PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE

newsletter

November 1949

- House Beautiful started an editorial feature in its October issue that deserves the attention of all architects and designers. The subject matter is climate control, and the facts that have been turned up for the magazine by a staff of specialists will provide for the first time design data on temperatures, humidity, rainfall, sunshine, etc., in various climatic regions. A.I.A. will publish the technical findings, in a form well-worth buying and studying.

- P/A's second study of how building products get into buildings has been completed, was presented to Producers' Council at Chicago meeting. Among interesting facts turned up are: owners of buildings studied considered architect most important factor in selection of products used; 66% of products used were selected by type before working drawings started, 40% of selections by brand were made during preliminary design period.

- Architectural offices studied in the survey employed an average of 12 people. Most active building type was shops and stores. Only 14% of the firms specialize--3% in residential work--but 70% of the firms actively solicit residential commissions.

- The survey results, intended to better relations between architectural offices and building product salesmen, are available to interested parties.

- Architectural Advisory Committee to FPHA, originally organized by Howard Myers, later headed by William W. Wurster, has been disbanded. Reason is that it had grown to unwieldy size; a very much smaller group is being considered for similar advisory function.

- Walter Wurdeman, partner in the very active Los Angeles architectural firm of Wurdeman & Becket, died on September 17. Wurdeman was 46; the firm in recent years has done a great volume of important work in the southern California area, most dramatic of which was the much-published Prudential Building.

- Backlog of construction work in the "heavy" category (reported by Engineering News-Record as $45 billion at end of August) augurs stable period ahead. However, as W. C. Bober, Johns-Manville economist, points out, backlogs are not assured work. Much of present figure is due to hope for lower costs, much more is in public works category which may wait for private business let-up.

- Steel strike will undoubtedly result in curtailment of some business activity. Prediction is that strike issue will be resolved before steel tonnage available for fabrication is used up. Hence few building products that use steel are likely to be in short supply during fall and winter.

- Architectural League in New York will again hold its once-annual exhibit (the last one was in 1938) in the spring. During the winter months a series of shows will lead up to it, and the

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