

SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

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TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTES OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTS
AND THE CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN QUANTITY SURVEYORS.

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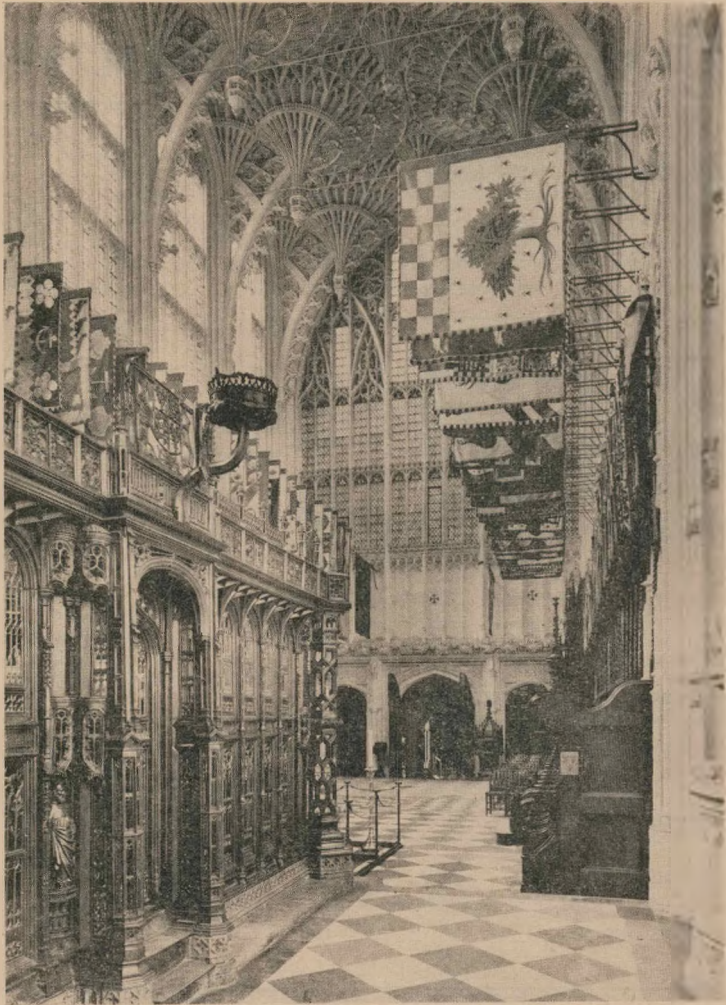
JOINT EDITORS: PROFESSOR G. E. PEARSE, W. D. HOWIE

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The Cover Design is based on a First Year study of Architectural
Representation by E. M. Meyersohn, Student of Architecture,
University of the Witwatersrand.

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HENRY VII CHAPEL, WESTMINSTER ABBEY, LONDON. Built in 1503 to replace an earlier Lady Chapel, it shows the Perpendicular style at its best. It was designed by Robert Vertue, one of King Henry VII's master masons. The exquisite pendant fan-vaulting of the roof is a unique feature. The beauty of this chapel, the burial place of Kings from Henry VII (1509) to George II (1760) has caused it to be called "The miracle of the world."

BRITISH ARCHITECTURE THROUGH THE AGES

By John Summerson

A Survey of British Architecture from the days of the Romanesque style of the Normans in the 11th Century to the present day and the potentialities waiting to be released following the war



At no time can English architecture be separated from the great European tradition to which the culture of every country between the Baltic and the Mediterranean owes allegiance. But when that has been said, the local and individual character of English architecture commands attention. From time to time, this local character has become pronounced, and has enjoyed conspicuous success—sometimes to such a marked degree that it has influenced architectural thought throughout Europe.

At the Norman conquest of England, in 1066, the invaders brought with them their own ponderous version of the Romanesque, whose round arches and cylindrical columns are to be seen in many cathedrals, churches and abbeys. It was the style of the dictating conqueror, a provincial version of the architecture pervading Europe in the 11th and 12th centuries, and hardly the equal, from an artistic point of view, of Romanesque work in Italy or on the Rhine. But in due course a new development made its appearance in the lonely Cistercian monasteries of England. The first phase of English Gothic began—a Gothic never as dramatic or profound as the French, but delicate and sensitive, with sculptured figures and foliage of an amazingly high quality.

In the 14th century, English architecture began to diverge more decisively from the main course of development in Europe, and in this and the following century is found what English architects called the "perpendicular" style. This is a most remarkable creation. In its advanced manifestations (for example, King's College Chapel, Cambridge), it is recognised by long unbroken vertical lines, branching into a type of vault much flatter than those seen in other countries. The general silhouette, the tracery and ornamentation are all strictly rectangular in character, and marvellous effects were obtained by the multiplication of simple units. There is a grace and modesty about English "perpendicular" which gives it considerably more interest than much of the architecture of the last phase of European Gothic.

As the age of Gothic faded, England looked to Italy, France and the Netherlands for inspiration. The great stone, brick or timber houses of Shakespeare's time inherited the graces of "perpen-

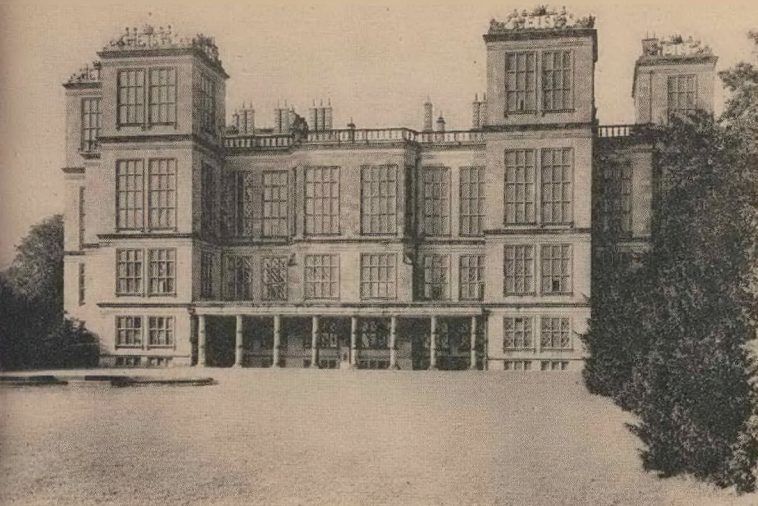
dicular," and combined them in the conceits and formalities coloured by the discovery of ancient art and learning. No English architect of the time was as great in his art as Shakespeare in his, but one can discover architectural parallels to him, full of imagination and invention of the Shakespearean kind. There is a genuinely poetic feeling about a house like Hardwicke Hall, with its fantastic tiers of windows and fretted skyline.

It was a little after Shakespeare's day that the stricter kind of classical architecture reached England. It came straight from Italy to the Court at Westminster, and its first great exponent was the designer of Court masques, Inigo Jones. Jones was as learned and precise in his classicism as Palladio, the Italian master he most admired, and for 150 years after his time it was to Palladio that English architects looked for the precepts of their art. In this century and a half, by far the greatest figure was Sir Christopher Wren, a man of extraordinary scientific attainment who might have been a world-famous figure as an astronomer or a mathematician, had not circumstances made him an architect. He it was who designed, after the Great Fire of 1666, St. Paul's Cathedral, which ranks with Santa Sophia, Istanbul, and St. Peter's, Rome, as one of the great domed buildings of the world.

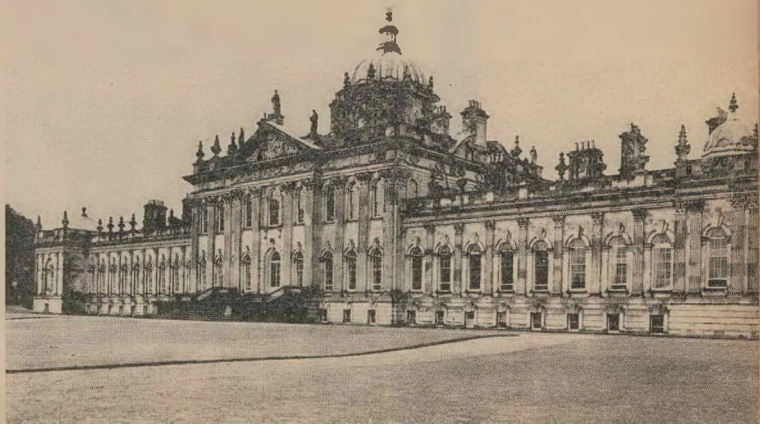
With the opening of the 18th century came a short-lived but brilliant Baroque phase, represented only by a handful of houses and churches, with which the names of Vanbrugh and Hawksmore are associated. Seaton Delaval Hall is a striking example. The style has practically nothing in common with any European Baroque, and its profound originality places it among the most precious and distinguished phases of English art history. It was short-lived, because 18th century English taste set its face against Baroque, fastening its loyalty to the serene Palladio until the arrival from Scotland of a great artist Robert Adam.

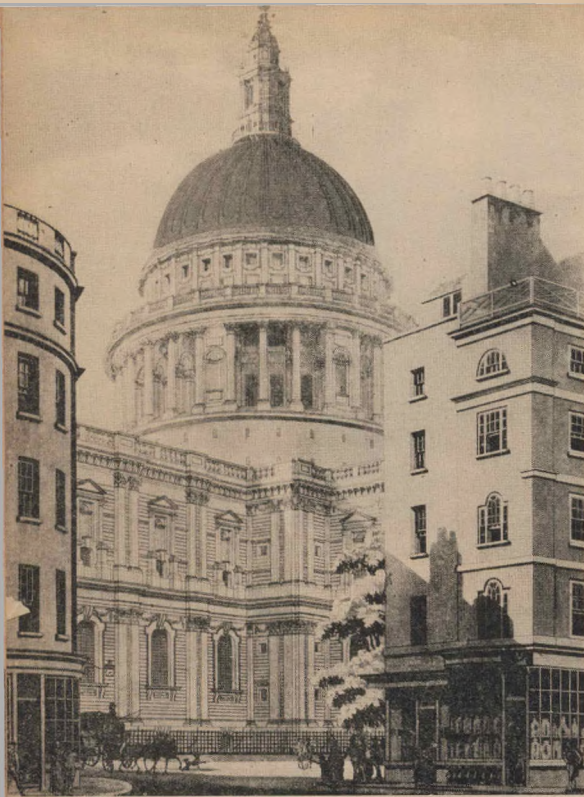
Robert Adam released English architecture from the Palladian dictatorship. His houses for the aristocracy, in town and country, have a decorative freedom which opened new vistas for architecture of all kinds. The effect of his influence was immediate, and the English house of the last quarter of the 18th century reached a wonderfully high level of taste and craftsmanship. Wherever you go in England you find beautiful homes, both large and small, dating from this rich and productive period. In France, the famous "Style Empire" owed its inception largely to the invention of Robert Adam.

The 19th century turned from the elaboration of Adam to classical revivalism of a kind paralleled in every country, but marked in England by the peculiar genius of Sir John Soane, whose highly idiosyncratic style is, again, one of those products of English art which stand out distinctly in the European scene. There followed the Gothic revival, also paralleled abroad, but reaching in England a quite exceptional intensity, doubtless because of the mounting power of industrialism, disrupting



ABOVE: Hardwick Hall, a beautiful Elizabethan building built in 1588, with its great windows extending from floor to floor. It was built for Elizabeth, Countess of Hardwicke, and her coronet and initials are incorporated in the stone balustrading. BELOW: Castle Howard Yorkshire, which was built in 1701 for the Earl of Carlisle by Nicholas Hawksmoor, and designed by Sir William Vanbrugh, dramatist as well as architect. These two men were associated with the brilliant, if short-lived, English Baroque phase in the early eighteenth century. Castle Howard is one of the grandest country seats in Britain.





St. Paul's Cathedral, London, from an aquatint published in 1797. The present Cathedral of St. Paul's is the third building to be erected on the site. The Gothic second Cathedral was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666. One of Sir Christopher Wren's greatest works, the first stone was laid in 1677.

Osterley Park, Middlesex, showing the magnificent double colonnade portico of Portland stone, which reveals the influence of Palladio. Osterley is the seat of the Earl of Jersey, and was rebuilt by Adam in 1761.



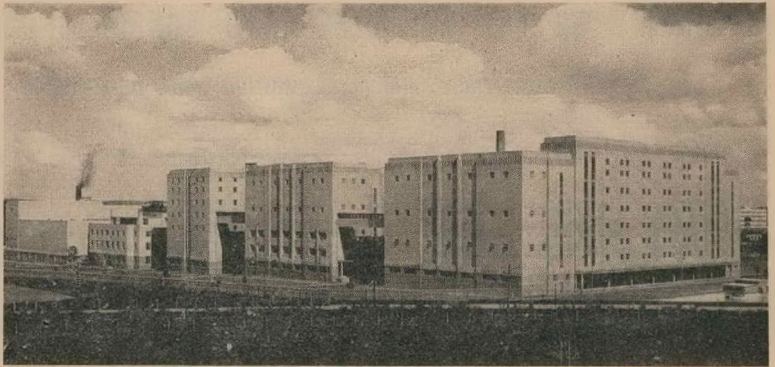


Photo: Dell and Walwright.

Indicative of a phase of contemporary architecture in England, the Guinness factory designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott.

the old standards of taste and turning the artist into a rebel dreamer taking shelter in a remote, idealised past. The Gothic revival produced thousands of "Gothic" buildings, some pedantic, some grotesque, some really noble; but the great product of the movement was its philosophy, which, through the writings of Pugin and Ruskin, cleared the ground for the creative architectural thought of the future. The great pioneers of modern architecture in every country ultimately owe an immense debt to these Englishmen.

In the early part of the present century British architecture was characterised on the one hand by a complacent luxuriance, relying on the clever interpretation of one or another of the historic styles, on the other hand by the meanness and philistinism accompanying the ultimate florescence of 19th century expansion. Between 1927 and 1939, however, the European modern movement made a great impression on English architectural thought, and the result is already well marked in the output of the younger generation of architects. The essentials of the modern movement have been thoroughly absorbed, and a characteristically English interpretation has already begun to emerge.

During the war, civil building has been at a standstill, but some remarkable hostels for factory workers, thoroughly modern in style, have been erected. The possibilities for architecture after the war are being widely discussed. In this connection, the organisation of the profession and the status of the salaried architect, into whose hands many of the greatest opportunities are likely to fall, is a topic of special interest. The question of more effective collaboration between architects, engineers and other technicians is another problem receiving considerable attention. Architecture in Britain is, indeed, at a turning point. The direction which it will take at the end of the war remains to be seen, but there is no doubt of the great potentialities which await to be released.

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL EXHIBITION AND PRIZE-GIVING

Professor Pearse, in addressing those present, said :

It gives me very great pleasure to welcome you, on behalf of the staff and students of the School of Architecture, to our 21st Annual Exhibition and Prize-giving. We are particularly pleased to have with us Mr. McDonald, President of the Transvaal Provincial Institute of Architects, who has kindly consented to present the prizes, and Professor A. L. Meiring, of the University of Pretoria School of Architecture.

The war in Europe is over, and I feel that this is an appropriate occasion to pay a tribute to those past and present students who played their part in the fight for freedom. I have not yet been able to trace everyone who joined the Forces, but my list to date numbers 164 architectural and quantity surveying students. Of these, five at least have been decorated and eleven have made the supreme sacrifice.

I should like to read out their names and ask you to stand for a moment as a tribute to their memory. They are : G. E. Abbott, C. F. Drake, D. A. Green, E. J. Knight, A. M. Medalie, W. Miller, N. B. Pryde, E. A. Ralph, F. R. F. Rose-Price, R. A. Roberts, T. van Niekerk.

★ ★ ★

This year we are glad to welcome back Mr. W. de S. Hendrikz, who has been on service for four years, and has distinguished himself in the S.A.E.C. camouflage section.

The tragic death of Dr. R. D. Martienssen, whilst undergoing a course of military training, I have referred to earlier.

Mr. Fassler, Mr. Howie and Mrs. Martienssen have all done sterling work in connection with military training, and have devoted some of their vacations to training in camp.

Our thanks are due to Miss Spence, who came to our assistance last year and took over the first year lectures and studio work in Geometrical Drawing, Architectural Drawing and Building Construction, with an exceptionally large class; to Mr. G. P. Quail and Mr. Castleton, who assisted in the courses in Quantity Surveying when Mr. McKechnie's health broke down. We are glad to say that Mr. McKechnie is now fit again, and thank him and Mr. Castleton for their assistance this year.

Last year we were also assisted by Mr. Anton Hendriks, of the Johannesburg Art Gallery, in the classes in painting for

the courses in Fine Arts. I should like to thank him for the assistance he gave us. This year we are glad to welcome Mr. R. L. Niebuhr, who has joined the School in a part-time capacity.

★ ★ ★

The School continues to grow. Last year, owing to the abnormal number of entries in the first year, the Faculty decided to limit the numbers in Architecture and Quantity Surveying to 35 and 15 respectively. This has been done this year, and the total number of students taking Architecture is now 115 and Quantity Surveying 24, a total of 139.

Last year we inaugurated a post-graduate course in Town Planning, for which we had an enrolment of 23. This year 11 have enrolled, making a total for the year of 33.

In the Fine Arts Department there are 88 taking the first year B.A. course, 8 majoring in Fine Arts and 12 taking the B.A. with Honours in Fine Arts, a total of 108.

The following students who distinguished themselves during the year have been elected scholars of the University for 1944, and their names will appear in due course in the University calendar: In Architecture : N. F. Duncan, G. Herbert, J. Morgenstern, W. G. Reed, M. E. Sheridan. In Quantity Surveying : G. W. Doig, H. A. Livingstone.

The class prizes this year have been again generously donated by the Transvaal Provincial Institute of Architects, the endowed prizes remaining the same.

★ ★ ★

I shall now ask Mr. McDonald to present the prizes and then address you.

First Year : 1st Prize : J. Morgenstern.

2nd Prize : D. E. Connell.

Second Year : 1st Prize : M. E. Sheridan.

2nd Prize : L. Fehler.
R. Borkowf.

Third Year : 1st Prize : N. F. Duncan.

2nd. Prize : G. Herbert.

Fifth Year : 1st Prize : J. H. Neethling.

2nd Prize : J. M. Shunn.

D. M. Burton Prize : J. Morgenstern.

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT MR. W. A. MAC DONALD

Professor Pearse, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It was with great pleasure that I accepted your kind invitation to be present this evening, and I must congratulate the Staff and Students upon the excellence of the work exhibited. May I also congratulate the School on the election of Mr. Fassler to the office of Senior Vice-President of the Institute. For my part I am more than happy to have such a conscientious and hard working partner to relieve me of some of the tasks which lie ahead.

Owing to some difficulties in the Institute, the election of office-bearers was delayed this year and took place less than a fortnight ago. This was followed by meetings of the Central Council, so that the time I have had to prepare my address has been somewhat limited, but I know you will make due allowance for its shortcomings. I may warn you now that I have no intention of commenting upon Styles and Phases of Architecture, as I feel that you are in excellent hands as far as that part of your academic training is concerned.

After those introductory remarks, it is becoming that I should express to you the thanks of the Transvaal Provincial Institute of Architects for honouring their President once more by inviting me to visit your annual exhibition of work and to present the prizes to the successful students. I cannot help feeling that, as this ceremony is now accepted as part of the President's duties, the Institute should be less conservative in their choice of men selected to this office.

Looking backwards, Fifth Year students will remember that last year we had Douglass Cowin, who followed Norman Hanson, Gordon McIntosh and Stanley Furner—like those who came before them—all these men are architects of great standing in the Union. They are men who have made their mark in our profession; created extensive practices with, shall I add, appropriate bank balances. This year I have been elected, presumably, because I carry a high-sounding title in the Government Service with a salary, may I add, in inverse proportion to this title.

How much more exciting and realistic it would be if the President was one of your ex-students with, say, five years' experience in practice on his own account. What a tale he could unfold to you, Ladies and Gentlemen. For instance, he could relate to you that in professional practice he studied most carefully the Private Act No. 18 of 1927, and learned that it safeguarded the title "Architect," but in practice he found out that it failed to safeguard his work as an architect, his real competitors being speculative builders, building consultants and other unqualified persons.

He could tell you that in practice there are not many mansions and fewer palaces to design—the Past Presidents having beaten him to it.

On the other hand, the Institute might elect to this office an ex-student of yours who has spent five years since qualifying by being an architect in the Government Service. It would not be necessary for him to tell you that his salary five years after qualifying would be £250, rising in annual increments of £25 and £20 until he has to mark time at the top of his grade for someone to retire, resign, die or do something equally tedious. He could also tell you a tale of frustration and discarded sketches carefully kept by him in file covers as a reminder of "what might have been" if the man senior to him had received his promotion through efficiency rather than by the method of the barber's chair—"Next gentleman, please!"

I have suggested to you these two "flight of fancy" Presidents, Ladies and Gentlemen, not to frighten you away from the career you have chosen, but because I know that the training you receive at a School of Architecture, such as this one, is the most positive means the profession has of overcoming the difficulties I have mentioned. In other words, the public is beginning to understand that in designing the building of to-day the architect is not merely an artist, but also a highly skilled technician and administrator. He controls an ever-growing army of men and women, each expert in his or her work, whether it be profession or trade. Under this single control there arises the building, beautiful to behold, correct in detail externally and internally, completely fitted with all the complex necessities and luxuries that modern civilisation demands, each of these sections dovetailing, the one into the other, to form the architect's creation as a harmonious whole.

For some time the Institute has been exercised as to how to educate the public so that it can understand more fully the functions of an architect and thus attract back to the profession work that is going through unqualified channels. I submit that the Schools of Architecture are destined to play an even greater rôle in this direction than the Institute. Two outstanding instances remain fixed in my memory with remarkable clarity. Your twenty-first anniversary exhibition in 1942, which depicted so clearly the growth of this school, must also have made a deep impression on the minds of those members of the public who witnessed it, is one.

The second instance was even more provocative in its message to the members of the public of the Union—I refer to the symposium, "Rebuilding South Africa," which was pro-

duced by this School. There is no doubt that every person who studied this symposium was made to think, and it helped people to understand the wide scope of your training.

Exhibitions such as these, lectures and other means, can be devised by you to show the public the different facets of the valuable training you are receiving. This good work must not be relaxed.

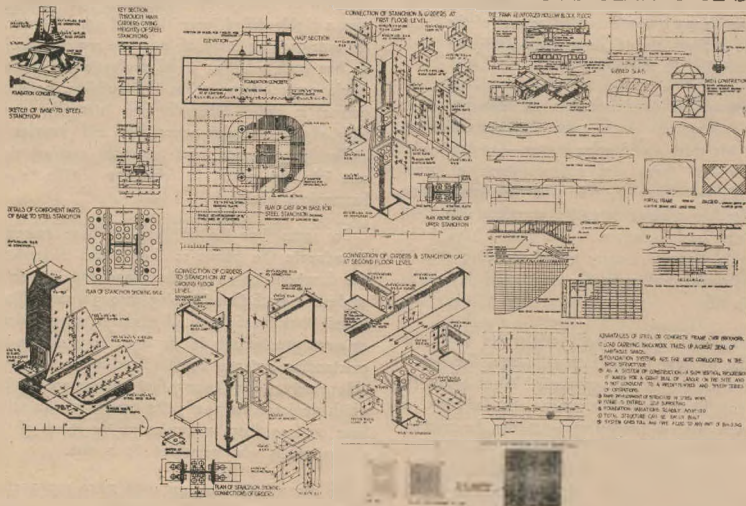
When the time comes for you to embark upon your adventurous and interesting career as an architect, whether it be in practice on your own account or in a salaried position, it is my sincere hope that you will also bring with you into your

new sphere the same spirit of friendly rivalry that animates you during your studies, where the greatest thrill was "pride in your work" and the finest prize the commendations of your fellow students and your teachers. If this be the spirit in which you join us in later years, and I feel that your training leads you towards it, then the difficulties that beset our profession will decrease as your numbers as members increase, so that it will be possible for my "flight of fancy" Presidents of the earlier part of my talk to become the real Presidents of the future.

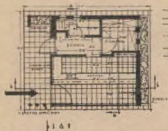
Again I thank you, Professor Pearse, Ladies and Gentlemen, for giving me this opportunity of addressing you.

**A SELECTION OF THE WORK ON
EXHIBITION IS ILLUSTRATED ON
THIS AND THE FOLLOWING PAGES**

STEEL STANCHION: DEVELOPMENT OF CONCRETE BEAM & SLAB



Second Year Building Construction Study by Miss T. A. Rose.



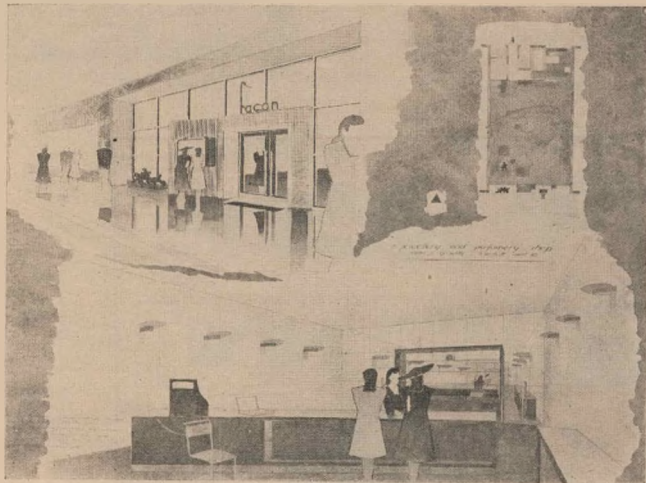
**DESIGN FOR A
BOOK STALL.**

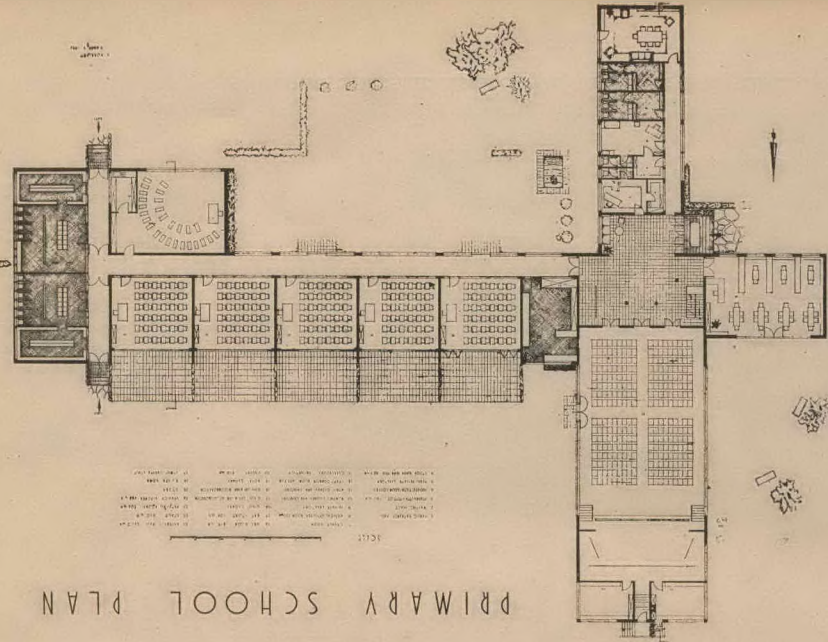
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FIRST YEAR SKETCH DESIGN FOR A BOOK STALL BY E. I. GRAFF.

RENDERED SKETCH DESIGN FOR A JEWELLERY AND PERFUMERY SHOP, BY O. J. G. WILLS,
SECOND YEAR.

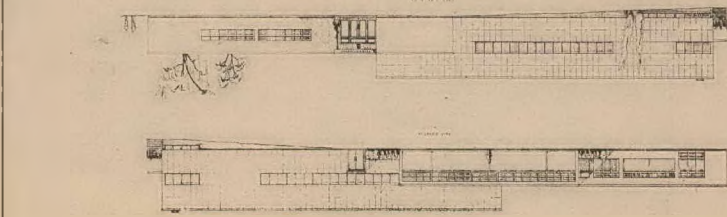




PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAN

1. CLASS ROOMS
 2. PLAY AREA
 3. OFFICE
 4. READING ROOM
 5. LABORATORY
 6. ART ROOM
 7. MUSIC ROOM
 8. GYMNASIUM
 9. CATERING
 10. STORES
 11. HALLWAY
 12. STAIRS
 13. ENTRANCE
 14. TOILETS
 15. LOCKERS
 16. FIRST AID
 17. NURSERY
 18. OFFICE
 19. READING ROOM
 20. LABORATORY
 21. ART ROOM
 22. MUSIC ROOM
 23. GYMNASIUM
 24. CATERING
 25. STORES
 26. HALLWAY
 27. STAIRS
 28. ENTRANCE
 29. TOILETS
 30. LOCKERS
 31. FIRST AID
 32. NURSERY

SECOND YEAR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN : PRESENTATION DRAWINGS FOR A PRIMARY SCHOOL BY MISS R. BORKOFF



ELEVATIONS

SMALL HOUSES. ANALYSIS OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF A MODERN HOME.

IN PLANNING A MODERN HOME THE FOLLOWING POINTS MUST BE CONSIDERED:

ZONING

1. THE LOCATION OF THE HOUSE SHOULD BE IN A HEALTHY AND CONVENIENT LOCATION.
2. THE HOUSE SHOULD BE IN A HEALTHY AND CONVENIENT LOCATION.
3. THE HOUSE SHOULD BE IN A HEALTHY AND CONVENIENT LOCATION.

4. THE HOUSE SHOULD BE IN A HEALTHY AND CONVENIENT LOCATION.
5. THE HOUSE SHOULD BE IN A HEALTHY AND CONVENIENT LOCATION.

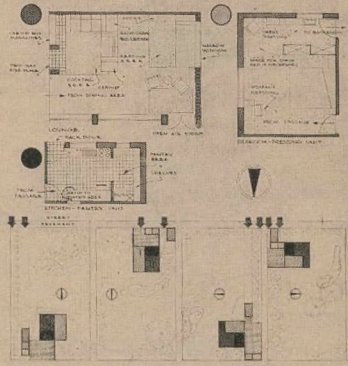
ASPECT
1. THE HOUSE SHOULD BE IN A HEALTHY AND CONVENIENT LOCATION.
2. THE HOUSE SHOULD BE IN A HEALTHY AND CONVENIENT LOCATION.

CIRCULATION

A - THE HOUSE SHOULD BE IN A HEALTHY AND CONVENIENT LOCATION.
B - THE HOUSE SHOULD BE IN A HEALTHY AND CONVENIENT LOCATION.



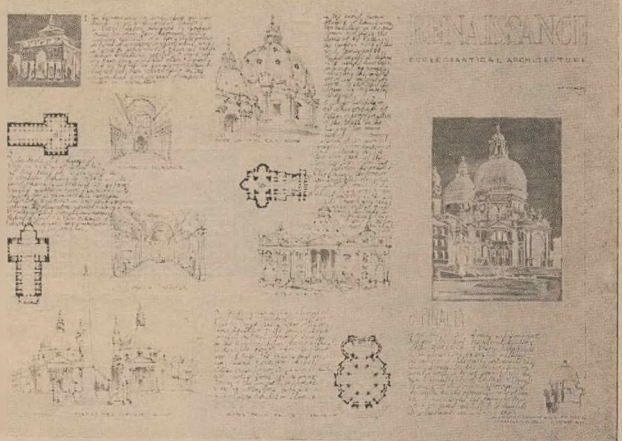
FURNISHING AND EQUIPMENT



THE HOUSE, SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0", SHOWING POSITION OF HOUSE AND THE 3 MAIN SECTORS IN IT.
LIVING ROOM
DINING ROOM
KITCHEN
BED ROOM
BATH
DRESSING ROOM
HALL
CLOSET

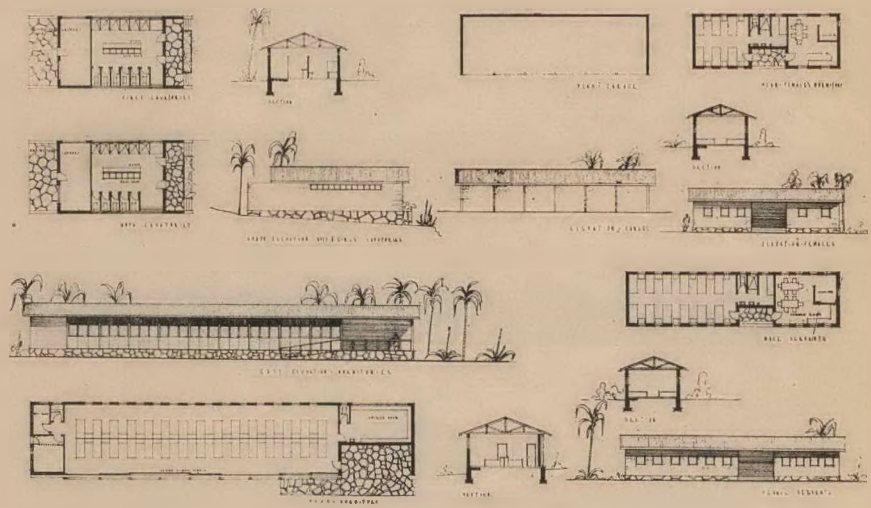
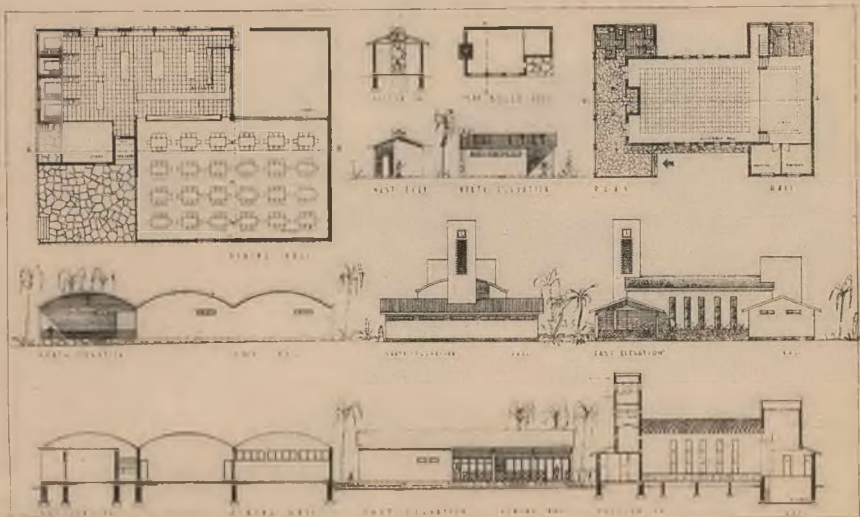
D. E. CONNELL B. ARCH. II

PRELIMINARY DESIGN ANALYSIS, SECOND YEAR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN, BY D. E. CONNELL.

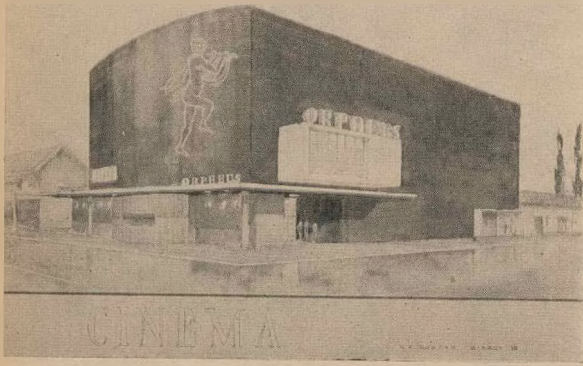


HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS, BY N. F. DUNCAN, THIRD YEAR.

HOLIDAY CAMP

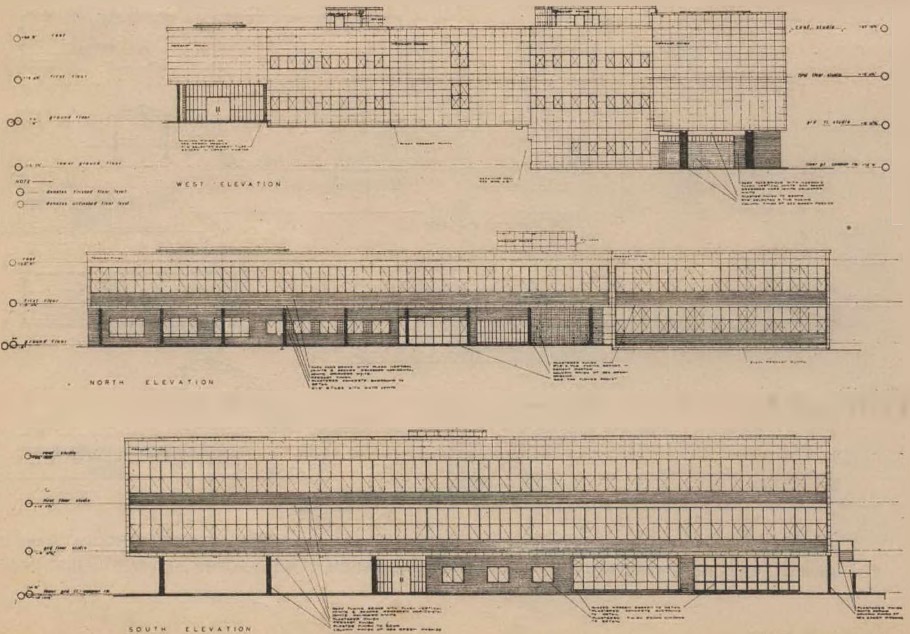


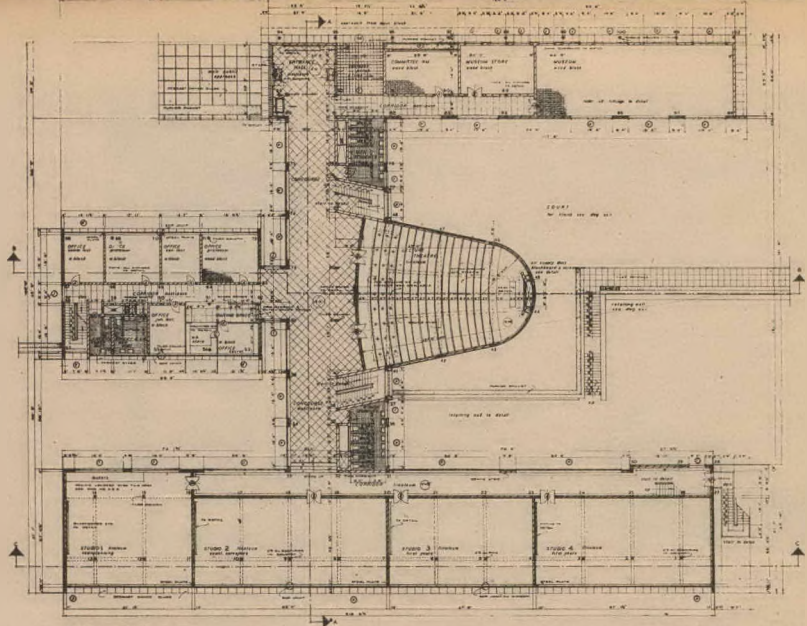
THIRD YEAR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN, GROUP STUDY. PRESENTATION DRAWINGS FOR A CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CAMP IN NATAL BY MISS C. KLEMPMANN, MISS D. E. HILARIUS, S. A. ABRAMOWITZ, J. FURMANOVSKY AND W. F. LABUSCHAGNE.



THIRD YEAR SKETCH DESIGN : PERSPECTIVE RENDERING OF SUBURBAN CINEMA
BY N. F. DUNCAN.

FIFTH YEAR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN : A SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE SELECTED SHEETS FROM THE WORKING DRAWINGS, BY J. H. NEETHLING.

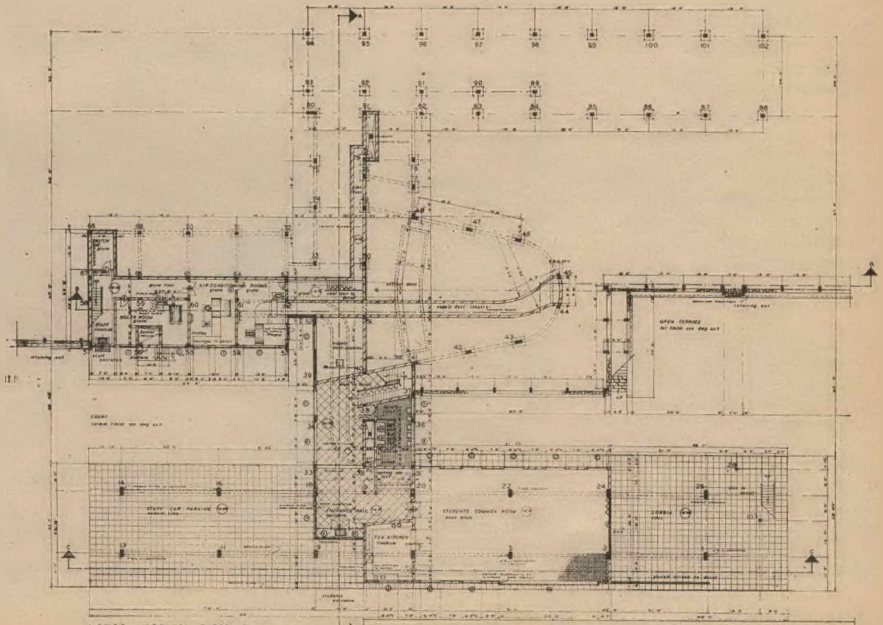




GROUND FLOOR PLAN

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

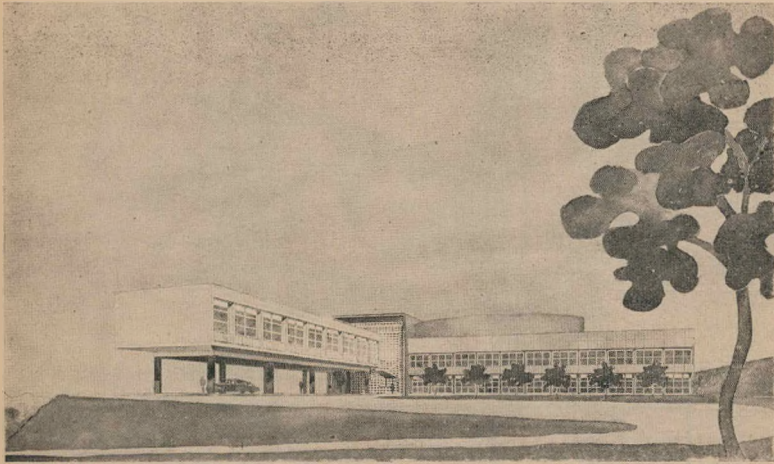
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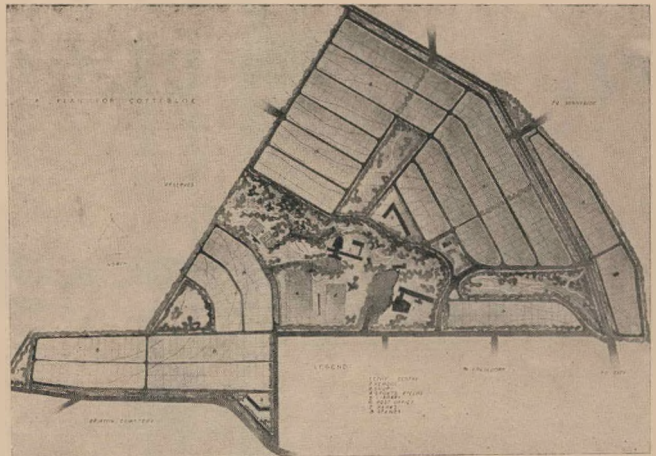
LOWER GROUND FLOOR PLAN

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"
 Date: 1911
 A.S.Z.



RENDERED PERSPECTIVE OF A SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, BY P. A. WESTWOOD, FIFTH YEAR.



TOWN PLANNING SCHEME FOR COTTESLOE, JOHANNESBURG, BY J. H. NEETHLING, FIFTH YEAR.

THE INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTS AND CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN QUANTITY SURVEYORS

THE ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT - IN - CHIEF, MR. D. S. HADDON, DELIVERED AT THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL HELD IN JOHANNESBURG ON TUESDAY 22 MAY, 1945

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the close of my third term of office as President-in-Chief, and at the end of my fifth year as Chairman and Acting Chairman of the Executive Committee, I am pleased to be able to hand over a vigorous and active Institute to my successors at the beginning of what must be a new era, certainly in architecture.

To have led this Institute through almost six years of war has been an arduous and difficult task, not only for me, but for all those who have served on the Central Council, its Executive Committee and the committees of the five constituent bodies.

That the members of the Institute and Chapter have suffered during the war cannot be gainsaid. The rest of the building industry maintained their organisations to some extent through the relief afforded them of carrying out the defence building programmes. That we as a body were not given an adequate part to play in this programme was a matter for regret. Your controlling Executive, however, did not spare any effort to urge upon the authorities that it would be to the benefit of the country as a whole, as well as affording relief to the profession, to use our services in the defence building programme.

Honourable mention must be made here of the services rendered by individual architects and quantity surveyors in many spheres of the country's war efforts. The members in the P.W.D., those serving in the Directorates of Works and Fortifications included many experienced as well as younger practitioners, and although they may not have received individual or collective recognition, they controlled, executed, accepted responsibility and completed extensive works for the Department of Defence. It can be said that their services were indispensable in the period of crisis when our own country was threatened.

In Building and Building Material Control, too, we have played a part, both within the organisations and outside of them. While these controls were guided solely by the policy that defence consideration must come first, and that everything must give way to defence building, those members of

our respective professions within the control and those on Advisory Councils did everything to assist. During the last year, however, it cannot be said that we have seen eye to eye with the Controller of Building on his policy, which appears to be guided mainly by considerations of labour. That there should be no labour unrest due to unemployment in a country at war is not a point for argument, but all our representations toward rationalising the use of labour and materials have been largely unsuccessful up to the present. We have, nevertheless, continued to have this problem before us, and have never lost sight of the necessity for setting up an organisation to resolve those technical building difficulties which to-day have brought the industry to its present pass, particularly in housing. We have succeeded, at this late hour, in having a conference called at Cape Town representative of the purely executive side of the building industry to discuss with the Minister of Demobilisation and Welfare and the Director of Housing the possibility of bringing the different sections of the industry together. We hope that they may have the opportunity of putting their difficulties before each other and the Minister to the end, that essential mutual co-operation between these sections shall replace the cumbersome compulsory working enforced on the industry by present legislation under four Ministers, those of Public Works (Building Control), Commerce and Industry (Materials Control), Labour (Labour Control), and lastly Housing (Demobilisation and Welfare), and, it is rumoured, even stricter compulsion in the proposed amendments to the Housing Act. Your representatives at the above conference will, I hope, be able to report on these deliberations at this meeting.

While on this subject of the building industry, I cannot refrain from commenting on the attitude of labour to-day. I cannot speak for the building trade employers; on how hard they have to work on any building project, but I can say this of the members of this Institute and their assistants in common with men in other professions, that a 35-hour week is an un-dreamt of luxury. I trust that the artisans and their leaders will see that the prosperity of the country in general in all spheres of life, and in the building industry in particular, depends on efficient workmanship, efficient economically. The wages paid are not an economic consideration, but the stan-

dard of living is. The high cost of building falls most heavily on the lower income groups because they are in the vast majority in any country, and a high, low or any standard of wages, coupled with a low output of work, merely reduces the artisan's own standard of living. Let us have high wages by all means, but let us also receive a high output for them.

I can safely say that of all people concerned in the building industry, the professions have the least to gain materially by concentrating on housing, and the fact that of late years we are anxious and keen to take our part in solving the housing problem for this country should be a spur to all other sections of the community to render service before seeking self-advancement. The problem has to be solved, and in my opinion it will require the combined endeavours of the whole industry.

Architects in particular have been criticised for their idealism and imagination. It is said that these many qualities have precluded them from rendering adequate practical service in satisfying the building needs of a country. This is not true! The opportunity has not been given to us in South Africa, nor was it in Great Britain! Let me quote you the words of Mr. Brenden Bracken, the Minister of Information in Britain, in an address at an exhibition of French pre-fabricated houses in London on 15th February last:

"One might ponder on the wisdom of France and fully appreciate that wisdom in relation to architecture. The French stopped jerry-building and they would not allow Paris to be pulled down and an abortion such as that which spread over London to be perpetrated without any watch or interference by the City of London authorities or the Government. France had had more care for her architectural inheritance, but we in Britain had a shameful record. Hitler had not done so much harm to our architecture as the Edwardian and Victorian eras. If some of the people in responsible positions got the chance they would pull down what remained of our architecture. It was one of the worst iniquities to see what had been done by stupid people who seemed to think that architectural buildings were of no value. Such people were determined to copy some mid-Victorian jewel made of red brick, or some other architectural horror. The French had had the good sense not to allow their good buildings to be destroyed. The sooner we copied them the better for all. In the last thirty years he had seen some of the finest buildings pulled down to make room for those groups of bungaloids which had destroyed the beauty of our countryside. One of these days we should make certain that architecture had a chance in England. The French were well ahead of us there. The Ministry of Works would take a lot of trouble in this matter, and there was no reason why we should not have beautiful buildings."

Mr. Duncan Sandys, the British Minister of Works and Buildings, at the same exhibition, said:

"He felt that there was room for common enterprise and common research and had no doubt that we and the French could co-operate to solve the great pressing and urgent housing problem. He agreed with Mr. Bracken that those who had made a life-study of architecture should play a fitting and full part in that work because they had a big contribution to make to British architecture. As the President had said, the Ministry of Works and Buildings had made it their business to associate themselves in the closest possible way with the leading institutions of British architects. He did not believe in the Government trying to produce a ready-made ideal home and presenting it to the country and saying, 'Take it or leave it.' What they intended to do was to provide the central facilities, which a Government department could do, and from that central position to try to see to it that the entire resources of the British Building industry should be mobilised as a united force to solve the pressing and urgent problems facing us to-day."

Cannot our Ministers say and do the same?

Turning now to building other than housing, we know that we have a great deal of work to do, and I am glad to be able to tell you that in the sphere of public buildings the whole membership of the Institute is now to play a part. The Government building programme, the programmes of the Railway Administration and those of the Provinces are already being shared throughout the profession, the private practitioner being given the opportunity of playing his part. A healthy competition between our members in the Civil Service and those outside engendered by this has been sought after for many years, and should prove of estimable benefit to the standard of architecture of this country in the future.

The establishment of a national Research Institute by the Government, with a section devoted to building problems, is a step which will be welcomed throughout South Africa. The lack of facilities for research has seriously hampered progress in the past. One of the functions of this body, I understand, will be to collect, correlate and tabulate the results of research and experience in all other countries of the world. Such a bureau of information and the results of local research will relieve architects of a great responsibility, that of deciding on scanty and imperfect information, the suitability of materials and construction to be used in new works. This lack of reliable information is in no small measure responsible for the present difficulties in the building of houses.

Turning now to our members, students and prospective students who have served and are serving in the Forces, at this time, following the cessation of hostilities in Europe, I, on behalf of this Institute, would have you remember their sacrifices, the sacrifice of up to six years of their professional and civil lives. For some alas! the supreme sacrifice!

A great deal of our deliberations in the Board of Education meeting yesterday and our discussions at this meeting of the Central Council will be on the pressing matter of demobilisation and rehabilitation. It will be a difficult task in the case of students and prospective students to compensate and afford them relief while ensuring that they are not handicapped by faulty training and experience in their future careers. The gap in training of nearly six years will also have its repercussions on the profession, both in the Civil Service employ and in private practice; the scarcity of trained staff, indeed of practitioners, will be felt for many years to come, and the post-war building programmes in this country will inevitably be delayed in the planning of projects due to this. It has been suggested that we should seriously consider the establishment of a body of architectural assistants. Formerly the young people entering the profession were considered to be the future architects and quantity surveyors, and in fact they were barely sufficient to keep the profession up to numerical strength. Training in the profession is a lengthy and arduous matter, and not everyone can stay the course. Most of us feel, moreover, that we would welcome a fixed office establishment to a greater or less degree. Therefore, we should weigh carefully, as soon as possible, the pros and cons of the proposal to set up a system of training for assistants, giving them a definite standing within the profession. In this connection our attention has been drawn by the Director of

Demobilisation to the large number of women who have been trained as draughtsmen during their service with the Forces. It may well be that we can afford relief to them and assist ourselves by discovering a method of absorbing some of them into our office organisation.

It will be seen, therefore, that great opportunities lie before us: our part in solving the housing problem; the public works' building programmes in Government, Provincial and Municipal spheres is ours to plan from within and without the Civil Service; and lastly the leeway to be made good in private building. The years to come will not be easy ones for your Council and its committees in administering the Institute and Chapter. For every member and future member it will be equally difficult, for on them rests the primary responsibility of planning and directing to completion the building programmes of South Africa.

It will be no easy task, but brilliant achievements rarely result from easy problems, and it seems to me appropriate that I exhort you to work together. Let there be a pooling of knowledge and experience throughout the profession and the industry—keep abreast of one another in the revolution which is about to sweep through building throughout the world.

COMMUNITY CENTRES

A SHORT REVIEW OF THESE CENTRES IN BRITAIN, IN REFERENCE TO BRITISH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REPORT 22.12.

Community centres, the subject of the Ministry of Education Report 22.12, are not yet regular features of British social life, but the story of this type of social service shows the peculiar British blending of voluntary and State effort.

Till the nineteenth century, the Church had been the natural local centre, but the Industrial Revolution brought a social upheaval, the haphazard growth of towns and overcrowding. The first steps in such new rootless communities were taken by the workers themselves (Mechanics' Institutes, from 1823 onwards, still flourishing, especially in the North and Midlands). A lecture at Cambridge in 1883 by Samuel Barnett on "The Settlements of University Men in Great Towns" led to the founding in 1885 of Toynbee Hall and Oxford House in the East End of London, the pioneers of 55 settlements now forming the British Association of Residential Settlements, the main principle being the self-devotion of voluntary social workers to the introduction of wider interests into working-class districts (mainly through men's, boys' and girls' clubs, but health centres, baby clinics, etc., are also run).

Parallel work is done by the 28 centres of the Educational Settlements Association (more concerned with the educational aspect), Church organisations, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., etc.

The need for fostering the community spirit after the upheavals of the last war led to the foundation in 1919 of the National Council for Social Service. This concentrated first on the comparatively simple problem of raising the standard of rural life by means of village halls (funds were mainly provided by wealthy residents or local subscriptions), of which 1,000 were affiliated by 1939. Meanwhile, industrial changes caused large movements of population and the growth of large new housing estates (many built speculatively without regard to amenities, proximity of shops, cinemas or public houses). Typical community life was centred in cinemas, public houses and churches: mass entertainments such as dog-racing and football provided the only general "outlet." The

National Council and the two Settlements Associations in 1929 set up a New Estates Community Committee, which in 1937 became the Community Centres and Associations Committee, under whose auspices by 1939 some 90 community centres had been established, 49 of which were provided by local authorities. These centres offer social, recreational and educational facilities to adults, irrespective of creed or party. Most were due to private initiative; for instance, the residents would call a meeting, contact the Community Centres Committee for support, perhaps to obtain some house on the estate from the local authority, and eventually special premises; sometimes an old building stimulating local pride, for example, the 17th century Craigtintny House, Edinburgh; the 100-year-old house at St. Helier, South London; and an old farm at Wolvercote, Oxford, was reserved amid a new estate by the Housing Committee. Interesting examples of centres now provided by local authorities are at Frecheville Estate, Sheffield, where the trust owning the estate built a centre after representations from the residents, all 5,600 of whom are members; and at Slough Trading Estate, where the premises are owned and maintained by manufacturers and traders on the estate, who also pay 7/- of the 10/- annual subscription for each employee-member. The day-to-day management of centres is conducted by committees of members. Many centres have received financial assistance from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust and the Pilgrim Trust. In mining districts, 716 institutes have been provided by the Miners' Welfare Commission, whose revenue is produced by an output levy of one halfpenny per ton of coal.

The influence of local authorities has progressively increased. The Education Act of 1921 allowed a 50% grant for buildings where young persons could receive social and physical training. The Housing Act of 1925 allowed the expenses and income of community centres to be included in the revenue account of housing estates. The Physical Training and Recreation Act, 1937, enabled authorities to obtain financial assistance for

centres anywhere (with grants for physical training equipment) and authorised educational facilities in centres for adults as well as juveniles. The present Report lays it down that the provision of community centres is part of the educational activity of local authorities under the Education Act of 1944.

Community centres have played an important part in the war. Many became civil defence centres or citizens' advice bureaux; others, communal restaurants and emergency feeding centres; some, centres for Red Cross work; and were all important factors in relieving the strain of black-out and war work. The war has also developed the community spirit, both in the Forces, in civil defence, and in centres attached to hostels for workers in new factories. The experience of the C.E.M.A. and the Forces educational authorities shows a strong desire in ordinary folk for good music, drama, arts and crafts, lectures, etc. These facts make the present a particularly favourable opportunity for developing the community spirit.

The main points in the present Report are: The increase in mechanisation and the decrease in working hours continues; repetitive work does not develop personality, hence the problem of wise use of leisure is urgent, especially for low income groups and those without tradition in leisure occupations. The return of the Forces makes the improvisation of accommodation essential; the new housing programme (three to four

million houses in 12 years) calls for the wide provision of centres. Local authorities have been requested to survey such needs of their areas. The provision of facilities should develop from local needs, and should not be centrally imposed. Modest beginnings (social gatherings, canteen important) might lead first to "quick-return" occupations (dressmaking, first aid, rabbit clubs, boot-mending), and later to music, acting and purely educational activities (classes, lectures). It is important to eliminate the institutional atmosphere, especially for old people, who should be able to "sit and chat." With the parallel development of Youth Service (see Factual Background 123), many new buildings could also provide for their development, thus becoming "family centres," provided adults and children are properly "insulated" in separate rooms. The "linking" of the school with the centre offers many attractions, and this has been tried successfully in Cambridgeshire, where four village colleges, including senior schools, have been established in the last 10 years.

For community centres mainly developed through private initiative, the acute problem has always been the accommodation and finance. With expansion now envisaged, the Government has indicated how it will help. But the Report makes it clear that there is to be no rigid Government control. Social work will continue to be on a voluntary basis, and centres will continue to do valuable work of "education in democracy."

CONTEMPORARY JOURNALS

"ARCHITECTURAL RECORD" April, 1945

The April issue is devoted entirely to the Building Types Study No. 100, prepared in collaboration with "Aero Digest," a leading aviation publication, dealing with airports.

The emphasis in this introductory study is an overall planning—services to people and communities rather than detailed technical facilities. The editors have endeavoured to present a clear picture of the relation of the airport to regions and cities, to commercial and private flying, transport and the technical aspects of aviation.

The first of the articles comprising this study shows how air traffic control is fundamental to the location and planning of airports; the second discusses the vitally important question of runway design and lists the main factors involved. The place of private flying is discussed, as also the question of the wide radius effected by airports which makes regional control indispensable. The study continues with the design requirements of a large terminal and follows on with the plans and descriptions of municipal and other types of airport.

An aspect of the whole study which must appeal to architects is the emphasis on the human aspects of airport planning—a recognition of the important fact that airports are for people who fly "and for all other human activities that grow up in connection with flying," and not merely for aircraft. In fact, the case of the Lockheed air terminal at Burbank, California, one of the largest terminals in America, is perhaps significant in this regard. It has, as one of its functions, the making of the public more familiar with planes and the pleasure of air travel. Extensive additional facilities, apart from private flying services, include, among others, a popular restaurant and coffee shop, cocktail lounges and a gift shop.

This study is the first of a series on this subject, and it is stated that later issues will contain discussions on hangar design, cargo handling, commercial airport design and airport problems in detail.

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA, January and February, 1945

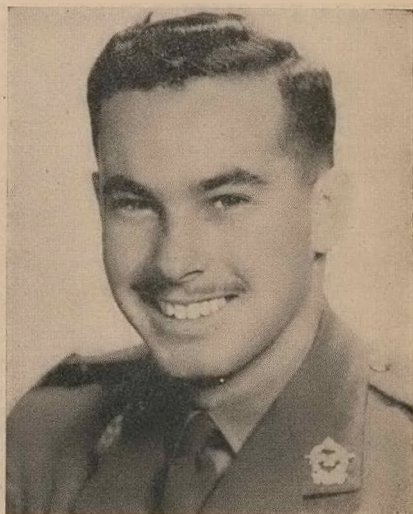
Two interesting articles in the January issue on "Effective Teamwork in Building Design," the first giving an architect's view and the second an engineer's, state the case, obviously well founded, for the better co-operative use of their respective abilities in planning and design. "They envision this partnership increased to a threesome by the addition of the contractor, with the result that we will produce real "modern" designs—efficient, sensible, economical—with or without the use of radically new materials, of which very few are presently in prospect. They use as an example a post-war design for a Nurses' Home for Bellevue Hospital in New York. Starting with the size and furniture requirements of a single room, all planning and design steps were integrated. Two of the interesting structural results are a cavity type wall and a thin flat slab that serves as floor and smooth ceiling, and in addition is the heating surface by virtue of encased pipe coils.

Elsewhere in the same issue Walter Segal discusses "Site Layout Technique," which covers a wide range of possibilities, and is illustrated by a series of comparative examples of layouts in relation to access streets, as well as other existing schemes, including the well-known Radburn development.

The February issue is mainly devoted to a study of Community Centres, and those in Canada are discussed, as well as those in United States war housing projects. An illustrated article by Lionel Scott gives "Some Facts About Community Centres," including basic requirements and general recommendations; and Gwen Fife, Community Counsellor for War-time Housing in Hamilton, discusses "Community Centres of the Future."

ERRATA, MAY, 1945.—Page 90: The "Rhapsody in Blue" was composed by George Gershwin, and NOT by Paul Whiteman.

PROFESSIONAL NOTES AND NEWS



LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER MORRIS MEDALIE

Photo: Le Portrait.

We regret to record that Lieutenant A. M. Medalie was reported missing, believed killed, after an air battle over Yugoslavia, on October 10th, 1944. Lieutenant Medalie is the son of Mr. and Mrs. D. Medalie, of Tekvoh, Trichard. He entered King Edward VII School in 1933 and, with a brilliant scholastic career, he achieved a first-class pass in the Matriculation Examination in 1937, with distinction in Physical Science and Mathematics. He won a scholarship and entered the School of Architecture, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, in 1938.

Throughout his University career he maintained his high standard of achievement which culminated with his winning the first prize in the final year of study and, together with a colleague, the prize for the best thesis submitted during that year. He took an active part in University life and was for some time a member of the Students' Representative Council. He was, too, a keen and active member of the Engineer Sub-Unit of the Rand University Training Corps till the completion of his studies.

He spent his fourth year of study in the office of Messrs. Norman Eaton and Fair in Johannesburg, where his services and capabilities were highly commended.

On graduating with distinction in 1943, he joined the South African Air Force, and on leaving the Union in 1944 he was stationed in Italy. It was while on operations on the 10th October, 1944, that following an air battle his plane was seen to crash into the sea off the coast of Yugoslavia, since when no further information has been received.

While briefly recording the brilliant achievements of this young architect, we take this opportunity of expressing our deep sympathy with his parents, brother and sister.

Craftsmanship in War-Time

IT is at once a reflection of this country's fortunate situation and a tribute to the resources of its industry that, after five years of war, it is yet able to enjoy many of the services for which it normally depended upon imported materials and the conditions of peace.

DESPITE the preoccupation of the greater part of our organisation with essential services, the skilled craftsmanship and distinctive design associated with our name are still available for civilian work, albeit local and substitute materials must be employed together with the limited imported stocks remaining at our disposal.

THERE is no class of work for which the architectural and building world has been accustomed to look to us, which, consistent with the controllers' releases, we are not able and prepared to undertake to-day.

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