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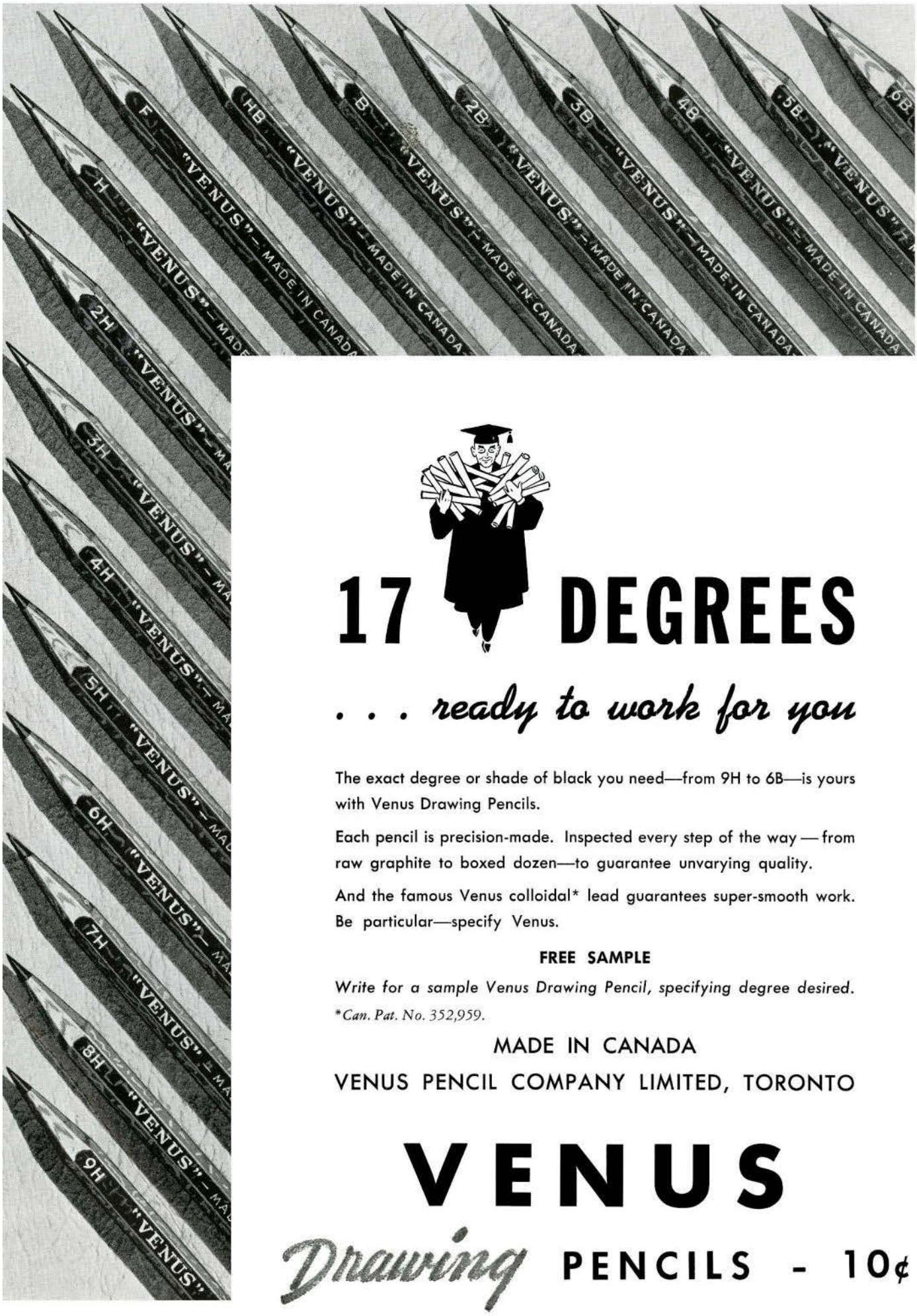

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JOURNAL

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Serial No. 177 TORONTO, MAY, 1940 Vol. 17, No. 5

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PLATES

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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FOR several years the Schools of Architecture have joined annually in a Competition sponsored by the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. To the architect at the Annual Meeting who sees the finished drawings and hears the awards announced, the competition must seem an excellent thing. As a matter of fact it could be, but the problems set have never succeeded in interesting all the schools. In fact one or two schools on occasions have refused to compete. Judging has not always been good, but it has greatly improved.

Having been an interested spectator for many years, we must confess to a feeling that the Institute has taken the competition a little light-heartedly considering the time and issues involved. This year the Council agreed that criticism which, in the past, passed between the schools and the Committee on Architectural Training, might accomplish more by being brought into the open in the *Journal*. That would seem an obvious procedure but competing schools have been prevented from open criticism by the fear of a charge of "sour grapes", which in British countries is worse than a charge of murder or arson. In this issue of the *Journal,* members may get some idea of the schools' attitude to the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Competitions. It would appear to be not an unmixed blessing.

The whole problem reminds us of a story popular after the last war. An English church padre and a Roman Catholic padre had been great friends in the trenches, but had quarrelled at rest behind the lines. The priest regretted the circumstances and wrote his friend a letter in which he suggested they be friends again. "After all," he wrote, "we are both trying to serve the same Master; you, in your way, and I, in His."

The Allbright Gallery in Buffalo has just held an exhibition of Buffalo Architecture which attracted the attention of the august English Architectural Review. The Review shows three illustrations, 1840, 1864 and 1925 and writes of the last (1925): "Among the more recent buildings of the city one of the finest, in its magnificent site as in its forthright design, is the Saskatchewan Pool Elevator by C. D. Howe." While Canadian architects cannot take credit for this extraordinary fine piece of modern architecture, the Review may be interested to know that it was designed by the firm of the Canadian Minister of Transport, Ottawa, Hon. C. D. Howe.

By all reports we are experiencing a building boom. It is not felt by ordinary people like ourselves who are immune to booms, and the man in the street is quite unconscious of it. It is odd that our brother architects whom we see daily in twos and threes or in great numbers at Chapter lunches did not tell us there was a boom on because we are one of those transparently trustworthy people to whom architects have always unburdened themselves. We pictured our colleagues sitting desolate in their offices in the gathering dust waiting a call to arms, but we were deceived. We knew there was something afoot last week. For the first time in a decade practically all our students, even unto the first and second years, were given jobs, not infrequently with pay.

We are grateful to Dr. John A. Pearson for a page from The Spectator, April 5, 1940, giving details of a competition in which readers were asked to name a person in history whom they admired and whose life they would like to have lived. To Dr. John's great delight, and our own, Sir Christopher Wren came high on the list, being just a spot below Socrates, who was second. Rather to our surprise John Wesley came first.

HOUSING AND BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

AN ADDRESS BY MR. A. S. MATHERS

at the Annual Convention of the Ontario Association of Real Estate Boards, London, Ontario, April 16th, 1940.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:—

I APPRECIATE very much your kind invitation to me to introduce the subject of Housing and Building Construction at this morning's session. I also am very grateful for your hospitality last night, for I had the pleasure of listening to two wonderful addresses by Mr. Farr and Mr. Gillies. I wouldn't have missed them for anything.

My subject is Housing and Building Construction, but I propose to discuss the latter in so far as it is concerned with Housing.

To most people in this country, the word "Housing" conjures up visions of large scale building projects, designed for the purpose of housing under-privileged classes in the community, at the expense of the taxpayer. Their attitude towards Housing is based entirely upon their realization that certain parts of our towns and cities have become so dilapidated that we refer to them as "slums". It is a slum complex and not a housing complex which the general public has. I think that it is most unfortunate that we can seldom discuss Housing without someone at the very beginning referring to leaky roofs, rats in the kitchen and entire lack of proper plumbing facilities. These things are characteristics of all slums; they belong with dilapidated buildings and poverty. If they constitute the only objections which social workers have towards the slum, then there is no Housing Problem, because the remedy for these conditions lies now in the hands of our Municipal authorities, who have only now to enforce sanitary amenity regulations and building laws, as Mr. Gillies so convincingly showed us last night. Without going into the causes of the deterioration and decay of buildings in general I think it is safe to say that the slum is nothing more or less than poverty and you are not going to cure it until poverty is either eliminated or its victims aided. The tendency to treat Housing only in the light of slum clearance and rehabilitation is based upon the idea that the poor must be segregated. The idea that the poor should be housed at the public expense is not new, "poorhouses" have been built in England since the middle of the Fourteenth Century. We long ago realized that the "poorhouse" has a very definite injurious effect upon the mental attitude of its inmates. The building of large housing schemes at the public expense for the express purpose of housing the poor, and at the same time labelling them as poor, is simply the old poorhouse method, no matter how streamlined the project may be. I am firmly convinced that projects of this type should never be built in this country, but that the poor and unfortunate, if they are to be housed at the public expense, should be housed together with families who are economically independent. This is the only way in which you can reclaim the slum dweller, because the slum is not only a condition, but also a state of mind.

Further, the growing up of areas occupied solely by *any* individual class is bad, socially, economically and æsthetically. It results in unfair distribution of taxation, misunderstanding and distrust between classes, development and intensification of those sharp differences of habit and thought that eventually lead to class hatred with all its dire consequences.

I admit that it is not within the power of the town planner to alter the prejudices of people, to prevent entirely the growing up of our Forest Hill Villages and our Earlscourts, but we should attempt seriously to break down those prejudices, by avoiding deliberate class segregation. Certainly within limits, there is no technical or æsthetic difficulty in mingling housing of different sizes and classes. There is nothing whatever that demands or justifies the covering of large areas with houses of exactly the same size and type, as is now done in every large city in Canada. This kind of thing is far from the ideal of the 18th century English country towns, where the houses of the working people were intermingled with the larger houses of the doctor, the vicar, the prosperous merchant, lawyer and so on, and produced a balanced community with friendship and understanding between classes. This should be a main foundation stone of all housing schemes. Once we accept this premise we can attack the whole problem of housing over its entire front.

Before beginning any discussion as to ways and means, we must first examine critically the present situation. Practically all of our new dwellings are being built in suburban areas—we want to know why. If it is because such areas possess natural advantage, let us say of altitude, topography, ease of water supply, sewage disposal, etc., not provided by the area now occupied by the original city, then a transfer of our residential buildings to the new site is desirable, and whether or not the commercial and industrial equipment should also be transferred there, will depend upon local conditions. The phenomenon of a city moving in mass to a new site is not unknown, nor is that of a residential area being entirely removed from the commercial centre. I can only refer you to the city of Quebec as an example where, commerce for obvious reasons has been left in the lower town with its harbour, and for equally obvious reasons people found it healthier and pleasanter to live in the new upper town. The Quebec upper town is not a suburban appendage, it is a component part of the city itself.

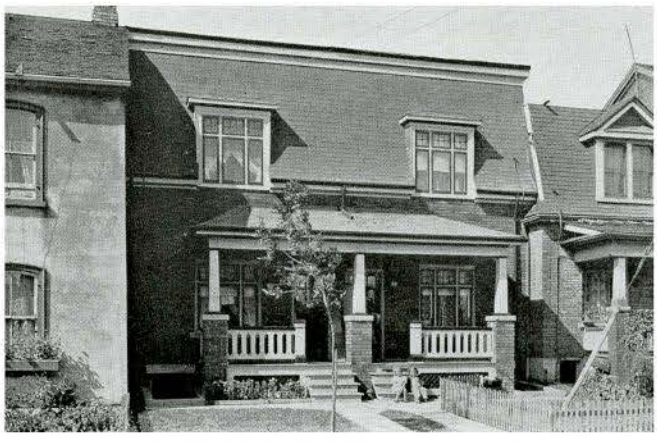
If, on the other hand, the removal of residential areas to distant suburbs, is not due to natural conditions such as in Quebec—but rather because men have by their actions made the original site unlivable, and the move is made for the purpose of escaping the accumulated rubbish of a century, then the process of disintegration will not be halted, except by cleaning up the rubbish and rebuilding.

This is the situation in every large city in Ontario. We wonder why the debris cannot be cleared away. Legal and financial obstacles stand in the way and hamper efforts at a cure, but the disease has got a start due to the lack of preventative steps.

Blighted Areas

Most slum reclamation schemes in the past have been based upon the idea that all you have to do is to clear out an area of dilapidated and unfit buildings and on the same general site provide the new housing. Let us examine for a moment just what this means in any Canadian city. We find that our slum dwellers live in districts once residential in character, whose assessed values per acre are vastly greater than the assessed values per acre of the most exclusive residential suburbs, or they live in miserable jungles and shack towns on the outskirts, in the fringe beyond the reach of city

BEFORE



AFTER

SLUM REHABILITATION, TORONTO, ONT.

service. The practical difficulties attendant upon the creation of a new residential district in either of these areas are obvious to any one. Where, then, are the slum dwellers to be placed? As I pointed out before, they must not be segregated, but must be included with the rest of us. Where, then, are the rest of us to be housed? Are we to continue to live within the city limits or are we all going to move to the country? Before we can answer that we must decide once and for all for what purpose the city is to continue its existence. Is it to be merely a market place, a site for industry and the seat of government? If so, we can get along with an area one-quarter of the present size, for at least 75% of all the land in any existing urban area is now used for residential purposes. The essential fact is that a city is a residential place and must continue as such, if the thing we call civilization is to flourish. If the city goes, then eventually goes art, music, literature, architecture, and the co-operative form of life that is the very marrow of the nation.

If civilization is worth while, and our present life or death struggle with barbarism leaves no doubt as to our attitude, then the city and all it stands for must be continued. It is there that men must live, not like beasts in a stable, but as free men conscious of their power, to cure its ills, to embellish and to glorify it. As St. Paul said of his own city, "I am a citizen of no mean city." Let that be the aim of all of us, and we shall find no obstacle that cannot be brushed aside. We hear a great deal today about blighted areas in which buildings have lost their economic value and in many cases are destroyed in order to escape taxation. These blighted areas, at first confined to the fringe of the central business district, gradually spread until we have a condition which exists in Toronto today, where 80% of the entire area within the city limits is affected by the disease. The form which the blight takes is quite easily discernible: it is the insertion into a residential area of an activity, which, by its very presence, makes the surrounding property undesirable for residential purposes of the type then existing in the neighbourhood. It is not always commerce or industry that is the invader: it may even be a highly respectable institution such as a church. In any case, what happens is this—the area primarily intended for a particular kind of use is not allowed to retain its original character—the economic repercussions prohibit replacement and even maintenance and universal decay sets in. The Housing Problem as I see it is, therefore, not one of providing shelter for a few slum dwellers, but of eventually re-housing the entire urban population in an urban way.

Density

Lack of zoning regulations, with consequent blight caused by invasion of residential areas by other land uses, is a contributory factor to the more important economic fact that we have saddled a nineteenth century horse and buggy village pattern with all the trappings of the modern metropolis—the cost of providing and maintaining the services of the *modern city* cannot be borne by the village, no matter how extended that village may be, for in the last analysis it is not buildings, but people who pay the shot. The village pattern, upon which every city in Ontario is built, permits a population density over the *entire urban* area of not over 30 persons, or 6⅔ families per acre.

It does not require a mathematical genius to calculate the extent of the debt and operating burden per family.

The financial pressure forces the more intensive use of the land, forces the individual property owner where he can, to turn his land to other uses, to sell it or lease it to any commercial or industrial enterprise, or to increase its earning power by more intensive development as residential property, or allow it to decay. It is this desperate struggle of the individual urban property owner to hang on to what he has, that has focused our attention upon the problem.

Where he has been able to solve his own problem by the commercialization of his own property, he has irreparably damaged the value of a score of others.

We, therefore, have two problems, first, that of easing the financial burden on property, that is only possible by intensification of its use. Since 75% of all urban land is bound to be residential or rather non-commercial, that 75% must share in the process of intensification.

This is only possible, provided that it can remain residential in character, free from invasion by commercial use.

This means zoning, as a first requirement. Once we have said by law, this area is and must remain residential, and we also by law make it impossible for the taxing authorities to treat it otherwise, you have taken the first step toward a general rehousing programme.

The form which rehousing is to take is a most interesting study. We have seen the automatic laws of economics in operation already, they will not permit the rebuilding of our cities on the old pattern whose population density is too low.

The second requirement of a rehousing programme is, therefore, one that produces high density of population, with the lowest possible land coverage by buildings, and consequently provides space for recreation, sun and air in quan-

tities hitherto unknown. Only by such means can the exodus to the suburbs be halted.

In the past, except in a few outstanding cities, high population densities have gone hand in hand with overcrowding the excessive land coverage, resulting in congestion with all its social and traffic difficulties. We can even have overcrowding with low densities, as in New York City, where the average density is only 36 persons per acre, or the same as the "Annex" district in Toronto.

For without serious congestion private detached houses cannot be crowded on to land at much more than 12 per acre, or at a density population of about 50 persons.

Where this figure is attained in Toronto, serious overcrowding is evident. The highest density in that city is in the area bounded by Spadina Avenue, College, Bathurst and Queen Streets—not exactly a high-class area—and yet sufficiently residential to have a density of 75.06 persons per acre. It is a perfect example of what happens when the present system of small, individual lots and the resulting street lay-out is forced to the limit, an overcrowded ghetto, with most of the land built over. This area contains a heavy commercial development, a small park and a large hospital. Apart from the park, its open spaces consist of the streets.

By re-planning this area with three-storey multiple dwellings occupying not over 15% of the residential land, thus releasing for open space 85% now built over or cut up into small back yards, the population density could be maintained at its present 75.06 per acre.

On the same ground area six-storey buildings would double the density factor to 150, still leaving the same open areas.

High densities can be obtained without overcrowding or excessive land coverage and with very ample open areas, provided that the *whole area* is treated as *one problem in design.*

THE COUNTRY AT THE TOWN'S VERY EDGE, SWEDEN

The striking thing about the high density type of development is that at last, modern building technique with all its possibilities can be applied to the residential field.

The technique of the tall building can be used to release the ground with its grass and trees, for the outdoor use of the city dweller. The universal adoption of this principle in urban planning and housing would have most spectacular results. When you consider that it is possible as has been demonstrated by Corbusier in Paris, to achieve densities as high as 400 per acre, by using buildings 150 feet high and occupying only 12% of the site, leaving 88% of the entire area for parks and other purposes, adjacent to the buildings, not a mile away. The country is thereby brought into the city and you have the ideal of all town planners, the "city of green", with no suburbs. The town ends abruptly at the farm lands surrounding it. We come back to the mediæval concept of the town.

The application of the high density and low land coverage principle to Toronto is interesting.

That city has an average density of 39.1 per acre, 3 per acre greater than New York City, believe it or not. By increasing the density per acre to that of the Bathurst Street area, I mentioned previously, you could automatically reduce the whole area of the City to half its present dimensions.

By rehousing the entire city population in three-storey apartments, you could achieve a density of 125 persons per acre, and occupy only 25 per cent of the residential land used.

The entire population, exclusive of transients, could live decently in a modern city of 5600 acres or within the present limits of Wards 2, 3, and 4, (total area 6222.5 acres) which same area could easily and safely carry a population of 1½ million people, at a fraction of the cost of the present city, and with amenities completely beyond any thing possible, under present conditions.

Instead of roadways choked with trams and motors, the now vacant sidewalks would bear their just share of traffic and every inhabitant possessed of his two feet could easily walk into the open country.

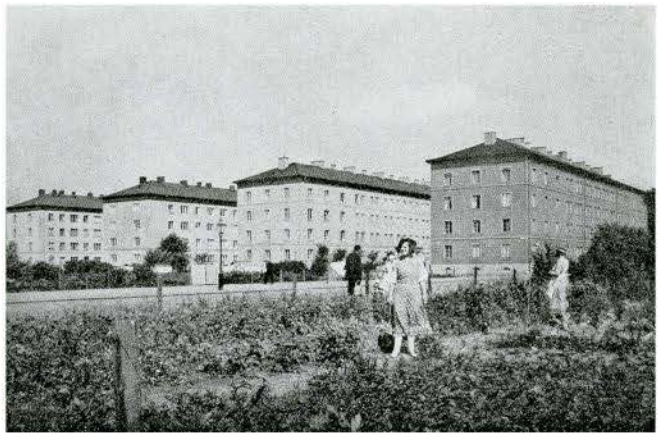
The Modern Approach to Housing

The modern approach to the urban problem lies undoubtedly in the large scale treatment of residential areas, as a first principle, and the first step in approaching the problem is the question of the site and its organization. In planning the site we must realize that modern housing is not merely a collection of houses, no matter how large the undertaking, but rather a programme designed to provide a decent way of life for the urban dweller.

The site plan, therefore, must provide solutions to the technical problems of dwelling unit design as these concern utilities, locations relative to circulation, privacy, sun and air circulation, access and a pleasing and convenient arrangement—all relative to any given set of local conditions.

When projects are very large or are isolated the planning becomes involved closely with town planning of the city as a whole, with provision for religious and educational activities, shopping areas and so on.

Because most of these factors can be co-ordinated most economically and otherwise in relatively large areas, the average city block is found to be too small and the adoption of the super block is now regarded as a primary requirement for all large scale housing projects. Such blocks must be, planned to contain one or more large common open spaces, bounded in whole or in part by through traffic streets, but not intersected by such streets. Cul-de-sac streets branching in from the surrounding traffic streets or at times existing through streets re-paved with narrow pavements to discourage through traffic may be used, to give internal access. Infinite variety is possible in the design of such blocks, permitting each neighbourhood to establish its own recognizable architectural characteristic.



INDIVIDUAL MAINTENANCE OF PART OF OPEN AREA IN A HIGH DENSITY DEVELOPMENT, SWEDEN

Directly related to the super block are two corollary principles:—

First: The complete separation of local internal traffic from external through traffic, with pedestrians and vehicular traffic also separated.

Second: The pooling of the unbuilt-on land, part of which may be used for community activities, a thing impossible on the present system, and part used by individual tenant or co-operating owner-families and maintained by them.

By the adherence to these principles all areas open or enclosed have no other purpose than to provide directly for the service and pleasure of those living in the block.

Where rents are to be kept low, maintenance costs must be kept low. This will tend to restrict the area devoted to common purposes, leaving as much space as possible available for private use and maintenance.

Having prepared the way for actual building design by organizing the ground area we then have to consider the question of proper density.

Fairchild Aerial Surveys.

RED HOOK DEVELOPMENT, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

A city of uniform population density would be the ideal, æsthetically, socially and economically, but in re-building existing urban areas that is impossible of attainment. Concessions to local custom will be necessary, for people live generally where they want to live, the existing density figures giving the best indication of where high densities can successfully be achieved and vice versa.

In Swedish cities densities range from 75 to 200 per acre. The *average* density for all Paris is about 132 per acre, the highest in the world to date.

Amongst the newer developments in the United States there is the Queensborough Houses, just completed, to rent at $5.00 per room per month. It houses 11,399 people on a gross area of 12 city blocks, comprising 44.39 acres at a density of 257 per acre with a land coverage of 25.4 per cent. The buildings are six-storey structures containing apartments ranging from 2½ rooms to 5½ rooms. The plan of each block or unit provides six 5½-room apartments per floor or its equivalent, each being served by one large elevator. The whole development faces a public park on the banks of the East River and each building has direct access to a traffic street on one side and to open interior park area on the other, from which all buildings are entered.

Contained within the inner areas are nursery schools, community centre and theatre, garage and utility buildings and retail stores for household shopping.

Sheer economic necessity has here dictated a high density factor.

For thirty years this principle has governed the rebuilding of Scandinavian cities. Oslo, Gothenburg, Stockholm, corresponding in size to Winnipeg, Hamilton and Montreal, have been almost completely rebuilt as residential cities. There the struggling suburb has been eliminated. I have seen with my own eyes a Swedish woman chatting with a farmer ploughing in his field from the window of her third floor apartment, he in the countryside, she in the compact city of Helsingfors. Of course we must remember that the Swedish town dweller has for a century or more been accustomed to a co-operative form of life; the multiple dwelling is not new to him.

In this country, or rather in this province, we are primarily a rural people. The great majority of our people have been removed from the farm within a generation or two. We still cling to the fetish of individual ownership of land. This is the "garden city ideal" of the late 19th century, which has destroyed the collective energy of the community, has caused such cities as Toronto to explode beyond their proper boundaries and to sprawl for miles over the countryside in those vague, formless conglomerations of unrelated buildings which we call suburbs, nothing more or less than a vast social and economic wilderness. The ideal of, "for every man, his own little house, on its own little plot of ground that to be his security and the assurance of his liberty," has turned out to be the greatest fraud in history, for everywhere is insecurity and disorder, and, as Corbusier put it,—the mirage of liberty.

Meanwhile the only active force in the whole field of housing in Canada, is the National Housing Act, a piece of legislation designed to extend and prolong the existence of the very kind of thing that has caused all the trouble in the past. Under its operations, and active guidance, promotors are this very day despoiling the good green countryside miles from our urban centres, by erecting along rural sideroads and lanes rows and rows of miserable little dwellings, the slums of the next decade. This Act is misnamed; it has little or nothing to do with housing; it is nothing more or less than a mortgage loan instrument, by which the searcher for security can involve himself in a much larger debt and for a longer period than heretofore. It is time it was either renamed or overhauled in line with modern concepts of housing and the problem of the city and its rehabilitation. To meet that problem will require a programme of vast enterprises. It will require the utmost in vision, faith and courage from those who tackle it. It undoubtedly would provide for industry the spring-

board from which the journey into the world of better things would be a leap rather than a crawl.

Such vast undertakings would no doubt tax the ingenuity of finance and of law; that is the problem of financiers and of lawyers. Their eventual solution may not be along the lines of previous experience but this is a new concept of urban life itself, it may demand a new concept of property, of design and of technical processes. For their part, architects, engineers and builders are prepared and ready, they know what they can do, it is up to the others, including the realtors, to do their part, for we are all in the same boat; it is sink or swim.

I have hinted at the solution. I am not prepared to make sweeping and revolutionary proposals, no matter how inevitable their eventual adoption may be. We may have to go through a long period of adjustment in which our whole idea of communal existence will undergo a gradual but nevertheless profound change. That such changes are taking place and have taken place is apparent to anyone who is old enough to remember the struggle to establish the principles of what we call public ownership. May not a similar physiological development, bring us to a point where we accept a state of affairs where *individual* private ownership of land and dwelling house is abandoned for *co-operative* private ownership with its obvious advantages.

In general, therefore, I have come to the inevitable conclusion that the solution of our urban problem, lies in the solution of its housing problem, for that is three-quarters of the whole, and that the solution requires a new approach to town planning which recognizes the rights of man himself rather than the rights of his property and his possessions.

I believe—that industry, commerce, and housing must be segregated,—that through traffic must be separated from local traffic—that urban residential land must be intensely developed, using the principle and technique of the tall building to provide economic density and to regain for our pleasure and use, those open areas of the good earth that we have lost by horizontal development;—and that the small, detached, individually owned or rented dwelling, has no rational place in the city of the future,—that the complex of home ownership can and must be satisfied by co-operative ownership,—that by the acceptance of this creed of urban housing, we can at last break down the barriers that now stand between housing and the vast possibilities inherent in modern building design and technique.

The terrifying inefficiency of our present day cities can surely be cured by the same general kind of replanning that industry demands. Industry has never hesitated to scrap the obsolete plant; it cannot afford to support it. What we find necessary in the workshop—surely cannot long be denied to the place in which we live.

Building Construction

Generally speaking, advances made in building construction technique and design have been greatest in the industrial field. There, with no inhibitions regarding architectural styles and precedent, the architect has solved the industrialists' practical problems by a direct application of sound principles to the problem presented. This has resulted in the development of a technique of new materials and new ways of using old ones that have been unacceptable rather than impossible in residential building.

The principal difference between residential and industrial buildings lies, of course, in scale: the long span and the rigid frame cannot be applied economically to a detached single house, but with multiple dwellings their possibilities can be utilized.

Fireproof construction is not only possible, but mandatory in multiple dwellings and may some day be applicable to single houses.

In the meantime large scale housing projects throughout the world have greatly stimulated the pre-fabrication of products, so that today pre-fabrication is common practice more than most people realize. Kitchens particularly are no longer a field operation, but merely field installation. Doors, trim, windows, cupboards, stairs, and now finished walls and ceilings, come to the work ready for quick and simple installation. The structural elements alone are manufactured on the site and even in this field external coverings are available in pre-fabricated units, ready for installation on the structural frame.

Today, through the development of precision control in manufacture, the new materials, and the freedom allowed by new fabrication techniques, are a challenge and a stimulus in the search for better building forms. The development of new forms—answering modern requirements must quickly lead to the replacement of obsolete buildings.

As an example, let us consider what has happened to wood as a building material. Fifteen years ago we used it as it was sawn from the log,—boards, planks and timbers. Today the sawdust is salvaged and by a process of scientific treatment, using only the natural resins as a binder, it is compressed into hard, smooth sheets, which, in many ways, take the place of metal, tile and plaster.

Similarly, wood pulp scrap from pulp mills is compressed into insulating boards.

Small diameter logs can be rotary shaved into thin sheets, glued together with synthetic adhesives into strong waterproof sheets of large dimensions.

These new materials are in many cases going to release us from the bondage of plaster. They make possible the dry, rather than the wet technique in wall and ceiling finish, with consequent saving of time, an important factor when interest on money during construction is considered.

In general, building construction has apparently lagged behind other industries in the application of the straight line principle of production. This is the impression which the public receives, largely because the one and only part of the productive process that they see, namely the work in the field, seems to follow the traditional procedure. Because they see bricks still laid by hand they jump to the conclusion that masonry is still mediæval in its technique. They do not have the opportunity of seeing the marvellous modern brick-making plant with its moulding machinery and its continuous kilns, the power driven excavating and handling machinery for the clay. They look with unseeing eyes at the motor transport that delivers the materials to the work, the mechanical hoisting apparatus and the machines which mix the mortar. The popular delusion is unfortunately confirmed by the misinformed outpourings of certain magazine writers who forget that we, today, in spite of what looks like an ancient method, can erect a building in six months that a century ago required six years.

The modern construction industry has no reason to be ashamed of its efficiency as compared to others. It is a highly competitive industry producing the most complex article manufactured by man. That article has to be built on an open unprotected site, rather than in a comfortable factory, the progress of the work is at all times subjected to the destructive forces of the weather, rain, snow, wind and temperature. And yet we in Canada can and do proceed with building operations throughout the year. With large scale operations, we no longer consider the work as a seasonal operation.

Design Trends

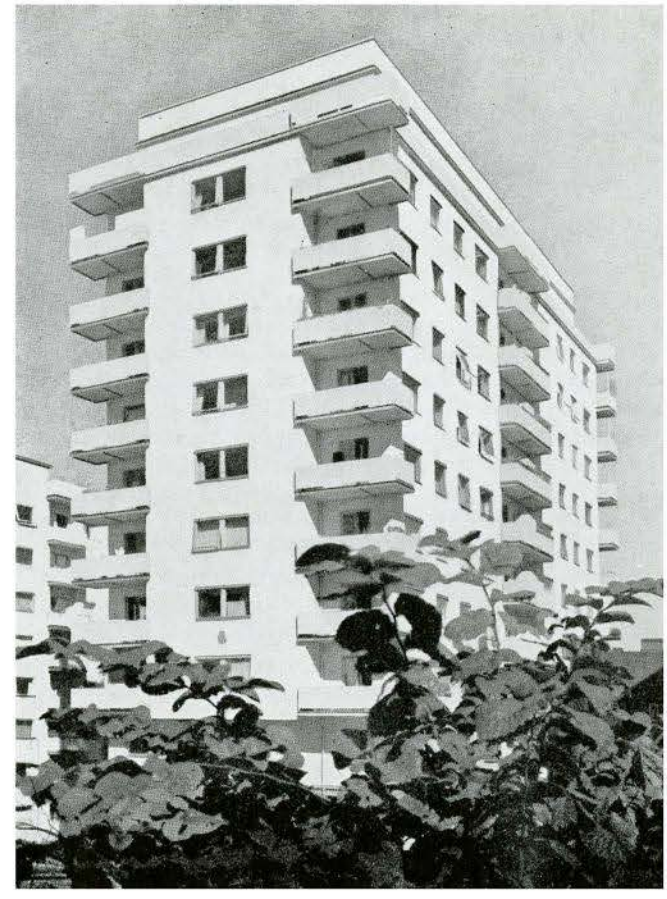
We have for many years been familiar with the spectacular architecture of commerce and industry. The skyscraper a thousand feet high and the great industrial buildings have ceased to be more than nine-day wonders. The revolutionary architecture of a World's Fair is accepted as an everyday phenomenon. We have created a new æsthetic, that has little to do with the past.

The great wonder of our times is, that the new beauty and the new forms, have not replaced archeology and sentimentality in the buildings in which we live.

In these buildings the walls, the roof, the windows, and even the ceiling have undergone no change in fundamentals, for the past five hundred years. House design is largely an exercise in archeology, and its criteria are those of this or that period in architectural history, rather than its ability to satisfy the requirements of modern living. We make only grudging concessions to those requirements for no way has been found to incorporate them into our own parti without destruction of its prescribed harmony.

Against this sort of thing, architects today are setting their wills and energy. The day of archeological eclectism is fast drawing to a close. The new day promises a new beginning in which all the arts and sciences of building will be used to the limit, as they once were in the great days of the cathedral builders.

It is with high purpose and certain hope that architects have returned to those same great principles, which applied to the building of man's habitations, may once again create for him a ladder to the stars.



THE URBAN WAY

BOOK REVIEWS

SPECIFICATION 1940

By F. R. S. YORKE, A.R.I.B.A.

Published by the Architectural Press, Surrey, England. Price, 10/6 net.

THIS work is published annually, for the purpose of bridging the gap between textbooks on building construction and the information on building materials which now descends upon us in such embarrassing floods. It consists of specifications for all the building trades; each one preceded by a general discussion in textbook fashion, illustrated with first-rate line-drawings and occasionally photographs. This is an admirable arrangement, enabling the specification-writer to "brush up" on the salient features of good practice, sources of trouble and their elimination, and to make comparisons between various materials and construction systems, before he puts pen to paper.

Of course, English standards and methods differ from our own in many ways. The Canadian architect may believe—as Mr. Yorke does—that the practice of putting wood shingles on close-boarded roofs is unsound; but he knows, in any case, that he will probably have to continue it. He knows, also, that not even the preaching of John Wesley himself could reconcile a Canadian congregation to a temperature of 55°F. Then again, many of the proprietary materials and construction-systems commonly used in England are not available here—and some of them are unsuited to our conditions. But such items are negligible when compared with the mass of useful information and the unique method of presentation.

Our only real criticism is that its 800-odd pages make the book rather cumbersome. It might be worth while to consider the publication of future issues in two volumes.

—Gladstone Evans.

NEW HOMES FOR OLD

By WILLIAM V. REED and ELIZABETH OGG

The Foreign Policy Association (Headline Books)—112 pages and 95 illustrations. Price, 35 cents.

Public Housing in Europe and America

THIS comprehensive little book outlines the past, present and future of the imminent housing problem. Its authors and publishers are to be commended for producing a book, serious in matter and excellently illustrated, and yet inexpensive enough to insure a wide circulation.

—John Layng.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Montreal, May 2, 1940.

The Editor,

Dear Sir,—The following paragraphs from the Annual Report of the Ontario Association appearing on page 46 of the March issue of the "Journal", come as a none too pleasant surprise to members of the P.Q.A.A.—

"During the year your Council was active in protesting certain proposed amendments to the Quebec Architects' Act, which amendments would have resulted in injustice to our members who practise in both provinces and in the disruption of the reciprocal arrangements now existing between the P.Q.A.A. and the O.A.A.

"Our representations were sympathetically received by Mr. R. H. Macdonald, President of the P.Q.A.A., the Bill, however, was thrown out on the first reading after a slashing attack by the Premier of Quebec."

I had the privilege of being the guest of the Ontario Association at its Annual Meeting and when the President read this portion of his report, thought it my duty to advise him that he had been misinformed with regard to this whole matter, and asked him, in fairness to the P.Q.A.A. to delete these paragraphs from his report. This he agreed to do. Subsequently he has advised me that by some unfortunate oversight the report had been published in full without his having had the opportunity of making the necessary corrections.

In view of the publicity which has now been given this matter throughout the profession, a concise statement of the facts would seem in order, to set at rest any suggestion in the minds of our members that Quebec would promote or support any action calculated to undermine that spirt of mutual confidence and co-operation between the Provincial Associations which is progressing so favourably in spite of the barriers created by the British North America Act.

For years past the Province of Quebec Association of Architects has consistently pursued the policy of the fullest possible reciprocity in membership privileges between the Provincial Architectural Associations of the Dominion.

On the other hand, it has striven to obtain and maintain in its own province legislation designed to prevent the practise of architecture by the incompetent and unqualified, and by non-members of the profession.

Some provinces seem to favour a policy of promoting Acts and enacting By-laws designed to place the maximum of restriction on the members of their own profession, but fail in the primary function of their organization, to obtain for their members a maximum of protection. There are still one or two of our Associations who seem to pride themselves on barricading their Province against their professional brethren.

Coming back to the Quebec Act, while in its present form it is not as perfect and streamlined an instrument as some of us might wish, we still feel that as far as the protection of our members against illegal practice is concerned, it is one of the best Acts in Canada.

In order to correct some of its deficiencies as to administrative powers, and at the same time to clear up a doubtful point on "supervision", certain members of the Association thought that the time was opportune to approach the Quebec Legislature for the purpose of obtaining a correction of these deficiencies and a clarification of certain obscure points in our Act. I might say that all members of the Council were not convinced of the necessity of such a step but the matter was proceeded with.

The preparation of the proposed revisions was carried out by re-writing certain paragraphs of the Act for insertion in the existing Charter, but the Act was not re-written as a whole. These revised paragraphs were circulated to interested parties out of their context and not as part of a complete Act, with the consequence that a person might receive an entirely wrong impression as to the portent and purpose of the Act through reading the revised and isolated paragraphs.

Realizing that this was a very misleading and dangerous procedure, the writer made up a complete dummy of the Act, including the proposed revisions, in proper sequence, which to the best of my knowledge, was the only completely revised Act to be prepared. With this information I was in a position to speak with some assurance as to the workings of the revised Act as a whole, a position which was not enjoyed by a number of persons who took it upon themselves to explain it.

As to the statements of the President of the O.A.A. that the amendments would result in injustice to the members of his Association this is not a fact, and would be contrary to the whole policy of the P.Q.A.A. which it has maintained for years past. On the other hand, the P.Q.A.A. has found it necessary, and not so very long ago, to nudge the elbow of a sister Association to give consideration to this very point of reciprocity when it was in the process of revising its Act, but this was done without any publicity.

The section of the Quebec Charter which throws the doors of our Association wide open to qualified members of any other Provincial Architectural Association in Canada and which has been in its Charter for many years past, reads as follows:—

Division IV.

"6. (2) The Council may also in its discretion admit to membership all members of Associations of Architects in any other province of Canada, also members of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and of foreign Associations of Architects, of equal standing, on presentation of their credentials."

In addition, the Charter provides for the granting of temporary permits to practise to non-resident Architects.

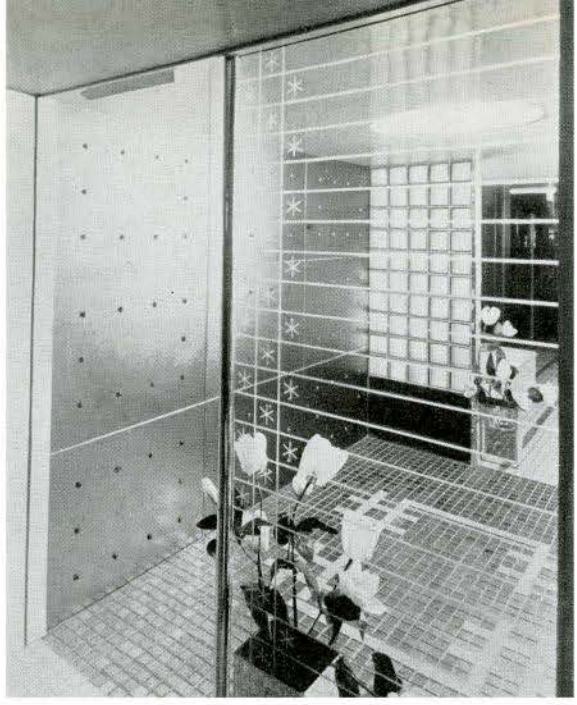
Nothing in the proposed revisions to the Act in any way altered or modified the provisions outlined above. Nothing in the Act disrupted the reciprocal arrangements now existing between the P.Q.A.A. and the O.A.A. Further, it was understood that the O.A.A. was fully advised on all these points before or during the preparation and presentation of the revisions to the Legislature, which in itself should have obviated the paragraphs quoted from its Annual Report.

The Bill was presented to the Quebec Legislature and passed its first reading in the normal procedure. In view of the opposition which the Association was experiencing from certain powerful organizations within the province, the Prime Minister was interviewed privately by representatives of the Association and after due deliberation and on the instruction of the Council of the P.Q.A.A. it was decided in that interview to withdraw the Bill. There was no "slashing attack" by the Premier on the first reading of the Bill.

It is hoped that this explanation will remove from the minds of the profession generally any suspicion that the Province of Quebec Association of Architects subscribes to the policy of the closed door in inter-Provincial relationships, or would, in any circumstance, promote legislation calculated to disturb in the slightest degree, that cordial and harmonious spirit of co-operation which is being so amply evidenced throughout our whole organization in these most trying times for our profession.

Very truly yours,

Gordon McL. Pitts.



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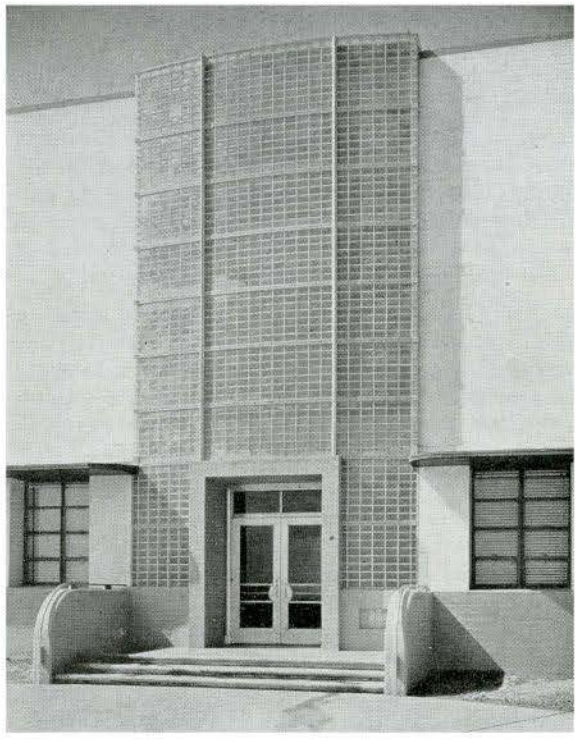

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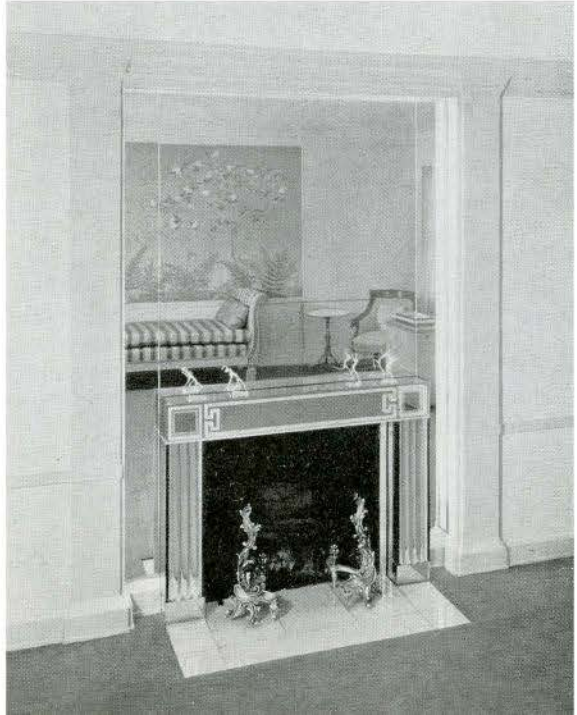


3

GLASS

Among the rather self-conscious names which have been suggested for the great period of technical advancement in which we live is "The Glass Age". While we suspect that there are other materials which could claim as much right to typify these times, there can be no doubt that there are few building materials of such venerable ancestry which can now present such a modern appearance. Moreover, the effect of our industrial methods on glass is a typical one. Mass production and its result, a much extended market, have been accompanied by more highly developed techniques and the invention of new forms.

As in any history of expansion and development, the early stages are the time of experiment. Among these experiments with design and application are many unsympathetic uses of glass, but it is also at this period that many truly great designs are created, which recognize the real nature and possibilities of the material. Such is the Crystal Palace, without mention of which no discussion on glass is complete.

It is because the very modern spirit of glass is so apparent that it can suffer so greatly from misuse. We are too familiar with buildings which are proclaimed as modern simply because of the incorporation of some bright coloured structural glass or a half dozen glass blocks. Further, a material which through its various forms can be entirely functional or entirely decorative requires great discrimination in its application in order to avoid the use of a particular form in a manner which may be quite incongruous. As architects our chief concern is to consider the primary functions of glass,—its light transmitting or reflecting qualities, its resistance to corrosion and its non-porous nature, and then to decide, in a particular instance, how these may best be used for our own ends.

Finally, architects must act not only to restrain the misuse of glass, but through their imagination develop and adopt new forms and uses for glass which may bring the bright promises of a Glass Age to realization.

. . . . .

The illustrations accompanying this section were chosen from the standpoint of exhibiting interesting examples of glass forms, rather than that of general excellence of design.

1 An exhibition room of Pilkington Bros. makes use of a polished plate glass screen with sand-blasted design, floor of dull silvered glass tile with red joints, a second screen of glass blocks and structural glass panel below, and a wall panelled with satin finished thick silvered plate glass.

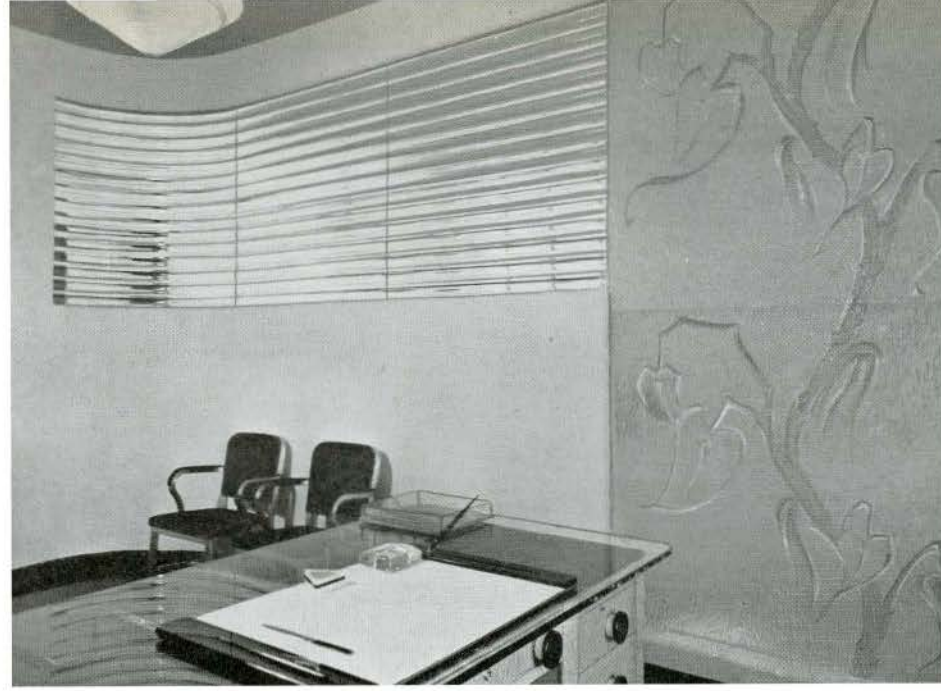
2 An original and imaginative use of glass block which deals frankly with its non-load-bearing qualities and comparatively small scale. Glass blocks of Owens-Illinois Glass Company.

3 A dignified use of plain mirror, with silvered architectural cast glass pilasters to the mantel, sand blasted decorative lines and a structural glass hearth.

4 This modern office makes use of a borrowed light of stock architectural molded glass and a decorative panel of stock design of architectural cast glass, both manufactured by the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company.

5 This building illustrates the versatility of glass, incorporating transparent, translucent and opaque forms.

6 The decorative map in this board room is a sand-blasted design on silvered cast wired Georgian glass. The pierced dado consists of bent strips of washboard glass, while the lighting fixture consists of kaleidoscope glass cut into small flower shaped pieces and applied to a light metal framework. All manufactured by Pilkington Bros. Limited.



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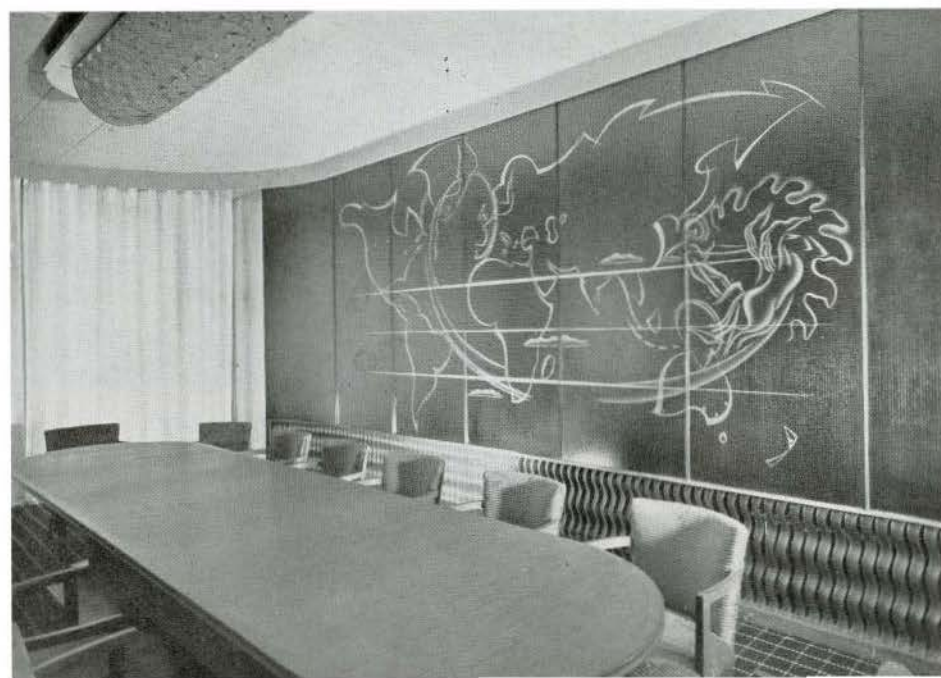

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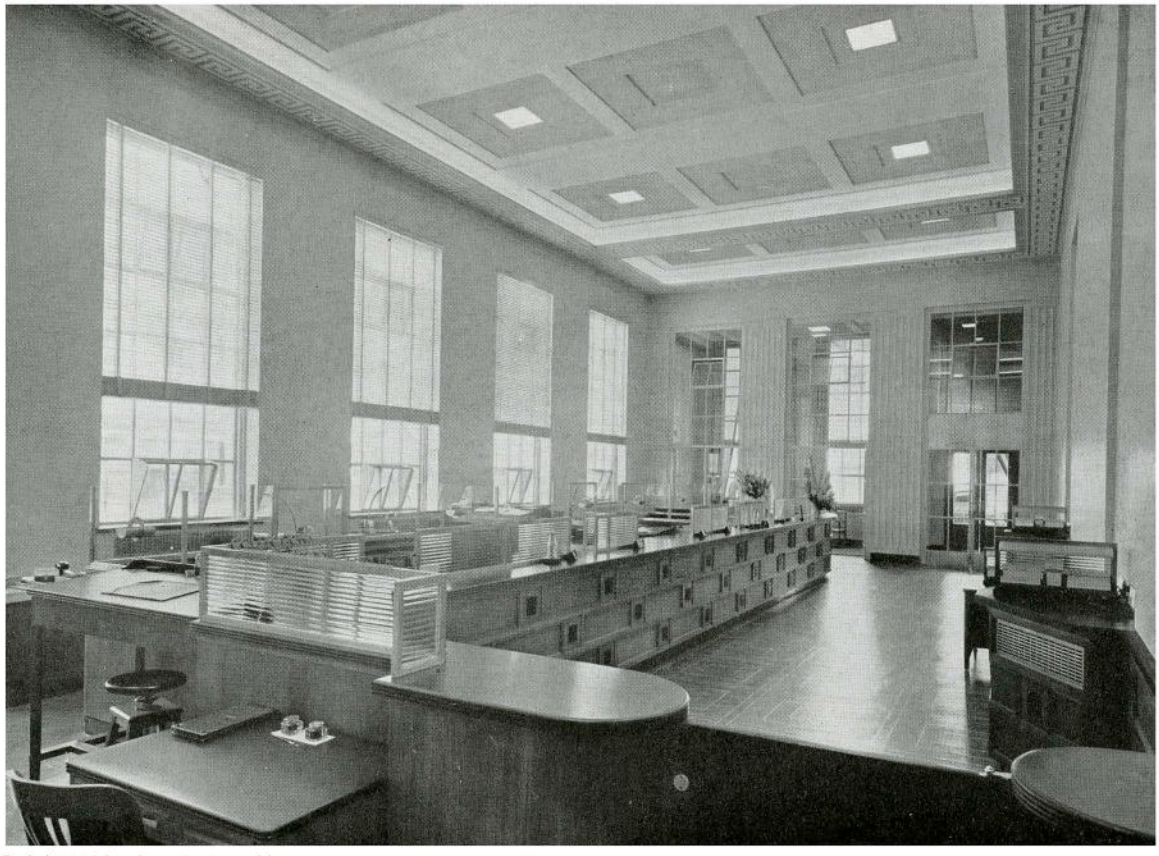
BANKING ROOM

CAISSE D'ECONOMIE, QUEBEC, QUE.

BEAULÉ AND MORISSETTE, ARCHITECTS



BANKING ROOM

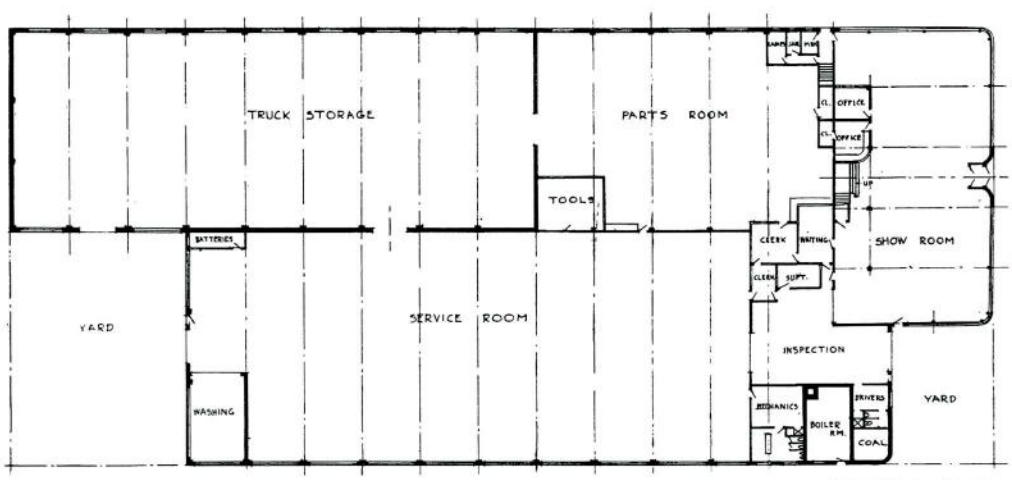
THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA, NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

MURRAY BROWN, ARCHITECT

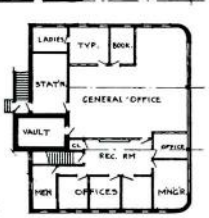
SHARP AND THOMPSON, SUPERVISING ARCHITECTS

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANY OF CANADA LTD., TORONTO, ONT.

N. A. ARMSTRONG, ARCHITECT



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

THE SCHOOLS OF ARCHITECTURE

Discuss the R.A.I.C. Competition for 1940

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE,
McGILL UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL

The Editor.

Sir,—Commenting on the 1939 Students Competition, I have the following remarks to make.

Programme—The Conditions might with advantage be more explicit. In the case of Class B, if only one storey was required it should have been so stated and the same applies to the Bronze Medal award Class A where a semi-perspective was allowed. In a design of this character the subject cannot correctly be presented without a perspective drawing, and it would therefore have been well to have stated in the condition, that perspective drawings were mandatory.

The fact that the sizes of the drawings were changed by the Promoters of the Competition, after the work by some of the competitors was practically complete was most unfair. No such changes should ever be allowed when once the programme has been issued. One does not expect the R.A.I.C. who legislate for its members on the proper conduct of competitions to be offenders in such matters.

The programme (Class A) ignored the fact that students in these days are much more concerned with problems of planning and purpose and that subjects comprising sheer monumentalism do not interest them. In any case programmes A and B would have found more favour if they had been reversed, as B needed more experience than A. B was attractive and well stated and one would like to see more subjects of this type in the future.

Awards—The Judges' criticism seems reasonable and fair in Class A, though one takes exception to the strange comment that Lewis' elevations in Class B were "badly presented". One could not help noticing that the different drawings of the Bronze medal design (Class A) shew two entirely different techniques, that of the expert side by side with the work of a novice.

Recommendations—Because the problems every year have been so indefinitely stated and because those who set them are unaccustomed to the students' way of thinking, I would like to suggest that:

(a) Members of the staff of the different schools be invited to write the problems for the next competition.

(b) No changes whatever should be allowed to be made to the programme when once the students have started work on their designs.

—*Philip J. Turner.*

ARCHITECTURAL SECTION,
ÉCOLE DES BEAUX-ARTS DE MONTRÉAL

The Editor,

Sir,—Until recent years we have felt that the R.A.I.C. Annual Students' Competition was a very serious affair. On several occasions we have tried to obtain some clear definition of its aim and purpose. Uselessly. So, think we, it has no aim nor purpose that can be clearly stated. Therefrom we understand that the present inquest be limited to such trifles; a programme and the recommendations of an incident jury. It looks as if the Competition be some kind of "sporting event" prepared for the occasional amusement of someone during a convention every year or so. And to incite "sportsmen" to step in, medals are loosely available. Too bad. We would have thought otherwise.

Though we shall endeavour to respect the two headings proposed by your letter, viz., (a) the programmes of the 1940 Competition; (b) the recommendations of the Judges, we shall have to refer, at least to the second heading in speaking of the first.

As to programmes, we consider that any one can be interesting, any one can be given, if governed by a general avowed purpose, if to be judged strictly according to its expressed desiderata, and if proper proportion is given, relatively to its value, to the time that must be devoted to it. This was not the case for either of this year's programmes. Another point is that the programmes must be appropriate and liable to furnish to students an occasion to progress in their studies. Both programmes this year were in fault, if considered that way.

The Class A programme was too ambitious in its scope, and asking for three designs: an international park, a monument and a customs building, was uselessly tricky for a students' competition. It was suggesting a stunt. The jury writes that it "presented a dramatic opportunity". We feel it comported lots of them. It may have had such little practical deficiencies, as demanding not for adequate protection of the park (international!) so that it be not transformed into a smuggling ground; it could have stated that parking areas were to be included in it, or otherwise; it could have indicated at least some of those practical requirements as useful, or wanted, so as to define its purpose, and give some possibility to fix a judgment, either for the designer or for the jury's enlightenment. But, of course, it was unimportant. Was it not a programme given to see what the students would do with it? Was it not a psychological test, or experiment? Let's see if there will be one wise enough not to care for it? (the jury has very lavishly bestowed medals to those who didn't care a damn for the park. Well done! very well done! To suppress large parts of the programme is most surely an architect's solution, or what?) But of course the test had other tricks. There was a customs' building asked for. So much so. No possibility of doing anything with it. Useless, said the jury. Why, a very smart competitor should have said, at least: "The h . . . with it, this is only to tease me, what has this to do with a monument and memorial to celebrate the everlasting peace between Canada and U.S.A.?" And then, of course, in those academic times of 1905, as per wise sayings, these buildings should, or what's the use, be all designed in some relation one to another. But what an idea! The jury felt it had no interest. So much so. Then there is the monument. And the jury amidst the fog, in the impossibility of taking into consideration all of the programme, lavishly bestows medals to designs where at least two thirds of said programmes has not been solved. But what, if some did have solutions for the park, or either for the customs' building? Unfortunately, they were wrong. We think that the programme should have received a more complete solution from any student to deserve a medal. Otherwise, for only partial solutions, mentions only can be bestowed. The programme was impossible. It did not deserve the time devoted to it. A twelve-hour esquisse-esquisse was it. Sed haec hactenus.

Let's look over the Class B programme. Of course this was a very, very interesting problem, indeed. But, absolutely useless to any teaching of architecture. Cramped, rigid, and so drastic in its requirements that even the jury felt it was too tight. However, the jury bestowed medals to projects which had not solved some of the principal conditions of the problem. But it would be too long to make a full analysis of it. Of course there was a consideration to give to elevations. It seems the jury has thought quite otherwise "In several instances it was evident that the designers had been carried away with the modern idea of long batteries of windows, in some cases forming a large part of the exterior treatment, etc., (see Journal R.A.I.C., March, 1940)." But anyway he bestows medals and mentions to such. Just have a look upon the March number of the Journal. This judgment we were unable to explain to our students. There was an uproar of laughter, and they asked: Is this the architecture we should do? But no! Let's read the end of the last paragraph of the jury's recommendations: "The jury suggest that this type of wall treatment is extremely costly and most impracticable for our climate . . . we should not allow ourselves to be carried away by the theorists and extreme functionalist school of architecture."—But!—Oh! what's the use?

We do not think that the R.A.I.C. should attempt any other student's competition. Training a young man to architectural design is a serious duty. And clear judgments based on clear programmes are essential. At least a clear explanation of a judgment must be possible. It is not the case now. So we suggest that the R.A.I.C. proposes only twelve-hour sketches. At any rate, this is the only time we could afford for it from now on.

Please accept, Mr. Editor, the assurance of our complete devotedness and entire good will.

—*Emile Venne.*

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

The Editor,

Sir,—With reference to the Annual Students' Competitions, the secretary of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada has asked me to forward to you the comments of this school on the programmes of the 1940 competition and the recommendation of the judges. I am pleased to have the opportunity of submitting the following,—

1. *The programmes.* In our opinion Class B was a good programme. It was practical, and in spite of the Judges' comments produced a number of interesting solutions. This programme might well be taken as a model for future programmes in the way it was set forth—its size and the absence of ambiguity in the requirements.

Class A was not, from our point of view, a good problem. It was the kind of problem popular 40-20 years ago when the Beaux Arts in Paris set the pace for vague and "ideal" buildings, and schools from Liverpool to New York hypnotized themselves into believing that, if a student could design a palace for an imaginary prince, he would have no difficulty in later practice in designing a low cost home. We are not alone in believing this theory to be almost wholly fallacious. The problems that give the student an opportunity for "imagination" (Beaux Arts sense of the word) are given as day designs, and not as fifty-hour problems.

In Toronto we would consider three or four hours with a charcoal pencil on a grey card ample time to design a monument to a "hundred years of peace between two great nations", and we would strongly recommend the two great nations concerned to put their money into a national park and leave the architecture to the customs and immigration buildings, two or three hotels of reasonable size and some youth hostels for hikers.

2. *The Judges' Report*—We have no fault to find with the awards. The Judges did a good job of judging, but their recommendations for the future should not pass on to next year's "setters of problems" or judges without a thorough examination. The judges praised Class A for its imaginative possibilities, condemned Class B for its practical realities, and expressed the hope that both problems would next year be patterned on A. Our own view, which need not affect any other school, is that if such proved to be the case we should, reluctantly, have to withdraw from the competition. A competition of fifty hours may be a good thing only when it is in accord with the teaching of a school. It is a pernicious thing when it is diametrically opposed to that teaching.

Rendering:—Along with a changing attitude toward problems—in this evolution in teaching from the ideal to the practical—has come a change in the presentation of drawings. We in Toronto have for some years admired what might be called the German method of presentation. It is perhaps best expressed in Saarinen's drawings for the Smithsonian Museum (1939). Our ideal, not always achieved, is a minimum of rendering, and the result is not unlike a working drawing except for the interest of trees and shadows. Other schools with equal freedom to set their own course do a brilliant job with air brush and smooch in a maximum of rendering. Our objection to the report is the inference that all schools follow the romantic method. Our Bronze Medal (Mr. Fairfield) was described as "lacking dignity and very badly presented" and Mr. Lewis of McGill as "Badly presented". In our opinion Mr. Lewis submitted a beautiful pair of drawings; the kind of drawings we are trying to do, and Mr. Fairfield's was placed first in our own marking, both for design and presentation.

This year for the first time in a good many years all the schools participated in the competition. We would all like to see the same happen again. We have come to the conclusion, which Professor Traquair reached some years ago, that unless we send a strong recommendation to the Institute stating a position on which all schools can agree, we are going separately to train little "rosy-hued" competition winners who will for months in advance study the habits, training and predilections of the judges for the year, and send in a drawing in defiance of their own principles and training.

In writing this we sympathize with the judges who did a difficult job very well. It was their report that caused a score of people in the School of Architecture in Toronto to see red, and I welcome the opportunity to present these views.

—*H. H. Madill.*

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE AND FINE ARTS THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

The Editor.

Sir,—On the whole we have been very well satisfied with the programmes of the Student Competitions. A programme requiring specific knowledge of conditions in one locality or of buildings limited to one section of the country is obviously unfair to students scattered across the breadth of the continent, but on only one or two occasions have there been criticisms on this score. We are in agreement with the jury report on the last competition stating that programmes should allow as much latitude as possible for the student's imagination, tying the student down to definite dimensions as little as possible and making the originality of the solution count for more than a correct juggling of a number of units of a given size. This should be particularly true of the Class A programs. In the case of the younger students, however, where exercises have been limited to a great extent to the

grouping of forms of definite dimensions, they can not be expected to have the knowledge of the required areas of buildings nor the imagination that comes with practice in design. For these reasons we feel that the programmes for the last competition were very well prepared. Had no announcement of the subject been made, the Class B programme might have been considered too technical for first and second year design students, but library research gave an opportunity to see how the typical small broadcasting station functioned. The Class B programme required a little too much in the way of drawings for the limited time allowance, which in some cases made the rendering rather sketchy indication.

The Class A programme allowed for a greater play of the imagination, with a greater variation of possible solutions than any we have had for some years, and we hope that this policy will be followed in the future. If there is anything to the theory that one function of the architectural school is to develop the imagination there must be some place in the design schedule for purely imaginative problems. However, the Class A programme had no lack of practical requirements when the design of the monument, approaches and gardens were considered. One criticism that is not unique in this programme is the confusion that results from specifying too many drawings or too large drawings on a certain sheet size. This should be very carefully worked out.

The report of the jury was direct, fair and carefully considered. The time and attention given to the judgment was an indication of the jury's attitude and their desire to serve the best interests of the students competing. It is not a very pleasant task, and the Council of the R.A.I.C. are to be congratulated on finding men who will give so much time and effort to an important piece of work.

—*Milton S. Osborne.*

MEMBERS OF THE R.A.I.C. WITH THE FORCES AT HOME OR ABROAD

British Columbia

Lieut. D. D. Carpenter
10th Fortress Signal Coy.
R.C.C.S.
Seaforth Camp, Vancouver

Corporal D. H. McCain
(Student)
Royal Canadian Engineers
6th Field Coy.

New Brunswick

Major Wallace W. Alward
3rd N.B. Medium Coast Brigade
Saint John

Nova Scotia

Major C. A. Fowler
Officer Commanding
10th Searchlight Battery
C.F.A.
Halifax

Capt. D. A. Webber
Royal Canadian Engineers,
C.A.S.F.
Second in Command, 2nd Fortress (C.E.M.) Coy. R.C.E.
Halifax

Ontario

Squadron Leader F. H. Marani
R.C.A.F.
Ottawa

Wing Commander H. J. Burden
R.C.A.F.
Toronto

Lieut. J. F. Brennan
53rd Field Battery
R.C.A.

Col. A. J. Everett,
Adjutant General's Dept.
Ottawa

Major F. H. Wilkes
A.—D.A.A.G. Headquarters
M. D. No. 2, Toronto

Flying Officer S. K. Sinclair
R.C.A.F.

Lieut.-Col. E. W. Haldenby
48th Highlanders
C.A.S.F.
Aldershot

Major Douglas E. Catto
Royal Regiment of Canada
Toronto

Capt. W. E. Fleury
15th Field Battery
R.C.A., C.A.S.F.
Aldershot

Capt. J. Edwardes-Evans
Royal Welsh Fusiliers
France

Quebec

Capt. G. K. Crowe
No. 9 Detachment
Corps of R.C.E.
C.A.S.F., N.D.H.Q.
Ottawa

Flying Officer George Auld
R.C.A.F.
Trenton

Flying Officer G. Everett Wilson
R.C.A.F.
Trenton

Lieut. Francis J. Nobbs
6th Reg. Duke of Connaught
Royal Hussars
Adj. Machine Gun Training
Centre
Three Rivers

It is hoped to keep this list up to date. The Editor will be glad to receive additions or corrections at any time. The Journal goes to all members on Active Service and the office should be kept informed of changes in address.
—*Editor.*

OUTLINE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF R.A.I.C. COMMITTEES

By GORDON McL. PITTS

The Standing Committee on Architectural Training

This Committee shall consist of a representative from each recognized School of Architecture in Canada granting a degree or diploma, together with five Members or Fellows appointed by the Council of whom two shall be Members of the Council, one of these being a member of the Executive Committee. (Ten members).

It is the duty of this Committee to generally supervise the courses of instruction to be followed by candidates seeking admission to the Architectural profession in Canada and to maintain full collaboration between those institutions giving instruction in Architecture for the purpose of establishing and maintaining proper and uniform standards of admission. To this end each recognized School of Architecture in Canada is represented on the Committee and periodic conferences are called for the discussion of curriculum and general educational matters.

Conforming with the general policy indicated above, it is the function of this Committee to draw up conditions for and to carry out a series of Architectural Competitions among the under-graduates of the accredited Architectural Schools of Canadian Universities. These Competitions are divided into two classes,—Class "A" for the senior years (4th and 5th); Class "B", for the junior years (2nd and 3rd), and are held annually. Special judges for these competitions are appointed by the Executive Committee and the drawings are judged, exhibited and the awards made at the Annual Meeting of the Institute.

Programmes are prepared by Architects chosen by members of the Committee for the purpose and approved by the Executive Committee. No Architect connected with a School of Architecture is allowed to draw up a programme or act on the R.A.I.C. jury. The programmes require to be in the hands of the Directors of the Schools not later than December 15th.

It should be noted that under the present system of carrying out this Competition, the preliminary judging is done at each University or School by a jury of their own choice. By means of this preliminary judging three competitors in each class are selected from each University or School and forwarded to the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada for final judgment by the Jury of Awards as indicated above. The awards in each class consist of a Silver Medal, a Bronze Medal and Mentions.

The Standing Committee on Scholarships and Prizes

This Committee shall consist of six Fellows and a Member of the Executive Committee appointed by the Council.

The Institute has adopted the policy of stimulating the dissemination of architectural knowledge in the Schools and Colleges giving courses in Architecture, through the award of Scholarships and Prizes to deserving Students, and to this end a special Scholarship Fund was set up with an initial contribution by Lord Strathcona. This fund was subsequently materially augmented by substantial contributions from outstanding members of the profession, and is presently capitalized in our accounts under "Scholarship Fund".

Each year the Director of each Architectural School may, in his discretion, make recommendation to the Institute as to the student in the graduating class of his Department who shows high general proficiency and gives promise of achieving eminence in the profession.

It is the duty of this Committee, on the basis of the above recommendations, to award Scholarships or Medals to deserving recipients. So far the Fund has not permitted the awarding of Scholarships but Medals have been suitably engraved, awarded and presented to outstanding students of each Architectural School. Whereas in recent years the activities of this Committee have been limited to the above, it is the aim of the Institute when conditions permit, to establish Travelling Scholarships which need not be limited to students in accredited universities.

The Standing Committee on Art, Science and Research

This Committee, as it has functioned in the past, has consisted of five Members of whom one has been from one of the four western provinces, one from the three eastern provinces, one from Quebec, one from Ontario and one in Government employ at Ottawa.

This Committee includes within its scope all matters related to new materials, new processes and methods and all information and investigations related thereto as affecting the art and practice of the profession of Architecture.

Such a programme indicates a very close collaboration between this Committee and the National Research Council, a collaboration which is being stimulated and maintained. The Committee should make it its special duty to provide and obtain for the use of the "Journal" at the discretion of the Editorial Board, articles having to do with the latest developments in all scientific matters and research of interest to the profession. If possible, it would be very advantageous to the Institute if this Committee could be so organized as to provide information on enquiry from members, or direct the inquiry to the proper authority.

The Standing Committee on Professional Usage

This Committee shall consist of the Presidents of the component Societies and the President of the Institute as Chairman.

Broadly speaking, it is the function of this Committee to establish and maintain uniform and high standards of ethics and professional practice throughout the profession in Canada. Whereas the enforcement of regulations governing Professional Practice and of the Code of Ethics is legally vested in the component Associations of the Provinces, uniform standards of regulation and methods of procedure, although not fully realized at the present, represent an ideal, the achievement of which can be greatly facilitated through the activity of this Committee, and the dissemination by it of proper information to the various component Associations.

The Standing Committee on Exhibition and Awards

This Committee shall consist of a Chairman who is a member of the Executive Committee, six members at large, three of whom shall reside in the locality where the Annual Meeting is to be held, and the Chairman of the Exhibition Committee of each Provincial Association.

It is the duty of this Committee to organize all exhibitions held under the auspices of the R.A.I.C. Its standard work is to arrange for the Annual Exhibition which in the past has usually been held in connection with the Royal Canadian Academy. It shall appoint Committees for the acceptance and hanging of submitted work in all exhibits held under R.A.I.C. auspices.

For the Annual Exhibition notices are sent out to all members, requesting photographs (8" x 10") of recent work. Work suitable for exhibition is selected by the Committee from these submissions and enlarged for exhibition to a size 16" x 20". Sometimes it is stipulated that only buildings not previously exhibited may be placed in the Exhibition, and sometimes it is permitted to re-exhibit work not over three years old. In any event, only original exhibits are eligible for awards.

Judges to adjudicate on the Exhibition are especially appointed by the Committee. The awards are made under a series of classifications indicated by the Committee, such as Apartments, Domestic Work, Educational Buildings, Public Buildings, Interiors, Furniture, etc. The awards consist of a Gold Medal, a Silver Medal, a Bronze Medal and a series of Honourable Mentions. The Gold (plated) Medal is awarded only if the Jury so decides. Some years the work is not considered of sufficient importance to make this award.

This Committee also has under its charge arrangements for a Travelling Exhibition of the work of the profession, resulting from the Annual Exhibition, or such other material as may be gathered for the purpose by the Committee.

Editorial Board, "Journal" R.A.I.C.

This Board is appointed by the Council and consists of some sixteen members, who by their personal qualifications and place of residence are most capable of performing the functions required of this group in the administration of the Institute "Journal". The Board appoints an Executive Committee for the active administration of the "Journal" consisting of the Chairman of the Board, the Editor and three members of the Board resident in Toronto.

The title of this Board indicates its function.

The Committee on Public Relations

This Committee consists of the President of the Institute, the Presidents of the component Associations and three members of Council.

Broadly speaking, the functions of this Committee cover all matters wherein the profession contacts the public professionally, socially and politically. Its particular interest is the relationship existing between the profession and the Government, and the many ramifications of this relationship under present conditions.

The study of the present trend of the profession in the community and its possibilities of service, is of special importance at this juncture.

Special matters are from time to time being referred to this Committee for investigation and report, ranging all the way from the study of Codes to the regulation of the employment of junior architects by public bodies. In some instances the Committee may find it necessary to recommend a special committee on some particular subject on account of the scope of study.

The Committee on Housing

This Committee consists of some ten members appointed by Council, being members particularly conversant with this subject.

As the name implies, it is a national committee representative of the profession formed to collaborate with Government and other bodies interested in the promotion of this special social work in the interest of the community.

Joint Committee, Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and Canadian Construction Association

This Committee consists of some four members appointed by Council.

Its duties are to collaborate with the Canadian Construction Association in all matters related to the building industry in Canada which are of common interest.

Committee for Duty on Plans

This Committee consists of the Honorary Secretary of the Institute.

Its duties are to investigate and report on the duty paid on plans made by foreign architects for buildings to be built in Canada. The cases in question are usually referred to the Council by members of the Institute, as the same come to their attention.

SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN

In good King Charles's golden days
When London was a wen, sir,
There lived a man beyond all praise
Whose name was Dr. Wren, sir.
A skilful, merry soul was he
By all the best conjecture,
As busy as a working bee
With life and architecture.

And this is true, that I'll affirm:
If I were born agen, sir,
I'd gladly live another term
To be Sir Christopher Wren, sir.

How fine, like him, to deal with calls
When out with men a-dining,
By leaving word that new St. Paul's
He was engaged designing!
How grand to wear a rich, laced coat,
With beaver hat and tassel;
And get an envious colleague's goat
Re-building Windsor Castle!

To see the slums of London Town,
I've often had the leisure,
But watching London's slums burn down—
I envy Wren that pleasure!
And though his fine new schemes were wrecked
By County Council banning,
He had, I seem to recollect,
A gorgeous time town-planning.

His low beginnings I deplore:
He was a mere professor;
And I prefer to take the floor
With him as P.R.S., sir.
In lighter moments, Nellie Gwynn
May possibly have kissed him;
Or, hearing he was not within,
Sam. Pepys may just have missed him.

I'd like to live his length of days
And die, like him, deserving
The note of universal praise
The ages were reserving.
To leave those testaments of stone
In lovely grace ascending —
I'd give my life without a groan
To reach that happy ending.

—Towanbucket
in the London "Spectator", April, 1940.

PROVINCIAL PAGE

ALBERTA

In Edmonton, building permits for March, 1940, numbered 36 at a total value of $90,320 as compared with 59 at $95,785 in 1939. For the first three months of the year they were 98 at $135,950 in 1940 as compared with 107 at $138,920 in 1939.

Amongst the buildings in progress or about to start are three picture theatres: the Garneau Theatre at 8710—109th Street with which some stores are included. This theatre will be seated for 750. It is estimated that the cost when completely furnished will be in the neighbourhood of $100,000. Mr. W. G. Blakey of Edmonton is the architect. The contractors are the Western Canada Construction Co. At 111th Avenue and 95th Street a contract has been let to the Poole Construction Co. for the Palace Theatre to seat 500. The cost is about $30,000. It is proposed to build at the corner of 109th Street and 82nd Avenue the Varscona Theatre to seat 500. Architects for the two latter theatres are Messrs. Rule & Wynn of Edmonton.

Work is now proceeding on the addition of two storeys on top of Messrs. Woodward's existing three-storey building on 101st Street. The cost is around $135,000. The architects are Messrs. Rule & Wynn, the contract has been let to the Dominion Construction Co. of Vancouver.

In Calgary 79 permits for March, 1940, amounted to $120,846 as compared with a total of $37,424 in March, 1939. The total for three months being $194,908 is the greatest amount for the first three months of the year since 1935.

Messrs. Fordyce & Stevenson, Calgary, are the architects for a new apartment building in course of erection at 330, 19th Avenue West. This building is 162 x 85 feet, "E" shaped in plan, of three storeys. It is constructed of brick and will contain 46 suites which are arranged to take advantage of sunlight to the greatest possible extent. The suites are of three general classes, the smallest having living room, kitchenette, and dining alcove with a folding-up bed in the living room; the second class have, in addition to the above, one bedroom but no folding bed, while the third class have both the folding bed in the living room and a bedroom. The rents vary from $35.00 to $70.00 per month. Light and gas are metered to the tenants.

The City of Red Deer is making a considerable addition to the Municipal Hospital, the contract for which has been let to the Bird Construction Co. of Regina. Mr. W. G. Blakey of Edmonton is the architect. The addition provides accommodation for 34 beds. The building is of Medicine Hat tapestry brick with light joints. The basement storey, the coping at wall-head and the main entrance doorway are of artificial stone. The building is of fireproof construction. The floors of the wards and main corridors are to be laid with linoleum. The entrance hall, the stairs and the basement corridors are finished in terrazzo.

—Cecil S. Burgess.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. William Fredk. Gardiner, immediate past president of the A.I.B.C., was guest at a dinner of the Washington State Chapter of the American Institute of Architects held in the Rainier Club, Seattle, recently, at which he made a brief address as representative of our Canadian Institute.

The chief speaker of the evening was Dr. William Emerson, dean emeritus of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who is on a lecture tour of the Waid Foundation to stimulate interest in architecture.

Dr. Emerson mentioned that much of the beauty of American architecture was lost during construction about forty years ago, when the search for economy dominated the search for beauty, and he pointed out that greater architectural beauty can and should be attained without sacrificing usefulness of structures.

He went on to explain that beauty in effective architecture is returning, largely because of the sincerity and enthusiasm of architectural students. "Beauty cannot survive without sincerity," he advised. "Beauty loses its soul if sincerity is lost. Beauty is a direct result of sincerity."

Students must be guided when they are students, not architects, he said. He is of the belief that it is too late to attempt to direct talents of architects after they have graduated.

Although, Dr. Emerson said, the past in architecture cannot be denied, modern architects must forge ahead with new ideas to keep in step with up-to-the-minute needs, and to use new materials to best advantage. He emphasized much of his argument with slides.

—David Colville.

ONTARIO

Architects as public speakers have again been taking bows this past month. Addresses have been delivered by Jocelyn Davidson, (to the Property Owners' Association of Oshawa), A. S. Mathers, (at the annual convention of the Ontario Association of Real Estate Boards, held at London), and James H. Craig, (to a dinner-meeting of the Home Builders' Association of Toronto). Mr. Davidson discussed the functions of the architect and the essentials of sound urban and suburban development, contrasting the latter with some of the chaotic conditions which have consistently followed uncontrolled speculative operation. Mr. Craig dealt with probable trends in the economics of building, (particularly of the factors which can be expected to affect home-building), trends in construction methods and design, and in the development of all-embracing construction organizations. Mr. Mathers' address will be found elsewhere in this issue. The time and effort which these men have to put into the preparation of their material are invaluable contributions to the profession, to the extent that they consolidate and improve the position of architecture in the communities it serves; and we hope to see many more architects sharing the burden.

Two matters directly concerning architects were discussed at the annual meeting of the Ontario General Contractors' Association, held at Toronto. These were (a) a proposal to make some changes in the standard forms of contract, and (b) certain items of information, such as "breakdowns" of estimates, which are frequently required to accompany tenders, or are called for soon after tenders have been opened. These points are still under discussion with the Council of the O.A.A. The convention also went on record as favoring "trust fund" legislation similar to that now in force in Manitoba, but deferred final action. This proposal might well receive some attention from the O.A.A.

A contract has been signed for a substantial addition to Trinity College, Toronto. It will consist of two wings, forming the east and west sides of a quadrangle to the north of the present block, and on its central axis. These will contain the dining hall and men's residences. The plans provide for a future block to include the Dean's house and additional residences, which will complete the quadrangle on the north side.

—Gladstone Evans.

QUEBEC

L'activité de ce dernier mois—c'est remuer le fer dans la plaie que d'en parler—pour les trois-quarts verbale, théorique, un brin sentimentale.

Après le 31 mars, le 30 avril est tombé implacable sur les projets de construction en série dont nous parlions dans le dernier courrier, sans réussir à tuer la confiance et l'espoir. Comment peut-on concevoir que Montréal reste la dernière ville au monde à prendre ses responsabilités? Je veux bien que depuis plus de vingt ans, on se bat contre des moulins-à-vent. Mais tout change, tout est remis en question partout; les moulins sont desaffectés. Notre époque, du moins dans ce champ particulier de l'urbanisme, exige une réalité plus physique, les fruits de notre imagination doivent être palpables, dégustables, immédiats. Hélas à force de paroles, notre pays n'est déjà plus un jeune pays: cette excuse commode nous échappe. Ordonner, discipliner, prévoir, aménager les ensembles, ce n'est plus un caprice de rêveur, une hypothèse souhaitable sans plus, comme on s'est plu à le croire et à le dire longtemps en certains milieux, par ruse et par ignorance, *c'est devenu un cas de force majeure.*

Ni Montréal, ni Québec, ni Ottawa ne peuvent rester sourds et aveugles aux suggestions que les initiatives du reste du monde font naître et dont après un long périple nous prenons conscience.

Les comparaisons sont — dit-on — odieuses. Il est bien difficile de résister au parallèle que m'impose cette nouvelle qui nous arrive de l'Afrique du Sud. En pleine guerre, la ville de Cape-Town retient les services d'un urbaniste-conseil. Je ne sais pas quel concours favorable permet une initiative aussi juste, mais je crois que nous devons retenir la leçon qu'elle comporte et tirer notre chapeau à la population de Cape-Town. D'où leur vient tant d'esprit . . . d'à-propos? Gens prudents et avisés qui savent—ils prennent leurs précautions. L'avenir ne les trouvera pas démunis. C'est en des temps troubles où chôme la construction que les solutions directrices doivent se préciser et se fixer dans le calme et le silence du cabinet. La tourmente passée on exécute.

A notre curiosité intéressée s'ajoute un très grand plaisir personnel. L'architecte désigné est notre confrère et ami Eugène Beaudouin, qui a laissé à Ottawa le meilleur et le plus durable souvenir. A la demande du gouvernement néo-zélandais, Beaudouin a été mis en disponibilité temporaire. Il est actuellement en Afrique du Sud.

Notre problème à nous aussi vaste — toute la région montréalaise à aménager—a trouvé jusqu'ici un grand nombre de partisans. Nous savons que les gouvernements fédéraux et provinciaux acceptent l'idée; nous savons que le service d'urbanisme de Montréal cherche avec persévérance le moyen d'entrer dans la voie des réalisations. Le groupement malgré tout ne se fait pas. Il manque un catalyseur. Sera-ce le prochain et très annoncé projet Bouchard qui pourvoit à l'emploi et à l'utilisation idoine des chômeurs? Nous devons, nous architectes, en groupe et individuellement, pousser à la roue.

Au point de vue "housing" le problème est urgent. La question du prix de revient en est la pierre d'achoppement. Cette situation doit retenir l'attention des marchands de matériaux, des entrepreneurs, des différents comités d'utilité publique ou civique fonctionnant à travers la ville, la province, le pays, c'est entendu. Il intéresse cependant au premier chef les architectes, par conformation, et j'ajouterai pour une part, nos amis et confrères les ingénieurs.

Il me semble—je parle d'un devoir—que c'est à nous à résoudre et par nous—en consultation avec tous ceux que la question concerne—que se trouvera la solution pratique—de même que c'est notre rôle de résoudre, par exemple à mesure qu'elles représentent, les difficultés d'un chantier en cours d'exécution.

En somme, collaboration générale sous une direction centralisée. Le comprendrons-nous? Le comprendra-t-on autour de nous?

Une absence de quelques jours m'a fait manquer une couple de conférences intéressantes sur des sujets techniques. A New-York, j'ai fait cette constation à la portée de tout le monde que je soumets pour confrontation, esthétique de plus en plus épurée, la notion de masse disparait mais les volumes sont tout. *Le détail est supprimé lorsqu'il ne sert pas les nécessités de la construction,* rien d'inutile, *rien par caprice,* mais tout juste les éléments nécessaires; *Une architecture de mouvement,* en général par les moyens les plus accessibles, les plus faciles, les plus transportables, les plus variés, très détachés de la notion du "matériau" antique, (plantes, verre, peinture, etc. . . . ,); sensation de légèreté, de transparence, d'immatérialité, très nettement on s'achemine vers l'architecture démontable; *résultat:— Elégance.*

Il m'a été impossible également de visiter l'exposition de fin d'année de la section d'architecture à l'Université McGill. Je l'ai regretté. Les promesses que donnent nos futurs confrères doivent retenir notre attention. D'autant qu'il semble que depuis un an l'enseignement y prend une direction nouvelle tout-à-fait vivante, étroitement inspirée de la meilleure pratique—1940.

Démonstration sympathique au Chateau de Ramesay, montée entièrement par l'ami Lucien Parent; petite fête de famille réussie: les architectes s'étaient réunis pour entendre un conférencier de choix, Monsieur Louis Francoeur, parler de Montréal, de ses laideurs, de son esthétique, de son avenir, dans ce cadre vieillot, charmant, défraichi.

L'esprit de Monsieur Francoeur est trop public pour qu'on insiste; la connaissance sereine qu'il a des questions d'urbanisme lui a permis de nous donner avec verve, élégance et détachement une excellente causerie farcie de conseils utiles, de portée sociale bien ficelés.

Monseigneur Maurault, Recteur de l'Université de Montréal, présidait. Il conserve et affirme, en toutes occasions, aux architectes, une amitié très fidèle et flatteuse, qui remonte au temps de son aumônerie. Nous restons nous-mêmes, qu'il le sache, solides comme le roc à son endroit.

Il était accompagné du Révérend Père Couturier, peintre réputé délégué à Montréal de l'Institut scientifique Franco-Canadien. Le Révérend Père vient de faire à l'Université de Montréal deux conférences catégoriques sur l'avenir de l'art religieux dans la Province de Québec, qui ont fait un bruit énorme dans Landernau. Nous en reparlerons.

Tout finit par des consommations, des beignes saupoudrés de sucre fin et des appartés—Excellente soirée.

—Marcel Parizeau.