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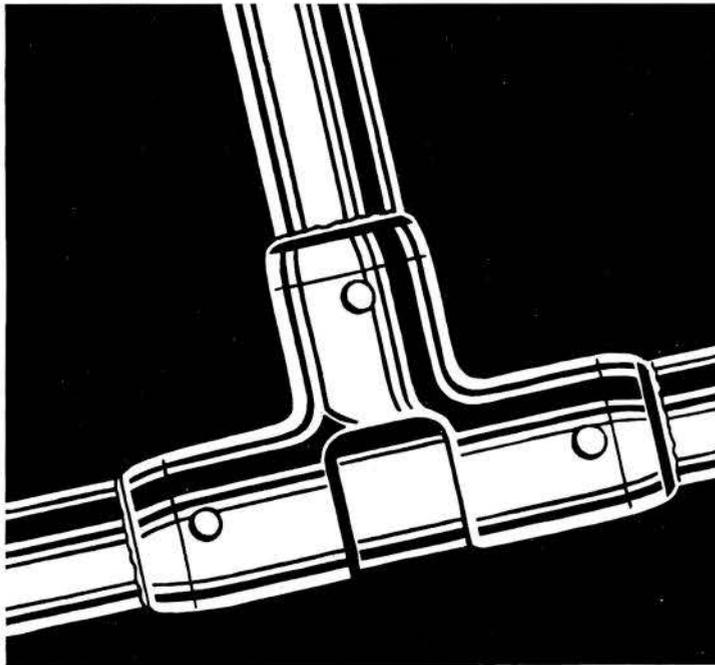
ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL
INSTITUTE OF CANADA



VOL. 17 TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1940 NO. 11



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ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA

Serial No. 183

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Canada and Newfoundland—Three Dollars per year. Great Britain, British Possessions, United States and Mexico—Five Dollars per year. All Other Countries—Six Dollars per year. Single Copies—Canada 50 Cents; Other Countries 75 Cents.

WE had lunch the other day with an archaeologist who had spent a great deal of his life in Athens. To him we are indebted for the story of the first act of barbarism performed by the Axis Powers. It seems that in 1687 when the Turks occupied Athens, and were using that most sublime work of man, the Parthenon, for the storage of gun powder, they were attacked by a Venetian host under Francesco Morosini. Morosini was in command of a battery in which there was a gun manned by a Bavarian gunner, and it was that gunner who, with fiendish cunning, lobbed a cannon ball right into the roof of the Parthenon. It is amazing that after the explosion so much of the structure remained standing. The sculptures were severely damaged, and were not improved by Morosini's clumsy attempts to lower the Chariot of Athena from the west pediment. In the fifth century of our era, or nearly 1000 years after it was built, the Parthenon lost its crowning glory, the colossal statue of Athena (the Encyclopedia Britannica does not say where it went). In the same century it became the Church of S. Sophia, and in the 6th century was dedicated to the Virgin Mother of God. "The adaptation of the building as a church involved the removal of the inner columns and roof, the construction of an apse at the east end and the opening of a door between the cellar and the chamber behind it". It apparently remained in this Christianized state until the arrival of the Turks in the 15th century when it became a mosque, without serious change to the fabric, but with the addition of a minaret. Between that event and the arrival of Lord Elgin in 1801, nothing momentous seems to have occurred except the explosion. "In 1801 Lord Elgin obtained a firman authorizing him to make casts and drawings, and to pull down extant buildings where necessary, and to remove sculpture from them. He caused all the remains of the sculpture to be found on the ground or in Turkish houses, and a certain amount—notably the metopes—that were still on the temple, to be transported to England." It all sounds most improper not to say indecent, but we may perhaps, with safety, agree with the Encyclopedia Britannica that "there is no doubt that the result was the preservation of much that would otherwise have been lost". It is horrible to think that 250 years after Morosini, the Parthenon Marbles in the British Museum (or deep beneath it, we trust), are again the prey of Italian bombers with Bavarian gunners.

We offer to any architect with sufficient time on his hands the development of a neat little theory we have had in mind for a long time. Briefly, it is that great periods of architecture have been preceded by quite devastating wars. Obviously the chances for a really magnificent architectural movement are increased by bombardment and destruction, and in the present war, England would appear to be well in the running for a movement of gigantic size and power, while Canada is likely to find itself already over built. We leave it to others to go back into Egyptian times, but to start with the 5th century B.C. in Greece, we find Pericles rebuilding Athens (as a relief measure, we are informed) after the wars with Persia. No more brilliant example could be found in proof of our theory, but we pass on to the Augustan age of Rome which was preceded by deadly wars and rumours of wars; by wars civil and uncivil, by famine and destruction for at least twenty years. We find the historians whom we consulted on our next milestone rather superior and discouraging. However, we insisted with rapidly losing conviction that following 1066 and all that, when we were invaded and defeated by the Normans after a long period when we were harried and worried by the Danes, there did arise on the soil of England some of the mightiest and finest abbeys of the Christian era. It is true it was the continuation of a movement already strong in France, but that, it seems to us, has nothing to do with the phenomenon in England.

There must have been tremendous building in England after the Napoleonic wars. All over the South of England and even in the North we see charming streets of stuccoed houses that must have been contemporary with Regent Street which was built in 1813. And so ignoring the Crimean and the Boer War and their aftermath which rather weaken our theory, we come to the Great War. There seems to us no doubt that, but for the war, the modern movement would not have gained the power and momentum that it did in the post-war years. We agree with our chief critic that changed living conditions were a primary cause, but the war had stimulated research in the use of metal alloys, wood veneers, plastics and a thousand materials without which modern architecture could not have existed. In some mysterious way, the end of the war marked the arrival of youth in all branches of design. The Schools of Architecture were revitalized, and it is in them in war, that the torch is being kept alight for the great days to come.

FLAT AND APARTMENT PLANNING

By HORACE ROBERTS

THESE are few exceptions to the truism that the design of the apartment building is nearly always governed by considerations of economic return. The building of apartment blocks is carried on primarily as an investment.

The national design of apartments is stimulated by this economic factor which points invariably to the production of a marketable or rentable type of building. And yet, even a cursory examination of the apartment blocks of our major cities will reveal that this search for a more marketable type of apartment has depended more upon the innovation of some new gadget, than upon a thorough consideration of the basic problems. There is, undoubtedly, a latent demand for the very best architectural thought, taste, and ingenuity, as applied to apartments. And it is a fair criticism to say that, up to the present, building owners have been so busy catering for the average demand, that neither in Canada or in other countries has the full range of available architectural talent been exploited. The work of untutored hands is too prevalent.

In addition to the initial factor of finance, there are individual effects of site, local by-laws and regulations as well as extraneous influences such as land values and assessments having so pertinent a bearing on the design of apartment buildings that the approach to the problem of planning them has become obscured in a circumscribed theory of "gadgetism". The objective of this article is not a "cure-all". It is simply the setting down of the major factors in the problem, that they, by their mention in a given order, will serve a useful purpose in reaching a true solution to the apartment plan.

The Architect's essential objective in apartment planning is clear; he must plan an economic building. *A building whose value exceeds its cost.* And since apartments are justifiable, and incidentally most successful, in central areas where land costs are high, his problem at once becomes one of high density building in order to reduce land charges per apartment to a minimum. His objective is to evolve a plan solving the problem of circulation in relation to the block plan, with a view to providing the maximum number of apartments, each possessing the maximum possible amenities.

The Architect must be conversant with the various types of units or suites, relative to the social standing of the tenants he is planning for, and with the details of room planning in regard to relative positions and sizes. But the essence of the successful plan is the skilful use and combination of the various types of block plans and circulations (horizontal and vertical) at his disposal.

It is proposed, therefore, to confine this article to the two major considerations governing the Apartment Building plan.

- A. Access and Circulation.
- B. The Factors affecting Block Planning.

Access and Circulation

The placing of staircases, elevators and the resultant halls or corridors necessary to reach the individual apartment units is of prime importance in the planning of most schemes, especially in the design of the lower rental type. Of importance, because the efficiency of the scheme is dependent on

the number of apartments served by each group of elevators, main and service stairs. In Diagram "A" are shown the four basic types of horizontal and vertical circulation, namely —

- A. The Gallery or Balcony Access.
- B. Corridor Access.
- C. Direct Access.
- D. Direct Grouped Access.

Each basic type has its individual advantages and the Architect must be the judge as to the fitness of any one type or combination of types as applied to a given problem.

Balcony Access

In the interests of economy, necessitated by the high rise in building costs following the Great War, access to apartments, and particularly to those in the lower rental group, was obtained as illustrated with staircases widely spaced and access to the units by means of a balcony at each floor, lining in effect the whole of that side of the block. Aside from climatic conditions in Canada making this type of access impractical, this type has largely been abandoned, primarily for the reason that access balconies reduce light and involve loss of privacy. Further, the balcony access type creates certain difficulties in the consistent treatment of the apartment block or blocks because of the balcony position and the marked difference in character of the front and rear elevations prevents an elasticity in the layout of the schemes in relation to surrounding roads and aspects.

Corridor Access

Diagram A.2. illustrates perhaps the most common type of access to be found in Canada today, the central corridor served by stairs and elevators at selected points of vertical circulation and from which generally, all apartments on each floor are entered. Economical, inasmuch as a single point of vertical circulation can be made to serve many apartments and by reason of the single point of access economical in control or supervision, this type, however, has many disadvantages, particularly affecting its ability to attract the higher and even higher medium rentals. Not a far cry from the typical Scotch tenement plan of about 1840, the first type of collective urban dwelling expressing the profiteering tendency of early capitalism, it retains still the principle of planning used in those first rows of cells communicating with a dark, unlit corridor.

Its disadvantages are, briefly:—

1. Lack of cross-ventilation, the chief disadvantage, is inevitable and evident from the principle of planning apartments on either side of a central corridor. Further, by reason of this very principle, the disadvantage of a single outlook from each apartment is apparent.
2. The corridor access type has a definite place in apartment planning, particularly in the design of the building made up of small apartment units performing a function similar to that of the hotel suite. There its economy in plan space ends, for in the case of the larger apartment unit or suite, corridor space is duplicated, causing a waste in floor space. A thorough examination of existing apartment buildings will disclose the serious proportions which this waste space can and does assume.
3. Separate service arrangements in the corridor type are cumbersome and impractical except by the main public corridor immediately affecting the proper function of the main access.

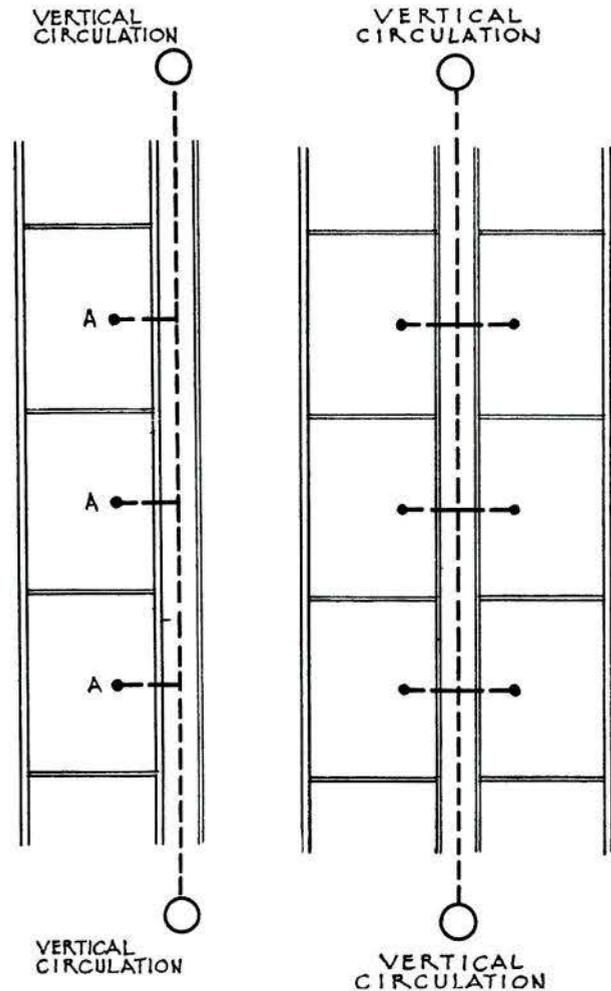


DIAGRAM A.1

DIAGRAM A.2

BALCONY ACCESS

CORRIDOR ACCESS

The large number of people using a single corridor destroys much of the privacy desirable in apartment access; the additional use of the corridor for service in its myriad forms results in a complete lack of privacy.

Concerning privacy within the limits of the tenants themselves, it may be well to mention at this point that the designer should exercise especial care in the diversity of apartment sizes on any given floor, for although situation, amenities, facilities, equipment and general finish are the criterion of rental values, the value of a large apartment, for example, tends to be detrimentally affected by the near proximity of, say, a bed-sitting room unit. Class distinction, whether we want it or not, does rear its head and the Architect must guard against its effects on the apartment building plan.

4. The corridor type, economical in portorage charges, has however, a large running cost in maintenance. The very fact that approximately one eighth of a typical floor area must be constantly maintained, serviced, and lighted by the owner tells its own story.

5. Restrictions placed on block planning constitute one of the major disadvantages in the use of corridor access. Although few apartment plans allow an ideal isolation (that is every window having sunshine some time during the day), nevertheless, the type under discussion does offer a fairly satisfactory condition in this regard, but only if the block is placed on the site in an approximately north to south line, whereby access of available sunshine is made possible on both sides of the building. In cramped central sites, limited by financial considerations, this is not always possible. This is the limitation corridor access places upon the block plan

and it is a point that cannot be stressed too strongly, for the failure of many an apartment block to show its proper return on investment is directly attributable to a disregard of this limitation.

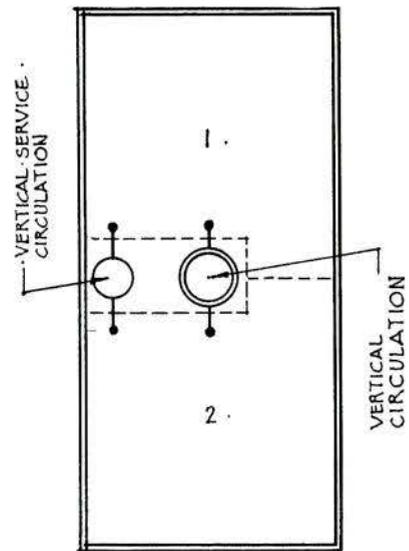


DIAGRAM A.3

DIRECT ACCESS

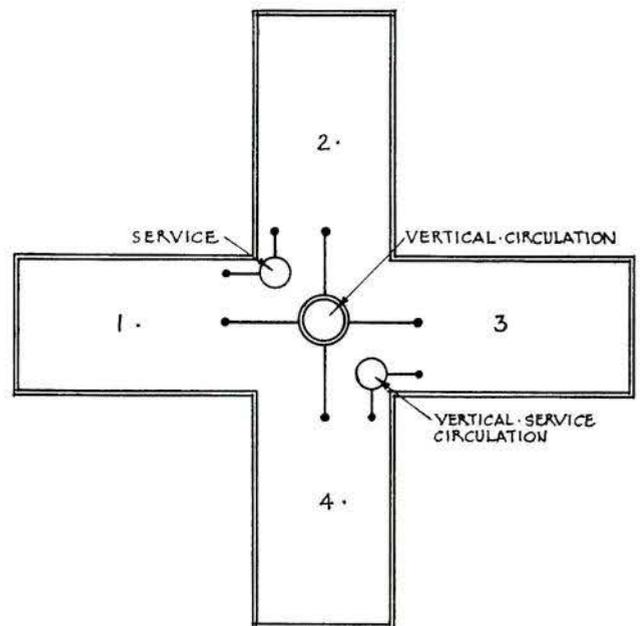
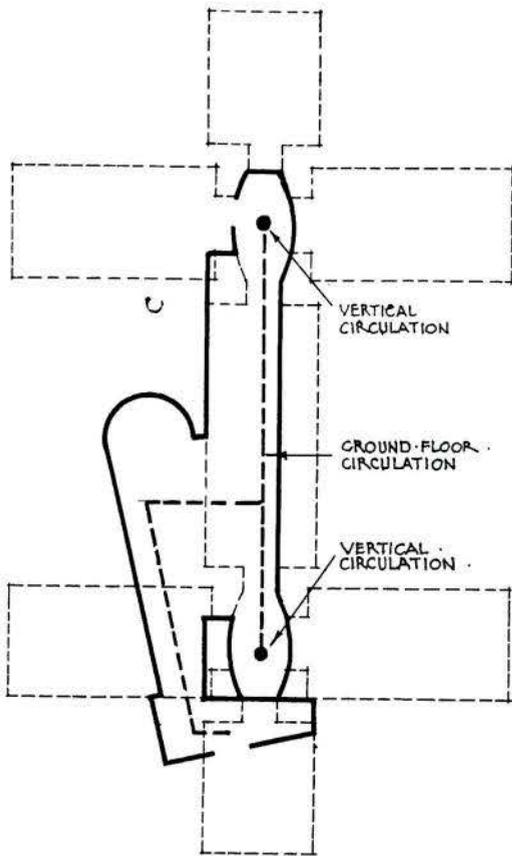


DIAGRAM A.4

DIRECT GROUP ACCESS

Direct and Direct Grouped Access

Diagrams A.3. and A.4. illustrate the direct access type, a simple plan in which one or two apartments are entered directly from the public hall, and the direct grouped type of access where three or more apartments are designed around a point of vertical circulation. The former is a simple and obvious arrangement, the latter a more complex development highly successful in the higher rental apartment project. It offers more advantages than any other type so far discussed, and with a certain amount of ingenuity in planning re-entrant angles its advantages can be applied with equal success to the medium rental group as well.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

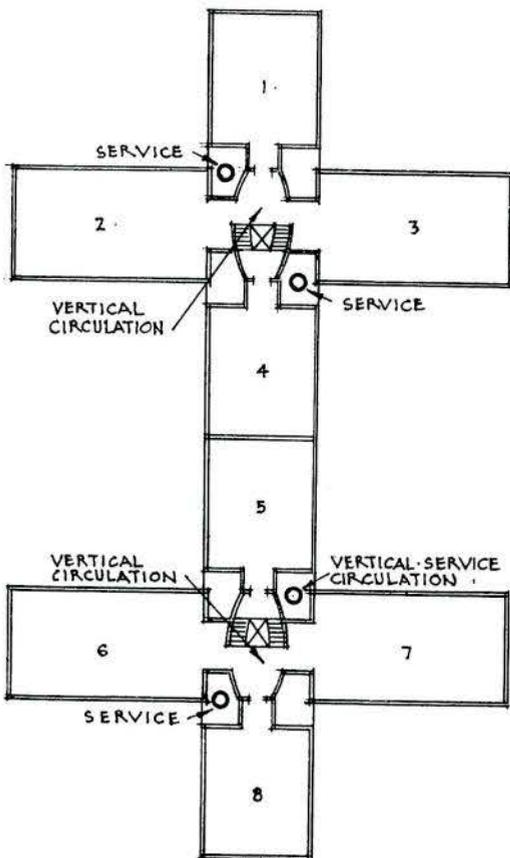


DIAGRAM B.

TYPICAL FLOOR PLAN

"HIGHPOINT" BY LUBETKIN AND TECTON

Probably one of the most widely known and successful buildings designed with direct grouped access, "Highpoint", London, Architects, Lubetkin and Tecton, is illustrated very simply in Diagram "B". Royal Park House, Edgware Road, London, England, by Messrs. T. P. Bennett and Son shown in Diagram "C", illustrates a further variation of direct grouped access.

Keeping in mind Diagrams A3, A4, B and C, the advantages derived from this access type are quite obvious. They are

1. Cross-ventilation to every apartment.
2. Minimum public space on each typical floor, bringing the tenant directly to his apartment from the elevator.
3. A consequent minimum area of hall and corridor space to be maintained by the owner.
4. Good isolation to rooms becomes possible with a maximum of privacy.
5. Separate vertical and horizontal service access leading directly to the kitchen or service area of each apartment.
6. All apartments have open views in two directions.

These are all sound advantages and qualifications essential to high rental planning.

In this type of access, there is one essential feature which may or may not be a disadvantage. It is the additional elevator and stair group or groups required. It is a capital expenditure and therefore an economic disadvantage only, and then only a disadvantage if the height of the building is low and if the number of tenants does not in some measure equal the capacity of the elevators required to obtain this type of vertical access. Against the extra capital initially required can be set the elimination of cost of maintaining lengthy corridors, and most important of all, the attaining of the advantages outlined above and consequent higher rentals. It is a solidly substantiated fact that these advantages give an apartment building the ability to earn and maintain a higher rental standard over a period of years, than a building designed primarily around innovations or gadgets which quickly date.

Obviously, each of the above types of access and resultant plans has its own particular use and the balance in favour of any one type can only be learned after a study of a given set of requirements and conditions. Be that as it may, architectural thought as applied to apartment buildings in Canada, by and large, has not made full use of the Direct Grouped Access and has not given enough study to its use in the field of the smaller or medium rental apartment.

The Factors Affecting Block Planning

In developing the subject of apartment planning as herein discussed, the reader has probably noted that the chronological order of the major points has taken a cart-before-the-donkey arrangement inasmuch as before discussing matters of site, aspect, etc., the author has written of unit arrangements. Not without reason, however, for the site must possess important qualifications before it can properly be termed a suitable apartment building site and these qualifications are dictated to a large extent by the type and size of accommodation to be provided. That is to say, whether the scheme is to be one of low, medium or high rental units; whether the type of access and circulation is to be corridor or direct grouped. The site can only be assessed for adaptability in the light of these requirements. The value of a previous knowledge or discussion concerning access and circulation then becomes evident. The next step is one of block planning.

Following, then, are the more important factors affecting block planning.

The Site

In considering the site and its influences on block planning two elements predominate: "a" the financial, and "b" the physical characteristics of the site. Both are of the utmost importance. Separately, or in combination, these elements have a definite bearing on the successful evolution of an apartment development.

Most apartment developments (other than government housing) being purely a matter of capital and interest, the financial aspect is, of course, paramount and inasmuch as the cost of the site is a major capital expenditure it is proposed to review first the financial factors affecting the block plan.

They are, briefly —

1. The relation of the cost of the site to the rentals is one of the deciding factors in the selection of a site, for the number of apartments possible on any particular site must be great enough so that the cost of land per apartment unit or suite is not excessive or, in other words, that the land costs chargeable to each unit does not make rentals excessive.

2. Directly attributable to the above factor, the number of units, and often the type of accommodation, frequently dictates the type of access and circulation. Block planning is immediately affected.

3. Almost invariably the location of a site dictates the category of tenant to be catered to, thereby setting the schedule of rentals at either low, medium or high. If rentals are high, or medium high, for example, the direct grouped type of access is indicated and the block affected accordingly.

4. Maintenance and running costs borne by the building owner in connection with public spaces and these spaces in relation to the block plan should be advantageously placed for supervision and their area reduced to a minimum.

5. Because of the adverse effect on rentals, it is generally found unwise to have a great variation in types of accommodation or in rentals, because of, as previously mentioned, the lowering effect the close proximity of a small apartment has on the rental of a larger unit.

Of the site's physical characteristics, and their effects on the block plan, an enumeration of the factors arising may best serve to illustrate their relative importance, as well as providing a guide to the selection of a suitable site. Following, then, is a resumé of the more pertinent considerations to be studied.

1. Physically, because of the characteristics of shape, size and perimeter, one site may be more suitable for the type of access and circulation selected than another. The designer and owner should therefore have clearly in mind the access type to be used before the site is actually purchased if restrictions on the block plan are to be avoided.

2. Extremely noisy sites are best avoided. A later paragraph will deal more fully with the subject of planning against noise, as affecting the arrangement of interior planning. It is sufficient to note at this point that the noisy site places considerable restrictions upon the disposition of various rooms in the apartment unit and that these restrictions must be weighed in the selection of a site.

3. That sites with great variation in topography, with acute excavation, drainage or foundation problems, must have those disadvantages carefully studied with regard to excessive construction costs is obvious.

4. Of the location of the site it may be said that—

A. The locality should be an improving one.

B. Possible future development adjoining or near the site be carefully assessed.

C. Surrounding buildings with special rights of way, rights of lights, etc., and the possible effect these

buildings may have on aspect and overshadowing must also be considered.

D. Other apartment buildings in the near locality are not a disadvantage, unless the district is already overdeveloped.

E. A fact to be remembered, and one not too fully appreciated, is the fact that accommodation (*i.e.*, the number of rooms in an apartment unit) is not directly related to the rental. The tenant in a municipal housing development, for instance, does not pay the same rental as the tenant of the luxury apartment pays for the same number of rooms. The governing factors in rent levels are:

1. The locality of the site.

2. The amenities offered.

3. The standard of finish and equipment.

Of these three factors the first two are affected by the selection of the site.

F. Diagram "C" illustrates Royal Park House, London, England. In this development one side of the site is bounded by a main shopping street, and the scheme shows how shops may be incorporated for ground floor occupancy with apartments above. If care is taken in their design, and in control of the tenancies, the placing of shops in this position can successfully replace apartments which generally would be difficult to rent. This possibility, too should be investigated in the selection of the site, for obviously it has a dictatorial influence upon the planning of the upper floors.

Aspect

In his book, "Town Planning", Thomas Sharp has recently said that the interests of public health demand more than efficient sewerage and water supply. They demand that inhabited buildings, whether in the form of houses or apartments, should be so situated in relation to each other that no building interferes with the necessary light and air of another building.

The aspect of the site is not of great importance, except in the case of the site with a southerly aspect to a noisy road, in which case bedrooms, because of noisy conditions, are very often forced to take their position with a northern, sunless aspect. Conversely, the aspect of the actual building block is of great importance. In planning for sunlight, cross-ventilation and privacy, the actual shape and position of the block are vital factors. The designer should, by sun range and sun altitude diagrams, or by means of charts such as that by Prof. Bjornson, test the block plan for sunless and unlit areas, and for the sum of the hours of sunshine in each apartment.

Spacing of Blocks

In reference to the spacing of blocks, many zoning by-laws require the space between blocks to be equal to the height of the block concerned, and because of their purely commercial characteristics, most apartment blocks use this minimum spacing, but it may be indicative that in his report on Housing (slum clearance), Mr. Lewis Silkin, M.P. (London) says that a distance apart for blocks of one and a half times the height of the block should be regarded as a rough minimum, and experience abroad indicates that, from a health and amenity standpoint, an even more liberal spacing is preferable. This may or may not be possible, according to the site and as pointed out in a previous section, the number of apartment units must remain sufficiently numerous for financial reasons. The alternative, then, would seem therefore to be a higher building and it may be interesting to note that in regard to height a study of construction costs relative to height made by the Housing Study Guild of New York shows that under most conditions, the six storey block, with

PORTSEA HOUSE
(RESIDENTIAL CHARACTER)

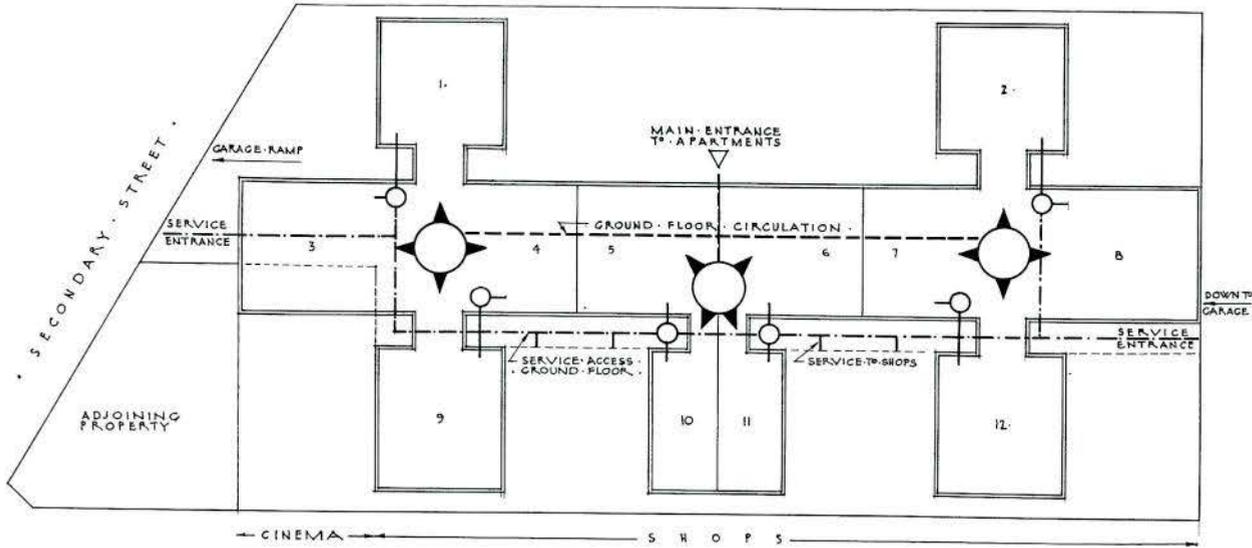


DIAGRAM C

EDGEWARE ROAD (SHOPPING STREET)

ROYAL PARK HOUSE, EDGEWARE ROAD, BY T. P. BENNETT AND SON

elevators, is the cheapest type of construction, the two storey most expensive, gradually decreasing to the six-storey cost, then increasing up to eight storeys after which costs decreased again until the cost of twelve storeys was not a great deal more expensive than the six-storey block.

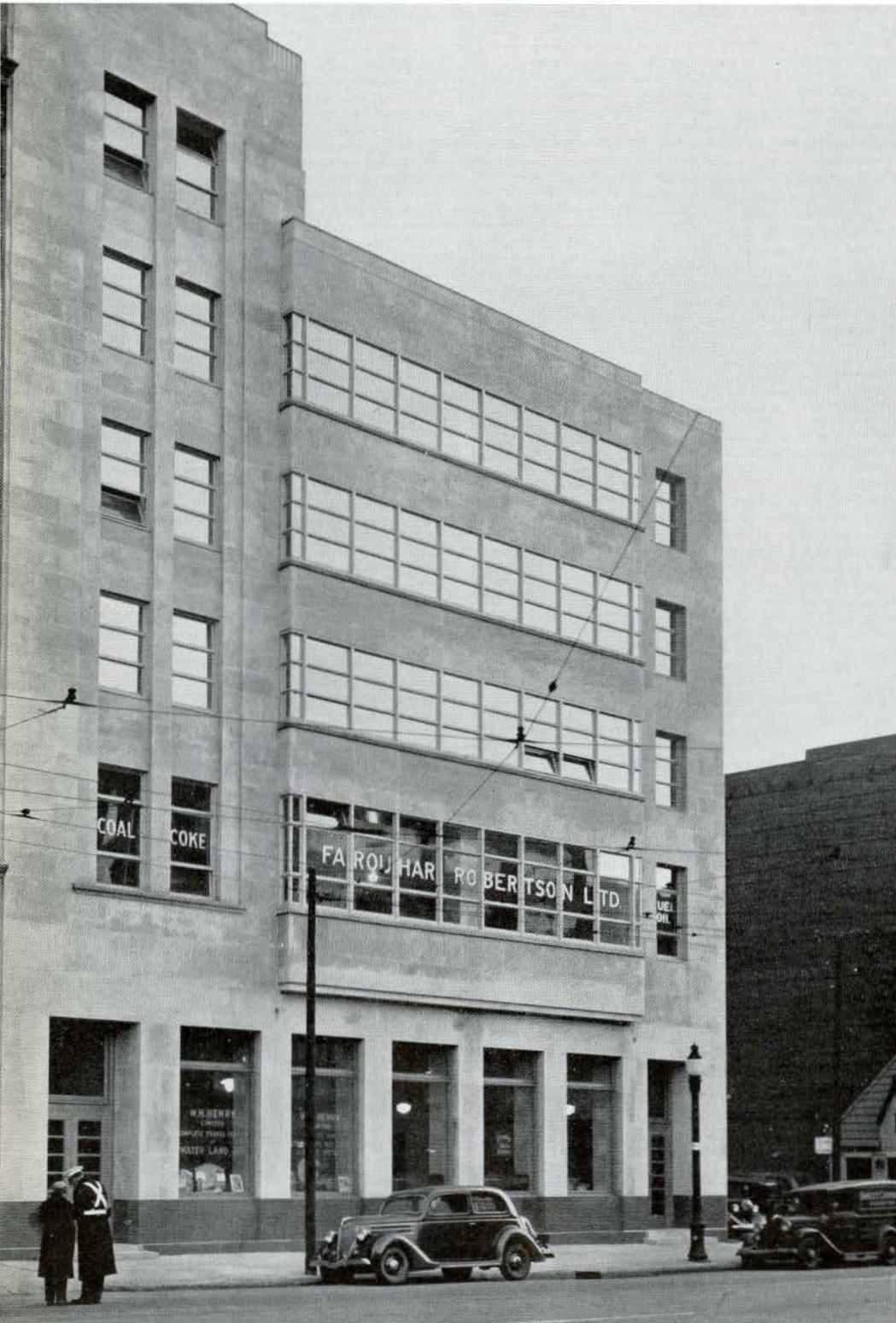
Planning Against Noise.

The position of Main and Secondary (Service) Access approaches, the problem of car parking, local by-laws, means of escape, architectural grouping, the avoidance of small courtyards and areas, all play their part in influencing the block plan. But of more importance than any of these individually is the problem of planning against noise. Creating one of the more serious problems of the apartment designer, small noises are ceaselessly communicated through structure and through open window. Partly controllable by the careful design and placing of elevators, machines, construction, partitions, doors and floors, noise as a disadvantage is more economically and thoroughly dealt with by careful planning. Bedroom can be planned against bedroom and not against the living room of the adjoining apartment, and, vertically,

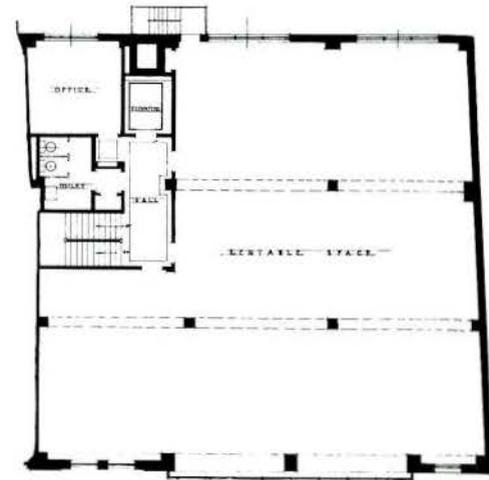
bedroom planned over a bedroom. Ingenious plans, which on alternative floors give varied accommodation, but which bring, say a living room over a bedroom are to be guarded against. Noisy thoroughfares often mean that bedrooms must be placed on the quiet side and these quiet conditions must be weighed against a sunny aspect. Generally speaking, for noise abatement reasons as well as others, apartments should not be built around enclosed courts. Long blocks are much less risky.

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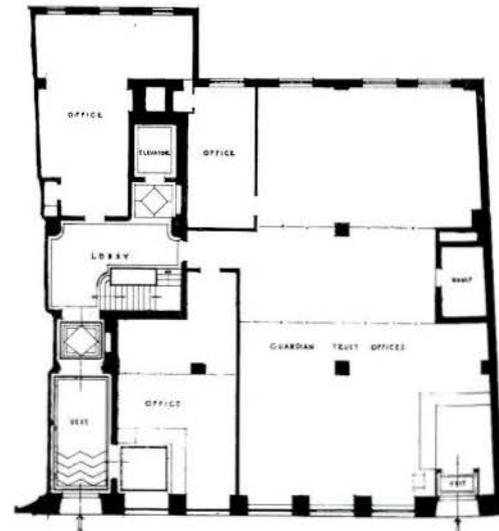
All the desirable conditions outlined in the foregoing paragraphs do not pretend to cover in great detail all the factors governing the design of apartment buildings, but they do present an outline for the creation, if we genuinely and eagerly desire it, of an environment that must have far reaching effects on the apartment dweller. Coupled with a "classification" of living space, rather than unnecessary division of space, with elevations frankly expressing the interior, they can by development and use do much to improve the present architectural state of the apartment building in Canada today.



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SECOND FLOOR PLAN

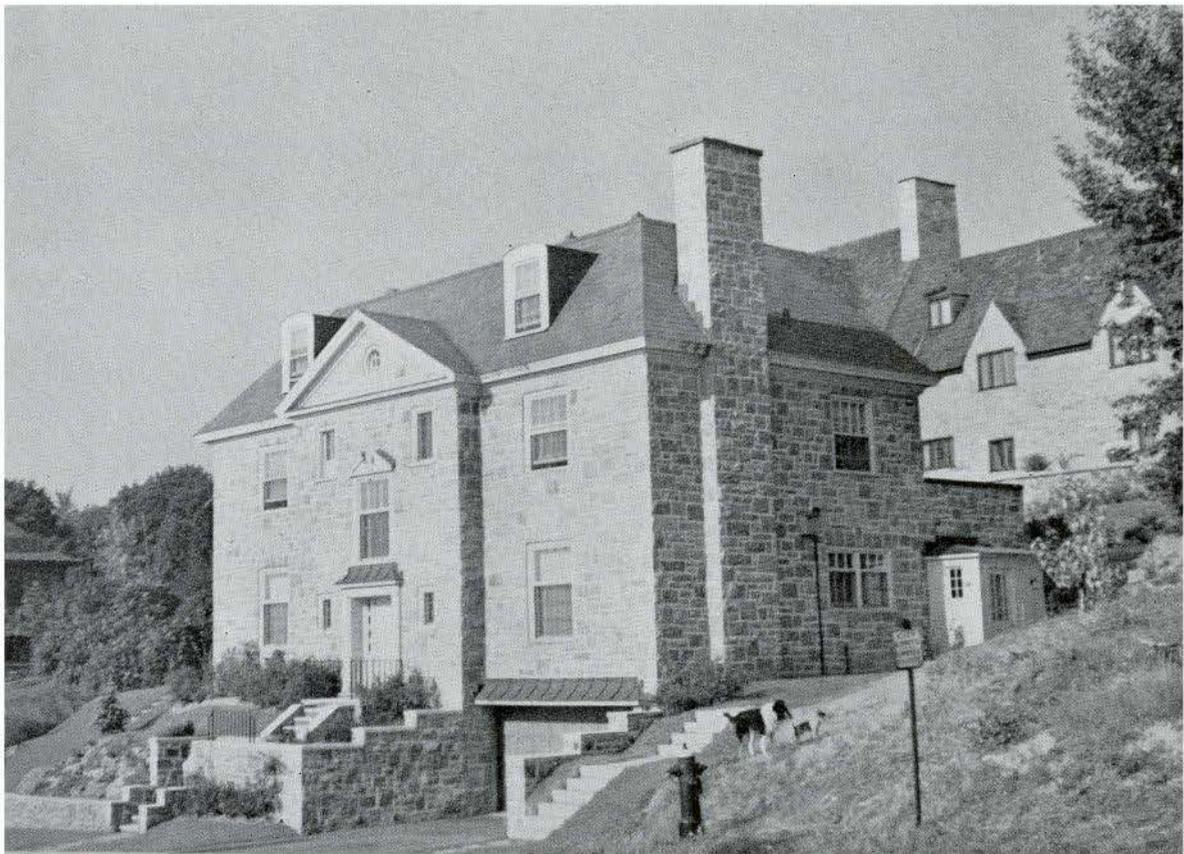


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

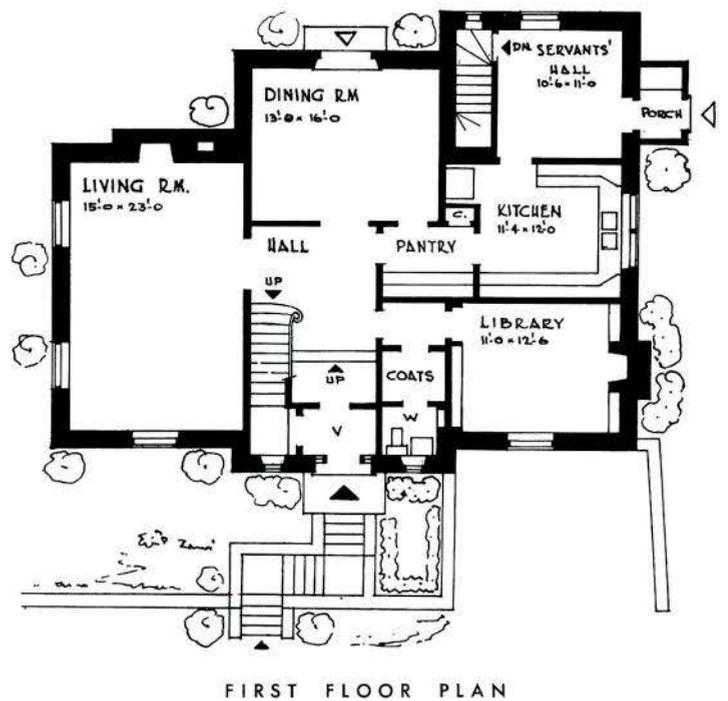
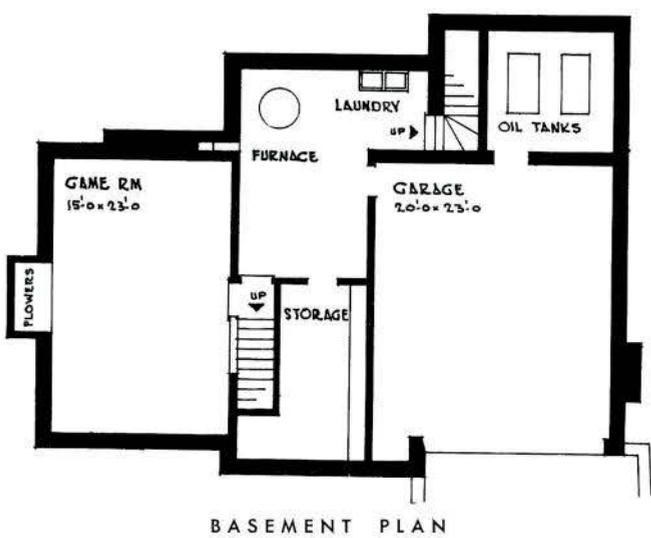


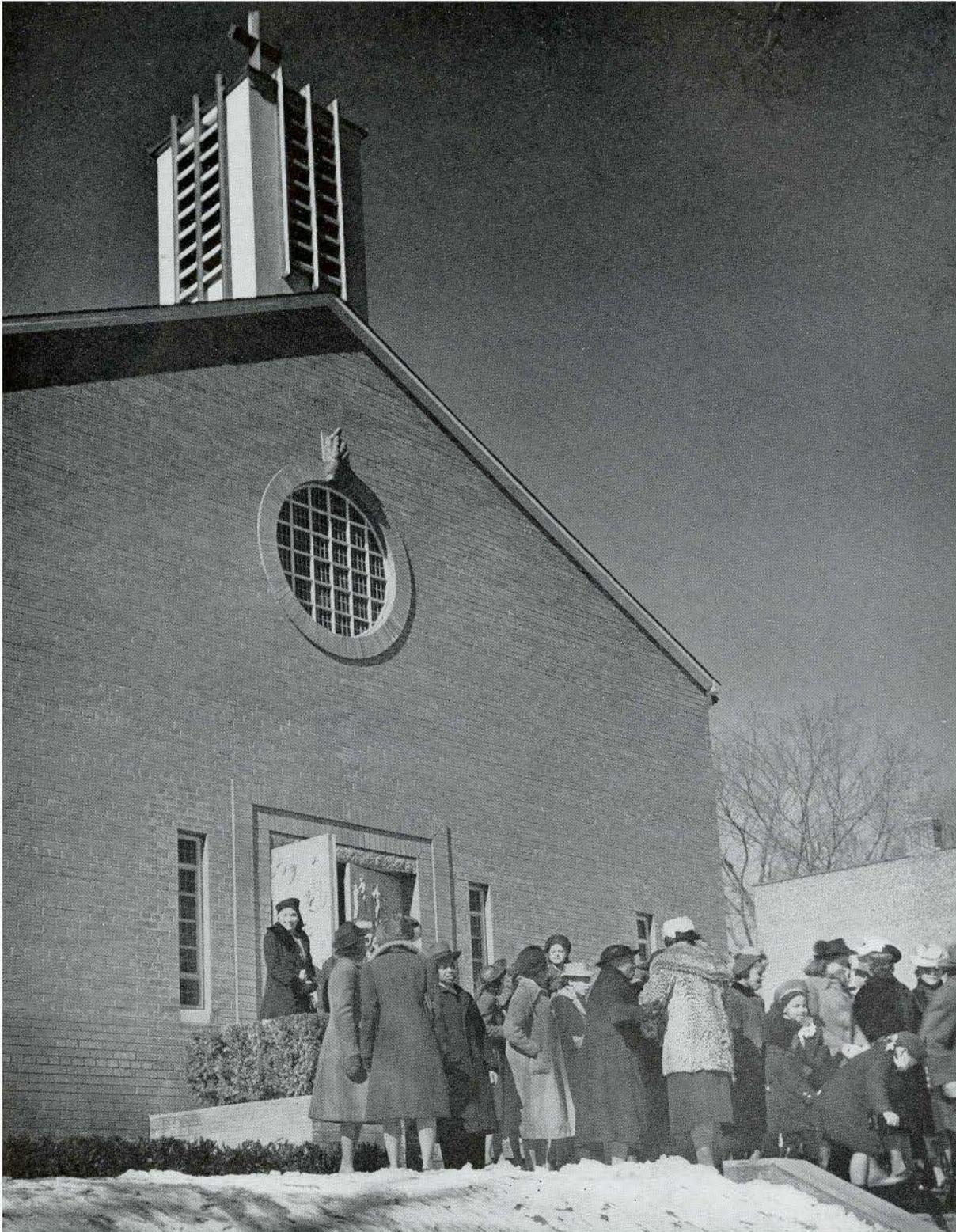
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NORTHWOOD AND CHIVERS, ARCHITECTS



HOUSE OF MR. H. G. WELSFORD, MONTREAL, QUEBEC
 WILSON AND AULD, ARCHITECTS





Photographs Ezra Stoller

S T . P E T E R C L A V E R M I S S I O N

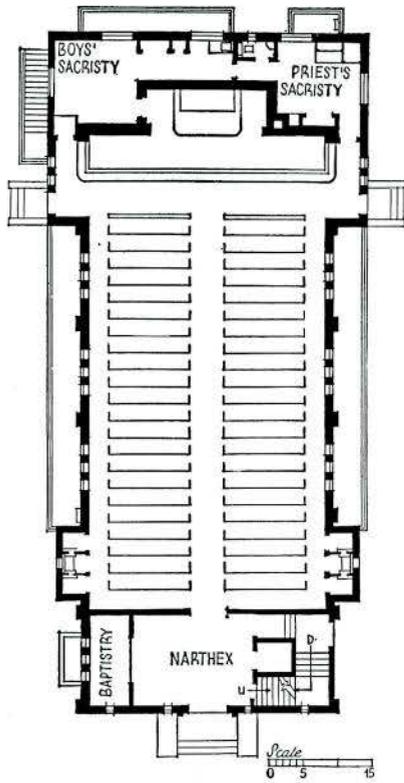
MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

PAUL C. REILLY, ARCHITECT

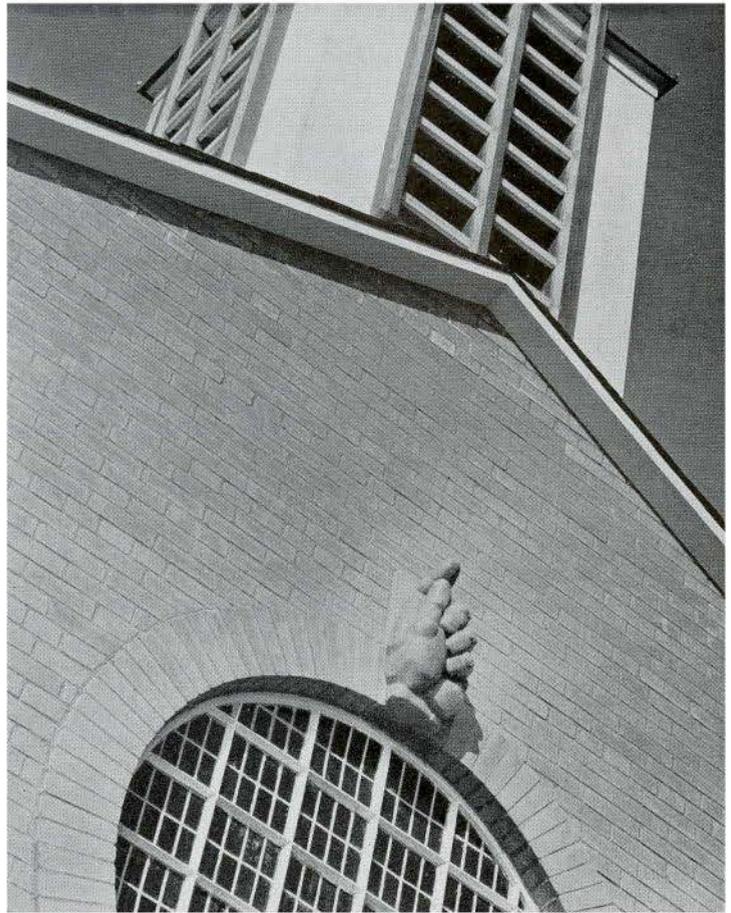


FIGURE OF ST. JUDE

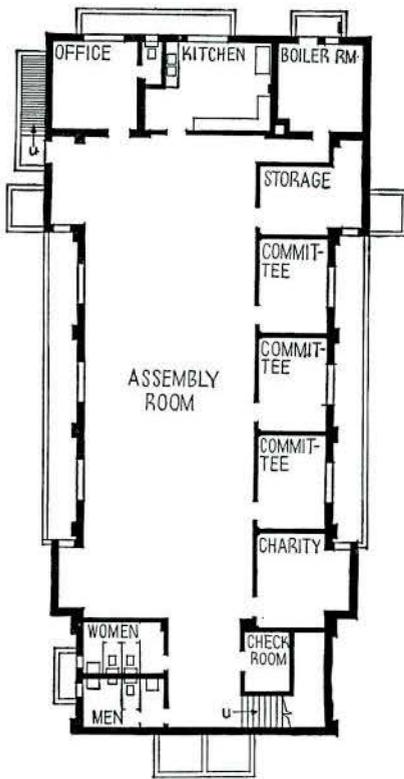
IN BLACK WALNUT AND WHITE METAL BY GEORGE KRATINA



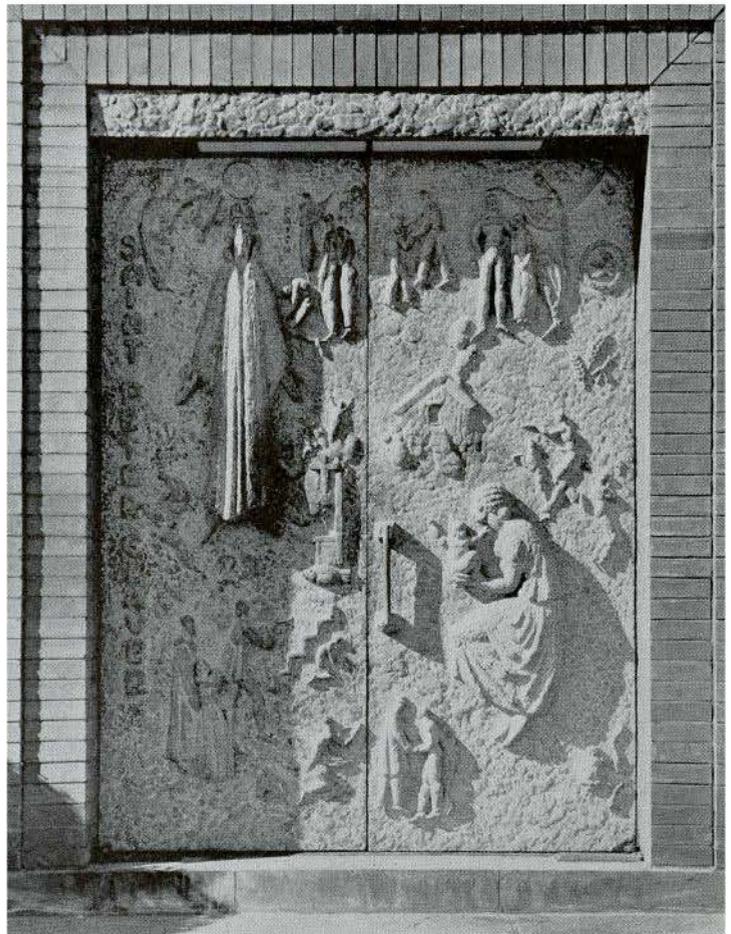
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



FRONT ELEVATION DETAIL



BASEMENT PLAN

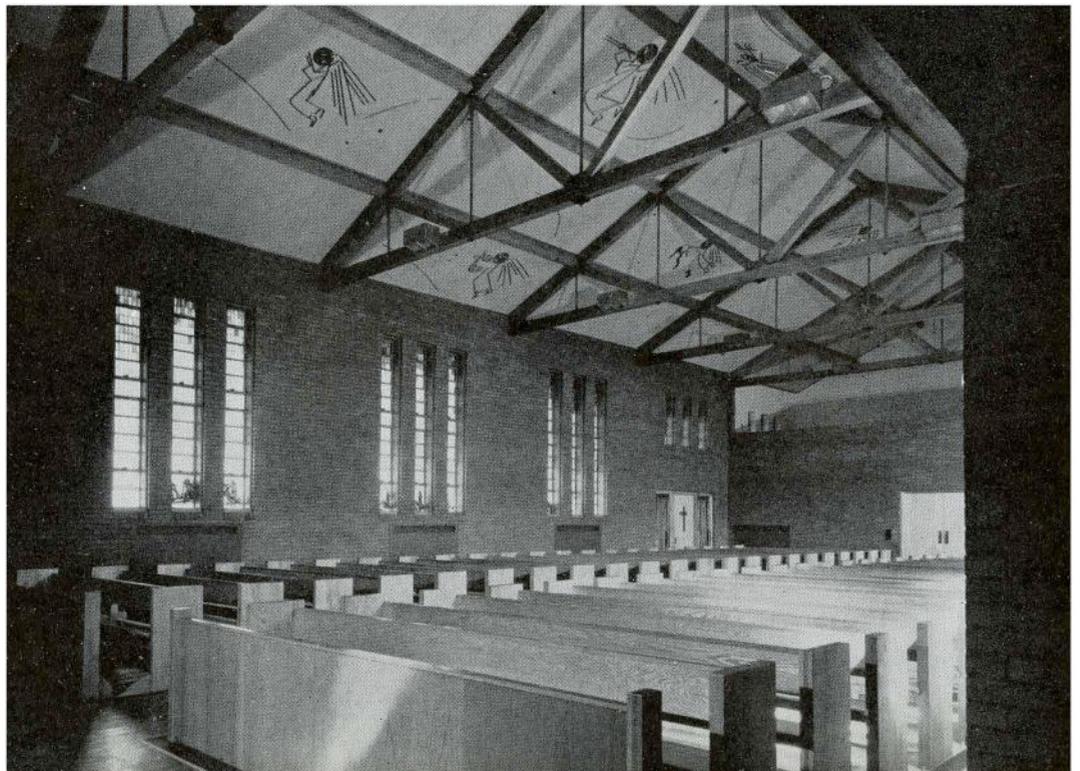


BRONZE ENTRANCE DOORS



SANCTUARY DETAILS

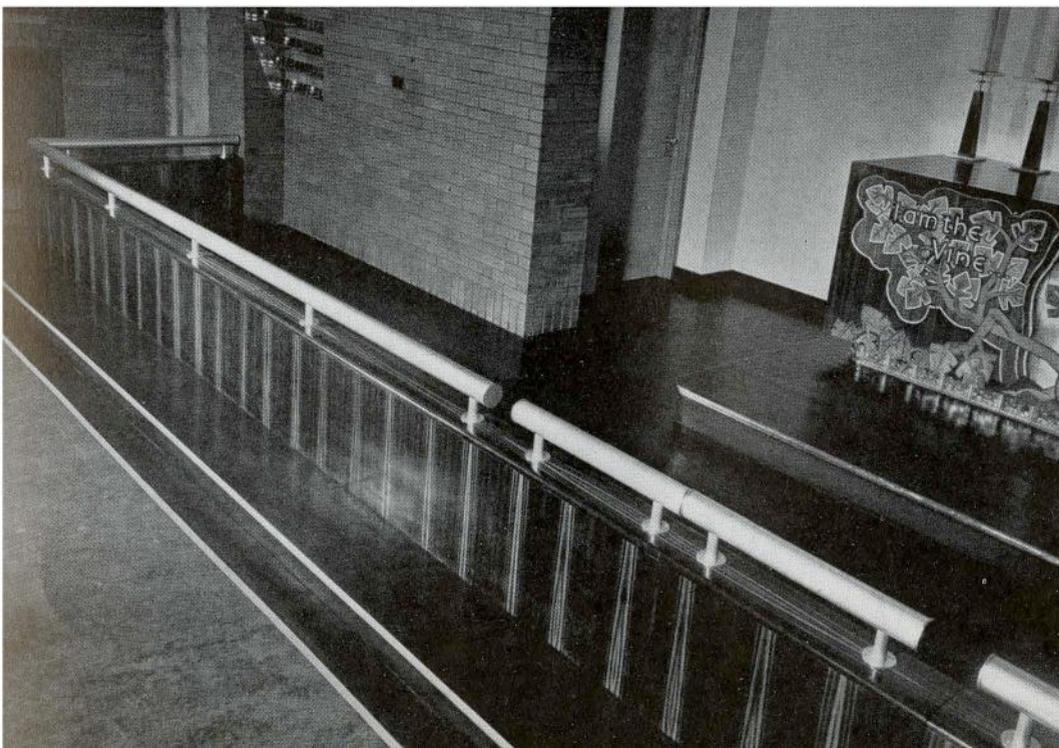
VIEW OF THE NAVE





ALTAR AND CRUCIFIX

ALTAR RAIL AND SANCTUARY



THE TEMPLE

By JOHN BLAND

IT is heartening to be assured that the deplorable destruction caused in London by the raiders will be repaired by finer things, but often the spirit of places is fragile and elusive, too easily destroyed and very hard to recapture. The spiritual environment of the two universities and of parts of London, particularly the Inns of Court, has so far proven inimitable. Many have tried to reproduce it by copying details without any real understanding and without any success. This environment is not superficial but a fundamental expression of a manner of life, produced by careful development through generations. It is endangered because we accept it either as a matter of good fortune or as some special quality of antique things. We think of architecture in terms of individual buildings and not as related units in the broad pattern of environment.

Two Inns of Court, Middle and Inner Temple have been bombed. Some good stuff there, the old architect might admit with a tear in one eye but nothing that could not be rebuilt a great deal better! Perhaps, but one can not overlook that the Temple had a renowned charm. It was a spiritual region which had few equals.

There are four Inns of Court in London—Lincoln's, Gray's, Inner and Middle Temple. There were others years ago but now they are only names. The Inns were originally ecclesiastical. Large groups of buildings arranged in a mediaeval manner about a great hall and surrounded by gardens. In early times certain of these Inns became associated with the legal profession. Law Libraries developed in them. Now they are exclusively legal institutions. Barristers belong to one or other of the Inns where they may live and practice. Students reading for the bar examinations must join one in order to associate with others in their profession. Dinner in hall is an important function in this respect. It is the social gathering. Students are required to attend a certain number of dinners during the term.

The affairs of the Inns are administered by the Master, Treasurer and certain other senior members who are called Benchers. The four Inns are said to have agreed among themselves that they share equal antiquity. Though this may not be based upon any historical fact, it saves quarrels over precedence.

Gray's Inn is the more complete architectural entity of the four. Most of the buildings are Georgian, brick and stone. Gracious structures geometrically grouped about squares or in rows flanking wide gardens where there are broad walks between tall plane trees. The hall is mediaeval. The Library is modern. As the other Inns, it is walled round making a complete little world within the whirling city.

Lincoln's Inn is partly Tudor and partly Georgian with some distinguished Victorian buildings. It is more picturesque than Gray's because of its predominant mediaeval plan and the variety of its buildings. The gardens are smaller and in summer they overflow with flowers.

The Inner and Middle Temple Inns adjoin south of Fleet Street on the western border of the old city. Their gardens run down to the Thames Embankment. Passing along Fleet Street one would never suspect they were there. Tall narrow buildings with shops front along the Street. In one there is an Elizabethan gateway, barely wide enough to admit a motor car; it is the Inner Temple door. Through another rather sooty building a gateway opens on to Middle Temple Lane. Weekdays the gates are open but evenings and Sundays the gates are shut and one has to call a porter to get in.

The Inn porters are impressive figures. They wear silk hats with black or gold rosettes and frock coats with shiny buttons. Inside the gates there is an atmosphere of calm. It is quiet in the Temple. The environment is primarily aural. The narrow passage from the gate widens. The space expands. There are trees. The buildings are geometric patterns superimposed upon the free pattern of the paths. There are courts, terraces and pleasant rows of buildings. There are flights of steps, arcades and pools. These are not composed to give emphasis to some pretentious feature. The arrangement is complementary to movement. It leads one on. There is no architectural crescendo. The Temple is more than that. It is a civilized group of buildings where men may work and move about in sunlight, in quietness among trees and flowers and with the visual satisfaction of order.

In the twelfth century the Knights Templars built the little circular Temple church. It is supposed to be a model of the Rotunda of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. In the fourteenth century it was extended to the east by the addition of a beautiful oblong chapel with tall pointed windows. The early church and the addition make a delightful composition of cylinder, cone and prism. On fine days art students come to draw it.

Middle Temple Hall stands on the south side of Fountain Court. It is a Tudor building with a wonderful hammer beam roof. Shakspeare played Twelfth Night there. Beyond the Hall there is an English garden with paved walks, magnolia trees and sunny places to sit. Early in the spring it is fragrant with hyacinths and tulips. Later on in the season there are the fine red and white roses that have made the garden famous. Near the Thames Embankment there are wide lawns and tennis courts and avenues of Plane trees.

The Temple Library buildings are Victorian although law books have been kept in the Inner Temple since the time of Edward IV. One of the Inner Temple treasures is a fine copy of the Statutes of Henry VII printed by Caxton in 1489. The Middle Temple collection is more recent.

The remaining buildings in the Temple contain offices and small flats called chambers. They are four to five floors high, usually in brick. Very nicely detailed entrances lead to the stairways. On the stair landings there are doors to the chambers right and left and a window over the entrance below. The chamber doors are always double. The outer one is stoutly fastened with strap hinges and bolts. It usually stands open and on it are painted the names of the members who live inside. When the members do not wish to be disturbed they close their outer door; no strangers can possibly find them and others know they are not wanted. The inner door is sometimes mahogany with glittering brass. Inside there are three or four rooms with small kitchen and bathroom. The Wren apartments, now over two hundred years old, are models of efficiency. There are a few little Georgian shops conveniently placed where one can buy stationery and odd things like legal wigs.

Motor cars are severely restricted to certain channels. One way traffic is enforced on the two main roads—barely twenty feet wide—but there is a generous parking area on King's Bench Walk so that one can always get quite near any of the buildings.

The Temple was much loved by the younger generation of British Architects. They saw it as an expression of a community and perhaps a glimpse of what the future could be.

PROVINCIAL PAGE

ALBERTA

As usual at this time of year building work is slowing down. A city permit has been issued in Edmonton for an air craft plant for a firm whose name has not been published. The contract for \$236,200 has been let to Messrs H. G. MacDonald Ltd. Messrs Allward & Gouinlock of Toronto are the architects, Messrs G. H. MacDonald & H. A. Magoon of Edmonton the associate Architects.

Amongst works recently completed are;—an intermediate school at Red Deer, built at a cost of \$50,000 by Messrs Waterman, Waterbury, Co. of Regina. Messrs MacDonald & MacDonald of Edmonton are the architects, additions and alterations to the sales station of Edmonton Motors Ltd. at the corner of 100th St. and 102 Ave., Edmonton, by the same architects. The cost was \$25,000 and the contractors C. H. Whitham Ltd. of Edmonton.

The following is quoted from the Edmonton Annual Review of Civic Administration, published by the City Commissioners:—

Great Building Activity is Reflected by Figures
Edmonton Journal, Nov. 2, 1940.

Building activity, particularly housing, has increased during the present year on a scale greater than any since pre-depression times, the total permits taken out to 29th October being \$2,546,445.00 as compared with \$1,502,920.00 for the same period last year. The Building Inspector reports the following summarization:—

<i>Building Permits to October 29th, 1939-1940</i>				
1939		1940		
No.	Class	Value	No.	Value
7	Public Buildings	\$ 390,900	11	\$ 899,751
1	Apartment Building	9,500	2	15,800
32	Commercial Buildings..	146,250	32	201,300
590	Alterations and Repairs	394,170	642	579,251
176	Dwell'gs (\$1,000 & up)	401,300	309	733,095
142	Dwell'gs (under \$1,000)	69,510	89	47,900
182	Miscellaneous	91,290	224	69,348
1130		\$1,502,920	1309	\$2,546,445

The following are some of the larger permits issued during this year:—

Garneau Theatre	\$ 25,000.00
Varscona Theatre	30,000.00
C. Woodward Limited	125,000.00
Auto Camp Extension	25,000.00
No. 2 Air Observers' School	210,000.00
Glenora School	48,000.00
Water Storage Basin, Power Plant	35,646.00
West Glen High School	119,305.00
King Edward Hotel	50,000.00
F. W. Woolworth Company	30,000.00
Dept. of Nat. Defence, No. 18, E.F.T.S.	105,600.00
Structural Steel Assembly Plant	80,000.00
Hudson's Bay Co. (Office Alterations)....	17,000.00
Aircraft Assembly Plant	239,000.00
Addition to Civic Garage	36,000.00

It was expected that the value of building permits this year would show a shrinkage as compared with the two preceding years, which included the two large department stores, but fortunately there was no diminution, but rather an increase and undoubtedly the happiest feature of this increase was in

the number and value of residential permits. Over \$780,000.00 was expended on this class of construction, covering 400 units, and the need is still acute. Of considerable assistance in affording relief to the existing situation during the past three years, has been the loans made through the medium of the Home Improvement Plan for the renovation and enlargement of existing homes, but this can only be regarded as a palliative rather than a solution of the problem. In any case an announcement has been made recently that the Dominion Government will abandon its guarantee in this connection.

—Cecil S. Burgess.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Annual Meeting of our B.C. Institute will be held in Vancouver early in December, and arrangements are being made for what is hoped will be a very interesting and enjoyable gathering.

At a recent meeting of the Institute Council a recommendation was presented by the Examining Board regarding admission of University Graduates to membership in the Institute. The Board's recommendation was adopted, and it will now be required of such aspirants to membership that they shall sit an examination which can be written in one day, and comprising two questions in each of the following subjects;—Architectural Engineering, Building Construction, Hygiene, Heating, Electrical, and two or more in Professional Practise. There will be no questions in Design or History of Architecture. This examination will be held twice a year in May and November, when the occasion warrants.

Vancouver local authorities report a large increase in house building for the month of October over the same period in 1939, but this type of building activity stirs very few ripples in the architectural pond, as the majority of the houses are comparatively small. Apart from this, however, there are still many signs of building activity and the majority of the members of our profession continue to function in spite of war demands.

Our two largest buildings,—the Shaughnessy Military Hospital and the Y.M.C.A. building are rapidly nearing completion. A week or two ago our friends Messrs Andrew and Jack Mercer had the distinction of attending at the laying of the corner-stone of their creation, the new Military Hospital, by the Hon. Ian MacKenzie, and according to reports we are promised a new Y.M.C.A. building by January of the New Year, when we hope to have the pleasure of appreciating the efforts of Messrs McCarter and Nairne to provide the City with a building which has long been overdue.

We have no report on the recent visit of the Vancouver Chapter to the Plant of Sigurdson's Millwork Limited, but are glad to see that this body again shows signs of life, and hope that they will have a successful season.

—David Colville.

ONTARIO

There is a great deal of construction work going on just now; almost all of it industrial, of course. Contracts have been let for large-scale extensions to the Westinghouse plant at Hamilton and the Canadian General Electric plant at Peterborough, in addition to the work already reported and under way.

There is at least one new project on a large scale, and that is a factory to be erected near London for the manufacture of

aeroplanes, particularly those types used for training purposes. The plant, which is expected to cost several million dollars, will be built by the Dominion Government and operated by a private company.

With regard to work previously noted, the Ford Hotel at Ottawa has reached the foundation stage, and the administration building for the Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario is rapidly nearing completion, so far as the main fabric and general office space are concerned. Part of the latter is already occupied.

On the whole, the amount of industrial work being carried out by architects at the moment is cause for a measure of satisfaction, though it could be materially increased without overtaxing the profession, numerically reduced as it is. But we cannot view without apprehension the uncontrolled growth of small-house suburbs, spreading all over the landscape like a "crazy" quilt; Queene Anne fronts doing their best to dissociate themselves from Mary-Ann backs, and the occasional well-designed house looking like a nun at a cocktail party. One wonders whether the Architectural Research Group—(A.R.G. to the initiated)—has not arrived too late, after all.

—*Gladstone Evans.*

QUEBEC

We are more than glad to report that Professor Turner is making satisfactory progress after his recent disability and expects to leave the hospital shortly. We trust the period of recuperation may be brief and that he will be able to resume his usual occupations with undiminished health and vigor.

In spite of war conditions and the unsatisfactory state of the profession it is interesting to note that the enrollment for the architectural course at McGill almost reaches the record of 1930. There are fifteen newcomers this year and of these four are women. These four with two women already in the second year make six potential architectes who may some day make a name for themselves.

It may seem pessimistic, but I can't help wondering what prompted these fifteen to consider training for an apparently precarious career—a profession which seems to receive diminishing appreciation and where opportunity for service and gainful employment is correspondingly more limited.

Perhaps these young people have vision beyond that of some of us "old timers." Perhaps they sense a favourable change in the social and economic order after this terrible mess gets cleaned up and that in any case there may be some kind of reformation within our ranks, and without, which may permit the proper enjoyment of their profession when they are ready to engage in it.

I didn't intend to get off on this tangent when I started. I started to jot down a few items about additions to the teaching staff, then began musing, and now there is only space left for a list of full and part time instructors and their subjects. I hope sometime someone connected with McGill will write a special article giving more detail about the staff, the courses and how they propose to meet the modern needs of the profession and the rapid advancement of engineering and socio-economic architecture.

Professor Turner and his associates by enlisting the services of practising architects as an advisory committee and by adding instructors who are outstanding specialists in their respective fields have injected new vitality into the course.

John Bland is Executive Secretary and Acting Head of the Department during Professor Turner's absence and is fulfilling these functions with marked ability. Mr. Bland also

teaches Modern Architecture and Elements of Town Planning.

Frank P. Chambers instructs in Elements of Architecture and History of Art, Classic Architecture, and Modelling.

P. R. Wilson lectures on History of Gothic Architecture.

H. L. Fetherstonhaugh is Lecturer in Design for fourth and fifth years.

Harold R. Little is Instructor in Building Construction; Fred Taylor, Free-hand Drawing; and S. H. Maw is Architectural Rendering and Perspective.

I trust the above will forgive the omission of their titles.

The Students' Architectural Society has been revived and meetings are being held regularly every two weeks under the chairmanship of the President of the Society. A prominent man is generally invited to assist in the discussions, and quite probably learns as much as he gives. Marcel Parizeau of Montreal and H. Herrey of Harvard were at the first and second meetings.

In conclusion I may add, just to give us something to mull over, that Mr. Howe made a statement the other day that the government expenditures for construction of plants totalled \$250,000,000. How much of this did the architects get?

—*Harold Lawson.*

SASKATCHEWAN

The annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Association of Architects was held in Saskatoon at the Bessborough Hotel on November 5th. Mr. Frank J. Martin, of Saskatoon, was elected President for the coming term. The officers elected were Stan. E. Storey, Regina, First Vice-President; David Webster, Regina, Second Vice-President; E. J. Gilbert, Saskatoon, Secretary Treasurer. The other councillors for the coming term are: George J. Stephenson of Saskatoon and F. H. Portnall, Regina, and Professor R. A. Spencer, Saskatoon of the University of Saskatchewan.

The question of certain revisions and consolidation of the Saskatchewan Architects Act was roundly discussed and a committee was appointed to bring the Act closer into line with other Provincial Associations.

Considerable attention was given to the matter of suitable means of publicizing the various services performed by architects. The different mediums of expression were examined, including short radio addresses, illustrated lectures, newspaper or magazine articles and local and travelling exhibitions. The difficulty found with most of the suggestions, was the almost prohibitive cost. A committee was appointed to thoroughly investigate all avenues of the subject.

A very welcome tea was served and the cork seemed to come out without a great deal of energy, after which the Association were invited to inspect the new C.F.Q.C. broadcasting studios as designed by Mr. F. J. Martin.

The next annual meeting will be held in Regina.

—*Robert F. Duke.*

CONSERVATION OF ALUMINUM

We have been informed that it is exceedingly important for our country to preserve for war purposes all available aluminum and all architects are asked to refrain until further notice from specifying aluminum where other materials can be substituted.