

# SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

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THE JOURNAL OF THE CAPE, NATAL, ORANGE FREE STATE AND  
TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTES OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTS  
AND THE CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN QUANTITY SURVEYORS.

PHONE 34-2921. VOLUME THIRTY. NUMBER TWELVE.  
611, KELVIN HOUSE, 75, MARSHALL STREET, JOHANNESBURG.

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

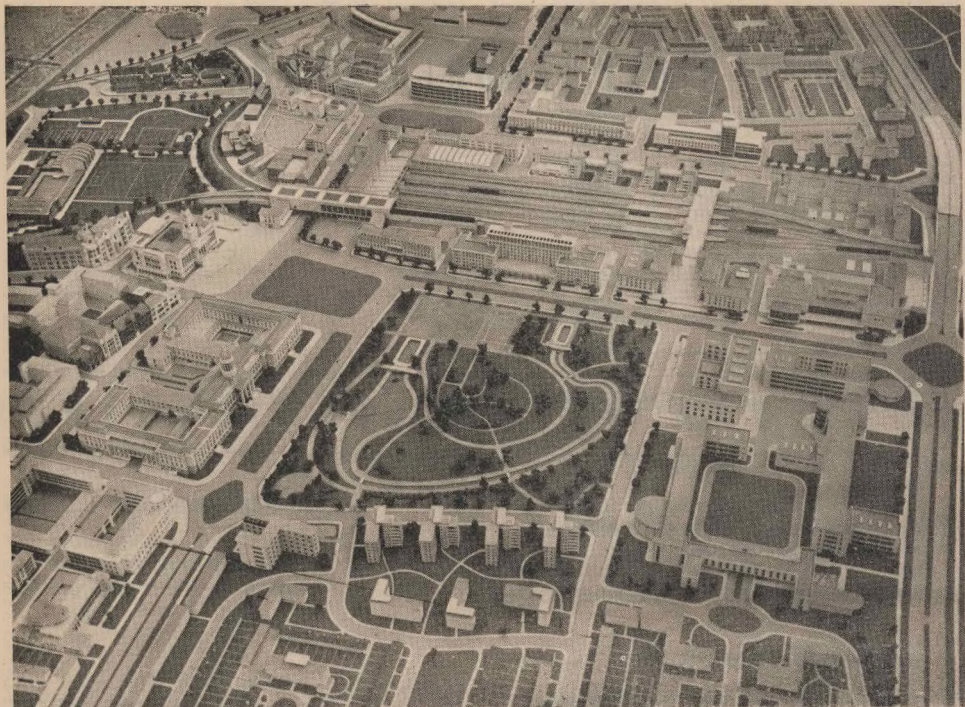
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Official.

### Reconstruction of the City of Portsmouth

Part of the scale model produced in the City Architect's Department illustrating the City of Portsmouth Replanning Scheme. The illustration shows part of the central area which it is proposed to rebuild on the site devastated during the big German raids on Portsmouth on January 10th, March 10th and April 27th, 1941

# BRITAIN'S PLANS FOR THE SMALLER TOWN

By Arthur Richmond

*Vice-Chairman and Controller of the Land Settlement Association and Member of the Dispersal Survey Committee set up by the National Council of Social Service*

Over 90 per cent. of the working population of Britain is engaged in non-agricultural occupations. From being a country which was agriculturally self-supporting, it was transformed, within a little more than a century, into one which had to buy much of its food from abroad. Within that period large numbers of country folk migrated to the towns where the new factories were springing up which had destroyed their home industries. During the nineteenth and the present century more and more of the population of Britain congregated in the towns and cities; until to-day Greater London alone includes about one-fifth of the inhabitants of England and Wales, while whole areas in some parts are so thickly dotted with towns that there is little open country between them.

Since World War I, London, in particular, has spread its tentacles over miles and miles of what 25 years ago was open country. Green fields have receded so far from the older part of the city that many people hardly ever see them; and those who work in London and for reasons of economy or health, live in the outskirts, the daily journey has become longer and more arduous.

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Before World War II the grave disadvantages of the concentration of employment in a few great cities was resulting in some organisations placing staff in the provinces. War, with its threat of aerial bombardment, led to a great evacuation. Hundreds of organisations removed thousands of employees from the great cities to temporary offices and makeshift homes. The damage that has been inflicted on the cities of Britain has led the Government and local authorities to consider how the cities shall be re-built and whether the moment has not arrived for a national policy to be adopted for the diversion of indoor occupations—whether industrial or clerical—away from the large centres of population and into towns of modest dimensions.

To-day, people in Britain are war-conscious, and above all air-war conscious. Consequently their minds have become aware of the strategic danger of large agglomerations of

industry and population. But that is not the sole or even the main consideration which is turning men's minds in the direction of an ordered redistribution of population.

Society has come more clearly to see the disadvantages for human development and a civilised way of life of the concentration of large populations in small areas; with little space about them; with long journeys to make to and from work; with lack of any sense of intimate community. War, too, has revealed to a larger public the reality of overcrowding; the poor standard of life, and indeed of conduct, of many of those who grow up and spend their lives in tenements, where there is no privacy and sometimes nowhere but the streets for children to play.

It has thus come to be very generally recognised that in the national interest a policy for the dispersal of population is called for. By some means industries must be prevented from flowing and swelling the size of great cities; businesses such as banks, insurance offices and the like employing large numbers of people must be encouraged to decentralise their work, and measures should be adopted by the central government to ensure that the process of change shall be carried out without injury to the industries and businesses concerned. Full consideration, too, must given to the human needs of those who are uprooted from familiar surroundings and compelled to adjust themselves to very different conditions. The planning of the areas which are to receive new populations must be consonant with a more enlightened conception of community and personal life than in the past.

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We are at the beginning of a new age. The influence of advancing education is making itself felt in the demand for the extension to all sections of the population of opportunities to share in interests hitherto reserved for a limited class. The growing control of mankind over mechanical production is releasing men from excessive hours of work, and we have to learn to use our new-found and perhaps growing leisure. The absurdity of wasting two or more hours a day in going to



Photo: Planet News, Ltd

The small town of the future. The model shows a well planned town which includes commercial administration, residential and industrial facilities designed by Thomas Sharp.

and from work in crowded trains is beginning to impress itself on the minds of those who undergo it. And then, too, in England, people have an unquenchable love of flowers and gardens. The irresistible nostalgia for a home and bit of land has led in the past to some of the worst desecration of the countryside. For, in their endeavour to meet a general demand, building speculators have covered large areas with little houses and gardens without plan or taste, and have often created new social and administrative problems.

The issue is exceedingly complicated. Of the many people who were removed to safer quarters from cities exposed to bombardment, the majority want to return home, but some have discovered the advantages of life in a more compact community. Those government departments which employ large numbers of people in clerical work should certainly arrange permanently to establish them away from London. Some insurance companies and banks and other large commercial institutions are contemplating doing the same. But this means that innumerable personal difficulties must be overcome. Houses must be built in the reception areas; schools must be provided for the new populations; medical services must be extended; the social and cultural needs of the people must be met; for those who have been used, for instance, to have the theatres and concert halls of London within reach, will not want to be deprived them. It will not be easy for the new population to be assimilated with that of the existing one in

the places to which they are transferred. Then it has to be remembered that with all its disadvantages a great city like London or Birmingham or Glasgow offers a wider choice of employment than a small one; better chances of promotion; and for women better marriage chances.

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If it be decided that what has come to be known as dispersal is to be encouraged, how is the process to be directed and controlled? To answer this question one has to remember the traditional way in which the people of Britain approach any major problem. In the first place they do not rely on the Government to find the whole solution. They expect the Government to give an example in a matter of this kind by pronouncing in favour of a policy, and perhaps adopting specific measures for the execution of it. But they do not expect it to formulate specific plans to be carried out systematically according to a carefully thought out programme.

Once a policy is generally accepted by the nation innumerable agencies automatically get busy. Municipal authorities that regard their area as suitable for the reception of new population begin—and they are beginning—to plan developments that will help industry and trade to settle there and will give the new population the services and amenities they need. Industry and business houses discuss the issue

with their staffs—and they are discussing it—ascertain the personal difficulties to be overcome, and seek to find areas where those departments that are established out of London can easily maintain touch with head office in London, and the staff are likely to find the educational, medical and other social services necessary to their contentment. Voluntary bodies study how to ease the process of transfer, how to overcome the personal difficulties involved, how to promote the fusion of the newcomer into the life of the old community, how to overcome jealousies and the creation of sectional hostilities.

Now that the view is being more accepted that it would be in the national interest for Britain's population to be better distributed over the country, the process of achieving redistribution seems likely to be organic in character rather than artificial. This is not to say that there will not be much opposition to proposals which involve the permanent uprooting of people from the areas where they have friends and all sorts and kinds of affiliations, but, in Britain, the people as a whole will accept a policy which they recognise as right and co-operate extensively in its realisations.

The process may be slow, but so many British cities have been damaged by bombardment, and London, in particular, has had so many thousands of houses destroyed, that the pressing need for new houses may accelerate it.

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A striking lead has been given by Britain's Government, who have decided that the new Department of Social Insurance is to have its headquarters not in London but in the north-east of England, at Newcastle-on-Tyne. This is a break with tradition. It sets the ball of dispersal rolling. If the redistribution of population can be carried out with vision and imagination, new cities can arise in which conditions of life will be far superior to those hitherto known. Men and women will be able to live fuller and richer lives, without the waste of time and energy which is now inseparable from existence in overgrown and ill-planned cities, and the life of the countryside, too, will be enriched by the wider distribution of centres where all the amenities of a civilised community will be available to the countryman as much as to the townsman.



Model of a new town in Berkshire

Photo: Sidney W. Newbery.

# TOWN PLANNING ASSOCIATION (TRANSSVAAL)

ANNUAL REPORT 1944 - 1945

To the Members of the Town Planning Association (Transvaal) :

Your Council has pleasure in submitting this, the First Annual Report for the year ending October, 1945.

**MEMBERSHIP:** The membership at the close of the year consisted of 82 ordinary members, 15 corporate members and 12 life members, a total of 109 members.

**OBITUARY:** It is with deep regret that your Council has to record the death of Mr. F. K. Webber, member of the Council and a Past President of the Association.

**MEETINGS:** Nine meetings of the Council took place during the year and two Committee meetings.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ASSOCIATION:** Your Council during the year carried out negotiations with the Cape Town Planning Association in connection with the establishment of a South African Town and Country Planning Association. Your President visited Cape Town in February and met a committee of the Cape Association, when the proposed constitution was discussed. As a result agreement has been reached and the proposed constitution is being submitted to members at the Annual General Meeting.

**RAILWAY STATION, JOHANNESBURG:** When the appointment of Major-General Szlumper as consultant to the South African Railways was made known, a memorandum was prepared by your Council for submission to the City Council, who had invited persons interested to submit their views by a certain date.

After the report of Major-General Szlumper was published, your Council was invited by the Johannesburg Publicity Association to make joint representations with them to the City Council of Johannesburg to ensure that before the report was accepted, every effort should be made to give the fullest consideration to the town planning aspects of the problem.

Your President was invited to attend a meeting of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee of the City Council to support your Council's memorandum, but as there was no quorum nothing was achieved. At this meeting, however, it was admitted that your Council's memorandum had not been placed before the Reconstruction Committee, and a copy was handed over to the City Engineer for perusal and comment. The Town Clerk agreed that copies of the memorandum would be submitted to the Reconstruction Committee. Since then your Council has again written to the Town Clerk asking for information concerning this matter, and a copy of the report of the City Council's Special Committee has been forwarded to the Association.

**LECTURES:** During the year two public lectures were arranged by your Council and delivered at Kelvin House. On the 29th June Dr. von Biljon delivered a lecture on "State Planning and Private Enterprise." Mr. N. Hanson proposed the vote of thanks, and this was seconded by Dr. J. N. Reedman.

On the 29th August, Dr. E. H. Cluver delivered a lecture on "Planning for Health." Mr. N. Hanson proposed the vote of thanks, and this was seconded by Mr. A. S. Furner.

It is regretted that these lectures were not very well attended, more particularly as they had a considerable bearing on the activities of your Association.

As a result it has been decided by your Council that future lectures shall be given at the University under the auspices of your Association and the University Architectural Society.

Your Council desires to record its thanks to Dr. von Biljon and Mr. Cluver for their extremely interesting and stimulating lectures, and the Associated Scientific and Technical Societies for the use of the hall at Kelvin House.

These two lectures will be published in the "South African Architectural Record" and will be circulated to members.

**HOUSING EXHIBITION:** At the request of the Transvaal Provincial Institute of Architects and the United States Office of War Information, your Council extended its patronage to the Housing Exhibition which was held in the Selborne Hall on July 30th to August 3rd, and created considerable interest.

**APPEAL COURT JUDGMENT:** As a result of the judgment given by Mr. Justice Feetham in the case of Rossmar Mansions v. Briley Court, a judgment which seriously affects the administration of the Town Planning Ordinances in this country, your Council has made representations to the Minister of the Interior urging that he should treat the matter as one of national importance and bring in legislation restoring to the Administrator the powers contained in Article 29 of the Townships Ordinance, pending legislation in the Union Parliament.

**FINANCE:** The finances of the Association are on a sound basis, and your Council is pleased to report that the excess of receipts over payments in terms of the audited statement is £185 13s. 0d.

**SECRETARIAL:** Your Council wishes to accord its sincere thanks to Mr. Gordon Chalmers, who undertook the duties of Honorary Secretary and Treasurer for the year.

G. E. PEARSE,  
President.

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## ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, PROFESSOR G. E. PEARSE

I don't propose to give you a long address, as there is so much business to be attended to at this meeting, but rather to amplify one or two items in the Annual Report.

Although the Association was only resuscitated last year, you will note that its membership has grown to 109, a healthy sign, considering that we have devoted most of the year to negotiations with the Cape Association, with a view to forming a national body, and have not found time to tackle many urgent national problems. A National Association has been agreed upon, and I feel that it will do much to further the interests of town and country planning in South Africa.

In February I had an opportunity of meeting the President and members of the Cape Association, and from the minutes of that body, sent to us from time to time, it is obvious that we have the same ideals and should be able to exercise greater influence on Government, Provincial and Local authorities in matters relating to town and country planning by our combined efforts.

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During the year we have been approached by members and associations and invited to take an active part in the Johannesburg Railway Station—Wanderers Ground controversy. This we have refused to do on the grounds that, first, an expert was brought out from England to adjudicate on the position, and secondly, that the report of this expert was being dealt with by a committee of the City Council.

I should, however, inform members that we have been treated with scant courtesy by the City Council of Johannesburg.

Following a notification in the Press in December, 1944, to the effect that "persons desirous of submitting schemes or plans in connection with this matter, were asked to submit such schemes or plans to the Town Clerk by Friday, 5th January, 1945," your Council drew up a short memorandum of its views on the subject and submitted it to the Town Clerk.

This memorandum dealt with the past and future growth of Johannesburg and recommended "that as the question of the increase in facilities at the Johannesburg station is now under consideration, the opportunity be taken to examine the town planning aspects of such expansion; and that, to this end, the City Council of Johannesburg and the Railway Administration co-operate in setting up a technical committee of enquiry to take evidence from all interested parties: to give consideration to the general development of the city and its transport system; and to recommend positive and practical measures to provide an adequate transport grid to serve a greater Johannesburg."

Beyond a bare acknowledgement we heard nothing further.

We were gratified, however, to note in the Press that the City Council's proposals to Major-General Szlumper, the over-

seas expert, were almost identical with ours. Major-General Szlumper's report was submitted to the Minister of Transport on the 12th March, 1945. Soon afterwards this was made public, and we were approached by the Johannesburg Publicity Association and invited to make joint representations with them to the City Council's committee on the matter. We agreed subject to our confining our views at this stage to the points raised in our memorandum. A meeting was arranged by the Town Clerk, and we attended with representatives of the Johannesburg Publicity Association. The meeting was a fiasco owing to the fact that there was no quorum present. However, we did elicit the fact that our memorandum had not been submitted to the City Council's committee and that the City Engineer had not seen it. We therefore presented a copy of the document to the Town Clerk, who promised to circulate it to members. A further meeting was arranged at very short notice, but owing to my absence from town we were not invited to attend.

Since then, as you are all aware, a joint technical committee of officials of the Railways and City Council has been set up to discuss the town planning aspects of the problem, and our proposal that evidence should be taken from all interested bodies has been ignored.

However, your Council feels that until the report of this committee is available, it would be unwise or useless to take any further action.

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You will note that two lectures were given during the year, one by Dr. von Biljon on "State Planning and Private Enterprise," and the other by Dr. E. J. Cluver on "Planning for Health." These are being published by the "South African Architectural Record" and will be circulated to members.

The Housing Exhibition which was held on July 30th under the aegis of the Transvaal Provincial Institute of Architects and the United States Office of War Information created considerable interest, and our Association was invited to co-operate.

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A recent judgment given by Mr. Justice Feetham was discussed by your Council, and it was felt that this constituted a very serious setback to provincial town planning legislation in the Union. Your Council, therefore, submitted the following resolution to the Minister of the Interior:—

### MEMORANDUM ON TOWNSHIPS AND TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE, 1931.

This Council views with great concern the recent decision of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, in upholding the judgment of Mr. Justice Blackwell in the case

of *Rossmour Mansions v. Briley Court*, 1944 A.D.

In its opinion this judgment constitutes a serious setback to town planning legislation and practice in the Union.

Under Section 29 of the Townships and Town Planning Ordinance as amended in 1941, the Administrator was empowered on the advice of the Townships Board to relieve a particular property owner of a restrictive condition in his title deeds, in cases where such relieve would promote town planning or otherwise to be to the advantage of the whole community. The effect of this [the Administrator's] power can be illustrated by one case. Where a certain site is restricted to the building of a residence and where town planning approves the building of a block of flats on that site, the Administrator could relieve the site-owner from the legal restriction.

Under the original ordinance, local authorities were compelled to prepare town planning schemes in respect of all the land situated within the Municipality. Experience showed that these schemes could not be implemented unless property owners could, where necessary, secure change in their title deeds. For this reason the Administrator was given wider powers. As far as this Council is aware, this power has always operated in the public interest. In particular it has made possible the effective formulation of town planning schemes and their application in practice since 1941. It is regretted, therefore, that a legal technicality should have removed so important a part of the essential basis of town planning.

If the Department of the Interior is reviewing the legal basis of town planning, this Council suggests that a full review be made not only in the light of the Court decision referred to above, but also in the light of the Fifth Report of the Social and Economic Planning Council. While this Council has not yet considered the full implications of the Social and Economic Planning Council Report No. 5, it strongly supports the recommendation contained in paragraph 142 for the setting up of a Department of Physical Planning and Regional Development under the Central Government. Such a step would obviously require legislation by the Union Parliament. This fact confirms our view that since all planning must necessarily be based on Statutes, these should take the form in future of Acts of Parliament rather than of Provincial Ordinances. It is clear that as long as town planning powers are derived from Provincial Ordinances they are liable at any time to be abruptly curtailed through the operation of the legal doctrine of *ultra vires*.

In conclusion, this Council wishes to emphasise that, pending fuller legislation of the type indicated above, it considers that it is urgent and imperative that the powers vested in the Administrator under Section 29 of the Townships and Town Planning Ordinance should be restored at the earliest possible date.

In conclusion, I should like to refer to the report of the Social and Economic Planning Council No. 5, which has recently been published. This report supplements the proposals of the Council contained in an earlier report, and it is considered of such importance and urgency that your Council has decided to hold a symposium at the University on December 5th and invite speakers to discuss various aspects of the report. Amongst those who have agreed to speak are Mr. J. Lewin, Colonel Bowling, the Surveyor-General, Mr. Norman Hanson and Mr. D. M. Cowin. It is to be hoped that members will attend and invite others, so that the fullest support may be given to the recommendations of the Social and Economic Planning Council.

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Town planning in South Africa is in the doldrums at the moment. Twenty-five years ago your Association urged the Government of the Union to pass legislation to prevent the sprawl and haphazard development that was taking place in this country, a development that was destroying our historic cities and preventing the establishment of new towns on up-to-date principles. We were invited by the Minister of Public Health, who had powers to deal with town planning under the Public Health Act, to draft town planning regulations for his department. For two years a committee of Architects, Land Surveyors, Town Engineers and Medical Officers of Health worked on these regulations and finally submitted a draft to the Secretary for Public Health. That was the end of them as far as the Union Government was concerned. All that happened was the transfer of town planning powers to local authorities. We then decided to approach the Administrator of the Transvaal, Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, to urge the introduction of Provincial legislation, with the result that the Transvaal Town Planning and Townships Ordinance of 1931 was passed. A similar ordinance was passed at the Cape in 1934. In these ordinances it was laid down that town planning should be under the control of a Townships Board, consisting of certain Government officials and five persons possessing qualifications necessary for or serviceable in connection with town planning. Prior to this the Surveyor-General used to submit all town planning schemes to our Association for its advice and comments, which were invariably acted upon.

Since the passing of the ordinance matters have gone from bad to worse as far as town planning in the Transvaal is concerned. No person with town planning qualifications has been appointed to the Board until comparatively recently, with the result that the most appalling schemes have been approved which will cost the country many thousands of pounds to remedy at a later date.

I have recently seen some plans of township layout which have been approved by the Townships Board, and which are contrary to all the best town planning principles, which are in fact mere caricatures of town planning. The sooner this sort of thing is stopped the better.



The passing of the Slums Act and the Ribbon Development Act and the setting up of Peri-Urban Areas Boards and a National Roads Board are mere palliatives, not cures.

It is a case of Nero fiddling while Rome burns.

In the meanwhile it should be noted that since Union, more damage has been done by Government Departments to our

towns in South Africa than at any time in this country's history—damage that will cost the taxpayers many millions to remedy.

It is our duty, therefore, as a Town Planning Association, working in accordance with our aims and objects, to support the proposal of the Social and Economic Planning Council that a new Ministry should be set up as is done in most enlightened countries, to control the physical planning of the Union.

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## STATE PLANNING FOR PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

By Dr. F. J. van Biljon

*Secretary, Social and Economic  
Planning Council*

I felt it an honour to be invited to give the inaugural lecture to the series you are planning. But I feel a bit dubious now that I learn it is really a means of resuscitating an association that had once to be disbanded.

You invited me to address you on one of these planning subjects, not specifying which one of many. Left with such a wide choice, I gathered that what I was really required to do was to deal with the basic question: plan or no plan. Planning, in the sense of the unerring pursuit on rational lines of a desirable aim, is gaining in popularity. But there is also strong and determined opposition to planning in any form.

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Now, the arguments that are used against State planning range far and wide. A leading and convincing argument is that the private enterprise system, as the antithesis of a planned system, by its very emphasis on enterprise and initiative is a powerful agency for progress. And there is no denying that it has led to remarkable improvements of living standards. What is more, the reliance placed on initiative and on free enterprise is a guarantee—it is claimed the only guarantee—of the precious freedoms for which mankind has striven so hard. The inference is clear. Mankind must beware of State control and State planning. It leads to stagnation, it is the road to serfdom, and all that. These, clearly, are important considerations. They certainly demand due attention.

Granted, however, that the private enterprise system does greatly promote progress and freedom, there is also the question whether it invariably does so. Like man himself, this creation of his is a mixture of good and evil. It has been said, as far back as 1870, that:—

There is no security that the economic phenomena of society, as at present constituted, will always arrange them-

selves spontaneously in the way which is most for the common good.

Why these conflicts between individual and social interests exist need not detain us. The fact is that they do. On that account there is an overwhelming belief that the State should not follow a mere do-nothing policy. It should not follow a policy of drift. It must actively combat the failings of the private enterprise system.

Let us not, however, forget the dangers inherent in that course. They are real. To combat the failings of the private enterprise system without harming initiative, that powerful and partly beneficial social force, is a difficult problem. It is the crucial problem of economic statecraft.

Another objection to State intervention is that the free choice of which the private enterprise system permits is said to be the only way of determining true priorities. The inference is that without free choice and free competition the State does not really know, cannot know, what the people want most. Therefore, State planning is arbitrary; hence undesirable.

Again we must confess to the existence of this danger. But again it is not absolute. Since the aim of State planning is to combat the failings of the private enterprise system, its objectives are plain. They are determined for it. They embrace the very things that the private enterprise fails to provide in sufficient degree.

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We know what these failings are. The private enterprise system fails to provide sufficient equality of opportunity. It fails always to provide minimum standards of labour and living, standards that are sociologically desirable and, given the effort, well within reach. It fails invariably to ensure high productivity and efficiency, competition notwithstanding.

It often fails to provide full employment, and it fails notoriously to safeguard the nation's permanent resources. It fails to respect many vital social interests. It often conflicts with legitimate racial aims. And the private enterprise system fails significantly to ensure balanced regional development and a distribution of population that is sound strategically and sociologically, or even merely sensible.

Under pressure of public opinion, Governments, therefore, increasingly endeavour to put these failings right. Faced with the facts, it is certainly a valid aim for the State to promote greater equality of opportunity, to promote minimum standards, high productivity, full employment, conservation of resources, balanced regional development, a sound distribution of population: in short, the very things of which unrestrained private enterprise does not take sufficient care.

To achieve these purposes, Governments have largely relied on fiscal means and on a wide variety of controls. They have sought to tax, legislate and regulate out of existence the failings of the private enterprise system. Sometimes it has been possible to adapt these tax and control measures so that they produce positive results as well.

Many of these measures are essential and cannot be relaxed. They are in defence of fundamental rights and liberties and form as integral a part of the social framework as the instruments for preserving law, order, religion and family.

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The extent to which controls and fiscal measures can be used to accomplish all the various aims of social and economic policy is, however, limited. For one thing, endless restrictions and large-scale interference with relative prices will stultify much genuine private enterprise or misdirect it. This much the opponents of State planning have forewarned us about. It behoves us to accept the warning.

One obvious way in which to lessen the restraints on initiative and liberty is to limit the number of controls and fiscal devices to what is really essential. Indeed, the first principle of State control and of fiscal policy is to aim at abuses and defects of the private enterprise system that are of real consequence. Leave the minor ones alone and much unnecessary restriction is avoided.

Another obvious way of lessening the restraints of initiative and liberty is to choose the simplest controls that will be effective and produce the desired results. Thus we find that the older generation of public servants, in choosing, for their own convenience, measures that would be administratively simple, unwittingly safeguarded liberty and initiative. The modern tendency is the reverse. The preference is for the elaborate. While the motive may be praiseworthy, to achieve perfection, the resulting complicated measures, by their very cumbersomeness, run the risk of producing stagnation. There

is a pressing need for reform in these directions in the Union. We must aim at the essential minimum of simple and straightforward control.

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But there is another more important reason why the goals of social and economic policy cannot be attained by negative restrictions and fiscal measures alone. In their very nature certain things can only be achieved by positive action. Actually to undertake constructive things itself, however, is a course Governments have shunned. They are told so often, and therefore have an unholy fear that positive State enterprise will limit the scope for private enterprise and sooner or later mean the end of that system. In reality, an enterprising Government and a risk-taking public service are essential for the successful operation of the private enterprise system. To do things, rather than to prevent, to pave the way, rather than point to it, that is the course most compatible with a system based on a high level of enterprise. The only qualification is that the State must not venture into the fields at which private enterprise is quite good. In view of our unlimited wants that would still leave the State tremendous scope.

It is, therefore, a welcome development that public opinion is increasingly reacting in favour of State planning of a positive character and against a surfeit of negative control and indirect inducement. It is an equally welcome fact that some leading post-war plans of the Union Government are of a positive nature—conservation farming, housing construction, soldier re-training all have that imprint.

But much more of this kind of planning is needed. Provided it keeps off the field where private enterprise can show comparable results, perhaps with a little assistance or even coercion, State enterprise will be an aid to private enterprise rather than in opposition to it.

Research and dissemination of information of value to the enterpriser is one of the constructive tasks that can be used with effect to stimulate private enterprise and make it more efficient. Comparative examination of standards of efficiency, in business or farming or industry, coupled with active assistance in reorganisation is another.

On the other hand, there are branches of the economy, e.g., of distribution where competition or lack of competition and State regulation alike have failed to effect improvement, so that waste and inefficiency persist and act as a drag on the rest of the economy. There a transition to public operation is essential. There are also fields in which private enterprise has failed to interest itself, and possibly never will, because it does not pay, although there would be more than compensating social gains. Rural electrification is one such service that will have to be undertaken by public or co-operative agency.

Above all, the State alone can frame and pave the way for balanced regional development. This involves guidance, it is true, but it mainly depends on the public provision of transport, power and other services on which private enterprise is vitally dependent, without which it can make no start. For the Union Government to branch out in this direction is essential in order to change the regionally unbalanced economy of the Union before it is too late. Moreover, by active regional development alone can we ever hope to give effect to the widely accepted policy of a greater measure of racial separation, while yet doing away with the pernicious migratory labour system.

Regionalism is closely allied to urban planning and re-development, and are the fields in which the Town Planning Association is specially interested and doing valuable pioneer work. There is little need to seek further justification for this work, having first disposed of the protests that planning is necessarily inimical to enterprise and liberty. That we have seen is only potentially so. Of course, not all planning makes sense. But in principle town planning and regional planning are one of the most promising, though still inadequately used, aids available to Government, both for avoiding abuses of the private enterprise system by creating a framework within which it can operate freely and to give further scope to it by creating the minimum conditions needed before industries can start at a place or its other resources exploited.

As to the need for town planning this is unquestioned. For as the leading living classical economist put it:—

It is as idle to expect a well-planned town to result from the independent activities of isolated speculators as it would be to expect a satisfactory picture to result if each separate square inch were painted by an independent artist.

Obviously, if planning and co-ordination is needed in a single town, in order that it may best conform to functional requirements, such co-ordination is essential for the same reason where regional development is concerned. Only the scale is larger, the task more difficult.

Initiative and liberty would be endangered by it only if in the process of physical planning you ignore the first precept—plan for essentials, not for perfection. That may not appeal to all the Association's town-planning members—or the planners, as they sometimes call themselves, although they are engaged on an essentially collective task that will best achieve its aim in a free society if that collectivism is persuasive in character rather than mandatory. Again, some of the planners will have different ideas to this. For some of them seem to believe that they can right now stereotype the whole structure of land-use once and for all in the ideally desirable way. Let us hope that my impression is wrong that such a tendency exists.

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## PLANNING FOR HEALTH

By Dr. E. H. Cluver.

Director: The South African  
Institute for Medical Research

The objective of the Town Planning Association is ideal, or at any rate improved conditions under which human beings are to live. These include aesthetic and hygienic amenities. In any case they are directly concerned with the promotion of human health and happiness. It is therefore appropriate that your Association should have a very clear conception of what are the environmental needs of Man.

It has been abundantly established that as a machine Man has been very well, in most cases almost flawlessly constructed. The fact that he is so often unhappy and the prey to aches and pains is to be found very largely in the environment in which he has to live.

Nature makes a few mistakes. A very few faulty models are turned out, i.e., persons with hereditary crippling of health. But we must assume that the great bulk of disease and ill-health is attributable to a faulty organisation of society. And it is this faulty organisation that we are seeking to remedy.

What, then, is the environment in which man can realise his inheritance of a long, happy, disease-free, useful life? Briefly stated, his environment must provide him from the time of his conception with sufficient of the correct food to build up his tissues and allow his organs to function properly; it must allow him easily to keep his body temperature down to normal; because he has a temperament it must allow him to feel useful

to and approved by his fellow man; he must be provided with good sanitation so that he is not unnecessarily exposed to germ and parasitic diseases.

Having decided on the necessary environment, how can we by planning achieve it? Firstly, how can we ensure his getting sufficient of the correct foods?

#### NUTRITION.

Starvation, one hopes, will soon be completely banished from the earth. It occurs during and in the wake of wars. It also follows national catastrophes which are not preventable, such as droughts, floods and earthquakes. As most human beings are inherently kindly, there are usually quick and generous reactions to such gross deprivation of food. Only after a war of the magnitude of the one we have just experienced do world supplies fail.

But of greater importance because it is more insidious and because the total damage to health is vastly greater is malnutrition. This is the result not only, or mainly, of shortage of food, but of improper balance of the dietary constituents. In actual fact it means the satisfaction of hunger by starch to the virtual exclusion of the body-building and tissue repairing substances, the proteins, vitamins and minerals. Starch is unfortunately such a very cheaply produced food. To meet a snobbish taint in the consumer, and a desire on the part of the miller for it to "keep" as long as possible it is highly purified, so that the proteins, vitamins and minerals that were present in the germ and bran of the original grain are almost completely removed before it reaches the consumer in the form of bread or porridge.

We can do with a good deal of starch in our daily diet. It is burnt up in our bodies as fuel to produce motor energy and heat. But it cannot be built into the structure of our bodies or promote the smooth functioning of its various parts. For that reason it must be adequately balanced at every meal with protein-containing and protective foods.

We are as yet unable to produce synthetically the food substances our bodies require to attain their full physical and intellectual powers. In other words, we cannot do without the freshly produced agricultural substance. Bio-chemists, in spite of their greatly refined procedures, are yet very far from isolating or even recognising all the chemical bodies present in fresh milk, fresh fruit and fresh vegetables. The quantities present are apparently so small as to defy all the attempts of the bio-chemist, clever as he has been in isolating the grosser vitamins. But these other substances, as yet unrecognised chemically, are of the greatest importance in human health and nutrition. We quickly become aware of their absence when ill-health makes its appearance.

I emphasise the word fresh in connection with these farm products. They are damaged not only by the processing they may undergo in mills and factories, but also by mere keeping. The carrot, as pulled out of the ground, is a vastly

superior food to the article, however beautifully prepared, which eventually reaches our urban tables after its wearisome journeys and waits from the farm to the market, from the market to the retail shop, and from the shop to our pantries.

So we come to the first matter to which our town planners must give their very earnest attention. It is easy to plan for enough food for an urban population. It was possible to provide enough food three centuries ago for the ships which took months to round the Cape. But it was not possible to prevent their crews suffering terribly and dying from scurvy. We cannot hope for perfect health in our towns unless their populations are very close to their food supplies. Every town plan must provide for dairies and fruit and vegetable gardens in its immediate vicinity. If it is possible for the householder to produce some of his own in a backyard, so much the better.

At least one of the vitamins is produced in our food and in our skins as the result of the action of the longer-waved ultra-violet rays that penetrate to the bottom of the atmosphere from the sun. These rays are also deadly to most of the disease germs that attack us. They are therefore beneficial to health, and it is essential, particularly for growing children, that these rays be allowed to reach them. Provision must be made for play in the sun, not a difficult matter to arrange in our sunny highveld climate. Some guidance is needed to prevent excess of these rays. Fortunately, the very deadly ultra-violet rays of shorter wavelength are absorbed by the upper ozone layers of the air. Up to now we have been living immune from their action down here at the bottom of an ocean of air. But two Japanese populations have recently been exposed to them as the result of splitting of atoms in the atomic bomb. Produced within a few hundred yards of them, they were not absorbed by the ozone layers which remove those produced by the splitting atoms in the sun. You have read how these short-waved ultra-violet rays destroyed most of the red and white corpuscles of the victims who died within a few days, even if they had escaped from the immediate effects of the explosion.

We shall have to go very carefully indeed if we intend to produce artificial sunlight from our own terrestrial atoms.

#### VENTILATION.

The human body contains thousands of internal combustion engines in the form of muscle fibres. Every time one of these contracts it burns up fuel—the carbohydrate, sugar. This produces not only motor or muscular energy, but also much heat which has to be got rid of if the engine is not to "seize."

Ventilation of our buildings is necessary to promote adequate cooling of the body. There is a popular superstition about draughts producing respiratory infection; the air movement must therefore be so designed as not to produce the disliked directional currents known as draughts.

The human machine was not apparently designed to function in warm climates. Our cooling apparatus leaves much to be desired. If we want to live healthily in the tropics we must artificially adjust conditions to our needs. This is now within the realms of practicability. Last year, when advising on the desirability or otherwise of educating children in Northern Rhodesia, I was able to advocate the erection of air-conditioned playrooms. In these health-giving halls, sport is possible even in the hottest months. Swimming baths should be plentifully provided in all South African town plans. We also still need much education in regard to the rationalising of our clothing.

#### EMOTIONS AND DISEASE.

So far I have dealt with man as a machine which requires certain nutrients and physical conditions if it is to function properly. But man is also blessed, or cursed, with emotions. These emotions can cause very serious damage to the machine if they are not properly regulated. We can provide the ideal dietary and the ideal physical environment and yet the person concerned may die a premature death as the result of intestinal ulceration or heart disease if he is the victim of long-continued emotional imbalance.

The autonomic nervous system which regulates the action of glands, viscera and circulatory system is divided into two sections, the sympathetic and the parasympathetic. The former is designed to deal with emergencies which endanger life and require violent action such as fight or flight. When it takes command all digestive processes cease and the heart beats strongly and rapidly with a consequent rise in blood-pressure. When this happens occasionally no harm results. Strong emotions are good in the young when they can give release to them in action such as sport.

They are very harmful when they continue almost uninterrupted in older people in the form, e.g., of fear. Financial insecurity is productive of such long-continued fear and is responsible for much alimentary and heart disease. It will, we hope, be abolished by social security measures.

Many people are by nature of the worrying type. They do their stomachs and intestines much harm by not relaxing and forgetting their troubles at meal-times. The psychosomatic school of medicine has helped medical practice forward tremendously by showing how much cardio-vascular disease is the direct result of long-continued worrying, which is but another term for fear of social consequences of our actions.

Recreation grounds and other social amenities will go a long way to the removal of such damaging fears. But we must look to rational educational systems for their complete removal from society.

#### SANITATION.

Medical scientists have increasingly valid grounds for believing that most disease germs are unable to attack and get a

hold on the satisfactorily nourished human body; that is a body in which the tissues have not only been supplied with the necessary nutrient materials, but which has itself been consistently in the correct physical and emotional environment which will allow of the proper utilisation of those nutrients by the tissues. We have seen that ulcers may be produced in the stomach and intestine of an individual receiving an ideally balanced diet if he does not avoid emotionally disturbing sensations during his meals. The arteries will undergo degenerative changes if continuous spasm, because of sensation of fear, prevents their being properly nourished. In a similar manner emotional imbalance will make organs in various parts of the body vulnerable to attack by germs even if the food supply is satisfactory.

While the food supply of the majority of the people is unsatisfactory and the physical and emotional environment leave much to be desired, we must do all we can to guard against these germs. Sanitation can reduce their number very greatly and in many cases entirely eliminate them.

It is unnecessary to tell an audience such as this that water-borne sewerage is far-and-away the most satisfactory method of disposing of the human refuse that is produced in all communities. Very dangerous germs are passed out from the human intestine of a large number of people, even when they are apparently in good health. Such persons are known as carriers. They have been responsible for many epidemics of typhoid (or enteric) fever. Many other kinds of germs may live harmlessly, symbiotically, in the intestines of some of us, while if they enter those of others they set up infections of varying severity.

In Johannesburg before the introduction of water-borne sewerage, typhoid and other intestinal diseases took a very heavy toll of human life and health. It has now been almost completely eliminated. Those cases that still occur have mostly been imported into the city while in the incubation stage of the disease, or they are fly-borne.

In planning our towns, however small they be, we must provide for water-borne sewerage. No other system can be tolerated in the new, properly civilised world for which we should no longer be only dreaming, but actively preparing. Only its cost stands in the way of its general introduction, and that cannot any longer be allowed to stand in the way.

Flies continue to be dangerous spreaders of intestinal disease. They are filthy creatures, breeding and feeding in excrement, but feeding also on our food, and so conveying the germs from the excrement of sufferers or carriers to healthy people. The annihilation of the common domestic fly, *Musca domestica*, must be immediately decreed and carried out ruthlessly. We know all his lurking places, and we have now been provided with a most potent weapon against him. We can wage ruthless chemical warfare against him by means of the new insect poison, D.D.T.

I found it of great interest that certain older writers commented on the reduction of the number of flies in London when the motor-car began to replace horse-drawn vehicles. They sought for a reason for this, and eventually attributed it to the poisonous gases given off by motor-cars. Not till later was it fully realised that most of London's flies were hatched out in horse-manure; and when the amount of this hatching material was reduced the number of flies rapidly decreased.

We shall continue to deal with this, the main breeding ground of the fly. Kindly people may succeed in eliminating the horse and other equines entirely from our towns as a beast of burden. Meanwhile we can dispose of his manure in such a way that flies cannot breed in it.

But it would seem that in D.D.T. we have the most effective weapon for finally disposing of flies and other insect vectors of disease. Experiments are now in progress regarding the incorporation of this chemical in plaster coatings of walls and

other surfaces on which flies alight. If suitably applied, every fly alighting on such a surface is doomed.

It will also dispose of the typhus carrying louse. Clothing treated with D.D.T. will guard the wearer against lice and therefore against typhus.

#### ORGANISATION OF MEDICAL SERVICES.

Time will not allow me to dilate on this controversial subject. Suffice it to say that the medical profession could contribute materially to the health of the community if the general public were prepared to make proper use of its services. Already most of our larger towns have health departments employing full-time medical men and other officers engaged in the promotion of health and the prevention of disease.

The curative services, too, could be much better utilised if they were better distributed and collected at suitable points in polyclinics, as is the case in Russian cities.

# THE SOUTH AFRICAN ACADEMY

A REVIEW BY E. K. LORIMER

The South African Academy this year held its annual exhibition—the twenty-sixth of the series—for the second time in succession at the Johannesburg Municipal Art Gallery. When the move from the City Hall premises was first made, the Academy Committee had feared that Joubert Park was too far from the centre of town and that attendances might fall off. They felt, however, that the Art Gallery really should be the art centre of the town and that the experiment should be made. The move was fully justified. Not only have attendances increased, but they are now much more fully representative of the community as a whole. The "Academy" is no longer merely a social event, visited by the cultured few, but something which attracts the general public in all walks of life. This year showed a great advance even on 1944. During the period of the exhibition, October 12th to October 28th, it was attended by nearly 5,000 visitors, some of them on several occasions.

Pictures submitted to the jury numbered about 550, and came from all parts of the country, but the response was somewhat disappointing. Although there was some very good work and some very well-known names, it was noticeable that a number of the "arrived" South African artists had not submitted pictures. There are apparently various reasons for this, but the main one seems to be that the artist who already has a recognised name stands to gain nothing by exhibiting at the South African Academy, and therefore will not be bothered to send in work, often at considerable expense to himself. To such artists there is only one appeal, and that is that they should be public-spirited enough to help the exhibition to be "South African" in fact as well as in intention. The very name—"South African Academy"—shows that the Committee endeavours to stage an exhibition which shows the best work that South Africa can produce and which would have some international standing. Many of our well-known artists do support the Academy, but while others stand aloof it is impossible to make the exhibition truly representative, and the fault does not lie with the Committee. The personnel of the jury is always carefully selected by the Committee, and consists of persons of the highest standing and integrity in art matters. Their names are not published merely to protect them from the attacks by disappointed would-be exhibitors which always follow in a limited community such as South Africa. The necessity of having a jury has been pressed over and over again in the past, the possession of a popular name

not being sufficient to guarantee the quality of work, but we do not believe that such reasons as refusal to submit to a jury and lack of confidence in the jury are those mainly causing the lack of support by some well-known artists. We believe it is merely indifference, and we can only appeal to them to support the South African Academy in the future, not because of anything they may stand to gain but because they will perform a national service in doing so.

The exhibition was opened by the Mayor of Johannesburg, Mr. A. Immink, and was attended by a large number of well-known people. About 150 pictures, sculptures and architectural drawings were on view, and amongst the names in the catalogue were Walter Battiss, Eric Byrd, Emily Fern, Natalie Field, Russell Harvey, P. Anton Hendriks, Joyce Lemara, Le Roux Smith le Roux, Erich Mayer, Ruth Prowse, Maud Sumner, Maurice van Esseche, Jean Welz, Professor Winter-Moore, Willem de S. Hendrikz and Moses Kottler. It was also interesting to note the place given to the work of young artists whose merit lies perhaps more in promise than in performance. There is perhaps a danger against which such young people should be warned—that of becoming over-confident in their own powers. So often it happens that a young man of undoubted ability discovers that he can paint pictures which, having a certain technical merit and popular appeal, sell extremely well. Unfortunately that may be the end of him. He sits back feeling that he has "arrived," can make money, and need not bother to go further. Humility, sincerity and long years of study at the technical side of his craft are essentials to the make-up of the artist, and nobody can take a short cut and get away with it in the long run.

Two outstanding events during the course of the recent exhibition were the evening lectures arranged by the Transvaal Art Society and given by Mr. P. Anton Hendriks and Mr. Willem de S. Hendrikz respectively. They were attended by such large numbers of people that it was impossible to provide comfortable seating accommodation for all, and the enthusiasm of the audiences was remarkable. Here was proof of the growing interest in and appreciation of art amongst a large circle of people in Johannesburg. The City Council are to be congratulated on their decision to loan the Art Gallery for the exhibition of the South African Academy, and it might be suggested that the interest aroused indicates that the need for an enlarged and progressive programme of activity in art matters is now due and should be sponsored by them.

# DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS IN AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE 1939 - 1944

## THIRD PART: HOUSES

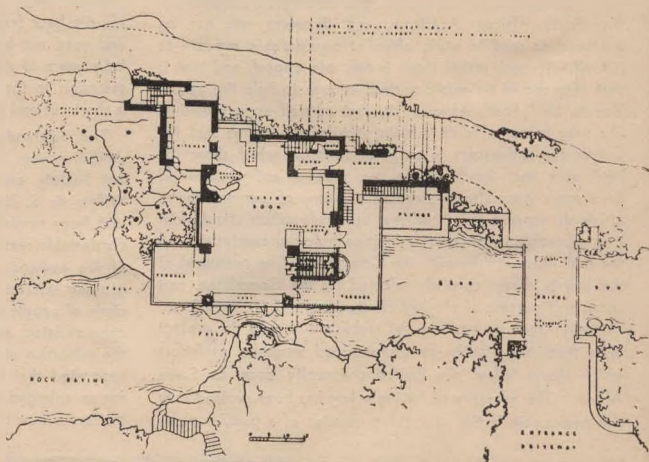


At "Falling Water" a series of balconies project from a structural core of native ledge stone. LEFT: A general view from the approach bridge over the stream. BELOW: The main floor plan; and FACING: A view from downstream and a corner of the living room.

"FALLING WATER," BEAR RUN, PENNSYLVANIA, 1937-1939

Frank Lloyd Wright, Architect.

"Falling Water" is integrated with its steep, stream-side woodland setting in the east coast State of Pennsylvania. The living space, cantilevered out over the stream in geometric masses, is a striking foil to the rugged natural surroundings. For the massive structural core of the house, from which the reinforced concrete cantilever spring, local ledge stone is used. The stone is used only in compression, while the tensile strength of the steel reinforcing rods is primarily employed to suspend the balconies at different levels. The living area is chiefly a single large irregular-shaped space, with various alcoves and bays provided for partial separation of functions. From the lower terrace a hung stairway leads down to a diving platform immediately above a pool in the stream.

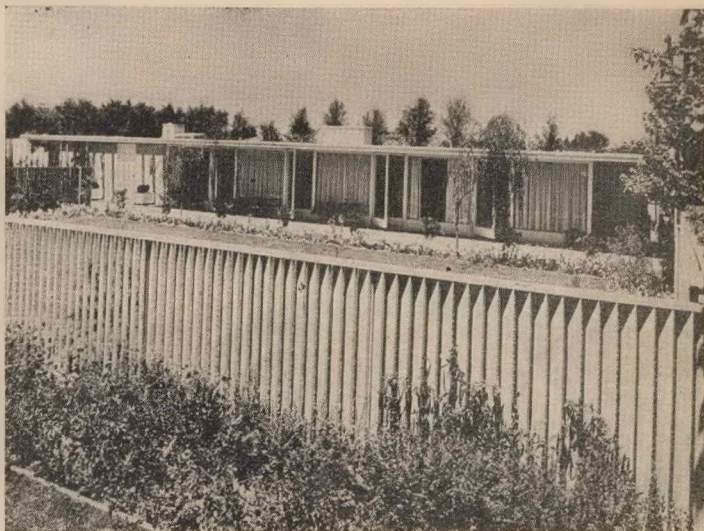






HOUSE AT MODESTO, CALIFORNIA, 1939

John Funk, Architect.

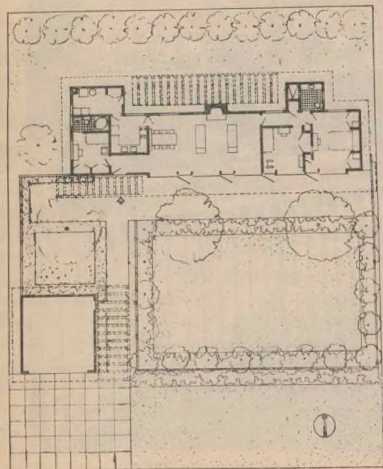


The house and garden looking across the diagonal-boarded screen fence. The southern wall of the house is made up of fixed windows and outward opening doors.

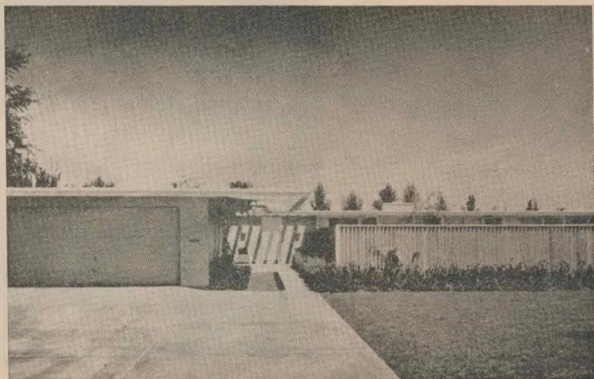


Terrace view of the house showing the large window areas in which fixed glass areas alternate with outward opening doors. The deep overhang excludes the intense summer sun. BELOW LEFT: The site plan, with the house well back from the busy street behind the screened garden; and RIGHT: A general view at the entrance. The extended rooflines and trellises form a broad horizontal pattern.

## HOUSE AT MODESTO



Two major factors influenced the design of this house in the far-western State of California. Modesto is located in the San Joaquin Valley, where, for most of the year, the climate is hot and dry; the site faced a busy street on the south—the most desirable exposure. To solve the site problem, the house was placed well back on the lot, and a garden fence, made of boarding fixed on the diagonal, screens the house and garden. Huge windows and doors make the terrace and garden an inseparable element of each major room of the house; a deep roof overhang is provided, however, to exclude the intense high-angle sunlight of midsummer. The living rooms are arranged along the southern window wall; the guest room and bath are completely separated from the family sleeping quarters. The house is built of redwood, painted grey with white trim.

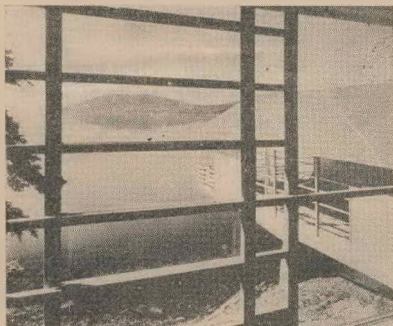


The side view of the house shows the two floor levels, with the living room cantilevered out over the water-line, the deck bordering the dining room and kitchen porch. BELOW: A view from the bedroom window. Alternative panels of the big window areas are designed to slide, leaving only a narrow rail.



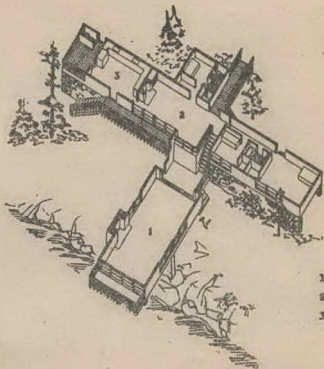
HOUSE AT MOUNT DESERT ISLAND, MAINE, 1939

George Howe, Architect.



In a rather remote location overlooking a deep-sea inlet on the rock-ribbed coast of the north-eastern State of Maine, this summer home was built by native craftsmen. A local bridge-builder constructed the double concrete cantilever which projects to support the large living room and deck out over high-tide water. On three sides of the room are big windows. Inserted between vertical wood supports, these are made up of alternating fixed and sliding panels. Other rooms of the house are lined on the hillside above in wings that parallel the shore. Oiled cedar clapboards are used for the house walls; the pitched roofs are covered with silver-toned shingles.

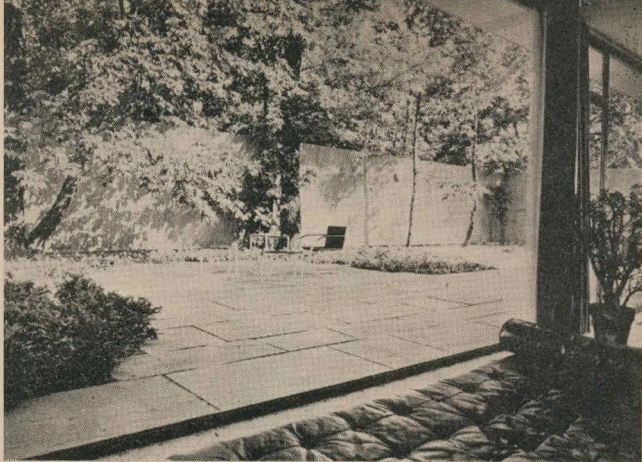
LEFT: A view from the dining room across the deck. The alternating fixed and sliding window panels are clearly shown. RIGHT: A cut-away projection showing the simple plan arrangement, with the cantilevered living room at a lower level and the other rooms organised in low wings at a higher level.



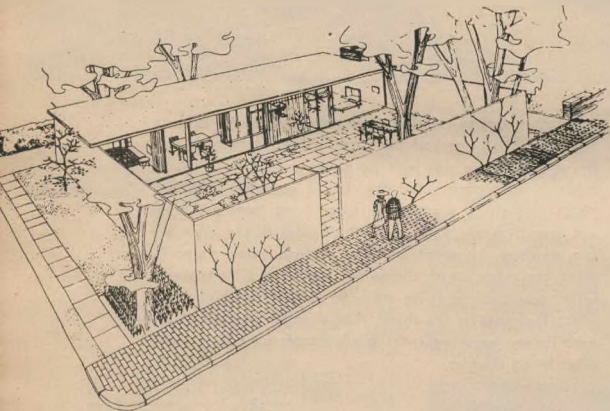
1-living room  
2-dining room  
3-kitchen

Philip Johnson, Architect.  
S. Clements Horsley, Associate.

RIGHT: The garden and the clear-glass panel constitute one wall of the living rooms, and BELOW: The perspective drawing which reveals the contrast between the closed form without and the openness within.

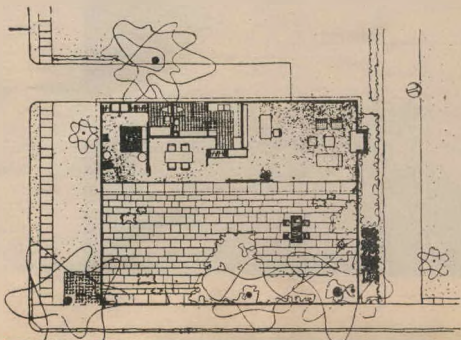


### HOUSE AT CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, 1942



This house, designed for the special tastes of its bachelor owner, conceives of the house and its garden as a single unit. The two areas are separated by only a wall of clear glass, and the paved and planted space is wholly enclosed by a continuation of the house walls. For greater privacy, full-length curtains are provided. Walls of both the house and the garden are built of prefabricated plywood panels.

LEFT: The living room of the Johnson house, and  
BELOW: The simple plan with its integrated garden.



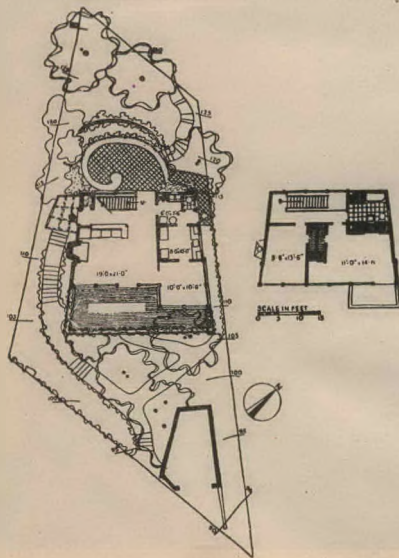
RIGHT: The exterior seen from the garden above the house, looking down past the house to San Francisco Bay. BELOW: The plan of the house and site, showing the wedge shape and the window walls, both upstairs and down, on the view side, and a view across the stairs to the hillside garden from the living room.



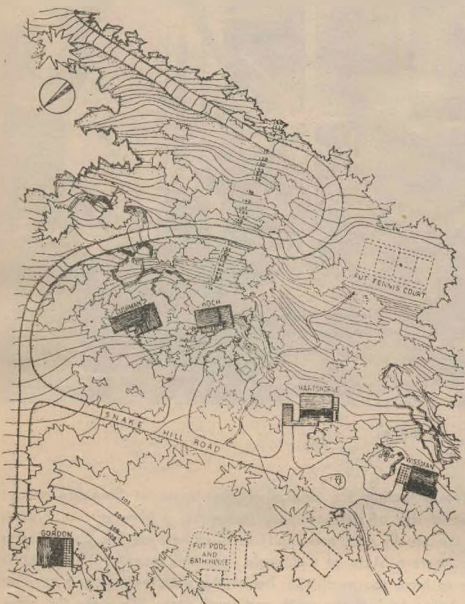
## HOUSE AT SAUSALITO, CALIFORNIA, 1939

Gardner A. Dailey, Architect.  
Marie Harbeck, Landscape Architect.

Basic factors affecting the design of the house at Sausalito were: a wedge-shaped site of extraordinary steepness; a view of San Francisco Bay; and the usually cool and windy local climate of this particular area of the far western State of California. In this locality, it is practically impossible to have too much sun; hence the architect opened up almost the whole house toward the south and south-east. To make the most of the ladder-like terraced garden, another two-storey window area is used on the uphill side of the house. The splayed lot lines suggested the device of widening the house toward the view side. Construction is of wood frame, with rough redwood board finish and white trim.



HOUSES ON SNAKE HILL, BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS, 1940

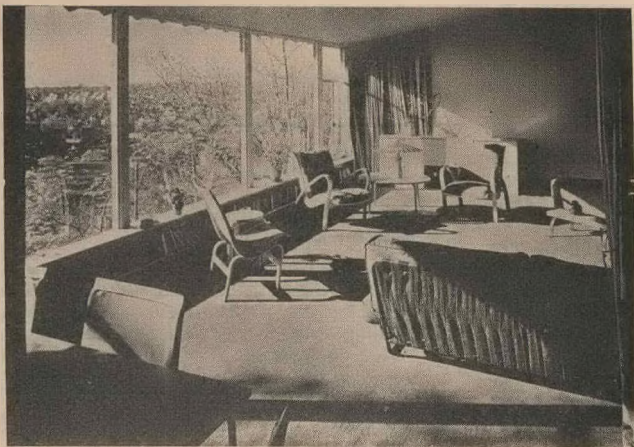


Original houses by Carl Koch, Architect.  
Others by Carl Koch, Huson Jackson  
and Robert Kennedy.

LEFT: Plan of the group development on  
Snake Hill, Belmont, Massachusetts, and  
BELOW: The house designed by Carl Koch,  
with its narrow fir strip walls.

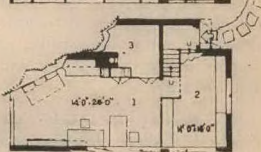
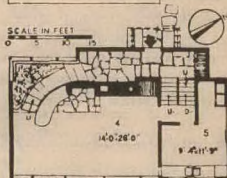
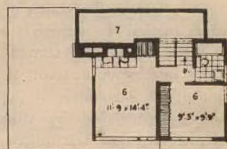
Grouped on a steep hillside not far from the city of Boston, in the north-western State of Massachusetts, the houses of this little development are the result of a group land purchase and controlled planning. Tennis court and a swimming pool are planned for the common use of all eight householders. One of the houses is the one the architect designed for himself. Built of native stone and wood frame, the house steps down the hillside in three levels. Exterior walls are narrow strips of fir. Huge windows frame a broad view and welcome the southern sun.





The living room of the Carl Koch house, with the huge window overlooking the view towards Boston. BELOW: The plans of the three floor levels.

## THE KOCH HOUSE



The workroom of the Carl Koch house, with the exposed rock of the hillside used for the wall at the left of the fireplace.

# CONTEMPORARY JOURNALS

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## "THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW," September, 1945.

This number, "Windmills in England," was written by Rex Wailes, a mechanical engineer and the leading expert on windmills in that country, who is the advisor on windmills to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. He has for years studied the economic and technical possibilities of windmills in Britain and abroad. He presents an extraordinarily interesting account of the characteristics and the functioning of the different types of windmills found in England, supplemented by structural drawings from early encyclopaedias, and illustrations from his photographs of existing windmills, many of which are still in operation. The author sees the windmill as a piece of functional and workable machinery, and not merely as a monument to the past, and he makes suggestions as to the possible improvement in technical efficiency of certain of them.

## "THE ARCHITECTURAL RECORD," September, 1945.

Like the "Review," this issue reproduces something from the past in "Victorian Prototypes," and draws instructive, if sometimes, in our eyes, amusing parallels between some of the 'latest' design developments and Victorian works of remarkable similarity.

In "Planning for Audio-Visual Education," the author, Adrian L. Terlow, following a brief investigation into the various teaching aids and devices, their uses and advantages, proceeds to analyse the detailed requirements of the five kinds of projection and audio equipment.

"Trends in Church Planning and Design," by Walter A. Taylor, Professor of Architecture and History of Architecture, Syracuse University, constitutes Building Types Study 105. Following the author's critical review of the contemporary problem, seventeen examples are illustrated.

## "PENCIL POINTS," September, 1945.

"Houses for the People" is an editorial analysis of the requirements of the potential home owners as limited by costs, with some interesting results from surveys which reveal a distinct trend away from the traditional house, and with reference to the readers' reactions to the work illustrated in the "Ladies' Home Journal," whose policy is to illustrate the work of some talented young architect. This is followed by a

discussion on the subject "Can America Afford New Houses?" by a consulting economist.

Sweden's work in the housing field is reviewed by A. Howard Smith, and the examples discussed, including the well-known collective housing, are well illustrated by plans and photographs. This is followed by a fully illustrated description of a house in California by John B. Yean.

"Materials and Methods" this month carries the first part of a two-part article on the "Acoustics of Music Shells," by Henry L. Kamphoefner, of the University of Oklahoma. This is a very full investigation, well supported by critical examination of many existing examples. In addition, the rumoured harmful effects of fluorescent lighting on the eye is disposed of; and the construction and insulation of floors for basement-less houses is analysed by Frank G. Lopez on the basis of research done by the National Bureau of Standards in Washington.

## "THE ARCHITECTURAL FORUM," September, 1945.

Four attractive showrooms, displaying much imagination and ingenuity in design, details and furnishing, start this issue. These are followed by the somewhat startling proposals for the bold, long-term programme of new building for the Oklahoma University. Faced with a Gothic background of amazing eclecticism, the Campus Planning Group have succeeded in winning approval for their up-to-date proposals for the new buildings, illustrated by drawings and designed in a thoroughly contemporary, attractive and uncompromising manner.

A review of recent work of the imaginative architect, Harris Armstrong, precedes "Planning With You," which discusses the proposals for Detroit's expressway and transport system.

The architecture of Switzerland, notable for its openness and lightness of construction, is sympathetically discussed, and the well-chosen illustrations cover a wide range of building types, which clearly interpret the steady growth of an unequivocal and attractive contemporary design.

In conclusion, Design Analysis 3 presents Fred M. Severud's interpretation of the structural lessons to be learnt from many natural forms, ranging from a blade of grass to the turtle shell. Each example is examined and the appropriate structural interpretation is illustrated.



# PROFESSIONAL NOTES AND NEWS

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## PARTNERSHIP.

We are informed that Mr. T. Schaerer and his son, Mr. W. R. Schaerer, have entered into partnership under the name of Schaerer and Schaerer, as from the 17th November, 1945.

## NOTICE.

We are pleased to announce that Mr. R. C. Rinaldi has

returned from Active Service and is commencing practice at 66, Coronation Building, 23, Simmonds Street, Johannesburg.

## JOHANNESBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY.

A complete list of Periodicals and Serial Publications received currently is available at the Transvaal Provincial Institute Offices.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

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The Editors.

### UNDERPINNING.

Fifty years ago, when I was a budding young architect in Johannesburg, I had amongst my pals several budding young barristers—mostly Judges or ex-Judges to-day. We used to meet in the evening and discuss law and building generally.

The one thing they were determined to make me understand was that English law was totally different from South African law. They would say of England you have a "right of way," "right of light," "right of air," "right of lateral support," etc., etc., whereas in Roman Dutch law none of these rights exist.

Now, following on this assertion, let us see what Chief Justice Stratford had to say in the Appeal Court, of the recent Port Elizabeth case re lateral support, and compare this with the legal opinion published in "The South African Architectural Record" for August, 1945. The following are quotations from his judgment:—

"Is it negligence to fail to give that which the party complaining cannot claim as a right? Strange results would follow if the answer were in the affirmative, which most certainly it is not. So it is now manifest that the plaintiff, under an allegation of negligence, is claiming something (the right of support) which he neither asserts or proves to be his.

"And if this be so, it cannot be negligence to discontinue to give that what could never have been demanded as a right, although hitherto given gratuitously or inadvertently or accidentally.

"In effect the plaintiff says to the defendant: 'On the southern side the building I occupy was relying on yours for support. You took your building down without giving me the

same support in a substituted form; therefore you were negligent.' That assertion, in my judgement, is a clear legal non-sequitur.

"I conclude, therefore, that neither the removal of support nor the failure to replace the support removed can be imputed to either of the defendants as acts of negligence.

"But even if no right of support can be claimed, nevertheless to remove a support previously enjoyed without due warning would undoubtedly be a negligent act on which a claim for negligence could be founded.

"Canon Mayo, the owner of the whole five vaults, knew the purchaser of the three was buying for the purpose of erecting a new building. He was constantly near the premises and saw the commencement of the demolitions and its tragic end. The plaintiff, therefore, at least on these pleadings, cannot rely on absence of warning."

### CONCLUSIONS.

I submit, therefore on these facts one is justified on arriving at the following conclusions:—

- (1) An owner of a lot wishing to excavate for a basement cannot be prevented from doing so on the grounds that he is removing the lateral support of the adjoining property.
- (2) Provided he gives due notice to the adjoining property owner that he is removing such lateral support, the adjoining owner must take the necessary precautions to protect his own property, which incidentally would mean shoring and underpinning which he, the adjoining owner, must pay for.

R. HOWDEN.

## BOOK REVIEW

"DOELMATIG BOWEN EN WONEN," by Paul Bromberg.  
Publishers : Querido, New York, 1945. Price 24/6.

Although the practical use of prefabrication methods in America has convinced the architectural world of the advantages of the system with regard to economy and speed of erection, it has also to a great extent created a prejudice against its aesthetic value. However, there is little doubt that prefabrication is the obvious solution where the demand for housing greatly exceeds the normal supply.

An awareness of the housing problem is no innovation in Holland; it has of course become acute during the war years, and as elsewhere speed and economy of solution is now an imperative object.

In his latest book Mr. Bromberg's purpose is to make some contribution towards the rapid solution of the problem by presenting a general survey of the processes of prefabrication to a country to which this is an entirely new idea. He has made a comprehensive study of the history and methods of prefabrication employed in America, and makes suggestions for their adaptation to comply with conditions in the Netherlands. The book is essentially an introduction to prefabrication, and should be of great value to any country which is considering the institution of such a system.

There is a valuable chapter on the starting-up of an industry for prefabrication in wood, the general lay-out of such a factory, and the means of determining the most economic methods of production. The author recommends very strongly the closest co-operation between the Government, the industry, and the architect; and he suggests the institution by the Government of a "Building Council," a central body to be in control of the distribution of the available labour potential, methods of production, the acquisition and distribution of materials and equipment, transport, and the standardisation of panel sizes.

In the last two chapters Mr. Bromberg sets out to prove that prefabrication is by no means irreconcilable with good architecture and livability. He strongly opposes the use of a building unit which is so large that the architect cannot express his individuality by its use. This section includes plans and illustrations of projects by Gropius, Neutra, and Bromberg himself, which prove indisputably that prefabrication lends itself to individual and aesthetic architectural expression. In conclusion the author describes and illustrates very "livable" interiors with truly interesting and versatile use of space; but it would seem that he has here conveniently forgotten his own rigid stipulation that prefabrication, in order to justify its existence at all, must be economic.

M.E.S.

"THE OLD CHURCHES OF LONDON," by Gerald Cobb.  
B. T. Batsford, Ltd., London, 15/-.

This book, published shortly after the widespread damage and destruction brought about by indiscriminate bombing, brings into high relief the wealth of architecture and fine craftsmanship which has been and fortunately, to a great extent, is the splendid and remarkable contribution of these churches to the London scene. It is a book of absorbing interest; its wealth of illustrations will satisfy the most exacting reader, and the meticulous detail with which the author discusses the various buildings gives not only a full and clear picture of the churches as they existed, but a comparative and comprehensive survey of the buildings and their furnishings.

In addition, Professor Geoffrey Webb surveys, in his introduction, in an authoritative and informative manner, the work of five centuries. The illustrations comprise some 160 excellent photographs, six colour plates of work both existing and now destroyed, as well as many drawings and engravings covering buildings now either falsified or vanished, and include the wealth of craftsmanship in wood, stone, plaster and metal of Wren and his successors.

This book is a valuable contribution to the subject, not only on account of the publishers' characteristic richness of illustration, but also, of course, because of the fact that so many of these unique churches have been so recently destroyed.

"HENRY YEVELE," by John H. Harvey. B. T. Batsford, Ltd., London, 15/-.

This is a full-length biography of an English architect of the Middle Ages, and surveys the life and work of Henry Yevele, who lived roughly from 1320 to 1400, during one of the great periods of architectural achievement in England. The author reviews the developments which led up to the introduction of the Perpendicular, and by an examination of these prior developments shows how Yevele, long recognised as the principal architectural figure of the time, became the master under whose hand the growing traditions developed into a true national idiom. In his eagerness to establish Yevele as one of England's greatest architects, the author seems prone to acknowledge work to him on the most flimsy evidence.

The book is well illustrated by plans, details and views of the work of the period from photographs, prints, drawings and manuscripts, and includes material not previously brought together.

The underlying thesis is the author's plea for a study of the fourteenth century as a means of solving the architectural

problems of the twentieth, and his condemnation of the imitative schools of the past century, "the amazing eclecticism which has ended in the blank despair of the so-called fundamentalist, whose purpose seems to be to strip life of all those apparently unessential graces which make life something more than existence."

The plea takes no account of the present-day trends in architecture and town-planning in respect of advancing social consciousness, and being so unrelated to the stern realities of contemporary building that it inclines one to feel that the author has lived too long in the history of the Dark Ages.

W.D.H.

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## OBITUARY

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### LIEUTENANT BRYAN C. BOND, S.A.A.F.

The sudden death of Lieutenant Bryan Bond, late of No. 11 Squadron, S.A.A.F., occurred on the 26th July, 1945, whilst on duty in Italy.

Lieutenant Bond was the only son of Mr. E. C. Bond and Mrs. Mary Bond, of Johannesburg, and was born on the 3rd October, 1924, at Cape Town.

He attended six schools in different parts of the Union and Matriculated at Hilton College in 1941. In 1942 he commenced his studies in Architecture at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, where his work displayed a clear and sensitive approach and great promise. He joined the Rand U.T.C. and underwent part-time military training concurrently with his studies. As a member of the Engineer Sub-unit he attended a Machine Gun Instructor's Course at the Military College, gaining a first-class certificate.

In July, 1943, he left his studies to join the Air Force, and he won his "wings" as a fighter pilot at Bloemfontein in September, 1944. He was sent to Egypt in February of this year, and was posted to his squadron at Udine, North Italy, in July. Without being in combat, he was killed instantly when his aircraft exploded in mid-air.

As student and pilot he was keen and capable, and was well liked by all who knew him for his quiet gentlemanly behaviour and charm of manner. He will be remembered for his unaffected sincerity and loyalty to his friends and colleagues.

To his parents we extend our heartfelt sympathy in their sad loss.



# Accent On Housing

**T**HE over-riding preoccupation of the architectural and building world will for some time rightly be the provision of housing.

While, however, the national shortage of domestic building receives immediate priority, there are also to be met the huge accumulated demands for commercial and institutional construction, for which plans must be prepared to be put into operation as soon as the limited factors of labour and materials are available.

Here the need will once more be felt for expert design and craftsmanship in the provision of those features for which in the past the House of Sage has set a standard and established a tradition. With resources renewed and experience enhanced by the exceptional services to which it was called during the war years, it is to-day ready to play its expected and important part in the appropriate spheres of the wider field of Post-war Reconstruction.

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*Journal of the SA Architectural Institute*

**PUBLISHER:**

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

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