

# Progressive Architecture

(PENCIL POINTS)

## Newsletter

March 1949

### EDITORIAL STAFF

MAS H. CREIGHTON

Editor

CHARLES MAGRUDER

Managing Editor

ERNEST A. SANDERSON

Feature Editor

FRANK G. LOPEZ

Technical Editor

EDITH TUPPER

ALFRED W. KAMENS

FRANK O'SHAUGHNESSY

BARBARA JENKINS

Assistant Editors

FRANK APADAKI

Art Director

FRANK BENNETT

Drafting

### EXECUTIVE AND BUSINESS STAFF

FRANK G. BELCHER

Publishing Director

Vice President

FRANK ARMEIT

Production Manager

FRANK ZELLNER

Circulation Manager

FRANK A. RAYMOND, JR.

Promotion Manager

Published monthly by REINHOLD PUBLISHING CORPORATION, 330 West 42nd Street, New York 18, N. Y. U. S. A. Ralph W. Reinhold, Chairman of the Board; Philip H. Reinhold, President; H. Burton Reinhold, Executive Vice President; Treasurer; Gilbert E. Cochran, Vice President and Secretary; J. M. Turner, William P. Reinhold, John G. Belcher, Fred P. Reinhold, Wallace F. Traendly, Vice Presidents. Executive and editorial offices: 330 West 42nd Street, New York 18, N. Y. Subscriptions payable in advance. Effective February 1, 1949, subscription prices of P/A are: to those who, by title, are architects, engineers, specification writers, designers, or draftsmen, \$2.00 for one year, \$3.00 for two years, \$8.00 for three years; to all others—\$10.00 per year. U. S. Possessions, Canada, Mexico, and Pan-American Union—the same as above plus \$2.00 extra per year for all other countries. Single copy—\$1.00. Printed by Reinhold Publishing Corporation, 508 West 42nd Street, New York 1, N. Y. Copyright 1948, Reinhold Publishing Corporation. Trade Mark Registered. All rights reserved. Re-entered as Second Class Matter, January 22, 1948, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of October 3, 1879. Volume XXX, No. 3, 1949. Indexed in Art

→ Resolution calling on Economic Advisers to the President to sponsor conference on factors producing high building costs will be introduced at A.I.A. Convention this month.

Other move in this direction is "economy housing" campaign of HHFA. Local meetings in many cities are calling together building industry factors to discuss ways to reduce costs of dwelling units. N. Y. State is sponsoring similar meetings, with cost of school building the stimulus.

→ A.I.A. Convention will also see contest for all offices except treasurer. Wurster, Manley, Belluschi, Thorshov comprise one slate; Walker, Stanton, Gerhardt, Ditchy another.

University of California is choosing new architectural dean. Calif. Council of Architects committee has recommended three names.

→ Availability of copper during 1949 will depend on amount of raw material that comes from abroad. Aluminum production depends on power available at plants.

Prefab news is that Lustron won small Navy contract over "conventional" prefabricators. Mortality in this new industry continues high: Harman Co. is latest to give up. Only six of 32 companies which got RFC loans are still in business. Market and know-how exist; big trouble continues to be distribution.

Steel allocation to prefabricators (59,000 tons to five companies) has, because of this, not been used. Dept. of Commerce has notified all to use allotment or lose it.

→ Experiments on a Detroit highway are testing radiant heating with thermostatic control to improve winter driving. Smaller tries have been successful--as Koch's at Snake Hill, Mass.

Gypsum producers are preparing to market a water-repellent, 1-hour fire-resistive sheeting for exterior sheathing on wood frame.

Frank Lopez has left staff of P/A. Other changes in editorial field: Henry Wright has left "Forum," from which Jimmy Fitch departed some months ago. Rudofsky is no longer editor of "Interiors".

Activity in architects' offices has slowed somewhat in last few months. Many practitioners are turning to public works (such as R.E.A. program, which is extensive)--always a sign that private clients are hesitant. As prices drop in next few months, this situation may change. Only fear is that entrepreneurs may wait for even cheaper costs, which do not seem likely.

→ Manufacturers of building materials foresee more competition in present year. Johns-Manville, among others, has warned its dealers and salesmen that a period of stiff competition is coming, in which consumers will be more particular about what they put into their buildings.

→ Civil service salaries in New York City are not as high as in other places, according to Joint Committee of Architects and Engineers. California salaries are better, for instance, but the best boss in civil service is still the Federal government, judging by the salary standard.