Comparative Details—Group 11
Eaves and Gutters

Prepared for Pencil Points by Courtesy of the New York Architects' Emergency Unemployment Committee

Drawings by Emil Sesso from Data Supplied by the Architects

THE ARCHITECTS
whose details are shown on this and the succeeding pages are as follows:

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DETAILS PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED
Dormers October, 1932
Fences and Gates November, 1932
Radiator Enclosures December, 1932
Second Story Overhangs January, 1933
Fireplaces February, 1933
Door Hoods March, 1933
Chimneys April, 1933
Interior Woodwork May, 1933
Residence Bars June, 1933
Stone Textures July, 1933
Unsung!

By Irving Coryell

FEARLESS, SEDULOUS, PRESENTABLE; GENTLEMAN, 25, UNMARRIED, CHRISTIAN, DIVERSIFIED EXPERIENCE, SEEKS EMPLOYMENT; WILL DO THE USUAL OR UNUSUAL. BOX F241, TIMES.

The above advertisement actually appeared in the New York Times during the month of December, 1932. At the rate for ads published under the heading of “Public Notices” it cost $4.80, or more than fifty per cent of the fortune of the architectural draftsman who inserted it.

Those people who read this small advertisement in the Times did not realize that it had cost, comparatively speaking, so vast an amount; nor did they realize that the first word of the ad—fearless—was chosen or placed unconsciously. Yet the very fact that after long deliberation, this draftsman decided to risk half of his capital on a 700,000 to 1 shot, bespeaks courage of a high order. For this man knew how many meals $4.80 would buy, and how long it would enable him to maintain a decent standard of appearance, so that he might still try for the elusive thing called employment.

Yet the manifestation of courage in this instance is but an index of the spirit of the men who compose the architectural profession. They have, in the face of devastating situations, retained their sense of values, and their sense of humor. One is moved to speculate on the probability of a group of similarly trained men coming through an equally idle and unproductive period with an equal degree of equanimity.

It is doubtful if the members of any other profession or similar income group have been as severely reduced in circumstances as have the architects. We have never had in economic history such an extreme income decline. Put into terms of percentages it is almost unbelievable, and when contrasted with similar statistics for the laboring classes it is totally incomprehensible. On every side one hears of designers and draftsmen who formerly earned $75 to $150 a week working for $8 and $12, while the laborer who formerly earned $20 is now earning $12. Another interesting fact is that while one-quarter of the workers of the nation are idle, six-sevenths of the architectural men are idle.

Had conditions such as these been outlined five years ago, the prophecy would have been that the entire profession would have as a result been wiped out. Actually, nothing of the sort has happened. The morale of the group is gratifyingly high, the practice of architecture is still considered the finest way in which to spend one’s life, and there is a distinct and genuine desire on the part of the men to mitigate the situations in which they find themselves by looking at the humorous side. They have pocketed their pride, but not their self-respect. They have smiled with a grim determination while doing the little tasks that can be more morale-crushing than a catastrophic happening. Or doesn’t it take courage and determination to keep grinning while washing and ironing a dollar-and-a-quarter pair of trousers, while trying to sell typewriters to tenement children, or while taking turns at cutting a fellow-draftsman’s hair?

This band of sensitive men, who are, by inclination and natural ability, craftsmen and creators, have displayed much more than courage. They have shown an ingenuity and an inventiveness that, combined with the faculty of adapting themselves, has amazed all with whom they have come in contact. They have made their expenditures conform more nearly to their incomes, and they have created (and still are creating) opportunities by which to earn their livings. The methods employed by some show an originality that sparkles, by others an object lesson in psychology. Some have done the obvious in anything but an obvious manner, and in still others adversity has bred diversity. In the majority of cases, the architectural training has served at least as a starting point, and in several instances the hobby of the individual has been made to pay. These examples, catalogued, may be suggestive to some who are casting about for ways of chasing away the well-known wolf.

MODEL MAKING

Under this classification might be placed the story of the designer who has a penchant for the making of airplane models as decorative pieces. He had made a complete set of all of the well-known ships of aviation history as a hobby. He liked to do this work so well that he turned to it when his employment in architecture was terminated. At first, the going was rather slow, but he was able to support himself until the business became profitable. At present he makes and sells the models singly and has numerous repeat orders from customers who are collecting complete sets themselves, or who plan them as gifts to friends.

Another young architect has turned his attention to the making of models of the now famous “Blue Hawk” of the NRA. These he has sold to the better shops in his community for window display purposes.

“INSIDE JOB”

Some designers and draftsmen have thought of the things which the average human being least likes to do, and have specialized in those things—for here, at least, the competition was less keen. One enterprising draftsman decided that packing one’s personal belongings and household goods prior to a move was the bane of the existence of the family which, for one reason or another, had to move to a different house. He visited all of the moving companies in the city in which he lived and persuaded most of them to give him the names of those who made inquiries concern-