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R . A . I . C JOURNAL

A P R I L 1 9 4 4

It was with great pleasure that we learned that the report of the sub-committee on Housing and Community planning of the Advisory Committee on Reconstruction was to be published. We understand that it is a massive volume of two hundred pages of which only the Summary of Recommendations has so far been given to the Press. As publication of the Report will likely be completed in a few weeks, it is unnecessary to publish the findings of the Committee in the *Journal*. The Editorial Board will see that it is competently and fully reviewed. We quote here a section of the Report, which we have not seen in the Press. . . . "Finally Canada has lagged behind the example of European countries, of Great Britain, and of the United States, in providing greater Government assistance for housing as a matter of welfare and public concern. These substantial reasons put housing into the forefront of domestic post-war plans. The committee believes that provision for housing plans will have to include home ownership, home improvement, slum clearance, low rental projects and rural and farm housing. It is clear that, while the problem may be more severe in one field than in another, there are needs in all fields and all groups will have to be provided for in an equitable and comprehensive plan. It seems indicated, however, that special attention, in the advance preparation of plans, should be given to low rental housing and farm housing, in which this country has had little or no experience to date; and also that home and farm improvement should be made ready the most urgently in advance, because of its immediate applicability to the first period of demobilization. It has been assumed by the committee that the great bulk of housing, whether privately or co-operatively owned, will be built by private contractors and corporations. Experience has shown that (with the qualifications as to design expressed elsewhere) public housing has been most successful and effective, where the design and building have been organized through the usual professional and construction channels. It is believed, however, that all methods of participation in the financing and operation of housing schemes will be needed and should be encouraged; public, private and co-operative . . . The committee places in the forefront of all housing projects the matter of Town and Community planning. Town Planning is essentially the matter of using land in its most efficient and socially desirable way . . . The committee, therefore, regards it as a step which must be taken at the earliest possible moment in preparation for post-war housing projects . . . Only a wider appreciation of the nature and techniques of Town Planning will produce the co-operative action necessary from Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments. Here again we are convinced that action at one level of government alone, whichever it may be, will not suffice to gain results.

It is important to recognize that actual achievement of great numbers of new houses constituted and operated on a sound basis depends upon a reasonable and co-operative division of labour between the three levels of Canadian government. A crucial part of this problem is the distribution of the financial burden. With the existing distribution of taxing powers it is inescapable that a major and possibly total part of public investment in housing should come from the Dominion Treasury."

LABOUR-SAVING CITIES OF THE FUTURE

Plans for Reconstruction of London Point Way to Social Improvements in Post-War World

SWIFTER TRAVEL — SIMPLER MARKETING

By H. V. LANCHESTER

Well known British architect who has been adviser on Town Planning in various parts of the Empire and whose principal works have included the Council Hall, Lucknow, H.H's Palace, Jodhpur, and Town Planning Schemes for Delhi, Madras, Gwalior, Lucknow, Rangoon and Zanzibar. Member of the Council of Britain's Town Planning Institute.

The story of the need for improvement of Britain's great cities from the social point of view starts rather more than a hundred years ago. Before that the aspect studied was mainly that of architectural embellishment, the instinct for which, it is curious to note, tended to lapse as the sociological demands took a more prominent place in the picture.

It is not an overstatement to affirm that the larger towns showed themselves as less orderly and dignified at the end of the nineteenth century than at its beginning; all through the latter half efforts were being made, somewhat tentatively, it is true, to improve living conditions within them.

After 1880 these efforts began to take shape in the founding of such communal groups for workers as Port Sunlight and Bournville, followed in London by the extensive housing programme of the London County Council and by the initiation of garden cities such as Letchworth and Welwyn to draw people away from the too densely occupied central areas.

War Brings New Problems

With the revival of a broader view of improvement, under the title of Town Planning, the subject began to take the form of a scientific synthesis of all the component factors, extending the rather concentrated attention that had been given to housing conditions, towards the other components needed for a satisfactory plan, such as the demands of administration, education and recreation, communication, and even amenity and beauty.

Still, progress was not rapid, the war of 1914-18 intervened and after this, housing was once more the major activity. For other purposes amendments in the earlier Town Planning Act were found necessary and the position was hardly fully re-established before we were once again involved in the present war.

The Barlow Commission was appointed in 1937 with a view to clearing the ground for an effective scheme of replanning, and by its report opened up the question of distribution of industry and population, and the relative values of centralization and decentralization, but before any action could be taken on its recommendations the war was upon us, and though this gives us, in a way, breathing time, it has also added new problems to the old ones.

Destruction From The Air

Actually it is the present war, particularly the feature of destruction from the air, the "blitz" as it is popularly termed, which evoked an almost universal consciousness that drastic reconstructions were possible and desirable.

In conjunction with the need for expanded agricultural production this moved the Government to form the Uthwatt and Scott Committees in the hope that these would help them to define a programme for the future.

The reports of these two, together with the subsequent one by Sir William Beveridge, although the latter did not affect actual *physical* replanning, certainly give plenty of material on which to base a policy, but so many views and interests are affected by the proposals that it is hardly to be expected that these will all be implemented in the near future.

In the meantime the extensive destruction in the very heart of London and in other large cities made such a vivid impression on all sections of the community that the possibilities of reconstruction on better lines became a dominant feature in the activities of Municipal Authorities, Professional Bodies, and numerous Welfare Societies. Many Municipalities are preparing provisional plans, while the Societies are studying the principles which should be observed in order that these may afford the maximum benefit to all classes.

Traditions of Utilization

The Professional Groups have been especially active in this direction, having made their own representations to the Government Committees and in some cases prepared comprehensive plans. London naturally received their first attention. The Royal Academy produced a plan for the central area, mainly directed towards its artistic embellishment though the economic and social demands also received consideration.

The Royal Institute of British Architects formed a Reconstruction Committee which co-ordinated the work of about a dozen sub-committees dealing with various sections. It held an exhibition to illustrate the general scope of Town Planning, and another, in conjunction with the Architectural Association, which displayed a very closely studied programme for the re-development of the whole of the London Region, aiming at the co-ordination of all the remedial measures desirable for this aggregation of eight and a half million people.

The Institution of Civil Engineers has held a series of conferences on the problems of reconstruction, and the Surveyors and other bodies have also given close attention to these.

The City, which has had a larger percentage of damage than any other part of London, probably presents for its limited

area, one of the most difficult problems resulting from the 'blitz'. Land values are high, traditions of utilization are strongly held and the links between the administration, ownerships, and finance very close; at the same time there has been a tendency in some branches of business, to move out of the City area, and taking all these factors into consideration, the Corporation has not felt it desirable to publish any improvement scheme up to the present.

Surrounding the City lies the London County stretching from Hammersmith on the west to Woolwich on the east; Stoke Newington on the north to Dulwich in the south, and containing a population of four millions.

Lord Latham's Pronouncement

The London County Council authorized the preparation of a plan for the remodelling of this area and entrusted the work to Professor Patrick Abercrombie and their architect Mr. J. H. Forshaw who had the support of a very competent staff which included the late Mr. Wesley Dougill and the late Mr. William Walcot.

The position in regard to this plan, as defined by Lord Latham, is that the L.C.C. while determined to carry out the replanning of London to the fullest extent practicable and on the best principles, is not at this stage asked to adopt the plan in its entirety. It will be necessary to enlist the co-operation not only of the Central Government Departments but also of the City Corporation, the Metropolitan Boroughs, the railway companies, London Transport, the Port Authority, the Metropolitan Water Board, and many professional and other bodies.

The importance of the statement by Lord Latham in his speech at the opening of the exhibition of the L.C.C. plan justifies the following quotation:

"With the best will in the world no satisfactory planning, whether on the lines of this plan or otherwise can ever be achieved unless there are far-reaching extensions of town-planning powers and unless fair and reasonable financial arrangements are made between local authorities and the Exchequer.

"This planning must be nation-wide; and just as a new ministry has been set up to harmonize all the local and regional planning efforts, the cost must be fairly spread between the rates and the taxes. Do not think, however, that we have a choice between cheap reconstruction without planning and reconstruction to which planning has been added as an expensive luxury.

"Planned reconstruction looks expensive when you set down in a column the cost of projects, up to a big sum. But haphazard reconstruction where you never add up the sum, and where you never think about the effect of fulfilling one need on the ability to fulfil another, may well cost far more on the long view in wasted effort, abortive expenditure and thought, and intangible but real leakages of time, money and energy that spring from inconvenient housing, badly arranged industry, inadequate roads and obsolete communications. We rightly plan labour-saving houses; well, let us also plan a labour-saving city".

There is a remarkable similarity between the general lines of the L.C.C. plan and those of that by the R.I.B.A. Committee

for the more extended area. As might be expected the L.C.C. with its large staff and resources as to information and statistics, has dealt with many features more intimately and in greater detail; it is also, as might be expected, more cautious as regards proposals involving acquisition or other expenditure; but the sub-divisions into townships and their separation by parkways indicate that the same view is taken as to how this great agglomeration should be treated.

The differences are more a matter of degree than of principle, and while the R.I.B.A. plan may be thought to go rather beyond what is possible even in 50 years, that of the L.C.C. may yet require further measures of improvement in some aspects. For example, the provision of four acres of open space per 1,000 persons, as much as is thought practicable in many areas, might as in the R.I.B.A. scheme, be increased to seven acres, or, alternatively, be supplemented by acquisitions further out, provided these were easily accessible.

Rail and Road Communications

This and other questions, such as the future plans for rail and road communications are clearly matters for further investigation as they involve many related problems, both practical and economic, which cannot be claimed to have reached solution at the present time.

As Lord Latham has said; only Government can take such action as will bring the various interests and authorities into one co-operative group qualified to decide how the problems of industry, traffic etc. can be organized to give the maximum efficiency and economy.

Though the three plans which have been shown to the public all possess features which it may be hoped will take a place in the London of the future, that exhibited by the L.C.C. is the only one entitled to be called "official" and that merely to extent of its preparation under civic auspices, as the extent of its implementation is still an open question; therefore all three are open to review by the public in general, and the opportunity for criticism should be taken advantage of by all who have in one direction or another qualified themselves to contribute to the conception of the best possible form for the future of our capital city.

The defects arising from past neglect and the destruction due to the 'blitz' provide but two among the many reasons why an all-embracing scheme of reconstruction should be visualized, and what has been done so far must be regarded, and is in fact regarded, by all who have borne a share in their inception, as studies for such a scheme in forms as stimulating as possible to the imagination, not necessarily covering all the details of every problem that has arisen.

The attempt must here be made to describe what these plans propose, so as to convey some idea of the type of city they visualize. It has been affirmed that there are at present four major defects for which fundamental remedies must be devised; namely traffic congestion, depressed housing, inadequate and maldistributed open spaces, and the confused location of homes and industries.

To these might be added the disorganized growth of the outer fringes of the area which is year by year adding to the confusion and disorganization of London as a whole.

Screened by Parkways

The Bressey road plan made a start with the problem of traffic congestion, but since then we have learnt a great deal as to the necessity of separating high speed arterials with specially designed connections to the service road system at points perhaps a mile apart.

Then again the Bressey report did not deal with the various types of railway serving the London area, which are also in urgent need of systematic co-ordination. The view is taken that as far as practicable both arterial roads and surface railways should take a "reticulated" form not intersecting but enclosing the subsidiary civic groups or "townships" into which the amorphous mass of London would thus be divided.

These traffic routes might, it is thought, be screened in a measure by parkways. Bearing this general pattern in mind we find ourselves resuscitating the traditional village centres such as Paddington, Islington or Clerkenwell with the advantages of their communal sentiment which they still retain combined with the advantages of membership of a great capital.

Such centres would be provided with all the usual features characterizing provincial towns, with a population of from fifty to a hundred thousand, their own local administration, clinics and medical services, libraries, schools, nurseries, etc.

They would be larger than the "precincts" advocated by Mr. Alker Tripp and would need division by "sub-arterial" roads, this dictating the planning of each section with its own shopping centre, minor clinic, primary school, and nursery.

Distributed among these townships, where sites and communications are found suitable, but separated from them, would be districts allocated to the larger and noisier industries; the smaller ones could be grouped within the townships without inconvenience; "flatted" small factories are suggested for such groups, with their own canteens, and nursery accommodation.

In a plan such as this the communication between the residential section which would number nearly a hundred would be by the suburban railways and fast traffic arterial roads on the marginal strips and tubes or underground lines passing through their centres.

Re-organization of Markets

The fine system of fast traffic arterial roads both on ring and radial lines, without any building frontages, and only open to second grade "sub-arterial" roads at a limited number of points, would provide traffic communications hardly less speedy than the railways. The latter, with a little remodelling, would be operating on somewhat similar lines, and it may fairly be estimated that transit would be speeded up by one third thus doubling the number who could reach central districts in a given time.

In addition the underground and tube lines can be re-organized to give a better balance between north and south than at present and this would enhance their usefulness. The plans also visualize the separation of long distance traffic from the local services, reserving the terminal stations for main line trains only and reducing these from fifteen to five or six only.

It is generally agreed that the existing location of retail trade along the main traffic routes is obsolete under present conditions and it is advocated that the shops should be gathered into groups near but not on these routes, with accommodation for parking cars.

The position of the wholesale and retail markets has also been considered and while some of the former are definitely tied to docks and goods stations, others, such as Covent Garden, ought undoubtedly to be transferred to more suitable positions.

It is held as illogical that goods in bulk should be brought into the congested centre to be dispatched in small quantities to all parts of the London region. Retail markets have a better claim to their traditional positions but some re-organizations of these are also desirable.

An important feature in all the plans presented is the development of the river banks with continuous open frontages with embankments on both sides extending eastwards at least as far as London Bridge, which would involve a substantial transfer of riverside industrial concerns lower down the Thames.

The improved amenities which this proposal would afford are indubitable, and it is to be regretted that its repercussions on industry have not yet been investigated in order to secure economic justification.

There are possible qualifications, such as an embankment at a higher level allowing for a limited number of small docks behind the embankments or the extension and enlargement of the Surrey Canal to give additional water frontages in South London.

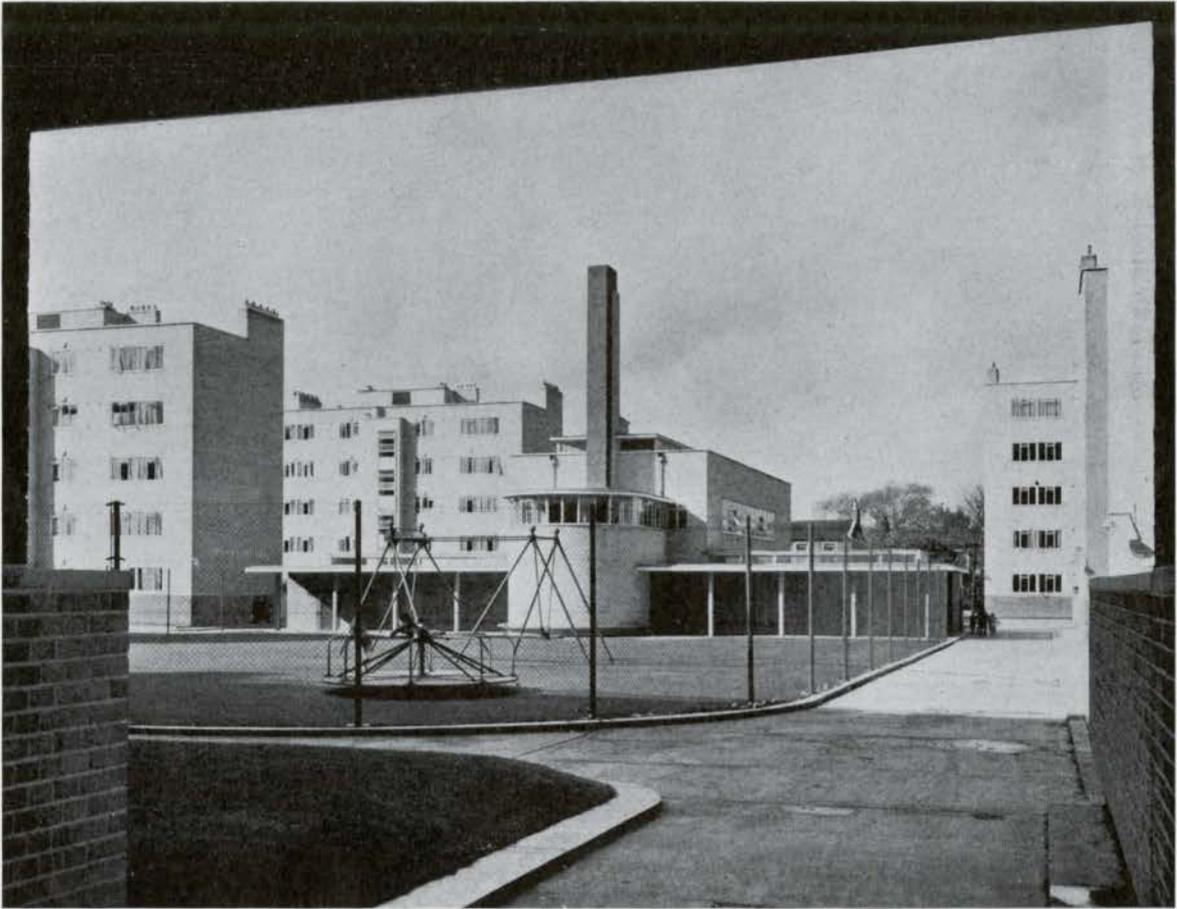
Distribution of Flats and Houses

As might be expected the L.C.C. plan gives particular attention to the distribution and grouping of flats and houses in the replanned area. It is advocated that these should be included in both the inner and outer districts, but as it seems to be accepted that the open fire will still be permitted for heating, it should be pointed out that experience has shown that the smoke from two storey cottages will make the upper floors in the block dwellings very dirty.

Under this scheme the proper complement to it would be the general adoption of central heating or even the expansion of this on a district basis, which has been warmly advocated.

The provision of an up-to-date airfield within a convenient distance from the central area was found to be a very difficult problem. The area of ground necessary, together with the restricted heights around it was unobtainable south of the Thames; by removal of the docks the Isle of Dogs might be made available, but a plan has been prepared and is regarded as suitable on the land immediately north of this, which has been heavily 'blitzed'. In this case nearly all that is left of Poplar would, however, be required.

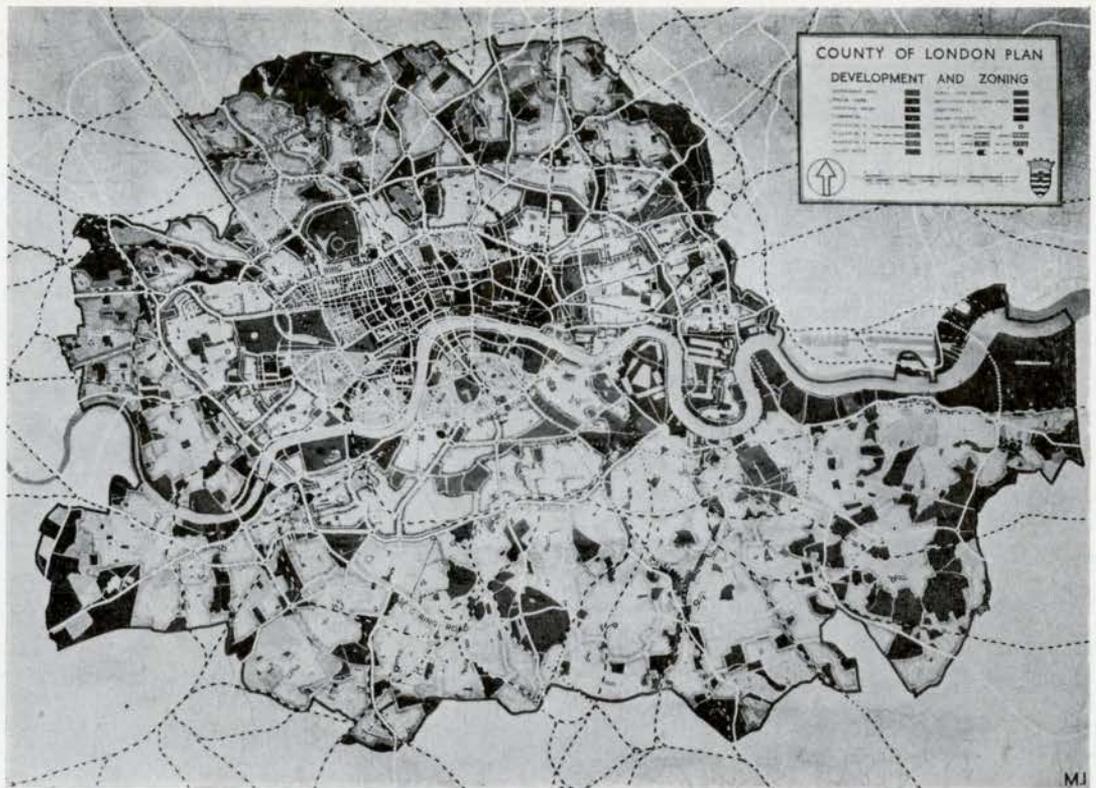
There still remain a great number of suggestions for taking advantage of this opportunity to improve the architectural dignity of London, and to convert it from the present rather haphazard conglomeration of buildings into an orderly and impressive city, retaining its typically British character but exalting this to a degree which would make it worthy of its position as the National Capital.



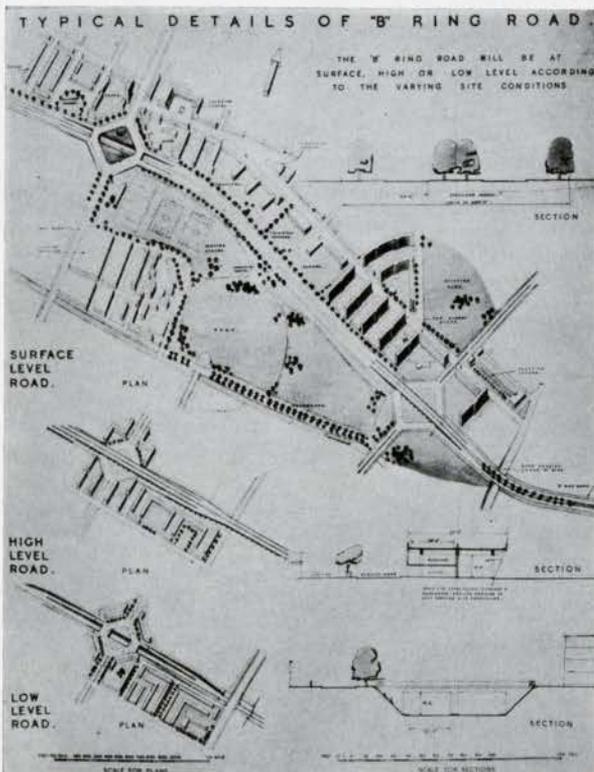
THE SCENE THAT IS RISING — MODERN FLATS IN LONDON, ENGLAND



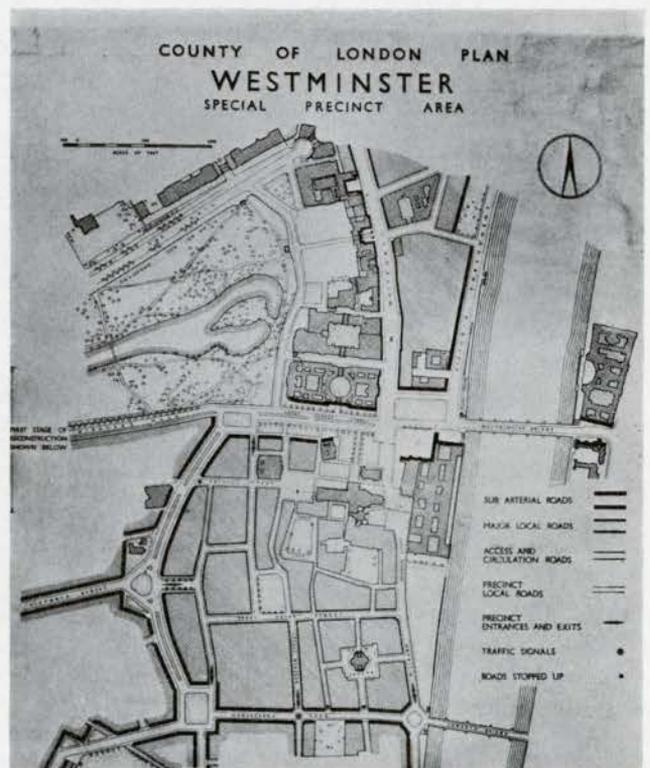
THE SCENE THAT IS GOING
A LIMEHOUSE SLUM



DEVELOPMENT AND ZONING PLAN. The photograph shows the comprehensive zoning proposal for the re-development of the County area complete with its residential sections, industry and business zoning, roads, and open spaces system. The plan aims at clustering what is best in London as it exists to-day, retaining its inter-related system of communities which are grouped round London's heart, namely the Port, the City and the West End, and safeguarding its social, economic and industrial future.



DETAILS OF "B" RING ROAD. "B" Ring Road is the main distributing road circulating round London. It is fed by the main routes into the Metropolis. This photograph shows intersections on the "B" Ring Road with roundabouts and under or over passes, designed to give priority to the main flow of through traffic. The "B" Ring Road is the principal ring road in the Plan. It follows a line north of Regents Park and on the west side, follows the existing railway between Fulham and Chelsea crossing the river by the new Battersea Bridge to Clapham Common.



WESTMINSTER PRECINCT. The scheme envisages the by-passing of through traffic in order to safeguard the amenities in the Westminster area around the Abbey and the Houses of Parliament. Victoria Street is diverted towards a corner of St. James' Park, at Storey's Gate, and down Great George Street towards Whitehall. This would relieve this historic area of the road congestion from which it now suffers and provide a more worthy setting to monuments in this area.

A REPORT ON PREFABRICATION

Summary of the First Report of the Committee of the Industrial and Scientific Provision of Housing, Great Britain

The Committee was formed in November, 1941, to enquire into the nature of a body to investigate and promote the use of alternate methods of building with particular reference to the introduction of mechanised production methods. Shortly after the Committee's inception it was presented with the results of a three years' independent investigation of the same subject. Including this data and its own work, it has covered over 750 systems or items relevant to the subject.

The Committee has analysed these problems and canvassed them in relevant industrial and professional circles and has reached the conclusion that, in view of the shortage of houses and the depletion of the number of building operatives available, immediate steps must be taken to initiate the use of mechanised production methods.

It should be noted at once that fundamentally this process is not "prefabrication", as it is loosely known, but the introduction of quantity production methods. Quantity production thus becomes the dominating factor. Therefore, investigation of the technical problems concerned must be related to it. Careful planning on a national basis raises the following problems:

1. *The Problem of Industrial Structure.*—This problem arises out of the fact that a factory produced house and its equipment will be comprised of parts made by a diversity of trades. The establishment of co-operation between these trades is essential both to ensure that the parts are so made that they will accurately fit on assembly and that there will be no bottle-necks in the delivery of any class or part.

2. *The Costing Problem.*—Quantity production raises costing problems of a nature new to building since the cost of the plant is the dominating factor. Thus industrialists will not engage in the mass production of the parts of houses unless costing data be available with special reference to quantity potentialities and the influence of quantity on cost.

3. *The Marketing Problem.*—Quantity production introduces new elements into the process of marketing and distribution since without a constant supply of large and comparatively long-term orders the economic operation of a quantity production plant becomes impossible. New methods of distribution and the financing of consumption must be devised.

4. *The Aesthetic (and Social) Aspects.*—Quantity production offers potentialities in the way particularly of improving the equipment of houses. For example, the Federal States found it necessary to equip a large housing scheme with refrigerators. It instructed the refrigerator industry to produce a utility model for bulk ordering, and, although relative to other mass production industries this order was small, the reduction in cost was over 50 per cent. Normally the manufacturer, faced with the marketing of a new product, turns towards the highest degree of standardisation. The Committee, however, is able, as a result of its technical researches, to say that although slight economies might thus be obtained, it is beyond doubt possible to produce parts so designed that they may be assembled in an infinitely wide variety of architecturally-planned designs.

5. *Labour Relations.*—The effect of quantity production upon the existing building industry will be profound. The exact degree to which factory production would affect the building trade and its operatives can only be determined by a statistical investigation based upon the quantity production potentialities of building by other industries. This statistical investigation is

essential to facilitate Governmental decision as to how much of the national effort shall respectively be directed into building by traditional and alternate methods.

6. *The Legislative Problem.*—Existing building regulations are based upon long-term experience and are, to a great extent, quantitative rather than qualitative. Revision is essential if alternate methods are to be fully and socially exploited. In order that this revision may permit of the working of sound schemes and may inhibit the working of unsound schemes, it is essential that Government and other parties concerned be fully informed upon the technical and other developments. Permissive legislation, based upon the physical function of materials and new methods must be encouraged and this calls for careful and continuous investigation of technical developments and potentialities.

7. *Limitation of Life.*—For social and aesthetic reasons, it has for several years been canvassed in architectural and other circles that attempts should be made to limit the life of houses. New techniques and materials which the Committee has investigated raise this question again and appear to bring it within the range of practical politics. The importance of this in planning quantity production programmes is obvious. Nevertheless there are many financial, legislative and social problems raised which must be investigated.

8. *Public Relations.*—There is prejudice, which the Committee's investigations show to be groundless, against factory production methods in a wide field embracing architects, building employers and operatives, official and academic circles and, of course, the general public. This prejudice is such that unless carefully planned steps be taken to disseminate accurate information, quantity production, no matter how sound, will never be fully exploited and in fact might fall to the ground completely. Data must therefore be collected and disseminated and used as the basis of a carefully regulated public relations campaign.

The examination of these problems, fully explained in the report of which this is a summary, has enabled the Committee to devise means for dealing with them through the establishment of a Housing Production Council, having for its objects, *inter alia*:

(a) To promote the use of contemporary production methods and scientific knowledge in the provision of housing.

(e) To promote and co-ordinate research by specialist bodies, firms or individuals into problems uncovered by the Council's enquiries.

(f) To establish an organisation to investigate modular planning or dimensional co-ordination and to take steps to encourage its use in such quarters as may seem relevant.

(g) To be a reference organisation for the exchange of information and viewpoint on new methods and materials in building between those Governmental, professional, trading and sociological organisations concerned.

(i) To investigate the need for the establishment of a body or bodies for the practical implementation of proposals suggested by the Council from information collected by it.

(j) To take such steps as may be indicated with any authorities, national, local, municipal or otherwise, to establish any such body or bodies as may seem to be called for, provided always that they shall not be organisations trading for distributable profit.

(k) To propagate amongst the trades and organisations concerned and to the general public, knowledge of the possibilities and implications of the factory or other mechanised production of housing.

(l) To promote enquiry into the housing requirements of the public having regard to the possibilities offered by modern production methods.

(n) To co-operate with any associations or bodies in the United States or elsewhere having objects similar to all or any of the objects of the Council.

(o) To investigate and promote the establishment of a British export trade in parts of factory-made houses.

The Council will consist of an advisory panel drawn from trade associations of all the industries concerned and from the various professional and benevolent bodies and the relevant Government departments. The work of the Council will be directed by a Policy or Management Committee of housing, architectural, technical, economic and industrial experts.

The work of the Council will be financed on the lines of an ordinary trade association and a programme of work detailed in the Committee's report calls for an expenditure in the first year of approximately £38,000.

All details relating to the Council and its work will be found in the report.

Programme of Work

The Council will collect world-wide information and will study requirements and potentialities peculiar to this country. The purpose is the evolution of a design or series of designs of

factory-built houses for consumption in this country and export to Europe.

This technical work will be based upon the stimulation and co-ordination of the research work now being carried on by private firms and research bodies. Simultaneous enquiries will be made into technical problems unrelated to specific commercial activity and therefore unlikely to attract the attention of commercial research bodies. An advisory section will be established to make suggestions upon research programmes and also to enquire into and advise upon points raised by individual industrialists relevant to their particular trades. Further sections of the Council's activity will be co-ordinated enquiries into the problems mentioned earlier in this memorandum.

Details of this work will be found in the Committee's first report.

Export

Owing largely to the dismemberment of industry throughout the continent, the remuster of skilled labour will take a considerable time. At the same time, there will be a tremendous demand for housing as well as for buildings to deal with emergency food, medical and social services. There is therefore the possibility of establishing an export trade in the key parts and equipment of such buildings, preferably so designed as to render possible the use of indigenous covering materials and unskilled labour. Enquiries which have already been received from foreign Governments tend to strengthen the suggestion that the proposed Council might form a channel for the development of a valuable export trade.

Reprinted from *Civil Engineering and Public Works Review*, London, England.

OBITUARY

MAJOR-GENERAL C. S. L. HERTZBERG, C.B., M.C., V.D., M.E.I.C.

The announcement that on January 10, 1944, Major-General Charles Hertzberg had "passed on" while on active service in India, came as a great shock to his wide circle of friends.

Born at Toronto, Canada, on June 12, 1886, he attended St. Andrew's College and The School of Practical Science, from which he graduated in 1905. While at the University of Toronto, he first served in the ranks of the newly formed 2nd Field Company of the Canadian Engineers, eventually receiving a commission as Lieutenant. This was the beginning of his long and distinguished military career.

General Hertzberg inherited his love of military life from both his parents' families. On his father's side, his grandfather held the rank of Colonel in the Norwegian Royal Engineers in the latter part of the 19th Century; and on his mother's side, there have been many connected with British and Canadian military life. He was also a sturdy and steadfast supporter of the British Empire tradition and connection.

In the First Great War, General Hertzberg enlisted for active service in 1915, serving overseas as a Lieutenant with the 7th Field Company and receiving the Military Cross during the first Battle of the Somme in 1916. He was severely wounded during the preparations for the Vimy Ridge Battle in 1917 and eventually invalided to Canada. In October, 1918, he joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force to Siberia, serving there until June, 1919, for which he received the Czecho-Slovakian Medal for valour.

From 1919 to 1930, General Hertzberg was actively connected with the non-permanent 2nd Field Company, Canadian Engineers, being transferred as Lieutenant-Colonel to the Reserve of Officers in 1930. At the outbreak of the present war,

he immediately offered his services and was given command of the 1st Divisional Engineers. Shortly after arriving in England, he was appointed Chief Engineer Officer at Corps H.Q. with the rank of Brigadier. Later when the 1st Canadian Army was organized, he was promoted as Major-General to be the Chief Army Engineer Overseas, which appointment he held until his retirement in 1943, having reached the age limit of 57.

It is significant of his great sense of responsibility to his Country, and the British Empire that his retirement merely meant to him that he would again offer his services in some other sphere of military activity. This offer was accepted by the British Government and he was loaned by the Canadian Government for service in India as Inspector of Research and Development of rapid airfield construction. The following tribute from Major-General Roome, Engineer-in-Chief in India, speaks for itself:

"At this stage of the war, the importance of his work can scarcely be computed. To the many and complex problems, he brought a wide and varied experience, a rare capacity for analyzing conflicting views and for driving to a successful conclusion. As a tribute to his work (in building of airports) the development will be known as the 'Hertzberg Process'."

In civil life, General Hertzberg was associated with the Trussed Concrete Steel Co. until 1912. He then became branch manager of the Bishop Construction Co. until 1914 when he entered private consulting engineering practice, as a member of the firm of James, Loudon and Hertzberg. From 1920 to 1929 he was a member of the firm of Harkness, Loudon and Hertzberg, finally from 1929 to 1939 being associated with the firm of Harkness and Hertzberg. During his civil career, he had a

(Continued on page 78)

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

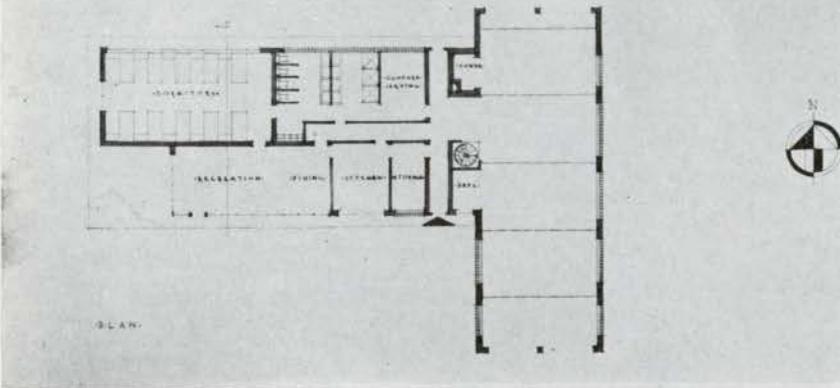
FIRST YEAR

A FIRE HALL

Charles Greenberg

This Fire Station called for the provision of a series of simple requirements to be found in a suburban fire hall built on a lot unrestricted in size. Provision for two trucks, patrol desk, hose drying tower and clothes drying room was required. In addition, sleeping, eating and recreational facilities for ten men, plus heating and storage, completed the requirements. Such problems afford first year students the opportunity to plan for a series of related functions arranged for maximum efficiency, economy and directness of circulation, as well as to study the three-dimensional form which will express such a plan in both mass and elevations.

A FIRE HALL



THIRD YEAR

A RURAL COMMUNITY CENTRE

Harry Seidler

This third year problem formed a part of the study of the administrative and recreational needs of small prairie communities with the idea of creating such centres after the war. This building was to form the nucleus of the recreational group and was to be built near the intersection of the two main streets of the town. It was to include the town's administrative offices (council room, general offices and police office); the public meeting hall seating 550 and designed for a variety of activities; a series of rooms for clubs and adult education with kitchen facilities; and a library of 4,000 books, with adult and child reading rooms, an exhibition area and the usual offices. Local and easily obtained materials were specified.



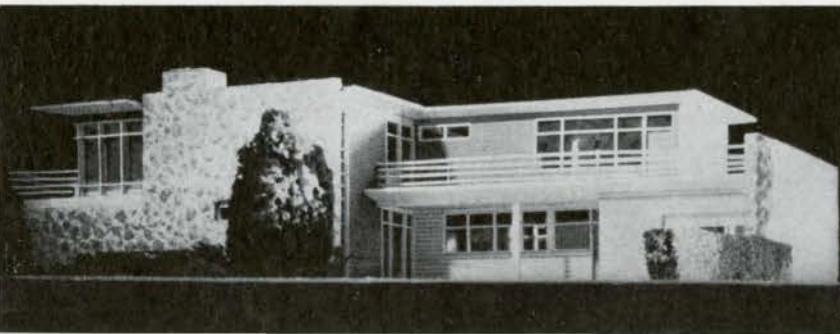
A COMMUNITY CENTRE

SECOND YEAR

A MODERN HOUSE

Kelvin C. Stanley

Culminating the second year course in Building Construction, each student is required to design a house on a definite lot for a specific family with special interests and requirements,—in this case, a family of five with varied interests in outdoor sports, music, gardening and the usual pursuits of active children. This design is then presented in the form of working drawings, including plans, elevations, sections and large-scale details, plus the building of a model. This latter not only affords the opportunity of learning the craft of model-making, and the opportunity of studying the building in three dimensions, but also acquaints the student with the importance of the texture, color and pattern of building materials in relation to the whole design.



ÉCOLE DES BEAUX-ARTS DE MONTRÉAL

FACADE DU CERCLE

Pierre Boulva

UNE CITE UNIVERSITAIRE

A proximité d'une grande ville, non loin d'une importante université.

Terrain d'une superficie de 800,000 pieds carrés environ. Boisé, il serait défriché au besoin. Entre une rivière et les basses marches d'une petite montagne. Pente moyenne, environ 80 pieds entre le point haut et le point bas. La rivière, assez fortement encaissée, n'atteint pas, aux plus hautes eaux, à plus de 15 pieds du niveau de la rive. Par un de ses côtés, ce terrain joindrait le parc de l'université, où seraient les terrains de jeux et de sports.

La cité comprendrait :

Un cercle pour les étudiants et les étudiantes (environ 2,000).

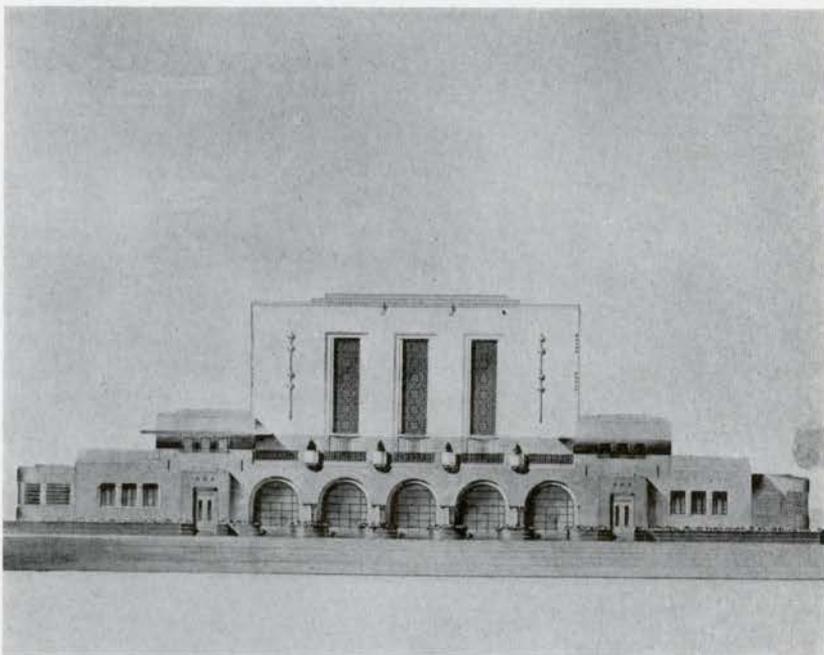
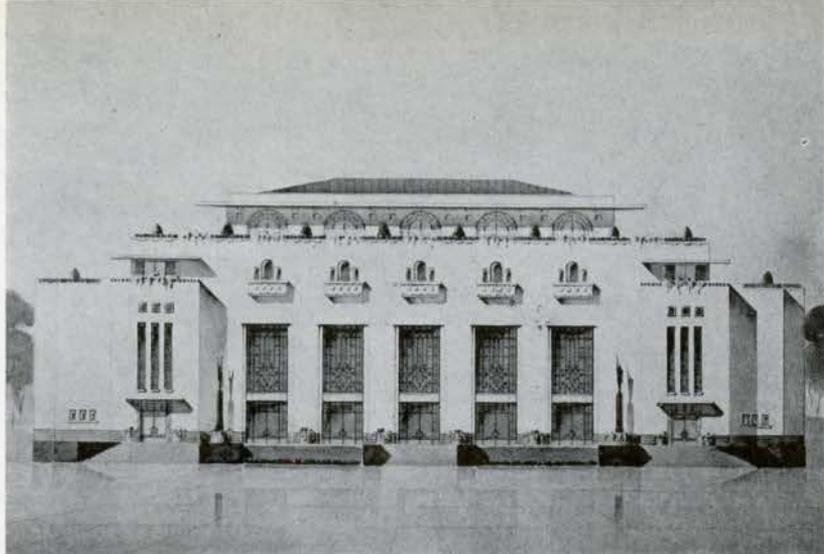
Un grand restaurant coopératif pouvant servir 500 repas simultanément. Il serait attenant au cercle.

Une grande chapelle (environ 1000 fidèles) accessible d'une petite place où pourraient être célébrés des fêtes religieuses ou des mystères à la façon du moyen-âge. Habitation d'un aumonier, et d'un assistant.

Deux hôtels d'environ 250 chambres chacun.

Une vingtaine de pavillons destinées à l'habitation par groupes de 15 à 20. Vie familiale. Appartement d'un professeur ou du directeur du pavillon.

Une assez large place devant le cercle, reliée à la place de la chapelle.

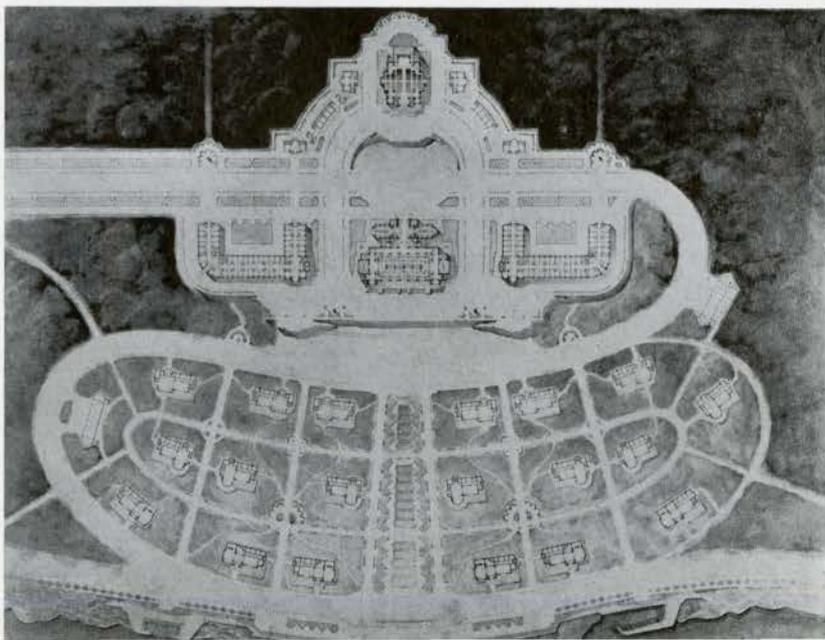


AUTRE FACADE DU CERCLE

G. LeBorgne

PLAN D'ENSEMBLE

Pierre Boulva



SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE M c G I L L U N I V E R S I T Y

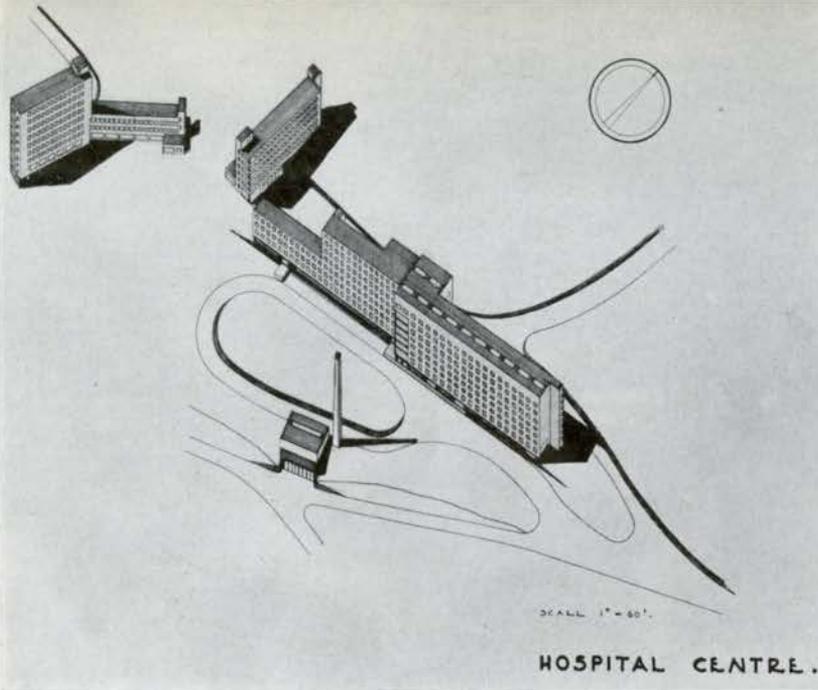
HOSPITAL CENTRE

Martin Lambert

Thesis problem—1943. Awarded R.A.I.C. medal. This drawing is one of seventeen which, together with a structural report, constituted a preliminary analysis of the problem of designing a modern general hospital. A site on the mountainside in Montreal facing southwest was selected. The prevailing wind is from the northwest.

The buildings in this view include the main unit, the internes' unit, the nurses' unit, the teaching unit, and the power house. The steep contours, the difficulty of excavation, the orientation and the prevailing wind determined the arrangement of the buildings.

The buildings are simple in design and entirely sun-swept. The structure is reinforced concrete. The walls are white brick. The windows are large single units, one to a structural bay, in wood frames.

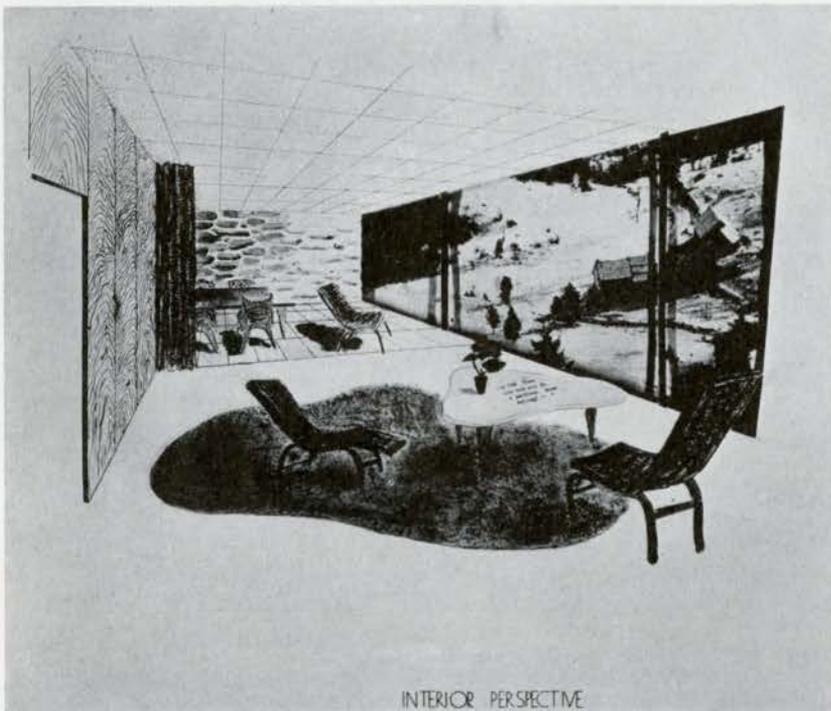


A ROOM WITH A VIEW

Ray Affleck

Second year perspective, colour and texture problem—1944. An eight by ten-inch photograph of "Sun Valley Farm", given to each student, was supposed to be the view from the window of a living room. This was required to be shown by a perspective sketch, with special attention upon the colour and texture of materials used.

The photograph, used in this way, stimulated the student's imagination and encouraged an experimental approach to a familiar problem.



B E A U T Y S H O P

Sylvia Chaplin 1944

BEAUTY SHOP

Sylvia Chaplin

Fourth year two weeks problem—1944. This drawing shows an elevation and axonometric view of a shop which has a ground floor and mezzanine in a multi-story block of flats previously designed by the student.

The front of the shop is polychrome with a rather small show window in a rich frame to display little packages. The lower floor has one department for the sale of standard preparations, and another department for personal advice and special colour matchings. Upstairs there are treatment rooms for manicure, etc., and a small work room. Other services for the shop are in the basement of the building.



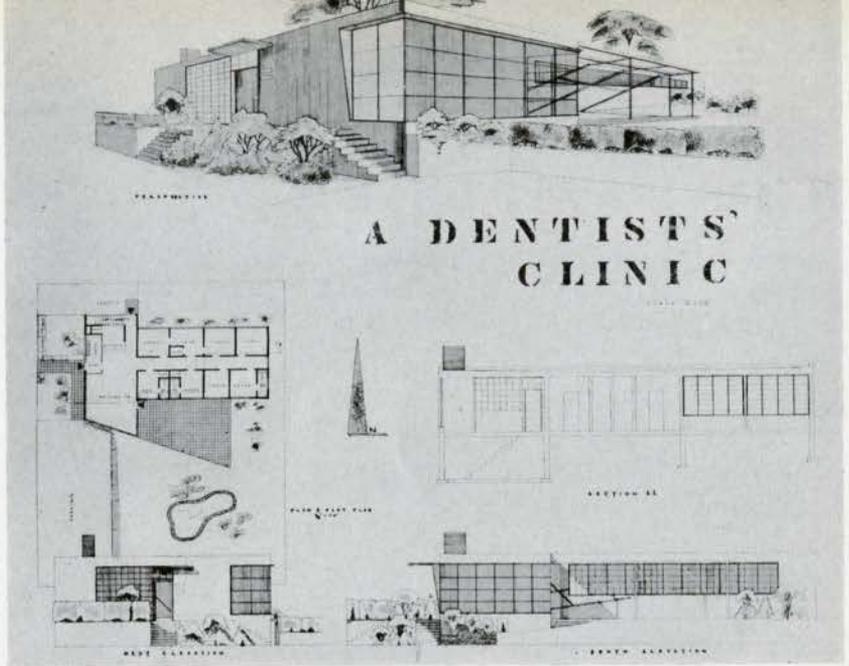
**SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

THIRD YEAR

A DENTISTS' CLINIC

Miss S. Macdonnell

Two dentists have bought for their clinic a northeast corner lot 80 feet by 100 feet. Parking for six cars off the highway is desired. Plan requirements include entrance with receptionist desk and coat closets, and waiting room for eight. Three operating rooms for use of the two dentists and a room for a therapist are necessary plus a laboratory and X-ray room and a recovery room for one patient. Men's and women's rest room, each with closet and toilet are required.

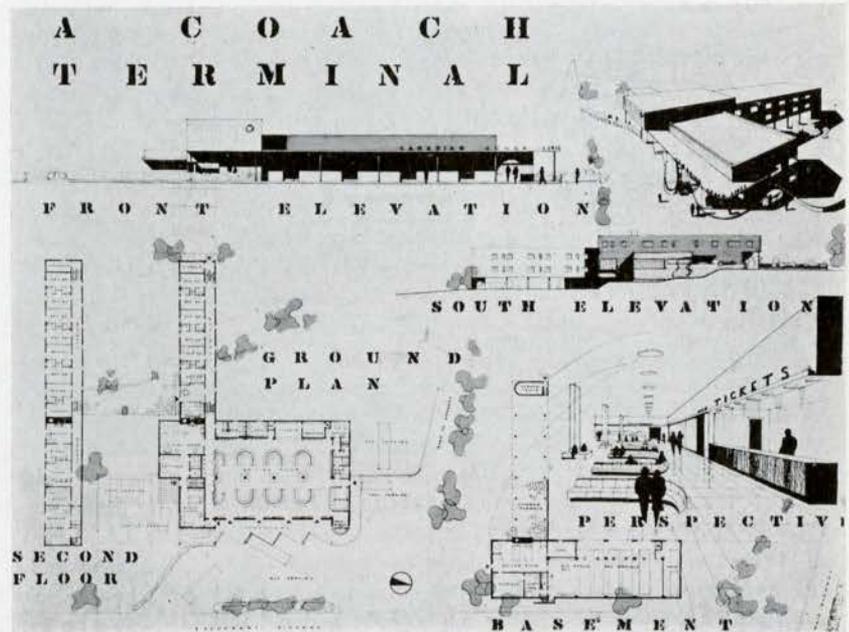


FOURTH YEAR

A COACH TERMINAL

C. R. Worsley

The problem is a coach terminal along the route of the Trans-Canada highway. The building is to include accommodation for overnight travellers in the main building, plan requirements are waiting room, ticket office, concessionaire baggage rooms, general office, manager's office, first aid room and toilet facilities. The hotel wing contains a restaurant, kitchen lounge, staff and driver's room with separate lunch room, twelve single rooms and eight double rooms, all with private bath.



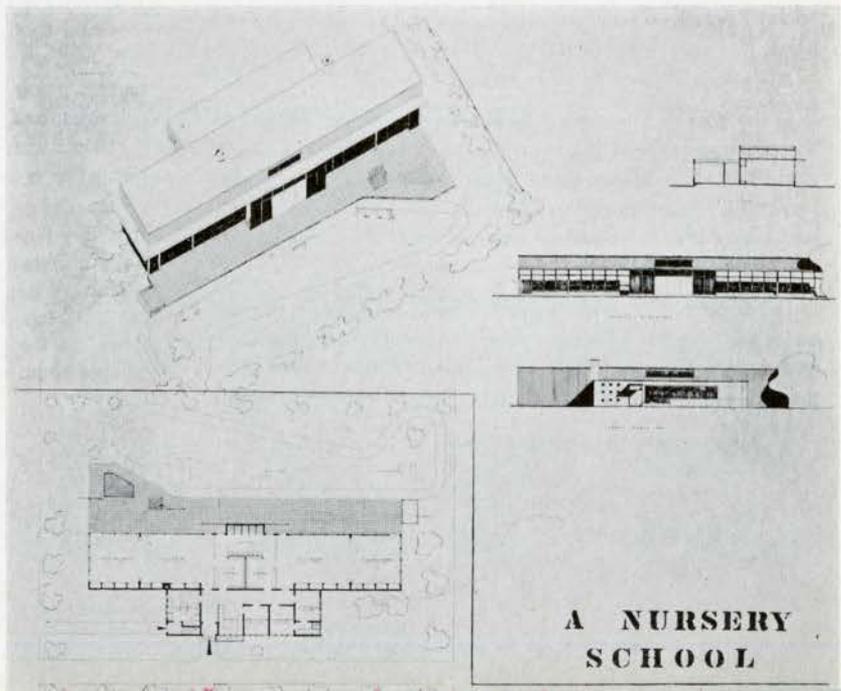
SECOND YEAR

A NURSERY SCHOOL

(STUDENT'S OWN PROBLEM)

H. Fliess

A nursery school for 40 or 50 children is located in a park. A staff of five is required for such a school. As the children spend most of the day at school, provision for meals and sleeping must be made. Adequate outdoor facilities should be carefully laid out. Plan requirements include two play rooms, one cloak room with wash room and water closets, a drying room, sleeping space, kitchen, staff room, headmistress' office, parents' waiting space, nurse's room and store rooms.



THE SAMPLE ROOM

School of Architecture, University of Toronto

By STANLEY R. KENT

For many years it had been the desire of the staff and the students to have a completely furnished room for the display of architectural building materials. Only recently, a room has been available and it was quickly allocated for this purpose. In order that the students could from the beginning take an active interest in the room the design of it was set as a problem in which each student was required to write an essay on the exhibiting techniques for masonry, structural sections, insulation and plastering, carpentry and lumber, roofing materials, glass, flooring materials, electric wiring fixtures, hardware, mechanical equipment, interior and exterior finishes and the arranging of blueprint racks and filing cabinets. The best suggestions from these essays were integrated to form the finished plan, and the senior years drafted up the details for the necessary display fittings. After sending the blueprints to the mill, the next task was to prepare a letter requesting the desired samples and catalogues. Under the guidance of the staff this letter was printed and mailed to Canadian and American manufacturers. The most convenient American list was obtained from Sweet's; later this proved rather troublesome because the same manufacturer was listed in several sections; many had Canadian representatives, and the Sweet's filing system did not correspond to the R.A.I.C. system which later added to the difficulty of cross-checking. The Canadian manufacturers' list was compiled from magazine advertisements and although, not as complete or ambitious as the former list, it proved more satisfactory. Customs clearance was arranged by the University and in due time the replies came in. It was apparent that definite restrictions were necessary on the size and extent of the individual exhibits of enthusiastic advertisers and so sketches of the available display racks and cupboards were sent out as required; all permanent exhibits must be stored and not arranged on the floor area. Since much of the material was supplied in bulk the students were detailed to set it up in the racks. Recently a letter has been composed requesting blueprints and specifications for typical examples of various types of architectural construction.

In the planning of the room the floor area was divided by the glass screen into the main display space and reading or study space. On the west wall of the display space, horizontal trays house such materials as linoleum, glass, tile, wood, rubber and, below are cupboards for large samples of building blocks, structural tile, bricks and mechanical equipment.

The opposite wall, with its saw tooth display boards, provides an opportunity for hanging photos of manufacturing methods, new designs and temporary illustrations. The floor area before these display boards can be used for large temporary exhibits.

Along the north wall are the sliding vertical display racks, storage drawers, cupboards, and the shallow shelves for brick panels. These brick panels are removable and easily changed so that numerous makes can be alternately shown. The reading area contains at one side the blueprint rack and on the other, space for six filing cabinets of catalogues and manufacturer data. Acoustic materials are displayed on the ceiling and eight outlets wired in six separate circuits provide for permanent and loaned lighting fixtures. The floor is covered with linoleum and asphalt tile. Tables can be used individually or combined for studying large plans.

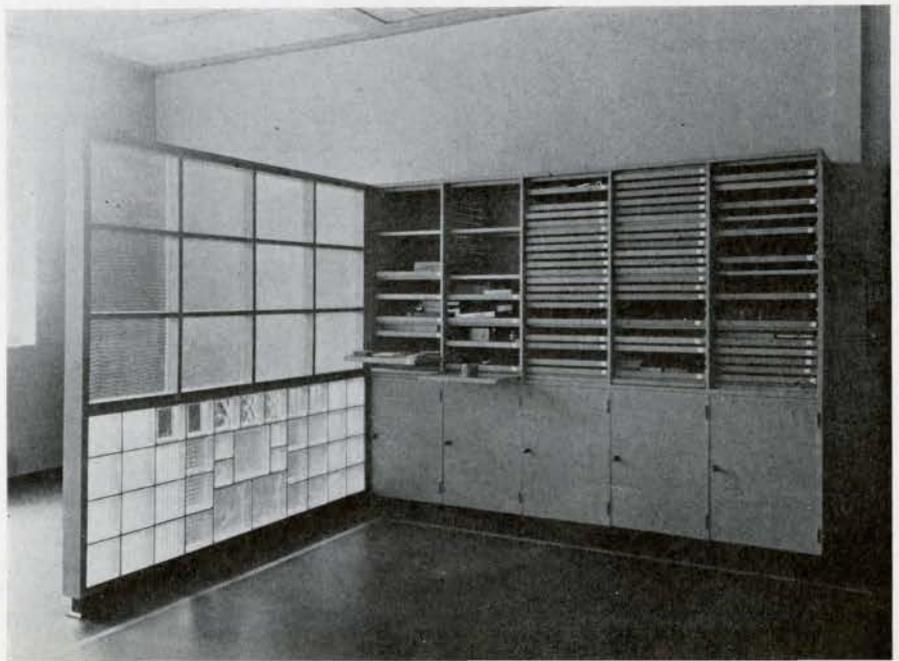
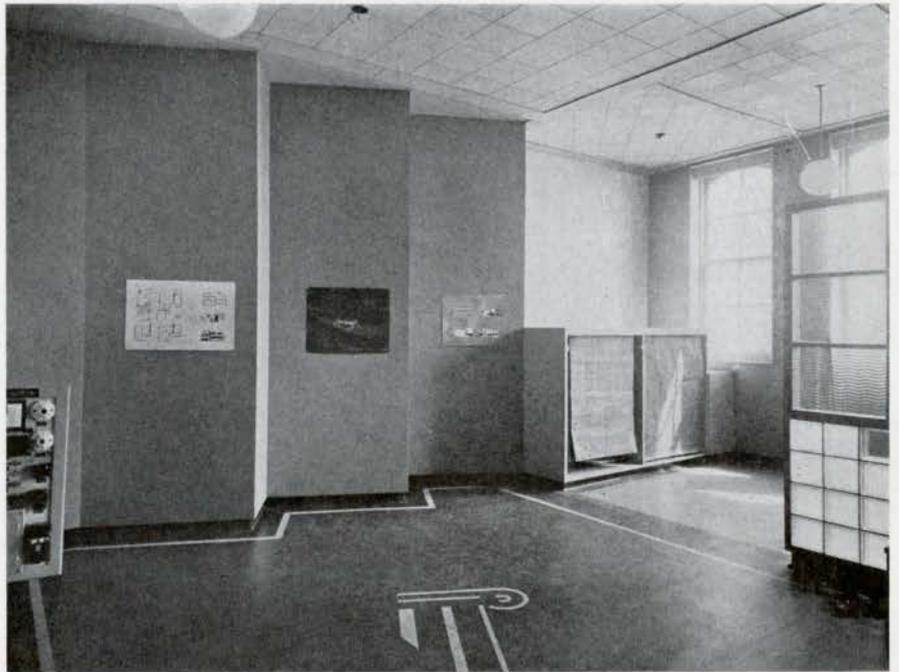
Colour has been chosen to create a bright and attractive haven from the conventional, drab, institution in which the school of architecture has its being. Walls were covered with cotton and painted yellow; built-in furniture, inside door and window trim, light blue; and blue grained; display boards and the south wall were left natural masonite colour and lacquered; the door on the inner side stained and varnished and on the outer side, painted chartreuse with dark blue trim; the linoleum, a dark red, was trimmed with buff and black and the asphalt tile, a neutral grey, was bordered with black. The ceiling retained its natural tones of light brown. Tables and chairs will be yellow birch or maple.

The organization and care of the Sample Room is administered by the students through the Architectural Club and its officers. Various members are assigned definite responsibilities such as obtaining new materials, selecting blueprints, arranging travelling displays, assembling exhibits, and keeping materials in place. For filing catalogues and samples, the R.A.I.C. and A.I.A. system was used. The initial sorting and filing of the accumulated catalogues provided an opportunity for the whole school to take part and get an idea of the information that would be available.

When the room was first planned, two years ago, it was assumed that the project would be completed in short time. However, we soon began to run into difficulties. Millwork took months, filing cabinets were unobtainable, materials required priorities, and finances were uncertain. Donations of money or materials were received from manufacturers and friends. The University and the Ontario Association of Architecture made substantial grants of money. The response of the manufacturers was very encouraging and although many regretted that they were unable to supply samples at present, we have received some very interesting displays. To date, only more metal filing cabinets, tables and chairs, and venetian blinds are needed to complete the project. It is hoped that architects will use the sample room as a building centre. They will always be very welcome.



The Sample Room in the School of Architecture in the University of Toronto is shown in this issue because it was felt that it would be of interest to other schools. It is, however, incomplete. Owing to war restrictions, we have two filing cabinets where we need six, and as yet we have neither tables nor chairs. The open cabinet on the right contains blue prints of architectural, structural and mechanical working drawings. Delay in finishing was due largely to the difficulties of conducting correspondence with hundreds of manufacturers who were asked for catalogues and samples. With volunteer student help this was done (though the list will never be complete), and many days and nights have been spent in assembling material. The room has already justified the money and time spent on it, and while it is, at present, used only by students, it is hoped that architects will come more and more to realize its value. They will be very welcome at all times.—E.R.A.



PERIODICALS SHELF

By ANTHONY ADAMSON

Pencil Points, March. In the section called "Views" are two interesting condensations. William Wilson Wurster does not like the A.I.A. and wonders why we won't worst the weasles who control professional policy. His views could profitably be read by our Chapter, Associations and Institute Executives (no offense, gentlemen). He expressed this at the 75th birthday dinner of the New York Chapter of the A.I.A., and must have had quite a happy evening. The title of his discourse was "Education in Architecture". It is good except where he criticized professors. The other interesting "View" expressed is that of Sir Ernest Simon on the improbable Americans and their way of life. Sir Ernest went across the United States studying housing, mostly, and his thoughts here are condensed from "**Architectural Design and Construction**" (January). He says: "I did not learn much about housing in America, they have not taken up low cost housing nearly as much as we have. The Federal Government have only begun subsidizing housing in the last five to ten years." It is too bad he did not come to Canada. We could have shown him. That long Government report will be printed anytime now. **Pencil Points** has half a page and four pictures on the Toronto Planning Exhibition written by, who would you think?—E. G. Faludi. Among the ads is a pleasant one of Libbey Owens Ford. The resurrected Journal of the A.I.A. despite the wrath of W. W. W. is well reviewed. It is not on our shelf yet so we have not read it. The **Pencil Points** editorial tells us to make architectural perspectives readable to clients, which curious creatures don't seem to like white ink on plywood. There is a very sound cheap machine shop in corrugated iron illustrated along with several other simple factory buildings, two or three designed by Alonzo Harriman. Alonzo is buttered up biographically in a most aggravating article. There is one really dreadful factory with a "face to the world", which should have a pain below, in its neck. There is an article on "Industrial Lighting Practice", two bath houses by W. W. W. and a long article by W. W. W.'s wife, Catherine Bauer, called "Planning is Politics . . . but . . . are Planners Politicians". It is not bad. Then there is some more about prefabricated houses but we are not entirely convinced that they exist.

The Architectural Forum, February. We were most interested in an article, "Heating Controls". All of us who construct large sized hotels and great factories and things, know about heat zoning and fancy controls on a large scale. But this article brings it down to those who struggle along on houses and apartments and is fascinating till you get to the end, and remember that you could not get any of the gadgets here, anyway. The pictures are understandable. An advertiser of pipes shows a fat man drying himself, quite a change from the Crane and Miami Cabinet girls. Talking of advertisers, we note that more and more of them are telling the public to "start an architect on a plan now", the dears. In the section on "News", which always has something for everybody, we were interested in Mrs. Rosenman's views on Public Housing. For the hurried man who wants to hold reasoned views without reading another book, her views here are recommended. She has written her views at greater length in "**Survey Graphic**". There is a description of the United States naval "Seabees", or engineers and their work. MacDill Field, Florida, is illustrated, complete with band shell and outside dance area, a wishing well, a broadcasting room, theatres, bars, lounges, card rooms and all the other things needed to be a satisfactory member of the United States Army Air Corps. A rich broker writes an article to say his rich hotel and we architects are all wet. The second installment of Planning the Post-War House seems sound and

worth reading. Paul Laszlo's work is extensively illustrated. Four modern houses of his appear very attractive indeed to us, although having fallen into a swimming pool in white pants, we feel these things should not be kept so near houses, anyway at night. There is a page of drawings of roof overhangs, a Vermont ski lodge, and ideas for using the United States Army "Quonset" hut in peacetime for chickens, as if we cared.

The Architectural Record, March. The **Record** has this month, as it usually has, a good page of book reviews. Everybody is reviewing "The Seven Myths of Housing" by Nathan Straus, the "retired" directed of Public Housing in the United States. Nobody has sent it to the *Journal*. (Publishers, please note). Monsanto Plastics has a design for a kitchen unit, which we think superior in many ways to some of the ideas of the "glass" kitchen previously ballyhooed. One of G. F. Keck's "solar houses" is reviewed at considerable length and in detail. We found it fascinating although a trapezoidal garage seems a little paranoid to us. As you know, the sun can get through this type of glass but can't get out so there you are all infra-red at midwinter, even though the walls are a "deep off-white", whatever that is. Then there are some more elegant prefabricated public housings and a new news plant and office for a paper in Poughkeepsie designed in the Hudson Valley dialect of Dutch Colonial. When the printers come up out of the basement and go out to lunch they must be surprised to find what a nice building they work in. Then from page 70 to 100 is a very comprehensive section on schools with sections by several good people, including R. J. Neutra, and is well written. It is one of their Building Types Studies. There is also an intense and statistical section with charts, tables and pictures, on "Noise Reduction and Acoustical Materials". If we had read it, we would most certainly know now a lot about noise. We suggest you read it. The number ends with a long and rather dull article on the building industry. A General Electric ad shows how architects should work sitting with cantelevered fluorescent lights above them. The ideas of **Argo** are mentioned in the Review of periodical literature. We wish the **Record** would not make us turn to page so and so, so often.

OBITUARY

(Continued from page 71)

wide experience in structural design, especially as applied to architectural work. As a tribute to his engineering experience, he was elected Chairman of the Toronto Branch of the Engineering Institute of Canada for the year 1931-32.

But while his military and civil accomplishments rank highly, it is rather as a true friend for which he will be remembered. Always unassuming but yet possessed of a great sense of humour, he was "good company" in any sphere of life. He took a great interest in the welfare of the veteran returned soldier, and there will be many of these men who will cherish his memory.

General Hertzberg is survived by his widow of Toronto, Canada, and two sons, Lieutenant P. A. Hertzberg, now serving with the Canadian Engineers in Italy, and John S. Hertzberg also on active service with the Canadian Navy. His brother, Major-General H. F. H. Hertzberg, C.M.G., is Commandant at the Royal Military College, Kingston, Canada.

T. R. Loudon.

ROMANTICISM AND PROTESTANT CHURCH ARCHITECTURE

By ERIC W. HOUNSOM

We approach this discussion with considerable trepidation. For the past ten years we have been waiting for this controversial subject to be handled by an architect who is a church specialist—and naturally more qualified than ourselves to voice an opinion. We understand there are such men in this country who have designed more than fifty churches.

We believe that the Gothic style should not be used for Canadian churches. We have never read any article by a Canadian architect supporting this view. We are sure that there are many architects who, at least in theory, agree that this style is not suitable for churches. They cannot believe that tradition should dictate the design of churches, when the style of all other contemporary buildings is governed by considerations of a practical nature.

In attempting to speak for these architects, we are conscious of our limited experience in this specialized field. It is hoped that this article will arouse sufficient interest in the subject to bring forth an article upholding the Gothic viewpoint, or perhaps, an article supporting the views expressed on these pages. We conceive this to be an age of transition. No doubt, mistakes are being made by men, considered to be radicals, in the development of the new architecture. However, can even the most earnest Gothic exponent conceive of the style being used one hundred years hence—or even fifty. Are we not postponing the inevitable? We cannot hope for much change from men who have spent many years acquiring proficiency in the arrangement of Gothic clichés. It is time for our younger designers in the profession to give some consideration to this matter.

When an architect meets the building committee put forward by the congregation of a church, he listens to several evenings of discussion pertaining to the building he has been selected to design.

This committee, over a period of weeks or months, discusses with the architect many phases of church design including, plan, seating, lighting, heating and ventilation, and acoustics. When the architect has prepared sketch plans which have been tentatively approved, the chairman of the building committee may then say:

"Mr. Architect, we want you to draw a picture for our congregation to show them how our building will look when it is completed."

The architect replies that he will be pleased to do so, and some time later, presents the congregation with a coloured rendering of their new building. This rendering is invariably that of a church in the English Gothic style.

This sketch, which may not be the final design, has been prepared by the architect, or his draughtsman, from "the book". The designer has selected from the trappings of the Gothic style, open timber trusses and pew ends, stained glass and carving, pointed arches and label moulds, buttresses and pinnacles, which he intends to use in his design. He is very familiar with these elements. Sometimes, with great daring, he modifies them slightly and always simplifies their detail from the original for this is not an age of hand-craftsmanship.

With his innate and cultivated sense of proportion and scale, he can, in a short time, fuse them into an acceptable and pleasing design. The congregation is pleased, for the building, as well as being a thing of beauty, *looks like a church*.

The building committee was concerned only with plan, seating, lighting, heating and acoustics. More than likely the

style of the proposed building was hardly mentioned, but the architect gave them a Gothic building and tradition supported his choice.

When decorators or architects design a restaurant in the Spanish or Tudor style they call it "atmosphere" and by calling it that preclude any criticism of it as an anachronism. Restaurant owners who spend money for atmosphere expect, and do obtain, more money for food and drink. In such examples this form of decoration may be described as entertainment.

Every year, however, our Canadian architects design atmosphere when they design a church in the Gothic style, and forestall criticism by mentioning the great traditions and unchanging liturgy of the church. Does this statement seem too strong? Let us trace the use of the Gothic style for Canadian churches back to its source.

In past ages church buildings were constructed in the contemporary style. During the Middle Ages churches were Gothic; so were guildhalls, shops and residences.

In that "age of piety" to build a great cathedral was the ambition of every bishop and every large town. They were built by craftsmen, some of them artists, whose preserved works fetch huge prices in modern salesrooms. Some of man's most impressive architectural monuments were built during this period and are still standing. Most of the other contemporary buildings have vanished. With their continuous use for religious purposes is it any wonder that to western people Gothic has come to typify a church?

If we pass on to the period in the United States, from the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers to the year 1825, we find that nearly all churches were Colonial—a totally different style; so were town halls, shops and residences.

Although the men who settled the eastern seaboard came from a land with a Gothic church in every hamlet, it never occurred to them to build "Gothic" because this style typified a church. Among these settlers were artisans of all degrees, who in the old land had worked on Renaissance buildings, including churches. We may be sure there were no discussions at this time, in America, among men serving on church building committees, regarding the style of the building. As brick and stone were not usually available materials, timber frame and wood siding were generally used to evolve an American style. If we troubled to contrast these two periods we might say:

In an age "when the worst sinner implicitly accepted the teaching of the Church", and men's thoughts were centred upon the hereafter, church building was considered the highest activity of man—to build a cathedral was sublime.

In the later age of reason, a church became a building to house worshippers, and was designed to take its place in the village square, a fit companion for the courthouse, the town-hall, the school and the inn.

In our own age, science has made man the master of his environment, but we have found no expression for church building. We are satisfied to use the modified expression of other ages, and even attempt to justify that usage. Why is this?

The end of the first quarter of the nineteenth century brought to a close the unity between architecture and the arts and crafts. Up until that time, a sideboard was part of a castle, a chair was part of a salon, and a four-poster bed was part of a tidy New England farmhouse. There was no church architecture

ROMANTICISM AND PROTESTANT CHURCH ARCHITECTURE

By ERIC W. HOUNSOM

We approach this discussion with considerable trepidation. For the past ten years we have been waiting for this controversial subject to be handled by an architect who is a church specialist—and naturally more qualified than ourselves to voice an opinion. We understand there are such men in this country who have designed more than fifty churches.

We believe that the Gothic style should not be used for Canadian churches. We have never read any article by a Canadian architect supporting this view. We are sure that there are many architects who, at least in theory, agree that this style is not suitable for churches. They cannot believe that tradition should dictate the design of churches, when the style of all other contemporary buildings is governed by considerations of a practical nature.

In attempting to speak for these architects, we are conscious of our limited experience in this specialized field. It is hoped that this article will arouse sufficient interest in the subject to bring forth an article upholding the Gothic viewpoint, or perhaps, an article supporting the views expressed on these pages. We conceive this to be an age of transition. No doubt, mistakes are being made by men, considered to be radicals, in the development of the new architecture. However, can even the most earnest Gothic exponent conceive of the style being used one hundred years hence—or even fifty. Are we not postponing the inevitable? We cannot hope for much change from men who have spent many years acquiring proficiency in the arrangement of Gothic clichés. It is time for our younger designers in the profession to give some consideration to this matter.

When an architect meets the building committee put forward by the congregation of a church, he listens to several evenings of discussion pertaining to the building he has been selected to design.

This committee, over a period of weeks or months, discusses with the architect many phases of church design including, plan, seating, lighting, heating and ventilation, and acoustics. When the architect has prepared sketch plans which have been tentatively approved, the chairman of the building committee may then say:

"Mr. Architect, we want you to draw a picture for our congregation to show them how our building will look when it is completed."

The architect replies that he will be pleased to do so, and some time later, presents the congregation with a coloured rendering of their new building. This rendering is invariably that of a church in the English Gothic style.

This sketch, which may not be the final design, has been prepared by the architect, or his draughtsman, from "the book". The designer has selected from the trappings of the Gothic style, open timber trusses and pew ends, stained glass and carving, pointed arches and label moulds, buttresses and pinnacles, which he intends to use in his design. He is very familiar with these elements. Sometimes, with great daring, he modifies them slightly and always simplifies their detail from the original for this is not an age of hand-craftsmanship.

With his innate and cultivated sense of proportion and scale, he can, in a short time, fuse them into an acceptable and pleasing design. The congregation is pleased, for the building, as well as being a thing of beauty, *looks like a church*.

The building committee was concerned only with plan, seating, lighting, heating and acoustics. More than likely the

style of the proposed building was hardly mentioned, but the architect gave them a Gothic building and tradition supported his choice.

When decorators or architects design a restaurant in the Spanish or Tudor style they call it "atmosphere" and by calling it that preclude any criticism of it as an anachronism. Restaurant owners who spend money for atmosphere expect, and do obtain, more money for food and drink. In such examples this form of decoration may be described as entertainment.

Every year, however, our Canadian architects design atmosphere when they design a church in the Gothic style, and forestall criticism by mentioning the great traditions and unchanging liturgy of the church. Does this statement seem too strong? Let us trace the use of the Gothic style for Canadian churches back to its source.

In past ages church buildings were constructed in the contemporary style. During the Middle Ages churches were Gothic; so were guildhalls, shops and residences.

In that "age of piety" to build a great cathedral was the ambition of every bishop and every large town. They were built by craftsmen, some of them artists, whose preserved works fetch huge prices in modern salesrooms. Some of man's most impressive architectural monuments were built during this period and are still standing. Most of the other contemporary buildings have vanished. With their continuous use for religious purposes is it any wonder that to western people Gothic has come to typify a church?

If we pass on to the period in the United States, from the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers to the year 1825, we find that nearly all churches were Colonial—a totally different style; so were town halls, shops and residences.

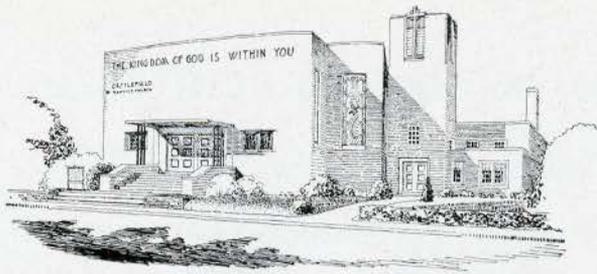
Although the men who settled the eastern seaboard came from a land with a Gothic church in every hamlet, it never occurred to them to build "Gothic" because this style typified a church. Among these settlers were artisans of all degrees, who in the old land had worked on Renaissance buildings, including churches. We may be sure there were no discussions at this time, in America, among men serving on church building committees, regarding the style of the building. As brick and stone were not usually available materials, timber frame and wood siding were generally used to evolve an American style. If we troubled to contrast these two periods we might say:

In an age "when the worst sinner implicitly accepted the teaching of the Church", and men's thoughts were centred upon the hereafter, church building was considered the highest activity of man—to build a cathedral was sublime.

In the later age of reason, a church became a building to house worshippers, and was designed to take its place in the village square, a fit companion for the courthouse, the town-hall, the school and the inn.

In our own age, science has made man the master of his environment, but we have found no expression for church building. We are satisfied to use the modified expression of other ages, and even attempt to justify that usage. Why is this?

The end of the first quarter of the nineteenth century brought to a close the unity between architecture and the arts and crafts. Up until that time, a sideboard was part of a castle, a chair was part of a salon, and a four-poster bed was part of a tidy New England farmhouse. There was no church architecture



PRELIMINARY DESIGN FOR PROPOSED BUILDING FOR CASTLEFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH, TORONTO

The Sunday School and Tower, not including the one-storey pastor's office shown, were built in 1938.

ERIC W. HOUNSOM, ARCHITECT

in the sense we now use the phrase. Then came the revival of styles that began approximately in 1825. This revival was unlike the Renaissance, which was a revival only in a narrow sense. The Renaissance was a recovery of lost knowledge, a quickening of man's perception that permeated all phases of Western civilization.

The revival of styles beginning in 1825, on the other hand, indicated a temporary barrenness in the arts. It was a very one-sided, "culture can wait" sterility, for the period brought forth a tremendous upsurge in scientific and mechanical progress.

A wave of romanticism swept over the Western world. Producing little worthwhile artistically, they had the leisure to contemplate the past. The English, especially, fell in love with their own ancient buildings. Poet worshippers of Gothic and admirers of moss-covered ruins, spoke of the dim religious light prevailing some of the original Gothic churches. They appear to have been ignorant of the fact that their builders did not strive for a religious atmosphere. Their interiors were dim because they had not yet acquired sufficient skill to construct large masonry openings in walls. We have to remind ourselves that creating "atmosphere", religious or otherwise, is a modern innovation. Builders of churches, in past ages, strove to create beauty, but never atmosphere. This kind of artistic skulduggery is perpetrated only in an age of sophistication, such as our own.

Copying continued in all styles. Later in the nineteenth century and up until the Great War of 1914-18, the revived Gothic improved in design. It became more scholarly and more sympathetic to the spirit of the original.

Little inconsistency was evident when buildings such as St. John the Divine, in New York, were constructed of granite piers—far stronger than the masonry of the original Gothic buildings.

With the multitude of less important buildings, however, their designs began to cause some of their architects misgivings. The congregation (and the architect) wanted a stone church. For reasons of economy it could only appear to be a stone church. The exterior had a facing of stone; the remainder of the wall was built of cheaper masonry. The interior was finished in plaster, painted and pointed to simulate stone, and to complete the deception, the open timber roof was often actually suspended from concealed trusses of steel. The steel trusses, in turn found their bearing on steel columns embedded in the buttresses which affected to take the thrust of the trusses. With steel frame construction, walls became curtain walls so that windows, of necessity, had shallow instead of deep reveals.

The architect could say, "I cannot help it. The congregation will not give me the money to build the genuine article".

In all this we observe a sensible and justifiable attempt to adapt a style to the changing building technique. Gradually, perhaps unconsciously, architects were changing from architecture to atmosphere in all types of buildings. Buildings often had rooms with mere slits for windows, to mention but one example, because the exterior form of the building was considered of primary importance. At this period, architecture was "fixed", and was a study of style and ornament, rather than a study of planning and sociology.

Any system based upon notions, rather than common sense, cannot survive. Architects, with considerable daring, modified Gothic when they used it for skyscraper office buildings. For several decades, modified Gothic seemed the logical style for tall office buildings because of its verticality. It supplanted Classic when windows appeared in cornices, which shut out light from the street and made the grand conception of a forty storey classic building ill-advised, if not ridiculous.

The pedantry of eclecticism for commercial buildings was finally swept away by men considered to be radical and without finer feelings. Architecture, to many people, died at this time.

Practically all buildings today are Modern or Modern Classic (including modern Georgian). Or their eclecticism is grafted upon a building or interior conceived as Modern—such as Neo-Classic and Baroque, in moving picture theatres and night clubs.

The pedantry of eclecticism for churches, however, is in America, nearly as strongly entrenched as ever. Gothic churches are still being built that are so beautiful they defy criticism. Gothic churches, for less wealthy congregations, are being built with composition shingle roofs. The idea that there is a special style of architecture, most suitable for churches, seems firmly fixed in the minds of some architects as well as most laymen.

A small religious sect, because of its local character, will use the architecture of the place and time of its origin. The mother church then becomes hallowed in the eyes of its adherents so that when the sect spreads, its buildings may be distinguished by their architectural style. Thus we see the Christian Scientists using Classic and Colonial. In Toronto, for example, an architect may pick out the churches of this sect by their external appearance.



THE BETH ISRAEL TEMPLE, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

J. PLOTTEL, ARCHITECT

We also observe, however, that the Roman Catholic Church has in the past made use of, and still uses all architectural styles, including Modern. The Catholic Church is considerably older than the Christian Science Church and encompasses the whole world. This seems to indicate that though the Christian Church makes use of all styles, to a comparatively small group within the church, one style through association, is described by them as "Christian architecture", or "architecture suitable for a church". We also note that the liturgical demands are satisfied in the wide range of building types and styles that have been used. When a Canadian speaks of Gothic as church architecture, he is merely quoting the opinion influenced by the conditions of this age and locality.

It seems to be generally agreed that "Modern" is not a system of ornamenting buildings but is a renaissance of design and the first springs of living architecture since 1825. For the last fifteen years church building committees have been demanding planning, lighting, heating and acoustical treatment comparable to that of commercial buildings. Designers of commercial buildings are forced to obtain the maximum of economy consistent with good design. Commercial buildings are now Modern in style for their designers have allowed the requirements of the building, the materials, the climate, the building technique, the social and artistic outlook of the age, to determine the style. This held for all buildings constructed before 1825.

Let us list the possible reasons why architects and building committees in 1944, are building churches in the English Gothic style.

(1) The building committee may say, "Our new building must be Gothic because a church in this style has a religious or reverent atmosphere, or at least an atmosphere which through association and tradition, worshippers have been led to expect in a church.

(2) A Gothic church has an other-world atmosphere. A worshipper entering such a church from a noisy street finds it an oasis in the desert of 20th Century life.

(3) The liturgical demands have scarcely changed in centuries—why should the building change?

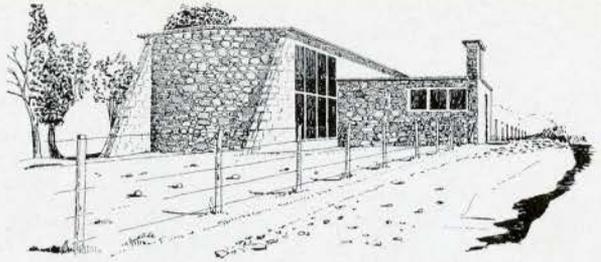
(4) Irrespective of all logic or reasoning, I like Gothic. It satisfies my conception of beauty."

Most of the preceding reasons would, no doubt, be advanced by the layman. The architect might truthfully say that he designed the type of building requested by the committee. If, however, the architect accepts these reasons as his own, and considers them good and sufficient, we believe that he must accept the following as homologous. Let our Gothic architect speak:

(5) "Though in all other ages churches were built in the contemporary style, I believe that in 1944 a church should be in the Gothic style because the old builders must have caught something, in that "age of piety", which cannot be improved. Even though a modern Gothic building is often a structural fake and often an extravagant use of building money, I nevertheless believe it is suitable."

(6) "Though in the Gothic period the seating in churches was at least as comfortable as in other buildings and nearly as comfortable as in residences, I believe that today we should be uncomfortable in our churches for the aesthetic or moral effect of discomfort. Although we have overstuffed furniture in our homes we should, as a penance, sit on hardwood seats." The bench type of seating in a Gothic church forms part of the artistic whole. A long flat cushion is the greatest concession to seating comfort possible without marring the appearance of the interior.

(7) "Though in earlier periods buildings were lighted with hanging lamps, oil, then gas, I believe we should put electric lamps in the same hanging fixtures. Though we have developed



THE CHAPEL IN VILLAGE OF LEVERBACH,
NEAR COLOGNE, GERMANY

RUDOLF SCHWARZ, ARCHITECT

a vastly superior form of lighting controlled by a switch, I believe it should masquerade as oil." We must remember that modern lighting cannot be used in a Gothic interior without spoiling the artistic harmony of the style. Modern lighting, with its source concealed in the trusses, creates ugly shadows on Gothic mouldings and arches. Every architect has seen this unfortunate error made in renovating Gothic interiors.

We have given four possible reasons why architects and building committees favour the Gothic style for churches to be erected during the year 1944. Let us attempt to answer them:

(1) Because the style has a reverent atmosphere—

Yes, it is true that a well designed Gothic church has a reverent atmosphere, but is a reverent atmosphere inherent with this style only? In the immediate past, congregations who have erected Byzantine, Romanesque, Renaissance and Colonial churches believed their church had a reverent atmosphere. Why shouldn't a Modern church have an atmosphere of reverence, also? Let us quote the example of a small chapel erected in a village near Cologne, Germany, before the Third Reich stopped the Modern movement. This building was designed by Rudolf Schwarz, known as the most radical of all German Catholic architects. We are told that the village schoolteacher noted how distrustful the peasants were of the strange new building being erected for them. They came, he says, even from other villages to ridicule it. When they had occupied it for a short time, however, they were pleased and as the teacher says, "They object if they have to go to another church." The spirituality of this building lies in its simplicity.

(2) A Gothic church is like an oasis in the desert of the 20th Century life—

It is true that many large Gothic churches have this quality. Let us consider a small city church. The numerous Sunday and midweek activities centred in a small building preclude any reverent atmosphere usually associated with cathedrals. As small churches cannot possess this quality, nothing would be lost by the adoption of the Modern style by churches embracing similar activities.

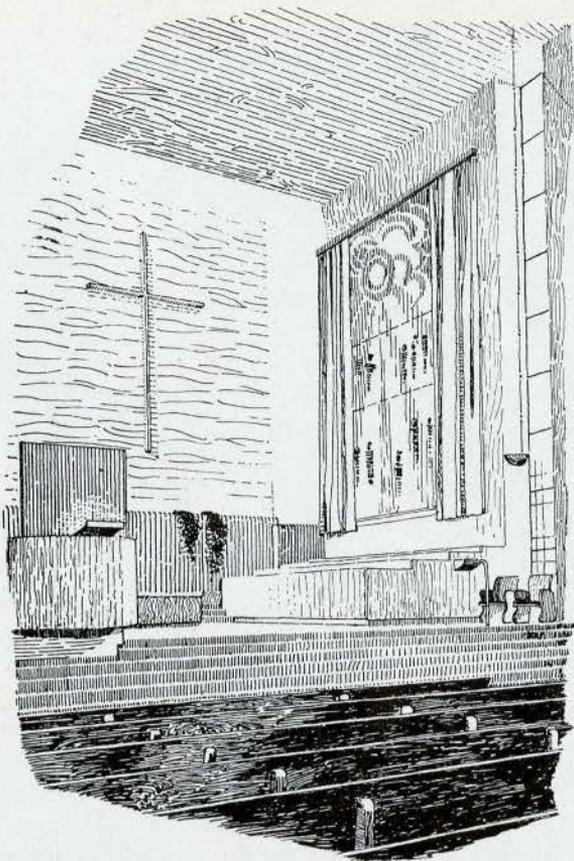
(3) The liturgical demands have not changed—

This seems to be a very feeble reason for clinging to the Gothic style. All over the world, Modern churches have been designed to provide for the same liturgy and possibly give it freshness not possible in the familiar Gothic pattern.

(4) I like Gothic—

How many church members have seen a Modern church? They like Gothic. They might like Modern far more.

We have said nothing of the Renaissance and Colonial edifices which have been erected in Canada in recent years. Such buildings with plaster vaulted ceilings, comparatively plain walls pierced with windows, are not flagrant anachronisms like the pseudo Gothic we have mentioned. We believe



TABERNALE CHURCH OF CHRIST,
COLUMBUS, IND.

ELIEL & EERO SAARINEN, ARCHITECTS

that modernized Colonial can be a safe and honest transition to the Canadian church architecture we will eventually evolve. The Colonial, unlike the Gothic, has roots in America, where the style had a gradual development paralleling the cultural progress of the country.

The first Methodist church in Ontario was built near Adolphustown in 1792 and was a simple barn-like structure. The first church erected in Toronto was, of course, St. James in 1807. This simple, carpenter-built structure had no steeple. Both buildings were in the Colonial style, for with the limited knowledge of their builders, they could not have been in any other. They were comparable to the houses the settlers erected for themselves and were not eclectic or secondhand creations. Both buildings were good in scale and proportion and could not offend the most cultivated taste in this respect.

The original St. James was altered in 1818, and a small steeple was erected. A third St. James, of stone, in the Renaissance style, was erected in 1831 and a fourth, in the same style in 1840. In 1850 the present Gothic "Cathedral" was built. Up until the erection of the Gothic St. James, each succeeding building became larger and used stone and brick instead of wood, compatible with the increase in wealth and the availability of more enduring materials and skilled labour. At the time the Gothic St. James was built, in 1850, some public buildings and many fashionable residences were erected in this style. At least there was some unity between buildings erected for various purposes.

At the present time, however, no residences, commercial or public buildings (college buildings excepted) are being erected in the Gothic style. This seems to indicate that we have much less reason than formerly for using the style now that it has become the expression of one building type only. The Gothic edifice in a modern city stands alone as the symbol of a lack of coherence in our architectural thinking.

It is an old lament that the church does not attract young people. We all know, however, that there are scores of churches that do attract them. These churches are veritable hives of activity every day in the week. They are not always the most beautiful churches, nor are they always in the Gothic style. We have a feeling that the drive of the minister has more to do with filling the church than the beauty of the building. Every factor equal, however, some of our sedate, dark and forbidding Gothic churches actually repel young people—many of them repel older people also. The heavy and ancient atmosphere of some Gothic buildings is not in harmony with modern life and must repel the very people the church wishes to attract.

This factor, of course, has no weight with congregations who continually stress going back to something or other, and appear to believe in a sanctity possessed by old ideas of a generation twice removed. If this idea is properly presented by the architect, however, it will appeal to congregations whose members are attempting to live Christian lives in this age.

Many of our smaller churches are discouragingly bad because tradition, and a preconceived form, instead of the requirements, have dictated the appearance and plan of the building. A form intended to be clothed in richness is often clothed, because of economy, with no garment at all. The result is the sterile dry bones of something remotely resembling Gothic. In some of our small churches, also, it is obvious that the external appearance of the building has interested the architect far more than solving the problem of designing a building for a specified use. This is because a form evolved for a simple life and Sunday churchgoing is used for buildings which have to house the complex, every day in the week, activities of the modern church.

For example: how often do we see the congregation spill out of a mean Gothic doorway in the rain, to tread gingerly down a steep flight of steps to the sidewalk because tradition does not permit porches. How often, also, do we see congregations waiting their turn to leave through the only door—then hurry to the street and home so as not to block the egress of others. The church strives to encourage friendliness among its adherents. The physical limitation of one door permitted by the scale of the exterior may make a mockery of the friendliness taught within the walls of the church—yet it is claimed that the style has a reverent atmosphere.

It seems to us that ministers and members of building committees have no horror of a break with tradition, as many architects suppose. The questions they ask and the suggestions they give all seem to indicate their willingness to break with tradition regarding the before-mentioned, plan seating, lighting, heating and acoustics. They ask for a Gothic building—if they ask for style at all—because it does not occur to them to ask for any other. They are not architects, and unless informed by the architect cannot be expected to be aware of the inconsistency of their choice.

Some architects, skilled in planning and construction have consistently ignored the style implications suggested by the demands of the building committees. On a limited budget they erect a church building where every square foot of floor space is skilfully put to practical use in the development of the church plan demanded by building committees of the present day. Over this they pull and stretch a Gothic garment. It would be a miracle if such procedure resulted in living architecture and

that is why we have so many church buildings which can only be described as banal and stereotyped.

Some architects while adhering to the traditional forms have endeavoured to simplify the rich ornament which is intrinsic with the style. Others, apparently, have attempted to graft upon buildings conceived as Gothic, another form of ornament consistent with modern building technique. Both of these attempts, especially the former, have some merit but can never be a substitute for starting from the beginning and considering the requirements of the building.

It appears obvious that the responsibility for the continued use of Gothic rests entirely upon the shoulders of the architect. To give the building committee what they tell us, or what we assume they want is much simpler for us. It not only saves considerable drafting time and conferences; it also precludes the hazard of displeasing the congregation as well as the hazard of putting to the test our skill as designers. Have we not avoided these two hazards long enough? How long can we defend our stand that churches should be archaeological problems and other buildings living architecture. It is specious for an architect to say, "Gothic is better." What would we say to a modern writer who attempted to write in the style of George Eliot, or of a painter who aped the style of the Old Masters?

If we agree with the ideas advanced in this discussion and wish to act upon them, we could begin by taking the time to produce two different plans and elevations. Let us go to "the book" for the first, and sweat a little longer over the second. Let us take both, with cost estimates, to the committee. Let us explain to them why churches should be Modern along with other contemporary buildings. I am sure we will get a more favourable reception than most of us expect. Even if we fail the first time, the response from the church will be interesting and stimulating. We will also have the satisfaction of knowing that we are attempting to produce living architecture to keep pace with the increasing importance and maturity of our country.

The last question to arise is, what is a Modern church? What is its plan, its appearance? We will not presume to attempt to describe the plan or appearance of a Modern church suitable for Canada. That is for architects with church commissions to decide for themselves. The Canadian Modern style for churches has yet to be created, and can come only by architects applying all their skill in design, all their scholarship and all their ingenuity to its creation. As previously stated, many mistakes will be made, but they will be made principally by insincere men who can flippantly say, "Modern is easy", and who assemble Modern clichés, instead of Gothic, to create another ephemeral and dated style.

In northern Europe we have astounding Modern churches in the midst of Renaissance and Medieval buildings. We would not wish to see such buildings in Canada, even though we laud them in principle. With little tradition to form a contrast, perhaps our development of the Modern style for all types of buildings will be more gradual and more conservative than it is there. Let us be cautioned in taking the first step. Let us not attempt to create a Modern design by simplifying Gothic. In this there is danger of producing nothing but sterility. Let us, instead, begin our designing by considering the requirements. By the simple means of defining our problem we may be surprised at the fertility of our solution.

For example, if we decide that our church should encourage friendliness among its members, we will ask ourselves, "How may I promote this?" The answer might be, "By providing a wider centre aisle and space at the rear for meeting and hand-shaking, a wide doorway to a shallow and wide flight of steps, protected by hood." This solution immediately takes us away from the typical small church with narrow centre aisle, the narrow door and the steep flight of uncovered steps. It also suggests width, rather than height. Width suggests a flat roof. A flat roof suggests a tower of campanile to hang bells and give the church the importance it seems to have lost.

Would it be better to ramp the floor so that all may see the choir? Are we satisfied with the comfort of existing wood bench seating? We could use a modified theatre seat. The makers of theatre seats are ready to co-operate with us to produce comfortable seating for churches. The seats need not lift but may have springs comparable to theatre seating which has become a standard of seating comfort.

What of lighting? Is stained glass an aid to worship? If we believe it is we will use it. In what portions of the church should natural light be concentrated? Then, of course, we may use artificial light in the manner which lighting experts advocate. In our Modern church, lighting will be an aid to worship as well as illumination. What of colour? The dull greys and browns of Gothic are not suitable nor desirable for our Modern Church. Acoustical tile and veneered plywoods demand colour. Colour in materials and lighting may take the place of the elaborate and costly carving of Gothic work.

And now, ornament. Here the architect may show his skill in designing doorways and woodwork—perhaps stained glass, consistent with present-day construction technique.

Finally, the liturgy. It is not suggested that the architect attempt to change the form of worship of any church. The chancel plan may be the same.

Sketches are by the writer.

THE PROVINCIAL PAGE

ALBERTA

In the present comparative dearth of building on any large scale, other than Federal work, it is natural that much discussion centres around future programmes and that these involve the consideration of housing of low income families and, more generally, of town planning.

In this connection, the discussions that have been taking place in Winnipeg are of special interest to the Prairie Provinces. Various bodies have there taken up the subject of housing in a manner that raises all the important elements of the question and that puts the difficulties that surround the subject plainly before the public, a most important initial step.

Town planning must look to long-term fulfilment and, at the same time, must not set before itself a definite final disposition of the city. It must frankly admit that the long-time future is, and always will be, unknowable. Its aim must consist in laying out general outlines only and giving general direction to uses and activities. Its plan must be extremely flexible and must stress principles rather than details. Propaganda in this sense is much needed because it is difficult for the general public to grasp and to sympathize with what must seem to it unprecise and even nebulous pronouncements. It can more easily comprehend cut and dried concrete proposals. Further, there are special difficulties in securing long-term continuity to general principles which involve much flexibility in operation. Casual interferences are apt to be permitted and result in upsetting a general scheme owing to their not being recognized at the time of their permission to be obstructions to those general principles which must at all hazards be preserved. It is difficult to imagine that continuity can ever be secured without control by a professional expert who, alone, can recognize at a glance whether a project is or is not subversive of good principles.

As an example of unforeseen changes that may take place one may instance the case of the fine Edmonton Municipal Airport which has been built up at considerable expense within the "inner zone" of the city. A new and still larger airport is now being built some miles beyond the city limits and the question is now seriously asked whether the older airport should not be entirely abandoned. Its location is now realized as having considerable inconveniences. Some better plan than its abandonment may be adopted. But if it were abandoned this would result in an area of more than a square mile within the city being opened up for totally different uses.

The need for flexibility must soon be realized by any town planning commission which has operated through a number of years as is the case in several of our western cities. The Edmonton Town Planning Commission has already, during the past twelve years made one major and one minor revision of its bylaws and has, in fact, future revisions continuously in view. A sub-committee has now been asked to re-examine the major streets plan which is practically the comprehensive plan of the city.

A minor, yet important, instance of future requirements to be kept in view has arisen in the case of school sites. Though primarily a matter for the school boards, the commission raised the question in relation to work they were doing upon neighbourhood parks. They recommended to the school board the reservation of four new sites for future schools. Thereupon the school board, proceeding to take stock of their situation, decided that it was high time for them to make reservations not merely for the four suggested but also for ten others, most of which can be found, but for one or two the search has begun too late for good results. This suggests that a similar enquiry is needed regarding hospitals, branch public libraries and other public services.

Cecil S. Burgess.

MANITOBA

A search of the record, demanded by a Council member with a "show me" disposition, resulted in the writer being directed to provide the monthly letter to the *Journal*.

The last meeting of the Council had to do, mainly, with the adoption of the plan to establish Student and Associate memberships in the Association. The proposed conditions of such memberships were revised in one particular, namely, that Associate Members shall not permit their names to be used, as such, by those who are not members of the Association. It was felt that this would act as a deterrent to those engaged in the construction industry who might be disposed to exploit the name of an employee by advertising the services of an Associate Architect as part of their organization.

The war of words continues, concerning the necessity of post-war planning, housing and reconstruction. It would seem, at times, that the last word had been said, but the statesmen and experts continue to repeat their arguments as if by repetition to convince themselves. If words could be used as a foundation, we might proceed at once to plan the details of the super-structure. From the evidence, to deny the necessity for a large scale building programme after the war would be to brand one's self as lacking in discernment. Much of the work will, doubtless, be undertaken and financed by private enterprise but, we submit, the projects involving slum clearance and land expropriation are matters which will require that government shall assume a large part of the cost.

Our Association, typical of all Architects' Associations in Canada, hopes to participate in post-war building activities to the extent of its ability to serve the public, and the provision made for Student and Associate memberships should not only foster a spirit of good-will among university graduates, but will assure our members of capable assistants from the graduating classes, pending such times as they become practising Architects.

We suggest that our Association is fortunate in having as two members of the Council Professor Osborne and his assistant Professor Russell of Manitoba University; both are untiring in their efforts to promote the welfare of the Association and are regular attendants at the Council meetings. Their suggestions for improving our relations with the student body at the University are timely and much appreciated.

In conclusion, the editorial in the February issue of the *Journal* suggested that the time might be opportune for a visit from the new President of the R.A.I.C. It is some years since we have been so honoured and, if the visit materializes, it should be the occasion for a general meeting of the Association.

Our greetings are extended to members of other Associations throughout Canada.

George G. Teeter.

ONTARIO

Ottawa has been visited, written about, photographed and described by so many people that nothing much remains to be said about the City. Her natural beauties have been praised, and her architecture ridiculed, but still Ottawa seems to be "A Good City to Come to"; this claim has been amply borne out by the members of the architectural profession who have been domiciled here for the past year or two. Whatever their reason for being here they have been welcomed to the Ottawa Chapter, and have responded to that welcome by turning out in goodly numbers to our Monthly Dinners.

These Meetings have been carried on quite regularly despite the difficulties of procuring accommodations, meals, etc. Most of our Meetings have been held at the Chateau Laurier, and we are now looking forward to the biggest and best of them

all, which will be held on April 19th, and will likely be the last Dinner Meeting of the present season. The Meetings held before Christmas were largely devoted to discussions of the general subject "Has Architecture a Future?" This all embracing title gave ample scope to the older members to point with pride to the wonderful accomplishments of the past, and for the younger generation to ask, "What accomplishments?" The three meetings held already this year have been devoted to Post-War Planning, and the subjects that accompany this question. We have been fortunate in having splendid speakers, Mr. K. M. Cameron, Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works, and members of the Government Committee on Reconstruction. Mr. Cameron gave a very interesting account of the Canadian needs that were developed in the work of that Committee, and especially emphasized the need of the preparation of Post-War plans at once, in order to be ready for a quick start after the war. Mr. J. Clarke Reilly, Manager of the Canadian Construction Association, whose subject was "The Role of the Construction Industry in the Post-War Years". Mr. Reilly's talk was largely an explanation of the Brief presented by his Association to the Reconstruction Committee of the House of Commons, and this Brief is worth reading by every member of our profession.

In March, Mr. J. R. MacNicol, M.P., addressed the Chapter on the general subject of Conservation, paying particular attention to the question of Irrigation of our Western Prairies. He presented illustrations of work already done, facts and figures of what had been accomplished, and also had carefully studied suggestions for future work to be carried on in the Canadian West after the war. Mr. MacNicol has spent a lot of time on this particular work, and we can heartily recommend him to any group of architects who wish to hear an interesting and instructive address.

Our Architectural Research Group of Ottawa, known as A.R.G.O., have been working hard for the past months on an Exhibition of Town Planning and Housing. They have secured the co-operation of the National Gallery, and hope shortly to put on an Exhibition of their work at the Gallery. This Exhibition will also be shown in other centres throughout Canada, during the coming months.

On March 29th, the Dominion Command of the Canadian Legion held a meeting in the Railway Committee Room of the House of Commons, on the subject, "Post-War Housing in Canada". The speakers were: Mr. Joseph M. Piggott, President of Wartime Housing; Mr. J. L. E. Price, President, National House Builders' Association; Mrs. Rex Eaton, Associate Director of Selective Service; and Mr. John W. Bruce, Member of Committee on Post-War Employment opportunities. The subject was treated from all the various angles, and was very interesting and informative. Mr. Piggott showed the practicability of providing proper housing, and had splendid illustrations of what had been done in various places. Mr. Bruce talked of the need for provision for the returned soldiers. Mrs. Eaton directed us to the sociological side of housing, while Mr. Price very ably presented the need of careful planning and proper building. Mr. Price was very practical in all his suggestions, and clearly stated his view that architects should be employed on work of this kind. He called attention to the custom that has developed recently of all the different kinds of Organizations that were meeting for the formation of housing plans and developments, and pointed out the confusion this might lead to, through inept and uninformed leadership. In illustration of what he meant he told about the time when he and his wife were buying up all kinds of books on the proper feeding and rearing of children, only to find out later that most of these books were written by spinsters.

All these meetings have been interesting and to a great extent worth while. There are hundreds of splendid suggestions, and reams of excellent reports filed on the subjects, but now is

the time for us, as Architects, to bring all the pressure we can influence to bear on those who have the authority to put these ideas to work.

W. J. Abra.

QUEBEC

Despite the fact that the vernal moment of intersection between the ecliptic and the equator has passed, at the moment of writing Winter dies hard in Quebec! The voluptuous pantings of Spring are still somewhat subduedly mingled with the dying roars which have followed the Ides, while snow intermittently falls, merrily or otherwise, according to mood. On the inside of the winter sash, however, there are rays which add a modicum to professional comfort. It may be, of course, that some of them are 194X-rays but nevertheless they bring crumbs of hope and the local situation has almost reached the point where the calls for architectural assistance are assuming the proportions of an S.O.S.

What has been designated as the 1943 construction "boomlet" in Montreal and suburbs continues as a major phenomenon in the face of war-time restrictions, according to a recent survey.

New residential work accomplished and contemplated has run up to \$4,612,000 since January 1st, with the end not yet visible. Unfortunately, even this considerable sum only provided the proverbial drop in the local lack of housing bucket.

While there is no doubt this matter of shelter will continue to persist, there are other activities in the air and it sounds as if nearly every office has a hospital on the boards, or at least in prospect. A la mode, the local public has been greatly thrilled over the prospect of a two-million military hospital in Montreal. The public elation, however, is at present running second to the emotions of some of the City Fathers whose enthusiasm seems to outweigh their better judgment in at least this respect. In their great anxiety to do something for the glory of the Metropolis, they are showing signs of out-doing even children when confronted with a lollipop and seem desirous of swallowing the wooden pop, as well as the lolly—a proceeding fraught with dangers which can be well imagined.

The choice of site is proving a prime stumbling block to the acquiring of the candied-piece and enthusiasm is tempered by the fact that the sacrifice in part, of an already none too large public breathing space is involved! On the side lines, the profession is more or less silent and perhaps with some reason. Indeed, in this moment of oblivion it might even be said in low, soft tones, that there is, maybe, a suggestion of green in the local eye. Meanwhile, in the great glare of recent four and a half million circumstances we are not alone in wondering, with a capital WHY the Practising Profession in Montreal is being overlooked in the matter.

By way of an antidote, will be the news that members of the P.Q.A.A. Council were recently invited to meet the Provincial Cabinet in Quebec, with the idea of discussing the establishment of a Provincial Planning Body. This meeting was the outcome of a Brief which had already been submitted to the Cabinet concerning the whole question of the necessary enabling legislation for Municipal and Regional Planning. A matter so often overlooked when Housing is being enthusiastically discussed in some circles. The reception accorded Council Members who made the trip augurs well for success and it is expected that a Committee will be formed to work out local salvation, in conjunction with Government officials. While down the river, so to speak, we might mention that a newly formed Association of Civil Servants in Quebec City has been formed, with the commendable object of providing housing for themselves.

The Association has purchased approximately 1,800,000 square feet of land and habitations numbering 130 are contemplated, ranging in price from four to eight thousand dollars each. Sounds like re-forestation to us but we have also heard that in addition to having spent \$27,000 on trees, the Quebec Embellishment Commission are asking for another \$25,000 to

carry on. While this is not quite in accord with our own ideas as to what the City of Quebec needs and deserves, we can only rejoice with the natives, with added hope that a proper restoration of Champlain's Town may yet become a real issue, distinct from the arboreous touch—après la guerre, peut être!

The McGill lectures on Housing and Community Planning—eighteen, all told—are over and hopes are fragrant for the establishment of a Chair of Community and Regional Planning without undue delay, so that the supply of Planners may ultimately approach the well known demand. And, by the way, we are catching up down here! Homes OR Hovels was recently reviewed at some length in a local weekly.

Entre nous—comme membre du comité de la redaction du *Journal R.A.I.C.*

Je cherche encore un écrivain qui écrira des nouvelles de la Province en français, afin d'avoir un mois en français et un mois en anglais. Allons mes amis!

J. Roxburgh Smith.

SASKATCHEWAN

In planning for future construction and development, there are many considerations which merit attention. New forms, new styles and new materials are in the offing, as well as new uses of old materials.

If re-construction comes with a rush, as many suggest, provision should be made for it now, as far as possible.

Our Magazines and Newspapers are full of articles telling of the marvels in store for the public through the use of new materials. Many fantastic ideas have arisen and been expanded in the imagination of artists, who are not in a position to judge on practical utility values. Without subjecting such writings to careful investigation, Magazines and Newspapers publish them at face value, and, as a result, a large portion of our people are looking forward to a Utopia based on ideas gleaned from these imaginative creations. The enthusiasm of sales-agents, assisted at times by inflated claims of uncareful manufacturers, will add to the confusion.

However, we would not wish to discourage the writing of such fancies, as they serve, not only as a good form of mental entertainment, but they also serve to stimulate investigation.

New materials doubtless will come, and these will play a large part in future development. In the rush, however, these often may not receive proper consideration, and much grief and loss will follow, not only from the use of faulty materials, but also from the misuse of proper materials.

Now is the time to start planning for the future. Our University is at present doing good work, but in too limited a scope. An additional three or four hundred thousand dollars spread over the next eight or ten years, would enable them to do a worthwhile work of investigation, which would be repaid to the people of the Province many times over.

With proper equipment, and adequate staff, they could not only test materials and equipment, but collect and compile results of tests and investigations made elsewhere, revising these, where necessary, or advisable, to make them the better serve local conditions and uses.

They could also experiment with, and classify, local materials, and in this way materially add to the value of our natural resources.

Tests on strength, wearing qualities, ability to stand up against time, the effect of our different soils, or climate and other items need to be stressed.

To make, collect, and compile and have in shape for distribution, reports on all materials which might be used for construction, furnishings, and equipment, not only for the building trades, but for the manufacturer, the farmer and the home owner, is a service which though requiring careful thought

and attention, is one which will pay large direct dividends to all citizens of our Province, and will make for permanent progress and happiness.

F. B. Reilly.

UNUSUAL PROBLEMS IN PRACTICE "CONDENSATION LEAKS"

At a certain job where cost was a major consideration, an interior down pipe was installed without wrapping. To avoid condensation stains on the ceiling the elbow offset was protected. The vertical pipe in an angle of a room was furred in with a plaster splay. The furring, lathing, and the brown coat of plaster were done between inspections. Now, perhaps you have guessed it. Some of the cross pieces of furring were in contact with the pipe, condensation descended, was stopped, and stained the plaster. Moral, if you cannot be on hand to inspect furring in such cases, then see that the down pipes are wrapped.

SIR IAN MACALISTER

An Appreciation

Ian MacAlister, who retired from office as Secretary of the R.I.B.A. on December 31st, at the end of thirty-six years' service, was, to the Anglo-Saxon architectural world more than the secretary of its senior society, he was an institution! W. J. Locke, who preceded Sir Ian, served for many years with distinction, had added lustre to the office by winning, while still secretary, a wide recognition of his genius as a novelist. His retiral in 1908 must have provoked in many minds the reflection "we cannot expect to get another Locke". Naturally, we did not! But we got a man of outstanding personality and ability, who guided the Institute with marked success through a long and special period of development. This was not merely the natural growth of the R.I.B.A. but included the union with the Architectural Association, the United Kingdom Registration Act, the acquisition of new premises and the development of the Town and Regional Planning Movements to their present position.

Sir Ian did not aim at the magnification of the central body or at any considerable degree of centralization. His attitude to Dominion and Local Societies was friendly and helpful. He once asked the question, "Why are there so few eminent architects in Scotland?" The reply he got, without admitting anything, was the further question, "What percentage of the leading men in London are Scots?" He answered about fifty and added in a tone indicating regret or doubt, "Centralization, I suppose." His constructive mind led him to encourage the development of the local field rather than to draw it into his own. In the year 1930, a number of architects raised the question of forming a great all-embracing Imperial Institute. Sir Ian mildly demurred on the ground that the time was not ripe, and that whatever might evolve ultimately, we should be content for the present to develop on co-operative lines. When the obstacles of distance from headquarters and differences of law in the case of overseas societies are considered, the effective functioning of such an Institution seemed doubtful and he advised a "wait and see" policy. It would be rash to pronounce such a federation of societies as impossible when the present startling development of communication is considered. However, caution at that time was, obviously, a wise policy.

Anyone not having met Sir Ian, but being aware of the nature and scope of his work, would picture him as of the dark, slender, acute official type and be somewhat startled when he met a fair, robust gentleman with a hearty and genial manner, which suggested open air sports rather than a long career of strenuous organization.

Sir Ian has borne the well earned honour of Knighthood for ten or more years, and he retires at the end of a big job well done, with the benediction of a multitude of friends.

V. D. Horsburgh.