

THE
JOURNAL
ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL
INSTITUTE OF CANADA

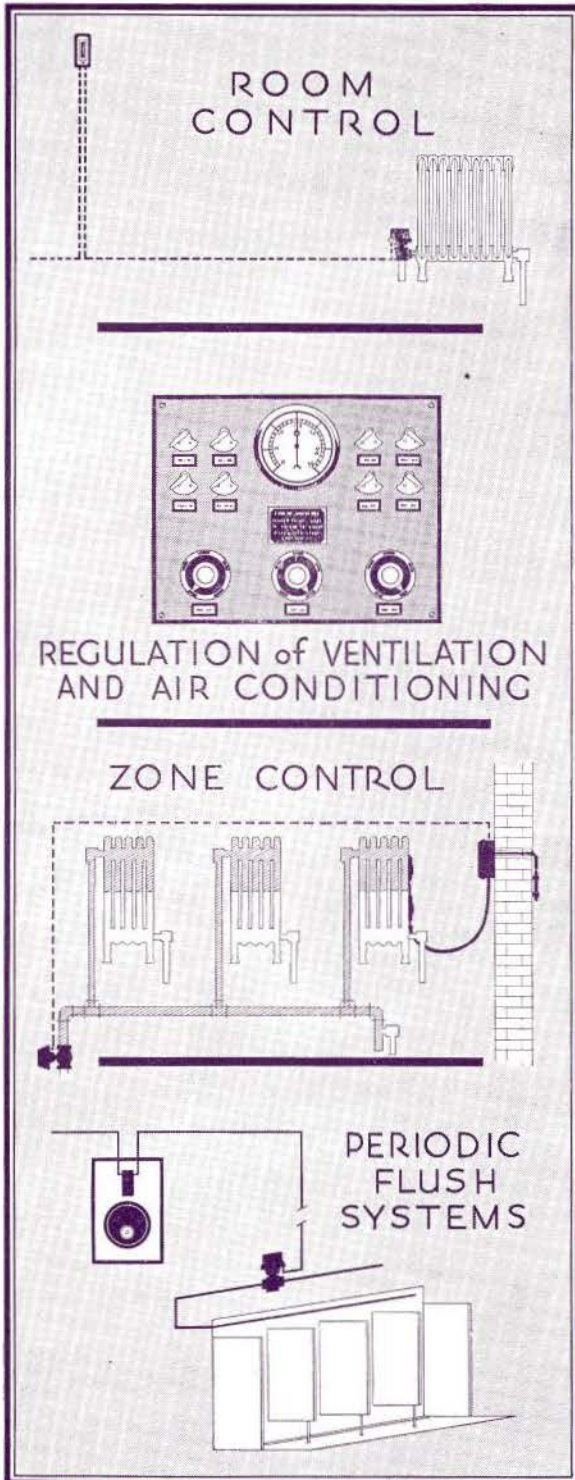


Vol. X, No. 11 NOVEMBER, 1933 TORONTO

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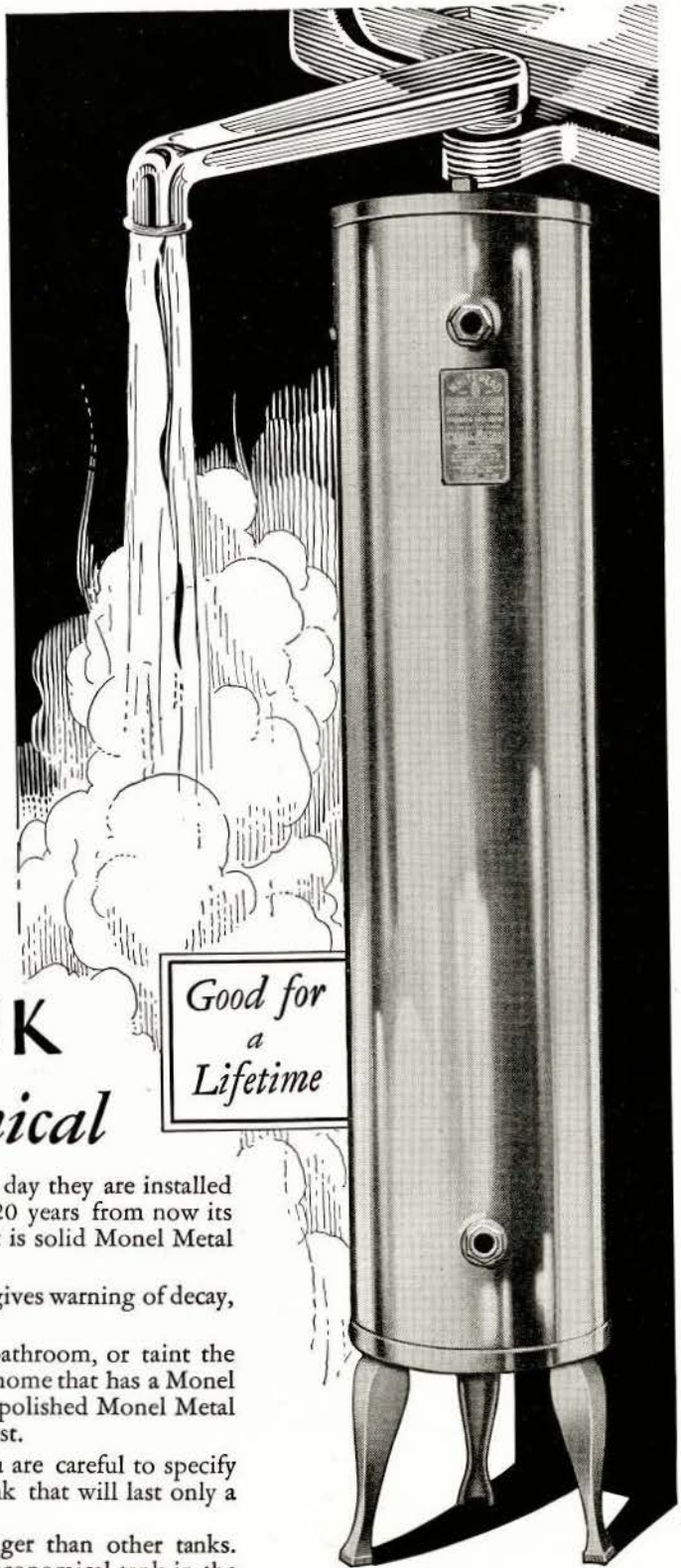
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THE JOURNAL

ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA

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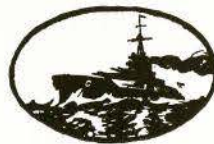
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COFFEE SHOP—MEDICAL ARTS BUILDING, TORONTO

Marani and Lawson, M.M.R.A.I.C., Architects

This front in the modern Georgian manner is controlled to a great extent by the design of the building of which it forms an integral unit. In spite of this it has an individual character which suggests the type of business within. There is an attractive impression of smartness about the whole facade.

ARCHITECTS AND SHOP-FRONTS

BY RONALD W. CATTO, M.R.A.I.C.

WHILE coercing me into writing this article, the chairman of the Editorial Board impressed it clearly upon my mind that the subject matter (or meat, if any) was to be for the consumption of architects. It seems to me that, at the present time especially, the greatest interest of architects must rest not in how to design shop-fronts (plenty of data can be found in regard to this) but in why more of this type of work does not find its way into their offices. I cannot pretend, at least among architects, to be an expert on shop-fronts and so must endeavour to fill out the allotted space with a few other ideas which the subject brings to mind. Therefore, before discussing the real subject (which portion is the least appetizing to me) I propose, craving your indulgence, to place before you, my co-fasters at the table of depression, some facts which may be worth chewing upon and which, at least, will not upset an empty stomach.

The depression has placed a detour sign on the highway along which our profession has been serenely travelling, with scarcely a thought for the many little side roads which might, if explored, lead to interesting and remunerative fields of endeavour. Huge office buildings, hotels, schools, churches and other monumental buildings must appear, to the layman, to be the only work in which we are interested. These have been written and talked about and in every other way displayed as the measure of our progress in architecture. And who will say that they are not so. Nevertheless, the profession as a whole has neglected to lay sufficient stress on buildings of lesser social and financial importance and by this apparent lack of interest has permitted itself to be placed almost entirely in the background in many classes of work which should rightly engage the attention of the architect.

The real-estate broker and the speculative-builder have, together, practically ousted the architect from the residential field; and, still together, they are invading others.

Shop-fronts, which we are now supposed to be discussing, alterations to stores and other mercantile buildings, in many cases quite extensive in character, are, in the majority of instances, being *designed* and carried out by glass companies, builders and real-estate firms. Some real-estate firms have departments organized for this type of work. Others work with builders on a commission basis while, at the same time, charging the owner a fee.

In fact, in all the smaller types of building operations, the services of an architect are seldom considered either necessary or desirable. The realtors and speculative-builders have educated the public to the point where it is the common belief that it is cheaper to buy than to build. Most people, having decided to build a house, think first of a real-estate broker or builder and believe it unnecessary and more costly to employ an architect; or, if they decide one is required, are satisfied to leave the choice to one of these gentlemen. The shop-keeper, contemplating the installation of a new front, believes he can obtain satisfactory results, at the least possible cost, by starting a competition among the glass companies. Or, if he requires interior renovations and fixtures, he will proceed in the same manner with the show-case manufacturers. It is not necessary to go further along these lines. It must be said, however, that a very considerable amount of work such as the above has been in progress during the past three or four years and it seems a pity that only a very small proportion has fallen to the hand of the architect during a time when it would have been most gratefully received. In good times, the sum total of such work probably reaches a figure approximating that of the larger projects and certainly has a deserving attribute in that it may be apportioned among a greater number of firms.

If we can, by one means and another, gain more general consideration of the architect in connection with houses, small buildings, alterations and so forth, it seems unlikely that we would fail to retain our grasp of the more important commissions. Therefore, it would appear that we should concentrate on proving to the public that through the architect is the logical, and certainly not more expensive, approach to any building project however small. The task is much too great for any individual or small group and must be undertaken by the profession as a whole if the overwhelming advance of the speculative-builder and specialty trades into the legitimate field of the architect is to be turned back. That this is the opinion of architects in U.S.A. is clearly demonstrated by the current publicity being given there to the advantages of employing the architect on "odd jobs." Whether this is the best method of attack only time will show but the situation calls for concerted and serious consideration and *action* by the profession. We must put up a new shop-front, dress out show-windows attractively and change them often.



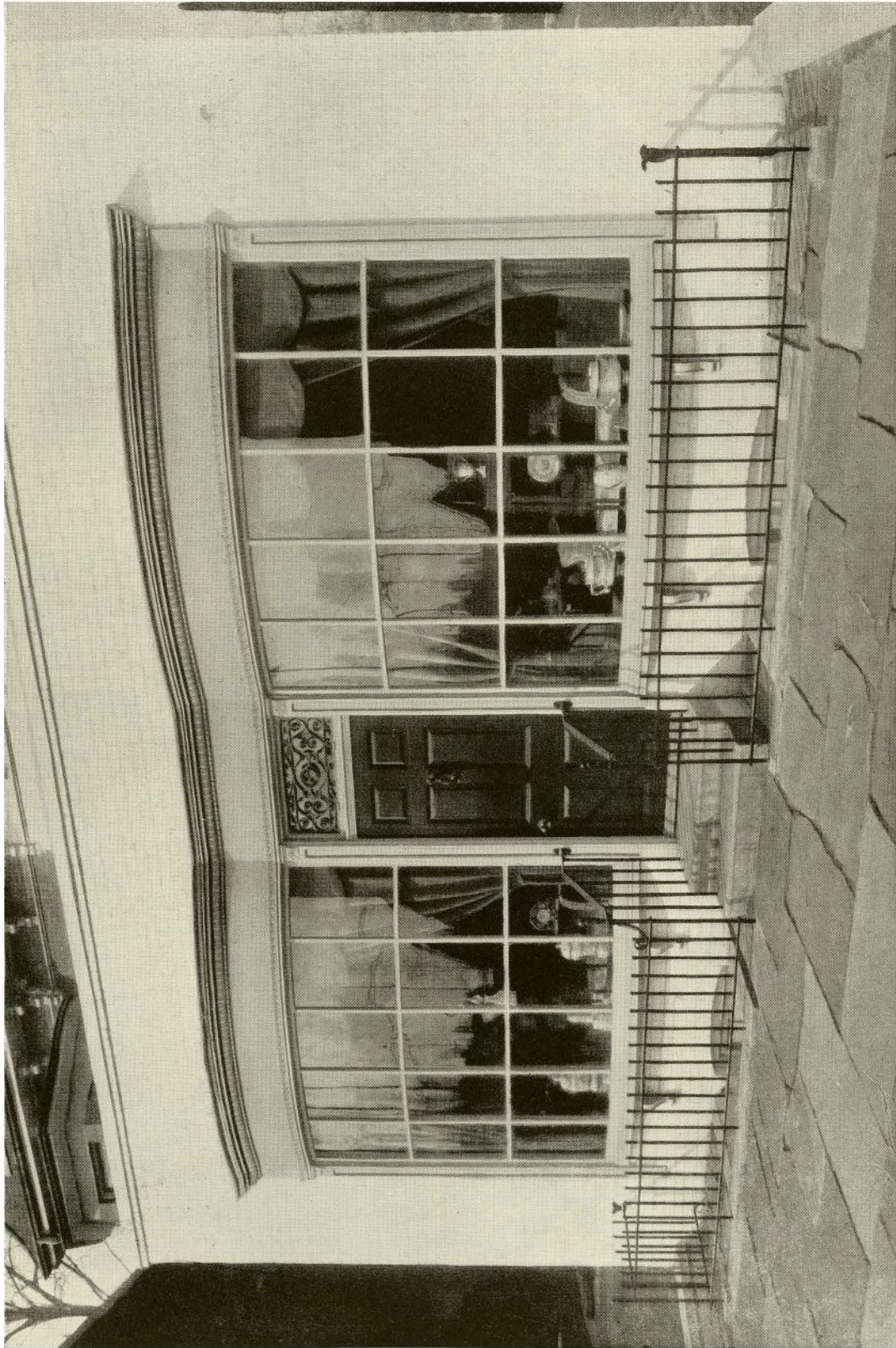
SHOP-FRONT FOR "MY VALET," TORONTO

Earle L. Sheppard, M.R.A.I.C., Architect

This front is modelled after the German vogue. A whole street in this fashion would, doubtless, result in something or other. The owner has, of course, put up the inevitable sign and partially destroyed the effect of his front.

If the architect can produce small houses of better design and construction at costs equal to or less than the speculative-builder, he must "blab it to the public." The realtor and builder are telling them the reverse every day. If the architect can design more intriguing and more economical shop-fronts than the glass companies and is the most fitted person to make plans for interiors and suggestions for fixtures, furnishings and decorations, he has only to convince the shop-keeper and the job is his. Quite aside from any hope of personal gain, architects should make this effort for the betterment of the communities in which they live. For if, as is true, our residential districts are being filled with ugly, jerry-built houses and our business streets lined with uninteresting and often grotesque shop-fronts which, rarely, have even the commendable attribute of being amusing, then the architectural profession has, largely, itself to reproach.

Besides endeavouring to gain these ends by publicity the architect must become belligerent towards those competitors who are taking his bread and butter and, at the same time, seeking to make their dessert out of those jobs which, perforce or by chance, have fallen to his lot. He must not allow the speculative-builder to tender on work in his office. He must tell him to seek out his own jobs. He must treat glass companies and other trades who are competing with him in the same manner. He should state his reasons for doing so to those whom he knows to be carrying on this type of competition. Architects who are fortunate enough to have in their control the letting of sub-contracts on large work would be doing a service for the profession if they would take a similar stand. The various associations and individual chapters could do a great deal in their respective districts. Combined action of this kind might effect a change of policy in some of the trades concerned.



SHOP-FRONT—BLOOR STREET WEST, TORONTO

Hugh L. Alward, M.R.A.I.C., Architect

This somewhat familiar Georgian design is itself the main interest displayed, the merchandise being only partially visible. This type of front is adaptable for only a few kinds of business and must, more or less, depend upon intriguing the curious to enter and see what it is all about. A high-class note is struck and one would not expect anything cheap or laudry inside.



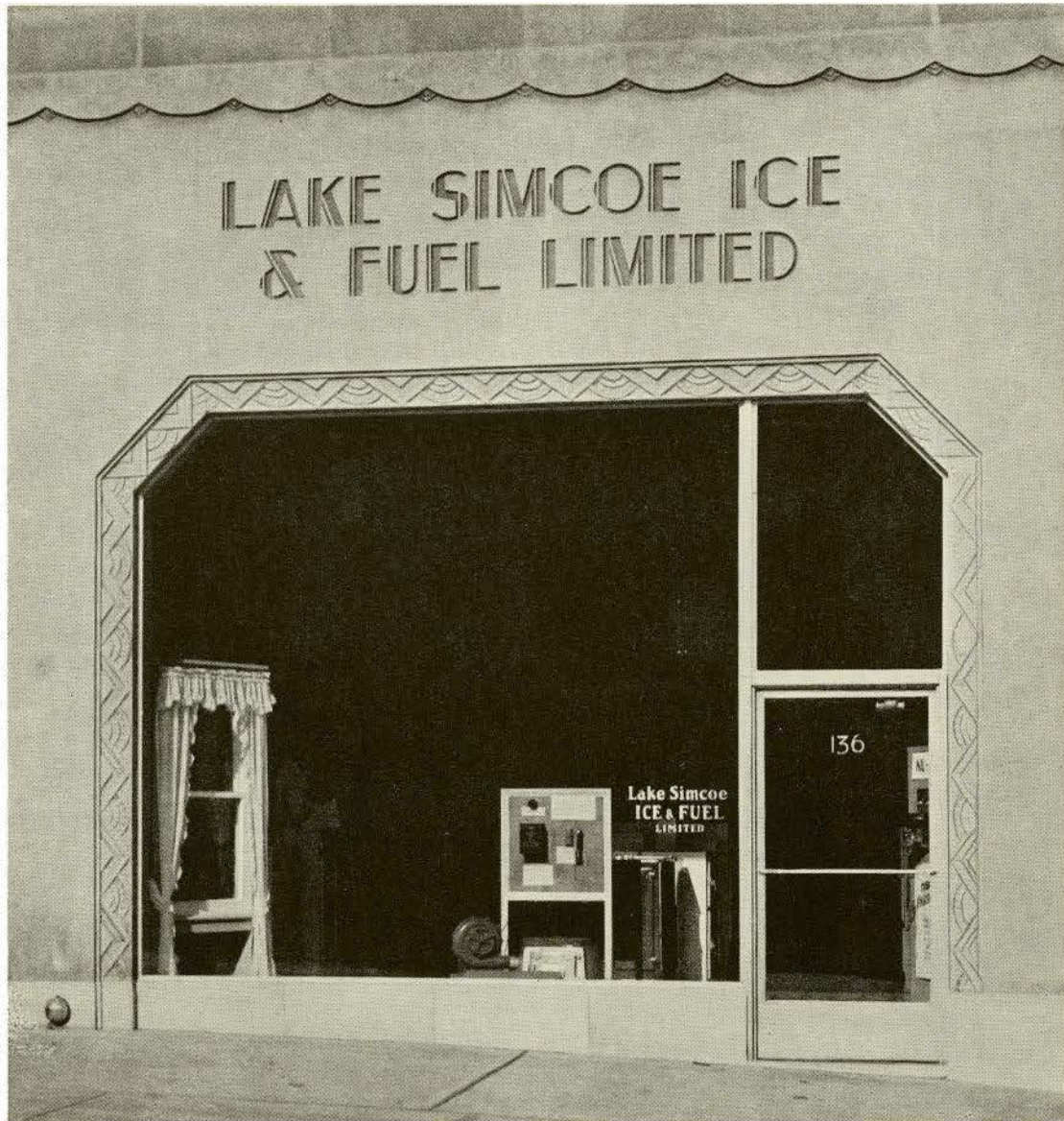
SHOP-FRONT IN PARIS, FRANCE

The simplicity and character of refinement displayed in the two French examples shown on this and the accompanying page denote clearly the character of the business carried on within. It is undoubtedly high class. While these two fronts are not of the most modern vintage and display no attempt to express the nature of the business, they are good examples of the French method.



SHOP-FRONT IN BORDEAUX, FRANCE

The great expanse of plate glass above the display is worthy of note. The display itself is attractively framed.



SHOP-FRONT FOR THE LAKE SIMCOE ICE COMPANY, TORONTO

S. B. Coon and Son, Architects

A picture frame was doubtless the idea back of this design. The extended door jamb is unfortunate but the front offers no competition to the merchandise and definitely concentrates the vision.

I was not a little surprised that our somewhat staid and dignified journal, whose chaste pages, usually, contain only the "pure" architecture of churches and other monumental buildings, would condescend to enclose within its royal covers such architectural trifles as shop-fronts. I am constrained to congratulate the editorial board on this departure and to express the hope that this apparent disposition to stroll into the by-ways of architecture reflects a growing interest, on the part of architects in general, in the smaller services which they can render for a fee. There are signs in other directions that this is so. As THE JOURNAL should record wherein our majority of interest lies it is to be hoped that such excursions will be continued. Such a policy might serve to impress its lay readers, who, unfortunately, are so few in number, with the fact that, at least a few, architects are interested in the common, everyday problems of building. Perhaps such a policy might have the effect of increasing the number of lay readers. Houses, certainly, are among the subjects most interesting to the majority of women and there are more men interested in shop-fronts and small buildings than in any other type of business building.

While the first requirements of a shop-front is that it protect the interior from the elements and form an effective barricade against the marauder, in the last analysis it is the shop-keeper's billboard on which he announces to all and sundry who he is and what he has to sell. It is used, though not always, to display merchandise and in other ways to attract and advise the passer-by of the business carried on within.

For some years, in this country, the first thought of the shop-keeper, desiring to attract attention, seems to have been to acquire an electric sign of the largest proportions and the most intricate gyrations possible. The principal of design in many of these signs appears to be not merely to catch the eye, to strike it, but to *torture* it into attention. And, the same might be said of many of our modern shop-fronts. One might even suppose that some of the goods to which one is thus directed would not stand the intelligent scrutiny of a normal person. For one is so bewildered by the glare of continually flashing lights, or by ever changing and distorted letters, that calm consideration of the merchandise becomes almost impossible.

Recently, there seems to be a growing tendency, however, in addition to an effort to have the shop-front bright and fetching, to imbue it with a note of character. This fact, in a great many cases, tones down the electrical display. Probably the great number of European trips made during boom times by both shop-keepers and their customers has had not a little to do with this change of

thought. For, since the war, many original and even daring designs have been applied to the fronts of commercial premises in Paris and Berlin, while in London similar methods have been used though with greater refinement and a higher standard of execution.

While a careful study of European methods will well repay the Canadian architect interested in such work, there is a decided difference in the methods of merchandizing employed there and in those followed in this country. The desire for larger fascias for the display of the name in large lettering, usually illuminated, together with the realization that, except on a very wide street and with a very high ceiling, sufficient daylight to serve any practical purpose cannot be obtained through the shop-front, has decreased the amount of glass area formerly used and correspondingly increased the size and altered the design of the crowning portion of the front which, formerly, was treated merely as lintol on which was attached a signboard of whatever dimensions this permitted. This tendency towards deep, flat fascias is noticeable in all countries. In this country there is another idea growing out of the narrowness of our sidewalks and the belief of our merchants that it is good business to display, at all times, all the different styles and types of merchandise which they carry. This is the arched or recessed type of front which, at the same time, provides more show window area and a space from which the public may view the shop-keeper's wares, protected from sunshine or rain and without being jostled by people hurrying along the street. This seems to be the only essential in which European shop-fronts differ from our own.

The French designers seem to pay more attention to expressing the particular type and character of trade indulged in and for this reason the shop-fronts of Paris do not present so uniform an appearance as those of London. The German designers seem to aim at sensation. It does not seem impossible, however, to carry out this idea of individualism without adapting methods as freaky as those employed in some instances without any regard to the general appearance of the street and without any thought of the consideration due adjoining premises.

Without enlarging upon the many problems which beset the designer of a shop-front, the intricacies of window lighting, Neon tubing, ventilation, the great variety of materials at one's disposal and the idiosyncracies of store-keepers, who are the same as all other owners, it must be obvious to anyone, who takes time to consider, that this type of work holds out many opportunities for the display of originality, boldness and good sense on the part of the architect.

THE HOUSES WE MIGHT HAVE*

BY JOSEPH EMBERTON, F.R.I.B.A.

PREJUDICE alone stands between us and the creation of houses which would provide comforts and joys yet untasted. Science has produced enormous stores of knowledge which, if employed in the building of houses, would completely change their form.

One of the main obstacles to progress is the false value which has been placed on anything old. Some people think that by furnishing their houses with antique furniture they achieve respectability. We have new materials today with which we can achieve equal or better service from well-designed modern furniture at less cost. Yet people seem to prefer to collapse in antique chairs, rather than accept new forms.

It is the same with our houses. We have become slaves of tradition and make our needs subservient to our preconceived notions of aesthetic suitability.

Very little has changed in the form of our houses in the last century, in spite of the considerable improvement achieved in building science and materials. When our houses had to be constructed of brick and timber their forms were determined by the limitations of such materials. It was necessary to limit the area of windows on account of the structure of the wall itself as well as on account of heat losses. The development of economical central heating and the use of steel and reinforced concrete have made it possible to arrange windows of any size and number. Yet even today adequate sunlight is refused admission to a living room for no other reason than that the windows shall be of traditional form.

The conditions of living have also altered considerably during the last hundred years. The problem of adequate domestic service necessitates more compact planning and the insertion of many labour-saving devices.

It seems, therefore, logical that the resultant forms shall be new. Yet present-day houses appear similar to those of a hundred years ago, either because of the clinging to tradition or because of ignorance on the part of the people responsible for building them.

The only hope appears to lie in a more enlightened public opinion. The public must be taught that the quality of a building must not be judged by its appearance alone. For if we are to make progress, we must treat building, not as a matter of taste, but of logic and judge a building in relation to the service it provides. Buildings should serve man, and man should not be made

subservient to buildings. Yet this is what has happened.

New materials and increased knowledge are not being exploited in the service of man, because they produce forms which he is not used to and which he, therefore, considers to be bad. The simple detail of the window is enough to illustrate this. This is still built according to preconceived notions, although with concrete and steel there are far less limitations. The splitting up of the glass of the windows into small panes, obscuring the view and increasing the cleaning difficulties, is purely a relic of the days when the limitations of glass made it necessary.

I believe that the solution of modern problems by the use of modern materials would result in new forms of beauty, transcending anything that has yet been achieved—forms of a freshness and virility which could never have been achieved by any process of aesthetics.

The builders of medieval cathedrals have left us unrivaled examples of beautiful buildings, the form of which was the inevitable result of the problems which faced them in those times. Their great knowledge of the bearing capacity of stone, and the desirability of less restricted floor space made them evolve the Gothic style. But their simple approach to building was lost in the Renaissance, when they began to camouflage the buildings with classic forms. This may have been sound then, but now steel and concrete have changed the situation.

If we consider the house as a machine for living in, and demand the efficiency from it as is demanded from an aeroplane, the sight of which produces in everybody, old and young, a sense of extreme satisfaction, we shall progress toward a new type of home which will be worthy of our times and a joy to live in: a home designed from the inside, carefully planned and offering every convenience and comfort, at a considerably lower cost.

In towns the modern problem will be solved by building much higher buildings in the form of flats. The traffic problem will demand this if nothing else does. By building tall, isolated towers, say 500 feet apart, sufficient accommodation could be provided at much less cost. We could acquire much more space for traffic and for gardens, and more adequate air space, and eliminate from our homes the inconvenience of dust and noise caused by traffic. Surely such homes are worth while, but if we are to have them we must, to quote Socrates, "follow the argument wherever it may lead."

*Condensed by Magazine Digest from Today and Tomorrow, London.

PUBLIC WORKS IN THE NEW DEAL*

Editor's Note: Apropos of the efforts being made by the National Construction Council to stimulate commercial recovery through the instrumentality of a programme of needed construction, it is interesting to note from this article that the United States Government has recognized the importance of construction as a means of providing work for the unemployed.

Our business is to put men to work, to do it quickly, and to do it intelligently. We must take men off relief rolls and put them on pay rolls. The inadequacy of "made work" just to keep the unemployed busy is obvious. The New Deal calls for the re-employment of men at their old trades on construction projects that are necessary for the public good. The administration of public works is allotting over three billion dollars for the undertaking of such projects through loans and grants. To date \$1,212,864,697.00 has been allotted for various types of projects.

Since speed of employment is the prime consideration, most of this money has been assigned to water works, highways, various government departments, ship building, etc. These projects were selected first because they could be started with the least loss of time. Now more plans for buildings are reaching the stage where they can be judged, approved and construction started.

On August 17th, \$28,119,145.00 had been allotted to building projects (federal buildings and low-cost

housing). As fast as building projects can be examined as to their need and soundness they will be passed upon by the special board, the money allotted and men put to work. Each project must necessarily be judged on its own merits. The architects, engineers and contractors of the country can do their part by bringing the needed construction projects to their State Engineers' attention, or in the case of housing to the Housing Director at Washington, promptly and in the form prescribed in the published circulars. With such co-operation the administration can function quickly in putting the building industry back to work.

The administration realizes that dollars spent for needed buildings have a more widespread economic effect than money spent on many other types of projects. Therefore in administering the public works sections relating to buildings we are mindful of the broad provisions of the Act and their bearing on the economic status and purchasing power of the millions who are dependent directly and indirectly on construction for their livelihood.

*A Statement by Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior and Administrator of Public Works in the United States, as Published in September Issue of Architectural Forum.

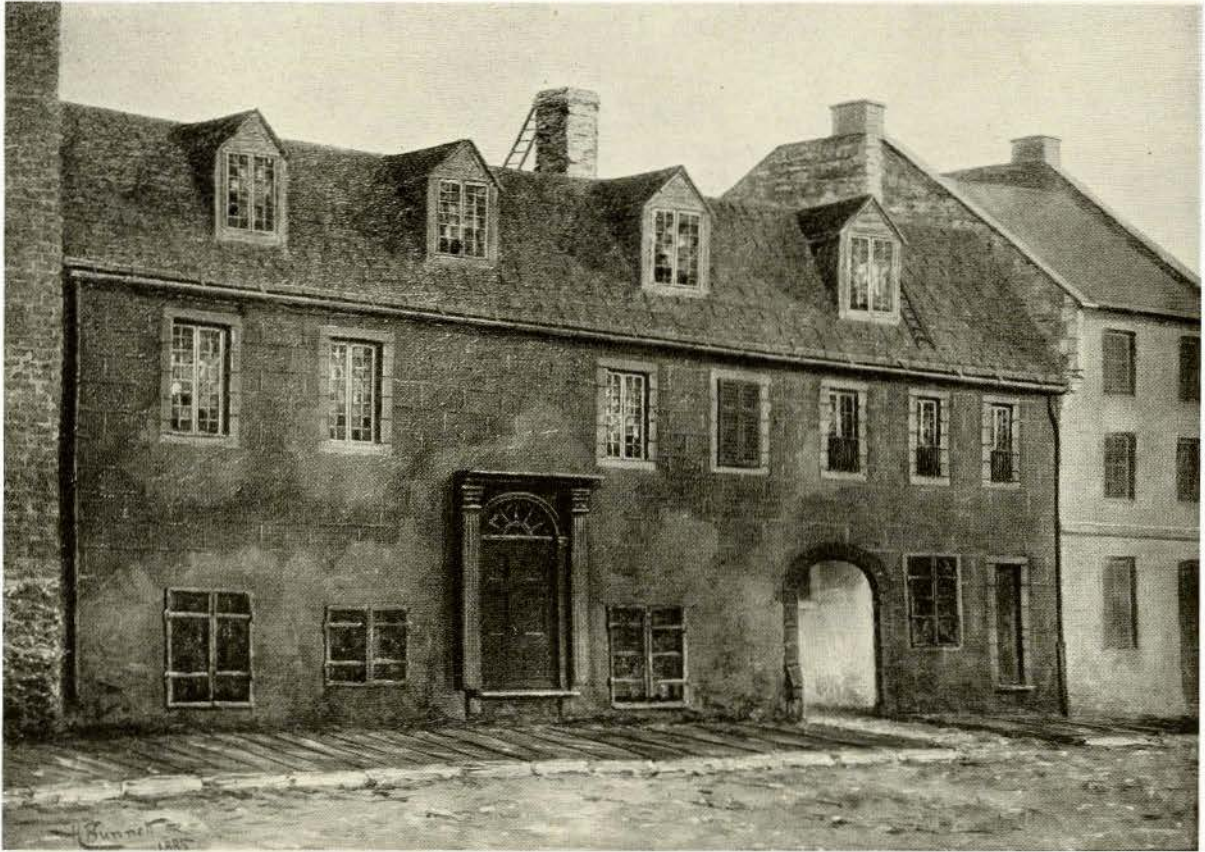
PRIVATE ARCHITECTS TO BE EMPLOYED ON GOVERNMENT WORK IN THE UNITED STATES

According to an announcement recently made by L. W. Robert, Jr., assistant secretary of the United States Treasury, private architects and engineers are to be engaged to prepare the plans and specifications for a large federal building programme which may reach a total of \$200,000,000. This policy has been adopted in order that professional men who have not had employment will benefit by the large expenditure for new government buildings, the design and construction of which come under the authority of the Supervising Architect's Office of the Treasury.

In order that employment may be spread as far

as possible among architects and engineers, Mr. Robert has requested the co-operation of the American Institute of Architects and American Engineering Council in enrolling qualified individuals and firms. His intention is to engage architects and engineers resident in the State in which the buildings are to be erected.

For the purpose of assembling the records of architects throughout the country, a pre-qualification blank in the form of a questionnaire is to be sent to each architect with a request to fill out the questionnaire and return to the Treasury Department.



THE McTAVISH HOUSE, ST. JEAN BAPTISTE STREET, MONTREAL

From a painting by H. Bunnett in the McCord Museum

THE HOUSE OF SIMON McTAVISH

No. 27 ST. JEAN BAPTISTE STREET, MONTREAL

BY RAMSAY TRAQUAIR, M.A.(Hon.) F.R.I.B.A. AND G. A. NEILSON

IN 1786 Simon McTavish, the fur merchant of Montreal, leased from Richard Dobie, merchant, a new dwelling-house in St. Jean Baptiste Street for a period of seven years at the annual rental of £130. The lease, passed before Edward W. Gray, N.P. states that the house had not yet been lived in by any person and gives an inventory of the finishings. This gives the rooms as, on the first floor, kitchen, pantry and servants room, on the second, four rooms with two marble hearths and, on the third, five rooms with, in addition, stables, "necessary", ice-house and cellar.

In 1795 McTavish bought the house from Dobie. The deed of sale, signed by Joseph Frobisher on behalf of McTavish, gives some particulars. The lot consists of "a stone dwelling-house built in the English taste, stables and out-houses with an ice-house and a small garden." The ground on which they stood had been purchased by Dobie in small

parts from four different owners, added to a lot owned by himself and then redivided. A plan showing the new boundaries and house is appended to the deed and this shows the house and lot very much as it is today.

On Simon McTavish's death in 1804 the house was left to his widow and seems to have been used as a dwelling-house until the end of the century. In 1885 Bunnett made a painting of it, in very minute detail, which is now in the McCord Museum. It was still practically unaltered in 1905 when Mr. D. Hardie and Mr. Roxburgh Smith measured and drew the details of the mantelpieces, stair and front door. About this time the property was acquired by the National Drug Company, for the purpose of a factory. The top floor was removed and an additional brick storey was added, with a flat roof. In 1931 all the fittings had gone excepting one fine mantelpiece on the principal floor and some fragments of the staircase and the

dado panelling. These are now in the McCord Museum.

A survey of the buildings was made in 1930 by the students of the School of Architecture of McGill University. The restored drawings are based on this survey and on the old drawings by Messrs. Hardie and Smith.

The house was in three storeys, a half basement, referred to in the lease as the first floor, a principal or second floor and an attic or third floor. It is in two parts, the house proper to the west and the additional building which contained the stables to the east, separated from the house by the arched entry. The ice-house and "necessary" were in the back yard.

The front door had disappeared in 1931. Bunnett's painting and the old photographs show that it was in the centre of the street front. It had a semi-circular fanlight, with fluted doric pilasters and an architrave. It was measured by Mr. Roxburgh Smith.

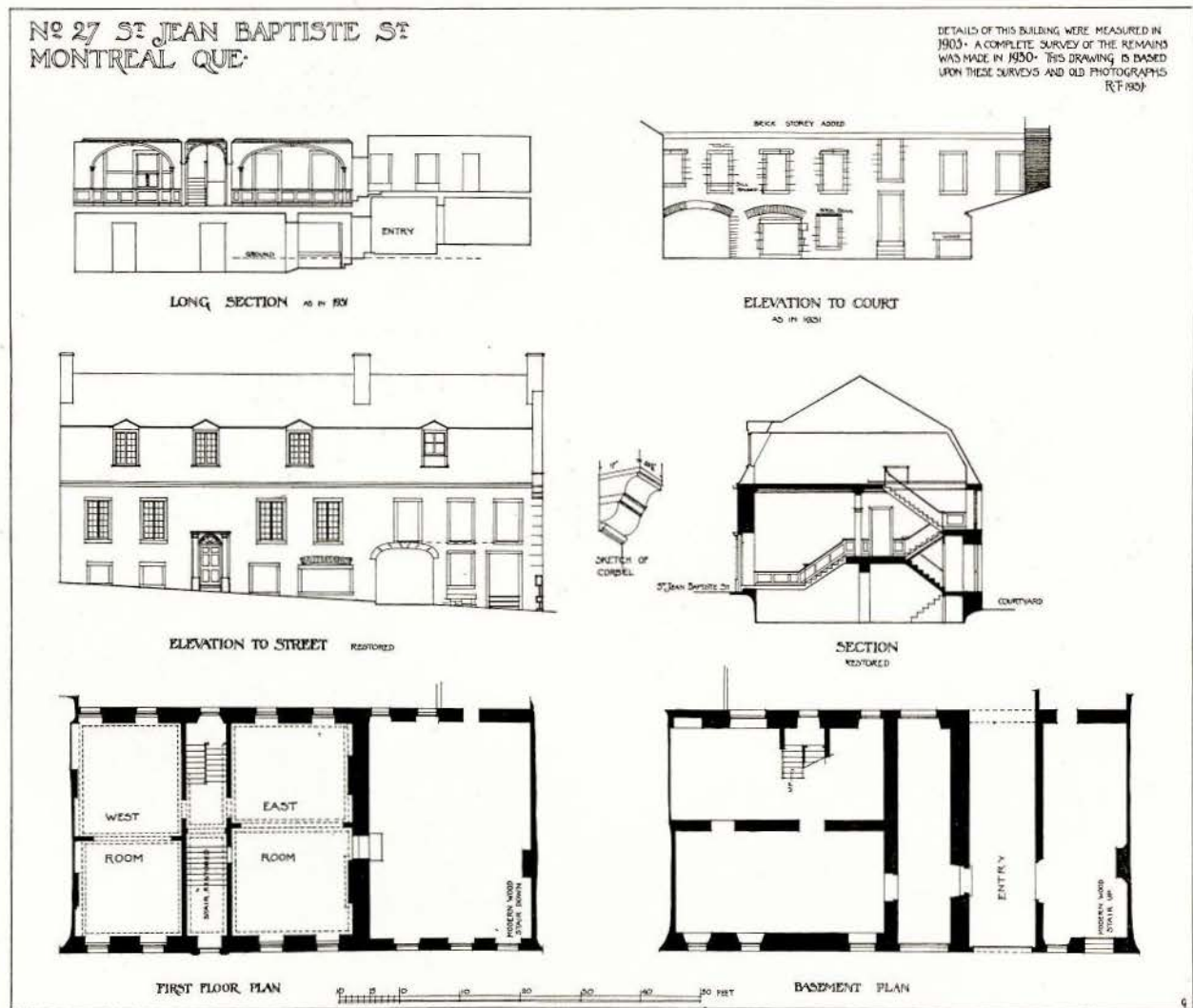
From this door the principal floor must have been reached by a short flight of steps. The side

walls of this staircase still remain but the stair itself has been removed.

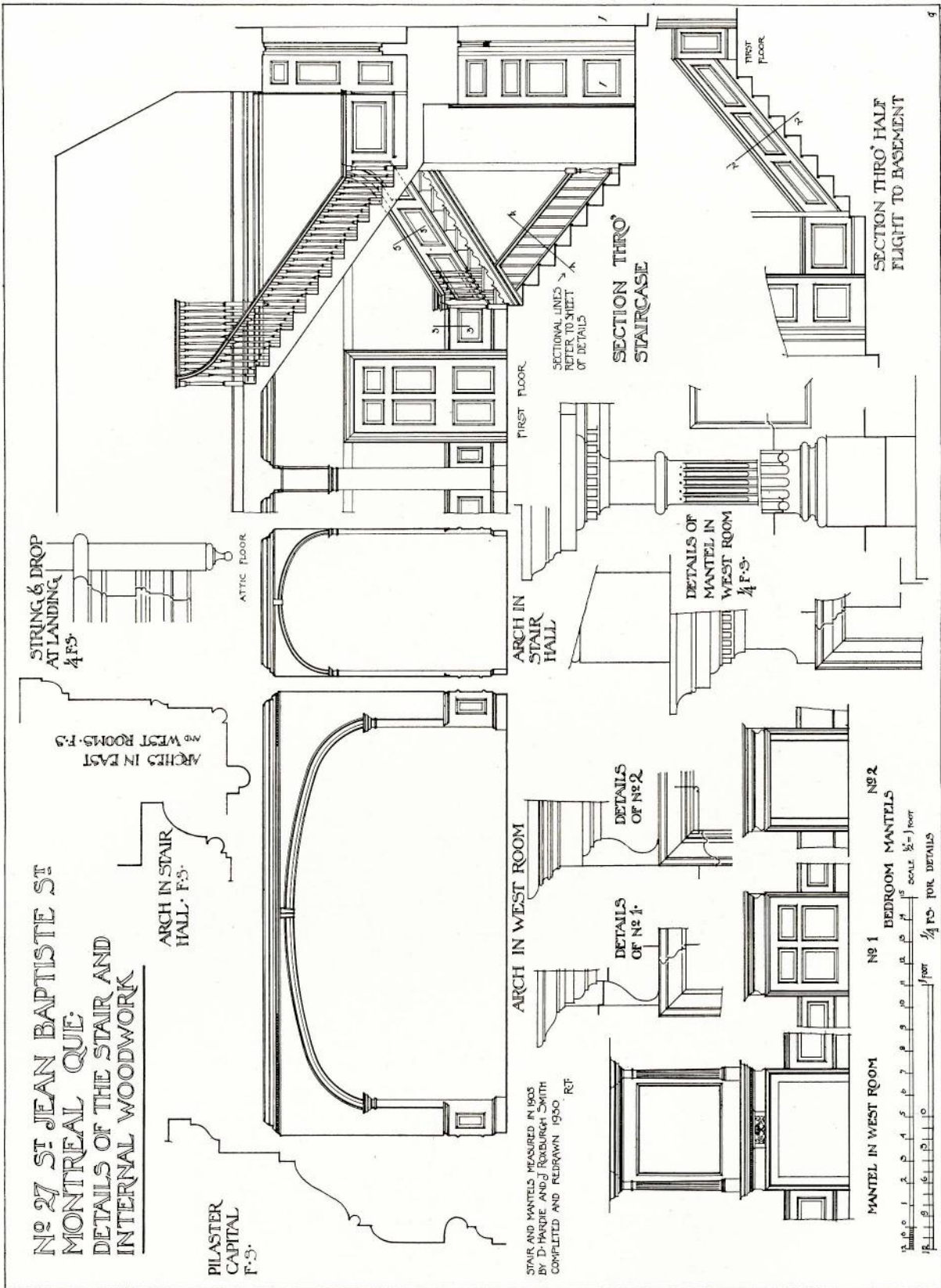
The basement shows no traces now of its original use but we know from the inventory that it contained the kitchen, servant's room and cellar. The large window next to the arch of the entry is not shown on Bunnett's picture and must be a later insertion.

On the principal floor the centre is occupied by the staircase and hall passage. On each side is a large double room, the front and back separated by elliptical arches. Each of these four divisions or rooms has a chimneybreast and fireplace. In the front east room the mantelpiece was still in position in 1930. It is a typical American "colonial" design of the late XVIII century "Adam" type—a cast iron grate with a yellow veined (jaune antique) marble surround; a delicately moulded frieze and mantelshelf with a carved central panel; at the sides tapered and fluted pilasters, above a large panel with side pilasters.

In 1905 the west room still retained an old mantelpiece of very similar design. This has now



PLANS AND ELEVATIONS OF THE McTAVISH HOUSE



DETAILS OF THE STAIR AND PANELLING

disappeared but fortunately the drawings have preserved a record of it. These mantelpieces correspond to the two marble hearths mentioned in the inventory. How the two other fireplaces were treated we do not know; the inventory mentions a Portland stone hearth with a small piece broken off on this floor.

The whole floor had a low panelled dado and a chair rail.

The general arrangement of the plan conforms to the English Georgian type with the central stair and double side rooms. The arrangement of the entrance door and stair is made necessary by the half basement. It should be compared with the somewhat similar arrangement in the "Fargues" house, No. 92 St. Peter Street, Quebec.

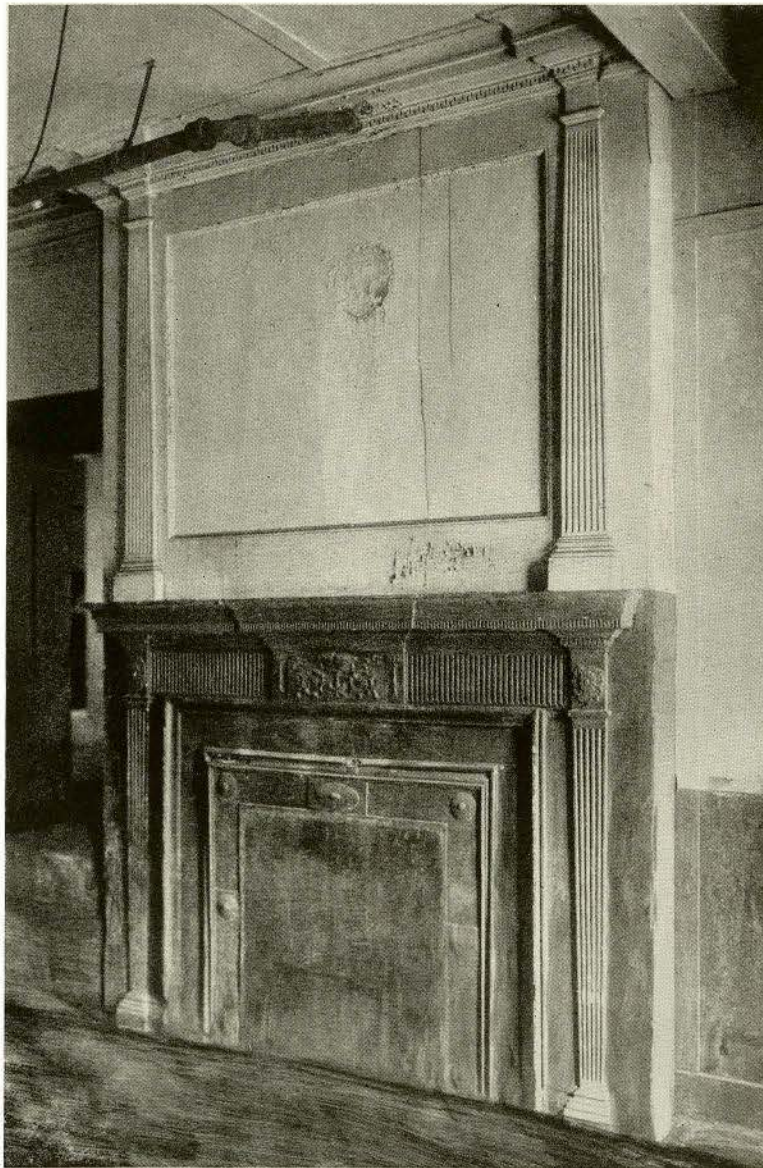
As the attic floor has completely disappeared it is fortunate that the old drawings include the staircase and two of the bedroom mantels. The photograph shows a part of the dado panelling and

handrail, but the latter has been taken down and replaced during the alterations and the balusters are not in their original positions.

The annex to the east shows no trace of its original use, a coach-house and stables. It communicates with the east room of the principal floor by three steps down, since its floor is at a higher level so as to allow the entry to pass under.

The house is of interest as showing the town house of a wealthy citizen of Montreal in the end of the XVIII century. It should be compared with the much more elaborate and larger house at No. 92 St. Peter Street, Quebec. Quebec was evidently a much wealthier and more important place whilst Montreal was already beginning to show strong English influences.

The tradition of this house is American Colonial. It is indeed quite possible that the mantelpieces were imported for they are quite unlike anything



THE MANTELPIECE

that was being made at this time by the French-Canadian craftsmen. Though not a large house yet the planning of the principal rooms is very dignified and the details of the woodwork are irreproachably delicate.

We are indebted to Mr. E. Z. Massicotte, of

Montreal, for the leases and other documents recording the history of the building. Mr. Massicotte was the first to investigate this and to point out the error of the older legend. We are also indebted to Mr. Roxburgh Smith for the loan of old drawings.

Documents consulted:

Lease passed before Edward W. Gray, N.P., in favour of Simon McTavish, merchant, by Richard Dobie, merchant. April 27, 1786.

Deed of sale dated 26 Feb., 1795. Richard Dobie, Esq., selling to Simon McTavish, Esq., a house and lot in Saint Jean Baptiste Street. From the minutes of J. G. Beek, N.P., in the judicial archives of Montreal.

Inventory of the real and personal estates of the late Simon McTavish, Esq., 20 Sept., 1804. No. 1798 of the minutes of J. G. Beek, N.P.

Will of Simon McTavish dated 2nd July, 1804.

SIR RAYMOND UNWIN'S VISIT TO MONTREAL*

The citizens of Montreal, though only a few hundreds are aware of it, are very deeply indebted to Sir Raymond Unwin, who was for many years the chief expert adviser of the British Government in all town planning and housing matters. On his way to deliver a special course of lectures at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where there is a well established school of city planning, he visited Montreal by request last week. While here he gave us of his best, both in the way of inspirational addresses and in the technical exposition of the principles on which such difficulties as are ours can be met and overcome.

Arriving on Wednesday morning, he attended a dinner of the architectural profession in the quality of immediate past president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and that night at the reopening of the Architectural Association's rooms, which have been redecorated, he held his audience spellbound for an hour and a quarter. Next day after having been received by the mayor at the City Hall, he addressed the Canadian Club and visited the School of Architecture at McGill University where he spoke again for half an hour to the students. In the evening he attended a round table conference at Laval-sur-le-Lac under the auspices of the City Improvement League. There he met representatives of the Board of Trade, of the Chambre de Commerce, of the city

and of several of the public utility corporations and spoke for two and a half hours in answer to various questions put to him with respect to the legislation and organization necessary for town planning, and on the intricacies of housing finance. On Friday morning he visited the School of Architecture at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, and in the afternoon had a meeting with several gentlemen specially interested in the housing question where the financial aspects of slum clearance were under discussion.

It is not too much to say that in these three days Sir Raymond did more to advance the cause of town planning, zoning and housing here than all the rest of us could do in three years. He spoke on all occasions with persuasive charm and, when handling figures and statistics, with a compelling pellucidity. He told us what we wanted to know, but never suggested what we ought to do. This free gift from his great knowledge and experience requires an acknowledgment. All who met him, or heard him, will, I feel sure, join with me in congratulations on this, his seventieth birthday, and in wishing him long life and health in which to continue to spread what many of us call the gospel according to Sir Raymond—the planning for life in all its manifestations: the family, the community, the city, the region, the nation, the empire and the family of nations.

*A letter from Mr. Percy E. Nobbs, Past President of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, published in the October 31st issue of the *Montreal Gazette*.

ACTIVITIES OF PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATIONS

ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW BRUNSWICK

A meeting of the council of the Architects Association of New Brunswick was held in St. John on October 24th, 1933, with the president, Mr. W. W. Alward, in the chair.

Several applications for registration were considered by the council. The secretary advised the meeting that the by-laws adopted by the association had been approved by Order-in-Council on September 26th, 1933. It was decided to send copies of the act and by-laws to the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and to each of the provincial associations.

Several matters referred to the council by the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada were considered, including the employment of local architects on public works, with which the council thoroughly agreed; also the matter of the adoption of a national building code, which it was felt would not be practical owing to varied climatic and other local conditions existing throughout the Dominion.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS

The council has approved of the use of an official seal to be applied to drawings. This seal, bearing the name of the association and member, may be obtained through the association for the sum of \$4.00.

The revised code of ethics is before the council for consideration, and requires the approval of only two paragraphs before being issued to members of the association.

Mr. Paul Emile Mathieu of Quebec and Mr. Edgar Courchesne of Montreal have recently been elected members of the P.Q.A.A., and Mr. J. Z. Gauthier of Montreal has been reinstated.

The official opening of the redecorated P.Q.A.A. rooms took place on the occasion of the visit of Sir Raymond Unwin. Over one hundred members were present at the opening.

The council has decided to hold two entertainments each month in the association rooms during the balance of the year. The first entertainment took place on October 18th at which two films were shown of architecture in the far East, and a French news reel showing the new Vielle Juif School outside Paris. On November 8th, M. Jacques Mesnager, who is a consulting engineer and professor at the National School of Arts and Trades in Paris, delivered a lecture on the subject of Modern Reinforced Concrete.

SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS

The annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Association of Architects was held in Regina, October 25th, 1933. The meeting was first scheduled for Saskatoon, but the place of meeting was changed by council in an effort to get a more representative gathering. The change was justified as a full attendance of the members of the council was registered and

fifteen members attended the annual meeting from Saskatoon, Moose Jaw and Regina.

Messrs. Harold Dawson and F. H. Portnall were re-elected to council and the election of the officers resulted as follows: president, Joseph Warburton, Regina; first vice-president, David Webster, Saskatoon; second vice-president, W. G. VanEgmond, Regina; secretary-treasurer, E. J. Gilbert, Saskatoon.

The above officers, together with Prof. A. R. Greig, Saskatoon, and F. H. Portnall and Harold Dawson, Regina, will constitute the council for 1934.

The following members were reappointed to the library board: Prof. A. R. Greig, chairman, Saskatoon; Frank J. Martin, Saskatoon; F. B. Reilly, Regina.

F. H. Portnall of Regina will again represent the association on the Senate of the University of Saskatchewan.

The report of the board of examiners, under the chairmanship of Prof. Greig, showed that two candidates had tried the final examination but were not successful, both having failed in one or two subjects. Before setting the next examination, it was decided to go fully into the advisability of revising the examination syllabus, consolidating some subjects which overlap and adding others.

After considerable discussion, the secretary was instructed to write to the various horticultural societies holding annual competitions, suggesting that they establish a special class with a prize for the best house and garden, also that in making such an award the design of the house and the suitability of the garden design to that particular house, be taken into consideration. The services of the association were offered to the societies in assisting the judges to make the award.

In order to foster a wider interest in R.A.I.C. competitions it was decided to ask the Institute to hold two competitions and exhibitions, one for the east and one for the west, with separate awards for each. Past efforts to interest western architects in the competitions held in the east have not been particularly successful. It was felt that this was due to the great distance from the east and the impossibility for the majority of western members to attend eastern exhibitions.

An interesting report on the work of the Regina Regional Committee of the National Construction Council of Canada was given by Mr. F. H. Portnall, secretary of the Regina sub-committee. It was found that the Regina committee was working along much the same lines as the sub-committee organized in Saskatoon under the chairmanship of Mr. David Webster.

The annual meeting heartily endorsed the work being done by the Saskatchewan sub-committees and also by the National Construction Council. The brief presented to the Royal Commission on Banking and Currency was also discussed and endorsed. It was also reported that considerable publicity had been given in the daily press of Regina and Saskatoon to the work of the National Construction Council of Canada.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS, R.A.I.C.

Copies of the Standard Forms of Contract and other Institute documents, may be obtained from the Secretary R.A.I.C., 74 King St. East, Toronto 2, Ontario.

The prices of these documents are as follows:

"Stipulated Sum" form of Contract . . . 15c per copy or \$1.50 per dozen

"Cost Plus" form of Contract 15c per copy or \$1.50 per dozen

Standard Form of Agreement Between
Client and Architect 10c per copy or \$1.00 per dozen

Money Orders or cheques payable at par in Toronto must accompany all orders for contract forms.

NOTES

Members of the Institute are invited to attend the Fourth Annual Exhibition of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada which will be held in conjunction with the Fifty-fourth Annual Exhibition of the Royal Canadian Academy, at the galleries of the Art Association of Montreal, from November 16th to December 15th.

* * * *

Joseph Warburton, M.R.A.I.C., of Regina, was elected president of the Saskatchewan Association of Architects at the annual meeting of that body held in Regina on October 25th.

* * * *

Philip J. Turner, F.R.A.I.C., president of the Province of Quebec Association of Architects, is confined to the Montreal General Hospital following an operation. His condition is reported as satisfactory and it is sincerely hoped that he will be completely recovered within a very short time.

* * * *

Colin H. Copeman, M.R.A.I.C., announces the opening of an office for the practice of architecture at 1174 St. Catherine Street West, Montreal.

* * * *

A complimentary dinner in honour of Sir Raymond Unwin was tendered by the council of the P.Q.A.A. on Wednesday, October 25th, at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal. In the absence of Mr. Philip J. Turner, president of the P.Q.A.A., Mr. L. A. Amos, vice-president, presided at the dinner. Following the dinner, Sir Raymond delivered a very interesting lecture at the association rooms on town planning.

* * * *

The members of the council of the Nova Scotia Association of Architects were guests of the vice-president, Mr. A. R. Cobb, at the Bedford Golf and Country Club on October 11th, following which they were entertained at dinner at Mr. Cobb's residence, Bedford, N.S. A meeting of the council was held during the evening.

* * * *

The Toronto Chapter of the Ontario Association of Architects has completed arrangements with "Canadian Homes and Gardens" for monthly articles on domestic architecture to appear in that magazine during the next twelve months. An editorial committee consisting of Messrs. B. Evan Parry, H. H. Madill and J. Schofield Morris, has been appointed to prepare the material. In this connection an announcement of interest to architects appeared in the November issue of "Canadian Homes and Gardens."

* * * *

Sir Raymond Unwin, past president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, will visit Toronto on November 18th, 19th and 20th. He will be entertained by the Toronto Chapter of the Ontario Association of Architects at a dinner to be held in his honour at the National Club, on Saturday evening, November 18th, at which a number of distinguished guests are expected to be present. On Monday, November 20th, Sir Raymond will be the guest of the Arts and Letters Club at luncheon, and in the evening he will deliver a lecture at Convocation Hall under the auspices of the University of Toronto prior to which he will be the guest of honour at a dinner at Hart House to be given by the executive committee of the Institute.

Major L. L. Anthes, president of the Canadian Manufacturers Association, in addressing a recent meeting of the Empire Club at Toronto, pointed out that "It is almost inconceivable that the construction industry, so important to the life of Canada, has dropped this year to ten per cent of the volume of 1929. Its ramifications are so great and far-reaching that with its shrinkage, unemployment sets in in almost every field of endeavour. That is why it is so important that building and construction, which can be economically justified and financed, should be proceeded with, as it gives such wide diversity of unemployment."

* * * *

According to a recent announcement, the Viceroy Manufacturing Company and the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company have consolidated their manufacturing and sales activities on hard rubber toilet seats in Canada. Both of these manufacturers have for several years manufactured black hard rubber toilet seats, the Viceroy product being marketed under the name of "Rubwood" and the Brunswick product under the name of "Whalebonite." Both products will now be manufactured in Canada by the Viceroy Manufacturing Company and distributed through their various branches.

THE UNSUCCESSFUL TENDERER

An architect in Kitchener, Ontario, recently advertised for tenders on a small building and received the following letter in reply:

My dear Sir:

I red in the paper, that you are looking for a tender. I am willing to do a job like this, I am experience in firetending plumbing, cleaning, decoretion etc. I have enough knowledge to tend a building like this. I hope you give me answer.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In publishing the illustrations of the New Winnipeg Auditorium in the October issue of THE JOURNAL, credit should have been given to the photographers, Messrs. Brigdens of Winnipeg Limited, for their kind permission to reproduce the photographs of this building.

OBITUARY

F. L. TURNBULL

Word has been received of the death in Grand Rapids, Mich., of Mr. F. L. Turnbull. He died on October 24th, 1933, as a result of a clot of blood on the brain.

Mr. Turnbull was one of the charter members of the Saskatchewan Association of Architects and practised in Saskatoon prior to the war. He fought with the P.P.C.L.I., later transferring to the Canadian Engineers with whom he served to the end of the war. He left the service with the rank of captain.

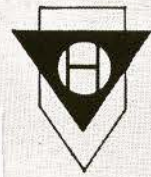
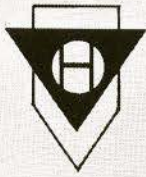
In 1921 he went to Grand Rapids and was at one time supervising architect for the Grand Rapids Board of Education.

He was buried in Grand Rapids on October 26th, with Masonic rites. He leaves a wife but no family.

—E. J. Gilbert.

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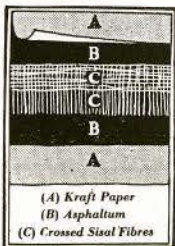
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By Charles G. Ramsay and Harold R. Sleeper

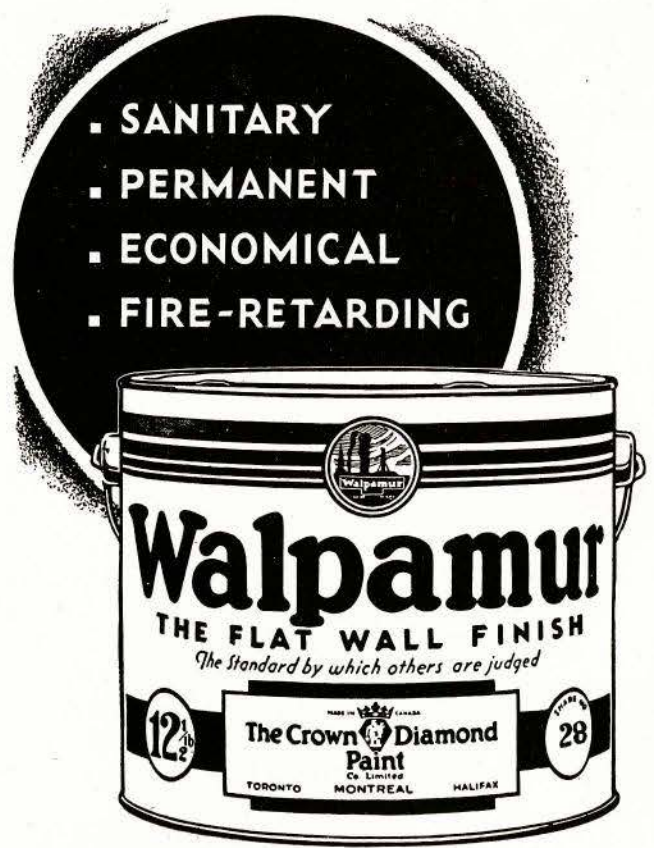
This book will prove invaluable to architects and draughtsmen because of its practicality and comprehensiveness. It contains 213 plates of details which give in graphic form a great deal of information regarding types of construction and dimensions of standard equipment used in different classes of buildings.

The variety of the subjects covered include such details as floor construction, roof construction, various types of framing, doors and windows, fire-places, chimneys, etc., also a great deal of useful information giving sizes of tennis courts, bowling alleys, hand ball courts, kitchen equipment, swimming pools, furniture, bath room accessories, etc.

The book is indexed so that all information can be found easily, and it is sure to find almost daily use in every architect's office. It contains 233 pages, and is 9¼" x 11¾" in size.

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