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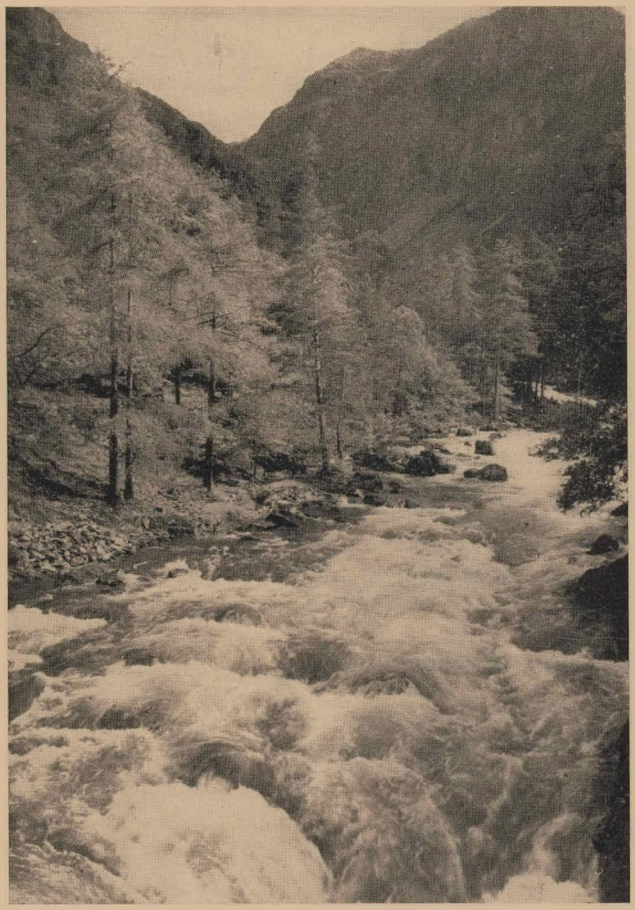


A general view of the Aberglaslyn Pass, looking at the gorge. This pass is one of the most popular beauty spots in North Wales, and lies in the shadow of Snowdon. It was presented to the National Trust by Lord Harlech and an anonymous benefactor.

THE BRITISH NATIONAL TRUST

By Claud Golding

It used to be a complaint of foreign tourists to England's "green and pleasant land" that, after they had been invited to come over and see for themselves some of the beauty spots and historical monuments, they found their legitimate curiosity barred by such notices as "Trespassers will be prosecuted," or "These lands are private."

"Why entice us here, and then prevent our seeing those places you talk so much about?" was their grievance.

It was a reasonable argument, to which there was no adequate answer.

To-day, even with the restrictions imposed by war necessity, tourists would be able to see many beauty spots to which they may have been refused access in days passed. The change has been brought about by the activities of the National Trust, which since its foundation in 1895, has gradually acquired more than 100,000 acres (40,468 hectares) of the most beautiful and historical country for the benefit of the nation.

Quiet and efficient are the ways of the Trust. Nothing is ever known publicly of negotiations for the acquisition of property until it has been definitely taken over, yet in the course of a comparatively few years the Trust has become one of the biggest landlords in Britain. It began, like most organisations of a charitable character, in a very small way. Thus, in 1895, three persons, Miss Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Canon Rawnsley, a trio of philanthropists, got together and founded the Trust. It was a long time—twelve years in fact—before public interest was stirred sufficiently to induce Parliament to grant the Trust a charter, which they did under the National Trust Act of 1907. At the same time, the Trust is not a Government department. It is an incorporated company supported out of public funds, owning property through donations, bequests or purchase in England, Wales and Ireland.

It must be admited that in the early days the activities of the Trust were rather frowned upon by the big landlords, who were temporary custodians of beauty spots and historical monuments. This was not surprising, for it gives a person greater pleasure to have a choice jewel in his own collection rather than in

Bodiam Castle, Sussex. This moated and curtain-walled castle was built in 1386, and is one of the finest fortified castles of the fourteenth century. It was presented to the National Trust by Lord Curzon of Kedleston.

a public museum where all can see it.

Thus progress was slow at the outset; acquisitions by the Trust came as the result of purchase and subscribed funds and generous gifts of land. In course of time owners of national treasures realised their responsibility to the community, and one by one properties came into the hands of the Trust under the provisions of wills. Still later—and, particularly, such is the case just now—landlords made gifts to the Trust of properties in which they retained only a life interest. But others have gone further and handed over their estates lock, stock and barrel with no restrictions.

Among the most recent acquisitions are the estates of Killerton and Holnicote in Somerset and Devon, which the Trust has received from Sir Richard Acland. They include a freehold of 17,000 acres (6,880 hectares). The Holnicote estate goes down to the sea north of Porlock and lies between Dunkery Beacon and North Hill. It includes beautiful villages. At the outbreak of war the mansion was turned into a nursery for the Ministry of Health. The Killerton estate is seven miles (11 kilometres) north-east of Exeter. From

The George Inn, Southwart, the last of the famous galler inns of London. It has great historical and literary ciation, going back to the days of Shakespeare. Every scenes from Dickens and Shakespeare are performed in courtyard of the inn, the spectators sitting in the galleri

this gift the Trust hopes to derive an income sufficient to maintain the property, including development, as well as some surplus funds for the general work of the Trust. So far the Acland estates represent the largest acquisition by the Trust.

These estates may be classed as beauty spots. A recent acquisition by the Trust in the category of national monuments is Avebury, probably the most remarkable of all, not excepting Stonehenge. The Avebury remains, which go back to the Stone Age, have baffled archaeologists for centuries. Even in these enlightened days it would be foolish to dogmatise on their age. During the past few years a reconstruction of the remains, which include many huge blocks of stone, has been made, and it is now thought that Avebury was once a huge Druidic temple that must have dwarfed any Roman amphitheatre. One antiquary has described Avebury as a "monument more considerable in extent than any known to the world."

In acquiring 950 acres (564 hectares) of land at Avebury the National Trust has again saved an important British monument, which lies close to the Bath Road, near the northern extremity of Salisbury Plain. It is thus within a comparatively short distance of Stonehenge.

Among further recent acquisitions of the Trust is an estate of 13,000 acres (5,261 hectares) in Northumberland which belongs to Sir Charles Trevelyan. There is also good reason to believe that in many wills not yet admitted to probate because the testators are still alive, there are other beauty spots

Montacute House, Somerset. This splendid stone house, one of the finest gems of architecture to be preserved by the Trust, has hardly changed since it was built in 1600 by Sir Edward Phelps, a Speaker of the House of Commons.

Honister Pass, in the Lake District. This pass leads to Buttermere, Crummock and Lewswater, where lies the largest area preserved by the National Trust, bought with funds subscribed by the public.

The Seven Sisters at Seaford, near Brighton, the most famous of the White Cliffs of England. These and the surrounding country have been bought and preserved for the nation by the Trust.

and national treasures destined to fall into its hands.

So far as historical relics are concerned, a large proportion of the more important ones are now preserved by the Trust. Even in the tiny villages and hamlets one will often find the typical plaque on a building denoting that it has been taken over by the National Trust. Visitors to Britain after the war will have plenty to interest them without running up against that irritating notice: "Trespassers will be prosecuted."

At the same time many hundreds of acres belonging to the Trust are not lying fallow and unproductive. They are being let as farms to help the war effort. And in doing this the Trust is acting in the interests of the public in more ways than one, for if it farmed the land itself it would escape taxes because it is a charitable institution. As it is, the farmers who hire the land pay taxes like anyone else.

A general view of Borrowdale, a charming valley in the Lake District. Borrowdale was presented to the Trust by Sir William Hamer as a memorial to his son, who was killed in the last war. The adjoining land was subsequently bought by the Trust in order to preserve the beauty of the district for posterity.

"ALMA ATA"

A HOUSE FOR H. T. O. NIEGEMAN, M.I.A., OF ANDREWS AND NIEGEMAN, ARCHITECTS; SITUATED AT HOUT BAY, CAPE PENINSULA, SOME MILES SOUTH OF CAPE TOWN

Two people and three dogs needed a house. The people selected the mountain and the dogs . . . . the exact spot.

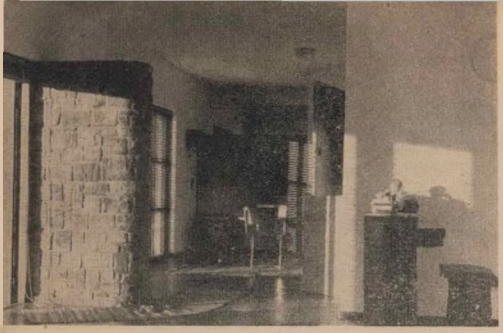
The house faces north because of the view—valleys and mountains. The overhanging roof protects the rooms from the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. There was required a lounge to live, a kitchen to cook with a space to eat and a space to sleep. The rest is a necessary nuisance.

Bedroom, bathroom and study are screened from the rest of the house by a free standing wardrobe unit and the curved wall gives the privacy required. The edge of this wall serves as a very satisfactory "backscratcher" for the dogs.

The dog kennel is off the study, as they like to be with the master, but as the master never studies the dogs sleep on the beds.

The dining table is a sheet of plate glass resting on two reinforcing bars with rubber rings and cantilevered from the kitchen wall. A circular hatch above the table serves for passing

A general view of the house, showing its delightful setting near Hout Bay, seen in the background at the foot of the Karponkelberg



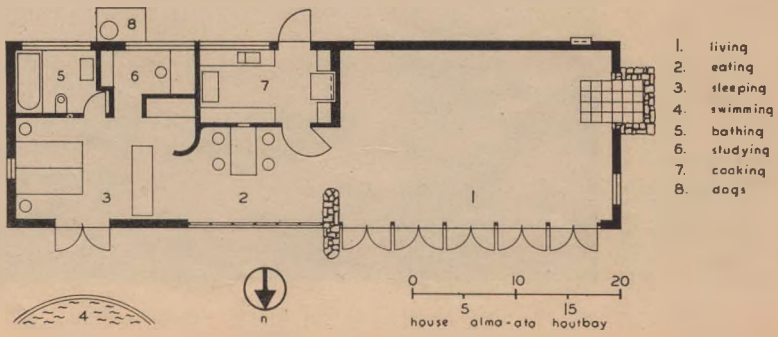
The living room, looking towards the dining and sleeping spaces.

dishes and through a small glazed peephole the lady of the house can see the switches of the stove and the taps above the sink. The door to the kitchen is a stable door, which makes it possible for the housewife to take part in any conversation going on in the lounge and for the guests to hear the milk boiling over.

Construction and finishes:

9 in. external walls, oregon trusses, boarding spaced 4 in. apart, "Jugolith" insulation board and "Asphalte." The eaves are of Californian redwood. Ceilings of plasterboard, walls Gypsum plaster, floors of Rhodesian teak, except kitchen floor, which is of 12 in. x 12 in. red quarry tiles, and the bathroom, which is finished in blue mosaic. The two internal doors are beech, the external doors in teak. Frames (throughout) and dining room screen in teak, windows steel casements. Kitchen cupboards in light and dark limba, wardrobe and furniture in beech.

The Architects.

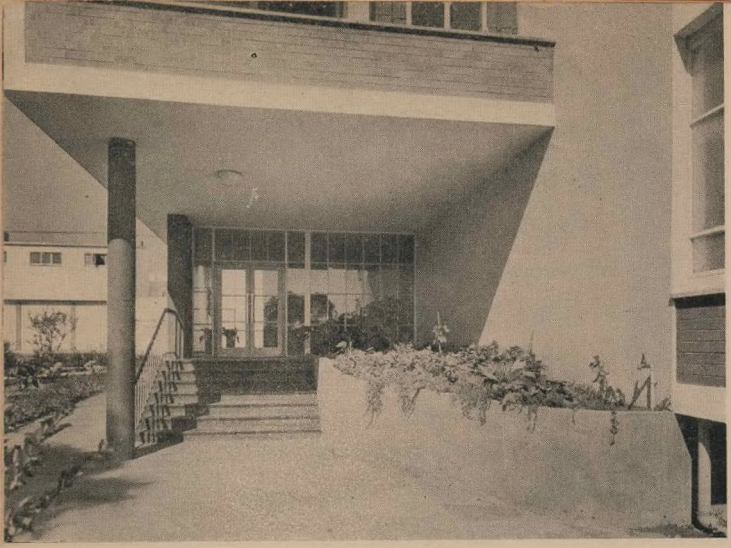


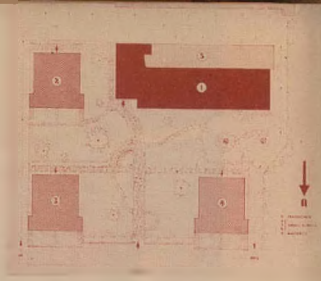
MARCHIE MANSIONS, PRETORIA

A.V. NUNN, A.R.I.B.A., M.I.A. ARCHITECT, H.W.E. STAUCH, COLLABORATOR

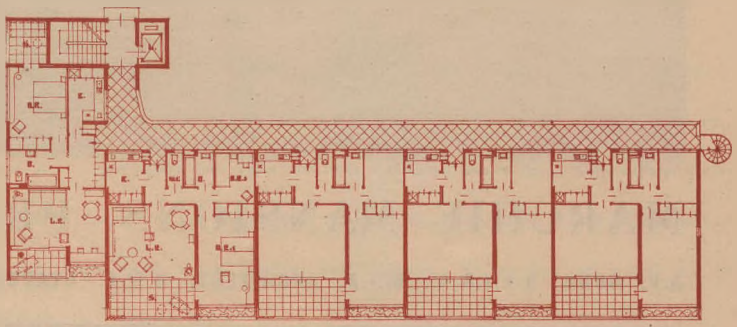
The present scheme is an extension of the original self-contained scheme of two blocks of flats on the eastern portion of the site, each block containing four flats, with the necessary garage and service accommodation at the rear (see "South African Architectural Record," April 1937). The new portion of the scheme is built on the two adjoining properties. The one is adjacent to the original flat site, and contained the owner's residence near the street; the other adjoining site on the west side had an old house on it, placed well back, with lovely old oak trees and a pleasant, although dilapidated, garden in front of it.

The new programme called for 20-25 comfortable flats of two or three rooms, to be built in

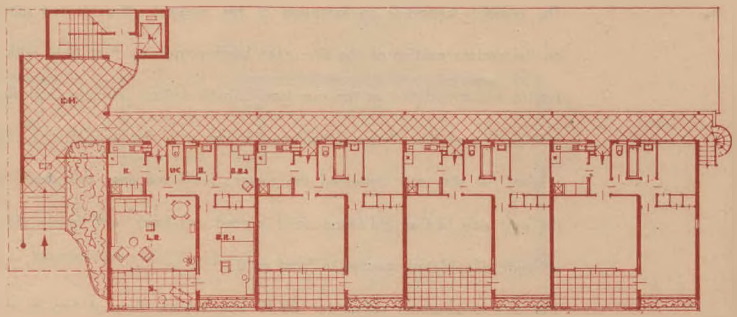




AT LEFT: A detail view of the entrance. The black steps contrast with the white glazed screen, walls and ceiling; with the green flower box continuing the line of the plinth and extending beyond the line of the screen into the entrance hall. ABOVE: The site plan, showing the relation of the various buildings on the site with the generous and well-developed garden; and BELOW, the floor plans of the main building.



TYPICAL FLOOR.



GROUND FLOOR.

MARCHIE
MANSIONS
PRETORIA

such a way that the owner's residence could remain until the new building had been completed. A large flat with sufficient outdoor space for games and physical culture had to be provided for the owner's occupation, as well as sufficient garage space and service quarters for the complete scheme.

The new scheme consists of a five-storey building, placed as far back as possible, in order to gain the benefit of the garden and the trees on its north side. This block contains 16 flats of three rooms, three flats of two rooms and the owner's own flat, which occupies the whole of the top floor. Another small block, similar to the previous two, was planned as a future extension to be placed in the north-west corner of the site. Subsequently it was decided to build this block simultaneously with the large block. Since it is the same as those previously erected, which have been published in an earlier issue of the "South African Architectural Record," this description will deal with the rear block only.

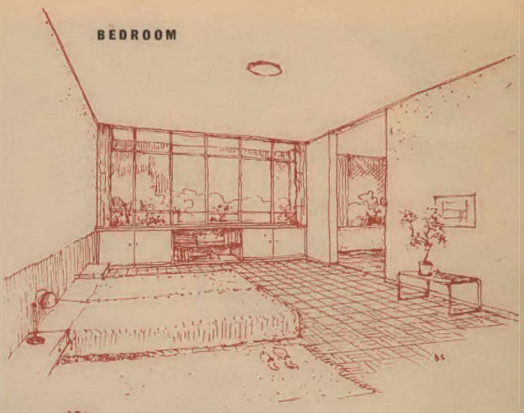
This building is constructed as a reinforced concrete framework with external and internal walls in brick. A hollow block slab construction of 9 in. thickness permits the elimination of beams protruding below ceiling level, thus allowing a maximum of light and air to enter the rooms and a uniform treatment of all openings.

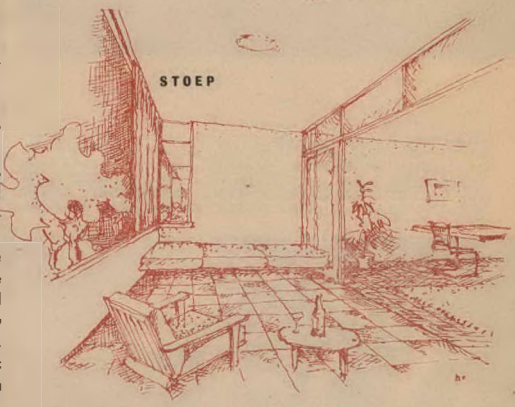
Since it was desirable to have as many north facing flats as possible, the staircase and lift well are placed at the rear of the building, thus occupying the less valuable south side. The entrance hall, on the north-east corner of the block, faces the approach from the street, which is emphasised by a shaped flower-box, bordering the stairs, which continues into the interior of the hall.

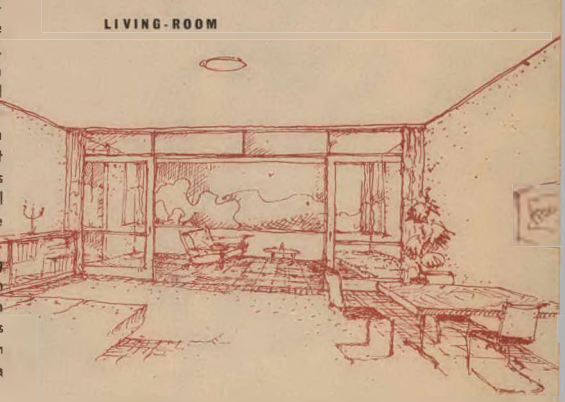
The flats are entered from open corridors, leading off the enclosed staircase-lift unit, to which external landings are provided with a pulley over, allowing furniture to be hoisted and delivered on each floor. A service stair is provided by means of a spiral stair at the western end of the building. It is apparent that in multi-storeyed buildings of a domestic type, where economy is a predominant factor, the open corridor type of circulation, in spite of its known disadvantages, is still the best solution because it allows the use of the same means of vertical communication for the whole building.

The ground floor is raised slightly above ground level in order to secure privacy for the lower flats. This is emphasised by the treatment of the plinth in green plaster, thus continuing the colour of the lawns adjoining it. On the south side, this lifting up of the building gives just enough height from ground to top of parapet wall to permit of the garages to abut on the building without interfering with the natural lighting and ventilation of the flats, thus helping to save space in the front.

The individual flat is planned for flexibility in use, catering for various types of tenants. Originally, the small spare room on the corridor side was placed next to the entrance-hall, with the intention that it should serve as a dining space. It was found, however, that the public prefers a separate room, which may serve different purposes, to a room of so defined a





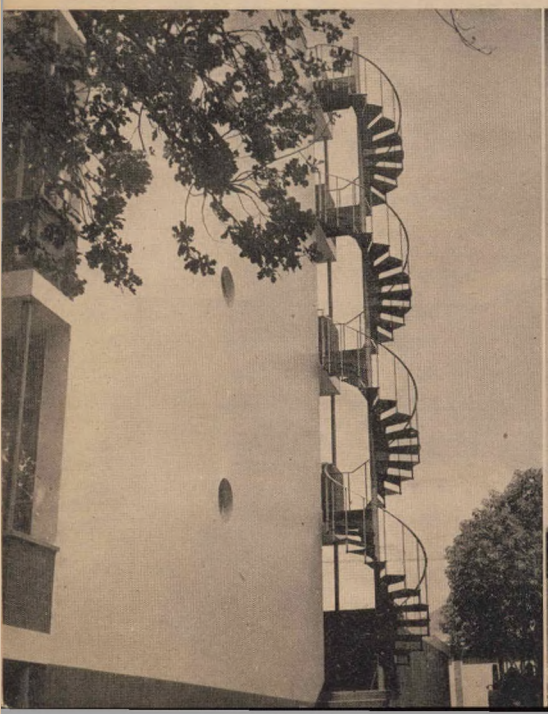


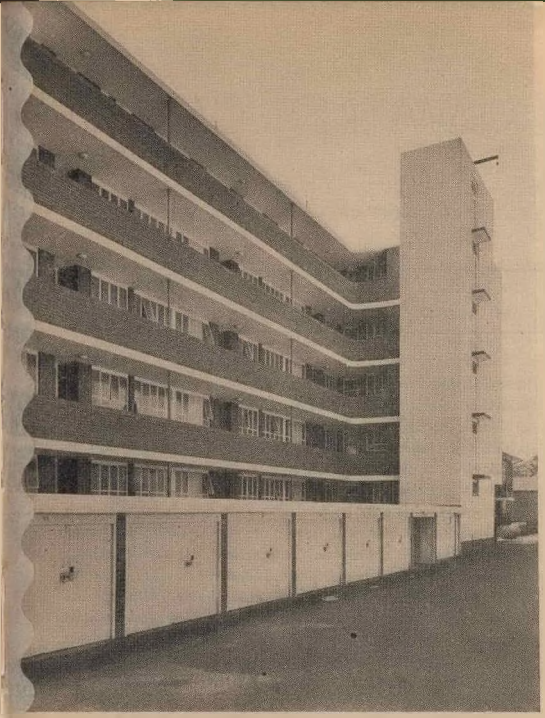
function, and this was the reason for adopting the present solution.

The kitchen, which has a sliding door to the hall, is fitted with cupboards, dresser, electric stove and refrigerator, and a work table under the window, with a sink on one end and a refuse container on the other. The latter is emptied through a flap on the corridor side, allowing the removal of refuse without entering the flat. A special cupboard fitting, built-in between the entrance-recess and the kitchen, allows for delivery of milk and groceries, and is so constructed that once an article is placed into its container, it closes automatically and the goods can only be removed from the kitchen side. Bathroom and lavatory are separate and a pipe duct, which is accessible from the corridor, is provided. Each flat has its own electric geyser for hot water supply.

The stoep is placed in front of the living room in order not to hinder the access of direct light and air to the bedrooms, and glass sliding doors, extending over the full width, join the living room with the stoep. The slabs are cantilevered

ABOVE: The Entrance Hall, with grey South African marble walls and floor of vari-coloured marble crazy-paving laid with brown joints. The continuation of the flower box into the hall not only contributes to its decoration, but imparts a cool freshness so fitting a contrast to the glare and heat of the sub-tropical climate. BELOW (left): A detail of the fire escape and service entrance, with the garage block seen beyond; and RIGHT: A detail of the north facade, where deep recession shades and protects the rooms behind. The combination of white plaster, red bricks, black and red railings and gaily coloured blinds give the building a bright and attractive appearance which, with its broad sweep of well-tended gardens, creates in this scheme an atmosphere as attractive as it is unexpected so near the centre of the city.



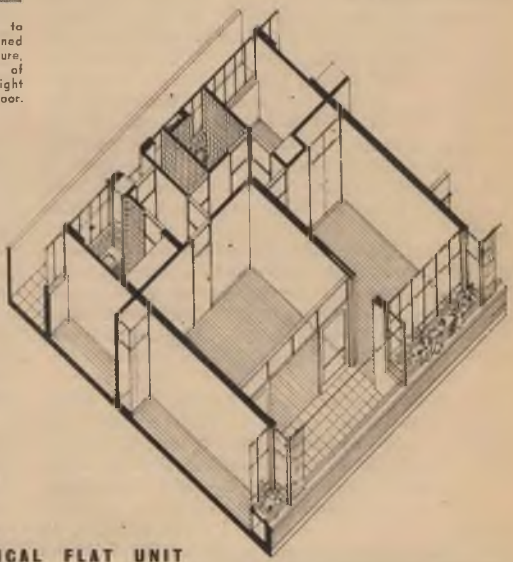


The south elevation, showing the red-brick galleries leading to the flats from the lift and stairs on the right. Combined with the latter is an external hoist for bulky items of furniture, with cantilever landings at each floor level. The series of garages in the foreground finish at the normal parapet height along the lowest corridor. The owner's flat occupies the top floor.

two feet past the columns, thus screening the bedroom windows sufficiently against driving rains and excess sun in summer. The space between floor and sill is utilised by a fitting containing linen-cupboards and bookshelves facing the bedroom, above which the concrete sill is so formed that it serves as a flower box. A solid flush sliding door connects the bedroom with the stoep. The cantilever allows the use of glass screens on both sides of the stoep, thus allowing light to enter the stoep when the blinds are drawn. The stoep is sufficiently deep to take a full-sized bed, allowing it to be used as a sleeping porch. The outer edge of the glass screens dividing the stoeps and flower-boxes are fixed to 3 in. tubes, which also act as rainwater pipes.

The external finish of the building is white oil paint on plastered walls, red face brick, matching the existing buildings, to parapets and walls of corridors, blue rain-water pipes and multi-coloured striped sun-blinds. The windows and recessed wall portions are grey, and the iron railings on top, as well as wireless masts, have red verticals and black horizontals. The entrance hall has walls of grey South African marble, a white ceiling and a floor of marble in different colours laid as crazy-paving with dark brown joints, and stairs and corridors have black non-slip floors. The internal finish of the flats is off white distemper on walls and ceilings, white tiles and oil paint in service units, kejaat block floors to passages and rooms, and black granolithic floors to stoep and service units.

H. W. E. STAUCH.



ISOMETRIC PROJECTION OF A TYPICAL FLAT UNIT

ARCHITECTS FROM THE LAWYER'S VIEWPOINT

By The Honourable Emory H. Niles

JUDGE OF THE SUPREME BENCH OF BALTIMORE CITY

AN ADDRESS GIVEN TO THE BALTIMORE CHAPTER, A.I.A., ON JANUARY 28th, 1944, BY ONE OF THE CHAPTER'S HONORARY MEMBERS, WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF GOUCHER COLLEGE

I always feel some hesitation in expressing my views on the profession of architecture to the members of the Chapter, for I feel that even though I am an honorary member, I am nevertheless not an architect, and am an outsider. If, then, I offer advice to architects I hope it will be taken as coming with humility from one who occupies that favorable position which enables him to criticize and suggest, without having to bear the burdens of carrying out the suggestions.

The gist of these remarks is that in my opinion the architectural profession has suffered greatly by being tied hand and foot to the building industry. In a sense this tie is so tight that the architectural profession can be charged with not being an independent profession at all, but merely an adjunct of the building industry; that the architect is a sort of super-master-builder who has neither the responsibility of the builder nor the independence of the owner. He is a fifth wheel indeed sometimes, and I venture to say that the vast majority, both in volume and value of building projects, are executed without the services of an architect. On one side, we have projects in which the only professional advice comes from the engineers, who have in large measure displaced or even usurped the functions of the architect. On the other side we have the builder, who feels (and is) entirely competent to execute a building project which will sell, or which will with reasonable adequacy fulfil the needs for which it was constructed, without the benefit of any professional services at all.

One of my architectural friends believes that the cause of this lack of understanding of the need for architectural services is due to the fact that for the last two generations the architects have placed all their efforts, both in their schools and in their practice, on the esthetic side, and have become in the minds of the public, merely experts in esthetics.

* * *

I would by no means minimize the value of the esthetic elements in any building project, nor would I pretend to pass judgment in the controversies regarding those elements. It seems to me, however, that the architectural profession has, by tying itself to one trade, lost sight of its true function, and sold its independence without even getting a mess of pottage in return. As a member of another profession, the law, I would call your attention to the fact that the lawyers have identified themselves with, and made a place for themselves, in almost every branch of social activity. If a new project is to be promoted, the lawyers are there; if an old project has failed, the lawyers are there. If a man has an accident or a dispute, he seeks a lawyer; if a man wants to avoid an accident or a dispute, he seeks a lawyer. If the Government wishes to borrow money, it gets legal advice; if the Government wishes to spend money, again it gets legal advice. There is hardly any transaction or activity, from operating a theater to condemning land for a sewer, in which a lawyer does not usefully perform some service. Although the lawyer's financial fortunes rise and fall with the general financial tides, he is not bound tightly to any single trade or business with its consequent violent fluctuations.

The same is true to a lesser extent of the other professions; namely, teaching, the church, pure science, and medicine. In every one of these the professional activity extends far beyond, and contributes valuable assistance to, many forms of social endeavor. Even the engineers, those dragons who prey upon the architects, have a far more stable base on which to work than the architects.

I saw recently an article in "The Octagon" which emphasized the fact that the architect is the only person whose training equips him for generalized thinking and for the coordination of all the elements, practical, esthetic, scientific, financial and utilitarian, involved in a building project. I suggest that the architect is the only person similarly equipped to imagine, regulate and control the same elements, not merely in a building project but in a project of living. Just as the lawyer occupies himself with every phase of the legal relations between human beings, and the doctor with every phase of the physiological and anatomical relations between the organs of the body and their environment, so the architect should occupy himself with every phase of the physical surroundings and framework in which those human beings live.

As your President has pointed out, the problem of the engineer is the control of natural forces which operate according to fixed and exact laws; he has achieved his purpose when the building does not collapse and its mechanical equipment operates. The architect, however, is dealing, not with the inanimate physical material, but with human beings. His problem is to provide material, functional and esthetic facilities

and surroundings for human beings to live in and use according to laws which are more or less inexact but which are none the less ascertainable and important. The architect is not concerned with the details of justice, business, or hygiene. He is concerned, however, with the material apparatus involved in those activities and with the coordination of them to the other activities in which members of our society engage.

* * *

The architect recognizes as in his field the design of the interior arrangements of a department store, as well as its external appearance. But he has sub-contracted everything to do with the design of its heating, lighting, ventilation and construction, except for sporadic and sometimes ineffective "supervision." He has failed to make the public believe that his services are valuable in deciding upon or designing the facilities by which the prospective customers can get to the store; the means by which the goods for sale can be brought to the store; the equipment by which it can be delivered; the streets and the other means of transportation which are used for these purposes. Nor does the architect as such concern himself with the nature of the community as expressed in the term "city planning," or the sub-division of that art known as "zoning." The architects have failed to impress strong organizations which are essential parts of our society with any sense of the need of the kind of thinking that architects, and perhaps architects alone, can do. What hotel, for example, consults an architect in regard to anything except matters of building and decoration? What power and light company has an architect to do over-all generalized thinking and planning? There are hundreds of engineers on its payroll, but no architects. Every railroad has its corps of engineers, but no architect. In still larger activities we see great cities with engineering departments of high quality, but such cities seldom, if ever, have architects as permanent and steadily working members of their staffs, prepared to do co-ordinative and expert thinking on the physical framework of the entire community. The only time that cities retain architects is when there is a building project to execute, or when the art commission or some other subsidiary body needs advice on prettifying the city. More important, because they are more in number and more powerful financially, are the industrial and mercantile establishments whose needs of integration and coordination are greatest and whose pace is fastest in keeping up with both technical and social development. There is an infinity of problems waiting for the architect in such enterprises if he can persuade the owner that his advice is worth what it would cost.

I am not urging the engineering-architectural combination typified in recent years by at least one extraordinarily successful man; he was as much tied to the building industry as anyone else. To me, again an outsider, he was simply an architect who was a good salesman and who could hire and coordinate the activities of many lesser architects and engineers in order to do rapid and effective building.

Not long ago there was another article in "The Octagon" relating the story of a manufacturer who retained an architect "simply to look around," with no special duties to perform, but with the general duty of thinking about the business as a whole, the relation of its major parts to each other, and its relation to other businesses and activities. That experiment was successful, and it is one small illustration of the kind of idea that I am trying to express.

It is true that architects have to some extent specialized, and we know of hotel architects, hospital architects, bakery architects, and factory architects; and it may be that there are other kinds. It is also true that architects are found on city planning commissions, zoning commissions, and art commissions. But these specialized architects are tied not merely to the building industry but to one part of that industry, while the members of commissions are tolerated as being semi-sensible artists who at least will serve for nothing in order to advance the public good.

* * *

The legal profession is old, large, well entrenched and fortified in its prejudices. You are fortunate in being younger, smaller and more flexible. You can change your habits and can do so without such conflict with the laws of the Medes and Persians. In the post-War period I should like to see a development of the architectural profession which would result in a wide acceptance of the architect, not merely as a building specialist, but as a valuable adviser in all problems relating to the planning, construction, use, coordination, changing and discarding of all of the parts of the material framework of living. In any project involving large numbers of people, whether for work or for play, for moving or for remaining together, the architect's services should be useful, and should be useful enough to be paid for.

At the present time the public does not think that it will get its money's worth from an architect unless there is actual construction to be done. The problem for the future would seem to me to be the convincing of the public that you as architects have something to contribute that is worth money; that your advice is worth what it costs in many fields other than those of mere construction. Your advice should not be sought merely on extraordinary occasions or in extraordinary emergencies, but should be regarded as part of the necessary ingredients in any decision involving activities of human beings together. Only by thinking on such problems; by experience in solving them, and convincing the public that you can add something of value, will the architects be able to break the tie that now holds them to one trade, and fashion new ties which will result in their becoming essential elements in all of the activities in which society is engaged.

An interesting statement on the position of the Architect reprinted from, and with acknowledgments to the "Journal of the American Institute of Architects." March, 1944.

NATIVE HOUSING

Dr. H. van der BIJL'S EXPERIMENTAL HOUSE, JOHANNESBURG

Dr. H. J. van der Bijl, Chairman of Iscor and Escom, has evolved a new method of building construction, and an experimental house was erected in Johannesburg primarily to demonstrate this method of building. This house is not claimed to be the ultimate in design for Native occupation, but is merely a basis on which a great many variations can be made.

The first considerations in the design of the house were speed and cheapness, compatible with durability and comfort. The constructional principles allow for the minimum use of skilled labour and supervision. Patent steel shuttering is employed in conjunction with jigs, and the house is cast monolithically within these shutters.

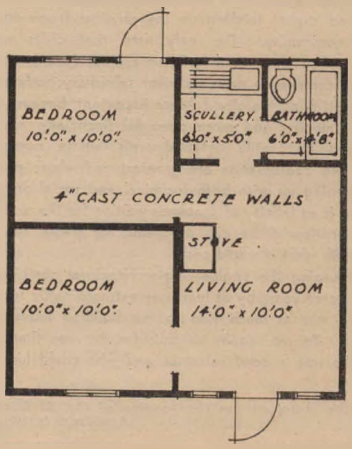
No timber or reinforcing steel is required. Skilled labour is necessary for the siting of the base plates centred in each room, after which the erection of the jigs and shuttering and the casting of the structure are all done by unskilled workers. As far as possible, all fittings such as are necessary for the plumbing and electrical installation are pre-fabricated under properly controlled factory conditions, and are then built into the house, so that the time of skilled workers is used to the best advantage in making only the final connections and not in fitting and erecting the fixtures as well.

EXTERIOR VIEW. THE HOUSE IS FINISHED WITH ROUGH CAST EXTERNALLY

THE PLAN.

The accompanying plan illustrates the dwelling as designed, which consists of two bedrooms each 10 feet by 10 feet, a living room 14 feet by 10 feet, a scullery 6 feet by 5 feet, and a combined bathroom and W.C. of 6 feet by 4 feet 8 inches. The overall dimensions are 21 feet by 21 feet.

The house is fitted with a bath, water-borne sewerage, scullery sink, steel shelves, four-plate cooking stove and electric light, two points being common to the living room and two bedrooms respectively, and provided with screens on the bedroom side, and one point common to scullery and bathroom, fitted with armour glass on the bathroom side.



CONSTRUCTION.

The foundations are 6 inches by 2 feet. All walls are 4 inch solid concrete, with a rough-cast external finish. If cavity or "sandwich" walls incorporating some material with a high insulating value such as vermiculite are desired, these can be built with the same shuttering.

The opinion is held, however, that providing good insulation is obtained from the roof, solid concrete walls are satisfactory. In this connection, it may be mentioned that Dr. van der Bijl erected a house for European occupation on one of his farms some six or seven years ago, and used 4½ inch solid concrete walls. These have proved entirely satisfactory.

A further point is that the experimental house was built in a hollow, and, during the heavy rains which fell early in June, the house stood inches deep in water without any sign of penetration or sweating.

* * *

The floor is 4 inch solid concrete screeded over, but here again, if an insulated floor is desired, this can be incorporated.

No ceilings have been provided except over the bathroom and lavatory.

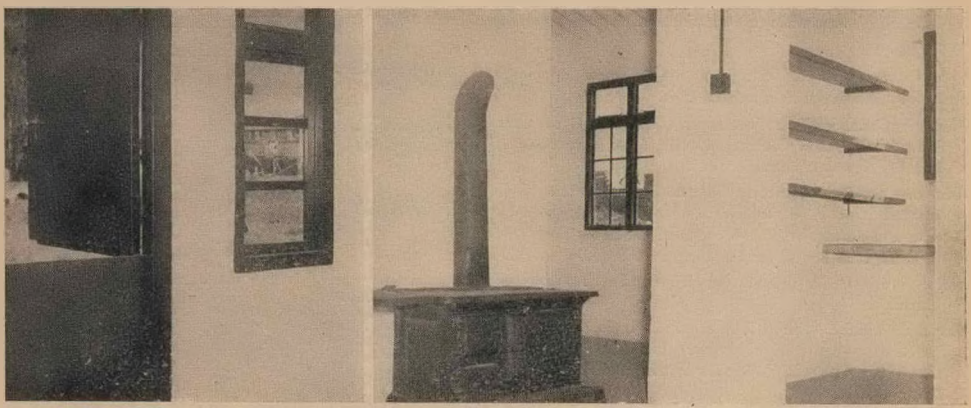
The roof is of corrugated asbestos cement carried on three 3 inch by 3 inch steel angle purlins. Two straight corrugated sheets are used in conjunction with one curved corrugated sheet, thus eliminating the usual trusses and ridging.

The doors and door frames are of pressed steel, and are of the stable door type for the front and back entrances. The door to the bathroom is of the flush panel type. No other doors are provided.

The windows are of a type manufactured in Pretoria, and consist of steel sashes in concrete frames.

The price of approximately £280, at which the experimental house was built, includes all these fittings, and also the necessary plumbing. Similarly, it includes for water points where necessary and for the connecting up to a main within 20 feet of the house. As far as electrical work is concerned, the price includes for wiring only from a meter, but does not include the cost of reticulation.

All the materials used are locally made, with a few exceptions such as door locks, window frames and W.C. unit. No timber whatsoever is used in the structure, with the result that the house is not only fire-proof but is also vermin-proof.



THESE TWO INTERIOR VIEWS SHOW: ON THE LEFT, THE PRESSED STEEL STABLE-TYPE DOOR AND FRAME WITH ADJACENT COMPOSITION WINDOW; ON THE RIGHT, A VIEW FROM LIVING ROOM TOWARDS BEDROOM AND SCULLERY, SHOWING THE PRESSED GALVANISED STEEL SHELVING AND PORTION OF THE FABRICATED GALVANISED STEEL SINK AND DRAINER.

INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTS
CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN QUANTITY SURVEYORS

A COMMENTARY ON THE WORK OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

By John Fassler, B.Arch., M.I.A.

DEMOBILISATION:

The Directorate of Demobilisation is now creating the necessary organisation to look after returned soldiers on demobilisation. Dispersal depôts are thus being established in the following towns: Johannesburg, Pretoria, Kimberley, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London and Durban. Here soldiers will receive their discharges and have the benefit of the advice of vocational guidance officers, who will be assisted by local committees representing the trades and professions, in obtaining suitable employment or training.

The Institute and Chapter were recently approached in this matter to establish the necessary Central and Regional Committees to assist the Directorate. The Executive Committee of the Central Council appointed the President-in-Chief, Mr. D. S. Haddon, and the two Hon. Liaison Officers, Messrs. D. M. Cowin and P. M. Roos, to form the Central Advisory Committee. This committee met the Adjutant-General and representatives of the Director-General of Demobilisation on the 25th September, when preliminary discussions took place. Following this meeting the Director-General requested that the Institute prepare a memorandum on the employment position in the Union as it affects the rehabilitation of ex-volunteers in the professions of Architecture and Quantity Surveying, including any recommendations for the training, re-training, or education of ex-volunteers to fit them for employment.

In the meantime the constituent bodies have appointed their local committees. These comprise:—

Cape Provincial Institute: Messrs. H. L. Roberts, Capt. L. A. Elsworth and A. F. Cruickshank, with T. A. Bannerman as Quantity Surveyor member.

Transvaal Provincial Institute: Messrs. S. C. Dowsett, D. L. Nurcombe and H. G. Tomkyns for the district of Johannesburg, and Messrs. W. A. Macdonald, V. S. Rees Poole and Lt. R. E. Cole Bowen for the District of Pretoria.

Natal Provincial Institute: No information available at present.

O.F.S. Provincial Institute: Messrs. C. Timlin (Kimberley), F. W. Masey and B. Frank (Bloemfontein) and J. P. Hulshoff (Kroonstad), with M. W. Rhodes Harrison as Quantity Surveyor member.

The Board of the Chapter intend to nominate representatives for each of the Regional Committees.

NATIONAL HOUSING AND PLANNING COMMISSION:

The July issue of the "S.A. Architectural Record" contained the Central Council's reactions to the appointment of the personnel of the National Housing and Planning Commission. The approach to the Minister for a representative on the Advisory Council, which was one of the courses of action decided upon, met with success, and the Minister requested the Central Council to nominate a representative. Mr. N. L. Hanson was nominated by the Executive Committee and has been accepted by the Minister.

DISTRIBUTION OF PERMITS:

As the precise distribution of permits between the various classes of building is not generally known by the profession, and as this lack of information very often leads to erroneous statements in this connection, the Central Council's representative on the Building Advisory Council has suggested that the following figures be published. They show the value of permits granted and their distribution for the four-month period June to September, 1944, inclusive. As further information becomes available it will be published in due course.

	No.	Value (£)	% of Total Value
GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS:			
Government (excluding S.A.R. & H.)	67	417,375	6.3
S.A.R. & H.	172	417,982	6.3
	239	835,357	
PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATIONS:			
Transvaal	64	283,547	4.3
Cape	30	64,836	.9
Natal	16	53,977	.8
Orange Free State	8	14,895	.3
South-West Africa	—	—	—
	118	417,255	
MUNICIPAL AND PUBLIC UTILITIES:			
Excluding Sub-Economic Housing	120	440,424	6.7
National (Sub-Economic) Housing	28	389,889	5.9
	148	830,313	
PRIVATE PROJECTS:			
Houses (including additions)	2,530	3,010,706	45.6
Flats	43	398,721	6.0
Industrial	244	618,758	9.4
Other	541	498,563	7.5
	3,358	4,526,748	100.0

Total value of permits granted: £6,609,673.
Of this amount £3¾ millions, or 57%, represented permits for the provision of housing.

PROFESSIONAL NOTES AND NEWS

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

THE FOLLOWING IS A DECISION OF AN APPEAL COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL IN AN APPEAL BY MR. L. GRINKER, M.I.A., AGAINST A DECISION BY THE TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE TAKEN IN UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT PROCEEDINGS :—

"This Appeal Committee is of the opinion that the Transvaal Provincial "Institute's letter of July 12th, 1944, to the appellant, written by or on behalf of "its Committee, could be interpreted as indicating that premature decision had "been made on the charges preferred against the appellant—premature in that the "appellant had not yet submitted his defence. Because of the possibility of prejudice "contended for on behalf of the appellant, the Appeal Committee has a reasonable "doubt on the point, and feels that the benefit of that reasonable doubt must be "given to the appellant. Accordingly, without considering the merits of the "charges preferred against the appellant, the appeal succeeds on paragraph 2 (ii) "of the Grounds of Review.

"The Appeal Committee now wishes to hear arguments on the question of costs."

On behalf of the Appeal Committee.

(Sgd.) B. ST. C. LIGHTFOOT,

October 6th, 1944.

ADDENDUM. DECISION OF APPEAL COMMITTEE REGARDING COSTS.

"After careful consideration of the arguments addressed to it on the question "of costs, the Appeal Committee has decided to make no order as to costs."

On behalf of the Appeal Committee.

(Sgd.) B. ST. C. LIGHTFOOT,
Chairman.

October 6th, 1944.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Indexed bibliographies from the Technical Library of the Tennessee Valley Authority, covering the period January, 1939—December, 1943, and a selected list of books, theses and pamphlets on T.V.A., are available for reference at the offices of the Transvaal Provincial Institute.

TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE

PROVINCIAL WORK — MEMBERS ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Since the notification of the distribution of work to the profession, details of which appeared in the last issue of the Journal, the Provincial Committee has given much consideration to two questions involving members on active service.

In the case where an individual or a firm is carrying out work for a member on active service, it has been decided to recommend that 25% of the total fees, exclusive of travelling and other charges recoverable from the Province, should be paid to such member.

The other problem concerns the immediate handling of such monies. While making no direct recommendations, the Administration feels it would be in the best interest of members on active service if monies due were paid into a trust fund, administered by the Institute, where it would be available to the member on demobilisation. The opinion has been expressed, however, that the funds may be required immediately to augment a somewhat meagre Army allowance, and in view of the divergence of opinion it has been decided to refer the question to the affected persons themselves.

In view of the difficulty in reaching all members in the Forces, particularly those in the Air Force, Navy and front line in Italy, the whole profession is asked to co-operate in disseminating this information and asking those concerned to address their views in writing to the Secretary of the Transvaal Provincial Institute.

There are still large numbers who have not yet replied to the Institute's original circular, and they, in addition to members who are considering their own practices in the post-war period, are asked to supply the necessary information without delay.

D. M. COWIN,
President.