

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

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# THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL

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DETROIT



## HILLS

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*Left: Catford County School. Architect to the London County Council: Dr. J. L. Martin, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.I.B.A. Schools Architect: Sidney Howard, L.R.I.B.A. Assistant Schools Architect: G. F. Horsfall, M.B.E., B.Arch., A.R.I.B.A. Architect in Charge: W. J. Smith, A.R.I.B.A.*

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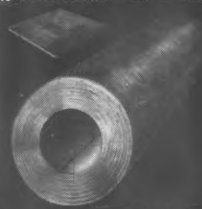
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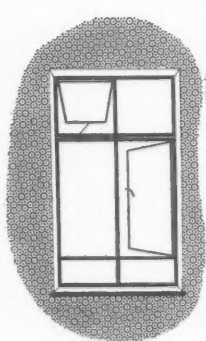
★  
Mr. W. G. Bravington, Williams & Williams Ltd.,  
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**METAL WINDOWS**

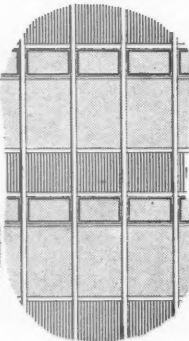
**WILLIAMS & WILLIAMS**



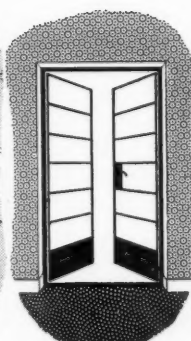
Member of the Metal Window Association



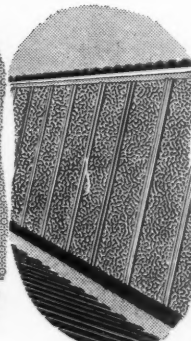
Metal Windows



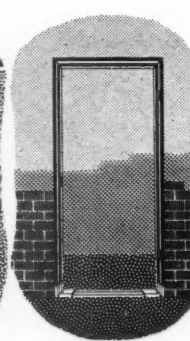
Wallspan Curtain Walling



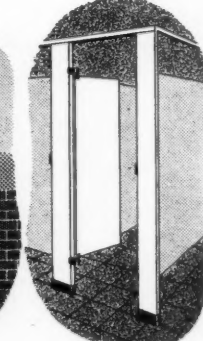
Metal Doors



Aluminex



Metal Door Frames



Roften Toilet Cubicles

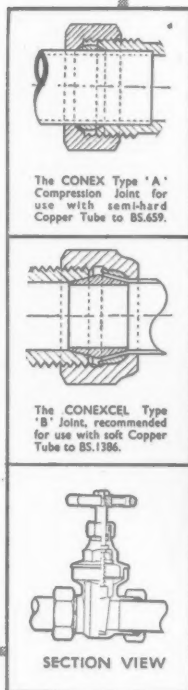
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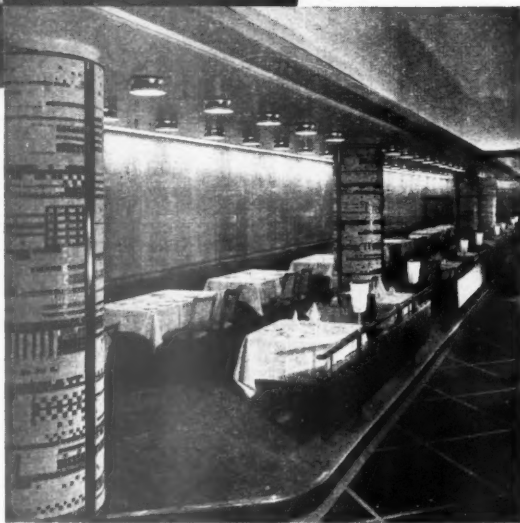
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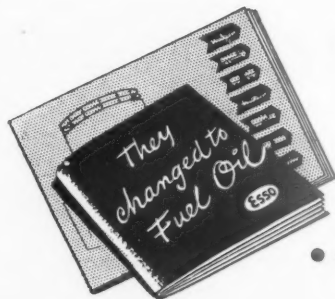


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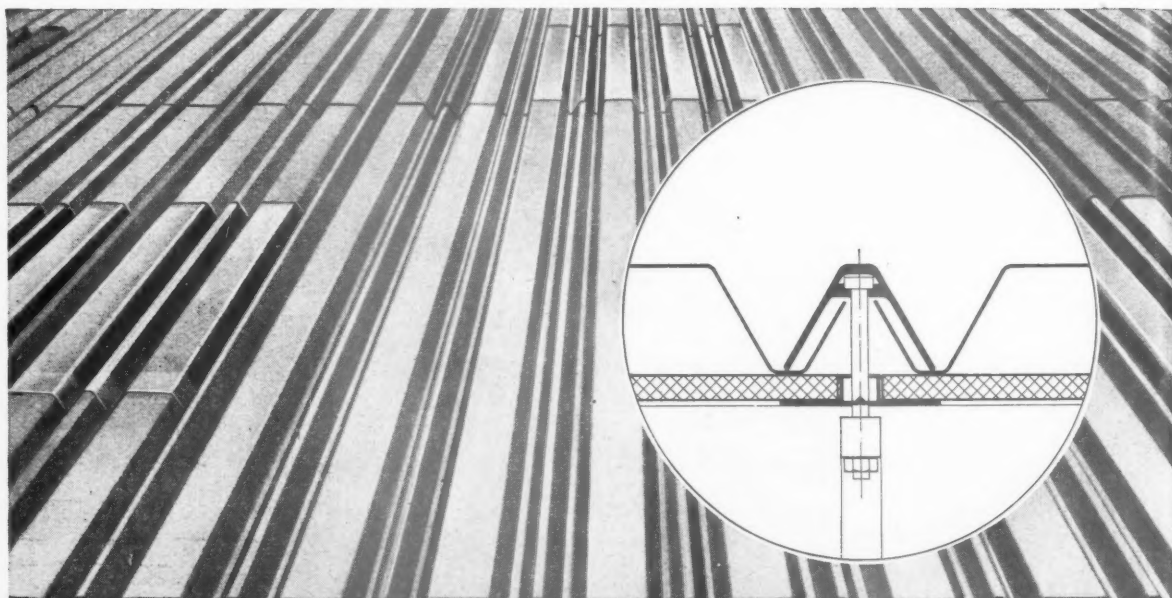
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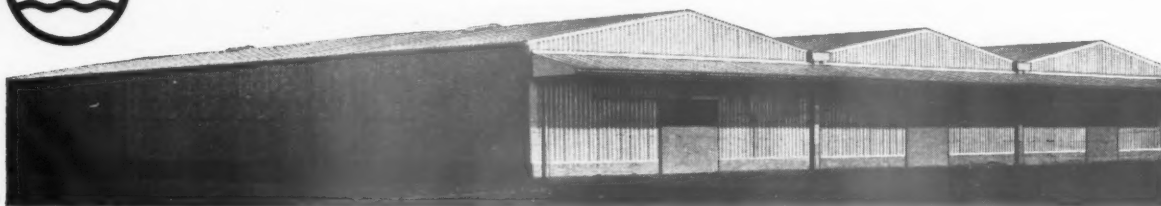
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*From a sketch by  
Christopher Read, A.R.I.B.A.*

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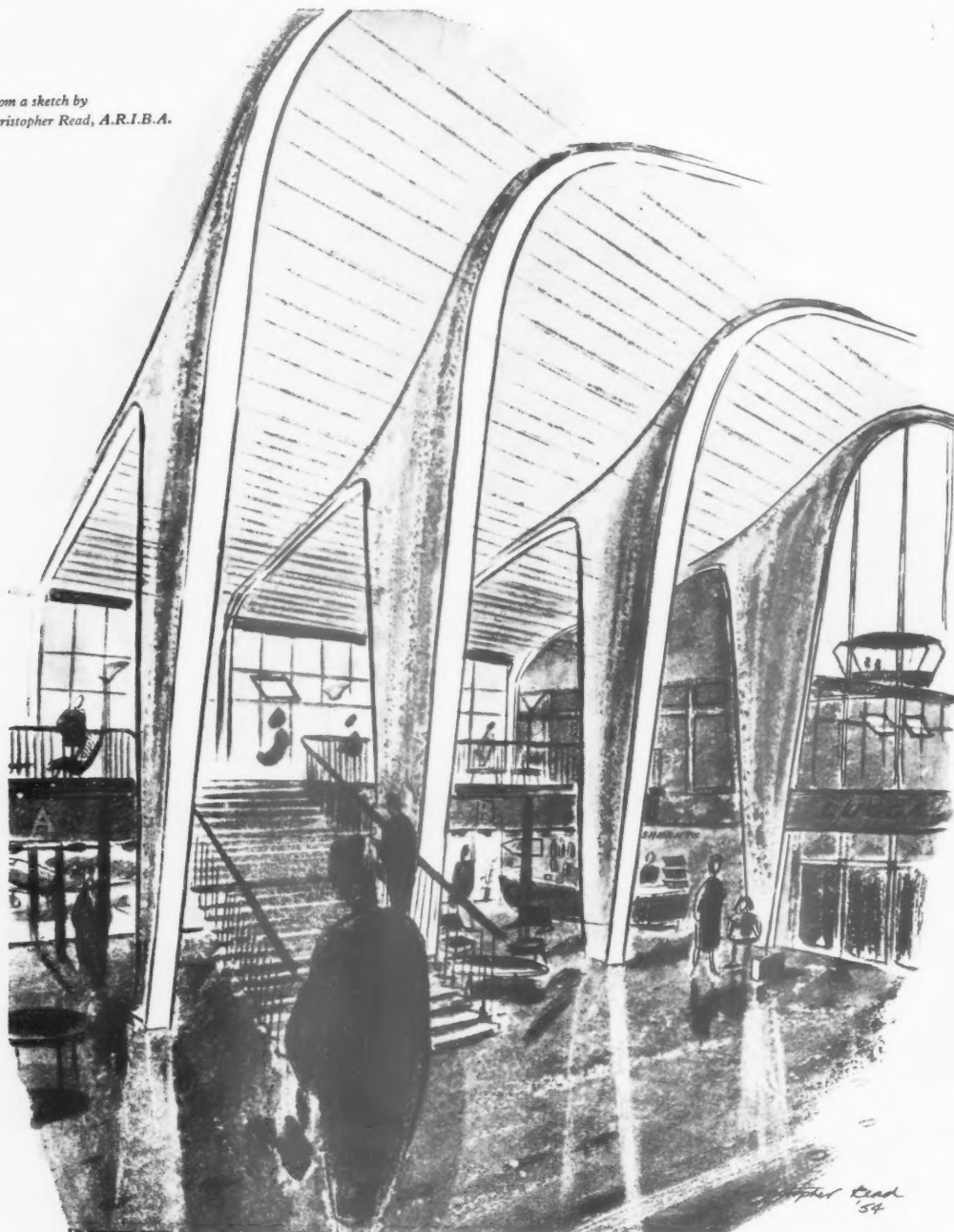
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*see overleaf*

From a sketch by  
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### B.E.A. AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDINGS, RENFREW INTERIOR OF MAIN RECEPTION HALL



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(For exterior view see previous page.)

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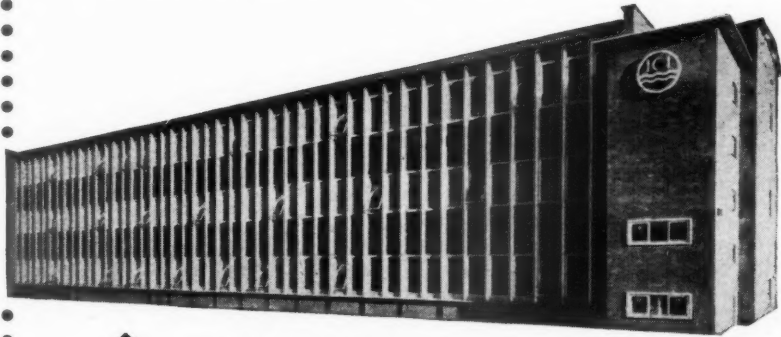
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Architect in Charge:  
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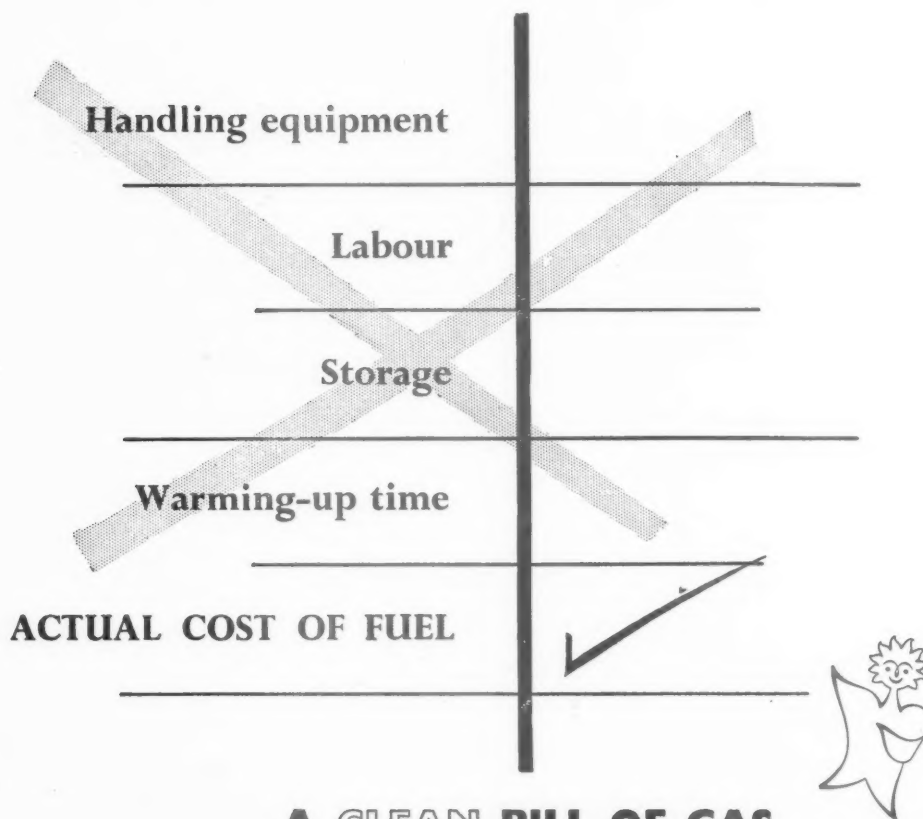
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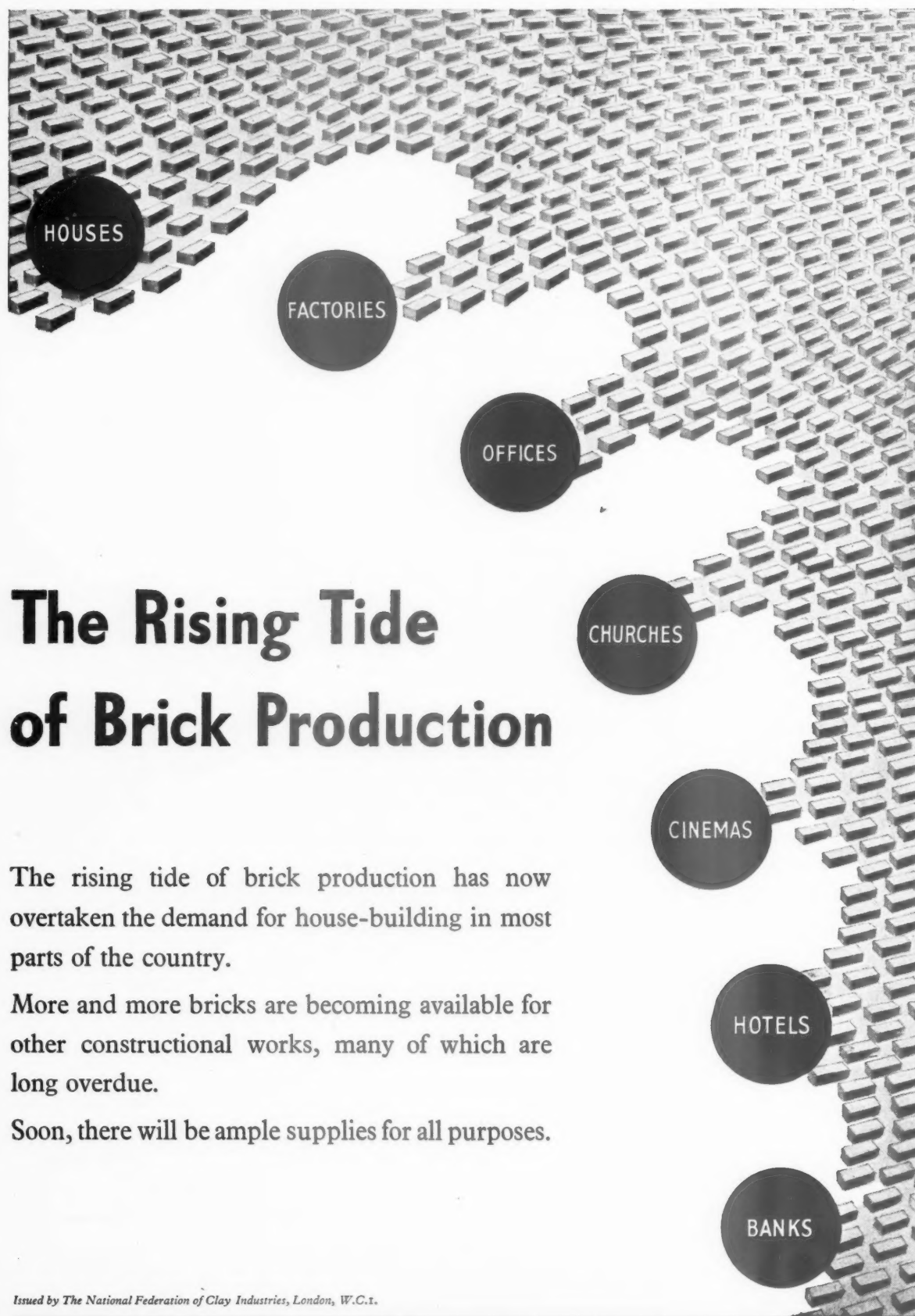
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# The Rising Tide of Brick Production

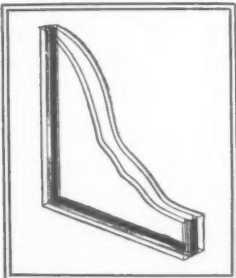
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Architects:  
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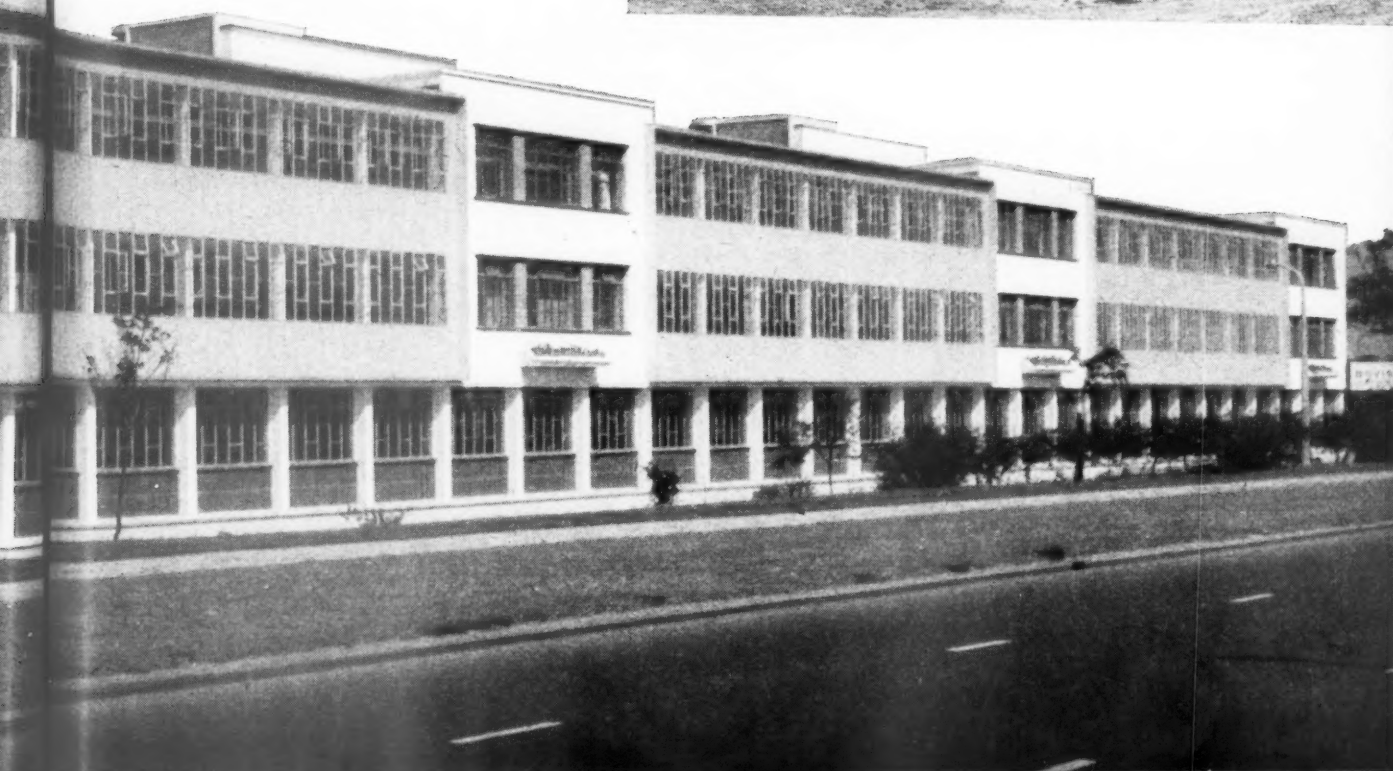






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Architects : James M. Munro & Son  
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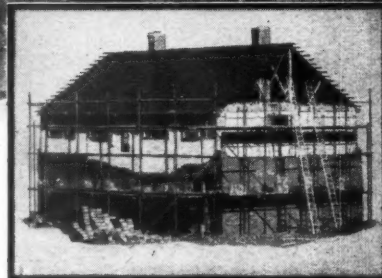
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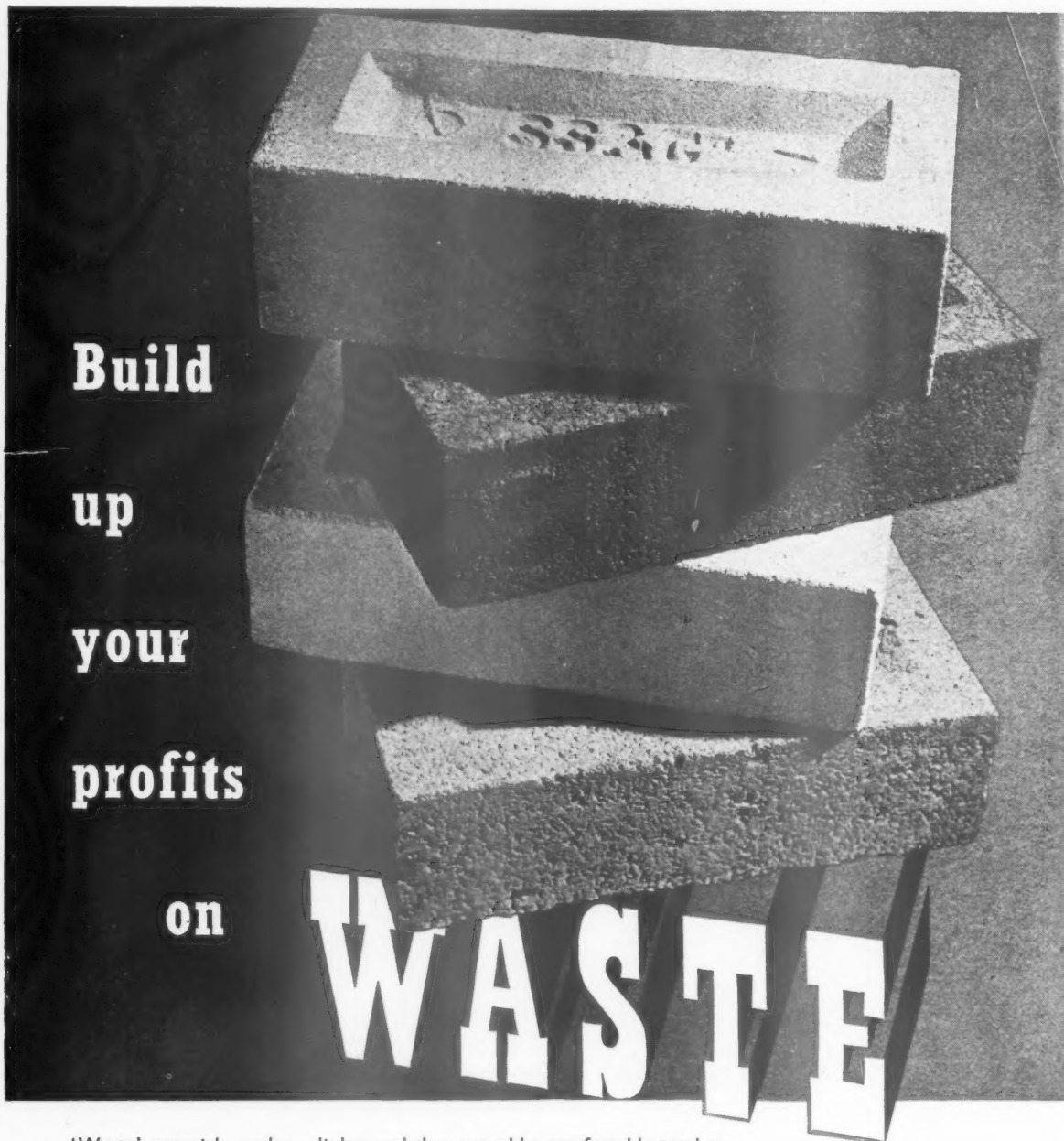
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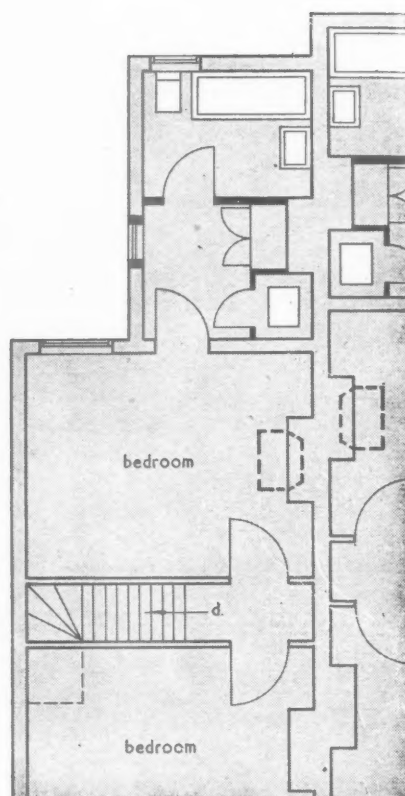
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is a very appropriate  
material for  
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Lead Pipe has the required flexibility—one of the properties of a material well proven for giving long trouble-free service.

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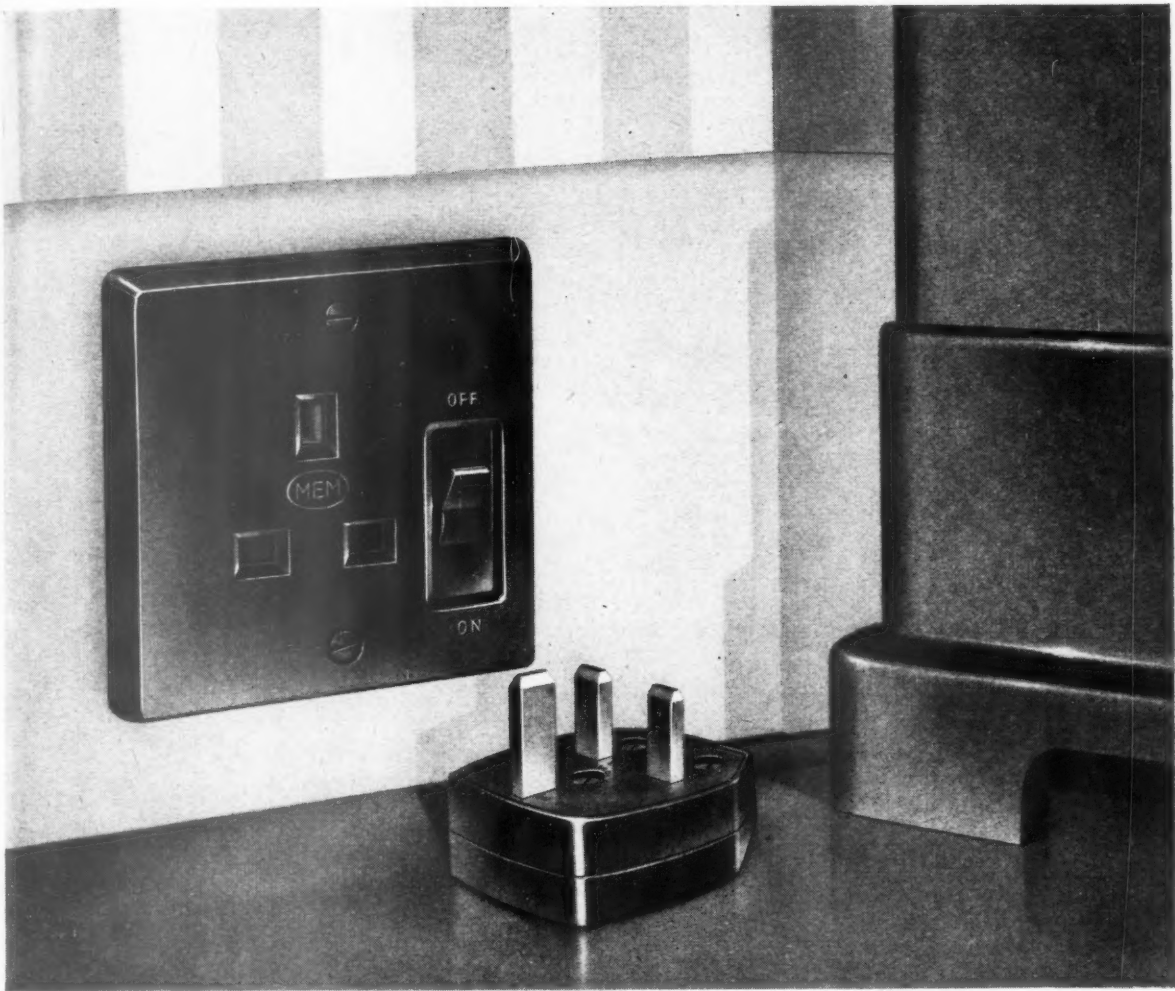
LEAD LASTS

The Council's Technical Information Bureau will gladly help with problems on the use of Lead Sheet and Pipe in building work. Details of the main uses are given in a series of Information Sheets and Bulletins, which can be obtained by applying to the Council.

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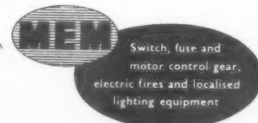
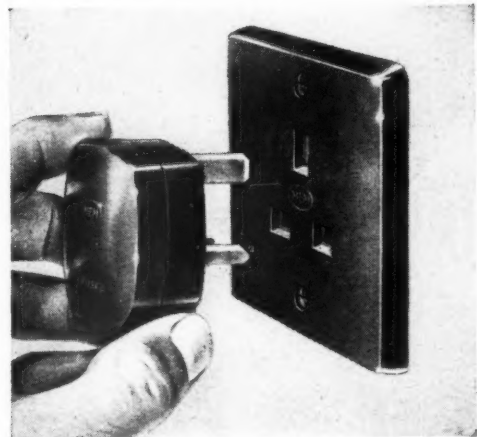
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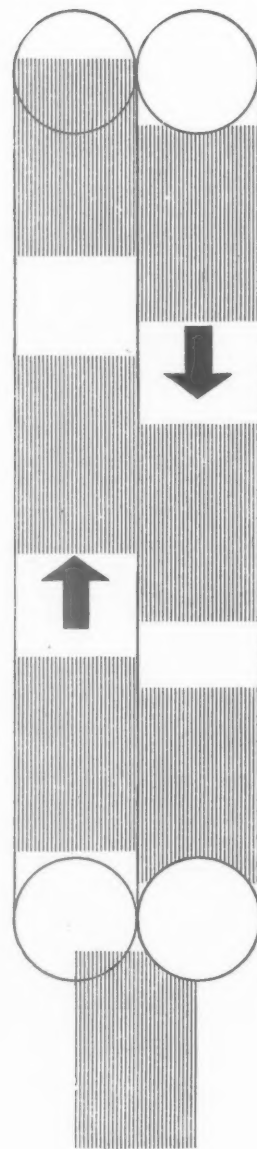
The Paternoster Lift consists of a series of lift cars  
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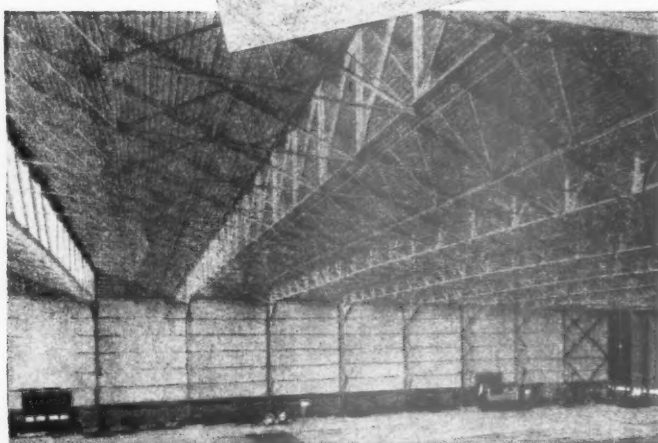
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THE COMET  
FLIGHT HANGAR?**



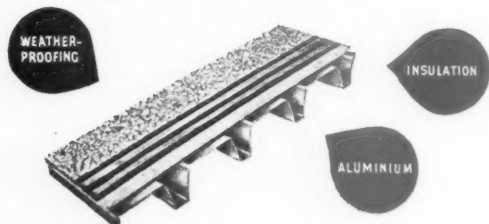
*Ceiling Effect of Bitumetal Roof giving clean bright appearance of the interior and saving in lighting costs.*

**BRIGGS**  
*of Course!*

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Contractors:—S. & M. D. Engineers Ltd., Slough.  
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How Bitumetal Roofed This Building.

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Bitumetal has been associated with many of the greatest construction projects in this country because it provides in one unit at economical cost, Roof plus Insulation plus Ceiling. Ask our nearest Area Manager for complete technical details of Bitumetal and how adaptable it is for small buildings as well as large.

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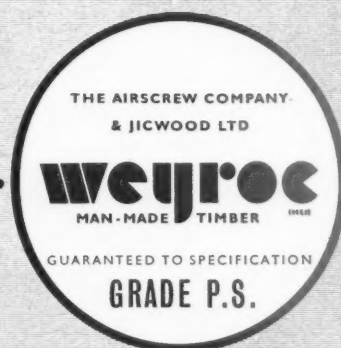
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S. 22

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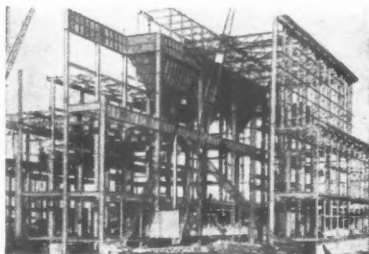
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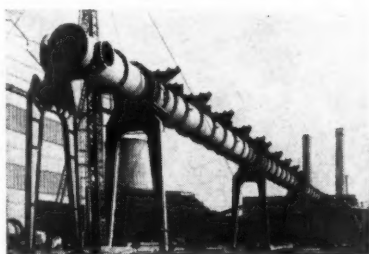


*Service in  
steel second  
to none*

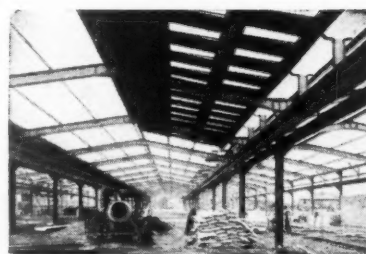
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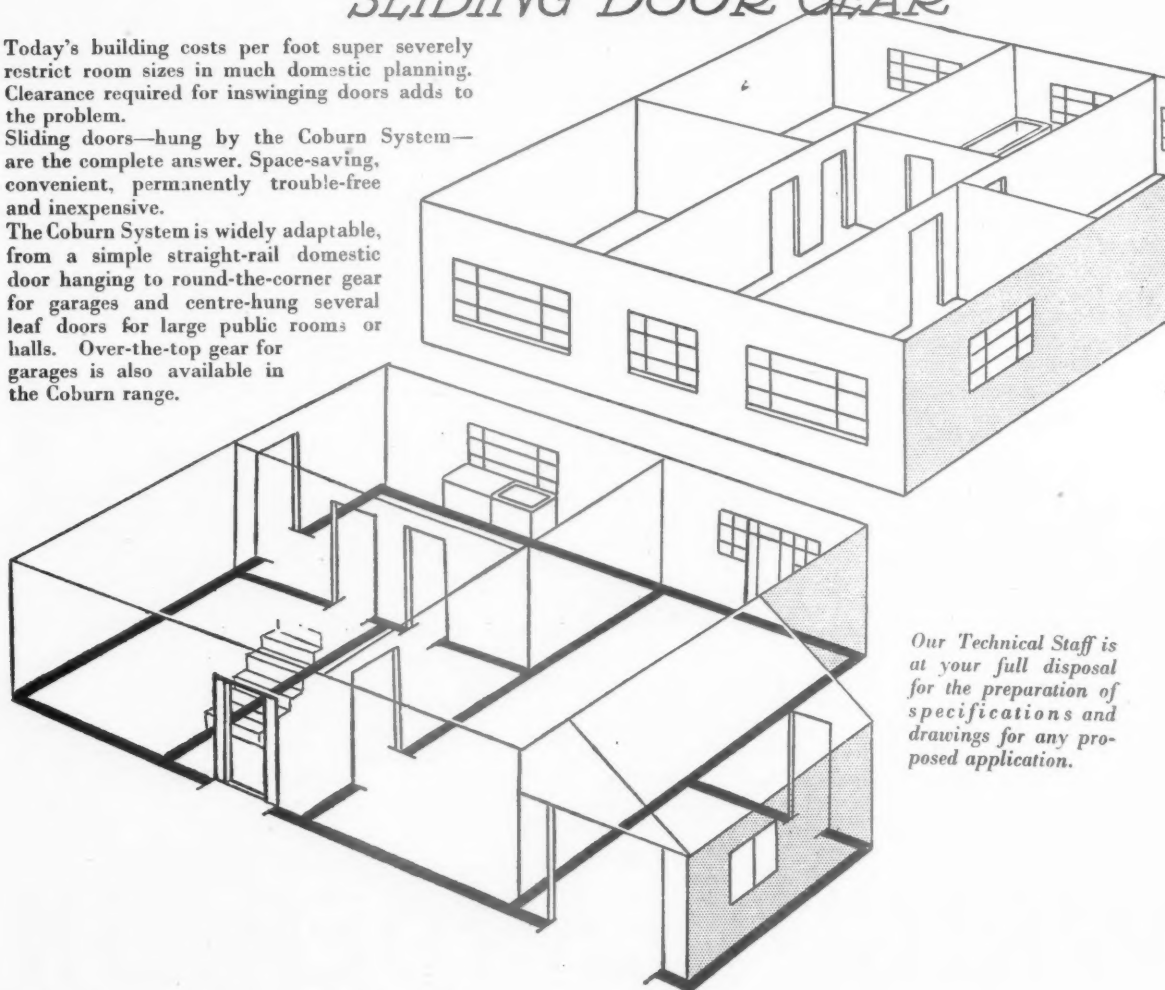


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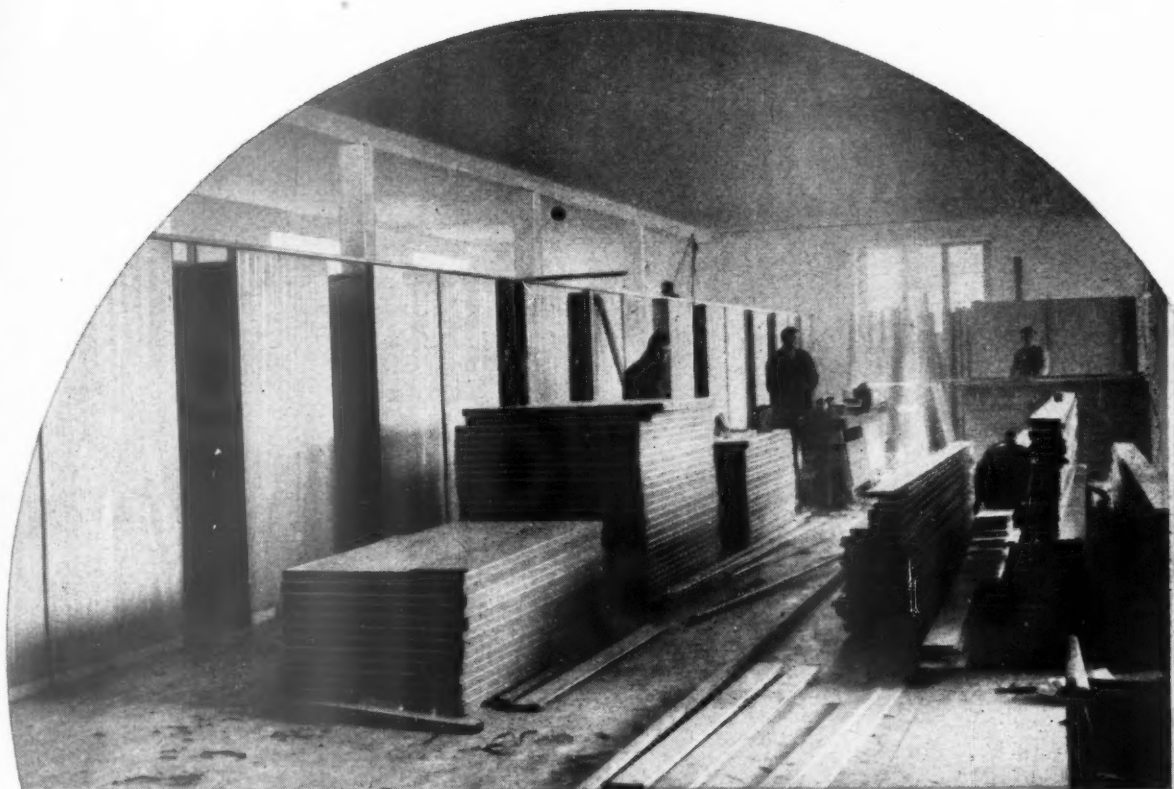
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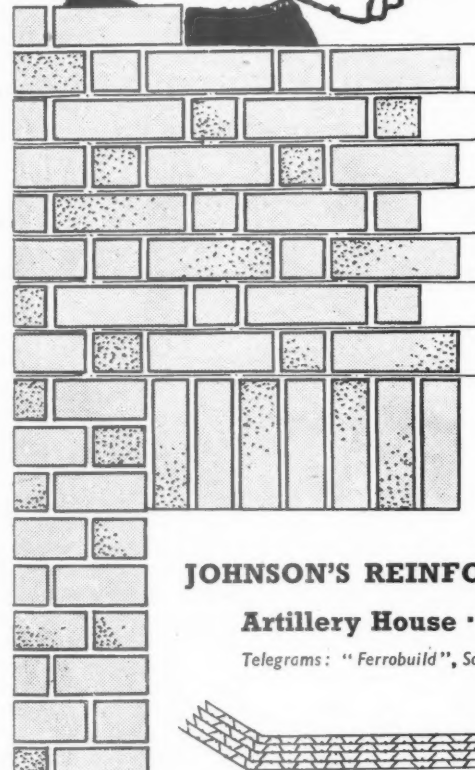
AS4

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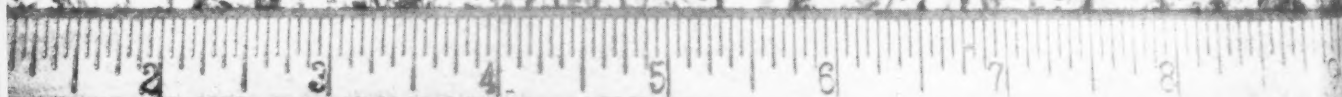
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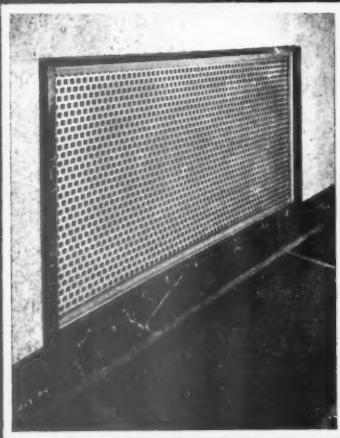
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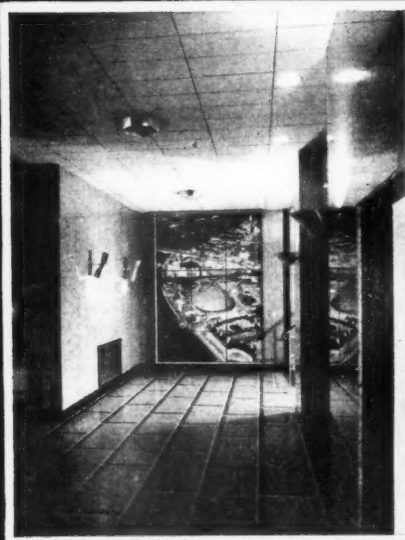


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d, London, W.6

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THE SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOL AT TATTERSHALL  
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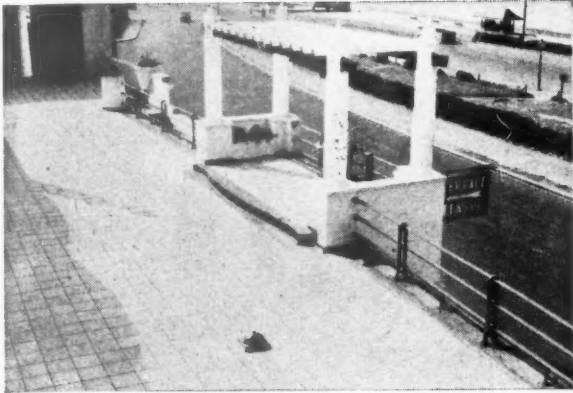
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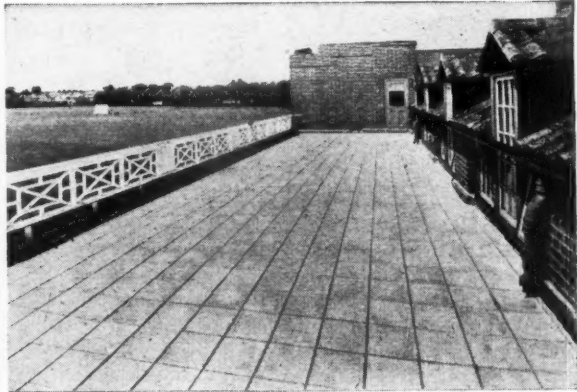
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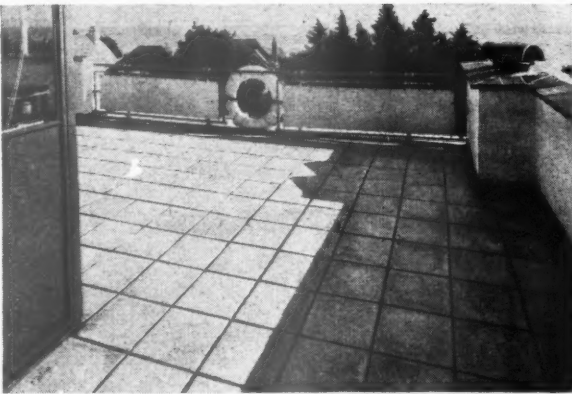
# ★ THE RUBERDAL ROOF ★



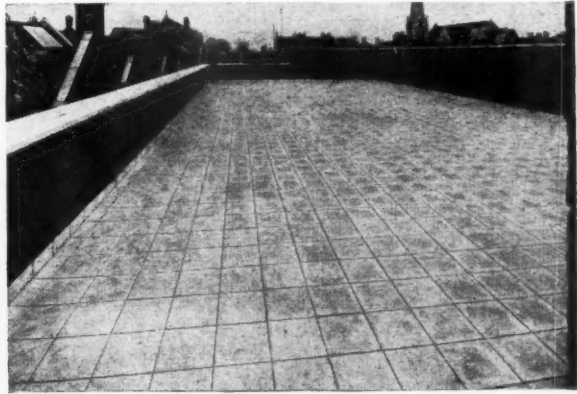
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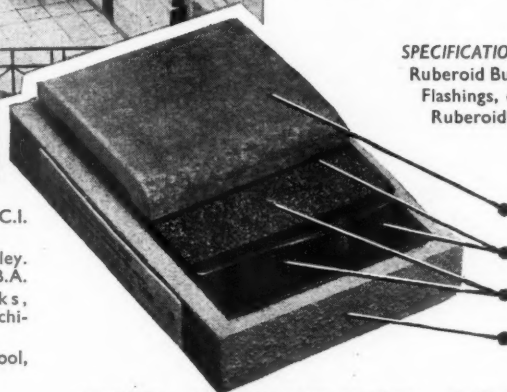


5

1. West Park Pavilion, Jersey, C.I. Architects: Blampied & Biggar.
2. Sports Pavilion, North Wembley. Architects: Duke & Simpson, F.F.R.I.B.A.
3. "Showboat," Sandbanks, Bournemouth. Residence of the Architect, A. J. Seal, Esq., F.R.I.B.A.
4. Latymer Foundation Upper School, Hammersmith. Gymnasium Roof. Architects: Chesterton & Sons.
5. Balcony at United Club, Jersey, C.I.

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R. 160



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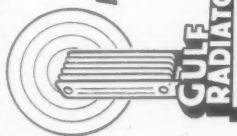
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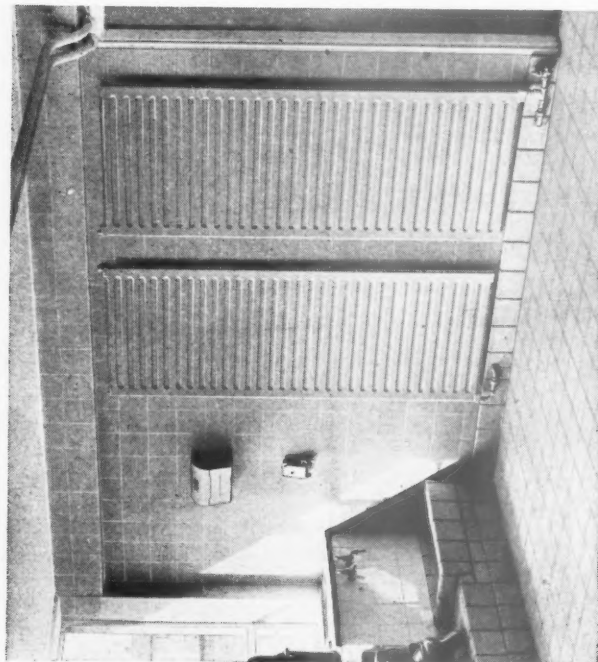
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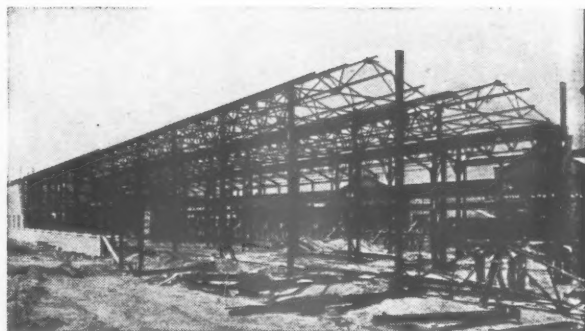
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## Single or...

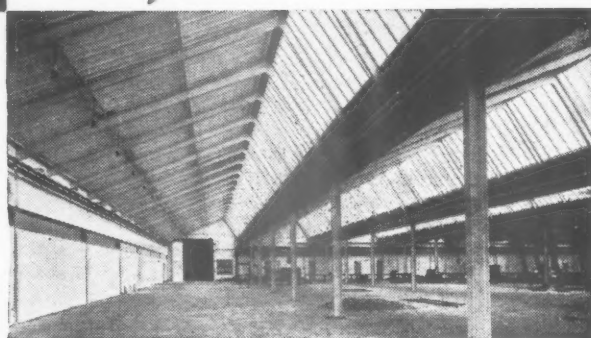


Extension to Factory—  
Messrs. F. E. Fox & Son Limited, Batley, Biscuit Manufacturers.  
Architects: Smith & Curry, Heckmondwike.



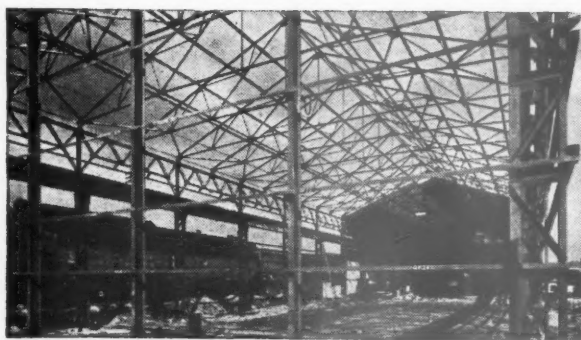
Stores building in course of erection  
for National Gas & Oil Engines Limited.

## Multi-storey



Interior view of the Factory at  
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## Welded or...



New stores Building of Birlec Ltd.,  
Furnace Manufacturers, Erdington, Birmingham.

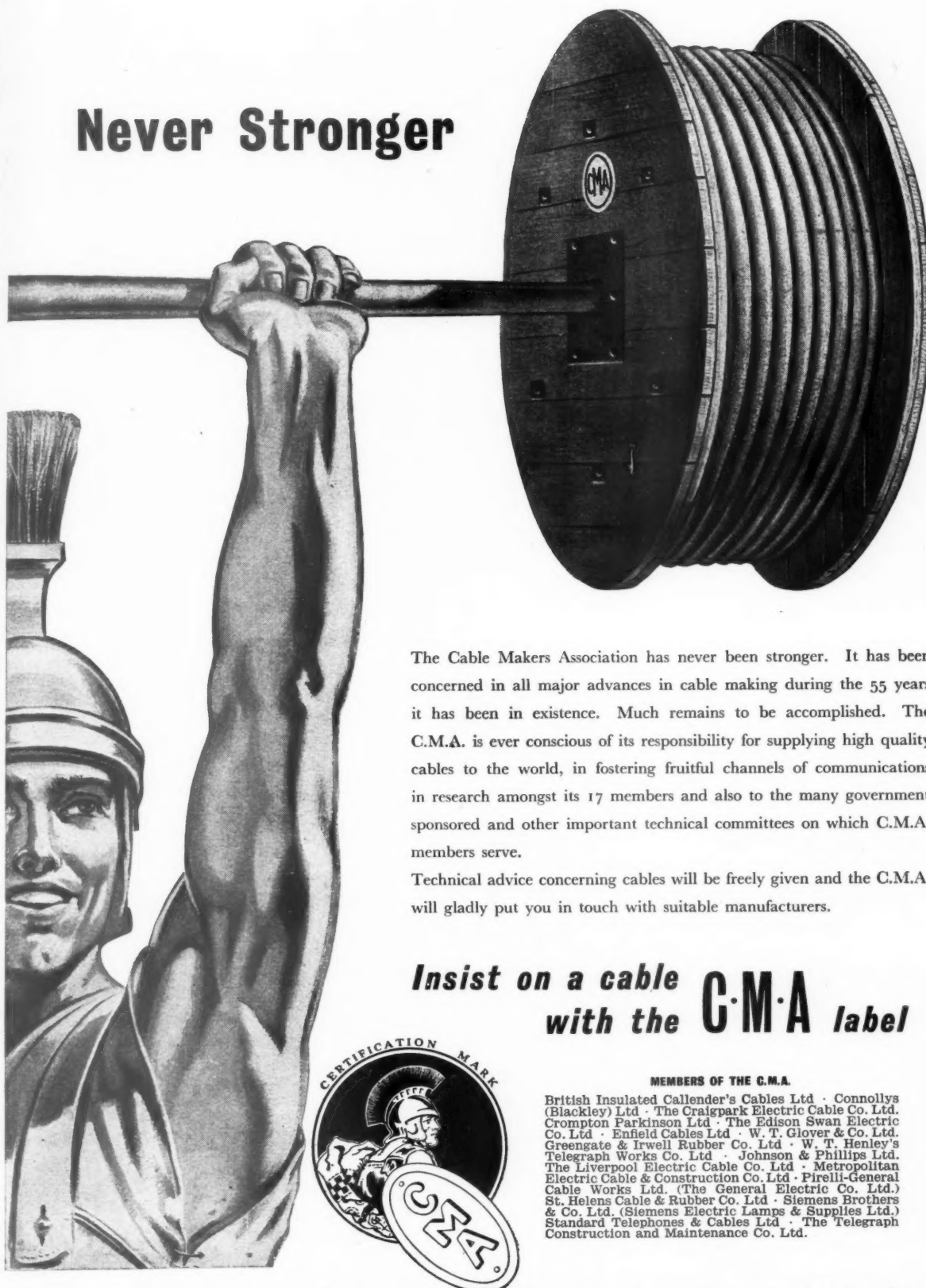
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**WEATHERPROOF**—unaffected by exposure to all climatic conditions.

**PERMANENT**—proved by prolonged service to remain completely inert and immune from deterioration.

"S.H." GLASS-CEMENT should not be confused with mere adhesives. It is a highly technical compound evolved for one specific purpose—the bonding of Glass. For satisfactory and safe all-glass construction it should be specified by name—"S.H." GLASS-CEMENT.

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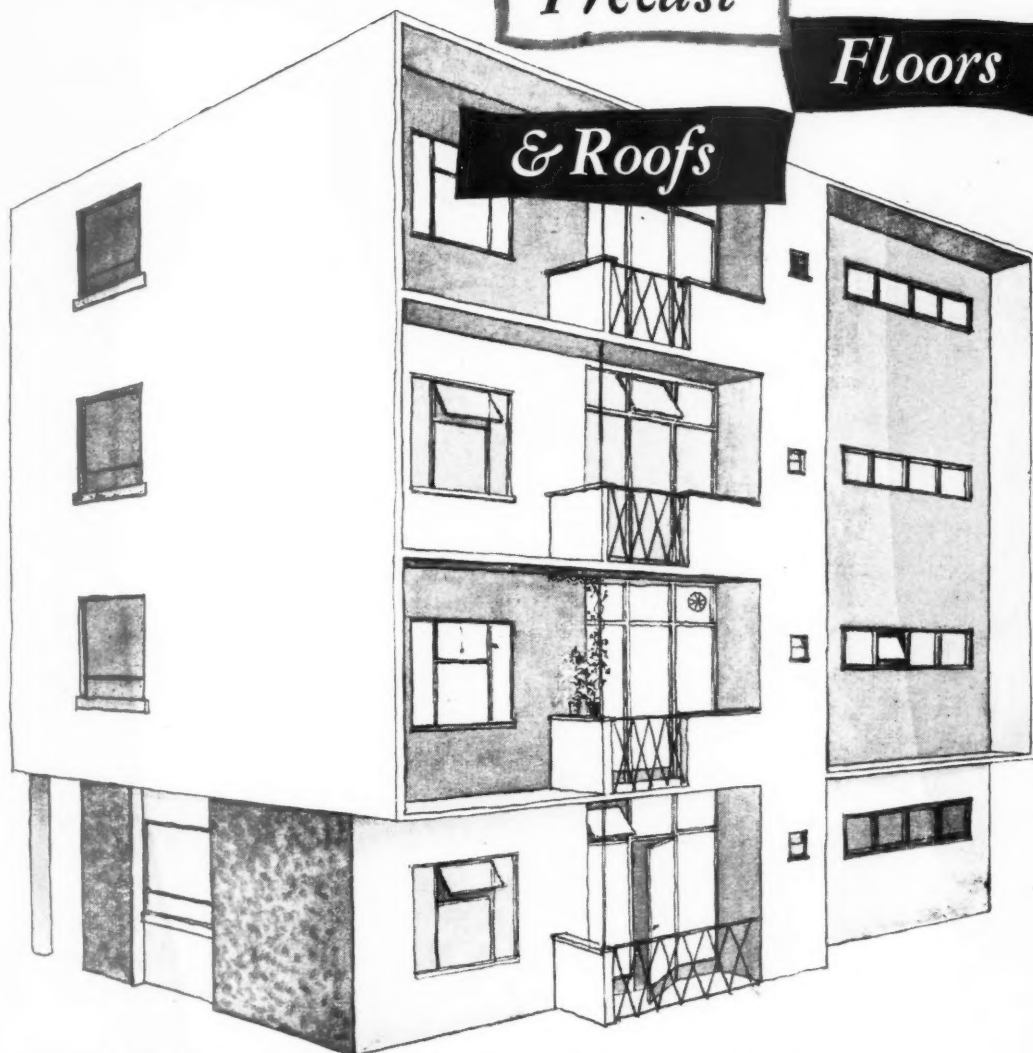


**SIEGWART**

*Precast*

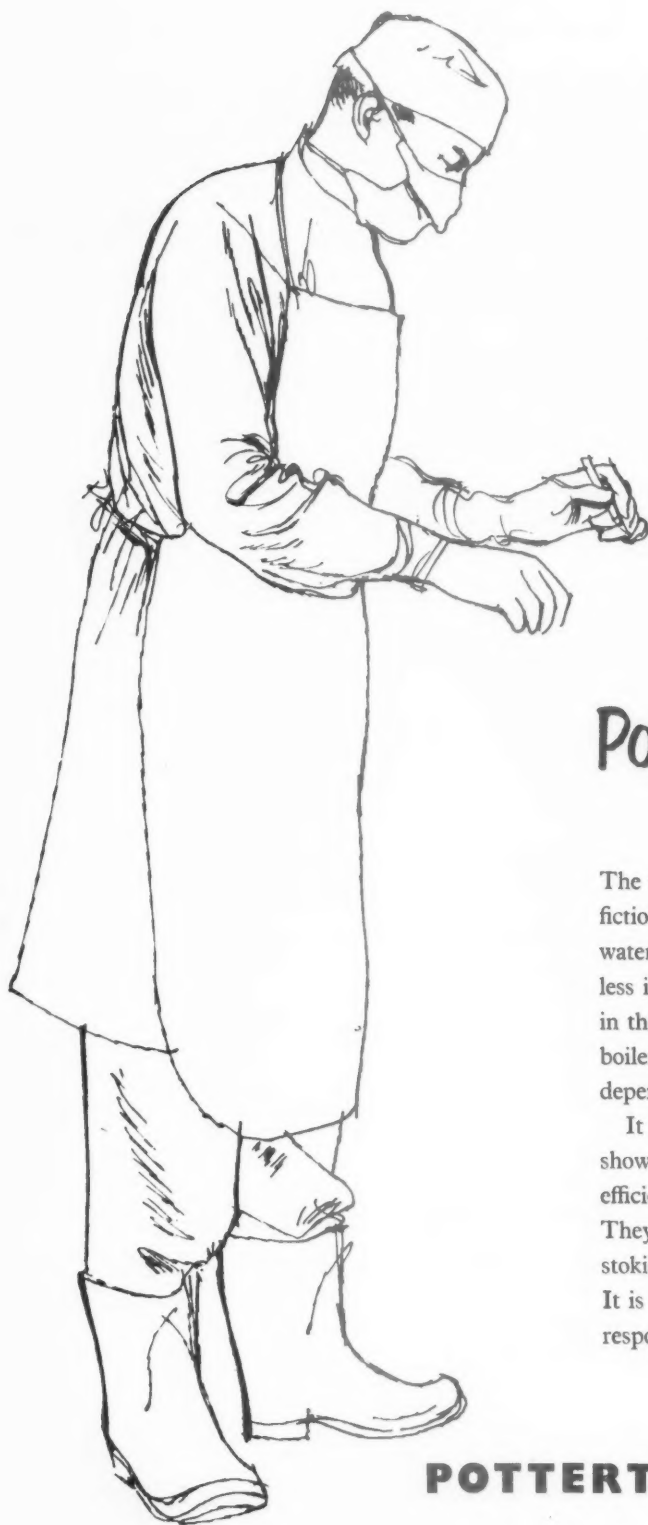
*Floors*

*& Roofs*



**SIEGWART FLOOR COMPANY LIMITED**

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the  
man  
who  
relies on  
**Potterton Boilers**

The traditional requirement of the medical man, in fiction and in fact, is **HOT WATER**, really hot water in abundance—always on tap, day or night. No less important is the surgeon's need for central heating in the theatre, all the year round, even when the main boilers are off. In both cases the need is vital—so much depends on it, so much is at stake, failure is unthinkable.

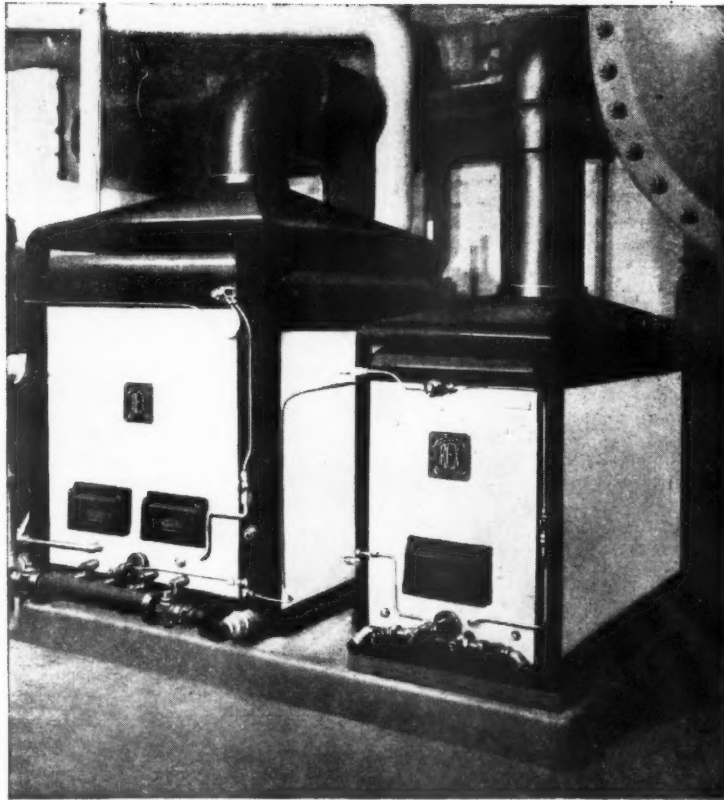
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**POTTERTON** *Gas-Fired* **BOILERS**



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This  
is  
Potterton  
at  
work



*Photograph by permission of the Bristol Health Committee*

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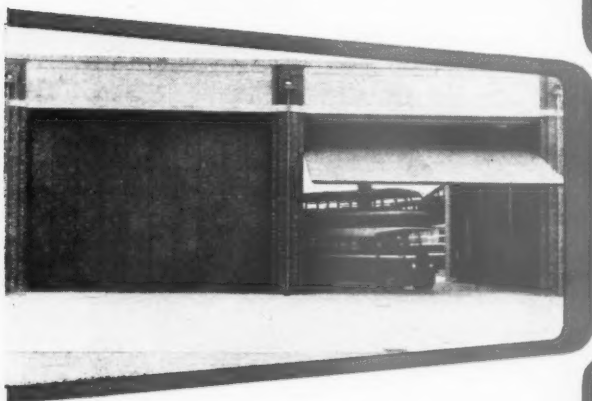


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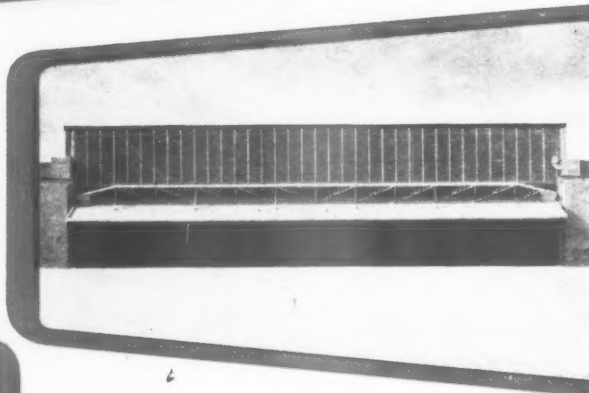
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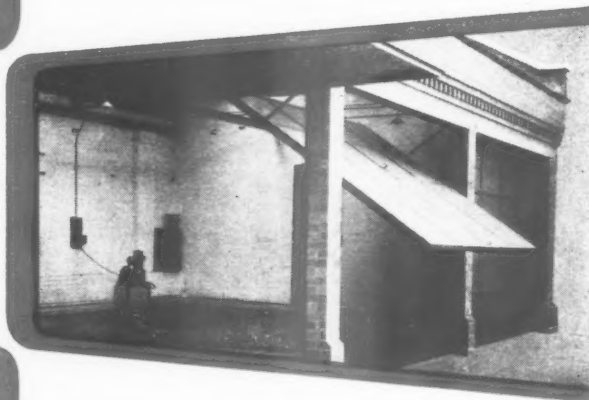
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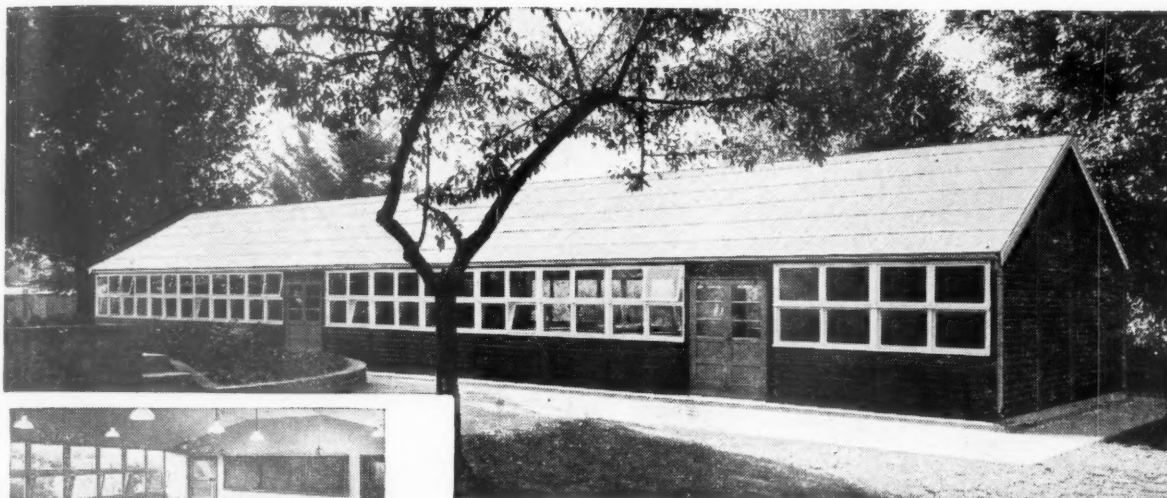
Technical information on application to

ECLAIR DOORS LTD., 239-242, GREAT LISTER STREET, BIRMINGHAM, 7

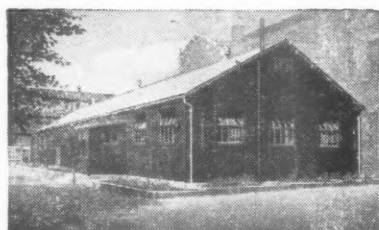
Telephone: Aston Cross 4961-2

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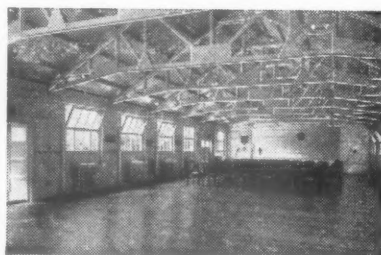
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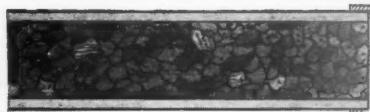
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**MEDINO RIGIDITY** Extra-strong hardboard which encloses the cork filling—yet 1 sq. ft. of 1 ⅝" MEDINO weighs only 2½ lb.

**MEDINO GOOD LOOKS** Has a 2-sided protective surface of SaR-ReZ Plastic, in a range of colours matt-finished and easily cleaned. Or with decorative veneer facing.

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FIELDEN HOUSE, 28/42 LONDON BRIDGE STREET, S.E.1

*Architect:* J. S. Lacey, A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I.

*General Contractors:* G. E. Wallis & Sons Ltd.

*Plastering Contractors:* Southern Counties Plastering Ltd.

## CRETESTONE Concrete Bonding Plaster

## PARISTONE Browning and Wall Finishing Plasters

were used extensively in this building

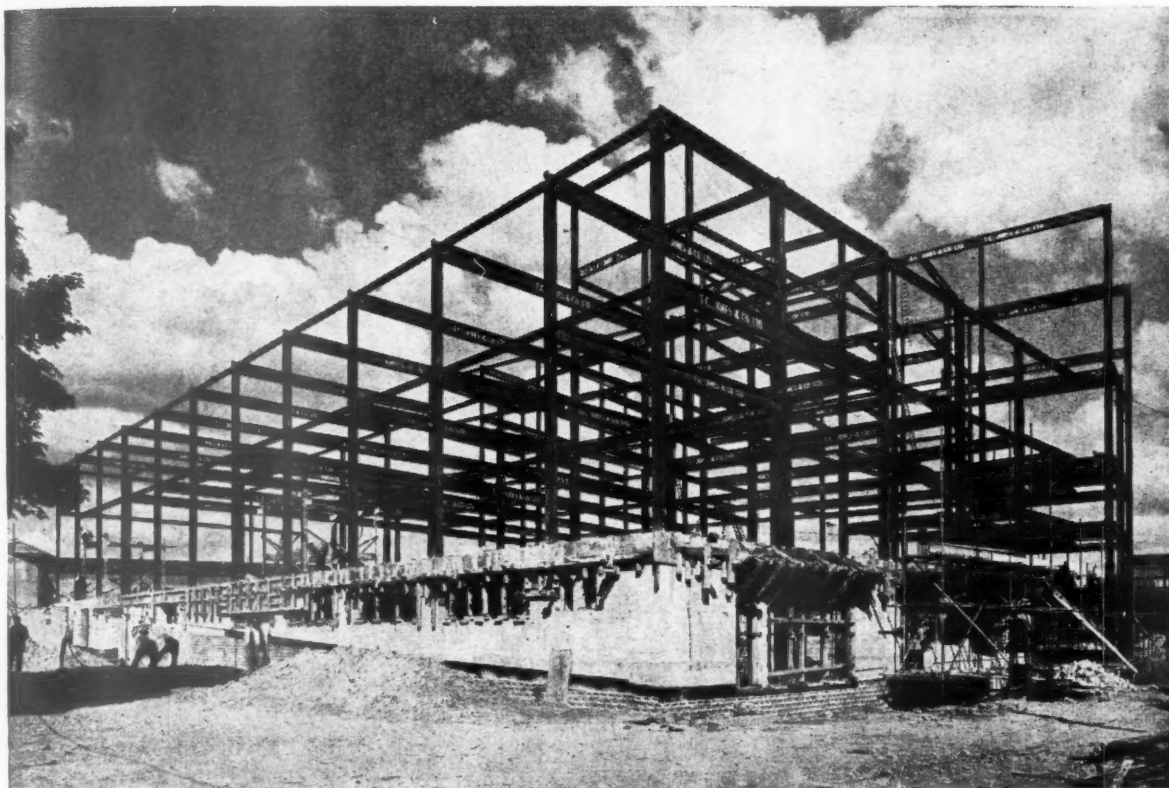
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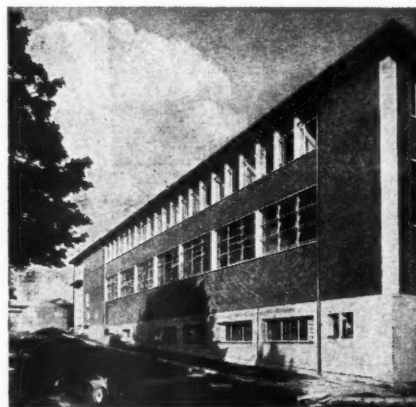
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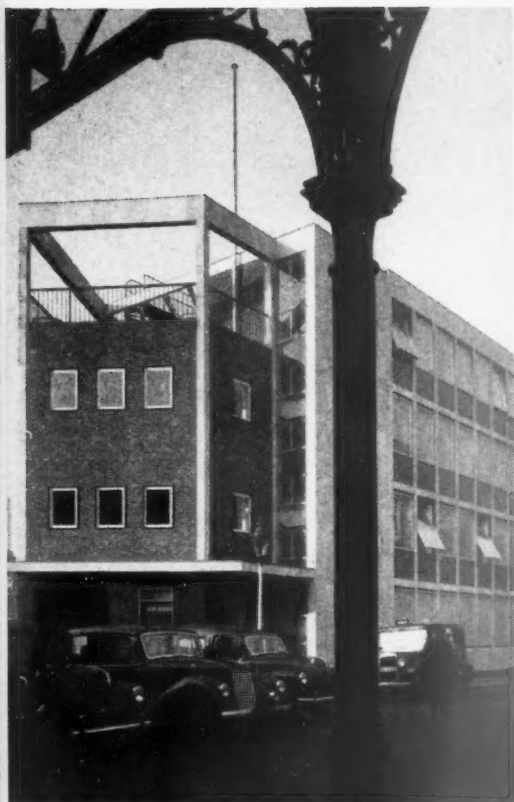
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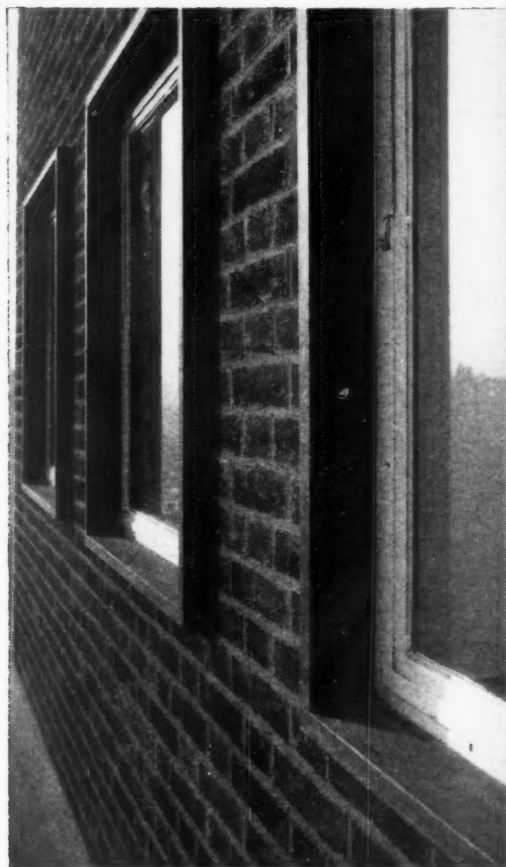
*at*

# WORK

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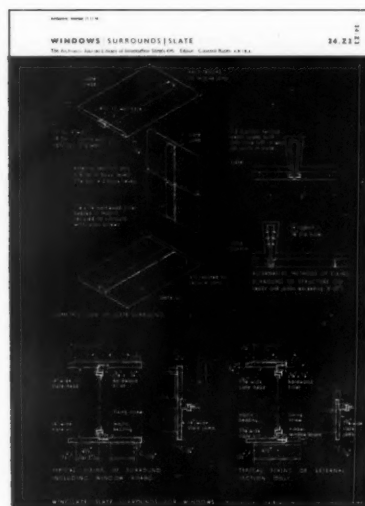
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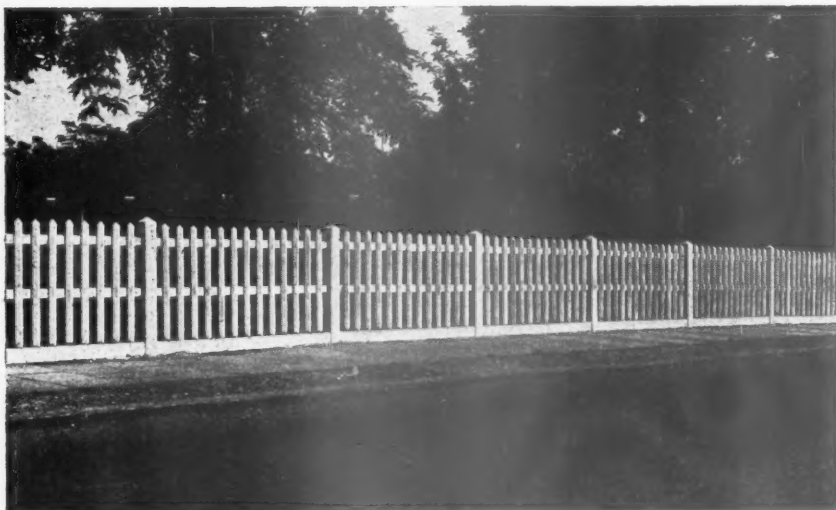
WINCILATE window surrounds at Fielden House, London Bridge Street, S.E.1.

Architect: J. S. Lacey, A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I.

Write for Information Sheet 24.Z2



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"PALISADE"  
(Patent applied for.)

By courtesy of the Borough of Southgate

Engineer and Surveyor J. T. W. PEAT, F.R.I.B.A.

The increasing number of municipal authorities, public utility companies and boards using our concrete fencing do so because :—

The units are made under strictly controlled conditions ensuring long life.

We offer a country wide erection service with a guaranteed job.

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"The Architects' Journal" Information Sheet No. 26 C2  
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*We are specialists in the manufacture and erection of concrete units.*

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Severely damaged by fire after enemy action on the 10th of May, 1941, part of the Atlas Assurance Head Office building has recently been restored. Happily the original architectural features were preserved, and an attractive arcade included. Smiths Clocks are a feature of the new offices, as will be seen in these illustrations.

Smiths Clocks are available in a wide range of interior and exterior models, or can be made to the Architect's design whenever desired.



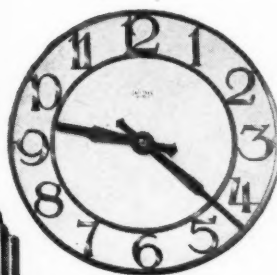
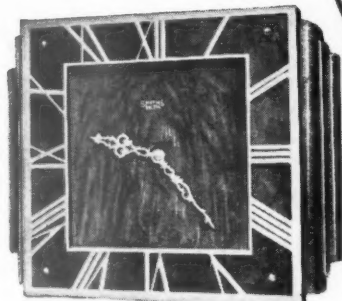
Main Entrance to Building



Main Entrance Hall



A General Office



## JUPITER

Flush fixing Wall Clock with hand-cut circular fret zone. 12" dial. Bronze or gilt figures.

## SHERBOURNE

Surface fixing Wall Clock Walnut finish case with gilt zone and hands. Plate glass front. H. 16" W. 20" D. 2 1/2".



Ground Floor Office

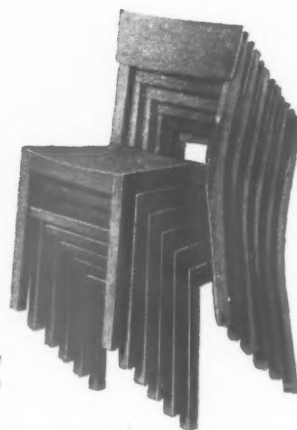


*Kingfisher takes the floor  
at Goldsmiths Hall*

A chair that takes the floor need not necessarily take root. In between times Kingfisher Wood Nesting Chairs can be stacked into a fraction of the space they occupy on the great occasions. In fact, Kingfisher storage capacity is very much less than Kingfisher seating capacity—and very strong, light and comfortable seating it is too.



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Architects: Cruickshank & Seward,  
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have been fixed in the Board Room  
and Reception Room at Renold  
House, using "Insulite" 2' 6" x 2' 0"  
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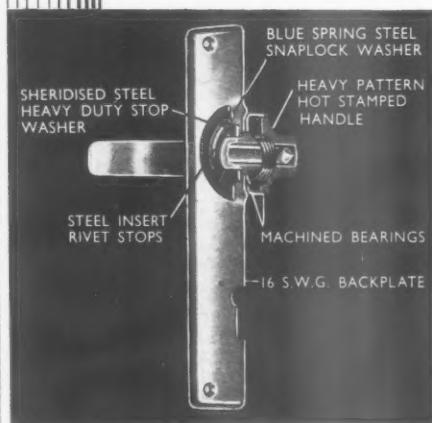
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THIS HANDLE!**

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Here is a new lever lock set that is proving a big seller, for in design and construction it incorporates many special features. The set can be taken to pieces for cleaning and examination and can be easily reassembled, whilst reversing the handle for right or left hand use is only a matter of seconds. Made from the very best materials, all parts are standardised and machined to gauged limits to ensure perfect movement. The sets are produced in two sizes—for mortice 6 in.  $\times$  1  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. and for latch 3 in.  $\times$  1  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. Both are offered in a complete range of finishes on brass, gunmetal and aluminium bases.



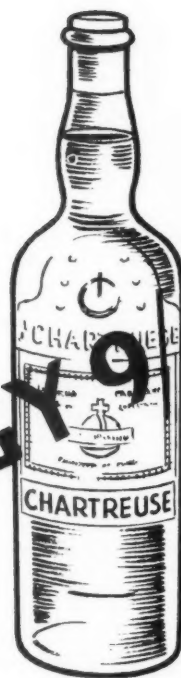
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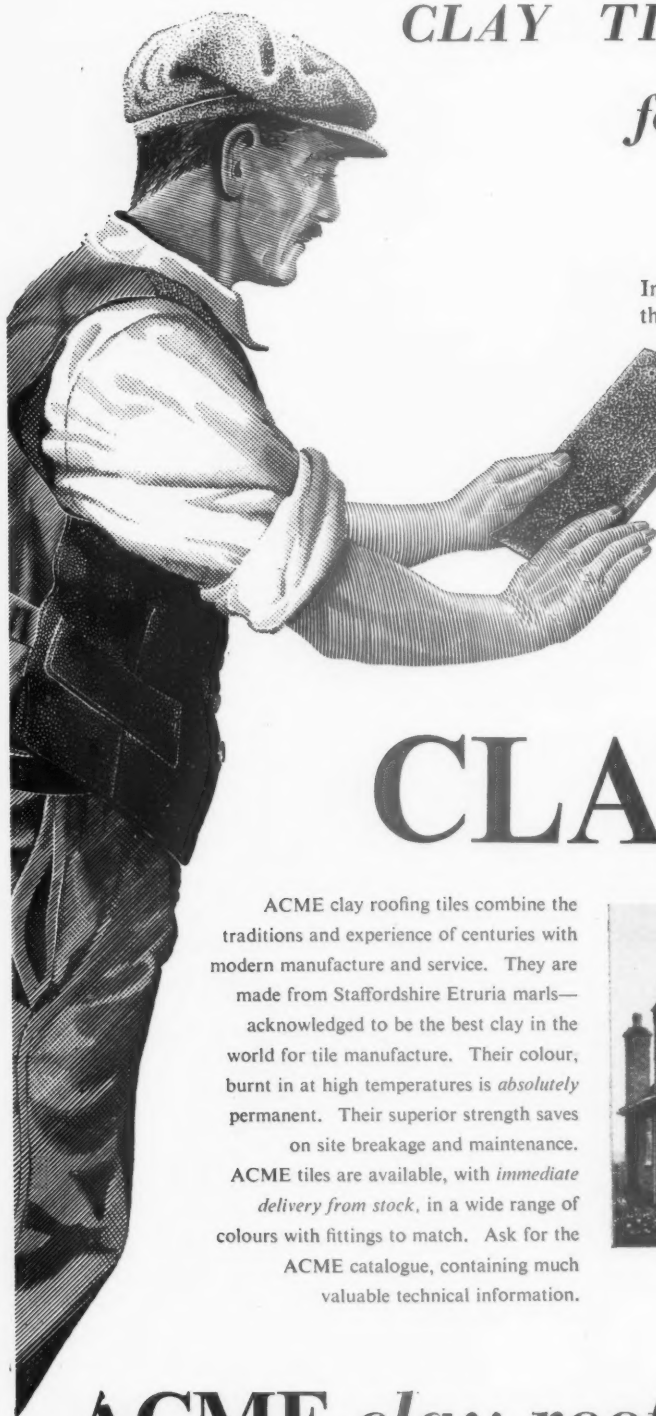
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## CLAY TILES —

*for eight centuries  
England's roof...*

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ACME clay roofing tiles combine the traditions and experience of centuries with modern manufacture and service. They are made from Staffordshire Etruria marls—acknowledged to be the best clay in the world for tile manufacture. Their colour, burnt in at high temperatures is *absolutely* permanent. Their superior strength saves on site breakage and maintenance. ACME tiles are available, with *immediate delivery from stock*, in a wide range of colours with fittings to match. Ask for the ACME catalogue, containing much valuable technical information.



*A private bungalow—Fishpool, nr. Mansfield, Notts.  
Architect—W. Richardson Whyte, L.R.I.B.A., Mansfield.*

## ACME clay roofing tiles

DOWNING'S range of roofing tiles includes:—

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# 6 *fresh views on flooring*

*expressed by*

**HUMPHREY SPENDER** (*in this issue*)

**FELLO ATKINSON**

**OLIVER COX**

**F.H.K. HENRION**

**PRUNELLA CLOUGH**

**LAURENCE SCARFE**

*and edited by*

*Sir Hugh Casson* R.D.I., M.A., F.R.I.B.A.

In seeking a theme for a series of features on flooring as an integral element of interior design, the manufacturers of Semastic Tiles commissioned Sir Hugh Casson to make his recommendations.

He proposed that a number of leading designers be given the opportunity to express their views on this matter by designing floors for a number of imaginary projects which he himself would suggest by way of initial plans and briefings.

He has, therefore, in association with these designers prepared plans for:—an Airport Waiting Lounge  
a Youth Hostel Dayroom • a Works Canteen  
a Restaurant • a Clinic • a School Entrance Hall. Each of the six designers selected has been invited to choose one of these projects and to consider it from the aspect of floor-design in order to demonstrate the scope of Semastic Decorative and Vinyl Asbestos Tiles. The materials which may be used are as follows: *Semastic Tiles*, Decorative and domestic grades. These are thermo-plastic resin-bonded tiles which are available in a very attractive colour range, in plain and

marbled finishes. By cutting to shape and by contrasting and blending colours, design possibilities are virtually unlimited.

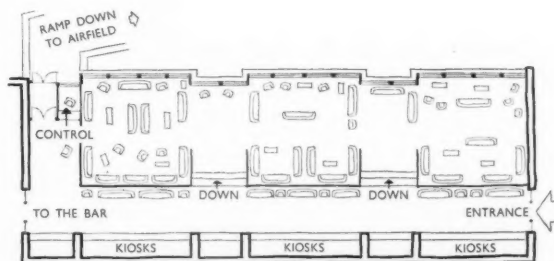
Vinyl Asbestos grade. One of the latest developments in floor surfacing, Vinyl Asbestos Tiles are designed to combine the greatest visual appeal with years of faultless service. In devising the balanced range of nineteen colours there has been close collaboration with the British Colour Council.

Since Semastic Tiles are resistant to the effects of insect attack and extremes of climate, the designs under discussion could equally well have tropical application.

## THE PROBLEM AS SET TO HUMPHREY SPENDER

The Airport Waiting Lounge for which the floor is to be designed is envisaged at first floor level above the Arrival and the Customs concourse. It is to measure approximately 100 feet x 30 feet (see plan at right), with one window wall overlooking the aerodrome. The room itself is planned on two levels:

- (a) a high-level gangway which passes the Bar, concession Kiosks, and enquiry desks on one side and balustrade and banquettes on the other to the main exit which leads down a ramp to the aircraft;
- (b) approximately 18" below the gangway is the waiting area. This is divided into three "bays" by access steps and by the modulation of the window line to aid grouping of passengers by destinations.



1

OF SERIES

# Humphrey Spender

## AIRPORT WAITING LOUNGE

This particular problem involves areas of floor with two distinct functions: areas for passenger circulation and areas for rest. Circulation areas, being constantly moved over and half-obscured, can carry a pattern of greater tonal contrast, more disturbing to the eye, than that carried by 'rest' areas, which must not distract by sharp contrasts or too disruptive a pattern. (Steps should

avoid 3 D 'trip-up' effect and are therefore treated in one colour). Thus the raised gangway which is a wide corridor entirely for movement and circulation, carries a strongly directional design ranging from darkest to lightest tones with sharp contrasts. The lights and signs and display in the kiosks which edge this corridor will take up the colour accents in the floor.

The bays for waiting, rest and reading carry a pattern restful in colour and contrast, undistracting to the reading or somnolent eye, soothing to the apprehensive nerve. Cool colours, gentle contrast.

The three bays are divided from each other by the approaches to the subsidiary balconies. By a slight intensification in tone these have been defined as areas of minor circulation, but the pattern of the three bays flows into and through them so as to link the three bays together. Such a large floor area as this, not visible from an upper gallery, could not be seen as a coherent whole except by one suspended from the ceiling, or by the artist on his paper. Thus the design cannot depict by representational motive — (where uninterrupted view is essential) — but should suggest by associative idea in an abstract and rather fragmentary way, still pleasant to the eye when only partially seen.

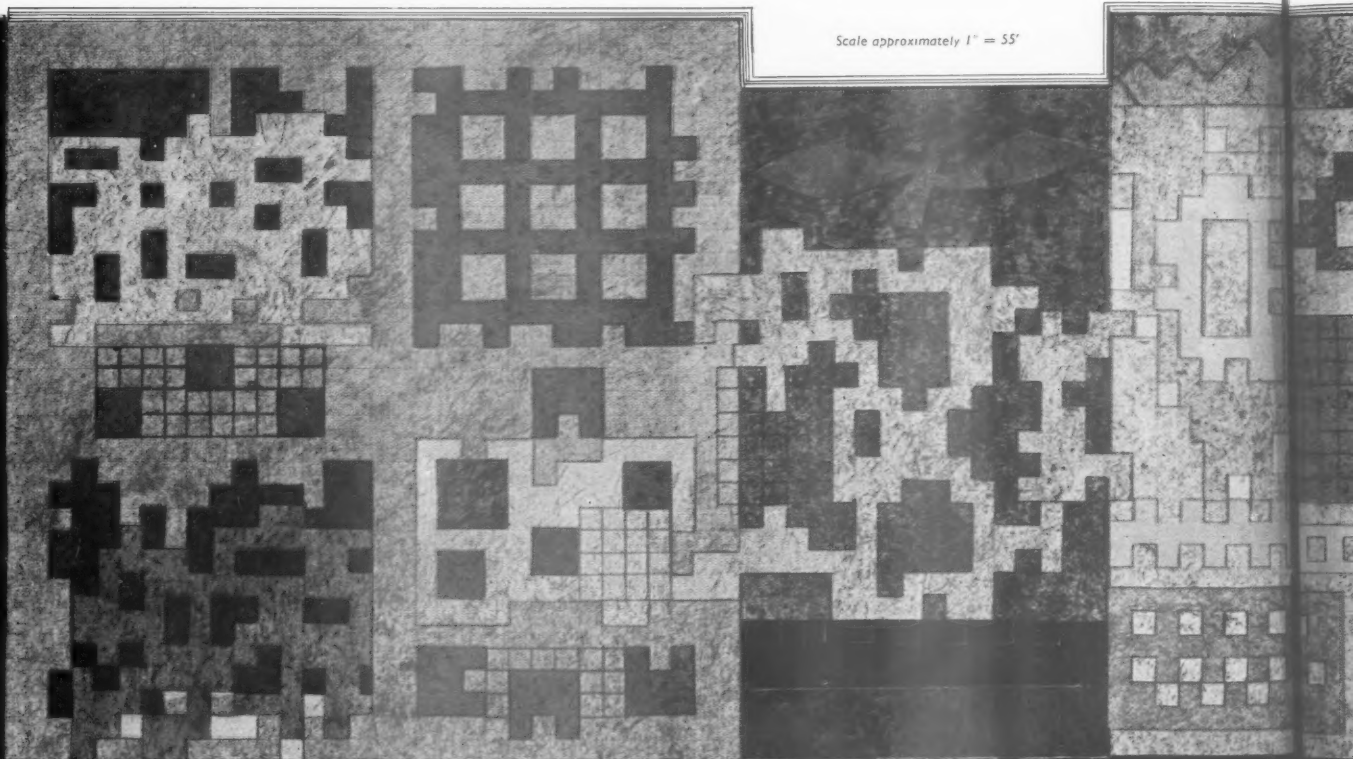
The associative suggestion intended here is of aerial view: field pattern, townscape, runway; from the far lounge to the exit a progression from runway to townscape: colour suggesting sky, cloud, space, distant mountain range. Areas of broken textured pattern contrasting with areas of unbroken colour. The design loosely subdivides each bay, into areas eventually to be more clearly defined by a rather

formal  
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Scale approximately 1" = 55'

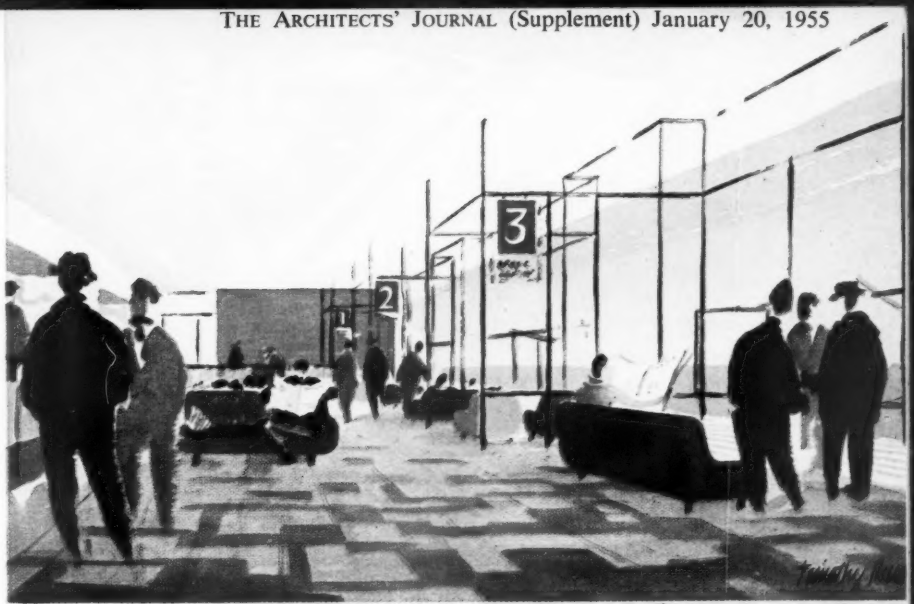




formal placing of furniture, long 3-4 seater  
settees, single seater chairs and smaller tables.  
Each bay contains three or four grouped  
units of furniture arranged in a way suggested  
by the planning of the design itself.  
The settees and chairs will not be 'skirted'  
thus the pattern can flow underneath and  
around them and allow occasional variation  
in their arrangement. On the clear and light  
broken tones of the floor the upholstery will  
be of rich textured materials, in dark clean  
colours set off by light wood framing to chairs  
and tables. Dark toned plastic table tops  
could pick up and intensify the lighter tones  
of the floor.

### Sir Hugh Casson sums up

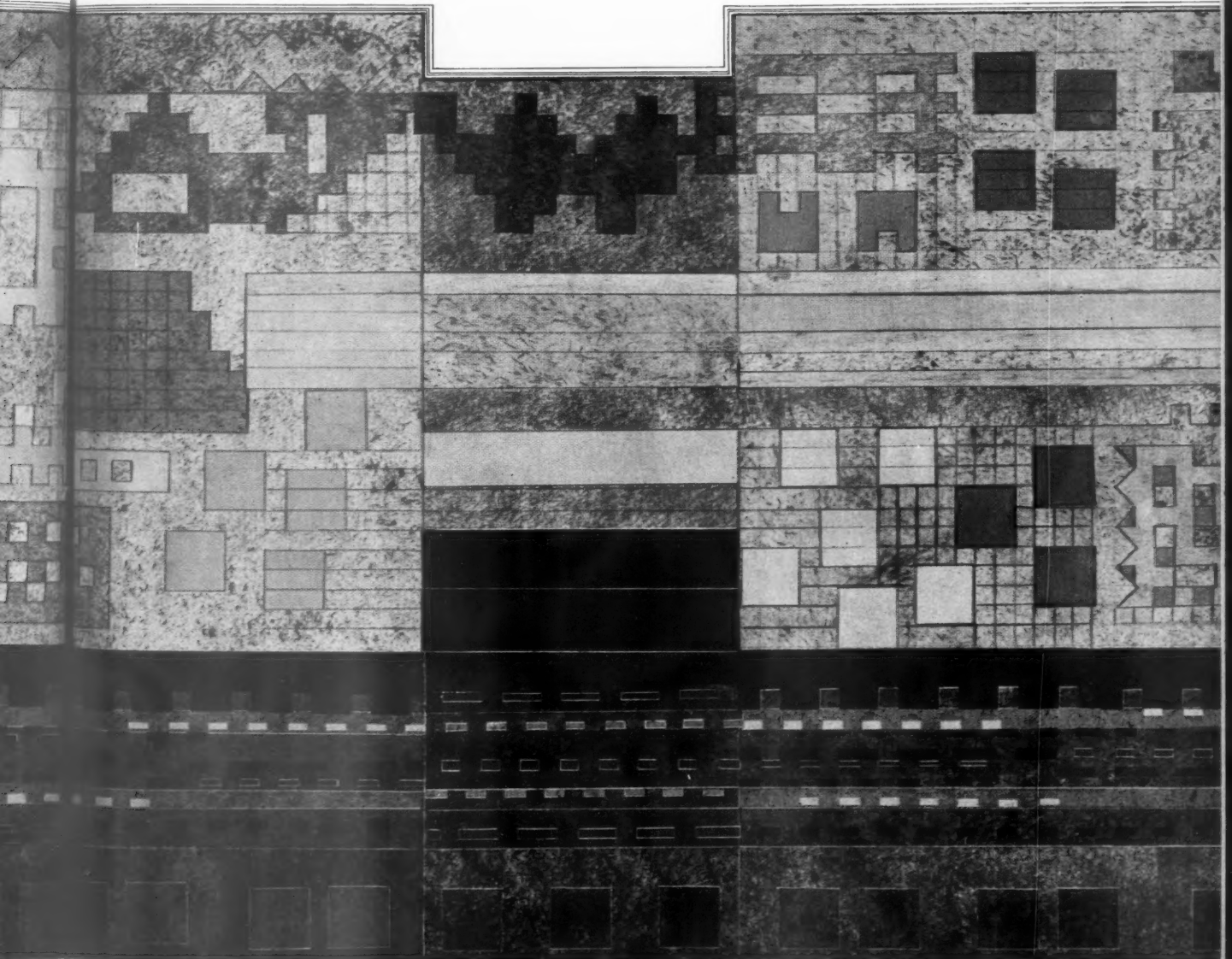
By his unemphatic delineation of the three 'rest'  
areas and the movement which flows through  
them, Humphrey Spender has done much to  
counter the captive feeling which waiting rooms  
so often inspire in even the most experienced  
travellers. In contrast, the purposeful direction-  
al pattern of the raised gangway provides a  
cheerful atmosphere of ordered haste.  
This will be most helpful in banishing the  
hesitancy of travellers who find themselves with  
much to do in a large and unfamiliar building.



An impression of the Airport Waiting Lounge, for which the floor is designed.

Reprints of this advertisement can be obtained from

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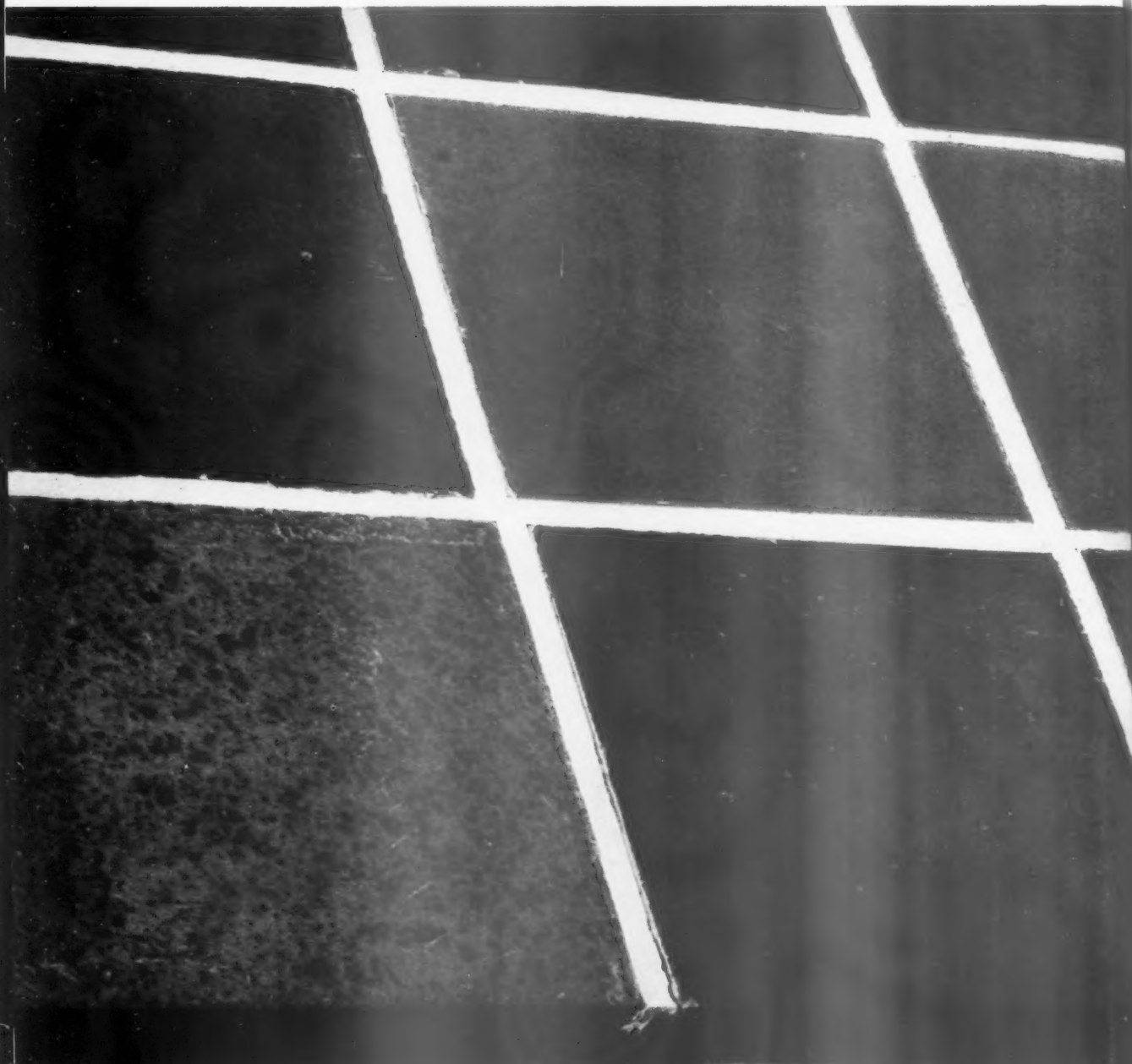
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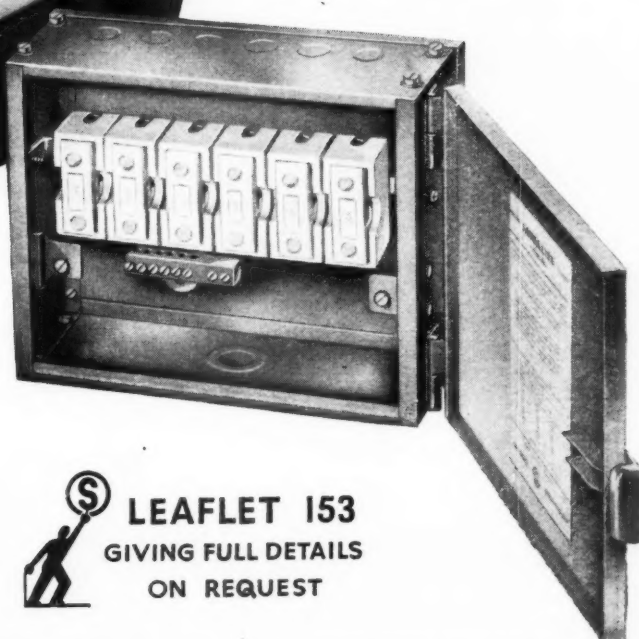
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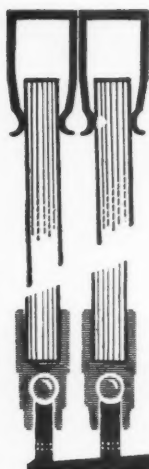
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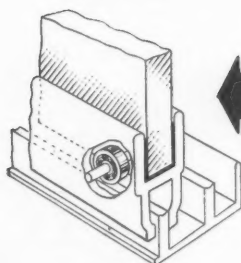
This effectively prevents all vibration and allows for easy installation of the panels without assistance of glazier.



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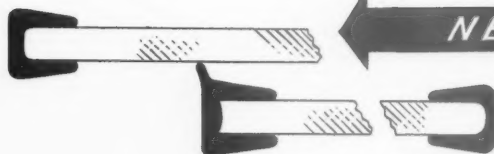
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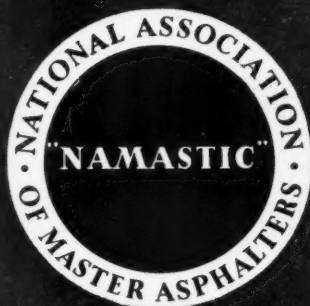


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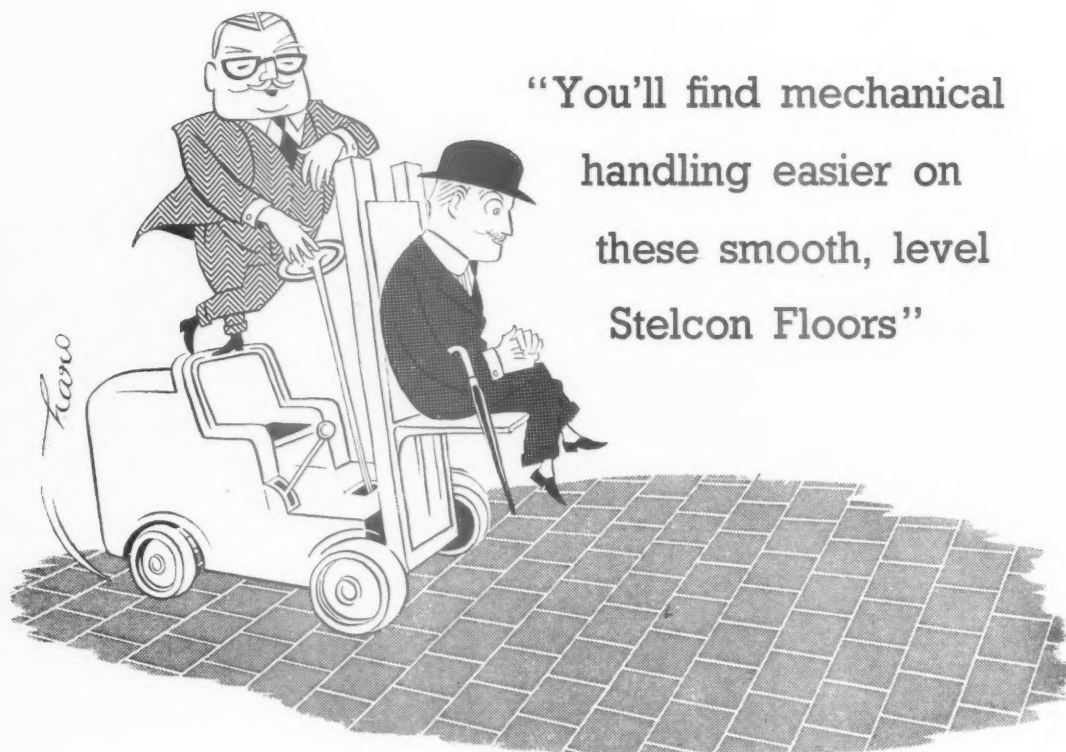
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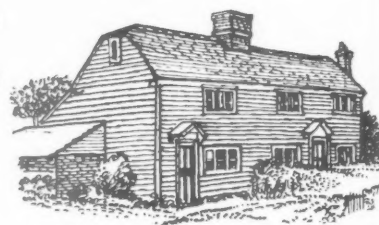
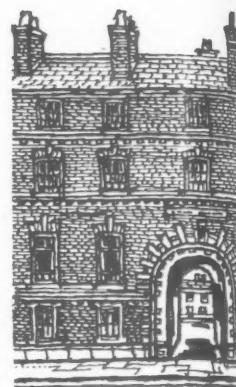
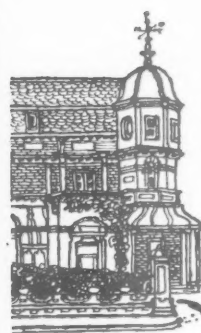
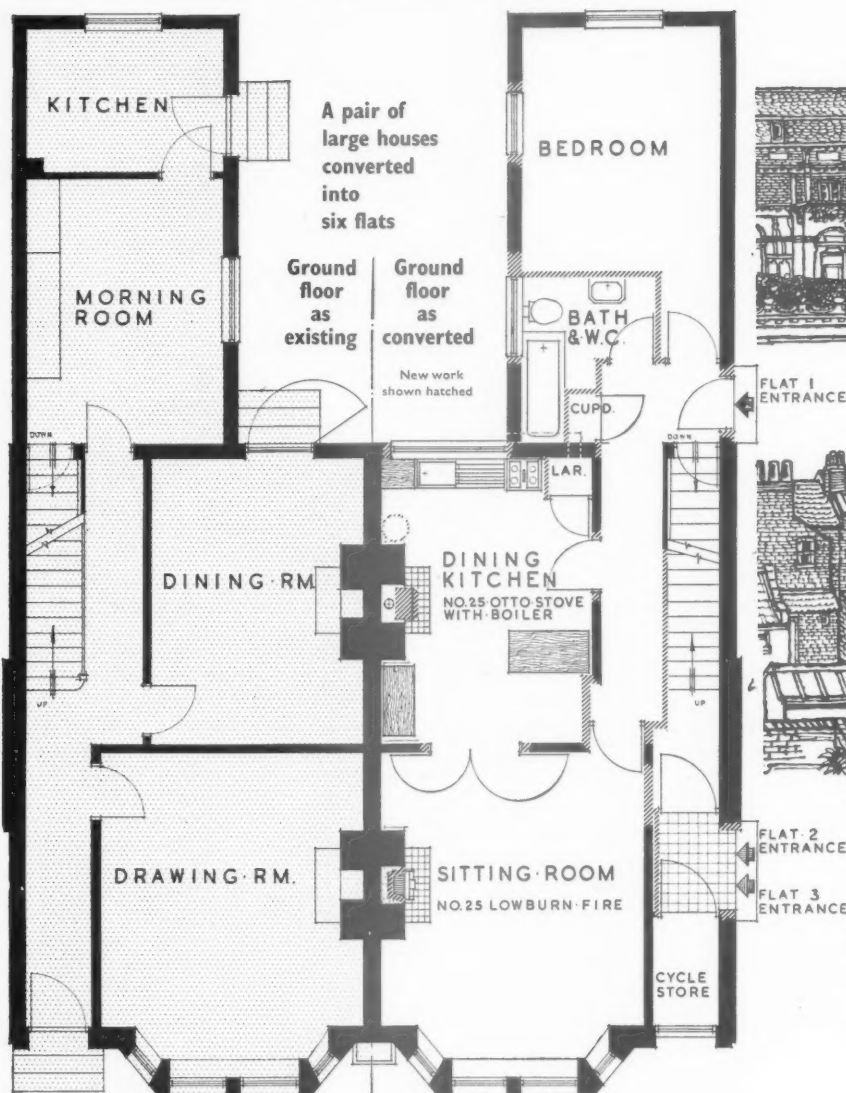
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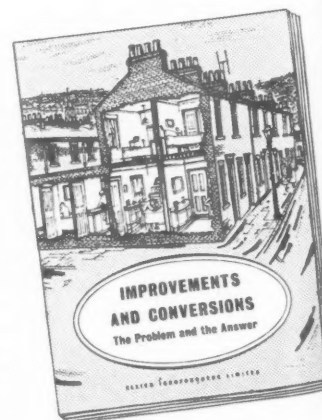
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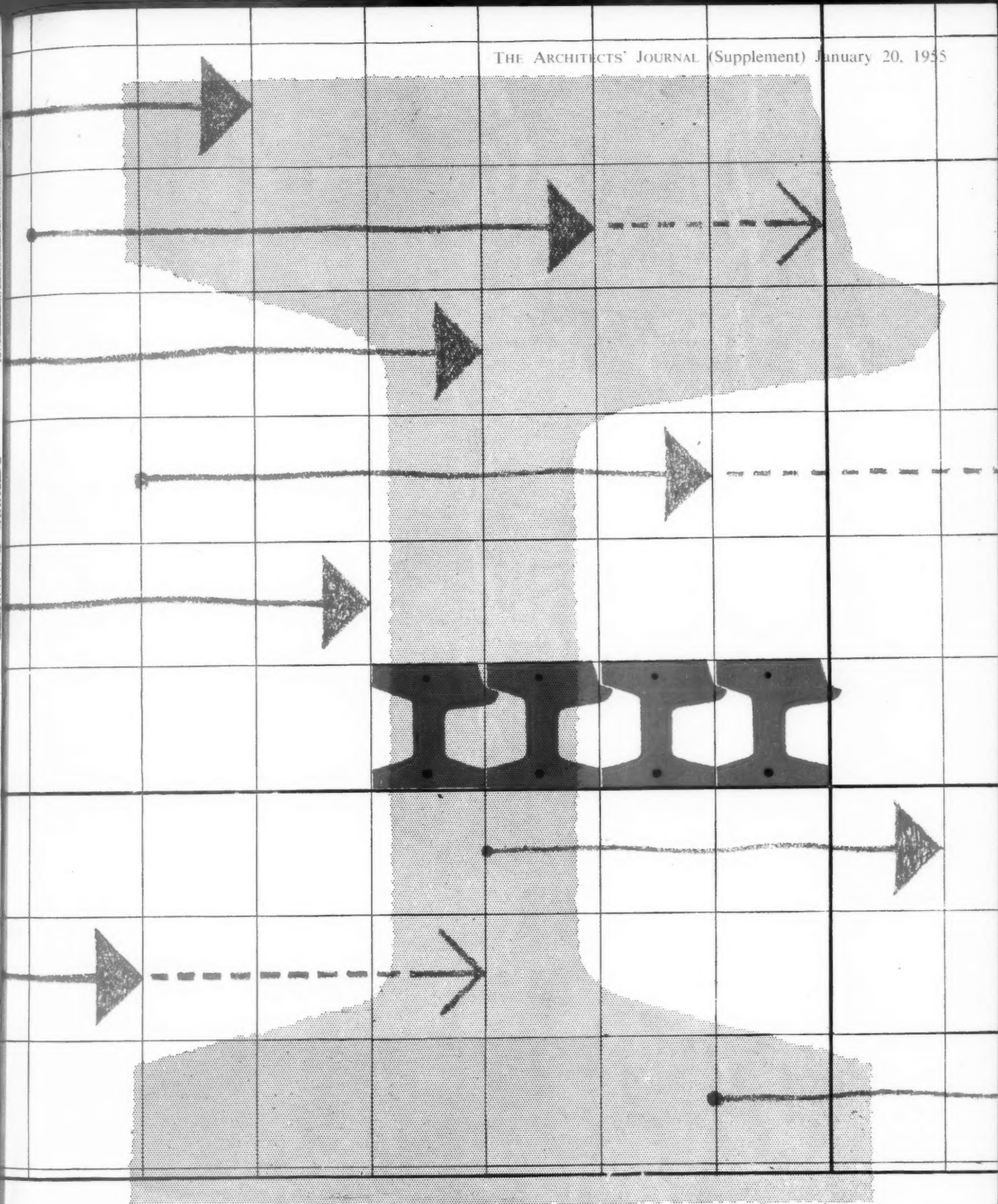
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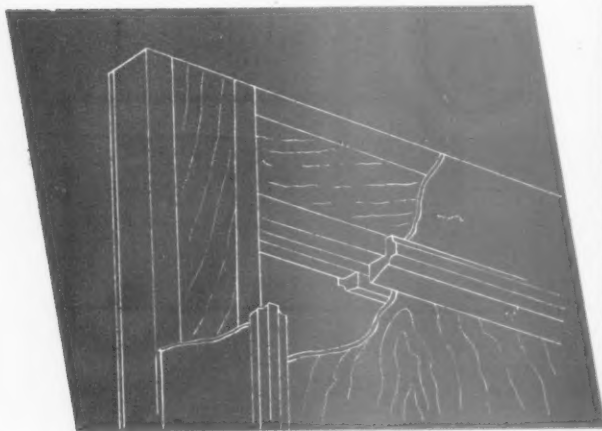
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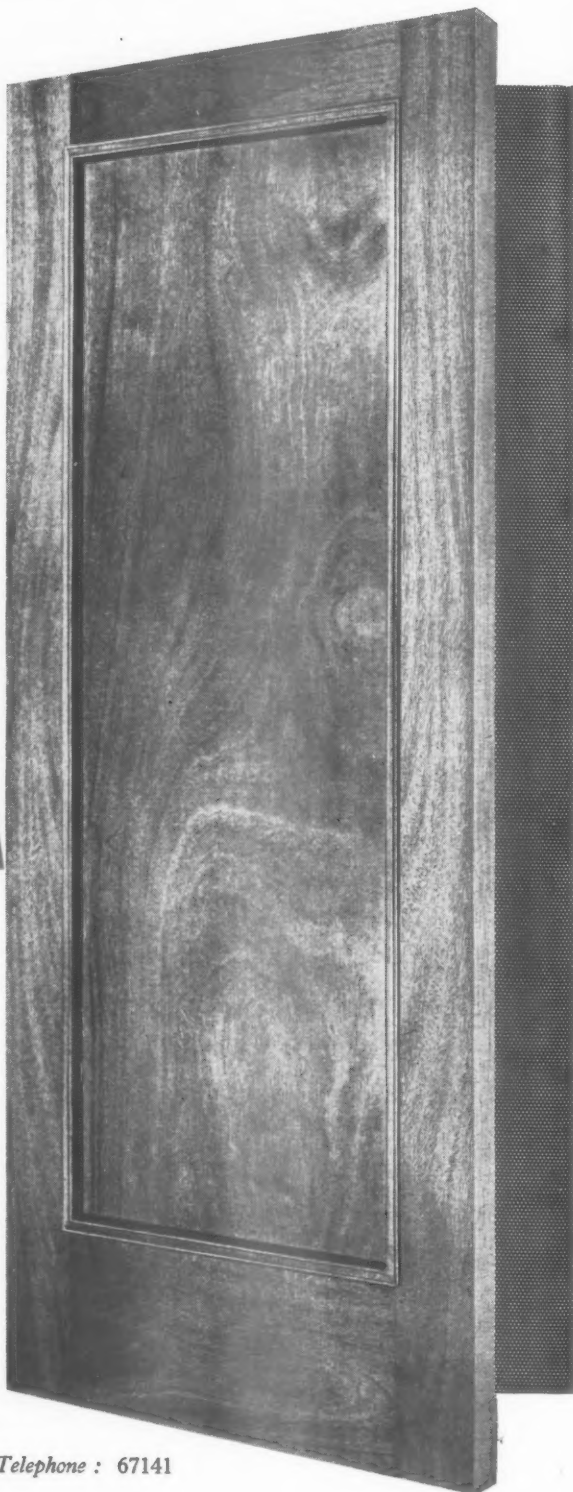
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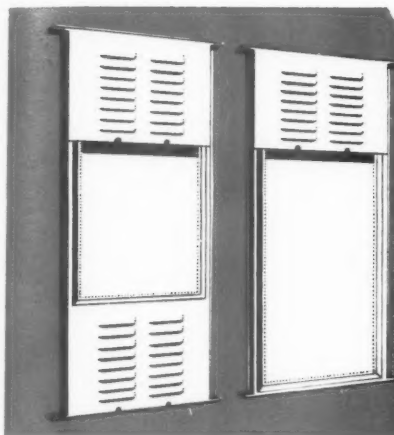
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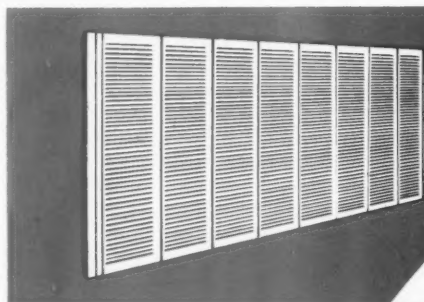
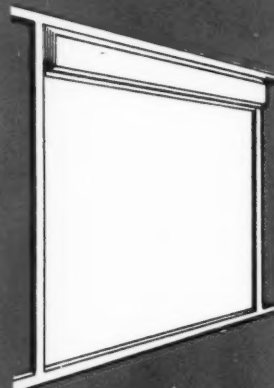
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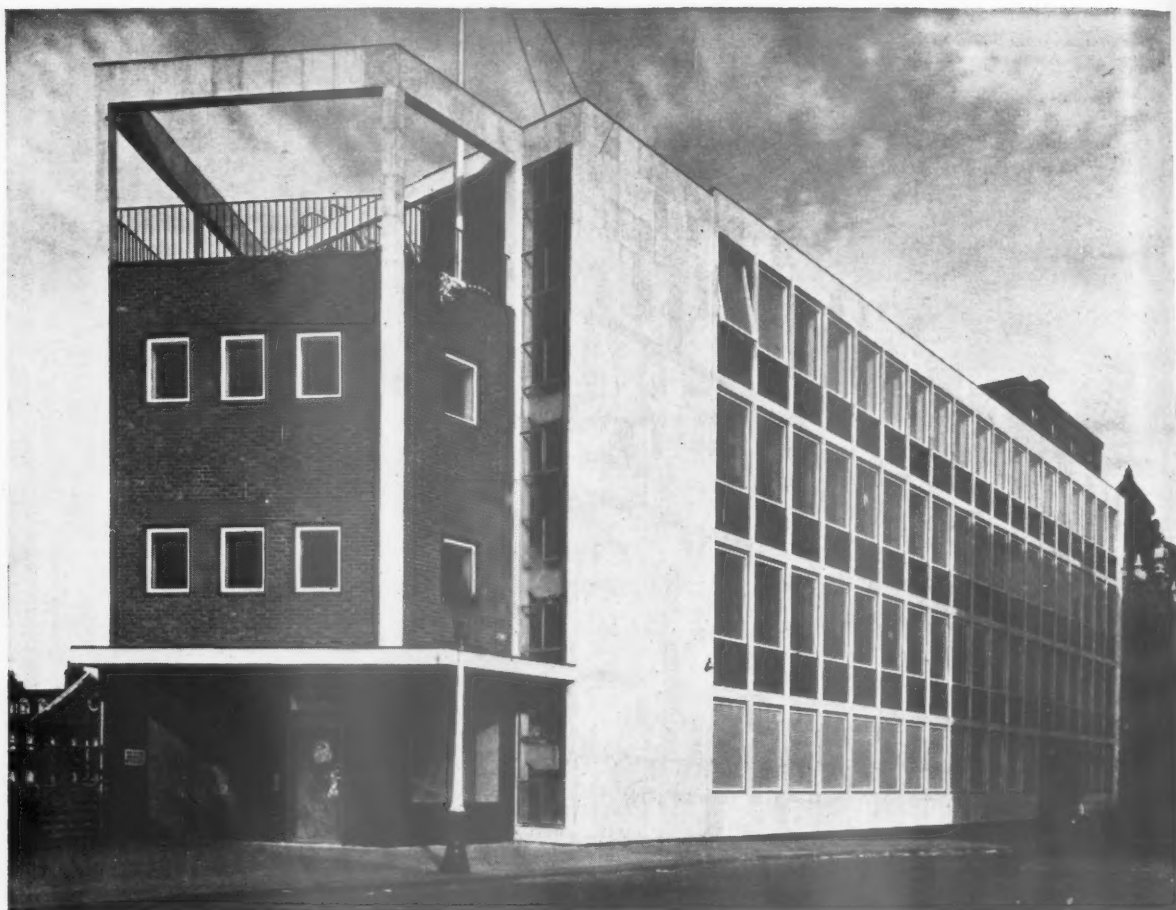
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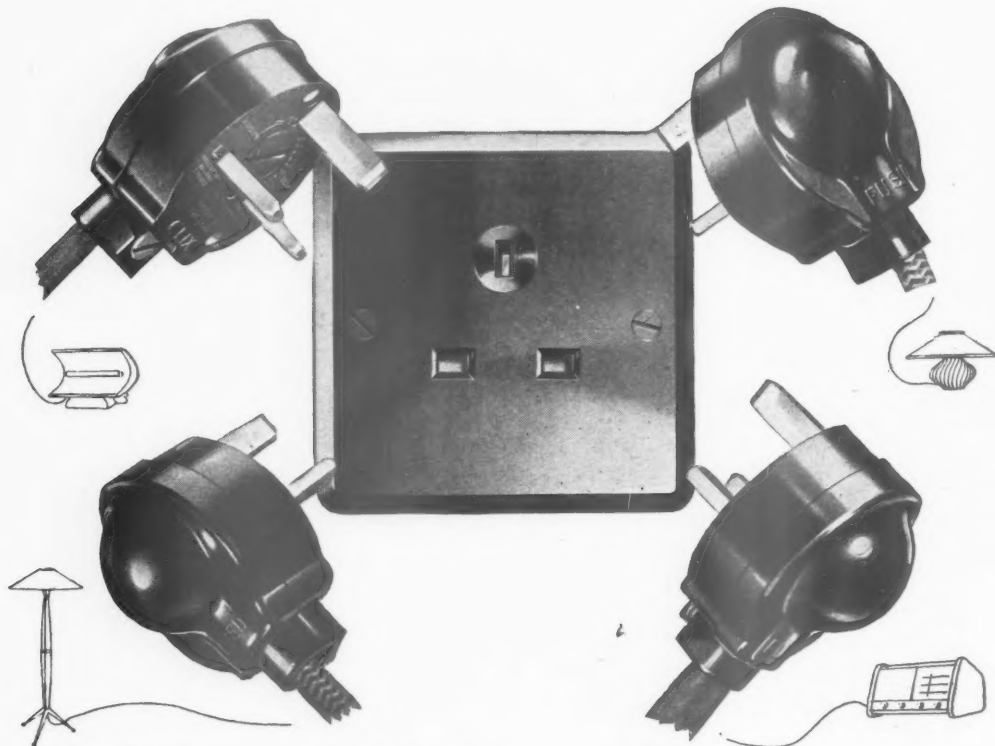


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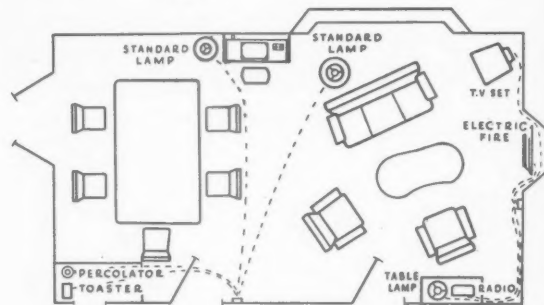
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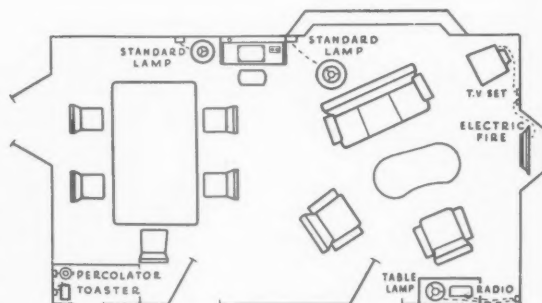
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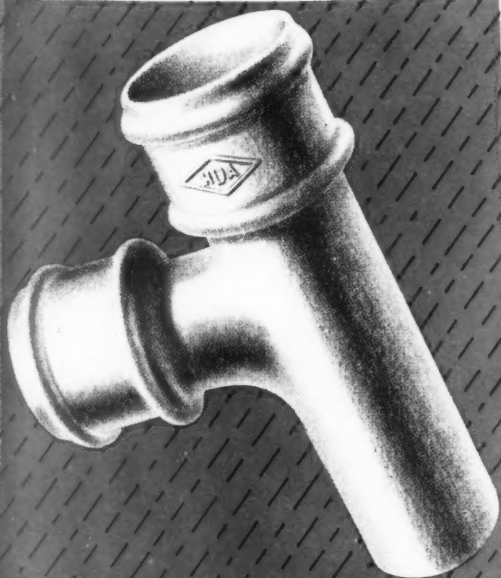


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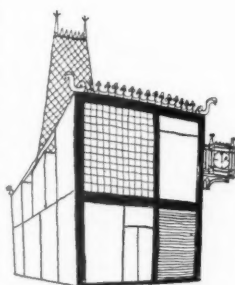


# ASTRAGAL'S REVIEW of

# 1954

## JANUARY

Those of us who wrenched open an eye or two on New Year's Day found this agonizing exercise quite rewarding. For once the newspapers said nothing of riots, clashes or even lulls. Was this, we asked ourselves—reaching painfully for a pick-me-up—a portent? It was not, of course, anything of the sort. Which of us can forget that a waitress bit a bus conductor in the fore part of the month? And who can forget that irresistible call to arms (above the elbow) from Mr. Hardy Amies? "The battle area this season," he said, "is the bust and above." "Fat," said Sir David Eccles, "and familiar," as he opened another battle—a verbal one against the neo-Georgian rebuilding of London. When he added "mediocre," and then threw in "characterless" for good measure, we almost forgave him for felling the elms in Kensington Gardens. But we were less tolerant of the decision by one of Sir David's colleagues to reduce the purchase tax on garden ornaments, a decision that would make the architect-client battle—I beg your pardon, relationship—even more difficult. Did any of you find sweet escape at this time by reading, in the *Sunday Times*, how architects in Rio drove to work in Cadillacs and



collected Renoirs for a hobby? Or were you too busy putting spikes on that public lavatory you had nearly completed, just to please Mr. John Betjeman, who was deploring their absence from today's architecture? Whatever you were doing you must certainly have noticed how building costs went so shamelessly up, and how Mr. Ernest Hemingway and the price of umbrella parts came so prettily down. And even the most hard-bitten of you must have noticed and been gladdened by the news that an expedition had set off in search of the Abominable Snowman, and that Miss Margaret Lockwood had asked for more love scenes.

## FEBRUARY

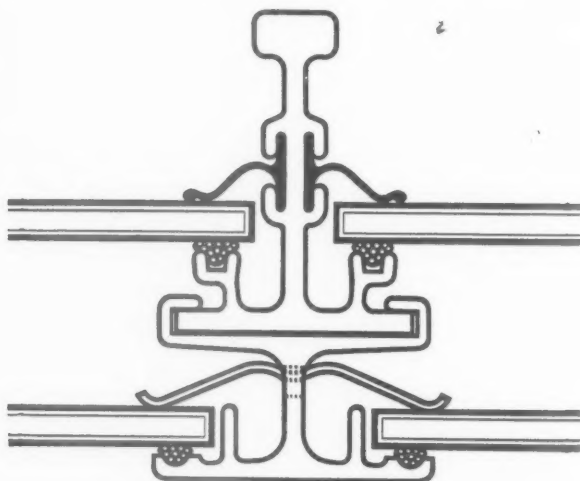
Animal lovers were still rejoicing at the news that Minnie, of the London Zoo, had produced two cubs, when they were disturbed by a proposal from Newcastle that controlled zebras should be pruned. Newcastle, which was in an experimental frame of mind, also tried to warm its streets with gas. Elsewhere people were piling up the now unlimited supplies of coke as a protection against the year's great freeze-up, which this time gave notoriety to architects. The profession, as you will remember, was accused by the popular Press of failing to lag—a pleasant change. As soon as the temperature rose, British Railways cashed in smartly on the sudden demand for cooling drinks by putting up the price of its coffee. No wonder the more arty-crafty among us started knitting (or was it welding?) "drip-catchers" to instructions printed in the *Star*, puffing as we did so at the now ill-advised cigarette. Who was it, by the way, who said that he was so tired of reading about smoking being harmful that he was giving up reading? This was, perhaps, the most sensible remark of the month. The most interesting remark made by Mr. Nigel Gosling. Architecture, he said, was too obscure, too large and too common to interest the public. But surely, one thought, a good art critic could get architecture down to the public level by studying the technique of *The Times'* soccer correspondent. "Absolute mastery of the ball," this expert had just written, "is the first principle of football."



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## MARCH

Like most months March brought its crop of reports of tension growing, hostilities continuing and fighting becoming bitter; but the most outstanding evidence for the topsy-turviness of our own country was given by two unrelated news items. Somewhere in Britain, which was now exporting electronic brains, some poor girl had been chosen—presumably by a non-electronic mind—as “Miss Grapefruit.” There were of course, other examples of March eccentricity. What could be more eccentric than Lord Chief Justice Goddard’s remark: “I cannot imagine a worse cure for psycho-neurosis than safe-blowing with gelignite”? Or the Ellerman Line’s decision to decorate twelve ocean liners in the Georgian period style? Nevertheless, there were signs of normalcy this month: an early election was predicted, increased bus fares were proposed, a Hydrogen bomb was exploded in America, and the Russians claimed that “the planetary system is waiting for the Soviet Columboes.” When *The Modulor* appeared in an English translation we were so flattered to find that Corbusier thought our policemen wonderful enough to act as models for the modular man that we almost forgot we had something new to grumble about—a doubling of telegram rates.



## APRIL

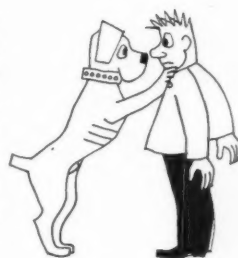
This month will be remembered all over the country for that sullen evening when hordes of grim-faced business men stopped on their way home from the station to have a little nip before facing their wives. “British women,” they had read in their newspapers, “are spending £80,000,000 on cosmetics.” It was tactless of the *Week-End Mail* to ask, at this time: “Do all Englishmen bend their heads to the right when kissing a girl?” In any case, there were other questions which most of us (apart from you youngsters) found much more important. Why had Russia joined Unesco? Why had three suburban ladies formed a society to save string? And why did no more than one or two big names in contemporary architecture have anything to do with the Royal Academy exhibition? We were shocked out of our reflections on these questions by the Royal Sanitary Institute, which advised the abolition of “this silly business of handshaking, which is known to spread disease.” Pushing this unfriendly thought aside, let us deliberately offer a hearty shake of the hand to some of the men of the month—to the anonymous architect who was consultant for a don’t-have-an-architect book of house plans (sorry, did it hurt?); to Sir David Eccles for taking away the yew hedges in St. James’s Park; and to *The Observer* for resuming the attack on New Town sprawl. Finally, I had hoped to work in something witty about the two Butlers, one of whom (Reg) produced a



fuller figure, while the second (R. A.) ignored it. But there is no more space, so let it pass.

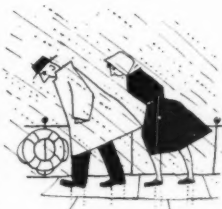
## MAY

I suppose we have always known it, deep down, but it took a bold body of men to bring it into the open. “Dogs,” said the Animal Welfare Conference, “are man’s chief defence against neurosis.” Just think what a lot of trouble might have been averted this month if only a moist, understanding muzzle had rested on a knee or two. With a little canine help that unfortunate man might not have stolen an omnibus in Nottingham, those TV directors might not have been so angry with the parlour game chairman who blew a kiss to the audience, those Yorkshire cricketers might have managed to get by without experiments in hypnotism and—who knows?—the Macmillan-assisted house-buyers might not have welcomed a return of the pre-war popular spec. home. The return of the spec. builder had been worrying architects for some time, but they now had other things to think about. Members of the RIBA who went to the Torquay conference found it the best ever; those who were in favour of an architectural trade union were glad to hear that they were in a majority, and those who read the *JOURNAL* were able to choose their new leaders (on the council) with greater care than usual, after reading its publication of the views of nominees. On the lighter side, you will all remember with pleasure, Roger Bannister’s mile, the Thames debut of the Britannia, the liberation of butter and the announcement that Bangor University had a new chair of applied electricity.



## JUNE

As we splashed through the rain and mud, emptying our turn-ups several times a day, our thoughts went out to Lord Harewood who had said: “I’d recommend dancing without trousers to anyone.” But convention being what it is, we puddled on, pausing perhaps to think of the valuable part convention played in our lives. Hadn’t an Edmonton Councillor recently said that no wife-beating went on in his district “without the wife objecting very strongly”? Good, solid, British-backbone stuff. It was the same British love of convention which had resulted in an excellent mural on a Corby bus shelter being boarded up by the Development Corporation. The government machine is so much our protector against originality and elegance that even those of us who knew the work of the LCC architect’s department were astounded at the quality of the now partly-completed High Wimbledon housing scheme. How, we wondered—as we winced at the newly-released plans for breaking up the Mall for the King George VI memorial—how did the LCC find a way of injecting new life into the British bulldog? And yet,



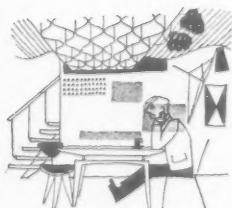
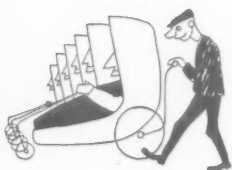
we reflected, the old dog could often be disarming with his stolid common sense. What could have been more charming than the comment which appeared in the *Scotsman*, on the building of the Heriot-Watt College extension. "As the building will be largely out of the public gaze," said the correspondent, "the architect, Mr. Esme Gordon, has been free to design in the contemporary manner." Such logic is only to be expected from a country whose leading newspaper, *The Times*, was capable of printing under "Today's Arrangements" for June 30: "Total Eclipse of the Sun."

## JULY

We squelched on into July feeling a less hungry and a more romantic nation, for food rationing had ended and an English professor of philosophy had invented a unit of beauty which he called, not a Rose, but a Helen. The notion that perhaps we were not such old fuddie-duddies after all was encouraged by the MOW, which removed the ban on pushing bath-chairs more than three abreast in the Royal parks. While the more frisky among you were taking advantage of this privilege, ASTRAGAL was sighing nostalgically over the latest Betjeman; gloating quietly over a chance copy of *Womans Own* which had made Prince Charles "the leader of the eleven best-dressed men in the world," or silently praising the *News of the World* (another chance copy) for advising readers to use architects. It was while he was engrossed in all this heavy reading that ASTRAGAL discovered that the Chinese population was now officially only 602 million; that Wandsworth was cutting down most of its large trees because they had "little or no aesthetic value," and that readers (chance or otherwise) of *Woman* could get a sketch plan of a "dream bungalow, complete with elevations and helpful technical advice," for 9d. post free. You would not, I am sure, like me to leave this month without a reference to our good friends, the coke-oven workers of Wales, who were striking; the largest-ever (for a week or so) mural by Ivon Hitchens and the Piltdown Fraud. And I must remind you that we had a sign this month that there *is* such a thing as social justice, when a miner was fined for speeding—in a Rolls Royce.

## AUGUST

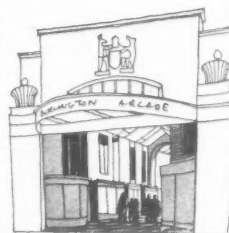
It seemed a good idea to note down the headline, "Snooker Balls in PC's Helmet," which appeared in *The Times* this month. Why I thought you would like to know about it I cannot now imagine. But there it is, for what it is worth. Don't let it worry you. Worry instead, if you like, on behalf of the TV artist whose life was threatened in August. Worry, too, about the way coffee-bar designs were beginning to catch up on you, so that there was hardly



a cliché you could call your own. And while you are about it, why not have a quiet little worry about the 68 hour pre-planned re-design assault on a shop in Oxford Street; just wait until your client wants the job done that way. Before you make yourself ill with all this worry, let me remind you of the brighter events of August. Cecil B. de Mille said he was "hunting for a girl both intelligent and beautiful," Princess Margaret's finger prints, which were left on a coffee cup at a Leeds lunch, were later preserved, and the MOW continued to undo its bad old reputation by producing a nicely-designed High Commissioner's residence in Colombo. The suggestion of the month was that the word "contemporary" should give way to "mid-century." The real advantage of this—as far as I can see—is that we should have to drop the word before we were tired of it. The most ingenious discovery of the month was published in the *Municipal Journal*. "Pressure in the water mains at any time," it said, "indicates the popularity of the television programme being shown at that time." And the most reassuring news of the month came from the Metropolitan Police. "The major cause of accidents," said this body, which had obviously given considerable thought to the matter, "is some error or misjudgment by one or more of those involved."

## SEPTEMBER

Three junior newspapers were started this month, but youngsters still got their biggest laughs from daddy's paper, which told them that miners did not like working with coloured men; that a medieval reconstructed church in Colchester had been sold on condition that no fish would be sold on the site, and that "lack of sunshine," according to the *Daily Telegraph*, "was mainly responsible for temperatures staying below average." This was an exciting month for grown-ups: the Temple of Mithras was discovered, Burlington Arcade was re-opened, Halifax dropped  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. and Joe Lyons celebrated his diamond jubilee. And then came the news that was to leave its mark on the nation. "Frogs," said the American Institute of Biological Scientists, "develop regional accents, so that they won't mate with strangers." Most of us tried to carry on, after this, as though nothing had happened, throwing ourselves with greater zest into pyramid parties, making noisy and obvious jokes about the Flying Bedstead and nervously adjusting and demounting that piece of adjustable, demountable art at Whitechapel Art Gallery. But we must have known, as we queued to look at Sunday paintings at the ICA, or jostled Saturday crowds at a store in Kingston, where Stefan Knapp had completed the largest-ever mural of the month, that life could never be quite the same again. Fortunately, two things happened to bring wan smiles to our sober faces: the RIBA talked of starting a scheme which would enable clients to buy designs for small houses at reduced fees, and Mr. Attlee, stepping confidently from an aeroplane in Wellington, New Zealand, said, "I am very happy to be here in Auckland."



## O C T O B E R

Just as the Cambridge University's Third Foundation for Women had announced—amid much good-humoured laughter—that candidates would have to pass “a test for logical thought,” Mrs. Roosevelt spoke up so well on behalf of her sex that she reached the newspapers in this country. “I would like,” she said, “to see us take hold of ourselves, look at ourselves and cease being afraid.” Before this remark had twisted its way into the social conscience, America spoke again. “A guy that's great is great,” said Mr. Frankie Laine, and then—with the air that has made him what he is (whatever he is)—he added, “if the percentage proves it.” And before we leave the voice of America, here is the bitterest pill a doctor (American or otherwise) ever handed out: “The baffling smile of the Mona Lisa was probably due to a lump in the sitter's throat.” But back to dear old Britain, where land was sliding, seas were flooding, cigarette machines were returning and people were working hard to get things done. In the City of London Messrs. Kadleigh, Whitfield and Horsbrugh were trying to put up the New Barbican scheme, while the city corporation were trying hard to put a spanner in its works. Equally handy with the spanner were busmen, dockers and a branch of the printing trade, all of whom saved us from a strike-free October.



## N O V E M B E R

You don't really know a chap, said Sophocles, “till by high office put to frequent proof.” Those words came back to us this month, after the Archbishop of Canterbury had been frequently put to proof by an extremely high office for the City of London. “Utterly out of place,” he said, and he kept on saying it whenever he thought about it, so that we all nodded our heads wisely and realized that this fellow Sophocles had got something. As November slipped by, we found that the Archbishop was not the only man of the month to dabble with something outside his province. A writer in a national daily went more than one better by deciding that the Royal Family should have full employment; an American laundry had the impertinence to return shirts with the pinned-on question, “Have you kissed your wife this morning,” and the *Housewife* told each eager reader that she *really* loved her husband if she could pass one test: “Could you use *his* toothbrush?” Those of you who got home one evening to find a strange paste on your brush and a tousled head on your fireside knee, did well not to mention that 26 per cent. of the women in Britain had crooked seams in their stockings. You probably touched, instead, on the more romantic news of the day: the abolition of building licensing or the discovery that white bread was not harmful after all. You may even have spoken



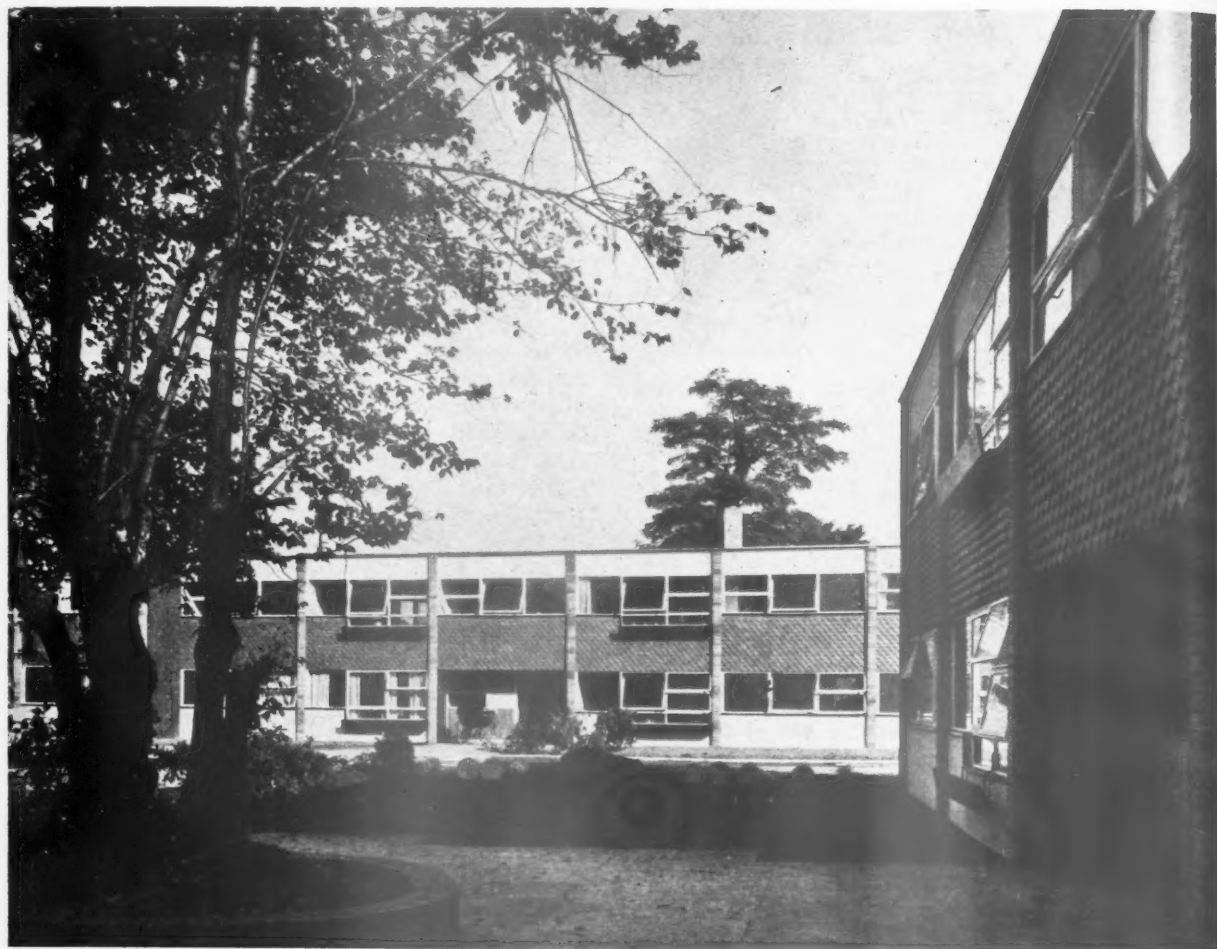
quietly together of the LCC scheme for the Crystal Palace site; of the Brixton School's golden jubilee celebrations, or of Sir John Elliott's prophecy that cars would soon have to be banned from Central London. And you must certainly have spent many happy minutes chuckling over the suggestion, made by Miss Rose Heilbron, Q.C., that a law should be passed entitling a wife to a fair share of her husband's income.

## D E C E M B E R

As the poet has long led us to expect, in cold December fragrant chaplets were blown. And I need hardly remind you that heavy harvests nodded beneath the snow. Indeed, this month was with us so recently that there can be very little about it you have forgotten. Do you recall, for instance, how Professor Richardson became president of the Royal Academy, and how you felt that the sun at noon gave a sadder light than the waning moon? But you felt much more cheerful—do you remember?—when Russia condemned her current architecture as “monumental, derivative and burdened with pointless ornament,” and a French fashion house produced a shoe which squealed when trodden on. And then Plymouth's city architect, H. J. W. Stirling, produced a good contemporary design for his city's new centre, which had seemed to be doomed to a Portland stone straitjacket of insipid detailing; and the *JOURNAL* promised to investigate costs in 1955, and a lot of people wrote to *The Times* about inadequate professional salaries. In fact, it really looked as though the architect had stumbled upon those roses in December, of which the poet had been so scornful. A quick re-cap of the year's doings reminded us that we had learned something about conversions from Felix Walter (in the *JOURNAL*), and nothing at all about them from Roberta Cowell (in *Picture Post*); that although we had decided, by a majority vote, that we wanted a trade union, the RIBA had not made up its mind if it was going to give us one; that the RIBA's MacMorran Committee on education, which had been formed early in 1952, had let another year slip by without making a report; and that the record-breaking housing figure for the year had been reached with the help of the spec. builder who, with the permission of the Housing Minister, had put up countless homes without consulting an architect. We had a lot of problems to carry over into the New Year, but we looked forward, with confidence, to the entertainment that was being devised to take our minds off these problems from time to time. In 1954 we had progressed from 3-D and Gilbert Harding, through Cinemascope and Cinerama, to VistaVision and Gilbert Harding; and now a cinema in the Midlands was advertising a programme that was “sensationally stethoscopic.” Was this, we wondered (in our clever way), nothing more than Cronin on a rubber, tubular screen? As we mused thus, the New Year thrust the Old Year aside, and we were greeted with the preposterous but gratifying news that—but I must wait another year before telling you. May it be happy and prosperous.







## *A Message to the Minister*

Two years ago we suggested, on this page, that the Minister of Housing should guard against a return to the pre-war dangers of speculative building by insisting that builders should make use of architects. But after two years of freedom for the builder the countryside is littered with undistinguished housing of the type shown above right—housing which was not planned on an architect's drawing-board. We repeat our suggestion, this time to Duncan Sandys (above left), who has succeeded Harold Macmillan as Housing Minister. And we take the opportunity of showing him evidence that the average builder's excuse for not using an architect is nonsense. Very often the builder, and even the building society, defend the pseudo-Tudor spec. house on the grounds that it is demanded by the man-in-the-street, who would have nothing to do with contemporary design.

But the flats shown in the top picture are part of a large housing scheme on Ham Common, Surrey, which the contractor (ex-architect G. P. Townsend) has put up—to the designs of Eric Lyons—with the knowledge that it would be sold out long before the completion date. The story which the contractor and his architect have to tell on page 73 of this issue should convince any doubters that the employment of an architect is not a drawback to the spec. builder. We remind Mr. Sandys that for every architect to whom he makes an award later this year, for the design of a house or of a housing scheme, there will be thousands of new botched-up homes for which he will be indirectly responsible. It is not too late for him to show that he is as interested in quality in house-building as he is in vote-catching qualities.





*A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER*

One of the most gratifying features of post-war housing has been the great advance in both external and internal planning of local authority houses. This owes much to the growing use of architectural advice.

Now that private enterprise is making an increased contribution to the housing programme, architects have a wider and more varied task in seeing that privately built houses of all kinds are efficient and convenient as well as aesthetically pleasing.

I am glad of this opportunity, through your JOURNAL, to send to all architects my best wishes for the New Year.

*Duncan Sandys*

For the fourth year running we are giving readers a close-up of the men (and one girl) whom ASTRAGAL has nominated as "Men of the Year." These people, who have been in the limelight in the past twelve months, were photographed and interviewed by Sam Lambert. Other people to whom ASTRAGAL doffs his hat with respect are: Sir David Eccles, the ex-Minister of Works, for his frequent comments on the mistakes made in city rebuilding; Messrs. Kadleigh, Whitfield and Horsbrugh, for their attempts to get a comprehensive rebuilding scheme, "New Barbican," accepted by the city corporation; Bruce Martin, for his work as head of Modular Co-ordination studies at BSI; the architectural knights of the year, Sir Howard Robertson and Sir Edward Maufe; S. A. W. Johnson-Marshall, and John Newsom, each of whom was awarded the CBE; C. H. Aslin, who became president of the RIBA; the interior designers of H.M.Y. Britannia, and Mr. Punch, who began to take a new interest in architecture.

# MEN OF THE YEAR

**RICHARDSON, Albert Edward** (Professor of Architecture). For being the fourth architect to achieve the most honoured artistic post in the eyes of the general public—the Presidency of the Royal Academy.

**SCOTT, Michael** (architect in Dublin). For completing Dublin's first contemporary office block before London had even started to build one.

**LYONS, Eric** (architect in private practice). For proving, in collaboration with builder

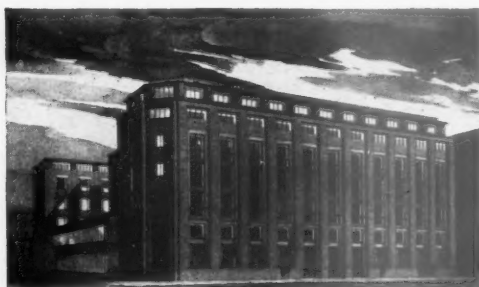
**TOWNSEND, Geoffrey Paulson** (architect turned contractor) that spec. housing of contemporary design sells like hot cakes.

**MILLS, Edward** (architect in private practice) and **ALLEN, William Alexander** (Superintending Architect at BRS). For proving that architects like to confer (given the chance) at a conference, as well as eat, drink and dance.

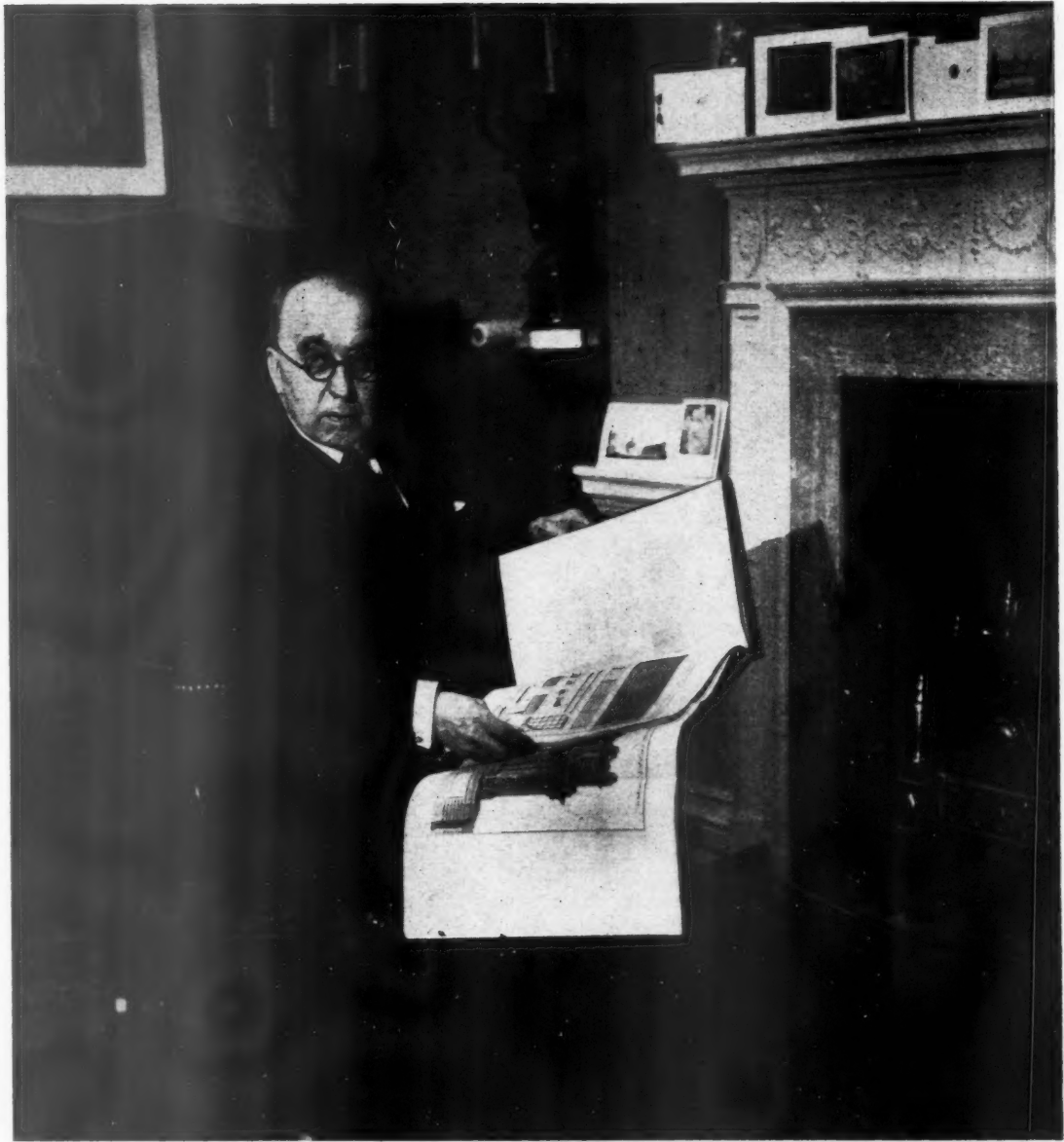
**REID, John and Sylvia** (architects in private practice). For understanding the true nature of the pub spirit—as expressed by the *Architectural Review*—and for putting it into practice.

**GIBSON, Donald Evelyn Edward** (City Architect and Planner, Coventry). For forsaking his great job in Coventry in defence of a greater principle.

... AND SOME OF THEIR WORK Below: left to right, Professor A. E. Richardson's design for the Financial Times in the city of London; Michael Scott's bus station at Dublin; houses at Twickenham, designed by Eric Lyons and built by G. P. Townsend. Bottom: left to right; Edward Mills and William Allen giving their talk "Materials and Techniques," at the 1954 RIBA Conference; "The Champion" pub, designed by John and Sylvia Reid; the city centre for Coventry, where Donald Gibson has been city architect.



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### PROFESSOR A. E. RICHARDSON

Prof. Albert Edward Richardson, fourth architect to become president to the Royal Academy, is otherwise busily engaged in private practice with E. A. S. Houfe and son-in-law ("a very able architect") with 25 assistants. The office is run on the lines of a Florentine Bottega. He lectures at the Academy and sits on various committees. He was born in 1880, and articled at the age of 15. Early on he came under the spell of Wren but considers Cockerel his hero. He attended lectures at Birkbeck College, and at 17 was lecturing there himself. By 1908 he was in partnership with Charles Lovett Gill with an office in Red Lion Street ("did very little"). In 1919 he was editor of the AJ at its old office in Tothill Street. His present practice was established at Russell Square until the outbreak of war in 1939, when it terminated. For the duration of the war he became a fellow at St. Catherines, Cambridge. His present office, a stone's throw from Harley Street, is a fine 1750 town house, described by Lutyens as the best building in the district. The front door is attended by a man

servant, and his office is on the first floor. His most interesting current job is the Financial Times building to go up in the vicinity of St. Pauls. Lives with his wife in a house built by Holland, for brewer Morris, at Ampthill, Bedfordshire. The house (an eclectic's delight) is filled with a representative collection of furniture and paintings, including works by Constable, Wilson, Reynolds, Rowlandson. There is a stage coach in the courtyard and Baroque statues in the miniature park. His interests include everything—for which time is found by never relaxing or losing a minute, going to bed and getting up early, having excellent collaborators and a good organization. Short-term projects include "leading a revival of a more human approach to architecture" ("Throw off the shackles of war"); long term project: the formation of many cities within the city of London in order to stop urban spread—but in a hundred years or so.

#### Service to the State

I have been invited to contribute a short message on some topic of my own. This is indeed a compliment but it is

also a slight embarrassment. The truth is I am fearful of adding to my shortcomings which have been described so often in this journal during the past half century.

There are few recent careers that are entirely harmonious; very few indeed that correspond to prevalent theories. The topic I have chosen, therefore, concerns a principle rather than the foibles of individuals; though, no doubt, some may read between the lines. Put briefly, what is the value of the architectural profession to the State? This is a subject that accredited authorities seem to avoid.

In certain professional circles, however, the view is held that the time has arrived when the public should be informed of the vast debt owed to those who follow the most laborious of the fine arts. Let us examine what this means in plain terms. First we have social conditions which have arisen from those which have been in operation for the past century. In due course, these conditions will influence those which are to follow in the next decade. This interconnection of causations combines the talent of the races which, in its process, leaves its influence on all the arts and crafts. This is in the natural order of things and we must make the best of it.

We cannot, however, ignore the extraneous circumstances of war and political economy which have distorted the even tenor of existence for fifty years. What is the position of the architect as an artist, scholar, engineer and trade specialist? In his youth he stands in fear. As a matured citizen he ranks with the poet; his imaginings fortified by experience, transcend the routine knowledge imposed by bureaucratic regulations.

Architecture continues to flourish as an art because there are fearless individuals. There are, indeed, many leaders willing and able to cultivate essential illusions. Here then is the true incentive to contribute something magnificent. No hopes of marvellous notoriety; on the contrary it should be tireless devotion to the immediate task.

We are told that all the arts are one, and that the office of the arts is to encourage a love of the beautiful. When we consider how blind we all are to the beauty which surrounds us, it is clear that disinterested action is needed. *Certes*, architects, painters and sculptors, are the real leaders of society. Of recent years it has been customary to denounce tradition and to extol current effort. This has been the basis of criticism for so long that the public have become tired. Besides, it is futile to regard tradition and new fashions as indicative of spontaneous preference. Curiously enough, the works of art everybody admires are those generally ignored by the critics.

From the above arises the faculty of imitations which leads to so many recent buildings looking remarkably alike. Versatility of talent is the prerogative of architects and this should awaken the liveliest interest in the minds of those who contemplate building, or rather, obtaining plans.

Today the practising architect, rooted in practical skill, which schools cannot teach at present, stands apart from his fellow citizens as a man of culture. It is obvious that the work of all such is vital to the State and to the community at large. It is indeed strange that a different estimate of the architect's profession should prevail in the public mind. Just think of the complex responsibilities. The architect is held in legal thrall to answer for materials, workmanship and costs. He is expected to act as contractor, engineer,

surveyor, trade specialist and lawyer. He is expected to produce designs like a magician and to conform to by-laws which demand years of forensic study. Michaelangelo's stipulation to Pope Paul III, when he was commanded to rebuild St. Peter's, was very wise—"No fees and no interference." It would be impossible to coin a more logical phrase.

In the vast realm of architecture extremes meet and various qualities are displayed. As a nation, we English are slow and plodding, that is why we incline to be conservative. The French, on the other hand, are more spontaneous but they too are even more plodding, but in a more logical way. Hence the brilliance of French conceptions. It has been suggested that the Franco-British Union might be widened.

And now the topic is exhausted, I will deliver the homily; it is as follows. Let the spirit of 1955 be animated by the fact that the architects of Great Britain and the British Commonwealth of Nations form part of a great and glorious heritage. Let it be our duty to influence the sister arts and crafts. The light of the beacon, which it is necessary to kindle, should shine over the oceans, reflecting the genius which has inspired the work of centuries. The patriotism of the English-speaking peoples should be the main ennobling motive, urging all on the paths of duty, sustaining us when things are uncertain.

## MICHAEL SCOTT

*Michael Scott runs a private practice from his office in Merrion Square in Dublin with eleven assistants. He was born in 1905 at Drogheda, 30 miles to the north. His father was an inspector in the Department of Education and was responsible for the founding of many technical schools. Scott spent his early summers at a school of art, but his father, thinking, after due inquiries, that architecture would be more practical, decided to article him to Jones and Kelly, where he stayed for the next four years. Almost simultaneously he joined the Abbey School of Acting and ran the two activities side by side for some years. Apart from frequent appearances at the Abbey, he played three months on Broadway and was also seen in London, in the part of the Gossoon in "The New Gossoon" at the Apollo—under an assumed name, and with a drawing board in his dressing room. Began private practice in 1929, which at first was "pretty awful." First job was to design a children's holiday home in Dublin. Is currently engaged on a new design for the Abbey Theatre, with which he hopes to integrate the smaller Peacock Theatre, and also on an Irish tourist centre in New York. Has built himself a house at Fortyfoot, overlooking a fine natural swimming place "for men only." Married, has four sons and one daughter: The eldest, Anthony, 21, is studying law and economics, and Michael, 19, is studying history. Brian is 17, Niall is 14, and the daughter, Ciarin is 8. Owns a Jaguar.*

## The Misunderstood Architect

*Michael Scott at one time promised to be Dublin's most frustrated architect. He is now the recognized author of Dublin's—indeed Ireland's—finest modern building, and he has this to say about those who misunderstand or wilfully ignore the architect's advice.*

There is one theme which I have found more depressing





It requires the greatest call on Christian charity to have to fight for a building with those officials of departments of State who are merely administrators of a branch of a fluctuating government power, and who yet impose their personal whims on permanent buildings. What method can be devised to inform them—and the public for whom they act—of essential architectural values? How can bishops and clergymen and parish councils be made to understand architecture and to insist that their new churches and halls are not travesties of former styles? It is incredible to see the way in which the City of London is to be rebuilt after the enterprising and imaginative Festival, after the excellent work by certain county architects in England, the schools, the work of the Nuffield Foundation for hospitals, and certain housing and flat schemes. Some method must be found to prevent schemes such as this rebuilding of the City. London in its vast, sprawling, incoherent entity is such a tiresome city that one hoped to see a brilliant phoenix-like rebuilding on the flower-speckled ashes of the ruins of war.

Public taste depends to a considerable degree on the architect's sincerity and taste and on how he stands or falls. One might say there are three categories of architects: those who care and understand and fight for true architectural principles; those who did care and do understand but have lost enthusiasm and have become cynical or disheartened; and those who care but don't really understand, and who fight as firmly for their own pompous architecture. These last are mainly found among the elder members of the profession, but there are a number of younger adherents who may find that it pays.

Would that there could be an architecture created by a man of enthusiasm and skill surrounded by specialist consultants, not only possessing technical skill in their respective professions, but having that rare and almost unknown extra quality of the understanding of design. In my experience, I have only found one structural consultant and one mechanical and ventilating consultant who have this important quality. It seems impossible for most engineers to know what is meant by architecture. I often think it would be a wise thing for many young architects who, after a few years of practice, have the honesty to realize they have no great skill as architects, to abandon architecture and take up one of the specialist branches of engineering. With their knowledge and training in design as architects, they would make excellent consultants, earn for themselves a better living, and ease the architect's problem in trying to find an engineer who understands aesthetic values.

The Modulor system and the acceptance of its principles by the building industry can help to bring economy and harmony into the present confusions. The danger is that the Modulor system, while opening up endless opportunities in design, could lead to standardization of detail and to a lazy death.

On the other hand, there is a tendency among some architects to feel that present development is arid, and they would revive Victorian and Edwardian means of expression. This, I feel, is a most unfortunate tendency which can only end in a creative cul-de-sac.

I pray for more time, in the maelstrom of practice, to express more coherently the ideas and notions that one thinks about in odd quiet moments.

than any other in recent years and that is the lack of understanding between the public—or the majority of those who act for the public such as Government departments, corporations, elderly official architects, local authorities, etc.—and those architects who are serious in their profession. This feeling may be due to the difficulties, frustrations and upheavals that I experienced in completing a large building in Dublin recently.

These frustrations are not new; they have always existed, but there seems today to be a bigger gap between public and architect than ever before and, at the same time, a bigger opportunity to close it by the numerous means of visual and oral education.



# ERIC LYONS AND G. P. TOWNSEND

Eric Lyons (left) is in practice at Hampton Court with a staff of six. He was born in London, 1912. Father was in business as a designer of toys and it was at his suggestion that Lyons became articled to Stanley Beard, studying at night at Regent Street. Having moved around several offices and worked eighteen months for Gropius and Fry (leaving soon after Gropius), he designed an office block behind the Odeon cinema, Leicester Square, under Andrew Mather. Next joined in private practice with G. P. Townsend, whom he had met at Regent Street. During the war he worked for Harry Weedon on factories and hostels. On re-establishing private practice after the war he managed to put up a private block of 24 flats before the licensing clamped down. At present engaged, with G. P. Townsend—who has given up architecture in favour of building development—on the attractive build-and-sell flats at Ham Common; Sites at Blackheath and Hove (multi-storey) are also under development. Eric Lyons is working on flats for the LCC and the Soviet Trade Delegation. Will open an office in London shortly and, in association with a designer-typographer, continue his work on industrial design more forcefully; is responsible for the best-selling Tecta chair amongst other things. From now on will ration himself to designing one private house a year. Once taught at Kingston and feels that every architect should teach—if only to be humiliated.

Lives in the house where his office is, with his poet-teacher wife, Kate, and four children ranging from 10 to 4 years old.

Plans to build a wing for the grown-ups, leaving the children the run of the old house; has no television and therefore time to relax and talk. He and Kate enjoy the theatre. A recent Christmas performance by their children was called "Let Sleeping Princesses Lie." Plans to write book about building for children. Enjoys being a tourist, wants to visit Brazil, runs a Citroën.

Geoffrey Paulson Townsend says there is no absolute description of his status, "developer" a poor nearest. Resigned his membership of the RIBA to act as the Martha of a partnership currently erecting 160 flats at Ham Common. Feels his mission is to provide an environment—at the right price—that will give people a "lift." This involves buying land, briefing Lyons, and eventually disposing of the leases. Born 1911 at Twickenham. His father was chief designer at the Royal School of Art Needlework, also designed wallpapers and fabrics. Had an early interest in structure and studied at Regent Street where he first met Lyons. After working in an architects' office teamed up with Lyons in 1938 with the practice at Richmond. Their first job was a house in Putney ("a bit dated now"). During the war worked on the organization of factories. In 1945 he teamed up with Lyons once more and only gave up his membership of the RIBA recently. Is married and has one daughter, Louise, of 5½. Will shortly move to a house on Strawberry Hill designed by Lyons. Drives a cream-coloured Zephyr convertible. Has looked after landscaping on the Ham estate and specialises in collecting rhododendrons, which he will take with him when he moves.

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Eric Lyons

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### Contemporary Speculation

*Architect Eric Lyons and builder (ex-architect) G. Paulson Townsend describe how the one looks to higher aesthetic standards and the other carries on a successful business selling first-class design.*

*Eric Lyons writes:*

I believe that architects are suffering from an excess of "professionalism" which is lowering our status and is frustrating creative development. We are generally despised by most "creative artists" and are barely tolerated by engineers, surveyors and other technicians.

I cannot support the theory that the architect should become a super-technician who co-ordinates a team of technicians, as I believe that the real criterion of the architect's activities must be an artistic one. Like other artists, architects, of course, must be technically equipped, but, as in the other arts, an obsession with technique is evidence of artistic sterility. Our scope is reduced by an ever increasing number of "specialists": town-planners, engineers, surveyors, landscape architects, interior decorators, designers and so on. The theory that this is giving the architect greater freedom is not supported by very much evidence and I think it is about time that we reclaimed our proper interest in town planning, landscaping and all spheres of creative designing.

Rather than continue the process of whittling away the architect's function, it would be better to contemplate the possibility of creating a body of "Building Draughtsmen" who would be properly trained technicians able to bridge the gap between the architect's concept and the building site, and performing a similar function to draughtsmen in the engineering industries. This would be a respected and valuable occupation for the technically-minded who might then make their contributions to the general improvement in building technique; at the same time it would enable higher "creative" standards to be set in architectural education.

This is a daydream which I know a lot of architects indulge in, and the likelihood of any positive action appears very remote. However, a lot could be done immediately to re-awaken some interest in artistic standards by the encouragement of frank architectural criticism and reviewing of new buildings. I would like to see the AJ try this now and again and if there is any concern about professional reputations, this might be overcome by extending invitations to architects to submit work for critical reviewing.

I find it pleasant to dream of a future time when architects are no longer regarded by the public as professional gents or wayward cranks or radio personalities. Perhaps one day we shall be allowed to design with no thought to the censorious eye of the town planning officer, but the likelier prospect will be the creation of a new profession of Exterior Architects . . . and perhaps a Chair of Exterior Decoration by the RCA?

*G. P. Townsend writes:*

I have always been interested in the effect of environment on people's lives and in my association with Eric Lyons over many years, contemporary design has been the basis of our approach to the problem of providing accommoda-

tion that will give a pleasant and stimulating background for day-to-day living. The results have more than justified our belief that the public would appreciate a contemporary environment and I am satisfied that architect-designed houses and flats can be produced to sell at competitive prices, and to show the developer the necessary margin of profit.

In schemes of this kind the architect has to perform functions which are rather in excess of those which he normally undertakes (and fee scales have to be adjusted accordingly). The architect has to design and organize so that the buildings can be produced at the same cost as a builder's scheme providing the same accommodation.

This means that the architect must collaborate at all stages with the developer in considering siting, construction, methods, materials and the administration of the building contract. We have found that a negotiated contract for the building is most satisfactory as this enables the architect to bear in mind throughout the contractor's type of organization and capacity, and methods of structural assembly can be gone into with the building contractor at the early stages. Variations have to be closely considered and decisions made in conjunction with the developer, bearing in mind costs and progress schedules.

As an ex-architect developer I am, of course, very much in sympathy with Eric Lyons's conceptions and we work very well together on the basis that some architectural ideas have to be scrapped as being too expensive or difficult, but in other cases progressive ideas are incorporated even though at the time the public response may be a matter of conjecture. So far the public response has always been highly favourable.

I have found, as is only to be expected, that schemes for development which are architecturally conceived run into many difficulties with local authorities, whereas the standard speculating builder's "semi" is generally accepted as a non-controversial project. These difficulties have led to incredible delays.

In spite of this, and I always support Lyons in these negotiations, there is no doubt that the appreciation of the buying public is far in advance of the ideas of most local authority officials and local planning committees, and this is borne out by the fact that although we have a number of architects and surveyors amongst our purchasers, we have also had very ready sales to people with diverse backgrounds, and in all age groups, including quite elderly people, many of whom have courageously scrapped their furnishings accumulated over many years and started afresh with a fully contemporary interior.

I believe that the Ham scheme when completed will form one of the most pleasant and successful small residential estates carried out in this country since the war. At present 80 flats are approaching completion and most of these are occupied, and a further 70 flats will be built this year. Another estate of similar character will be developed next year at Blackheath and other projects are in hand at Hove.

As something in the nature of a sideline I have been building a number of smallish contemporary houses, selling at moderate prices, and here we have had a high proportion of architects and surveyors purchasing. I am glad to say that in most cases the furnishings and purchasers' decoration schemes are quite successful.





EDWARD MILLS AND WILLIAM ALLEN

Edward David Mills (right) is in practice with a staff of twenty-five and two offices in Soho. Born in London in 1915, his father's family has been connected with the building industry for two generations. Had early intentions of becoming surgeon or scientific research worker. Trained at Regent Street Polytechnic School of Architecture, and started in private practice in 1937 with design for the Colliers Wood Methodist Church. Is now working on his fourth church. As a result of a courtesy call at UN, New York whilst on a Bossom Research Fellowship in the States the year before last (subject—weathering of modern building) he was asked to design an industrial project in Pakistan—for a pharmaceutical firm employing, housing and providing for the needs of five hundred. Made a flying visit to Pakistan last year. Also engaged on what may be the first contemporary office block in the City (fifteen storeys high with a colour-behind-glass facade). Has a cubby hole in his Greek Street office where he retires to design and is then "out" for all other purposes. His fifth book on architecture will appear in the spring.

In the near future he would like to design a contemporary living unit in a rural setting to show what a New Town could look like. Was blasted out of his previous home by the last V2-but-one, and has now built himself another house in the grounds of an erstwhile tennis club in Sydenham. Daughter, Gillian, 9, wants to be a ballet dancer; son, David, 12, wants to be a veterinary surgeon. Mills' interests include ballet, photography and foreign travel. Would like to visit Brazil and the USSR.

William Alexander Allen is the Superintending Architect at BRS. He was born forty years ago at Winnipeg, where his father held the first chair in physics at the University of Manitoba. Mother was a painter in water colours—in the best Victorian manner. He studied architecture at university of Manitoba ("was and still is the best school of architecture in Canada"). Came to England after qualifying in 1936 in search of post-graduate work and a wider architectural background. Having learnt to speak English he worked in '36 and '37 with Louis de Soissons, mainly on housing at Welwyn Garden City. Joined BRS and worked under Fitzmaurice looking after acoustics. During the war he stayed on to help produce standard factory designs and other such things. Eventually helped prepare for the post-war situation by developing, with Holford and MOTCP, ideas on daylighting, planning and density problems in central urban areas (high buildings—high density—high

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amenity—high efficiency). At the end of hostilities became deputy head of the Physics Division (light—heat—sound). One of the big jobs was the investigation of lighting problems in schools, with Herts. and MOE. In 1949 devoted attention to Royal Festival Hall acoustical problems, with Parkin of BRS and Hope Bagenal. This was largely a publicly conducted experiment, with a tuning period after completion (would like to see the idea of "tuning" become accepted practice for fine buildings). Introduced colour studies with H. L. Gloag in 1948, leading to work in the last two years with RIBA Committee resulting in the introduction shortly of a new range of one hundred-odd colours which have the blessing of the RIBA and the Paint Industry. Government purchases will generally be based on the range, and it should become a BS. Eighteen months ago he formed a separate Architects' Division and is currently supervising with BSI a dozen-country study of modular co-ordination. Actively interested in researches on factory design. His highly successful RIBA lecture-delivery technique used at the last RIBA conference was evolved from American methods.

### Architectural Double-Act

Allen and Mills achieved the improbable last year, and defied custom by attracting a larger audience to their second talk on "Materials and Techniques" at the RIBA Conference than at the first. They comment here on educating the client and their fellow professionals.

Edward Mills writes:

The training of architects has been in the news in the past year, and it will undoubtedly be the subject of considerable discussion in 1955. Little thought has been given, however, to the equally important problem of the training of the architect's client. In the past, the patrons of architecture have often possessed a broad appreciation of the Arts, resulting from a study of architectural developments in other countries and a lively interest in current building trends at home. While this knowledge sometimes tended to be superficial and unduly influenced by passing fashions it did produce a lay public which regarded the erection of a new building as an event of importance meriting serious comment and discussion. In the 18th century the client understood, in some measure, the aims and intentions of the architect through his direct relationship with the building project.

Today the architect's patron is usually the government department, the local authority, the impersonal board of directors, or the investment corporation, too often primarily concerned with the financial return likely to be achieved, the cost per square foot, or the cost per "school" place. These are important considerations, but architecture is much more than economical building, and the problem of the contemporary designer is the interpretation of the spirit of his age through the medium of his buildings, for a public which neither knows nor cares much about the architectural merits of the buildings arising around him. Occasionally, projects like the South Bank Exhibition and the Royal Festival Hall, will, under the stimulus of an enlightened radio or press critic evoke some public interest, but in general the man in the street shows a greater enthusiasm for the ruins of a Roman temple than for the designs of a contemporary cathedral.

RIBA travelling exhibitions, articles in *The Times*, and Third Programme talks in contemporary architecture are valuable in reaching a limited public, but what is needed today is a "publicity" campaign designed to reach and educate the general public through the medium of the popular press, films, radio and television. While many of the older generation will remain uninfluenced even by

these means, much can be done in schools to interest older scholars in contemporary architecture. By lectures, exhibitions, discussions, and visits to new buildings, the younger generation can be given an insight into the problems that face the contemporary architect, and an understanding of the new architecture which is gradually developing in our towns and countryside.

If architecture is to regain its rightful place of importance in the interests of the general public, this responsibility for popular architectural education must be borne by the profession as a whole, for only by concerted and persistent action can the "man-in-the-street" and the future generation of patrons be given an understanding of contemporary architecture, so that they consequently demand modern buildings in which to live, work, and spend their leisure time.

William Allen writes:

Architects often say that the amount of scientific and technical material they are expected to understand these days is more than can be managed by the average mortal, let alone a busy practitioner; and as far as they can see, the situation is getting worse rather than better.

It seems to me unwise to let this become a fixation, because it will just make more difficult still the job which we obviously have to do. There is no getting away from the fact that we have to get on top of information that is relevant to design or construction, and the only question is how.

I think, perhaps, that for some people the issue is clouded by not recognizing the special character of this moment in architectural history, so far as knowledge about building is concerned. Once upon a time, as we all know, most of this was wrapped up and hidden in traditional conventions of design. When these were abandoned, the knowledge implicit in them went too. Going back to the conventions no longer helps us because, for one thing, they were made for a context of conventional situations which we seldom are asked to create and, anyway, we have a vast range of situations which they could never deal with. Also such conventions as we think we have preserved often prove to be debased when we attempt to use them.

Thus we have no option but to set out quite formally all the kinds of information that used to be carried along in traditions, and we have to generalize it so that we can see how to solve the range of different kinds of problems that get put to us now. This is the big task of our times in architecture—to build a conscious structure of knowledge for design in place of the use of the traditional conventions which met functional requirements less consciously.

There is not enough space here to discuss properly how to do this, but three lines of action stand out. One is through a kind of teaching of undergraduates in architecture schools that will tie research and technology close to education. Another is in the development of post-graduate architectural studies. And then there is the work of the practising architects who are prepared to try to make advances in practice—advances which have their roots in research and advanced technology. In the end, if the job is to be done at all, it is bound to be by the joint action of these three, the research people, the teachers, and the good practitioners. And somehow it's got to be done if the profession is to work at a properly high level.



JOHN AND SYLVIA REID

John Reid and his wife Sylvia are architects and industrial designers in private practice. They operate with a small staff from a fifty-year-old house in Highgate, chosen for space, not looks, where they also live. Both are retained as consultants to Thorn Electrical Industries Ltd.; and George Forrest & Son Ltd. (for designing catalogues etc. as well as "Forrest Modern" fittings). One of their pendants gained them the award of a silver medal at the Tenth Triennale, Milan. In addition, he yearly delivers a short course of lectures on illumination at Regent Street Poly. (first to lecture on the subject there, starting two years ago). She visits the Central School to teach interior design. Do not want to be "typed" because of their recent pub designing. Currently engaged on a strictly contemporary coffee bar, more lighting fittings, and other projects, such as furniture, and a small house costing £2,500 with panel heating over the whole floor slab. He was born in 1925; the son of an accountant. He might have become a musician. He studied at the Polytechnic, Regent Street and, after serving in the Green Howards, qualified in 1949. Sylvia was also born in 1925. They first met at the Polytechnic, which she joined at the same time. While he was in the Army she qualified and went to work, first for Maxwell Fry, and later free-lance, gradually breaking away to join her husband in private practice. Both "madly keen" on serious music and don't hesitate to use it as an aid to design ("Bach produces results"). Have also acquired a taste for classical Indian music. They collect musical instruments, which include a Yueh-ch'in and an excellent 1760 piano which they saved from becoming a dressing table. Have replaced their taxi with a 20-year-old Hillman Minx drop-head, which they have twice taken over the Alps to Italy. Prefer towns to countryside; their favourite haunts are in Italy. Given more time they would do more designing; given more money they would travel.

#### Architects' Pub

John and Sylvia Reid, who have designed Britain's first pub interior to forgo neo-Scandinavian, neo-Georgian or neo-Tudor details, "The Champion," in Wells Street, describe their aims as follows:—

As members of the younger generation of architects we

have the straightforward functional approach to problems which is characteristic of the modern school. Consequently when we were asked to design a "Victorian" pub we translated the commission as one in which the aim was the creation of an atmosphere that would favourably compare with that normally associated with the better type of Victorian or, probably more accurately, the traditional pub.

After all, apart from the moral issues involved, an accurate reproduction is quite impracticable for reasons of cost and subsequent maintenance alone, and the skill and techniques possessed by today's craftsmen differs vastly from those of his nineteenth-century predecessor.

We felt that a job such as this was a challenge to our beliefs and theories of design which must be accepted, for if they were correct then they should enable us to create any kind of atmosphere we wanted, if the basic problem could first be correctly analysed.

To produce the required atmosphere for any type of building the needs of the people using it must first be understood. People have a place in the architectural scheme of things for, after all, architecture exists for and because of people: because they need something more than a mere technical answer to their building requirements. This need for "something more" is, of course, particularly marked in any building in which the importance of atmosphere actually outweighs convenience of plan, etc.

Most modern pubs, particularly those built just before the last war, are rather characterless and there is a marked lack of enthusiasm for them generally. The reason for this is, we think, due to the brewers, whose efforts to justify the pub as a place of respectability and a home of "good taste" have led to the omission of anything that might possibly offend anyone, which, of course, leaves nothing to please anyone.

This does not mean that a pub must be vulgar to be successful, but it must be full-blooded. It can, indeed it should be, in the best of taste, but it must be larger than life, in fact an exaggeration of the interiors its customers know. Such was the Victorian gin palace which, in its day, had a resplendence that flattered the ego of its humble patrons and provided them with a means of escape from dull realities.

"The Champion" was an existing pub which had been "treated" between the wars and consequently rendered quite inhospitable and characterless. We decided to retain the existing bar counter and wagon, which had been left over, and to incorporate some good Victorian mirrors, spirit jars and cast-iron tables which the brewers had salvaged from other houses at various times, but the new work is contemporary. Modern floor coverings, including a contemporary carpet; are used with vertical boarding—not panelling; contemporary wallpaper—not lincrusta; patterns of modern lettering are used in place of "meaningless" decoration; and so on. These are all crowded together in a manner which is not common in modern work but necessary to produce the glitter and intricate detail associated with the traditional pub.

We are convinced that today's pubs must be fully "of their time." They must not harp back to the past, although they should maintain the standard of good design and craftsmanship set by the better traditional pubs, but take full advantage of the host of new materials, and techniques that are available now.

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DONALD GIBSON

bricks, building in general, keeping bees. He runs a Citroen. Plans to build his first house at Nottingham.

#### First or Second Rate Architecture

As Donald Gibson's great job at Coventry comes to an end this month we asked him—in the light of his experience—to set a 20th century policy for the profession.

The architect has become a most important link in the chain of providing the essential services such as housing, education and health. The growing British and world populations (increasing by 40 millions a year), has produced a great increase in the architectural profession and this trend will continue. All this has happened by a tremendous increase within a fairly constant number of offices. The number of principals has remained constant and the number of those architects who (in the present "set-up"), can never hope to become principals continues to rise. This is one of the great new changes which has gradually taken place and which deserves all the attention which the profession can devote to ensuring that the architect can still give the best service to his public.

The public client can only realize by long and costly experience whether its architecture is first or second rate. Sooner or later it must be realized that the principals of these large departments can only hope to deal with major matters of policy, appointment of staff, and other matters of general relationship, and unless the operative architectural level can achieve director level and responsibility, with all it means, the real value of the large department can never be fully realized. My aims and ambitions for the future lie in these directions.

Donald Evelyn Edward Gibson is to be Nottingham County's architect, which post he takes up on February 1, after exactly 16 years as Coventry's first city architect—having left because the city council failed to up-grade the pay of some of his staff. He was born at Northenden in 1908. His father was a professor of engineering at St. Andrews, and later, Manchester. Gibson, who, as a boy liked nature study and art, produced indifferent exam. results. Because of his liking for model making and drawing his father decided he should go to the school of architecture at Manchester University. Retained a low position on exam. lists until his third year, when he received a scholarship which took him to Italy. In his fourth year he visited America where he worked on buildings for Harvard University under the present curator of the Brooklyn Museum. Acquired dislike over there for large impersonal offices. After qualifying in '32; hawked drawings round London and landed up with a recommendation to a Lincoln architect. As he needed money he taught at the local technical college, keeping one week ahead of his pupils. He later became the first non-Liverpool lecturer (to the fourth year) at the Liverpool School of Architecture, with the maxim that he was a fellow-learner. After working two and a half years in the intelligence section at BRS it was agreed that he would not make the ideal civil servant, and he therefore took up the appointment of Deputy County Architect, Isle of Ely. Taught local evening classes consisting of his own staff—subject: research on daylighting. After going to Coventry started an extensive local campaign for good city planning—ran exhibitions and hired hall for such lecturers as Thomas Sharp, Holford, Stevenson. After short spell in the army returned to Coventry and at time of November blitz was working on wartime housing. Produced scheme for rebuilding city centre which was accepted in preference to engineer's version. He will leave £12m. of work on the board and a staff of 165 housed in a one-time Rover factory.

His wife is also an architect (three years his junior at Manchester). They have four children: Alan, 20, interested in building; Jane, 18, recently working in one of Coventry's new buildings; Peter, 14, good at drawing sections through space ships; Thomas, 11. Gibson likes laying





NO



NO?



NOT JUST A LITTLE SMILE?

.... IT'S GORDON CULLEN'S THRILLING NEW YARN:

## THE PURSUIT OF THE GENIUS LOCI

*A. Naturally in this scheme I have attempted to give full expression to the Genius Loci.*

*B. Er . . . yes. Yes, I think it's frightfully good.*

*C. (awkwardly). What is the Genius Loci?*

*A. Well, it's . . . er . . . Well, I know what it is but it's a bit difficult to explain offhand.*

*And boy, is he right? A bit difficult! Offhand! Why doesn't "A" just throw the towel in and admit that he hasn't the faintest idea what he's talking about? By all means use an okay word if you can get away with it, but you have to speak an awful lot of commonsense before people will accept a swift one without murmur.*

*The truth of the matter is that no one has yet succeeded in finding a single Genius Loci, far less finding out whether it wants full employment. It is probable that I have got nearer to a solution of the problem than anyone now living, yet even I despair, and the search has left me disillusioned and penniless. This is my story, my pursuit of the Genius Loci.*

*It all started in one of those golden summers in the early 30's. Stanwell-Smith and I were measuring St. Mary's, Dodington (Wyatt, 1805). This building, a Greek cross on plan rises to a dome which is surmounted on the exterior by a separate dome of copper. In order to determine certain dimensions*

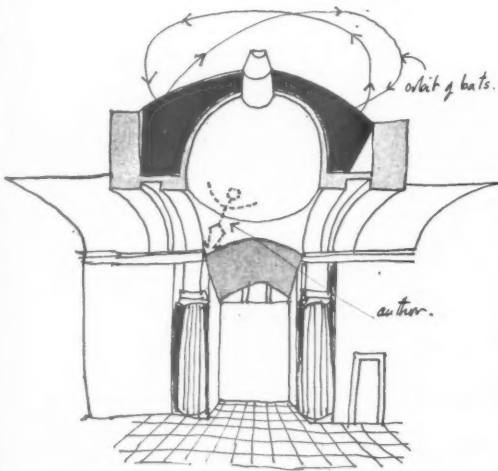




OH COME ON, TRY

YES, FOLKS ! . . . .

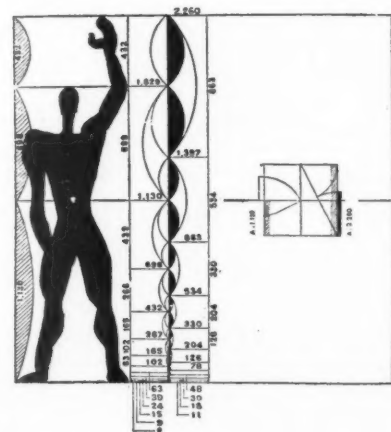
it became necessary to penetrate the dark space between the domes. I gained entry: inside it was very dark and hot and the sounds of birds, the clop of a horse's hoof in the stable yard, were muffled and distant. Almost immediately I slipped and became wedged by the feet in the plaster and lath side of a pendentive. This was my first encounter with a Genius Loci, obviously a very angry one.



The author's predicament at St. Mary's

It was this experience which really started me on the long road that was to end so tragically. The problem seemed quite simple in those days. I argued that the Genius stood in relation to its Locus in much the same way that the Abominable Snowman stood in relation to Mount Everest. The fact that no one had ever seen one did not

disprove its existence. Recent attempts to reconstruct a picture of the Genius Loci, such as that of M. le Corbusier, do not seem to be very convincing although the impetuous behaviour of the Modulor as portrayed here does indeed display the authentic characteristic of wilfulness that I have come to associate with the Genius Loci.



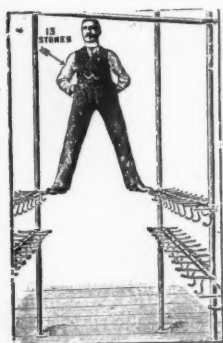
A Modulor living in Natchez  
Discovered a flea where his crutch is.  
When the boys in alarm  
Cried "Don't move your arm"  
He replied "When Ah itchez Ah  
scratchez."

with apologies of Ogden Nash.

## HISTORICAL RESEARCH

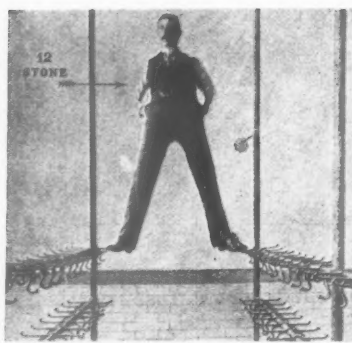


"Look out chaps"



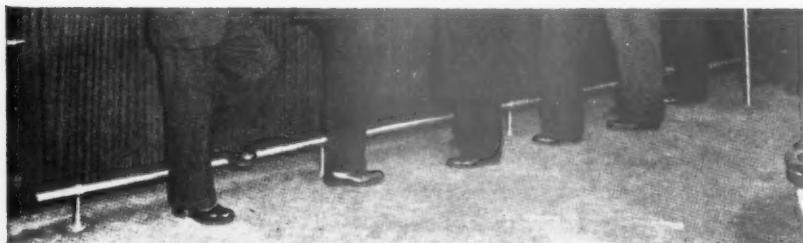
**"SCHOLA"**  
HAT &  
GOAT HOOK  
(REGD.)

Unbreakable,  
Clean, Light,  
No Infection.  
**100,000**  
In use over Great Britain.  
T.A. "Netting" M/c.  
T.N. 3398.



**"SCHOLA"**  
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Over **100.00**  
LIST OF THESE  
ALSO OUR VENTILATE!  
Sole Makers:  
**BROOK**  
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Telegraphic Address: "NETT"  
(See Architect's Compend)

Harry Brumfit, the man who knew too much. Left, on January 13, 1904. Right, on March 9



Night after night we discussed it

Readers will be aware of the strange case of Trick and Track, the eighteenth century dilettantes, who disappeared without trace in Penrhyn Castle.\* The mystery was cleared up for me by the discovery of a rare picture discovered in Bootle Library which I reproduce here. This is the only authentic picture of a Genius Loci in existence. Note particularly the air of menace, the staring eyes, the way in which solid structure is dissolved into an almost physical tension reminiscent of a fly-eating orchid. So much for Trick and Track.

I now come to a more recent case. This concerns my late friend and colleague, H. Brumfit. Harry Brumfit was employed as caretaker of a Council School when he discovered the Genius Loci of the building.

He had long been puzzled by certain cryptic and not very complimentary remarks concerning himself which he discovered from time to time on blackboards and walls. Harry was no fool and thought the thing out before taking any action. But before he could take any action the Genius Loci struck. These two portraits show that on January 13, 1904, Harry weighed 13 stone, yet only two months later he had dropped to 12 stone. What was

the cause of this dramatic loss in weight? He knew too much.

Shortly after this Harry and I formed our plans and launched our research unit (we called it a search party in those days) to find the Genius Loci. With a few trusty friends we met night after night and discussed our plans.

\* No prizes for pointing out anachronisms.

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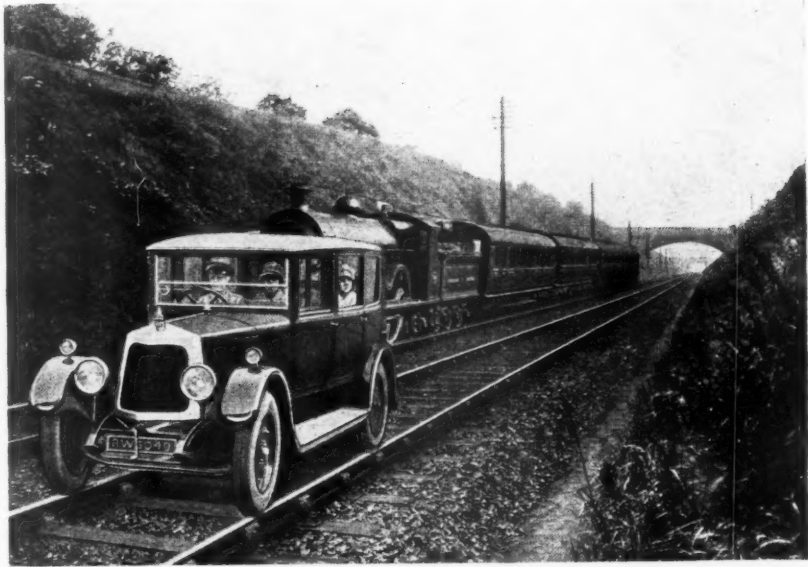
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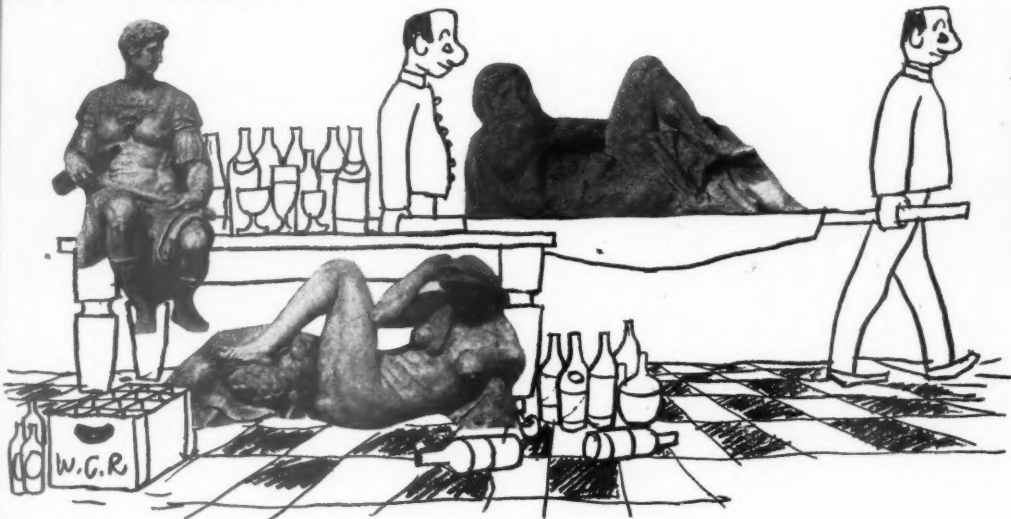
## THE SEARCH BEGINS

At last we were off. Oh, the excitement and happiness as we raced with the 10.10 Euston-Lime Street express. (Incidentally, it's a 1926 Armstrong Siddeley O.H.V. 30-h.p. six-cylinder Pullman. I think it must have been the word Pullman that foxed Harry, you couldn't trust him with an unguarded level crossing.) Where were we going? To Italy, for we had received news of strange phenomena which could only mean one thing.



Off at last

## EARLY PROBLEMS



We could get no sense out of them

Arriving in Florence, we made our way straight to the Medici Mausoleum. This was the scene that met our eyes. Great Heavens! Could it be true? "This is the work of the Genius Loci," I cried. We were unable to get any sense out of them, they seemed to be stupefied by their translation. From there to Rome, where an anxious curator hurried us to the 'Laocoon group. Did this mean that the Genius Loci was making his throw? What next?



Just in time





# BATTLE JOINED



At the ready: our team on the Monument to Victor Emmanuel. Right, the attack on the Great Pyramid

We held a committee meeting and decided that in view of the growing threat we should call for reinforcements. Harry cabled the Royal Fine Art Commission and in due course the team arrived. I took this snap of them in position on the Monument to Victor Emmanuel. A second party had already been despatched to Egypt and are here seen searching the Great Pyramid. Quite apart from manpower we had arranged for the most modern technical equipment to be supplied. The hunt was up. That was the turning point. Somehow we seemed to have angered the Genius Loci.



"Anybody down there?"

Possibly the fact that we were a British team explains the strange phenomenon of whole towns being Anglicized due to the malevolence of the cornered Genius Loci.\* Venice was changed overnight and we were just as powerless to stop it as we would have been in London. Then that fatal tide



\* The British way of life that was unleashed by the Genius Loci on several European towns may be clarified by the following. In a cafe in Barcelona some time ago a friend of mine overheard an elderly man complaining to his wife about a third person not present. "Fancy, just fancy: that fellow taking us round a cathedral when we come from Lincoln!"



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of motor cars that swept over Europe; ancient monuments projected out of the swirling sea of shiny pressed metal.\* We had to act swiftly now.

The new I.C.E. age

## DISASTER

It was then that we got our first real clue. From Paris came a report that 800 people had disappeared in a theatre. It was hard to believe, but they went in and never came out. We went to investigate. The scene that met our eyes was unexciting enough, peaceful and tranquil.



### \* Which reminds one of America PRONUNCIATION GUIDE TO FRENCH WINES

Beaujolais ..	..	..	Bow Joe lay
Chateayquem ..	..	..	Shot-oh Ee-Kem.
Chateaneuf du Pape ..	..	..	Shot-oh Neff du Pop

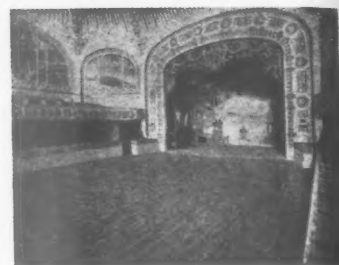
from an advert in the "New Yorker."

Bow Joe lay in the grotto  
Bow Joe looked at Pop  
Bow Joe cried "I'm shot-oh."  
"You're not," said Pop.

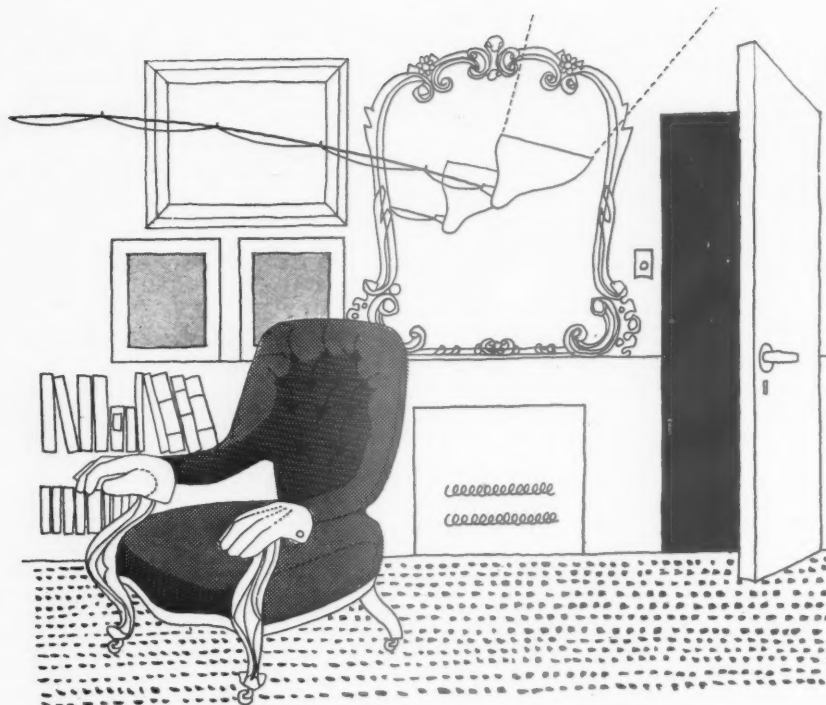
"Who's playing tonight?" asked Harry



"Harry," I cried, "make haste while you can"



Peace at last



Nothing had changed but . . .

But horror, amazement! The whole floor suddenly revolved and the committee was swept into oblivion. Harry Brumfit was the last to go, debonair as ever and now he lies buried for ever under the two-and-nines. This was to be the last act in the drama. From that time onwards there was peace, the malevolence of the Genius Loci softened to playfulness. I returned home alone. How small my flat looked after all these months of chase and adventure. Odd too in a peculiar way, I couldn't see anybody, nothing had been moved but I never could find my gloves.



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*On this page begins the JOURNAL's annual survey of the best buildings completed in the preceding year, a regular feature of the New Year issue. When a critical tone occurs in some of the comments it must be set against the praise implied by the fact of a building being selected for illustration.*

*Department store in Broadgate, Coventry, by Rolf Hellberg and Maurice Harris.*



## BUILDINGS OF THE YEAR : 1954

*by J. M. RICHARDS*

Since the corresponding article to this was written a year ago, the Government has made its decision to abolish licensing. The building programme henceforward will be determined only by the usual considerations of needs and financial resources, though this does not mean a complete return to prewar, since it is unlikely that loan-sanction will be granted for the time being to local authorities to enable them to go ahead with civic buildings. But public buildings of other kinds—hospitals, cinemas, community centres and the like—as well as all kinds of commercial buildings, will soon be taking their place alongside the schools, the housing and the factories to which building has been largely restricted since the war.

Indeed the partial relaxation of licensing that has

occurred during the last year or two has already brought in a fair crop of commercial buildings. Their average quality is disappointingly low—especially of office buildings—but there are enough to give a new flavour to this year's choice of the best buildings of the year. Shops, on the whole, are less dreary and tasteless than offices—there are more incentives, after all, to compel them at least to look up-to-date and less of a tendency to identify commercial prestige with the stolidly old-fashioned—and my illustrations appropriately begin with the first large department store to be completed since the war. If not a brilliantly imaginative piece of architecture, it handles a contemporary idiom in a workmanlike way and—what is even more important—takes its place constructively yet





Above: shop in St. George's Street, Canterbury, by Robert Paine and Partners. Right: outpatients' department, St. James's Hospital Balham, by Devereux and Davies.



not too aggressively in the most impressive piece of civic planning that has been achieved in any of our bombed city centres: the new Broadgate in Coventry. Coventry is almost unique in having made a plan after the bombing and (subject to minor changes) carried it through with determination, while other bombed cities were allowing *laissez-faire* gradually to take charge. It had the advantage of a city architect of unusual capability and vision, and it is an incomprehensible piece of civic mismanagement that Coventry should be letting Donald Gibson go just when his years of struggle on the city's behalf are bearing fruit. The only other of the heavily bombed cities with a building record comparable with Coventry's (I am thinking of quality more than quantity) is Canterbury. The

rebuilt shopping streets are just right in scale and employ, for the most part, an unassuming but pleasantly fresh contemporary style—not an easy thing to get accepted in a city with the pride in its ancient traditions that Canterbury has always possessed. It is an encouraging thing, and has been a great help to the more enlightened architects and officials, that the local preservation society has consistently opposed fake-medieval styles. The best of the new shops in Canterbury is illustrated above. It is an imaginative design, and shows that a free use of space and inter-penetration of horizontal and vertical planes—qualities we specially associate with the modern aesthetic—are not incompatible with the reticence and stability of appearance required in street architecture.

Above: centre: Richard Davies church by the Corporation in charge (Craig) Renfrew Rowan Kinin

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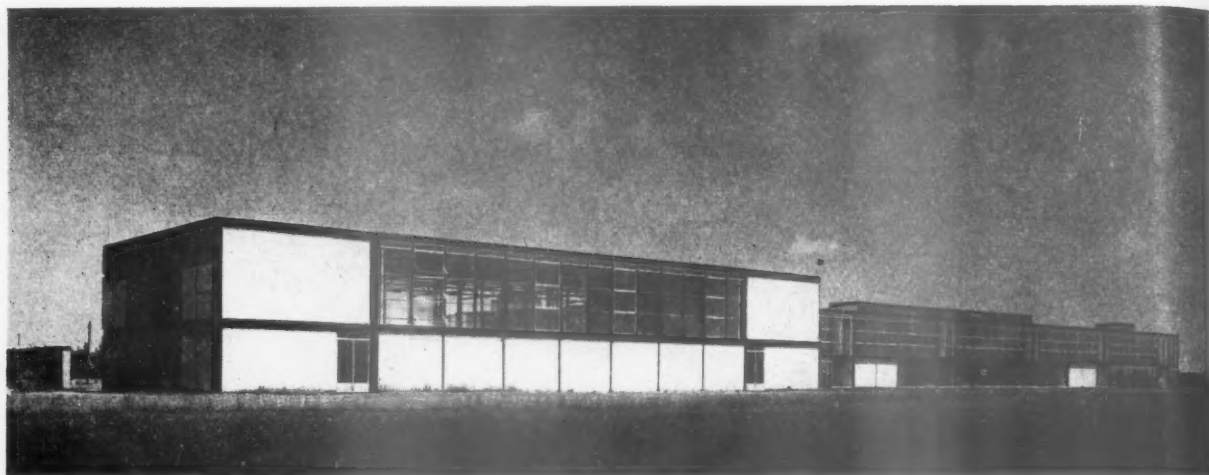
Above: diagnostic centre at Corby, by Richard Llewelyn Davies. Right: church hall, Stevenage, by the Development Corporation (architect in charge, D. Stirling Craig). Far right: Renfrew airport, by Rowand Anderson, Kininmonth and Paul.



Following the first post-war department store: the first new public hospital—or, rather, extension of an old one. The new out-patients' department at Balham (the lower photograph, facing page) is lively and engaging and admirably exemplifies the movement away from institutionalism in hospital design which the several projects of brand-new hospital buildings to be constructed during the coming years will no doubt help to consolidate. Hospital design is likely to make great strides forward in the near future owing to the scientific studies undertaken by the Nuffield Foundation. The best academic research is always done in alliance with practical experiment, and at Corby (top of this page) is the Nuffield Foundation's first venture into actual building. Besides making an impor-

tant contribution to the effective organization of the nationalized health service, it has delightful architectural qualities, especially in its neat finishes and the way it makes the most of an open site by the use of wide picture windows.

The two smaller photographs on this page also belong to categories of building that are only beginning to re-appear. Following the criticism there has been of community buildings in the new towns lagging behind the housing, it is only fair to note that most of them (or organizations like the churches, working within them) are now diligently pushing ahead with community centres and tenants' common-rooms which, though mostly small, should do much to provide a social focus in some of these



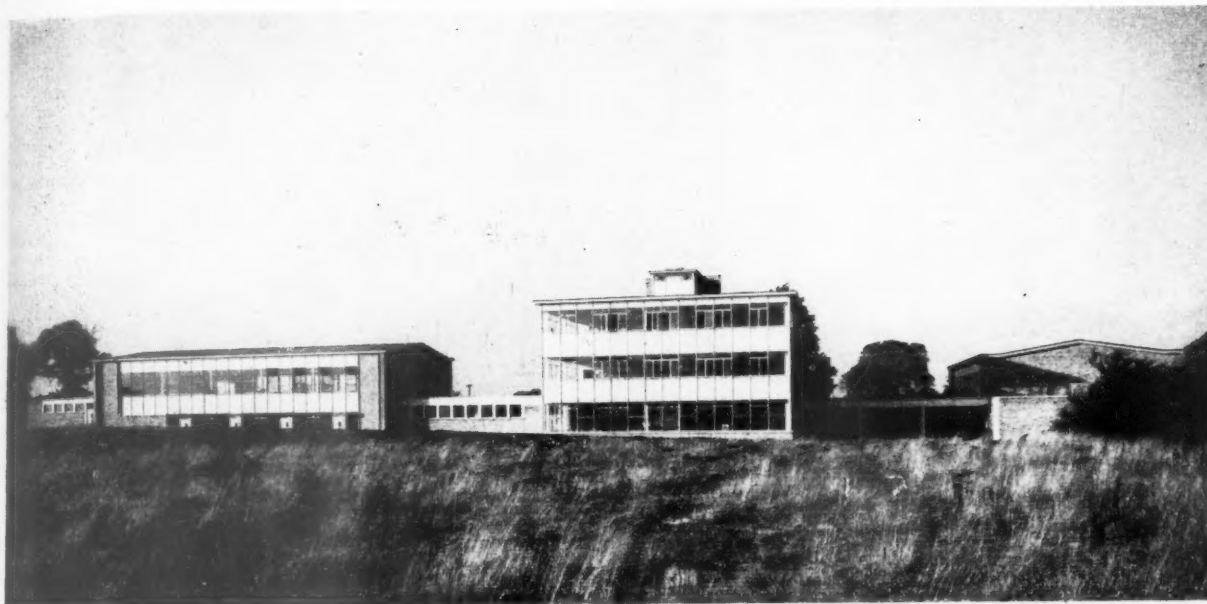
*Top: secondary school at Hunstanton, by Alison and Peter Smithson. Bottom: primary school at Garston, Hertfordshire, by C. H. Aslin, county architect.*

too widely dispersed housing areas. The Stevenage building illustrated makes dramatic use of a steeply pitched roof and is notable for reintroducing into modern architecture a traditional material of charming texture and colour: smooth-faced flint, which is used for the gable wall. It is given a degree of sophistication, and thus appropriately distinguished from its traditional use in a rustic setting, by being shaped in plan, having a slight arris up the centre of the gable where the two planes meet.

Renfrew air terminus, the other small picture (preceding page), is the first fruit of much new activity in airport buildings, well ahead of London (first buildings due to be occupied in March) and another Scottish airport, Turnhouse (under construction since August). London, with its

use of red brick for walling, follows the principle that what passengers need in airport buildings is a reassuring sense of earth-bound solidity to offset the sense of insecurity when in the air. The opposing principle is to give the buildings enough in common with the aircraft to prevent the latter seeming flimsy by contrast, and even if the Renfrew buildings have not all the lightness, grace and inevitability one associates with the best aircraft design, their interesting use of unorthodox forms of construction, like their roofs suspended from parabolic reinforced concrete arches, give them a taut mechanistic character which should help to make the passenger feel at home in a world of machines. It has been perversely argued that the best character of all to aim at in airport buildings, and the

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*Top: secondary school at Moulton, Northants, by A. N. Harris, county architect. Bottom: primary school at Coventry, by A. M. Gear, the late Edric Neel and Rodney Thomas (late Arcon).*

most evocative of the adventure of travel, is the informal insubstantial character already possessed by those random collections of shacks with which many airports have been reluctantly making do for years, but that involves philosophical issues too deep to go into now.

My next pictures are of schools, which maintained through the year the standards of thoughtful design they have been setting since the war. Seven have been chosen for illustration here; they are simply my own choice of the most interesting and successful, and there are dozens of others with almost equal claims, constructed in many counties. For the significant achievement of contemporary school architects is that they have now built up a widespread tradition of intelligent and technically advanced

design, founded it is true on the pioneer work of Aslin and Johnson-Marshall in Herts, Stillman when he was in West Sussex, and one or two others, but no longer dependent on it. The newest schools illustrate the truth that good design is self-perpetuating; that the essential condition for producing better modern architecture is the existence of enough modern buildings to give modern architects a common fund of experience. In the development of modern school architecture and the consolidation of the efforts of the pioneers, we can see at work the process whereby architectural style is created.

This does not mean that once the tradition has been established good architecture occurs automatically. The tradition needs perpetual re-examination and will always



*Right: secondary school at Tattershall, Lincs, by Denis Clarke Hall. Below, left: Mark Hall secondary school, Harlow, by Richard Sheppard and Partners. Below, right: school at Beckenham, by Elie Mayorcas.*



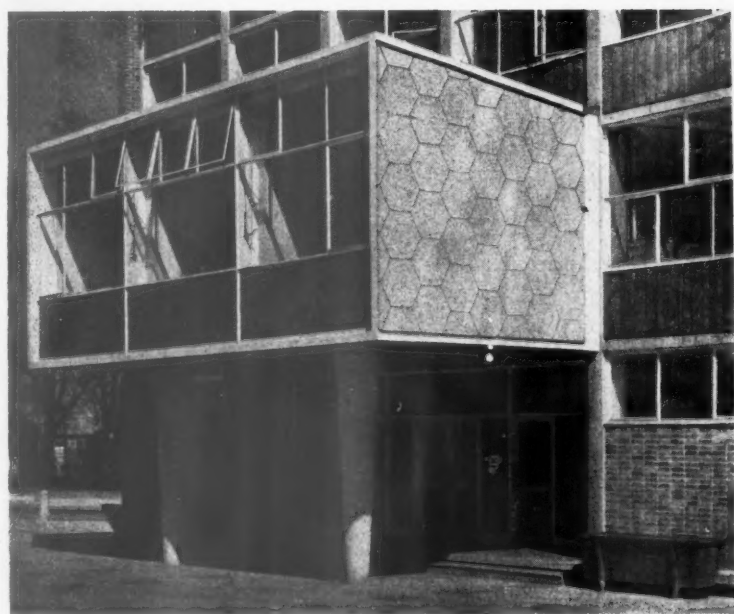
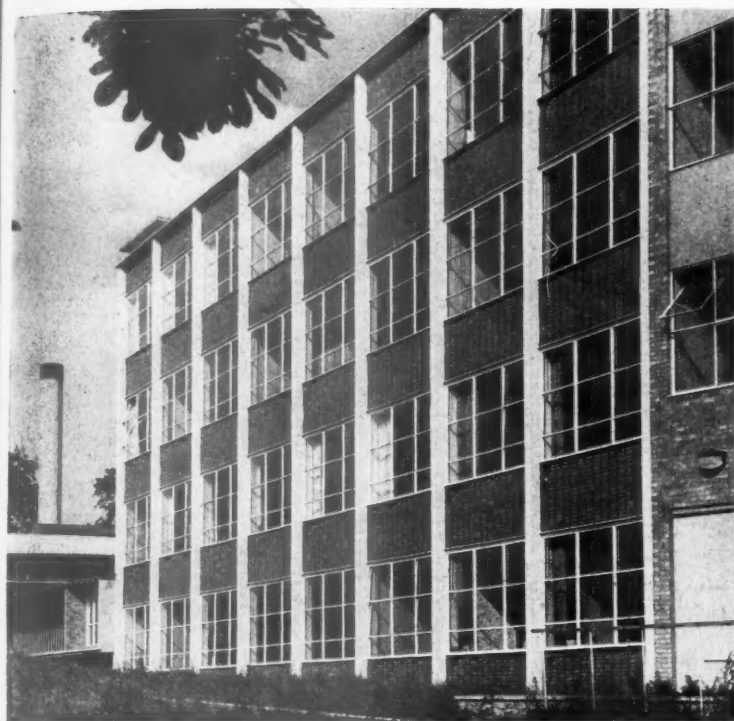
benefit from a fresh and critical approach. That is why I have given pride of place to the school at Hunstanton, (top of page 88). It is by no means the year's best school, being a hard, doctrinaire building which seems to ignore the importance to the teacher of creating a sympathetic atmosphere. But it has been of great value in preventing other school architects from getting smug.

The other example on the same page is from Hertfordshire, a county that has never been content to rest on the laurels it won half-a-dozen years ago but is always trying to introduce new subtleties into modular planning, to improve the appearance and performance of prefabricated facing slabs and the like, and further to humanize the effect of the whole. The school at Garston shows the

advance continuing. All but one of the remaining schools are by private architects, mostly the same architects that have been setting the lead for years, so they show the now accepted school idiom handled by those most practised at it. The Harlow school is notable for its siting as well as for a courageous attempt to use on the outside those patterned tiles that have lately become the fashion inside. The site commands one of the approaches to Harlow new town, although eventually it will be cut off from it by the new arterial road—not an ideal arrangement one might have thought, but this is a secondary school, where freedom from traffic dangers is not quite so essential as in a school for younger children, and many other factors have to be taken into account when siting a school to serve a

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*Top: technical college at Ilkeston, Derbyshire, by Norman and Dawbarn. Bottom: technical college at Colchester, by H. Conolly, Essex county architect.*

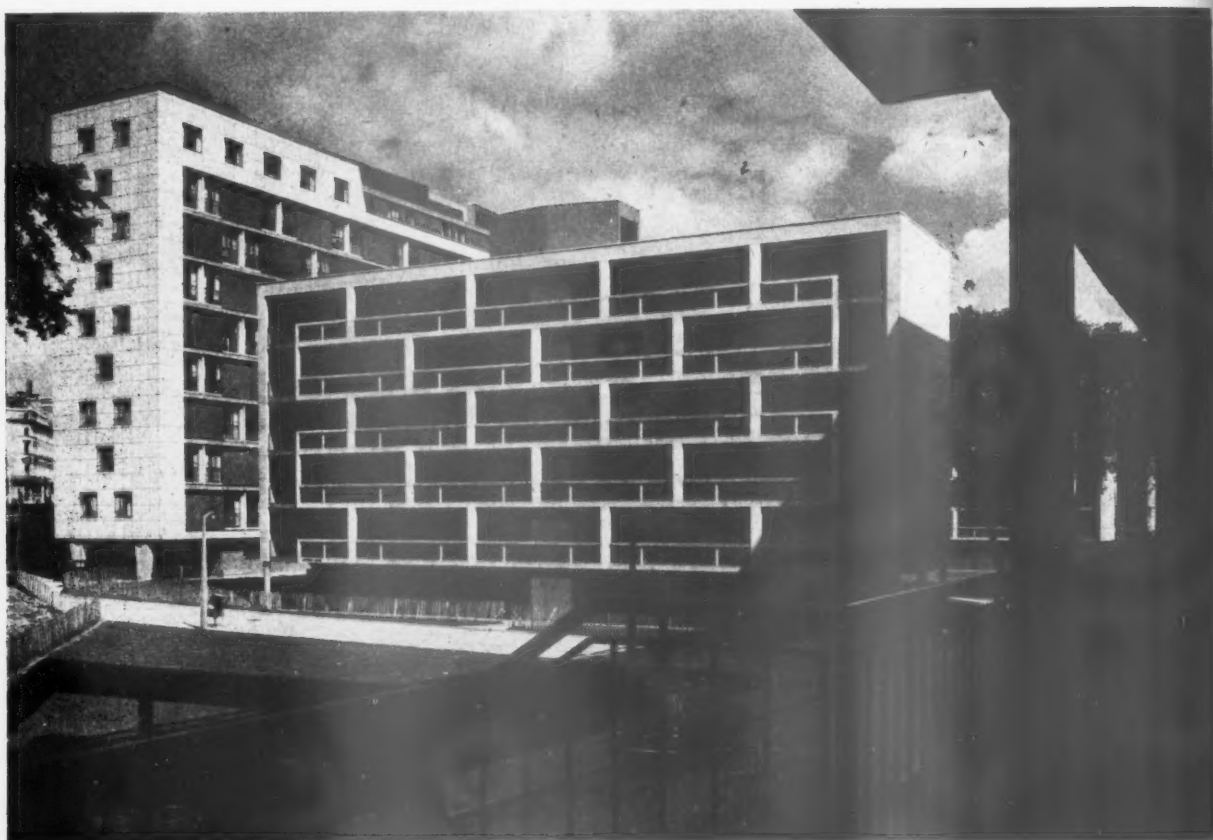
large area. In other ways the siting is admirable: the two square classroom blocks (one of which occupies the right-hand part of the photograph) have just the right degree of monumentality and do suggest an urban rather than a rural purpose. They provide much needed relief from the sea of two-storey housing of which too large a part of the new towns, as so far constructed, consists.

Technical colleges, for licensing reasons, got off to a slower start after the war than primary and secondary schools, but a number are now coming along and showing the benefit of having school-building experience to work from. The two colleges illustrated—from Essex and Derbyshire—are on the whole the most successful, but none of the new technical colleges has yet achieved a

wholly satisfactory idiom. Their social rôle demands a rather more monumental treatment than a junior school needs to be given, and until architects have had more practice in creating monumental effects in a contemporary idiom we must be content with the somewhat harsh, industrial character their multi-storey blocks tend to possess at present. It seems clear that the aesthetic charm of the best post-war schools (at least those of the Herts type) is not of a kind that can easily be transferred to multi-storey architecture.

Multi-storey flats have gone much further towards resolving the aesthetic problems the repetition of identical elements sets them, and the schemes illustrated on the next three pages exemplify the three most favoured

*Right: flats in Holford Square, Finsbury, by Skinner, Bailey and Lubetkin. Below: flats in Paddington, by Tecton, Drake and Lasdun. Facing page, top: flats in Westminster (Pimlico), by Powell and Moya. Facing page, bottom: flats at Brixton, by Armstrong and MacManus.*



methods: that of the façade pattern, designed to reduce the scale by an artificial grouping of windows, balconies, etc. (Finsbury and Paddington), the sculptural method, relying on impressive proportions of the whole mass and on silhouette (Brixton and Glasgow), and the largely diagrammatic method (Pimlico), given life and quality by refinement of detail and colour.

These high-density housing schemes are of unusual interest and it will not be often that so much important work can be set side by side in any one year; for apart from the smaller schemes completed during the year, three long-term schemes—probably the three most important urban housing enterprises in Britain since the war—qualify for inclusion among the 1954 harvest of new

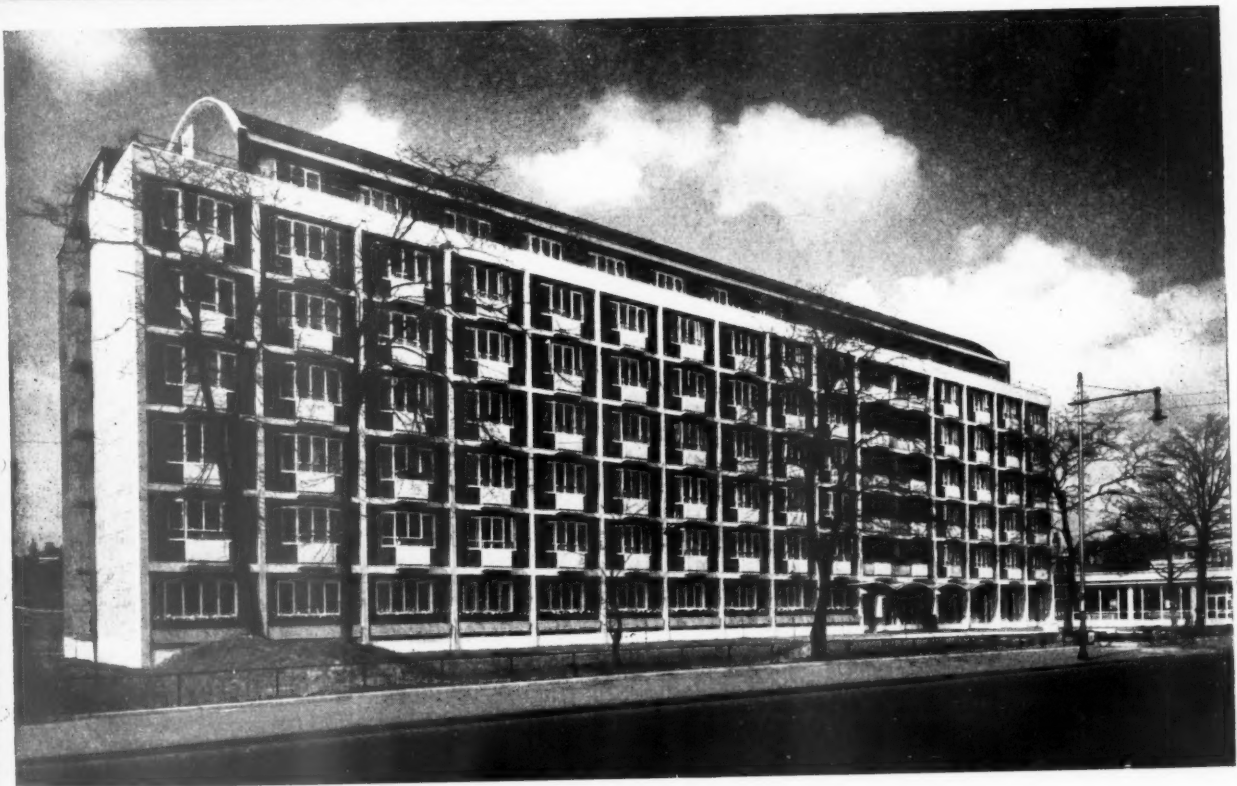
buildings: the Paddington flats because the first courtyard was completed on all sides and the design could therefore be viewed for the first time as a landscape as well as an architectural conception; the LCC Ackroyden Estate, because of the completion of the first tower block, and the Pimlico flats because the new section, illustrated here, on the western edge of the site is not simply a repetition of the sections completed earlier, but a fresh design, incorporating lessons learnt from several years of building further downstream.

The evolving type of design, continually modified in detail in the light of experience, which the Pimlico scheme (facing page) thus represents, stands in marked contrast to the Paddington scheme (above) which is a finite design,

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*Above: flats on Ackroyden Estate, Wimbledon Park Side, by J. L. Martin (LCC architect); architect in charge, H. G. Gillett. Left: flats at Richmond, by Eric Lyons.*

unchangeable while in progress because dependent for its effect, in a way Pimlico is not, on the relation of each part to the whole. Though some of its wilfulness of detail may not please all tastes it is a magnificent achievement that has enriched contemporary British architecture simply by virtue of the vigour and conviction with which it has been carried out. It is positive architecture making its mark in a world dominated—often, it is true, for economic reasons—by the negative. It is immensely helped, of course, by its site, furnished with splendid trees, but it is by no means the rule that promising sites are used so intelligently.

The idiom employed in the Paddington flats is a development of that which has been evolved over many years by

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*Left: flats at Moss Heights, Glasgow by A. G. Jury, city architect. Below, Ladyshot housing area, Harlow new town, by Yorke, Rosenberg and Mardall.*



the Tecton group under Lubetkin's leadership. The newest work by Lubetkin and his present partners is included here (top of page 92) because of the place it occupies in a sequence of related designs and because everything they design contains ideas worth the studying, but the Holford Square building looked at in isolation has not the same grace and vigour as its predecessors. The surface modelling has been sacrificed to the demands of economy and the surface patterning which replaces it is made less effective by depressing colour.

The Brixton flats (bottom page 93), though a little more orthodox, are typical of the workmanlike, neatly detailed housing schemes that these architects have been turning out with remarkable consistency for many years.

With the LCC point block on the facing page we are back at something altogether more experimental, but an experiment that has already proved successful. The vast LCC housing estates at Wimbledon and Roehampton, with their skilfully landscaped mixture of terraces of small houses, maisonette blocks, and slabs and towers of flats, are arousing world-wide interest; no public housing elsewhere approaches their standards of lay-out and design.

They are the first visible fruit (so slowly does it take nowadays to bring the building machine into operation) of the revolution that took place in the LCC housing department in 1949, when the design of housing became the responsibility of the architect instead of the valuer; indeed the Ackroyden estate, of which the tower block illustrated



*Right: shops and maisonnettes at King's Heath, Northampton, by J. L. Womersley, formerly county architect. Below: houses in Melrose Terrace, Hammersmith, by Neville Conder.*



forms a part, had already been planned when the architects took over. It was to have been covered all over with five-storey flat development, and the architects were only in time to tidy up the lay-out and add several of these tower-blocks, thereby freeing more of the estate as open space while preserving the same density; also to add a number of maisonnettes. So it is in a sense a compromise, but the tower-block, both as regards architectural quality and imaginative planning, is a guarantee of still better things to come in the neighbouring Portsmouth Road scheme now under construction and the Roehampton scheme shortly to begin.

The other two blocks of flats, those at Richmond (bottom of page 94) and Glasgow (top of page 95) are included because a tribute should be paid to the modest but unusually

charming middle-class housing that the architect of the Richmond building has designed in recent years for various sites on the south-western fringe of London, and because the reader should be reminded that in Britain boldly conceived public authority housing is not confined to London or even to England.

Outside the big cities, much of the best housing is still being done in the new towns, the lead being set by Harlow, Hatfield and Basildon. Particularly successful is the Ladyshot area of Harlow (preceding page) where there is a mixture of four-storey flats (seen on the left of the picture) with terrace houses in parallel rows with footpath access. The rows have the same orientation; that is, the front windows of one row look on to the backs of the next, a plan

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Two factories in the industrial area of Stevenage new town: top, by D. P. Reay (chief architect, Development Corporation); bottom, by Clifford Holliday (former chief architect).

the tenants will find has obvious advantages when they have got over the unfamiliarity. Roofs are one-way pitch, and all walling of yellow stock brick, giving the area a marked character of its own. The building seen on the right of the picture is a tenants' common-room.

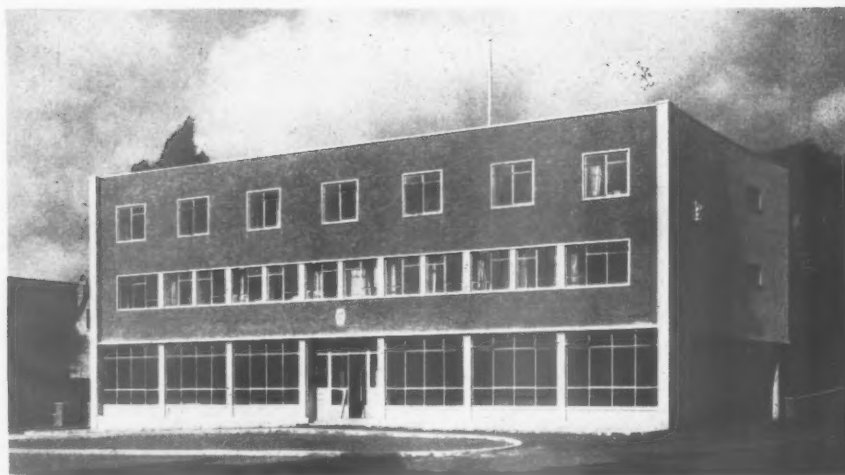
It used to be said that modern architects were incapable of producing an equivalent of the plain but dignified domestic facades of the eighteenth-century town street. The little terrace at Hammersmith (facing) shows that this can be done. Four-storey houses not being popular now, the same well built-up street frontage has been achieved by placing two rows of two-storey houses on top of each other, the upper one being reached from an access gallery, which is recessed in a way that does not spoil the continuity of the

facade. The brickwork, once again, is yellow London stocks. The detailing is exceptionally neat and the whole scheme provides a precedent that might be followed in many of the streets of obsolescent nineteenth-century houses that will soon have to be rebuilt in one form or another.

The shopping square at Northampton with maisonettes above (top of facing page) is included here among housing rather than among shops because its role is to provide a focus, visual as well as social, for a new residential neighbourhood with a population of about 5,000, the whole of which deserves commendation as a thoughtfully planned entity. The shopping centre has a proper air of urbanity. The roofs of the shopping arcade provide wide terraces for the maisonettes above.



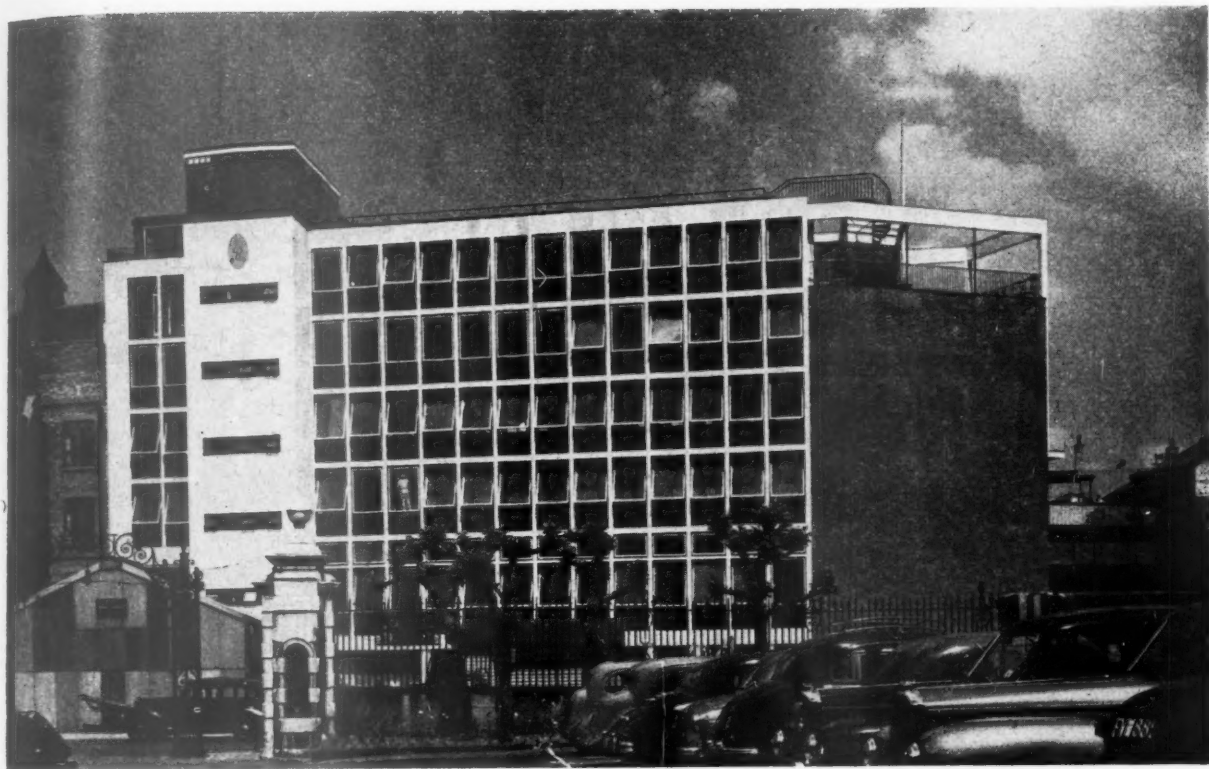
*Above: bus garage at Brixton, by Adie, Button and Partners. Right: Crown offices at Thornton Heath, by the Architect's Department, Ministry of Works.*



Next we come to factories. The industrial sections of the new towns are now being built up quickly and show a remarkably high standard of factory architecture. Some of the best are at Harlow, in the factory area adjoining the now completed Mark Hall neighbourhoods, but these were not completed in time to be photographed for this issue. Several from Harlow and at least one (by Sir William Holford) at Peterlee will certainly qualify for this survey next year; meanwhile two from Stevenage are illustrated here, as representing the small-scale post-war factory at its best. Another type of industrial building that has produced plenty of good design lately is the bus garage. London Transport have built a number of them and the latest, at Brixton (shown above) is not only pleasantly

straightforward and bold in scale as befits the vast floor areas these structures enclose, but has many of the virtues one used to associate with London Transport buildings in the old days of Frank Pick and Adams, Holden and Pearson. It is right that that tradition should not have been forgotten.

With office buildings architects are on far less sure ground, and so low is the average standard that one is grateful to find even a few worthy of inclusion on these pages. It is even more reassuring to note that one of these comes out of the Ministry of Works, seeing that it was the Lessor Scheme buildings, sponsored by the Ministry, that led British office blocks in the years after the war into the wilderness of brutalized neo-Georgianism in which they are still for the most part struggling. The modest but capably



Above: office building at London Bridge, by John Lacey.  
Left: office building in Lambeth, by R. H. Wakelin of  
Campbell Jones and Sons. Below: offices at Poole, by  
Farmer and Dark.







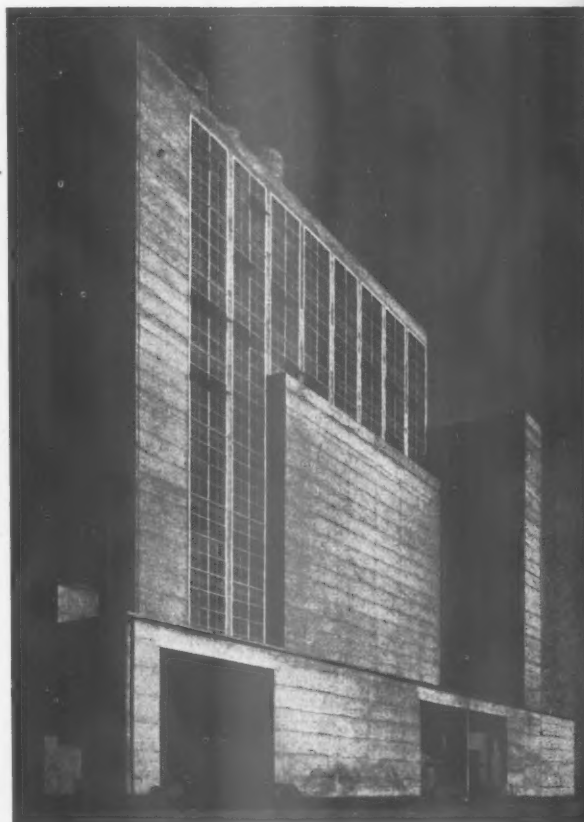
*Above: offices at Wythenshawe, Manchester, by Cruikshank and Seward. Right: grain silo at Stowmarket, Suffolk, by the Architect's Department, Ministry of Works.*

designed little building at Thornton Heath (page 98) shows how far the Ministry's ideas have progressed since then.

A far more ambitious building is that at London Bridge station (preceding page, top), the first instalment of a scheme for developing a large island site with offices and shops, pedestrian access on different levels internally and a twenty-five storey tower in the middle. It is one of the most interesting projects now going forward in central London. The detailed architectural treatment is better—less heavy-handed—than the impression given by the photograph.

Of a more conventional type (in that it retains the built-up street facade) but sensibly designed and particularly well detailed is the large office building in Lambeth (page 99, bottom). The same may be said of the other building on the same page and of that illustrated above, first-rate examples of the same sort of style from the provinces. The walling materials: brick, exposed concrete members and glass-brick panels, are especially skilfully handled and the former includes an enterprising example of mural decoration. Finally, to serve as a tail-piece is another building from the Ministry of Works, showing once again the freshness now to be found in their work after years of dullness and period-style respectability. They have had the initiative to create something with real architectural character out of a type of building that in other days would probably have simply been left to the engineers.

## BUILDINGS OF THE YEAR: 1954









## GLASS | FIBRES | GENERAL DATA

The Architects' Journal Library of Information Sheets 503. Editor: Cotterell Butler, A.R.T.B.A.

8.EI 8

TYPE	DESCRIPTION	nominal thickness inches (uncompressed)	STOCK SIZES OR QUANTITIES	nominal density lb/cu ft.	thermal conductivity B.Th.U./sq.ft./hr./1°F/in.	APPLICATIONS
quilt, light	glass wool mat stitched between treated kraft paper	3/4	rolls: 15 yd. long x 36 in. wide	5	0.25	for sound deadening of timber or concrete floating floors (houses)
medium	as for quilt, light	1	rolls: 15 yd. long x 36 in. wide	5	0.25	as for quilt, light (for hotels, schools, institutes etc.)
heavy	as for quilt, light	1 1/4	rolls: 10 yd. long x 36 in. wide	5	0.25	as for quilt, light (for hospitals and places where a high degree of sound insulation is necessary)
house insulation	mat of felted glass wool fibres	4	rolls: 6 yd. long x 12 in., 14 in., 16 in., 18 in. wide	1 1/2	0.30	for thermal insulation of houses, material laid between joists in attics
loose wool	glass fibres in loose form	—	bags: 14 lb., 28 lb. bales: about 36 lb.	3	0.26	for cavity packing
bitumen-bonded mat	glass wool mat lightly bonded with bitumen	1	rolls: 10 yd. long x 33 in., 36 in., 42 in., 48 in. wide or cut to suit joist spacing	3	0.25	for thermal insulation of prefabricated and traditional constructions: for sound deadening of concrete floating floors
bitumen quilt	bitumen-bonded mat enclosed in bituminised paper	3/4	rolls: 10 yd. long x 36 in. wide	3	0.25	for thermal insulation of factories and houses
resin-bonded semi-rigid slab	glass wool mat bonded with resin	1/2 to 4 1/2 1/2 to 4 1/2 to 3	cut sizes within the limits 72 in. x 42 in.	2 1/2 4 1/4 6	0.25	for thermal and sound insulation
Scottish quilt	bitumen-bonded mat fixed between kraft and bituminised paper, not stitched	1	rolls: 10 yd. long x 36 in. wide	3	0.25	for sound deadening of timber or concrete floating floors

FIBREGLASS INSULATING MATERIALS.

Manufacturer: Fibreglass Limited.

## 8.E1 'FIBREGLASS' INSULATING MATERIALS

This Sheet supersedes Sheet 8.E1 published 29.10.53. It describes the general properties of Fibreglass insulating material. The table on the face summarises the primary characteristics of the various forms in which the material is available.

### Material

Fibreglass consists of glass drawn into flexible fibres and is entirely inorganic, non-hygroscopic, unaffected by moisture and will not rot or cause corrosion of any surface with which it may come in contact. It offers no sustenance to vermin and is non-inflammable.

### Thermal Conductivity

National Physical Laboratory tests have been carried out on this material. The thermal conductivity figures quoted on the face of the Sheet are based on these tests. Copies of the actual reports may be obtained from the manufacturer.

### Trade Name

The word 'Fibreglass' is a trade mark.

### Further Information

The manufacturer maintains a technical advisory department which is available to answer questions dealing with the applications of Fibreglass.

*Compiled from information supplied by:*

#### Fibreglass Ltd.

Head Office : Ravenhead, St. Helens, Lancs.  
Telephone : St. Helens 4224.  
Telegrams : Fibreglass, St. Helens.  
London Office : 63-65, Piccadilly, W.1.  
Telephone : Hyde Park 2115.  
Telegrams : Fibreglass, Piccy, London.  
Glasgow Office : 136, Renfield Street, Glasgow, C.2.  
Telephone : Douglas 2687.  
Telegrams : Fibreglass, Glasgow.  
Manchester Office : 11, Piccadilly, Manchester, 1.  
Telephone : Blackfriars 8863.  
Birmingham Office : Piccadilly Arcade, New Street, Birmingham, 2.  
Telephone : Midland 0464.  
Newcastle Office : 16, Dean Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.  
Telephone : Newcastle 20938.  
Dublin Office : 21, Merrion Square North, Dublin.  
Telephone : Dublin 67060.





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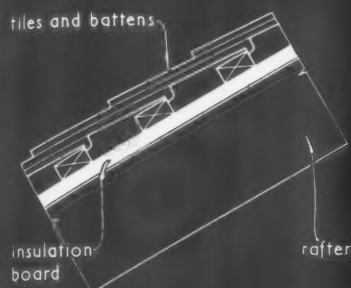
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## THERMAL INSULATION | ROOFS AND CEILINGS

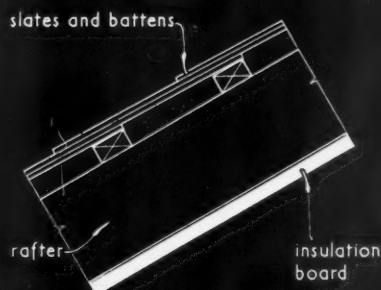
28.E10

The Architects' Journal Library of Information Sheets 504. Editor: Cotterell Butler, A.R.I.B.A.

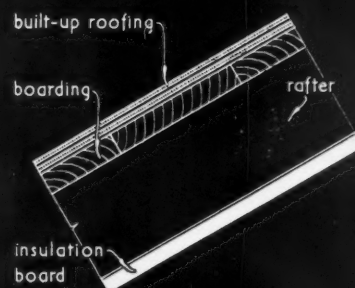
28.E10



U = 1.50 without insulation board  
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 U = 0.26 with  $\frac{3}{4}$ " insulation board

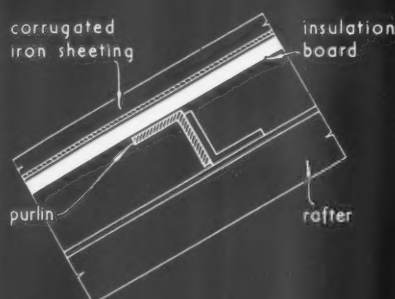


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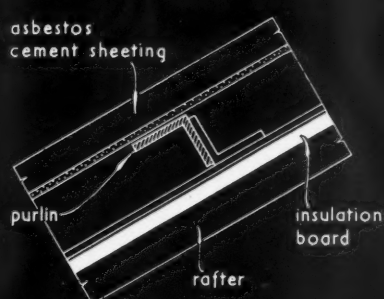


U = 0.55 without insulation board  
 U = 0.24 with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " insulation board  
 U = 0.20 with  $\frac{3}{4}$ " insulation board

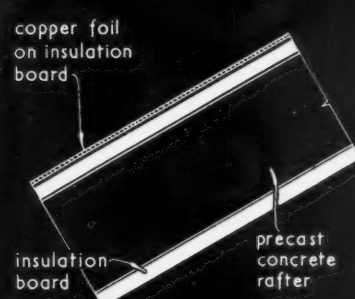
## PITCHED ROOFS: TIMBER CONSTRUCTIONS.



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 U = 0.36 with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " insulation board  
 U = 0.28 with  $\frac{3}{4}$ " insulation board

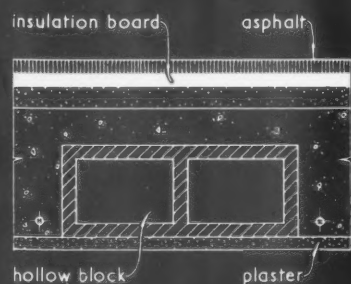


U = 1.40 without insulation board  
 U = 0.32 with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " insulation board  
 U = 0.26 with  $\frac{3}{4}$ " insulation board

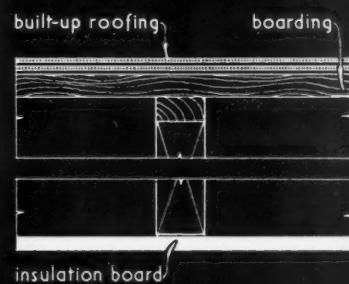


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 U = 0.21 with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " ceiling insulation  
 U = 0.18 with  $\frac{3}{4}$ " ceiling insulation

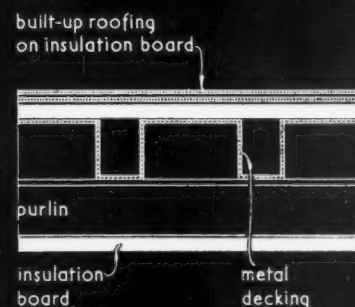
## PITCHED ROOFS: STEEL AND CONCRETE CONSTRUCTIONS.



U = 0.44 without insulation board  
 U = 0.27 with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " insulation board  
 U = 0.23 with  $\frac{3}{4}$ " insulation board



U = 0.53 without insulation board  
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 U = 0.20 with  $\frac{3}{4}$ " insulation board



U = 0.37 without ceiling insulation  
 U = 0.20 with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " ceiling insulation  
 U = 0.17 with  $\frac{3}{4}$ " ceiling insulation

## FLAT ROOFS: HOLLOW BLOCK, TIMBER AND METAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

## LLOYD BOARDS: COMPARATIVE EFFICIENCIES OF INSULATED ROOFS.

Manufacturer: Bowaters Building Boards Ltd.

## 28.E10 LLOYD BOARDS: COMPARATIVE EFFICIENCIES OF INSULATED ROOFS

This Sheet illustrates a range of insulated pitched and flat roofs and gives their calculated thermal transmittance values based on conductivities as set out in *The Computation of Heat Requirements for Buildings* published by the Institution of Heating and Ventilating Engineers.

The values (U) are expressed in B.Th.U./sq. ft./hr./° F. temperature difference. In calculating these values the contribution made by the rafters has been ignored since this will vary according to the particular construction adopted.

### Fixing Insulation Board

With rafter spacings up to 16 in., insulation board applied to the underside may be spiked to the rafters. Above this, patent fixing methods should be used. (For details, see Sheets 22.D1, 22.D2, 22.D3, 22.D4 and 22.D5.)

### Suspended Ceilings

Where use is made of an insulated horizontal ceiling below a pitched roof, the insulation value of such a structure depends on the air flow over the upper

horizontal surface, which is related to the effectiveness of the pitched roof covering as a vapour barrier. Where the roof covering presents an effective vapour barrier, e.g., in the case of a tiled and boarded roof or a membrane-covered close-boarded roof, a higher degree of insulation is afforded to rooms below if the insulation board is fixed in the form of a suspended ceiling rather than by being attached to the underside of the roof joists.

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*Architect Eric de Maré is one of our foremost authorities on Swedish architecture, and by his writings and brilliant photography has played a part in extending the influence of Swedish design over modern architecture in Britain. Now, as contemporary design in this country can be said to be slowly moving out of the orbit of Scandinavian influence, we publish on the following pages the latest illustrated report by Eric de Maré on the most recent developments in Swedish architecture. The cultured—almost precious—architectural achievements of this small foreign nation cannot be directly compared with the broader, but fairly vigorous picture of building and advisory work done by British architects. J. M. Richards, in the preceding article, has indicated the quality of work at home. But abroad, the past year has seen the emergence of a world-wide pattern of work for British architectural practices, which is unique. Jane Drew and Maxwell Fry have gone ahead with work on Chandigarh, India's new capital and a further building programme in Calcutta. Raglan Squire and James Cubitt and Partners have opened offices at Rangoon, Burma, and the latter firm, with Leonard Manasseh, have another office in Singapore. In the past year Anthony Chitty visited Iraq to advise on that country's housing. Minoprio and Spencely have added the planning problems of Baghdad to those they are tackling at Kuwait. Jaqueline Tyrwhitt came from Canada to Delhi to direct a UN Asian housing and community planning seminar. Easton and Robertson are designing Malaya's new university buildings at Singapore and Michael Wright, the PWD's chief architect, has designed Hong Kong's new Government offices. W. H. Watkins, Gray and Partners, in collaboration with George Stout and James Murray of the Nigerian Federal PWD are building the first teaching hospital in West Africa. Walker, Harwood and Cranswick's offices for Shell are under construction at Lagos and the health centre and hospital for the Marampa mining community, Sierra Leone, by Bernard Nickson has been completed. The Architects' Co-partnership are now doing work at Lagos and Abadan. Norman and Dawbarn are working on the new buildings of Fouran Bay College, Freetown, Sierra Leone, and their work on the West Indies University College and Hospital, Jamaica is nearly complete. G. A. Atkinson and John Page from BRS were UK delegates to the inaugural meeting of an African inter-territorial committee on housing research at Accra. James Walker, an architect from BRS is organizing a new housing department for British Guiana and Alistair MacDonald is designing military establishments in Cyprus. It can be said that the international practice, if not the international style, has fairly arrived in Britain.*

## ERIC de MARÉ PAYS A RETURN VISIT TO

# SWEDEN

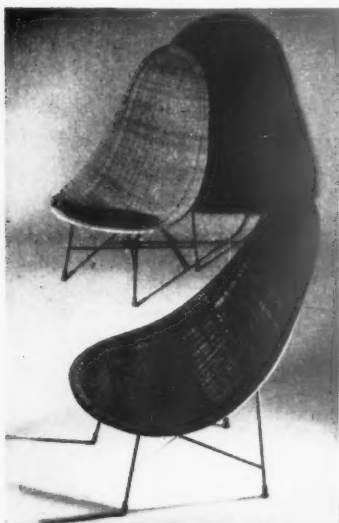
In 1947 I visited Sweden and took a good look around Gothenburg, Stockholm and the central provinces. I was back again last summer and will give you some impressions of what I saw of the developments of the past seven years. After my 1947 visit I wrote in the *Architectural Review* (Jan., 1948):

"There is a striving among (Swedish) architects for a new and revitalizing creed which will enable them to escape from that sterility to which a too doctrinaire and puritanical adherence to functionalism finally leads. The strivings are tentative, but that they are happening at all is significant. As yet the new movement, if it can be called a definite movement, has no name for its beliefs, though the *Architectural Review* for June last year called it the New Empiricism. . . . Planning has become much freer . . . fenestration, too, is freer. . . . Indigenous traditional materials are used. . . . In domestic work cosiness is coming back. . . . 'The New Empiricism is the attempt to be more objective than the functionalists, and to bring back another science

—that of psychology—into the picture.'"

What has happened to this New Empiricism? It has not crystallized clearly and the formal trend is uncertain. As a well-known architect concerned with Stockholm planning admitted to me: "We have been going round in circles, but the most definite influence now comes from Italy." Always, it seems, we return to the south when the spring of inspiration begins to run dry; that happened after the First War in Sweden when the Gothenburg Exhibition brought in the Swedish Grace of a new classicism, and now again Sweden returns to the Mediterranean sunshine for refreshment, though, this time, not to the past. The Italian influence is noticeable in the new furniture, but it can be seen also in some of the new point houses, and in the glass, light steel and canvas of the excellent small buildings—café, information centre, and open-air theatre—erected in 1953 in *Kungsgården*, in the centre of Stockholm.

Professor Ahrbom declared as far back as 1949: "Swedish architecture today is without a programme to the



*Top and above, two examples of furniture by Nordiska Kompaniet, showing an Italian influence. Above right, an open-air café in Kungsträdgården, Stockholm. Right, a general view of the new county offices at Mariestad by Klas Anselm.*



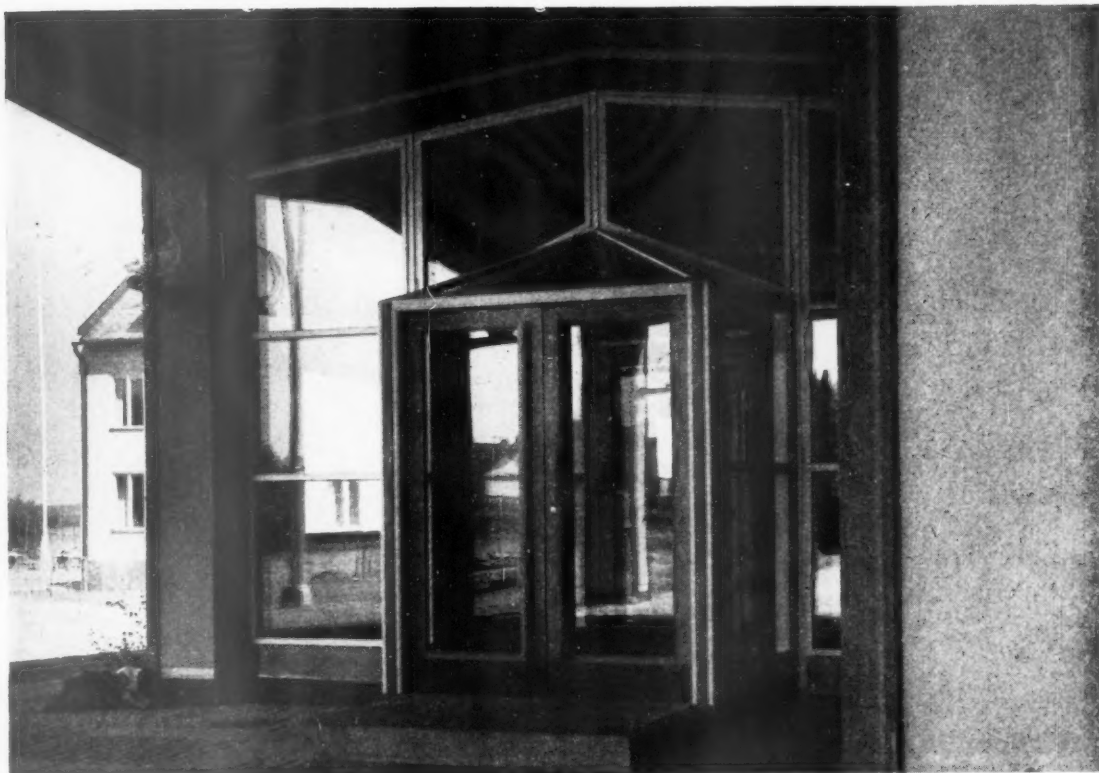
extent that it does not purposely follow a conscious line. . . . It lacks any clearly formed ideal . . . and it seems often unstable and faltering—from the standpoint of form and social values." These remarks raise philosophical questions which would need a book to pose and answer. Suffice it to say here that Sweden has been creating a planned welfare state over many decades; in that, the country has been by no means unstable and faltering. Yet having achieved confidence of the 'twenties and 'thirties has gone, and with it some of the old refinement and grace. In brief, nothing of great significance has happened in Sweden during the past few years. What are the reasons for this?

Having read Mr. Max Lock's recent BBC talk on Town Planning in Sweden and Norway in *The Listener*, I wrote a long letter to that journal criticizing some of Mr. Lock's remarks. I was surprised when my letter was

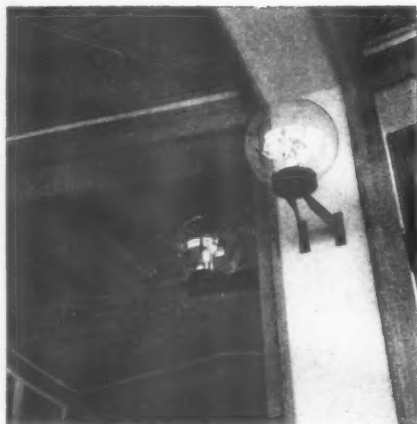
published in full, but still more surprised by the considerable support my opinions received—even from Swedes. I would like to quote from that letter, because it seems to have touched a nerve centre:

"Sweden possesses the Welfare State in so advanced and progressive a condition that it has been well described as Luxury Communism. But, as most intelligent Swedes are themselves the first to admit, something is missing from modern life in Sweden. There is a sense of emptiness in the clean air, a sense of bored frustration, a lack of warmth, which is hard to define and analyse. Life seems too well organized, too prim and tidy. . . . The individual seems to be growing ever more standardized and Swedish architecture and town planning reflect this clearly. . . . I mention this not in order to denigrate the most civilized country in Europe but because I think that if we can accurately diagnose the spiritual flaw in Swedish life today we may discover something of profound and universal importance to us all. We seem everywhere to be aiming at what Sweden has already achieved. When we arrive there we

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*Above, the entrance to the county offices at Mariestad by Klas Anselm. Left, a detail showing the precise stone and timber detailing of the interior, described by Eric de Maré as an example of the "still tentative New Empiricism." Below, a general view of a block of shops and flats in the main street of Motala.*



may discover, as the Swedes are discovering, that we are not where we wanted to be at all.

"What then is the trouble?" the letter goes on. "Mainly, I believe, it stems from two main factors which are now world-wide. The first is the effects on the human spirit of industrialization, with the division of labour, the centralization, the regimentation, and the personal frustration it produces ('Everything is prohibited unless it is compulsory,' is a current remark among cynical Swedes). The second is the destructive power—now deeply ingrained in our unconscious minds, especially in the northern European countries—of non-conformist puritan religion, particularly in the attitudes this has produced towards work and towards the relationship between society and the individual.

"He (Mr. Lock) talks about democracy as though it already exists and he refers to 'the balance between work and leisure.' In a healthy society we would not make a distinction between work and leisure. After all, leisure activity is merely work which the individual chooses to do of his own free will." . . . (I know I am not telling you much

yet about the new buildings in Sweden, but let me go on. This is more important.)

"We are all in the West (and the East is following) bowed down with an irrational sense of guilt and Work has become a fetish by means of which we try to expiate this sense of guilt. The end of it all is a psycho-physical explosion called War. . . . We cannot relax and we have no time for contemplation, for thinking deeply, or for free creativity, whether personal or co-operative. We are all tightly bound by our money-time compulsions. . . . The world conflicts are unreal because the antagonists fail to see that the basic moral conflict in the world today really concerns this question of work, leisure and individual freedom. Swedes are particularly unaware that this moral issue exists at all. Like the rest of us, they are busily engaged in building a gaol as big as a nation and the fact that the gaol is clean, efficient and sometimes even handsome, does not provide a good excuse. Some righteous people are even trying to create a gaol that is as wide as the whole world. . . ."

In Sweden, as here, there is not enough fun in architecture





*Above, a detail of the shop arcade beneath a block of flats at Motala. Left and below, two single-storey timber houses at Gothenburg designed by Erik Friberger. Two examples of modern Swedish sculpture can be seen on the facades.*



these days—no building for pleasure, no luxury, no panache. That is symbolic. Even the New Brutalism is occasionally evident in Sweden now—that perfect symbol of the dead end of puritanism, the ultimate sterility of a world where the poets have died and debt reigns supreme. Everything now is done in the name of the Common Man. But he is a myth; he doesn't really exist. Let us pray that we shall realize that, at least by 1984.

I have been painting a dark picture. There are some interesting new buildings in Sweden. Of the still tentative New Empiricism, two examples might be said to be the County Offices at Mariestad by Klas Anselm opened last summer—competently planned, not very exciting, but dignified, well detailed and beautifully sited by the water—and the cheerful flat and shop complex in red brick which





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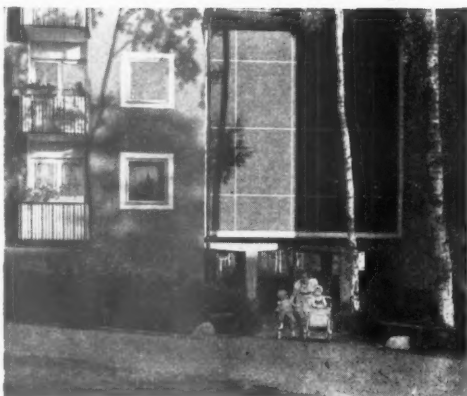
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*Left and below, two examples of terrace housing at Skönstaholm, south-east of Stockholm, by Sterner and Dahl. Just discernible, on the extreme right, and in front of the white column, is a typical tidy detail: a sunken dustbin. Bottom, flats at Blackeberg neighbourhood, Stockholm.*



climbs the main street of **Motala**. Gothenburg goes on expanding to the east mainly with the usual types of flat blocks with their tiny balconies with which we have become rather bored. Amidst the new development stands a small experimental group of bungalows each with its own character but all made of standard timber sections. The architect, Erik Friberger, inhabits one of them. Nobody local seems to think much of them but they struck me as being human; they are very economical, almost with a temporary air, but each has its own small garden and the whole lay-out is compact, snug and allows complete privacy to each cottage; the detailing is simple but imaginative and, oh joy, two good attempts have been made here to use **modern sculpture externally**. In this unassuming little group I found a small symbol of hope.



*Above and right, a detail and general view of new point blocks of flats at Vällingby, near Stockholm. The Stockholm housing authorities have coined this slogan about this estate: "Rome was not built in a day but Vällingby was built in a year."*

Another symbol of hope lies in a larger estate on the extreme south-east corner of greater Stockholm—Sternen and Dahl's terrace houses at Skönstaholm erected for the Stockholm Building Department. The planning official I interviewed scoffed at these dwellings as Hansel and Gretel romance; he even referred to bogus shutters which were not hinged. I thought: "Well, that's new anyway," and went to see them. There were no bogus shutters and there was no gingerbread on the roofs; the lay-out was informal and visually interesting; a peaceful, kindly spot with houses designed with imagination and charm in the right scale for human beings. These houses are very popular.

Otherwise Stockholm's new housing, well organized in neighbourhood units along the Tunnelbana (Underground Railway, now nearly finished except for the difficult





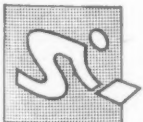
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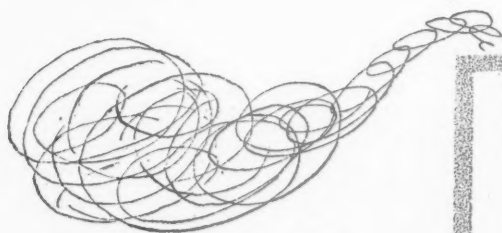


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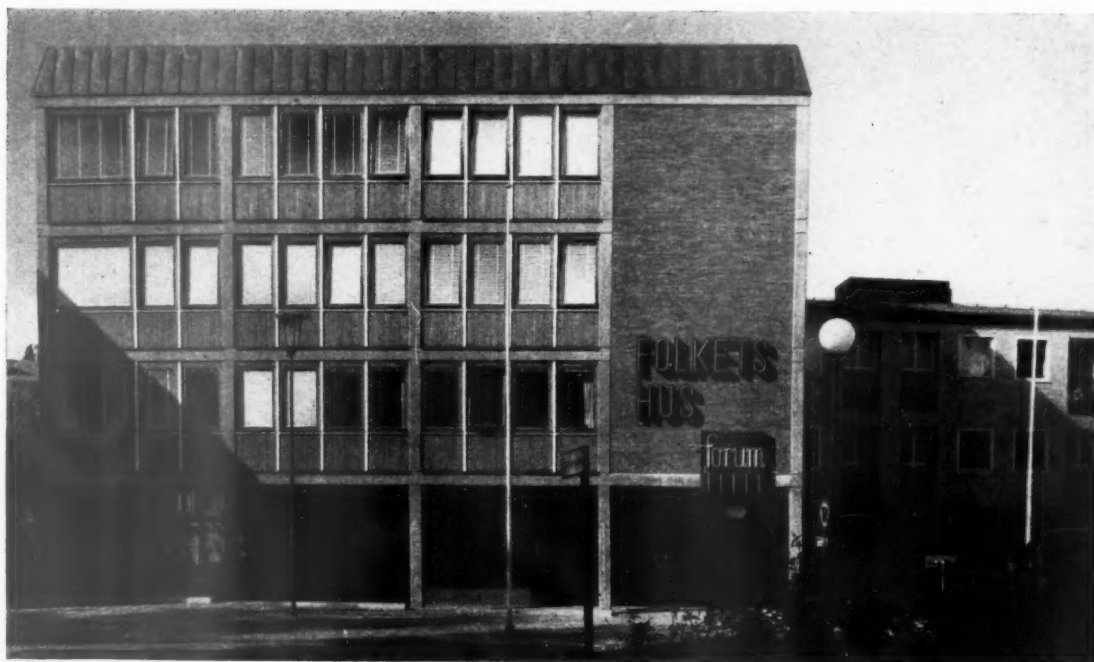
\* *wrap her in*



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# FIBREGLOSS

TRADE MARK



*Above, the exterior and the theatre of a community centre at Linköping and, left, a detail of the new trade union headquarters in Stockholm, both designed by Sven Markelius. The trade union building is faced in corrugated aluminium.*

central link), is along familiar bureaucratic lines. The most pleasant of the neighbourhood units is that at **Blackeberg** lying to the west of the capital; it is fresh and colourful though perhaps too scattered among the pine woods, too garden-city-like. Near the end of the line is **Vällingby**, not yet complete. This neighbourhood has received great publicity from the authorities who have used slogans like: "Rome was not built in a day, but Vällingby was built in a year." The speed of building is, indeed, remarkable. All the same, housing in Stockholm is still short, largely because people are still drawn to the capital, living standards are rising, people marry earlier than they did and all want homes of their own.

Stockholm scores over London and most other towns in having always planned well ahead—at least since the 1860s.



*Above, the new social administration centre of the pottery works at Gustavsberg, now owned by the Co-op. Below, the interior, showing the well lit by the conical lantern. Left, a street shelter and an entrance to the new underground railway at Odenplan, Stockholm, designed by G. Liné of the Stockholm Street Department.*

Now the planning of greater Stockholm, with its reliance on the new Tunnelbana, is almost complete and the planning department is beginning to think about re-organizing the centre of the city.

Sven Markelius is about to retire from the leadership of Stockholm's town planning and will then devote himself to his private practice. With his usual refined austerity he is now completing the **Trade Union headquarters in Stockholm**, a building unique in being faced entirely in sheets of corrugated aluminium alloy and in having aluminium pivot windows. Another of his latest works is the **Folkets Hus** (community centre) at Linköping and he has added an extension to his well-known students' club in Stockholm.

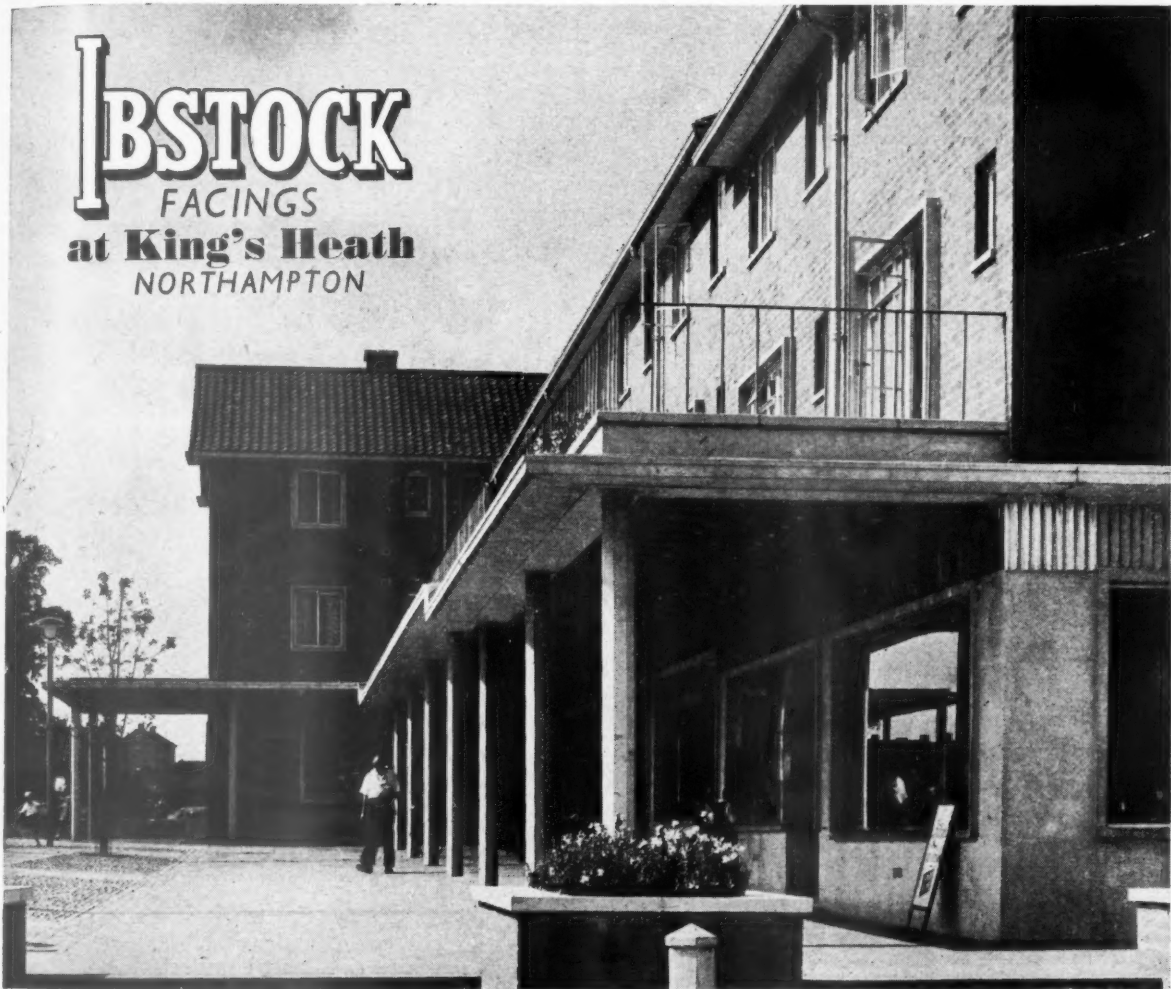
Another new building of note is the **Social Administration Centre** of the pottery works of Gustavsberg, now





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● Ibstock facings were used for the following five types of buildings at King's Heath Estate, Northampton, described in this issue:—

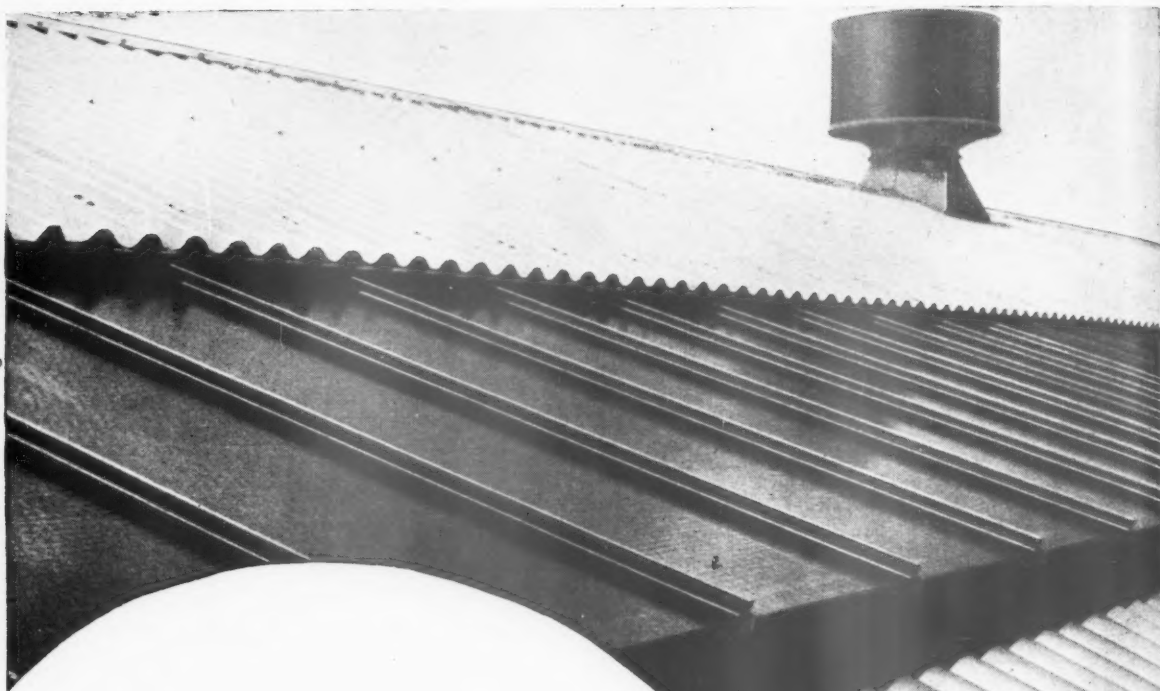
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*Above, Vällingby Station on the new Stockholm underground railway, showing the concrete left untreated from the shattering and the rough, blasted, granite walls which contrast so favourably with the glass, aluminium and grey plastic panels of the surface buildings, left.*

owned by the Co-op. It stands some miles to the west of the capital—a curious drum of red brick surmounted by a conical lantern lighting a central well around which the offices are arranged.

Ralph Erskine, an English architect who has practised in Sweden for the past twenty-four years, has produced some remarkable, if eccentric, new buildings; they were illustrated in the *Architectural Review* for July, 1954. Unfortunately they lie far north and so few people see them. Nevertheless, though Erskine is considered rather a "character," his work is greatly respected by his Swedish contemporaries and he is a busy man.

Of the new public architecture, the best is that of the Tunnelbana, the Stockholm Underground Railway. It is economical and austere in the extreme and by contrast





*Above, a detail of the construction of the concourse of Vällingby Station on the Stockholm underground, showing welded steelwork and simple asbestos panelling. Below, tiled columns and a tiled floor in the Kungsgatan Station and, right, part of the Blackeberg Station concourse.*



with Moscow's Underground, not so very far to the east, it makes an intriguing social comment. The public does not think that many of the stations are properly finished yet. In fact, they are finished and the uncovered concrete surfaces and the blasted granite will remain uncovered. The rough textures act as good foils to the precise light steelwork, the laminated timber platform roofs, the shimmering plate glass and the smooth, grey, plastic panelling. At Blackeberg the station has an interesting concourse with entrances on two levels and with a roof of shell concrete. Standardization of parts runs through the whole system—doors, ticket boxes, seats, signs, telephone booths, light fittings and so on. The austerity is carried to the rolling stock and in no carriage may you smoke.

A commuters' world dedicated to the daily grind. Clean,

tidy, utilitarian—and well planned. But planned for what? Thank heavens, the Swedes are beginning to wonder. But they have not yet considered that technology and full employment may soon become mutually exclusive. A Great Thought that for all us puritans in the year A.D. 1955. Alternative numbering is now A.F. 10, the tenth year of Atomic Fission. Or is it A.F.1, the first year of the Automatic Factory? We now approach the second industrial revolution, to the attainment of which a small northern country has given more than her share of skill and intelligence. But, like us, she is beginning to wonder what to do about it. Perhaps Pehr Henrik Ling should stop leaping about so earnestly and sit quietly sometimes in the lotus position. Being a practical man, he takes too much for granted.



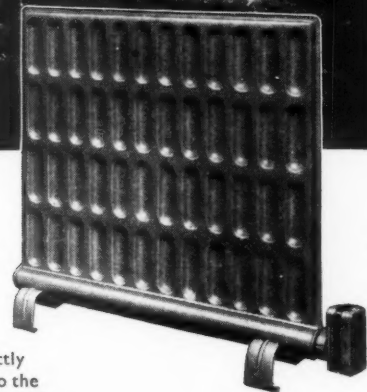


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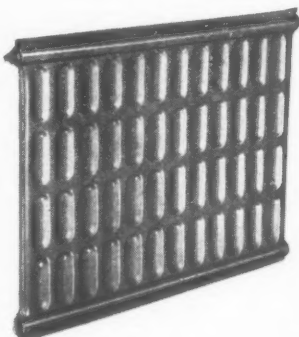


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## Colloquium on Dry Construction

On January 10 the Cape Asbestos Company organized what they described as a "Colloquium" on "Dry Construction in Multi-storey Buildings: Wall and Floors" at the Building Centre. This event was attended by over a hundred architects and representatives of all sides of the building industry. Peter Trench, Managing Director of Bovis Ltd., was in the chair. The subjects were introduced by Edward Mills and William Allen, and were then taken up by members of the audience.

The first subject to be discussed was curtain walls. Edward Mills, in his introduction, began by pointing out that the technical difficulties met with in the curtain walling of tall structures such as the UN and Lever buildings had caused a certain reaction against the concept of curtain walling in America. He suggested that the imminence of a programme of multi-storey building in this country made it imperative that these difficulties should be overcome quickly and that the next 18 months might prove decisive. Three aspects particularly engaged the attention of speakers.

The first of these was whether it was reasonable to rely on the use of mastics or rubber extrusions for sealing the gaps between moving parts or whether it was advisable to design on the principle of the "breathing" wall, with over-lapping skins as used in tiles and slates. Most architects seemed optimistic about the use of mastic, though William Allen was of the opinion that it was unwise to rely on it as a first line of defence. Ove Arup was among those who favoured a breathing wall, though it was pointed out that high wind pressures at the top of a high building made this approach technically difficult, and that the cost of the separate "skins," which this method implied, was apt to be prohibitive.

The second problem was whether the storey height panel riding between floors offered a more hopeful solution than the curtain wall riding in front of the floors. Edward Mills made the point that if the floor were projected sufficiently far forward from the wall face it could serve to overcome both the cleaning and the fire protection difficulties. No conclusion was reached, though Bruce Martin gave it as his opinion that this was in fact the most crucial issue of all.

The third question related to the use of glass spandrel panels, the chief point at issue being whether the glass should be self-coloured or whether it was preferable to use plain glass with a coloured surface behind, separated by a cavity. Opinion varied between that of Howard Lobb, who suggested that the main justification for the use of glass

in spandrels was ease of cleaning, and who therefore recommended vitreous enamel, and that of Leo de Syllas, who contested that the main value was aesthetic, deriving from the change of colour according to the position of viewers outside, a quality which could only be obtained if the glass were clear and if there were a cavity behind.

Discussion of suspended ceilings and partitions was virtually confined to the questions of sound transmission (in which, as it was pointed out, both elements must be considered together, since sound is apt to pass from room to room via the ceiling space) and demountability. Guy Oddie commented on the value of a partly demountable ceiling which gives access to the ceiling space while giving permanently fixed surfaces for fitting electrical equipment. Leo de Syllas expressed his view that too many partitions which were not "dry" in the fullest sense were unable to stand up to the greater movement experienced in dry construction buildings, and suggested that jointing should be mechanical and not by adhesives.

William Allen, in summing up, congratulated the Cape Asbestos Company on organizing what was generally felt to have been a particularly worthwhile occasion.

## TDA

### The Thinnings House

On January 13 the TDA held a Press conference on "The Thinnings House," which is, in effect, a project to use the annual output of conifer thinnings for housing purposes. It is calculated that the present volume of these thinnings is well over 2 million cubic feet a year, and that this figure is on the increase. The present suggestion is to make up the thinnings into cladding units. These are up to 3 ft. in height and of widths varying from 1 ft. 8 in. to 4 ft. 7 in. with a bias in favour of a standard module of 3 ft. 4 in. The units are faced with narrow strips of rebated vertical weather-boarding, backed with a layer of building paper and nailed to a frame. There is a cement, sawdust and sand infilling behind.

A framework has been designed which

permits the use of these units on some of the MOHLG's type plans for housing, and an experimental building has been erected at Thetford Chase in Norfolk. Though this may well result in a valuable addition to our building units, the project appears to be still in an early stage of its development.

## HOSPITAL DESIGN

### Hospital Congress

A hospital congress on the theme "The mental well-being of patients in the general hospital" will be held at the *Kurst und Kongresshaus*, Lucerne, Switzerland, from May 29 to June 3. In addition there will be two "Open Forum" group discussions, to enable an exchange of views and experience on other problems to take place. Topics for these discussions will be selected from suggestions received from participants. In addition a hospitals exhibition will be held to show the latest developments in the field of hospital equipment. Further particulars available from J. E. Stone, Hon. Sec., International Hospital Federation, 10, Old Jewry, London.

## NFBTE

### Churchill at Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner of the NFBTE will take place at the Dorchester Hotel, London, on Tuesday, January 25. The toast of "Her Majesty's Government" will be proposed by George Grosvenor, of Bath, President, and Sir Winston Churchill will respond.

The toast of "The Guests" will be proposed by Harvey G. Frost, of Bury St. Edmunds, Senior Vice-President of the NFBTE, and the reply will be given by Charles Bowyer, President of the RICS.

## LEEDS

### Old Students' Association

A re-union of past students was recently held at the Great Northern Hotel, Leeds, and



"A 'Brighten-Up the Cells' campaign would come during a Regency revival."





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*Illustration: An example of Luxfer Reinforced Concrete Mullion Windows installed in the Charlton Refuse Disposal Depot for the Borough of Twickenham: Borough Engineer and Surveyor: A. S. Knolles, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., M.Inst.M., Cy.E.*

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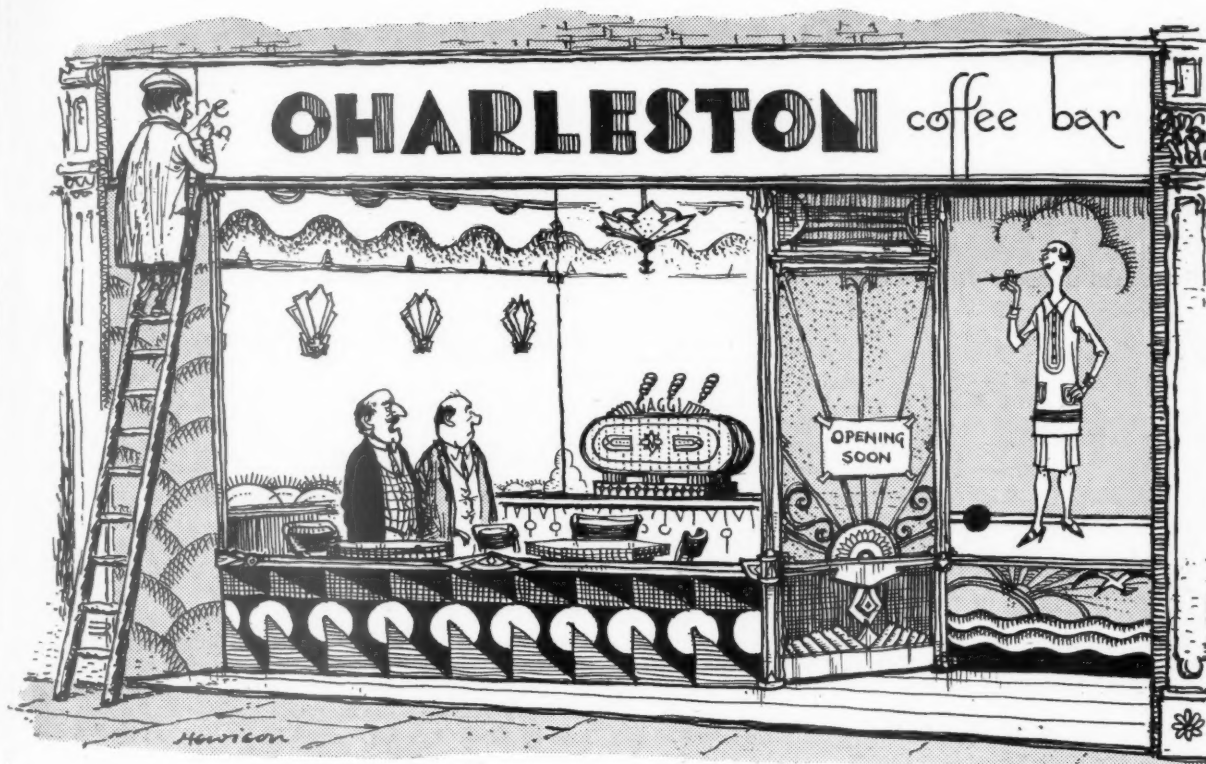
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"It's the only scheme that doesn't clash with the Espresso machine."

was attended by seventy-five ex-students of the Leeds School of Architecture. F. Chipindale (F) was in the Chair. It was decided to hold two meetings annually, one for past Students only and one to include guests.

Professor J. S. Allen (F) was elected president and A. V. Montague (A) treasurer. Notices regarding the next meeting will be issued in due course to all who returned the previous circular. Others interested should contact the Hon. Secretary at Bank Buildings, Hyde Park, Leeds, 6.

## RIBA

### Bronze Medal Award

The award of the RIBA Bronze Medal for the Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire Association of Architects (for the period of three years ending December 31, 1953) has been made to the King's Heath shopping centre, Northampton, by J. L. Womersley. This was formally approved by the RIBA Council at their meeting on January 4.

## FELIX WALTER

### "New Homes for Old"

It is quite remarkable, writes Guest Editor Felix Walter, that the MOHLG should continue to foist upon the general public material which so many of the technical journals and one or two national papers agreed was inadequate. I refer to the Holles Street exhibit which has reappeared without additional information in the Ministry's latest publication "New Homes for Old."\* The main concern of anyone who is interested in the improvement or conversion

of his property is the total cost of the job; and having discovered this, he can then assess the subdivision of expenditure as between repairs on the one hand and improvements or conversion on the other. He will then know, if only approximately, how much will attract the government grant and how much must come out of his own pocket if he goes ahead with the project.

For obvious reasons, perhaps, the Ministry continues to ignore altogether the bill for repairs which can account for as much as 45 per cent. of the total capital outlay. But political propaganda is not necessarily synonymous with general advice and guidance, and by attempting to demonstrate the government's munificence in handing to the property owner 50 per cent. of his approved conversion or improvement costs (the top limit is a grant of £400 per unit) the Ministry is evading the issue which most concerns the property owner.

In this publication, a number of completed jobs are illustrated. No doubt all the costs were available and the booklet would have been of far greater value had expenditure been presented to show: (a) the cost of repairs; (b) the cost of improvement or conversion; (c) the proportion borne by the owner; (d) the combination of (a) and (c).

Apart from this extremely disappointing omission, there is really little that is new to the architect who has followed the various Government pronouncements from time to time. One point which contradicts some verbal advice received a few months ago from the MOHLG should perhaps be explained. In the JOURNAL for November 25, 1954 (p. 653) I mentioned that although grants were based upon firm estimates they were not necessarily rigid contracts; but on page 4 of "New Homes for Old," paragraph 17, it is stated that the "grant cannot afterwards be altered even if the actual cost of the approved work exceeds what was estimated at the time the application was made and decided." It is not explained, however, what happens if the cost of work is less than the estimate and one can only presume that the owner gratefully pockets

the balance.

An interesting ruling for those who convert barns, oast houses and other old buildings which in their original state were not intended to be used as dwellings, is that the owner may include all works of repair and redecoration in his application for grant aid. (Para. 18.)

What still appears to be rather unfair is the power of the tenant to refuse his landlord permission to improve his own property whilst he remains the tenant. There must be a large number of people who would prefer existing conditions to paying a few extra shillings a week rent for improved amenities whether or not they can afford the increase. Precisely why should an enlightened landlord be penalised in this way and why should the tenant have the power to decide whether the improvements are worth the extra rent? If the landlord is not allowed to improve his own property, surely the local authority are better qualified to decide whether good value is offered? (Paras. 20 and 32.)

The old problem relating to the position of the new w.c. and bathroom and from what direction it may be approached is aired once again; the Ministry certainly gives a lead to more tolerance by local authorities and let us hope that this olive branch will find its way to the local authority officials in whose hands these decisions lie (para. 34). A small point worth remembering is that to qualify for grants a solid fuel appliance must be selected from the latest Coal Utilisation Council list (para. 37). And a further point on heating is that where alternative hot water heating is provided (e.g., solid fuel boiler plus an immersion heater) the supplementary appliance is not eligible for grant aid (Para. 93).

To the architect, perhaps the most interesting or useful sections are those dealing with fire precautions and insulation but the majority of the information exists already. On the whole, the booklet should appeal more to the property owner than to the professions but if it is to reach him, some means must be found to let him know that it exists.

\* "New Homes for old" by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. HMSO. 3s. 6d. net.

Readers requiring up-to-date information on building products and services may complete and post this form to *The Architects' Journal*, 9, 11 and 13, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1

## ENQUIRY FORM

I am interested in the following advertisements appearing in this issue of "*The Architects' Journal*." (BLOCK LETTERS, and list in alphabetical order of manufacturers names please.)

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## DIARY

*Car Parks and London Squares.* AA Students' Committee Forum. Speakers: Peter Shephard, Edward Playne and Colin Buchanan. At the AA, 34, Bedford Square, W.C.1. 7 p.m. JANUARY 20

*Timber Pest and Wood Preservation.* Lecture by W. E. Gunn. First of six arranged by the Guild of Surveyors. At the BC, 26, Store Street, W.C.1. 7 p.m. JANUARY 21

*The Beginnings of Fashion.* Illustrated lecture by James Laver. At the V and A Museum Lecture Theatre, Exhibition Road, S.W.7. 6.15 p.m. JANUARY 26

*The Lali Bridge, Sutton Coldfield Television Mast and The Skylon.* Three films by British Insulated Callender's Cables Ltd. At the BC, 26, Store Street, W.C.1. 12.45 p.m. JANUARY 26

*Ordinary General Meeting.* Organized by the AA Students' Committee. At the AA, 34, Bedford Square, W.C.1. 8 p.m. JANUARY 26

*Brittle Fracture Problems in Steel Construction.* Talk by G. M. Boyd. At the ISE, 11, Upper Belgrave Street, S.W.1. 5.55 p.m. JANUARY 27

*English Church Treasures.* Exhibition in the Great Rooms of Messrs. Christie's, 8, King Street, St. James's, S.W.1. Admission 2s. 6d. (after 5.0 p.m. 1s. 6d.). Week-days 10.30 a.m.—6.30 p.m. Sundays 2.30 p.m.—5.30 p.m. UNTIL JANUARY 30

*Furnishing Fabrics and Wallpapers from the USA.* Exhibition at the V and A Museum. UNTIL JANUARY 31

*Exhibition of Prize Drawings.* At the RIBA, 66, Portland Place. Mondays to

Fridays 10 a.m.—7 p.m. Saturdays 10 a.m.—5 p.m. UNTIL FEBRUARY 1

*New Homes from Old Houses.* Exhibition of flats furnished by the WVS for the MOHLG Harles Street exhibition. At the Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road, E.2. Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m.—5 p.m. Sunday 2—5 p.m. UNTIL END OF MAY

## Announcements

Messrs. Stand Ltd. have changed their name to Messrs. Aluminium (Canada) Ltd.

Mr. Thomas B. Dodson has been appointed general manager of Messrs. British Plumber Ltd.

Mr. J. Stanleigh Turner, J.P., has been re-elected President of the Coal Utilisation Council for the seventh successive year, and Sir John Charrington was re-elected Vice-President. They, along with Sir William McGilvray, C.B.E., and Mr. H. V. Shelton, were elected as trustees of the Council for another year.

## Corrections

The name of one of the Guest Editors for 1955 was given incorrectly in last week's issue as Norman Stanley Farrow: this should be Noel Stanley Farrow.

We regret that in *The Industry* for December 30, 1954, on page 821, the illustration of a draughtproof fixing for dome lights was incorrectly attributed to Messrs. S. W. Farmer's catalogue. The fixing in question was an illustration to the paragraph entitled "Windows and Rooflights" and should have been attributed to Maclean & Co. (Metal Windows) Ltd.

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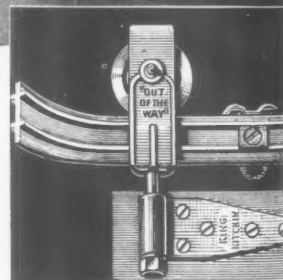
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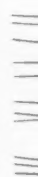
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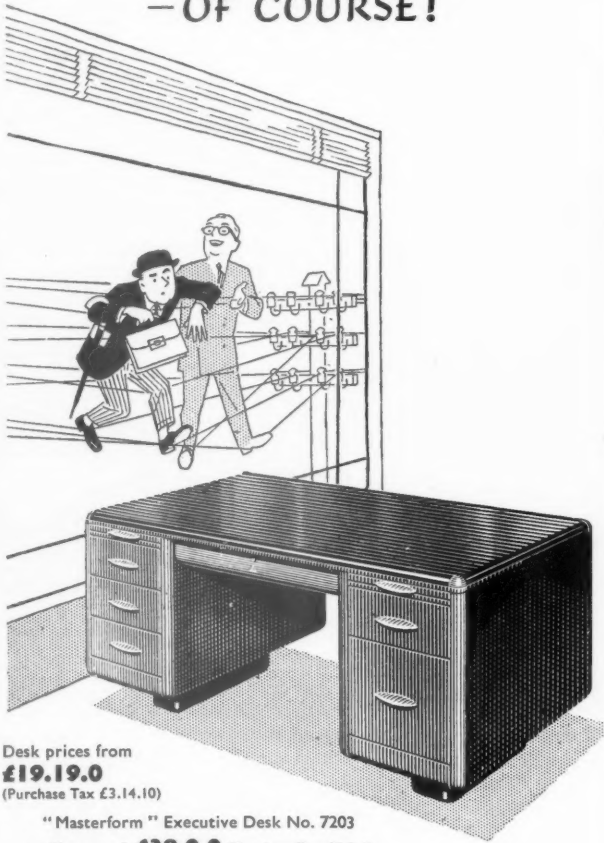
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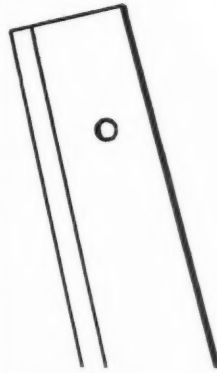
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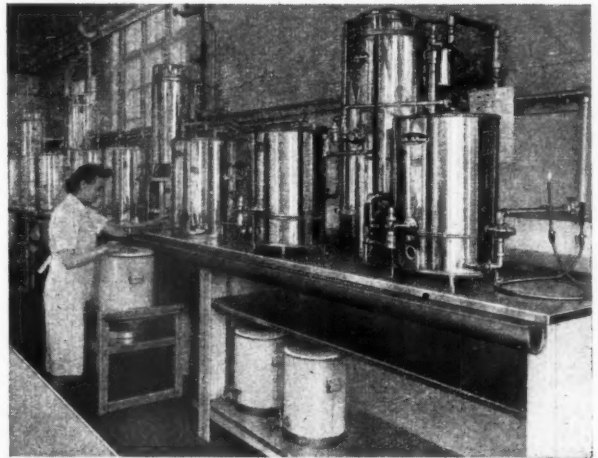
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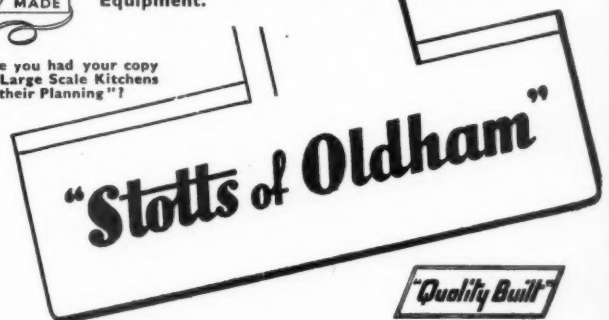


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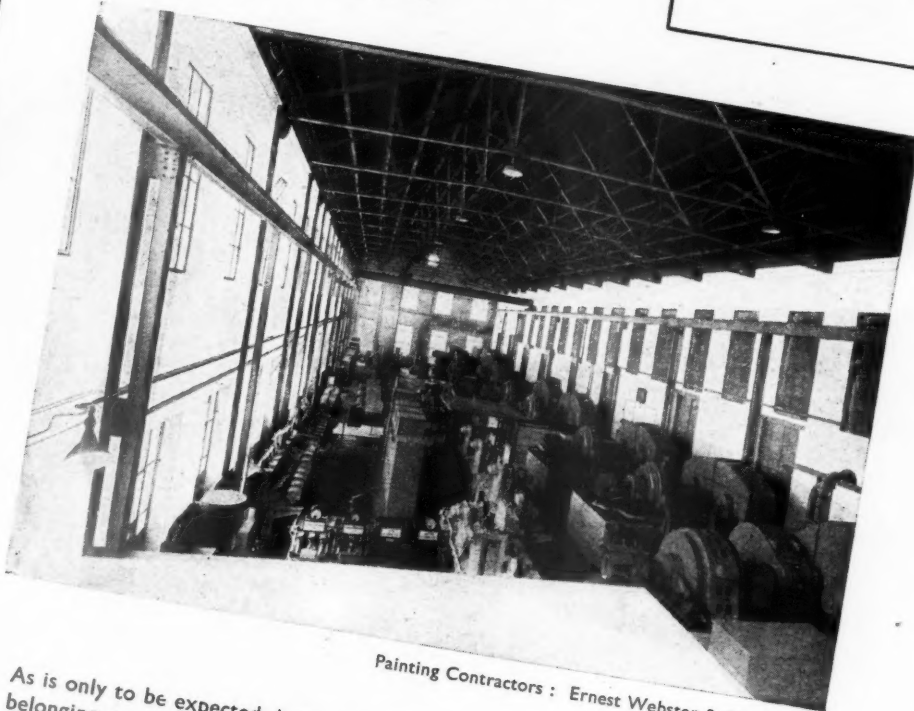
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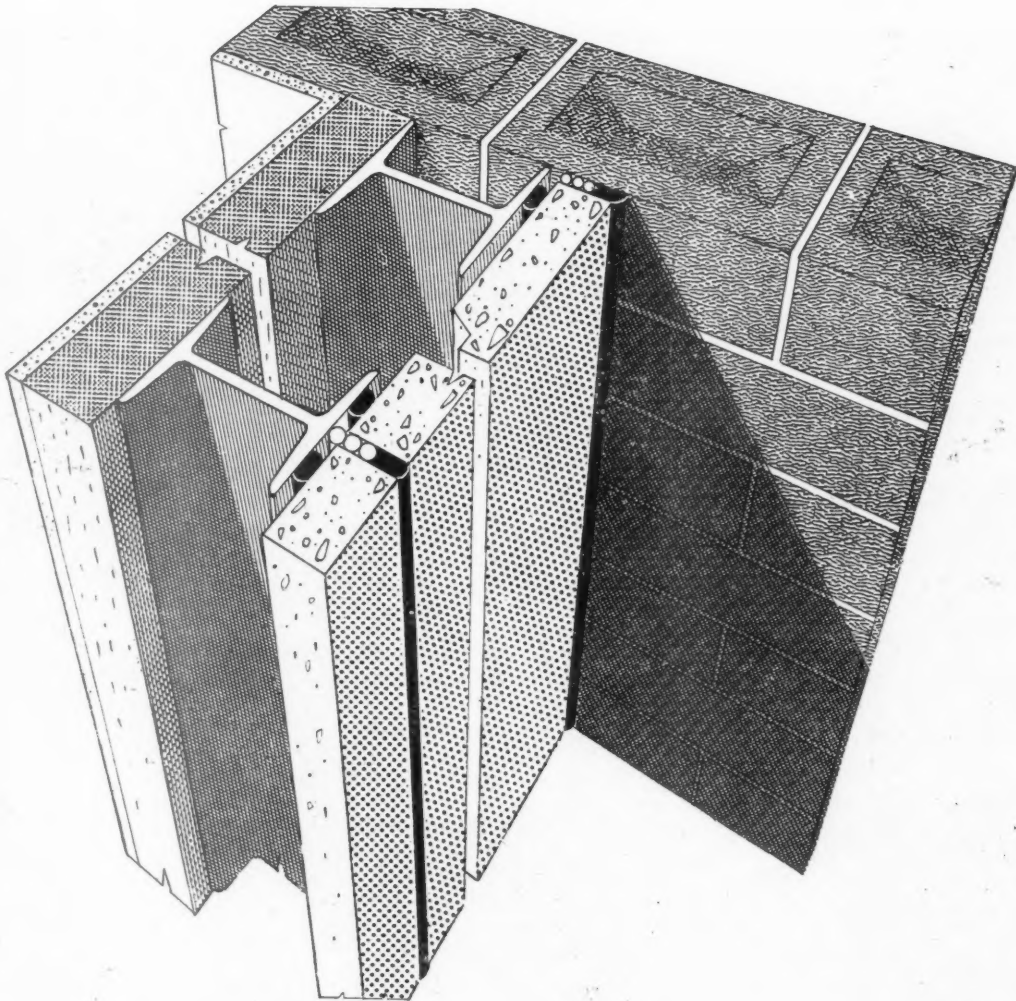
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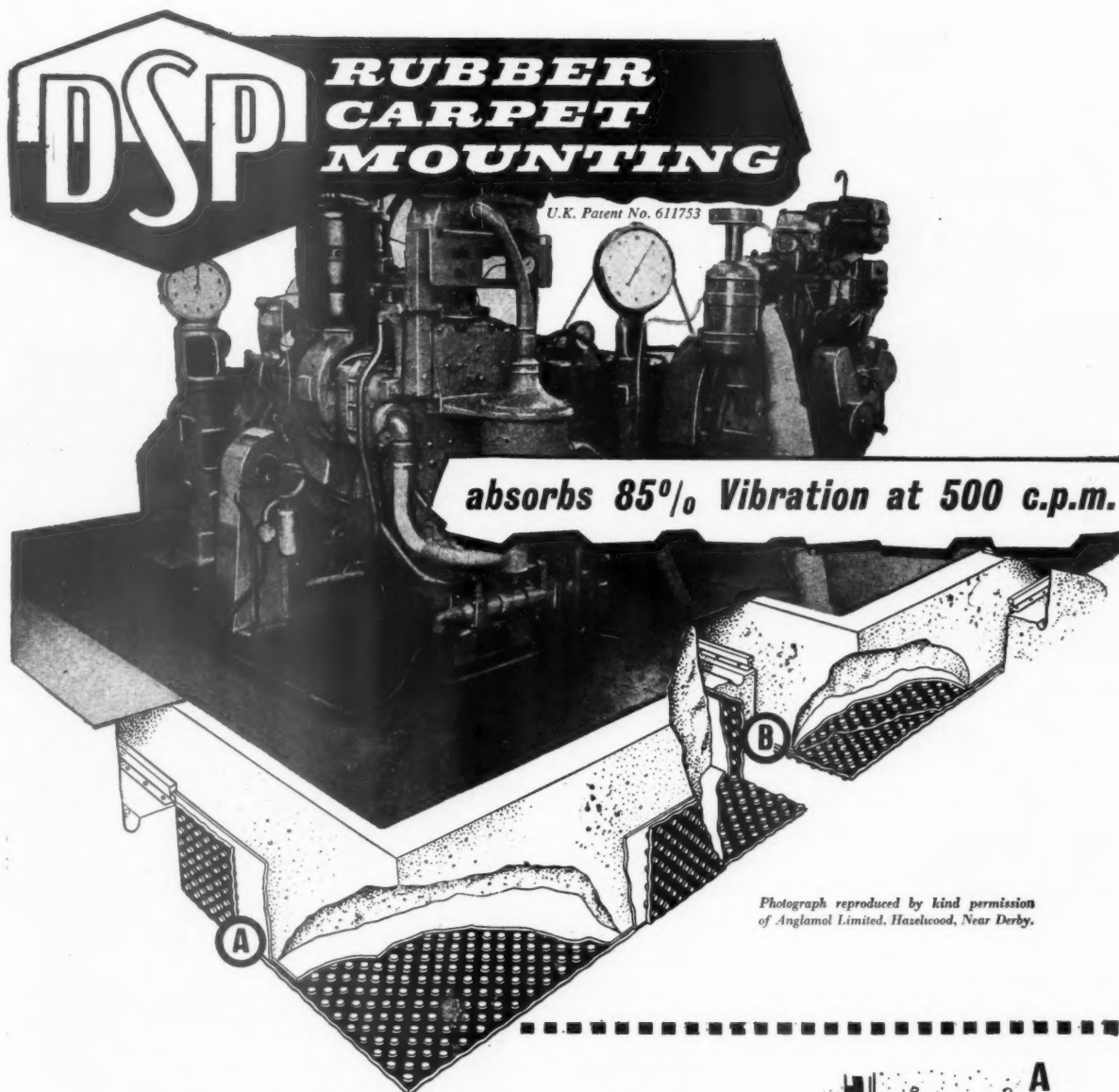
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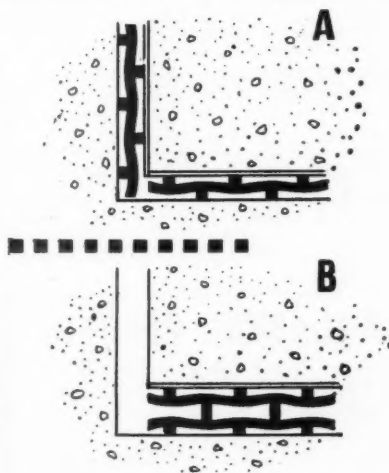
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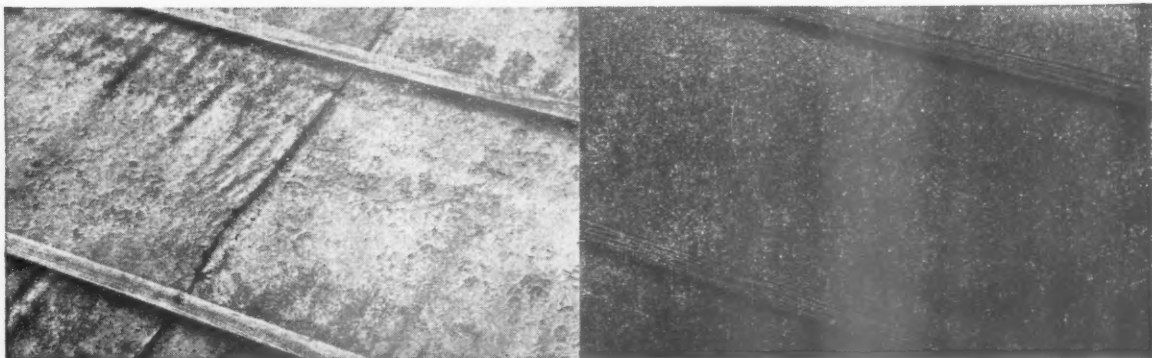
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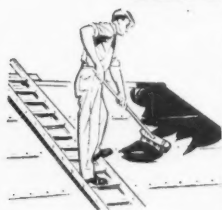
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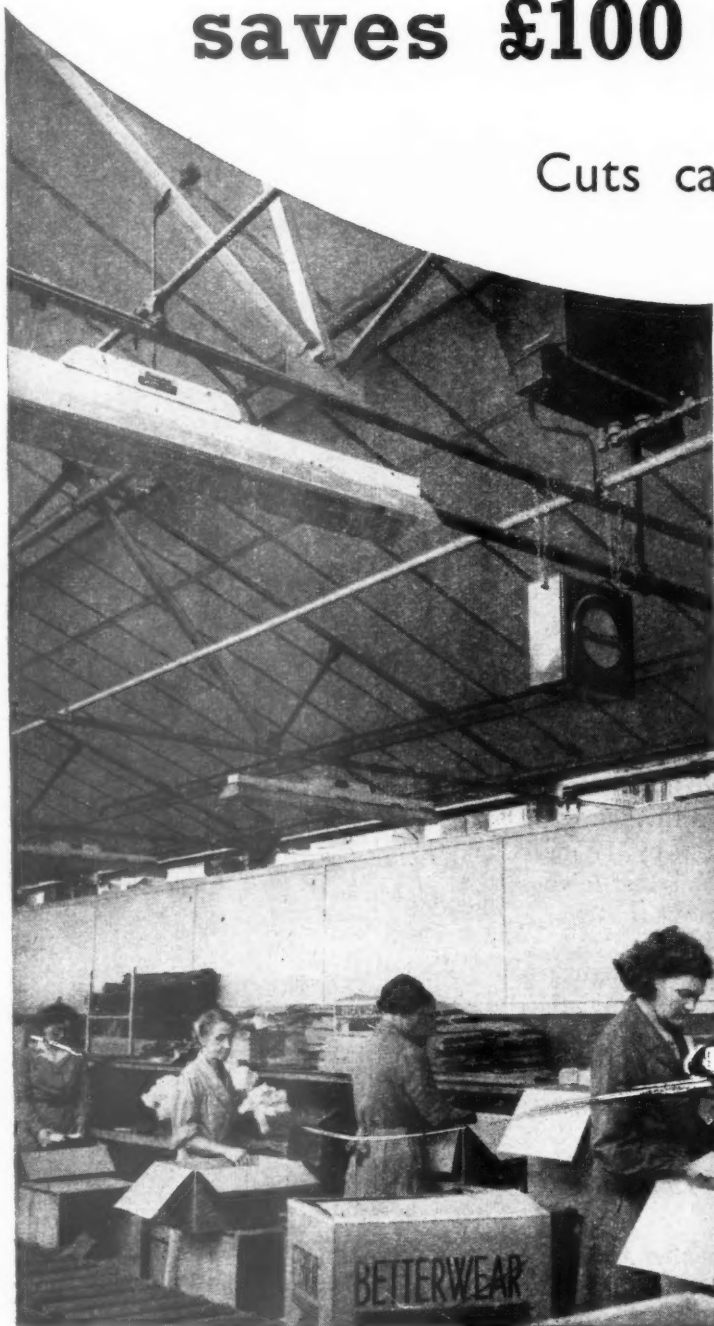
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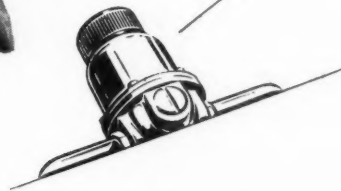
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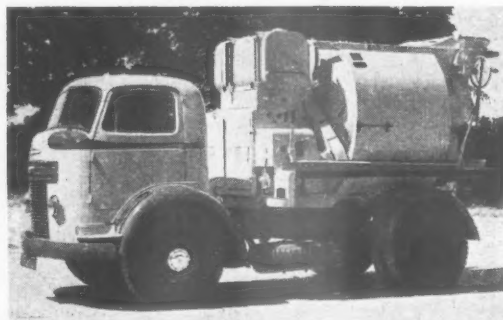
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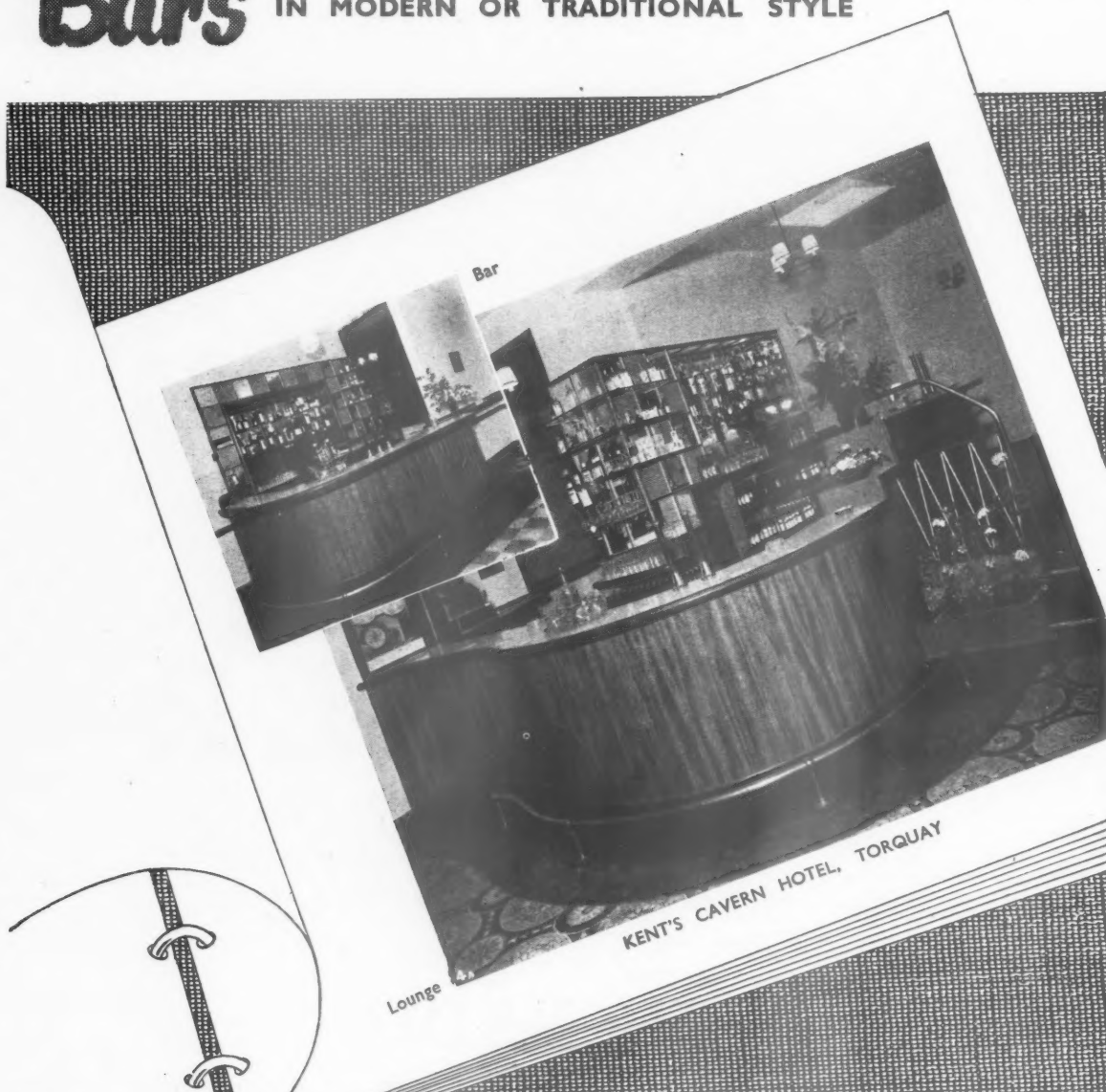
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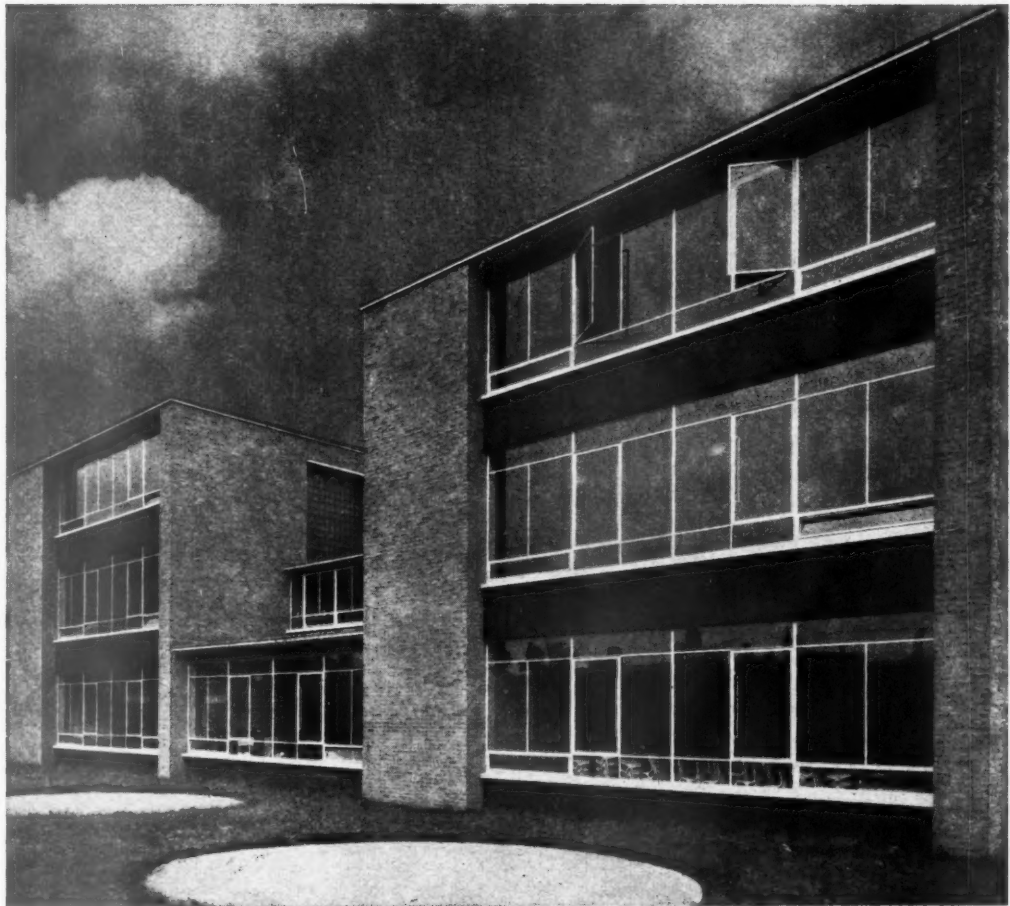
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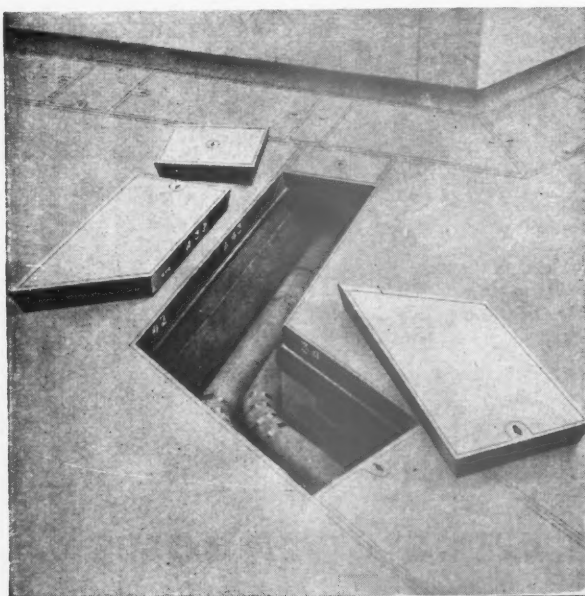
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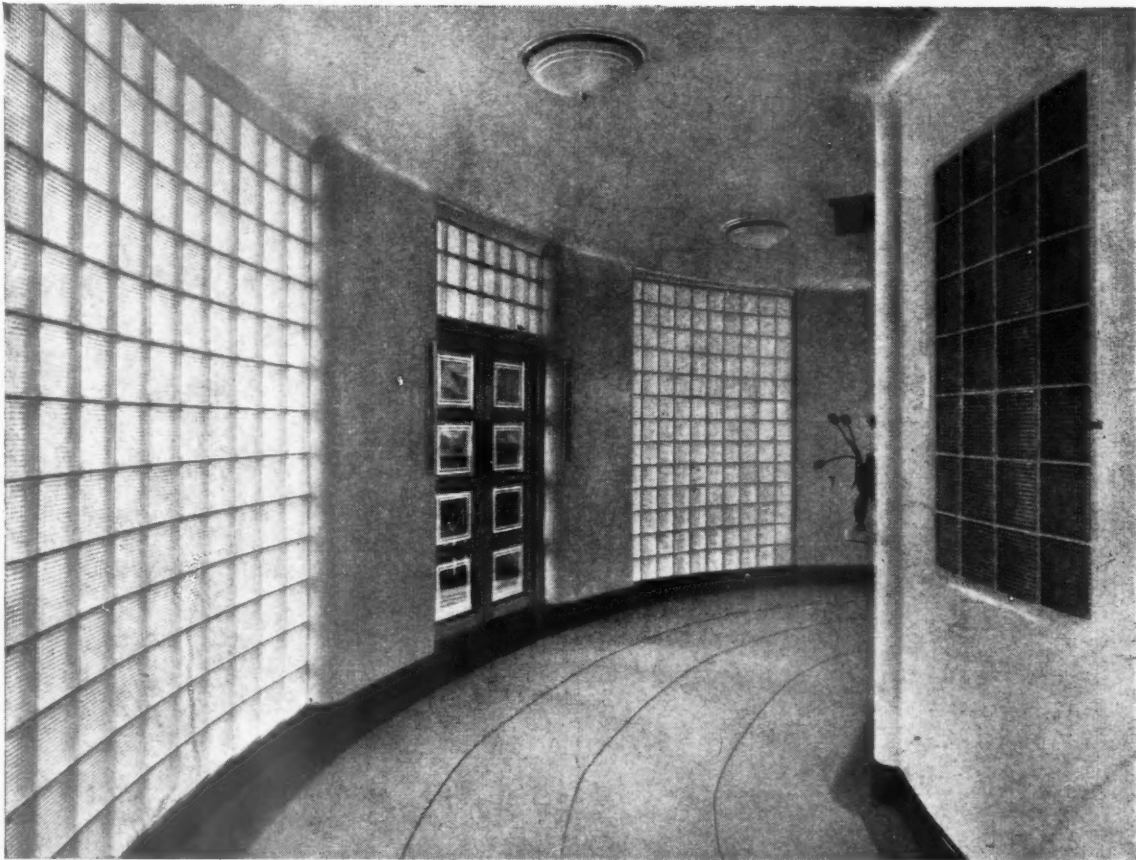
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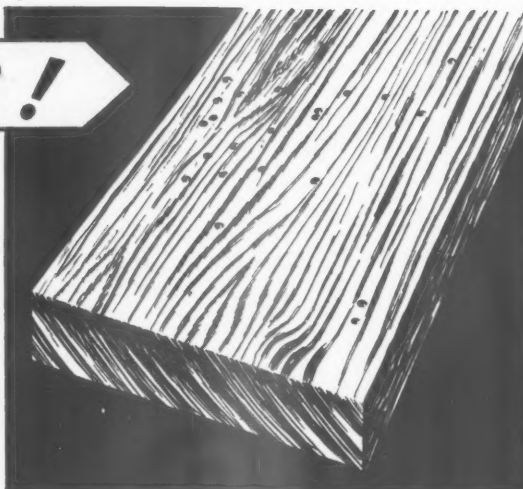
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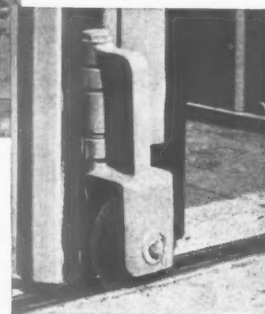


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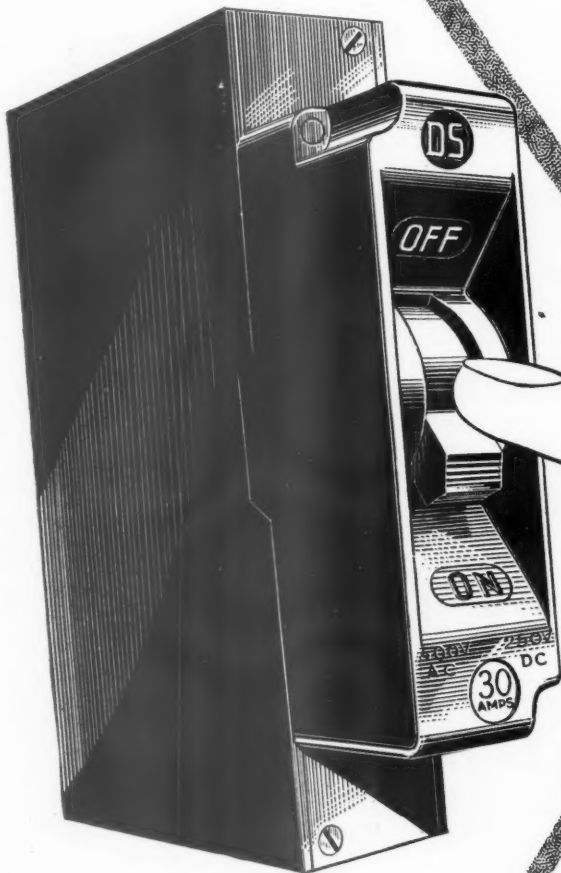
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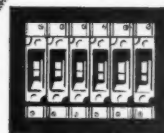
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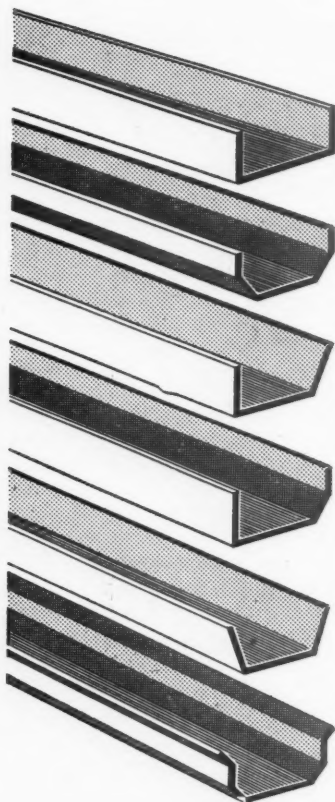
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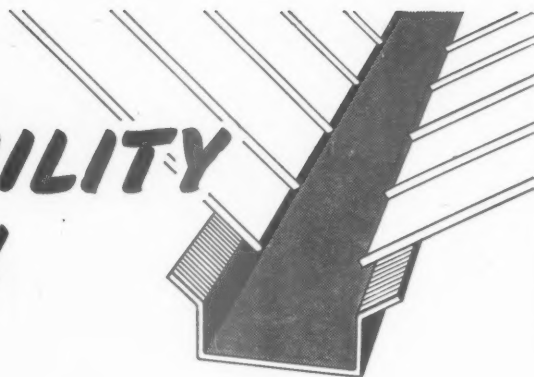
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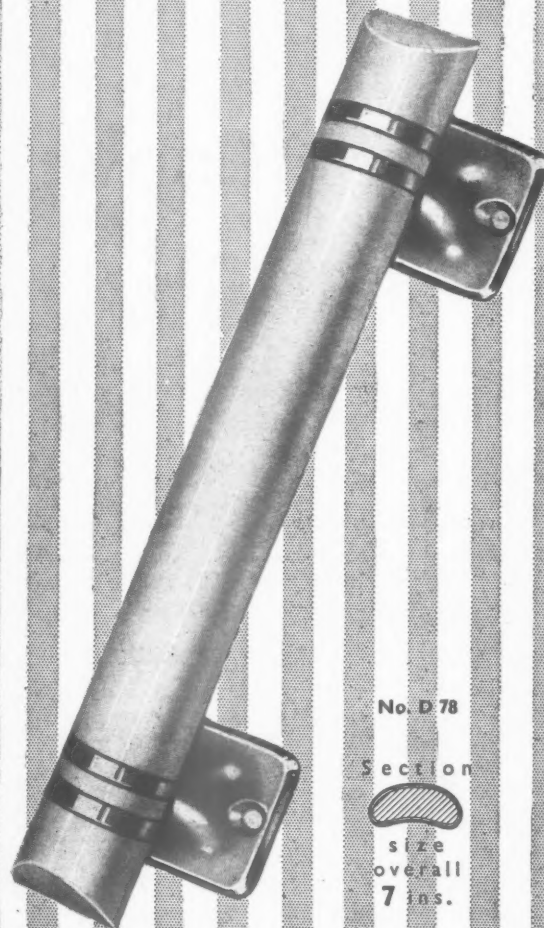
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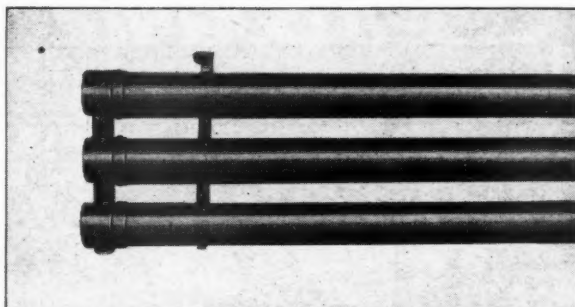
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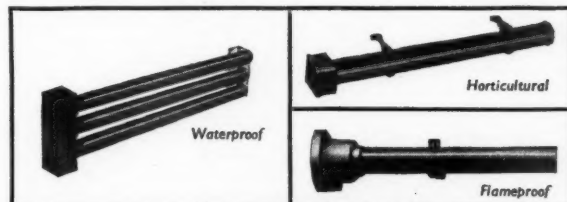
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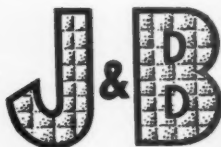


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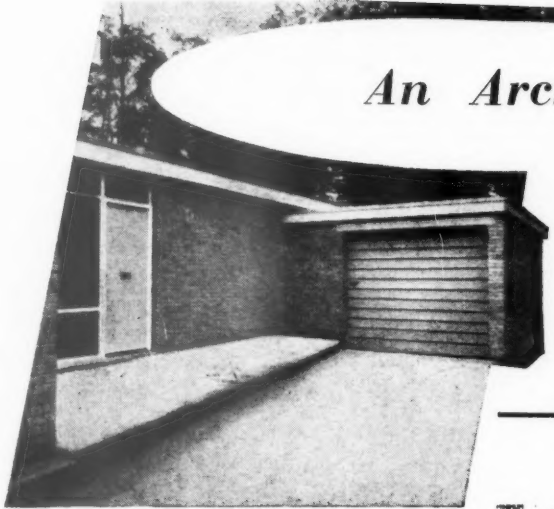
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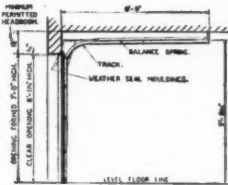


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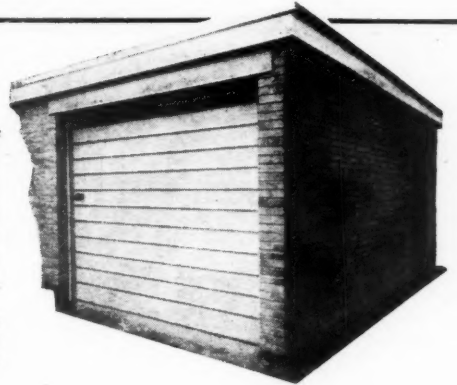
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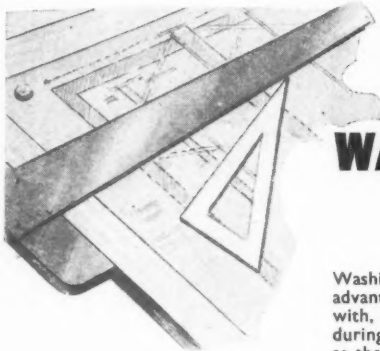


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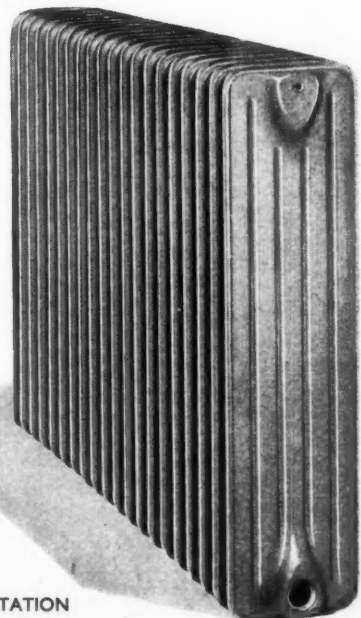
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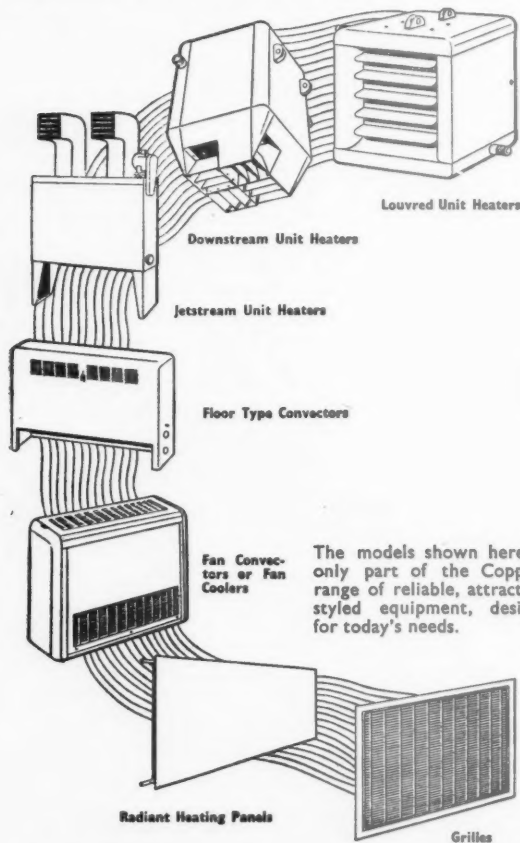
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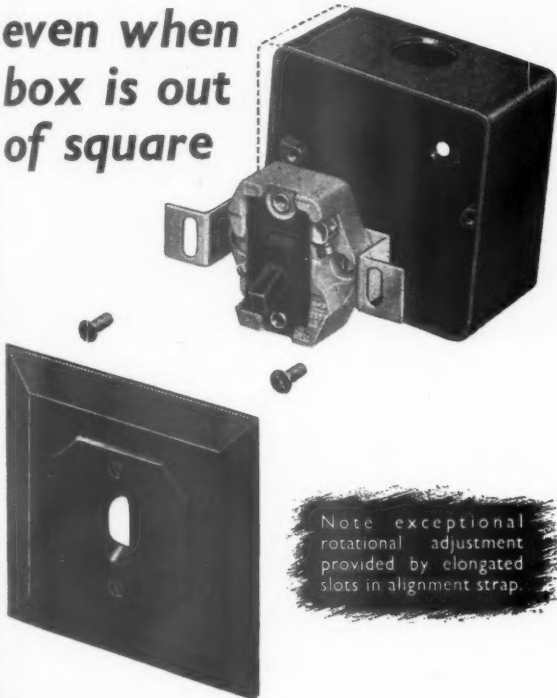
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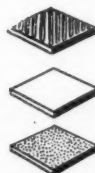


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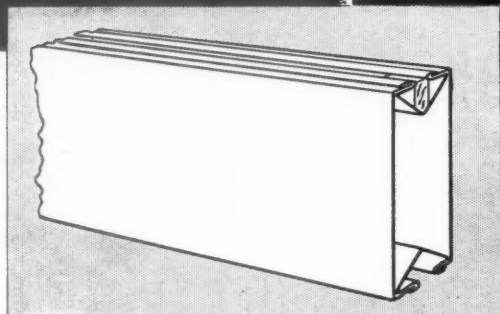
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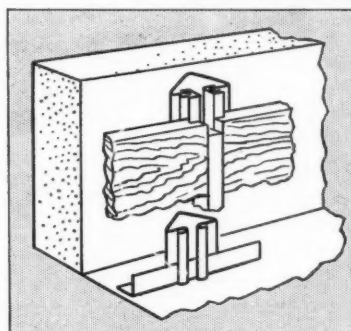
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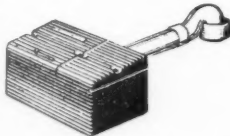


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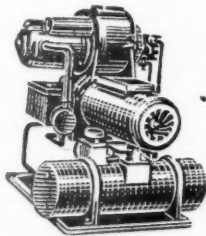
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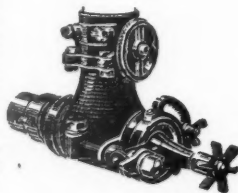
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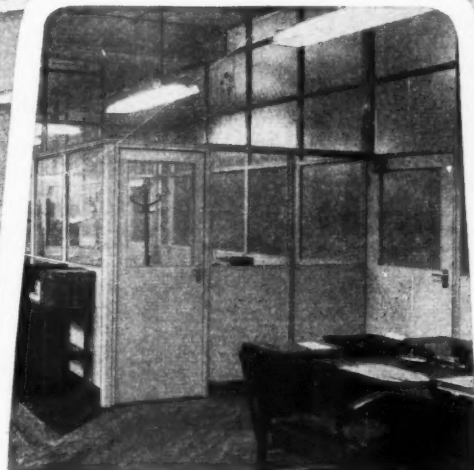
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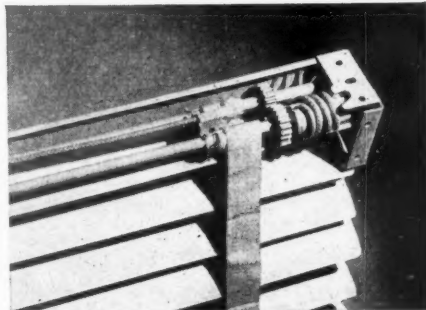
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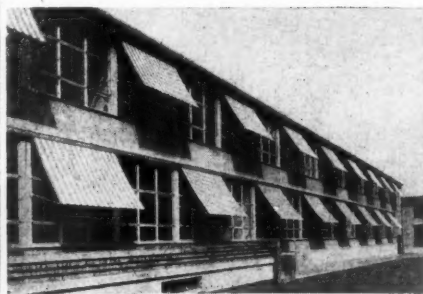


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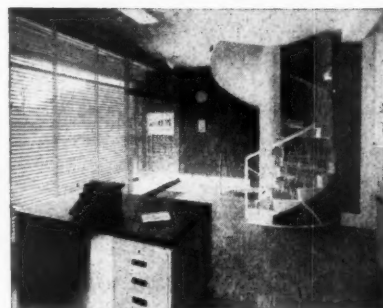
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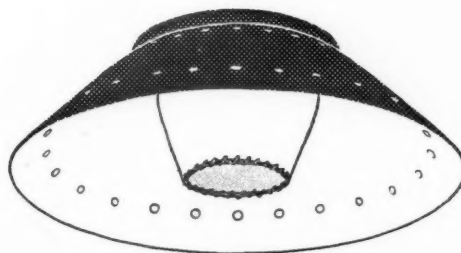
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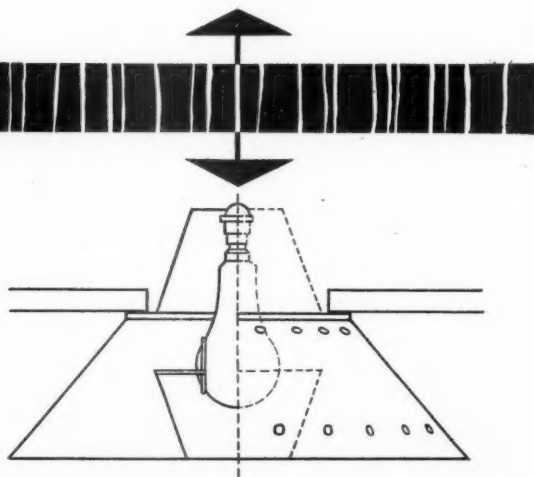


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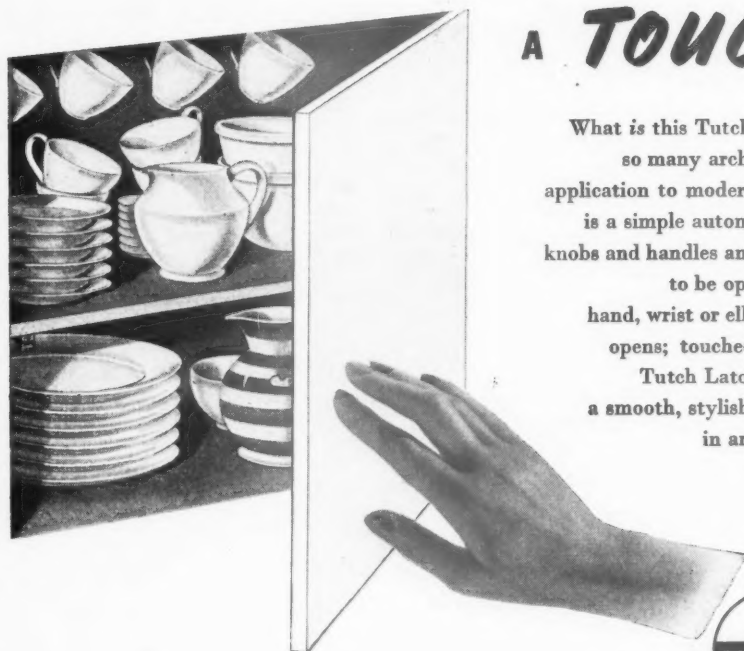
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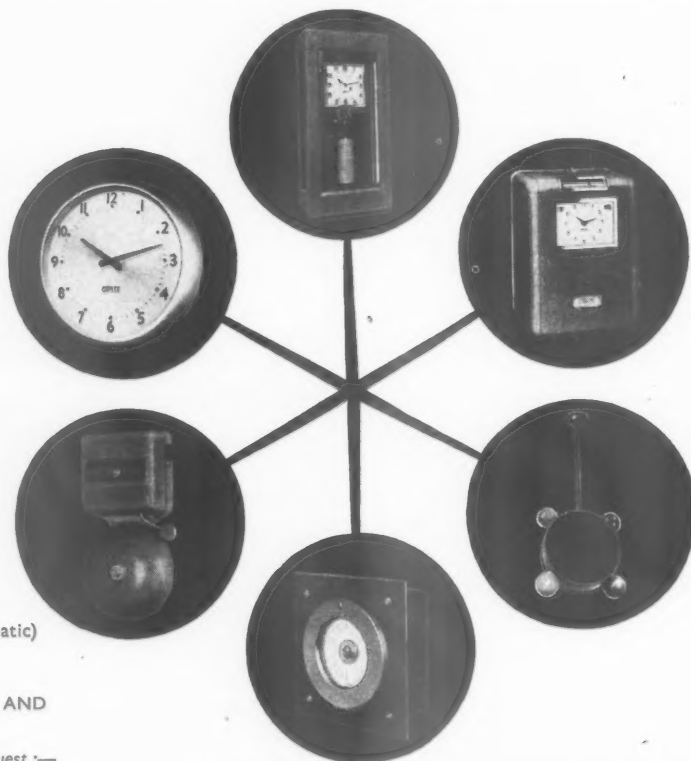
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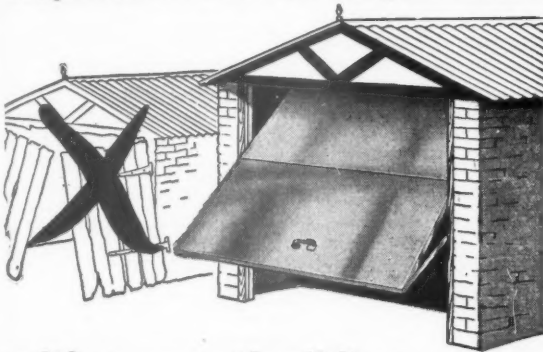
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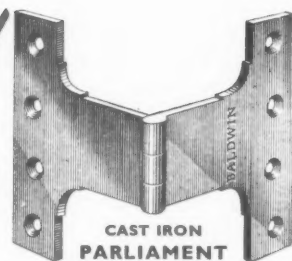
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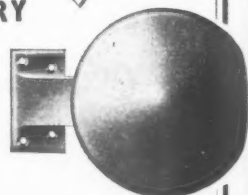
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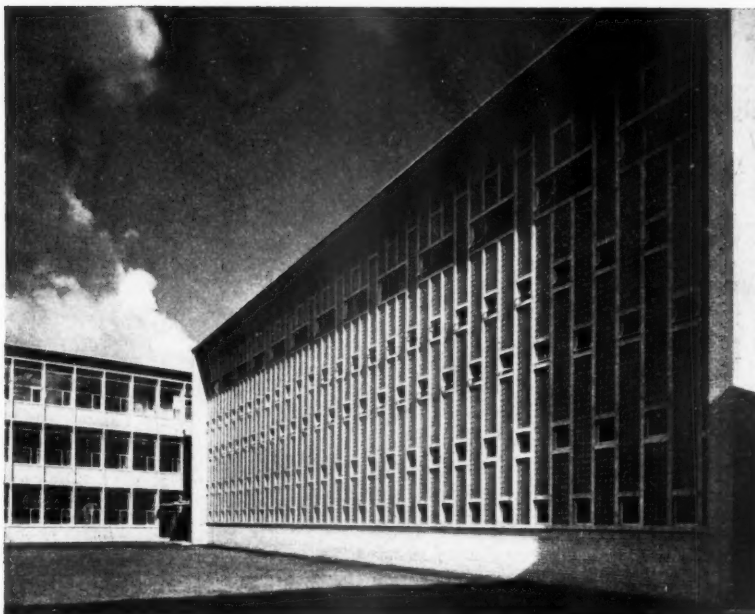
## WINDOWS

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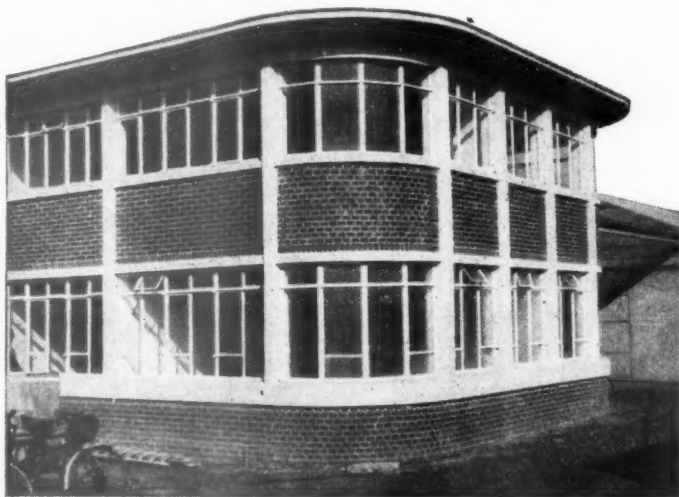
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Wythenshawe, Manchester.

Architects:  
Messrs. Cruickshank & Seward

One of two similar windows constructed of precast mullions and transoms having an infilling of Insulight Hollow Glass Blocks.



Data, applications and possibilities of Glascrete are given in our interesting Brochure P.45, which we shall be pleased to send on request.



*New Office Block for Messrs. Leonard Stace Ltd., Cheltenham.  
Architects: Messrs. Ellery Anderson, Roiser and Falconer, L.A.R.I.B.A.  
(The framing, first floor, roof, and canopy all in reinforced concrete by Homan and Rodgers Ltd.)*

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Est. 1866

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CABOT HOUSE, CLIFTON DOWN ROAD, BRISTOL, 8.

Cheltenham 55030

Bristol 37068



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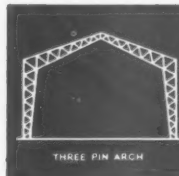
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THE HAMPERING effect of the steel shortage can be minimised by the use of more timber for trusses, lattice girders, bracing members, etc. This technique is possible through "Bat" Timber

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Double-sided square connector



Timber-to-timber joint



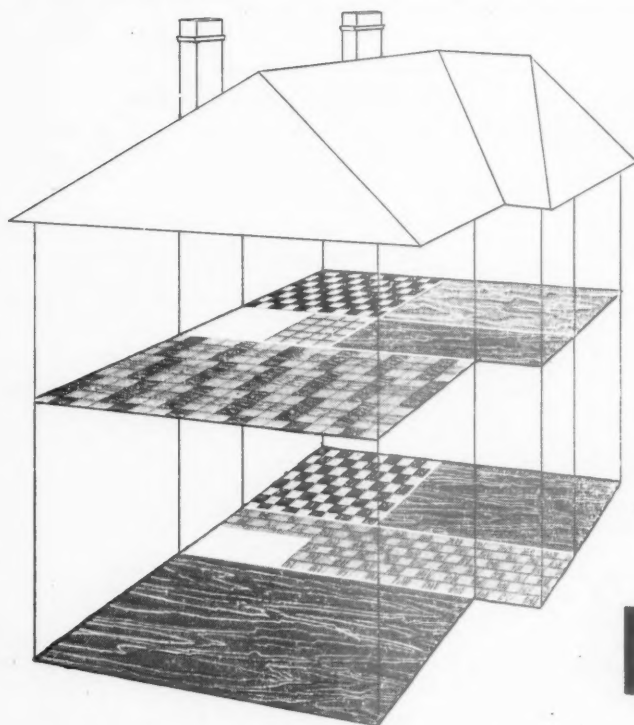
Round Shear-plate

## **TIMBER CONNECTORS**

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AP12 (12)



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You'll soon see why Phenco is the best flooring all over the house. Phenco is warm and resilient—and extremely hard-wearing. It is easy to lay and, once laid, is there for a lifetime. And spilt liquids, fat, oil and spirits don't affect its pristine smartness.

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**SAVE! lbs. and Money**

2" Minimum cover in solid concrete costs 60% *more than* "MILSOM'S" (Patent 566946) Precast Vermiculite Cladding, which has been successfully tested in accordance with B.S.476-1932, fully meets all requirements of B.S.476-1953, Model Byelaws Series IV 1953, Model Building Byelaws for Burghs, and the London Building Constructional Byelaws.

Fire Resistance Ratings in	(thickness)	2½ ins.	1 in.	½ in.
accordance with B.S. 476-1953	(hours)	4.	2.	1.

Density 36 lbs.

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## TIMBER DECAY calls for prompt diagnosis . . .

Whether caused by prolific insect borers or insidious fungal rot (some species of which have the destructive effect of a slow fire), timber decay should be accurately diagnosed by specialists and arrested before expensive replacement becomes inevitable. The experienced survey staff of Richardson & Starling Ltd. undertake inspections and tender detailed advice on remedial measures.

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**"WYKAMOL"** This unique insecticide requires only one application to effect the total extermination of Death Watch Beetle and other wood-borers, and confers complete immunity against further attack.

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Unless the varying characteristics of beetle infestation or fungal rot are fully understood, successful eradication should be ensured by the employment of specialists. In the course of several years' reliable work, the services of Richardson & Starling Limited have been used in hundreds of important and historic buildings, including Cathedrals, Churches, Universities and ancient mansions. The careful treatment carried out by their highly trained team of expert operatives is covered by a ten-year guarantee of efficacy.

If you have a problem of timber decay, write now for full details of Services and prices of materials incorporated in our free technical brochure "The Control of Insect and Fungal Destroyers of Timber."

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# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements should be addressed to the Advt. Manager, "The Architects' Journal," 9, 11 and 12, Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster, S.W.1, and should reach there by first post on Friday morning for inclusion in the following Thursday's paper.

Replies to Box Numbers should be addressed care of "The Architects' Journal," at the address given above.

## Public and Official Announcements

25s. per inch; each additional line, 2s.  
The engagement of persons answering these advertisements must be made through a Local Office of the Ministry of Labour or a Scheduled Employment Agency if the applicant is a man aged 18-64 inclusive or a woman aged 18-59 inclusive unless he or she or the employment is excepted from the provisions of the Notification of Vacancies Order, 1952.

**LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.**  
Grade III ENGINEERS (salary up to £892 10s.) and SURVEYING ASSISTANTS (up to £739 10s.) required in District Surveyor's Service. Qualifications A.R.I.B.A., A.M.I.Str.E., or A.R.I.C.S.; structural knowledge essential. Particulars and application forms from Architect (AR/EK/DS/2), County Hall, S.E.1. (1025). 3511

**LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.**  
Architects and surveyors required for safety regulations of theatres and special buildings, and for general building regulation work. Salaries up to £592 10s. according to experience. A.R.I.B.A. or A.R.I.C.S. essential. Particulars and application forms from Architect (AR/EK/TBR/3), The County Hall, S.E.1. (848). 3487

**AYCLIFFE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.**  
JUNIOR ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT  
A.P.T. NEW GRADE II (£560-£640).

Applications are invited for the above appointment. Candidates should have passed the R.I.B.A. intermediate examination and have had two years' office experience.

Appointment subject to N.J.C. Conditions, superannuation and medical examination.

Housing accommodation if necessary.  
Applications stating age, experience, details (including salaries) of present and former employment and addresses of two referees, should be forwarded before 28th January, 1955.

A. V. WILLIAMS,  
General Manager.

Newton,  
Aycliffe,  
Co. Durham. 8064

**CITY BOROUGH OF GLOUCESTER.**  
CITY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.  
Applications are invited from persons with suitable qualifications and/or experience for the following permanent appointments:—

(a) ASSISTANT ARCHITECT. Within A.P.T. III (Amended). £600 × £25—£725. Registered or R.I.B.A. Final.

(b) ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS. Within A.P.T. II (Amended). £560 × £20—£640. (Inter. R.I.B.A. standard).

(c) ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS. A.P.T. I (Amended). £540 × £20—£580. (Part Inter. R.I.B.A. standard).

Superannuable posts. Medical examination. Municipal experience not essential. Projects include multi-storey flat redevelopment, schools, public buildings in shell-concrete, etc.

Applications stating age, married or single, training, qualifications, experience, previous and present appointments, with copies of recent testimonials or names of referees, to J. V. Wall, A.R.I.B.A., City Architect, Suffolk House, Gloucester, not later than 24th January, 1955. 8059

**CARDIGANSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.**  
APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT.

Applications are invited for the appointment of Architectural Assistant on A.P.T. III £600—£725. Applicants should have passed the R.I.B.A. Intermediate Examination.

Commencing salary will be according to qualifications and experience.

The appointment is in the County Architect's Department, County Hall, Aberystwyth.  
Application forms can be obtained from the County Architect and these must be returned to the undersigned not later than 31st January, 1955.

J. E. R. CARSON,  
Clerk of the County Council.  
Swyddfa'r Sir,  
Marine Terrace,  
Aberystwyth.  
3rd January, 1955. 8057

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL.**  
ASSISTANT ARCHITECTS.

Applications are invited for the following appointments:—

(1) TWO ASSISTANT ARCHITECTS at salaries within the range £750-£900 a year.

(2) FOUR ASSISTANT ARCHITECTS at salaries within the range £675-£825 a year.

Candidates must be Associates of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and have had experience in the design and construction of modern buildings. The selected architects will be working in groups.

Further details and forms of application obtainable from the County Architect, Springfield, Maidstone, to whom applications must be returned by not later than the 4th February, 1955. 8027

## CITY AND COUNTY OF THE CITY OF EXETER.

Applications are invited for the following appointments on the staff of the City Architect's Department:—

(a) SENIOR ASSISTANT ARCHITECTS on the establishment of the Department, salary within new A.P.T. Grade IV (i.e., £675 to £825 per annum) according to experience. Candidates must be Associate Members of the R.I.B.A. Preference will be given to those experienced in the design and construction of civic buildings and schools.

(b) ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT on the establishment of the Department, salary within new A.P.T. Grade II (i.e., £560 to £640 per annum) according to experience. Candidates must have passed the Intermediate examination of the R.I.B.A. Preference will be given to those with experience in housing and school work.

(c) ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT on the temporary staff, salary within new A.P.T. Grade I (i.e., £500 to £580 per annum) according to experience. Preference will be given to candidates who have passed the Intermediate examination of the R.I.B.A.

(d) HEATING AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING DRAUGHTSMAN on the temporary staff. Salary in accordance with the General Division Scales (i.e., £320 per annum at the age of 23, rising to £400 per annum, or £350 per annum at the age of 23 rising to £475 per annum dependent on qualifications). Applicants must have had experience of heating, hot water and electrical installations.

All the above appointments are subject to passing a medical examination, and to one month's notice on either side. The appointments on the establishment of the Department are subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Acts 1937 and 1953.

Canvassing will disqualify, and candidates must disclose whether to their knowledge they are related to any member of the Council or to the holder of any senior office under the Council.

Applications, stating age, qualifications, previous and present appointments and salaries, full details of experience and the earliest possible date when available, together with copies of recent testimonials, should be delivered to H. B. Rowe, F.R.I.B.A., A.M.I.Struc.E., City Architect, 2, Southernhay West, Exeter, not later than the 28th January, 1955.

C. J. NEWMAN,  
Town Clerk. 8056

Exeter,  
January, 1955.

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL.**  
ASSISTANT COUNTY ARCHITECTS.

Applications are invited for two appointments of ASSISTANT COUNTY ARCHITECTS at salaries within the range £1,412 10s.—£1,780 a year, according to qualifications and experience.

Candidates must be Fellows or Associates of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and have had wide experience in the practice of architecture.

Further details and forms of application obtainable from the County Architect, Springfield, Maidstone, to whom applications must be returned by not later than the 11th February 1955. 8026

**PADDINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL.**

require JUNIOR to train as QUANTITY SURVEYOR'S ASSISTANT. Salary £200 p.a. at age 16, rising to £505 p.a. at age 28. Candidates should possess G.C.E. (3 ordinary passes). The post affords an opportunity and experience for candidates studying for Quantity Surveying Professional Examinations. National Conditions of Service. Superannuation. Write age, experience, education, and names of two referees to the undersigned by 29th January, 1955 (quoting A.197).

W. H. BENTLEY,  
Town Clerk. 8062

Town Hall, Paddington Green, W.2.

**OFFICE OF THE RECEIVER FOR THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DISTRICT.**

Applications are invited for unestablished appointments as LEADING ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS in the Architect and Surveyor's Department. The work is concerned with the design and construction of police dwellings and buildings and candidates will be required to work in the Westminster area.

Rates of Pay\* (Men).—£655 × £20—£725 × £25—£780.

Women.—£580 × £20—£640 × £25—£665.

\*The scales quoted are subject to an increase of approximately 3 per cent., while a 454-hour week is being worked and also to the addition of a Pay Supplement of £25 or £30 per annum, according to the point reached on the scale.  
Conditioned hours.—44 per week.  
Annual Leave.—24 days.

Application forms from the Chief Architect, Architect and Surveyor's Department, New Scotland Yard, London, S.W.1, marking the envelope "Architectural Assistants." 6005

**WORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

APPOINTMENT OF BUILDING SURVEYOR.

Applications are invited for this appointment at a salary of £560, rising to £640 per annum, plus car allowance.

Forms of application may be obtained from the undersigned, to whom applications must be delivered not later than 31st January, 1955.

ADRIAN M. KELLY,  
Clerk. 8114

Council Offices,  
Grenoside, Sheffield.

## COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLACKPOOL.

Applications (by 5th February) are invited for following posts in Borough Surveyor's Department:—

SENIOR ENGINEERING ASSISTANT, A.P.T. V (£750—£900).

ENGINEERING ASSISTANT, A.P.T. III (£600—£725).

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT, A.P.T. II (£560—£640).

Application forms and particulars obtainable from the Borough Surveyor (Arthur Hamilton, B.Sc.), P.O. Box 17, Municipal Buildings, Blackpool.

No housing accommodation provided.

TREVOR T. JONES,  
Town Clerk. 8177

## COUNTY BOROUGH OF OLDHAM.

APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT.

Applications are invited for the posts of ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS at a salary of £625—£675 per annum.

Applicants should be Registered Architects, and the appointments will be subject to the Superannuation Acts, and the successful candidate will be required to pass a Medical Examination.

Housing accommodation will be provided if necessary.

Applications, giving age, previous appointments, qualifications and experience, and copies of two recent testimonials, must reach me not later than Monday, 7th February, 1955, in envelopes endorsed "Architectural Assistant."

A. L. HOBSON,  
Borough Engineer & Surveyor.

75, Union Street,  
Oldham. 8178

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT (INTERIOR DESIGN)—SURREY SUB-AREA H.Q., DORKING.**

**SOUTH EASTERN ELECTRICITY BOARD.**

Salary £545 × £20—£605 p.a. in accordance with N.J.C. Grade 3; Superannuable. Applicants should be experienced in interior design, particularly of showrooms, offices, etc., and the holding of an Interior Design Diploma of a recognised college will be an advantage.

Applications naming two referees on forms from C. W. Hughes, B.Sc., M.I.E.E., Survey Manager, SEEB, Board, Rough Rew, Horsham Road, Dorking, Surrey, by 10th February, 1955. 8120

## CITY OF BIRMINGHAM.

CITY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.

Applications are invited for the appointment of ASSISTANT ARCHITECT on the new Grade A.P.T. V (£750—£900 per annum) in the Schools Section.

A large major School Building Programme is being carried out by this Section, and applicants should have an extensive knowledge of the planning, design and erection of all types of school buildings in both traditional and new traditional construction.

Applicants must be Associate Members of the R.I.B.A., or hold an equivalent qualification.

The post is permanent, superannuable, subject to a medical examination and to one month's notice on either side.

Applications, endorsed with the heading of the post, stating age, present position and salary, qualifications and experience, together with the names of two persons to whom reference can be made, should reach the undersigned not later than 29th January, 1955.

Canvassing disqualifies.

A. G. SHEPPARD FIDLER,  
City Architect. 8175

Civic Centre, Birmingham, 1.

National Coal Board, East Midlands Division, invite applications for the following appointments in the Architects' Department, Nottingham.

S. V. 371—ARCHITECTS GRADE II

and S.V. 372—QUANTITY SURVEYORS GRADE II.

Salary scale £600 × £25—£650 × £30—£900. Candidates must have passed the final examination of the appropriate professional body and have had not less than 1 year's subsequent practical experience.

S.V. 373—ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS

and S.V. 374—QUANTITY SURVEYORS' ASSISTANTS GRADE I.

Salary scale £525 × £25—£650 (exceptionally, to £800). Candidates should preferably have passed the Intermediate examinations of the appropriate professional body and have had not less than three years' subsequent practical experience.

S.V. 375—CLERK OF WORKS GRADE II.

Salary £525 × £25—£650. Candidates should preferably be Clerks of Works with a wide experience of all types of Industrial and Welfare Buildings, experienced in the construction of steel and reinforced concrete structures and with a sound knowledge of sewage disposal; heating; ventilating and electrical plants; and all services connected with Industrial and Welfare Buildings.

Applications stating age, education, qualifications, present appointment and salary should be submitted within 14 days of publication to:—

The Secretary, National Coal Board,  
East Midlands Division, Sherwood Lodge,  
Arnold, N. Nottingham.

Envelopes should be marked with the appropriate "S.V." reference; original testimonials should not be sent. 8174



MIDDLESBOROUGH EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the following vacancies in the Education Committee's office. Appointments will be made within the grades as indicated, subject to qualification and experience.

(a) ONE SENIOR ASSISTANT ARCHITECT, A.P.T. Grade I, £275-£325.

(b) THREE ASSISTANT ARCHITECTS, A.P.T. Grade II, £200-£275.

(c) ONE ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT, A.P.T. Grade I, £200-£280.

Housing Accommodation is available for post (a) and one of posts (b).  
An excellent opportunity is offered for participation in the Middlesbrough School Building Programme.

Application forms and particulars may be obtained from the Director of Education, Education Offices, Woodlands Road, Middlesbrough, to whom completed forms should be returned not later than 7th February, 1955. 8173

## ESTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Appointment of (a) QUANTITY SURVEYING ASSISTANT-Grade A.P.T. II (£450-£640); (b) JUNIOR ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT-Grade A.P.T. II (£260-£400).

Applications are invited for the above appointments.

Applicants for (a) should have had experience of housing schemes, be able to assist in the preparation of Bills of Materials, measurement of work on site, preparation of interim certificates and final accounts.

Applicants for (b) should have housing experience.

Preference will be given in both cases to candidates who possess an appropriate qualification. The appointments will be subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Acts, one month's notice on either side, and the passing of a medical examination.

Applications, giving age, details of experience, together with the names of two referees, should reach me by the 3rd February, 1955.

Candidates should declare any relationship to a Member or Chief Officer of the Council.

The Council will consider favourably, where necessary, a request for housing accommodation.

N. C. HARRISON, A.M.I.C.E.,  
Engineer and Surveyor.  
Engineer and Surveyor's Office,  
Normanby Road,  
South Bank,  
Middlesbrough.  
12th January, 1955. 8172

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.  
ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.

Vacancies for ARCHITECTURAL AND SURVEYING ASSISTANTS (up to £739.10.0d.) in the Maintenance and Improvements Division. Particulars and application forms, returnable by 15th February, 1955, from The Architect (AR/EK/M/2), The County Hall, S.E.1 (49). 8186

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF CAMBERWELL.  
DEPARTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND BOROUGH ARCHITECT.

(a) SENIOR ASSISTANT ARCHITECT. National Scale. A.P.T. V (£780-£930 inclusive of £30 London weighting); (b) ASSISTANT ARCHITECT. A.P.T. III/IV (£630-£855 inclusive); (c) JUNIOR ARCHITECT. A.P.T. II (£590-£670 inclusive). Qualification required for first two posts A.R.I.B.A. for junior architect R.I.B.A. Intermediate Examination or its equivalent with a minimum of one year in an architectural office.

Work of department includes design and construction of public buildings, housing estates including multi-storey construction. No housing provided. Superannuation scheme. Application form from Town Clerk, Town Hall, S.E.5. Closing date 31st January, 1955. 8184

Borough of Hampstead require JUNIOR ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT. Salary Higher General Division. (At age 18-£230, rising to maximum of £475, plus London Weighting.) Medical Examination. No housing provided. Applications, giving three referees, to the Town Clerk, Town Hall, Haverstock Hill, N.W.3. Closing date, 11th February, 1955. 8183

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.  
ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.

Vacancies for ENGINEERING ASSISTANTS (up to £739.10s.) and ENGINEER Grade III (up to £892.10s.), in the Structural Engineering Division. Work includes steelwork and reinforced concrete design and detailing for Council's buildings. Application forms and particulars, returnable by 8th February, from the Architect (AR/EK/SE/4), County Hall, London, S.E.1 (37) 8144

## SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL.

Applications invited for following appointments:

(1) PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT ARCHITECT, Grade VII, salary £900-£940 to £1,100 p.a. plus London Weighting. Must be Members of R.I.B.A. and experienced in organisation of work.

(2) ASSISTANT ARCHITECT Grade III, Salary £600-£625 to £725 p.a., plus London Weighting. Preference given to applicants who are Associate Members of R.I.B.A. Must have had good training and adequate experience in design and construction of modern buildings.

Applications giving full details and present salary, accompanied by copies of three recent testimonials, to County Architect, County Hall, Kingston, by 29th January, 1955. 8145

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL.  
COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT.

Applications are invited for the appointment of a PLANNING ASSISTANT (ARCHITECTURAL) at a salary within the National Joint Council Grades A.P.T. I-III (£500-£1,225). Applicants should possess the final or Intermediate qualification of the R.I.B.A. and the grading and salary of the successful candidate will depend upon qualifications and experience.

Applications on forms obtainable from the undersigned should be completed and returned not later than the 12th February, 1955.

J. B. ROSS, A.R.I.C.S.,  
County Planning Officer.  
County Hall,  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1. 8101

GOVERNMENT OF QATAR-PERSIAN GULF.  
ARCHITECT-Applications invited from Fellows and Associates of the Royal Institute of British Architects, with not less than five years practical experience after qualifying, for post of GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT.

DUTIES.-To design and supervise Government projects under direction of State Engineer.

Terms & Conditions of Service.-Contracts for from 2 to 5 years according to wish of candidate, terminable at any time by three months' notice in writing by either party. Pay in scale, Rs. 1,850 x Rs. 75-Rs. 2,000 x Rs. 100-Rs. 3,000 an Arabic month, approximately equivalent to £1,665 x £67.10s.-£1,800 x £90-£2,000 a Gregorian year, according to experience and qualifications. Free furnished accommodation, water, fuel, light.

Married accommodation and family passages provided for wife and children up to 4 persons, including the successful applicant. Leave earned at rate of 2 months in each year of service. All calculations for pay and leave according to the Arabic calendar in force in Qatar. Air or sea passages on first appointment and on final termination of contract, and leave passages where applicable, provided in accordance with regulations. Free medical treatment by State Medical Service. Other terms and conditions of service and note on local conditions in Qatar will be sent to applicants who seem likely to qualify for this appointment.

Applications should be made in writing to:-  
C. TENNANT SONS & COMPANY, LTD.,  
4, COPIHALL AVENUE,  
LONDON, E.C.2.

accompanied by full personal particulars, including details of education, qualifications, experience, religion, past employment and copies of certificates and testimonials where applicable. Please send all papers in duplicate. 8103

AIR MINISTRY require in London, Provinces and overseas, ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS in Works Department Design Branch, experienced in planning/preparation of working drawings and details for permanent and semi-permanent buildings. Salaries up to £810 p.a. for men, £690 for women. Starting pay dependent upon age, qualifications and experience. Extra duty allowance or overtime payable. Promotion prospects. Posts non-pensionable with long term possibilities. Natural born British subjects only. Write stating age, qualifications, employment details, including type of work done, to Ministry of Labour, 236, Watworth Road, London, S.E.17, quoting Order 81. 8176

WALTHAMSTOW COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION.  
ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.

Applications are invited for permanent appointments in the office of the Architect to the Committee, Mr. Frank H. Heaven, A.R.I.B.A., A.R.I.C.S., at salaries in accordance with new National Scales as follows:-

(a) ASSISTANT ARCHITECT-Grade A.P.T. 3 (600 x £25-£725 per annum).

Applicants must be Associate Members of the R.I.B.A., or hold an equivalent qualification and have worked in an Architectural office for a period of at least 3 years.

(b) ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT-Grade A.P.T. 2 (£560 x £20-£640 per annum).

Applicants should have passed the R.I.B.A. Intermediate Examination or its equivalent at one of the recognised Schools of Architecture and have worked in an Architectural Office for a period of at least two years.

(c) TWO ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS-Grade A.P.T. 1 (£500 x £20-£580 per annum).

Applicants should have attended a full-time course of Architecture and have passed the R.I.B.A. Intermediate Examination or its equivalent at one of the recognised Schools of Architecture and have worked in an Architectural Office for a period of at least one year.

In addition to the above salaries a London Weighting is payable per annum of £30 if 25 years of age and over, or £20 if 21 to 25 years of age.

Application forms to be obtained from and returned to the Borough Education Officer, Town Hall, Forest Road, Walthamstow, E.17, within two weeks of the appearance of this notice. 8124

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL-  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT.

PLANNING ASSISTANT, A.P.T. Grade III-IV (£600-£825) required at Manchester. Applicants should hold a qualification in architecture or planning. Salary according to qualifications and experience. Applications giving age, qualifications, experience, present appointment and salary, and two referees to County Planning Officer, East Cliff County Offices, Preston, by the 31st January, 1955. 8159

BOROUGH OF RAWTENSTALL.  
APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT.

Applications are invited for the above mentioned appointment at a salary of £625-£675 p.a. (subject to award for specialist classes). The commencing salary will be fixed according to the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate. Applicants should be Associates of the R.I.B.A.

The appointment is on the Council's permanent staff and is subject to the Local Government Superannuation Acts, 1937-1953, the passing of a medical examination and to termination by one month's notice on either side.

Housing Accommodation will be made available if required.

Applications, stating age, qualifications, present and previous appointments, and giving full details of experience, together with names and addresses of two referees, should be delivered to the undersigned not later than Wednesday the 2nd February, 1955.

J. W. BLOMELEY,  
Town Clerk.  
Town Hall,  
Rawtenstall,  
Rossendale, Lancs. 8118

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.  
ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.

Applications are invited for the following appointments:-

(a) CLERKS OF WORKS to supervise the erection of a reinforced concrete school at Hartshill, near Nuneaton, and a Technical College at Leamington Spa. Salary £12 per week.

(b) ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING ASSISTANT to undertake the preparation of electric installation layouts and specifications for public buildings working under limited supervision. Commencing salary £560 per annum rising subject to satisfactory service to £725 per annum.

Appointments under (a) are on the temporary staff for the duration of the contracts and that under (b) on the established staff. Both are subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Acts, 1937-53.

Applications to be made on a form which can be obtained from G. R. BARNESLEY, F.R.I.B.A., County Architect, Shire Hall, Warwick.

L. EDGAR STEPHENS,  
Clerk of the Council.  
Shire Hall,  
Warwick.  
7th January, 1955. 8117

CITY OF PETERBOROUGH.  
APPOINTMENT OF QUANTITY SURVEYOR,  
CITY ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT.

Applications are invited from qualified QUANTITY SURVEYORS for the above appointment on the new Grade III A.P. & T. (£600-£725). Applicants should have wide experience, including taking off bills for new schools. Housing accommodation will be provided if required.

Any further information can be obtained from the City Engineer and Surveyor (Mr. L. H. Robjohn, M.B.E., A.M.I.C.E.).

Closing date for receipt of applications, 29th January, 1955.

C. PETER CLARKE,  
Town Clerk.  
Town Hall,  
Peterborough,  
January, 1955. 8116

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON.  
Applications are invited for the post of ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT, Salary A.P.T. II, £550-£640 p.a. in the Borough Housing Architect's Department.

The appointment will be subject to the National Scheme of Conditions of Service and the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937.

The successful applicant will be required to have passed the Intermediate Examination of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Applications, together with the names of two referees, should be submitted to C. Bacon, F.R.I.B.A., Borough Housing Architect, Flook House, Station Road, Taunton, not later than Monday, 31st January, 1955.

L. ATWELL,  
Town Clerk.  
Municipal Buildings,  
Taunton. 8163

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.  
COUNTY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified applicants for the following permanent appointments:-

(a) SENIOR ASSISTANT ARCHITECT, A.P.T. Grade VI (£825-£1,000), for a programme of Police Stations and Magistrates' Courts. Applicants should be interested in contemporary design.

(b) SENIOR ASSISTANT ARCHITECT, A.P.T. Grade V (£750-£900), for general work, in particular Fire Stations, and Hostels for the aged. Applicants should be interested in contemporary design.

(c) SENIOR ASSISTANT ARCHITECTS (2), A.P.T. Grade V (£750-£900), for a large programme of additional classrooms and similar work for existing schools. Applicants should be thoroughly practical architects.

(d) ASSISTANT ARCHITECT, £625-£675, for general work, in particular Clinics and Smallholdings, etc.

Application forms, to be returned by Monday, 31st January, 1955, obtainable from the County Architect, P.O. Box No. 26, County Hall, Preston. 8093

**STEVENAGE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.**  
Applications are invited for post as ASSISTANT ARCHITECT on Corporation salary grade A.P.T. VIII (£785-£960). Applicants should be fully qualified architects with experience of large scale building contracts.

Housing accommodation will be available in due course in an appropriate case.

Applications, giving details of experience and names of two referees should be sent to the Chief Administrative Officer, Aston House, near Stevenage, Herts, not later than Thursday, 27th January, 1955. 8099

**WELWYN GARDEN CITY AND HATFIELD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS.**  
**APPOINTMENT OF QUANTITY SURVEYING ASSISTANT.**

Applications are invited for the appointment of QUANTITY SURVEYING ASSISTANT at a commencing salary of £500 per annum with increments in accordance with satisfactory service.

Applicants should be experienced in working up and measuring on site and capable of taking off under supervision.

The appointment is superannuable and terminable by one month's notice on either side. The successful applicant will be assisted in obtaining housing accommodation if required.

Applications, in the candidate's own handwriting, giving age, details of present and past appointments, salaries and experience, together with the names of three persons to whom reference may be made, should be addressed to the General Manager, 4, Wigmore Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, and be received by 3rd February, 1955. 8141

**CORBY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.**  
Applications are invited for the undermentioned appointments in the office of the Chief Architect:-

**QUANTITY SURVEYORS (2).**-

Salary within the scale £630 x £30-£770. The appointments are subject to one month's notice on either side, the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, and to the passing of a medical examination.

Applications stating age, education, training, qualifications, experience, past and present appointments and salaries, together with the names of two referees, must be received by the undersigned not later than the 31st January, 1955, in envelopes end used "Appointments."

Housing available.  
R. F. BROOKS GRUNDY,  
General Manager.  
Spencer House,  
Corporation Street,  
Corby, Northants. 8088

**CITY OF OXFORD EDUCATION COMMITTEE.**  
**COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, ART AND COMMERCE.**

**APPOINTMENT OF FULL-TIME STUDIO YEAR MASTER ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT.**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified architects, preferably those holding the Degree or Diploma of a Recognised School, or from holders of the A.R.C.A. with some Architectural experience, for the above-named post. Duties include studio work and some lecturing to students in the Diploma and part-time courses.

Salary in accordance with Grade B, Burnham Technical Award, i.e. (men) £225 x £25 (11) = £220-£280 per annum, with additions for degree or equivalent and appropriate training and increments for approved teaching and/or professional experience.

Forms of application and further particulars may be obtained on receipt of a stamped addressed for iscap envelope from the Chief Education Officer, 77/79, George Street, Oxford, to whom completed forms should be returned within 14 days of the date of the appearance of this advertisement. 8089

**NORTH THAMES GAS BOARD.**  
An ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT is required in the Drawing Office of the Chief Engineer's Department, Westminster.

Applicants should have passed the R.I.B.A. Final Examination, should be capable of preparing working drawings and specifications, and supervising the work on contracts. Experience in design and planning of industrial buildings would be an advantage.

Starting salary, depending on age and qualifications, will be within the range £615-£735 per annum, and the successful candidate will be required to join the Staff Pension Scheme.

Applications, stating age and giving full details of qualifications and experience, should be sent to the Staff Controller, North Thames Gas Board, 30, Kensington Church Street, London, W.8, quoting reference 666/194. 8090

**NATIONAL COAL BOARD.**  
**NORTHERN (N. & C.) DIVISION.**  
**ARCHITECT GRADE II.**

Applications are invited for the post of ARCHITECT Grade II in the Divisional Architect's Department of the National Coal Board, Northern (N. & C.) Division, Ashfield Towers, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 3. Applicants must be Associates of the R.I.B.A. capable of carrying out all work required for large building schemes. Salary within the scale of £600 x £25-£650 x £30-£900, according to experience.

Applications, stating age, training and full details, including salaries, of past and present appointments to Divisional Establishment Officer, National Coal Board, Northern (N. & C.) Division, Ellison Buildings, Ellison Place, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1, not later than 28th January, 1955. 8096

**ESTIMATOR:** Scottish Special Housing Association Limited, invite applications for this superannuable appointment in the Direct Labour Organisation. Applicants should possess a wide experience of estimating in connection with building work of all types and in all trades, and with civil engineering work. Salary scale £180-£1,025 per annum. Forms of application with full particulars of the post are obtainable from the Secretary, 15-21, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, 12. Applications should be submitted within 10 days of the appearance of this advertisement. 8091

**BURGH OF KILMARNOCK.**  
**BURGH ARCHITECTS DEPARTMENT.**  
**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT.**

Applications are invited from registered Architects for appointment as ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT, preferably with previous municipal housing experience. Salary and conditions will be in accordance with the recommendations of the Joint Industrial Council for Local Authority Services (Scotland)-Salary Scale A.P.T. Grade V (£665 x £15 x £15 x £20-£715).

Applications giving full particulars of age, experience and qualifications, etc., accompanied by copies of recent testimonials should be lodged with N. S. Sutherland, Burgh Architect, 64a Bank Street, Kilmarnock, by not later than 28th January, 1955.

W. L. WALKER,  
Town Clerk.  
Council Chambers,  
Kilmarnock,  
20th January, 1955. 8094

**LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.**  
**COUNTY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified applicants for the following permanent appointments:-

(a) SENIOR ASSISTANT QUANTITY SURVEYORS (2), A.P.T. Grade VI (£825-£1,000).

(b) SENIOR ASSISTANT QUANTITY SURVEYORS (2), A.P.T. Grade V (£750-£900).

Application forms, to be returned by Monday, 31st January, 1955, obtainable from the County Architect, P.O. Box No. 26, County Hall, Preston. 8095

**COUNTY BOROUGH OF DONCASTER.**  
**BOROUGH ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.**

Applications are invited for the appointment of TWO ASSISTANT QUANTITY SURVEYORS, at a salary of £735 x £30-£825.

Applicants must be A.R.I.C.S. and have had good experience in the preparation of Bills of Materials for all types of work, valuation for interim certificates, and the settlement of final accounts.

The appointments will be subject to one month's notice on either side, to the National Joint Council's Scheme of Conditions of Service, and to the terms of the Local Government Superannuation Acts, 1937 and 1953. The successful applicants will be required to pass a medical examination.

**HOUSING ACCOMMODATION** will be available if necessary.

Forms of application can be obtained from the Borough Architect, L. J. Tucker, A.R.I.B.A., F.I.H.S., 15, South Parade, Doncaster, and must be returned to the undersigned not later than 10 a.m. on Monday, the 14th February 1955.

Canvassing, directly or indirectly, will be a disqualification.

H. R. WORMALD,  
Town Clerk.  
1, Priory Place, Doncaster,  
12th January, 1955. 8152

**COUNTY BOROUGH OF YARMOUTH.**  
**EDUCATION COMMITTEE.**  
**APPOINTMENT OF CLERK OF WORKS.**

SALARY £12 19s. 7d. per week.

Applications are invited for the appointment of a CLERK OF WORKS to supervise the erection of the new Girls' High School.

The appointment will be temporary, for approximately 24 years, and subject to one month's notice on either side.

Applicants must have a thorough knowledge of the building trade, including experience in connection with steel framed buildings.

Applications stating age, qualifications, present employment and previous experience, together with the names of two persons to whom reference can be made, should be enclosed in an envelope endorsed "Clerk of Works" and must be received by me not later than Friday, 28th January, 1955.

Canvassing directly or indirectly will be deemed a disqualification, and candidates must disclose in writing whether, to their knowledge they are related to any member or holder of any senior office under the Council. Candidates who fail to do so will be disqualified and, if appointed, will be liable to dismissal without notice.

D. G. FARROW,  
Chief Education Officer.  
22, Euston Road,  
Great Yarmouth. 8097

**BOROUGH OF MACCLESFIELD.**  
**TEMPORARY ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT.**

Applications are invited for the above appointment in the Borough Architect's Department, on A.P.T. Grade II (salary £560-£640).

Application form and details obtainable from the Borough Architect's Office, 3, Jordangate, Macclesfield, to be returned to the undersigned not later than the 10th February, 1955.

WALTER ISAAC,  
Town Clerk.  
Town Hall,  
Macclesfield,  
20th January, 1955. 8113

**SOUTHAMPTON C.B.C.** requires under N.J.C. service conditions:-

(i) ASSISTANT ARCHITECT, salary £600-£725 (A.P.T. Grade III). Must be associate member of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and have had experience in housing design, layout, construction and administration of contracts.

(ii) ASSISTANT ARCHITECT, salary £560-£640 (A.P.T. Grade II). Must have had suitable experience in local government housing. Commencing salary according to qualifications and experience; minimum qualification intermediate examination of the R.I.B.A.

Housing accommodation at an economic rent will be provided if required.

Apply, with copies of two testimonials, to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Civic Centre, Southampton by the 31st January, 1955. 8116

**COUNTY BOROUGH OF BOLTON.**

Applications are invited for the permanent appointment of an ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT in the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department at a salary in accordance with A.P.T. Grade I (£500-£580). Commencing salary will be according to qualifications and experience.

Applicants should have attended a full time course of Architecture, and have passed the Intermediate Examination of the R.I.B.A. or its equivalent.

The appointment is superannuable and subject to passing a medical examination.

Application forms, obtainable from me, should be returned by 26th January, 1955.

PHILIP S. RENNISON,  
Town Clerk.  
Town Hall,  
Bolton. 8161

**CITY OF CARDIFF.**  
**APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS.**

Applications are invited for the following appointments in the City Surveyor's Department:-

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS (Housing), A.P.T. New Grade III (£600-£725 per annum).

Candidates should possess the minimum qualifications and experience prescribed by the National Joint Council for Local Authorities' Administrative, Professional, Technical and Clerical Services for posts in the above-mentioned Grades.

General Conditions of Appointment may be obtained from the undersigned.

The Council will assist in providing housing accommodation for the successful applicants.

Applications, accompanied by the names and addresses of three referees and endorsed "Architectural Assistant (Housing) A.P.T. Grade III" must be delivered to me not later than the 31st January, 1955.

S. TAPPER-JONES,  
Town Clerk.  
City Hall,  
Cardiff,  
January, 1955. 8162

**CITY OF SALFORD.**

Applications are invited for the undermentioned appointment on the permanent establishment of the City Engineer and Surveyor's Department:-

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT, A.P.T. Grade V, £840-£900.

Applicants must be Associate Members of the Royal Institute of British Architects and have had considerable experience in the design and construction of schemes for houses, flats, schools and public buildings together with adequate administrative experience.

The appointment is pensionable and subject to the passing of a medical examination.

Applications stating age, qualifications and experience accompanied by copies of two recent testimonials are to be addressed to the City Engineer and Surveyor, Town Hall, Salford, 3, enclosed in envelopes endorsed "Architectural Assistant (Ref. A)" and forwarded so as to be received not later than the first post on Monday, 7th February, 1955.

Applicants must disclose in writing any known relationship to members or officers of the Council.

R. RIBBLESDALE THORNTON,  
Town Clerk. 8160

**Tenders Invited**  
**COUNTY BOROUGH OF DONCASTER.**  
**BOROUGH ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.**

CONTRACT No. 512.

**PHASES 1 AND 2 OF THE PROPOSED TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOR FURTHER EDUCATION.**

The County Borough Council invites building contractors who are willing to tender for the above (approximate value of this Contract is £200,000) to submit their names, with particulars of contracts of a similar nature or magnitude recently undertaken, to the Borough Architect, 15, South Parade, Doncaster, not later than Saturday, the 29th January, 1955.

From the names submitted a panel of contractors will be chosen who will subsequently be provided with the Bills of Materials and Form of Tender on payment of a deposit of five guineas which will be refunded on receipt of a bona fide tender.

The closing date for tenders will be Wednesday, the 2nd March, 1955, and the Council does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

H. R. WORMALD,  
Town Clerk.  
1, Priory Place,  
Doncaster,  
7th January, 1955. 8100



**Architectural Appointments Vacant**

4 lines or under, 7s. 6d.: each additional line, 2s.  
The engagement of persons answering these advertisements must be made through a Local Office of the Ministry of Labour or a Scheduled Employment Agency if the applicant is a man aged 18-64 inclusive or a woman aged 18-59 inclusive unless he or she or the employment is excepted from the provisions of the Notification of Vacancies Order, 1952.

**REQUIRED for Architects' office, Central London area, young qualified ASSISTANTS** interested in design and construction. Write, stating experience and salary required. Box 3235.

**BUILDING SURVEYING ASSISTANT** (about R.I.C.S. Final Standard) with at least two years' practical experience required by City firm of Chartered Surveyors & Architects. 3925

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT, intermediate standard** required as a personal assistant to a principal in a large general practice in the Home Counties. The appointment will offer opportunity for work in all stages of architecture and in the administration of a private practice. Enthusiasm and ability essential. Box 5063.

**SENIOR ASSISTANT ARCHITECTS** required with experience of work on commercial and industrial buildings. Salaries up to £915 per annum for suitably qualified applicants.

**ASSISTANT ARCHITECTS** also required, capable of preparing working drawings and details from preliminary sketches. Salaries up to £745 per annum.

Applications stating age, experience, qualifications and salary required to G. S. Hay, A.R.I.B.A., Chief Architect, Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., 1, Balloon Street, Manchester. 4919

**ASSISTANTS** required Manchester District—one qualified or of final standard, one intermediate standard. State salary required. Box 4858.

**EXPERIENCED Senior and also Intermediate to Final standard ASSISTANTS** required. Applicants to have knowledge of commercial work, including offices and stores, etc. London experience is essential. Box 4890.

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT: Intermediate** approaching final. Commercial and industrial work; large-scale contracts. Watson, Johnson, Stokes, Victoria Square, Birmingham. 4895

**ASSISTANT** required in busy practice in West End, in early twenties, about Intermediate R.I.B.A. standard. Excellent opportunities for gaining all-round experience. Box 5092.

**ARCHITECTURAL STAFF, all grades wanted,** interesting and varied work of contemporary character; light and airy offices. Apply to J. Seymour Harris & Partners, 4, Greenfield Crescent, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 15. 6086

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT or BUILDING DRAUGHTSMAN**, age up to 35, required for work on industrial buildings. Preference given to candidates with Inter. R.I.B.A., but this not essential, although O.N.C. in building is the minimum acceptable qualification. Applicants should have experience in foundation work, drainage and factory buildings. Permanent position and attractive salary. Assistance with housing given if necessary. Write in confidence to Personnel Manager, Michelin Tyre Co., Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs., giving all relevant information. 7041

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT** required, intermediate to Final standard, with office experience, for small busy practice. Shaw & Lloyd, F.R.I.B.A., 74, Gt. Russell Street, W.C.1. Museum 9693. 7027

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS** required. Varied work. Write stating age, training, experience, present salary. All interview expenses paid. G. de C. Fraser, Son & Gearey, Chartered Architects, 27, Dale Street, Liverpool. 8067

**RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE** required for East Anglia and East Midlands by leading nationally known manufacturers of prefabricated timber buildings. Applicants must have sound knowledge of building construction with some experience of timber of prefabricated structures. This is an opportunity for a capable sales executive able to initiate, maintain and successfully finalise technical and commercial negotiations at high level. Send fullest details of career, age, experience and salary level to Box No. 7007.

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT** required for Taunton or Tiverton offices. At least Intermediate R.I.B.A. standard, with previous private practice experience. H. S. W. Stone & Partners, F.R.I.B.A., 20, The Crescent, Taunton. 7029

**RONALD WARD & PARTNERS** require several **ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS**. Apply 29, Chesham Place, Belgrave Square, S.W.1. or telephone Belgrave 3361. 7023

**VICTORIA** office requires both junior and intermediate grade **ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS**. Applicants should be interested in planning for modern industry, the presentation of schemes and the working up of details, etc. Please reply stating previous experience and salary required to Box No. 7072.

**URGENTLY** required in busy City office, with increasing commitments. **SIX ASSISTANTS** of intermediate standard. Excellent opportunities for candidates with enthusiasm and drive to gain all-round experience in a practice dealing with projects of national and historic interest. Salary range £403-£689. Box 7067.

**ASSISTANT** of intermediate standard with several years office experience, required immediately. Must be good and accurate draughtsman. Apply stating age, when available, previous experience and salary required to Felix Walter, F.R.I.B.A., 7, Gainsborough Road, Ipswich, Suffolk. 8049

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT** required, intermediate to final standard. Write giving full particulars of previous experience and salary required to Graham Clump & Denis Clump, F.R.I.B.A., 40, George Street, Brighton—Five-day week. 8018

**JUNIOR ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT** required at once in Southampton office, previously completed National Service. Write, giving age, training and experience, and present salary, box 8040.

**ARCHITECTURAL DRAUGHTSMEN** required by Lloyd Limited, for staff architect's office. Applicants should have completed at least one year's office experience. Apply in writing, stating age, training and experience to: Lloyd Limited, Hounslow, MIDDLESEX. 8024

**EXPERIENCED REINFORCED CONCRETE DESIGNERS** and **ARCHITECTURAL DRAUGHTSMEN** required by large Building and Civil Engineering Contractor. Permanent employment and good prospects for suitable candidates. Apply Box 8022.

**SENIOR ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT**, Final Standard, required immediately. Please apply in writing, stating age, experience and salary required, to Howell, Freeman & Batten, 11, Blagrove Street, Reading. 8025

**A.R.I.B.A.**, with busy and growing practice in the City, requires young **ASSISTANT** with several years' experience in Architects' office. Good salary and prospects. Box 8332.

**ARCHITECTS** of R.I.B.A. Final Standard required with initiative and imagination, for research and development of prefabricated structures destined for world markets. Apply A. M. Gear, A.R.I.B.A., at 12, Manchester Square, London, W.1. 8000

**CAPABLE ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT** required in London Architects' local office at Haywards Heath to take charge of contracts in the district. Write stating age, qualifications and salary required to Box 8004.

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT**, school-trained with at least two years' experience, for industrial projects: contemporary outlook. Five-day week. Apply by telephone or letter for interview. Clifford Tee & Co., F.R.I.B.A., 43, Frederick Road, Birmingham, 15. Edgbaston 3676. 8010

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT** required urgently, good opportunities and experience in industrial, commercial and domestic work. Also **JUNIOR ASSISTANT**, intermediate standard. Apply—K. Luther Davies, A.R.I.B.A., A.R.I.C.S., 41, High Street, Newport, Mon. 8012

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS** required in busy Coventry office, handling wide variety of work. All standards up to Intermediate or equivalent. Good salaries. Travelling expenses paid to applicants selected for interview. Pension scheme available. W. S. Hatfield & Partners, 1, Queens Road, Coventry. 8017

**SENIOR ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT** required. Westminster office. Experience of commercial and industrial buildings in London essential. Salary approx. £1,000 according to ability. Write in first instance, giving details of experience. Box 8126.

**N.C.B. SCOTTISH DIVISION.** Applicants are invited for vacancies which exist in Edinburgh for Architects Grade II. £600-£25 to £650-£30 to £900. Applicants must be Associate Members of the R.I.B.A. and have had experience in the handling of large-scale contracts. The posts will be superannuable and the point of entry into salary scale will depend on the qualifications and experience of the successful applicants. Applications stating age, education, qualifications, experience (in chronological order), present post and salary, should be forwarded to the Establishments Officer, 1, Elington Crescent, Edinburgh, 12, within 7 days. 8164

**IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, LTD.**, has a vacancy for an **ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT** to work in their London offices. Candidates should be Associate Members of the R.I.B.A., between the age 25-35, and should have a thorough knowledge of architectural works, particularly in regard to the design and construction of offices, canteens, laboratories, housing and warehouses. Applications, stating age, qualifications and experience, should be sent to Head Office and Regions Staff Department, Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., I.C. House, Millbank, S.W.1. 8165

**ASSISTANT ARCHITECT**, of some years good office experience, and accustomed to site control and responsibility, required for Manchester office. R.I.B.A. qualification desirable. Interesting post, with wide range of work, for man of initiative and capacity. Please give details of education, experience, and salary required, to Harry S. Fairhurst & Son, Chancery Chambers, 55, Brown Street, Manchester, 2. 8166

**CHIEF ASSISTANT** required by busy South-East Coast firm of Chartered Architects on wide variety of work. Sound constructional knowledge essential. State details of experience and salary required. Box 8167.

**ADAMS, HOLDEN & PEARSON** require **SENIOR and JUNIOR ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS** immediately. Write, giving particulars of experience and salary required, to 38, Gordon Square, W.C.1. 8169

**CADBURY BROS.** require a **SENIOR ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT**, to work on large-scale development schemes. If necessary, a house will be provided. Salary in accordance with qualifications and experience. Applications, which should be addressed to the Chief Architect (Mr. E.M.A.), Cadbury Bros., Ltd., Bourneville, Birmingham, should give the following information: age, qualifications, present salary, and details of experience. 8170

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT** required. At least intermediate standard, with previous private practice experience. Orrell H. Nuttall, F.R.I.B.A., 46a, High Street, Banbury, Oxon. 8128

# THE BUILDINGS DIVISION

**THE BRISTOL AEROPLANE CO., LTD.**, has entered into a new field of activity in constructional engineering. The scope covers design, development and production of orthodox and prefabricated forms of constructions, including building elements and a wide range of interesting projects.

- Vacancies exist for the following:—
- (1) **SENIOR DRAUGHTSMEN**, of at least Higher National Certificate standard, for preparing steelwork plans and details. Some knowledge of design and site surveying desirable.
  - (2) **JUNIOR DRAUGHTSMEN IMPROVERS**, of Ordinary National Certificate standard, with steelwork detailing experience.
  - (3) **SENIOR DRAUGHTSMEN**, of Higher National Certificate standard, with experience, in metal window design.
  - (4) **SENIOR DRAUGHTSMEN**, of Higher National Certificate standard, with general engineering experience.
  - (5) **SENIOR DRAUGHTSMEN**, of Higher National Certificate standard, experienced in light alloy design.

The offices are situated at Banwell, on the outskirts of Weston-super-Mare, in pleasant surroundings. Adequate transport facilities are available. Superannuation, benevolent and welfare schemes are in operation, together with excellent canteen facilities. A normal five-day week is worked with overtime.

Applicants should apply to The Chief Engineer, Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Buildings Division, Banwell, Somerset, giving full particulars of experience, qualifications and present salary. 8142

**CHARTERED ARCHITECTS**, Plymouth, require one qualified **ASSISTANT** and one of intermediate standard. Box 8034.

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