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BUILDING.

THE JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS
AND OF THE NATAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

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FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The first quarterly meeting of the Association was held in the Scientific and Technical Club, Johannesburg, on Thursday, the 2nd of June, 1921, under the chairmanship of the President, Mr. E. M. Powers, F.R.I.B.A., at which there were over fifty members present.

Prior to the meeting some thirty members and their wives sat down to dinner in the club dining room, a pleasant little function which will be a future feature of these quarterly meetings.

After dinner members were keenly interested in a lecture delivered by Mr. Gerard Moerdijk, A.R.I.B.A., who took as his subject "Old Cape Architecture." The lecture was illustrated by nearly 150 lantern slides, depicting some of the beautiful old structures which were erected in the Western Province a century and more ago.

At the conclusion of the lecture a short discussion took place, and questions were answered by the lecturer.

Following the questions the President gave a resume of the work done by the Council since the annual general meeting last February, pointing out that the establishment of the Chair of Architecture at the University College, Johannesburg, necessitated the immediate calling in of the donations promised by members for this object; further, he called upon all members who have not yet communicated the amount of their donation to immediately do so to the Registrar.

After referring to the "Conditions of Contract" which was to form the main subject of a conference of all South African architectural bodies at Johannesburg in September next, the President proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Moerdijk for his interesting lecture.

The next quarterly meeting of members will be held in the Scientific Club on Wednesday, 24th August, and will be preceded by an informal dinner to which ladies are specially invited. All members desiring to attend should forward their names to the Registrar.

On this occasion Professor G. E. Pearse, A.R.I.B.A., will deliver a lecture on the Architecture of Mesopotamia, which will be illustrated by lantern slides.

On account of the excessive postages now imposed, members are asked to note the foregoing, because the usual circular may not be issued in this connection.

STUDENTS' COMPETITION.

A prize of books or instruments to the value of five guineas, kindly donated by Mr. John Perry of Capetown, will be awarded to the Second Year Student who submits the best design on the following subject: "A Tram Shelter."

Governing conditions of this competition, together with site plan, may be obtained from the Registrar not later than the 15th July, 1921, and all designs must reach that official on or before the 15th November next.

Letters to the Editor.

CIVIC CENTRES AND CENTRAL SQUARES.

Dear Sir,

From the earliest period of civilisation of which we have records, down through the ages to the present time, it has always been recognised that a civic centre, open space or market place is necessary and essential to add character and dignity to every city, town or village. Throughout the civilised world in most cities and towns it will be found that the civic centre or open space is really the heart of the city, and this centre should be if possible not only the administrative centre but the centre for the communal life of the inhabitants. Considering the great importance of our central squares and open spaces and the important part they have played in past history, it is extremely disappointing to find that the only open space that is left in the heart of your city is now to be occupied by a public library. If it is not too late it is to be hoped that the greatest public effort will be made to prevent such a serious mistake being made.

This open space immediately adjoining your Town Hall lends itself very well to an interesting form of treatment, and could be made a very important centre in the life of your people.

I understand that the main arguments put forward in favour of this open space being utilised for other purposes is that the ground will become a receptacle for all sorts of rubbish, and also an open space of that nature will be the cause of considerable trouble by creating dust storms.

I would suggest that the gentlemen who propose to allow a building to be erected on this area would consider for a moment the pleasure that an open space like this can give to the citizens who for business reasons are compelled to live in the heart of your city. If this open space were carefully laid out with, say, a pergola running down either side between the existing trees, and recesses were made for seats which could be protected by groups of flowering shrubs or trees, it would then fulfil a very useful purpose, and would give a little touch of colour to the square.

The importance of a central point like this in the heart of your city can hardly be exaggerated,

and if preserved it would probably be found in years to come that many of your future important buildings could be grouped around this square, and it would become a focal point not only for your main lines of internal traffic, but a place where your people would tend to congregate and take full advantage of any pleasant facilities created. I would suggest that a very suitable place for your public library would be at the bottom of this square, where there are a series of somewhat unsightly existing buildings. I do not know whether these particular sites now in use are available for purchase, but I feel very strongly that the ratepayers' money could be used with advantage in purchasing old property for a library site, rather than in using up an important central square.

If this open space is retained it would considerably enhance the value of your Town Hall as a public building. A circulating traffic centre could be arranged for your trams between this open space and the Town Hall, which would probably obviate many of the difficultes now existent in Market Street. I would suggest that a carefully designed Kiosk to harmonise with your Town Hall should be arranged on either side in the circulating traffic area, which could be used as waiting rooms and other useful purposes. The development of this open space and other matters suggested above might become the subject of very interesting architectural competition.

The general effect of important public buildings is often lost if they are scattered indiscriminately about the city; the details of their design are often imperfectly seen when placed in ordinary streets, and no general effect is produced such as would be obtained by grouping them in central places or squares. If grouped in this way the buildings will tend to help one another, and if these buildings are well arranged the total result obtained will be of a character to impress the imagination and of an extent to form a genuine central feature in the heart of the city. Finally, one would point out that considerable sums of money are annually being spent in creating these open spaces in cities and towns in other parts of the world, but in your case it is the reverse. You have got the open space, but you are proposing to destroy it, and I am afraid this will not be a very pleasant legacy to leave for the future generations, and it would not be considered a striking example of the way your Governing Bodies are looking after the civic dignity of your city.

A. J. THOMPSON.

The Public and Architects. Architects and the Public.

Dear Sir,

To the public in general the Architect does not occupy that status enjoyed by other professions, such as the doctor and the lawyer, although it is improving. The Press to some extent reflects the voice and taste of the people. More often than not one sees a report of some building, and the architect who has conceived the structure, worked it out in all its details, and had the worry of it, is no more referred to than the boy who mixed the mortar or cleaned the windows. If anything goes wrong, however, he gets all the blame, so in all fairness he should get some of the credit.

When a book or article is reviewed, the author's name is never by any chance omitted, and surely it should be as much the duty of the journalist to discover and publish the name of the architect in the one case as of the author in the other.

To the uninitiated the analogy may appear out of place due to the fact that architecture, speaking generally, is a neglected art by the public, though in Europe there is a distinct improvement, its study being followed if only from a historical point of view by an increasing number of the public, attending classes and lectures and visiting best examples under the direction of leading architects and professors.

There is in the Homeland also an appreciation of good architecture, and the architects are being recognised as they should be, as reports of building operations and architecture generally show.

It sometimes happens that the journalist may be personally acquainted with an architect of a certain structure, or maybe the particular architect is one of those few prominent names in h mind, and is accordingly recorded. On the other hand, he may have taken a dislike to the practitioner, as the student did to Dr. Fell, and the newspaper man seizes his chance. But surely that is "personality" of which the Press should not be guilty. Truth and justice are impersonal. It is, of course, not implied that the Press has any real intention to be unfair.

A few months ago the foundation stone was laid of a Dutch Reformed Church not a hundred miles from Market Square. A detailed report of the proceedings was given, and the name of one who was not on the Register of Architects at all was mentioned. Possibly the report was sent in

by the person himself, and the busy newspaper office had no time to verify.

A month or two after another stone was laid for a church of a different denomination. Both architect's and builder's names were omitted, though the former is an old registered practitioner whose work has been considered good enough for the walls of the Royal Academy and for publication in the leading professional papers at Home.

Were a journalist as interested in architecture as in literary matter he would not fail to be as fair to the architect as to the author, for the former is not permitted to advertise and it is one of the few chances of his name being noticed as the one who conceived the structure.

Architects are not altogether blameless in the matter, for, like musicians, they divide up the profession into classes. There is unfortunately not that esprit-de-corps found here as in the older countries among professional gentlemen. In the first class—in which the speaker never by any chance omits himself if disparaging others—are those who have or are flourishing more by influence. The second class are those who have had to rely more on merit than anything else, and not altogether flourishing like a green bay tree. "Just a small man you know," the first class man remarks as he curls his moustache or strokes his nose, and acknowledges the second class man only in the suburbs. There is a humorous side. The rest are "no class," and were only put on the register because the law did not allow interference with "vested interests" provided the practitioner was pursuing an honest career.

The laymen and subordinates hear these things on the quiet or are even told directly, and without being in a position to judge, act on such information, and cause injury where it is undeserved. "We don't call on Mr. So-and-so, that would be infra dig; he is no more than us—in fact not so good." ,More humour.)

A good many have an idea, unless others have gone through the particular system of training the speaker has—though it may be as obsolete as the "dodo"—he is no good. Demonstration is, after all, the only true test, and not trumpeting. If one possesses the ability of hand and eye with necessary knowledge to satisfy those capable of judging, it does not matter one iota by what means he acquired that knowledge. But is it not another way, if only a modest one, of saying "I am a first-class architect myself." Only recently an instance of this sort of thing was brought to the notice of the writer by a prominent citizen regarding another architect. He may, of course, have misunderstood, and that is the danger of discussing with laymen purely professional matters. If an architect feels he has a grievance against his brother architects, let him air his grievance in the proper place and not to the public (individually or collectively), for these people cannot be expected to judge the merits of the matter. There is, of course, only one motive in such an attitude—desire to injure another to gain an advantage.

One of the qualifications for admission to a professional society was that the applicant must be a gentleman.

Let us one and all try and practise that esprit-de-corps found in the old countries among honourable professions, and as we respect one another so shall we gain the respect of the public, and the status of the architect will greatly improve, the public be more inclined to employ the professional man for complete service. It is quite a common thing for clients to dispense with supervision, even in fairly large works, because they say it is too "expensive," whatever they may mean by that. The Committee that sat on the Architects Bill revealed deplorable evidence, and the public became aware of this, and the innocent have in this world to suffer for the guilty. The suffering of the latter is only postponed, and will perhaps be of a more permanent nature for degrading an honourable profession.

"JUSTICE."

Architectural Conference.

It is proposed to hold a conference of all the Architectural Bodies in South Africa at Johannesburg early in September next, at which the rating of a general form of Conditions of Contract for the Union will come under discussion.

Any other matters of interest to the profession generally will be included in the agenda if submitted to the Registrar by the 15th July next.

REINFORCED CONCRETE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION, III.

SHEAR.

The shearing stresses in a concrete beam are of great importance, and all concrete beams should be carefully designed for shear, otherwise cracks are likely to develop and the beam may become unsafe.

At any point in a beam the unit shearing stresses in the vertical and horizontal directions are equal. They are zero at the upper edge and reach their maximum value at the neutral axis. Below the neutral axis the tension in the concrete is neglected, so then the shearing stresses up to the reinforcing steel remain constant, where an equalisation of the horizontal shearing forces through the adhesive stresses upon the steel takes place.

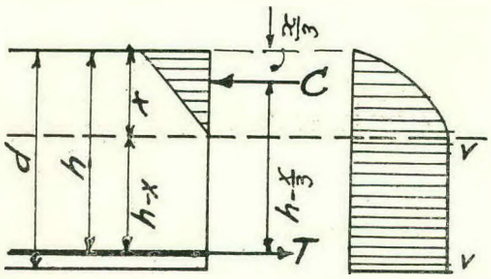
For a beam of width (b) the unit shearing stress per sq. inch (v) in any one fibre parallel to the neutral axis is

$$v = \frac{VS}{Ib} \qquad (13)$$

In which V = the total shear inpourd.

S = statical moment of area of cross section on one side of neutral axis about the neutral axis,

I = Moment of Inertia of the cross-section about the neutral axis.



Stress Diagram. Shear Diagram.

Then $S = bx \frac{x}{2} = \frac{bx_2}{2}$ and

$$I = \frac{bx^3}{3} + m A_t (h - x)^2 \qquad (14)$$

in which the area of the steel reinforcing is increased M times. Subsequently the value of A_t from equation (4) in (14).

$$I = \frac{bx_2}{2}\left(h - \frac{x}{3}\right) \qquad (15)$$

$$\text{or } v = \frac{V}{b\left(h - \frac{x}{3}\right)} \qquad (16)$$

The adhesive stress or resistance to slipping of the reinforcing steel boss is determined as follows: The tension T must be taken up in the first place through the adhesive stress upon the circumference u, of the reinforcement, and in the second place through the constant shearing stress v of the concrete between the reinforcement and the neutral axis. For a beam, in one foot length (the shearing stress in this length being assumed constant), therefore

$$T = au = vb \text{ or}$$

$$a = \frac{vb}{u} = \frac{V}{u\left(h - \frac{x}{3}\right)} \qquad (17)$$

The same formulæs applv to beams reinforced for compression as regards shear and adhesive stress.

The width, b, of the behm is ordinarily determined according to the number of reinforcing bars provided, and as they do not help to take up the shearing stresses some of the bars must be bent up, or stirrups may be used. This bending up of the bars should be done preferably at about 45 degrees, and also from the point in the beam where the shearing stress attains exactly its permissive value v.

The design of a beam for shearing stresses is accomplished in three ways:

(i.) The concrete takes up part of the shear.

(ii.) The stirrups take up the balance of the shearing stress, or

(iii.) The bent-up rods take up the balance of the shearing stresses in the form of tension.

When both stirrups and bent-up rods are used only one system should be assumed as acting.

The design of the stirrups: Let V represent the average unit horizontal shear over a part, s, of a beam, then the total shear over any horizontal

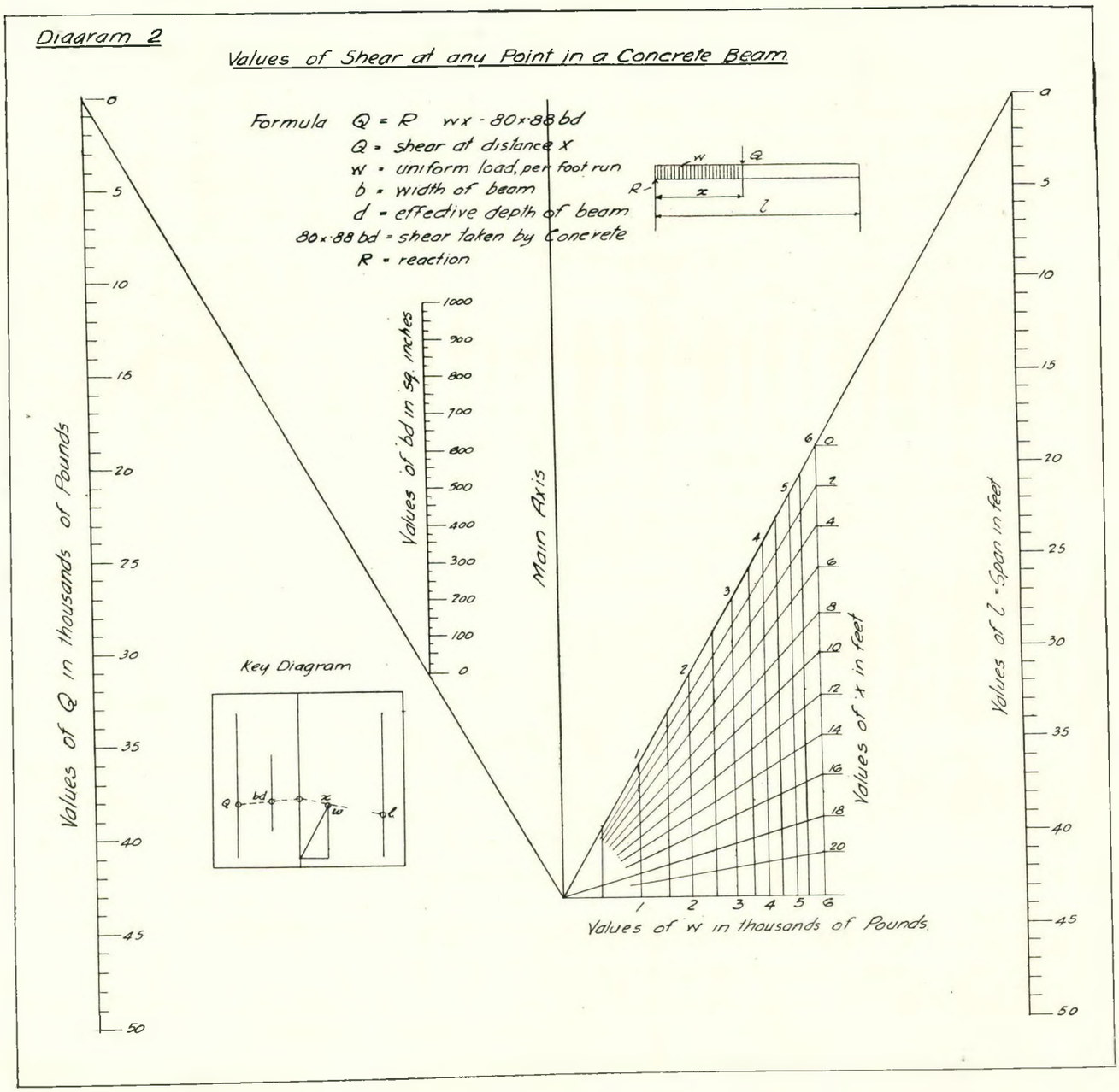
plane will be vbs, and

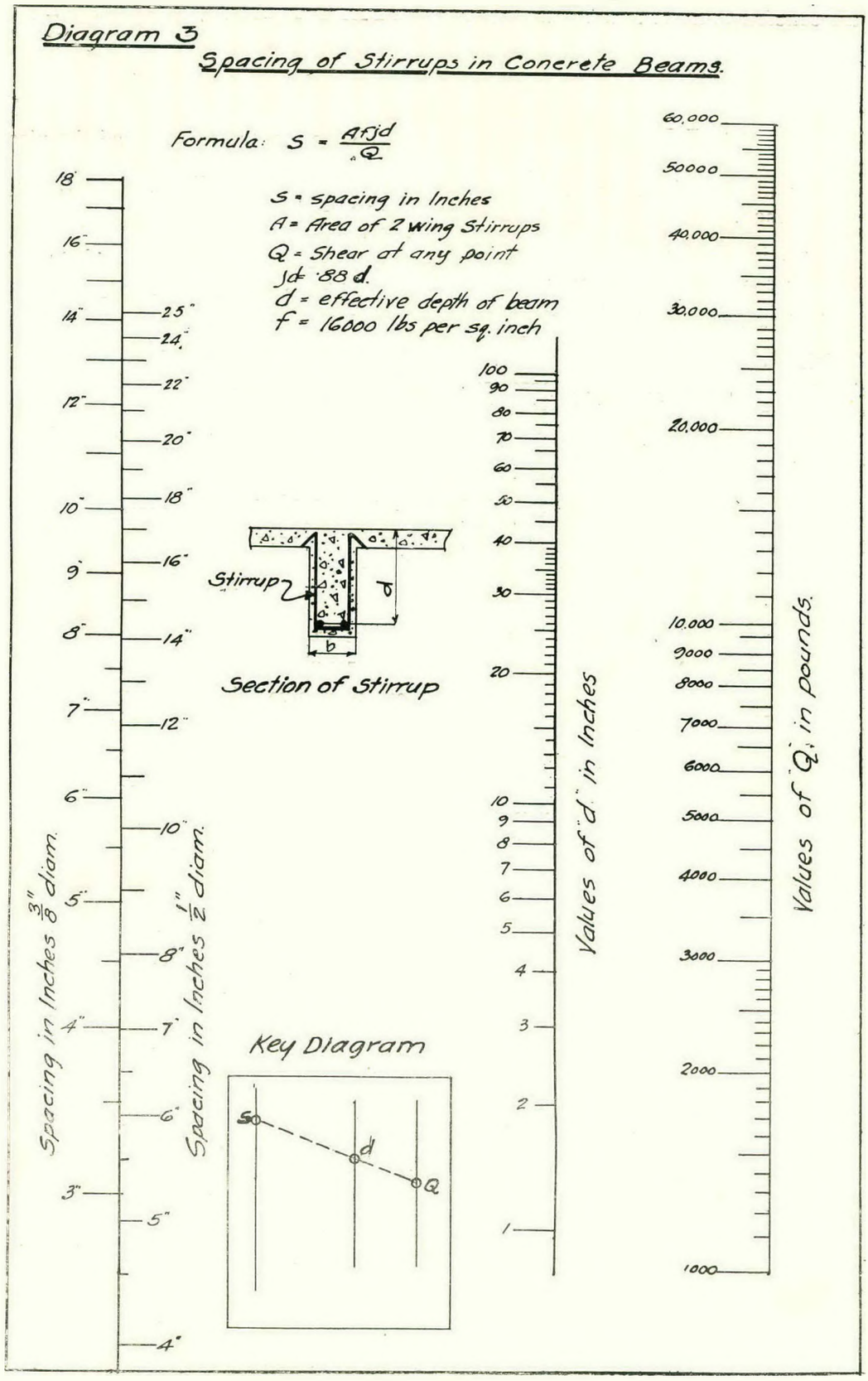
$$vbs = \frac{Vs}{(h - \frac{x}{3})} \quad \text{from (16)}$$

The function of the stirrup, either inclined or vertical, is to resist by their tensile strength that portion of the shearing stress which is not carried by the concrete. Assume a vertical stirrup to be placed in the centre of the part S. The total stress in the stirrup is Ats, and is produced by that part of the total shear over the horizontal plane BS not taken by the concrete. Therefore

$$A_{tf} = vbs = \frac{Vs}{(h - \frac{x}{3})} \text{ and the spacing}$$

$$\text{of the stirrup or } S = \frac{Atf\ (h - \frac{x}{3})}{V} \quad (18)$$




Diagram 3
Spacing of Stirrups in Concrete Beams.
Formula: $S = \frac{Af_s jd}{Q}$
S = spacing in Inches
A = Area of 2 wing Stirrups
Q = Shear at any point
jd = .88 d.
d = effective depth of beam
f = 16000 lbs per sq. inch
Stirrup
d
b
Section of Stirrup
Key Diagram
S
d
Q
Spacing in Inches $\frac{3}{8}$" diam.
Spacing in Inches $\frac{1}{2}$" diam.
Values of "d" in Inches
Values of "Q" in pounds.

When the concrete is taken into consideration the denominator in the above equation becomes V-Vc, in which Vc is equal to

$$Cb\left(h - \frac{x}{3}\right)$$

wherein c is the unit shear in the concrete of 80 pound per square inch.

From diagram No. 2 the shear at any point of a concrete beam can be readily found, and then from diagram No. 3 the required spacing. These diagrams to be used in the same manner as described in Article II. It will only be necessary to find, say, three points, one at the support, another where the concrete takes up all the shearing stress, or Q=O and one between. The balance of the stirrups can then be spaced approximately. A graphical diagram will be given in the next article for the stirrup spacing, which can be used in connection with the bent-up bars to be considered next.

Central Housing Board.

Circular No. II.

(Published by Authority.)

The following circular was issued on the 9th June, to each local authority in the Union:—

The Housing Act No, 35, of 1920.

I am directed to inform you that the Government has notified the Board that in view of the stringent financial position it will not at present be possible to provide funds for advances and housing loans beyond those required to meet applications approved by the Board up to 31st May last; the Government will, however, be prepared to review this decision at the end of the present calendar year in the light of the financial position then obtaining.

Under these circumstances, while the Board is prepared to consider and advise on further schemes or housing loan applications, any recommendation in regard thereto will be conditional on funds being available at a later date.

R. S. GORDON,

Secretary, Central Housing Board.

Some Glimpses of Australia.

Some months ago we had the pleasure of revisiting old scenes in the great island continent, voyaging in the good ship "Ulysses" (14,500 tons), and making Adelaide from Durban in a fairly quick trip of 17½ days, wharf to wharf, carrying with us a pleasant remembrance of "Joeburg" architects in the fragrant form of a basket of ostrich feather fern and cyclamen, very graciously presented to my wife at Park Station on our departure on October 2nd. This little group of botany stood the sea air splendidly, and, guarded with kindly care, was placed in the drawing room of my aged mother, who received this piece of South Africa with the greatest pleasure.

MELBOURNE.

It was hard, when approaching the imperial looking city of Melbourne, stretching its suburbs out to twelve miles in every direction, to realise that this great city did not exist, and was the abode of black fellows, when my maternal parent was born in 1836, and although it is now eighty-three years old it almost inspires awe by the grandeur of its noble streets and magnificence of its commercial palace.

Fifteen years had passed since I last saw it, and in those years it had grown nearly as much as it had in its previous fifty-eight years of history. In this city, with past architectural traditions of a very high order, more recent work has carried on the spirit of a noble heritage, and it is impossible to refrain from praise of a race who have shown such noble conceptions of creative art.

Well termed the "Queen City of the South," it well becomes the name as the womb of the early Commonwealth Parliament, which still sits in the regal-looking home of the old Victorian Parliament, which, standing on the Eastern Hill, overlooks the whole city and closes the upward vista of one of its broadest streets.

One of the first impressions one felt was the inevitable feeling, "How much larger this is than Johannesburg?" And the general appearance of the place indicated a greater prosperity and absence of apparent poverty than one is accustomed to in our own "mile high" town. Here are no bywoners, no poor whites, no tramps nor outward signs of an "underdog" world. The people speak with a somewhat strange accent, more cockney than anything else, and the men appear, almost without exception, to treat life as a joke and everyday work as the sport of a king. They seem unaware, pleasantly so, of their glorious achievements in the latter part of the war, when kicking footballs forward they attacked one day at 4 a.m. and drove in the German front, and with their skirmishing cavalry had reached by 11 a.m. to a distance of nine miles from their start.

A SOLDIER ARCHITECT.

I met Sir Charles Rosenthal, F.R.I.B.A., the General who was in charge of this assault. We had not seen each other for 23 years. We served our articles together long ago, and I found him in Sydney back in practice as a private architect. We met with great pleasure, and exchanged mutual accounts of our doings. I found him glowing with pride in his "men," but very modest as to his own great military abilities. I believe he is the first architect in the world to attain General rank, and now, in addition to being a private architect, he still commands the troops in the north part of New South Wales.

It is very interesting that out of five Divisional Generals of the Australian Army, two were practising architects, my friend and Sir Talbot Hobbs, both very distinguished in the war in France.

HOBART.

In addition to visiting Melbourne, Hobart, and Sydney were included in the itinerary. Hobart, capital of the pretty island of Tasmania, situated on the most wonderful harbour in the world, finer even than Sydney's, which is saying much, with its wondrous environment of great mountains and marine lakes, forms a "pearl set in the silver seas." Our great ship's nose lay almost touching the shore in 60 feet of water and a long stone's-throw from the Post Office. This beauty town has lain for a century semi-dormant, and now the great hydro-electric scheme has, Aladdin-like, brought about quick movement by the bestowal of the wonder-working cheap power. In the centre of Tasmania, and about fifty miles from Hobart, is a great plateau, 3,000 feet high, surrounded by high mountains, which pour their waters into lakes, one—the largest—called the "great lake." The great lake in its turn pours out through the Ouse and rushes down the plateau slopes to the ocean. It has been harnessed by the largest water turbines in the world, and thus electric power is generated, and it has galvanised into new life the long sleeping city with new manufactures. The Avon river is being joined to the Ouse, and the resultant electric capacity will be 500,000 kilowatts, which can be taken easily anywhere in Tasmania. To the practical prophet the future lies with countries with available water-power, more perhaps than with those with coal resources, and Norway, Sweden, Tasmania, and other backward countries are likely to stride forward into the front rank of the manufacturing forces. It is cheaper to transmit power than to dig and haul coal, and Tasmania, once referred to by Sir David Hutchens as the "lost corner of the empire," will soon be coming forward and pressing into the world's markets. After 120 years she only has 200,000 people, so there are acres of room for more, as she is nearly as large as Ireland. So may it be! She has one of the kindest peoples on earth.

SYDNEY.

Sydney is a horse of quite another colour. She is exultant in her greatness, numbering close on one million people, and with infinite capacity for growth. She is not unlikely in time to come to rival London itself, a metropolis to which old Sydney bears a most marked resemblance. Sydney sprawls itself across slightly undulating country further than the eye can see. Her street planning is atrocious—the worst by far I saw in Australia—as bad or worse than London. The great highways are most inadequate and unsatisfactory, and little foresight seems to have been shown—a great contrast to Melbourne, which in the main is planned imperially. Of course, Syd-

ney cannot be thought of without the famous harbour, which even close to shore is 60 to 100 feet deep. It is called Port Jackson, and is one of the largest ports in the Empire. Mr. Jackson, the Harbour Board architect—the Board owns much shore property and the architects' department is a busy one—kindly invited us to see the port, and with one of the port officers, Captain Hilderband in charge, we were swiftly conveyed in a steam launch up several of the great arms of the harbour. As a port it is wonderful, so protected and so deep—they have to splice the piles for the wharves to reach bottom—but the surroundings disappoint one. In their primeval state they were covered with low trees of monotonous shades of gum leaves; now they are mainly desecrated by countless houses with most glaringly aggressive red tiles, which when the sun beats fiercely down weary the eyes; one longs for a few shingles to ease off the tone. The angry reds of all the Australian tiled roofs makes one wish for a little softer tone. There are such countless thousands of new buildings mostly covered with these—both in Melbourne and Sydney—that one cries out for coolness and quiet. Even painted iron seems pardonable instead of this garishness.

The style of building houses has a distinctly American flavour. Red walls, red roofs, and steely hot sky, however, do not attract; perhaps in America's cooler shades these reds may brighten up the landscapes. In Australia they make one wonder why every architect seems to wander along the same path. The country is sated. The style is good for houses if toned down, and if it was not repeated for ever with endless variations. One would like to see more of what we know here as the Mediterranean spirit, and which has been more or less the line we are properly following in this country for some years.

The street fronts are more agreeable than the houses, and it is in these that Australia in her larger towns is eminent. The earlier architects, many of them, were cultured men of the school of Cockerill and his contemporaries, and they have left works of the very highest merit and in large numbers, and consequently there is in public buildings, a better tradition than we have formed in Africa. In Australia business men expect a fine facade. The architects started there well, but in Africa the start was often halting and mean, and there has been little to work up to. Our standard should in this respect be raised by educating our public, but in house building our standards in better class villas are more suitable for our climate than the Australians for theirs, and are of superior artistic merit.

ADELAIDE.

I have not mentioned Adelaide, once called the "fairy princess" of cities. Famous she deservedly is as one of the best laid out cities, with a great broad ring of park lines encircling the city proper and kept inviolate for ever, except where the main arteries pass through, one one of which is the statue of its planner, Colonel Light. I have left her to the last, as she was both the first and the last points we touched at. In town planning she excels—a truly fine example for study. How wise her people were and are! They have handed their wisdom from generation to generation, and they have reaped as they have sown—a noble heritage of a beautiful heathful city.

A somewhat slow return voyage landed us with our many shipmates all glad to see Afric's shores once more, and to enjoy the superior comfort of the S.A.R. on the night mail from Durban.

Amongst others I met in Australia I was delighted to see our old friend, Mr. Wm. Lucas, who had many enquiries to make for his South African brethren, to whom he sends the kindest wishes.

E. H. WAUGH.

We congratulate Mr. Allen Wilson, of Johannesburg, on his having had accepted and hung at the Royal Academy, London, a perspective drawing of the new Standard Bank premises now under course of erection in Eloff Street, Johannesburg.

The Natal Institute of Architects.

The Annual General Meeting of the members of the above Society was held in the Architecture Room, Technical College, Durban, on the 3rd May, 1921, at 8 p.m. The President, Mr. B. V. Bartholomew, A.R.I.B.A., in the chair. The President said:

Gentlemen,—It gives me great pleasure in presenting to you this evening a report on the year's work. The year has been a strenuous one for the Council, and the following matters amongst others have been dealt with. I had the honour of representing the Natal Institute of Architects on the Engineering Advisory Committee called together by the Technical College.

The Institute's advice and recommendations were sought by the Municipality upon the proposed new Bye-laws governing reinforced concrete construction.

A conference was held between nominees of this Institute and the Master Builders' Association relating to and in explanation of the wages liability clause, and your Council agreed to the clause on the condition that a corresponding decrease of 1 per cent. per 1d. on wages on the uncompleted portion of the contract be made.

The important question of the registration of qualified architects was again under discussion, and in conjunction with the Association of Transvaal Architects this Institute petitioned the Ministers and local Members of Parliament. In this connection it might be profitable to define what is an architect, as a large number of the public imagine many vain things and their ideas are particularly hazy. The definition given by the Dictionary of the Academie Francaise is as follows: An architect is "the artist who composes buildings, determines their proportions, distributions, and decorations, directs their execution, and controls the expenditure upon them." Modern conditions demand qualified men to deal with their complex requirements. Requirements as to planning, arranging the various parts most convenient for the purpose in view, having due regard to economy and soundness of construction; its demands for lighting, heating, ventilation and sanitation; the respecting of bye-laws; the various legal enactments affecting employer and employee, etc.; the choice of and the knowledge of materials, their strengths, costs and uses, and having regard to all this to design and finish a building in such an artistic manner as to conform to the standards of convenience, economy, utility and beauty. To attain to these standards and to safeguard the public it at once becomes apparent that qualifications are necessary just as much as for the doctor or the lawyer. I need hardly remind you that in the Transvaal all architects are registered, and five of the municipalities of that Province refuse plans unless prepared by registered architects, an excellent by-law which safeguards the public as much as the demand for a certificate of qualification for the plumber who lays the drains.

A good deal of work was accomplished by the Council in connection with the Durban War Memorial site, and after much correspondence and many interviews your Council, in conjunction with the Committee appointed by the Municipality to advise them, was influential in reversing the decision of the Town Council. This Institute, as a body of qualified professional men and as burgesses, would have failed in its duty had it not at once publicly voiced its opinion respecting our greatest civic monument and strenuously fought against what it considered a great mistake.

Your Council, at the request of the Durban Municipality, prepared the Conditions of Competition for the proposed Durban War Memorial, and I feel certain that when the designs are publicly exhibited that the recommendations will be generally approved by the general public in that a fine civic centre will be our proud possession.

At the request of the Municipality your Council acted upon the Advisory Committee of the "General Botha Memorial" and selected the site for same. You did me the honour of electing me to represent the Institute in conjunction with the sculptor, Mr. Anton van Wouw, in designing the pedestal and lay-out of the site. Your Council actively participated in the Durban Housing Scheme condemning the original scheme prepared by the Municipality, which action was confirmed by the Government Housing Board, who, recognising the necessity of commissioning qualified men, advised the Municipality to select four architects from the Natal Institute of Architects to carry out the scheme.

During the year this Institute has amalgamated with the Natal Society of Artists, the Natal Society of Artists' Sketch Club, and the Art Section of the Technical College in organising monthly lectures in art and architecture, each Society being represented on a Joint Committee to prepare and carry out a syllabus of meetings.

The question of raising the professional scale of charges to come into line with the Royal Institute of British Architects was discussed, but it was decided to adhere to the present scale.

Your Institute raised £100 amongst its members, which was donated towards the Durban War Memorial.

During the year two Associates were elected, and I trust it will be to our mutual help.

The finances of the Institute are reflected in the Treasurer's report.

Co-operating with the Technical College, an Architecture Room was formed at the College, and this Institute donated a sum of £25 towards the purchasing of model casts and photographs,

and it is hoped that much may result from this small beginning.

Members of this Institute have been granted the free use of the Architecture Room and Library at the College, and it is hoped members will take advantage of this kind offer.

This year the minutes of the Council meetings have been sent to all members, as also the quarterly periodical, "Building," the official journal of the Association of Transvaal Architects and the Natal Institute of Architects, and much appreciated.

It is anticipated that your new Council will petition the Town Council to form a strong towns planning committee, as we are conscious that our rapidly growing towns, with its industrial centres, its beach, eastern vlei, Esplanade developments and housing problems; its traffic, roads, and main thoroughfare; street corners, garages on street fronts in residential areas, etc., etc., problems greatly and unconsciously emphasising our civic life, demand careful consideration, and as an Institute, in co-operation with others, we are willing to give to the town our best efforts.

In this connection your Council are arranging for lectures on town planning by an expert from the Homeland.

In conclusion, there is much this Institute can do towards influencing the general public in things appertaining to architecture. I trust that the new year will be fruitful of much good work. To the gentlemen of the Council and to our untiring and devoted Secretary, and to the Proprietors of the newspapers and others who have so worthily assisted this Institute I beg on your behalf to tender our sincerest thanks.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Bartholomew for his year of Presidentship.

The following gentlemen were elected to the Council for the ensuing year: Messrs. B. V. Bartholomew, A.R.I.B.A. (President), G. T. Hurst, D.S.O. (Vice-President), E. O. Payne, A.R.I.B.A. W. S. Payne, A.R.I.B.A., Lowell Mason, F. J. Ing, Wallace Paton, F.R.I.B.A.

Seed Time.

By G. W. NICOLAY, M.S.A.

The fall of the Roman Empire, which was the result of an attempt, conscious or not, on the part of a section of the world's inhabitants, to rule by main force the remainder, which not only outnumbered it many times, but had again on its constantly increasing boundaries great hordes of humanity, primitive and uncivilised, and not only unconquered but unknown. Their habits were not unlike those of the Romans themselves, though from totally different causes. The various tribes living generally in territories amply sufficient for their maintenance and in numbers sufficiently small to avoid the embarrassment of their government, which was patriarchal, here and there from time to time increasing so as to subvert these conditions, split up into sections, of which the most recent pushed out into the surrounding country to find new quarters; not for conquest but to relieve pressure which the limits of their territory began to impose upon their resources, thus repeating the methods of their Aryan ancestors when they overran the primitive world.

The Roman, it may be said, governed his world by establishing and maintaining lines of communication. His straight well paved roads, as the proverb has it, "all lead to Rome"! His castra at intervals along them were camps and depots, where troops stationary or on the march were constantly maintained. The civilised world was, in appearance, a vast training ground for soldiers, more decidedly than it had ever been before.

But the Roman had become cosmopolitan; his legions contained soldiers from many countries. Rome, once centripetal, all roads leading people eagerly to it, had become centrifugal; Romans went elsewhere to seek fortune and permanent homes, and sold the citizenship to aliens for money. The end had come. The division of the Empire, the gradual withdrawal of the Imperial forces homewards as one province after another was lost. The sack of Rome itself and imposition of a barbarian king, made the Roman Empire a thing of the past, and her great works swiftly followed. Buildings such as their great baths, theatres, and amphitheatres, their palaces and halls of justice were no longer required, and in many cases fell into ruins or even pulled down. The whole system had failed and been effaced by the overwhelming incursion of barbarians from the unknown lands whose numbers were the chief causes of their success, though they were not deficient in courage or even in military genius.

Where regular government with strict administration of laws and the customs of society had continued for centuries, disruption, confusion, and disorder prevailed, and the greatest organisa-

tion ever known broke up into a number of hostile States, the boundaries of which were ill-defined, all in a state of fusion and transition, and have remained more or less in that condition ever since.

Architecture was not likely to flourish under these conditions. Under the patronage of those in temporary supreme power, Emperors of remnants of the late Empire, Kings of growing or tottering states and nobles governing provinces or cities, it showed a stunted growth, in some cases worthy of notice, but for the greater part making no mark even at the time and leaving scarce a trace for future centuries.

The result was not surprising. Influenced by the splendour of the great church at Constantinople a few buildings were designed which aimed at the same freedom, both in plan and general treatment, though without success. But still, though Saint Sophia stands to this day the only building which fairly represents the apparent aims of its Architect or of the Emperors who were, as we should say, his clients, the manner of the work and especially the detail, both of arrangement and enrichment, appear and reappear in the succeeding times as late as the thirteenth and possibly the fourteenth century.

Consequent, no doubt, upon the unstable condition prevailing all through a world of convulsions, so much more serious than those attending the triumphant progress of the Roman advance upon Greece, recovery after conflict was slow. The Roman work was orderly in its methods, in its victories and occupation of one country after another, and administration of them, and though success only whetted the appetite for military adventure, the masterly consolidation of every step left in each country the people content to settle under the government they imposed, even if not enamoured with it, and so the various countries became freely accessible one to another, and the arts, particularly architecture, made extraordinary progress in all directions.

But towards the close of the sixth century, all was confusion, and though there must have been great numbers of people accustomed to not only civilised but luxuriant living, their shrunken condition for the most part forbade any great encouragement of the arts. Likely enough the existing buildings were more than sufficient for their wants, and equal to suffice all their ambitions. On the contrary, the barbarians began in confusion, succeeded with it, and left it behind them.

The thin streams of immediate Byzantine influences flowing gently here and there and forming pools, as may be said, filtered through Asia Minor into Syria, and along the northern littoral of the Adriatic, then northward to Ravenna and southward to Venice, and from these lines hither and thither to any place where there was possible escape from the confusion of the times.

Rome was reduced to insignificance, and Ravenna, where the government of the Western Empire had been re-seated, was in the hands of the barbarians by the end of the fifth century, and the Empire of the West at an end.

During the fourth century the great church of St. Peter at Rome was perhaps finished. It was designed on the lines of the Roman basilica, but with considerable and not very successful variations. It had a wide central space, like that afterwards called the nave, and two lateral spaces on each side of it just as they were usually arranged afterwards, and called aisles. At the west end was a spacious transverse member, the transept of later days in the centre of which an apse was placed on the axis of the nave, and in front of it stood the Altar.

These two churches, Saint Sophia at Constantinople and St. Peter at Rome, supplied the material out of which were wrought the great, so-called, Romanesque and Gothic schools of architecture, the church at Constantinople supplying the spirit of adventure and freedom, that at Rome the reverence for traditions and love of the times that indeed were past, but were much too great and glorious to be forgotten.

It is remarkable that both these churches retained and rejected parts of the old basilica. S. Peter's retained the collonade and rejected the intermediate floors or gallery in the aisles, S. Sophia kept the galleries and refusing the collonade adopted the arcade in its stead, and besides worked out a new and elaborate plan and used the counterfort or buttress. The plan of S. Peter based on right lines; that of S. Sophia on the elipse and circle.

Out of all the troubles and turmoils of the times emerged the feudal system of which it need only be noted here that it established a new type of military building which for a considerable period was the only domestic building, if the term may be allowed, which in any way competed with the buildings of the church. The Roman castra, with which architecture had but little to do, passed

its name on to the feudal castles which soon became the most important buildings to be found anywhere, in many cases containing within their walls a very considerable population besides the garrison. The face of the country was quite changed everywhere. Instead of the low earthworks of the Roman fortress was now seen high walls with towers at intervals of the outer defences, within which were other similar lines of defence according to the size and importance of the place, and notably the great tower or last defence, which was the Keep or residence of the owner or his deputy. The important towns were also enclosed with walls, and had their towers and gates as of old, and between these lay the smaller open towns and villages, and the religious homes which were also enclosed with walls, but not for military purposes.

Greater changes were being made than had ever been made before over such an extended area. It was a transformation scene. The buildings which all over the world had so exactly suited the Roman were comparatively useless to Rome's new masters. The Roman power was at an end. The Roman civilisation withered before a storm of barbarism.

The Roman buildings, disintegrated, drifted as building materials into the hands of those who were interested in effacing even the memory of their luxury, tyranny or cruelty.

During this period of change architecture was in the general view a lifeless thing, but the thin streams and pools to which the new thinking in architecture has been compared carried, like some rich veins in a mine, immense values with them. The influence of the great Greek artists was alive in it, passing on and seeming to have, as it were, its revenge for the Roman spoliation and subsequent degradation of its heart-work, to move forward its spirit to a day yet five or six centuries away that perfection traceable in the finest mediæval sculpture, and meanwhile, though buildings were comparatively mean in size, the decorative work of Byzantine artists was preparing the way for an entirely fresh type at least as beautiful as any that preceded or which followed it.

It is at least remarkable that the architecture gradually developed from the fusion of the Byzantine and Roman work of which the most noticeable contribution from Rome was the "long drawn aisle," should have been given by our modern critics and editors the name "Romanesque." The arcade as above noted was a contribution from Byzantium, so was the buttress, so was the living part of the sculpture and decoration, and even the remarkable collonade of S. Peters, kept rather strictly to traditional inter-communication, was not repeated, but the spaces between the columns speedily became wider and wider as the traditions of columnar architecture retired into the past.

That tradition lingered about Rome like some disquieted ghost, and never quite relinquished its hold upon the city and its neighbourhood, and this is perhaps attributable to the establishment of the Pope as Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire.

From the sixth century, when S. Sophia was built, to the tenth century, the architects were trying to do new things in a manner not perhaps very different from our own. Architecture was discreet, eclectic, becoming freed from the trammels of the past. During the period from the 5th century until the completion of the first millennium all sorts of experiments and trials were made, and then in the next century the question of style was settled, at least for Europe, and produced a period of building activity unparalleled in previous times.

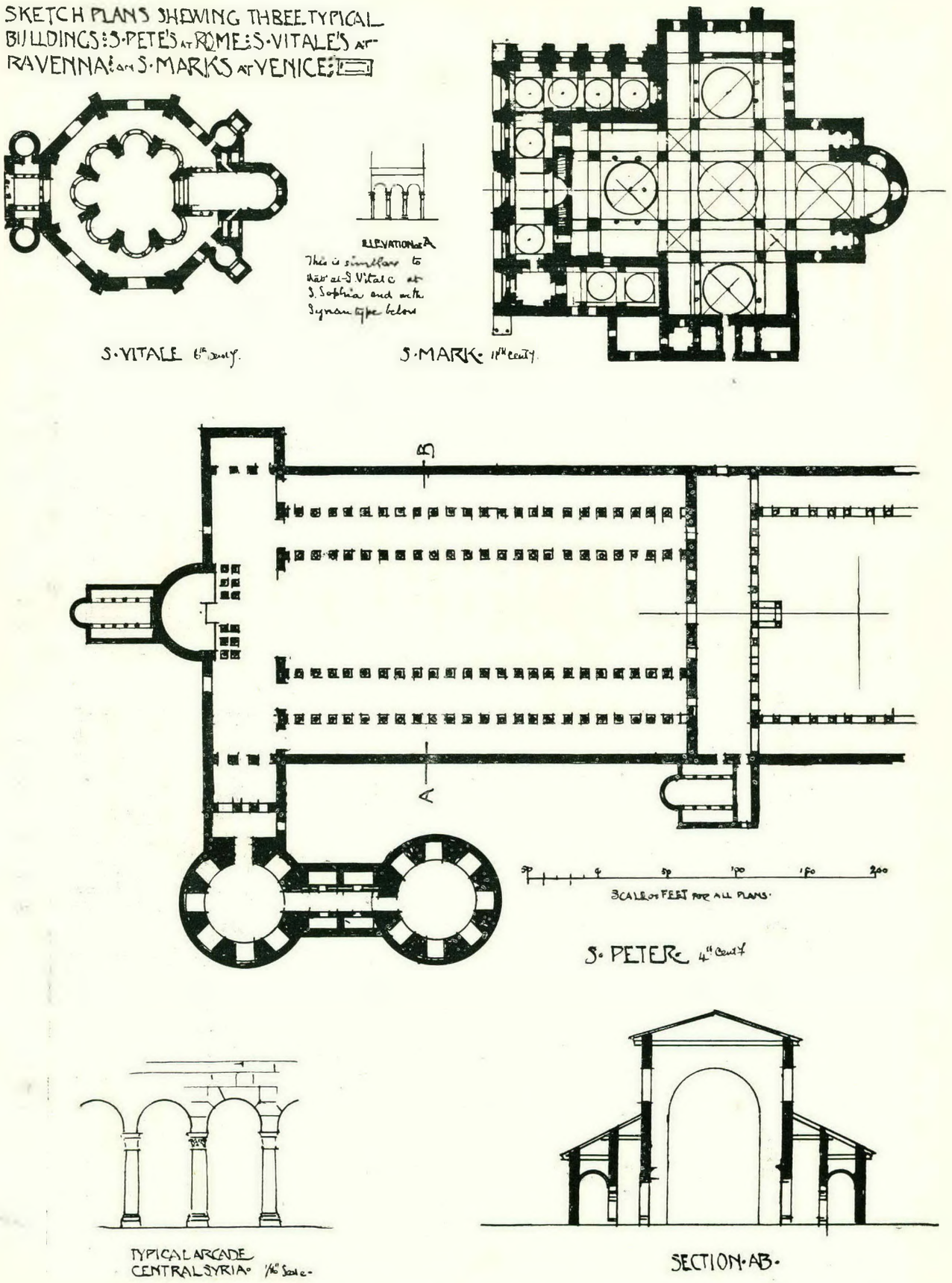
The finest Byzantine influence has its most characteristic development at S. Vitale at Ravenna and S. Mark at Venice; the former using the octagon and the semi-circular exedra as at S. Sophia and the latter using the square, with inner features of the plan arranged very simply in the manner of a Greek cross with straight arcades. Both these churches are finished in the most sumptuous manner after the model of the great example at Constantinople. They stand alone, however, and probably S. Marks, which is the later of the two, was the last example of the type.

Something much cheaper than that was required. The whole population of vast territories had become Christian, and the form of the buildings required for religious and military purposes was rapidly developed, and at the opening of the eleventh century the arrangement of churches was settled on a normal basis, not much altered from the plan adopted at S. Peter's at Rome.

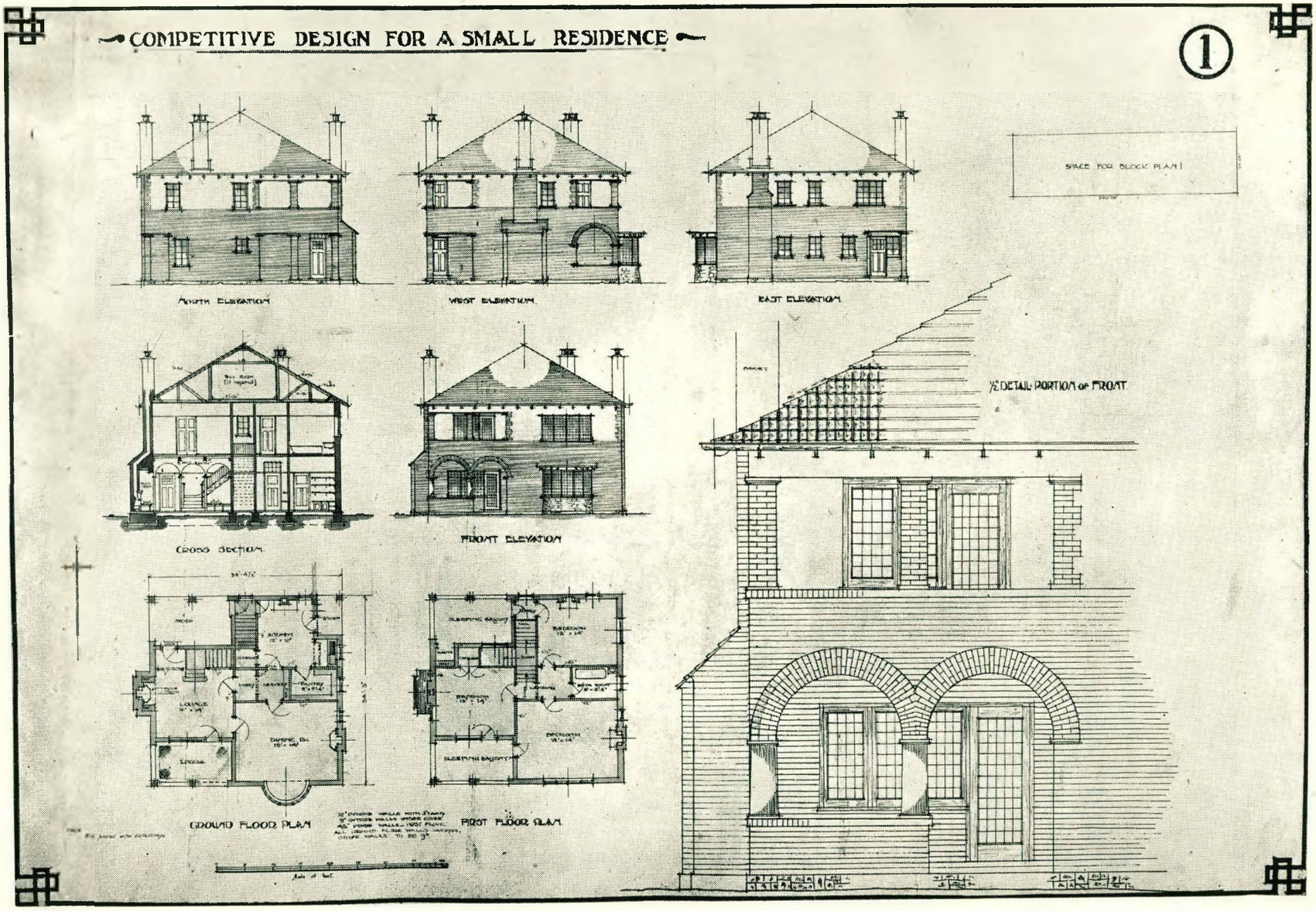
This plan consisted of a nave with two or four aisles, a transept and an apse, the apse being pushed out a little from the transept by a space corresponding to the eastern bay or two bays of the nave. There were, no doubt, churches built which had no particular type of plan, as there had been from the first and ever since; just a parallelogram or that with a small apse or a semi-circular end to serve as a sanctuary.

Such then was the beginning of the architecture developed by Christians for Christian worship, and which gave its tone and general character to all the buildings of the subsequent ages, except where districts were out of the general run and traffic of the times.

The old systems were passing out of sight and even remembrance, and new thoughts and aspirations as to architecture were busily maturing under conditions having in the nature of them far-reaching and most exalted ambitions moving pace by pace with development of the feudal powers.



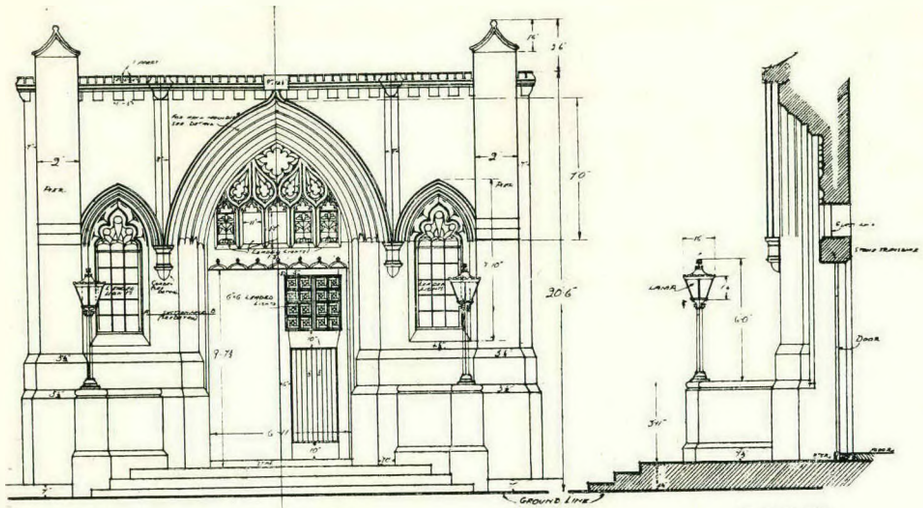
Drawn by G. W. Nicolay, M.S.A., to illustrate "Seed Time."

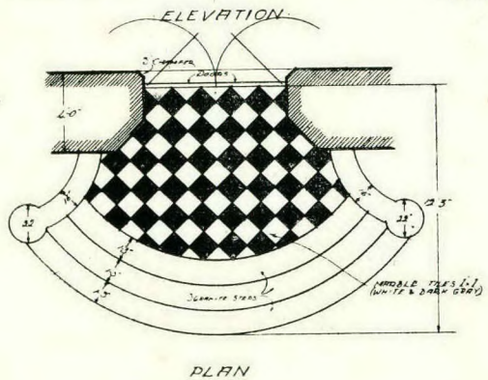


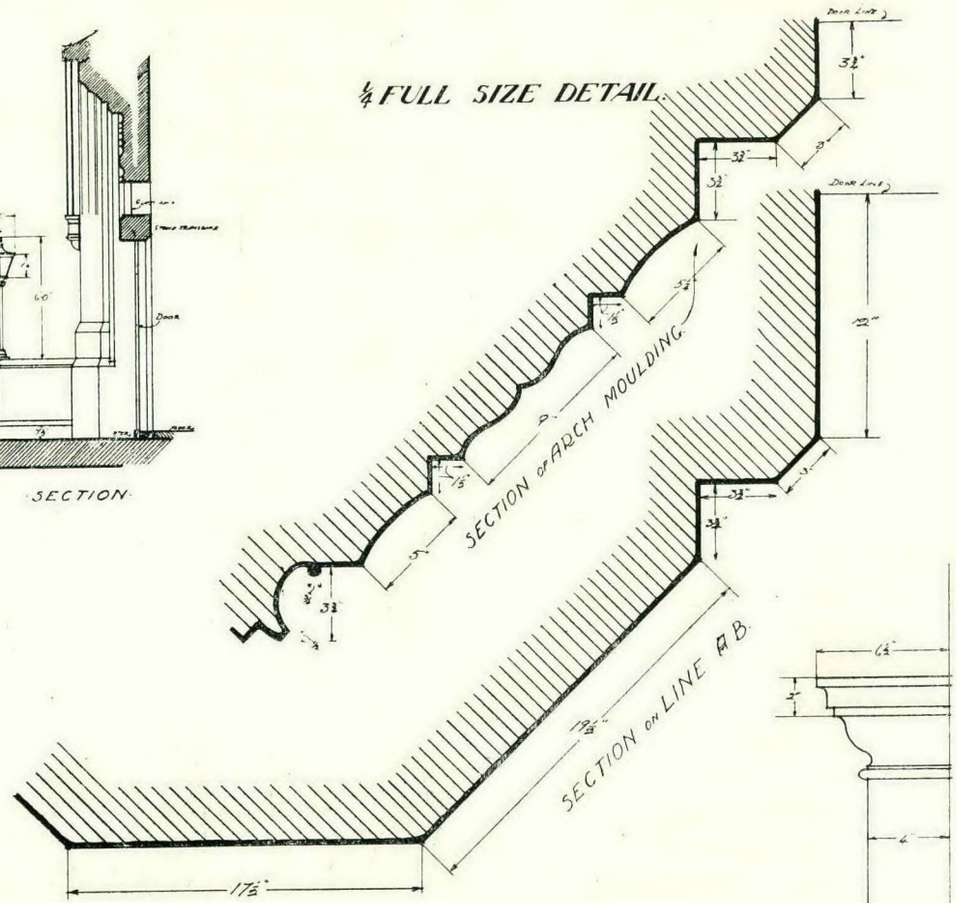
Students Competition.— First Prize, F. Dreyer, Johannesburg.

COMPETITIVE MEASURED DRAWING OF WEST DOORWAY, ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL.

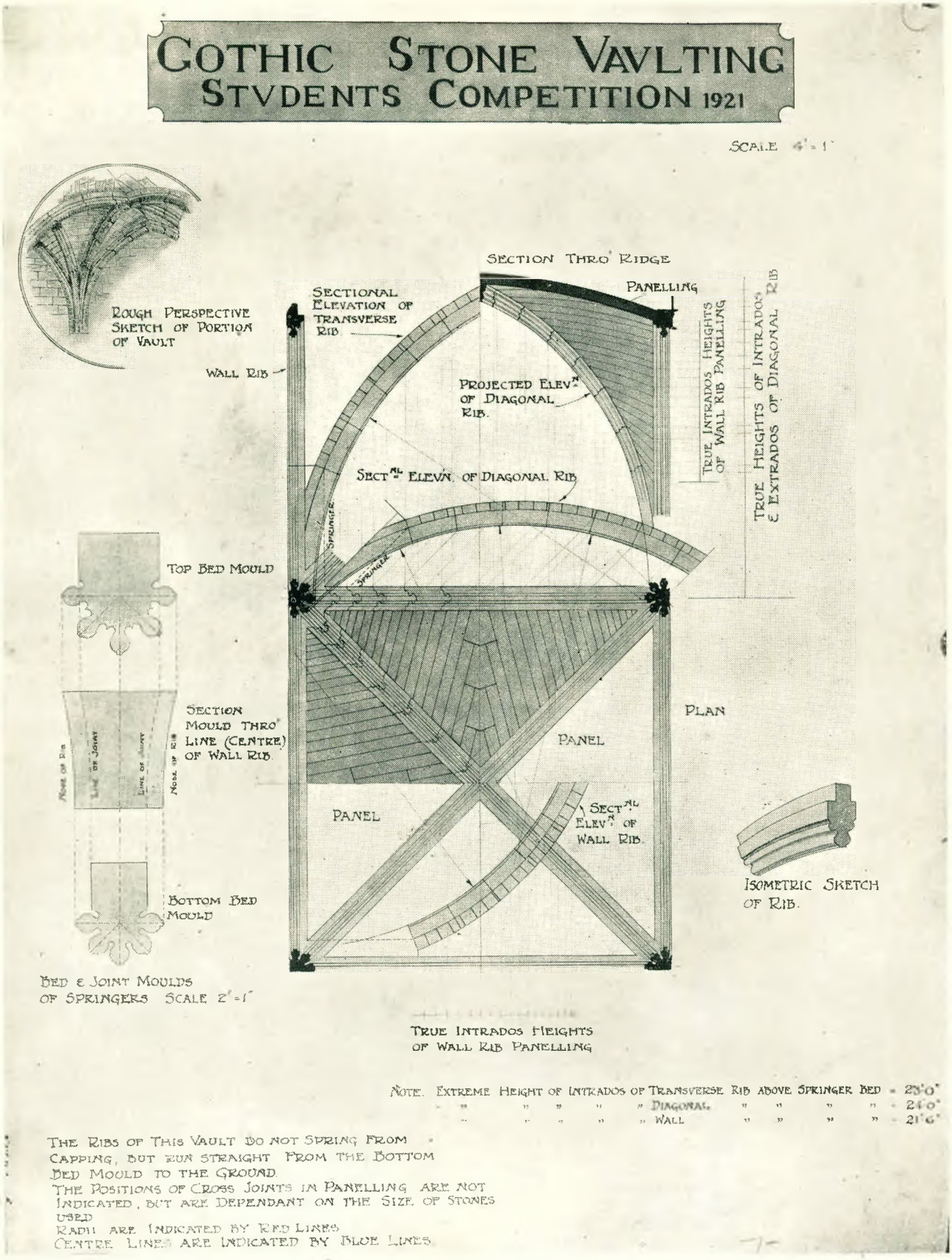
SCALE-4 FEET TO 1 INCH







Student's Competition —First Prize, F. Cook, Johannesburg.



Student's Competition.—First Prize, A. O. Coltman, Johannesburg

Assessors' Report on Students' Competition.

The designs submitted, from the point of view of both design and draughtsmanship, are highly creditable, and are evidence of the keenness of the students in their work.

It is regrettable that there were so few entries for the subjects of "measured drawing" and "groined roof," both of which, though necessitating some hard work and study, were of more use to the student than the competition for the residence, and it will be quite evident to those competing in these subjects that they have gained a considerable amount of knowledge as a result of their painstaking efforts.

The design for the residence was, judging from the number of exhibits, evidently a favourite subject, but the majority of the competitors lacked the essential factors which after all can only be obtained by long experience in the study of house planning, and if we might suggest as a result of the study of these plans that a subject of this kind is tending to encourage the student to run before he walks.

It is not necessary to dilate upon the number of weaknesses exhibited in the many designs, as by enumerating the good points of the design placed first the unsuccessful competitors can see for themselves where they failed in their respective designs.

The design placed first is a compact, well thought out plan with a minimum of waste space, as compared with others with straggling rooms and waste spaces in passages, etc.; the rooms are of a good size and proportion, and so arranged that all the walls of the first floor rooms are over the walls of the rooms of the ground floor; the shape of the plan suggests a minimum of external walls, and a simple dignified roof. Every room at some time of the day receives direct sunlight, as compared with others having rooms that never get the sun all the year round. The service from kitchen to dining room is private, and yet the servant has direct access to the entrance door, as compared with others that necessitate the servant passing through the hall to get to the dining room, and then through the only door which is used by the family.

The bedrooms are self-contained, and can be approached by the servant without going through the reception rooms, having direct access from the kitchen lobby, while the family can get access from the bedrooms to the yard without having to go through either the reception part of the house or the kitchen. These are especially important features in a house in this country, where native servants are employed, and it is essential that members of the family can go from bedrooms to bathrooms, etc., without being exposed to view by the native servant, who should have access from dining room to kitchen entirely screened from the bedrooms.

Sleeping balconies are provided with access from all the bedrooms, and advantage has been taken of a northern aspect for both stoep and balcony which can have their outlook on to a northern garden separated from the tradesmen's entrance and yard by a hedge or stockade fence entirely enclosing the latter and making it self-contained.

On the whole this design is a clever and well thought out scheme, and the draughtsmanship, though not as perfect as some of the others, yet well above the average, and very creditable for students' work.

We have much pleasure in assessing the following as the best designs submitted for the respective schemes:

(1)	Measured Drawing	Design No. 1.
(2)	Groined Roof	Design No. 11.
(3)	Residence	Design No. 18.

H. G. VEALE,
R. HOWDEN,
Assessors.

Party Walls.

A SERVITIUDE PREJUDICE.

When one considers the present-day value of property in the centre of our metropolis and the consequent demand for space economy in planning, it is surprising to find that the advantages of joint party walls have received so little consideration, and are not more popular than they have been in the past.

As a consequence it would hardly be an exaggeration to say that thousands of pounds and as many superficial yards of precious space have been put to no useful purpose whatsoever. By sharing party walls with its neighbours the floor area of a 50 × 50 foot stand is increased by about 75 superficial feet, or roughly 3,750 cubic feet in the case of a four-storeyed building.

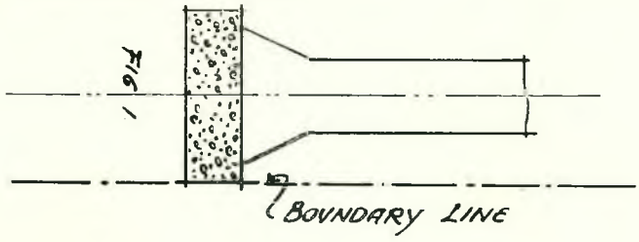
The dimensions of a stand such as we have under consideration are by no means generous, and every inch counts in adjusting the walls of the different apartments so as to get the utmost value out of the area at the architect's disposal.

One has in addition to take into consideration the initial cost of duplicating the walls, an amount which in the case of a twofold wall 50ft. high accounts for no less than 108 cubic yards of brickwork, or at present-day prices £324, exclusive of brick footings, concrete, and excavation.

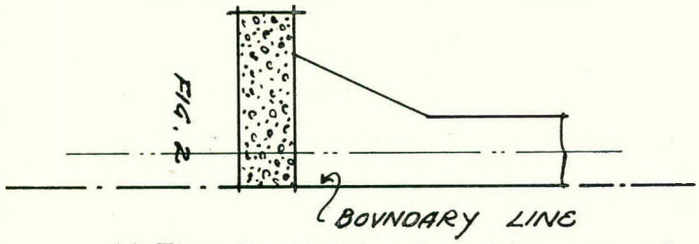
Bu this is not the main issue. By far the most important consideration is one of construction. Here again everything favours the joint wall—with one exception, and that is when a great depth of compressible subsoil is encountered and the uneven settlement of buildings has to be dealt with.

On normally good ground, such as the gravel and rock met with in the city, the architect in designing new foundations of a building is faced with three alternatives.

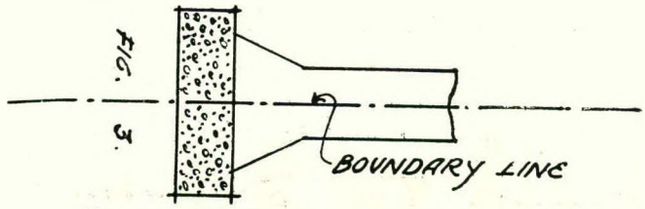
(1) That of placing his wall centrally on his footing and keeping the whole within the limits of his client's boundary.



(2) That of building the wall close to the boundary and having a one-sided footing.



(3) That of negotiating for a joint party wall with a view to placing it centrally over the boundary and distributing the footings evenly over both properties concerned.



Structurally the first method is sound, but it will readily be seen that the waste of ground involved places it out of bounds for all ordinary purposes.

The second is that which has been generally adopted in Johannesburg. Obviously a footing of this description does not comply with statical requirements, and should be condemned once and for all by our building bye-laws.

Although such foundations under certain conditions hold good, they more frequently fail, and are doubtless the cause of a good many of the defects that make their appearance in the superstructures after their completion.

Our only alternative, therefore, is to advocate the joint party wall. It is structurally sound and economical, it permits of the simplest form of underpinning, and dispenses with the necessity of shoring as well as underpinning in adjoining wall during building operations below ground level.

The reason for the unpopularity of the joint party wall is mainly due to the imposition of a servitude on the properties concerned. However beneficial it may be, a servitude on a property is seldom looked upon with favour; more often than not it is in the nature of a bond or other unpleasant limitation, and necessitates a reference to the

Deeds Office, with its attendant loss of time and often fruitless expense.

My plea, therefore, is for the standardisation of a model party wall agreement either by the Municipality concerned, or, better still, by the Provincial Council. This should be gazetted and published throughout the Province as the standard "Provincial" or "Municipal" (as the case may be) "party wall servitude."

Properties subject to such an agreement coming under the auctioneer's hammer may be guaranteed subject to this particular servitude only, and with a knowledge of its many advantages the present-day prejudice will be dispelled.

To some of us it may seem rather late in the day to introduce a change; nevertheless, it is not too late to prevent other towns, some of them in the making, from benefiting by our experience in this respect.

GORDON LEITH, A.R.I.B.A.

Borough of Durban.

Durban War Memorial.

The Town Council of the Borough of Durban invite designs from Architects and others for the Durban War Memorial to be erected in the Town Gardens or Square bounded by Church Street, West Street, Smit Street and Gardiner Street.

Conditions of Competition and Instructions to Competitors, together with plan of the site and surrounding buildings and photographs, may be obtained from the Office of the Town Clerk upon the deposit of One Guinea, which sum will be returned on receipt of a *bona fide* design.

The following premiums will be paid subject to the Conditions of Competition:—

To the author of design placed	1st.	300 Guineas.
" " " " "	2nd	200 "
" " " " "	3rd	100 "

Drawings and relative documents submitted for the competition must be delivered to the Town Clerk, Municipal Offices, Durban, on or before the 31st August, 1921.

By Order of the Corporation,

JOHN TAYLOR.
Town Clerk.

Town Clerk's Office,
Durban, 29th March, 1921.

GEOMETRY FOR BUILDERS AND ARCHITECTS. By J. E. Paynter. (Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 11, Henrietta Street, W.C.2.)

Price 15/-

This work, as stated in the Preface, is intended as a text book for the Architect, Surveyor, and Student, and will be a welcome addition to the Architect's library.

A sound knowledge of this subject is essential to the Architect, and he will find in this book many useful diagrams dealing with those problems in geometrical design and construction met with in practice.

To the students of Design and Building Construction it should prove particularly valuable, especially, as stated, to those who have not the advantage of studying under a competent teacher.

The author is well known as a lecturer in Building subjects at the Goldsmiths' College, London, and he has dealt very comprehensively, clearly and concisely with his subject. The chapter on Geometry as a basis of ornamentation is interesting in view of the fact that the Classic and Renaissance architects applied geometrical proportions not only to their ornament but to their compositions.

Journals Wanted.

Copies of the following issues of this Journal are urgently required by the Business Manager. Members willing to release the copies sent to them are asked to communicate with the Registrar as early as possible.

No. 11 Issue September, 1918.
No. 15 Issue September, 1919.
No. 21 Issue March, 1921.

Chair of Architecture.

Donations towards the establishment of this Chair at the Johannesburg University are urgently required, and may be forwarded to the Registrar made payable in the usual way.

All members who have not yet promised are asked to do so without delay, and those members who have already promised a donation are asked to kindly post their cheques for the sums promised by return post.

The Second South African Academy.

SOME CANDID CRITICISM.

I have been asked to say something about the recent Johannesburg Academy. In doing so, I should like to sefer briefly to some aspects of Art on the Rand and in South Africa.

To some people the bare idea of associating Art with the Rand is an absurdity. It has been said that Johannesburg will not buy pictures; that, if it does, it only buys potboilers; lastly, that it is no use trying to raise its artistic standard—so-called. In fine, that artists must paint down to it, play down to it, write down to it, and, if possible, live down to it.

There is a certain truth in these statements, but not the whole truth. It is true that some people in Johannesburg pay grossly inflated prices for ephemeral pictures; that they prefer pretty pink post-cards to genuine, if sometimes crude, artistic effort, that its buildings and furniture are too often tasteless and blatant, that its literary aspirations seem to be satisfied by Elinor Glynn and Louis Tracey.

I may be an optimist, but I have always thought, and still think that this is largely the fault of our so-called artistic people. If they, like the Pharisee, pass by, it is scarcely helpful to the casualty by the roadside.

Now the Association of Transvaal Architects has had the usual experience of most well-meaning and disinterested people. Its motives have been impugned, its audacity has been damned. The artists looked down on the Academy because it was mooted by architects; minor faults of organisation were magnified, and the sensitive and somewhat provincial souls of many of our leading painters and craftsmen turned in abhorrence from the awful spectacle of a society of Philistines daring to tamper with their sacred rights and privileges.

Now I have no intention of taking up a brief for the Architects, even in their own paper. I am simply offering a free and untrammelled opinion. The intention was, as I understand it, to begin the nucleus of a permanent centre of artistic work. The fact that the Association has borne the very heavy expenses of two exhibitions should have been enough to win a little sympathy. But the average South African artist has a soul above mere sordid considerations. Money has no weight with him—except at auction sales. Like all really artistic temperaments, he is a law unto himself. He prefers to go on manufacturing what, in his inmost heart, he knows are potboilers; to tout, as some seem obliged to do, for orders; to commercialise his art. All this, rather than climb down from his pedestal, to accept what even from his highly artistic standpoint might have been a very advantageous offer, to enjoy his splendid isolation.

But to return to the second Academy. I have been moved to these criticisms because a large number of leading painters boycotted this exhibition. Men like Amschewitz, Rowarth, Goodman, Paton, and Pierneef, and even the ubiquitous Volschenk, were all unrepresented. It was not that they were rejected. One trembles to think what would have happened had the Johannesburg Academy treated them as the Royal Academy treated the "old men" only this year!

Why they did so is locked within their bosoms. I know there are troubles of time and distance. Some, no doubt, had perfectly legitimate excuses. Some perhaps wished to give the younger artists a chance? It is even whispered that the omission of the magic word "auction" influenced others? Posterity will only wonder.

Another rumour asserted that some would-be supporters feared the judges. I was neither a judge nor a competitor, but had I been either, I think the three artists chosen would have had my confidence for fairplay and technical knowledge.

I have only one criticism to make as to their selections. They worked conscientiously, and there was a very large number of rejections. The result represented a good average, but the judges went scarcely far enough or too far. Some works were included that made one wonder what the excluded were like, and whether an original but bad picture, from the technical point of view, is not better than a hopelessly commonplace and tasteless production. Yet those I saw of the rejected certainly deserved their fate.

The results were, to be candid, that there was much mediocre work and a suggestion that the judges nodded at work which was more or less correct but hopelessly dull in order to fill up spaces.

Fortunately, there were compensations. If one missed Volschenk's tonal platitudes, Roworth's charming "facilities," and Goodman's clever mechanism, there were many indications of intelligent effort. There was very little difference of opinion, I think, as to one artist. Partly because her work was new to most of us, and had, moreover, a pleasant freshness. Change is good. It is said that a local picture-buyer who paid a long price for a drawing-room picture soon transferred it to his dining-room. When I last heard of it, it was in the bathroom. Mrs. Kay's work had vitality about it and power. She shone, too, by being less conventional than many of her fellow-exhibitors. "Market-carts" and "Taxis"

suggested imagination and a point of view. There was a delightful freedom and charm about "The Pink Bonnet" and, to a lesser degree, in "The Silver Lamp," which erred a little on the side of prettiness. Her portrait of "H. Christie Smith" was quite good enough to have been better, the accentuation of the black spoiling what was, in any case, a fine piece of character-study.

John Ferguson had some capable work in his "Passing Shower." "Low Tide" dealt with a hackneyed subject in a very agreeable way. In both, however, he lacked a little of the "outdoor feeling."

J. W. D. Muff Ford did not come up to the achievement of the preceding year. "My Mother" was intelligent and vital, but the flesh-tints seemed to me unpleasant.

A. E. Gyngell is an exasperating artist. The technique is his and the knowledge, but he is bound to convention. You can see him hesitant on the artistic brink. The background of what was, in many respects, an excellent portrait of "G. W. Nicolay" gave the whole a certain timidity. It looked as if the artist had got weary of well-doing, and put in the background as an afterthought.

Crossland Robinson sent one or two oils, landscapes, a "Voortrekker" portrait, a strong but rather toneless bit of painting. Madame Piltan's work was efficient but not always adequate. Clement Seneque, a name new to me in exhibitions here, sent some promising oils, while Natalie Secker seemed to have gleams of the right spirit. J. Pohl still finds it difficult to emancipate himself from the idea that the cattle are all-important. Would it be presumption to remind him that even animal painters must have a well-painted background, unless, like Landseer (absit omen), they must tell a story to cover their artistic nakedness.

It is pleasant to record the strength of the architectural section. Gordon Leith's drawings were quite some of the best things in the exhibition. If architecture is not art, it can be a plausible imitation! The serenely technical drawings from the Flavian Palace and the designs for a War Memorial are both instinct with genuinely artistic feeling, apart from their architectural merits. Here they represent the work of one of South Africa's cleverest architects, whose work has not yet received the recognition it deserves, and will one day receive. G. E. Pearse's "Project for a Cinema" was a pleasant piece of work. A model of the Parkview Church by E. J. Wellman was an excellent example of careful design. There were some promising students' exhibits.

In sculpture, Anton van Wouw had several examples. Some of his Kaffir studies were particularly vital, a quality not always so evident in one or two of the portrait busts.

Arts and crafts were thinly represented as compared with last year. John Adams sent two examples of pottery which indicated that South African ware may one day be sought after. His colour, design and glaze are notable advances on anything yet done in this country. Mdlle. d'Aubray and Mrs. A. G. Guest sent some interesting examples of enamel, J. Harcus some carved plaques. Stencil work and some binding and leather work made up a small but respectable display.

As a whole, the Academy, in spite of the apathy of the artists, justified its existence. The fact that so much was done in face of so many obstacles should prove this. But what of the future?

In the Art Gallery we have what ought to be the nucleus of fine artistic effort. As a collection it compares more than favourably with those of most British municipal galleries. There are a few pictures one would wish elsewhere, but there is much, very much, for which to be thankful. Even the fact that Millais and Landseer are the most popular artists with the public, as in other countries, should not obscure the fact that we have Harpigny and Rodin, Sargeant and Augustus John, Monet and Steer; that we have pictures to please all tastes, but others that will stand the test of time.

Despite my criticisms, I should like to make an appeal. Can we not be a little less provincial and individual in our artistic bias? Does it really matter to Art if some other individual besides ourselves has an idea? Seeing that Art in this country is admittedly a tender plant, could we not have a little more unity? Not in manner and methods —God forbid—but in outlook. Few countries have a greater need of artistic taste, of higher standards in the things that go to make for culture. Nature has given us magnificent scenery and broad spaces. In too many cases the mental outlook is extremely narrow and deplorably limited. But the mere fact that men and women do meet together sometimes to discuss and to enjoy something that has an intellectual appeal is a hopeful sign. It may be on a lower plane than ours; it may not be great art, but genius has emerged from stranger places than Johannesburg.

I scarcely dare to suggest that even the Academy in Johannesburg, the S.A. Society of Artists in Capetown, or any similar organisations in the Union may house the germs of the artistic spirit, but I do suggest that these and all similar efforts deserve the support, not only of the public, but of the gods who sit on Olympus.

O.

The Second Annual Exhibition of the South African Academy was opened on the 22nd March, in the Selborne Hall.

Our President, Mr. E. M. Powers, was in

the chair, and in his opening remarks paid a tribute to Lady Lionel Phillips for her great interest in the Municipal Art Gallery of Johannesburg.

The Chairman stated that the object of the Academy was that Johannesburg might be considered more than a Mining Centre, and that we might be considered the centre of Art.

Lady Phillips referred to the fact that she had been present at the opening of the first Exhibition, which was opened by Sir Lionel Phillips last year.

In an interesting speech Lady Phillips dealt with many points relative to the development of Art in Johannesburg, giving some home truths in respect to the teaching of Arts and Crafts, and begged that artists would carry on their work in a spirit of co-operation, i.e., to feel that even our pots and pans made by local people were worthy of consideration.

Sir Drummond Chaplin addressed the gathering, and stated that he would make it his business, on his return to Rhodesia, to let the people there know that there was an Exhibition of this kind in existence, and attempt to get Rhodesian artists to help along a good work.

During the opening ceremony a letter was read from Earl Haig explaining that he was unable to be present, as he had to meet some old Comrades. He added that his best wishes went with them, and hoped that Art in South Africa would be encouraged and supported, because he was confident all classes in this magnificent country would greatly benefit therefrom.

Mr. Veale proposed a vote of thanks to the distinguished visitors, which was carried with acclamation.

The Exhibition proved an interesting one, but it is to be regretted that there was so few school works submitted.

This is partly accounted for by the fact that so much damage is done to exhibits of this class through careless handling on the Railways that the Principals of the South African Art Schools are not prepared to take the risk of having their students' work damaged. Nor can they be blamed for this, because very often a student's work is irreplaceable, and whilst perhaps all students would be proud to have their works on exhibition they may readily be excused from doing so when the risk of depriving them of the value of their works as studies is so great.

Damage to works submitted applies to pictures also, and money has to be spent before the Exhibition opens on glass replacements. These glass breakages, it is found on opening the cases, are obviously the result of careless handling by the Railway authorities.

Knowing what we do, it may be necessary to wait on the Railway Authorities with a view to finding whether they will help the progress of the annual Exhibition of Art here, by making special rates for works in transit to and from the Academy, as it is clear that the present railway rates do operate adversely against the number of exhibits submitted.

Some criticism was made in the Press in regard to the charge made this year for exhibitors' works.

The Executive decided to make a small charge after having gone carefully into the financial position.

It may be as well to point out that most of the artists exhibiting at any other institution of this kind are called upon to pay a subscription annually which more than covers the cost per exhibit made by the Executive.

It is not considered advisable at this stage to elect any members of the Academy with a view to charging a subscription, as this should only be done by careful selection from those who have proved to be the best exhibitors over a reasonable period. The selection of the gentlemen to act as a jury of admission received the very careful attention of the Executive, as it was felt that the task to place before the jury was no light one, particularly since a charge had been made, which was not to be refunded to unsuccessful exhibitors; further, that since it was to be expected that artists from all parts of South Africa would submit works it would be advisable to endeavour, if possible, to secure at least one judge from each of the Provinces of Natal, Cape, and the Transvaal.

The Executive were fortunate in securing artists from Capetown, Durban and Johannesburg, and as none of these gentlemen were architects, the architectural works were placed in a separate class, and a well-known Transvaal architect agreed to undertake the task of judging all architectural submissions except those of the students, these latter works having been adjudicated on by two members of the Association Council.

It will be seen from the foregoing that the whole of the judging was carried out by an impartial jury of well-known artists from three Provinces, and it must be admitted that no more equitable arrangement than this could be arrived at.

The number of exhibits was approximately 400, and the number approved 150.

The arrangement of pictures and other admissions was considered to be a distinct improvement on the previous exhibition, and in fact reflected great credit upon the Hanging Committee.

It is to be regretted that the lighting of the hall was not dealt with more satisfactorily, but this was owing to lack of funds, and it is to be hoped that exhibits will not suffer in this respect in future years.

Town Planning Association, (Transvaal.)

MINUTES of the Second Annual General Meeting held in the Scientific and Technical Club, Fox Street, Johannesburg, on Monday, the 16th May, 1921, at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mr. D. P. Howells, Vice-President, in the chair; Messrs. W. Fernhead, Harold Porter, H. G. Veale, D. M. Sinclair, E. H. Waugh, Dr. Chas. Porter, Mr. A. H. Gibbs, C. P. Tompkins, Chas. Hosking, Colin Wade, Gordon Leith, R. H. Smith, H. W. Spicer, Prof. G. E. Pearse, and the Secretary, M. K. Carpenter.

In opening the proceedings, the Chairman regretted the absence on account of illness of the President, Mr. D. M. Burton.

After the Secretary had read the notice convening the meeting the Minutes of the First Annual General Meeting, held on the 31st July, 1920, which had been circulated to members, were taken as read and confirmed.

The Secretary then read the following report of the Executive covering the work of the Association during the past year.

President: Mr. D. M. Burton, F.S.Arc., M.R.S.I.

Executive: Messrs. G. S. Burt-Andrews, W. Fernhead, D. P. Howells, T. N. Leslie, M. G. Nicholson, H. Porter, Dr. C. Porter, Messrs. V. S. Rees Poole, R. H. Smith, C. P. Tompkins, H. G. Veale, G. A. Watermeyer, E. H. Waugh, Colin Wade.

Secretary: Mr. M. K. Carpenter.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE FOR YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1921, TO THE MEMBERS OF THE TOWN PLANNING ASSOCIATION (Transvaal).

Your Executive has pleasure in submitting the following report on the work of the Association during the past year.

MEMBERSHIP ROLL.

We have to-day on our Membership Roll 63, made up as follows:

Municipalities and other Public Bodies	19
Private Members	44
Totalling	63

NEW MEMBERS.

During the year your Executive have admitted to membership:

The Middelburg Municipality (representatives)	1
The Cape Sunday River Settlements, Ltd. (representatives)	1
Messrs. Gordon Leith and J. S. Cleland	2

PROPAGANDA WORK.

Your President delivered a lecture on Town Planning before the Ratepayers' Association on the 6th December, 1920, and was listened to with great interest. There was a good attendance and a fair amount of interesting discussion took place. The lecturer emphasised the necessity for the appointment by Government of a Town Planning expert, whose advice or decisions on new Township lay-outs should be, to a considerable extent, binding on the parties concerned.

In January last your Executive became aware that Mr. A. J. Thompson, F.R.I.B.A., was in South Africa in connection with the lay-out of a Garden City at Capetown, and has taken advantage of his presence to arrange for a series of lectures on Town Planning, illustrated by lantern slides, for the Witwatersrand and Pretoria. Your Executive believes that these lectures will prove of exceptional interest and educational value, and will bring the matter prominently before the public.

NEW TOWNSHIPS.

It should be clearly understood that this Association is prepared to help with advice on general, economic, and æsthetic princples in respect to any projected lay-out or alteration of any existing lay-out.

Town Planning Association, (TRANSVAAL.)

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During the year, at the request of the Municipality of Middelburg, a delegation of your Executive visited and inspected that town, conferred with its Councillors as to their requirements, and submitted a report which, it is hoped, will result in much good.

The Town Council of Germiston also appealed to your Executive in regard to the site-ing of the new Police Barracks, and to certain disposition of Park and Golf Course. Your representatives had several interviews with the Government and Police; but their views were not accorded any very sympathetic reception, possibly to some extent because of the very late date at which your Association was asked to intervene.

Your Executive was also consulted in regard to the Clewer Township at Witbank, and upon their advice competitive designs were invited, that of Mr. Harold Porter of this Association being accorded first place, a result upon which he is to be congratulated.

As regards the future, it is gratifying to state that the Townships' Board constituted under the Transvaal Act has agreed to submit to your Association for consideration and comment before final approval all plans for proposed new Townships.

MAIN ROADS.

During the period under review, your Executive has submitted evidence to the Government Survey Commission in regard to the importance of a complete Ordnance Map for the Union, and especially of main or arterial road plans, with respect particularly to the most direct and effective means of road communication between existing centres, and the linking up of new Townships. With this in view, effort is being made to obtain for your Association from each of the Provincial Surveyors-General a complete set of plans of the roads in his Province; but, so far, only those of Natal have been secured.

JOHANNESBURG GENERAL POST OFFICE.

A majority of your Executive has all along felt that the present General Post Office buildings are obsolete, and badly placed, and has recommended their demolition the present site to be consecrated to the public as an open space or plaza and an up-to-date Post Office erected in a convenient part of the town. These views, however, did not commend themselves to the authorities dealing with this matter, but the majority of your Executive has not surrendered this ideal.

JOHANNESBURG FREE LIBRARY.

During the year the Public Library Committee successfully moved to acquire a site for a new Library Building on the open ground west of the Town Hall.

Whilst not objecting to the new Library being built on this site, a majority of your Executive demurred to a large slice of open ground in the centre of the town being built over without the acquisition of any compensating open space on the east side of the Town Hall. At a meeting of the Federation of Ratepayers the case for the Library Committee was put by Messrs. R. T. A. Innes and Langley Levy, and that for your Association by Mr. D. M. Burton; but the Federation, for various reasons, adopted the view of the Library Committee. Your Executive will, therefore, now direct its efforts to securing a sufficiency of open space around these new buildings.

TRANSVAAL MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION.

Cordial relations exist between your Executive and the Transvaal Municipal Association, and as the result of interviews and discussions, proposals and plans in regard to the erection of important public buildings, and alterations or amendments to our Transvaal towns will come under the review by your Association, and, when desirable in the public interest, will be publicly advertised and exhibited.

ARBOR DAY.

The Director of Education has been approached with a view to establishing a Children's Arbor Day on the lines of that in the Cape Province, and the Director has promised to consider the matter.

This proposal means that every schoolboy and schoolgirl will be given an opportunity of planting a tree, under proper direction, with a view to emphasising the importance of afforestation and the value of trees in beautifying our environment.

TRAM LOOP-LINE SCHEME FOR JOHANNESBURG.

Your Executive has considered from all points of view the Municipal Council's proposals in this matter. An alternative scheme by Mr. Harold Porter was drawn up and presented, and resulted in a deputation from your Executive, together with advocates of other schemes, being received by the Tramway and Lighting Committee. Much, however, to the astonishment of your delegates, it was found that prints had been taken of your Executive's scheme which obviously omitted

some of its most essential features from a traffic point of view. The advocates of other schemes naturally made the most of the contention that our scheme was much in excess of present requirements, and contained unessential proposals as compared with their's, which, they contended, adequately provided for existing conditions and were less costly.

We are pleased to state that Mr. Fernhead, one of your Executive, has recently been elected a member of the Municipal Council, and your Executive relies upon his support in future discussion of this kind. Tram services throughout the Union should be carefully considered by Town Planners, and your Association is always ready to assist in this matter.

PRETORIA COMMITTEE.

It has been considered advisable to create a Committee at Pretoria to deal with local matters affecting your Association.

Messrs. Nicholson, Rees Poole, P. Eagle, and G. Leith have been good enough to accept nomination for this purpose.

UNIVERSITY CHARTER FOR JOHANNESBURG.

To Town Planners the question of higher education is of great importance, and for years past many of the members of this Association have shared in the work of the School of Mines (now the University College of Johannesburg), and it has recently been our welcome privilege to assist, by appropriate resolution forwarded to the Hon. Ministers and to all members of Parliament, in securng for Johannesburg its clearly demonstrated right to a University Charter.

PARK STATION, JOHANNESBURG.

Your Executive, learning that the plans for a new station were in the course of preparation, approached the General Manager of Railways to allow them to be examined by us, and also suggested that the public should have an opportunity of viewing the plans before final adoption.

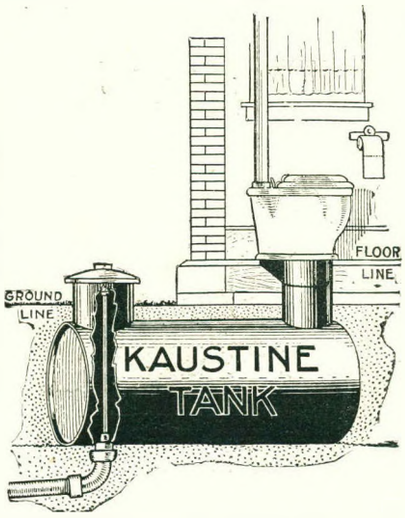
The General Manager of Railways very readily agreed, and many of our members, after examining the sketch plans prepared by the Railway Architect (Mr. D. A. McCubbin) entertained grave doubts as to the suitability of the designs in various respects.

We are fortunate in having in the Chief Architect for the Railway a very sympathetic Town Planner, who will use all his influence to gain the best results, and will consider any reasonable suggestions from our Association. We accordingly submitted a statement of criticism having regard to public convenience, town planning,

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and æsthetic considerations, which has resulted in a material amendment of the original proposals.

From a town planning viewpoint we were definitely of opinion that a new roadway and bridge in the north-west should be made in continuation of the Loveday Street approach to the Railway, and that the Pretoria Bridge should be widened to facilitate access to the north-east suburbs.

Reference was made to the omission from this Report of the visit paid by Mr. Harold Porter to Addo in connection with the lay-out of a Township for the Cape Sundays River Settlements, but as this matter has not yet been completed the report thereon will be referred to next year.

The Report was then adopted.

The Chairman, in proposing the adoption of the Annual Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet, which have been duly audited by Messrs. Aiken and Carter, commented upon the financial improvement made during the year, notwithstanding the very heavy expenditure necessary to provide stationery, office requirements and expenses consequent upon increased activity during the past year.

The Balance Sheet was then adopted.

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE FOR 1921.

Nineteen nominations were received for the fifteen seats on the Executive for the current year. The following twelve members were elected:

Messrs. D. M. Burton, D. P. Howells, Professor G. E. Pearse, H. G. Veale, Dr. Chas. Porter, Messrs. J. Mackay, Gordon Leith, Harold Porter, D. M. Sinclair, V. S. Rees Poole, H. R. Hill, G. S. Burt Andrews.

Six nominees tied for the remaining three places, and this matter will receive the attention of the Executive at the first monthly meeting.

The meeting then closed in order to listen to a lecture on Town Planning, illustrated by lantern slides, which was delivered by Mr. A. J. Thompson, F.R.I.B.A., who has been associated with Mr. Raymond Unwin for many years in the Garden Suburb and Town Planning Schemes conducted throughout Great Britain.

This lecture, which commenced at 8.15 p.m., was attended by upwards of four hundred persons, and proved extremely interesting and instructive.

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EXPENDITURE.

To Expenses of Annual General Meeting—Printing, Hire of Hall, and Advertising	£20	5	5
,, Printing and Stationery	18	11	3
,, Salaries	28	0	0
,, General Expenses and Postages	11	15	11
,, Bank Charges	1	5	5
	£79	18	0
,, Balance, excess of Revenue over Expenditure for the period	18	16	0
	£98	14	0

REVENUE.

By Subscriptions—			
45 Ordinary Members at 10s. 6d.	£23	12	6
3 Ordinary Members at 10s. 6d.	1	11	6
20 Institutional Members	63	0	0
Donation from Cape Sundays River Settlements	10	10	0
	£98	14	0

LIABILITIES.

Accumulated Funds	£114	4	9
Balance at 31st March, 1920	£95	8	9
Balance, excess of Revenue over Expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1921	18	16	0
	£114	4	9

ASSETS.

Cash at Bank	£113	14	3
Cash on hand	0	10	6
	£114	4	9

D. M. BURTON, President.
M. K. CARPENTER, Secretary.

We have checked the Cash Book of the Town Planning Association, Transvaal, for the year ended 31st March, 1921, and have reconciled the same with the Bank Pass Book and Certificate, and hereby certify the above Accounts to be in accordance therewith and to show the true position of the Association at 31st March, 1921.

16th May, 1921.

AIKEN & CARTER,
Auditors.

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PORT ELIZABETH'S EFFORT AT CIVIC IMPROVEMENT.

Some time during 1917 the Port Elizabeth Municipality called together the leading Architects and Engineers in Port Elizabeth to discuss the question of improvements at Humewood. Mr. Max Gumpert, then Chairman of the Beach Committee, succeeded in forming a committee consisting of six Architects, the President of the local Master Builders' Association, and one Engineer, afterwards called the Honorary Advisory Committee. These gentlemen were public-spirited enough to spend a great deal of time on the subject of Beach Development, and in 1918 brought forward plans and an exhaustive report dealing with the whole of the foreshore for an extent of about two miles. A very comprehensive scheme was set forth and fully described in sections, areas for picnics, an extensive promenade, a magnificent tidal bath, bathing pavilions, cafe, concert hall, recreation grounds, and a lay-out for a seaside suburb on modern town planning lines.

The scheme met with the whole-hearted approval of the ratepayers, and at a public meeting a sum of about £90,000 was voted for the purpose of initiating the work, and later a loan of £150,000 was raised to cover the cost of this work as well as the erection of a new Beach Hotel, for which an architectural competition was held, in which Messrs. Herbert Baker, Kendall and Morris were the winners of the first premium.

Up to this stage the Municipality showed every sign of having awakened to the necessity of bringing the town into line with other seaside resorts, but alas! too late to secure the transformation at anything like the figure of the loan raised for the purpose.

Tenders obtained in 1920 for the Hotel alone ranged upwards from £150,000, against £60,000 originally intended, and the great rise in the price of cement, the chief material in foreshore work, rendered it utterly impossible to carry out any of the scheme laid out by the Honorary Advisory Committee, consequently Humewood remains today as it was in 1917, with the exception of the erection of a humorous structure—resembling a cross between a Barnstormers theatre at a fair and a ruined reservoir—constructed (out of revenue, presumably) at the instance of the Beach Committee of a somewhat altered personnel, and a dozen or so monstrosities in cement designated "bungalows" intended for visitors to the seaside, but mainly occupied by the overflow of townspeople at a rental greatly reduced by the egregious Rent Board.

It is to be hoped that the town will see to it that the Council will, when prices approach normal, proceed with the scheme for which the loan was raised.

The Honorary Advisory Committee, after being again called in to select suitable sites and prepare schemes for housing the municipal employees [illegible]thers, appears unfortunately to have either resigned in despair of having their ideas adopted, or to have been dropped by the Council; but the necessity for some controlling authority in matters of taste has recently been further shown by the vandalism executed in the removal of the Obelisk in Market Square—erected in 1863 to commemorate the marriage of the Prince of Wales—and the substitution on its old granite base (extended and distempered a pleasing mud colour) of the howitzer presented to the S.A. Heavy Artillery, and put up by them in memory of members who lost their lives in the great war.

No one of course could object to such a memorial, but apart from the absurdity of the appearance of the gun on a high pedestal in its present position, many more suitable sites could have been found without removing an old memorial which, if not of any great excellence in detail, had at least a striking appearance, and was endeared to the inhabitants by old associations.

The Port Elizabeth Society of Architects was formed in 1918 with the object of creating a means of expressing the views of the Profession in regard to civic matters and for treating with technical bodies such as the Architectural Institutions, Master Builders' Association, and the City Engineer's Department.

The Society has fully justified its existence up to the present, having dealt with various disputes with the Master Builders and secured certain much needed alterations in the procedure of submitting plans to the Municipality for approval, and is shortly to be asked to confer with the City Engineer in regard to the proposed New Regulations controlling the erection of buildings.

The membership is limited to Architects practising in Port Elizabeth and District and to heads of Local Government and Municipal Departments connected with Building Work.

Meetings are held only as occasion arises, which is usually once a month.

Mr. William Dewar is at present the President and Mr. W. J. McWilliams the Hon. Secretary.

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