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→ A.I.A. Board of Directors has voted Institute's Gold Medal to Frank Lloyd Wright. Wright, often critical of A.I.A., will accept. He tells P/A that when a professional society makes its highest award "regardless of affiliation, bias, or rebellion, it shames non-co-operation." He adds, "My hat is off to the A.I.A." This is result of delegates' resolution passed at last convention.

Other A.I.A. news is that both Ralph Walker, N. Y. architect, and William Wilson Wurster, Calif. architect and M.I.T. architectural Dean, have been nominated for A.I.A. presidency. Thus for the first time in memory of many members there will be a contest for this office.

University of Cincinnati is sponsoring research in reflective radiation for heating and year-round conditioning. Studies will be in house whose walls and ceilings are embossed aluminum foil, reflecting indirectly electric radiant heat, cooling coil sources, and fluorescent light installed in cove.

→ Dept. of Commerce predicts \$18,750,000 of construction in 1949. Producers' Council promises ample materials for this total. (For P/A's analysis of materials supply see this month's PROGRESS REPORT.)

Guesses are that residential construction will decline in 1948 (housing starts are now predicted at somewhat less than 1948's 925,000) as will industrial work and amusement buildings. Increases are expected in commercial categories, in utility structures, and in public buildings of various sorts. Guesses differ on trends in private religious, educational, and health building.

→ Release of State surveys under Federal Hospital Act shows need for double present number of acceptable beds—about 900,000 exist, about 900,000 more are needed for adequate care.

→ Model State legislation, empowering municipalities to adopt standard up-to-date building codes or code sections "by reference" has been drafted by HHFA with assistance of other agencies. Such state enabling acts would save excessive publishing costs standing in way of local code revision in many places.

First FHA loan under new housing act for prefabricated houses went to house designed by architect William Lescaze for Reliance Homes. 230 of the houses will be erected near Philadelphia. Second such loan was for 100 poured concrete prefabs to go up in N. J.

→ Several new board products promise useful application to construction problems. For example, Stramit, heat-pressed dry straw, will be low in price, fire-resistant, various thicknesses, 4' x 8, 10 or 12'. Coston & Frankfort are designing a handsome plant for the manufacturing company in Oklahoma City, using the material for construction.