

The Council has requested its Executive Committee to investigate the position as to the legality or illegality of the practice known as "plumping" at elections (i.e., where a member, who has to vote for a committee of 12, votes for a lesser number than the 12).

The Council recorded its appreciation of the efforts made by the Transvaal Provincial Institute so to amend the existing scale of fees as to make it more applicable to present-day conditions, and asked the Transvaal Provincial Institute to submit a complete schedule on the lines of its suggestions.

The first competition for the Howden Prize is to be organised this year. The prize, which, it has been agreed, will be available for architects of South Africa, will be the sum of £50. The second competition will be devoted to quantity surveying.

The Council decided to adopt, and to embody in the existing Regulation 97, the R.I.B.A. scale of fees applicable to housing schemes (July, 1933).

The Council, in its interpretation of the existing Regulation 89 (a), ruled:

- (i) That it is unprofessional conduct for a member of the Institute or the Chapter to be a director of any company associated with the building trade.
- (ii) That a member of the Institute or the Chapter may be a shareholder in a company associated with the building trades on the express condition that a notification of such fact be communicated to his clients.

The following amendments to the Unprofessional Conduct Regulations were adopted, subject to Ministerial approval:—

Undercutting of Fees:

"To accept remuneration at less than the statutory scale of fees with the object or result of attracting clients; or directly or indirectly to hold himself out, or to allow himself to be held out, as being prepared to do professional work for less than the statutory scale of fees."

"Touting":

(i) "To prepare and/or to submit any building plan or scheme for which he has not been professionally engaged."

(ii) "To issue circulars, letters or professional business cards, seeking to obtain professional work."

(iii) "To issue circulars, letters or business cards, notifying change of address, etc., to any person or body other than established clients."

A considerable number of suggested amendments to the new standard form of building contract has been received by the Council. It is hoped to reach finality in this matter within the next year.

Re "S.A. Architectural Record":

The Council was unanimous in recording strong disapproval of editorial expressions such as contained in the February number of the "South African Architectural Record," on the ground that such general expressions were an unjustified and unsubstantiated reflection on the profession of architecture in South Africa. The Council demanded an assurance from the proprietors of the "South African Architectural Record" that no similar articles be published. The Council, at the same time, forwarded a strong recommendation to the Provincial Institute concerned that a thorough investigation be made, in terms of Regulations 91 and 94.

Architects Invited to "Tender" for Professional Services:

The Council resolved to circularise members of the Institute and the Chapter to the effect that, should any member be approached by a local authority or other body to submit "tenders" for professional services, the member concerned should immediately advise the Secretary of his Provincial Institute or the Chapter.

Restrictions in Title Deeds:

The Council resolved to circularise members of the Institute advising them, before proceeding with building schemes, to familiarise themselves with the restrictions contained in their clients' title deeds, and with the requirements of the Town Planning Committee.

Members Registered in One Province Practising in Another:

The Council recorded its considered opinion that it is desirable that a member should join the Provincial Institute in the Province in which he is carrying on practice or is employed.

Mr. H. B. van der Riet, A.R.I.B.A., has commenced practice in Central Buildings, Prince George Avenue, Brakpan, as from 1st May, 1936.

Mr. J. Seaton Hodge notifies us that his new address is St. Andrew's Building, Rissik Street, Phone No. 33-2962.

The Board of Directors of the African Oxygen and Acetylene Company has kindly extended an invitation to members of this Institute (and their wives) to visit the company's works at Germiston on Thursday, the 23rd July, 1936, at 7.45 p.m.

Demonstrations of oxy-acetylene welding and cutting, spraying, etc., will be given, and the production processes of the gases will be explained.

Members desiring to avail themselves of this invitation are requested to send in their names to the Secretary on or before Wednesday, the 15th July.

ARCHITECTURE FOR THE SCHOOLBOY

In view of the importance that the public should have a just appreciation of the problems involved in architecture, the following remarks reprinted from the "Builder," London, should be of interest to the profession.

We referred recently to an exhibition of architecture at Taunton School, obtained from the Royal Institute of British Architects. If not an entirely new departure the occasion is interesting in that it has received public notice, and we regard it as of importance.

It has been apparent for a long time that public ignorance is at the root of nearly all the ills from which architecture and architects have been suffering for some generations, and it is therefore very satisfying to see a determined attempt made to awaken interest in architecture among those, the majority of whom will not be making it their business. The idea which must ultimately develop is that just as the schoolboy is taught to write and understand good English, whether he intends to be an author or not; and higher mathematics, whether he intends to be an astronomer or an engineer, or neither; so he should be given an insight into architecture as part of his equipment for life, whatever career he intends to follow.

The successful application of this principle would raise the standard of taste in building, so that the building owner of the future would demand architectural quality and, as a conse-

quence, seek it from those trained in its practice. As citizens, we should stand to secure a better-looking new England, and as architects, a more secure hold upon the industry of building, considerations which must have considerable effect upon our general and particular interests.

The plan, set out in these general terms, seems a simple remedy for existing disorder. It is when we set ourselves to devise the details of its application that we find the task as difficult to solve as any. We cannot divorce learning from teaching, and it is this second component that is the real problem.

The teaching of architecture, in the way in which the ordinary citizen of the future may be the richer in understanding, is not a text-book matter. The boy who is able to say glibly whether a church window is in the Early English or Perpendicular style, is but a very little way upon the path of understanding. His attention may be drawn by these means to the grandeur of architecture, or he may be merely bemused by the facts he finds difficult to apply to the everyday things of building. We do not want to train up a generation of dilettanti who would be content to judge architecture by the labels they are able to attach to it out of their book studies. We want rather to produce a public that understands the elements of building by the common sense of construction, and the guide of natural taste.

Those who are to be guided along these lines can only be instructed by those who feel their subject very keenly; and we cannot expect the average schoolmaster to feel these things keenly when they themselves have spent a substantial part of their lives completely out of touch with their subject. The only people to-day who really feel the "sense" of building are those who have been trained in it from their youth, and have spent a lifetime in active contact with fact. In other words, architecture can only be taught by architects; so that we appear to have set ourselves an almost impossible task. A few isolated lectures and exhibitions to schoolboys is not enough, and we know that it is not practical politics to think of a trained architect on the teaching staff of every school in the land. If we did seriously claim this there would be no argument against the appointment also of a doctor, an engineer, a lawyer—in fact, a member of every profession—upon each school staff. This would be a *reductio ad absurdum* upon which our hopes must not be shattered. If we could but skip a generation during which the problem had been miraculously solved, the problem of continuity would present no difficulties, because the teaching staffs at our schools would have received in their youth a grounding of the subject which they could hand on to their pupils. The problem is thus an immediate and temporary one, which is so well worth solving that we should resist every inclination to shelve it as too idealistic to translate into fact.

The trained architects of to-day owe it to themselves, and to those who follow them, to make a real effort to set on foot a better world; and in that effort to make many personal sacrifices. We have no doubt in our minds that, as a body, they are prepared to do so, and that they will not look for personal gain in the effort. On the other hand, we must not expect unlimited service when we are dealing with men who are already busily occupied in earning their living.

We have therefore to devise a scheme whereby the full extent of the good will which architects will undoubtedly offer to the public service can be used to spread as wide an influence as possible. If we were to count up our schools and our architects it would be difficult to find the means of providing an

honorary lecturer once a fortnight at each school in any locality.

Yet we could hardly trust the subject under a less intensive arrangement. Boys are boys, and are not likely to develop into architecturally-minded citizens if the subject is re-opened only after lengthy intervals. It must be something more real than an occasional pleasant break from school routine.

It seems to us that the instruction which the profession is called upon to give must be applied intensively rather than sporadically; and we can see a better chance of success if an attempt is made to teach the teachers. There should be no difficulty about organising an intensive course of training among the schoolmasters of an area, from whom a pervading influence might be directed through the hundreds and thousands who sit under them. We would commend this manner of approach to those who think it worth while to kindle intelligent interest in architecture among the rank and file of our future citizens. The experiment is well worth the making, and if it succeeded it would be the foundation stone of better things to come.

Let it not be thought, however, that in suggesting this more likely way of widening the basis of general knowledge, we intend to suggest that such an innovation as that we have referred to at Taunton School is either useless or insignificant. For to the contrary, we regard it as an admirable venture in every way. It holds out hopes of stimulating a feeling that architecture is a grand thing, and that the mysteries which it leaves in the minds of laymen are well worth exploring. It should indicate that no culture is complete which ignores it, and that no man is wise who is ignorant as to the meaning of building.

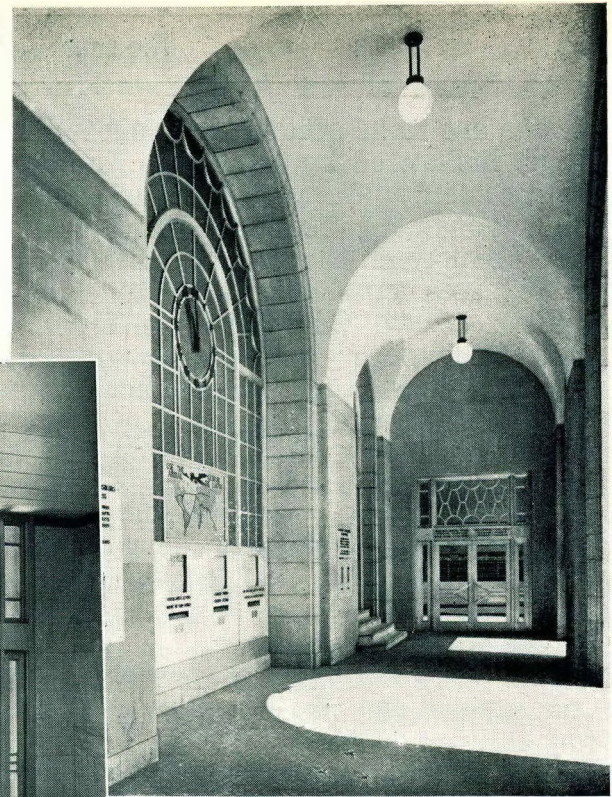
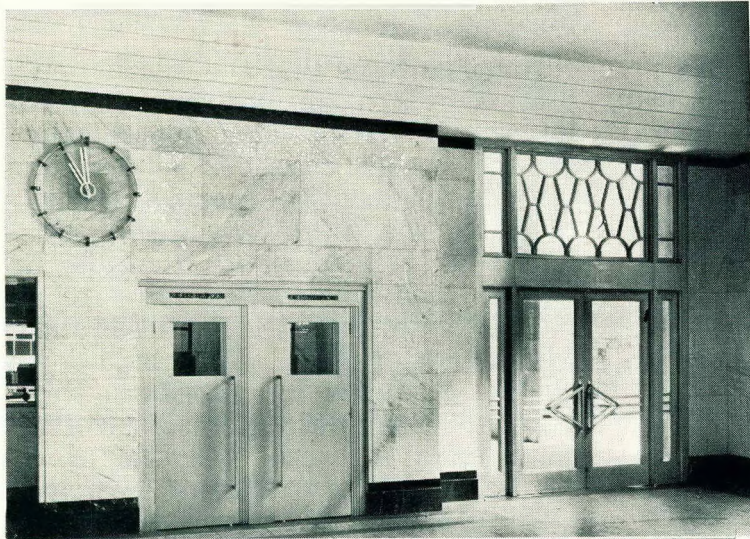
Out of such seeds may spring a live movement which may reflect important results in the social scheme. We shall welcome every similar experiment that appears, and we shall feel that each one brings closer the day when parents will take it for granted that their children will be imbued with a sense of importance of building quality, before they are turned out into the world as trained citizens.

(With acknowledgments to "The Builder")

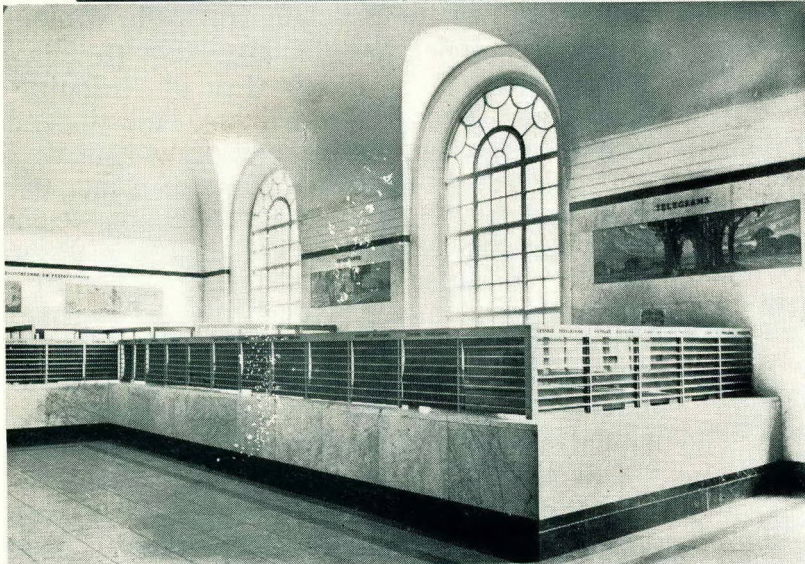
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