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Details on page 68

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PENCIL POINTS

JULY 1946

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“Nil. 6 Jefferson Lane,” one of a series in Good Housekeeping’s “Homes America Wants.” Emil A. Schmidlin, Architect.
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ANOTHER U.N.O. PROPOSAL
Dear Editor:

An open competition seems to me to be undesirable now. All offices are busy and are going to be reluctant to set aside a certain number of their staff during this busy period to enter an open competition. Perhaps a way would be, in order to get top-flight architects, to hold an open esquisse-esquisse type of competition and from that select about ten architects who would be paid similar to the West Point competition, for a final competition.

CLARENCE B. LITCHFIELD
New York, N. Y.

FIRST—THE IDEAS
Dear Editor:

I am entirely in accord with the thought that any diagram for U.N.O. buildings requires the most earnest consideration. Before a competition develops, and I am strongly in favor of an open one, the actual requirements need thorough analysis. It is reasonably simple to organize this world-wide competition, but the vital question arises as to just what the diagram will be.

I would suggest the possibility of a competition first for ideas as to diagram, possibly in the form of an essay with or without diagrams.

A broad conception of the elements would bring out the relative value of the essentials. I can't see a competition for buildings, until such research be done. One other method of obtaining the diagram is, obviously, that of appointing a small group of men who would undertake the job and do all of the necessary consulting so that some crystallization of thinking could be cleared.

ELY JACQUES KAHN
New York, N. Y.

STRONG APPROVAL
Dear Editor:

Concerning an international competition for the headquarters of the United Nations, we would like to express our strong approval of the idea.

We have written to the Australian representative of the British Students' Society, The Royal Victorian Institute of Architects, and to the Architectural Research Group, suggesting that they take appropriate action. We have also written to the Australian delegate at the United Nations Conference urging him to strongly advocate the idea at the next session.

KENNETH R. GREEN
The Architectural Students' Society of the R.V.I.A.
Melbourne, Australia

BEST JURY: BEST RESULT
Dear Editor:

I am in full accord with your suggestion that the winner (or winners) of an international competition should be entrusted to design the world capital.

The thought that such a competition might be limited to a few selected or appointed men is unsound and undemocratic. Inspirations and ideas do not necessarily dwell in the minds of a chosen few. If the best possible solution is sought, the widest participation is likely to supply it.

The creation of a competent, effective, and impartial group of technical advisors and jury is the greatest problem by far. In the final analysis, the success of any competition is measured by the ability and integrity of both.

JOSHUA D. LOWENFISH
New York, N. Y.

TOUGHEST PROBLEM
Dear Editor:

The difficulties of formulating a program and selecting a jury have been exposed, but I haven't read or heard anything yet which seriously discredits an architectural competition. The idea of an evolving continuity of design may be a beautiful sociological formula but would afford no sure protection from the lifelessness of mediocre compromise.

The suggestions for some sort of architectural civil service staff and an elaborate research organization, however essential for factfinding and administration, are not substitutes for creative design, which cannot be brushed aside by calling it paper architecture.

The toughest problem of all is the method of judging. Perhaps we could borrow a procedure from medical diagnosis and have five independent juries, each selecting an equal number of solutions and placing them in order of preference. A super-jury, advised by a statistician, could make the final choice.

HARRISON GILL
Chattanooga, Tenn.

COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITY
Dear Editor:

If there is any building work necessary to or indispensable to the work of the new "League," it could be and should be handled by the U.N.O. council itself rather than committees of various nationalized professional associations; otherwise, the U.N.O. would get off to a better start by using existing facilities for great sessions—let us hope it proves itself and its permanence, whereupon buildings could be added gradually to its possessions.

GARRY A. BOYLE
St. Augustine, Fla.

NOT A WAR JOB
Editor's Note: A letter received by Isadore Rosenfield from an Australian reader is printed below in part because it clears up an error in one of our captions (page 88, PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE, August 1945).

CM

Dear Mr. Rosenfield:

In "Mechanical Plants for Hospitals" you show a fine photograph of the Royal Melbourne Hospital, which, incidentally, was designed by our firm. However, the caption to the photograph indicates that you have been misled in the purpose of this hospital. The planning of it was started some 10 years ago to provide a complete hospital unit of 500 beds, with large outpatients' department, nurses' home, boiler house, laundry, and quite a large section for the Walter and Eliza Hall Laboratories. These laboratories carry out a great amount of research in addition to routine hospital work. The building was commenced before the war and was never completed when U.S.A. troops arrived in Australia. The Royal Melbourne Hospital Committee immediately made the buildings available for occupation by U.S.A. medical services, who remained there for some two years.

So far as I am aware, none of the capital cost was provided under reversional lend-lease; but upon vacation all reinstatement costs and repairs, totaling some $250,000, were met from lend-lease funds. During the occupation by U.S. medical services no rent was paid.

In regard to the provision for Australian army patients, and also U.S. army patients, a number of emergency pavi­lion hospitals have been built throughout Australia, most of them of a temporary nature. However, the Commonwealth with Government took the opportunity, during the war, of building large permanent base hospitals in four capital cities to take care of war wounded and veterans. Around these base hospitals grew up some temporary nature. In the Walter and Eliza Hall Laboratories, which are scheduled to be demolished some five years after the end of hostilities, but if we can judge from the past, they are most likely to remain for twenty years, or longer.

G. L. MOLINE
Sydney, Australia

FACTS AND DESIGNERS
Dear Editor:

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the wonderful job you are doing in your revitalized PENCIL POINTS under the heading of PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE. I find especially helpful the compact, graphic presentation of building facts under the section Materials and Methods. Such factual information clearly presented will prove of invaluable aid to architectural designers in understanding materials with which they will have to work.

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JOBS AND MEN
(Continued from page 10)

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NOTICES
KEMP, BUNCH, and JACKSON, Architects, have opened offices in the Florida Theatre Bldg., Jacksonville, Fla.
The office of BERYL PRICE, Architect, has been reopened at 1011 Pine St., Philadelphia, Pa.
EARLE S. DRAPER, former Deputy Commissioner of the Federal Housing Administration, is now president of Housing Trends, Inc.
ROY A. KAZEBIER, Architect, has opened offices at 15 Euclid Bldg., 111 West B St., Ontario, Calif.

Michael T. Kipinski and John A. Valtz announce the opening of the architectural firm of KIPINSKI and VALTZ, 14 Central Ave., Lynn, Mass.

RUDOLPH J. MOCK has joined the TVA Department of Regional studies in Knoxville, Tenn., as Staff Architect.

FREDERIC H. LEUBUSCHER and JOHN H. LINDESTRUM, JR., have formed a partnership for the practice of landscape architecture and civil engineering at 243 Lorraine Ave., Upper Montclair, N. J.

Rollin Wolf and Willard S. Hahn, Registered Architects, have formed a partnership with offices at 459 Hamilton St., Allentown, Pa.

A. C. LYRAS, Architect, has opened his office at 28 W. 44th St., New York, N. Y.

The new firm of MACNEIR & DYKEMA, Architects, has offices at 2520 E. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

KENNETH H. RIPPNEN Co., INC., Management Counsellors in Space Administration, announces the return of its President, KENNETH H. RIPPNEN, Major, A.U.S.

ROBERT A. MILLER, Architect, has opened offices at 616 Stock Exchange Bldg., Portland 4, Ore.

H. Eugene Grishaver, Jr., and James F. Neilan have formed a partnership for the practice of architecture with offices at 302 State St., New London, Conn.

Robert Woods Kennedy and Theodore Jordan have opened an office for the practice of architecture at 687 Boylston St., Boston, Mass.

Victor L. S. Hafner has re-established his offices for the practice of architecture at 101 Park Ave., New York, N. Y.

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JULY, 1946
Architects of the first two buildings of the series presented in this issue—designed to serve the business world—are not unfamiliar to our readers. The office building (p. 42) for American Discount Company in Atlanta, Georgia, was designed by Burge & Stevens, well known architects of that city. Just recently (May PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE, p. 16), we included a biographical note on Pietro Belluschi, Portland, Oregon, architect of the shop for Wherrie Tailoring Company also featured in this issue. Both these buildings are notable for their forthright handling of familiar commercial problems.

Designer of the adroitly disposed private office for a business executive (p. 46) was Morris Lapidus, Architect, of New York. His present competence in design for business is the result of years of commercial work in a succession of architects' offices. He describes his architectural training at Columbia University as "completely along academic lines," and that probably accounts for his success in his very first position—designing Spanish villas and elaborate cartouches in the office of Warren & Wetmore!

Planning and executing commercial work from coast to coast is the specialty of Gruen & Krummeck, designers of Grallen Kamp's shoe store (p. 48), but they also engage in residential work and some industrial design. Victor Gruen and Elsie Krummeck began their collaboration late in 1939 when they opened an office in New York. Two years later they opened their Hollywood office. Miss Krummeck had gained

Next month

- Harris Armstrong, St. Louis architect well known for his progressive work in the midwest, furnishes the lead feature of the August issue, a suburban department store project. In this case the client, one of the leading merchants of the city, has sensed an opportunity to extend his downtown facilities and serve directly the needs of a fast-growing satellite community. This is one of a series of presentations selected to make our next issue general in scope. It also will include a Tennessee church by Gill & Bianculli, Architects; an Alabama hospital by Charles McAuley, Architect; a South Dakota hotel by Harold Spitznagel, Architect; a branch library in New York by Louis Allen Abramson, Architect; a San Francisco city house by Dinwiddie & Hill, Architects; and a second house—in suburban Seattle—by John T. Jacobsen, Architect. The editors regard all of these as efficient, candid answers to the varied requirements of this range of building types.

- Of international interest is a provocative proposal by Lewis Mumford for establishment of United Nations headquarters within existing world capitals—rather than creating an entirely new architectural center. This will be discussed at some length for our readers, who thus will be informed of Mumford's ideas at the same time that he is seeking support for the proposal at a session of the Royal Institute of British Architects, convened to honor this distinguished American critic and author.

- The first part of a comprehensive discussion of insulation principles and theories by Paul D. Close, technical secretary of the Insulation Board Institute, will be featured in the Materials and Methods section. This contribution will be concluded in the September issue. Ben John Small, New York specification writer, whose "Specification Surgery" appears this month, has assembled information on types of waterproofing and dampproofing products which he will discuss in the August issue. His illustrated article will include data on membrane methods, integral methods, and plaster methods; available materials for each with appropriate specifications and designations.

(Continued on page 18)
For over twenty-one years, The Tile-Tex Company has spent a great deal of time and money on the problems of floor design in relation to its asphalt tile flooring. We have tried to make a product not only functionally valuable but architecturally correct from a design standpoint.

The problems of how to use Tile-Tex colors, sizes, and accessories to produce attractive and correct floor designs for all types of room areas have received the closest study. Field representatives have been trained to assist and aid the architectural profession in this respect—whenever such assistance is requested.

At our home offices, we maintain a Design Department, whose sole purpose is to co-operate with and help architects and owners in the proper selection of colors and designs in Tile-Tex Asphalt Tile. Perhaps we can help you in this respect—if so, this department is ready, willing, and anxious to serve you. Write us if we can be of assistance to you in this matter or any other problem pertaining to asphalt tile floors.

THE TILE-TEX COMPANY, Inc.
Asphalt Tile Mfr. Subsidiary of The Flintkote Company
Chicago Heights, Illinois • 220 E. 42nd Street, New York City

LOOK TO Tile-Tex IN '46
FOR THE BEST IN FLOORING

JULY, 1946 15
Resuming his architectural practice in Seattle after two years in the Navy, including 16 months as an officer aboard an LST, Donald Dwight Williams confides that he is "somewhat confused by present building conditions and costs" but sees a brighter future. His building for Radio Station KRSC (p. 53) is an example of his skill in integrating varied elements of a highly specialized structure. His architectural training was received at the University of Nebraska and University of Washington.

New York offices for Eversharp, Inc. (p. 57) were designed by Julian von der Lancken, Architect with Raymond Loewy Associates, industrial designers since 1928. This organization of 180 designers, architects, and engineers maintains offices in New York, Chicago, South Bend, and Los Angeles, and is currently retained as design consultant for 78 corporations in the United States, Britain, and Sweden. The work of the organization is in five fields—transportation design, product design, retail development and planning, package and container design, specialized building design—further expanded during the war years for military assignments.

Raymond Loewy came here after World War I from his native France, where he had received his engineering train-

CALCIUM CHLORIDE IMPROVES CONCRETE FINISH AND STRENGTH

Controlled volume changes effected by calcium chloride built-in curing serves to minimize shrinkage, crazing or hair checking. Greater workability results in better placing and finishing conditions. These results, coupled with improved wear resistance (as shown by recent Bureau of Standards research) all serve to produce concrete having better finish and surface appearance.

Calcium chloride gives concrete added strength also—at all ages—with either standard Portland, high early strength or air entraining cement.

Architects specifying the use of calcium chloride in concrete do so because a quarter of a century of acceptance and use has verified its values.

"Calcium Chloride in Concreting" is a booklet that gives the facts established by engineering and research authorities. May we send you this booklet?

CALCIUM CHLORIDE ASSOCIATION
4145 Penobscot Building • Detroit 26, Michigan

Better Concrete Faster
with CALCIUM CHLORIDE

The author of the building code article on page 77, George N. Thompson, has been connected with the National Bureau of Standards since 1924, except for a brief period when he was associate director of the Research on Slums and Housing Policy project sponsored by the Phelps-Stokes Fund of New York. He had previously engaged in civil engineering and real estate studies, and as a member of the staff of the Committee on Seasonal Operation in the Construction Industries, had published a report on the possibility of reducing seasonal fluctuations in building activity. After serving in a succession of official capacities, he became chairman of the Building Code Correlating Committee, American Standards Association, in 1944. He also is chairman of committees on Building Code Requirements for Minimum Design Loads, and Standard Specifications for Fire Tests of Materials and Construction.
NATIONAL ELECTRIC

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* New 2x2 Surface Raceway provides a clear channel for maximum wires
* Lay-in feature—pioneered by National Electric—no fishing of wires
* Sturdy, flexible, accommodates over 300 manufacturers' devices
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PRODUCTS CORPORATION
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To the architect, Auth stands for complete tenant satisfaction, owner's pride, and equipment that will match the life of the building. To the contractor, Auth means electrical strength, mechanical endurance, easy installation, and a guarantee against troublesome failure. Those have been Auth achievements since 1892.

Ask for Auth Apartment Bulletin No. 95, showing a complete line of apartment telephone systems and mail boxes. Other Auth bulletins cover complete line of electrically or manually operated chimes, bells, buzzers, push-buttons, door-openers, annunciators, and fire alarm systems.

The experienced Auth representative near you can save your time by helping you plan the job right. Just ask him.

The Wisconsin house (p. 64) by George Fred Keck and William Keck, Architects, of Chicago, demonstrates an application of the solar-design principle that has interested these brothers for some years. George Fred Keck opened the office in 1926, following office and teaching experience, trips to Europe, and service in World War I. He had been trained at University of Illinois. In addition to his work as an architect, he has been a consultant to associations and manufacturers, such as Greens Ready Built Homes of Rockford, Illinois, for which he is now developing a manufactured house, and Clay Products Association, for which he is developing a new system of radiant heating. He also found time to help Moholy-Nagy establish the School of Design in Chicago, although he severed his connection with the institution two years ago. His brother, William Keck, has been associated with the office since he graduated from the University of Illinois and now is an active partner. During the war he was in the construction division of U. S. Engineer Corps, then a Navy officer (1944-1946).
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This is the Home of Tomorrow. This is the home free of radiators, where the heating element is so small that it fits behind the baseboard—completely out of sight.

In this new Webster Baseboard Heating, hot water circulates through the heating element, a copper tube around which are coiled fins of fine copper. This heating element is installed in a continuous line all around the exposed walls of the room. The Baseboard enclosure is removable for cleaning.

Air goes in at the floor line, passes over the heating element, is warmed and comes out at the top—a constant, even circulation.

With Webster Baseboard Heating there's nothing to mar the beauty of the room or limit your plans for interior decoration or furniture arrangement. And the absence of radiators adds considerably to the usable space in the room.

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Webster Baseboard Heating has been under development for several years and has met the most severe operational tests.

A leading architect collaborated with a noted interior decorator in preparing a series of paintings showing application of Webster Baseboard Heating to different types of rooms. These paintings have been reproduced in full color. Let us send you a copy of this brochure on Webster Baseboard Heating.

Make this test: Cut out illustration of radiator at right. Place cut-out picture in position under window in the illustration above. See how the presence of a radiator in the room interrupts the scheme of decoration.

WARREN WEBSTER & COMPANY, Camden, New Jersey
Pioneers of the Vacuum System of Steam Heating: Established 1888
Representatives in principal cities: Darling Brothers, Limited, Montreal, Canada
SMOTHER ROOM-TO-ROOM NOISE

WITH GOLD BOND

HOLLOW WALLS!

LOOKING for a low-cost way to build lightweight, sound-insulating partitions? Then you'll want to know about the New Gold Bond Hollow Wall System. With this method of construction a 4 3/4" wall reduces room-to-room noise as effectively as an 8" solid brick wall plastered both sides—a space saver for apartments, schools, hospitals, hotels, offices and housing projects.

Strong, fireproof double partitions that are completely independent of each other... no ties or bridging. Clear unobstructed space for service piping and ducts. Patenten snap-on metal base is part of the complete system—speeds erection, lowers costs. And, because partitions are separate units they may be spaced any distance apart while the cost remains the same. National Gypsum Company, Buffalo 2, N. Y.

NEW BOOK ON REQUEST.
A new illustrated book describing the Gold Bond Hollow Wall System in detail, with scale drawings, is now on the press. A post card will bring you an advance copy without charge.

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On the surface, any new roof looks fine... the quality is hidden from view. Only after a roof has been drenched with rain, laden with snow, and subjected to changing temperatures year in and year out... only then does quality tell the roof's story. Coal tar pitch was used long ago because it provided the most endurable and satisfactory roofing material. And because—even in this age of new discoveries in every field—no one has yet discovered anything better, it is STILL being used on important buildings throughout the country.

Assure satisfaction by specifying Koppers Old Style Pitch and Approved Tarred Felt roofing materials. Roofs built of these materials are long lasting and are virtually free from maintenance expense. Records of 20, 30, and 40 or more years of satisfactory performance have been made by coal tar pitch roofs.

—Koppers Company, Inc., Tar and Chemical Division, Pittsburgh 19, Pa.

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KOPPERS
coal tar built-up roofing
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coal tar membrane waterproofing

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--- as a result the supply situation is being temporarily aggravated

The need for millions of homes, as called for by the Reconversion Housing Program, means that a substantial proportion of the Douglas fir plywood industry's current production is being allocated to housing contractors, stock cabinet manufacturers, prefabricators and distributors.

As a result, the supply situation for all other industrial and construction uses will continue difficult in the immediate future. However—more plywood is being produced today than in pre-war years, and once the present overwhelming demand for housing has subsided, supply for all users should be adequate. Anticipate your needs as far in advance as possible—and discuss your requirements with your regular source of supply.

DOUGLAS FIR PLYWOOD ASSOCIATION • TACOMA 2, WASHINGTON

Although Douglas fir plywood is critically short today, it is almost indispensable for many projects—for concrete form work, for signs and displays, for boat building, for railroad car construction, and for scores of other industrial and commercial uses. In such cases it is well worth waiting for. It saves time and labor—does a better job.
This illustration shows a Truscon "O-T" Open-Truss Steel Joist being welded in an automatic electric pressure welding machine, and the view of the cutaway section shows the resultant homogeneous welded joint.

Truscon "O-T" Open-Truss Steel Joists primarily assure great strength and rigidity for the structures into which they are built. But this scientifically-designed member also provides high fire-resistance; is light in weight and easily installed; is vermin-resistant and conducive to sound deadening; encourages building economies in many ways; permits all-weather construction; makes pipe and conduit installation easy; and is easily adaptable to the requirements of radiant heating.

Write for new catalog giving complete construction details, installation instructions, and specifications.

Manufacturers of a Complete Line of Steel Windows and Mechanical Operators...Steel Joists...Metal Lath...Steeldeck Roofs...Reinforcing Steel...Industrial and Hangar Steel Doors...Bank Vault Reinforcing...Radio Towers...Bridge Floors.
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SEND FOR "THE TRUTH ABOUT AQUELLA" brochure containing the story of how Aquella was developed, along with complete technical data. It answers questions, such as: What Finish Does Aquella Produce? On What Surfaces May Aquella Be Used? How Are Surfaces Prepared for Aquella? How Is Aquella Applied? What Is the Covering Power of Aquella? With this brochure, you will have the answers to these, and countless other questions, that will arise as more and more people ask what Aquella is and does. We hope you will find it a notable contribution to your Waterproofing Library.

SEND FOR "KEY TO AQUELLA SPECIFICATION TYPES". Here you will have a handy reference sheet that will simplify the preparation of specifications for both waterproofing and damp-proofing of all types of porous masonry surfaces. It outlines scope of work...materials...workmanship and application...preparation of surfaces...mixing and application.

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Aquella is a white powder, composed of properly balanced, and very finely ground, inorganic ingredients. When mixed with water it produces an excellent waterproof, damp-proof and decorative surface coating for interior and exterior porous masonry surfaces. Aquella contains no organic binder, hygroscopic salts or stearate. Because of its minutely dispersed aggregates, Aquella fills and closes each microscopic pore of the surface to which it is applied.

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AQUELLA

The Mineral Surface Coating That Makes Interior and Exterior Porous Masonry Surfaces Watertight!

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When the blueprints call for RADIANT HEATING...

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YOU'RE designing for lasting appreciation. So, for the radiant heating system, be sure to include copper tube in your specifications. The great durability and long-range economy of Chase Copper Tube mean a satisfied client, and satisfied clients build business and prestige for you.

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It's easy to bend, light in weight, comes in long lengths, and is sold through plumbing and heating wholesalers throughout the country.

The demand for Chase Copper Water Tube is so great that we are not able to satisfy it at all times. However, the technical information is now available to you for future planning. For a complimentary copy of our new handbook write, on business letterhead, to Dept. PA-76.

7 Reasons WHY CHASE COPPER TUBE FOR RADIANT HEATING

1. EASY TO BEND
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6. LOW COST
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Say G.E. when you specify rigid conduit, and make sure that there are no weak spots in the armor of your buildings' wiring systems. Give your clients the benefits of General Electric's long experience in making top quality conduit and fittings — General Electric's reputation for products that give lasting service.

If any part of the wiring system is exposed to the corrosive action of salts, acids, or alkalis, or other chemical liquids or fumes — specify asphalt-base baked enamel-coated G-E Black conduit. For protection from atmospheric corrosion resulting from the effects of heat, cold, sunlight, moisture and weathering — specify hot-dipped, zinc-coated G-E White conduit.

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Manufacturers of Steel Deck for Roofs, Sidewalls, Ceilings, Floors, Partitions and Doors. Also, Roof Sumps and Recesses, Rolling Steel Doors, Grilles, and Underwriters' Labeled Rolling Steel Doors and Fire Shutters.
Users appreciate the way new Crane faucets open and close at a finger's touch, thanks to Dial-ese. Seats are easily replaced and single unit fits all Crane faucets, simplifying maintenance.

Dial-ese is an exclusive feature found in all new Crane plumbing trim and typifies the sound engineering back of the Crane line.

- Water pressure below seat means easy closing...prevents dripping.
- Stem threads are lubricated.
- Short stem means less friction.
- Stem packing below threads prevents corrosion.
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- Entire unit replaced quickly like a cartridge.
- One unit fits all Crane trim.

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Here's a "POWERFUL" story for City Planners

Steam Sales

IMPROVE OPERATION OF MUNICIPAL POWER PLANT
and save one customer $20,000 per year in power costs

Case History
of the Piqua Municipal Power System, Piqua, Ohio

Any architect, engineer, contractor, utility director or city commissioner interested in efficient power distribution will find this case history extremely helpful. It shows how, by adding steam sales, the Piqua Municipal Power system was able to plan a long range expansion program on a sound basis—at the same time bringing to the community all the benefits of "Central Heating"—smoke and soot abatement, reduction of fire hazards, fuel and manpower savings resulting from elimination of individual heating plants and of private coal delivery and ash removal. It also shows the important part Ric-wil played by providing a modern steam distribution system.

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JULY, 1946 29
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We suggest that you check with your Heating and Plumbing Contractor. He will be glad to advise you on the current availability of the products you desire . . . also to explain our convenient F.H.A. Time Payment Plan for modernizing work. American Radiator & Standard Sanitary Corporation, P. O. Box 1226, Pittsburgh 30, Pa.

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LOOK FOR THIS MARK OF MERIT—It identifies the world's largest line of Heating and Plumbing Products for every use ... including Boilers, Warm Air Furnaces, Winter Air Conditioners, Water Heaters, for all fuels ... Radiators, Convector, Enclosures ... Gas and Oil Burners ... Heating Accessories ... Bathubs, Water Closets, Lavatories, Kitchen Sinks, Laundry Trays, Brass Trim ... and specialized products for Hospitals, Hotels, Schools, Ships and Railroads.
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When you design in stucco, specify Medusa Waterproofed White Cement for the finish coat. Only white cement can give that clean-cut, distinctive white appearance that makes a stucco house stand out in any crowd. And Medusa Waterproofed White Stucco stays white because dirt is washed off instead of absorbed by the stucco—eliminating stains. That's why, for more than 38 years, architects have depended on Medusa White for lasting beauty. Benefit from their experience.

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SEE the wide variety of finishes.
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GIVE individuality to small stucco homes.
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Also makers of PC Foonglas Insulation
Junior's hot, dry and mad...

Because Sallie's running her tub first!

You can't blame Junior for "burning up" when Sallie beats him to the draw and starts running her bath while he's stranded high and dry in the shower.

When Junior decides on a quick shower before dinner, let nothing block his plans—not even the tub of water that Sallie is already running. And it certainly is a block to plenty of free-running water if the pipes are so small that a stinging shower becomes a dismal drip when somebody else in the house turns on the water.

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Let your future planning provide for the modern equipment your clients will want—automatic laundry dryers, dish-washers, garbage disposal units, lawn sprinklers, extra lavatories and showers—all of which depend on a steady flow of freely-running water for operation. Plan now, to give Junior and Sallie all the water they'll want when they want it—where they want it—with adequately sized steel pipe.
Veteran Vinson was Vexed . . .

BUT NOT FOR LONG

His Architect and Builder
Turned to Ceco...Construction
On His Home Went Ahead

In a foxhole on Okinawa, Veteran Vinson made a promise to himself. When he got back he was going to build a home of his own. And he kept that promise. He watched the basement and foundation walls go in and then it happened. Previously specified materials suddenly were unavailable. But his architect and builder were alert. They called on Ceco. New designs were drawn and available products substituted. Construction was resumed—he obtained a better home.

CECO ENGINEERING PLUS CONSTRUCTION KNOW-HOW . . . MAY HELP YOU WITH YOUR PROBLEM.

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Open Web Steel joists for floors
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In construction products CECO ENGINEERING makes the big difference
Slip the proper bit into the swivel chuck and you are ready for the job at hand! These Hallowell kits are time and space savers for industrial workers, repairmen and home mechanics.

To match the ruggedness of the metal section, the plastic handles are injection molded of LUMARITH ethyl cellulose. This battle-tested Celanese synthetic is outstandingly tough even at temperature extremes... is color clear through... is comfortable to the touch in cold weather... is electrically shockproof.

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*Lumarith* *A Celanese Plastic*

The Hallowell line of Speed Tool Kits manufactured by Standard Pressed Steel Company of Jenkintown, Pa., includes the Auto Kit, the Socket Wrench Kit, the Socket Screw Kit, Home Kit and others. They are obtainable at suppliers throughout the country. Lumarith handles are molded by Arnold Brillhart, Ltd., Great Neck, Long Island.
"Of primary interest to me as an architect are the overall analysis and solution of building problems. Basic solutions must be translated into physical form — an activity that requires a fundamental acquaintance with many details and many techniques.

"Good architecture, in my opinion, is based on a thorough understanding of the basic problems involved and on a free and inventive approach toward finding the best solution. As has always been true, fundamental new forms in architecture are an outgrowth of new construction ideas and methods.

"Personally, I am more interested in architecture than in any particular segment of it, and I wish to avoid becoming a specialist in a single building type. Therefore, it is essential that I have direct access to the latest information on new materials, equipment and structural techniques applicable to all types of buildings.

"I find PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE an invaluable aid in keeping abreast of important developments in the field of building techniques and their relation to today's design problems."

HUGH STUBBINS JR., Architect, Cambridge, Mass., winner of first prize in the Georgia House Competition sponsored by Rich's, Inc., Atlanta, and described in the April issue of PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE.
Radiant walls point a trend in illumination...

A new technique in lighting is a feature of the PLEXIGLAS "Dream Suite," a three-room "apartment-of-tomorrow" currently touring leading department stores and architectural centers. In warm-colored walls, artistic patterns "etched in light" glow softly with realistic three-dimensional effect.

These radiant walls of edge-lighted PLEXIGLAS have a richness and visual appeal never before approached. With the overall, glare-free illumination they provide, the "low-brightness contrast" so long sought by lighting engineers finally is achieved.


Only Rohm & Haas makes PLEXIGLAS

PLEXIGLAS is the trade-mark, Reg. U. S. Pat. Off

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WASHINGTON SQUARE, PHILADELPHIA 5, PA.

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L·O·F ANNOUNCES
STANDARD
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SIZES
for Picture Windows

The growth in popularity of the Picture Window has been phenomenal. Thermopane, L·O·F's transparent, multiple-pane insulating unit, has won wide and enthusiastic acceptance as the ideal glass for large window openings.

* * *

Thermopane—the L·O·F windowpane that insulates. Dehydrated air is hermetically sealed between its panes with the metal-to-glass Bondermetic Seal. Thermopane helps cut heating bills, adds comfort and reduces the possibility of condensation on the glass.

The following sizes have been established as standard for Thermopane manufactured with two lights of 3/4" Polished Plate Glass separated by 3/8" air space:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Size</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>48 1/8&quot; x 35 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>50&quot; x 96 1/2&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 1/8&quot; x 55 3/4&quot;</td>
<td>58&quot; x 64 1/2&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 1/8&quot; x 75&quot;</td>
<td>58&quot; x 72 1/2&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50&quot; x 48 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>58&quot; x 80 1/2&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>50&quot; x 56 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>58&quot; x 96 1/2&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>50&quot; x 64 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>58&quot; x 116 1/2&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50&quot; x 72 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>60 3/8&quot; x 35 1/2&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50&quot; x 80 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>60 3/8&quot; x 55 1/4&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 3/8&quot; x 75&quot;</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

By adopting the above sizes, which have been established by manufacturers who make sash units for Thermopane and which are based on American Standards Association 4" modular construction, design, supply and installation will be simplified. Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Co., 4376 Nicholas Bldg., Toledo 3, O.
"The Highest Quality Corrosion-resisting Pipe Obtainable at Moderate Price..."

**ANAconda 85 Red Brass**

The above recommendation was made by The American Brass Company in 1927... after exhaustive experiments which required 10 years to complete.

The performance of Anaconda 85 Red Brass Pipe in countless industrial, commercial, institutional and residential applications through the ensuing 19 years has fully justified this recommendation.

Anaconda 85 Red Brass Pipe can be specified for hot and cold water service in any type of building... with confidence that no more durable material is available at comparable cost.

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THE SMALL HOUSE DREAM WORLD

Architects can design better small houses than anybody—but with few exceptions they claim always to lose money on such jobs. Why, then, do they continue to kid themselves and the public by undertaking what often costs the client more than he thinks it is worth and costs the architect more than he is paid?

Several reasons occur. First, there is the undeniable fascination of the small house problem, which like a tantalizing puzzle promises a thrill of satisfaction when one finds the right solution for a tight set of conditions. Second, there is the altruistic impulse which makes the professional man feel that something must be done to improve the standards of small house design and that he is the man to do it. Third, there is the ever-present possibility of doing such a successful job that its merit will lead to larger commissions.

These are all understandable lures, yet under the conditions of this moment they are somewhat unrealistic and not very effective in leading to the provision of the hundreds of thousands of good small houses that are so sorely needed throughout the country. Architects in general are too busy with more substantial work to be expected to put much of their time into unprofitable activity.

There are various well-known ways—some good, some bad—whereby some architects have attempted to get better small homes built for America's ordinary people. They have worked directly for the developing builder to whom they have sold site plans and designs of several basic houses out of which to compose a group. They have worked for and with the prefabricator to pass on to the public the savings of mass production. They have provided stock plans through plan services sponsored by professional groups, magazines, material dealers, etc. A few have become small house specialists who know the problem so thoroughly that they can work economically and efficiently within a limited time budget and thus make a decent and honest living on small houses alone. But all of these methods are comparatively marginal in their rewards and often questionable in the quality of their results. There is, we think, a better way.

Most logically the architect could go all the way into the business of providing completed small houses for sale. Here he could show his superior skill as a designer, his common sense as a practical planner, his ability as an organizer, and his integrity as a professionally trained man. If this practice were adopted by a substantial number of men throughout the country, not only would the small home public get better value for its money than could be had in any other way, but there would be assurance of a fair profit for the men who furnish the creative thinking. Those who would frown on such procedure as unorthodox are living in a dream world. The urgent needs of these times must be met somehow, and, if there is truth in the oft-heard contention that the architect should be the master-builder, here is his opportunity to become one in a very real sense.
The independent office building often reaches for impressiveness through pompous architecture, with twentieth-century working needs fitting in as best they may. Here, such a design assignment has been handled on the basis of simplicity, ease of access, good light conditions for the conduct of business, etc.

Designed for an automobile-loan company, this building is used by appraisers, clerical workers, and officers of the company. The location is away from the crowded downtown area. Central entrances at both front and rear assist the direct transaction of business by customers whether they arrive on foot or by car. A spacious parking area at the rear is provided for both customers and employes. Both the general and private offices are simply disposed around a central corridor. The continuous windows on the front allow partition rearrangement without basic structural alteration.
There is a striking contrast between the design treatment of the front and rear of the building. Toward the street, at the end of a landscaped approach, the full-height, on-center entrance is flanked by continuous window bands at both floor levels. At the back, facing the parking area, the treatment is almost residential in character, suggesting in design the "family entrance" as opposed to the more formal, public entrance.

Standard practice is followed in the construction of the building. Structural steel is used for columns and beams; the joists are wood. Exterior surfaces are of brick or limestone; inside, floors are linoleum surfaced, walls are either plywood or plaster, and the ceilings are finished with acoustical material. The building is year-round air conditioned.
SHOP FRONT,
PORTLAND, ORE.

PIETRO BELLUSCHI, Architect

A shop-front remodeling job in which wood is a major material.

The structural columns at either side of this standard shop space in a Portland office building are 14 feet, 6 inches, on center. Within this area, the architect has developed a three-dimensional scheme that makes window-shopping an almost automatic act, brings the prospective customer actually within the store rental area, and dramatizes the company name.

The simplest of materials and devices were used. Narrow cedar matched boards applied on nailing strips surface the irregular-shape display wall at left. The base is oak. The company name is worked out in relief with wood lettering. A special city permit was required to allow this use of wood, which, the architect reports, "has stood up remarkably well under sidewalk abuse."

Concealed wall outlets above the window heads illuminate the display windows, and the vestibule itself is night lighted by recessed down lights installed flush with the vestibule ceiling. This ceiling and the right-hand wall are painted plaster. Total cost: $1,350.

Photos by P. A. Deutsch
CORPORATION EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE, NEW YORK CITY

A background for business, with an extraordinarily versatile piece of furniture.

In addition to the usual needs of a large private office for the president of a large company, the client wished his office to serve as a meeting room for various business, charitable, and civic groups of which he is a member. A prime requisite, therefore, was that the room could be quickly transformed into a board room or a room for informal entertainment. The remarkable desk and surrounding built-in units shown in the photographs answered this need. A sliding top conceals two correspondence trays at a moment's notice; cabinets for files may be closed out of sight; by swinging the chair around, the desk extension becomes a board-meeting table with the desk position at the head of the table.

Glass-block partition borrows light for a secretary's office.

A sofa, small bar, and radio occupy one corner.
To shield the view, yet allow ventilation, top and bottom glass hinge louvers were installed over existing windows.

MORRIS LAPIDUS, Architect

Furniture and wall veneer: natural-finish Philippine mahogany; draperies, carpet, and furred down ceiling: apple green.
This store is an interesting solution to the familiar problem of organizing effective display and sales units and company offices within a rather awkward existing structure. The gracious Southern California climate has prompted the development of a novel open-front scheme that is quite literally "open."

The existing, leased five-story building was 137 feet deep and only 24 feet wide. Building regulations required the maintenance of the applied fire escape on the front. In basic organization, the first floor, balcony, second and third floors are given over to merchandising; executive offices are located on the fourth floor, and the top floor accommodates general business offices. The main sales floor and balcony are given strong
Emphasis in the design, the scheme for the show-window being made up of a combination of the red device of the show-window and the open-front, entire-store-display principle.

A particularly notable element (which depends primarily on exceptional climate) is the entrance unit itself. The doors, transparent entrance frames are arranged as a suspended panel which may be raised by a mechanical hinge out of sight, up into the second floor. In actual use, this unit is always kept in bad weather and at night. Thus, doors and the shop interior are wholly an intermediate barrier. Yet further, the passer-by, inserts in the shape of entrance steps are made a part of the pattern of the floor.
Pairs of show windows balance the entrance doors, which are here raised out of sight, permitting an unobstructed view of the shop interior.

In addition to the plans shown, the second and third floors are merchandising floors, and the general business offices are located on the fifth floor. The fourth-floor executive offices are rather elaborate, including two private bathrooms with showers, a small kitchen, and a living-room type of study-office for the woman owner of the firm.
GALLEN KAMP'S SHOE STORE, LOS ANGELES

GRUEN AND KRUMMECK, Designers

The area above the show windows is closed off with back-lighted translucent corrugated glass; the window frames are finished with maroon structural glass. To double the apparent size of the narrow sales floor, the whole right-hand wall is mirror surfaced.

The exterior wall of the building is yellow; window frames and projecting sign are maroon. Walls and ceiling of the main sales floor are maroon; woodwork is natural primavera, and hunter's pink is the color of the carpeting as well as the walls and ceiling of the balcony area.
VIEW FROM UNDER THE BALCONY toward the entrance.

GALLEN KAMP'S SHOE STORE
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

GRUEN AND KRUMMECK
Designers

Looking down on the main sales floor from the balcony.

DETAIL of the balustrade and balcony railing.
The independent radio station in a building of its own is one of the newest of building types. Efforts to arrive at suitable design expressions have shown the inevitable awkwardness of growing pains—from makeshift locations in any available old buildings, to pompous and sentimental "temples of entertainment," to occasional blossomings out in the latest trappings of "modern style." It is refreshing to present here a simply conceived unit which makes no pretense of being anything it is not and which achieves a definite character of its own.
A well lighted and ventilated control room, surrounded by work shop, studios, and storage for thousands of recordings and transcriptions. The upper level takes care of the visitor problem.
The design problem for KRSC, Seattle's only full-time independent, 1,000-watt station, was to work out a specialty building that, in addition to being functional, would have the distinction required of a semi-public institution.

It was desirable to have a location fairly close to the main business section; yet a good ground for the antenna tower was essential. The solution was a site that was originally tide lands (involving 8 to 10 feet of fill) but which was only a short drive uptown. Inclusion of all essential services in the scheme results in economical centralized control.

The main studio's balcony provides for public viewing of live shows though the public never actually enters any working area. Construction is frame and brick veneer; interior walls are dry built, finished with acoustical materials.
MAIN STUDIO

The north wall of the studio is finished with hard board and high gloss paint to provide a sound-reflective surface; the south wall, arranged in an irregular plan, is of acoustical plank, providing desired absorption.

The balcony window for visitors viewing live shows appears at top left of photograph.

The window to the control room is double glazed.
OFFICES FOR EVERSHPARP, INC., NEW YORK CITY

Designed Under the Direction of JULIAN VON DER LANCKEN, Architect, RAYMOND LOEWY ASSOCIATES

A triple-use plan worked out within standard office-building space.

Organization of this leased space in the Empire State Building was complicated by the fact that the entrance was at the end of an office-building corridor, and a bank of elevators (to serve other floors) projected to form a barrier between the leased space and the service elevators provided for this floor. Separation between the executive suite and repair department was accomplished by locating these two main areas to the right and left of the entrance. The service entrance was worked out by partitioning a corridor at the left of the interrupting elevator block and continuing it around to the service rooms by means of a less-than-full-height, sawtooth acoustical panel.
In the main reception and service-counter area (photos above and at bottom of facing page), walls are painted gray; woodwork, including the slatted counter, are of natural-finished oak; the carpet is a pale gray-green, and the chairs are predominantly yellow and jade-green leather. Behind the service counter is a glass screen allowing full view of the repair section. When the latter is not in use, a curtain is drawn across this glass screen.

The sawtooth partition at the right of the counter (shielding the passage from the service elevator to the repair and mail rooms) is made of perforated acoustical board. Since this partition is less than ceiling height, it assists natural ventilation as well as providing desirable sound control.
EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE.

RECEPTION AREA
outside executive suite.
Illustrative of the type of residential work usually referred to as "transitional," we feel that this is an instructive example. Blending as it does two design philosophies, it is nonetheless thoroughly contemporary in planning and amenity, and it helps prove that good architecture is good architecture, whatever its surface treatment. In this case, it seems to us, the required details have been employed simply, without serious compromise.

Arranged along the south wall of the house, the living and dining spaces flow into one another with only the projecting fireplace wall as a partial separation. The north-lighted studio was provided for the artistic interests of the owner's wife. The arrangement of the garage and the fence connecting with the house provides a desirably shielded kitchen yard.
Though the exterior of the house, painted gray, with white trim and dark-green shutters, has a slightly reminiscent look, the interior takes advantage of some of the principles of open planning, utilizes daylighting in line with contemporary principles, and is entirely free from dictates of the purely picturesque. That the continuous fenestration used on the living-room side of the fireplace wall is not repeated in the dining room comes under the heading of client preference. Interior walls are sand-finished plaster, painted; the fireplace wall is painted brick. The house is of frame construction, with insulating board sheathing and bevel siding. A gas-fired hot-air system heats the house.
LOOKING FROM STUDY into living room.

DINING ROOM.
HOUSE IN OCONOMOWOC, WISCONSIN

A rational, economical, easy-to-maintain scheme for a family with four vigorous young children. The owner is the architects' younger brother.

The problem, quite simply, was to provide indoor and outdoor living, sleeping, and recreation for a man and his wife, their three boys and a girl. Design of the servantless house was consciously worked out to take the heavy wear with a minimum of drudgery and upkeep cost.

As the architects say, "It is easy to read the plan from the lake elevation—four bedrooms upstairs, recreation living-dining and kitchen downstairs. Most of the lake side of the house is screened; you can sleep inside or outside from each of the bedrooms; there is a screened porch off the recreation room and another off the kitchen."
LAKE FRONT.

GEORGE FRED KECK; WILLIAM KECK, Architects

First Floor

Second Floor

JULY, 1946 65
THE LIVING ROOM WINDOW commands a view of the sloping lawn and the lake beyond.

FIREPLACE. The fireback is of sheet steel that is top hinged from a channel-iron lintel in the center of the flue opening. The sheet may be swung from front to back and locked in either of two positions, thus serving two fireplaces—one, on the living-room side; the other, opening into the recreation room.
The lovely site slopes down to the waters of Lake La Belle, where all of the family indulges its delight in sports—swimming, boating, fishing, skating, ice-boating, etc. Only one tree had to be removed to make way for the house.

"I see the house frequently," George F. Keck writes, "and after five years, with often dozens of children playing in the house at once, it has weathered well. I have seen a dozen people walk across the living-room floor with their ice skates on (the floor is stained concrete with wrought-iron pipes in it). In winter, when the children come home from school, in addition to taking off their coats and hats, they remove their shoes and stockings (radiant heat)."

To make the most of the orientation and the lake view (toward the southwest), all of the rooms look out on this front, and the treatment is extremely open; the projecting porches on both floor levels take care of sun control in summer.

The house is mainly standard wood construction insulated with mineral wool. Exterior walls are finished with clear fir boarding; interior finishes are of fir plywood. The stone portions of the construction are a glacial deposit rock indigenous to the neighborhood. The roof is surfaced with asphalt-type built-up roofing. The heating system is a combination of the wrought-iron pipes buried in the concrete floors and copper pipe where wood stripping occurs. While there is considerable glass area in the house (both standard plate and double-thick glass are used), and temperatures in this region fall to 20 degrees below, the architects tell us "the over-all fuel bills are standard." Oil is the heating fuel.
ANNOUNCING TO ALL ARCHITECTS IN THE UNITED STATES

The ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE AWARDS

For each year beginning with 1946 the publishers of PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE will make two national awards.

1 To the architect of the building or group of buildings (not a private residence), constructed during the year in the United States, which best exemplifies sound progress in design.

2 To the architect of the private residence, constructed during the year in the United States, which best exemplifies sound progress in design.

Every architect in the United States is invited to present his best work or make nominations for review by a distinguished professional jury. The awards are intended to foster sincere, reasoned progress in architectural design in the United States by citation and recognition of those architects whose efforts to improve contemporary standards are judged the most successful.

JURY

The buildings to be cited as the best constructed during 1946 will be selected by a jury qualified to consider all aspects of the building. Those invited to serve are George Howe, until recently Deputy Commissioner for Design and Construction, PBA, noted architect of country residences and large commercial structures, author and critic; William Wilson Wurster, Dean of Department of Architecture, M.I.T., pioneer in design of houses meeting the most advanced standards of contemporary design; Eliel Saarinen, internationally famed architect and long associated with the Cranbrook Schools; Dr. C.-E. A. Winslow, distinguished sanitarian and Chairman of the New Haven Housing Authority, lecturer, author of books and pamphlets on public health problems, emeritus Professor of Public Health in Yale Medical School; Fred N. Severud, noted engineer and authority on construction methods and use of materials; Kenneth Reid, Editorial Adviser of PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE; Thomas H. Creighton, Editor of PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE.

The awards will consist of suitable plaques to be given to the winners at a presentation dinner attended by nationally prominent speakers and leaders of the profession. It is proposed to give the dinner in or near the home town of one of the award winners.

PROGRAM

The only basis for selection of the buildings winning awards in the two classifications above described will be demonstrable progress in fitness, strength, beauty, and purpose. The jury will be asked to give consideration to the appearance, plans, structure, use of materials, site arrangement, and relation to community plan and community needs.

ENTRIES

Every architect in the United States is invited to present before February 1, 1947, the best of his own work constructed during 1946—also to nominate buildings by other architects that he believes worthy of consideration by the jury.

From a preliminary judgment the jury will select a limited group of finalists. Preliminary submissions should include at least three photographs, preferably 8" x 10", showing both the interior and the exterior of the building, as well as plot plan, floor plans, and a brief description of the function of the building and its outstanding features. When the finalists are chosen, more detailed information will be requested about these.

INQUIRIES

Entries or inquiries about the PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE annual awards should be addressed to Thomas H. Creighton, Editor, PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE, 330 West 42nd Street, New York 18, N. Y.
SELECTED DETAILS

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BUILT-IN LAVATORY, MIRROR
AND LIGHTING FIXTURE

(Details on following page)
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MATERIALS AND METHODS

TECHNIQUES

SPECIFICATION SURGERY

By BEN JOHN SMALL

The desirability of reducing an architectural specification to a true contract document, as graphic and free from extraneous material as an architect’s working drawing, has been pretty well established. Largely through the efforts of Horace W. Peaslee, who advanced the principle in the pages of *Pencil Points* as far back as August 1939, many specification writers are now producing “streamlined” documents, useful and legally straightforward.

Writing such specifications is not difficult; once the principles have been established in one’s mind, there can be real pleasure in producing a working tool, without having to worry about literary standards. Actually, a specification writer need no more be an accomplished author than a competent draftsman need be a top-flight artist. Each must know construction, materials, and architectural design in the broad sense, and each must be able to translate certain parts of that knowledge into a simple, readable expression which cannot be misinterpreted.

PROCEDURE

The specification writer who wants to approach his task in this way must follow a few simple rules of procedure. First of all, there should be at the head of each subdivision of the specification a general clause which by its wording will make unnecessary the repetition, over and over again, of certain routine warnings. This “mandatory provision concentrated in a single governing clause” has been revised from Mr. Peaslee’s original suggestion by the National Bureau of Standards, to read as follows:

Mention herein or indication on the drawings of articles, materials, operations, or methods requires that the Contractor provide each item mentioned or indicated (of quality or subject to qualifications noted); perform (according to conditions stated) each operation prescribed; and provide therefor all necessary labor, equipment, and incidentals. In such a clause you’ve said the necessary things once and for all; you don’t have to keep repeating them through the body of the specifications.

The next step in specification surgery is the total elimination of the “Scope of the Work” or “Work Included” paragraph. This legally dangerous statement of what you intend to describe later on serves no useful purpose. The specifications themselves list and describe materials and methods of construction and make statements, supplementing the working drawings, about the places where these materials and methods are to be used. In the general conditions should appear all the blanket clauses which define the completeness of all work to be done.

Another means of eliminating words which sound impressive but are really worthless is to take full advantage of standard descriptions of materials. There is no danger in referring to ASTM, Federal Specifications, American Standards Association, or similar accepted standard specifications, provided material grades and types have been checked before the reference is made.

NAME NAMES!

The next step in this simplification through reference is to refer to proprietary names. The prejudice against doing this is hard to understand when one considers the number of times specification writers have simply copied the manufacturer’s description of a given product. Why not come right out and name it, save time and space, and set up a definite standard, in the “General Conditions,” which, together with the inclusion of proprietary names in the body of the specification, will provide a basis against which “equals” can be evaluated?

Once this step has been accepted, further excess words can be eliminated by saying, simply and frankly: Execute work in accord with manufacturer’s printed directions. If the ABC company’s asphalt tile has been specified, by name, as the standard of acceptable material, and the ABC company prints and distributes standard installation directions, there certainly is no need to copy them into the specifications. If the XYZ company’s product is proven equal and is finally accepted, then the specifications do not have to be changed; by the few words you have used you have made the XYZ company’s installation directions mandatory.

For full protection under this system you should require copies of such directions to accompany any samples submitted, and you can state in the specification performance objectives that you desire—not detailed instructions. By using such a method you give the manufacturer no excuse to void his guarantee provisions if performance bogs down after his own instructions have been faithfully followed. Contradictions between various manufacturer’s directions do not concern you, and there is no clearer or surer way to keep specifications *à jour*, abreast of technological developments.
An obvious way to save words is to use the American Standards Association abbreviations. Instead of writing out "National Board of Fire Underwriters" half a dozen times through the body of the specifications, why not say NBFU? The most commonly used abbreviations are:

- AAR—Association of American Railroads
- AIEE—American Institute of Electrical Engineers
- API—American Petroleum Institute
- ASRE—American Society of Refrigerating Engineers
- ASTM—American Society for Testing Materials
- BMTU—U. S. Bureau of Mines Technical Paper
- NBS—National Bureau of Standards
- CS—Commercial Standard
- FS—Federal Specification
- ITE—Institute of Traffic Engineers
- NBFU—National Board of Fire Underwriters
- SPR—Simplified Practice Recommendation

**DO NOT USE SENTENCES FOR EXAMPLE:**

Finally we come to the step which seems to be hardest for many specification writers who pride themselves on their ability to write English: the elimination of sentence structure. Throw away the constant references to "the contractor," eliminate the unnecessary "shall perform," "shall provide," "as noted on the drawings," "according to the plans," "in conformity therewith," and many other hackneyed expressions; drop the articles; save yourself and your builder-readers the nuisance of meaningless weasel words and weasel clauses.

To be specific, do not say, "Portland cement shall be in accordance with the Standard Specifications of the ASTM C150, Type I, latest edition." Say, instead: "Portland cement—ASTM, C150, Type I. You don't even have to require that this be the latest edition; your "general conditions" will cover that.

**FOR EXAMPLE:**

Here is a normally short section made even briefer and more to the point:

**Section No. 12—Fabric Covering**

The "General Conditions" apply to all work of this section. Mention herein or indication on the drawings of articles, materials, operations, or methods requires that the Contractor provide each item mentioned as indicated (of quality or subject to qualifications noted); perform (according to conditions stated) each operation prescribed; and provide therefor all necessary labor, equipment, and incidentals.

1. **Materials**
   1. Fabric—John Jones Co's "Wallskin."
   2. Paste: Size—Standard brand flour paste; best quality glue size, as recommended by fabric manufacturer.
   3. Required samples:
      1. 12" by 12" pieces of each required pattern.
      2. Paste, glue—one-quart containers.
      3. Manufacturer's printed hanging directions—4 copies.

2. **Workmanship**
   (a) Condition of plaster surfaces: smooth, true, free from dampness. Cut out and spackle cracks, blisters, and the like.
   (b) Apply one coat of glue size.
   (c) Hang fabric in accord with manufacturer's printed hanging directions.
   (d) Where directed, hang sample installation in one room using required pattern. When approved, such work shall represent standard of workmanship throughout.

3. **Salvage**
   Turn over to Owner all sizeable excess fabric for future patching purposes.

If you have the desire to produce a practical working specification, and you proceed on the basis of the suggestions outlined herein, you will in time find many other ways to reduce wordage, unnecessary work, and possible confusion. You will avoid repetition. You will find yourself developing easy-to-read tables instead of long paragraphs. And finally, you will feel that you are in step with contemporary methods of office practice, a necessary adjunct of progressive design.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Both the preceding brief explanation and the following example of the contemporary trend toward streamlined specifications owe much to the initial discussion of the subject by Horace W. Peaslee, which appeared in Pencil Points for August 1939. Mr. Small, in his duties with the New York City Department of Public Works, and more recently as specification writer for the office of Alfred Hopkins & Associates, has put into practice the principles which Mr. Peaslee then enunciated; and Mr. Beacham, whose office is in Greenville, South Carolina, has been, since publication of Mr. Peaslee's article (to quote him) "... inspired to undertake the job of completely revising the basic specifications then in use in our office." To judge by our own correspondence and conversations, and by reports in various architectural journals, professional interest in this subject is intense throughout the country.

We are happy to present the Masonry Specification. If there is sufficient interest in the subject we will publish additional examples from time to time. Mr. Peaslee has had the opportunity to review some of Mr. Beacham's work of this kind, and approves, even though Mr. Beacham has found in practice that the extreme brevity which was at first advocated had in some instances to be modified in order to avoid misunderstandings. Mr. Peaslee and Mr. Beacham join in requesting that we announce that the system and its development may be used at will, without charge. Mr. Beacham further suggests the two following books as containing sound recommendations for specification writers: Engineering Contracts and Specifications, by Robert W. Abbett ($2.25) and A Handbook of English in Engineering Usage, by A. C. Howell ($2.50), both published by John Wiley and Sons, 440 Fourth Ave., New York City, and available directly from them.
A SIMPLIFIED SPECIFICATION FOR UNIT MASONRY

Prepared by JAMES D. BEACHAM, Architect

D-01. INDEX
a) Brick
  D-03 Glass Blocks ... D-09
b) Cast Stone
  D-11 Hollow Tile ... D-05
  D-09 Mortars ... D-13
  D-02 Material ... D-12
  D-07 Tile Wall-Coping

d) Cleaning
  D-16 Field Workmanship D-14

D-02. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
a) SCOPE OF WORK: Unit masonry of the several kinds specified or indicated necessary to complete the complete shown on the drawings, together with masonry flashings and other specified items of masonry incidental thereto.

b) GLOSSARY DATA REQUIRED: Hollow tile; wall copings; flashing block; flashing material; firebrick.

c) SHOP DRAWINGS REQUIRED: Cast stone trim.

D-03. BRICKS
a) COMMON BRICK: American standard-size clay or shale bricks in accord with ASTM specification C 62, having true faces and sharp, straight edges; free from an objectionable amount of cracks and spalls.

b) FACED BRICK: Selected common brick conforming to specified requirements for structural common brick; furnished in medium-to-dark red and brown shades, with salmon-colored and black bricks excluded; free from an objectionable amount of distortion, warpage, cracks, and other unsightly defects.

Where required: On all exposed exterior surfaces including penthouse walls and chimneys; also for exposed interior surfaces indicated as "face brick."

Brick for window sills: Solid, all-hard, dark colored face brick.

Special face brick: Bricks formed and burned to the special shapes indicated; otherwise conforming to requirements for the standard shape face bricks.

Shipping and handling: Face brick shipped and delivered will be packed in arrows; handled only with tongs or by hand in manner to avoid chipping and other damage.

e) FIRE BRICK: Moderate-heat-duty grade conforming to Fed. Spec. HR-B-671.

f) FLUE LINING, ETC.

D-04. STRUCTURAL HOLLOW TILES: Horizontal-cell clay or shale units of size and design indicated, conforming to ASTM specification C 34; necessary vertical-cell pieces furnished for jamb and corners.

Where required: For back-up in exterior walls below roof level, for interior walls and partitions to extent indicated.

Grade of tile: Grade LB X used for work in contact with earth; Grade LS used generally.

Surface finish: Smooth and unglazed where surface will be exposed or painted.

Accessory pieces required: Closures, fitters, and special shapes necessary to preserve the bond and avoid extensive cutting of standard units.

D-05. HOLLOW TILE
a) STRUCTURAL HOLLOW TILES: Horizontal-cell clay or shale units of size and design indicated, conforming to ASTM specification C 34; necessary vertical-cell pieces furnished for jambs and corners.

Where required: For back-up in exterior walls below roof level, for interior walls and partitions to extent indicated.

Grade of tile: Grade LB X used for work in contact with earth; Grade LS used generally.

Surface finish: Smooth and unglazed where surface will be exposed or painted.

Accessory pieces required: Closures, fitters, and special shapes necessary to preserve the bond and avoid extensive cutting of standard units.

D-06. GYPSUM TILES
a) GYPSUM PARTITION TILES: Cored tile conforming to ASTM specification C 52.

Where used: For interior, non-load-bearing partitions and furring at locations indicated.

Prohibited usage: As first course above floor level, for back-up in exterior walls and partitions.

Size of units: 30" long; 12" high; thickness as indicated.

Furring units: Split tile of the thickness indicated.

D-07. TILE WALL-COPING
a) TILE COPING: Standard self-glazed coping with socle at the base, sound-free from fractures, cracks, blisters, and warpage.

Sizes: Of proper width for walls indicated.

Accessory pieces required: Starting pieces; corner pieces; closed-end pieces; special shapes as required.

Where used: Generally, except where coping of other material is specified.

D-08. FLAShING BLOCKS
a) FLAShING-BLOCK UNITS: Hard-burned terra cotta material, having a diagonal groove not less than 1/4" deep, measured horizontally, designed to receive roofing flashing.

Where used: At intersections of roofs with walls and similar vertical masonry surfaces.

Size of units: Designed to replace and course with two courses of brick.

Accessory pieces required: Units and shapes necessary to provide a continuous flashing groove at all masonry walls.

D-09. GLASS BLOCK UNITS
a) GLASS BLOCKS: Partially暹啄atn structural masonry units of pressed glass similar to those made by the Owens-Illinois Glass Company, complete with standard corner pieces, curved, and other pieces necessary to make a complete installation.

Where used: See drawings.

Accessories required: Continuous, corrosion-resistant, wire mesh strips and other approved metal wall ties, every 4th course in height; expansion joint material and others shown or required; all as specified or recommended by the manufacturer of the glass block.

D-10. FACING TILES (INTERIOR)

a) GLAZED CERAMIC UNITS: Clay or shale tile facing units conforming to ASTM specification C 128, having all exposed surfaces uniformly finished with an impervious, durable, burnished glass of the designated color and texture.

Where required: For partitions and interior walls. See "finish schedule" and detail drawings.

Where required: For partitions and interior walls. See "finish schedule" and detail drawings.

Quality, color, and texture: Grade S, standard multi-colored units; absorption test waived; manufacturer's "Ivory," "Matt-finish," corresponding to approved samples.

Types of units: Types II and III, as required; standard stretchers and sturarts; molded shapes as indicated for caps, corners, jambs etc.

Size faces: Stretchers 12" x 5" except as otherwise shown; tolerance in face size (all units) not to exceed .15", plus or minus, of nominal size.

Thickness of units: 4" (nominal) generally; 4" and 2" units, and two 4" units, used to together to form double-faced walls of 6" and 8" thickness, respectively.

D-11. CAST STONE TRIM

a) MATERIAL: Surfaced stone manufactured in accordance with the standard specifications of the Cast Stone Institute; the product of an established manufacturer whose material has been previously used on similar work with satisfactory results.

Where required: Exterior ornamental trim and finish consisting of facing, sills, coping, lintels, etc., to extent indicated on drawings.

Surface color and texture: Similar to Indiana "buff" limestone; exposed surfaces "hand rubbed."

Requirements for shop drawings: Sizes, sections, dimensions, jointing, anchorage, flashings, and setting.

D-12. MORTAR MATERIALS
a) PORTLAND CEMENT: A well known American brand conforming to ASTM specification C 150.

b) MASONRY CEMENT: Type II in accord with Fed. Spec. SS-C-161.

c) LIME PASTE: Made with pulverized quicklime or with hydrated lime conforming to ASTM specifications C 5 or C 141, respectively.

d) GYPSUM: Calcium material conforming to ASTM specification C 22.

e) SAND FOR MORTAR: Hard, durable, natural sand free from injurious amounts of alkane, alkali, organic, or other deleterious substances.

Greeting: From "line" to "course" within the following limits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Percentage passing each sieve</th>
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<tr>
<td>No. 8</td>
<td>95-100</td>
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f) FIRE CLAY: Grade C in accord with ASTM specification C 105.

g) WATER: Clean and free from deleterious amounts of acids, alkalis, or organic materials; of approved drinkable quality.
D-13. MORTARS

a) DESIGN OF MIXES: As determined by the Architect for the approved or directed of the mortars proposed for use; volume of aggregate is not less than two times, but not more than three times, the volume of the cementitious materials; bids based on use of the mortar mixes following.

b) FOR HOLLOW UNITS IN CONTACT WITH EARTH: 1 part Portland cement; 1 part lime; 1 part masonry cement and not more than 3 parts sand.

c) FOR BRICK AND STRUCTURAL TILE UNITS. GENERALLY: 1 part Portland cement; 1 part lime; 1 part masonry cement and not more than 3 parts sand.

d) FACE-TILE MORTAR: Same as the mortar used for setting brick and structural tile, but using non-staining quality cement; this mortar colored by addition of non-fading mineral pigment.

e) STONE-SETTING MORTAR: Same as mortar for setting brick and structural tile, but using non-staining quality cement.

f) STONE-POINTING MORTAR: 1 part non-staining Portland cement; 1 part lime; 1 part masonry cement and not more than 3 limes, the volume of the mortar used for laying up masonry in accordance with manufacturer's directions.

g) GLASS BLOCK MORTAR: 1 part Portland cement; 1 part lime paste; not more than 4½ parts sand.

b) METHOD OF MIXING MORTARS: Materials proportioned by volume: Portland cement mortar made by mixing the cement and sand, adding the lime paste, then adding sufficient water to obtain proper working consistency, Masonry cement mortar mixed with sufficient water to obtain proper working consistency. Mason's iron work and masonry flashing:

D-14. FIELD WORKMANSHIP

c) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS (applying to all types of units): Watertight construction provided in all exterior mortar joint courses of work, joints completely filled with the specified mortar.

Condition of beds and units: Clean; all beds and units properly waited.

Protection of uncompleted work: Top thoroughly covered with watertight material while work is not in progress.

Samples of masonry: Panel of brick and hollow-tile wall, 12" thick and not less than 4" in width and height, laid in advance and used as masonry work, for inspection and approval; approved sample panels retained as a standard of the work to follow.

Scafdolds: All face work laid up from scaffolded located on the facing side.

Mason's iron work and masonry flashing: Properly sealed to the masonry work progress.

Workmanship (general): All work built true to line; level, square, and plumb. Exposed joints properly uniform in size. Masonry walls and adjoining masonry partitions properly bonded to each other by setting courses. Brick and hollow block units thoroughly bonded together.


Head joints: Made with liberal application of mortar. Exposed joints properly uniform in size. Masonry walls and adjoining masonry partitions properly bonded to each other by setting courses. Brick and hollow block units thoroughly bonded together.

Bedding: Each piece of stone rested on a bed 2" wide of mortar insuficient amount to fill out to the edges of the pieces on all sides; stone beds by striking with a wooden mallet or ram.

Parging: Ranks of all stone and exposed sides of all bond stone plastered with not less than 1/2" thickness of setting mortar; mortar allowed to attain initial set before the masonry backing is built.

Joints: Face joints uniformly 1/2" in width; setting mortar routed out 1/2" in depth from face.

Pointing: Stone surfaces at joints thoroughly cleaned and wetted; joints in vertical surfaces completely filled with the specified pointing mortar, packed tight, and rubbed smooth to a concave finish; top and wash joints thoroughly coated with approved elastic caulking compound of color to match mortar joints.

D-15. MASONRY FLASHING

a) FLASHING MATERIAL: Sheet copper weighing not less than 2-21/2 new square foot bonded to and between two layers of canvas, coarse woven, asphalt-impregnated canvas fabric by means of a durable mastic: the entire assembly corrugated on one side in manner providing a series of grooves running the entire length of each sheet. The material supplied in rolls of the maximum width and length suitable for the usage sections specified.

Acceptable material: Material equal to the flashing described as made by WASCO Flashing Company.

Where required: At window sills, exterior lintels, spandrels, and parapet walls; in positions shown on drawings.

Application: (general) Flashing material installed in manner to provide structural members from moisture and to effectively divert seepage toward the exterior of the construction. On horizontal masonry, flashing described as made by WASCO Flashing Company. Flashing laid in a fresh bed of mortar; other surfaces receiving flashing thoroughly dry, free from loose materials, and be coated with plastic cement to hold it in place until the masonry is laid.

Waterproof connections between pieces made by splicing (splitting the two top flaps, lapping the metal 3", and coating the contacting surfaces with plastic cement.

Heads and sills: Flashing at lintels carried not less than 6" beyond ends. Material carried under and behind heads and turned up at the ends, forming a pan.

D-16. CLEANING MASONRY

a) TREATMENT OF SURFACES: Masonry joints pointed or repointed where necessary; surfaces thoroughly broomed or scraped free of dirt, grime, rust, and other foreign materials; all discolorations and other objectionable surface defects thoroughly removed.

B) P O I N T ED TREATMENT: Where necessary to restore original color, surface of exterior masonry, and exposed interior masonry not required to be pointed provided with a suitable mastic acid solution.

Protection: Materials adjacent to masonry properly protected against staining and other injury during cleaning operations.
LOOKING AHEAD ON BUILDING CODES

By GEORGE N. THOMPSON

This discussion of building codes will begin where many such discussions leave off: It will concede that, like much other legislation, codes are susceptible of considerable improvement, depending on their age and the degree of competence with which they have been put together. Its main interest, however, will be in the constructive measures through which refinements can be brought about. The old truism that it is much easier to criticize than to suggest a remedy seems to apply peculiarly to the code situation. In fact, criticism has been carried so far that there is very little left to add or to present in a different way. So attention will be focused here on specific problems and how they might be handled both now and in the future.

Before entering into this phase of the matter, however, it may not be inappropriate to say that building codes perform a useful function which, on the whole, has been fairly well done. Instances of failure to keep up with progress in the building art, of requirements based on selfish motives, and of rigidity in dealing with various possible methods of construction undoubtedly exist. Nevertheless, in any over-all estimate of the usefulness of codes the protection afforded to people who unavoidably must work, live, and play in buildings—and that means all of us—should be kept in mind.

Practically all discussions of the subject agree that codes tend to fall behind the times—"antiquated and outmoded" is a favorite expression. There are, in fact, many local codes that have not had a major overhauling for fifteen or twenty years. Inertia, expense of revision, and reluctance to open up controversial questions all play a part in this. Early attention on the part of local authorities is desirable but, recognizing the tendency to put off the job, it is also desirable to make the code, in a sense, self-revising in future years. Fortunately, it is possible to indicate ways in which this can be accomplished to some extent.

RELATION BETWEEN CODES AND STANDARDS

Few codes stand alone. Their requirements include references to other documents—standards for quality of materials, standards of performance, standards of good practice in construction produced by technical and professional societies, standardizing agencies, and other bodies. These standards represent the best thought that it has been possible to get together in their respective fields and their high quality is universally recognized. There are, however, legal problems connected with their use that are familiar to code authorities. The particular edition whose contents are to be followed frequently must be positively identified in order to avoid charges of delegation of legislative authority. When one comes to think of it, this seems a reasonable requirement, since nobody likes to be punished for a violation of something that was adopted by some agency over which, as a citizen, he has no control and which may change its requirements overnight without his knowledge.

The net effect of positive identification of a standard to which reference is made is, however, to freeze adherence to that standard until such time as the municipal council gets around to changing the requirement. Experience has shown that this changing is done infrequently. The result is that many codes are strewed with references to dead standards. If literally followed, the code provisions thus fall behind the times. If the provisions are quietly ignored, as sometimes happens, and the latest standards are used, there is due recognition of new developments but on an extremely dubious legal basis.

There are several ways of dealing with this problem. Some municipalities have dealt with it by employing a phraseology in their codes which in effect requires that good practice shall be followed and that various named standards as revised from time to time shall be deemed acceptable good practice. This is held to avoid the pitfall of delegation of legislative authority. Other municipalities permit their building officials to make rulings, naming the standards which will be recognized as fulfilling the general purposes of the code. Another method, that could be used in those places where the reference standards must be definitely identified as to edition, would be to place a provision in the administrative chapter of the code requiring the building official to review all references to standards annually and bring a revised list before the municipal council for adoption. This would not be too great a task and should accomplish the purpose.

The particular method chosen will vary with the jurisdiction in which the code is developed. This emphasizes a point seldom brought out in discussions of code improvement, namely, that greater uniformity in requirements is dependent not only on technical but also on legal considerations. The latter often go back to some fundamental principle that has developed over the years and is so embedded in local practice that the chances of changing it are not promising. However, the desired prompt acceptance of latest standards can generally be achieved through use of some one of the alternate methods that have been mentioned.

CODES, NEW MATERIALS, AND NEW TECHNIQUES

A frequent cause of complaint about building codes is that they fail to deal adequately with the many new materials, and new methods of putting these materials together, that are expected to come along in the near future. This business of setting up requirements for something that is as yet unknown, or at best whose characteristics are only imperfectly known, in many instances presents another set of problems. It is not sufficient to charge code writers with lack of vision. Some means must be found to deal justly not only with the manufacturers of these materials but also with the people whom the code is trying to protect. The fact that a material is new warrants neither discrimination against it nor unquestioning acceptance of claims made for it.

Obviously, some mechanism needs to be set up which will provide for an impartial investigation of claims and prompt acceptance for use if safety is assured. A start can be made with a provision now existing in many codes in various forms, to the effect that new materials and methods may be used on submittal of evidence, in the form of tests, structural analysis, or otherwise, that the proposed construction is safe. Sometimes the building official is empowered to
pass upon the matter, sometimes a local board, and sometimes a combination of the two.

This is a necessary step, but only the first one. Unless it is implemented with other measures, it is likely to be used sparingly and to provide a convenient method of rejection.

TESTS AND THEIR INTERPRETATION

Many of the novel constructions that are being proposed are not susceptible of engineering analysis and so the only basis for judgment is that of testing. Here a fundamental weakness appears in that standard methods of testing to determine structural qualities have not been fully agreed upon. So it is entirely possible that a new method of construction may be subjected to one series of tests and another set elsewhere. It follows that uniformity of treatment requires agreement on standard methods of testing for use everywhere. Work is going on in connection with this problem.

There is still another step to be taken. Results of testing must be interpreted in terms of what are safe values for particular materials and constructions. A uniform method of approach to this problem would provide a useful guide to local officials and boards in the exercise of their duties. Its general acceptance would assure uniform treatment, thus removing the possibility of capricious and arbitrary rulings.

It is well to note that the perfection of the process by which new materials and new constructions are admitted to use may involve little change in many codes. It does require, however, some constructive work in the development of a sound procedure for putting the terms of the code into effect.

THE "PERFORMANCE BASIS"

Closely linked to the problem of dealing with new materials is that of applying the so-called "performance basis" to materials and constructions, both new and old. In essence, this is a type of requirement which calls for some definite result that may be reached in a variety of ways, the means being immaterial so long as the result is obtained. The flexibility of this arrangement has appealed to a great many critics of present code provisions but in most instances they have contented themselves with advocating the method without exploring the difficulties involved and the steps to be taken in order to make it fully effective.

In the matter of requirements for fire resistance much progress has been made in the direction of code requirements. Roughly, it works as follows: Definite periods of fire resistance are set for walls, columns, floors, and so on in various types of building construction. No specific materials or thicknesses of protection are given in the code. The statement is made that any material may be used that will provide the specified fire resistance under the Standard Fire Test of the American Society for Testing Materials.

Codes employing this treatment frequently supplement the code requirement by appendix information in which are listed familiar materials in the thicknesses necessary to meet the requirement. This treatment has proved very successful and is being quite generally accepted in new codes.

It will be apparent to the reader that, once the standard methods for structural testing are available as discussed in connection with new materials and methods, an extension of the same principle could be attempted with respect to structural requirements. Such a development is undoubtedly coming but, as already explained, standard methods of testing and of interpreting results of testing must first be worked out.

The same general principle can also be applied in other parts of a code as the basis for it becomes firmly established, for example, with respect to some of the new types of metal chimneys and other devices. It may still be found convenient, however, to retain certain specified clearances from Combustible construction and other specific requirements.

The extent to which the principle can actually be applied is dependent upon research and adoption of sound procedures through which performance can be definitely established.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BUILDING OFFICIAL

Mention has been made of issuance of rulings by the building official. Where such action is permitted, a measure of flexibility is introduced into building code requirements; but some municipalities frown on the practice. The general idea is for the code to lay down general principles for the guidance of the official and authorize him to deal with situations not specifically covered by the code so long as it comes within the scope of his general authority. This presupposes a high degree of competence and integrity on the part of the building official but when safeguarded, as it usually is, by provisions for adequate notice and public hearings, it provides a very useful means of meeting situations that inevitably develop as time goes on.

FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS

If the building code provides for a strong Board of Appeals to which grievances may be taken and through which differences with the building official may be adjusted, the way is provided for ironing out many situations which are a source of irritation today. Unless specifically authorized to do so by state law, such a board cannot grant variations outside of the terms of the code itself, but, within the scope of its jurisdiction and acting in a liberal spirit which recognizes the problems of the times, it can do much to loosen up the rigidity of interpretations about which so many comments are made. The questions of whether approvals of new materials and methods of construction should be granted or, if so, before it is too late, certainly present a matter largely for local determination, the point being that a definite, recognized system fully buttressed by a workable procedure is necessary.

ELIMINATING UNSOUND PROVISIONS

The routing out of individual passages in codes that have their origin in selfish motives or obsolete practices is another factor in the general approach to code improvement. It involves much laborious work. Steps along the way include identification of questionable provisions, determination of how they are construed in actual application, comparison with accepted standards to determine extent of departure from the normal, investigation of any special conditions that may justify such departures, and educational measures designed to convince local authorities that a change should be made. Current emphasis on the need for reducing costs of construction and on permitting the widest possible selection of materials makes it probable that this process of critical inspection of doubtful provisions will be strongly emphasized from now on.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL

No mere perfection in wording of the building code can compensate for lack of intelligent administration, alertness in following developments in the building field on the part of both building official and board, and systematic attention to needed amendments to the code itself where that becomes necessary. The volume of sound technical material that can be utilized to advantage in the enforcement of building code provisions is constantly growing. The appearance and continued development of this material in recent years has been one of the significant features of building code improvement. It comes from professional societies, standardizing bodies, governmental agencies, and other sources and represents much careful thought. To fail to utilize it promptly is to deprive the public of the benefit of efficiencies and economies that should mean much in the difficult days ahead.

Once the structure of code provisions is strengthened along the lines that have been described, the way will be open for recommendations developed on a national basis to flow naturally into local channels and other application through acceptance in local codes and as guides for local officials and boards in the exercise of their discretionary powers. There will always be controversial points to be settled through technical research and composite judgment of experts but progress will have been made toward reaching those desirable goals of reasonably uniform requirements throughout the country.
This month PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE celebrates the first anniversary of its Materials and Methods section; exactly a year ago, in July 1945, we first presented to our readers, in a manner organized for maximum usefulness, this expansion of our coverage of the technical aspects of building design. It was a particularly appropriate time. V-E Day had come and gone; and though we knew nothing yet of the atomic bomb, the rapid re-deployment of our troops to the Far East foretold the approach of V-J Day. Building material and equipment manufacturers were increasingly realizing that the heralded postwar era was all but upon them. The dramatic new products which had first been ballyhooed loudly, then hushed as promises were seen to outstrip potential performance, were actually beginning to emerge, shily at first, into public gaze. The time was ripe for us to give actuality to this dream we had been dreaming for some months. We were positive that our concept of the need for such a section in the magazine was correct. About our capability to satisfy the need, and about the correctness of our editorial formula, we were far from positive. As nearly as we can tell after one year's work, we seem to have done reasonably well on both counts; at least, not one of our subscribers or contributors has registered a single serious complaint, and many, many people have voiced their approbation. That is the most gratifying situation in which an editor can find himself. We are truly grateful.

Perhaps we should here review the conditions which led us to establish the Materials and Methods section, and examine afresh the editorial principles which guide us:

1. We believed we were approaching a period of unparalleled building activity; in the search for better building techniques, if we were to help architecture to progress. Furthermore, we recognized the necessity for a full, free flow of information between manufacturers of building material and equipment and the building design professions.

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3. We believed the war-caused stoppage of building had given us time to reevaluate products and practices; in the search for better building techniques, if we were to help architecture to progress. Furthermore, we recognized the necessity for a full, free flow of information between manufacturers of building material and equipment and the building design professions.

4. We sensed a dearth of information to evaluate products and practices; in the search for better building techniques, if we were to help architecture to progress. Furthermore, we recognized the necessity for a full, free flow of information between manufacturers of building material and equipment and the building design professions.

5. We recognized a need for a clearinghouse for technical information to aid
MORE ABOUT BUILDING CODES

To reiterate (see also “This Month” in the front of this issue), George N. Thompson, author of the article about building codes on page 77, has had a wealth of experience and is personally responsible for much that is good in our existing building codes. From 1925 until 1944 he was vice chairman of the Building Code Correlating Committee of the American Standards Association; he has been chairman since 1944, has written extensively on codes, and represents the National Bureau of Standards on a number of committees of the American Society for Testing Materials. Through these associations Mr. Thompson maintains close contact with the principles of codes and their influence building code development.

Such agencies range from individual manufacturers of building materials and equipment, and associations, to semi-official and governmental bodies.

BUILDING OFFICIALS CONFERENCE CODE

The Building Officials Conference of America, Inc. (BOCA), whose president is Walker S. Lee, Supt. of Buildings of Rochester, N. Y., is convinced that there is a need for a basic building code, suitable for adoption by all municipalities and other appropriate governmental units throughout the country. They have stated that the handicaps imposed on the building industry by obsolete building regulations must be removed. They believe their organization, with whose individual members every building designer in the country is familiar, is the one to execute this tremendous undertaking. They have appointed a Basic Building Code Committee, under the chairmanship of Albert H. Baum, Building Commissioner of St. Louis, Mo. The committee is composed of a Committee of Consultants and Review, and nine committees charged with preparing the code.

All these committees are composed of building officials, plus two consulting engineers: Rudolph P. Miller of New York City and Frank Burton of Detroit. To the best of our knowledge there are no architects in the group. In respect to geographical distribution, members of the committees hail from Portland, Me., to Portland, Ore., and from Madison, Wis., to Jackson, Miss.

There is no representation of California among the members of the committees of the Pacific Coast Building Officials Conference, which issues yearly editions of the “Uniform Building Code,” a standard document adopted in many regions.

The BOCA code, when completed, will consist of two principal parts: Part 1, a permanent section setting forth the required performance standards for construction; Part 2, a section subject to change, dealing with construction methods and materials and with construction details, supplemented by a continuous information service covering new developments, with “authoritative” recommendations for their use. The housing emergency has injected new considerations. To quote BOCA: “...Building officials realize that some of the new methods and materials being advanced do not necessarily possess the qualities of permanency customarily expected of sound construction. They recognize, too, that the present emergency and the expedients designed to meet it call for prompt action on their part. Their immediate answer is the Prefabrication Code.” Whether or not “prefabrication” is an “expedient” we will leave to the wise to argue. The fact is that BOCA has prepared and made available a section of its model building code covering prefabrication.

In general, the BOCA Prefabrication Code (Section 19 of the complete document) is a “performance” code which makes provision for approval of complete units rather than of individual pieces of lumber, etc.; in this respect it seems admirable. In some others it seems less desirable. For instance, Sec. 1922.0 requires window glass to the minimum extent of 10% of floor area, with half the glass area operable—thus ruling out totally fixed glass plus louvered panels, which are one rational design concept. It is curious, also, that in Sec. 1901.0, where abbreviations for titles of authorities are given, the National Bureau of Standards is miss-titled “United States” Bureau of Standards, and abbreviated “U.S.B.S.”

ASA CODE ACTIVITIES

The American Standards Association has a number of committees active on codes in addition to the Building Code Correlating Committee. Some 17 are reported in the May 1945 issue of Industrial Standardization, ASA publication. That same issue states that the BCC Committee has decided to concentrate on standards directly concerned with codes rather than on preparation of a basic building code, reports that a dozen states now permit adoption of standards and codes by reference, and that permissible legislation is now pending in other states. J. L. Haynes, Chief of the Construction Division, U. S. Dept. of Commerce, spoke at a recent BCC Committee meeting, describing the Department’s study of obsolete and restrictive requirements in existing codes, a survey which is being made to assist the National Bureau of Standards. One member of the BCC Committee is the American Standard Administrative Requirements for Building Codes, A55.1-1944, which is now being revised, includes sections to clarify policies in determining acceptable new methods of construction, including prefabrication. Incidentally, Theodore Irving Coe, Technical Secretary of the A.I.A., is a member of the ASA Code Committee.

AWNINGS

Aluminum Awning, Roll-up aluminum owning for homes; fingertip control inside room. Fits standard windows up to 12" x 12" width. Orchard Brothers, Inc., 270 Meadow Road, Rutherford, N. J.

COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS

Executive Model C-18, Intercom system unit with call-back facility, for high noise level coverage. Executone, Inc., 415 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y.

CONTROLS

"Weather-Man" Thermostatic Control. Automatic device, actuated by outside temperatures, controls inside building heat; operates any gas or oil burner, stoker, circulating pump, fan, motor, or zone valve; may be used with any heating system. Automatic Devices Co., Weather Controls Div., 53 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago 4, Ill.

Flex-tube 3-way Valve. Valve with flexible synthetic rubber tube in bakelite body, for handling highly corrosive or erosive liquids, gases, chemicals—especially for viscous or solid-carrying fluids. ¾" and 1¼" I.P.S.; working pressures up to 250 lbs. max. temperatures 150°F. G. Dove Regulator Co., 65th and Hollis Sts., Oakland 8, Calif.

Operating Valve BA and BAC. Self-sealing, air-operating, ball type valve with hand opening lever and rotating pivot; operating pressures up to 200 psi. Becomes Type BAC when fitted with cam operated lever for instantaneous valve opening and closing. Leslie Co., 58 Delafield Ave., Lynnhurst, N. J.

DRAFTING ROOM EQUIPMENT


Instrument Line. Stencil-type plastic drafting instruments for isometric and dimetric drawings; 27 openings for drawing ellipses of various sizes, determining axes, etc. Instrument makers, 73 Arch St., Green-which, Conn.

Plas-ten. 15" universal slide rule of white plastic; leather case. Frederick Post Co., Hominy and Avo ndale Ave., P. O. Box 903, Chicago, Ill.

HEATING EQUIPMENT

"By-Temp" Wall Heater. Electrical wall heater in steel casing fits flush with wall. For space heating: 12" x 18" x 4"; 1500

THIS MONTH’S PRODUCTS

ADHESIVES

PLASTICS

Pantex. A vinyl plastic film which can be used as a composition twice as strong as Du Pont BCM. Liquid resin used with glass fabric for a composition twice as strong as equal weight of some types of steel, with good bonding and heat-resistance properties; high gloss finish, in colors. E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Wilmington 98, Del.

PLUMBING EQUIPMENT

Oil-Burning Water Heater. 40-gal insulated, white-enamed heater with recovery capacity of 50 gph for 60° rise, 51 gph recovery for 100° rise. Evans Products Co., 15910 Fullerton Ave., Detroit 27, Mich.

SOUND INSULATION

Softone Acoustical Units. Of plaster containing high cork percentages can be cemented directly on solid backing; high coefficient of noise reduction; incombustible. Softone plaster (powder form) applicable at job site to wood, concrete, metal, rock loft, ordinary scratch coat. Pressurelube, Inc., Acoustical and Insulation Div., 120 S. LaSalle St., Chicago 3, III.

STAIRS—SAFETY TREADS

Safe Groove Treads. Steel, yellow brass, or white alloy based treads, with lead cr...
Manufacturers' Literature

Air Treatment

1-49. A dependable source of supply, 4-p. illus. folder on industrial air conditioning equipment (filters, dust arresters, fans, foundry exhausts, sawdust Separators, etc.). St. Louis Blow Pipe and Heuter Co., Inc.

1-50. Viking Summer, Winter, Year Round Air Conditioning, 4-p. illus. folder on an air conditioning system that accomplishes heating, cooling, humidification, dehumidification, and distribution through one unit. Viking Manufacturing Corp.


Design, Plant and Store


4-50. Setting the Scene for Selling, Lees-Cochrane Co., Inc. Reviewed June.

4-51. Aetna Steel Door Frames for Modern Homes, illus. folder on welded steel door frames to hold standard size wood doors. Aetna Steel Products Corp.

Draffing Room Equipment

4-47. Perfect Circles in Pencil or Ink, illus. folder on a nickel-plated beam compass (2 hexagonal beams, 8" and 16"), needle pivot point. Charles Bruning Co., Inc.

4-51. Bending Slide Rules and Scales, 4-p. illus. pamphlet suggesting pocket slide rules and scales with special imprints as gifts. Charles Bruning Co., Inc.


Engineering Equipment


Foshing


Floors, Coverings, Finishes

6-65. Concrete Floors with Lone Star Cements, Lone Star Cement Corp. Reviewed June.

Glass

7-49. Carved Glass, 24-p. booklet (7½ x9¼) illustrating uses of carved glass for decoration. Harriton Carved Glass.

7-51. Making Your Home More Attractive with "Pittsburgh" Glass (G5793), 28-p. booklet. Many uses of glass (plate, insulating mirror, block, in furniture, shelving, etc.) in homes, shown by photographs and brief text. Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., Dept. PGG110.

Gypsum Products


Hardware

8-94. Cleveland Sash Pulleys (Bulletin 46), 4-p. illus. folder. Information on overhead, side, "noiseless" sash pulleys for various types of windows; specifications. Cleveland Lock Works.


8-95. Catalog No. 4, 28 pp., illus., on ornamental hardware: cast brass, bronze, aluminum, nickel silver; sizes. Erco Manufacturing Co.

2 illus. folders on features and mechanism of one crank device for opening and closing metal casement windows. Detail drawings. H. S. Getty & Co., Inc.


8-98. Soss Invisible Hinges, AIA File 27-B-1, 21-p. illus. booklet on metal hinges concealed in mortise of door, window, or cabinet; types, specifications, drawings; instructions for installing. Soss Mfg. Co.


Heating and Heating Equipment


8-110. You Can Heat Your Home From Your Armchair With a Deleco-Heat Oil Burner, 4-p. illus. consumer folder on an oil burner with thermostat control, for homes. General Motors Corp., Delco Appliance Div.

8-111. Mastercraft Oil Burner (4611), illus. consumer pamphlet (4x9), on a home oil burner providing double oxygen charge for oil economy; parts removable for repair. Harvey-Whipple, Inc.

8-112. Presenting New Oil Heating Designs and Profit Opportunities for You (Form O-55120), illus. consumer booklet on new oil-fired heating units for homes. Heil Co.

8-116. Roberson Heatmam Cable, 4-p. illus. folder on advantages of synthetic insulation cable for use in electric radiant heating. General specifications; load requirement calculation; sizes, properties. L. N. Roberson Co.

8-100. RK Radiant Tubes (1114a), Schutte & Koering Co. Reviewed June.


8-119. The Cardinal Oil Burner, 4-p. illus. folder. Data on an oil-burning unit for commercial purposes. General Utilities Corp.

Hospital Equipment

8-118. Hospital Electro-Static Grounding Electrode-Remover (Bulletin 47), 4-p. folder on a grounding device to eliminate hazards in operating rooms from electrostatic explosions of anesthetics. Cannon Electric Development Co.

Insulation


Library Equipment


Lighting and Lighting Equipment


12-70. Essential Data on Sylvania Fluorescent Lamps, Sylvania Electric Products Co. Reviewed June.

Load Transportation

12-71. Overhead Handling Equipment (Bulletin C-1), 56 pp., illus. On steel track-suspension equipment for industrial plants, etc., layout information. American Monorail Co.


Metal

13-35. The Bending of Wrought Iron Plates, 14-p. illus. bulletin. Practical engineering data on hot and cold methods of bending wrought iron plate; suggestions on specifying and ordering; tolerance tables; glossary. A. M. Byers Co.


Paint

16-109. The Quality Points of Martin-Senour, illus. folder. Selection chart for type of paint and its use, with color illustrations and text giving suggestions for proportionate use of color, interior and exterior, which seem to be based on sound study of color in relation to design. Martin-Senour Co.

Partitions

16-97. Sneed Mobilewalls, 12-p. illus. folder on movable steel partitions, fireproof and sound-insulated; on movable screens and rails for offices, hospitals. Suggested applications; detail drawings. Sneed & Co.
Piping Equipment

Technical data bulletins from Fibre Conduit Co. on applications of wood-fibre pipe to sewage and drainage service:


Plastics

Plumbing Equipment

Prefabrication

Pump Equipment

Refrigeration. Industrial
18-29. Worthington Refrigeration Unit, Freon-12, 14 data sheets on various types of refrigeration units for air conditioning, product and industrial refrigeration. Capacities 500 to 1,500,000 Btu per hour. Worthington Pump and Machinery Corp., Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Div.

Roofing

Rubber

Rubber, Synthetic
18-34. Silicone Rubber, 12-p. illus. booklet. Properties, characteristics, potential uses of a silicone rubber still in the development stage, at present used mainly where low temperature flexibility and lack of corrosive action are required. General Electric, Plastics Div.

Steel
“Blue Sheets” on stainless steel, Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corp. Reviewed June:

19-57. Allegheny Metal, 12 EZ, Type 302, A Free Machining Chromium Stainless Steel.
19-60. Allegheny Metal Castings, Stainless Steel.

Tile. Asphalt

Trims
20-26. Chronotrim, The Perfected Aluminum Molding, 4-p. illus. folder showing detail drawings of aluminum trims—nosings, edgings, sections, cove sections, corners, etc. R. D. Werner Co.

Ventilation
22-15. Herman Nelson Unit Ventilators (Bulletin 2162), 8-p. illus. bulletin on features and operation of cabinet-enclosed, electric driven ventilators for floor or ceiling. Herman Nelson Corp.

Wall Coverings
Data sheets on a wall covering, Varlon, Inc. Reviewed June:
22-63. No. 1. Description, Specifications, Tests.
22-64. No. 2. Special Tests.

Wall Ties

Water Softeners
23-68. Replfite RO-S, 4-p. illus. folder on features of a semi-automatic, downflow, water softener, valve-controlled, for homes; specifications. Crane Co.

Weather Instruments

Welding

Windows

Wood Preservatives

MAILING ADDRESS

NAME
POSITION
FIRM
MAILING ADDRESS
CITY
STATE

STATE
from the TECHNICAL PRESS

By JEAN SHORT and DAVID ALDRICH

TECHNICAL ARTICLES


This is the first of a series of articles discussing metal preparation, application control, selection of materials, accelerated testing, and field testing as related to organic finishing. Metal preparation for organic finishing here receives a general review which points out the types of metal contamination, the need for cleaning metal before finishing, and the types of preparation. The methods of cleaning are outlined with recommendations for their appropriate use.


Almost all articles or discussions on the weaknesses and limitations of present building codes have been based on generalizations, "... No bill of particulars is given, little proof is offered, and few specific suggestions for improvement are made." Thompson's purpose is to point out some of the facts regarding building codes and to indicate what thoughtful analysis and constructive action can accomplish.

Because codes are revised at such lengthy intervals and because there is no legal method for immediate change to allow use of new and better materials, codes have become unnecessarily restrictive, in some cases. A disaster such as the Cocoanut Grove fire, however, reminds us periodically that some of the more annoying requirements have quite real bases in fact. There is no doubt that some machinery for frequent, systematic revisions of codes must be instituted. Mr. Thompson suggests that 1) a completely standard method of testing be established; 2) results of such tests be incorporated in a national "reference base" code, with necessary adjustments for local conditions added by regional boards. In setting up a nationally accepted code, Thompson urges the immediate establishment of the proposed "reference code" against which local codes may be compared. If such a comparison shows marked divergencies, local conditions or code laxity may be the reason. A reference base would permit country-wide revision to proceed in a logical, constructive manner.

Ceilings Unlimited. Miller Company, Meriden, Conn. Spiral bound, 72 pp., illus., tables.

A brochure on the Miller fluorescent troffer lighting system—a continuous, wireway recessed troffer with patented hanger assembly and accessories. The booklet describes the systems, gives installation data, and some specifications.

The first of the three sections, showing photos and sketches of installations, gives the basic unit scheme on which Miller designs are based. Sections, plans, and installation methods are given in section II. Illustrations show the fundamental differences in the four basic systems—1) furred ceiling supported entirely from the furring hanger; 2) supported from both furring hanger and troffer wiring channel; 3) supported entirely from troffer wiring channel; and 4) lighting system supported from furred ceiling.

Section III. "How to Install Them," includes catalogs of types of hangers, brackets, etc., and illumination tables.


Do's and don'ts for the kitchen, aimed at prospective buyers of the prefabricated home.


Corrosion of Steels indicates how various commercial steels may reasonably be expected to resist the attack of atmospheric corrosion. This summary, prepared by Dr. John Johnston, Research Laboratory Director of United States Steel Corporation, contains only generally accepted information.


In a paper read at a meeting held by the Architectural Science Board, Mr. Brady reported on continental methods of applying stucco as observed during a pre-war tour. Claiming that much of the finished work done in Britain today is unsatisfactory, the speaker suggested a modification in materials as well as in methods of application.

Briefly, the continental practice varies from the British (to good advantage) in:

1) Use of mixtures of lime and cement
2) Application of throwing-on, not laying-on by trowel
3) "Scrapping" to produce a textured finish
4) Protection of projections and horizontal surfaces by flashing.


This handbook presents practical information about 26 types of stainless steel manufactured by Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corp. It supersedes the stainless steel chapters of the earlier Handbook of Special Steels.

Principal feature of the booklet is a 44-column "finder chart" giving analyses, properties, hot working temperatures, and heat treatment of the different types, plus a general discussion of each type. The chart is supplemented by a table of the corrosion (or non-corrosion) of four leading types of stainless steel subjected to attack by 220 chemicals and common materials.

Fabrication methods and procedures are outlined and described in forty pages. Twenty more pages describe stainless steel products—plates, sheet, strip, bars, forging billets, tube stock and tubes, angles, wire castings, forgings, and clad steel (Plamelt). The handbook is completed by tables of bar weights, weights of sheet, weights of tubes, feet per pound of wire, decimal equivalents of fractions of an inch, and temperature conversion.

To Give Sunlight and Daylight a Chance. William H. Ludlow, American City, American City Magazine Company, 470 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y. 3 pp., charts. 35 cents a copy.

"Although the securing of adequate natural illumination is one of the major purposes of zoning and building codes, in no known case has scientific application of the facts of natural illumination been used as the basis for height, setback, yard, and court provisions in either multiple dwelling laws or zoning ordinances." The report, Densities in New York City, prepared for the Citizen's Housing Council of New York, whose data on sunlight factors is summarized here by Mr. Ludlow, presents a scientific solution to the problem of zoning for natural illumination.

Notice to Readers: Unfortunately, PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE has no facilities for obtaining for readers copies of publications reviewed here. Copies are usually obtainable directly from the publisher concerned, whose address, when available, is given at the head of each review.
Following the tremendous wartime boost given to sandwich lamination by the disclosure that the famed British DeHavilland Mosquito bomber was built according to the sandwich principle, and by the subsequently published results of tests on low-density core materials by Wright Field, the plastics industry has been exploring the possibilities of adapting these materials to peacetime uses. Material for this discussion was obtained from the Technical Service Dept., E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., and from the Society of the Plastics Industry.

FUNCTION OF LAMINATES—The function of the low-density core in sandwich lamination is comparable to that of lattice bars or struts in a girder, i.e., to hold the top and bottom members firmly and thus increase structural stiffness without correspondingly adding significantly to weight. The thickness of the laminate contributes rigidity and strength under stress. The core material so supports the faces that when the laminate is loaded as a column a substantial portion of the compressive strength of the thin face material can be developed. By the use of proper core materials, structural efficiency and simplicity in design may be achieved, with direct saving in manufacturing cost as compared to methods required in fabrication of conventional ribbed or otherwise reinforced sheet materials. The sandwich can, of course, be varied in the combination of materials selected, and the use determines the construction.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CORES—In performing the functions outlined, the core material must generally meet certain requirements:

1. It must be sufficiently strong in tension applied in a direction perpendicular to the surface to prevent buckling of the faces through tensile failure in the core itself.
2. Compressive strength of the material must be sufficient to resist local loads due to rough handling.
3. The core material must possess enough toughness to permit the development of strength in the faces. A weak core would split and fail before full strength could be developed.
4. The core must have rigidity in itself to hold the sandwich combination stable while the faces develop their strength. A soft or flexible core would fall prematurely.
5. The core must have certain shear strength in order to perform its function adequately.
6. A satisfactory core material must not be brittle or granular in structure, since materials with these properties possess poor resistance to impact and vibration. Materials of sandstone type fall into this category.

In a sandwich having a core with satisfactory properties, the faces are one of actual shearing of the faces. Other properties, important for building construction, include: 1. resistance to heat. 2. thermal conductivity. 3. acoustical properties. 4. flamability characteristics. 5. water absorption. 6. chemical resistance.

TYPES OF CORE MATERIALS—1. Foamed thermosetting, illustrated by "Pliofom" (urea-formaldehyde), "Textolite" (phenol-formaldehyde), "Laminac" (phenol-formaldehyde), "Thermazote" (phenol-formaldehyde).
2. Foamed thermoplastic, illustrated by "Styrofoam" (poly-styrene), CCA (cellulose acetate). "Plastazote" (polyvinyl formal).
4. Gridded cores, honeycomb with glass, fabric or paper grids and suitable resin binders.
5. Natural, such as balsa; or re-assembled, such as shredded wood with resin binder.
6. Foamed glass, e.g., "P.C. Foamglass."
7. Foamed calcium alginate.

Materials are foamed by solvent blowing agents, by solids yielding gas, by a soluble gas under pressure, by a reaction of condensation or polymerization. Depending upon the type, the actual foaming may be accomplished by release of gas in a reaction, or by release of pressure in compression or extrusion equipment.

CHARACTERISTICS—Cellular cellulose acetate is an example of a low-density core material, and a discussion of its characteristics should indicate general properties of many core materials.

CCA, cellular cellulose acetate, is a thermoplastic core material produced by the extrusion process and is cellulose acetate in an oriented, multi-cellular form. It is produced in strips 5/8" wide and in thicknesses from 1/4" to 1" in any shipable length.

This material is adaptable to assembly-line production methods because of the ease with which it can be made into panels and the simplicity with which it can be worked on conventional woodworking equipment. Resorcinol-urea or melamine-formaldehyde adhesives may be used to bond the CCA to itself, to wood, or to other plastics. If high-frequency heating is used in compressing panels, curing time can be reduced to 15 seconds or less. A 7-1/2 kw unit will usually have sufficient capacity to set up the glue lines in 15 square feet of panel (1/4" thick) in core operation. On a continuous basis this would be equivalent to 3600 sq ft per hour, which indicates low cost of fabrication on a production scale.

FABRICATION AND USES—CCA may be formed into relatively complex shapes by heating with infrared or other suitable means. Shaping has also been accomplished successfully by steam heating. If a series of parallel wedge-shaped cuts or kerfs are made in a panel of CCA by running the panel under a horizontal gang router, the section can be bent into a curve at room temperature. Any reasonable radius of curvature can be achieved by this method by suitably spacing the spacing of the cuts. The cuts should be made almost completely through the material in order to permit the necessary bending. If glue is applied to the wedge-shaped cuts prior to closing, the shaped core will be of a multiple sandwich type section and will be considerably stronger than the initial core. Methods of fabricating slab- or board-type core materials are probably not dissimilar from those indicated for CCA. The forming in place of pourable core materials has been discussed in some detail by J. D. Lincoln in the July 1945 issue of Modern Plastics. Applications for low-density core materials have increased greatly in the first few months following the war. It would appear likely that low-density core materials would offer advantages in fabrication to the housing industry. Insulating properties of these core materials, plus the structural advantages gained by their use, justify their consideration here. Wall panels, flooring, cabinets, and exterior panels are uses being investigated at present. Refrigeration applications have been developing rapidly owing to the excellent thermal qualities of these materials. Structural support combined with low weight and relative ease of fabrication are demonstrated in such uses as: wall, floor, and roof sections for walk-in refrigerators; door panels for various refrigeration units; portable cases for frozen foods; and stationary units for frozen food.

BIBLIOGRAPHY—
Expanded Plastics, British Plastics, 16, 63, (Feb. 1944).
BUILDING PRODUCT FACTS

Results of Some Tests on Low-Density Materials. Forest Products Laboratory, (July 1944).
Kommers, W. J., Flexural Rigidity of a Rectangular Strip of Sandwich Construction, Forest Products Laboratory, (July 1944).
Modern Plastics Catalogue 1945.

SOURCES OF SUPPLY—This list is as comprehensive as reasonable effort can provide; however, there may be omissions. Omission of any source does not imply lack of merit in either producer or product.

**CORE MATERIALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trade Name</th>
<th>Material Description</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCA</td>
<td>cellular cellulose acetate</td>
<td>E.I. du Pont de Nemours &amp; Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell-Tite</td>
<td>cellular rubber</td>
<td>Sponge Rubber Products Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expanded</td>
<td>polyvinyl chloride</td>
<td>Expanded Rubber Co., Ltd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyfoam</td>
<td>glass, fabric or paper grids with resin binders</td>
<td>United States Rubber Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laminar</td>
<td>polyvinyl formal</td>
<td>Lincoln Industries, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastazote</td>
<td>urea-formaldehyde</td>
<td>American Cyanamid Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pliofoam</td>
<td>cellular rubber</td>
<td>Expanded Rubber Co., Ltd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubatex</td>
<td>polyurethane</td>
<td>Goodyear Tire &amp; Rubber Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Styrofoam</td>
<td></td>
<td>Virginia Rubber Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Textile</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dow Chemical Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foam</td>
<td>phenolic type</td>
<td>General Electric Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thermoflote</td>
<td>phenol-formaldehyde</td>
<td>Expanded Rubber Co., Ltd.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Core materials are used to construct sandwich panels. The selection of core materials is critical to the performance of these panels. The following core materials are commonly used:

- CCA (Cellulose Acetate Celulose Acetate)
- Cell-Tite (Cellular Rubber)
- Expanded Polyvinyl Chloride
- Polyfoam (Glass, Fabric or Paper Grids with Resin Binders)
- Honeycomb (Phenolic Type)
- Laminar (Polyvinyl Formal)
- Plastazote (Urea-Formaldehyde)
- Pliofoam (Cellular Rubber)
- Rubatex (Polyurethane)
- Styrofoam (Cellular Rubber)
- Textile (Phenolic Type)
- Thermoflote (Phenol-Formaldehyde)

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**Trade Names**

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**Core Materials Overview**

- The selection of core materials is critical to the performance of sandwich panels.
- Commonly used core materials include CCA, Cell-Tite, Expanded Polyvinyl Chloride, Polyfoam, Honeycomb, Laminar, Plastazote, Pliofoam, Rubatex, Styrofoam, Textile, Foam, and Thermoflote.
- Each core material has specific properties, such as density, rigidity, and thermal conductivity, which influence the overall performance of the sandwich panel.

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**Sources of Supply**

The list of sources is comprehensive, but there may be omissions. Omission of any source does not imply lack of merit in the producer or product.
There is no substitute for STRENGTH... yet added strength is just one of the many "extras" making Mesker the outstanding metal window in the field. At no extra cost, you get beauty, convenience and utility PLUS the metal mass so essential for durability and long life—a total thickness of 1¾" to the casement! No other metal window is made to such generous proportions. Deep ventilator members assure perfect alignment of vents, enhance the weather-tightness of the window. Extra depth of frame bars give greater strength, more resistance to wind pressure. We've built "window satisfaction" into the slim lines of every Mesker Metal Window... our engineers have designed them to last as long as the building itself!
REVIEWS

A BANK’S ADVICE


This booklet, published by the American Trust Company, is heartening principally because of its attractive illustrations, which show plans and elevations of houses in good modern style. Most financing organizations unfortunately would have regarded as “too newfangled” the modern houses here illustrated. The text while approving such modern features as open planning generally seems to favor traditional styles. It includes information on buying, or planning, financing, and building a home. Special financing procedures and construction problems peculiar to that section of northern California which this institution and its branches serve, are also discussed.

Many architects will rightly feel that all the advantages of employing an architect in house planning and design are not clearly presented. The tacit approval of the common practice of procuring stock plans and specifications from builders, from material dealers, from home building books and magazines, or from a combination of these sources will depress architects who well know the disastrous results of such procedures. However, it has long been obvious that a smoothly working system of making available to the small home builder, at a price that he can afford, good architect-designed plans and specifications is the only way to avoid spreading the nationwide blight of ugly houses.

Few architectural books and fewer home building books equal this small publication in skill and taste of design, typography, and illustration.

LAWRENCE E. MAWN

REALISTIC GUIDE


Winston’s manual for the P.A.S. is a useful guide to realistic standards and good design in a public housing program. His chief point is that housing experience has proven the advisability of having the Authority prepare a careful over-all housing program and a specific architectural program before the architect is contracted to design a project. It is suggested that an architect serve as consultant in the earlier stages.

The manual is not detailed but serves to relate the roles of the local Authority and its architects and indicates that far more than design enters into the building of a housing project.

However the author’s tacit assumption that architectural work for a local authority would be on a contractual basis rather than by staff architects bears questioning. Certain vital problems are ignored: supervision by one architect of plans prepared by another (and outside) firm; the inability of the private firm to follow up after the tenants have moved in; and the lack of continuity of experience which staff architects have. Even though at present it is rare to find housing authorities with their own architectural staffs, Winston might have raised the issue of official architecture versus farm-out projects and the advantage of having architects in on all stages of the project, generally possible only if they are regular employees.

DAVIDSON-SMULL
BRIXMENT MORTAR
Is More Plastic

To compare the plasticity of any two mortars, try shoving a brick into place, with a full head joint. The more plastic the mortar, the easier the work. Try this with Brixment mortar!

AND GOOD PLASTICITY
IS THE FIRST REQUIREMENT OF GOOD MORTAR

One of the most important characteristics any mortar can possess is plasticity. Within certain limits, plasticity is the greatest single factor not only in the economy of the brickwork, but also in its strength, its neatness, and its resistance to the passage of water.

One of the outstanding characteristics of Brixment mortar is its unusual plasticity. For twenty-five years, bricklayers all over the United States have agreed that the workability of Brixment is comparable to that of straight lime putty. This exceptional plasticity makes it easy for the bricklayer to secure neat, economical brickwork, with the brick properly bedded, and the joints well filled. And because of this unusual plasticity, a bag of Brixment will carry three full cubic feet of sand and still make an ideally workable mortar.

LOUISVILLE CEMENT CO., Incorporated, LOUISVILLE 2, KENTUCKY
CEMENT MANUFACTURERS SINCE 1830
COMMERCIAL

Office Buildings
Office and Drafting Rooms, Los Angeles, Calif. — HENRY ROBERT HARRISON, ARCHITECT. This architect's structure, situated on a corner lot with frontage on a multi-street, resembles in appearance contractor offices and work space, a suitable illusion which to design and sell modern architecture, Photos, plot plan. (Apr. Arts and Architecture, p. 42)

PERIODICALS NOTED IN THIS ISSUE:
ARCHITECT AND ENGINEER, 68 Post St., San Francisco 4, Calif.
ARCHITECTURAL RECORD, 119 W. 46th St., New York, N. Y.
ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE, 3035 Wilshire, Los Angeles, Calif.
BUILDING AND ENGINEERING, 20 Lofshire Blvd., Los Angeles 5, Calif.

COMMUNITY CENTERS
Steps in Planning a Community Building—R. JOY KELLEY, ARCHITECT. Organizing the basic elements, and providing required facilities and flexibility are the three steps under discussion in this article. Photos, map, schematic arrangement, this little building carries out function, photos, floor plans. (May Architectural Record, p. 97)


Trends that Affect Building
ARCHITECT AND ENGINEER, 64 Portland Pl., London W.C.1, England
LADIES' HOME JOURNAL, 1276 Sixth Ave., New York, N. Y.
PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE—PENCIL POINTS, 329 W. 42nd St., New York 18, N. Y.
THE AMERICAN HOME, 444 Madison Ave., New York, N. Y.
The Architects' Journal, 46, The Avenue, London E.1, England
ARCHITECTURAL RECORD, 250 Fifth Ave., New York 1, N. Y.
TENANTS' REVIEW, 46, The Avenue, Chelms, Surrey, England
THE MODERN HOSPITAL, 915 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11, Ill.
THE NATION HOUSE BUILDER AND THE BUILDING DIGEST, 17 Stratford Place, London W.1, England
THE NATION'S SCHOOLS, 915 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11, Ill.
The SCHOOL EXECUTIVE, 470 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N. Y.

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TENANTS' REVIEW, 46, The Avenue, Chelms, Surrey, England
THE MODERN HOSPITAL, 915 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11, Ill.
THE NATION HOUSE BUILDER AND THE BUILDING DIGEST, 17 Stratford Place, London W.1, England
THE NATION'S SCHOOLS, 915 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11, Ill.
The SCHOOL EXECUTIVE, 470 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N. Y.
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GUIDE

(Continued from page 80)


Building Now. Description of the R.I.B.A. Exhibition for 1946, whose theme is to show the English public what the architect can offer them in the immediate task of rebuilding homes, schools, and social facilities. Numerous photos from the exhibition. (Apr. Journal of the R.I.B.A., p. 229)


Apartments

High Living Rooms—Low Cost—PIETRO BELLUSCHI, ARCHITECT. An informal apartment group at Seaside, Ore., features the story-and-a-half living room with normal ceiling height in the other rooms, two stories in the front being equal to three in the rear. Sketches, cross sections, site and floor plans. (May Architectural Record, p. 76)

Prescription for Housing Troubles—GARFIELD, HARRIS, ROBINSON & SCHELL, ARCHITECTS. Garden-type apartments for 96 families in East Cleveland, Ohio. Photos, site and floor plans. (May Architectural Record, p. 59)

Efficiency Units for Texas—MacKIE AND KAMRATH, ARCHITECTS. New version of the efficiency apartment, possibly a real aid in relieving the housing shortage for the small family. Renderings, floor plans. (May Architectural Record, p. 56)

Rehousing in Great Britain—Flats Are a Solution. The London County Council considers apartments a satisfactory, and only, solution to the problem of rehousing the inner areas of large cities. Photos. (Mar. 25 Building and Engineering, p. 227)

Housing Projects

Row Houses for Suburban Block—PERKINS AND WILL, ARCHITECTS. Project for suburb of Chicago of "conventional plus" design. Renderings, site and floor plans. (May Architectural Record, p. 55)

Industrial Housing for Texas—MacKIE AND KAMRATH, ARCHITECTS. Project planned for an industrial section of Houston includes the efficiency unit as well as larger units. Renderings, floor plans. (May Architectural Record, p. 87)

Parkabreos. Los Angeles — LEONARD SCHULTZ, ARCHITECT. The studio or duplex apartment is used extensively in this large development, with only the one-bedroom apartments all on one floor. Photos, site and floor plans. (May Architectural Record, p. 56)

Retford's Housing Scheme—VALLANCE & WESTWICK, ARCHITECTS. English housing project of permanent homes for 100 families. Renderings, floor plans. (The National House Builder and the Building Digest, p. 19)

Residences

Low-Cost Emergency Housing—ROBERT H. MORIN, ARCHITECT. Plans for modern small homes that could be built for $3,600 today, according to the architect. Renderings, floor plans. (May Architectural Record, p. 85)

Four-Family Unit for a Hilly Plot, Washington, D. C.—HERMANN AND ABEL, ARCHITECTS. Modern version of the semi-detached, two-family flat, here designed to develop a plot sloping sharply down from the street. Renderings, floor plans. (May Architectural Record, p. 94)

Small Dwelling Unit, Marin County, Calif.—JAN BEINER, DESIGNER. A design to start out with kitchen-bath-living unit of 220 sq. ft. with provisions for twice successive extensions as conditions permit. Sketches, floor plans. (Apr. Arts and Architecture, p. 25)

(Continued on page 94)
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GUIDE
(Continued from page 92)

Case Study House #5—WHITNEY R. SMITH, ARCHITECT. A "box-like" house, this modern design for southern California, provides for the central living area of lounge, loggia, and kitchen-dining room to be distinctly separated, or completely open to each other and the garden. Means of sliding glass doors. Photos, plot plan. (Architectural Forum, p. 44)

The "V.H.C." Concrete House—The development of the Fowler System by the Victorian Housing Commission. This system provides for the manufacture of complete concrete walls, including openings for doors and windows, to be cast 2" thick on a horizontal steel table, conveyed to and erected at the site. Photos, construction details. (Mar. Building and Engineering, p. 22b)

Solar House on One Floor—GEORGE FRED KECK, ARCHITECT. The Sloan house in Illinois. Photos, floor plans. (May Canadian Homes and Gardens, p. 18)

Adobe House—JOELYN TAYLOR, Prin­ciple of the abode house of northern New Mexico applied to Canadian residential design, particularly stressing solar planning. Photos, diagrammatic sketches, floor plans. (May Canadian Homes and Gardens, p. 22)

Two Flats Become Five—R. FONTANA, R. RADICI, ARCHITECTS. Another practical solution for Italy's housing problem suggested in the remodeling of an old house from a two to a five apartment unit. Photos, sketches, floor plans. (Mar. Domus, p. 6)

The First Postwar House—WALTER WURDEMAN, WELTON BECKETT, ARCHITECTS. Complete coverage of the Fritz B. Burns Postwar Research House. (May House Beautiful, p. 52)

All the Family Enjoys This House—WILLIAM HAMBY, ARCHITECT. Introduc­ing a "new kind of room in American houses"—the dining-play area, a large room for informal living. Photos, floor plans. (May McCall's, p. 91)

A House to Fit the Family—JOHN FUNK, ARCHITECT. Flexile planning in this modern design allows for several possible bedroom schemes, according to the age, sex, and number of children in the family. Photos, floor plans, alternate plans. (May Ladies' Home Journal, p. 218)

Home at Wallingford, Pa.—ROBERT F. BISHOP, ARCHITECT. Compact country house thoroughly indigenous to its site, due mainly to its masonry sections being of stone from local quarries. Photos, floor plans. (May Progressive Architecture, p. 72)

House at Netarts Bay, Ore.—PIERZO BELLUSCHI, ARCHITECT. A U-shaped house, notable for its unusual application of fine woods and its "inseparability of design for the site. Photos, floor plans. (May Progressive Architecture, p. 26)

Visit from Holland That Built a House—VAN EYVER BAILEY, ARCHITECT. The de Graaf house outside of Portland, Ore. Photos, floor plans. (May The American Home, p. 55)

Rambling Plan in Texas—EUGENE WIL­LIN, ARCHITECT. A fan-shaped plan dis­tinctively marks this ranch house, English cottage house in Houston. Photos, floor plans. (May The American Home, p. 40)

Kitchen and Bathroom Service Unit—ARCON, CHARTERED ARCHITECTS. The English service unit designed for mass production, and the original house design, of which it was an integral part. Photos, diagrammatic sketches, floor plans. (The Architects' Journal for Apr. 18, p. 297)

Country House in California—RAFAEL S. SORIANO, DESIGNER. Severely simple rooms with much built-in furniture and subtle color schemes found in this modern all-wood home. Photos, construction details, floor plans. (May The Architectural Forum, p. 52)

Suburban House, Santa Monica, Calif.—LIANE ZIMBLER, DESIGNER. Plan­ning is almost completely restricted to the front and rear of this house, taking advan­tage of the view out to the sea and the mountains to the north. Photos, floor plans. (May The Architectural Forum, p. 85)

(Continued on page 56)
For Families Who Like to Sleep Upstairs

Anthracite Simpli-Fire Room provides more house, more heat, for less money

What can you say to clients nowadays who want to build homes? How can you help them? Not by offering less and less house...fewer, smaller rooms...inadequate heating!

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GUIDE
(Continued from page 94)

Remodeled Farmhouse—PIETRO BELLUSCHI, ARCHITECT. A practical solution of the priority and scarcity problem in this house outside of Portland, Ore. Special innovation between living room and corner porch is a three-section double-glazed window to catch solar heat. Photos, plot and floor plans. (May The Architectural Forum, p. 96)

Two Hillside Houses—WEBSTER, BERARDI & EMMONS, ARCHITECTS. Both modern, ample townhouses squeezed onto narrow lots in San Francisco and oriented for maximum sun on the south, one house is on a rising lot at the south side of the street and is entered from below; the second is on a lot north of the street and is entered from above. Photo, floor plans. (May The Architectural Forum, p. 88)

Chinohilla Farm—BERLA AND ADEL ARCHITECTS. A small much project near Washington, D. C., consisting of a house for the veteran-owner, one for his parents, and two air-conditioned concrete structures to provide a regulated environment for the chinohillas. To circumvent the lumber shortage, the architects plan to use masonry structures with large glass areas throughout the houses. Perspectives, elevations, construction details, floor plans. (May The Architectural Forum, p. 94)

Steel House—T. Y. HEWLETT, ARCHITECT. Compact design notable for its independent steel roof system which shelters space enclosed by unit panels. Renderings, selected details, floor plans. (May The Architectural Forum, p. 96)

INDUSTRIAL

Factories

Watch Case Factory, Jamaica, L. I.—JOHN MATTHEWS HATTON, ARCHITECT. The reclamation of platinum, gold, and silver particles usually lost in manufacturing watch cases led to some novel provisions in this new plant. Photos, construction details, floor plans. (May The Architectural Forum, p. 310)

Plants
Saginaw Malleable Iron Division of General Motors Corp., Danville, Ill.—ALBERT KAHN ASSOC. ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS, INC. Erected during the war, this plant was designed as a permanent structure, realizing that conversion to civilian production would be a relatively simple problem for the company. Photos. (Apr. Factory Management and Maintenance, p. B-47)


Naval Ordnance Plant, Indianapolis—THE AUSTIN CO., ENGINEERS. Main requirements met in this single-story windowless plant were that light, temperature, humidity, and dust be fully controlled to permit machining and assembly operations in which the smallest dust particles could not be tolerated. Photos. (Apr. Factory Management and Maintenance, p. B-55)

Fisk Tire Plant Division, U. S. Rubber Co., Chicopee Falls, Mass.—LOCKWOOD GREENE ENGINEERS, INC. Actually an addition to an existing building, the problem was to create a design that would result in a minimum of settlement, so as to keep the new floor level in line with the existing floors. Photos. (Apr. Factory Management and Maintenance, p. B-58)

Carboly Co., Detroit, Mich.—SMITH, HINCHMAN & GRYLLS, ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS. Though classified as a one-story building, the actual ceiling height of this plant is equivalent to that of an average two-story plant making possible two tiers of windows and allowing for the future placement of larger equipment. Photos. (Apr. Factory Management and Maintenance, p. B-64)


INTERIORS


Display Units, La Reine Candy Shop, N. Y.—SIMON SCHMIDT and FELIX AUSONFELD, ARCHITECTS, ASSOC. DESIGNERS. Photos, selected details. (May Progressive Architecture, p. 61)

Furniture
Focus on Design—Nursery School Furniture. Of plywood and steel tube frames, these tables and chairs have been designed in gay colors and of light weight so as to enable the children to carry them around themselves. Photos. (Apr. Architectural Design and Construction, p. 81)

Pliable Furniture. Review of the importance of pliable furniture, notable for its economy of space which allows more flexibility in furniture placement. Photos. (Mar. Domus, p. 25)
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The list at the right shows other "plusses" of LUMITE....and we’ll be glad to send you our A.I.A. 35P folder, with sample, so that you may be thoroughly informed when your clients ask you about LUMITE....the non-stain screen that can last a lifetime!

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MODERN PLASTIC INSECT SCREEN CLOTH

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- Won't rust or rot
- Never dents or bulges
- Needs no painting
- Color cannot fade
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- Sensibly priced
- Lasts years longer
- Woven of Dow's Saran
- Strong! (Lumite is woven of heavy gauge plastic filament—0.015")
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OBSERVATIONS

THE UNREALITY OF THE MIAMI BEACH SETTING MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE DELEGATES TO THE A.I.A. CONVENTION TO CONCENTRATE. The exaggerated architecture and the obviously transplanted vegetation provided a strange background for the discussion of serious matters.

* LIFE AND THE PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE APPEAR TO BE FANTASTIC IN SOUTHERN FLORIDA. For example, you all (notice that southern influence?) have various ways of attracting business, but do you go swimming to discover clients? Well, I was floating on my back in the too-warm surf off the Sands Hotel, wondering if I had burned off my back in the too-warm surf of Florida but not so much I'd wish I hadn't gone, when I floated right into a lady. So we tread water for a while and she said, "Are you with the architects?" and I admitted that I was attending the convention. "My husband and I have some property here and we want to build a house," she said. So I went into the old routine about getting an architect and she said, yes, they knew all that, and they knew the architect they wanted—Mr. Little—but they hadn't gotten around to calling on him yet. Would I, if I saw him, tell him about it?

So that afternoon when I saw Bob Little, I said, "I floated into a client for you. Room 615, Sands Hotel." I guess that's the way they do business down there.

* NOTHING COULD HAVE BEEN MORE TO THE POINT THAN THE WELL-HANDLED THEME OF THE CONVENTION—"REBUILD AMERICA." It was worth missing a swim or a fishing trip to hear the several able approaches to the subject of over-all planning that were presented. A cautious progressive might point out that on the final afternoon (when many delegates had yielded to the South Florida lures) one after another of the bits of legislation then before Congress which might implement such planning were condemned by resolution.

* THERE ARE STRONG INDICATIONS OF AN INCREASED INTEREST IN TODAY'S PROBLEMS ON THE PART OF THE A.I.A. I have had to attend many conventions this year, and no other group that I know of has spent its time on so unselfish a topic as did the architects. Granted many disagreements and some peculiar decisions, the will and the aim of the discussion was good—to rebuild a confused America on the principles of careful planning.

* A LARGER AND MORE INCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP IS NOW IMPORTANT. New, progressive, active members can give that final stimulus needed to transform the Institute into a body which will take constructive action on those professional matters which are at least no longer taboo. The alternative attitude—"Why should I join? It's a stodgy group; it will never change"—is now unrealistic. The A.I.A. has changed, and its growth will continue if it can count on the support of the entire profession.

* THE CONVENTION REJECTED PRIOR ACTIONS OF ITS BOARD IN WORKING WITH THE AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION toward setting up a list of qualified hospital architects. Despite protests from the floor that all architects are not created equal, the majority of the delegates decided that special abilities must not be admitted.

Although I voted in favor of continuing A.I.A. cooperation with the A.H.A., I have since the convention jumped on the hospital people for one action that seemed to us here at PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE to be wrong. Back in New York, we found a news release, listing the roster of approved architects for the entire U.S. press. I wrote the A.H.A. that it was our understanding this list was prepared solely for the use of the Association's members. "If it is to be publicized generally," I wrote, "and used as a medium of advertising for the people approved, I, as a member of the A.H.A., would like to protest." I pointed out further that I had seen a printed solicitation of business sent out by one of the "approved" architects, in which he emphasized the fact that he is on the list. I said that if the roster members do this it seemed to me a "misuse of the eminence which you have given them."

The reply from Roy Hudenberg, secretary of the A.H.A.'s Council on Hospital Planning and Plant Operation, indicated that he was "disturbed" and "dissatisfied" at possible criticism of this sort, and that the matters "might well receive the attention of the Hospital Architects Qualifications Committee at its next meeting, in order that it may advise the Association of its attitude." One of the sad results of the convention's action is that the A.I.A. will have no official voice on that committee.

* WE ARE GRATIFIED AT THE FACT THAT DOMUS, THAT EXCELLENT ITALIAN ARCHITECTURAL JOURNAL, features in its March issue PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE's call for an international U.N. headquarters competition. Editorially, Domus points out that international understanding might well be furthered by technical contacts and cooperation. "Perhaps," hopes Domus, "that understanding among nations that the diplomat finds so hard to attain might be realized through the precise yet poetical language of architects, addressing both the heart and the mind." The magazine has sent a questionnaire to all Italian architects asking for comments and advice on the competition proposal. We like particularly the assurance to its readers that Domus, when it received our cable asking support for the competition principle, replied at once, "O.K., cari amici, O.K."

* IT'S NICE TO GET RECOGNITION OF THIS SORT NOW AND THEN BY NAME. Often someone will say "the architectural magazines" do this and that, without recognizing any differences among them. We have a name (a good one, I think) and a personality that we're kind of proud of. Is that bragging? O.K., cari amici, O.K.
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