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\*American Concrete Institute, Committee 613, 1944 Report, Page 655 Bureau of Reclamation's current Concrete Manual, Page 130





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"Designing for the Community" will be theme of 87th annual AIA convention to be held in Minneapolis, June 21-24, announces AIA President Clair W. Ditchy. Program will emphasize the architect's role in development of metropolitan areas and his responsibility in community planning. Other highlights of convention will be presentation of the Gold Medal, exhibition of outstanding American architecture, and announcement of Honor Awards Competition winners.

Bills introduced into New York State Legislature would eliminate necessity for licensed architectural or engineering services on buildings costing up to \$20,000 and/or up to 30,000 cu ft volume. In addition, two bills which would permit practice of engineering (and architecture) by corporations are backed by influential contractors. N. Y. architects and engineers are planning to fight proposed revisions.

NBC-TV's popular program "Home" is promoting and sponsoring a builder house designed by Jones & Emmons of Los Angeles. Similar in design to an Eichler-built house which won a Citation in P/A's 1955 Design Awards Program, the house will be built by a selected group of builders in cities across the country and locally promoted by NBC affiliates. . . . Four builder houses, designed by promising young architects for each of the four major regions of the country, will be featured in contest and promotional activity cosponsored by Hotpoint Company and "Living for Young Homemakers" magazine. "Living-Conditioned" homes will make use of latest concepts of lighting, acoustics, building materials, and climate conditioning for moderate-priced houses.

A significant break with the past occurred recently when all annual awards of Church Architectural Guild of America went to buildings of contemporary design. Jury, composed of three architects and two clergymen, commented that selection was not influenced by "any preconceived style as representing church architecture."

Photographer Alex Langley is winner of AIA's 1954 Architectural Journalism Award for best picture published in a professional architectural magazine. Winning photo, made for P/A and published in June 1954 issue, page 108, was of Tropicana night club in Havana, Cuba; Max Borges, Jr., Architect.

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and Harry Bertoia won Gold-Medal Awards in New York Architectural League's annual exhibition, for architecture and "gold screen" of Fifth Avenue Branch of Manufacturer's Trust Company. Engineering award went to E. H. Praeger of Madigan-Hyland for Pier 57, New York.

National Institute of Arts and Letters elected Pietro Belluschi, Dean of MIT's School of Architecture, to lifetime membership. . . . "Early Victorian Architecture in Britain" by Henry-Russell Hitchcock won Society of Architectural Historians' annual bookaward medal. . . . Speakers for series on "The Artist in Our Time" at The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, will be: James Johnson Sweeney, Director of Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum—April 5; Rene d'Harnoncourt, Director of Museum of Modern Art, New York—April 26; and Frank Lloyd Wright—May 3.

# newsletter

# Frederick Gutheim Washington Perspective

Architects might do well to know the six men recently installed as regional administrators of the Housing and Home Finance Agency. They will be responsible for the urban-renewal program by which HHFA hopes to make aging cities face their problems of disintegration and do something about it, besides scream for more public housing. They will also direct the college housing, community facilities, and other programs of the HHFA's Office of the Administrator. They are being given larger co-ordinating responsibilities over HHFA's constituent agency programs, those of the Federal Housing Administration and the Public Housing Authority. Co-operation of these agencies is needed in the urban-renewal program which replaces the more limited urban-redevelopment activity. The Administration regards this as the chief way HHFA programs can be co-ordinated within communities to secure larger municipal benefits of planning: halting the march of blight, the decentralization of downtown centers, the strangulation of traffic; and replacing the King Canute of public housing and redevelopment with an army of dyke and canal builders more likely to hold back the sea of urban decay.

Administrative decentralization of a program like this, essentially a local program, is all to the good. But there are attendant problems. Like two bodies which can't occupy the same space, two officials can't exercise the same power. Where did the powers of the new regional administrators come from? Some were created by the 1954 housing program which launched new activities and redirected old ones. But they have also come from HHFA officials in charge of special programs, who formerly made in Washington decisions that are now being taken in regional offices. The Washington officials continue to be influential, of course, but they no longer direct. They must function as staff officers to HHFA Administrator Albert Cole. A man like Urban Renewal Administrator James Follin is no longer in the line of command and what has been "delegated" to him is not the responsibility to act, but to advise. Cole has willingly accepted such guidance in the past, as every good administrator must. But the new reorganization means he will now face conflicting advice—from his own immediate staff, on the one hand, and from his regional administrators, on the other. As time wears on, the regional administrators will become centers of their own power structure: it becomes increasingly difficult to turn down their recommendations

without souring local programs. Administrators talk to members of Congress not about generalities but in the specifics of local programs, about local deals with regional administrators which constituents demand that they support. In time, also, the "final approval" in Washington tends to become a rubber-stamp operation, except when the issues raised are so momentous that the delays involved in more thorough review and reconsideration are thought justified. Thus, the piling up of one little precedent after another—the dripping of water that wears away the stone of central authority in Washington.

But the greatest power of the new regional offices is their power to initiate projects, to develop them in final form, to handle all details—including the approval of architects (or often, in the case of such new programs, their recommendation). By such participation, the regional office joins the locality in interest, and the two conspire to assail the Washington headquarters. Warfare of this sort is the normal state of large scale organizations, the tension that holds the structure together and influences its operations. Therefore, while there may be interest in new architectural commissions, and the new role of HHFA regional administrators in dispensing them, the issue of importance is how the new power structure of HHFA changes the ground rules which determine the survival of architectural plans for urban-renewal and large-scale housing operations.

On the whole, it is difficult to see anything but good in the present arrangements. Housing design has suffered from ordinariness, timidity, dullness, institutionalism, Boring—or brutal—project design has been blamed on overstandardization, poor selection of architects, and many other things. But past efforts to overcome it have foundered on the lack of bureaucratic incentive to develop anything better—and the penalization of innovation. Regionalization, of course, does not automatically turn lackluster officials into enthusiastic speculators and promoters. But it does allow progressive forces in local communities to come to the fore sufficiently to incubate a new idea in housing, and to allow it to win friends and thereby gain a better chance for survival in a cold and hostile world. To architects jaded by past experiences in public housing, probably the best thing about the urban-renewal program is that it requires such enterprise and vitality to win out—and it tries to reward it.



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#### elementary school and high school addition

Preliminary plans for new elementary and high school facilities have been approved by the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District in New York State. The firm of Urbahn, Brayton & Burrows, New York, are the architects for the project. The program calls for expansion of the existing high school (*foreground photo above*), new athletic facilities, and a new elementary school (*background of photo above and page 10*). The high school, located on a long and narrow site, will serve 600 students, the elementary school, also serving 600 pupils, will occupy 30 acres directly adjacent. The existing high school building will be used for recitation rooms and cafeteria. Its new wing houses administration, library, shops, and special classrooms grouped around a central court and auditorium. This simple horizontal structure forms the link between the existing three-story brick building and the parabolic shell of the new gymnasium. This structure will become the dominant sculptural form complementing the existing high school.

# p/a p 'ess preview



The new elementary school, featuring a more open plan, has five basic elements. Kindergarten rooms have a separate entrance, and face south onto their own playground. Grades 1-3 and grades 4-6 are in wings separated by an administration unit. The fifth element houses a combination cafeteria-auditorium, a kitchen and gymnasium, and provides the service entrance for the entire building. The basic structure for both buildings will be steel frame with structural mullions 8'-0" o.c. Glazed brick panels and porcelain enamel spandrels will provide a playful color accent within the module. Service roads, parking space, athletic fields, and the two building complexes have been well related and treated as one unit by the architects.

Model: Theodore Conrad Model photos: Louis Checkman



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## p/a progress preview





#### elementary school

Since Cambridge, Massachusetts intends to make full use of this school's facilities for adult groups and community functions, the scheme features a central unit containing assembly rooms suitable for either school or adult use. Classroom wings, each serving one of four different age groups, extend from this central core. Carl Koch & Associates, Cambridge architects, proposed the original scheme, shown in sketch form (*above*). The Architects Collaborative, acting as consulting architects on the project, and the City Authorities suggested a revision of the triangular roof over the gymnasium. The adopted scheme, shown in the model (left) and plan (below), introduces a courtyard into the center block and relocates the auditorium and two kindergarten rooms. Due to the narrow site and the need for economy, corridors are double loaded. Bilateral lighting will be achieved by means of skylights. Nisso T. Aladjem and Fred Severud are the structural engineers for the building; J. M. McCusker, Associates, the mechanical engineers; and Bolt, Beranek & Newman the acoustical engineers.





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#### tragic mistake

Dear Editor: I wish I had the optimism to believe that Fritz Gutheim's excellent article on the bridge-over-the-Potomac controversy is going to do much good. The engineers have received their orders and only a thoroughly aroused public opinion may now have some effect. But as far as I can see no one is aroused, not even the National Capital Planning Commission.

A tragic mistake is about to be made, and only a miracle can save it from happening. The miracle could take the form of permission by the Roosevelt Island trustees to allow a low bridge to intersect it at a point further enough north not to interfere visually with the Lincoln Memorial or the Mall.

After the last joint meeting with the National Capital Planning Commission, I called the Octagon and urged the AIA to do what it could in the way of protest; but the legal and technical machinery for accomplishing the misdeed is already in motion—and no letters to Congressmen will do much good. Perhaps the Secretary of the Interior can put a few hardships in the way of its execution if he wishes to do so; Fritz's article should at least be brought to his attention.

PIETRO BELLUSCHI, Dean School of Architecture and Planning Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge, Mass.

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#### once more: Style and Materials

Dear Editor: Milton Kirchman in his reply (February 1955 P/A) to "Style and Materials" (October 1954 P/A) states that my article "simply confuses the way." This is, of course, a severe indictment for a writer, because even if many readers got a clear picture of the issue (the article was part of an assignment for an advanced student, who seemed to get something positive from the ideas presented), it is the author's fault if he is misunderstood. May I then, briefly, reply to the main points of his objections:

Reciprocal Style, as I named the desirable design of future architecture, is not merely "an interplay of structure and design." All architecture, worth the name, has had to be at all times just that. Reciprocal Style, as I understand it, should be architectural design, deriving its esthetic effect from materials and forms composed by the architect in a creative process analogous to that of the painter and sculptor. It is the characteristic of art (in contrast to decoration) that form and content are one; meaning, that the idea of the artist communicates through the perfectly chosen medium of material and form. In architecture of the type I called Reciprocal, in order to escape the hackneyed word "organic," the idea of the building, which is its purpose, communicates through the perfectly chosen medium of material and form.

The reason I found it necessary to build a whole article around this statement is the abundance of buildings lacking this characteristic of good architecture, and the increasingly commercial concept of building that encourages and rationalizes this lack of concern with reciprocal style relationships. Perhaps three prominent, contemporary examples, dealing with the three style concepts: structural, applied, and reciprocal, in my article will clarify the issue: Structural Style in 20th Century architecture gives to exterior form no other connotation than that of the enclosing shell. Materials and mass are exclusively dependent on economy and enclosed space without compositional appeal to esthetic sensibilities. Example: Chrysler Building Annex, New York.

Applied Style in 20th Century architecture conceives of structure as space envelope, based on economy and utility, in the same way as does Structural Style. But the esthetic impact of architecture on the human senses is taken into account and met by applied visual effects, unrelated to the architectural character of the structure. Example: New York Telephone Company Building.

Reciprocal Style, defined earlier, and restated here, as equilibrium (or harmony), fitness (or contemporaneousness), and permanence (or material value) expressed in the composed architectural form. Example: Lever House, New York.

I am sure that Kirchman will agree with me that the main trends in architecture, apart from the publicized multimillion dollar buildings, tend toward one or the other of the style extremes—inherited from the past—especially in dwellings. See, for instance, the public housing projects in their abysmal "functionality" as one group, and the "gimmick" Florida house types as the other.

A few other points in Kirchman's letter can be clarified briefly:

I never intended to be "intrinsically opposed" to Frank Lloyd Wright's definition of architecture as spirit; but am most emphatically against the dualism that Alberti most decidedly dreamt of, when he divided architecture into design and structure by proposing, for instance, nine basic geometrical figures in all for churches (see De Re Aedificatoria, Book VII).

I am not alone in considering Meso-

(Continued on page 16)

# p/a views

(Continued from page 15)

potamian and Egyptian structures as not architecture, in our interpretation of inner space and outer form as related to the function of human shelter. Not only were cell and wall independent of each other: mass or walls were determined by tradition and ritual alone. It astonishes me that Kirchman, who is well read and an astute thinker, denies a "collective ideal" in Rome, specifically during the Golden Age of the Antonines. The Roman State as the supreme ideal, to which all individuality is subservient, and the *Pax Romana* as the worldwide implementation of this ideal, have never been equalled in collective power---not even by the Medieval Church.

And finally—after careful reconsideration of my "historical division," which Kirchman feels should be restated—I can only admit to incompleteness, which is the sad fate of all surveys limited by magazine space. The placement of the Structural and Applied Style periods in historical context seems still to hold.

SIBYL MOHOLY-NAGY

#### one of the best

Dear Editor: I just wanta put in a word! As a student, with a lot of questions, I want to let you know that Mrs. Moholy-Nagy's article on "Style and Materials" was one of the best I've read, in or out of school. . . The article had more positive ideas on design than is usual and such articles are of great value. More like it will help. DICK L. REAGAN Texas Technological College Lubbock, Texas

#### column enclosures

Dear Editor: Enjoyed the MATERIALS AND METHODS pages on porcelain-enamel resumé in October 1954 P/A.

Brought back memories of when we used porcelain-enamel enclosures to house structural columns of the two Chase Bank branches in Rockefeller Center, in 1938. L. ANDREW REINHARD New York, N. Y.

Columbia alumni

Dear Editor: Since many of our members are subscribers to P/A, we feel certain that we can contact many of them through your publication. We are revising our alumni mailing list and request that the Columbia Architecture Alumni who have changed addresses, or who have not been receiving mail from the university, send latest address to: A. HAUSMAN, Membership Committee, 211 E. 48 St., New York, N. Y.

> STANLEY R. ROSENBERC, Chairman Public Relations Committee Alumni Association School of Architecture Columbia University New York, N. Y.

> > (Continued on page 21)



UNITED STATES CEPAMIC TILE COMPAN

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The mellow, dark intensity of this entirely new finish is smart, interesting, appealing. Factoryapplied by the Bruce "Scratch Test" method, it's baked in for long life and easy care.

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Because it's completely finished at the factory, Bruce Fireside Plank costs no more installed than a comparable grade of plain strip flooring. There are no on-the-job finishing costs and builders save 3 to 5 days' working time per house.

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Pipsan Saarinen Swanson, A.I.D. Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

"The alternate width of the boards, with the beveling, produces an overall texture that provides a perfect background for any furniture styling and any color."

James P. Erdman, A.I.D. Grand Rapids Furniture Guild

"I am particularly pleased with the new dark finish, as it most certainly adds to the appearance, and the beveled effect makes it very distinguished in character." Angus McSweeney, A.I.A.

Angus McSweeney, A.I.A. San Francisco



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METAL WINDOWS

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James C. King Home for Men, Evanston, Illinois. Architects: Holabird, Root & Burgee, Chicago. Construction Company, Chicago. Photo: Hedrich-Blessing, Chicago. Windows: Windows: Lupton Master Aluminum Projected.



DOUBLE HUNG WINDOW

# p/a views

(Continued from page 16)

#### nothingness in boxes

Dear Editor: Much is said and written in your magazine concerning Boxes and International Architecture; this seems to be all you publish, at any rate. Very little is said concerning growth of an Architecture which will truly reflect the greatness of America.

The Box-House has exerted great pressures upon education and you, in order to sell copies, have become part of this movement which was at best a Germanic economic expression. Check and see if this was not so! Do we not have anything to contribute ourselves? Where does the young architect turn when he desires inspiration? The older men have all turned to Europe and regularly return to bask in its eternal light. Or, if things are too warm there, they bring those who can 'guile this gullible nation of immigrants into believing that only Europe has the mental capacity to solve the architectural needs of what should be the greatest force for development of ideas ever to exist.

The fair in Chicago at the turn of the century began the flood of malcontents to this nation's shores and schools. The Bauhaus accelerated this tide and the sops who educate bow low to this god of nothingness. Indeed, if one speaks of love for his land, he is thought queer by his fellow professionals. If we speak of an American Culture, we are condemned as isolationists. And yet the only way we can hope for a truly American expression is if we do adopt an "isolation," as distinct from the *ism*.

The recent selection of architects for the Air Force Academy very strongly substantiates the contention and pet peeve of mine. The Foothills of the Rockies, a tremendous example of nature's handiwork, is soon to be resplendent with box after box punctuated with cute little circles, another Brandais or Mexico City University. Is there a true "American" in the design group which will set the policy? The majority of them have spent their entire lives under European domination. Can we expect an American group of buildings? I think not.

Perhaps you are not in agreement with the thoughts which I am expressing, but if you have interest in an *American* Architecture, you will use all the facilities at your command to further the growth of *our* Architecture.

To this point, I have said little which would lead one to believe that I have any respect for your publication at all. This is not entirely true. You have vigorously demanded a higher standard of education for architects—with one qualification—it would seem that you would replace Beaux Artism with Internationálism. Why not try Americanism?

We speak of moving ahead and educating the "public." I have found that the (Continued on page 22)



Note how these Kewaunee Lincoln Desks provide maximum student capacity with the utmost in working convenience. Lincoln Desks are just one of the exclusive features that have made Kewaunee the nationwide favorite for finer schools.

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working surfaces.

# p/a views

(Continued from page 21)

"Public" will buy anything that is placed before it: it's the funny-minded architects who have to be educated. If the profession wants and demands an American approach to the solution of our Architectural problems, the "Public" shall have it. If the profession is indifferent, Boxminded, lazy, unwilling to crusade for America, then we shall have more of what we are now getting. Internationalism is death living on decay. A wellknown internationalist once told me, "It is better to have cities because one can get fresh oranges." (You would be surprised at who it was. Imagine such a statement in this era of frozen foods and refrigerated transportation.) Yet this is the kind of man who is praised and lauded by your magazine; whose example your editorials would have us fawn over; Medieval minds in Medieval men, expressing Medieval thoughts.

The architect has lost his place in the Art of Building and is seemingly indifferent to his position. He is interested in his own welfare. He should exercise caution or perhaps he will exterminate himself. BERNARD N. CAHLANDER Boulder, Colo.

r.s. Please have my subscription renewed.

#### never a specialist

Dear Editor: To practice what one preaches is a most difficult attainment for many individuals, but apparently it comes second nature to Alden B. Dow. His statement (page 81, February, 1955 P/A), "Never consider yourself a specialist in any particular kind of building; for as sure as you do, your thinking will be reduced to a formula, and this, by its very nature, means sterility," has been proved many times by excellence of design in the wide variety of building types he has planned. From this work it might well be inferred that each individual building incorporates some elements of architectural design and construction derived from his experience on other buildings of different types. There appears to be no reason to believe that his residences are not better designs because he has planned schools, churches, and other structures, than if his entire practice had been devoted to this one phase.

It is unfortunate that this passage, quoted above, cannot be printed, framed, and hung in numerous Board Rooms throughout the country for the henefit of Building Committee Members who believe that if an architect has "done" a certain type of building, that makes him a "specialist"—just like Chick Sales.

> JOSEPH WILLARD WELLS Norfolk, Va.





### **RESILIENT FLOORING INFORMATION**

# A more important question than ever . . . CH RESILIENT FLOOR OVER CONCRETE?

There are at least two reasons why it is now more important than ever for architects to be aware of the problems involved in specifying resilient floors for installation over concrete. First, the use of concrete in direct contact with the ground has vastly increased during the past decade. Second, the resilient flooring industry has developed new types of floors and improved others, especially to provide resistance against the harmful effects of alkaline moisture, so that many more installations are involved.

It is important to understand the "moisture problem." As most architects know, alkaline salts are present in concrete under any conditions. Their presence does not, however, affect resilient floors to any serious extent unless moisture is present, as it invariably is when the subfloor is in contact with the ground. Since the degree of moisture present is the main factor determining the seriousness of the alkaline condition, the distinction between "suspended," "grade-level," and "below-grade" subfloors is of prime importance. The moisture conditions in these three categories are illustrated in the drawing below.

Suspended Subfloors On adequately ventilated and dried suspended concrete subfloors, all the same types of resilient floors that are suitable for installation over wood subfloors may unhesitatingly be specified. However, the importance of allowing adequate time to permit suspended concrete subfloors to dry thoroughly cannot be overemphasized. Wherever possible, concrete should be permitted to dry out for several months. Every effort should be made to provide heat and good ventilation. In every case, suspended concrete should be tested for moisture before installation of resilient flooring. (See illustration on opposite page.)

Below-Grade Subfloors Improvements in the formulation of resilient flooring materials themselves as well as recent adhesive developments now provide a much wider range of flooring suitable for basement installation than was available just a few years ago. Asphalt tile was long the only resilient flooring which could safely be specified for basement use, and it remains an excellent low-cost floor for this purpose. Armstrong Excelon Tile, a vinyl-asbestos material, is a recent development providing a floor of superior durability and appearance which is greaseproof and fully resistant to basement alkaline conditions.

The use of a special adhesive, Armstrong No. S-104 Chemical-Set Waterproof Cement, now makes possible the installation of Armstrong Rubber Tile and Armstrong Custom Corlon Tile over below-grade concrete slabs. Several years of laboratory tests, and trials under actual conditions, have proved that such installations will give satisfactory service for the normal lifetime of the tile.

**On-Grade Subfloors** Armstrong Rubber Tile and Custom Corlon Tile may now safely be specified under normal ongrade conditions over concrete with a new one-part, factorymixed adhesive, Armstrong No. S-225 On-Grade Cement.



This drawing shows how moisture from the ground or from an inadequately ventilated air space below penetrates the concrete slab, bringing alkali to the surface in solution. This solution attacks the oil binders of most resilient flooring materials, causing a chemical change. Linoleum and all other resilient flooring materials may be used on dry suspended floors. On below-grade floors which contain ground moisture, asphalt tile or vinyl-plastic-asbestos tile (Excelon) are normally installed. In addition, rubber tile and Custom Corlon Tile may be installed below grade with a special adhesive. Cork tile may be installed over cer-tain on-grade concrete subfloors. (See "On Grade" above.)

# **rmstrong** FLOORS

## LINOLEUM

PLAIN SPATTER TEXTELLE\*

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DECORAY\* CRAFTLINE® INLAID RAYBELLE® ROYFILER EMBOSSED INLAID MARBELLE® STRAIGHT LINE INLAID Armstrong Cork Tile may also be installed with No. S-225 if the surface of the slab is at least 12 inches above grade, the ground slopes away from the building, and the slab is well cured and visibly dry. Asphalt tile and Excelon Tile are installed on grade with Armstrong No. S-160 Emulsion.

**Wet Floor May Appear Dry** It is never safe to assume that a concrete slab will always be dry because it has appeared dry for several years. Rapid evaporation at the surface will make a concrete floor appear free from moisture but when a resilient flooring is cemented to this surface, evaporation is prevented or slowed down and the alkaline solution collects under the flooring material.

There have been many attempts to find ways to waterproof concrete slabs to make on- and below-grade use of all types of flooring materials possible. To date, the only method which has been proved to work satisfactorily is the membrane method. Specifications for such construction are beyond the appropriate scope of Armstrong recommendations. Even when resilient floorings approved for use without membraning are specified, it is advantageous to include a membrane in slab floors when possible. In any case, it is highly desirable, when concrete slabs are in direct contact with the ground, that the slab be placed on a well-drained base.

**Regional Conditions** While alkali and moisture present difficulties everywhere, there are a few sections of the country where the aggregates used in compounding concrete contain excessive amounts of alkaline salts. As the subsoil moisture seeps through such concrete subfloors, it dissolves the alkaline salts within the concrete, carrying them to the surface. These salts accumulate underneath the tile or are deposited on the edges of the tile as the moisture evaporates. The alkaline deposits build up over a period of time and may gradually force the tiles up from the subfloor or permanently adhere to the surface edges of the tile unless removed promptly. Generally this condition is of a temporary nature and will gradually be eliminated as the continuous passage of moisture dissipates the alkaline salts within the subfloor. An experienced local floor contractor is the best source of useful advice where these special circumstances are encountered.

Another important factor in considering the correct choice of a resilient tile for installation over concrete is the alkali resistance of the pigments used in its manufacture. The Armstrong Laboratories have worked on this problem for years and have developed specifications for alkali-resistant pigments for all the flooring materials recommended for use over concrete in direct contact with the ground. These pigments prevent fading and "color bleeding" of the tile.

 $\Lambda$  RMSTRONG CORK COMPANY makes all types of resilient floors for all types of interiors. Almost any flooring problem can be met with one or more of the floors in the Armstrong Line. As a result, we have no special bias toward any one type and can offer architects impartial recommendations on any flooring problem. Our main interest is to aid you in making a sound flooring selection.

Armstrong sales representatives throughout the country will be glad to consult with architects and make specific recommendations for individual jobs. Your Armstrong representative has a wide variety of experience and training in resilient flooring and can also call upon the Armstrong Research and Development Center for assistance with special problems.

For helpful information on any flooring question, just call your nearest Armstrong District Office or write direct to Armstrong Cork Company, Floor Division, Lancaster, Pa.



This moisture test should always be made on newly poured suspended concrete floors of all types before the installation of materials that are affected by alkaline solutions. If floor is too moist, calcium chloride is partly dissolved in 24 hours.



Immersion for 2 hours in a 2% solution of sodium hydroxide determines color permanency of pigments in tiles specified for use over below-grade concrete. Beaker at right shows bleeding of colors from pigments that are not alkali resistant.

Use of a special adhesive, Armstrong No. S-104 Chemical-Set Waterproof Cement, permits the installation of rubber tile and Custom Corlon Tile over below-grade concrete slabs. A twopart adhesive that sets through chemical action, it is mixed on the job and each area installed within a critical time period.



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CUSTOM CORLON® TILE EXCELON® TILE MORESQ\* CORLON TILE DECORESQ® CORLON GRANETTE\* CORLON TERRAZZO\* CORLON MORESQ CORLON

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Another new Weldwood Movable Partition installation at the Milwaukee offices of the Wisconsin Telephone Company.



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Designed by Grassold, Johnson and Associates, offices have Weldwood Stay-Strate<sup>®</sup> Doors to match partitions. Partition distributor: Hartmann-Sanders, Inc., Chicago. Dealer: E. T. Ver Halen Co.



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Cross-section view of conventional-type 2-ply asphalt vapor barrier, insulation and roof.

Fire test of conventional-type built-up roof with new Fire-Chex 1-ply Vapor Barrier over the steel deck (see diagram). Here you'll note a complete absence of any dripping material and only slight burning of gases. Practically no fuel is contributed to the fire by vapor barrier.



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1 roll Fire-Chex Vapor Barrier weight approximately 60 lbs. per 114 square feet: size 38 feet long, 36 inches wide 1 gallon Fire-Chex Adhesive

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**Carrier Duct System** in First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N. C., has balcony-suspended outlets which spread a low blanket of conditioned air over congregation. Undisturbed upper air in dome acts as insulation, permitted use of smaller equipment.



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# Under the **Toughest** traffic and service conditions...



More than a million people use the Miami Terminal of Eastern Air Lines each year. After several years of service, Terraflex has proved its durability ... looks colorfully new ... and has cut maintenance time and cost.



Heavy traffic in this Budd Company R.D.C. diesel-powered passenger car has little effect on the durable J-M Terraflex floor. A damp-mopping, whenever necessary, will restore it to its first-day color beauty.



Despite constant exposure to heavy traffic, spilled food, grease, and liquids, the Terraflex floor in the cafeteria of the Sperry Gyroscope Company at Lake Success, L. I. shows no sign of wear—looks as fresh and colorful as the day it was installed.

# Johns-Manville TERRAFLEX® Vinyl-Asbestos Tile Floor

## provides beauty, color and wear with minimum care.

IN ADDITION to their inviting appearance, the floors in the busy cafeteria, the railroad car and the major air-passenger terminal, shown here, have one other important common characteristic. Each is a Johns-Manville Terraflex Tile floor . . . selected to meet stringent requirements for heavy-traffic floor service with the lowest possible maintenance cost.

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Terraflex can reduce maintenance costs one half. In actual use, tests showed Terraflex maintenance expense to be approximately 50% less than the next most economically maintained resilient flooring. Its nonporous surface requires no hard scrubbing, damp mopping usually keeps it clean and bright . . . frequent waxing is eliminated. Through years of economical service Terraflex pays for itself.

Available in a range of 15 marbleized colors, J-M Terraflex vinyl-asbestos tile is ideal for restaurants, public areas, schools, hospitals wherever reliable floor service, long-wearing beauty and long-time economy must be combined.

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See "MEET THE PRESS" Sundays on TV, sponsored by Johns-Manville. Consult your newspaper for time and station.



Johns-Manville


NEW! The "butter" that holds a ton per tile! The easy-to-use clay tile adhesive that saves time, cuts costs up to 20% and more!



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More about Gold Seal Inlaid Linoleum ->



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# William Hurd Hillyer **\$ details**

P/A introduces a new monthly column, adding to the personal comment of Gutheim, Tomson, Small, Feiss, and Creighton a commentary on the financial scene as it affects architects and architecture. Implementing this magazine's belief that the business side of architecture is important, if good design is to be realized, William Hurd Hillyer brings to us a wide experience and a deep background of knowledge in this field. His career as banker, economist, and writer on legal and economic affairs, plus his interest in building and design, should make his monthly comments of interest and value to our readers.

Architecture and economics have always walked hand in hand, as evidenced by the prudent house-planner in the parable, who sat down and counted the cost before beginning to build. Today, when public and private building are alike dominated by various forms of credit, the foreseeing architect is increasingly concerned with such factors as money supply, interest rates, industrial activity, and spendable income. An over-all view of the economic site is necessary for the benefit of himself and his clients. This department will endeavor to plot such a view from the architect's standpoint month by month, after seeking the best informed banking and official opinion.

Unfettered optimism has been called the occupational neurosis of business forecasters. This malady (if it may be so termed) seemingly overtook such prophets *en masse* on New Year's Day, 1955. Emergency treatment, quickly administered by the SEC, sent stocks plummeting and in subsequent weeks the threat of huge Government bond issues stiffened the money mart. Since then, a note of caution has crept into the seasonal chorus.

Among the factors that have influenced this tone of restraint are international uncertainties plus:

Federal Reserve warnings that inflationary pressures are being generated within the business world and that tight money is talked about;

Pre-notice by large lenders of a constriction in the mortgage market if the 1954 rate of "housing starts" is projected through the current year;

Unsold municipal bonds piling up on dealers' shelves, while top-size issues for public construction loom in the near future;

A more than seasonal spurt of commercial and industrial failures which followed the turn of the year (though these fall far below comparable prewar figures);

A realization that the volume of home mortgage debt has passed the \$75 billion mark—nearly double the 1949 figures and is climbing yet more sharply in '55.

Furthermore, an odd phenomenon of money lending has escaped general notice. Groups of banks are "warehousing" FHA-VA home mortgages for the benefit of at least one giant insurance company to the tune of nearly \$400 millions. That is to say, the banks are making these loans and "carrying" them for account of the insurance institution, which agrees to pick them up within a specified period. In plain language the insurance companies, those huge reservoirs of investment capital, are actually borrowing from the banks. A respected authority in the New York financial district sees this contra-natural procedure as indicative of a possible lending exhaustion at primary sources. However, in the absence of actual mortgage-money scarcity the loan warehousing deals may be interpreted in a different way, at least from the architect's angle. The fact that so great an institution is going to such lengths in order to assume a steady supply of home-mortgage funds argues a firm conviction in responsible quarters that residential construction can and must be maintained at generally high levels.

On balance, the favorable factors still outweigh the unfavorable. The chief danger is that a fluctuating stock market and a nervous foreign situation may turn too many boomsters into doomsters. This peril is evidenced by the marked differences of opinion in economic ranks; some observers seeing only recession and unemployment. For stabilized guidance we note the following high spots on the positive side:

Industrial output in key areas, specifically coal, power, cars, crude oil, lumber paperboard and meat, is well ahead of last year. Total industrial production is rising;

Steel order cancellations — a sensitive economic indicator—"have seldom been lower," say producers;

Civilian labor force, nearly 65 millions strong, averages some 700,000 more than in 1953;

Interest and discount are coming down for short-time Federal funds, following January's upward swing; Inventories are being reduced at a \$5billion annual rate;

Life insurance companies' assets, having increased by nearly \$6 billions during '54, are still mounting in '55's first quarter, thus assuring a continuation of heavy lending programs;

"Ample funds on hand," avers a competent mortgage authority, speaking from Boston;

Disposable personal income and retail sales continue at all-time high level;

Population is rising at an estimated rate of 10,000 a day, with some 5,000 coming into the house-seeking youth group. Of these, say telephone authorities, more are leaving home earlier than formerly to set up their own establishment;

Check transactions in 25 large cities nationwide (totaling a trillion dollars in 1954) are still increasing—an indication of sustained business activity;

Corporate dividends are being handed to millions of stockholders on a most liberal scale and working capital is increasing, despite somewhat lower reported profits, due partly to heavy taxes and in part to substantial reserve write-offs;

Banks are finding way to augment their depositors' balances (without inflation or borrowing) through new techniques of speeding check collections.

The net conclusion, assuming full peacetime conditions, is that we shall have a continuance of good business through 1955, though not at so hectic a pace as in '54. There will doubtless be a slowdown, but not a dropoff. Bankers see no deflationary horizons. On the contrary, New York's largest trust company warns against "controlled inflation" as a mere "nostrum of cheap money." A panel of the American Industrial Bankers Association voices similar opinions: "Good-but no boom. Consumer buying, personal incomes, new housing starts and auto production" will show "some increase." The country's third biggest bank sums up the situation by looking for "a continued, though moderate improvement."

# response to a suggested program of action for the AIA

Four months ago (December, 1954) a Suggested Program of Action for the AIA was published in these pages, sponsored and signed by 51 architects. The background for the suggestion of an integrated program for the profession, to be carried out through AIA, was that two survey reports had become available: the final Report of the AIA's Commission on Education and Registration (The Architect at Mid-Century), a remarkably thorough analysis of the profession; and the Report of the Committee on Organization, set up by the Institute a year before. Both of these reports carried recommendations; neither pretended to present a completely rounded program for the architects in the United States. In an attempt to be constructively helpful, the Suggested Program published in these pages tried to correlate organized professional activity under four main headings, drawing on both of the survey reports, the current activities of the AIA, and other suggestions from many sources. What has been the reception of this suggestion of organized planning for an organization of planners?

Official response from the Institute was quite different. Although AIA *policy* at present agrees with eight or nine of the 19 proposals published, disagrees sharply with a number of others (mail-ballot elections, outside professional study of Institute functioning, revision of Fellowship standards, etc.), and has not been determined on others, nevertheless the official reply from AIA said, "We are pleased to see that your thinking concurs in large measure with the decisions of the Board and that wherein any differences occur, those differences do not seem to us to be of particular moment." Replies from individual officers repeated this reaction, even more sharply. One wrote that the Suggested Program would "bestir and possibly befuddle the membership of the AIA on matters which are being handled most conscientiously and expeditiously by those properly charged with so doing."

The other official reaction: "We ... regret the use of your magazine as the medium of conveying the proposed deliberations and actions ..." drew many responses from those who thought that "open discussion" was necessary and that "the actions and aims of the AIA should be brought to the attention of all our profession who are not members." One expressed it as appreciation that "you have taken this means of publishing such a program so as to require wider attention from the architectural profession than if it were retained wholly within Institute publications."

Unfortunately, neither the official AIA response nor any of the individual letters from Board members discussed (pro or con) the specific proposals that had been made. On the other hand, letters from individual members, from Chapter officers, and from national Committee members did go into great detail on the 19 points. For the suggestions under the heading To Improve Output From The Practicing Profession, there has been nothing but approval in the letters received. It was pointed out by several correspondents that the Committee on Organization, headed by James Hunter, Colorado, with three other sponsors of the Suggested Program as members, is working on means of "advanced professional education." There was agreement on the suggestion that the Committee on Research, the Architectural Foundation, and the various schools and individuals concerned with advanced research get together and devise an integrated program. There was strong support for the proposal to restudy standards of Fellowship in the AIA. Few dissented from the suggestion for a Commission to study office practice methods and legal documents, those who did disagree feeling that the present committee study of the subject is all that is needed.

The suggestion on AIA publications that a conference be called on the subject, including AIA committee members and staff, with representatives of the national commercial architectural magazines, to make recommendations to the membership—was unanimously favored by those who wrote to us on the subject. AIA Board action in the meantime has been to recommend that "the matter be turned over to the Executive Director and the proposed Director of Publications, if one shall have been employed," for a report to the Board.

The items under the heading To Improve Movement From School Through Apprenticeship To Practice are also on the agenda of the Education Committee, it was pointed out by a number of correspondents. The point was also made that it will take a strongly implemented program, much propaganda within the profession, and the co-operation of the schools to convince the younger men that action is really underway. One "apprentice" writes: "No office in which I have worked takes the time to train the young men passing through." A busy architect comments: "The aims are fine, but I'm not an educational institution." And a schoolman adds: "This is the responsibility of the profession."

The items under the heading To Improve Functioning And Widen Membership of AIA proved to be the most controversial. Mail-ballot election of officers is seriously opposed by many for divers reasons: "This could result in a popularity contest"; or, very frankly, "The present system is stacked in favor of the small Chapters, as it should be"; or again, "Only the active people who are familiar with the issues should vote." On the other side, there is strong support for the feeling that ". . . in a group as small and cohesive as ours, it is ridiculous not to let each member have his individual vote." Whatever the attitude of the respondents, P/A has not so far had a letter objecting to a poll of the membership on the subject "with advantages and disadvantages clearly stated," as proposed in the Suggested Program. "I disagree on this point, but I do believe the members should be polled," is a frequent comment.

On strengthening the regional AIA structure, support was strong in letters to P/A. The Board, acting on proposals from its own Committee on Organization, has disapproved limiting Regional Directors' terms to two years; has decided that regional conventions "be allowed to con-

tinue to develop naturally"; and has disapproved requiring Directors to visit each Chapter yearly and write concise reports. "We haven't seen a Regional Director out here for many years," wrote one Chapter officer. Likewise Committee members and Chairmen—approved the proposal to strengthen further the Committee structure. "Here (in committee work) is where the most active members are drawn into Institute national affairs," wrote one Chairman, "and here is where the AIA structure is most weak. Your proposals do not go far enough, in my opinion."

The suggestion that a study be made of "the functioning and structure of the AIA," by outside consultants, also appeared to be controversial. "I go along with all but this," says a letter on one side. "I don't see how any outsiders can tell us what the professional needs in his own organization." On the other hand, there were many comments such as: "With the dues we're paying, and the size of the Institute's budget, I think it's imperative to have a business study made."

On the matter of judiciary and disciplinary action, the Board has adopted the recommendations of its Committee on Organization, as by-law changes to be presented at the Convention. There is a feeling evident in letters received that this is not enough. One new, young member writes, "Either the AIA believes these things or it doesn't. It's insulting to the public to have 'mandatory rules' against free sketches, building contracting, selflaudatory advertising, competing on a fee basis, and so on, and then pay no attention to them."

The need for drawing more young men into the Institute seems to be generally recognized. The report on this subject by a Committee of the New York Chapter, drawn on for the proposal in the Suggested Program, has now become the activity program of that Chapter for the year. Approval of the proposal to study this subject on a national basis, and develop a membership campaign on the results, appeared in many letters received.

The final heading titled To Improve Public Understanding And Acceptance Of The Architect also met with general approval. (There were some negative replies. "I don't believe in public relations activity" seems to be still an attitude of some professionals.) Carrying out the proposals in the Suggested Program will probably depend on approval of an increased budget, and support from delegates at the next Convention.

It is apparent that publication of the Suggested Program has stimulated thinking about and discussion of many important points of professional activity. Those items on which the Board has already taken action should receive stronger support and greater understanding as a result. For those on which no action, or negative action has been taken, resolutions and discussion at the Convention will result.

There is ample evidence, then, in the letters received on the Suggested Program that there would be support for such an *integrated program of activity*. This potential support seems to indicate a realization of the need so well expressed in the final report of the Commission on Education and Registration, that "architecture and the profession have reached a stage where the *laissez-faire* attitude has become obsolete, and standards must be raised by co-operative effort to entirely new levels." Seven years ago P/A published its first article written by me, in which the AIA standard contract forms were discussed. I thought it would be useful to summarize, in the form of questions, each of my articles which relate to the AIA documents published since that time. Then I wish to propose two additional soulsearching questions which each reader (and I) should ask himself: (1) What, if anything has been done along the lines suggested? (2) What, if anything, should have been done?

#### February 1948

Do the AIA standard forms adequately protect the architect as to compensation? Should the forms provide for a retainer fee, periodic payments during the preparation of preliminary studies and working drawings, and, where the architect's compensation is based upon costs, should they provide that the architect's estimates are to be binding for the purpose of determining the amount of payments until actual costs are finally determined?

#### February 1949

Should the contract between owner and architect incorporate a specific provision (more effective than the one now provided in the standard AIA form) to protect the architect from the consequence of his misjudging the cost of a proposed structure when making an early estimate?

#### March 1949

A proper arbitration clause in any standard document should be formulated so that it is legally effective, comprehensive enough to cover all possible future disputes, and sufficiently detailed to afford a guide to the procedures and rules which should be followed. Do the arbitration clauses used in the standard AIA forms meet these prerequisites?

#### April 1949

Would the needs of the architectural profession best be served by (1) a simple short form of architect-owner contract which could be used without significant alterations, (2) a separate comprehensive set of terms and conditions and general rules which could be incorporated by reference, and (3) a brochure in simple lay language which will indicate to the client the probable extent of his commitment?

#### June 1949

Bernard Tomson

The law is continuously changing and it is necessary that legal documents keep up with these changes. Should the AIA undertake a comprehensive revision of its contract documents and should the local chapters of the AIA revise them to conform to local needs?

it's the law

#### January 1950

Should the contract between owner and architect include a formula for the payment to the architect in the event that the owner abandons the project and does not proceed with construction?

#### June 1950

Should the owner-architect agreement of the AIA be amended to strike out any reference to the drafting of contracts by the architect, on the ground that such service may be the practice of law and thus illegal?

#### March 1951

Under the decisions of some courts, an architect's fee which is based upon costs may be jeopardized if the owner abandons the work before construction, even if working drawings and specifications have been completed. Should the AIA contract form provide that, in the event the project is not completed, the architect's estimate of cost shall be conclusive in determining payments to the architect?

#### April 1951

In the agreement between owner and contractor, should it be stated that the architect's decisions are final, binding, and conclusive, if that is the parties' intention? Should the contract also provide for the method by which a new arbiter of disputes between owner and contractor will be selected in the event the architect originally designated cannot act because of death, discharge, or resignation?

#### February 1951

Should the contract between owner and architect specifically provide for a basis upon which the architect's fee can be computed in the event the project is abandoned during the preliminary stage of the architect's services?

#### February 1952

The United States Supreme Court has held that a contract between the government and a contractor may legally provide for the final and conclusive arbitration of all questions of fact and law by the government contracting officer. The Court did not distinguish between government and private contracts. Should the contract between owner and contractor provide that an architect's decision on any question of law or fact which arose be final and conclusive?

#### September 1953

Do the AIA "General Terms and Conditions" clearly and adequately provide for the architect's supervision of the contractor? Are the provisions of the "General Conditions" which pertain to the payment of the contractor and subcontractor satisfactory from either the owner's or the architect's point of view? In other fields when large amounts of money are expended, it is routine to require regular audits.

#### November 1953

Should Articles 24 and 32 of the AIA "General Conditions" be amended to require the contractor to submit the requisitions of his subcontractors with his application for payment, to eliminate the optional aspect of the furnishing of proofs, and to require the contractor to furnish the owner a complete release of all liens and receipts in full for all labor and materials furnished on the project? Should a clause be added subjecting the contractor's books and records to audit?

#### February 1954

A suitable performance bond is an effective aid in assuring proper performance on the part of the contractor. Should the agreement between owner and contractor provide that the bond be written by a broker or agent which the owner chooses?

#### June 1954

Should those AIA "General Conditions," which relate to the status of the architect as arbiter between owner and contractor, be reconsidered with particular respect to the ethical and legal considerations involved?

#### August 1954

The Courts have found it necessary to construe Articles 39 and 40 of the AIA "General Conditions" in order to determine what disputes are arbitrable thereunder. Do these and other decisions call for the amendment of the arbitration clause contained in the AIA owner-architect agreement?

# professional responsibilities

"Insofar as a profession merits its claims to special capacity, it must assume the responsibility of leadership in the attainment of social goals, particularly those for which its capacity bestows special insight."\*

"By whatever skills are needed, [the architect] must lead in design for living, and aid in keeping social life sane. He must make his contribution, or offer it, however limited its acceptance at times."\*\*

The sense of professional responsibility—leadership in the areas of activity where the architect's unique endowments and training give him "special insight" —has increased noticeably in the design professions in recent years. This feeling that one has something very special to offer his fellow man—and that in offering it he is justifying his "professional" status —need not result in a sense of superiority or smugness, but rather in a devotion and even a humility. Each person taking a creative and productive part in the life of a community owes it to that community to make his fullest possible contribution, and to struggle against whatever restraints and misunderstandings may stand in the way of his offering.

Among architects in the United States, this responsibility to do the best of which one is capable was at one time neglected, at another perhaps exaggerated. It is not easy to steer the straight way between the attitude that "my job is to give the client what he wants," and the other extreme of feeling that "I know best what the client should have." In between lies the responsible approach of sympathetic understanding of needs, prejudices, and true desires, along with the ability to show each client what is possible, what is workable, what is beautiful.

In its Architect and His Community studies, P/A has sought out and documented the work of architects in small towns and large across the country, who have felt this responsibility and acted on it. In carrying it out they have become leaders in their communities, people to whom other citizens—leaders in other fields, as well as the man in the street look for progressive guidance and advice on problems of "design for living." It is not always an easy role. For many architects who have seen further ahead than the community in general, and sometimes even than their colleagues, it has resulted in assuming a position that often seemed arbitrary, often has been isolated. For many, it has meant an abrupt change in method and direction of practice, in order to demonstrate what can be accomplished physically, by actual buildings, toward "keeping social life sane." The case history of A. L. Aydelott in this issue is such a story, of the shift that was necessary in order to build up a demonstrable accomplishment of progressive architecture, "however limited its acceptance at times."

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The architect practicing in a wider area than his own community has the same responsibility, and somewhat the same problems. It would have been easy, for instance, for an architect assigned the problem of developing a campus plan and designing new buildings for Drake University in Iowa to continue the traditional collegiate architecture. The Saarinens, however, saw the greater responsibility, and in implementing the master plan begun by the late Eliel Saarinen, Eero and his associates are producing structures which will unquestionably influence college architecture in other places, in a manner much more valuable to society than the work of those who take the easy, less responsible road of matching and repeating the existing campus style.

Examples could be multiplied, but the instances chosen in this issue to demonstrate successful realization of professional responsibility seem to us to make the point. Ultimately, of course, this responsibility becomes profession-wide; the individual can do his part in demonstrating possibilities of a saner environment, but the total profession in an organized sense can do infinitely more.

\* The Architect at Mid-Century. Report of the Commission for the Survey of Education and Registration of the American Institute of Architects, Volume I, page 69. \*\* Ibid, Volume II, page 253 (Reinhold, 1954).



CHIA-YI JEN

ALFRED L. AYDELOTT

# the architect and his community

Before 1940, the office of Architect Alfred L. Aydelott was not distinguished for its progressive architecture. But in that year, as he himself puts it, "we were commissioned to design a small hospital, which evolved from Christopher Wren to a straightforward, clean expression of what could reasonably be expected in a hospital. The thrill," he continues, "of substituting thought for copybook art and solving problems with a straight face made such an impression that I determined never again to approach the design of a building through the archives of ancient architecture."

At the age of 12, Aydelott recalls admiring renderings hanging in the office of the architect father of his best friend. And occasionally he was allowed to go along on inspection trips. He found he liked the travel and was impressed by the responsibility of directing construction. "I decided that being an architect was pure fun, and I would like to be one."

Aydelott's education consisted of work with an architect while he was in high school, "serving as pencil sharpener and errand boy"; then the University of Illinois; then such work as was available to draftsmen in the depression years. At that time, he was imbued with a love for the 18th-Century work of Tidewater Virginia and Charleston, South Carolina, and spent vacations making sketches and measured drawings of old houses.

Soon, he established a partnership with another young architect and "designed and participated in the design of houses for wealthy people" who were susceptible to such terms as "Williamsburg Colonial" and "French Provincial." Some of these, he comments, "came off quite well and made me popular with antique dealers and ladies' clubs."

Before long, however, Aydelott began to think more deeply about architecture. Describing his feelings, he says: "I started to notice that on all of the buildings that we were designing, some conscious effort had to be made to camouflage the parts in the interest of style . . . Our professional aim up to this time was to produce a more highly refined cornice, window, door, and roof relationship than our colleagues."

About at this point, the hospital com-

mission arrived and his first uncompromising building was produced. "I came to grips with reality in building," he comments, "and fortified myself with material supporting the principles of architecture keyed to the industrial revolution. The more I read and observed, the more obvious it became that in order to serve the purpose of his professional training, any architect would have to assume, as part of his responsibility, an insistence on maintaining his integrity in performing his professional functions." After a period with the Marine Corps, in which Aydelott enlisted, he returned to his partnership; but "it became apparent that our courses would be most effective if we charted them separately, and I founded my own firm in 1949."

Now, Aydelott is able to report that "the period spent in architecture with my own group, has approached the promise of 'pure fun' envisaged in my youth." He confesses to concern whence the next commission will come. But when slack periods occur, he says "we bolster ourselves with the assurance that we are destined to carry on in a work to which

General Hospital, Lima, Peru, a vast project for which the Aydelott firm and Edward D. Stone, New York, are Associated Architects.



The Bristol Memorial Hospital actually spans the Tennessee-Virginia State lines, to take advantage of Hill-Burton Act funds from both states. On later pages we present the new nurses' school and residence. Photo: Lionel Freedman

# Alfred L. Aydelott & Associates: Memphis, Tennessee

we are completely dedicated and that more opportunities will offer themselves."

Aydelott feels confident that, as time goes on, the AIA will take a more positive stand on the architect's place in the community as a *contributor* to the common good. "The effective result of this position," he argues, "will mean that the Institute will have to focus its efforts more and more on good design education, both within and without the profession. ... When there is no concerted support for good architecture, the struggle of those who maintain professional integrity is intensified."

In office conduct, Aydelott has tried to provide a "workshop" for young architects who have worked there, encouraging a maximum of participation—encompassing all the questions that arise in executing work—by everyone who has a part in the production of a building. "There is nothing," he feels, "that buoys the spirit of anyone so much as the feeling that he has a place in the scheme of things; that his place is vital... Every man who has spent a period of time in my drafting room knows that he can lay proper claim to an equal measure of credit with his fellows."

He would like to give this equal credit to the following (both past and present members of his staff): Associates B. I. Brown, Chia-Yi Jen, Maurice Wood, and Robert Sawyer; and staff members Francis Mah, William Metcalf, Robert M. Smith, John Millard, Herbert Paseur, Eldred Brunson, Jr.; G. Lee Everidge, David Morgan, James Biggs, Leigh Williams, James Pratt, Eugene Strong, and James St. John.

Memphis was a fairly obvious location for Aydelott to choose, as it is a sort of second home for him. It is the town "where my grandfather raised a large family... and where several of my aunts and cousins still live." He finds the geographical location of Memphis, in a central location with reference to the Mississippi River Valley, felicitous for his practice. "Our transportation facilities are such that I have had no difficulty handling work as far east as Bristol, Virginia; south, in Tampa, Florida; north, as far as Hillsboro, Illinois; and west, to the Arkansas-Texas line. At this moment, we are under consideration for work abroad by the State Department, for projects in Ecuador by the Ecuadorian Government; and by a small college in the Midwest, none of which disturbs us in considering the distance involved."

As to soliciting new work, Aydelott tells us that "while I have no reticence about asking a building committee or a prospective builder for consideration, I make no 'brief-case tours' soliciting work. I used to do that and found myself in the awful predicament, when I was successful, of having the same relationship with clients as the corner groceryman has with his customers. Architects, in my opinion could do nothing that would elevate the profession more than to agree to stop soliciting work altogether."

Otherwise, outside of the pleas he makes for the architect among friends "and in speeches to the groups that ask me, I have focused attention on what the office is doing by conducting an exhibition of our work, and giving an occasional party in the office where guests are exposed to good modern painting, sculpture, and architecture."

In remodeling the Remine Gobble men's clothing store, Bristol, Tennessee, 25% more floor area was provided by lowering the existing ground-floor level and developing a mezzanine above. Photo: Joseph W. Molitor



#### the architect and his community: Alfred L. Aydelott & Associates



The first stage of a high-school building that will eventually accommodate 1000 students, this initial installation provides for 400. The site is described as "an island centered in a high-class residential neighborhood." Initially, we are told, there was some apprehension about having in this location a modern, institutional building that might "ruin" the Colonial character of the section. However, the architect reports, "the building has been well received, even by those who live across the street!"

# high school

In addition to what now exists, as indicated in the plot plan, there will be a third classroom wing, an auditorium, and a gymnasium. The classroom wings, in the main, are single-loaded pavilions, with exterior walls of the rooms facing north. Bilateral daylighting is introduced through fixed-glass strips that occur above the lockers, along the inner walls of south-facing corridors. The homemaking suite has windows on the south and west.

Both concrete and structural steel are

used in the building framing, with exterior walls of brick and concrete block; floors and roofs are also of concrete, with steel bar joists (usually exposed) employed across certain wide-span areas. Interior walls are painted concrete block, while flooring is asphalt tile. Sash are of steel, with ¼-in. "A" glazing. Convectors occur in classrooms, while corridors are heated from finned-tube radiators. B. I. Brown and Maurice Wood were the particular Associates involved. Harmon Construction Company, General Contractor.





# the architect and his community: Alfred L. Aydelott & Associates



In the steel-framed cafeteria unit (temporarily used also as auditorium), gypsum roof decking is used above the exposed, open-web joists. Exterior walls (as elsewhere) are concrete block inside, brick outside. The fascia strip is of asbestos cement.









Sun-flooded corridors of the two-story classroom wing (top) provide cross light to the classrooms (left) by means of window strips above coat lockers. The large deep windows in the north walls of classrooms have operable ventilating panels in both top and bottom sash.

A serpentine retaining wall and the loggia of the administration block form a bold architectural pattern against the natural countryside (above).

#### the architect and his community: Alfred L. Aydelott & Associates





# house

Aydelott is particularly pleased with this house, designed for a couple who have grown children and several grandchildren. The architect feels that it is significant that a family that had always been accustomed to traditional surroundings would choose to live in a completely modern house.

The man of the house travels for a shoe company and, when at home, has to get out reports (hence, the small den). His chief hobby is gardening. His wife enjoys sewing and is an amateur painter.

Except for the one enclosed bedroom,

most of the scheme is open and consists of a series of inter-related spaces. Even the storage wardrobe between the main passage and the bedroom wing stops short of the ceiling. Thus, the house, though actually small, gains a remarkable sense of spaciousness.

Wood framed, the house has walls of brick, with occasional areas surfaced with Western red-cedar siding. The concrete floor slab contains the copper coils for a radiant-heating system. Sash are steel casement or intermediate projected type, using <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-in. plate glass.



In addition to the space sense that is fully developed—note especially the photo (right) looking from main entrance back to pierced-brick wall beside master bedroom—the textures and contrasts of cedar, brick (both solid and "see through") and interspersed areas of planting are happily exploited. Brick wall extensions at several points provide outdoor extensions of rooms or define use areas.





#### the architect and his community: Alfred L. Aydelott & Associates





# nurses' home and school

A few years ago, Bristol, Tennessee-Virginia (the population is about equally divided between the two states), built a new hospital and doctors' office building as a War Memorial. The Aydelott firm designed both units. This nurses' home and training school is the third and final unit of the health center, which is built across the two state lines. The decision to locate on the state line was made for several reasons-to satisfy all factions; to enhance fund-raising potentials; and to take full advantage of the Hill-Burton Act that makes each state independent in dispersal of funds. As it worked out, the hospital and doctors' building were financed through a Tennessee grant, while the nurses' home and school were financed under the Virginia agency.

The problem was to provide living and

instructional accommodations for 32 student nurses and 6 graduate nurses, plus living suites for the House Mother and Chief Nurse. When the school requires additional facilities, a third floor may be added to the building. One of the architect's main wishes, naturally, was to tie the new building in architecturally with the earlier units.

The classrooms and library are located in the north portion of the first floor, while the supervisory suites and rooms for graduate nurses occupy the southextending wing of this same floor. Student nurses' rooms line the east and west walls of the upper floor, with lounges at the ends. Toilets, laundry, kitchens, and stair halls form a central core.

The Associates active on this job were B. I. Brown and Chia-Yi Jen.



Foundations, frame, floors, and roof are concrete; walls are brick and concrete block. Floor surfaces: asphalt tile; vinyl tile; carpeting; ceramic tile. Partitions: concrete block; brick; metal. Steel sash are fitted with "A" glass; sliding doors, with  $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. plate. The heating system combines baseboard and radiant elements. At the south end of the residence wing is a small basement (mechanical-storage-laundry space) bordered by a columned loggia.









The main living room on the first floor (above) is fully carpeted. To the right of the textured, brick end wall of the stairwell enclosure is the receptionist's desk and main entrance.

Two student nurses share each of the 16 rooms on the second floor (left). A curtain track makes it possible to close off the storage-dressing end of the room from the sleeping space.



The asphalt-tile-floored lecture hall (above) opens off the north end of the living room (helow). Outdoors, within the angle formed where these two rooms meet, is a secluded lounging terrace (right). By opening sliding glass doors, this terrace becomes an outdoor extension of the living room itself. Note the outswinging sash units alternating with panels of fixed glass in upstairs rooms. nurses' home and school





#### the architect and his community: Alfred L. Aydelott & Associates



# public housing project

Four, of these remarkable apartment buildings form part of a Memphis publichousing project, which otherwise consists of 47 two-story blocks of row houses containing 352 dwelling units. In all, there are 88 apartments, each building having 6 two-bedroom units (first floor) and 16 one-bedroom apartments (8 on each upper floor). In no apartment is it necessary to cross one room to reach another. The architects are especially pleased with the outside corridor access and the ramp at one end of the building. Among other things, the in-line apartment arrangement simplified placement of twobedroom units beneath one-bedroom floors; reduced both unit costs (compared with use of interior space) and site-improvement costs, such as sidewalks, stoops, roads, etc. The U-shaped end ramp provides easy access to all floors and is a special boon to third-floor tenants. It also facilitates maneuvering bicycles, perambulators, furniture, etc. And the aged find it requires less exertion and is less hazardous than stairs. In fact, the chief reason that a ramp was not provided at the other end of the building was that it cost about 19 percent more than stairs.



# apartment house

This apartment building for Memphis is now well along in working drawings. On each of the typical floors, there are eight apartments of varying size, with each of the four corner units having a balcony extension beyond the window wall of the living room. On the setback penthouse floor (not shown) are 2 one-bedroom apartments and 2 two-bedroom units, each of which is bordered by its own private roof terrace. As on the typical floors, the staggered placement of the building's two stairways results in an asymetrical floor plan.





#### the architect and his community: Alfred L. Aydelott & Associates





Perhaps the two most notable elements of the Carter County Health Center, in Elizabethton, Tennessee, are the unusual plan and the sprightly use of color. The highly efficient layout places the utilities in the center of the plan, while offices and clinics line the perimeter. Main entrances to the waiting room occur both on the street front (*color photo*) and facing an offstreet parking area at the rear (*top*). Believing that bright color would provide "an inviting and cheerful symbol of public health," the architects introduced walls of red brick; white trim; black panels of stone on east and west walls of the assembly room; black metal fascia; and areas of insulated-metal wall panels in yellow. Wood joists were used to supplement the steel-column-and-beam structural system. Interior walls are either brick or concrete block; flooring is terrazzo; ceilings are acoustical tile. (For window sections see ARCHITECT'S DETAILS.) Plastic skydomes light interior spaces. The heating system combines radiant floor coils and baseboard units. Total cost, including equipment and fees, was \$75,000; Chia-Yi Jen was the principal Associate on the job.









# Drake University



# dormitories and dining hall

ass



	location	Des Moines, Iowa
	architects	Eero Saarinen & Associates
ociated	architects	Brooks-Borg
tructural engineer		Fred N. Severud
eneral contractor		The Weitz Company Inc

Social rooms in Drake University's new dormitories (solid squares in sketch left) are in the direct line of traffic between dormitories and dining hall. The dining hall, in turn, points in the direction of the campus center. Social rooms are two stories high. A ba'cony along one wall connects at one end with the central control desk, at the other end with the bridge or walkway (as in Social Room #3 shown in photo above) leading to the restaurant. Each social room is framed as a separate structure, clearly designating a function different from that of the dormitories. The structural frame is steel with concrete floor and roof slabs. Radiant-heating coils are imbedded in the concrete slab under the finished brick floor and hung above the wood-slat ceiling. Photos: Reynolds, Photography Inc.



#### Drake University



P/A's November 1950 issue presented Science and Pharmacy buildings, the initial stages of a long-range planning program for development of the Drake University campus. We are now happy to present the second group of completed buildings-three dormitories and a dining hall-which carry out the objectives of the master plan developed by the late Eliel Saarinen. Following the outlines of his father's planning, Eero Saarinen, with Joseph N. Lacy as partner-in-charge of this project, has evolved a distinguished building complex; a unit in itself, yet in total co-ordination with the other parts of the campus. To preserve the natural

charm of the site, and to save many of the fine trees, small foot bridges have been introduced to span the ravine, and to facilitate circulation to and from the campus. Aside from the esthetic advantages and convenience of this solution. the bridges permitted an additional story on the dormitory buildings. Since the bridges have made the second story the main circulation level (see sketch below) students' rooms are located both above and below this floor, thereby minimizing excessive stair climbing. Logically, the central control desk is also situated on this level, at the junction of the dormitory and the social room.





Dining hall (above) serves not only the three dormitories but also the entire campus. Walk in foreground shows direct connection with Dormitory #3. The dining hall is a two-story structure housing individual dining rooms and a snack bar on the lower level. The Main Dining Room is upstairs.

Dormitory #1 (below), seen from restaurant, has direct bridge connection with balcony of social room. Regular grid pattern of dormitory building is a clear expression of the tilt-up slab construction employed.



#### Drake University



The dormitory buildings are of tilt-up slab construction—a method implied by the regular spacing of students' rooms. Concrete wall panels, poured on the ground, are hoisted upright to brace each other in the form of an H (see sketch left). These H sections serve as finished interior partitions and are used structurally to support the floor slabs above. To provide a clean surface, the wall panels at the exterior of the buildings are

faced with brick (section right). Horizontal steel channels at all floor-levels are not structural, but serve to prevent what might have been a vertical effect from the brick panels. All three dormitory buildings are interconnected by multilevel bridges. These afford direct access from one building to the stairway of an adjoining building. This eliminated the necessity for secondary stairs otherwise required by safety regulations.







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Social rooms (photo top right) are separately framed twostory structures attached to each dormitory building. A smaller living room (above), also used as a general work area, is within easy reach of all the students living on a floor. Individual rooms, the majority accommodating two students (photos right), are pleasantly furnished and well arranged for work and recreation. The bed serves as a couch during the day, and a combination dresser-desk provides a large work surface. Awning-type windows supply proper air circulation within the rooms, and eliminate the need for ventilating louvers opening onto the corridor.









The dining hall is a two-story structure placed at the highest point of the site. Entrances from the east and west lead into spacious foyers. From here steps go down to a snack bar and to a series of small dining rooms. The Main Dining Room has been located upstairs to take advantage of the views. Serving area, with fan room directly above, is in the center of the building. The dining hall is built of steel and concrete, similar in construction to the social rooms. Steel columns are set 4'-3" behind the face of the building. On the upper story, windows have been recessed to the column line for purposes of sun and weather control, while solid panels occur at the face of the building. Awning-type windows have been set into the returns of these recesses. On the lower floor, brick has been stacked to imply a nonstructural wall.









Main Dining Room (above) employs self-service system. Ceiling slopes towards center of building, emphasizing outward view and allowing space for fan room above. Interior finishes are acoustical plaster, asphalt tile, and brick. Table tops are white-plastic, walnut, and maple. Chair seats are covered with durable white-plastic fabric. Areas for snack bar and private dining room (right) may be varied in size by the use of accordion doors.



# Drake University

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#### Materials & Methods

#### construction

Foundation, frame, floors, walls, roof: reinforced-concrete foundations, floors, and roof: reinforcing steel-Ceco Steel Products Corporation, concrete-Hawkeye Portland Cement Company, Penn Dixie Cement Corporation; frame: concrete and precast concrete; walls: precast concrete. Wall surfacing: exterior: face brick-United-Des Moines Clay Products Company; interior: concrete; rest rooms, toilets: cement enamel-Cement Enamel, Inc. Floor surfacing: asphalt tile-Johns-Manville. Roof surfacing: built-up roofing—Johns-Manville. Waterproofing and dampproofing: mastic waterproofing—L. Sonneborn Sons, Inc. Insulation: acoustical: perforated-metal pans—Armstrong Cork Company, glass-fiber board-Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation. Partitions: interior: metal partitions-E. F. Hauserman Company; metal toilet partitions. Windows: steel sash—Truscon Steel Division of Republic Steel Corporation; glass-Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company. Doors: interior: hollow-core flush wood-Paine Lumber Company, Ltd.; metal elevator doors-Peelle Company. Hardware: lock sets and door closers-Yale and Towne Manufacturing Company; hinges—The Stanley Works: panic device-Von Duprin Division, Vonnegut Hardware Company. Paint and stain: exterior: Acme Paint Manufacturing Company.

#### equipment

Special equipment: intercommunication system—Edwards Company, Inc. Elevators: hoisting equipment—Globe Hoist Company. Lighting fixtures: Ledlin Lighting Inc.; Day-Brite Lighting, Inc.; Kurt Versen Company. Electrical distribution: service entrance switch -Roller-Smith; panelboards-BuilDog Electric Products Company; wire and cable— Anaconda Wire & Cable Company; wiring devices-General Electric Company. Plumbing and sanitary: water closets, tubs, and lavatories-American Radiator & Standard Sanitary Corporation; toilet seats-C. F. Church Manufacturing Company; water heater-Patterson-Kelley Company, Inc.; flush valves-Sloan Valve Company; shower controls-Powers Regulator Company; water supply system-Mueller Brass Company. Heating: boiler-Kewanee-Ross Corporation; furnace: combination oil-gas-Ray Oil Burner Company; convectors-Trane Company; unit heaters-Westinghouse Electric Corporation; ventilators-Kennard Corporation; controls: air-operated valves-Johnson Service Company. Air Conditioning: grills-Titus Manufacturing Corporation; blowers-Herman Nelson Products, American Air Filter Company, Inc.; filters-American Air Filter Company, Inc.: cooling coils-Kennard Corporation; ventilators-B. F. Sturtevant Division of Westinghouse Electric Corporation; controls-Johnson Service Company.



From the lower level of Social Room #3 (above), stairs lead up to the balcony connecting with bridge and restaurant. High, awningtype window, at the meeting point of dormitory and social hall (right), emphasizes the desired effect of distinct' structures, serving separate purposes. End walls and floor are surfaced with brick. White wall panels, similar to panels employed in the restaurant, are plaster on plasterboard supported on 6" metal studs. Suspended wood-slat ceiling improves acoustics and serves as cover for hung radiant-heating coils. Pedestrian bridges (see photo below and SELECTED DETAILS for construction data) serve as emergency exits, and interconnect all the dormitories.









# community center

location	New Orleans, Louisiana
architects-engineers	Cuitis & Davis
structural engineers	B. M. Dornblatt & Associates
general contractor	Lionel F. Favret Company, Inc.

This building, serving a Methodist Negro community, houses a nursery school, classrooms, a meeting hall, and a health center. Due to a limited budget and a small site, from the early planning stages the architects had to allow for dual use of space. Thus the four classrooms for 120 school-age children also serve the adults for lectures, concerts, plays, and other occasions, when the individual rooms may be transformed into one large meeting hall seating 200 persons. At the junction of the classroom wing and the nursery school are administrative offices, toilet facilities, cafeteria, and kitchen. An adjacent dining patio has proved especially useful and pleasant. The health center, which serves the whole neighborhood, is located near the main entrance so that incoming patients will not disturb activities in progress in the rest of the building. The rear wing of the structure will accommodate a future second story, as shown in the sketch above.



Four classroms (left), accommodating 30 children each, may at other times form one continuous space (below) seating 200 persons. In order to leave large areas unobstructed and adaptable to many uses, the structure consists of a roof plane supported by pipe columns.







The nursery school for 50 children (left) faces south and opens on its own play yard. In contrast to the natural colors supplied by wood, ceiling panels, and wall tiles, the structural elements, exposed utility lines, and doors have been painted in gay colors to create a happy and carefree atmosphere. . Natural cross ventilation and wide roof overhangs, protecting from direct sun, precluded the need for air conditioning. Heat is provided by suspended unit heaters.

Photos: Frank Lotz Miller







# fire station

location	Wichita, Kansas
architects	Ramey & Himes
associates	Schirmer & Schaefer
structural engineer	Dudley Williams
electrical consultant	Carl Green
mechanical engineer	E. E. Hysom
color consultant	Erma Bamesberger
general contractor	Moreland Construction Company

Firemen, city officials, and neighbors like this new fire station, which blends well into its residential setting. The structure houses: (a) two major pieces of equipment; (b) one classroom, one bunk room, kitchen, and lockerspace for eight men; (c) offices for the captain and the watchman. In the design, the proper flow of traffic was of prime importance and for that reason a drive-through plan was adopted, with the apparatus area in the center of all activities and directly accessible from all rooms. The east-west orientation was chosen for most favorable natural ventilation. Since a fireproof building was required, reinforced concrete was chosen for the basic structure, in combination with brick, glazed brick, and ceramic tile for the curtain walls. These materials were selected for their natural

beauty, permanence, and ease of maintenance. A light tone of the brick color has been used on all exposed concrete. Yellow trim provides the accent, and bluegreen glazed brick, surfacing the walls of the apparatus room, sets a restful color, contrasting with the red of the fire equipment. Unfortunately the budget did not permit a ceramic mural which was proposed for the space above the east doors.


From the watchman's office, the main entrance to the fire station (left) and the apparatus area may be easily guarded. Firemen have direct view and access to the central apparatus room from classroom (below). All windows connecting with this central room are horizontal sliding type.





Drive-through plan, with two overhead doors at each end of the building, helps to speed operation and avoids backing-in of fire equipment. Reinforced concrete structure is frankly exposed in central apparatus area (above). Unit heaters, mounted on the ceiling, serve this space. Adjoining rooms, such as the kitchen (right), are heated by a gas-fired hot-water system through convectors. Ceilings are acoustically treated. Ceramic tile faces the kitchen walls, and windows are double-hung steel sash. Photos: Julius Shulman



### sculptural playground slide at lower cost

Encouraged by the success of sculptural playground equipment abroad, pioneered by Sculptor Egon Möller-Nielsen, in Sweden, Robert Nichols, landscape architect and site planner, has initiated in New York a project to make sturdy abstract sculptures known as "Saddle in June 1954 P/A). As Nichols and Architect Shephard Schrieber watched, she "turned it upside down and twisted a curve" to create the form that was finally produced. Mrs. Cunliffenext worked on the full-scale plaster model, aided by James Jones, who teaches in the Manhattan and granite chips. Nichols is shown at work on the mold and the final pictures demonstrate how the 180-pound mold was transported by truck to the playground of the nursery school of Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, just across the street from Marcel Breuer's auditorium



Slides" available for playgrounds here. Assisted by a team of talented colleagues, he has developed a production method that cuts costs of producing a <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-ton, poured-concrete sculptural slide 8-<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> ft long, 6 ft wide, and 4 ft high.

The design story, as told in pictures (*above* and *acrosspage*), begins with the conference in a West Side caffé espresso shop where Mitzi Solomon Cunliffe, American sculptor now living in England, first considered a preliminary model fashioned of paper by Nichols (after reading Felix Candela's discussion of stereo structures Sculpture Center where the model was made. Hideo Sasaki, professor of landscape architecture at Harvard, served as design consultant, and Architects Schrieber and Edward Barnes helped in designing the reinforcing ( $\frac{1}{4}$ " and  $\frac{3}{5}$ " steel rods). The next step—key to the economy of the method developed—was production of the reinforced glass-fiber mold (so much cheaper and lighter than the customary steel or bent-plywood molds) into which was poured a homogenous mix used industrially for cast stone, containing an aggregate of marble completed last year; the casting of the Saddle Slide (upside down); and final polishing by Andreus Strand.

"This sculptural playground slide is in the tradition of sculptures by Noguchi, by Möller-Nielsen, and Giacometti," comments Nichols. "Simple, clean lines are essential for such sculptures. Abstract designs are the most practicable and they also stimulate the imaginations of the children to use them for countless little dramas of play. They are cowboys, sailors, camel drivers, and explorers when they climb over, under, and through.



Another multiple-play unit is the 40-pound "Magic Mountain" translucent dome of glass fiber (left) now being made for sale at less than \$50. Composed of sections (not unlike umbrella segments), with a rolled edge, this light dome may be climbed upon or turned over to whirl as a merry-go-round. When steadied by a simple wrought-iron frame, it serves as a sandbox or wading pool.



"One can read too much into this, of course, but it has worked out dramatically, as we had hoped. It is also durable and, at this scale, safe playground equipment. The two-way curve, the most natural of shapes for concrete, gives strength to the Saddle Slide.

"This and other playground sculptural units, supplemented by climbing mounds and other terrain sculptures, offer art for the playgrounds to replace the sections of sewer pipe (familiar in the '30s), concrete animal forms, etc., representing stereotyped and sterilized design.

"Our aim has been to make this Saddle Slide readily available. It is easily poured in the glass-fiber mold, weighs 3/4 ton, and can be delivered for \$510 within 100 miles of New York City. Six or more would cost less. We will also rent the mold for \$310 to architects who may wish to cast a Saddle Slide on the site. The cost of casting would be about \$200.

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"We hope this frankly commercial approach does not suggest vulgarization. As artists, our group wants to make the slide possible for any playground."



### materials and methods

# LIMIT DESIGN by Mario G. Salvadori\*

The analysis of any structure, be it the frame of a building or the spring of a car, consists in the determination of four essential factors: (1) the loads acting on the structure; (2) the state of stress determined by these loads; (3) the ratio of this state of stress to the ultimate strength of the structure; (4) the deformation of the structure under the given loads.

The set of loads to be assumed in the analysis of an architectural structure is usually dictated by codes. Unfortunately, these rarely take into account the essential probabilistic character of the loads and indicate in a clear but arbitrary manner their maximum values, their most dangerous combinations, and their worst locations. Hence, it will be assumed here that the loads are completely defined before the analysis is started; moreover, since we shall be almost exclusively concerned with the analysis - that is the checking of structures-we will logically assume that the dead load is also known, when it is of importance.

The analysis of the state of stress set up in a structure by the given loads is usually based on the fundamentals of strength of materials and, hence, on the classical theory of elasticity. Under certain conditions, this theory allows the determination of the most important stresses in each member of the structure —provided stresses are not too high. It is the purpose of this article, however, to show how *plasticity theory*, rather than elasticity theory, may at times be used advantageously to analyze a structure with saving of time and clearer understanding of its behavior.

The ultimate strength of a structure may be defined in a variety of ways. Here, it will be taken to mean the largest set of given loads the structure will be able to support before it collapses. (It must be remembered that in certain cases the ultimate strength of a structure will depend, instead, on the buckling of one of its elements, or on fatigue rupture under repeated loading.) This criterion of final *structural damage* may be dropped at times in favor of a criterion of *functional damage*. Thus the ultimate set of loads may be dictated by limitations on the deformation of the structure in order to insure that it will still be capable of performing its function even if there is no danger of actual collapse.

#### material properties

The evaluation of the above mentioned factors of structural analysis depends essentially on the properties of the materials used in building the structure.

All structural materials present to a greater or lesser extent two fundamental properties, called respectively elasticity and plasticity. A material is said to be *elastic* when its deformation under load disappears immediately or shortly after unloading (*Figure 1*). If, moreover, the deformation under load is proportional to the load, the material is called *linearly elastic* (*Figure 2*). For sufficiently small loads all structural materials are linearly elastic.

A material is called *plastic* whenever the deformation induced by the loads does not disappear entirely upon unloading. For sufficiently high loads *all* structural materials are plastic and, upon unloading, present residual displacements or strains (*Figure 3*). As will be shown later in detail, the essential phenomenon occurring during the plastic stage of deformation, is a *redistribution of stresses* which, in general, allows the structure to sustain higher loads.

The structural material most commonly used in America is steel. Figure 4 shows a typical load displacement or stressstrain diagram of structural steel. For stresses up to the elastic limit steel exhibits direct proportionality between stress (load) and strain (displacement); above the elastic limit the diagram becomes a curve, indicating a lack of proportionality, and reaches a peak valuethe upper yield point. Beyond the strain corresponding to the upper yield point, the stress decreases to a lower vield point and then remains constant while the strain grows (plastic flow), until the stress increases again due to strain hardening. For purposes of structural analysis the complicated diagram of Figure 4 can be simplified to the ideal elasto-plastic diagram of Figure 5, showing an elastic range, a yield point, a range of plastic flow under constant stress and, eventually, a strain hardening range before rupture.

In order to understand the behavior of a steel structure under repeated loading it must be remembered that, if the structure is unloaded after reaching the plastic range, stresses will decrease *elastically*: that is, will follow a straight-line diagram. Thus (*Figure 6*) residual strains appear when the stress is reduced to zero. Moreover, since the stress-strain diagram of steel is identical in tension and compression, a reversal of stress will follow the arrows of Figure 6.

Concrete does not exhibit the characteristic features of steel (Figure 7). Its stress-strain diagram is practically a continuous curve with a short straight segment at low strains. Notwithstanding this, an approximate ideal elasto-plastic diagram for concrete is used at times, particularly in connection with reinforcedconcrete design. As shown (Figure 8), a reinforced-concrete beam with a relatively small percentage of steel will have a moment-rotation diagram resembling that of steel and may be approximately treated as an elasto-plastic body.

#### safety factors

Safety factors measure the ratio of the worst expected loading to the ultimate

<sup>\*</sup> Professor of Civil Engineering, Columbia University, New York, N. Y.





loading of the structure. They are introduced essentially to take care of the unavoidable uncertainties in the properties of materials, the loads, the manufacturing process, and the outright ignorance of certain factors on the part of the designer.

All designs are *limit designs* in the sense that they are referred to a limit or ultimate set of conditions. Elastic and plastic design differ only because of the chosen ultimate condition. In design for elasticity the ultimate condition is that for which the material reaches its elastic limit; in design for plasticity that for which plastic *flow* takes place, i.e., for which displacements increase indefinitely under *constant* loads.

In the elastic range, loads and stresses are proportional. The sum of two loads creates a stress equal to the sum of the stresses due to each load acting separately (*principle of superposition*). Hence, the safety factor can also be used to define an *allowable stress*, which should not be overcome.

In the plastic range, superposition does not hold and the safety factor must be defined always as the ratio of actual to ultimate *loads*.

In the elastic range, moreover, the stress is uniquely determined by the loads and is independent of prior loading, since stress is always proportional to load. In the plastic range, instead, the state of stress depends essentially on the *load history* of the structure and safety factors for single loading differ from those for repeated loading.

Both elastic and plastic design are based on conventional rules and do not represent the real behavior of structures. Therefore, matters of convenience, economy, and safety decide what type of design to adopt. The analysis of a building under usual loading conditions is accomplished, at present, by the principles of elastic design and justifiably so, in most cases, for reasons of simplicity and safety.



forced-concrete beam. (Ultimate Design of Reinforced Concrete. Structural and Railways Bureau, Portland Cement Assn., 1951, adapted from figure 8, p. 9.)



Figure 9-elastic-moment diagram.



Figure 10—limit of elastic-stress distribution across beam section under load.



Figure 11—partly plasticized section.



Figure 12-totally plastic section.



Figure 13—plastic hinge in rectangular crosssection beam.

The study of a frame under earthquake or blast conditions should use the principles of plasticity, in view of the exceptional stresses and deformations allowable under exceptional circumstances.

One point should be kept in mind: No structure would behave elastically as a whole were it not for plastic flow in the small areas of stress concentration always present. The flow of material around notches, holes, and connections allows the wiping out of peaks of stress at low values of the loads. This redistribution of stress keeps stresses within the elastic limit in all essential sections of the structure and permits an elastic analysis, which would otherwise totally misrepresent the state of stress.

#### statically determinate structures

Consider a simply supported beam of constant rigidity with a third-point load P (*Figure 9*) whose intensity grows from zero to an ultimate value  $P_u$ .

The maximum bending moment, under the load, equals:

$$M = \frac{2}{9} PL \tag{1}$$

and the corresponding maximum elastic fiber stress is given by:

$$f_e = \frac{M}{S_e} = \frac{2}{9} \frac{PL}{S_e}, \qquad (2)$$

where  $S_e$  is the elastic section modulus:

$$S_{e} = \frac{1}{12} \frac{bh^{3}}{(\frac{1}{2}h)} = \frac{bh^{2}}{6} = \frac{Ah}{6}$$
 (3)

for a rectangular section of area A = b x h, and:

$$S_e = \frac{Ah^2/4}{h/2} = \frac{Ah}{2} \tag{4}$$

for an ideal I section of flange area  $\Lambda/2$ and negligible web area. The stress (2) is derived under the assumption that plane sections remain plane and that the stress is linearly distributed across the section (*Figure 10*).

Combining equations (2) and (3), or (2) and (4), the largest value of P producing elastic stresses  $f_e = f_y$  becomes:

$$P_{y} = \frac{3}{4} \frac{h}{L} f_{y} A$$
 (5)

for rectangular sections, and:

$$P_{y} = \frac{9}{4} \frac{h}{L} f_{y} A$$
 (6)

for I sections.

As P grows beyond these values, the stress at interior fibers of the section under the load gradually increases to  $f_y$  creating a distribution of the type shown (*Figure 11*).

When the stress in each fiber of the cross section has reached the value  $f_y$  (*Figure 12*), all fibers flow freely. The two halves of the beam rotate around the third-point section, which acts as if it were a hinge (*Figure 13*). The formation of such a plastic hinge makes the beam unstable and the load P cannot grow any further. The corresponding ultimate moment is given by:

$$M_{u} = \frac{2}{9} P_{u}L$$
 (7)

and the corresponding stress by:

$$f_{y} = \frac{M_{u}}{S_{p}}$$
(8)

where the plastic section modulus  $S_p$  is:

$$\mathbf{S}_{\mathrm{p}} = \frac{\mathrm{A}\mathrm{h}}{4} \tag{9}$$

for a rectangular section, and:

$$S_{p} = \frac{Ah}{2}$$
(10)

for an ideal I section. Comparison of equations (8) and (9) or (8) and (10) shows that the ultimate value of P is given by:

$$P_u = \frac{9}{8} \frac{h}{L} f_y A \qquad (11)$$

for rectangular sections, and:

$$P_{u} = \frac{9}{4} \frac{h}{L} f_{y} A \qquad (12)$$

for I sections. A comparison of equations (5) and (11) shows that: For rectangularsection beams, when the extreme fibers have reached the yield point, the beam still has a load reserve of 50 percent ( $\frac{9/8-6/8}{6/8} = .50$ ) and a reserve moment

of 50 percent before the ultimate load is reached; for an ideal I section there is no load reserve. Hence, safety factors must be different for different cross-section shapes and may be established either as fractions of  $P_y$  or of  $P_u$  on the basis of the percentage of load reserve:

$$\frac{\mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{u}} - \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{y}}}{\mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{u}}} \quad \%. \tag{13}$$

It is important to notice that in this simple example of a statically determinate



a moment  $M_{A1} = \frac{12}{81} P_1 L$ , while sections B and C are still entirely elastic (Figure 14a). Beyond  $P_1$  section A becomes entirely plastic for a value P2 of the load for which  $M_{A2} = 1.5M_{A1} = M_P$ , while sections B and C are only partially plastic (Figure 14b). Eventually when  $P=P_3$ all the fibers at section B also become plastic. The moments at A and B cannot grow beyond M<sub>P</sub> and the moment diagram takes the form shown (Figure 14c).

load:

Any increase in load beyond P3 is carried by cantilever action of the portion BC of the beam and only increases the moment at C up to the plastic value M<sub>p</sub>.

At this point the bending moment diagram is as shown (Figure 14d) and the load P has reached its ultimate value  $P_4 = P_u$  since with three hinges the beam will flow freely (Figure 14e).

This simple example shows one of the fundamental properties of statically indeterminate plastic structures: the ultimate load is reached when enough plastic hinges have been formed to allow the free motion of the structure under constant loads. The structure thus becomes a mechanism. One may also state this result by saying that before a structure collapses under plastic conditions it will develop, at strategic sections, the largest



Figure 14-variation of bending-moment diagram as load grows and ultimate value in fixed-end beams.

possible moments which will all be equal to the moments of the plastic internal stresses.

Thus without a statically indeterminate analysis, we may establish the ultimate load of the beam (*Figure 14d*) by noticing that in the plastic stage the maximum moments must equal one half the maximum moment of a simply supported beam

$$M = \frac{2}{9}$$
 PL:

 $M_u = -M_A = +M_B = -M_C = \frac{1}{9} P_u L$ , (16) and hence:

$$P_u = 9 \frac{M_u}{L}.$$

In terms of the yield-point stress the ultimate load becomes:

$$P_{u} = \frac{9}{4} \frac{h}{L} f_{y} A = \frac{162}{72} \frac{h}{L} f_{y} A.$$

This load is *twice* as large as the load  $P_1$  at which the first beam fibers became plastic.

It is seen from this little example that in statically indeterminate structures plastic flow substantially changes the shape of the bending-moment diagram and increases the load and moment reserve heyond the elastic limit. Moreover, plastic analysis allows the determination of ultimate loads without previous evaluation of statically indeterminate moments, a long and tedious procedure. This explains its popularity with some engineers who are not too often familiar with all the implications of plastic design.

#### repeated loads

The analysis derived above for the case of a single load may be extended to a set of loads, provided they all grow at the same rate (*proportional loading*). Figure 15 gives the hinge location of a multiple frame under proportional loading.\*\*

It is more complicated to follow the behavior of a structure in the elastoplastic range when the loads of the set change their intensity independently or when loads move on the structure.

Imagine, for example, that the single load on the beam shown (Figure 14) reaches its ultimate value Pu and then decreases to zero. As pointed out previously, the reversal of stress occurs elastically and, if sections A, B, and C have been strained in the plastic range, a release of the load will not wipe out residual strains in these sections. Hence, residual bending moments will be present at A, B, and C and the unloaded beam will have a bending-moment diagram of the type shown (Figure 16). If the load P is applied a second time, the stresses developed all through the beam will be elastic and no repeated application of the same loads will ever introduce plastic flow, unless the final intensity of the load is ulteriorly increased beyond P<sub>u</sub>. The beam, after the first load application, behaves elastically and "shakes down." Criteria for the "shake down" analysis of frames have been established by Prager and his associates, but are too technical to go into here. It may suffice to note that plastic analysis for repeated loading requires a complete, statically indeterminate, elastic analysis followed by trial procedures in the plastic stage and that the loading history of the structure must be known-a condition seldom satisfied in practice and not easily established by "equivalent loading" requirements.

The words "limit or ultimate design" have acquired in recent years a particular meaning in reinforced-concrete literature. In view of the fact that reinforced-concrete sections, weakly reinforced and hence failing due to steel tension, exhibit a moment-curvature diagram of the elastoplastic type, the fundamental formulas for the design and analysis of reinforcedconcrete sections have been extended to the type of stress distribution illustrated (Figure 17). In these formulas one usually introduces the bending moments obtained from an elastic analysis and actually limits the use of plastic concepts to the definition of safety factors.

Figure 18 shows the different plastic behavior of a section (moment versus rotation) as a function of steel percentage p. The lower curve (I) corresponds to a *balanced design* in which the steel and the extreme concrete fiber reach the yield point at the same time. The intermediate curve (II) indicates a section in which concrete yields first. The upper curve (III) shows a section in which the steel reaches yield when the concrete reaches ultimate strain. Plastic design should only be applied to sections behaving according to curve I, since the idealized stress-strain diagram does not hold for unreinforced concrete.

#### results of experiments

Numerous experiments have been performed to check the validity of limit design.

The ultimate loads obtained under the assumption of fully plastic moments at the critical sections are an upper limit to the carrying capacity of the structure. The elastic loads developed when first  $f_e = f_y$  are a lower limit for the carrying capacity. The real carrying capacity of a structure has been shown to be near the average of these two limits (*Figure 19*).

In general the upper limit is approached when the structure is so designed that the plastic value of the moments is reached simultaneously at all critical sections, i.e., in well-balanced designs. The lower elastic limit is nearer the true capacity of the structure if plastic redistribution of stress is substantially necessary before all critical sections become plastic, i.e., in unbalanced designs. Thus, in a uniform built-in beam under uniform load, in which the elastic end-moments are twice the elastic mid-span moment, one cannot expect the ultimate load to reach its theoretical plastic value, since redistribution of stress is necessary to equalize the end and mid-span moments. If, on the other hand, a concentrated load is carried at mid-span, producing equal end and center moments (Figure 20), the ultimate value of the load would approach its upper plastic limit:

$$P_u = 8 \frac{M_u}{L}$$

<sup>\*\*</sup> Taken from a paper "Recent Progress in the Plastic Methods of Structural Analysis" by Symonds and Neal in the Journal of The Franklin Institute, November and December 1951.

plastic moment diagram

F' strain without strass

neutral axis

=pbdFy

III

Mp



Ρ,



Figure 20-elastic moments in fixed-end beam with center load.

#### plastic design of twodimensional structures

The reserve of strength exhibited by a beam of rectangular cross section after its extreme fibers have reached the yield point is due to the fact that the stress distribution across the section is not uniform so that the beam fibers become successively plastic as the load increases. In an ideal I beam, consisting of a tension and a compression flange, such strength reserve is not exhibited, since all the beam fibers become plastic at the same time; all fibers are, so to say, extreme fibers. An identical situation develops in structural elements subjected to simple compression and simple tension. Thus plastic design cannot be practically applied to trusses since tension bars will suddenly flow at the yield-point stress, while compression bars will either flow or, more often, suddenly buckle.

In other words, ultimate plastic loads differ from yield-point loads if and only if there is a possibility of plastic stress While one-dimensional redistribution. structural elements in compression or tension do not have this possibility and although beams and frames in bending do have it to a certain extent two-dimensional structures (plates and shells) present wide possibilities of stress redistribution and hence a very high strength reserve. It is easy to see why. After the extreme fibers at a point of a plate have reached the yield point, the plate cross section at that point may eventually become entirely plastic; yet, at the same time, the stress at other points may increase and a whole portion of the plate may become plastic. While plastic hinges at a few points of a beam or frame will eventually transform it into a mechanism, that is, an unstable structure, a plate must develop a whole plastic region before it collapses.

Moreover, as the plate becomes plastic

in wider regions, the stretch of its middle plane increases substantially, introducing in the middle plane new stresses which are uniformly distributed across its thickness and capable of increasing the plate sttiffness. Thus, both stresses and *deformations* will increase slowly under growing loads, as compared to stresses and deformations in a frame.

A similar situation occurs in thin shells. Thin shells develop exclusively tensile or compressive stresses under any distributed load (except in the neighborhood of their boundaries). Hence, no redistribution of stress is possible at a point. But once the stress at a point has reached the yield value, the load can be increased substantially by a spreading of plastic stresses to adjoining areas. One may visualize this phenomenon by thinking of the flow of water in a river in which a bridge pier is being built (Figure 21): If the flow of water were uniform and capable of allowing a given discharge, the same discharge is still possible after building the pier since water will naturally increase its velocity in the neighborhood of the obstacle. In plastic flow the speed cannot exceed a limit (yield-point stress), so that this limit speed will be reached by as many water particles as is necessary to discharge the total flow.

The same kind of two-dimensional plastic behavior may be noticed in a square cross-section bar twisted beyond the elastic limit. As the torque grows, the yield point in shear is first reached at points A (*Figure 22*). It then spreads into the section, plasticizing larger portions of it, until the whole section becomes plastic and the torque reaches its ultimate value. This phenomenon can also be easily visualized by imagining a thin membrane, for example a soap bubble, stretched over a square hole. If a slight pressure is exerted from below, the membrane bulges up and its slope is representative of the stress in the twisted-bar section. If the stress cannot exceed a given value, the membrane slope cannot become greater than a limit slope. The limiting slope may be physically imposed by covering the membrane with a roof having that maximum slope (Figure 23). As the pressure increases (increase in torque), larger and larger membrane areas will come in contact with the roof. These are the areas of limit stress value in the bar, i.e., the plastic areas. The ultimate value of the torque is reached when all the points of the membrane touch the roof, i.e., when the membrane acquires a pyramidal shape. Such analogies are used to study quantitatively plastic shear stresses in twisted bars.

#### dynamic plastic analysis

The importance acquired in recent years by dynamic stress analysis of earthquakeand blast-resistant structures has suggested the extension of plastic design to this field.

Structures subjected to earthquakes or atomic blasts cannot be required to evidence only minor damage; it is economical to ask, at most, that they should not collapse. Hence, large plastic deformations may be permissible in the sense that plastic deformations may be large as compared to elastic deformations. This in turn suggests neglecting elastic stresses and strains altogether. We thus reach the idealized rigid-plastic behavior of materials in which it is assumed that a bar, for example, will be totally rigid up to the dynamic values of the loads capable of creating plastic hinges. These suddenly developed hinges will then flow plastically without any increase in local bending moment. Figure 24 shows the ideal stress-strain diagram for a rigidplastic body.

Although many limitations reduce the

validity of the rigid-plastic assumption, this simplified analysis of dynamic problems has led to the solution of interesting practical problems.

#### conclusions

The introduction of plasticity in analysis and design is officially recognized in many countries. Steel and reinforcedconcrete codes with specifications for plastic design are used at present in many European and South American nations. Plastic design was proposed as far back as 1906 in Belgium.

The study of plasticity has become popular in the United States over the last 20 years and the American literature on this subject is rapidly becoming wide and substantial. Some of the fundamental theories in this field were originated by American scholars.

On the other hand, the practicing engineer and the code maker have not adopted plastic criteria of design, as yet, in our country. We are, as a whole, very conservative in any field that has to do with safety and are not pushed by lack of structural materials into refined studies which have the purpose of economy.

No respectable designer of steel or reinforced-concrete structures may ignore today the influence of plastic flow on redistribution of stress and on resulting strength. The architect should be aware of these factors in his work and should collaborate with the engineer in making use of all sound new theories and practices. But limit design is no cure-all and requires conscientious analysis of all factors involved.

Like all new steps in the rapidly advancing field of science, plastic design will contribute to the improvement of our structures if wisely used. Let more architects and engineers learn its principles and make use of its practical implications.



Figure 21-increase in flow speed around an obstacle.



Figure 22-square bar under torsion.





Figure 24—ideal rigid-plastic behavior in dynamic problems.

tress

### sound-reducing doors

by M. Rettinger\*

There are, strictly speaking, no soundproof doors. All doors admit some sound, even though the amount of transmitted energy may be so small as not to interfere seriously with the activities for which the room is intended. The term, therefore, is to some extent a relative one, whose connotation is not precisely equal to that carried by such terms as a "waterproof" vessel or a "lightproof" cubicle.

What goes by the name of "soundproof door," therefore, is usually a heavy door with rubber seals about the edges and a clamp which presses the door against the seals.

It was learned early, in the field of architectural acoustics, that the insulation of a single homogeneous partition is a function of its mass. The average transmission loss<sup>1</sup> of such a wall in decibles is given (approximately) by the equation:

TL = 23 +

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14.5 log \frac{\text{partition weight in lb}}{\text{partition area in sq ft}}
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Thus, a wall which weighs 10 psf has an average transmission loss of:

 $TL = 23 + 14.5 \log 10$ = 37.5 db

According to this equation, a partition which weighs twice as much as another of similar construction provides approximately 4.5 db more insulation.

Figure 1 shows the transmission loss of a single homogeneous partition averaged over the frequency range from 128 to 2048 cycles, plotted against the mass per sq ft of the partition. A door of equivalent surface density may have a transmission loss slightly greater than that shown on the curve, particularly if the door panels are well damped. In most practical instances, however, 3 db should be subtracted from the values shown to obtain the average transmission loss of a door. This holds for doors with good seals. Poor seals may lower the calculated loss by as much as another 3 db, while lack of damping of the laminations of which the door is composed may be responsible for an additional reduction of the average of the transmission loss over the 128 to 2048 cycle range.

It was also found early, in the field of sound insulation, that a light wood doorone weighing less than 7 psf-has a very irregular sound transmission loss characteristic. Thus, a change of the test frequency of only 50 cycles in the region of 300 cycles can produce a transmissionloss change of 10 db or more, due to panel resonance. From this it is clear that the three most significant factors to be considered in the construction of a sound-reducing door are:

- 1. Maximum weight practical.
- 2. Good seals.
- 3. Means for dampening panel vibration.

Finally, and almost needless to note, is the fact that two doors, even though of only moderate weight each, are better than one of sturdy construction. The reason for this is that the transmission losses of the two doors tend to add arithmetically. (Strict arithmetic summation, of course, would be possible only if the doors could be structurally isolated from each other.)

In practice, however, particularly when the door is meant to be used as a so-called fire or emergency door (as in theaters) fire ordinances prohibit double doors. To meet building requirements, a compound door may be constructed, consisting of two partitions elastically connected to each other (*Figure 2<sup>g</sup>*). Each of the partitions is damped by a sheet of metal wedged between the sheets of plywood. The sound-absorbent material on the inner face of one of the partitions is also helpful in reducing the sound energy transmitted by one of the partitions into the space between the partitions. Note that the double wall is not bridged over solidly at the jamb, sill, or head of door opening. The measured average transmission loss of such a door having a mass of 18 psf came to 46 db.

To show the degree of noise infiltration through a small opening in a wall or through an insufficient seal of a door, consider a room  $10' \ge 10' \ge 10'$ . Its total interior surface, S, will be 600 sq ft. Assume the wall, ceiling, and floor construction to be identical (say, 6 in. of concrete) and that the total interior absorption, A, comes to 300 sabines. If the transmission loss of the boundaries at a certain frequency is 60 db, the acoustic transmittivity, t, will be .000001 according to the equation:

$$t = \log^{-1} \frac{10}{\text{transmission loss}} = \log^{-1} \frac{10}{60}$$
  
= .000001

The total transmittance, T, will be:

$$T = St = 600 x .000001 = .0006$$

The noise insulation factor of the room will be:

$$NIF = 10 \log \frac{A}{T}$$
$$= 10 \log \frac{300}{.0006}$$
$$= 57 \text{ db}$$

Next, assume that cracks through the walls at various places amount to 1 sq in. The transmittance, T<sub>1</sub>, of the apertures comes to 1/144 or .00694; the total transmittance, to .0006 + .00694, or .00754, and the noise-insulation factor of the room to:

$$NIF = 10 \log \frac{300}{.00754} = 46 \text{ db}$$

In other words, the cracks reduced the noise-insulation factor by 11 db. If it is remembered that the transmission loss of solid masonry or monolithic partitions increases directly with the weight per sq ft of wall sections, and that each succes-

<sup>\*</sup>Member of Engineering Department, Radio Corporation of America, Hollywood, Calif.

The average transmission loss is the arithmetic mean of the transmission loss at 128, 256, 512, 1024, and 2048 cycles per second. Transmission loss is the numerical measure of the reduction of sound intensity level provided by a partition; the unit is the decibel.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Developed by Republic Studios, Hollywood, Calif., in conjunction with the author.



sive doubling of the weight of the partition adds some 4.5 db to the transmission loss, the ("leaky") room discussed above is equivalent to one having walls 1 in. thick but having no cracks in the walls.

The above is truly idealized, because small openings such as cracks and fissures act somewhat in the nature of frequency selective filters. Still, such figures may be borne out in practice. And here, as elsewhere in sound-reducing construction, it should be remembered that the cost of initial preventatives is often but a small fraction of the cost of subsequent corrective measures.

Figure 3 depicts various seals for doors. "A" represents a flat seal, probably the most commonly used, and also the least effective. It requires close tolerances in the finished dimensions of the door and the jamb rabbet to assure an airtight fit. Even a slight warpage of the door will seriously affect the seal, with a consequent increase in the transmitted sound. Also, the durometer rating of the rubber has to be chosen with care, in order to assure sufficient compression of the pad for a tight joint. More often than not, the rubber selected for the seal is far too stiff. requiring enormous pressure on the door to prevent sound passage. For a 3'-6" x 6' door, the durometer rating of the 1/2 in.or 34 in.-wide rubber pad should not be greater than 30, unless means are provided to press the door against the jamb with great force.

In the construction shown in "**B**," the door and jamb employ splayed butting surfaces. This type of seal is more effective than that shown in "**A**," particularly along the door edge where the hinges are located, and in general requires less pressure against the door for intimate contact. The door still calls for a high degree of workmanship, and very strong hinges should be employed, because of the large forces applied along the closing edge of the door.

In "C" small triangular fillets have been applied to the door frame. With this construction, less door pressure is required for tight closure because the relatively small fillets can penetrate the rubber or felt more deeply than the edges of the door shown in "A" and "B" can compress it. The dimensional tolerances of the jamb and door employing fillets can be made larger, with a consequent decrease in cost of the door. Also, warpage or sagging of the door has less effect on this type of seal than on the other seals. The fillets can likewise be employed in connection with the construction shown in "**B**." Also, fillets tend to provide a better seal at the four corners of the door.

"D," "E," "F" show single, double, and triple seals respectively, made with rubber tubing. This type of seal is superior to flat pads and, having no sharp corners, is also less subject to abrasion and damage. The chief advantage of multiple seals consists in correcting for the imperfections of a set of seals, since it would be most





unlikely that leakage would occur at exactly the same place on each set, unless the door is badly warped or poorly constructed. Figure 4 shows a sound-reducing door using an acoustic filter as a seal. The filter is composed of a rockwool-filled recess around the edges of the door, and is covered with a strip of perforated metal or hardboard for protection.

Figure 5 shows cross-sectional views of two sliding doors. Seals similar to those shown for the jambs can be employed also for the sill and head of the door. However, this is possible only if the door permits a vertical displacement. To avoid the use of door-lifting machinery, a seal of the type shown in Figure 6 may be employed. A pad of rubber is bonded to a steel bar which may be raised or lowered by means of a manually operated lever.

For the calculation of door weights, the following table may prove helpful:

Material	Surface density
	psf
l" plywood	2.5
1/16" lead	3.7
1/8" lead	7.4
1/4" steel	10
1/4'' glass	3.5
l/2" glass	7
l" concrete	15

A side-hung sound-reducing door, because of its weight, should be hung with strap hinges. So-called butt hinges are unsuitable for the purpose, because the screws are pulled out from the jamb rather easily by the tension exerted against them, unless the hinge is made very long (like a "piano hinge"). The strap hinge should be fastened to the door and jamb by bolts rather than ordinary wood screws, to provide extra support.

In order to secure a good seal it is desirable to use some sort of clamp which forces the door tightly into the frame. So-called icebox or refrigerator clamps are suitable for the smaller sound-reducing doors, particularly when one such device is located near the top and the other near the bottom of the door. For heavy doors, however, whether sliding or side-hung, an electrically operated cam should be used. Mechanical advantage may be had either by leverage action or by hydraulic means, the latter being necessary only for very large doors.

### prestressing for ceiling-crack prevention

Frank B. Wallace, Phoenix Architect and Builder, makes use of an inexpensive but extremely effective method of eliminating cracks in plaster ceilings. By means of wood struts driven between ceiling joists and rafters (*photo below*), joists are deflected before plastering begins. After the plaster has set, the struts are removed, thus placing the ceiling surface in compression. Wallace reports that the results have been excellent and in the very rare case where a hair crack does appear before removal of the struts, it vanishes entirely after the struts are removed.

In practice, center joists are depressed more than the joists near the edge of the room so that the ceiling is bowed downward both longitudinally and transversely. Thus compression is developed in both directions when the braces are removed. This compressive force should be greater than any stress developed by movement due to weather and greater than the tensile stress created by the weight of a man moving about in the attic.

An interesting, if casual, experiment conducted by Wallace demonstrates the effect of prestressing. He selected two 2x4's of white pine and to each applied  $3_{6}^{\prime\prime\prime}$  plaster lath. Before plastering, one piece was deflected  $3_{6}^{\prime\prime\prime}$  at center span. After the plaster had set, the stress was removed from the one 2x4 and both members were subjected to a concentrated load. The load required to crack the prestressed plaster was 154 lb, while only 98 lb was necessary for the unstressed sample. The crack was significantly wider in the unstressed piece.

The extra time required to prestress the joists of an ordinary five-room house with wood ceiling joists is about two hours. Removal of struts is also included in this time. Lathers say "it makes a much better lathing job as the ceiling joists are more rigid for nailing."

	-, , , , ,	Pressure		
Size	Length	. Kind	applied at center	Deflection
2 x 4	8'	white pine	300 lb	9/16"
2 x 6	10'	white fir	300 lb ·	7/16"
do	12'	do	do	5/8"
do	do	Douglas fir (Coast reg.)	do	5/16"
do	16'	do	do	25/32"
2 x 8	20'	do	400 lb	15/16"

prestressing of wood ceiling joists

These deflections are less than the calculated deflections, indicating that the actual modulus of elasticity was up to 50 percent greater than moduli from tables compiled by the Federal Housing Administration.

As the prestressing is noncritical, it is not necessary to follow the above table exactly, but it may serve as an indication of what might be used. Plastered ceiling on 2nd floor joists should have similar prestressing.

Photo shows scrap lumber being used for prestressing. Struts are fastened with 8 d box nails, driven about half way so that they can be easily withdrawn.



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"Skidmore": all-wool/ flat hard partial-sheared texture/ shown in black, white, and gray/ available any custom-color, any custom-size/ retail: \$24 sq yd/ V'Soske, available through Lord & Adams, 4 E. 53 St., New York, N.Y.



"Haiti": wool construction/ deep pile random loop texture/ multicolor treatment/ rubberized white back/ colors: Rhumba (charcoal, Spice); Tambour (turquoise, charcoal); Calypso (Dubonnet, black, white); Samba (Nutria, natural); Voodoo (Nutria, beige, green)/ widths to 15 ft/ retail: \$10.50 sq yd/ Sanford Carpets, 295 Fifth Ave., New York 16, N.Y.



A main lobby in the University of Wisconsin Memorial Library. Drop bowls of Corning Alba-Lite create interest in the ceiling, prevent any feeling of "weight." Luminaires are easy to maintain.

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# **Complex requirements** determine choice of Alba-Lite in \$5,000,000 University Library

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"Color Harmonizer": color workbook permits accurate preselection of colors/ 100 full-page (5"x7") color chips of standard and intermix colors in "Quali-Kote," latex-base paint/ windows show two harmonizing colors/ light reflectance value is indicated/ Painter-Maintenance Division, The Sherwin-Williams Co., Cleveland I, Ohio.

Upholstered Counter Stool: contour back/ hidden braces extend from seat to top of back/ available on tubular steel column with porcelain enamel or amber bronze cast base, or with one-piece cast construction column and base in chrome or 11 colors of porcelain enamel/ seat in plastic or genuine leather upholstery/ The Chicago Hardware Foundry Co., North Chicago, III.

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Sliding Door Cabinet: steel-switch and doubletrack arrangement engineered by Mulray Products, Inc., permits sliding doors to close flush/ available in wall or floor models/ floor cabinet 42" long x 18" deep x 28" high retails for \$221.25/ Lehigh Furniture Corporation, 16 E. 53 St., New York 22, N.Y.

"Fold-Away" Burner Unit: built-in cooking burner that folds against wall when not in use/ automatically shuts off when closed/ cooking units save space, may be housed in previously unused wall space between counters and cabinets/ Dixie Products, Inc., Cleveland, Tenn.

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p/a manufacturers' literature

Editors' Note: Items starred are particularly noteworthy, due to immediate and widespread interest in their contents, to the conciseness and clarity with which information is presented, to announcement of a new, important product, or to some other factor which makes them especially valuable.

#### air and temperature control

1-18. Winkler Gas-Fired Furnaces (FG-2228), 4-p. circular giving information on basement-model furnaces for residential installations. Drawings and diagrams show operation of vertical and counterflow units; table gives Btu ratings and dimensions. U. S. Machine Div., Stewart-Warner Corp., Lebanon, Ind.

1-19. Young Air-Conditioning Units, AIA 30-F-2 (7554), 32-p. booklet describing horizontal- and vertical-type units. Outlines step-by-step procedure for design of system and selection of component parts, including sample problem. Tables give data on performance, capacity, and mean effective temperature difference. Installation suggestions and architectural specifications; drawings and dimensions. Young Radiator Co., Racine, Wis.

1-20. Hydro-Flo Products (FK-954), 28 p. catalog on hot-water heating equipment. Gives information on booster pumps, fittings for single-pipe systems, temperature controls, tankless water heaters, and heat exchangers. Outlines design and construction of each product; provides drawings, layout diagrams, specifications, and dimensions. Bell & Gossett Co., Morton Grove, Ill.

1-21. Dravo Case Studies, 24-p. file folder enclosing data on eight industrial installations of warm-air space heaters, used to temper large volumes of fresh make-up air for plant ventilation. Discusses individual ventilation problem; explains how space heater facilitated venting of fumes, odors, or dust. Also includes imformation on fuels and Btu outputs; photos. Dravo Corp., Pittsburgh, Pa. 1-22. Commercial Steel Boilers, AIA 30-C-1 (675), 8-p. brochure on boilers featuring induced-draft fans. Describes method of providing adequate draft without requiring high, costly stacks—particularly suitable for garden apartments, airport buildings, and wherever there are problems of down-draft. Drawings and data on mounting fan to boiler; wiring diagrams; charts of space requirements and dimensions. The National Radiator Co., Johnstown, Pa.

#### construction

2-27. Airtherm Decking (205), 8-p. booklet describing ribbed-steel roof decking manufactured in large sizes (20' x 30"). Gives features of construction with large-size sheets, erection methods, physical properties, and suggestions for specifications. Photos, drawings, and tables; diagrammatic details of accessories. Airtherm Mfg. Co., 749 S. Spring Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

2-28. Cellular Concretes, 48-p. paper discussing preparation and physical properties of cellular concretes (having homogeneous void or cell structure and weighing from 10 to 100 lb per cu ft). Report also covers foaming agents, ingredients used in moist and steam-cured concretes, and summary of compressive strengths. Photos, graphs, and tables. American Concrete Inst., 18263 W. McNichols Rd., Detroit 19, Mich. (\$1)

2-29. Embeco Premixed Grout (EPMG-2), 8-p. pamphlet outlining advantages of nonshrinking grout mixed under laboratory control. Contains information on ingredients and quality of grout for use with anchor bolts, heavy equipment, and building columns. Drawings and details show common methods of grouting; tables give instructions for estimating quantities and use in hot or cold weather. The Master Builders Co., Cleveland 3, Ohio.

2-30. Fireproofing With Perlite, AIA 21-C-1 (5), 8-p. bulletin describing fire retardant constructions using lightweight plaster or concrete made with perlite aggregate. Gives details and descriptions of 38 approved assemblies; discusses advantages of perlite concrete; covers fire protection of columns, floors, ceilings, and partitions. Perlite Institute, 10 E. 40 St., New York 16, N.Y.

2-31. Symons Forming System, 8-p. publication illustrating plywood forms with wood, steel, or magnesium frames. Diagrams show use of forms on curved walls, high reinforced walls, and massproduced homes; explains use of panel forms for slabs, columns, and beams. Also includes data on corner sections, hardware, bracing, and safety shoring. Symons Clamp & Mfg. Co., 4249 Diversey Ave., Chicago 39, Ill.

2-32.Data on Vermiculite Concrete Panel or Spandrel Walls, AIA  $\star$ 4-E-13, portfolio containing 68 pages of material on machine-applied vermiculite concrete wall for use with any type of exterior facing and interior finish. Contains basic data and working drawings by Severud-Elstad-Krueger, including design analysis and recommended connection details for steel-frame or reinforced-concrete buildings. Also gives results of fire tests, listing wall thicknesses required for various degrees of fire resistance. Vermiculite Institute, 208 LaSalle St., Chicago 4, Ill.

#### doors and windows

3-19. Cookson Rolling Doors, AIA 16-D-13 (401-5), 12-p. bulletin illustrating relling doors of many types-steel service doors, fire doors, aluminum counter doors, and rolling grills. Provides description of operation, specifications, and dimensions. Photos and diagrams; charts for selection of proper guides, power units, and equipment. The Cookson Co., 1525 Cortland Ave., San Francisco 10, Calif.

3-20. Ellison Balanced Door, AIA 16-A-1 (41), 8-p. pamphlet describing operation of balanced door with concealed mechanism. Includes construction details and photos of actual installations. Specifi-(Continued on page 155)

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cations cover hardware, weatherstrips, and frames manufactured in bronze, aluminum, or steel finishes. Ellison Bronze Co., Inc., Jamestown, N. Y.

3-21. International Doors for Aviation and Industry, 20-p. catalog containing information on steel doors. Describes construction and operation of canopy-type, folding, sliding, and lifting doors for warehouses and hangars. Guide for selection of doors recommends type for particular installation requirements; includes photos, operational diagrams, and specifications. International Steel Co., 1983 Edgar St., Evansville 7, Ind.

3-22. Kawneer W-Series Door (J9285), 8-p. folder picturing aluminum entrance door with narrow stile for use where simplified lines are desired. Drawings show interchangeable hardware and push plates; specifications cover materials and construction. Details of single- and double-acting doors. The Kawneer Co., Niles, Mich.

3-23. Arislide Steel Sliding Doors, AIA 16-E, 12-p. catalog presenting information on sliding doors for residential and commercial use. Details show installation of single and double-pane doors with screens; provides specifications for both types. Also contains dimensions and details of modular casement windows. Michel & Pfeffer Iron Works, Inc., 212 Shaw Rd., S. San Francisco, Calif.

electrical equipment, lighting

4-14. Plasticord-Plasticote Wires and Cables, 6-p. circular on plastic- and nyloninsulated wire. Gives description and voltage ratings for sizes ranging from light appliance cord to heavy coaxial cables. Drawings and tables. Chester Cable Corp., Chester, N. Y.

4-15. Low-Brightness Lens Panels No. 70 (LS47A), 4-p. folder describing prismatic crystal lens for fluorescent fixtures, which distributes light for even illumination. Gives performance data, method of approximating amount of illumination required, and specifications; outlines advantages of light control in schools, offices, and commercial buildings. Photos, charts. Lighting Sales Dept., Corning Glass Works, Corning, N. Y.

4-16. Acusti-Luminus Ceiling, AIA 31-F-21, 16-p. publication explaining luminous ceilings with sound-control baffles. Gives answers to questions concerning light diffusion, sound control, sprinkler systems, and air flow. Specifications cover installation, vinyl diffuser, perforated-steel acoustical louvers; includes data on recommended lighting elements. Photos, tables, and drawings. Luminous Ceilings Inc., 2500 W. North Ave., Chicago 47, Ill.

4-17. Good Lighting Is Good Business (F-687), 20-p. booklet discussing advantages of good office lighting from economic and mechanical aspects. Covers design, maintenance, and quantity of light. Also compares performances of fluorescent, incandescent, and natural lighting. Photos, charts, and technical data. Sylvania Electric Products Inc., 1740 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.

#### finishers and protectors

5-3. Stop Rust With Rust-Oleum (254), 24-p. catalog containing information on rust prevention in industry. Features color system designed to provide harmony of interiors and machinery surfaces; also gives data on primers, chemical and heat resistant products, sealers, and masonry coatings. Photos and color chips; recommendations for application and mixing. Rust-Oleum Corp., 2799 Oakton St., Evanston, Ill.

(Continued from page 147)

#### insulation (thermal, acoustical)

6-6. Acoustical Tile Adhesive Handbook, 20-p. manual covering acoustical-tile cement. Outlines general practices and precautions in setting tile and provides specifications for cementing tile to different kinds of surfaces. Drawings show recom-(Continued on page 158)



**Smartly designed**, extraordinarily convenient is this entirely new HAWS Semi-recessed Fountain that takes up little space in corridor or room and has drinking fountain head and operating lever handle accessibly located opposite one another on the top platform. An access panel in wall is NOT required for this fountain and all fittings are accessible from under bowl.

Write today for full details of this handsome fixture that will lend grace to your most exactingly designed public building, office building, school, hospital or restaurant.

RINKING FAUCET CO.

1443 FOURTH STREET (Since 1909) BERKELEY 10, CALIFORNIA

# CLEAR PRISMATIC GLASS

# tomorrow's lens lighting

AMCOLENS, an advanced concept in lighting, is the ultimate for the improved illumination of tomorrow.

The precision engineering of AMCOLENS clear prismatic glass lens offers you the lighting of the future with all these unique advantages:

- Crystal clarity
- Undiminished light transmission efficiency
- Unaltered white lamp light transmittance
- Precise light direction control
- Predetermined light distributions.
- Minimum brightness in glare zone
- Edge-light on ceiling for contrast relief

AMCOLENSES are the result of original ART METAL lens research and are available only in ART METAL complete lighting equipments. This enlarged segment of Amcolens illustrates prism detail. AMCOLENS utilizes clear glass prisms, the most exact means known to science for controlling the direction of light. A cross section of a typical Amcolens shows control of light. Precision engineering achieves multiplied useful light utilization below 60° with minimized glare zone brightness,

AMCOLENSES ARE ANOTHER Lighting Research DEVELOPMENT OF ART METAL

SEMI-FLUSH Three Sizes: 8%", 10%", 13½" Dia.

SEMI-FLUSH SYMMETRIC Four Sizes: 6½", 8½", 10¾", 12" Sq.



formation on Amcolens, plus factual data on all ART METAL lighting equipment with unbiased test data on lighting performance, evaluated by Electrical Test-

The

ing Laboratories, Inc.

Write to: •

WALLENS One Size: <u>11½</u>″ Length

PRODUCES COUNCIL

RT METAL Company

AREALENS One Size:  $7\frac{1}{2}^{\prime\prime}$  Dig.

CLEVELAND 3, OHIO

## p/a manu :turers' literature

(Confinued from page 155)

mended procedures. A. Z. Bogert Co., Ambler, Pa.

6-7. Insulation Data Book, AIA 37-C-2 (HI-48), 8-p. pamphlet outlining properties of vermiculite insulating fill. Describes recommended installation procedure; gives heat-transmission coefficients of several different assemblies. Photos and drawings; table for approximating amount of fill needed. Zonolite Co., 135 S. LaSalle St., Chicago 3, Ill.

#### sanitation, plumbing, water supply

7-4. Adams Swimming Pool Filters, (625), 24-p. publication containing information on filtration for swimming pools of more than 50,000-gal capacity. Lists features of diatomaceous filters; gives specifications for complete filtration, recirculation, and sterilization system; provides layout and operating diagrams for medium and large installations. R. P. Adams Co., Inc., 225 E. Park Dr., Buffalo 17, N. Y.



7-5. Nibco Copper Drainage Systems (1), 20-p. manual explaining basic types and requirements of drainage systems. Lists features of copper pipe and fittings; compares costs of copper and iron systems. Description and drawings of fittings; tables for designing plumbing layout. The Northern Indiana Brass Co., Elkhart, Ind.

#### specialized equipment

8-6. Reach-In Refrigerators (5530), 4-p. bulletin on refrigerators for commercial and institutional use. Describes standard models in porcelain or stainless steel; gives information on special requirements —biological, formula, and frozen food refrigerators. Specifications and dimensions. Koch Refrigerators, Inc., N. Kansas City 16, Mo.

8-7. New Gymnasium Grille, 4-p. folder illustrating heavy-gage steel grilles for airconditioning outlets in gymnasiums and locations subject to impact. Describes standard louvered grille and model with volume controller attached. Photos and dimensions. Titus Mfg. Corp., Waterloo, Iowa.

8-8. Modular Multi-Units, AIA 35-B-1 (B-43), 4-p. brochure showing versatile wall units for chalkboard, displayboard, or corkboard. Outlines features of movable units in modern classrooms; describes materials and construction of lightweight boards with aluminum frames. Details and dimensions. Weber Costello Co., Chicago Hts., Ill.

#### surfacing materials

9-6. Miracle Adhesive Products, AIA 23-B, 24-p. booklet explaining tile setting in thin adhesive bed. Gives installation details for various surface requirements; provides instructions for use with floor, wall, and ceiling tile. Photos and detailed specifications. Miracle Adhesives Corp., 214 E. 53 St., New York 22, N. Y.

9-7. Vicrtex Fabrics, AIA 28-C, 12-p. ★ brochure illustrating molded-vinyl surfacing material with many colored photos of actual installations. Features actual sample of material and reproduction of many different textures and colors available. Provides suggested specifications and hanging instructions. L. E. Carpenter & Co., Inc., Empire State Bldg., New York 1, N. Y.

#### interior furnishings

11-1. Knoll Index of Contemporary Design, 68-p. booklet of furniture and textiles for contemporary living. Included are designs by Saarinen, van der Rohe, Bertoia, and Nakashima. Photos, dimensioned drawings, and description of each piece. Knoll Assoc., Inc., 575 Madison Ave.) New York 21, N. Y., \$5.

11-2. Paul McCobb Designs, 6-p. circular illustrating contemporary home furnishings. Pictured are several chairs, tables, cabinets, and desks with accompanying descriptions of materials and upholstery. Directional, 201 E. 57 St., New York 22, N. Y.



• No one knows better the value of CERTIFIED CBM BALLASTS than the manufacturers of fluorescent tubes. For the satisfactory performance of their lamps is vitally dependent on the ballasts that operate them. They know CERTIFIED CBM BALLASTS are Tailored to the Tube.

#### **CHAMPION** says:

"Fluorescent lamps are designed to operate at specific electrical values. The use of auxiliary equipment that has been proven to meet these agreed upon standards will assure the user maximum value for his lighting dollar with a minimum of operational failures. Certified Ballasts are inexpensive insurance."

#### **GENERAL ELECTRIC** says:

CBM

"The life and light output ratings of fluorescent lamps are based on their use with ballasts providing proper operating characteristics. Ballasts that do not provide proper electrical values may substantially reduce either lamp life or light output, or both. Ballasts certified as built to the specifications adopted by the Certified Ballast Manufacturers (CBM) do provide values that meet or exceed minimum requirements. This certification assures the lamp user, without individual testing, that lamps will operate at values close to their ratings."

#### **SYLVANIA** says:

"The light and life ratings of fluorescent lamps are based on three hour burning cycles under specified conditions and with ballasts meeting American Standards Association specifications. Ballasts marked with the CBM emblem and certified by Electrical Testing Laboratories, Inc., meet ASA specifications."

#### WESTINGHOUSE says:

"Use ballasts that are tested and Certified by Electrical Testing Laboratories or ones that are otherwise known to meet the specifications of the lamp manufacturer. These will give best results with Westinghouse fluorescent lamps."

That's why CERTIFIED CBM BALLASTS merit the slogan—Tailored to the Tube.

Certified CBM Ballasts are built to assure quiet operation and long trouble-free life.

ERTIFIED BALLAST MANUFACTURERS

Makers of Certified Ballasts for Fluorescent Lighting 2116 KEITH BLDG., CLEVELAND 15, OHIO

## In the rolling hills





# of North Carolina

# Eye comfort is all important



The famous Day-Brite LUVEX "U" pattern for classrooms provides ample light on the desk tops and chalkboards and an emphasis of light on the teacher's desk.

### Western Carolina College at Cullowhee installs Day-Brite LUVEX<sup>®</sup> fixtures in classrooms and departments, symmetrical strip in the library, big 4 by 4 units in the main reading room.

Six Associates, Inc., Architects of Asheville, designed these two recently completed science and library buildings... The famous Day-Brite LUVEX fixture was selected for classrooms and departments — mirrored surface reflector strips for book stacks — 4 by 4 units for the main reading room. How fully their choice was justified is shown in the interior views pictured on these pages.

Their comment on the installation is interesting.

"Please say that the owners and architects are pleased indeed with the lighting job that Day-Brite fixtures are doing at the College and that in the Library reading rooms, which are used a great deal at night, the lighting is such that seeing is effortless and at the same time the atmosphere is restful."

By installing LUVEX fixtures, full advantage was derived from the light-colored walls and ceilings --- since LUVEX design combines 50% upward lighting with 50% downward lighting, ceiling gloom is "washed out." This results in adequate lighting PLUS all-important eye comfort.

#### CALL OR WRITE YOUR NEAREST DAY-BRITE LIGHTING REPRESENTATIVE FO

Day-Brite Lighting, Inc., 5405 Bulwer Ave., St. Louis 7, Missouri. In Canada: Amalgamated Electric Corp., Ltd., Toronto 6, Ontario.



Large rooms such as this library reading room were, in the past, apt to suffer the discomforts of inadequate lighting. Not so with this one. Here, Day-Brite's big 4 by 4 units become integrated into this spectacular ceiling, and in addition, provide a minimum of 50 comfortable foot candles — enough light to read the smallest text with ease.

# to Western Carolina College





Here, in the sewing lab and the home economics kitchen, LUVEX fixtures are mounted on eightinch stems across the width of the room. Comfort is not dependent upon the orientation of this fixture to the working area.



From the top to the bottom shelves in these stacks an ample 30 to 40 ft. candles allows swift and easy identification of any volume. A perfect application of Day-Brite's standard single-lamp STRIP units with symmetric polished alzak reflectors.

5424

#### NFORMATION ON ANY LIGHTING PROBLEM



Nation's Largest Manufacturer of Commercial and Industrial Lighting Equipment
# New Pitto no.90 Awning Bar

... combines beauty and function. The photograph shows how the profile creates a pleasing balance of light and shadow. The Pittco No. 90 Awning Bar will give added character to a store front, window or entrance. Factory or field fabricated. For complete information, see your Store Front Detail Book.

1

**P** CHEMICALS BRUSHES PLASTICS FIBER GLASS PAINTS GLASS CO T 9 RG 5 CANADA: CANADIAN PITTSBURGH INDUSTRIES I N LIMITED

### p/a products



This reinforced-concrete hotel in Tyler, Tex. (left), was designed to take full advantage of sprayed-on vinyl-plastic sheeting. Substantial savings were possible because all flashing, coping, fascia, and painting ordinarily used on such a building were eliminated. The flexible, weatherproof, noncombustible skin, .030" to .035" thick, was sprayed directly on the concrete to form a continuous, jointless skin at an average cost of 40¢ per sq ft. The work was performed by two licensed applicators of Liquid Plastics Corporation: Progressive Industries, Inc., New York and Lawrence Service, Inc., Houston. Liquid Plastics Corp., 50-02 23rd St., Long Island City, N. Y.





To improve operation and increase safety of their escalators, Otis Elevator Company has adopted the use of ribbed-aluminum risers (above) die-cast by Precision Castings Company, Inc., Fayetteville, N. Y. First installation will be in a Marshall Field store in suburban Chicago.

Henry Dreyfuss, noted industrial designer, has styled a new line of precision waterheater controls known as "Aqua-Maid," to be available in a choice of colors to match trim on tank. Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co., Appliance Controls Division, 8775 Mettler St., Los Angeles, Calif.

#### air and temperature control

"Fresh'nd-Aire" Electric Dehumidifier: new portable dehumidifier is mounted on swivel casters for removal to any desired location. Compressor of 1/6 hp gives improved efficiency at lower cost, removing up to three gal of moisture every 24 hr; condensate is collected inside unit or connections may be made for automatic drainage. Redesigned in gray-green enamel finish, unit measures 201/4" high x 131/2" wide x 201/4" long and is claimed to control moisture in closed areas of up to 10,000 cu ft. Cory Corp., 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago 1, III.

Norse Economizer Heat Exchanger: developed primarily for homes, heat exchanger is claimed to convert up to 50 percent of chimney heat losses into usable heat. Unit takes heat from hot chimney gases and blows cool air through its coils, warming it and sending it to any room in house. Heat exchanger still allows gases to escape from chimney and permits good furnace draft. Norse Boiler Co., New Market, N. J.

Built-In-Room Air Conditioner: unit, resembling radiator grill in appearance, is inserted in opening under window or on exposed wall, fitting flush with interior surface. Designed for apartments and largescale installations, air conditioners are quieter and less costly than conventional models and give added advantage of individual room controls. Unit measures 15" deep x 14" high x 32" wide. Tywel Mfg. Corp., 5702 First Ave., Brooklyn 19, N. Y.

Chromalox Electric Baseboard Heaters: carefully designed heat output of baseboard units gives proper balance of radiant and convected heat—radiant heat supplies warmth at floor level and convected warm air counteracts cold downdrafts on outside walls. Heater produces 540 Bu's per lin ft, but surface temperature remains cooler than steam radiator. Separate thermostatic controls for each room or for sections of hard-to-heat areas; available in 5', 2', and 1' lengths, 8%" high x 2-9/16" deep. Edwin L. Wiegand Co., 7500 Thomas Blvd., Pittsburgh 8, Pa.

#### construction

"X-trong" Steel Bridging: improved type of bridging is made from 18-gage steel, zinc coated for resistance to rust and corrosion. Bridging is preformed to fit all joist arrangements (6", 8" 10", or 12" joists on 16" centers). Easily installed, supports eliminate all need for cutting and fitting. Associated Fabricators, Inc., Kittanning, Pa.

Plastic Tape No. 471: pressure-sensitive plastic tape seals joints in forms of plywood sheeting. Tape prevents formation of concrete beads seeping between forms, stops moisture from deteriorating edges of plywood, and removes easily without discoloring concrete. Available in 36-yd rolls in various widths. Minnesota Mining & Mfg. Co., 900 Fauquier St., St. Paul 6, Minn.

Wal-Lok Joint Reinforcing: horizontal mortar-joint reinforcing is now manufactured in superstandard grade and in prefab corner sections. Superstandard reinforcing has 8-gage longitudinal bars and 10-gage cross bars; steel is deformed for better bonding in mortar and cross bars are galvanized for protection of areas exposed in cavity-wall construction. Corner sections, which eliminate cutting and bending, are available in superstandard or extra-heavy grades for all wall widths. Adrian Peerless, Inc., 1411 Michigan Ave., Adrian, Mich.

(Continued on page 166)

## HERE'S

## HOW

## THESE



## SPACE

## PROBLEMS

## WERE

## SOLVED

#### AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY'S

**NEW MEDICAL CENTER\*** 

\*Eggers & Higgins, Supervising Architect

Edward D. James, Architect

J. L. Simmons Company, Inc., Builders

## PROBLEM 1

Cafeteria dining room must serve as many as 1000 students at once—yet be adaptable for medium size banquets, meetings and student activities. Only a portion of the total area would be used for breakfast and dinner. Closing off the unused area was desirable to save on heating, table setting labor and to provide a closer, friendlier atmosphere.

### PROBLEM 2

One oversized room must serve primarily as the main lecture hall and as a suitable setting for University receptions. However, to obtain maximum use from this large area—could it also be used as a social room by the students? And how could the space be effectively partitioned for private conferences, parties, teas and small meetings?

### PROBLEM 3

One large classroom must provide seating capacity of approximately 75—and be promptly convertible, after conclusion of group lectures, into smaller, private rooms for seminars. Between classes, the division of the total area should be flexible enough to provide accommodations for staff meetings, lectures and displays of widely varying sizes.

#### Let FOLDOOR Help Solve Your Space Problems

In one section alone of the Indiana University Medical Center (the Student Union and Food Service Building), more than 1100 events were held in a recent 9-month period—proof that FOLDOOR offers a prime way to obtain maximum use of floor space and flexibility at the lowest possible cost. It saves on the cost of walls and partitions, the expense of painting, trimming and hardware. FOLDOOR also brings extra income through multi-purpose use of space in institutions, schools, funeral parlors, hotels and other commercial establishments. For details, see Sweet's File or your nearby FOLDOOR installing distributor.







#### You Get More When You Specify FOLDOOR

Stacks into  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " per foot of opening—that's less than any similar door • designed structurally for its largest size, so all doors have the same strong construction. Welded frame provides 100% pantagraph action • has no "air bellows" action that prevents easy operation, distorts fabric • includes an attractive cornice, where desirable, at no extra cost • has a size for every opening, a type for every need • offers a large selection of colors in either commercially popular smooth fabric or the deluxe fabric that looks and feels like cloth, yet wears and washes like vinyl

### **RESULT 1**

FOLDOOR proved the only practical solution to the problem of dividing this large dining space into two distinct areas. While a banquet is being served in one room, a meeting, a student dance—or even another banquet can be held in the other room at the same time. The spectacular (20' by 48' 10'') motor-driven Foldoor installation opens and closes at a rate of 35 feet per minute and stores in a pocket.

#### **RESULT 2**

As many as four private dinners have been served at one time in this large room, partitioned by four FOLDOORS. When a tea or reception is scheduled, one or more of the doors are folded back so the space will fit the size of the group. During a dance or other large student function, all four doors are stored against the wall and the entire floor area is available.

### **RESULT 3**

After a lecture, this classroom is immediately divided by FOLDOORS into three private areas for more individual student instruction. If the class needs only a portion of the room, the unused part can be closed off and used for other purposes. The flexibility obtained by FOLDOOR also permits the classroom to serve as an excellent location for large or small conferences, as well as University receptions and banquets.

HOLCOMB & HOKE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INC. 1545 Van Buren Street, Indianapolis, Indiana IN CANADA: FOLDOOR of Canada, Montreal 26



## p/a products

(Continued from page 163)

#### doors and windows

Adams Rite Door Lock: newly designed interior-door lock features contemporary styling and noiseless operation. Easily turned knob and directional indicator, which tells whether door is locked, is mounted in circular setting. Adams Rite Mfg. Co., 542 W. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 4, Calif. Glass-Fiber Screens: frames are not needed for screens made of glass fiber. Safety catches at bottom hold screens in tension and insure snug fit against window frame. Completely resistant to weather, screens will not crease, dent, nor bend. Lumite Div., Chicopee Mills, Inc., 47 Worth St., New York 13, N.Y.

Capri Sliding-Glass Doors: sliding-glass doors come in complete package ready to





TAKE ROUGH-CUT WOOD ... because rough-cut wood "wets" more effectively ... presents more evaporating surface ... than any other suitable material. The wetter the evaporating' deck of a cooling tower, the more efficiently and economically it operates. Wetted deck surfaces of all H & M Cooling Towers are made of rough-cut wood.

**THEN KOPPERS PRESSURE-CREOSOTE**... because the most permanent and positive wood preservative known is creosote. Koppers Pressure-Creosoting results in 100% penetration by 162 elements toxic to fungus growth and parasites... and ... protection against chemical deterioration from acids in water.

### THAT'S WHY ONLY HALSTEAD & MITCHELL OFFERS THE **20 YEAR GUARANTEE!**

on the wetted deck surface against rotting or fungus attack



Sheet-Steel Cabinets with 3 hydraulic protections Stainless Steel Fans & Shafts Weather Shielding Everdur Bolts for ease of disassembly after long use



BESSEMER BUILDING, PITTSBURGH 22, PA.

be installed in rough opening. Anodizedaluminum frames or hardwood ash top and bottom rails with aluminum stiles are inincluded in addition to vertical-grain Douglas-Fir frame and head jamb. Frames will hold 3/16", 7/32", or  $\frac{1}{4}$ " plate glass; extruded-aluminum screens are also available. T. V. Walker & Son, Inc., P. O. Box 547, Burbank, Calif.

#### electrical equipment, lighting

Split-Bus Service Equipment: new type service equipment is designed to solve problem of expanding residential power demands. Units provide capacity for electric appliances and also subfeeder circuit to additional centers of distribution; each is furnished with one service connection having double-pole 50-amp circuit breaker with wire connection to appliance branch-circuit section. Units, of enclosed panel-base assembly type, have 100- or 200-amp capacity. Frank Adam Electric Co., P. O. Box 357, Main Post Office, St. Louis 3, Mo.

Prewired, Recessed Lighting Fixtures: recessed, incandescent ceiling fixtures are made in square or rectangular shapes. Prewired unit features large wiring compartment for convenient access from both interior and exterior of fixture. Includes onepiece aluminum reflector, choice of five different lenses, and hinged lense frame of stainless steel. Litecraft Mfg. Corp., 8 E. 36 St., New York 16, N.Y.

#### finishers, protectors

Ceilcote Concrete Protector: plastic-base surfacing material protects concretes from fluorides, hydrofluoric acid, and hydrofluoric-acid solutions. Minimum coating  $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick provides dense monolithic membrane, resistant to abrasion, impact, and constant immersion in harmful acids. Membrane is claimed to be successful substitute for brick lining in some cases. The Ceilcote Co., 4919 Ridge Rd., Cleveland, Ohio.

#### finishers, protectors

Thompson's Redwood Stain: formulated to preserve and protect redwood surfaces, stain combines water-repellent and weather-resistant properties with preserving qualities especially blended to complement natural heauty of wood. Stain, which may be used on exterior construction and interior surfaces, will cover up to 400 sq ft per gal; may be applied by brush, spray, or dipping in dilutions. E. A. Thompson Co., Inc., 1355 Market St., San Francisco, Calif.

#### sanitation, plumbing, water supply

Steam-Water Mixer No. 1360: especially useful where steam is available in quantity, mixer produces hot water by injecting steam directly into water. Safety feature shuts down mixer in case of water-supply failure; mixing chamber is designed to prevent stratification and false temperature indications. Manufactured in five temperature ranges. Fulton Sylphon Div., Robertshaw-Fulton Controls Co., Box 400, Knoxville, Tenn.

(Continued on page 170)

## Premium quality...at no extra cos

## Stran-Steel<sup>®</sup> Galvanized Decking for use with Stran-Steel Framing





Woodland Acres Shopping Center in Green's Bayou, Texas, utilizes 26-ga. Stran-Steel galvanized roof deck nailed to 9" Stran-Steel joists, on 24" centers. Built-up roof was applied over ½" fiber glass insulation. Architects: DUNAWAY AND JONES, Houston. Distributor: BUIE BLDG. MATERIAL CO., Houston.

#### STRAN-STEEL DECKING IS ...

8 d NAILS ADJACENT TO EVERY SECOND RIB

2"1 45

PITCH

**LIGHTWEIGHT but STRONG:** Dead load savings up to 10 lbs. Total weight of this dry system, including 1" of insulation board, is less than 3 lbs. per sq. ft. Great strength-to-weight ratio assures maximum economy in materials.

**ECONOMICAL:** Competitive with poured-in-place decks. Galvanized coating assures long life . . . no painting is required.

**EASY TO INSTALL:** A 5-man crew can install up to 14,000 sq. ft. in an 8-hr. day. Insulation and built-up roofing can be applied *immediately* after erection. Erection is simplified by accurate fabrication and uniform pattern of decking.

**AVAILABLE:** On-the-spot distributors and dealers in all major building centers . . . with trained technical personnel to assist you in design and fabricating problems and adaptations to meet local conditions.



	design variantiky
	New Catalog! 
F c I C S n F	Please have your representative give me your new atalog and other information, without obligation. am a: Builder Architect Engineer D Dwner planning the design or construction of: School Church Hospital Dwelling Com- nercial or Industrial Building Interior Steel Partitions Other
0	Company
s	itreetState



## NEW TRIPLE-STRENGTH FLUSH DO

Sandwich with Honeycomb Core Formed on Hot Platen Press Built like a sandwich with a honeycomb core, the new Kawneer Flush Door is 10 times stronger than the obsolete girder type and will last many years longer than ordinary doors. It has a high strength/weight ratio with great resistance to flexure and impact making it ideal for heavy use such as in hospitals or offices. Surface of *standard* door is handsome, *subtle-ribbed* aluminum with alumilited finish to insure lasting beauty. Special surfaces in aluminum and plastic can be provided on special order.

Kawneep

- Economically priced. Competitive with top quality wood core or hollow metal.
- Built for rugged duty in high traffic areas.
- Practically impossible to dent under normal use.
- Easily cleaned, virtually no maintenance.
- Suitable for both interior and exterior use.
- Absolutely cannot peel apart.

manufacturers of architectural metals, doors and entrances, and sun-control products, aircraft and appliance products.

## Extremely Rigid Remarkably Moisture proof Passes Critical Tests

### 1,000,000 slam test

This new honeycomb door outperformed its girder-type competitor 10 to 1 in a slam test. This test specifies that the door be slammed repeatedly against a metal jamb until failure. The old-type door failed completely after 98,761 slams, whereas the new honeycomb core door was still plumb and true after 1,000,-000 slams! It was needless to continue the test until failure. The test proves it will stand up many years in high traffic areas.



## 4 month saturated steam moisture test

Subjected to saturated steam day and night in a controlled chamber on one side for nearly 4 months and regular atmospheric conditions of late winter and early spring on the other side, this remarkable door survived without separation of laminations, warping or sagging. The new Kawneer door will withstand extremes in weather and still provide excellent service. The moisture resistance of this door makes it just as practical for exterior use as well as interior.



## Freedom of design with Honeycomb



Because this new door is completely free of interior structural girders, there is a wide flexibility for positioning lights and louvers within the following limitations<sup>\*</sup>:

- 1. One light not to exceed 1/3 of door area.
- 2. Two lights not to exceed 1/2 of door area.
- Special size lights not to be placed closer than 1" to edge of stile or 6" from top to bottom.

#### BOTH STANDARD AND SPECIAL SIZES AVAILABLE ...

To provide complete flexibility the Kawneer honeycomb door is available in both standard and special sizes. The standard frames are extruded tube type for double and single acting doors. Frames in aluminum or steel can be provided to meet structural requirements.

Standard Sizes Single doors -2'6'', 2'8'', 3'0'',  $3'4'' \times 6'8''$  or 7'0''Double doors -5'0'' and  $6'0'' \times 6'8''$  or 7'0'' Special Sizes From: 2'0" x 6'8" To: 4'0" x 8'0"

## ardware in **COLOR**

To blend the new honeycomb door with any room decor, push and pull hardware is available in color. An attractive band of color is silk-screened on the hardware in the area of the lock opening. Lock is semiconcealed behind hardware, yet is easily accessible. Blue-green color standard. Other special colors from which to choose.

Door knob hardware is attractive tear drop design. It is available with knob latch, thumb turn, or standard cylinder deadbolt.

FOR DETAILED INFORMATION WRITE DEPT. PA



Lock is semiconcealed in distinctive Kawneer-designed push-pull hardware.



Push and pull plates for special doors available with or without attractive blue-green color band.

Office

NILES, MICHIGAN

General



Tear drop design; available with knob latch, thumb turn, or standard cylinder deadbolt.



### p/a products

(Continued from page 166)

#### specialized equipment

Multi Audio-Visual Nurse Call: electronic call system permits nurse to carry on twoway conversation with patient from several different points on nursing floor, without returning to main desk. System will also transmit slight whisper or weak breathing of patients under constant observation. Made in wall mountings and standard desk model. Executone, Inc., 415 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y.

#### notices

Skyrite Porcelain - Enamel Chalkboard: porcelain-enamel chalkboard utilizes sandwich-type construction to prevent warping and buckling. Vitreous-porcelain writing surface, fused to 16-gauge steel, is separated from galvanized-steel backing by  $\frac{1}{2}$ " of strong, lightweight honeycomb material. Board is fire resistant, water resistant, and remains unaffected by extreme temperatures. Jecmen Co., 4608 W. 20 St., Chicago 50, Ill.



#### fellowships

VOORHEES, WALKER, FOLEY & SMITH, Architects, New York, have established a Fellowship Award of \$2000 to be granted yearly for graduate study in School of Architecture, PRINCETON UNI-VERSITY.

The College of Architecture and Design, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, announces that the GEORGE G. BOOTH TRAVELING FEL-LOWSHIP IN ARCHITECTURE, in the amount of \$2000, will be offered this year. The competition is open to all graduates of the school who have not reached their 30th birthday on May 15, 1955, closing date.

#### assistantships

PRATT INSTITUTE School of Architecture is offering two graduate assistantships, on half-time schedules, each covering tuition and providing a stipend of \$1500.

#### competition

The TILE COUNCIL OF AMERICA, in co-operation with the BEAUX-ARTS INSTITUTE OF DESIGN, New York, has announced a design competition open to architectural students throughout the United States. The program calls for the planning of headquarters of a corporation in a suburb. The Tile Council will award winning designs a first prize of \$100, a second of \$50, and five others of \$25 each. Detailed information about the competition, which closes May 1 and will be judged May 21, may be obtained by writing to the Beaux-Arts Institute of Design, 115 East 40 Street, New York 16, N.Y.

ST. LOUIS CHAPTER, NATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARTS AND LETTERS, ANNOUNCES a competition, calling for design of "The Missouri House," open to architects under 36 years of age (July 1, 1955), who are within a 50-mile radius of downtown St. Louis. Cash awards amounting to \$2000 will be made. Closing date May 2, 1955.

#### fair postponed

WORLD PLASTICS FAIR AND TRADE EXPO-SITION, originally scheduled for April 6-10, has been postponed to October 5-9, 1955. Location—Los Angeles' National Guard Armory—is unchanged.

## For the Most in Mass-feeding Efficiency

## BUILD WITH HOBART



#### THE PRODUCTS

No commercial kitchen is more efficient than its time and money saving installations of food, kitchen, bakery and dishwashing machines. In

over half-a-century of field-tested experience, Hobart products have won a name for the utmost in design, manufacturing and performance standards-for year-after-year, day-in and day-out reliability. See Hobart-clean in design and clean in performance.



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The Deans and Directors of Schools of Architecture and of Planning in private colleges and universities, should ask their university librarians to send them the February 3 issue of *Wall Street Journal*. In this is an important article by Staff Reporter Fred Weymuller on aid through educational grants to such institutions by business and industry. I quote from the first two paragraphs:

"American business is stepping up its



financial support of private colleges and universities, the main suppliers of its brain power.

"Until recently, corporation dealings with higher education have generally been limited to plunking down money to buy a research job or training of scientists and technicians. Now, more and more companies are coming across with outright gifts, in the form of scholarships, other special-purpose contributions, and grants with no strings attached."

Weymuller goes on to discuss the large contributions already made by General Motors, General Electric, Standard Oil (New Jersey), Columbia Broadcasting, Armstrong Cork, Ford Motors, and others. He lists many of the contributions already received by several private universities and technical institutions. One interesting story is worth quoting:

"Concretely, it was calculated that in 1952 it would cost a Colorado company \$67,000 in additional taxes to support the University of Denver if it went on the tax rolls. The company immediately made an annual pledge of \$10,000 as an insurance against this eventuality."

For the Architectural and Planning schools this significant trend in gifts opens up possibilities well worth investigating. The building industry has been generous, from time to time, but certainly not on the scale that it might be. It seems to me that local AIA Chapters, working with the local schoolmen, could be most helpful in selling the idea to Producer's Council members and others. Better yet, schoolmen, working through their university's Department of Development might try the direct approach. Don't forget the tax angles!

## two views of teaching of architectural history

It has been some time since this column has discussed the teaching of architectural history. I, therefore, approached two distinguished history professors to get some current thoughts for our consideration. Prof. Leonard Eaton of the School of Architecture at the University of Michi-(Continued on page 178)



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## out of school

(Continued from page 174)

gan, now in Europe on a Ford Foundation fellowship, has just completed a survey of the teaching of architectural history in the United States. Prof. James Fitch of the School of Architecture of Columbia University, well known author and writer, has read Professor Eaton's paper and is in general agreement with it. He has been kind enough to permit me to excerpt his excellent paper recently delivered at the annual meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians. Needless to say, opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of anyone else. Let me know what you think.

#### Architectural History How Much, and by Whom? Leonard K. Eaton. University of Michigan

The subject of architectural history has been a vexing matter for the schools during the past few years. It seems fair to say that in the late 1930s and the war years, most collegiate schools of architecture revamped their design curriculums; the influence of Walter Gropius and his Harvard version of the Bauhaus was felt throughout the land. In 1938, Mies van der Rohe became Chairman of the Department of Architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology, to strengthen the infusion of modernist thinking in the schools still further. Rightly or wrongly, many educators drew from the doctrines of these men the conclusion that the discipline of history, long the staple fodder of the architectural student, could now be scrapped. In some cases, the history requirement was cut down substantially or discarded altogether; in others, history courses were relegated to position of minor importance. Impelled by a desire to see how far this process had gone, the writer last fall visited a number of the country's leading architectural schools and asked some questions about the place of history in the architectural curriculum. Among those visited were: Minnesota, Utah, Oregon, California, USC, Washington University (St. Louis), Cornell, Harvard, MIT, Yale, Columbia, Princeton, (Continued on page 182)





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### out of school

(Continued from page 178)

Penn., and Carnegie Tech. The present article is a product of this survey.

In general, it can be said that there is widespread agreement on the necessity of history as a significant feature of the architectural curriculum. When asked "Why teach history?," most deans and department chairmen argue vigorously along the lines indicated in Volume I of The Architect at Mid-Century.<sup>1</sup> Turpin Bannister's cogent reflections on this point are so well known that they may be omitted here. Suffice it to say that most administrators view history as an important liberalizing element within the architectural curriculum. Sample comments were, "The study of history helps a student to get perspective on himself and his own time," and, "It makes no sense to cut an architectural student off from his past," and, "After all, we are not running a trade school." The chairman at one far-Western state university phrased the matter nicely when he commented, "The history courses make them look beyond the mountains." Notwithstanding these remarks, I sensed a strong feeling of distaste for the way history has been taught in recent years and, in many places, a great desire for experimentation. Superficially, this feeling might seem to stem from a general agreement with the Bauhaus position that the architectural curriculum was like a dusty closet which needed to be swept clean, but I do not believe that such is the case. On the contrary, I suspect that the men I interviewed would have come to feel as they do without the aid of Walter Gropius and Mies van der Rohe: they would simply have decided that in far too many cases history was being badly taught.

Now to say that a discipline is being badly taught is not a simple statement. It may mean that the level of instruction is too advanced for the students. It may simply mean that the instructor is unimaginative and dull. Or it may mean that the wrong type of person is teaching

#### (Continued on page 186)

<sup>1</sup> The Architect at Mid-Century. Vol. I: Evolution and Achievement. Edited by Turpin C. Bannister. 513 pp., \$8,75. Vol. II: Conversations Across the Nation. Edited by Francis R. Bellamy. 260 pp., \$5. Reinhold Publishing Corp., 430 Park Ave., New York, N. Y., 1954.



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### out of school

(Continued from page 182)

the subject. This last condition seems to me to lie at the root of our difficulties with architectural history. The standard complaint about the subject is that it becomes an unconnected series of unconnected names and dates. What does this criticism imply? To this writer it implies that architectural history has too long been taught without any reference whatever to the philosophical generalizations which alone can give meaning to any variety of history. On all sides, it is said that we have had enough of Banister Fletcher and the "The next slide, please" approach. What people are really saying, it seems to me, is that we have had enough of an approach to history which refuses to find a pattern in the past. Without some attempt to find a pattern, history is indeed reduced to a meaningless collection of names and dates with which any thinking person would be bored. Furthermore, the idea of working out an architectural tradition becomes senseless; and the notion that they are working within an honorable tradition is something that most American architectural students greatly need at the present moment. Henry Adams, an acute critic of architecture and American life in general, once wrote that an educated man was one who was aware of his own tradition. His statement has important implications for architectural education.

It is not hard to see how the present situation came about. The root of the difficulty lies in the fact that few individuals who take an architectural degree care to follow it up with a thorough historical training. This condition is, after all, quite understandable. If a man completes the exacting architectural curriculum, he presumably wants to design buildings or at any rate be active in some phase of the construction industry. It is the rare individual who is attracted to a career in architectural history. Of course, there are a few such men in every generation and we should certainly all be thankful for them. Men like Talbot Hamlin, Kenneth Conant, and Carroll Meeks have done and will continue to do work of the very highest quality. Nonetheless, (Continued on page 190)



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## out of school

(Continued from page 186)

the facts remain that the schools produce only a few such men in every generation and that the demand for highly qualified teachers of architectural history will probably remain in its present (healthy) condition for quite a few years to come.

Besides the shortage of people who combine architectural and historical training, there are certain other factors operating which tend to draw nonarchitects into the teaching of history. Perhaps most important is a growing conviction among schoolmen that consideration of a building's total cultural setting is at least as important as an analysis of its esthetic elements. If history has any value in orienting the student to the social and economic forces which shape his own world, it is as important for him to know something about the Greek pottery trade and the political organization of the ancient city-state as it is for him to be familiar with the notions of beauty which filled the mind of the designer of the Parthenon. The concept of cultural history is, of course, nothing new; but the emphasis that it is now receiving in the schools probably is new. More and more, the great buildings of Western history are being taught as social documents rather than as purely esthetic undertakings.

It also happens that architectural history consistently attracts a number of people with little or no formal architectural training but who still display a deep interest in the subject. The most prominent individuals of this type in the United States today are probably Lewis Mumford and Henry-Russell Hitchcock, both of whom have taught in architectural schools in the past few years. The tradition of the architectural historian with little or no formal training in architecture is, incidentally, an old and honorable one in the United States. It goes back at least to Montgomery Schuyler, a critic whose writings may still be read with pleasure and profit. It is interesting to speculate on what would have happened if Schuyler, with his sympathy for the Chicago School, had been given an influential teaching post. He might well have done something



to stem the tide of eclecticism which engulfed American architecture at the time of World War I.

As a consequence of all these factors, it is today possible to discern a trend in favor of delegating the subject to someone with a broad training in cultural history. In some schools (California and MIT), this person is a PhD in art history whose particular interest is in architecture. In others (Princeton and Pennsylvania), courses in architectural history are actually "farmed out" to an art history department. At Cornell, an architect and a trained art historian collaborate on a series of courses which are noteworthy for the attention they pay to sculpture and painting. While the reasons for these developments are not entirely clear, one cannot escape the feeling that the process of re-evaluation which has been going on for so long in design courses is now being extended to history curriculums. The amount of experimentation seems an especially healthy sign and an indication that there are a number of different ways of making history play an effective part in architectural education.

While there is, of course, no agreement on the number of history credits which ought to be required, the average in the schools I visited would probably be about 12 semester hours. Half of this time must ordinarily be devoted to a survey of architectural history, the sort of thing ordinarily encompassed under some such title as "Great Buildings of the Western Tradition." The difficulties inherent in any survey course of this kind are well known. How much attention can be paid to painting, sculpture, and the minor arts? How much writing and sketching can be required of students already carrying heavy programs in structure and design? How much time shall be given to the important but largely neglected tradition of oriental architecture? What kind of texts shall we use to supplement the monumental but outmoded History of Architecture on the Comparative Method? All these are problems which deserve (and are receiving) close study from a (Continued on page 194) An office building designed by Giffels & Vallet & L. Rossetti, Associated Engineers and Architects, Detroit.

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## out of school

(Continued from page 191)

number of extremely able persons. Few claim to have the answers to these questions, but there are signs of progress on every side.

With the initial year-long survey of architectural history out of the way, arises the problem of what kind of advanced work to offer. It is here that some of the most provocative thinking is being done. Broadly speaking, there are two kinds of courses being offered on this level: these might be called the periodic and thematic. In the periodic course, the instructor undertakes to give the student some depth of understanding in the achievement of a great era in architectural history-Renaissance, Baroque, Medieval, or whatever. This kind of course seems especially workable in schools which have close relationships with art history departments. Art historians, men whose whole life is devoted to understanding some particular period of human history, can often communicate some of their own enthusiasm to architectural students. In the thematic approach, the instructor chooses some important aspect of architecture and follows it through several periods. He may dwell upon the relation of city planning to architecture, the utilization of some particular structural or surfacing material, or perhaps upon the impact of the industrial revaluation on architecture. This kind of material lends itself nicely to collaborative teaching; frequently the instructor is able to call in a colleague whose interests touch the course at some particular point. The thematic approach has all sorts of possibilities; particularly striking is the work in the literature of architectural theory, given at Columbia for many years by Talbot Hamlin and today being carried on by James Fitch. At a time when theory is being reconsidered in many schools, the content of this course is extremely suggestive.

In summary, the picture in architectural history at the schools I visited was, on the whole, encouraging. In some places, the content and approach of history courses had not been changed in 20 (Continued on page 196)



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## out of school

(Continued from page 194)

years, but these were the exception rather than the rule. In most schools, an earnest effort is being made to "re-think" the historical side of the curriculum. In some places, historians with little or no formal architectural training but with great enthusiasm for the subject are making a real contribution. In any event, the field shows far more intellectual vitality than it has in many years.

#### Architectural History And the Present-Day Architect James M. Fitch, Columbia University

Today's architect has, of course, been exposed to a certain amount of history in his schooling. Rather too much history, some of them would say, bearing in mind the esthetical and antiquarian overtones which architectural history has carried until the very recent past. Rather too much history, some architects would protest, pointing to the disastrous stylistic eclecticism into which the study of history led the architecture of the Western World and from which it is only now extricating itself.

However, such protests are the result not of the study of history but of its misunderstanding. For the past is not just one vast deposit of shining success. On the contrary, it lies geologically in strata of truth and falsehood, success and failure, fact and fancy. And history is the tool with which we analyze and separate the two—bearing in mind, of course, the odd fact that the past, viewed in this light, is quite as valuable for what it warns us against doing as for what it tells us to do.

That the study of history has immediate utility is being demonstrated in many fields other than our own. Dr. Henry E. Sigerist, the famous historian of medicine, studies the practice of the Hippocratic Greek physicians, not out of idle scholarly curiosity but as a guide to modern psychosomatic medicine. Dr. Laszlo Schwartz, historian of dentistry, investigates the mechanic-craftsman origins of his profession to demonstrate how they (Continued on page 198)



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# out of school

Continued from page 196)

led to the mechanistic, anti-physiological bias of certain schools of modern dental thought. The pharmaceutical industry launches extensive research into the folk medicine of primitive peoples, first to discover unknown drugs of known effectiveness, and then to isolate them from the rest of the witch doctor's brew. And archaeologists, of course, long ago learned not to ignore myth and folk tale as accurate guides to the discovery of new sites.

In one way or another, these are all planned expeditions, scientific treasure hunts, into the past. Their results are known; and they serve not only to illuminate general theory in their respective fields but also to vield discoveries of real and immediate practicality.

When the architectural past is similarly exposed to the light of modern historical investigation, equally new and fruitful discoveries are revealed. I am aware that our field presents some rather special complications. The history of science or medicine, for example, has no esthetic dimension. Sigerist can discuss Egyptian surgery; or Schwartz, Paul Revere's dental plates, without becoming enmeshed in a whole network of subjective esthetic values. This seems to be an enviable situation: with us, things are quite otherwise. American architects today display one of two characteristic attitudes toward the past, both of them highly charged with emotion. The older generation, generally speaking, looks at the past through the rose-tinted glasses of a romantic antiquarianism. The younger generation wears the blindfold of simple esthetic prejudice and refuses to look at it at all.

Both attitudes are, in my opinion, mistaken. Neither is of help to us in exploiting the great resources of history. But there is an escape from the cul-de-sac into which these attitudes seem to have led our entire profession. And I think it is the task of the historian to chart the way.

Let me illustrate my point. All over the world today-in the Arctic, in the Middle East, in the South Pacific-the (Continued on page 202)



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(Continued from page 198)

American architect is being called upon to design huildings which in diversity, scale, and complexity are often without precedent. In such a context, he is inclined to protest that he "has no time for history." I, on the contrary, should say that history is precisely the first thing he should make time for. For he is being asked to design for cultures, climates, geographies entirely unlike his own. In a situation like this, texts and handbooks are of surprisingly little value. A first-rate historical analysis of the culture and its indigenous architecture-its materials, structures, and operating principles-would be of more immediate usefulness.

When the U.S. Army, floundering in the Arctic cold, wrestles with such problems as building on permafrost, a handbook on isolation would be far less useful than a real study of Eskimo culture. For, as Steffanson long ago pointed out in matters of clothing and diet, the igloo is an example of regional architecture quite remarkably adapted to the needs, resources, and climate of the area. Its combination of ice-lined snow blocks and pin-point radiant heat source stands up to the strictest scrutiny of modern science as a formula for comfort in such a climate-far better, in fact, than our most "modern" concepts.

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For the architect to understand such principles in primitive or historic architecture is, it seems to me, a matter of elementary culture as well as of technical proficiency. And who but the historian should discover them for him? Yet, up to date, this is a largely neglected field. Three basic "world" history texts devote respectively 20%, 81/2% and 71/2% of

(Continued on page 204)

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# out of school

(Continued from page 202)

their space to the art and architecture of the world *outside* the Mediterranean Basin, Western Europe, and North America!

Now, if it be objected that my examples are far-fetched, or that American architects have no business being in such outlandish places anyway, we can turn to our own country. The technical problems of building around the world are duplicated, in climate if not in culture, right here at home. We have Saharas, tundras, steppes, and Melanesias all around us. Furthermore, we have behind us three to four centuries of experience in dealing with them-centuries in which much was learned, but much forgotten. This experience constitutes real wealth which goes largely unexploited because of the blindfolds and the rose-tinted glasses.

Permit me to cite a region with which I happen to be resaonably familiar: New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. The late 17th and 18th Century architecture of this region has been fairly well explored by historian and amateur antiquarian alike. While much of the resulting literature may strike me as snobbish or academic in emphasis, I have no desire to belittle its importance. It has proved necessary and useful work, and many an important building has been preserved (either in records or reality) because of it. But this aspect of the past, this particular historical perspective, is of primary interest to the scholar and the specialist. The average architect tends to ignore it: the younger men and the students reject it out of hand.

Yet it happens that this same body of material can be analyzed from quite another point of view, one which I believe will prove more fructifying—that is, from the point of view of social and technical invention. An examination at this level will, as Buford Pickens has pointed out, reveal an architecture remarkably advanced when judged by modern scientific criteria. With its characteristic features you are all familiar:

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(Continued from page 204)

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5. Central halls, ventilated attics, and high ceilings for warm weather comfort.

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In short, the characteristic features of this architecture show a deep understanding of the relation between climate and comfort; and a most intelligent use of simple materials and techniques to manipulate this relationship.

There has been a lot of subsequent invention, both social and technical. But to what sort of use has this invention been put? Can we honestly say that the level of contemporary architecture in this area measures up to its historic precedent? I think not. In terms of grace and amenity, the average level of residential architecture is lower than that of a century ago. We find the antiquarians mimicking the forms of the past, with no real understanding of their content and function. And the young men display a hostility to the wide eave and the balcony, the turned baluster and the lunette, which is little short of psychotic.

I know that it is currently argued (by the blindfold set) that modern technology has made obsolete the principles on which this earlier idiom was based. But this is patently untrue: a moment with the slide rule will convince you that, in New Orleans, an air-conditioning system needs a cool roof worse than you do. This attitude toward the past is thus not only not scientific: it is not civilized like refusing to learn from Shakespeare because he wrote in English.

So we have the paradox of a tradition, valid by all objective tests, useful for the present, yet ignored by all. It is the task of the historian to intervene in this situation, to show the way out of this absurd paradox. We must admit, of course, that

(Continued on page 208)



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# out of school

(Continued from page 206)

we are ourselves largely responsible for it. For centuries, architectural historians --like architects themselves--tended to regard the past as a great treasure trove of prefabricated architectural elements which only needed assembly to become architecture. The architects of our generation have been right to reject this approach. We know now that the past has riches, but only in the form of raw materials--rich strata of tested principles and proven concepts which need only the crucible of modern knowledge to take new and shining form.

Obviously, not all the past is immediately useful: nor is the discovery of the immediately useful by any means the only goal of the historian.<sup>2</sup> At what one might call the level of pure research stands a recent work like Professor Hitchcock's monumental study of Early Victorian architecture. This work explores a terra incognita of our recent past, lays an indispensable base for surveying whole new territories rich in potentials. The detailed scale at which it is developed, the wealth of data-attributions, relationships, dates, etc .-- make it by definition a historian's history. For the student and architect. however, it will be helpful for others to extract the principles which such an epoch reveals. For the ultimate function of our work should, it seems to me, be not only to raise the level of the writing and teaching of history but also of the practice of architecture itself.

<sup>2</sup> I'm speaking here of history for the student and architect, not history for the historian. J.M.F.

# notices

#### meeting, exhibition

The PRESTRESSED CONCRETE INSTITUTE will hold its first annual meeting at the Lagamar Hotel, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., April 21-22.

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PROGRESSIVE



It is always interesting to know the client's reaction to a completed work of architecture. The fully satisfied client, it seems to me, reaches that state because the architect has done a completely successful job, has fulfilled needs (not always in the way expected), has met budget requirements, and-an important factor-has managed to remain a trusted advisor and friend throughout the job. This isn't always an easy accomplishment for the architect, and it becomes particularly difficult in the case of institutional and educational buildings. Here the "client" is a multiple personage: the Board, or whatever corresponds to it; the administrators and working staff members; and the ultimate users - patients, students, or whatever.

When, in the routine of gathering data about a structure to be published, we ask the "client" how he likes his building, responses vary. The really unfavorable reaction is rare (because we choose such excellent buildings to publish!) but divided opinion about the success of every element can often be expected. However, when we asked this question of the people at Drake University, whose new dormitories we publish this month, the response was so uniformly enthusiastic as to warrant quotation.

From the President, Henry G. Harmon: "The architects achieved our wishes to a remarkable degree. The buildings are modern and functional, yet classic in their simplicity. The construction costs were relatively low, yet the buildings provide efficiency, convenience and comfort. The admirable use of color creates a gay atmosphere. Operational costs are satisfactory. Best of all, students consider them attractive and interesting homes."

From the Dean of Students, Dr. Robert B. Kamm: "Students are tremendously proud to be living in Drake's new dormitories—proud not only because they are living in beautiful new buildings, but mainly because of the exciting, functional design and structure of these dormitories which they call home."

From a student: "Everything is convenient. The rooms are conveniently located to the snack bar, the dining hall, and the skating pond — and the rooms are certainly easy to keep clean. All the dormitories I saw before I came to Drake seemed to be pretty grim and dreary, but when you wake up in the morning in these dormitories you feel like jumping out of bed. . . ."

The picture on this page shows a Drake student, in one of the new dormitories, jumping out of bed—and not expecting to find an architectural photographer at work. Every once in a while we have manufacturers of building materials come to us for advice on advertising intended to reach the architectural audience. The first point we make is always that *technical* information (performance, specification data, costs, etc.) is what the architect wants most; the second that an indication of *design results* is the best way to attract the architect visually. I believe that most of our readers would agree with me in the conviction that advertising directed to a technical, professional group should be quite different from advertising intended for consumer readership.

From time to time I find manufacturers (or more often advertising agencies) who disagree with this premise. I remember one advertising manager of a large company who told me, "Look, we know that architects are human beings and consumers just as much as anyone else. We know we can draw more response from your readers with an ad showing a good looking girl in a shower enclosure than we can by giving specification data about that enclosure. So don't tell us you've got a special audience."

I think he was wrong, in a long-term sense. Undoubtedly a lot of P/A readers stopped and looked at his ad, but whether that meant more specifications of his product I would doubt. However, I'm not an ad man, and I could be wrong. To be an ad man today apparently requires more knowledge of psychological motivation than an editor has. I've come to this conclusion after reading a report called APsychological Research Study on the Sales and Advertising Problems of Red Cedar Shingles and Shakes, prepared by the Institute for Research in Mass Motivation, Inc., of which Dr. Ernest Dichter is head.

This Institute is not content with the usual statistical survey of preferences and prejudices; its study becomes, in effect, a psychoanalysis of the mass market. With regard to Red Cedar shingles and shakes, Dr. Dichter's staff found a "surface expression of conflict," and felt sure that "a basic psychological pattern became evident as the significant source of the conflict feelings." The conflict, it is clear in the report, is due to the fact that the people studied have "warm positive emotional feelings for Red Cedar," on the one hand, and on the other "seem to be seeking moral permission to take their own feelings into account." What this means, the report indicates, is that people *like* Red Cedar shingles and shakes, have some doubts about practical applications and cost, and need to be reassured that "happiness and personal satisfaction" are just as practical as "the old-fashioned mechanical kind of practicality and rationality."

The report goes on to indicate the importance of the professional advisor in making these decisions. In a purely statistical sense, the architect led all other "sources of information" and "sources of advice" in the survey. As a result, there is a strong recognition in the report of "the key role of the professionals in the choice of building materials."

However, with regard to the point I began discussing-advertising to those professionals-the conclusion is interesting. It is simply that the professional plays a dual role: technical advisor and interpreter of clients' wishes. Since the consumer needs reassurance that his fondness for warm wood surfaces, natural and enduring materials, individual rather than mass-produced effect, and so on, are practical and rational; and since the professional is the most-sought source of advice; it follows, says the report, that there should be a dual approach in advertising to the professional. It should recognize, in fact, that "he is answering his own technical and professional questions as he reads the ad, but at the same time he is thinking of the ultimate consumer and how he can use this material to 'sell' the consumer."

I think this makes a lot of sense. If the Red Cedar Shingle Bureau (or any other advertiser) can find a formula which will supply the architect with the technical data he wants, and furnish him as well with answers to his clients' "secret desires and needs" it will be doing a real service in its advertising.

Nermas H. Cienglitan

