOR PLAN [Scale:  $\frac{1}{8}$ " to 1' 0"]

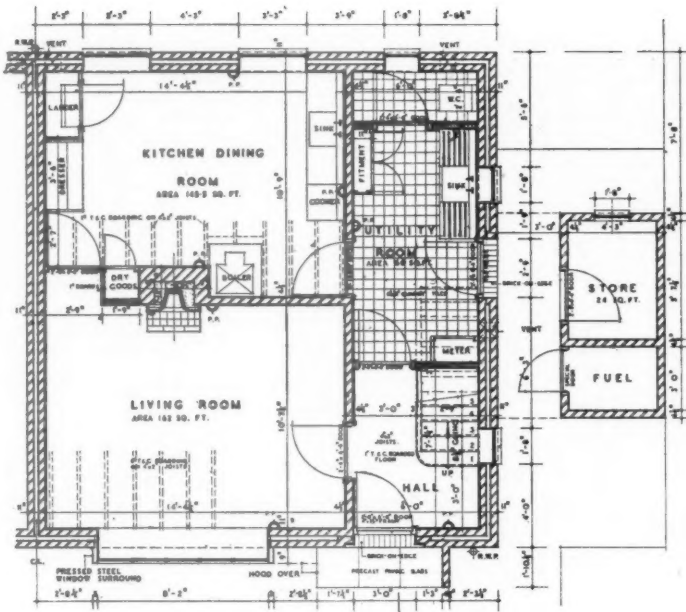


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

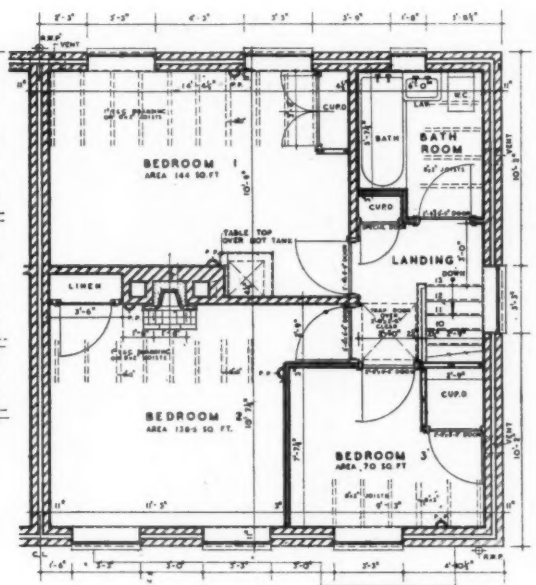
- 9 Wide-fronted type of traditional 11-in. brick construction of 840 ft. super total floor area per each of the semi-detached houses, suitable where frontage space is not so restricted by high land value.



- 11 Above, and on facing page, the Duplex house of traditional 11-in. brick construction, which is first used as four flats and is later converted to two semi-detached houses of 900 ft. super each when the housing situation is less acute. Domestic solid-fuel boilers are incorporated. Gas and electricity are both laid on.

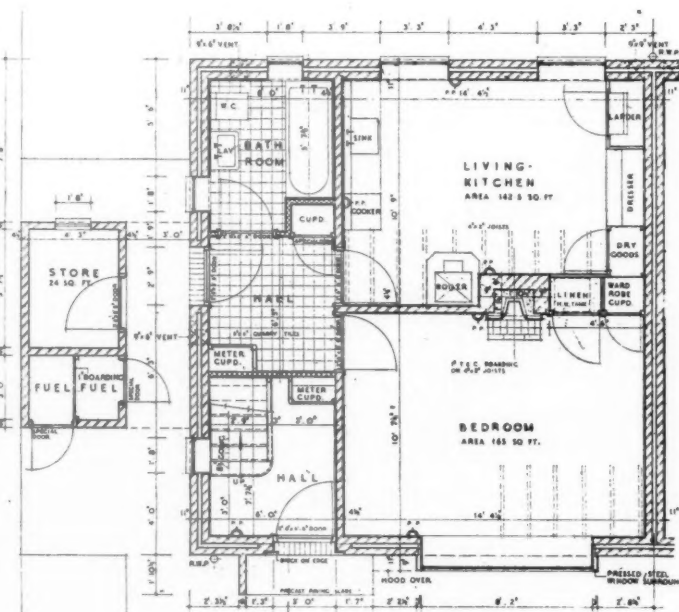


GROUND FLOOR

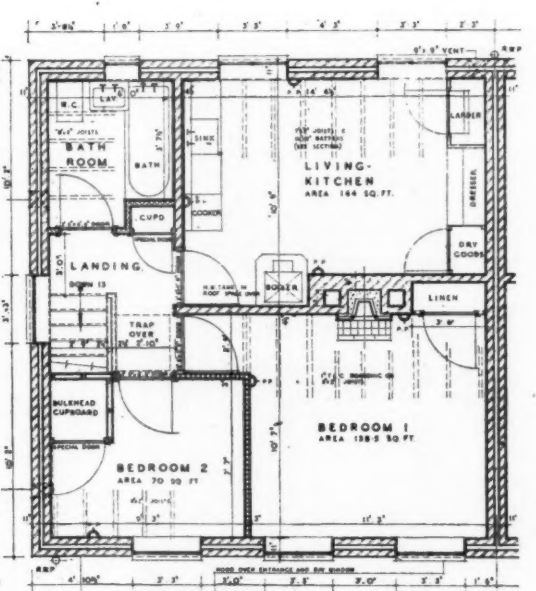


FIRST FLOOR

AS HOUSE



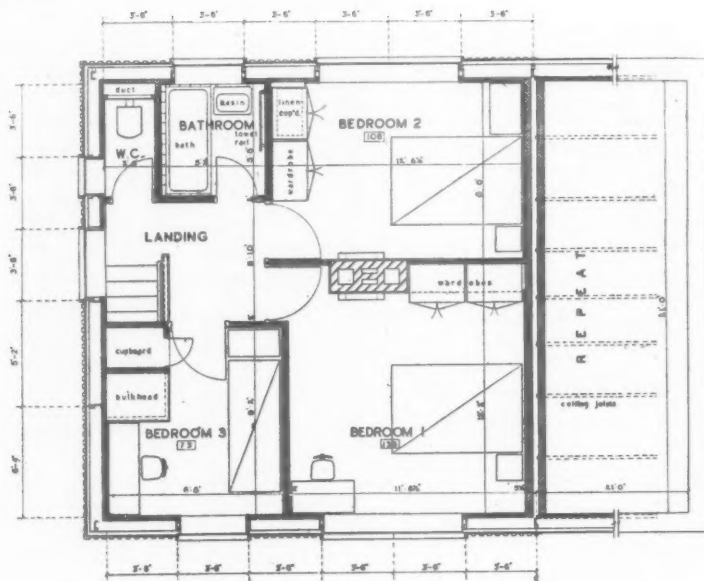
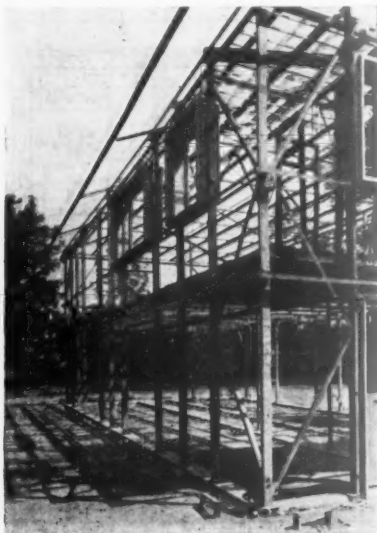
GROUND FLOOR [Scale: 1/8" to 1' 0"]



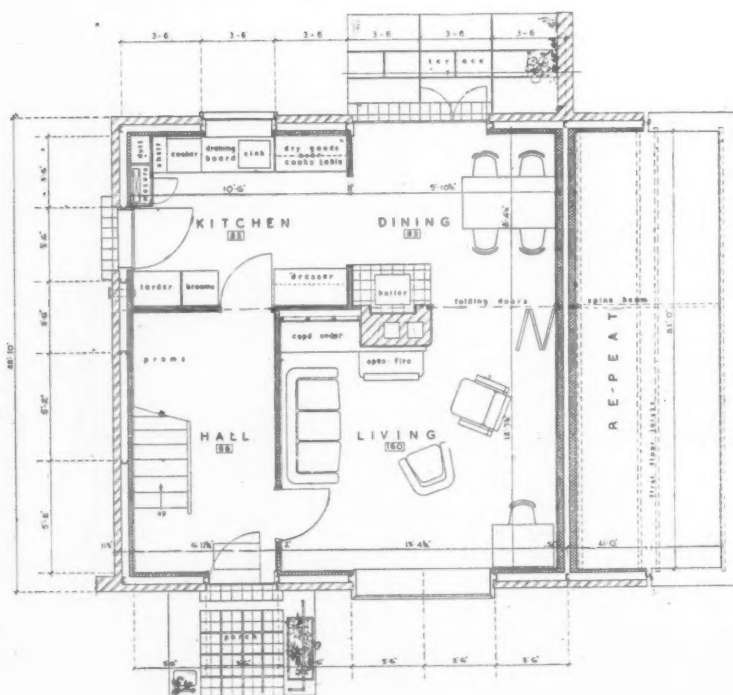
FIRST FLOOR

AS FLATS

|| The Duplex house plans. - Top, the building as a house. Above, the buildings when first erected as flats. A photo of the exterior is shown on the facing page.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

**12, 13** A pair of semi-detached houses erected by the British Iron and Steel Federation and designed by Frederick Gibberd. The consulting engineer was Donovan H. Lee. Both plans are the same and have floor areas of 850 ft. super. No. 12 has a hot-rolled light-gauge steel frame, with an external cladding of 4½-in. brick to first-floor level and steel sheet on fibreboard above, inner lining being 2-in. lightweight concrete block, finished with 2 coats of plaster. Ceilings are of plaster on expanded metal. Floor construction is 2-in. concrete on expanded metal, solid floors being concrete with coloured asphalt finish. No. 13 has a cold-rolled frame, with an external cladding of cement render on steel sheet or wire fabric to first-floor level and steel sheet above, inner lining being plasterboard panels bonded to fibreboard with a skim coat plaster finish. Ceilings are skim coat on plasterboard or fibreboard. Floor construction is of timber and steel to first floor, solid floors being lino on concrete. Non-bearing partitions in both houses are 2-in. foam slag or breeze. Chimneys are brick. Roofs in both cases are of steel covered in No. 12 with protected metal sheeting on fibreboard, and in No. 13 with Cellactite roof sheeting on fibreboard.





CUSTOM HOUSE, KING'S LYNN

From a Mezzotint Engraving by Leonard R. Squirrell, R.E., R.W.S.

OF Henry Bell, the architect of this delightful building, it might be written as it was of his great contemporary Sir Christopher Wren "*Si monumentum requiris circumspecte*," for he left his mark upon King's Lynn in the shape of many fine houses built for the merchant adventurers of the 17th century. Some owners of these buildings still cling to the baseless legend which attributes them to Wren or Inigo Jones. There are, likewise, many people living in buildings made secure against rain or flood by the use of 'PUDLO' Brand waterproofer who are ignorant of the material which has so contributed to their protection. This is not surprising because it is the great virtue of this dependable British waterproofer that when its work is accomplished, the reasons for its employment may safely be forgotten.

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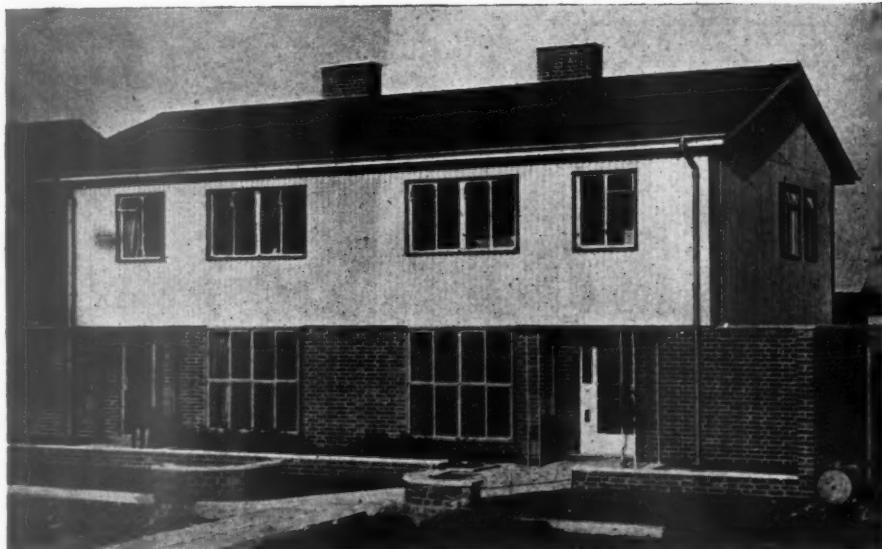
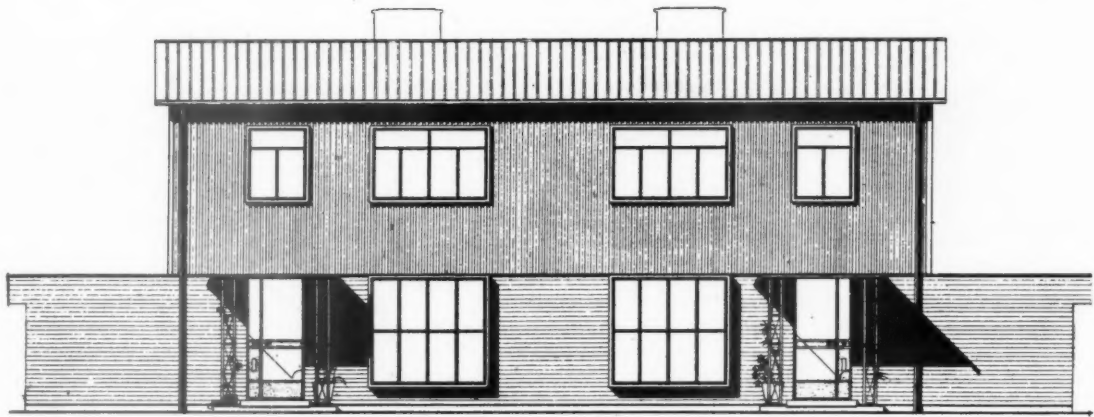
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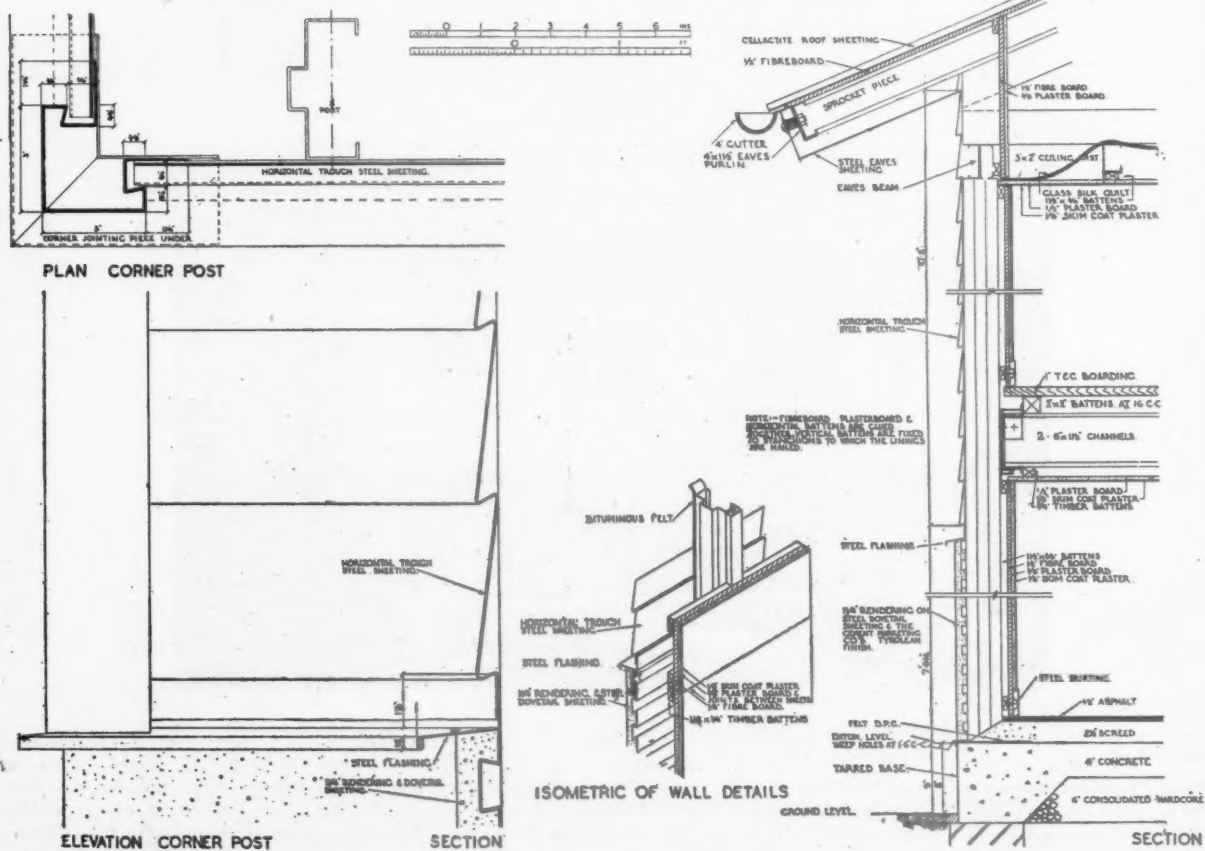
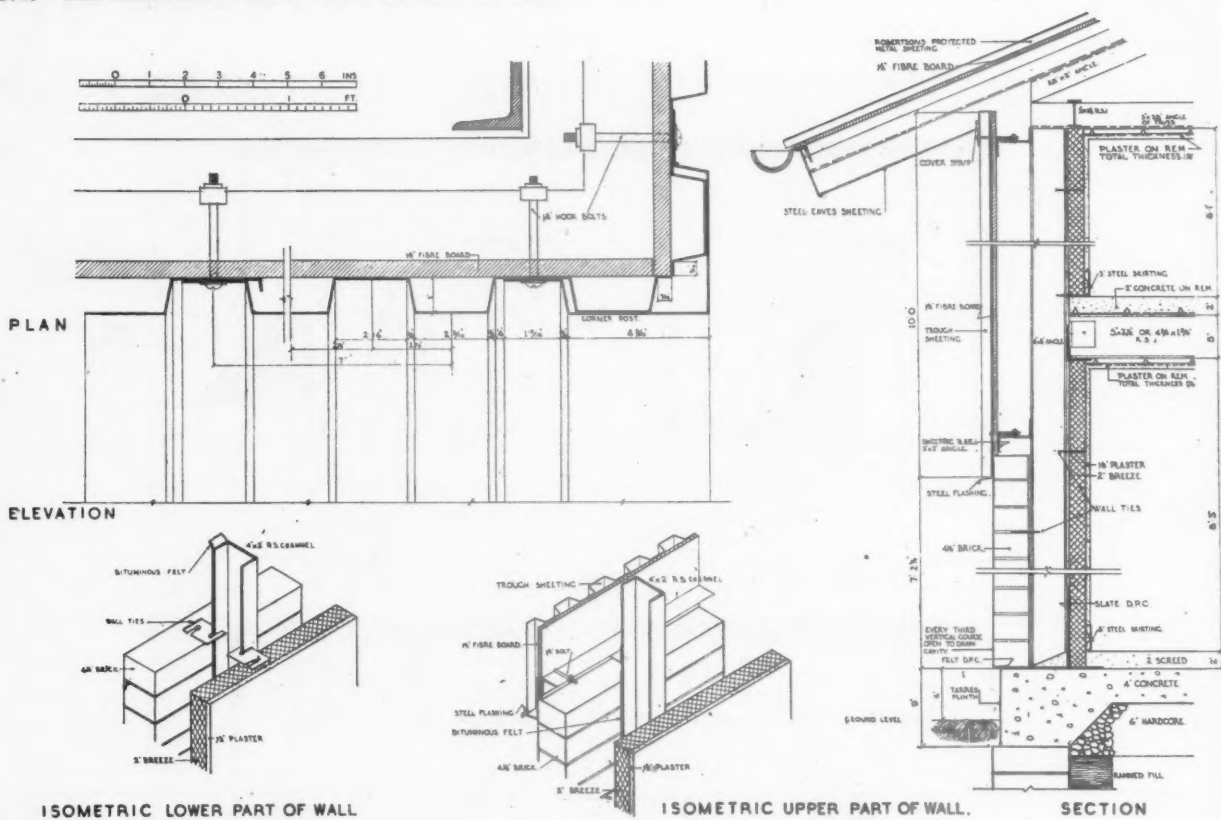
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**12, 13** The external galvanized steel cladding sheets are finished a special rough texture "Stone" paint. Other external steel sheets are finished with oil-bound paint. 12 tons of steel are used in each house. Page 274 : right, plans of houses. Left, top, the steel frame of No. 12 showing corner wind braces and centre trestle of tubular sections supporting the first-floor beams. Left, centre, a kitchen in one of the houses. Left, bottom, hall and staircase in No. 12. The staircase is of spot welded pressed-steel construction with wood treads. This page : Top, front elevation of No. 12. Centre, front elevation of No. 13. Above, a view of the front of No. 12. A detail photo of the entrance porch is shown on page 265.

MOW DEMONSTRATION HOUSES, NORTHOLT



**12, 13** *Wall details of the steel houses Nos. 12 and 13, showing framing, cladding, lining, roofing, etc.*

## NORTHOLT HOUSES





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## RIBA Memorandum

The RIBA has issued the following MEMORANDUM ON: 1. GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER ON THE CONTROL OF LAND USE. 2. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING BILL. 3. HOUSING (TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION) BILL.

*Finding No. 1:* That, should the Government White Paper be accepted as a total policy it cannot be construed as a fulfilment of the charge to the Minister of Town and Country Planning as contained in the Act of 1943 which makes provision in connection with his appointment. The function of this Minister is stated to be: "The duty of securing consistency and continuity in the framing and execution of a national policy with respect to the use and development of land throughout England and Wales."

*Finding No. 2:* That the several and distinct powers sought in the above-named Bills must be related to a co-ordinated National Policy only to be secured by the preparation of a graphic plan.

*The White Paper:* The Paper states:—

(a) "Proposals for controlling the use of land are bound to raise again issues which for many years have been the subject of keen political controversy. The Government recognize that no proposals on this subject—on which widely divergent views are held with conviction—can be wholly satisfactory to all shades of opinion." (See Foreword.) It is considered that these issues may become reasonably resolved through the agency of a National Plan to the satisfaction of all shades of opinion.

(b) "The Government believes that a National and positive policy for the right

use of land can best be evolved by a continuous process of collaboration between local and central authorities and the individual citizen." (See Conclusion.) This declaration can only be accepted if it is placed in context with a defined and co-ordinated National Policy.

(c) The Town and Country Planning (Interim Development) Act, 1943, makes all land in England and Wales subject to a resolution to prepare a Scheme under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1932, but this Act is local in its application and is unrelated to a co-ordinated National Policy.

The obstacles to the preparation of efficient local planning proposals lie in the absence of any clear estimate of:—(a) The drift of industry; (b) the drift of population; (c) the effect upon a local problem of the action by Ministerial, Administrative and Statutory Authorities together with private enterprise which are outside the area of local control.

It seems clear, therefore, that to enable efficient local planning proposals to be prepared, it is essential that direction be given to enable planning authorities to foresee their development needs over a term of years, and to prepare their schemes with a sense of security and continuity. This can only be achieved by means of a Graphic National Plan.

*Graphic National Plan:* A National Policy based on a Graphic National Plan would inform authorities responsible for planning proposals on the following points:—

1. Their relationship: (a) to adjoining areas; (b) to co-ordinated National transport facilities.

2. Their expectation as to: (a) Industrial settlement or decentralization; (b) population and the consequent need for services and amenities; (c) land subject to a National policy, preservation for agriculture, recreation, building development or other special purposes, e.g., National Parks.

This information will enable public and private amenities, such as those for education and medical services, to be distributed in the most effective and economical manner.

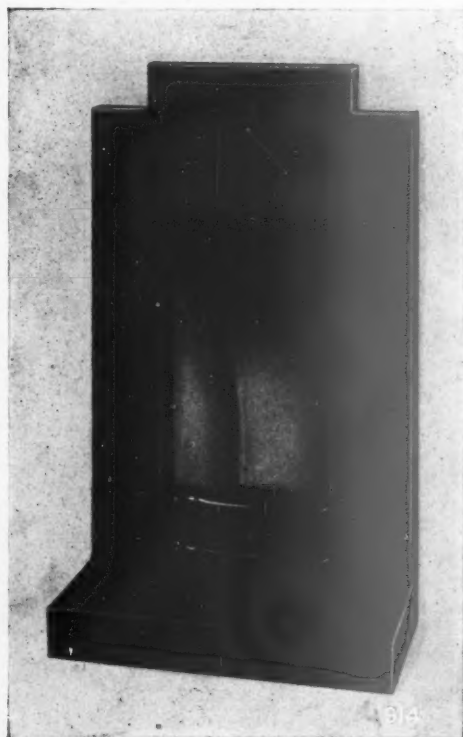
The RIBA is at present preparing a Graphic National Plan, and this clearly indicates the "simplification of many problems which appear to be insurmountable when viewed in isolation. It affords that essential information upon which local planning can be continuously developed.

*Town and Country Planning Bill:* The need for powers to acquire land by compulsory purchase for immediate and urgent requirements is not disputed. It is emphasized, however, that unless such immediate acquisition of land for the various urgent purposes arising in consequence of war, is also related to needs beyond this temporary emergency, any attempt at creating a rational, constant and continuous development in respect of the use of land will be irretrievably lost.

*Housing (Temporary Accommodation) Bill:* The acquisition of land for temporary housing accommodation must be based upon a policy parallel with that for permanent development and must have due regard to the future permanent use of such land as related to the scheme of National development.

*Recommendation:* The Royal Institute, therefore, does not hesitate to make the following recommendation:—

That inasmuch as the Government suggests (in paragraph 40 of the White Paper) that the form to be taken by future legislation will depend on the attitude of Parliament to the White Paper, it is essential that the White Paper be at once considered by Parliament, and that Parliament be asked to accept the principle of a co-ordinated National Policy based on a Graphic National Plan being the guide for the use and development of land in England and Wales.



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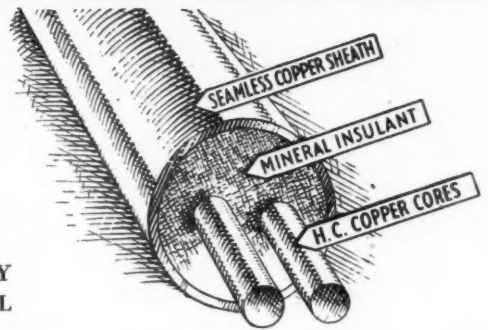
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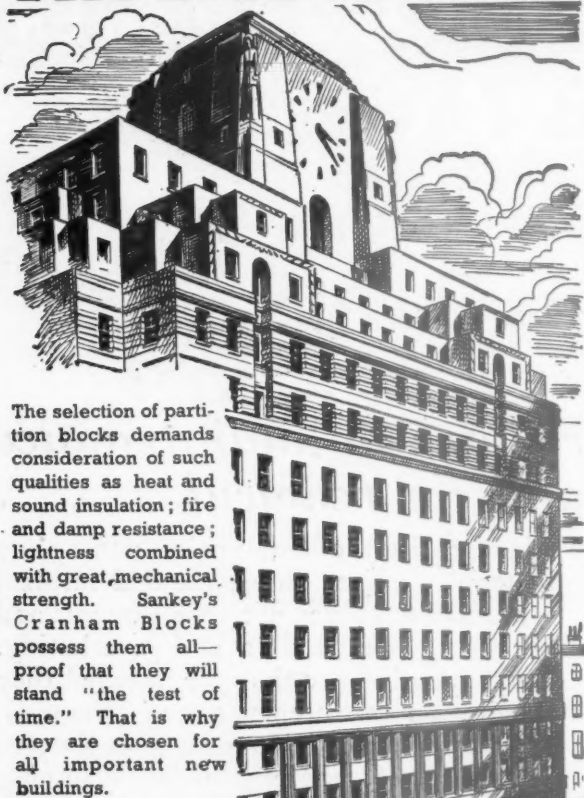
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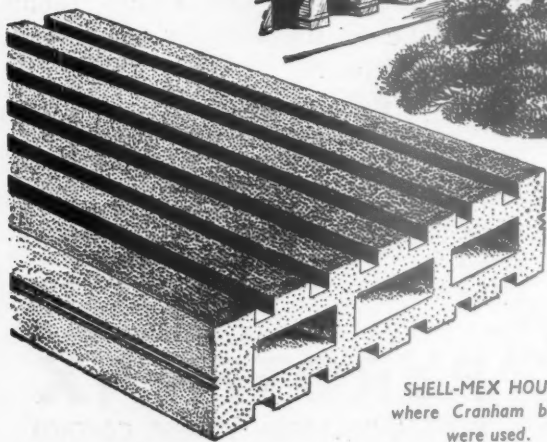
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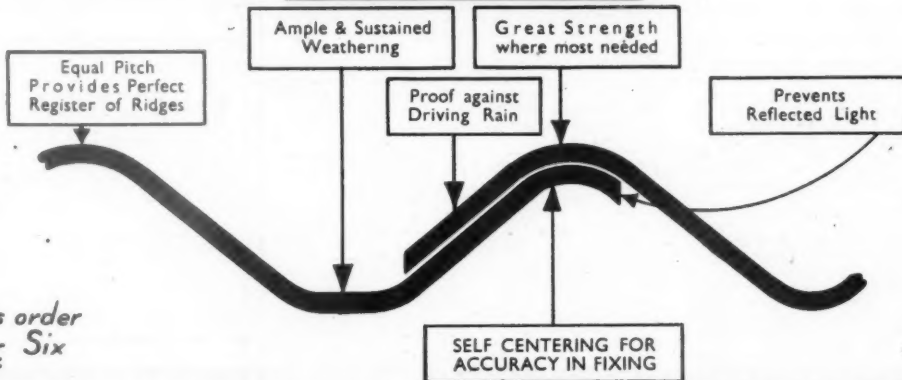
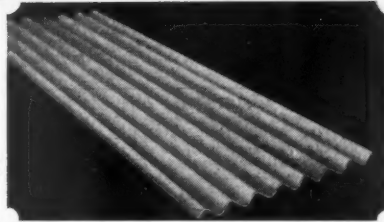
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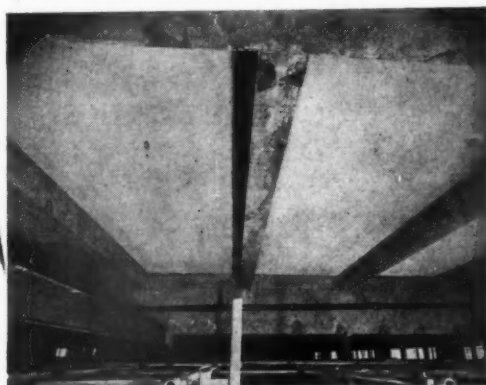
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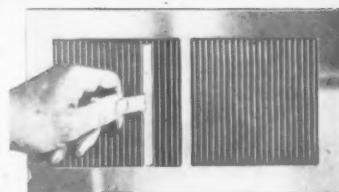
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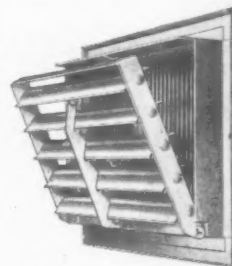
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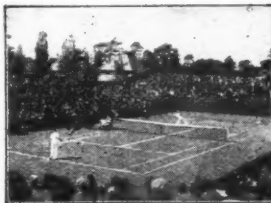
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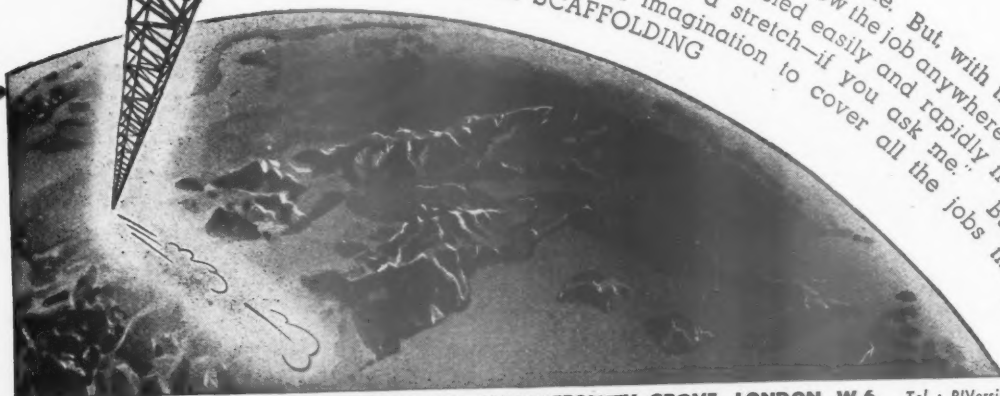
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