

JOURNAL

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VOL. 15

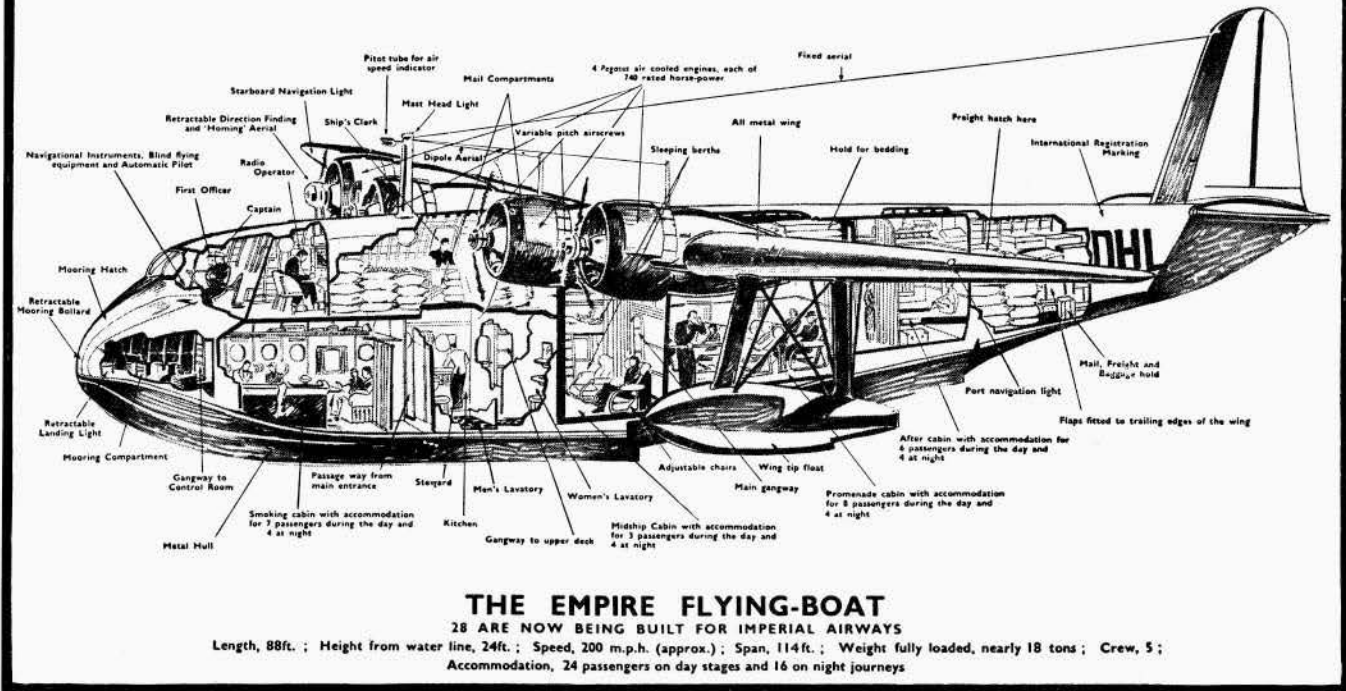
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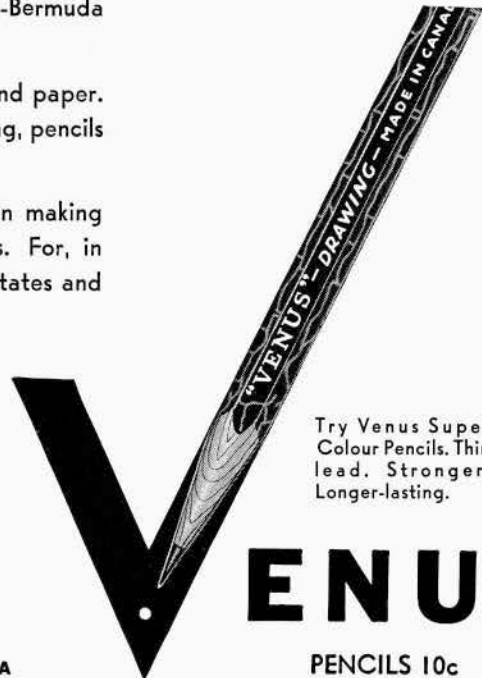
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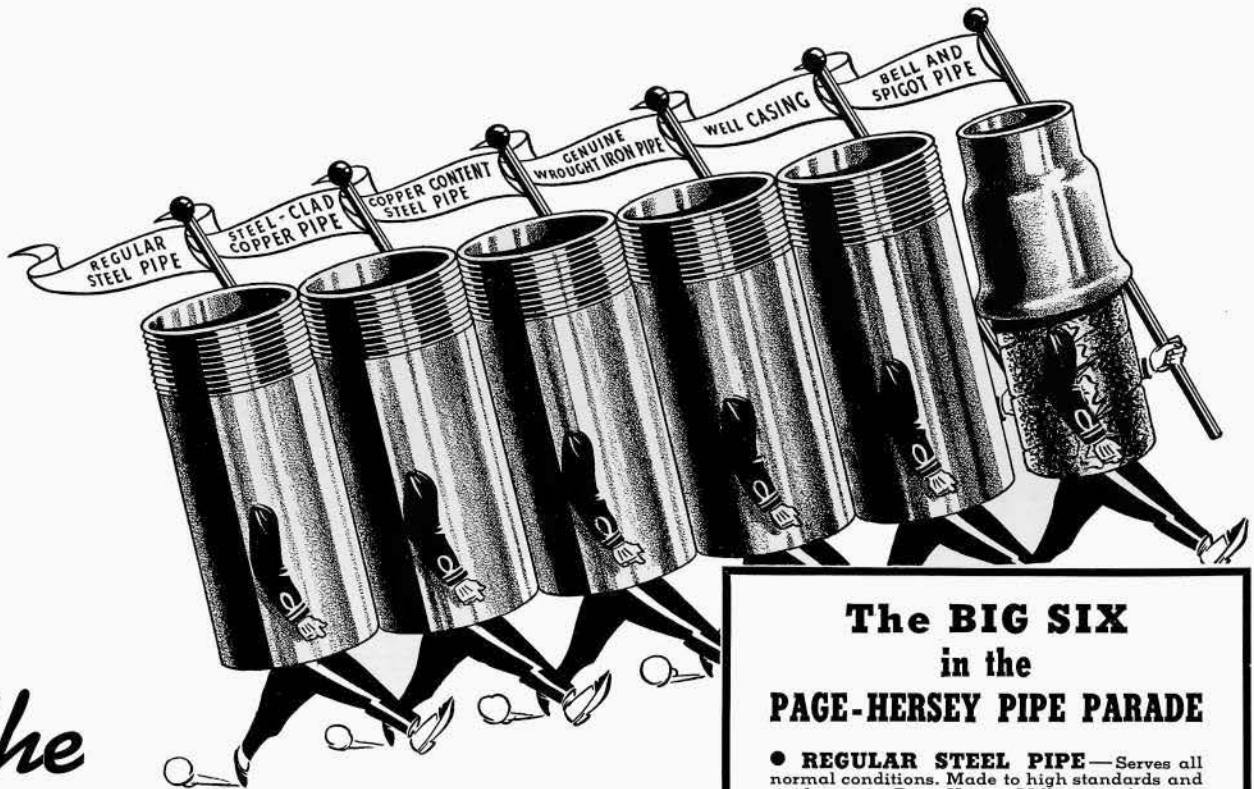
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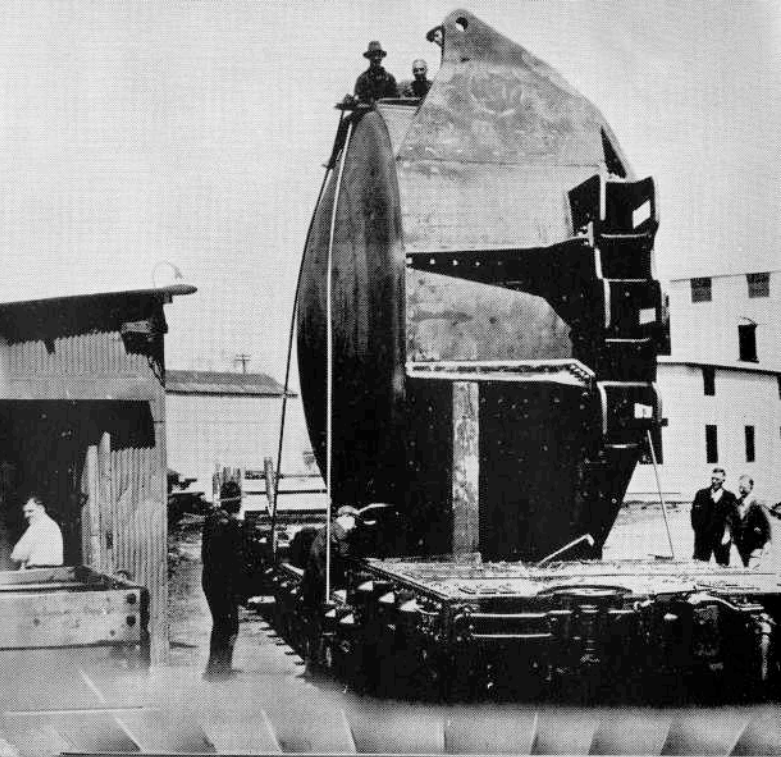
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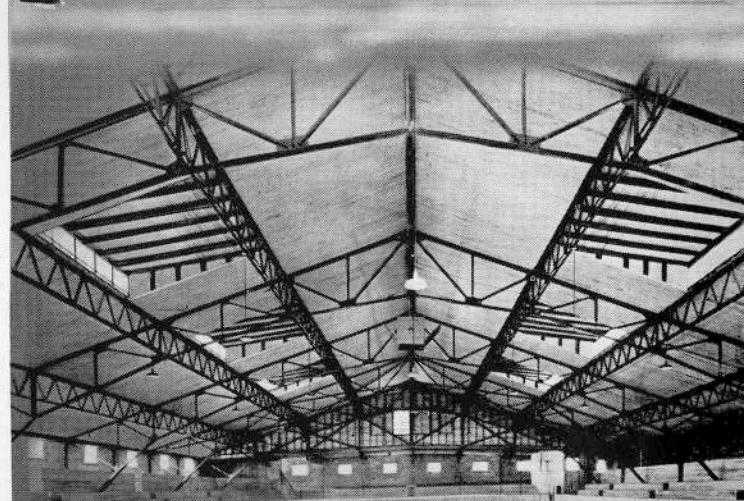
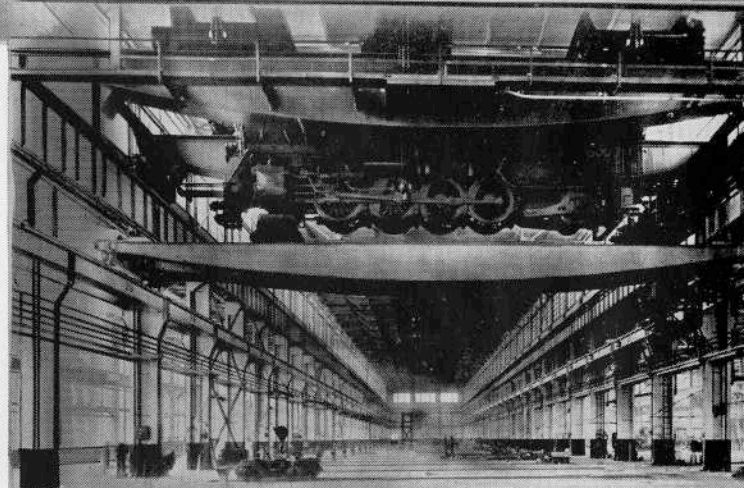
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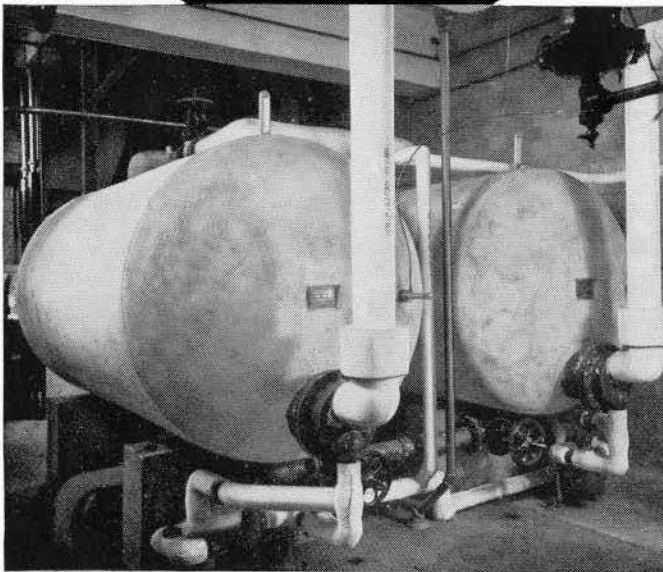
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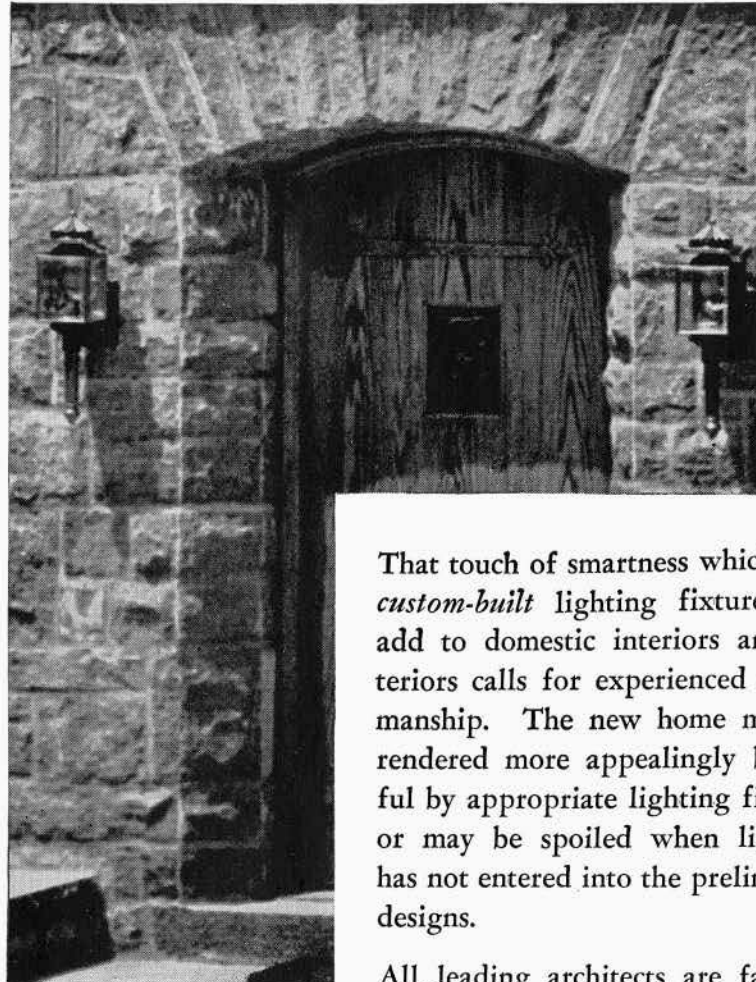
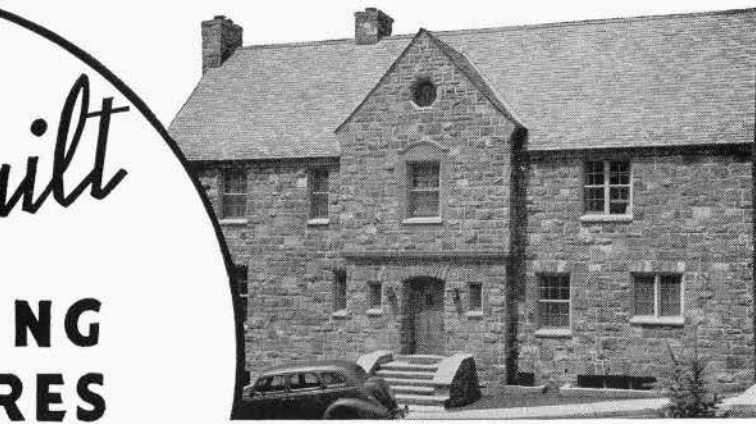
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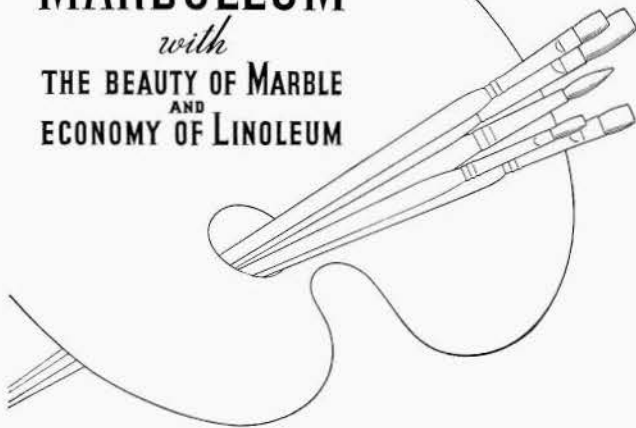
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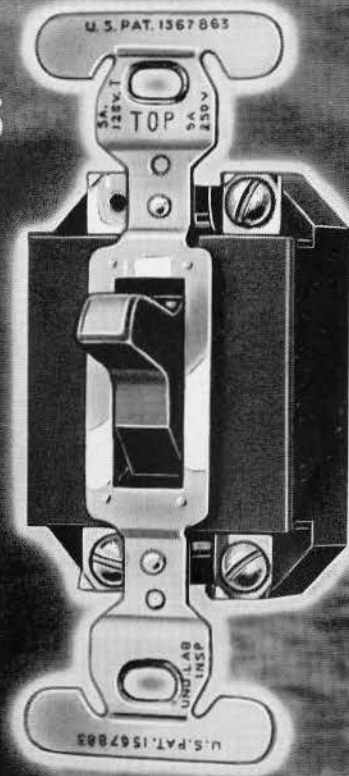
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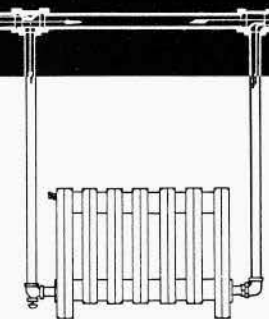
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ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL
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Serial No. 152

TORONTO, APRIL, 1938

Vol. 15, No. 4



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EVERY student of modern architecture will be interested in the Frank Lloyd Wright number of the Architectural Forum. We don't know whether many architects were as ignorant as we were of his work. We had read of his Tokyo Hotel and seen pictures of it, and knew something of the horizontal lines and tile which characterized some of his early work. We had seen two little houses which did not excite us in Buffalo. They looked stuffy and depressed in the colours of mud and blood which mark the older domestic architecture of that city.

Having seen twenty years of his work in the Forum, we are definitely of the opinion that Mr. Wright is the most significant figure in the modern movement. Mr. Wright is the pioneer and deserves all the honour our generation can give him, but it is a pity that he gives no credit himself to the people who followed him. We see no mention anywhere of Dudok or Mendelsohn—no mention of Le Corbusier or Neutra who built on the foundations which he laid. They have done more than that—they have stated their aims and the purpose of architecture without the help of the poets. The complete egoism of Mr. Wright makes his writing extremely difficult to read, and his frequent quotations from Whitman and Thoreau to aid a cause to which we were almost wholly sympathetic adds to one's sense of irritation. The mountains would come scurrying to this Mahomet, or there would be abstract thunderbolts cast from Taliesin. Even Zeus trembled, on one occasion, and the Tokyo hotel was saved.

Mr. Wright is a modernist, and at the same time a full blooded romanticist. He has no interest in the outside world (except China and Japan); he has nothing to say about Mayan architecture which has obviously influenced him profoundly, but he believes implicitly in the United States which he calls Usonia (after Samuel Butler who might better have called it USAnia.) As a Romanticist, he is in the direct line of Walpole, and Watt and Beckford at Fonthill. If he has never heard of Beckford we would strongly commend him to him. Not only did he build the most romantic house in the world, but he was a poet of no mean calibre who wrote *Vathek* on a diet of bread and water, and in French to make it more Romantic. We admire Mr. Wright as a planner, but he gets himself into roofing troubles that would make a speculative builder green with envy. He uses stone and brick floors which we suggest are more medieval than modern; and his mantels of stone, taken straight from the breast of mother earth and laid apparently by savages, are not our conception of "melodic structure". These are well known tricks of the Romantic architect, but it is in his draughting room that Mr. Wright out-Ruskins Ruskin and out-Beckfords the Beckfords of all time. The room is a nightmare of frame construction with very little light and what look like radiators popping up through the floor with the greater part of them, like icebergs, below the surface. "We bought trees standing—logged them to the site, and from the same trunks dripping sap made the abstract forest we now call the draughting room. The type of architecture—Usonian type—is suited to the modelling of the surrounding hills—bespeaks the materials and methods under which and by way of which the buildings themselves were necessarily born. That they are not "modern" as use of steel, concrete and glass would have made them is—I think—beside the mark."

Falling Water is a recent house and in a different category. By the time one has read much by Frank Lloyd Wright one becomes verily to believe that the whole world is wrong and only Frank Lloyd Wright is right. At the risk therefore of blasphemy, we timidly suggest that Falling Water is less Frank L. Wright than anything in the book, and that the spell of the modern movement, as we know it, has fallen on him. It looks like a very good house largely on that account.

Mr. George Bernard Shaw has frequently confessed that he was forced into exaggeration, cynicism and a certain buffoonery at times to make himself heard by a stupid world. Mr. Wright may have adopted the same method, though buffoonery is obviously foreign to a man who describes a \$10,000 house with all the authority of a papal bull. And so "chanting the square deific, out of the one advancing out of the side; out of the old and new, out of the square entirely: Divine, solid—four sided—all the sides needed. I am time, old, modern as any", we leave him alone on his Olympus at Taliesin—and we came with such nice, friendly intentions.

TAXATION AND THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

By H. E. MANNING, K.C.

IT is not necessary in addressing a group of architects to point out the very serious lag, particularly since 1931, of new construction in the residential and business property areas, nor to draw attention to the still more astonishing lag since 1926 of new construction in respect of industrial properties. The figures have been published in a very impressive form in the brief submitted by the National Construction Council to the Royal Commission now hearing representations on Dominion-Provincial Relations, and I shall not attempt to outline the figures to you. The fact that in regard to engineering construction there has been a more notable apparent revival does not, in my judgment, mean that we are on the way to a general building revival. It only means that government enterprises promoted in some measure in the hope of arresting unemployment have been undertaken in larger volume than private enterprises can hope to undertake.

Your attention has, no doubt, been focussed in very large measure upon the hope of stimulating by artificial means the revival of building. Particularly from the technical side architects have been more active in canvassing the prospects of revival of building by promoting low-cost housing schemes and by facilitating on more generous terms the mere financing of building construction, than have other groups of the community. In particular, I do not know of any substantial number of business men who have given the matter of housing schemes, slum clearance programmes and the like, any serious thought from the point of view of their economic desirability. The reason is no doubt twofold, in that business men are notoriously interested only in their immediate concerns, and the other is that there is a widespread scepticism among business men of the possibility of any intelligent government intervention in economic life. It is felt, and with reason, that governments are extravagant and not efficient. There is a suspicion bred of long experience that the optimistic expectations on the cost side of such low-cost housing will be falsified by experience. There is the very realistic sense that estimates prepared by people who do not themselves have to risk capital on the future results of investment, in what is, on the face of it, an unbusinesslike programme, will inevitably prove too rosy. There is beyond all that the profound belief that private enterprises only can be efficient in any economic effort.

Such attention as has been given to the report of the committee which investigated slum conditions in Toronto has been sceptical. In my judgment the scepticism has been justified. That judgment is based on

the experience of owning and operating residential apartments in an intermediate area which runs over a period of close to twenty-five years. It is that the moral factor in the habits and outlook on life of a tenant has very much more to do with the condition of the premises in which he lives than the mere material equipment with which he is at the start provided. I mean that dirt and dilapidation, inattention to repairs and carelessness about property have far more to do with the production of slum conditions than the lack of provision of adequate facilities at the beginning of the tenancy. I could give you many examples which confirm me in that belief. Soap and character have very much more to do with sanitation than new sanitary facilities.

But there is a more important factor underlying the development of slum conditions which, in my judgment, has been decisive. The deplorable slums in a city like Toronto are, so far as my observation goes, almost invariably found on the fringes of commercial and industrial areas where the wisdom of our assessors has imputed to land, values higher than those characterizing the lower class of housing areas where slum conditions cannot be said to exist. The result of those higher assessments, based on some theory of value derived from proximity to more expensive properties, has been the imposition on slum dwellings of higher taxes than those borne by moderate-priced houses. The landowner is thereby compelled to pay higher taxes. He is unable to get an adequate rent. No intelligent person, for economic reasons, spends on property more money than he can get out of it. If he does spend more money he does it for sentimental reasons; and it is at least as reasonable to expect sentimental indulgence from governments as it is to expect it from private owners. In that, you have a clue to the reason for dilapidation of buildings in slum areas.

Rehabilitation legislation and municipal condemnation of buildings because of their antiquated facilities cannot be expected to produce any marked improvement. The reason is that you cannot flog a tired horse into pulling heavy loads uphill and you cannot scourge people into improving property without adequate returns. If you desire improvement you must recognize a fundamental quality in human nature. There must be material advantage.

Now, artificial revival of building, the introduction of low-cost housing, is regarded with great suspicion by land-owners because those owners of properties which are now barely producing enough to carry them know that their enterprising tenants would be glad to take

advantage of the opportunity of moving into cheaper quarters, particularly when those cheaper quarters would be of uneconomically high value. They know that the result of such schemes is likely to be the depression of their properties into slum conditions. They know that they will be compelled to pay the cost of destroying their own properties and the vicious circle continues.

So much for the low-cost housing programme.

As to the housing improvement schemes and the temptations that are held out to people to borrow money for the purpose of rehabilitating their properties, I, personally, am sceptical of the possibility of provoking any great amount of building or any genuine building revival thereby, and the reason is simple. The economies of the new loan schemes are not sufficiently great to insure over a long term of years the repayment of the moneys lent, unless some drastic steps are taken to reduce taxes. We forget the lesson which should be learned from the experience of the Ontario Agricultural Development Board lendings on farm property. That experience suggests that artificially easy lending always encourages over-borrowing, future default and reaction against lending. It also costs money to the taxpayer and no small part of the present provincial financial load comes from widespread agricultural default. Tempting people into the spending of money by promising them for a period of time exemption from taxation, in whole or in part, is only postponing the day of reckoning and disillusionment. There ought to be from the beginning a sound and healthy basis of paying as we go. There is, further, the obstacle to economical construction raised by high wage rates fixed and restricted hours of work required under the Industrial Standards Act. On a rough guess that act has been responsible for increasing the cost of buildings by from 5% to 10%.

That brings me to the inevitable discussion of taxation. I offer you my apologies if you feel that this subject is being dragged in by the heels at every possible opportunity. It is dragged in by the heels, by the scruff of the neck and by any other means one may drag it in because, whether we drag it in or attempt to keep it out, it will still force itself upon our consciousness. We have, in effect, had Communism at our very door in Canada for long, long years. It would be a subject demanding in itself a whole speech to show how that came about and I content myself with the dogmatic assertion that Communism is the taking away from people of the property that they have for the benefit of some abstract concept such as the state or the municipality expropriating or forfeiting it in the name of the law without compensation. The essence of Communism is the belief that our governors own us and what we have, and are entitled to take our possessions from us and that we must not raise our voices in protest or our hands to strike off bureaucracy. Its essence is the mentality of the tax-gatherer who abuses people for

not paying taxes gladly. That Communism has struck this country of Canada in varying degrees. More than one-third of the total area of Saskatoon has been forfeited for tax arrears. Over one-half the vacant lands in Winnipeg have become municipal property. In downtown Toronto, in the very heart of the business section, since 1927, there has been a vast amount of demolition of buildings. More than one mile of street frontages in the very centre of the city, bounded by Dundas, Church and Wellington Streets and University Avenue is today vacant of buildings where once buildings were found. In 1936 more than sixty miles of street frontages in Toronto represented vacant properties, an increasing proportion of which has been acquired by the city at tax sales.

The reason for that is that over a long period of years tax bills have been increasing at an extraordinary rate and for extraordinary reasons. With the advent of the motor car we were bound in any event to find some increase in the cost of municipal government because the motor car has made possible suburban development and made necessary the provision of expensive roads. That in its turn meant additional water works and electric light facilities and fire protection services, but it was not inevitable that we should have had the very great increase of municipal burdens which, in the past twenty years, have come from enthusiastic ideas about the need for elaborate educational facilities and the necessity for giving every growing child in the community the opportunity to obtain, largely at the expense of the land-owner, an equivalent of two years at the University in his continuation classes. Not only has the burden of education been increased, almost dollar for dollar as the cost of all other services increased, but Boards of Education have been practically free of financial control by Municipal Councils for nearly ninety years. In the result the Toronto Board of Education in ten years spent one hundred and twenty millions of dollars; in fifteen years increased its debt service charges by 163%, although the school population increased by only 25%. On top of the rising burden of educational costs provincial governments in their wisdom have piled responsibility for children's aid, free hospital treatment of the poor and one-third of the cost of direct unemployment relief. In eighteen cities in Ontario the tax rates increased as between 1916 and 1936 by anywhere from 25% to 110%, mostly the increase exceeded 50%. In twelve cities in Ontario the burden of the social services in 1936 ranged from 5.5 mills to 20.9 mills and the un-weighted average of the rates chargeable to this account was about 10 mills, if one includes the amount of spending covered by borrowings which represented deferred rates.

The putting of responsibility for education and the social services on municipal bodies, of which there are in Ontario some 940, is decidedly a retrograde or primitive measure. The whole experience of England

over a period of 335 years has been that the responsibility for such services should be taken over from the local government body and assumed by the national government. More than a century ago the pressure of poor relief became so great in England, where the land tax system has never been as deadly in its effect on land values as the Canadian system is bound to be, that it became necessary to institute more rigorous control of poor relief and, finally, to make it in effect a national undertaking through the various contributory insurance and pension schemes. Beyond that more than one-half the cost of primary education is, in England, borne by the National Exchequer, whereas in a province like Ontario only about 12% is borne by the province, and in a city like Toronto less than 6% is contributed from provincial sources. Notwithstanding that, we have the present-day threat at Ottawa that Federal contributions will be cut down, and the counter-threat from Ontario that if Ottawa withdraws its contributions, so will the province and together, very much like the walrus and the carpenter weeping over the oyster, our governments threaten to run away from their responsibilities. In a federal system it is always so much easier to play politics and blame the other fellow, that the way out seems to be to run away from responsibility, rather than to accept it and carry it sturdily.

When one remembers that nearly three municipal voters out of four are not themselves responsible for the payment of taxes, and that our public men have comforted themselves with the myth that the tenant pays the taxes, then we can understand why it is that our governments have not realized the uselessness of many of their proposals. There is no inducement in the present political set-up of municipal governments to economy. There never will be any disposition to municipal economy of a dependable character until once again we go back to the principle that the taxpayer is the only person who has a right to say how his money shall be spent. That is the meaning of British political history.

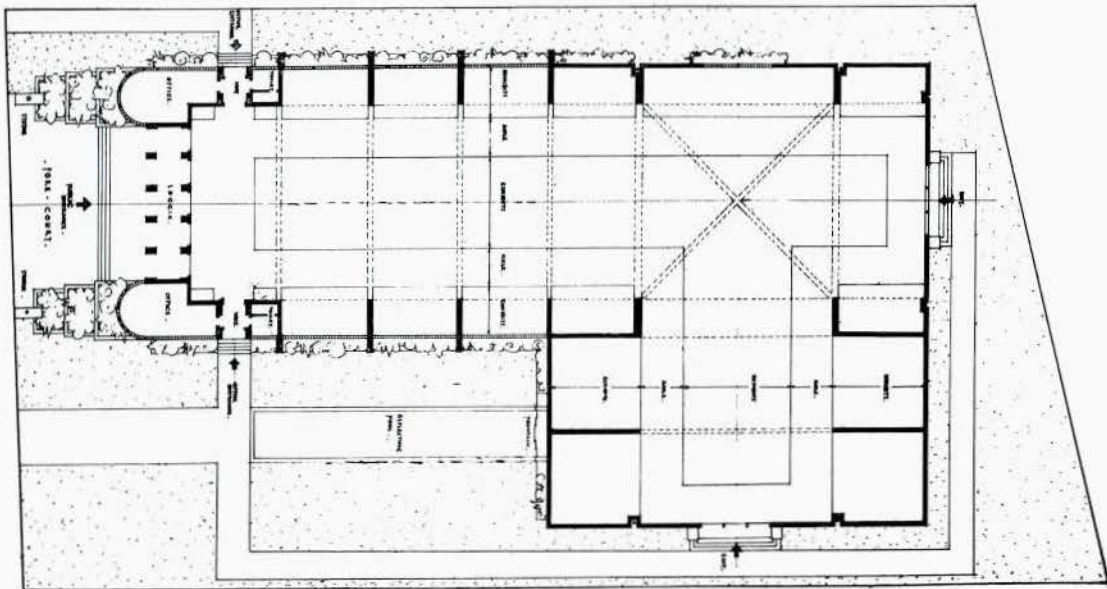
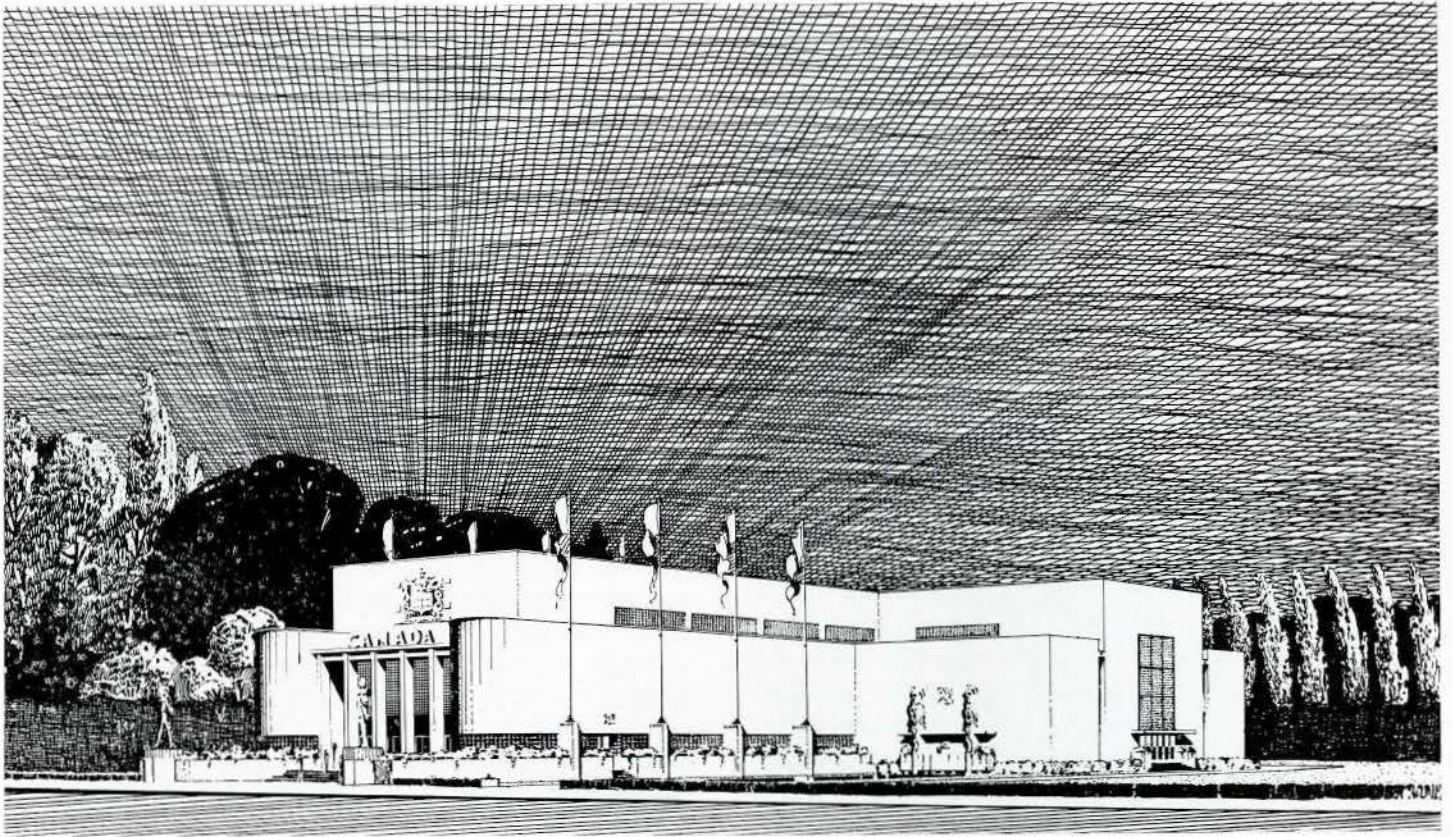
I have said these things so that you might understand why it is that in our propaganda put forward by the Property Owners Associations, we have demanded,

first, that the cost of education be in large measure assumed by the provincial government and that the burden of the social services be taken away from municipalities, and, second, that when that is done the franchise be put on a sound basis consistent with a proper view of democratic principles.

We must realize that we have long deluded ourselves as to the ability of land to bear taxes. In that we have been unconsciously influenced by the romantic calculations of the single taxpayers. It is too long a story here to tell you why the single tax idea will not work. It should be sufficient to say that so far as mere land values are concerned they are already taxed beyond the ability of land revenues to support the burden. If so, it is clearly impossible to take away from buildings any of the burdens which they now bear without still further depressing the value of land and making undesirable its use in the economic life of the community. High taxation has been a powerful factor in producing the skyscraper. The skyscraper in its turn destroys the value of adjacent land by sucking up its potential occupancy and concentrating into a small area so much business that there is no necessity to use the neighbouring lands. In this you will find a hint as to why you cannot cast a heavier burden upon land as distinct from buildings. There is no use in contemplating the redistribution of tax burdens according to revenue because if you do that you only destroy the value of the remaining properties in our large centres which still possess some value to their owners. If you destroy that value, again you destroy the possibility of encouraging new buildings.

I am pointing these further things out to you because in your interests as professional men it is very important that there be a substantial lightening of the burden of land taxation and that, when that burden is lightened, measures be taken to insure that we shall not again be extravagant and get into the sorry position in which we now find ourselves by reason of land taxation. For those reasons I should hope to enlist your wholehearted support in furthering the objects which we think must be pursued if there is to be any sound rebuilding of Canadian national life.

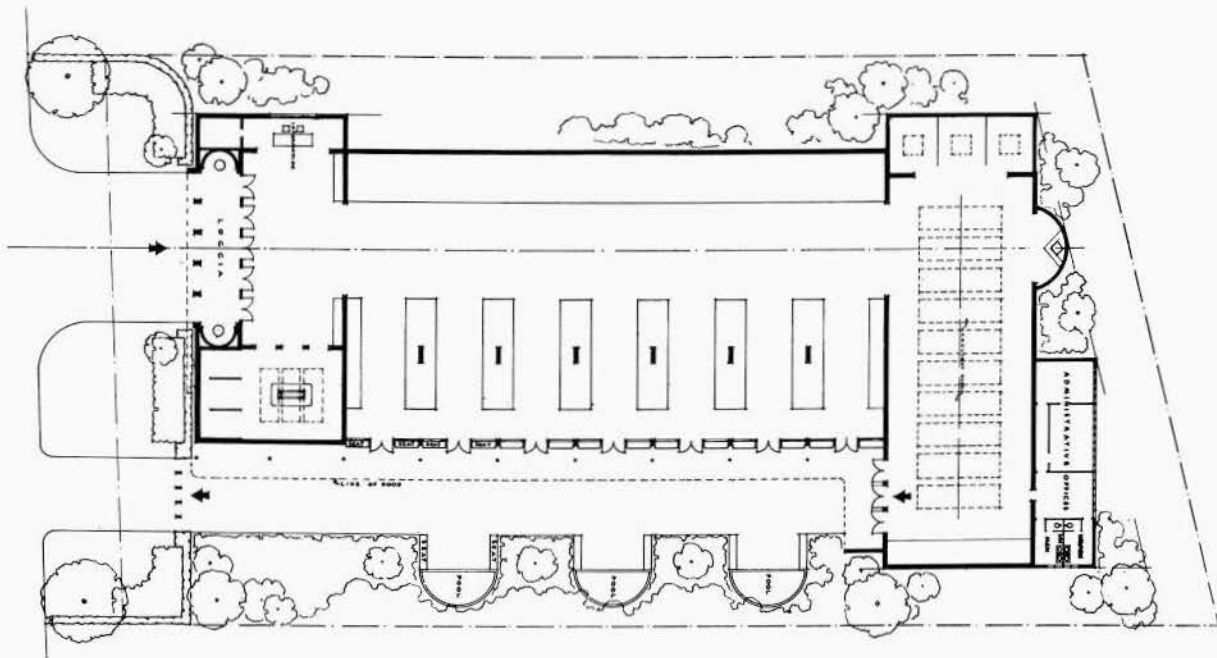
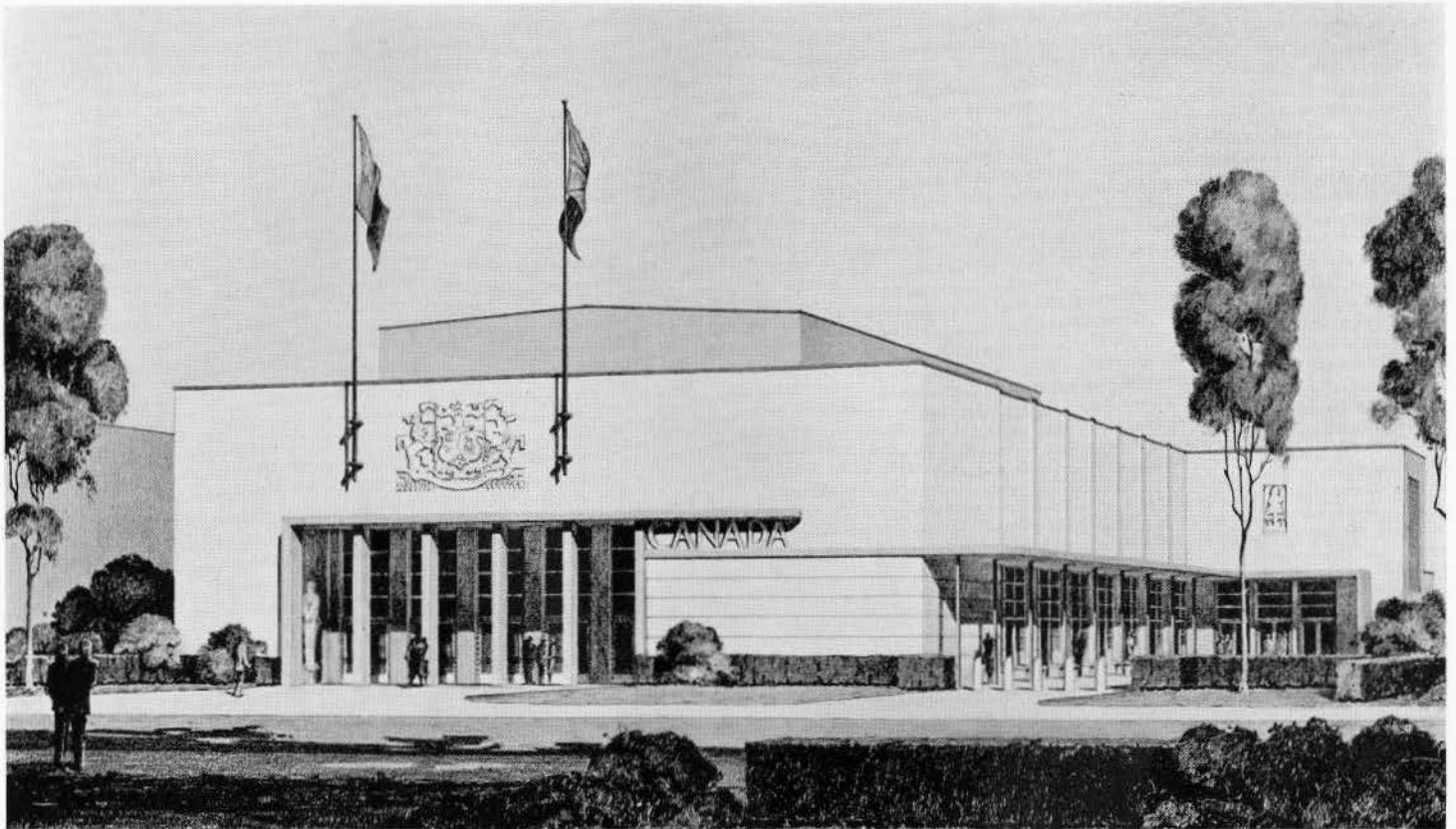
Address to Toronto Chapter of Ontario Association of Architects, March 15th, 1938



CANADIAN BUILDING WORLD'S FAIR NEW YORK 1939

DESIGN PLACED FIRST

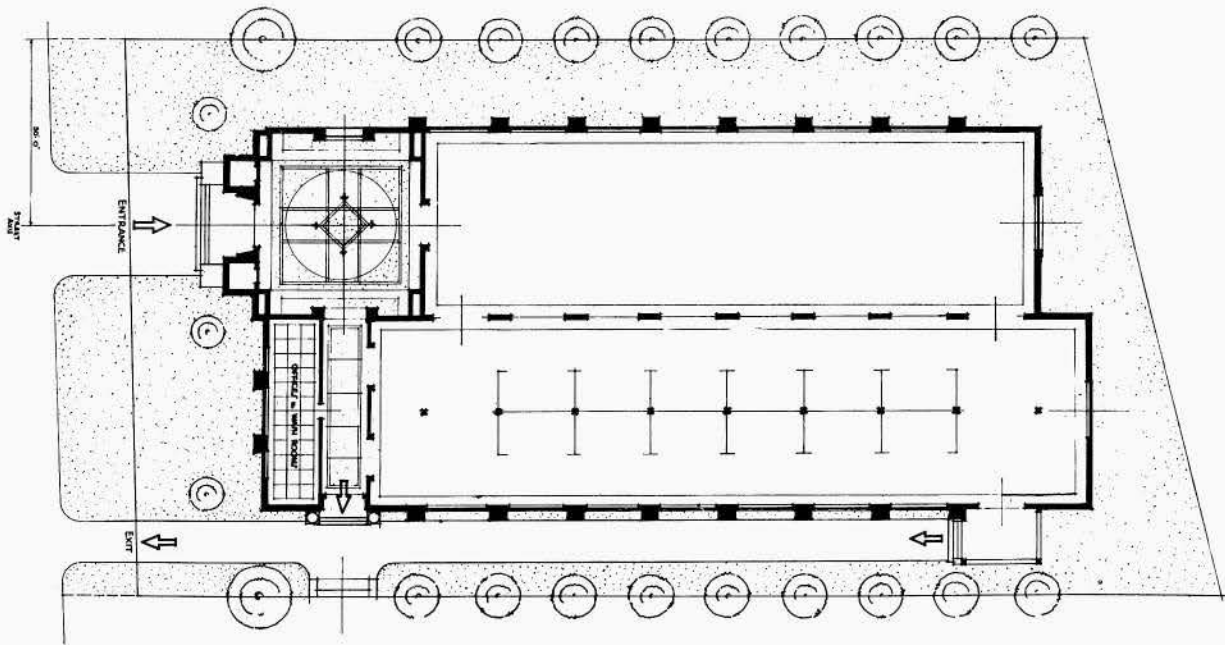
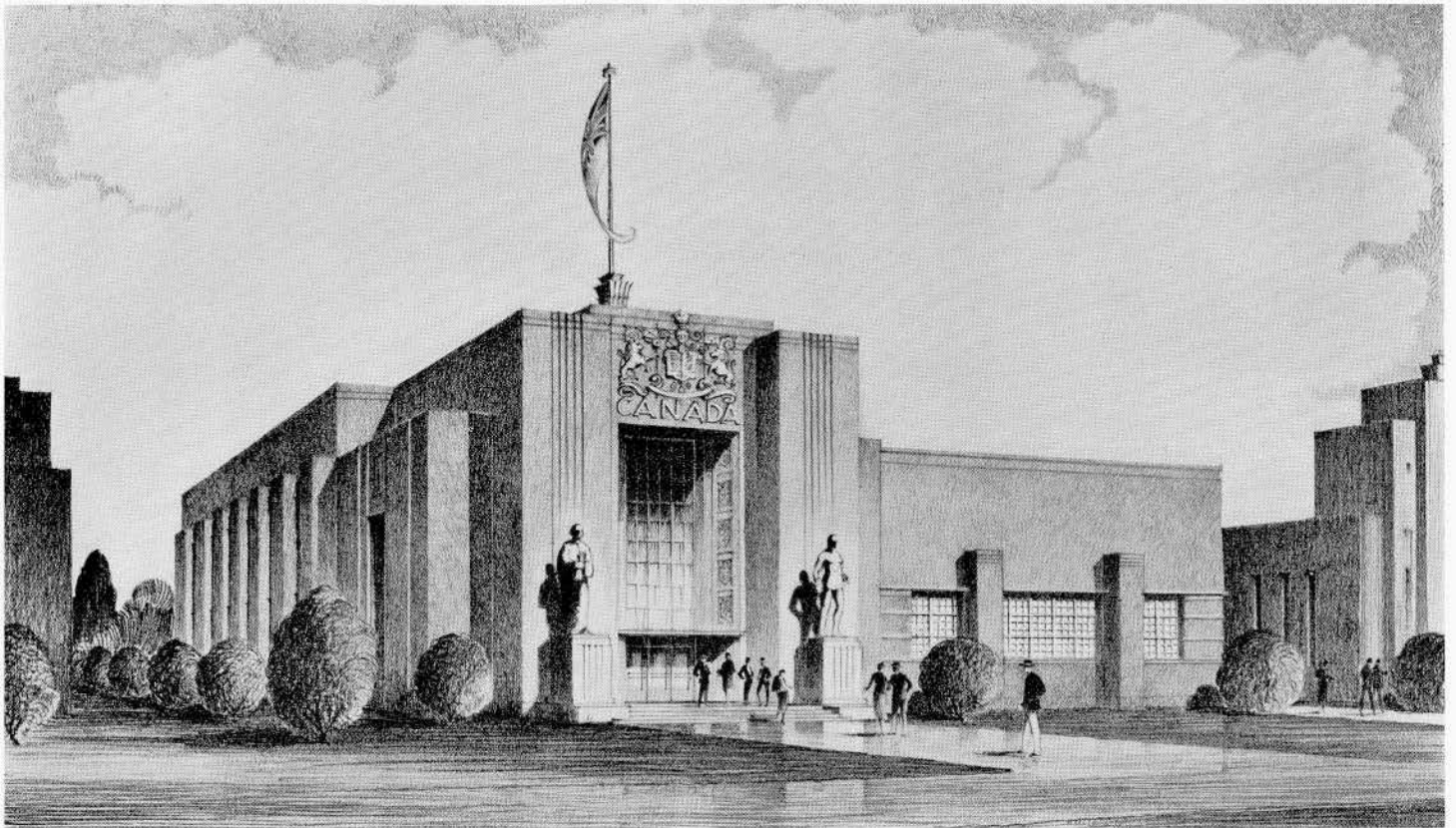
W. F. WILLIAMS, NELSON, B. C.



CANADIAN BUILDING WORLD'S FAIR NEW YORK 1939

DESIGN PLACED SECOND

E. I. BAROTT, MONTREAL, QUE.



CANADIAN BUILDING WORLD'S FAIR NEW YORK 1939

DESIGN PLACED THIRD

ROSS AND MACDONALD, MONTREAL, QUE.

DOMINION HOUSING COMPETITION

By A. S. MATHERS

MOST Housing Competitions in the past have been held for the purpose of selecting a "model" design for a small house; and first, second and third prizes, with a few honourable mentions, have been selected. On this continent scores of such competitions have been held with the unfortunate result that so far the number of prize designs on paper exceeds the number of houses built under housing schemes by a comfortable margin. The first competition held under the Dominion Housing Act ran true to form as a Housing Competition. The winning design and the others in the money are still to a great extent on paper only. The reasons for this are many, but the principal ones are two, first, the designs were like ultra-fashionable clothes, too far in advance of popular fancy to be acceptable to house owners in the price class; and, second, the designs were not in the minimum cost class. This latter reason is important when one considers that the greater percentage of all houses built by private builders are in this category.

Design No. 147, by E. C. Cox, of Montreal, in the traditional style of Quebec, is an outstanding example of fresh and capable handling of this lovely country manner. The plan is compact and tight without awkward door swings, which are a problem when dimensions are small. The design, while obviously based upon the traditional style of one part of the country, is, at the same time, one which could well be built in any urban or rural district in the Dominion.

Design No. 264, by Harold Cullerne, of Vancouver, is another regional type. In this case the materials suggested rather than the form indicate a design primarily suitable for British Columbia. The plan is interesting in that the dining alcove could be handled as a separate room.

Design No. 211, by D. E. Kertland, Toronto, is a modification of the mid-nineteenth century French-Canadian village house. It is a type once popular in Ontario, and has quite recently regained its popularity. The mansard roof calls for little or no sacrifice in space in the second floor and at the same time helps the scale of a small house. The plan is compact and economical.

Design No. 194, by Greensides & Langley, of Toronto, is a modern version of the small Georgian house of Upper Canada. It is pleasing and well proportioned. The plan has the advantage of providing for direct access to the front door from the kitchen.

Design No. 196, by Greensides & Langley, of Toronto, is a straightforward design, in a universal vernacular style, simple, straightforward and unaffected. This kind of small house has been built in all Northern

European countries for centuries. It would take its place equally well in the landscape of Quebec or of Manitoba. The plan is compact, original and ingenious. It has the same direct access from kitchen to front door as was provided in the other plan by the same authors.

Design No. 251, by T. H. Mace, of Montreal, is in the same class as No. 196 by Greensides & Langley. It is primarily a small town or rural design rather than one for crowded city property. The designer has produced a feeling of repose in his design by the rectangular shape in plan and the low eave line of the mansard roof that is often difficult to achieve in a building of this size. The plan is exceptionally good, and while the indication of the chimney is obviously an error in draughtmanship, the correction of this error does not cause any increase in the size, or alteration in the arrangement, of the plan.

Design No. 21, by Page & Steele, of Toronto, is definitely of an urban type in the so-called modern Georgian style. It is a type popular in the larger towns and cities. The plan is straightforward and conventional and well proportioned.

Design No. 238, by Alvin R. Prack, of Hamilton, is another of the vernacular type similar to Nos. 196 and 251, and, like both of them, is very ingenious in plan. The arrangement of the ground floor bedroom and bathroom on a higher level than the living-room has a great deal of merit.

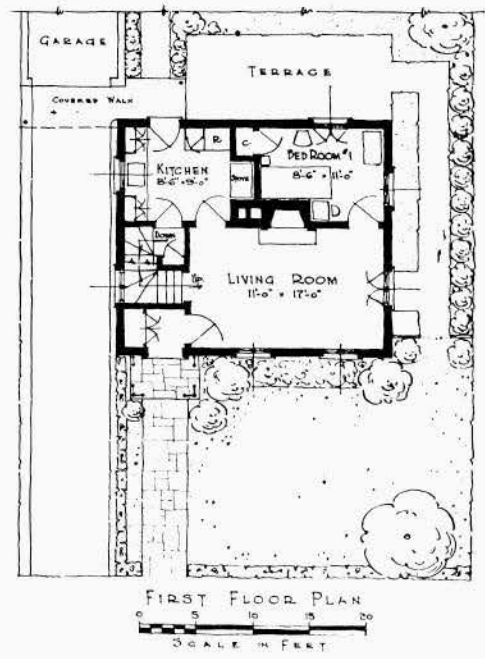
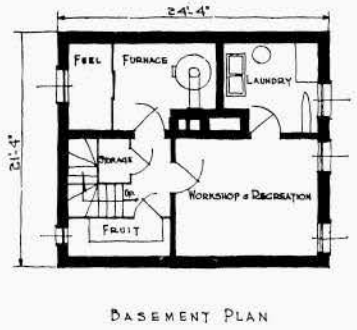
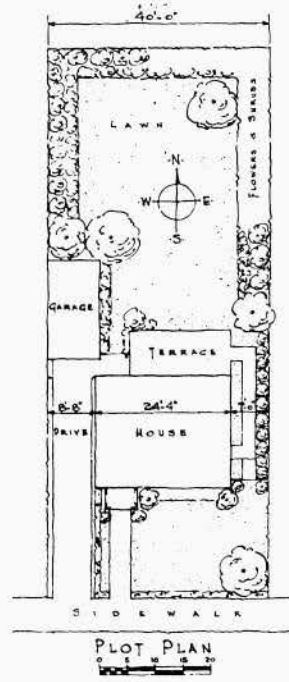
Design No. 65, by Paul Rosseau, of Quebec, is one of the few traditional designs submitted by French-Canadian architects. Among other things, it provides a verandah on the front; a very desirable and popular feature in Eastern Canada. The plan is conventional and with its ground floor bedroom, or rather chambre, should prove a popular house in the rural areas of Quebec and the East.

Design No. 104, by A. H. Tremblay, of Quebec, is a sophisticated and urbane performance. It is the most modern of all those selected and yet is reminiscent of many minor Regency houses in England. This design, while not likely to be much in demand in rural areas, would easily take its place among the more highly stylized dwellings in the larger towns. The plan is unusual but a very workable, economical one.

While the judges finally selected ten designs as the best, there were many others that deserved recognition, as the government set a limit of ten to be selected, they were of necessity eliminated.

In all, about 300 designs were submitted by architects throughout the Dominion.

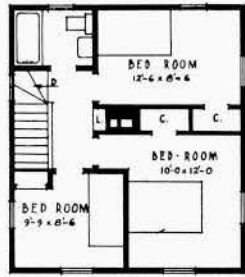
DOMINION HOUSING ACT



EDWARD CECIL COX, ARCHITECT
MONTREAL, QUEBEC

DESIGN No. 147

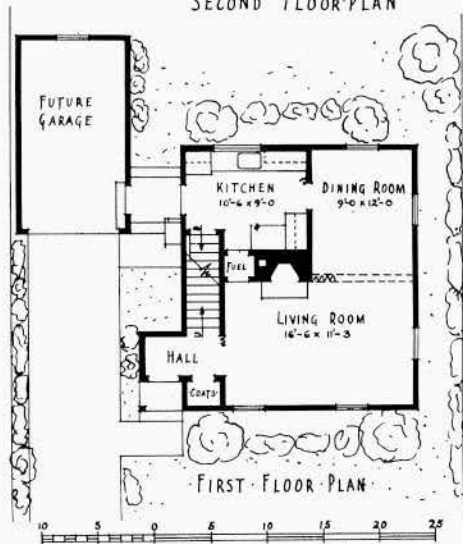
DOMINION HOUSING ACT



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



PERSPECTIVE

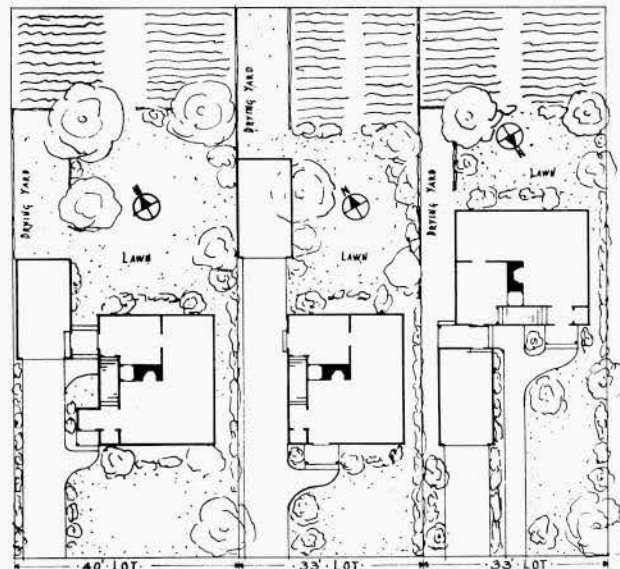


FIRST FLOOR PLAN



BASEMENT PLAN

SECTION



BLOCK PLAN

10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50

HAROLD CULLERNE, ARCHITECT
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

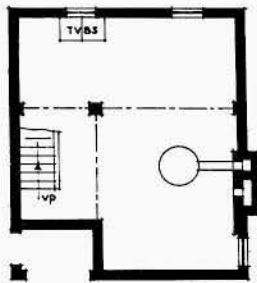
DESIGN No. 264

DOMINION HOUSING ACT

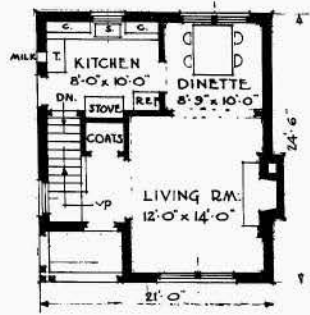


FRONT ELEVATION

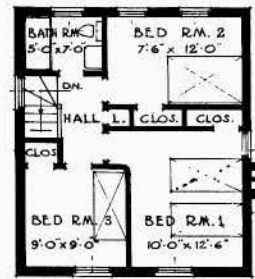
SIDE ELEVATION



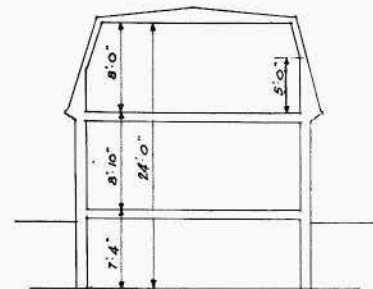
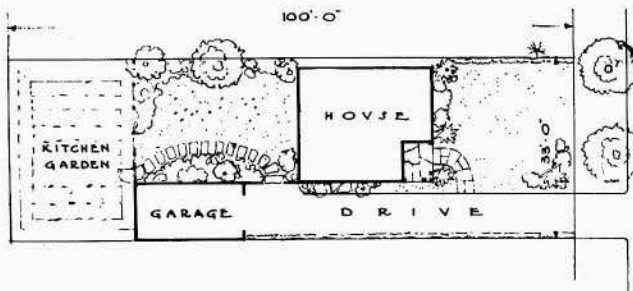
BASEMENT



GROVND FLOOR



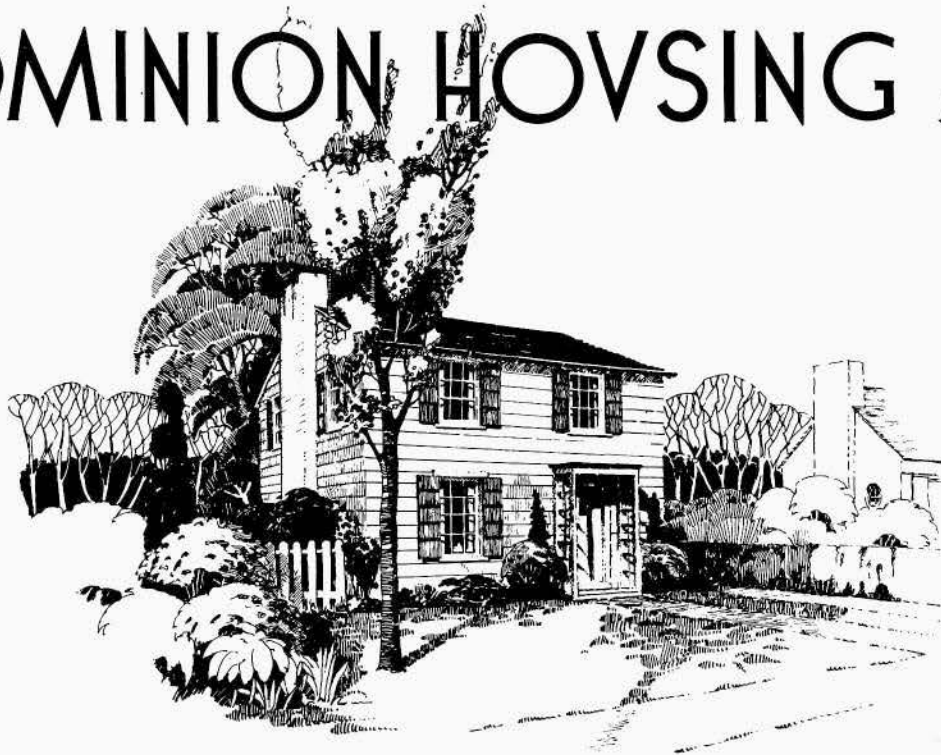
FIRST FLOOR



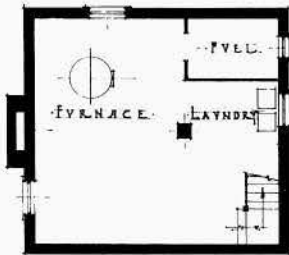
DOUGLAS E. KERTLAND, ARCHITECT
TORONTO, ONTARIO

DESIGN No. 211

DOMINION HOVSING ACT

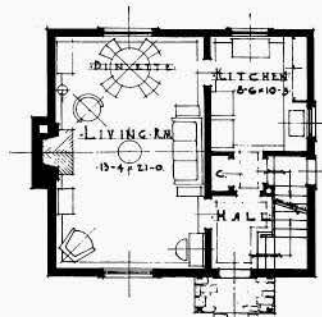


PERSPECTIVE



BASEMENT PLAN

SCALE FOR PLOT PLAN

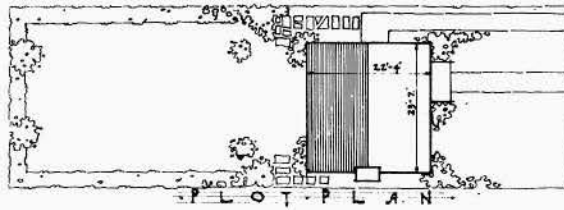


FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

SCALE FOR PLANS

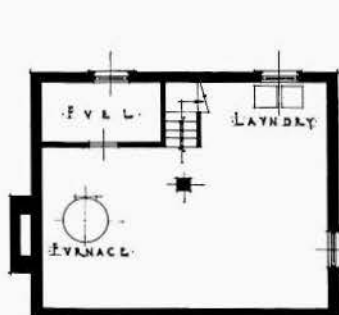


PLOT PLAN

GREENSIDES AND LANGLEY, ARCHITECTS
TORONTO, ONTARIO

DESIGN No. 194

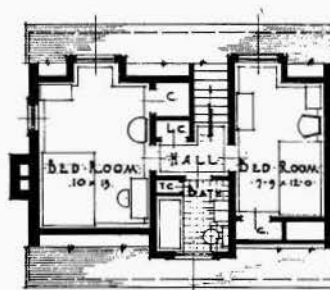
DOMINION HOUSING ACT



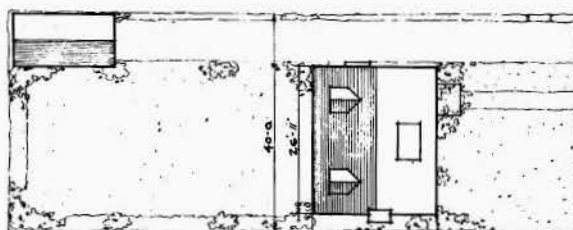
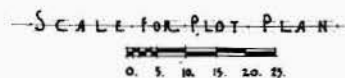
BASEMENT PLAN



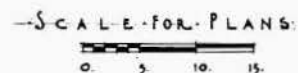
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



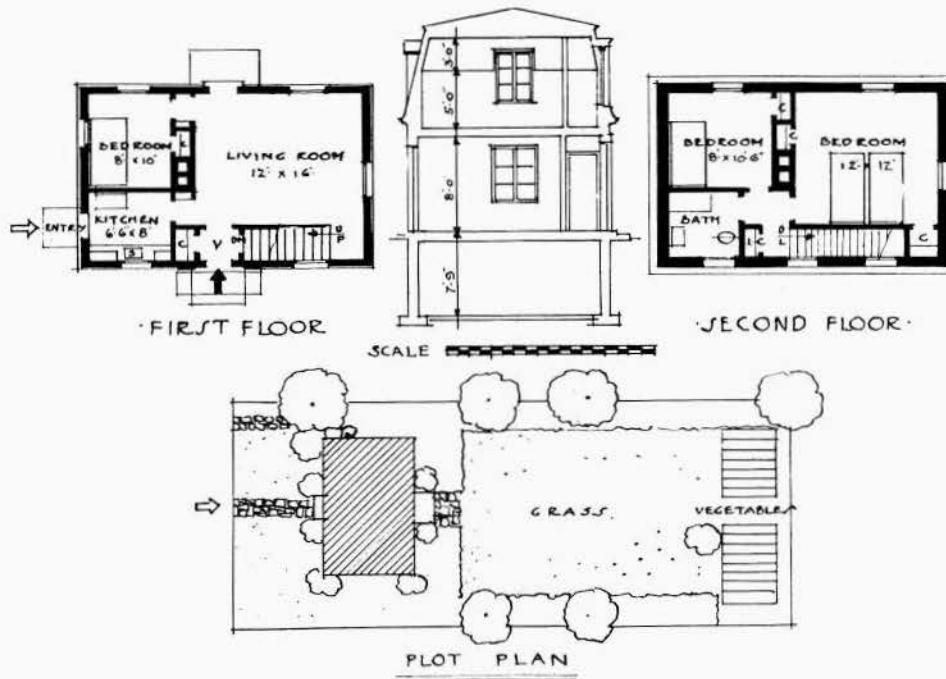
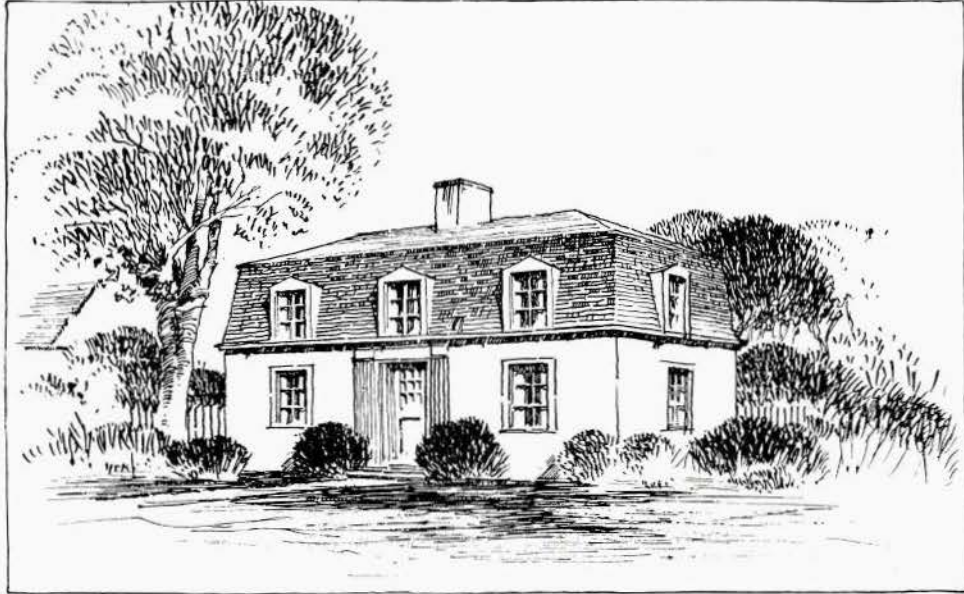
PLOT PLAN



GREENSIDES AND LANGLEY, ARCHITECTS
TORONTO, ONTARIO

DESIGN No. 196

DOMINION HOUSING ACT



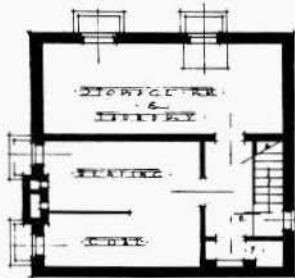
T. H. MACE, ARCHITECT
MONTREAL, QUEBEC

DESIGN No. 251

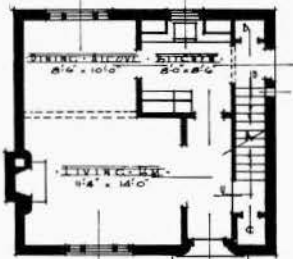
DOMINION + HOVSING + ACT



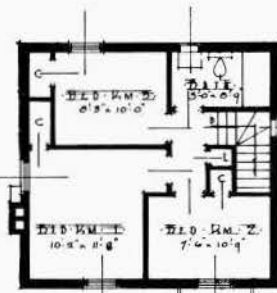
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SCALE



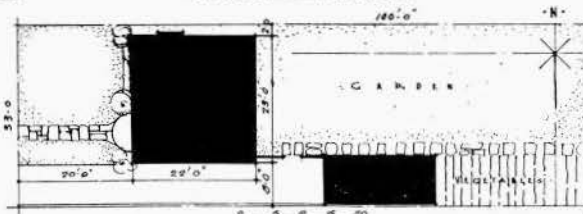
BASMENT FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

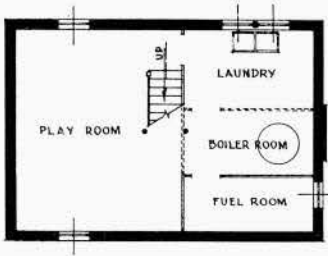


DRIVEWAY

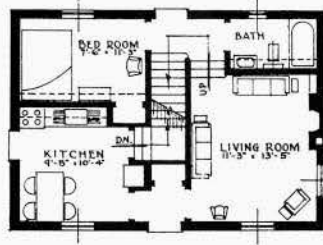
FORSEY, PAGE AND STEELE, ARCHITECTS
TORONTO, ONTARIO

DESIGN No. 21

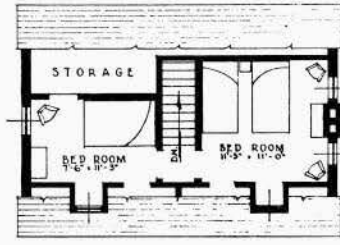
DOMINION HOVSING ACT



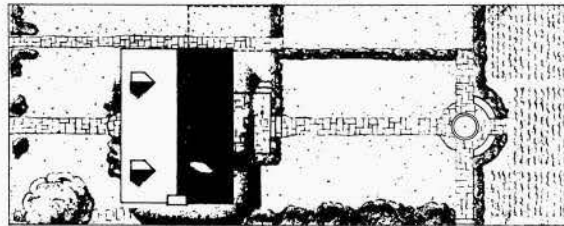
BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

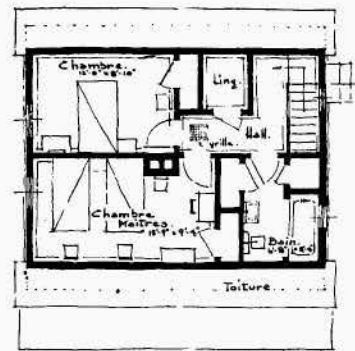


PLOT PLAN
CUBAGE — 11,880 CU. FT.

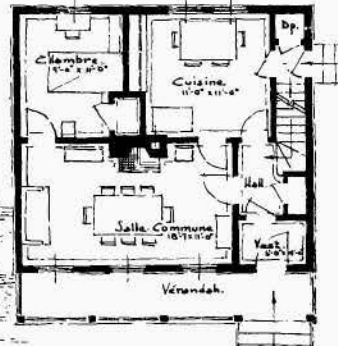
ALVIN R. PRACK, ARCHITECT
HAMILTON, ONTARIO

DESIGN No. 238

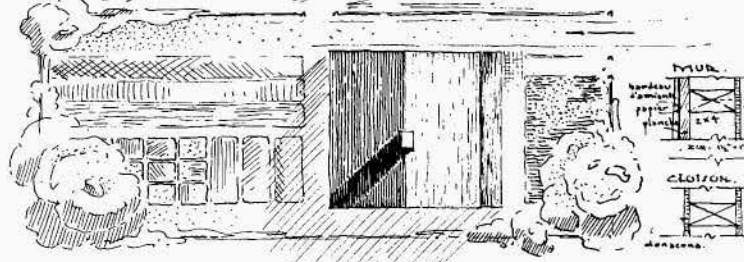
LOI FÉDÉRALE SUR LE LOGEMENT



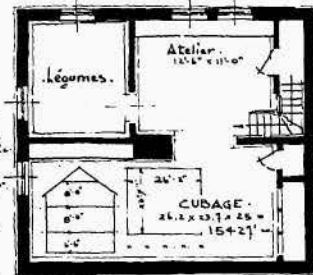
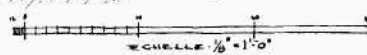
PLAN D'ÉTAGE



PLAN DU REZ-DE-CH.



PLAN D'ENSEMBLE -
Echelle 1/8" = 1'-0"

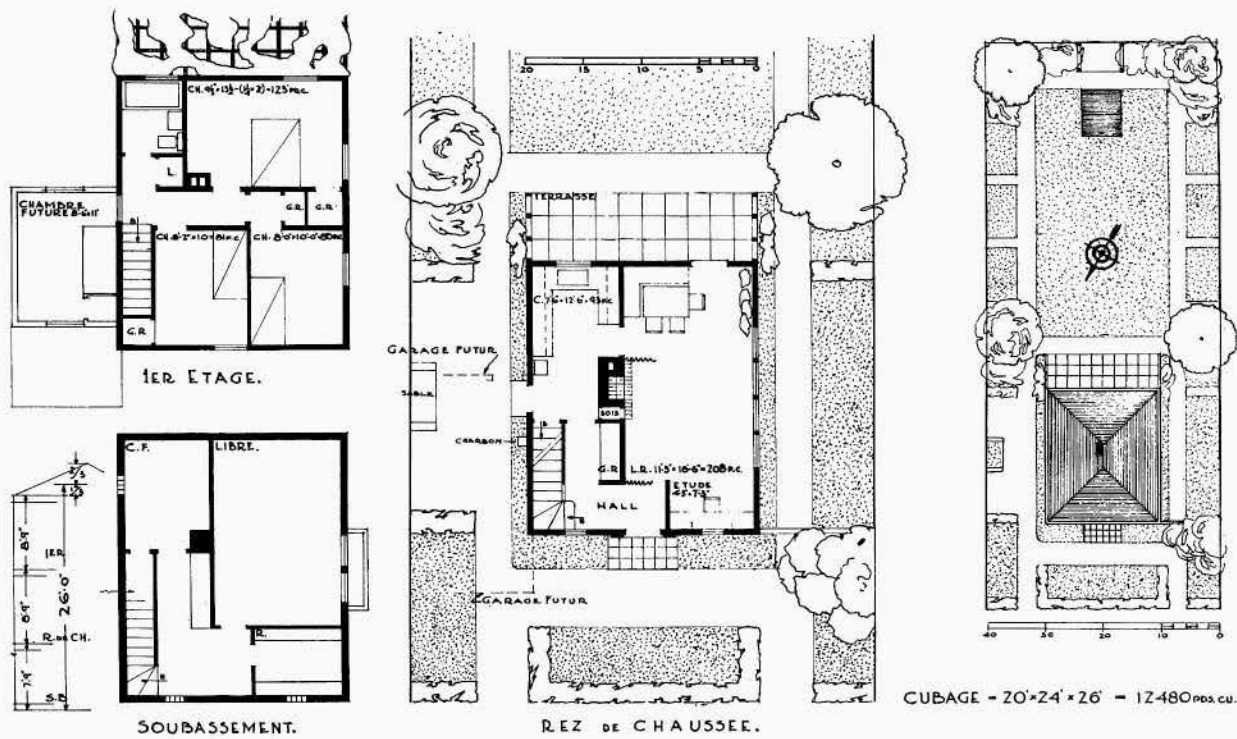
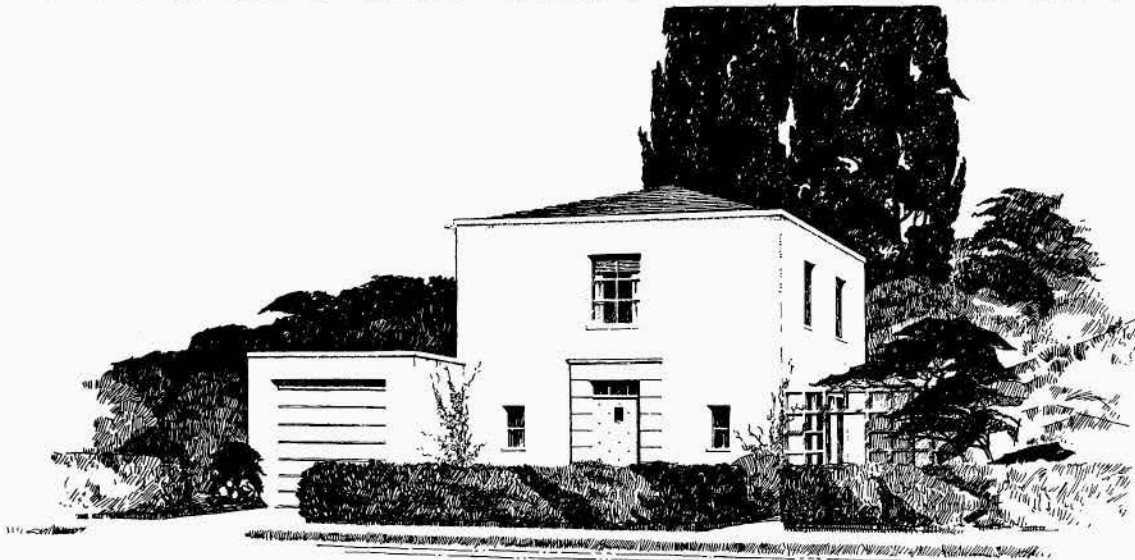


PLAN DE LA CAVE

PAUL ROUSSEAU, ARCHITECT
QUEBEC, QUEBEC

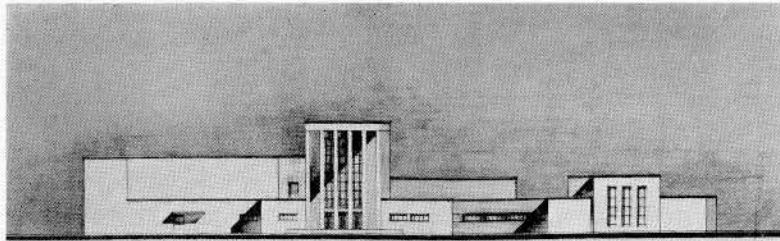
DESIGN No. 65

LOI FEDERALE SUR LE LOGEMENT

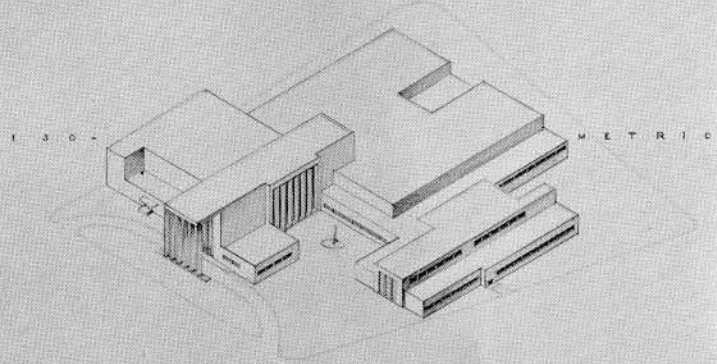


A. H. TREMBLAY, ARCHITECT
 QUEBEC, QUEBEC

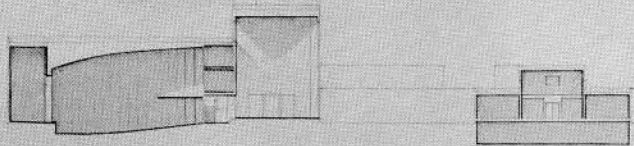
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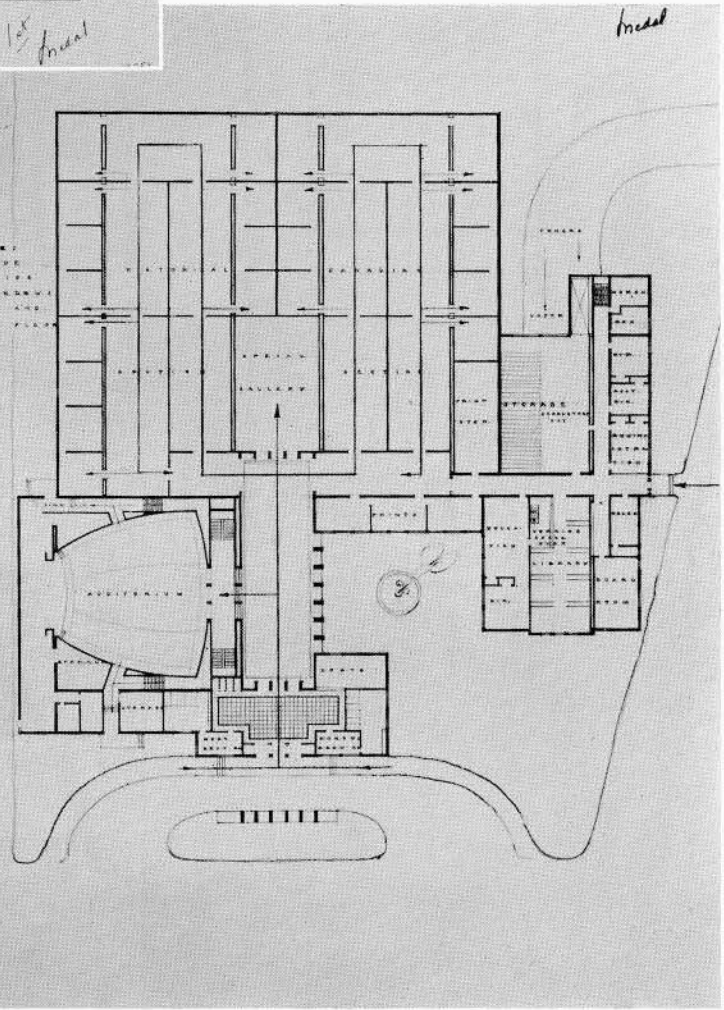
ELEVATION



ISOMETRIC

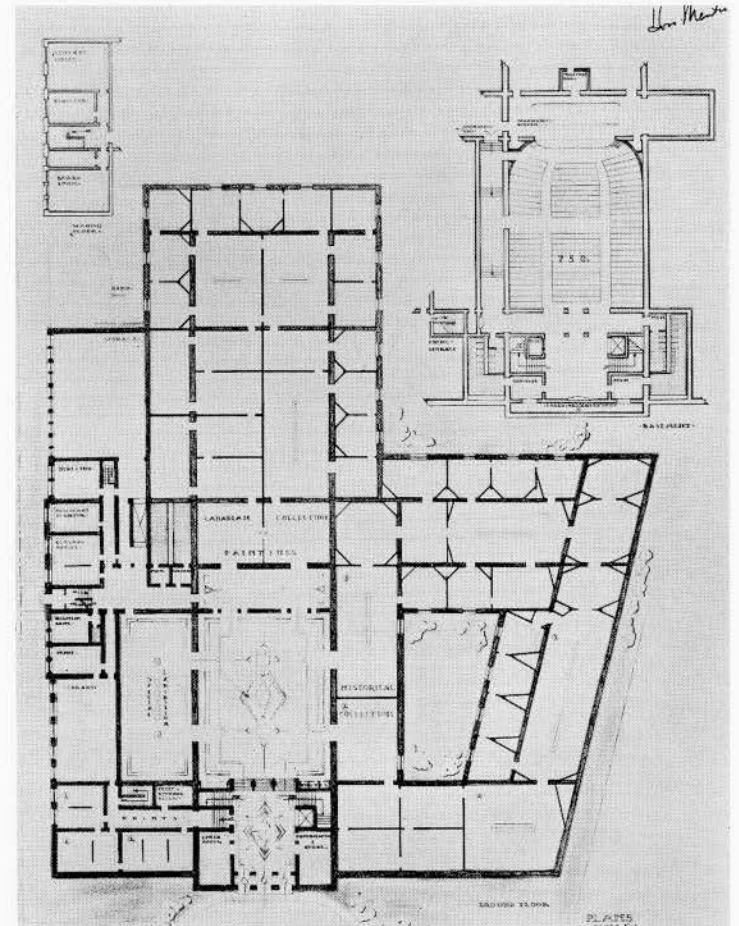
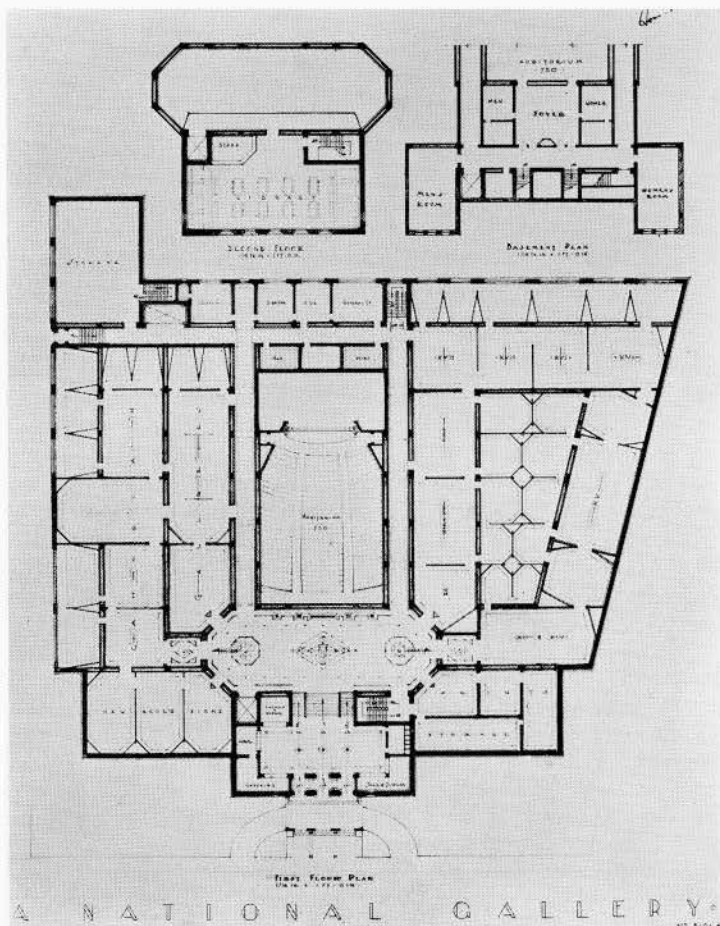
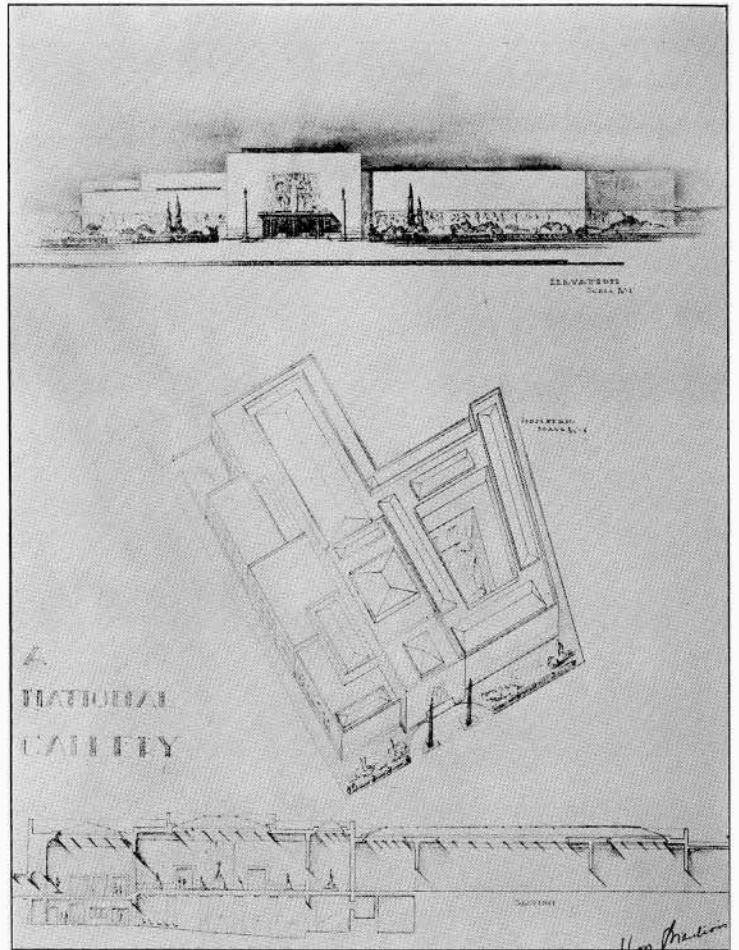
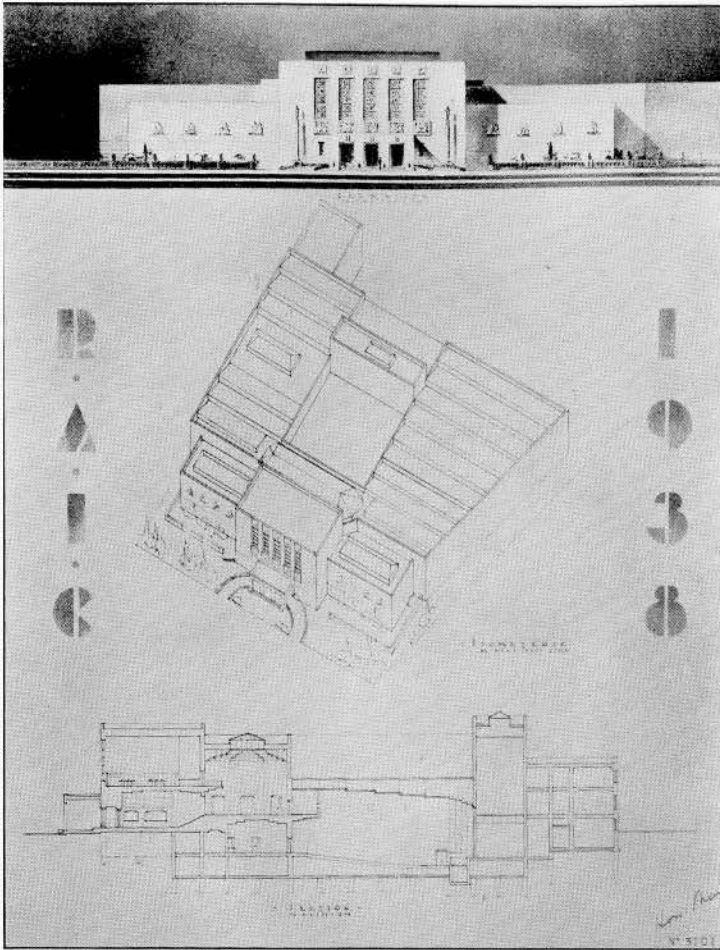


SECTION



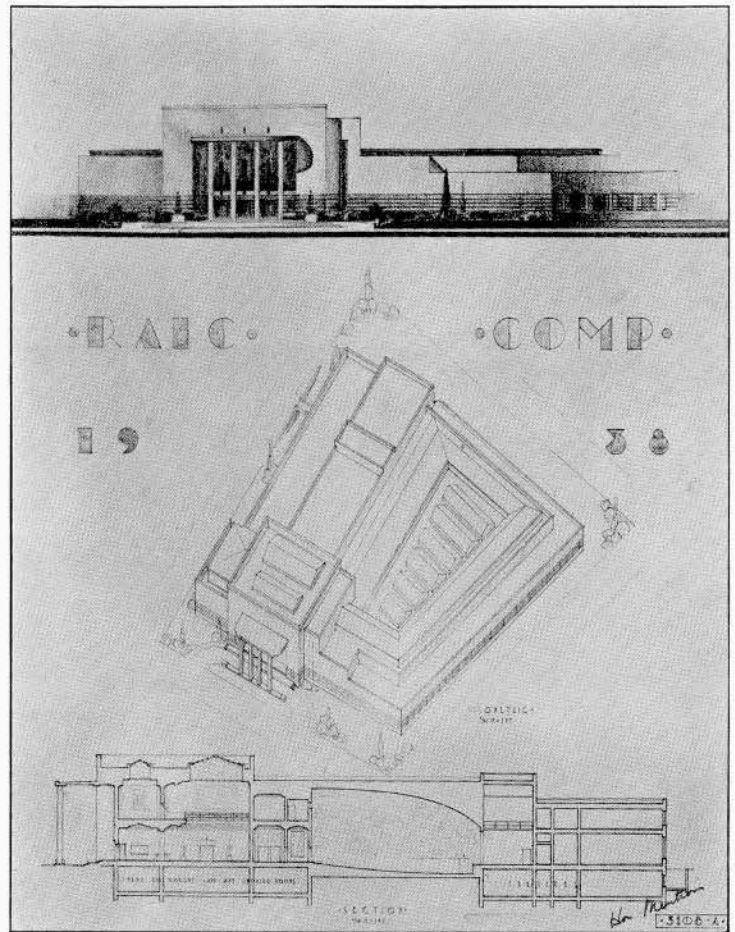
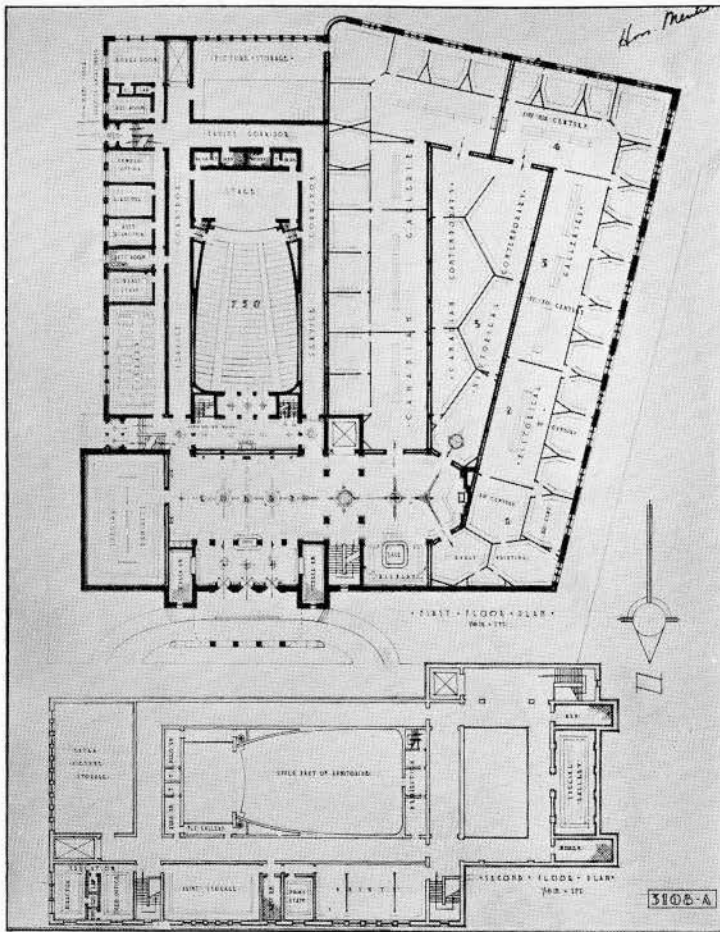
A NATIONAL GALLERY

R.A.I.C. STUDENT
COMPETITION, 1938,
CLASS "A" PROJECT



FIRST MENTION
MR. VICTOR BOYD, UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

MENTION
MISS JOAN HARLAND, UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA



MENTION
MR. DEXTER STOCKDILL, UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

R.A.I.C. STUDENT COMPETITION, CLASS A—"NATIONAL GALLERY"

Having prepared, at the request of the committee in charge, the programme and acted on the jury, I hasten to explain that the following notes are "my own invention" and to exonerate Messrs. Durnford and Tourville from any complicity in them.

My first reaction on studying the solutions was that the programme was too complex and ambitious for the time allowed, both for the esquisse and the final presentation. Nearly every competitor failed to develop an esquisse which in its main lines did not lead to cramped and artificial tours de force in working out the final plan, the winner alone seemed to escape these difficulties. (The committee might consider whether it is better to set (as in this case) a problem so complex as to strain the capacities of the competitors to the utmost or to modify its scope so that a considerable number of adequate plan solutions emerge. There is something to be said on both sides.)

As the programme permitted (and almost envisaged) a solution in two floors, I was favourably surprised at the simplicity, economy of space and straightforward one-floor solution of the winner. He has cut corridor space (that bane of art galleries, dead for use) to a minimum consistent with easy circulation; he recognized the greater importance of the special exhibition room as compared with the auditorium (after all, this is an art gallery); and in placing the two divisions of the collection alongside has endowed that part of the building with a flexibility all too rare in art galleries. The print collection, library and education department are close to the entrance and well related and the offices, while reasonably withdrawn, are also accessible. The galleries themselves are simple in shape and in good proportion. The auditorium, however, is too wide for the audience along the sides to see films (becoming more

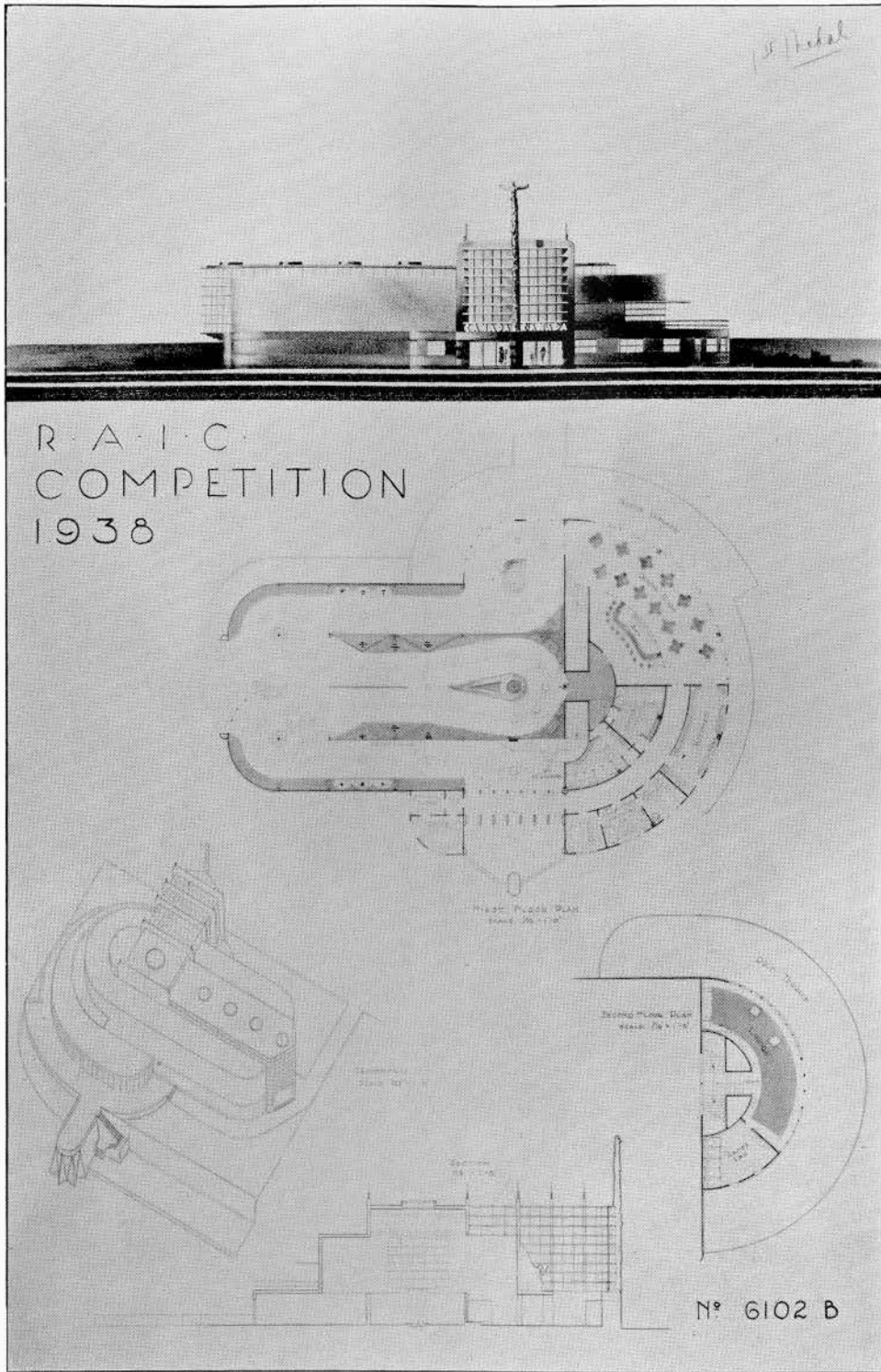
and more important) without some distortion, but its relation to the entrance hall is very happy. The entrance hall is itself of fine shape, well lit, but (by indication) has a little too much architecture for a room whose function is to provide both space and a setting for important works of art. The arrangement for toilets, cloak rooms and the various directional and sales services at the entrance is extremely sensible. There is, I feel, a weakness in planning detail where the cross corridors debouch on the far end of the entrance hall. In the main, however, the whole plan has an ease, simplicity and directness which commends itself very highly.

The elevations are a logical development of the plan requirements. The shapes are well articulated and interesting in themselves, not pretentiously monumental, but dignified and expressive of a building designed for the purpose. The details of fenestration on the main facade, however, show some lack of co-ordination.

By applying the foregoing to the other solutions illustrated, the reader, if he is still with me, may see how my judgment was arrived at. In general, while there is a great deal of ingenuity displayed in solving local difficulties in plan (arising from hasty study in esquisse) there is a less sensitive feeling for room shapes, a misconception as to the relative importance of the auditorium and a considerably larger area devoted to corridor space. The galleries for paintings, too, are arranged less flexibly and the large and small galleries required are not sufficiently differentiated in size. The open court used in one design is impractical in this country.

On the whole, taking the magnitude of the problem and the short time available for its solution into consideration, I was very favourably impressed.

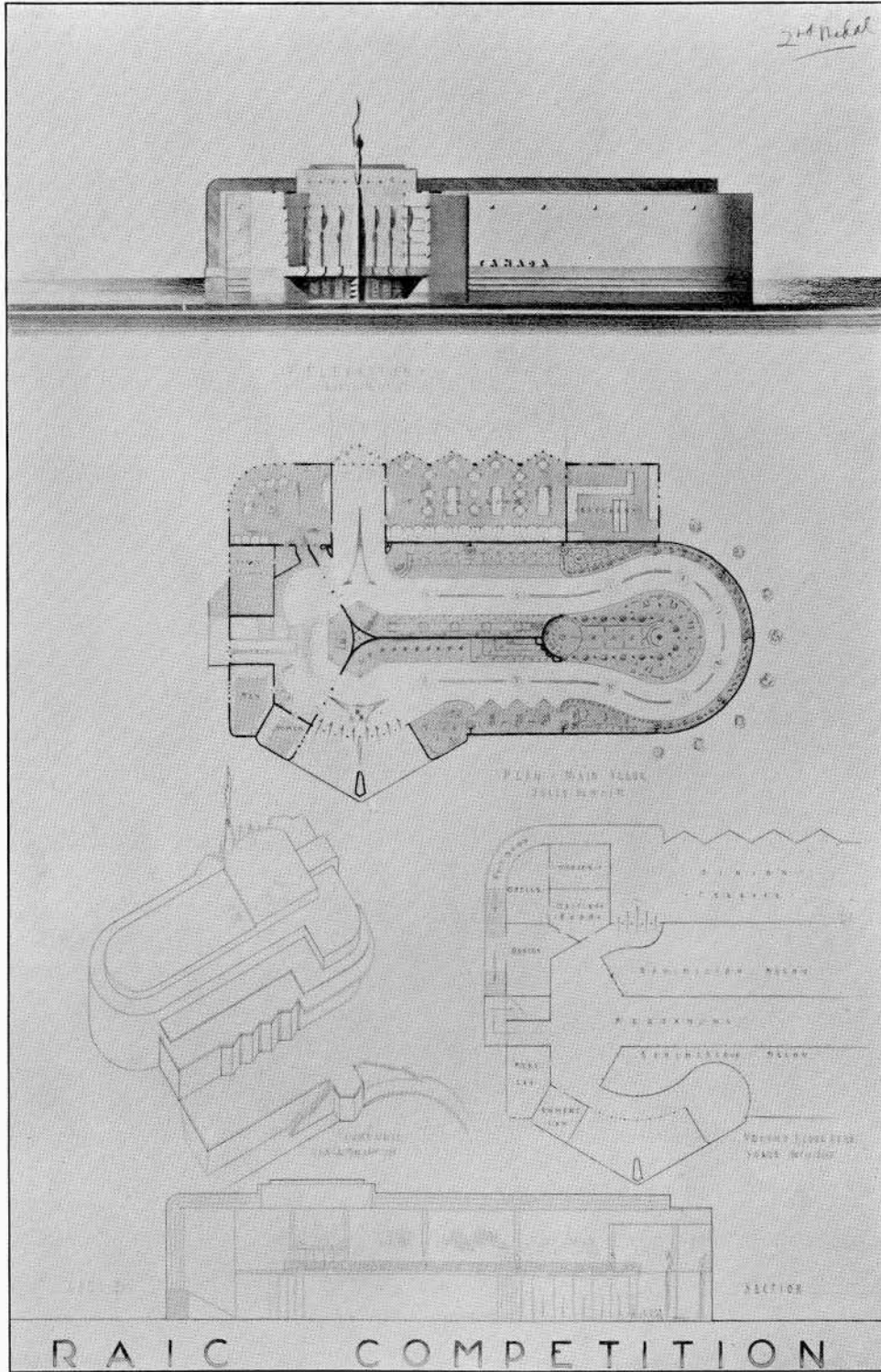
— Martin Baldwin.



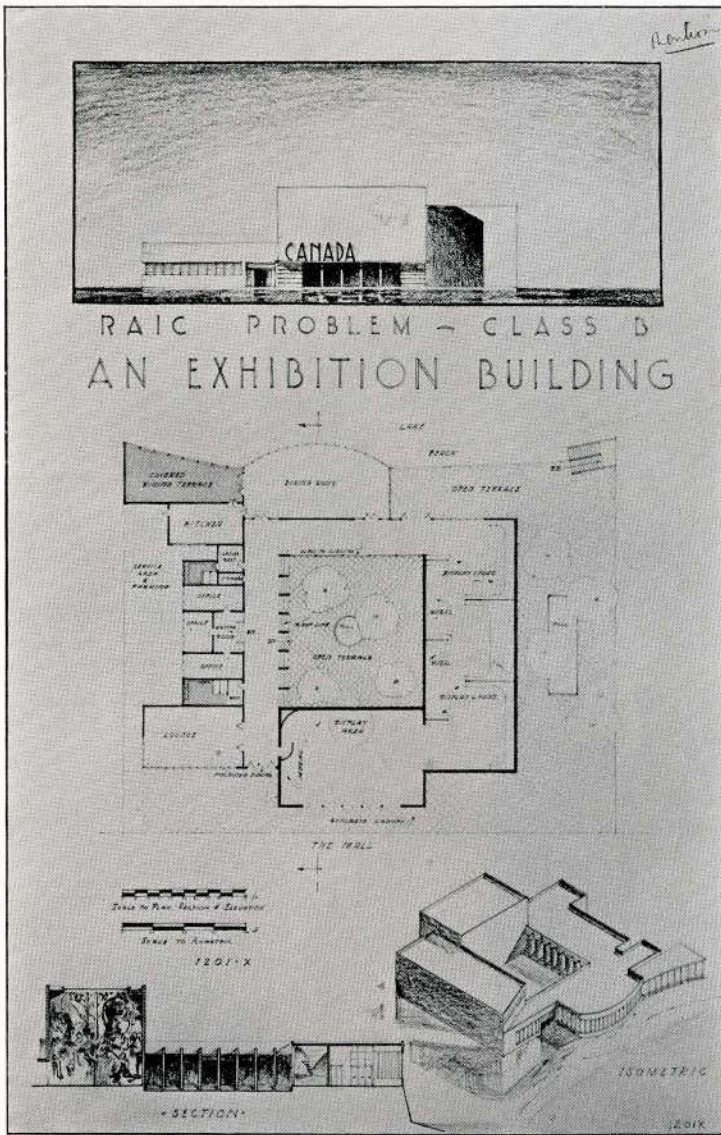
FIRST MEDAL
MR. BEVERLY BOOTH, UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

AN EXHIBITION BUILDING

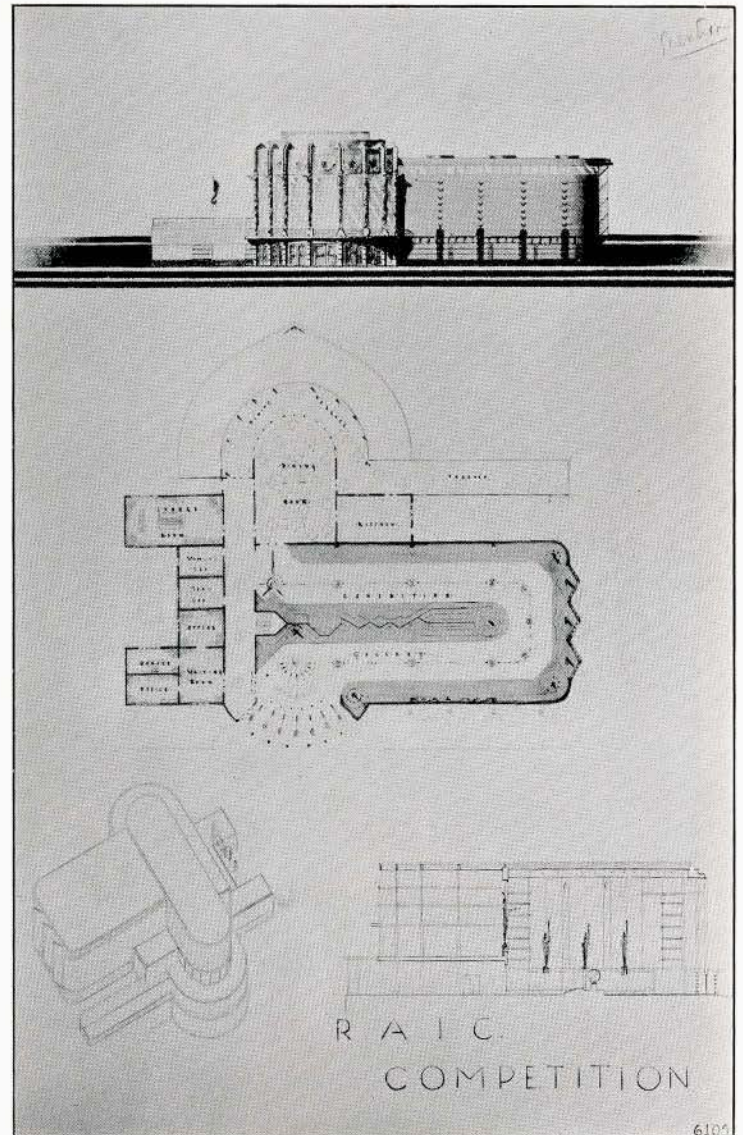
R.A.I.C. STUDENT COMPETITION, 1938, CLASS "B" PROJECT



SECOND MEDAL
MR. FRANK ALSIP, UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA



FIRST MENTION
MR. B. H. M. TEDMAN, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



MENTION
MISS NORAH PATTERSON, UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

R.A.I.C. STUDENT COMPETITION, CLASS B—"AN EXHIBITION BUILDING"

The variety of elements which had to be incorporated in this project made it a more complicated planning problem than is often the case with an exhibition building; notably more so than in the competition recently held by the Department of Trade and Commerce for the Canadian Building at the New York World's Fair. The judges considered that Design No. 6102-B, which was awarded first medal, displayed great ingenuity in the solution of this planning problem. The generous covered entrance, the ease of circulation, the excellent secondary approaches to lounge and dining room, and the utilization of the lake frontage for a succession of terraces on different levels, were handled with considerable skill; in fact, with a capability which one might expect from a senior rather than a junior student. The elevation fell considerably below the high standard achieved by the plan; while the main axis was well defined, the sense of proper scale was lacking. The letters were much too small, the entrance too low, and the proportion of upper to lower portions of the entrance feature would have been happier in a building of twice the size. The crowded multiplicity of design features gave a restless and almost "Modernistic" appearance to the exterior, instead of the simplicity of harmonious masses to which this plan would have lent itself so well. This same criticism is applicable to an equal or even greater degree to two of the other

premiated designs, Nos. 6101-B and 6105-B. These two designs had excellent plan arrangements, with lounge and dining room overlooking the lake, although the kitchen in the latter is poorly placed. In passing, the judges were rather surprised at the small proportion of designs in which any attempt was made to utilize the lake frontage. In all the premiaded designs (and in some of the others which it was not possible to select), terraces, landing stages and other desirable features were introduced; yet many of the candidates made no more attempt to develop this feature than if it had been an ordinary rear lot line.

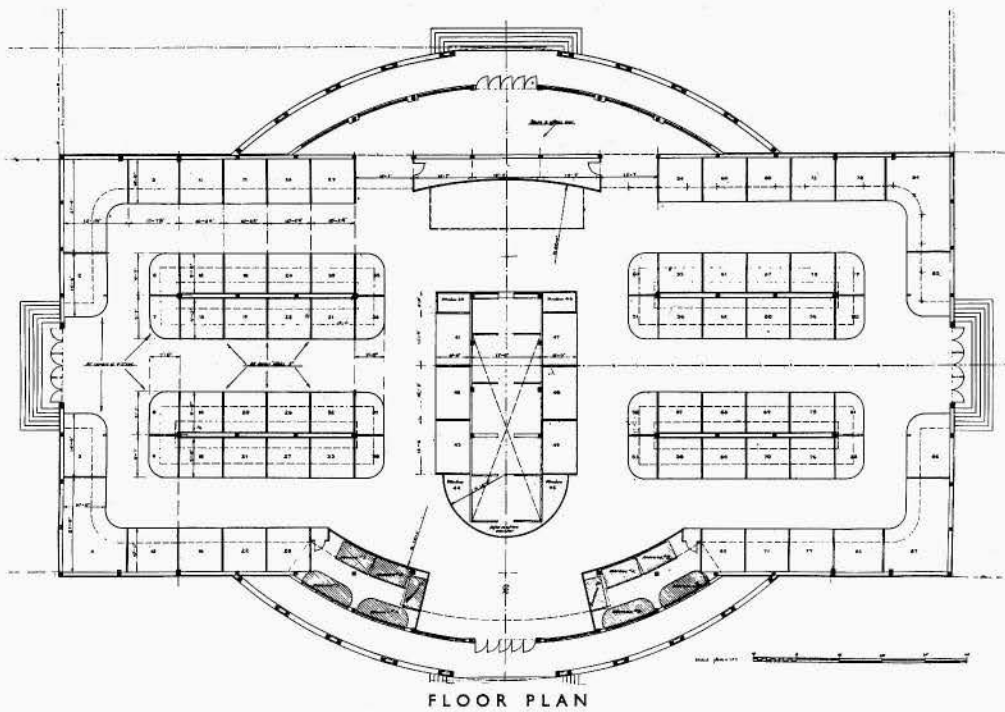
The plan of Design No. 1201-X, which was awarded a mention, lacked the cohesion of the other three plans, and did not have the same freedom of circulation, but had a well-arranged office and service portion. In fact, these features, secondary in importance, were almost too dominant in the plan. The judges questioned the wisdom of including a large open court in such a comparatively small exhibition building. However, the elevation of this design was simple, appropriate and in excellent scale.

The judges were very favourably impressed by the general high standard of the solutions submitted in this competition and with the excellence of the presentations.

— Richard A. Fisher.



The design for this building was under the direction of the Government Exhibition Commission.



CANADIAN BUILDING AT THE EMPIRE EXHIBITION, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

FROM "OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT," CALIFORNIA

TO anyone connected with the building industry, California is an extremely dangerous place, for not only does it have floods, termites, rival labour unions, earthquakes and fierce realtors, but there is a subtle disintegrating influence in the climate itself that affects the mind and architectural taste.

Take realtors who, in most places, hibernate in the midwinter or go on cruises; they do not do so in California, but are ready to spring their Dale Carnegie smiles on any visitor that happens to tell his bellhop that San Francisco or Santa Barbara or Pasadena or Beverly Hills seems to be a nice place. In San Francisco, the new town of Redwoods is being boomed, and free lunches and a free trip in a soft Buick out to it via the new bridge are given to the most unlikely prospect, who is lucky to get back to his hotel with only one lot.

Having bought a lot the buyer can never be sure that it will remain still and the State Legislature has recently passed a seismic law requiring all buildings to be built of earthquake-resistant construction, with outside walls capable of withstanding a lateral thrust of one-tenth the building load on the foundations. This law has introduced new brick shapes to California to allow reinforcing bars to run both ways within the masonry.

The C.I.O. versus A.F. of L. war does not affect construction unions in California as greatly as it does in the State of Washington, but this may be rectified any minute now. However, that C.I.O. affiliate, the FAECT—Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists and Technicians—is gaining members and the time may come when union labour will not build anything that is not designed by C.I.O. professionals.

There is a greater and ever-present danger to building from termites, those horrible little grey animals that look like ants and swarm like bees with all their underground socialist customs. These creatures cannot stand the light of day and build tubes of earth and mucous up foundation walls, down which they bring masticated cellulose to feed the King, Queen and soldier termites in their nest below the ground, leaving hollow timbers behind them. Buildings are made termite-resistant by placing projecting metal strips on top of the foundation walls to prevent termites building tubes up to the plate or joists. Wood can also be made termite-repellant by impregnating under pressure with a noxious fluid.

Then there are floods. The only man who successfully outwitted a flood was Noah and you know what he did.

Los Angeles County, besides everything else, has one-fortieth of all the motor cars in the world, and as



SANTA BARBARA COURT HOUSE

they seem mostly to be driven by the elderly wives of retired farmers from the great open West, many buildings capable of withstanding a lateral thrust of one-tenth the building load have proved unstable.

And then there is the Climate. We have long thought that the California Climate affected the mental processes of the people just as it does the Redwood Trees and the poinsettias, and we were extremely pleased to hear that a prominent anthropologist at McGill has been experimenting with this theory. The old West Coast Indians were pronouncedly hysterical and the theory is that hysteria may be looked for among the white population of the third and fourth generation resident in California. We are not an anthropologist, but a casual acquaintance with a few natives leads us to believe that this grossly over-estimates the time required. It took no time at all to turn a quiet Ontario farmer's daughter into Aimee Semple Macpherson. Architectural taste is certainly affected within a decade.

We knew a poor Baltimore doctor who went to California for his health and had to give up practising. He went there in 1932. In 1933 he only ate nuts and regulated his life by astrology. By 1937 he had made about half a million playing the stock market on days that augured well for success and not on days when Scorpio (he being born in March) was not in the ascendant. The house he built last year stands in a floodlit grove of grapefruit trees with twisted cast stone columns guarding the twenty-six panels of his blue and gold door. Inside he lives, in his shirt sleeves, among

a riot of Spanish chests, picture windows, tiles, red velvet, potted lemons, coloured ceilings, wrought iron and statues of Saint Anthony in niches; and a fine old Spanish grille keeps hard-pressed burglars from clambering through the small lavatory window and using his toilet.

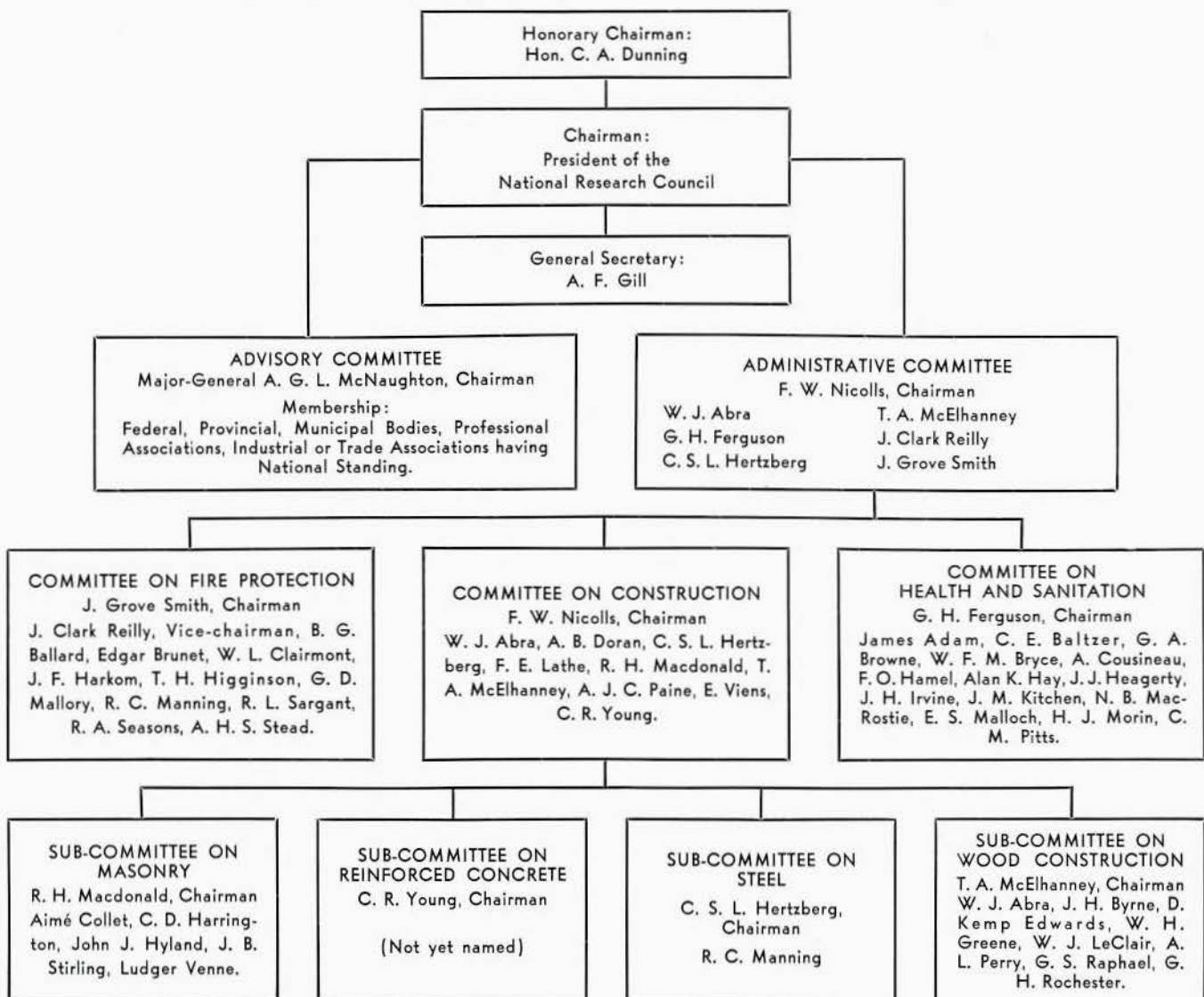
Such hysterical riot is the basis not only for the homes of individuals and the hot dog stands of Los Angeles but for large public buildings. We are sending a photograph of the \$1,400,000 Santa Barbara Court House and Gaol, which we hope the Editor will publish. In the Cortile there is a sunken Plaza, where they hold civic Fiestas, overlooked by the cutest little Balcone off the convicted ladies' private dining room, with a view over the tiled roofs of Santa Barbara out to the orange groves limned against the blue Pacific. The old gentleman who insisted on showing us round translated a Latin motto over the Gaol door: "Learn Justice from this awful warning."

We have to admit a bias against Spaniards and our reflexes are strongly conditioned in the presence of the Gay Caballero style in architecture by memories of the

Inquisition, the Armada, Cortez, bull-fights and now their war. On a first visit to the Pacific Coast, we cannot, like Balboa—Keats thought it was "stout Cortez"—remain "silent upon a peak in . . ." California without saying what we think. Hispano-Suiza architecture gives us a pain in the neck.

The stolid, imperturbable way in which the R.A.I.C. and the Department of Trade and Commerce meet their architectural problems is a notable contrast to the architectural hysteria of California. When most of the buildings of the New York World's Fair are almost started, they hold a competition for Canada's National Building there—outside only—and one of us, after a whole week's study, gets the job, incorporating 5,000 glass bricks, two statues and a coat of arms. There is to be a World's Fair in San Francisco in 1940. No doubt we will all get another letter and be offered the chance of building Canada a building there. Perhaps a lot of the glass bricks and, with luck, one of the statues will get broken in New York, but there may still be a carry-over of a stuffed elk and three hundred feet of crepe paper.

NATIONAL BUILDING CODE ORGANIZATION CHART



PROVINCIAL PAGE

A representative of the Editorial Board has been asked to write a letter each month to the Journal in order that members may know something of the activities of Provincial Organizations throughout the Dominion. The monthly letter may come from any member, but the representative of the Board is responsible. It is hoped that this page will become of increasing interest to members.

MANITOBA

This seems to be a quiet season for the architects in Winnipeg, and I am finding some difficulty in locating material enough for a report.

The new Hudson's Bay Company store at Edmonton, Alberta, has been given to the contracting firm of Bennett and White, Calgary, and the plumbing, sprinkling and heating to H. Kelly and Company, according to information from the architects, Moody and Moore of Winnipeg.

A group of buildings for the Swift Packing Company will be erected in Winnipeg, of reinforced concrete construction and the "last word" in design. The main building is to be 265 feet by 140 feet, five or six storeys in height, the administration building 110 feet by 60 feet of three storeys and a garage building 200 feet by 40 feet. The interior of the main building is to be of cream-coloured enameled tile. The cost is said to be about \$2,000,000.

The local firm of Green, Blankstein, Russell and Ham are designing a new dormitory building for the Convent of St. Norbert, near Winnipeg. It is to be two storeys and full basement, 44 feet by 72 feet. A very interesting log theatre has lately come off the boards of this firm to be erected at Yellow Knife, Northwest Territory.

The Manitoba Association of Architects was well represented at the Convention of the Winnipeg Builders' Exchange, at which plans were made for the Convention of the Canadian Construction Association to be held in Winnipeg next year.

Mr. Robert MacLaren, of the Chicago Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, has been elected to membership in the Manitoba Association of Architects. Mr. MacLaren came to Winnipeg in connection with the construction of the Manitoba cold storage plant.

—Milton G. Osborne.

ONTARIO

In the absence of information from chapters outside Toronto, one cannot say much for the architectural outlook at present. Perhaps the apparent dearth of projects is merely a sign of unwillingness to count the birds before they are hatched—a caution which is just as applicable to plans as to Plymouth Rocks.

In this connection, the excellent address by Mr. H. E. Manning, K.C., at the last luncheon of the Toronto Chapter was timely and disturbing. It seems certain that the gaps which are constantly appearing in our downtown streets are largely the result of faulty principles of taxation. True, they clear the way for new buildings, but the latter are not likely to be erected until property taxes are placed upon a sounder basis. Obviously the higher the tax rate, the more buildings will be torn down, leaving fewer to tax; so that the rate must go higher still—*ad infinitum*. This is a matter which all architects might well look into, but whether they support Mr. Manning in his suggestion that non-property owners should

be relieved of the burden of voting, will depend—strange as it may seem—upon individual preferences as to colour of shirts.

Among the buildings which have disappeared from Toronto—for better or worse—is that extraordinary fantasy in plate glass and statuary which stood opposite St. James' Cathedral on King Street. Though to us it looked like an out-size overmantel of a sprightlier period, it was probably one of the glories of its day, but, alas, time marches on!

—Gladstone Evans.

QUEBEC

It is a matter of great satisfaction to us that the Quebec Correspondent, Professor Philip Turner, is slowly but surely recovering from his recent accident, and he has expressed his regret that his next communication to this column is postponed to a later date.

The editorial comment in the March issue of the *Journal* regarding the very great privilege we enjoyed in the "treatment" of the R.A.I.C. delegates in Annual Meeting assembled is very much appreciated, and we believe that the fraternal spirit which prevailed on that occasion has re-acted most favourably upon our own activities. It is just possible that the influence of our gathering together also stimulated some of our members to such an extent that they landed into "second and third best" in the competition for the Canadian Pavilion at the New York World's Fair, 1939.

Our heartiest congratulations, however, go to the winner, Mr. W. F. Williams, of Nelson, B.C.

Among matters of interest to us we might mention the following under "Public Relations":—

"Representation on both the Construction and Masonry Committees now at work on the National Building Code.

"Address by one of our members before the McGill Architectural Society on 'Relations between Architects and Contractors'.

"Mr. Jean Julien Perrault, Vice-President of P.Q.A.A., elected President of the Chambre de Commerce, Montreal.

"Mr. L. N. Audet, elected President of the Chambre de Commerce, Sherbrooke, P.Q."

Further, under "Entertainment and Lectures":—

A most interesting and instructive lecture was given on March 23rd on the "Oratoire St. Joseph", with particular reference to the design and construction of its concrete dome. The lecture was prepared and delivered by Messrs. Lucien Parent and Rodolphe Tourville, with whom was associated Mr. Cailloux, engineer.

The illustrations consisted of technicolour moving pictures of the work under construction and moving pictures of structures of similar and varied type in several European cities. Architectural and engineering drawings and progress charts during construction, were also displayed, the whole contributing to the enjoyment and enlightenment of a most appreciative audience.

—R. H. Macdonald.

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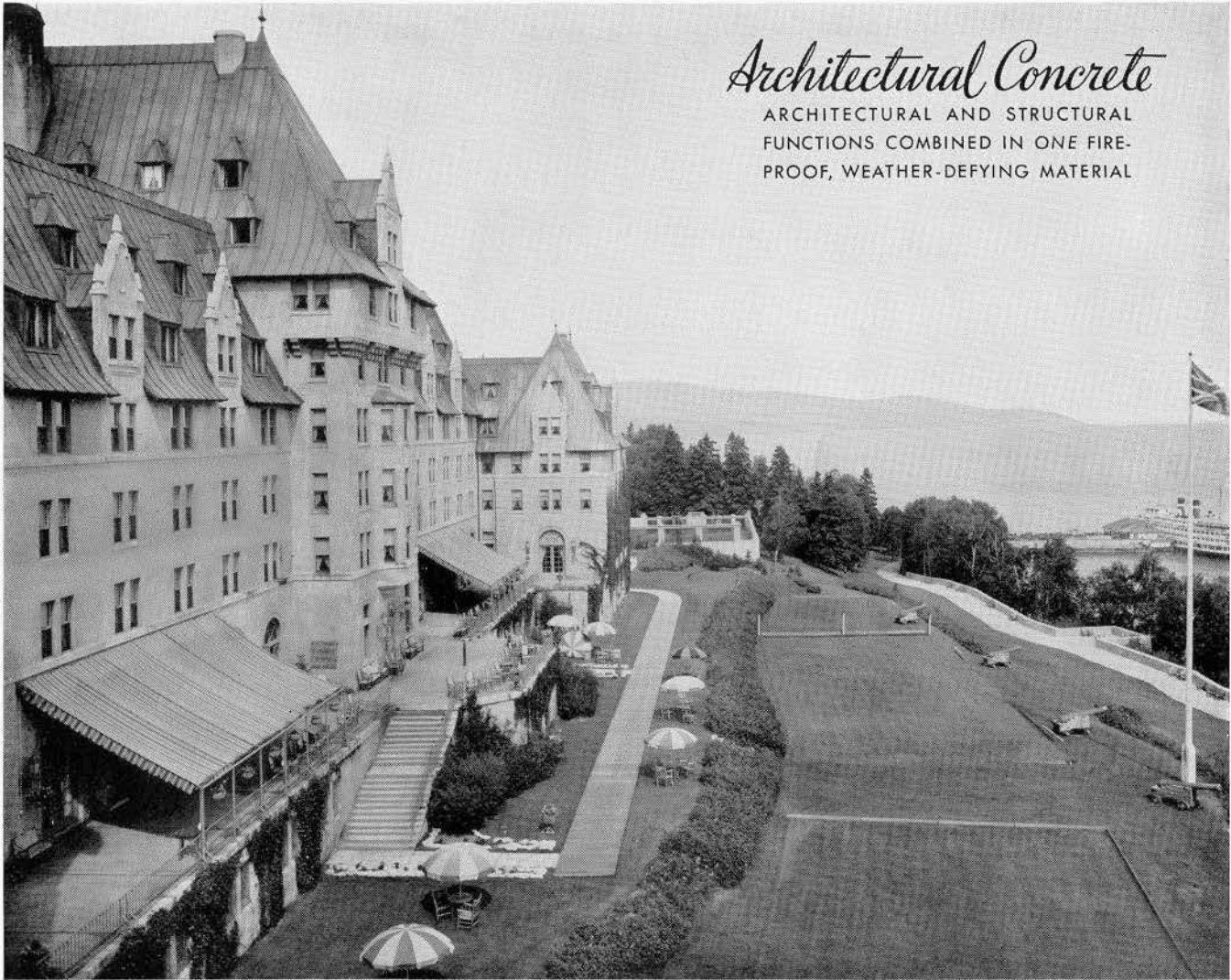
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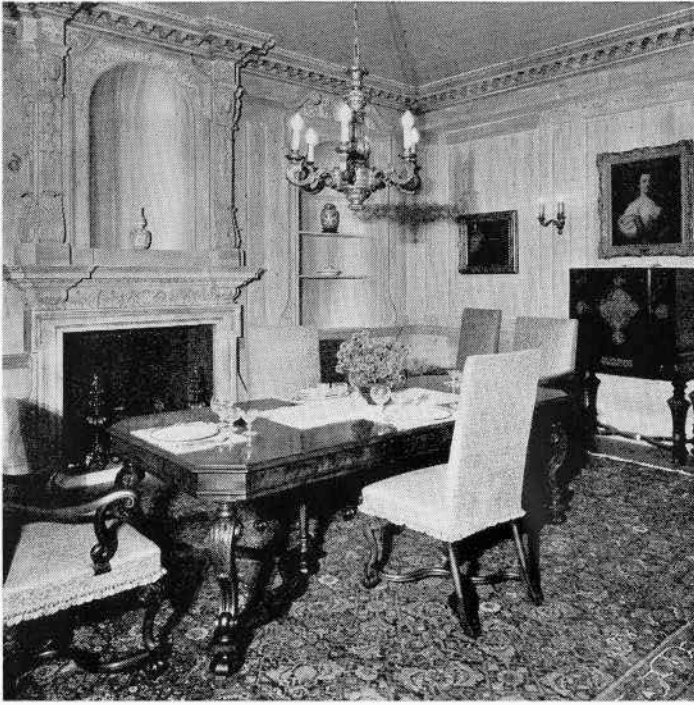
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● *Manoir Richelieu at Murray Bay, Quebec. Designed for Canada Steamship Lines Limited. John S. Archibald, architect. Wilde & Brydon, contractor.*

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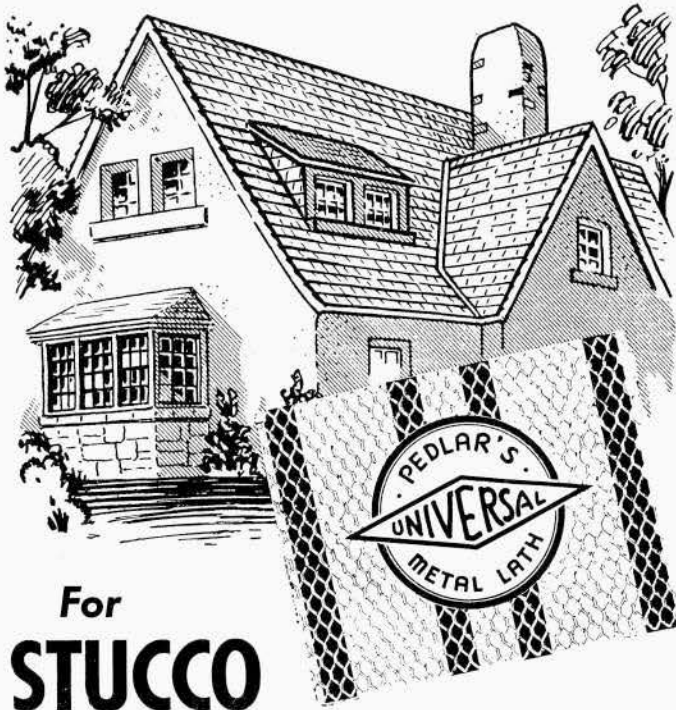


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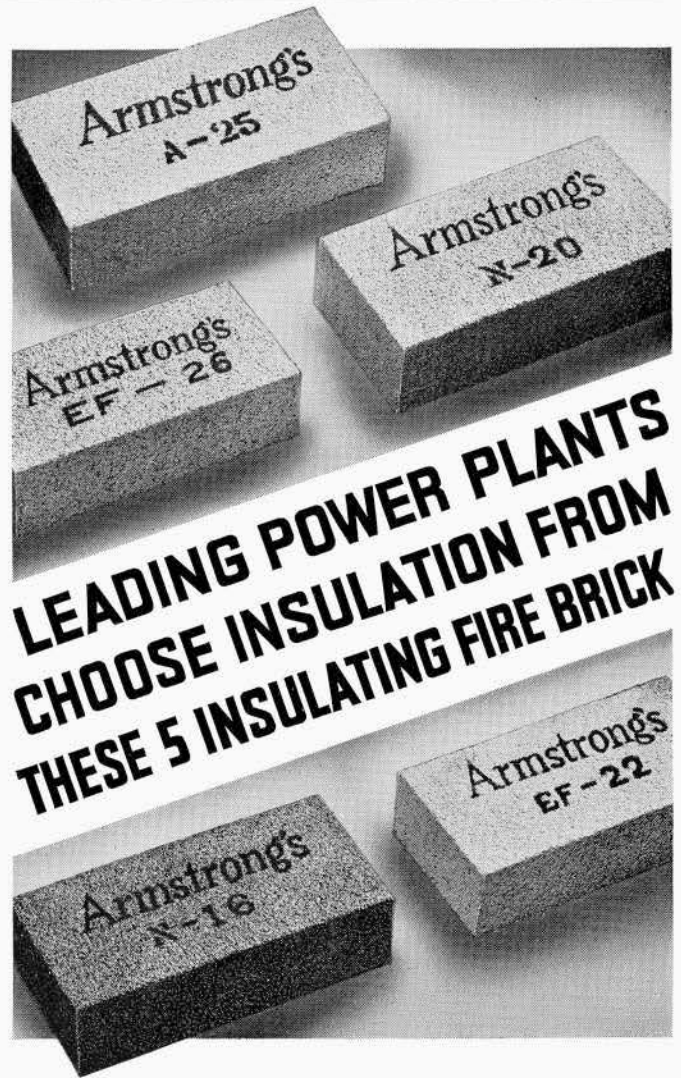
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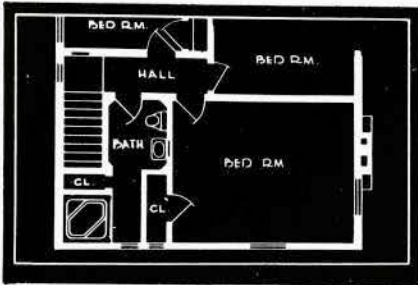
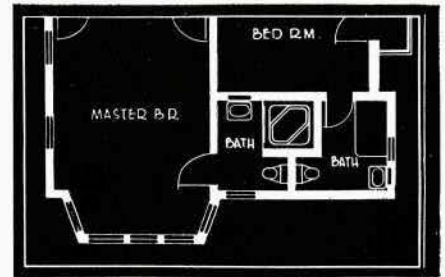
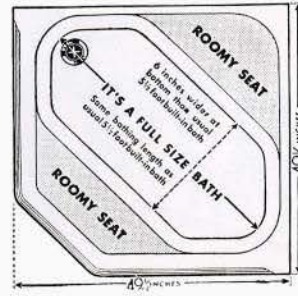
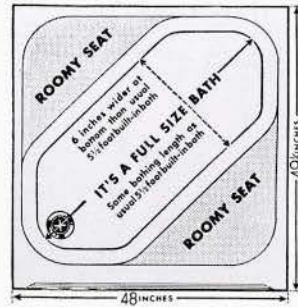
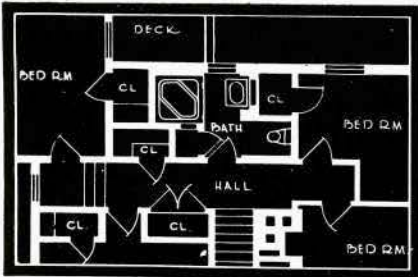
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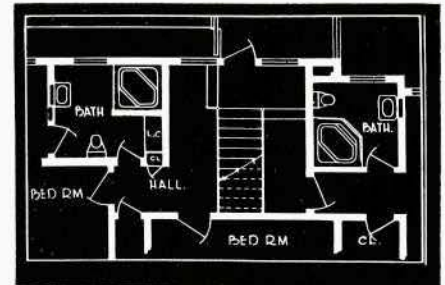
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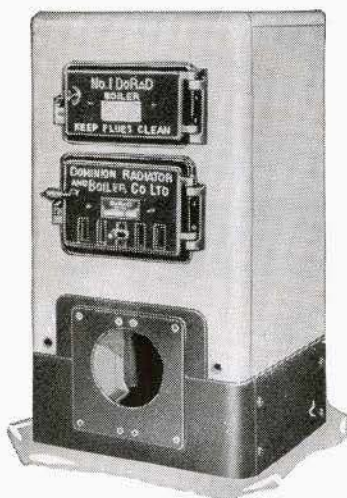
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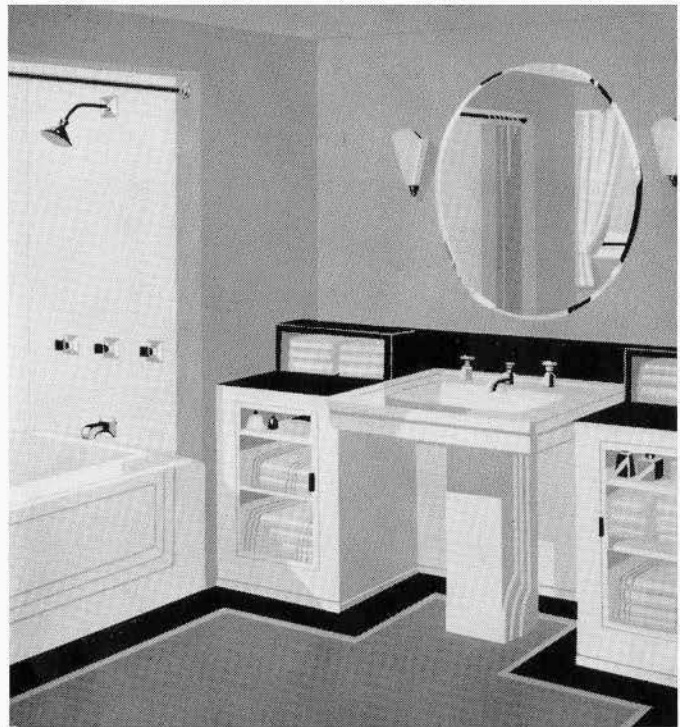
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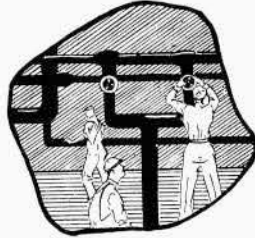


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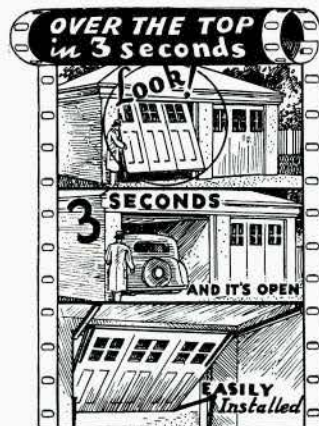
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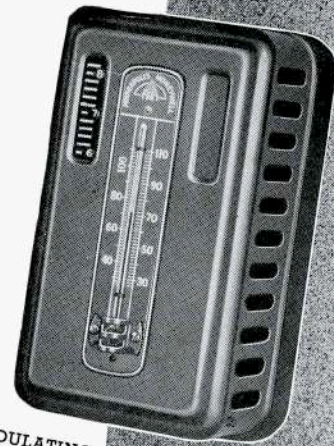
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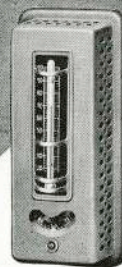
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