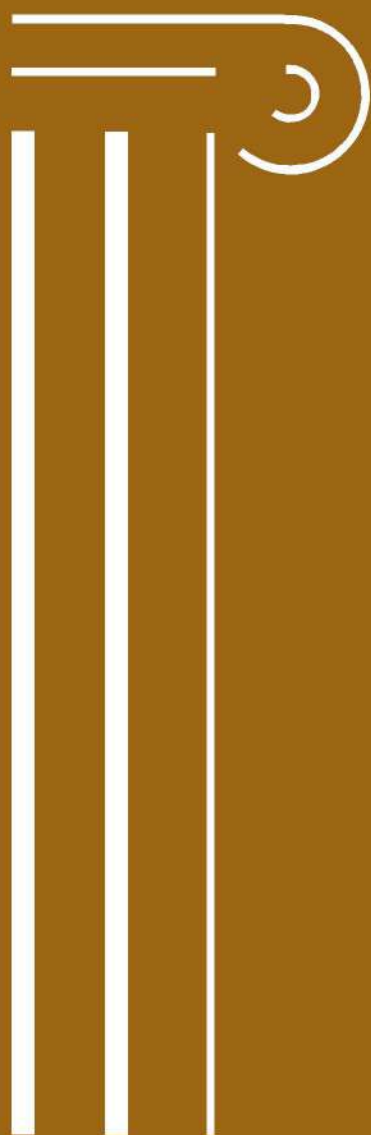


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ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL
INSTITUTE OF CANADA



VOL. 15

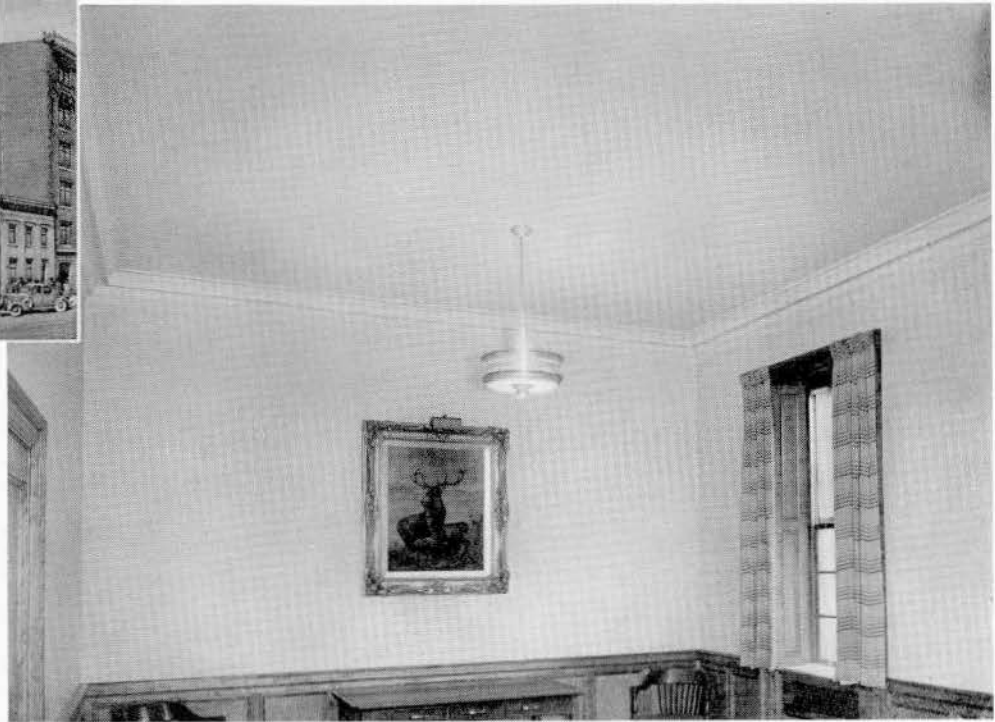
OCTOBER, 1938

NO. 10



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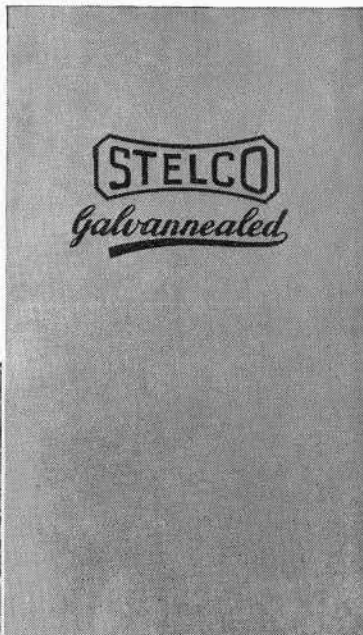
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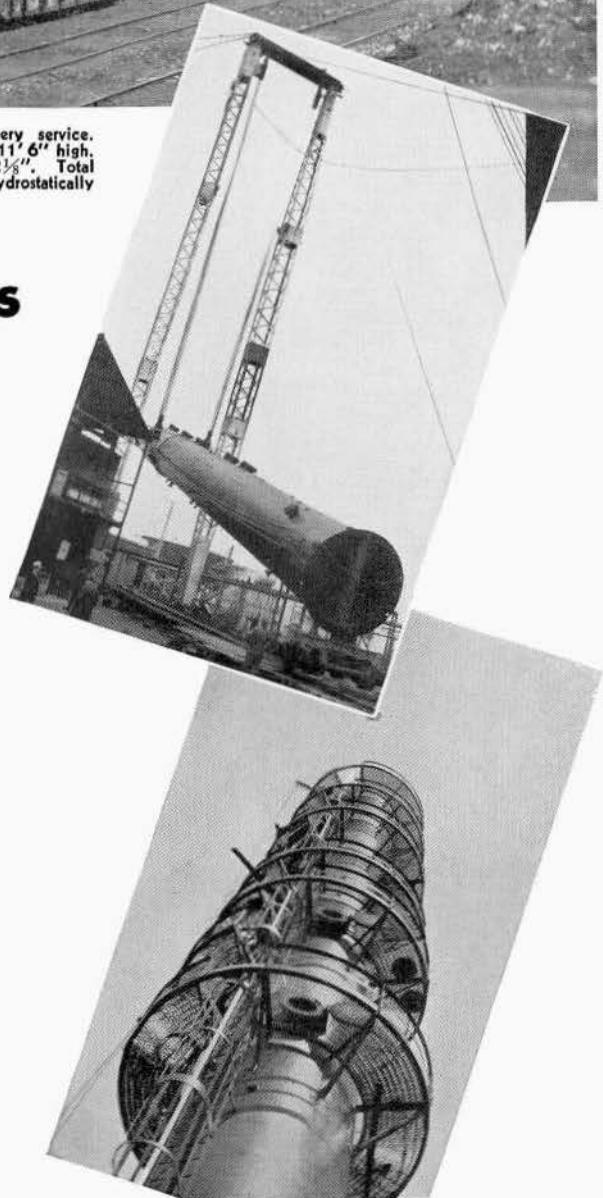
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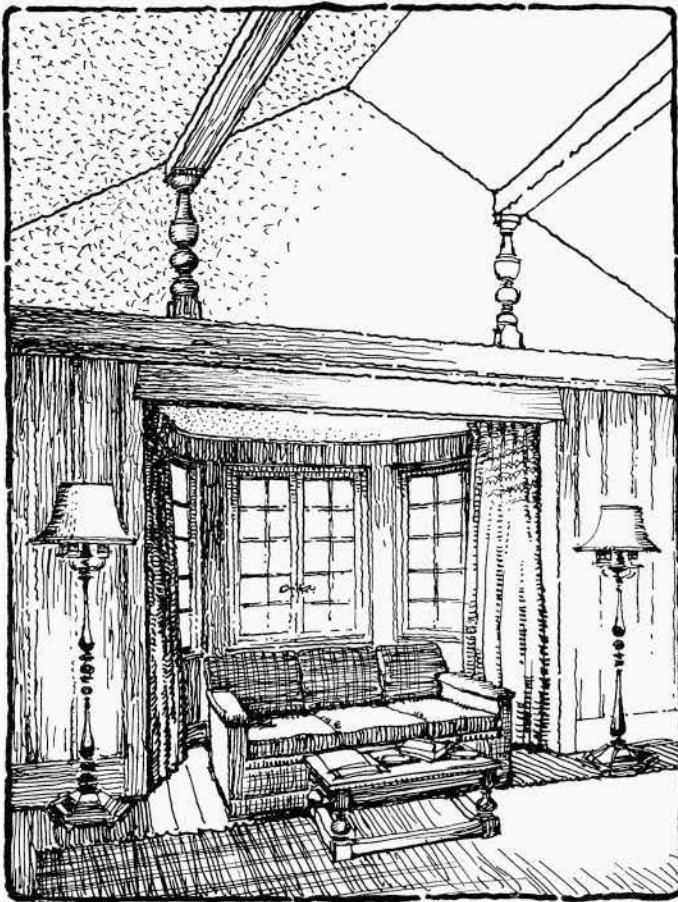
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The Bay Window in the Study of the Country Home of Colonel J. B. MacLean

Murray Brown, Architect

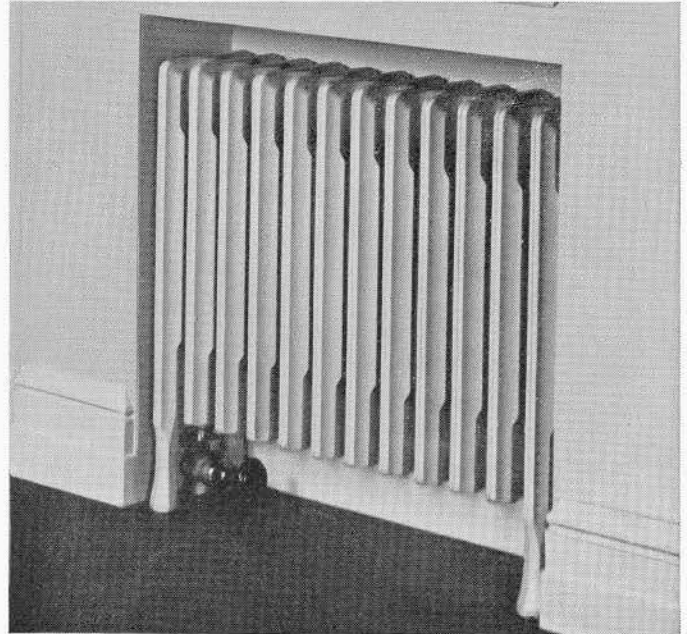
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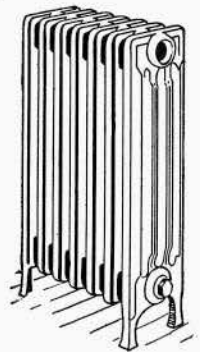


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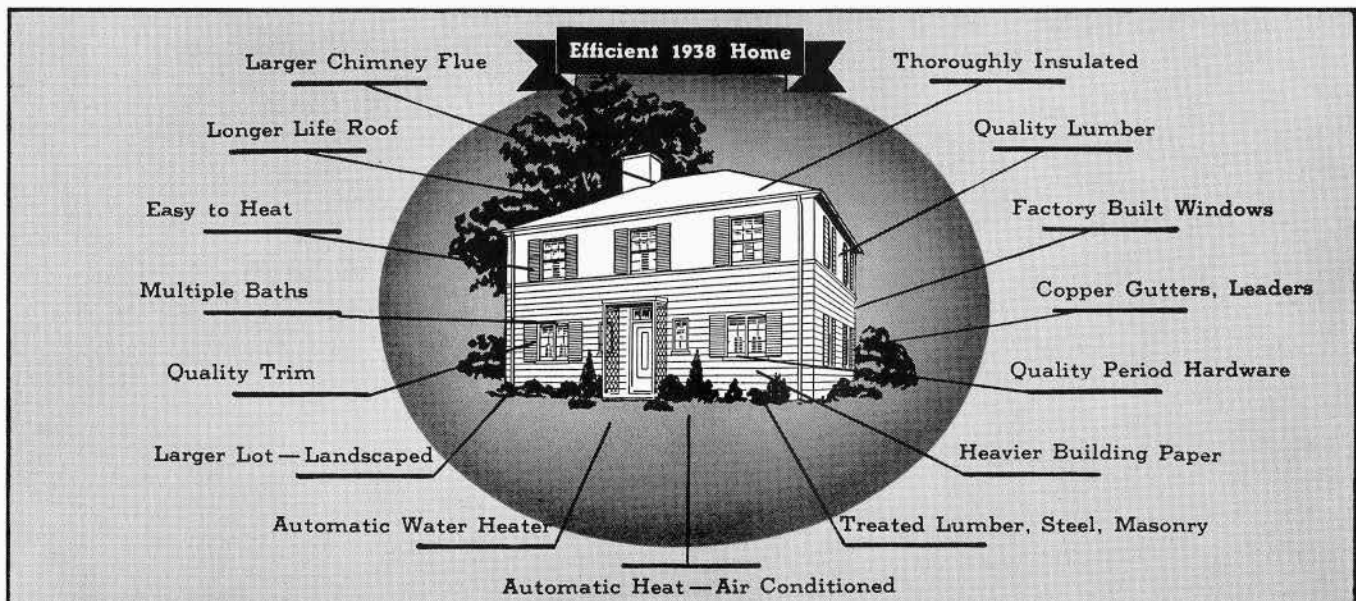
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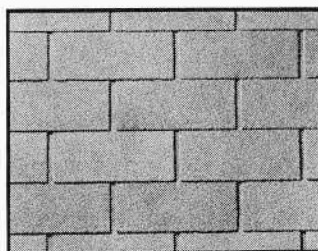
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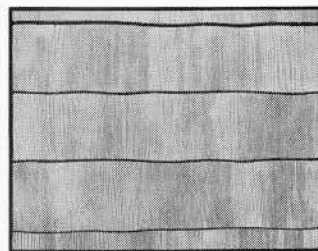
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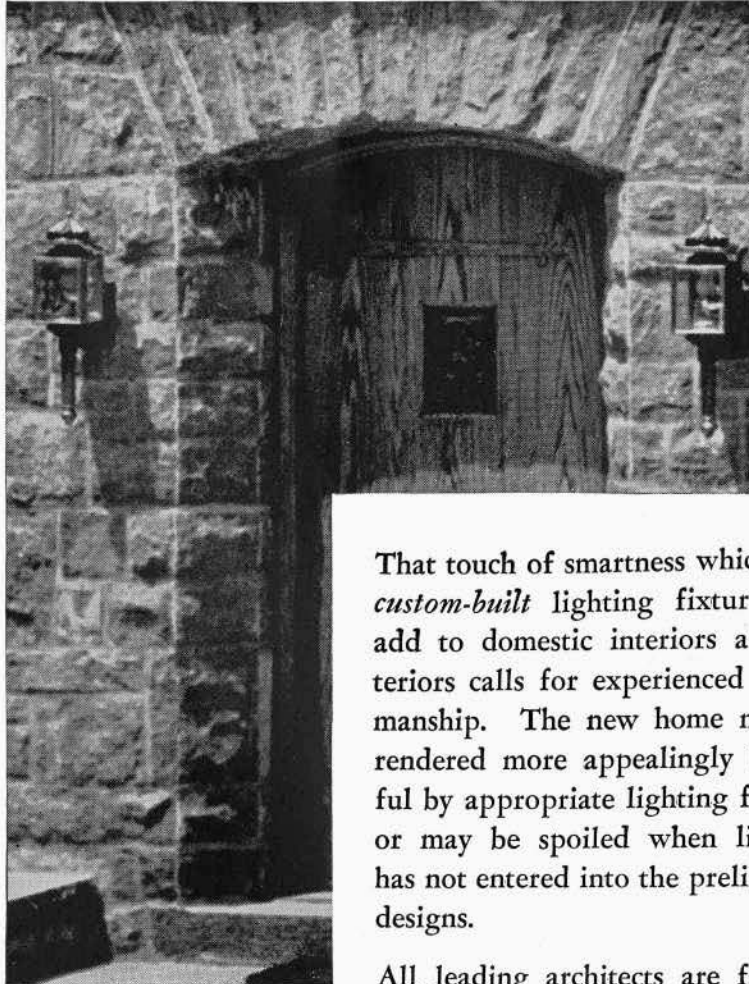
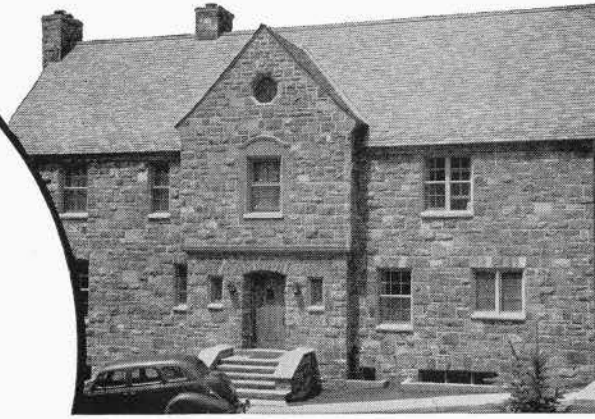
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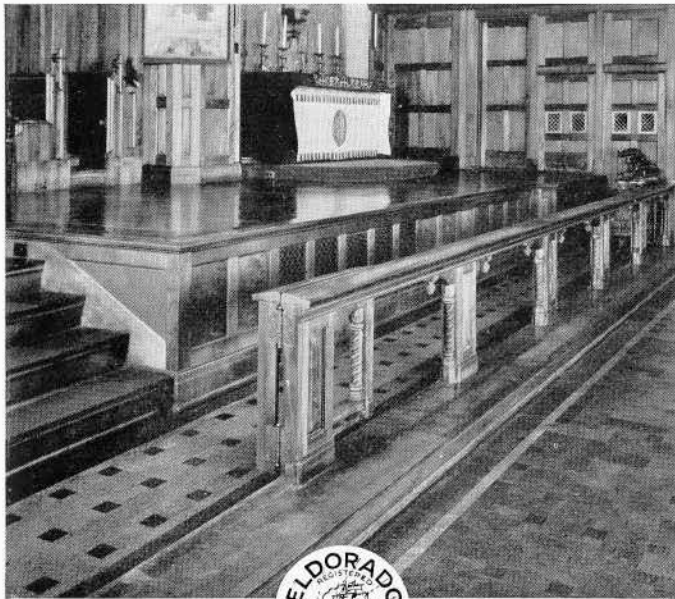
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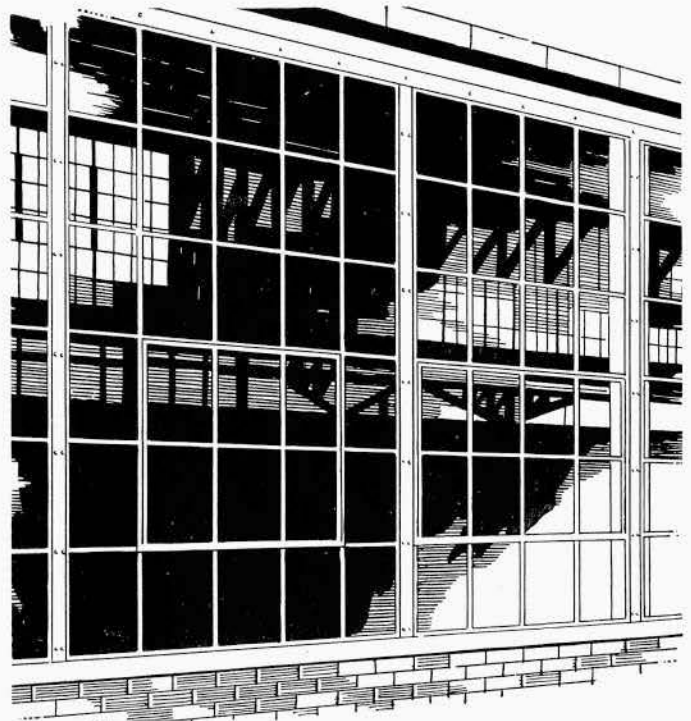
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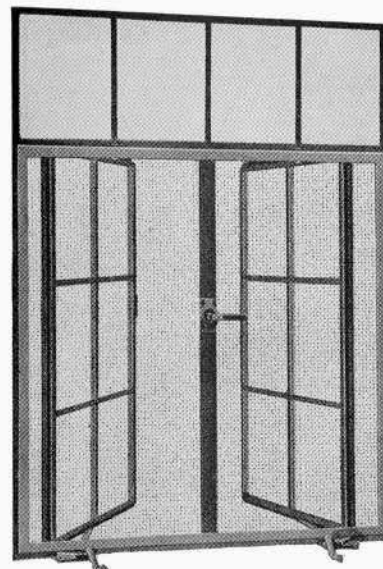


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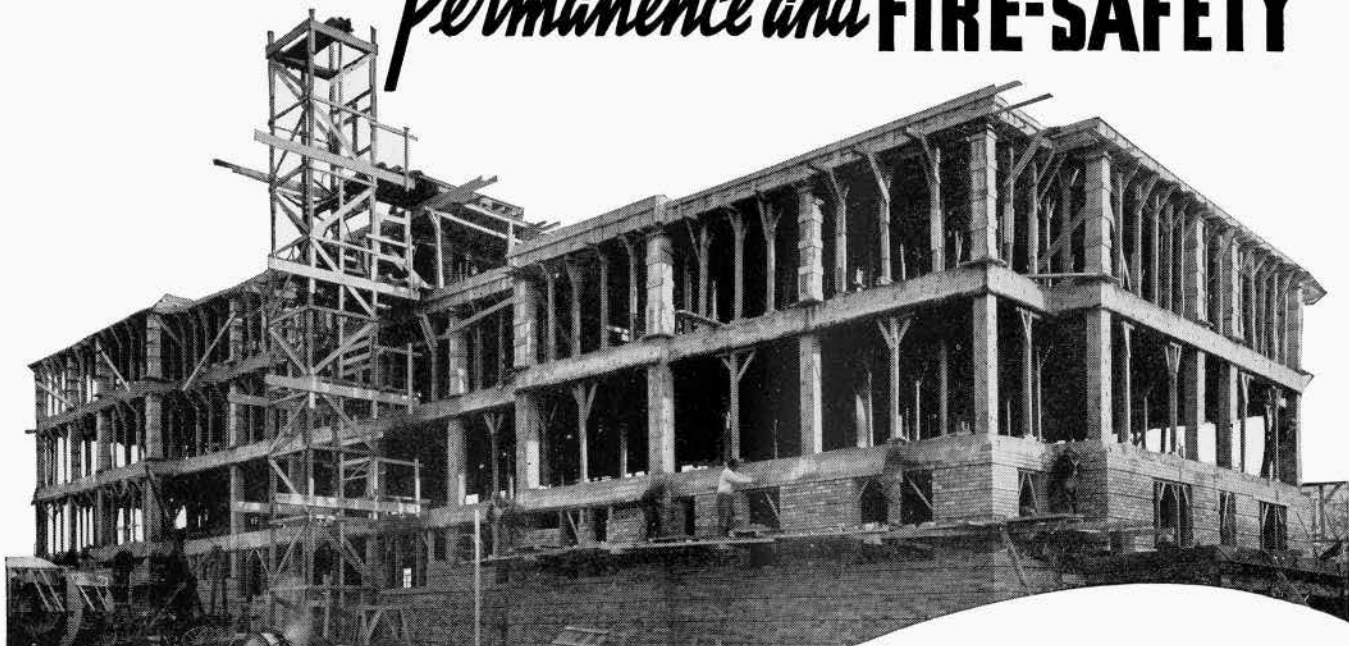
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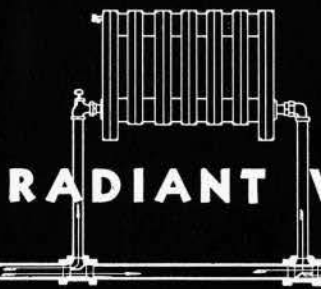
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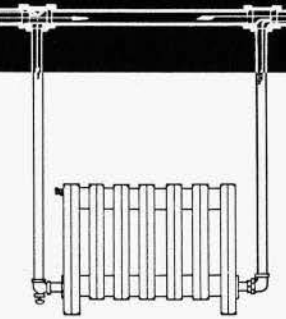
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MONO-FLO SYSTEMS

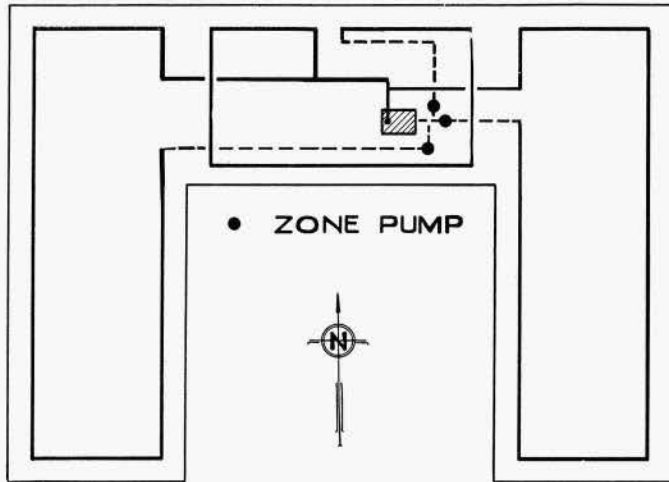
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At the left is shown diagrammatically a Three-Zone Mono-Flo System recently installed in Tichester Court, Toronto—a modern 49-apartment building with penthouses — Grimshaw Bros. Limited, owners.

Wind and sun exposures have imposed conditions in the heating of this building which could only be met satisfactorily and economically by Mono-Flo Zoning.

Series No. 7

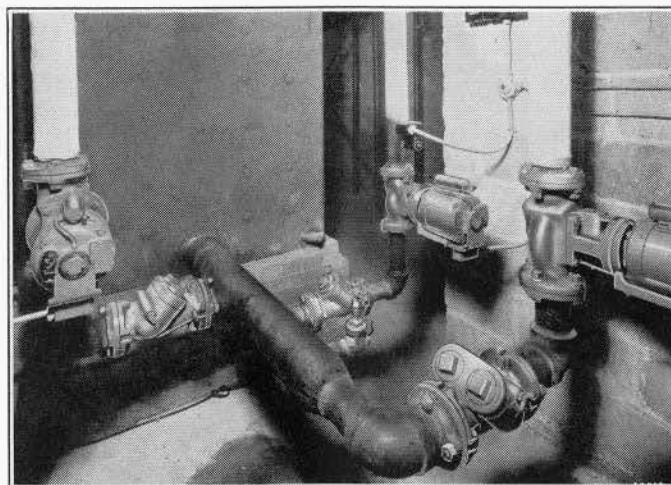
ZONING WITH MONO-FLO PROVIDES FLEXIBILITY AND ECONOMY

The above diagram shows the Mono-Flo Circulation System divided into three Zones, each served by a single main with individual Pump and Flo Control Valve — Heating of each Zone is thermostatically controlled.

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The illustration at the right shows the Pumps and Flo Control Valves serving the three Zones of the Mono-Flo Heating System installed in Tichester Court Apartments. Each Pump is thermostatically controlled within its respective Zone. Simplicity in the piping layout is most noticeable.



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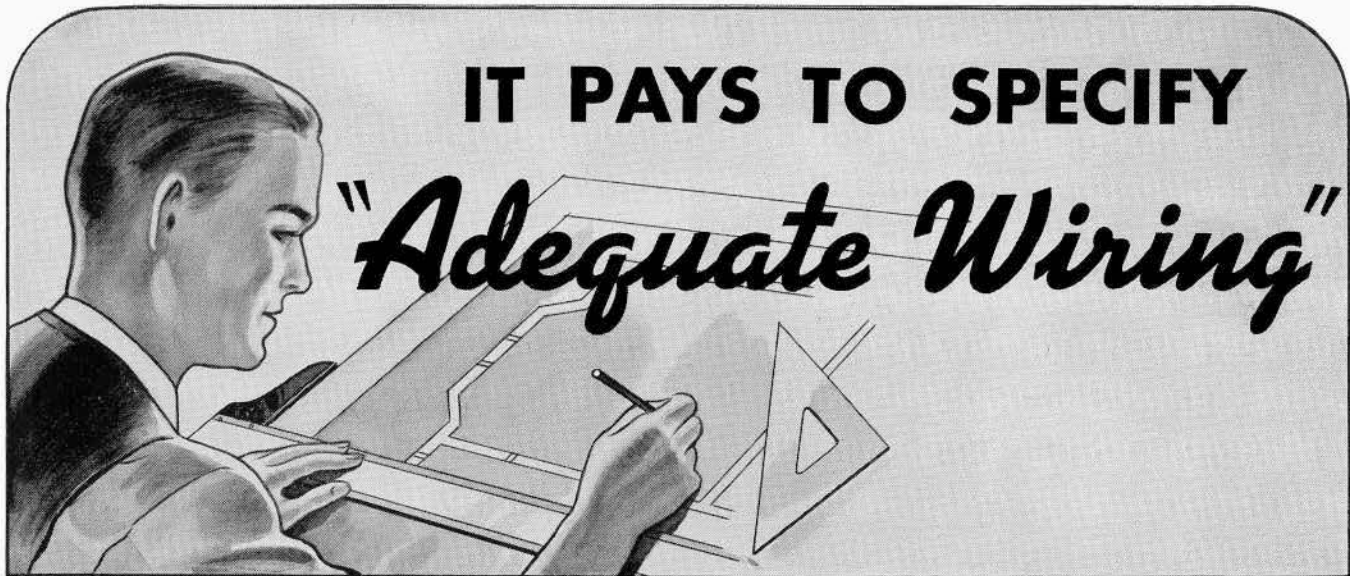
Series No. 8 will appear in the November issue of this Journal.

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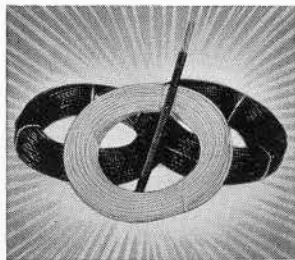
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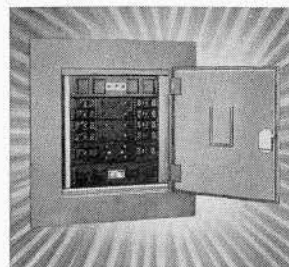
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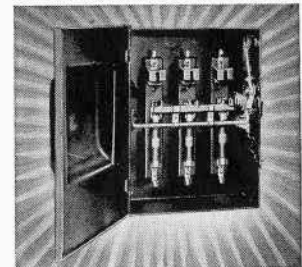
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JOURNAL

ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA

Serial No. 158

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1938

Vol. 15, No. 10

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THE Editorial Board is perusing with great interest the letters which continue to arrive from members. At the moment of writing they are being tabulated and it would look as though the response from Quebec was greater than Ontario. Letters from the more distant Provinces are coming in slowly. There was one question that was misread by a great many. "Have you a favourite professional Journal? (like the R.I.B.A.)." It was not a very good question (though our own) as there are very few "professional Journals" which members see. The architects who wrote "Record" or "Forum" or "Ten-Test News" (sic) did not answer the question as these are not professional but technical journals. The Journal, as we understand it, was never intended to take the place of the technical magazines but to be the mouthpiece (though as yet unworthy) of a Royal Institute. In this we are supported by the Council of the Institute. A great many would like to see more local plates. The answer to them is very simple—we show nearly all we receive and would be delighted to hear of a method by which they might be increased. One member would like to see more from the West of Canada. We are with him in that and beg him to do something about it. There are some naive requests for plates in full colour and for "a bigger journal like the Architectural Forum", in answer to which we can only say we have not deliberately stunted the infant—in fact we have watched its growth over a year and a half with a great deal of pleasure. Another member suggested that we should show more low cost housing and that if we did not, it might be handy to have some views of Hitler Youth Hostels about the office. There is a sinister thought there and we hastened, in this number, to comply with his demand.

We are afraid we must disappoint at once those members who would like to see a technical journal without reports of meetings, without historical articles or articles of a general cultural nature. Our reply to them is a parable. A communist addressing a gathering said, "When the revolution comes you will all have strawberries and cream for breakfast." To this a little man replied, "I don't like strawberries and cream for breakfast" and received the answer, "When the revolution comes you will have strawberries and cream for breakfast—and like 'em".

When the Editorial Board selects German, Italian or Russian work, it is not because the Board or the Institute (perish the thought) is influenced by any political philosophy. Buildings are illustrated which have interested the Board and will likely interest members of the Institute. To leave the matter in no doubt, we have followed the example of other Empire Journals and have placed permanently on our contents page the sentence, "The Institute does not hold itself responsible for the opinions expressed by contributors". Of course if we become wholly technical such a precaution will be unnecessary. An inaccurate dimension in a detail or a faulty trap in a basin will not affect either the dignity or the integrity of the Institute.

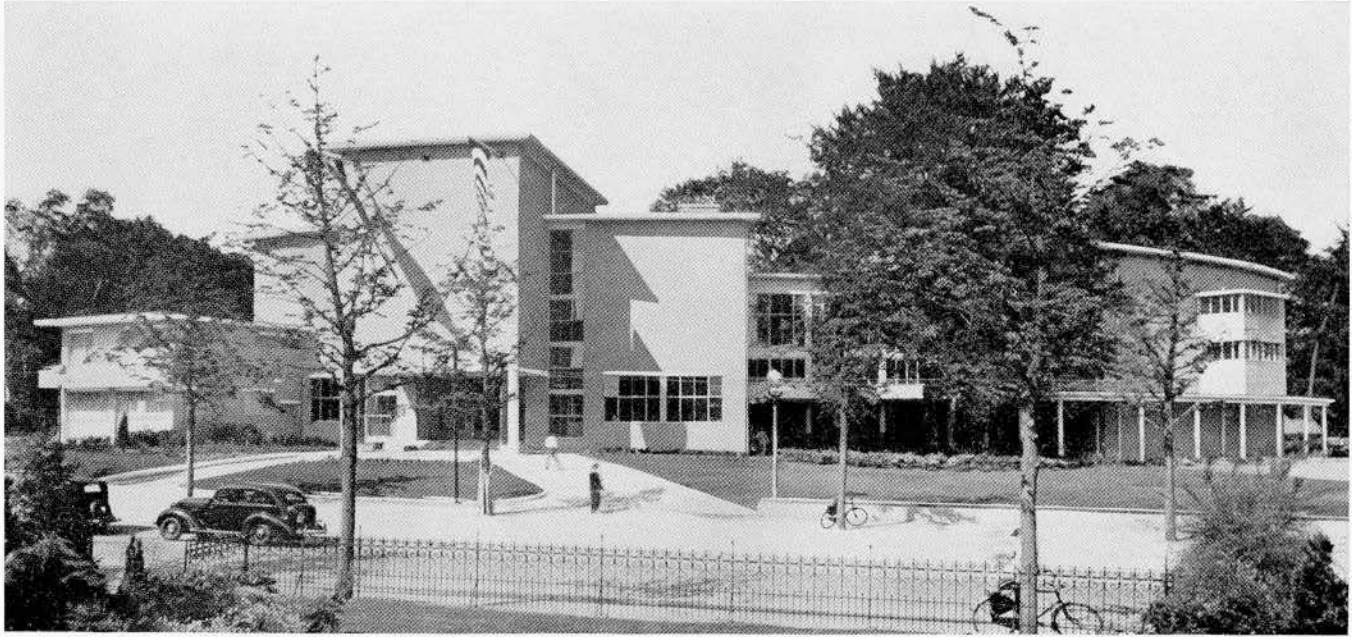
We are most grateful to the members who replied to the questionnaire. In spite of our parable, we shall give all serious questions serious attention and endeavour to follow the advice of the architect, who in answer to the civil question, "How do you like the Cover?"—replied, "To h'l with the cover, get on with the contents". On the whole we gather that members are satisfied or actually pleased with the Journal. We received much good natured abuse, some eulogies particularly one from a member who takes the Journal to bed with him, and only one insulting letter from a man who cannot abide the Journal in the office and whose wife hides it under a cushion when he gets home. We wish we could think of some more practical use to which he might put it.

To give members an idea of the helpful answers we have received we must mention that of the Toronto member (M) who liked historical articles. In reply to the question, "How many would you have in a year?" he answered, "How many are there?"

We hope, with the assistance of a statistician, to be able next month to publish the "results" of this fascinating venture of the Editorial Board in the realms of journalism. It is unlikely that anyone so patient as to read this editorial will have been so dilatory as not to have answered the questionnaire, but if there is any such, we should be glad to hear from him at once.

BROADCASTING STATIONS

By MACKENZIE WATERS



A. V. R. O. STUDIO, HILVERSUM, HOLLAND
MERKELBACH AND KARSTEN, ARCHITECTS

SHORTLY after the turn of the century a lad who lived in the same town as myself, used to amaze us by making sparks fly from tubes set as much as three feet apart. I mention this because it was my first introduction to wireless. Since then he has become an authority on radio; he is Colonel Arthur Steele, M.C., sometime signal officer of the 11th Bde., C.E.F., but latterly technical advisor to the Radio Commission of Canada, and responsible for communications in the vast wastes that run from the northern Albertan posts to Aklavik and east across the Bad Lands to Moosonee.

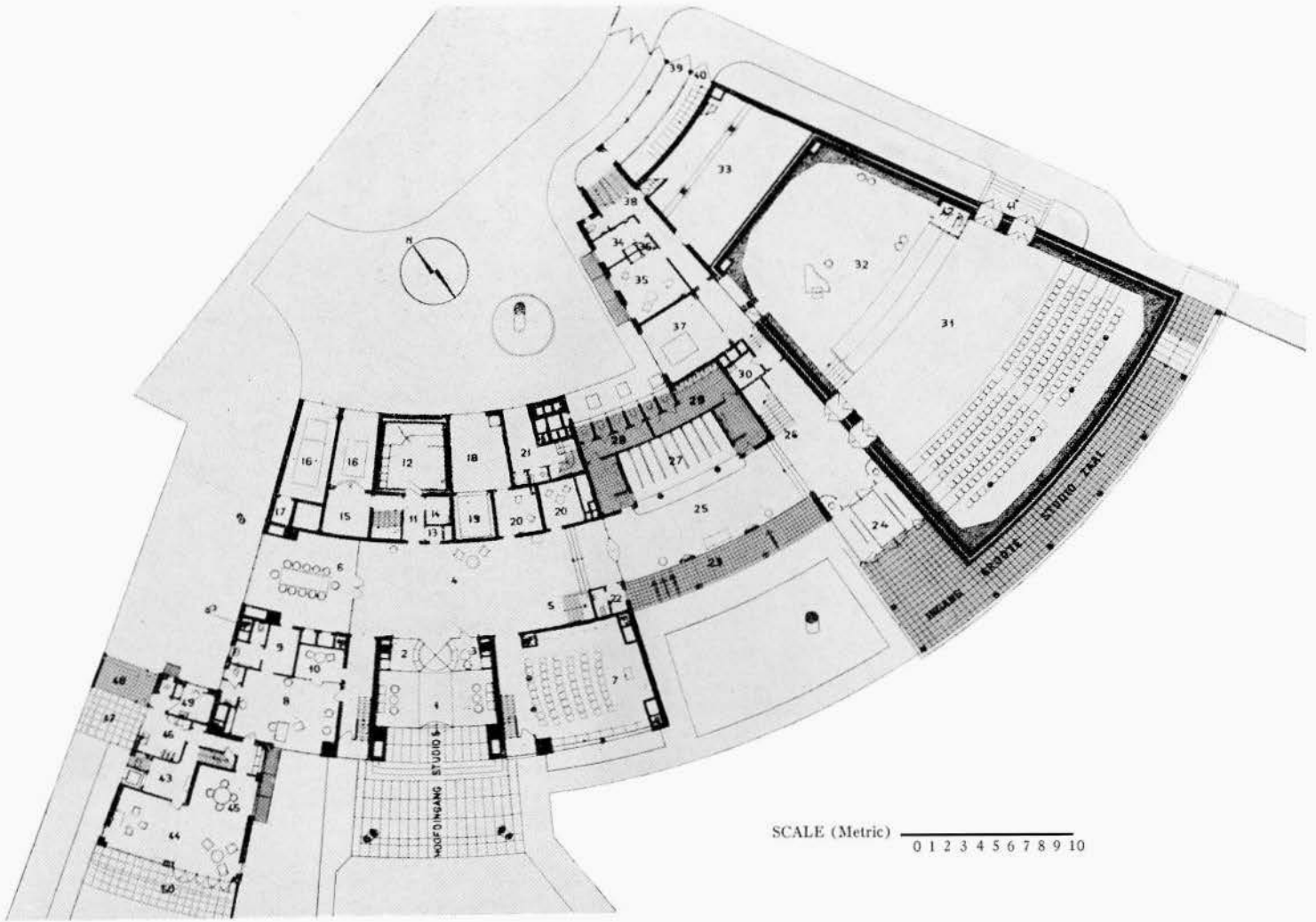
This preamble may sound irrelevant but I had to approach my subject of "Broadcasting Stations" in some fashion and I could think of no better way to do it than by my own experiences.

In the past two decades there have been two opportunities for architects to step out and do something entirely different in the solution of the problems with which they were faced. These were in the design of gasoline and broadcasting stations. Unfortunately in the case of gasoline service stations there has been a tendency to revere the past and only in the last few years have the great oil companies seen fit to divorce themselves from the romantic and set themselves up as going concerns willing to sell gasoline on the merits of their product and not by attracting buyers to their stalls by half timbers and leaded panes.

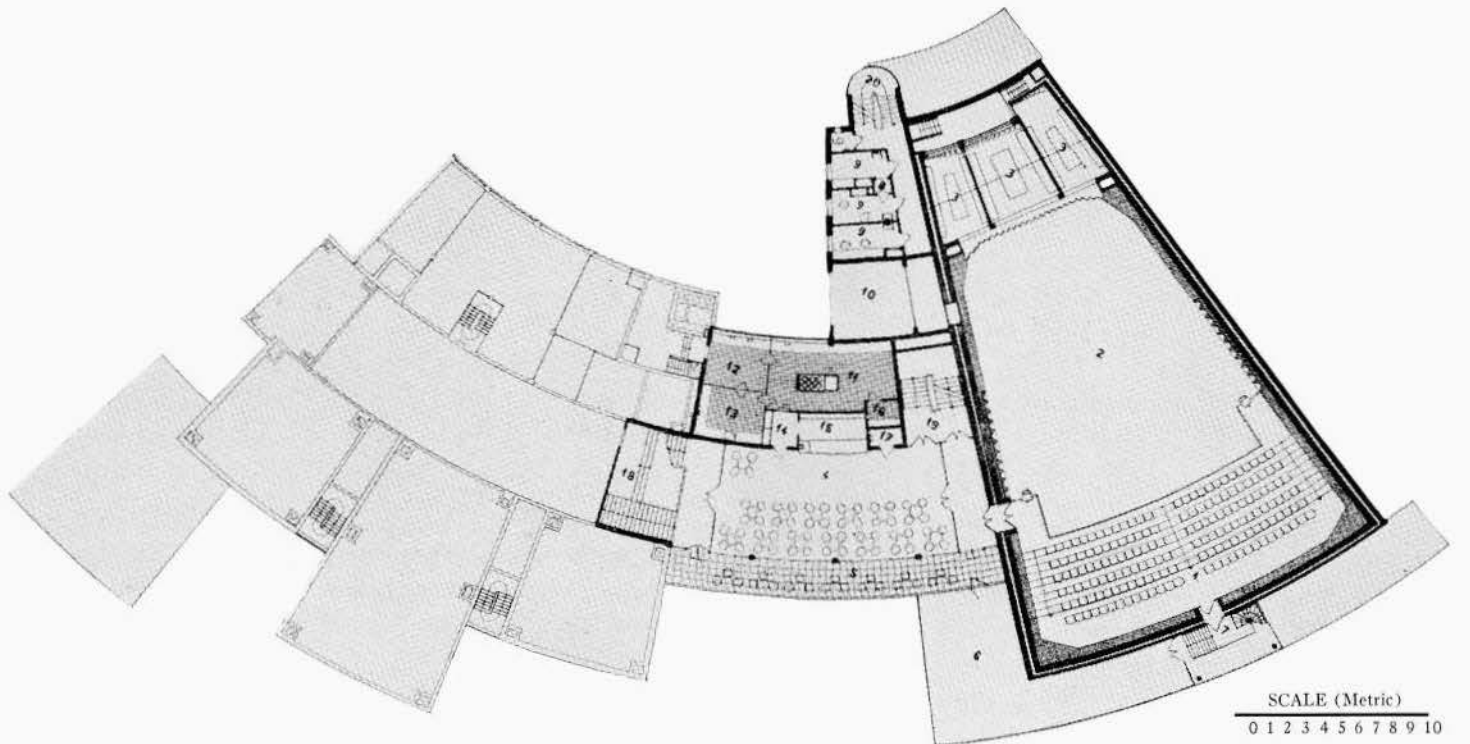
Fortunately, broadcasting companies have not been faced with the same problem that they must sell themselves to the public by eye measure. Their problem has been one of ear, but at the same time they had to be housed. At the inception of radio, existing buildings were adapted but latterly new structures, devoted entirely to what must now be one of the most potent if not one of the leading industries in the world, have been built. This industry is international because only by official jamming can any broadcast be kept from reaching anyone who can afford thirty-nine dollars and fifty cents, therefore every country has set out to develop it in their own fashion, some by government subsidy and some by self support. In Canada we are still suffering from growing pains, but in the United States, with their great population, they have so far developed it that they have two systems serving the country, the N.B.C. and the C.B.S., and each has housed itself in many cities with notable structures.

In England, according to the *Architectural Review*, August, 1932, we find the British Broadcasting House as a frontispiece with the following observation: "The new building parts the roads like a battleship floating towards the observer. The architect has tried to echo the curves of Nash's church of All Souls', Langham Place, whose portico may be seen on the right of the

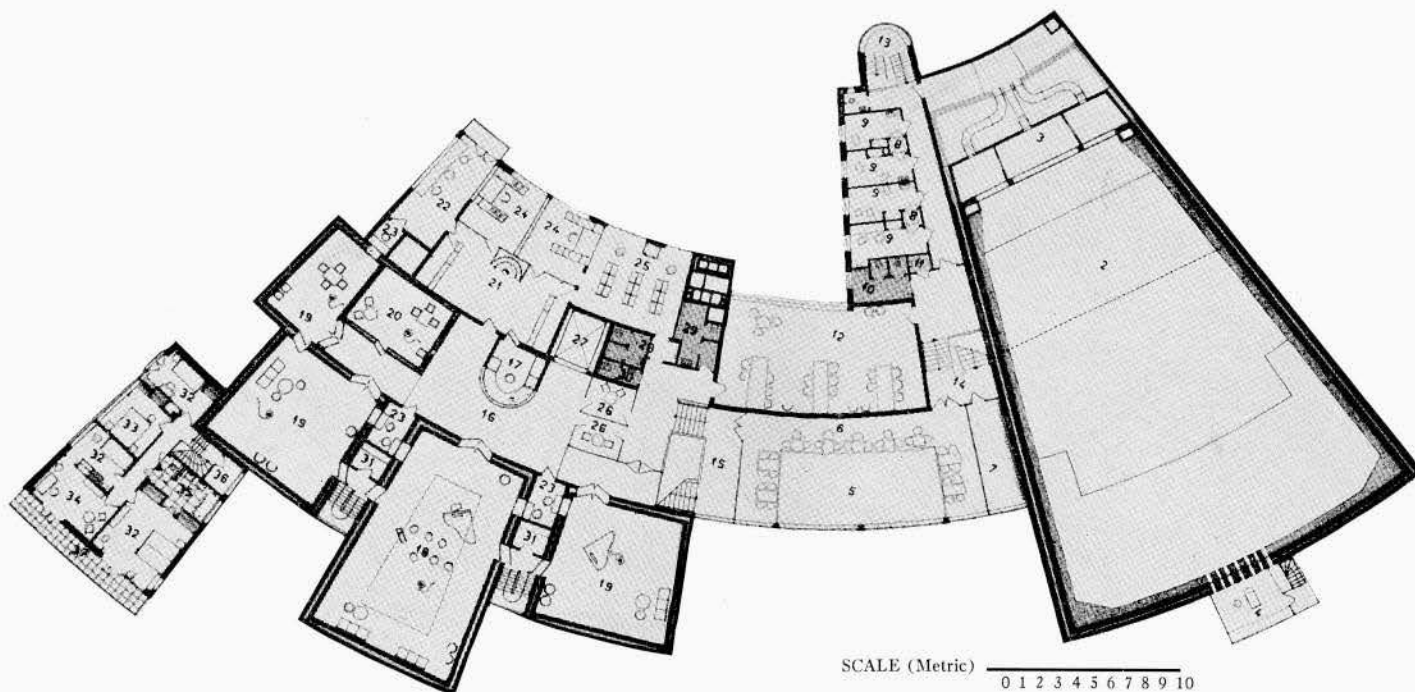
A.V.R.O. STUDIO. HILVERSUM, HOLLAND



FIRST FLOOR



MEZZANINE FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

FIRST FLOOR

1. Entrance.
2. Doorman.
3. Porter.
4. Main entrance hall.
5. Main staircase.
6. Board room.
7. Audition room.
8. Superintendent.
9. Committee cloak room.
10. Reception room.
11. Hall.
12. Sound room.
13. Avro-clock.
14. Tool shop.
15. Mobile sound increasing apparatus.
16. Garage.
17. Cupboard.
18. Entrance to storage room for musical instruments.
19. Elevator.
20. Waiting rooms.
21. Entrance kitchen.
22. Cloak room of doorman.
23. Storage room for bicycles.
24. Entrance to large studio room.
25. Cloak room hall.

26. Hall of large studio room.
27. Cloak room.
28. Ladies' wash room.
29. Men's wash room.
30. Tool shop.
31. Large studio.
32. Stage.
33. Organ room.
34. Conductors' room.
35. Soloists' room.
36. Shower.
37. Stage property room.
38. Servants' staircase.
39. Artists' entrance.
40. Entrance artists' bicycle storage.
41. Emergency exits.
42. Lookouts.
43. Hall.
44. Living room.
45. Dinette.
46. Kitchen.
47. Porch.
48. Storage room.
49. Maids' bed room.
50. Terrace.

MEZZANINE FLOOR

1. Balcony, large studio.

2. Large studio. (Upper part.)
3. Organ room. (Upper part.)
4. Coffee room.
5. Terrace.
6. Balcony.
7. Emergency exit.
8. Shower.
9. Dressing rooms.
10. Stage property room.
11. Kitchen.
12. Cold storage.
13. Dish-washing kitchen.
14. Hall.
15. Buffet.
16. Provision cupboard.
17. Telephone.
18. Main staircase.
19. Balcony staircase.

SECOND FLOOR

1. Large studio. (Upper part.)
2. Stage. (Upper part.)
3. Observation room for organ.
4. Projection room.
5. Coffee room.
6. Orchestra recreation room.
7. Cloak room.
8. Showers.
9. Dressing rooms.

10. Ladies' toilet.
11. Telephone.
12. Orchestra rehearsing room.
13. Servants' staircase.
14. Balcony staircase.
15. Main staircase.
16. Broadcast hall.
17. Broadcast studio.
18. Jazz band studio.
19. Studio A.B.C.
20. Speakers' studio.
21. Apparatus room.
22. Experimental room.
23. Observation room.
24. Control rooms.
25. Record studio.
26. Waiting room.
27. Elevator.
28. Announcers' wash room.
29. Men's wash room.
30. Wash room.
31. Storage.
32. Bed room.
33. Guest room.
34. Work room.
35. Bath room.
36. Storage.
37. Balcony.

photograph. The narrowness and restriction of the site can be seen clearly from this point. There is no room for interior lighting courts. The battleship shape is seen only from the point where the observer is standing; from the portico of All Saints' church the effect of a battleship disappears."

Elsewhere in England, particularly Leeds, we find adaptations of existing buildings where the actual

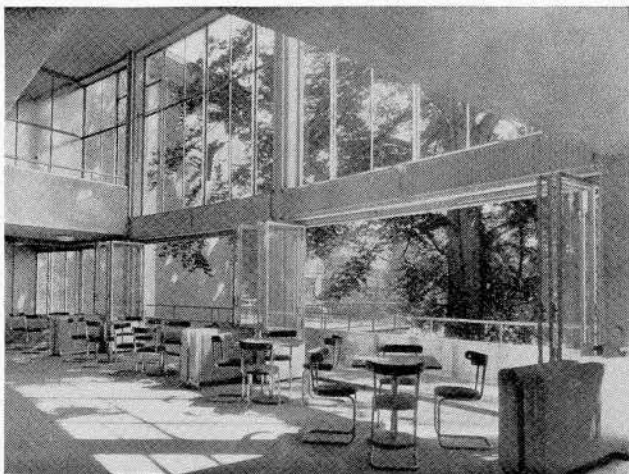
working studios and other interiors are first class but nowhere have I been able to find a single structure devoted entirely to broadcasting and unaffected by its surroundings to compare with the A.V.R.O. Studio in Hilversum, Holland.

A year ago I was fortunate in carrying a letter from William Lescaze, the architect of the C.B.S. studios in New York and Hollywood, to Merkelback of Am-



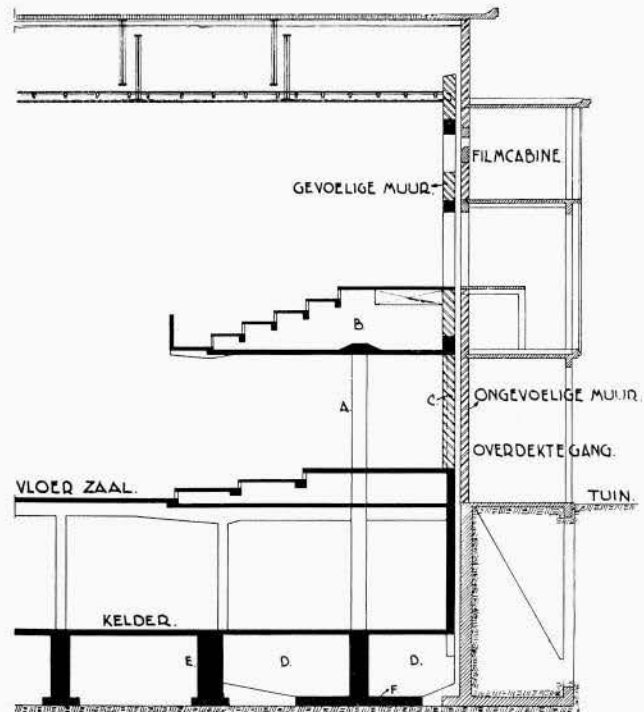
Auditorium

sterdam, the architect, with Karsten, for A.V.R.O. Before I saw his building he explained to me, how it had been built by public subscription, and, that nothing had been left undone to make it as nearly perfect as possible. Sited within a few blocks of Dudok's Town Hall, its outward appearance certainly did not contribute to the amenities of the local scene but I was able to sympathize with the architect as well as Dudok. I can best describe this building by saying that the exterior was subservient to the plans, produced herewith, and that the plan, combined with the mechanical features, seemed to reach a Rolls Royce precision in its perfection. It is not large but it can accommodate great crowds with ease. The interior views show with what consideration the public, which built and supports this structure, is treated. As radio is naturally a business in which everyone is interested, the staff of A. V. R. O. put themselves out to show them every facility for inspection no matter to what extremity their curiosity may lead. Mine led to special features which had been incorporated there as compared to other stations and more especially to the



Coffee-Room with Adjoining Terrace

construction of the four studios which are absolutely divorced from the general structure of the building in that they stand on their own legs (see section) and are



Cross Section Through Large Theatre

in "cacoon" so far as the rest of the building is concerned. Special acoustic louvres are arranged in each studio so that they may be adjusted to the size of the audience. To do justice to a description of the mechanical room, housing the boiler and air-conditioning equipment, would require an intelligence far beyond mine, and the general arrangement of all the technical features would provide substance for a complete article.

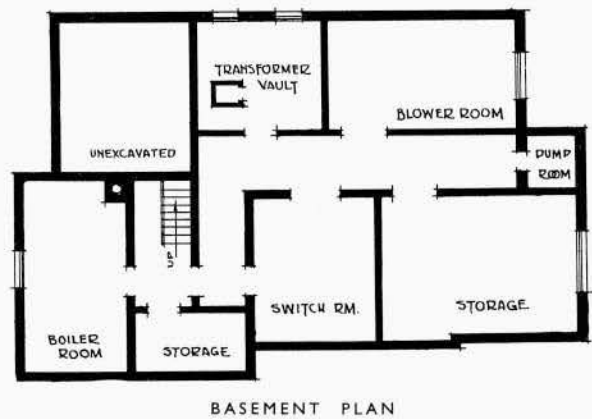
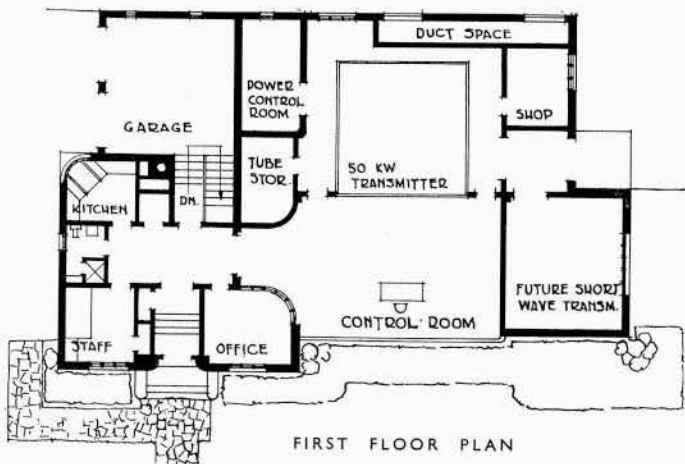
Before closing this article, which only pretends to draw attention to this fine solution of a very technical problem, I would like to refer to the interiors and furnishings. The wall treatments are absolutely plain; the floors, as in most new continental buildings, are covered with rubber, and the furniture, some metal and some wood, is handled in a very simple fashion, all of which leaves you with the impression that the architects, after studying the requirements, set themselves a goal and travelled along the straightest path available in order to reach it.

Since leaving the building I cannot help comparing the courtesy of the staff in Hilversum and their willingness to explain every detail with "similar" Canadian buildings where radio is treated as a mystic and unnatural business carried on in sacrosanct seclusion. This is, no doubt, largely due to lack of space, which will be corrected in future building.



CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION STATION, HORNBY

D. G. MCKINSTRY, ARCHITECT



LIFE IN THE CITY

By JOHN LAYNG

*The city is a fact in nature, like a cave, a run of mackerel or an ant-heap. But it is also a conscious work of art, and it holds within its communal framework many simpler and more personal forms of art. Mind takes form in the city; and in turn, urban forms condition mind. For space, no less than time is artfully reorganized in cities: . . . The city is both a physical utility for collective living and a symbol of those collective purposes and unanimities that arise.**

MR. MUMFORD has set himself the monumental task of analysing the city with the viewpoint of bettering it as a place to live. The analysis has proved to be both exhaustive, from point of view of fact and constructive in its suggestions for a new and larger life. He writes not only as a planner and a man with a sound knowledge of architecture, but also as a biologist and a man deeply sympathetic with humanity.

Historically, the mediæval town, conceived for protection, developed as a corporation that offered certain freedom from the serfdom of the country. This town was an economic unit among other economic units spaced in proper relation to their ability to produce food or goods and to distribute these without waste of energy by unreasonable distances or overlapping services. The people, more keen and intelligent than their cousins on the land, built up a civilization, or a means of living, which was balanced and unified by common ideals and purposes and which took advantage of collective living to increase the comforts and joys of life otherwise not possible.

Architecturally, the mediæval town formed itself, usually, within a wall which defined the limits of town and country without hindering their interrelations but which prevented the now rampant spoliation of the landscape. The mediæval urban dwelling was probably the town's worst feature. It has given the mediæval town a stigma of darkness and dankness usually fallacious. Mr. Mumford challenges the accepted theory that the mediæval life was an inferior life in comparison with, say, the renaissance life. However, we must accept the fact that, by the fifteenth century, new forces were at work to change all this because, through lack of communal spirit, the mediæval city had begun to disintegrate.

With the Renaissance comes capitalism, despotism, and mechanism, and, two centuries later, the culture of the Renaissance had become Baroque, the meaning of which Mr. Mumford has extended from our architectural terminology to include the characteristics of

the whole age with its contrasts of the learnedness and order of mathematics, commerce, formal houses, streets, and gardens to the crazy, rebellious, grotesque, and sensuous objects and manners of society at large. Mr. Mumford, while admitting of the grandness and the outward unity of form, is poignantly contemptuous of this Baroque civilization with its avenues for military parades and traffic, its shopping parades where the reality of local craftsmanship and tradition gave way to the less real but more fashionable metropolitan styles, its extravagant waste of time, money and life, its classes forever imitating their immediate betters, its absolutism which provided a great deal for the very few. Simplicity of life gave way to complexity and functional expression was overpowered for the sake of form. The dwelling had become private from business which indicated a growth of domesticity and the resultant weakening of communal life among the middle classes. The *Olympians* of this age, as in the ensuing ones, were spared dullness and misery by their power to select their own spacious background as a stage for the excellent and charming manners and tastes of leisure.

The close of the eighteenth century brought the age of *Paleotechnics* with its newer conception of capitalism and mechanism. The mistakes of the previous age were retained and the city developed into a polluted non-city of factory and slum. Industry did not plan well for itself or for the populace. Oddly enough, bad material conditions fostered an increasing population which made matters no better. The people were more or less numbed for the natural good things of life. New false values obtained. Escapism became a cult without realising its own shortsightedness.

The growth of the city to a metropolis put further intolerable burdens upon the life of the people. The scale of buildings and enterprises was enlarged. Administration, transportation, communication and commerce meant never-ending concentration. Mr. Mumford satirically blasts the inefficiency of bureaucracies both political and commercial and the madness of Big Business and all that it effects.

With *Megalopolis*, the interminable and formless mass of the largest cities, comes a standardization of blight and a degradation of life which accepts more degradation. Waste, smoke, sewage and noise deface the city and extend into its unsightly fringes. And so, we come to the final pangs of Civilization aptly titled *A Brief Outline of Hell* which may be all too true and, after that, the anti-climax of decay halting decay, population decreasing, finance collapsing.

(Continued on page 236)

THE ARCHITECTURE OF DEMOCRACY

By HUMPHREY CARVER

"When it is universally recognised that all who act, teach and lead in any capacity, large or small, do act on some conception of the good and beautiful, then the clarification of AESTHETIC purposes will precede efforts to formulate and apply policy."

— Werner Hegemann.

THE terrible events of last month have awakened us with alarm to the fact that the national policies of every state in the world are intimately related to the private lives of each of us. Nations are mobilised either for reaction and destruction or they are mobilised for creation and construction. It is perhaps worth emphasising the rather obvious implications of the fact that the two nations whose influence saved the Peace are the two nations that have mobilised their forces for BUILDING homes . . . England and the United States.

Is it an accident of history that the great Housing programme which, between 1919 and 1931 focussed world admiration upon Germany came to an end when Herr Hitler came to power? The post-war Socialist-Christian government was responsible for the construction of 2,510,000 urban homes and for the conception of a social architecture which seemed to symbolise a new world of intellectual honesty and structural beauty. It was the birth of Modern Architecture. But the forces of reaction opposed themselves to the great Housing projects in Berlin and Vienna (with the kind of specious argument now so familiar in Canada) and placed in power a certain Herr Hitler. Germany's social architects were banished and compelled to lend their genius to other nations or, ironically, they had to accept the Nazi standard of Housing . . . the concentration camp. So deeply involved is Architecture in the events of September, 1938.

The security of peace and international goodwill depends upon the democratic redistribution of landed property and of the amenities and services of civilisation. That is Housing. The under-privileged minorities of industrialism are not only to be found in Sudetenland; they are in Moss Park, Toronto; they are down by the St. Lawrence in Montreal; they are in the shack towns which surround every Canadian city. Bad Housing and an inequitable distribution of land are cancers at the very heart of the world's distress. Peace movements and international co-ordination must be directly concerned with such matters. No international profession can contribute more to intellectual co-operation and social reconstruction than the profession of Architecture.

It was largely American money that made possible the spectacular Housing projects of post-war Germany; and now, after an interval of six years, America has taken the belated step of rebuilding its own dilapidated cities. While the vast financial resources of America have been lavishly spilled into the movie industry, the radio industry and into the manufacture of cosmetics and other decorations, meanwhile the cities of this continent from New Orleans to North Bay have been declining to a deplorable condition of obsolescence, boorishness and blight. With characteristic vigour President Roosevelt has mobilised his forces against the slums, defeating those forces of reaction and jealousy which, in Canada, still seek to obstruct this advance towards a new standard of civilisation. The 51 PWA Housing projects (some of which are illustrated in this issue of the *Journal*) represent the rescue of 24,000 families from the oblivion of the slums. In the United States there still remain 10,000,000 families that cannot obtain proper Housing without Government assistance.

As a solution to the larger problem the PWA projects are negligible, for they have not in any way revolutionised the industry of home-production which has failed so completely to fulfil its function. But as demonstrations they are colossal. Their success is not only in the high standards of planning that have been established, but in the now apparent fact that they have fulfilled their purpose of stimulation and that American Housing is now launched upon a vast and honourable career. We already have notices of groundbreaking ceremonies and of contracts let for further projects in New York, Buffalo, Cleveland, Chicago and other cities. Under the Wagner-Steagall Act 125,000 families are to be re-housed in three years.

To architects the PWA projects are of particular interest as experiments in site-planning. Some serve as demonstrations that what appears to be a good plan on paper may, in the accomplished fact, prove to have overlooked essential considerations. For instance, the charm of the sloping site in the Lakeview project in Cleveland has become buried in a car-parking problem. The scientific whim which prompted the oblique planning of the Williamsburg site in Brooklyn has somehow failed to lay down a community pattern which is contained in the more orthodox axial treatment of the Harlem Houses site. On the other hand, the Buffalo project, built on one major axis and dominated by a large school, the design of which is quite inconsistent with the scale of the project, has lost the intimacy and scale of domestic architecture. However tedious such a lay-out may be, it is certainly not as

depressing as that of the Lackawanna project overpowered by the amorphous leviathan proportions of the Bethlehem Steel plant. It should not be impossible to divorce Housing sites entirely from industrial environment.

But whatever specious or constructive criticisms can be made, it must be recognised that the standard of community-planning achieved by the 51 projects is revolutionary. At one step the entire practice of real estate development on this continent has been made obsolete. There is not a single apartment house or small home development in Canada that can show the amenities of open space and architectural distinction that are available in any one of these projects. It is a challenge that puts the private-profiting realtor and the speculative builder in their places.

Canadians who have visited any of these projects and have talked with families removed from the desperate pessimism of slums to the peaceful enjoyment of a proper home can only be humiliated. Canada, with all its British traditions of social responsibility, has now been left far behind. The Dominion Government, with a kind of unctuous piety, has done nothing more than offer (as Mr. A. S. Mathers has so bluntly put it) "to go into the mortgage loan business and make it possible for any person with a moderate income and a few hundred dollars to involve himself in a larger debt for a longer period than formerly". Legislation for this purpose has been called ironically the "Dominion HOUSING Act".

Lamentation and moral fervour build no Housing however. What is the practical lesson that can be learned from the successful experience of the United States in emerging from a period of moral fervour into one of realistic enterprise?

The most important fact revealed by American experience is that Housing can only be built when an authority is specifically appointed to build Housing. This may seem a naïf and obvious statement, yet its truth appears to have entirely escaped the notice of our Dominion Government. What is anybody's business is nobody's business. It is a pious action to offer funds for Housing, but the offer is safe from implementation as long as no organisation exists to accept such an offer. It would be equally generous to offer every low-income family a thousand gallons of gasoline; since they possess no cars, the offer would be of little value. For exactly the same reason, since low-income families have no machinery for building houses, the provisions of the Dominion Housing Act are equally futile.

Why, then, does not the government promote the required organisation for putting the act into effect? The answer is, clearly, that the Dominion Housing Act has been attached to the Department of Finance; it would be indeed surprising to find a Finance Minister lending active encouragement to a scheme which must react unfavourably upon his books. It is not only most

contradictory, but it is also highly improper that such a department should administer an Act the ultimate purpose of which is concerned not with finance, but with matters of social welfare and industrial organisation. (It will be recalled that the American Act is administered by the United States Housing Authority and the British legislation by the Minister of Health).

Housing legislation is nothing more than so many words in a statute book until there exists an authority and a personnel to promote and, if necessary, enforce its practice.

By the nature of the Federal constitution it is not, of course, possible for the Dominion Government to create local Housing authorities; it is obviously necessary, however, that the legislative body which provides the major portion of the funds should also be responsible for establishing a pattern of organisation that can carry legislation into practice and that can provide some uniformity in its application. Under the guidance of a central body, it is for the Provincial Governments (as the State Legislatures have done in the United States) to enact enabling legislation for the establishment of municipal or regional Housing authorities.

Although we do not wish to proclaim the exclusive sanctity of American methods it would be foolish to disregard the unanimous opinion of those that have studied the application of Housing organisation to this continent. The very foundation of the work now being undertaken under the Wagner-Steagall Act is in the divorce of local Housing Authorities from municipal governments. The reasons for the existence of such an arrangement seem particularly evident in Canada. They are as follows: (1) A programme that can effectively handle all the Housing problems in any urban region cannot be contained within municipal boundaries. Whole built-up areas plus the margins of eligible building land must be regarded as the unit areas of planning; individual component municipalities cannot be allowed to carry out conflicting policies that would not be to the benefit of the region as a whole. (2) A municipal government is not in itself a suitable body to administer a long-term construction programme. Its term of office is too short to provide continuity of policy. Moreover the traditions of municipal councils have developed a technique admirable in its solicitude for the property owner-taxpayer, but not one which enables city councillors to claim any special aptitude for the execution of construction programmes. (This remark is not intended to be cynical or derogatory, but is the simple statement of a fact which any councillor can accept without shame). (3) Canada (and particularly Ontario) is already very familiar with the "Commission" type of administration; for the operation of parks, harbours, transportation and Hydro-Electric systems it has a long and honourable record. The divorce of such enterprises from direct political

(Continued on page 227)

U.S., P.W.A.
HOUSING



PARKLAWN • MILWAUKEE • WISCONSIN

518 dwelling units occupying 42 acres, cost \$2,600,000. As in all PWA projects heat is supplied from central plant. Community laundry, social centre, administration and clinic. Vacant land on suburban site permits two-story buildings with ample play-space, lawns and planting. Buses provide transportation to city centre. Rents are \$5.38 per room.

PARKLAWN • MILWAUKEE • WISCONSIN





TRUMBULL PARK HOMES • CHICAGO • ILLINOIS

462 dwelling units occupying 21 acres, cost \$3,038,000. Houses semi-skilled workers in adjacent steel mills on the outskirts of the city. Laundries and recreation units are provided. Apartments overlook allotment-gardens of tenants. No streets enter area of community, but fire-access alleys provide hard surface for wheel-toys of 465 children under six.

TRUMBULL PARK HOMES • CHICAGO • ILLINOIS



U.S., P.W.A.
HOUSING



CARL MACKLEY HOUSES • PHILADELPHIA • PENNSYLVANIA

284 dwelling units on 5½ acres. An experiment in co-operation with a Limited Dividend Housing Corporation (with Federal Loan of \$1,030,000) to provide accommodation for hosiery workers. Project contains three-story apartments, swimming and wading pools, nursery school, auditorium, recreation rooms and work-shops. Flat roofs equipped for children's playgrounds.

CARL MACKLEY HOUSES • PHILADELPHIA • PENNSYLVANIA





MEETING STREET MANOR • CHARLESTON • SOUTH CAROLINA

Where strong local traditions of architecture exist they may be embodied in modern Housing, as in the negro group-housing above and the terrace-housing of Pennsylvania below. The preservation in the plan of trees and other natural features lends an atmosphere of casual charm that cannot always be created by functional planning alone.

HILL CREEK • PHILADELPHIA • PENNSYLVANIA



THE ARCHITECTURE OF DEMOCRACY

(Continued from page 222)

control has become an axiom of Canadian democracy. It would therefore be entirely consistent to add to those public services the provision of Housing for those who cannot be adequately served by private enterprise. There is no difference in principle between the provision of public transportation for those who cannot afford to buy cars produced by private enterprise, and the provision of dwellings for those who cannot obtain proper Housing at the prices demanded by private enterprise.

It is not our intention here to dwell upon the need for Housing in Canada. Sufficient isolated test-surveys have been made in both rural and urban areas to indicate the existence of an urgent and distressing demand for low cost Housing. There has not, however, been undertaken any comprehensive survey to reveal the full extent of the need; we have still to deal in guesses and approximations. It is true that Canada does not possess the concentrated or tenement type of slum that has particularly menaced the larger American and

European cities; but there is a type of sub-standard housing essentially characteristic to Canada and which has arisen inevitably out of the hastiness with which the Dominion has been populated. The materials of which a large proportion of Canadian homes are constructed were never intended or expected to be permanent. Dwellings that served as provisional shelter have stayed as slums. Would it be an exaggeration to say that there is in Canada no land planned and no housing built specifically for low-income families? That is a remarkable lack in the equipment of a modern country.

Canada is at present mobilised for inter-provincial strife. The country is divided into rival camps incited against one another by jealous demagogues. And yet we affect to despise the barbaric methods of European conflict! A stimulating force is required to galvanise and mobilise the nation into a united, peaceful and creative progress. Housing.

Photographs illustrating this article are shown through the courtesy of United States Housing Authority.

BOOKS—That will be of interest to all advocates of Housing and that should be read by all who oppose Housing in order that they may not display their ignorance of the subject:

Modern Housing by Catherine Bauer. Houghton Mifflin Company, 286 Fourth Avenue, New York—\$5.00.

City Planning—Housing, Vols. I and II, by Werner Hegemann. Architectural Book Publishing Company, 112 West 46th Street, New York—\$4.50 each.

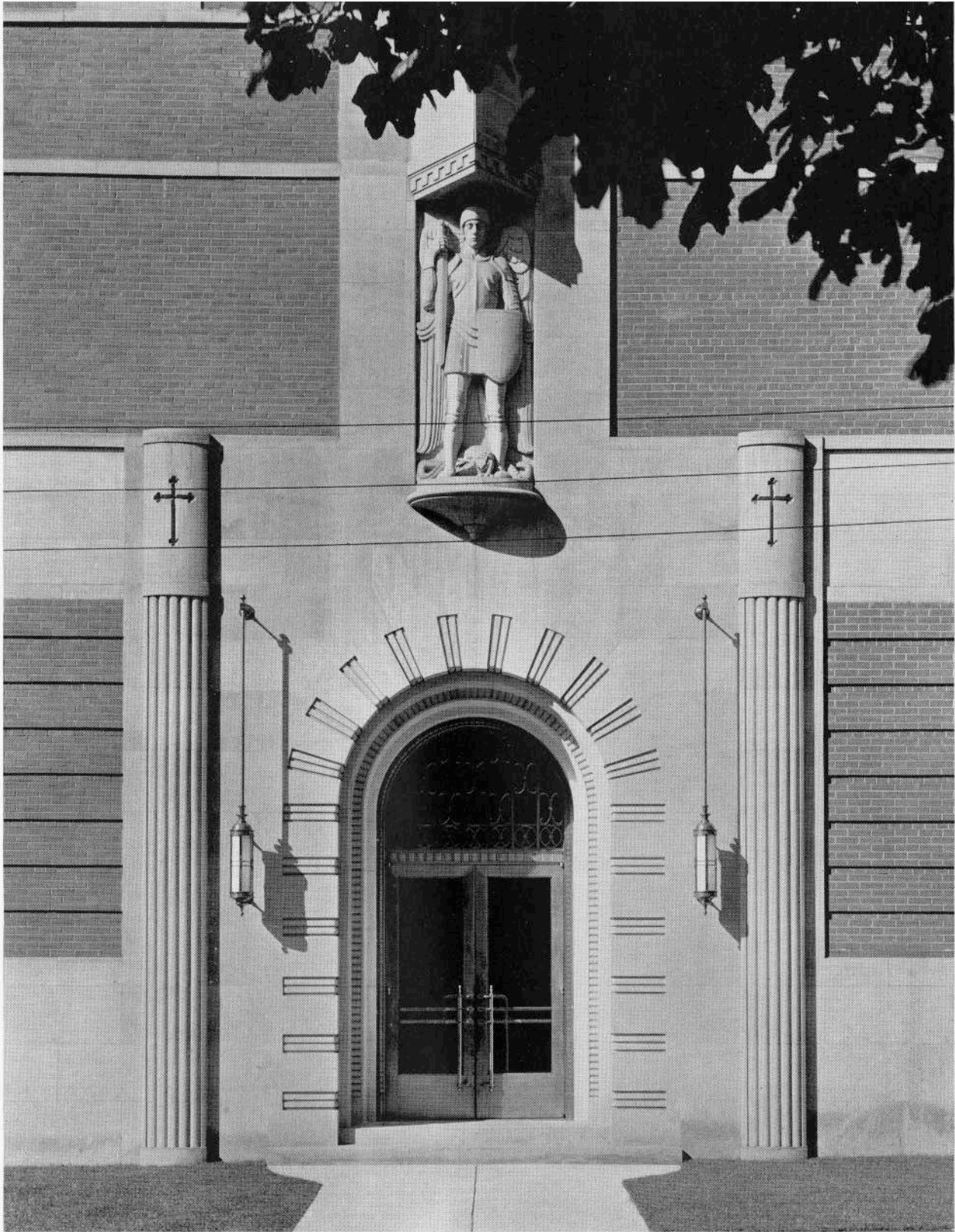
The Culture of Cities by Lewis Mumford. Harcourt Brace & Company, New York—\$5.00.

The Challenge of Housing by Langdon Post. Farrar & Rinehart Inc., New York—\$3.50.

Housing Comes of Age by Michael Strauss and Talbot Wegg. Oxford University Press, New York—\$2.75.

For further details of the PWA projects see *The Architectural Forum*, May, 1938.

An excellent non-technical guide for local Housing Authorities is *Planning for Low-Rent Housing*. National Association of Housing Officials, Chicago—\$1.00.

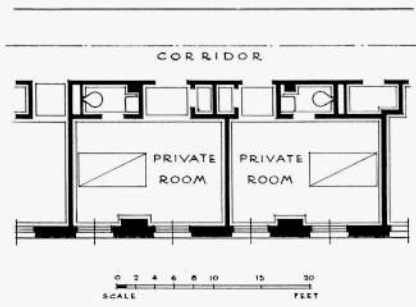


ENTRANCE DETAIL
ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL, TORONTO

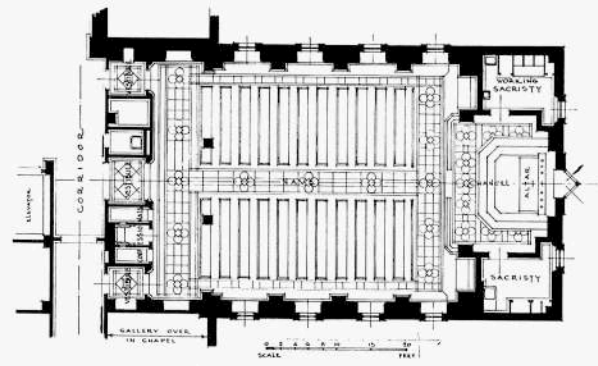
W. L. SOMERVILLE, ARCHITECT



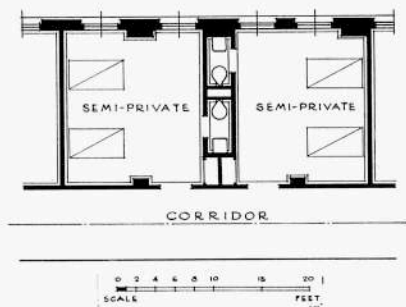
CHAPEL



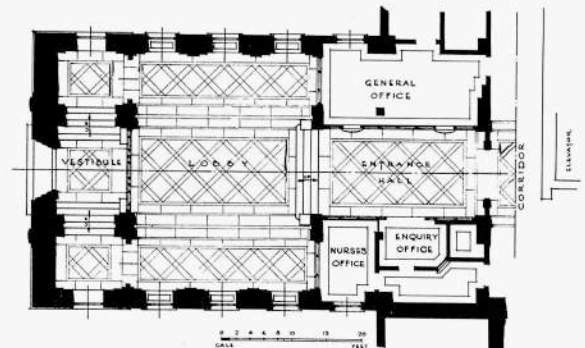
PLAN OF TYPICAL PRIVATE ROOMS



PLAN OF CHAPEL



PLAN OF TYPICAL SEMI-PRIVATE ROOMS



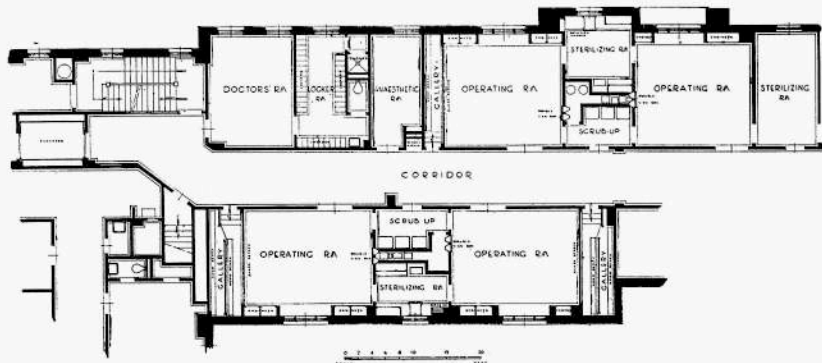
PLAN OF ENTRANCE LOBBY



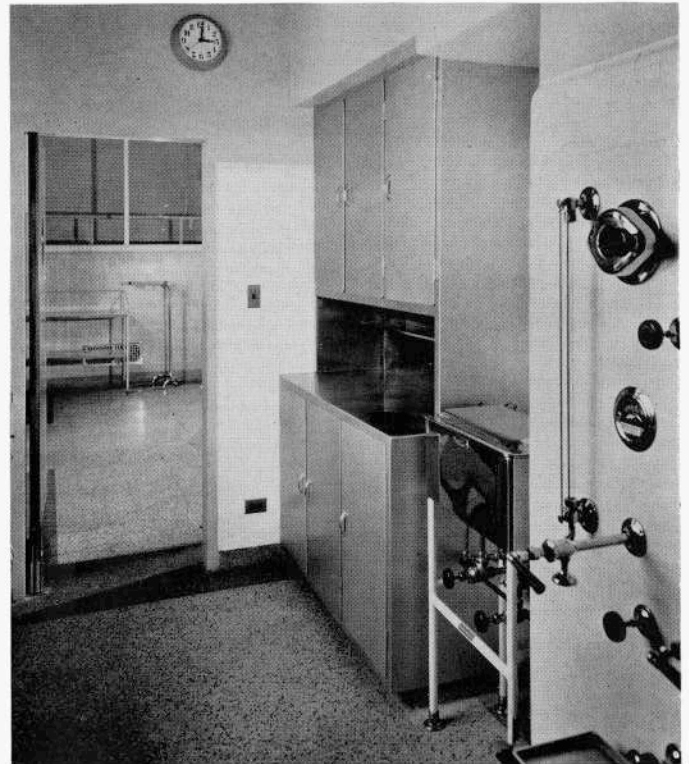
OFFICE AND BOARD ROOM



VISITORS' WAITING ROOM



PLAN OF OPERATING WING



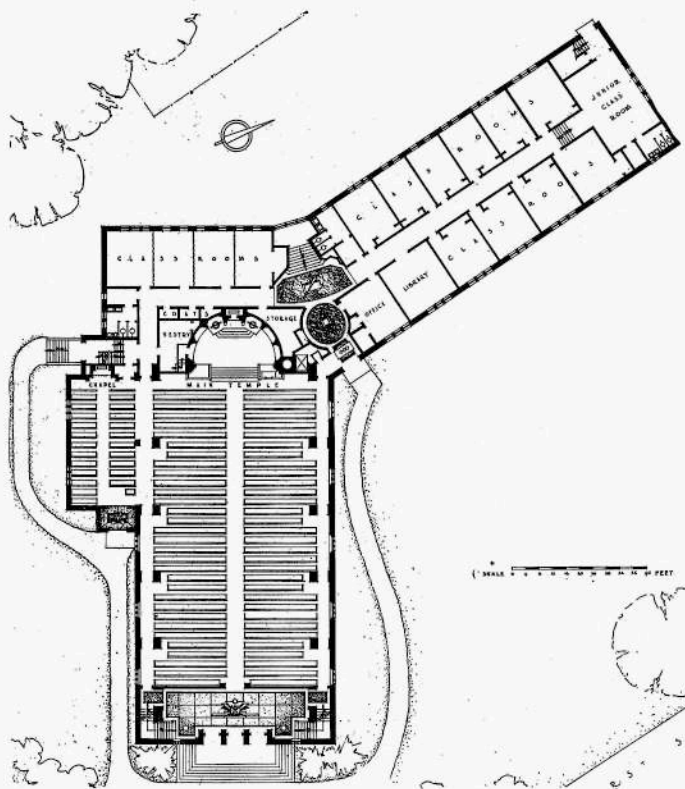
STERILIZING ROOM



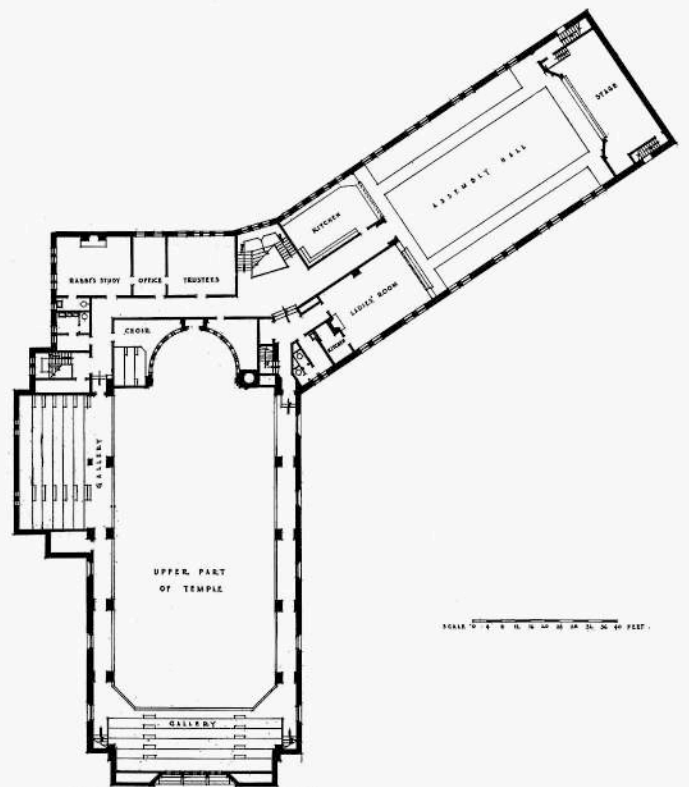
OPERATING ROOM



HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE, TORONTO
CHAPMAN AND OXLEY, ARCHITECTS, MAURICE D. KLEIN, ASSOCIATE



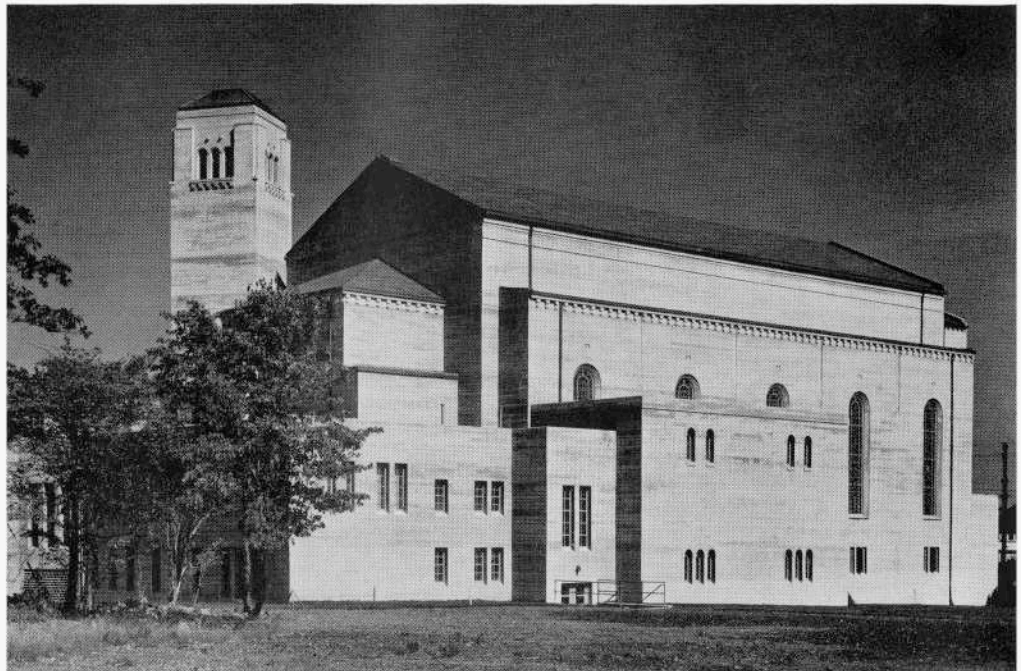
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



VIEW OF SANCTUARY



SOUTH ELEVATION

PROVINCIAL PAGE

ALBERTA

The Dominion Housing Act, 1938, has come under discussion by the City Council of Edmonton. One might suppose that in this city where business is at present doing well, where a fair amount of money is seeking for investment and where there is admittedly a great lack of housing accommodation, the opportunity to borrow money for housing purposes at the rate of four per cent., including amortization, would be accepted with alacrity. Yet it seems quite doubtful that it will be accepted at all. The reason for this is an example of an economic impasse. Houses are scarce, therefore city taxes are very high—about 55 mills, that is 5.5 per cent. of assessed value. To purchase a house is a doubtful benefit. It is, for many people, preferable to rent, but rents are also high. It might be supposed that houses would therefore be built in order that they may be rented. But rents being high, tenants are apt to default payment. Houses being hard to get either for purchase or rent, defaulting tenants are dealt with leniently by the courts. Re-possession by the owner is not easy to obtain. Thus it is not profitable to build or hold for rent.

Into this situation enters the offer contained in the Dominion Housing Act. One of the essential conditions of that offer is that houses to be built for rent must be limited to an economic rental of nine and a half per cent. of the cost, plus not more than one per cent. of their cost in lieu of taxes. Thus the buildings to be supplied under the Act would yield to the city only ten mills (or, more exactly, about 13 mills, since the tax is on the whole cost, not on two-thirds as in the city assessment) whilst other properties are taxed 55 mills. In this way taxpayers, already very heavily burdened, are asked to carry still more instead of being relieved by further property being added to the roll.

There is no doubt of the obligation to provide houses for the houseless or of the general benefit to the community in getting these provided, but the obligation is hard of fulfilment by those already heavily taxed.

There might be no need for the Dominion's liberal offer if there were adequate security for loans on mortgages. But mortgage companies will not operate in Alberta where special legislation protects holders of property so stringently that lending companies have no satisfactory security on their loans.

A section of the new Hudson's Bay Company's store is now open for business. Popular remark expresses some disappointment with the building at its present, merely two storeys of height; general expectation being that the newer the building, the bigger and more grandiose it should be. It is obvious, however, that to a departmental store, the ground floor, basement and first floor are the most valuable for the purpose of sales, no matter how convenient staircases or escalators may be. It would probably be well for smaller cities to keep in mind that the higher the building the more the price of land will be forced up and that this highly artificial price of land leads directly to the kind of congestion that the larger cities have been led into, by no means wisely. For it has been carried to such an extent that the larger cities are now struggling in self-strangulation. Whilst bigness may be a fine thing to boast about, in this case it is fatal to human happiness and well-being.

Recent admission to the Alberta Association of Architects is that of Mr. James Stevenson, B.Sc. in Architecture, of Calgary.

— Cecil S. Burgess.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The excellent summer weather we have had in British Columbia this year encouraged the members of the Institute to take a day off from business to show the construction industries how golf should be played.

Members of the engineering profession, the Builders' Exchange, general contractors and the architects met in their 10th Annual Golf Tournament on Tuesday, 26th August, and spent a very enjoyable afternoon. There was a record attendance of 120 contestants and the architects turned in an average low net score of 76 to win the Challenge Cup.

A survey just completed of construction work started in British Columbia during the present year reveals a total of \$10,356,639 spent so far. This is an increase of \$1,800,007 over the total spent during the first eight months of 1937.

— David Colville.

MANITOBA

A summer in Europe has convinced me of several things; first, that we are more fortunate in our geographical location than the most of us realize; second, that we have a priceless heritage in our freedom of self-expression, and, third, that we should have no feeling of inferiority regarding the modern architecture we are producing in Canada today.

The designs for the Canadian Building at the World's Fair in New York were on display at the headquarters of the P.Q.A.A. when I arrived in Montreal and they seemed to me to be of such high quality that any country could be justly proud of them. The judges must have had great difficulty in selecting a winner. It's a pity that the Canadian Building at the Glasgow Exhibition could not have been handled in the same way. Apparently it was not considered necessary to have an architect for that building and the result was all that could be expected.

When we arrived in England we decided to hire a small car in which to see the country. This scheme is much less expensive at the present time than attempting to take your own car and there is less worry about licenses, insurance, etc. The little Ford 8 h.p. we rented had a motor that could be carried in your hat and the gasoline consumption would make my own car blush with shame, but it had all of the speed and power necessary for the narrow roads and steep hills we encountered anywhere in England or Scotland. We drove over 2,000 miles in Great Britain through beautiful countryside, although we were assured that there had been a two months drought that had ruined the pastures and the small fruits.

Our chief interest was housing and we soon found that new houses obtruded themselves into the landscape everywhere. We soon had to avoid them and to try looking the other way when we passed them. The criticism of much of the new housing in England is justified, for it is seriously lacking in anything resembling architectural character. That subsidized by the government is, on the whole, much better than that built by private companies, and the city or municipal houses built in some cities are very good from both the design and construction point of view. I realize that this is old stuff that has been said many times before, but it may be worth repeating. The City of Liverpool has built tenements of excellent design and has done more than most cities in their attempt to beautify the new buildings by proper planting. The combination of brick and stone in horizontal bands of colour gives

an effect very satisfying to the eye and the use of semicircular bays and projections suggests the modern lines of the steamers that anchor only a short distance away. Much of the slum section along the docks has been cleared away, and, while many of the people have been housed in the new tenements, many have been moved to the garden cities. These communities in the suburbs are well deserving of the name "Garden City" with their trees and flowers. The pride of the tenants is apparent in the window boxes and trimmed flower borders and clean walks.

Unfortunately, that is not always the story. One wonders if much of the new housing in many of the European cities will not be the slums of twenty-five years from now. It is true that the children usually have play space in the courts, but it is seldom supervised and there are the same opportunities for subversive influences that were present in the old tenements.

But I had almost forgotten that this was a provincial page. It is good to see considerable new building in Winnipeg and many of the offices with all the work they can handle. I wish we might have the extensive building programme I found in London or Berlin or Helsingfors, with all architects busy and looking around for more help. I was delighted to meet some of our graduates in England, Stockholm, New York, and had I gotten to California I would have found many of them there. It is good to know that they can make their way wherever they are.

— *Milton S. Osborne.*

ONTARIO

This month we have to record the death of one whose connection with architecture in this province dates back to the turn of the century. William R. Mead came to Canada from England some thirty-five years ago. At one time chief draughtsman for the Toronto firm of Miller and Company, he later moved to Hamilton and practised in partnership with the late Lawrence Munro. He was a member of the Ontario Association before the time of the Architects Act, and was well known to many of the older members of the profession and of the construction industry.

The Ontario Association's booth at the Canadian National Exhibition proved to be a most interesting experiment—and a liberal education for the men in attendance. They came into contact with *homo sapiens* in all his infinite variety, out on his annual exhibition ramp—with all that that implies in the way of caustic comment, irrelevant questions and insatiable curiosity. They discovered, among many hitherto undreamed-of things, that models have to be well fastened down and particular care given to the anchoring of chimneys and the rooting of artificial trees and shrubs. Whatever the immediate tangible results may be, the real value of this type of publicity cannot be accurately assessed on one year's experience; but we believe it is generally agreed that worthwhile lessons have been learned with regard to the form and layout of the exhibit itself.

Alongside the O.A.A. booth the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario had a series of splendid photographs of early Ontario buildings, and a composite model showing typical examples grouped around a village green. The photographs were later borrowed by the Publicity Department of the Canadian National Railways for display at their downtown office. We congratulate both the Conservancy and the C.N.R.

There continues to be a dearth of large projects. Around Toronto, apartment houses account for practically all visible activity; which reminds us of a pertinent passage in Valentine Williams' "The World of Action". Speaking of the gradual

improvement of standards of life in Great Britain, he says: "But these achievements are all on the material side. What of the other? . . . Like the builders whom we suffer to tear down our Georgian houses and replace them with vast apartment rookeries, without a thought of what effect this transformation of householders into a nation of flat-dwellers will have upon the racial character, we have overthrown many citadels, caring nothing for the outcome".

— *Gladstone Evans.*

QUEBEC

Arrangements have been made whereby students in Architecture, who are registered at McGill University, may have an opportunity of attending certain lectures at the School of Architecture as partial students during the coming Session. The regular courses on History of Architecture and Professional Practice will be given at 9 a.m. once a week, commencing in October.

As Professor Traquair will be retiring as head of the School in 1939, this will be the last opportunity for anyone to attend his well-known course on the History of Architecture. The course on Professional Practice will include the programme laid down by the P.Q.A.A. for students wishing to take the registration examination of the Association. A course on Professional Practice is also given at the Ecole des Beaux Arts by Mr. Henri Labelle, and at the Ecole Polytechnique students attending the Engineering course have the privilege of attending a course on "The Aesthetics of Architecture" by Mr. Ernest Cormier and on "The Elements of Construction" by Mr. Ludger Venne.

A well-selected collection of French-Canadian furniture and photographs of old buildings were on exhibit lately at Morgan's Store. This was held under the auspices of the Art Association, the McCord Museum and others, whilst the photographs were supplied by the Quebec Government and Professor Traquair. The exhibit was visited by many American tourists, several of whom were amazed at the wealth of good examples of architecture of the 18th and 19th century that exist in this province. It seems unfortunate that our old churches and other buildings of good design are not listed and tabulated in some convenient guide book form. Visitors to the province are, as a rule, quite ignorant as to where most of the fine old buildings are located. How many of our own citizens, for example, have visited Fort Lennox, Ile aux Noix, on the Richelieu River. Probably no better example of old cut stone and rusticated masonry is to be seen anywhere else in Canada as is represented by the buildings of the officers' quarters, men's barracks and guard room. These were erected in 1818-1819 by the British engineers at the cost of the Mother Country and at an expense of several millions of dollars.

Considerable interest has been created by the work known as the DOMAINE D'ESTEREL that is being carried out through the agencies of Baron Empain at Ste. Marguerite on Lake Masson. The new Hotel de la Pointe Bleue was opened in June, 1937, and the first unit of the Commercial Building was inaugurated in July of this year. The latter will include a group of shops, a cinema exhibition hall, cafe dansant, etc. The Esterel Sporting Club is to form another building. Set in the heart of the Laurentians, amongst the finest scenery, this settlement is proving very attractive. Baron Empain has been successful in his building development at Heliopolis near Cairo, and no expense is being spared in the present enterprise at Ste. Marguerite. The buildings are being designed by Mr. Antoine Courten (Grand Prix de Rome), the Belgian architect, with Mr. Louis Nicolas as associate.

— *Philip J. Turner.*

LIFE IN THE CITY

(Continued from page 220)

However, there is no need to be too pessimistic about all these realities because Mr. Mumford objects to his own suggestion that such things must come to pass, even though theoretically indicated. He shows that, by means of shortcuts and bypasses of intelligence, we may avoid *Nekropolis* and emerge into the new and more abundant life which he describes at some length and in some detail. For this, from his practice in planning, Mr. Mumford is particularly capable. Thus, we have a new hope for which the foundations are already laid. New structures and schemes are applying order and thought to secure this vaster outlook of Regionalism. Architectural style and technics will be based only on the new economy — the right relationship with life. Simplicity of a standardized background will provide a setting for the flexible and graceful life. While commenting on this age, Mr. Mumford continues his rather puzzling little essay on the influence of eroticism in architecture and planning.

In housing and planning we must be prepared for entirely new governing concepts. He expresses the idea, just now emerging, that authorities are being very stupid in campaigning the low-income groups for home ownership. Such a movement can end only in failure because it offers no real security for people who need security above all else.

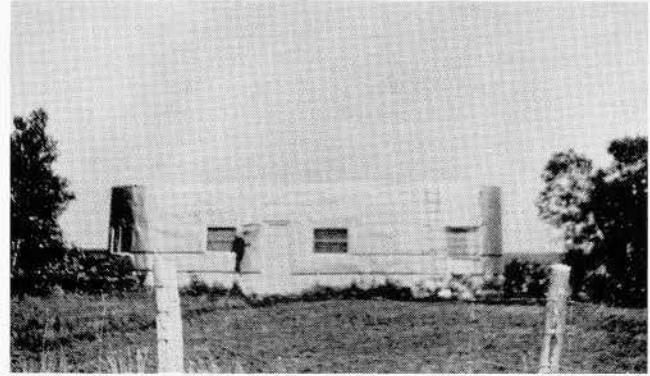
Here is a new and limitless outlook. The elemental unit of planning has evolved from house, to street to city, a city very complex and which must function for all phases of human life and, in the end, give us freedom from disease, want, worry and fear; freedom to work, to play, and to live.

The Culture of Cities is indeed a scholarly work, a landmark in architectural books, and if it is long, it is not dull, for its very structure and its multiplicity of well-presented ideas makes most of it lively reading. The many illustrations are, generally, contemporary to the age being considered and are complemented by textual sidenotes. The fifty-five page bibliography must prove invaluable, especially to the serious student of planning. It is a book to be read and reread.

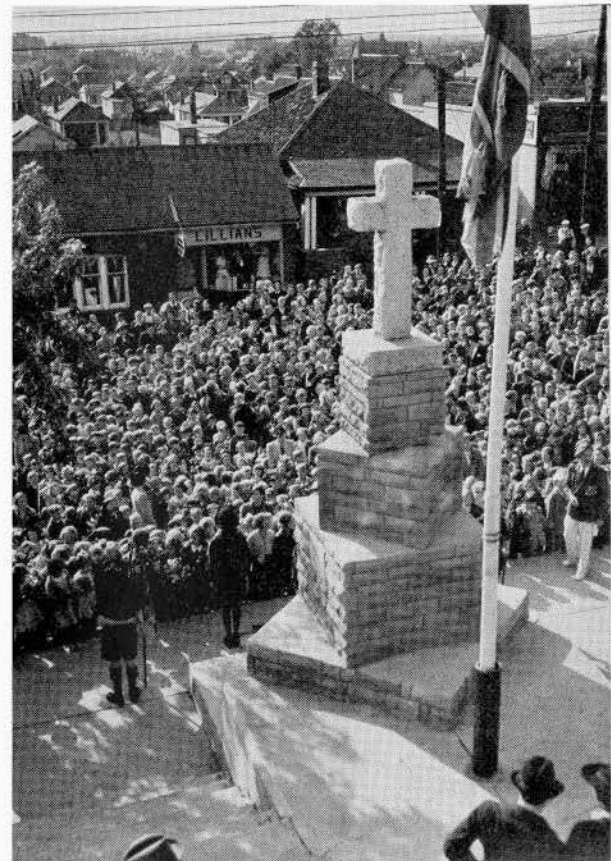
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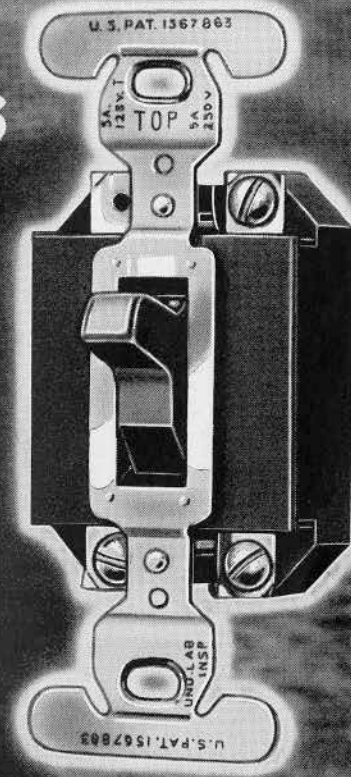
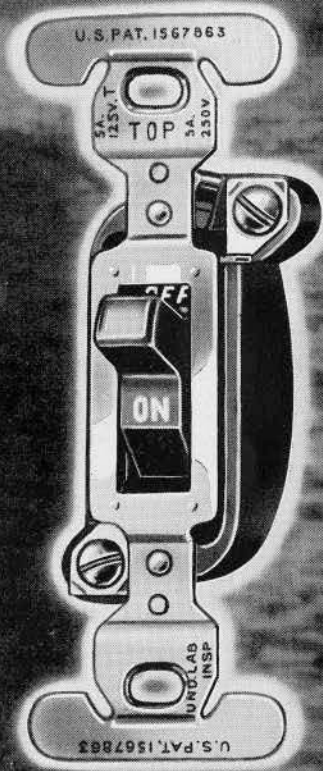
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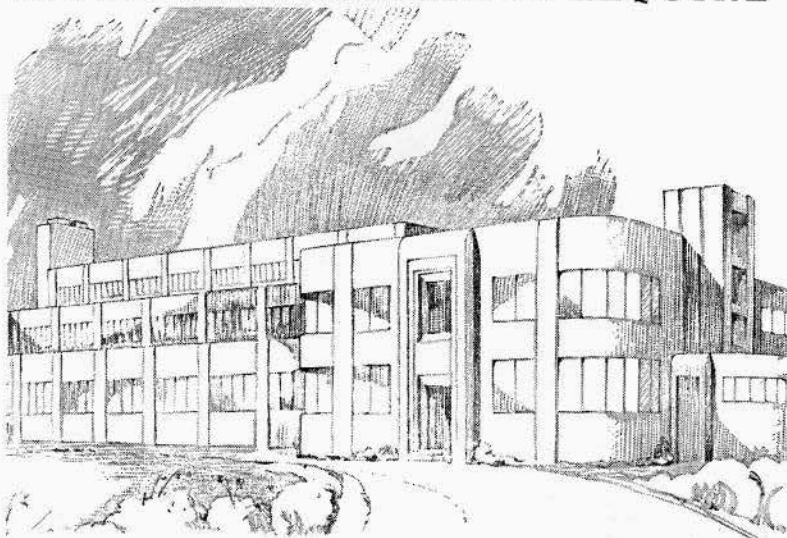
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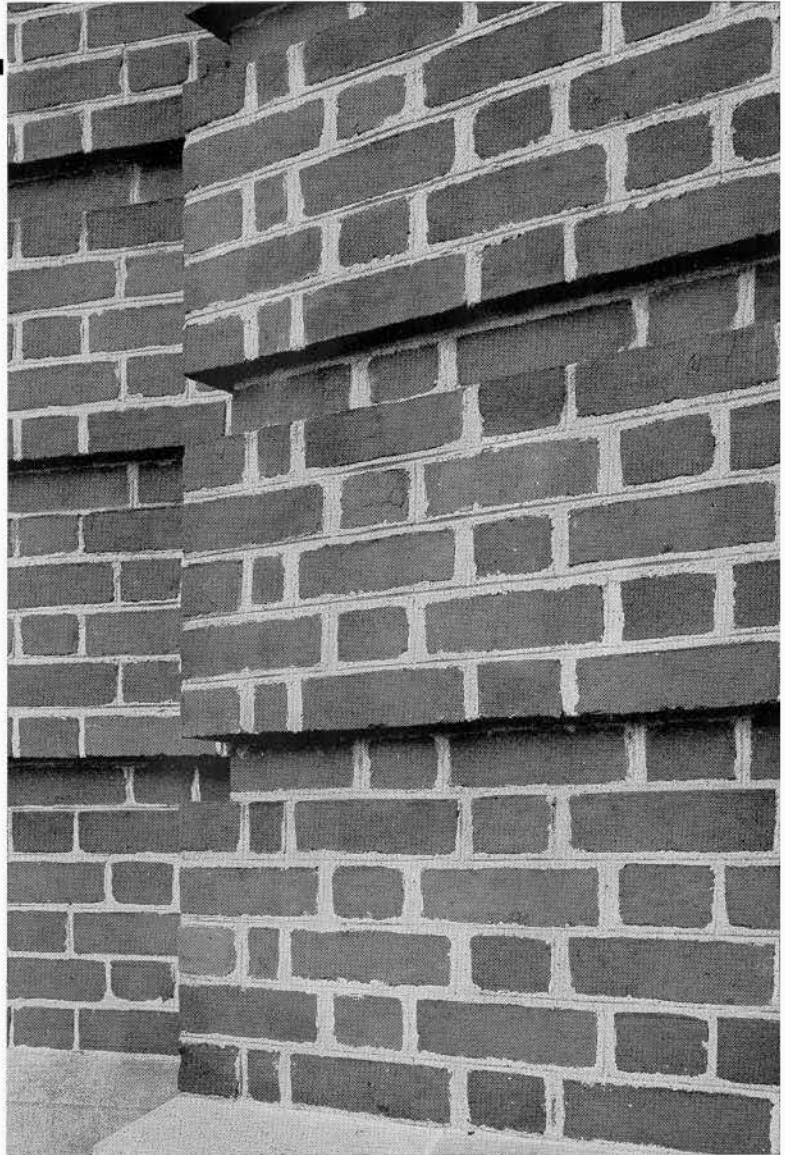
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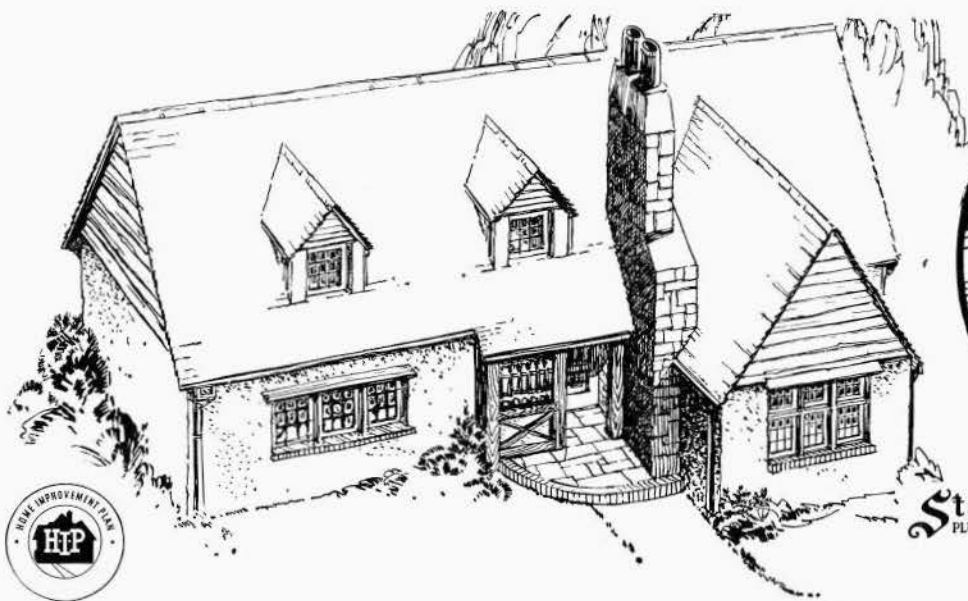


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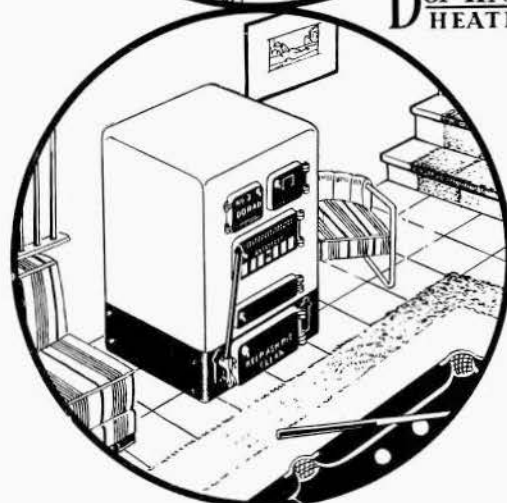
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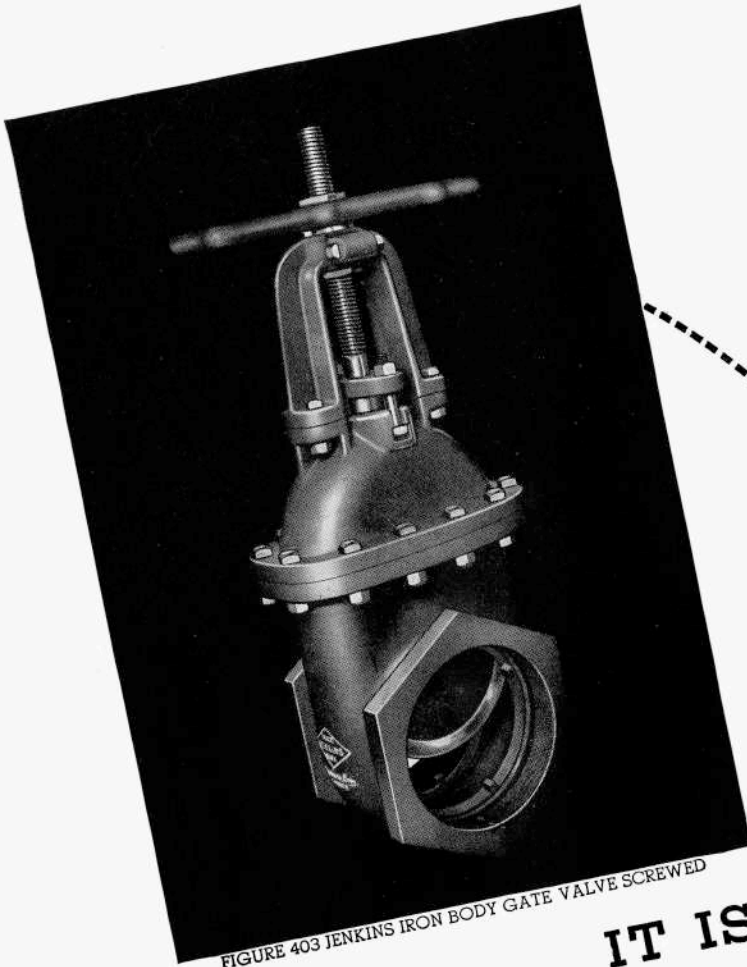


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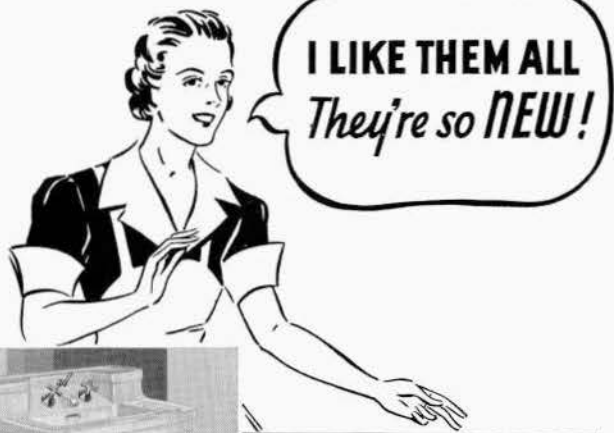
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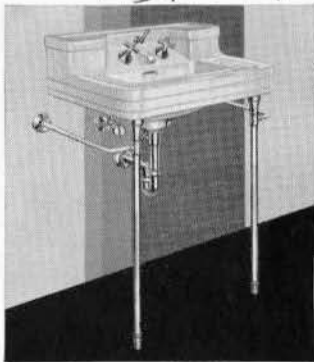
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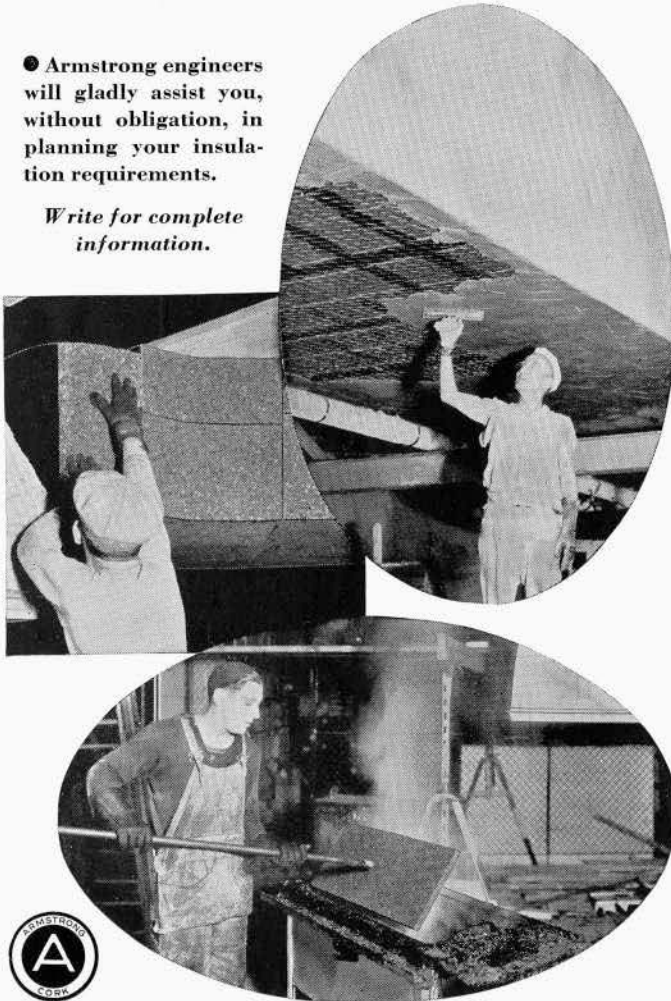
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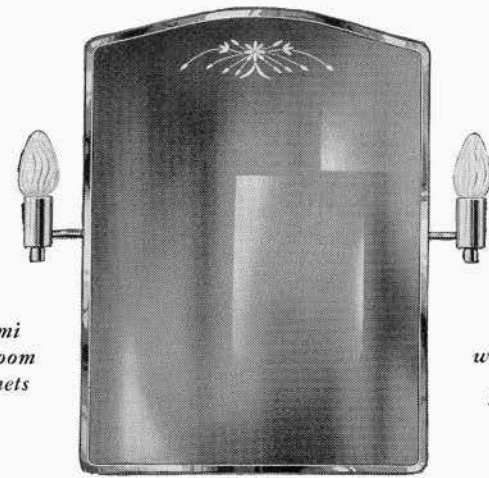
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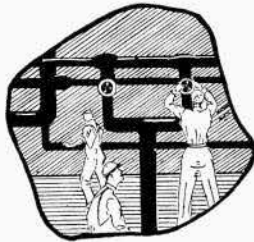
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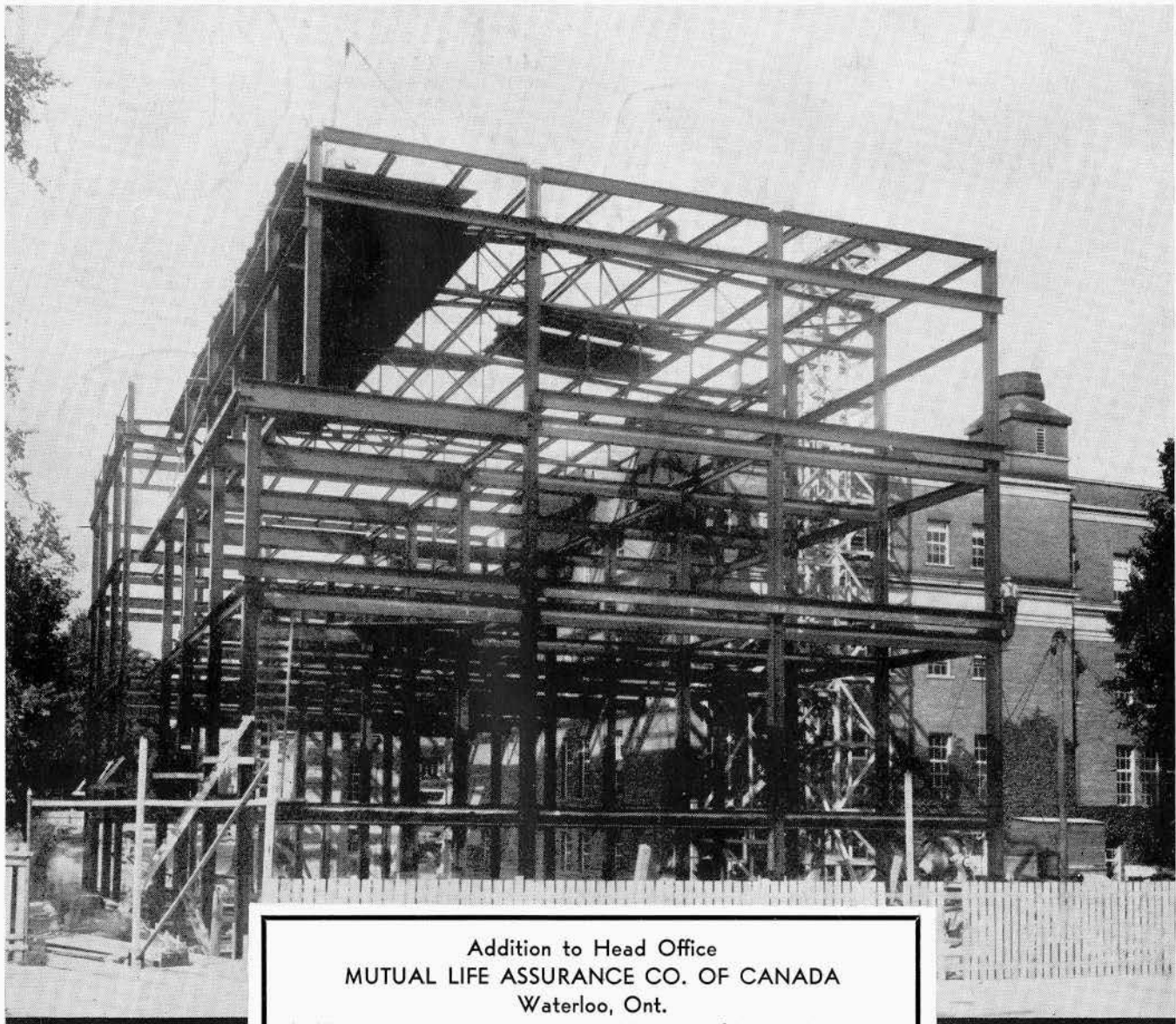
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