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SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

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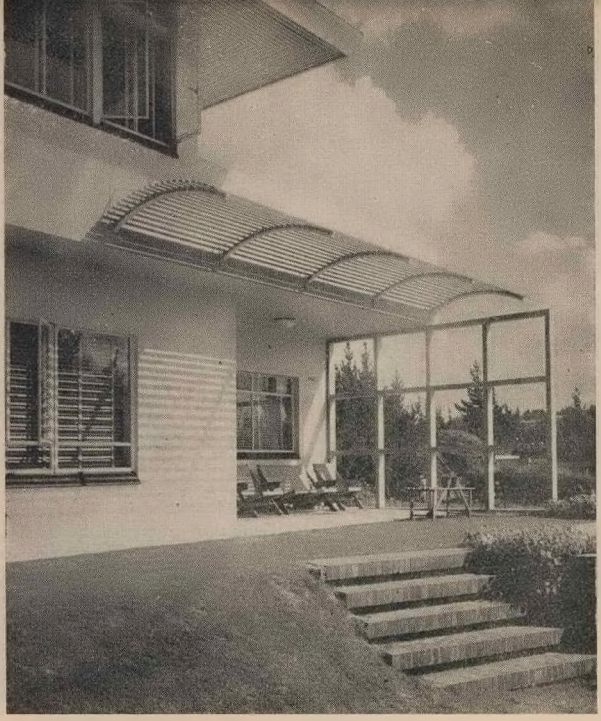
"MALELANE"

A Residence for the Architect at Saxonwold, Johannesburg

Situated on an inside half-acre site in Saxonwold, this house was designed to accommodate two adults and one child. The house conforms with the present Building Control regulations relative to a double-storey in that its area does not exceed the allowable 2,150 super feet, but its design makes provision for future extension which will provide a breakfast room on the ground floor and a suite comprising a bedroom, dressing room and bathroom on the first floor. The site is a somewhat restricted suburban plot enclosed on three sides with a gentle slope towards the North, and is approached from the road which passes along the southern boundary. The placing of the house relatively close to the street boundary, with the well defined approaches and entrance court on that side, has given all the living rooms a northern orientation overlooking the private garden.

BY HAROLD H. LE ROITH

ABOVE.—A view of the house from the north-east. The open-air dining terrace seen at left has a built-in terazzo table with benches, and the small loggia on the right is defined by a concrete grille. The ample eaves projection and the continuous overhang at first floor level are designed to afford protection from the high summer sun, but permit penetration of the sun's rays in winter.

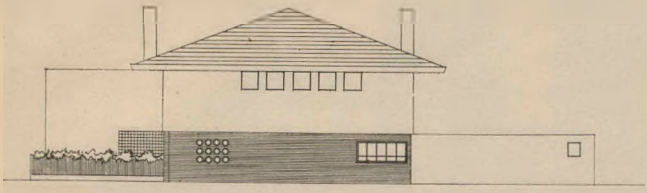


The loggia showing the concrete grille and curved slatted hood. The grille is constructed of 6-inch by 3-inch concrete members with provision for future glazing, and is painted in two shades of blue. The projecting hood is built up of 2-inch by 1-inch slats carried on curved steel brackets, all of which is painted tangerine, and is designed to reduce the intense glare of the western sun.

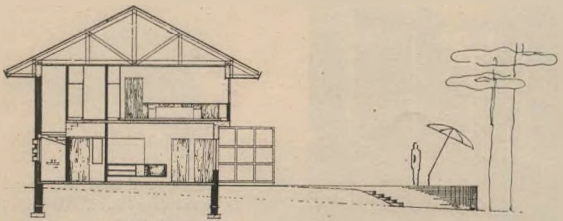
Photography: E. Robinow



The house seen from the north-west. The illustration does not give a good idea of the colours used in the composition. The wall in the foreground is in 2-inch plum colour brickwork with pronounced horizontal joints, the concrete grille is in two shades of blue, the curved hood is tangerine, the soffits of eaves and slabs and the high screen wall at right are pale blue, the eaves facia is grey against the slate roof.



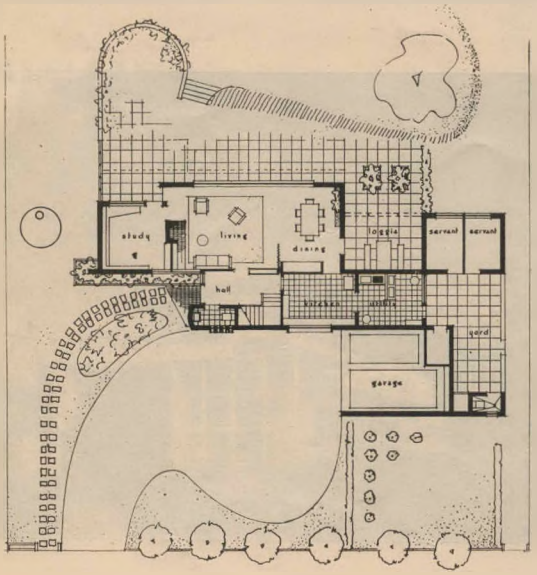
elevation to street



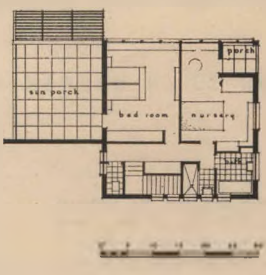
cross section

STRUCTURE

The house consists of conventional 11-inch cavity load bearing brick walls, with a reinforced concrete slab over the ground floor, the portion over the 32-foot length of the living space being 7 inches thick in order to avoid the use of beams. This slab is cantilevered 2 feet beyond the north wall along the length of the house to give protection from the hot summer sun; but it allows pentration of the sun in winter into the living room. For the same reason, the 5-foot overhang of the eaves gives protection and at the same time permits the steel sashes to be kept open in rainy weather. Gutters are concealed behind the inclined facia board which is painted grey, and the slatted eaves are painted blue. The external walls are plastered and painted off-white with soffits in pale blue, and the outbuildings are finished in grey. All service piping is concealed.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

ABOVE.—A general view of the living room looking towards the study. As with the exterior, polychromy is a feature of the decoration. The north wall is pale blue; the east, seen in the lower illustration, is turquoise; the south wall is lemon yellow and pale green and the ceiling is pearl grey. The chimney breast is plastic painted tangerine carrying the black slate surround to the fireplace opening, which extends to include a radio speaker and bookcase. The fireplace opening is lined with 6" x 1" brick faggots and is raised 9-inches above the floor. The venetian blinds seen at right are coloured Cerulean blue. The furnishing fabric is of hand loomed oatmeal and burnt orange material. BELOW, LEFT.—A view looking towards the dining space at the opposite end of the room. The glass cabinet and buffet, at right, are interesting features of the living room. The former, with a dark green surround on the lemon yellow wall, is double sided, giving a sense of spaciousness and at the same time aiding in lighting the hall and stairs. The latter is in a light green wall with fitting in pale blue and has a terra cotta linoleum table top. BELOW, RIGHT.—The corner of the dining space. The fitting is in blue and ivory.









ABOVE. — Two views of the study. At left is seen the built-in fitting, consisting of writing desk with drawers, built-in radio (the speaker is in the living room), gramophone and records compartment, cocktail cabinet and magazine space. The fitting is in figured Ash with Muvuli trim, bookshelves in Muvuli, walls and ceilings in grey-green and venetian blind in light beige. The furnishings are in oatmeal and nigger-brown with black rugs. At right is the corner of the study showing south lighting by glass bricks.



LEFT.—The entrance hall looking towards living room, and showing the two-sided glass cabinet. Walls are dove grey and tangerine. Woodwork is in pale eau-de-nil, handrail to stairs is jade green, with white ceiling.

INTERIOR FINISHES

The flooring in the living room, the study and the bedrooms is of 1½-inch by 6-inch Rhodesian Teak blocks in herring-bone pattern. Terra-cotta coloured "Armstrong's" Linoleum has been used in the kitchen and green rubber in the bathroom and staircase, the nosings of the latter being picked out in white rubber. Flooring in the utility room, the shower room and the cloakroom is of pale green "Vermiculite" composition. Ceilings on first floor are formed with compressed fibre-board which are distempered in pastel shades. All plastered walls and ceilings are finished with finely stippled oil paint. No curtains are hung over the windows as the latter have been fitted with steel-slatted Venetian blinds.

GARDEN

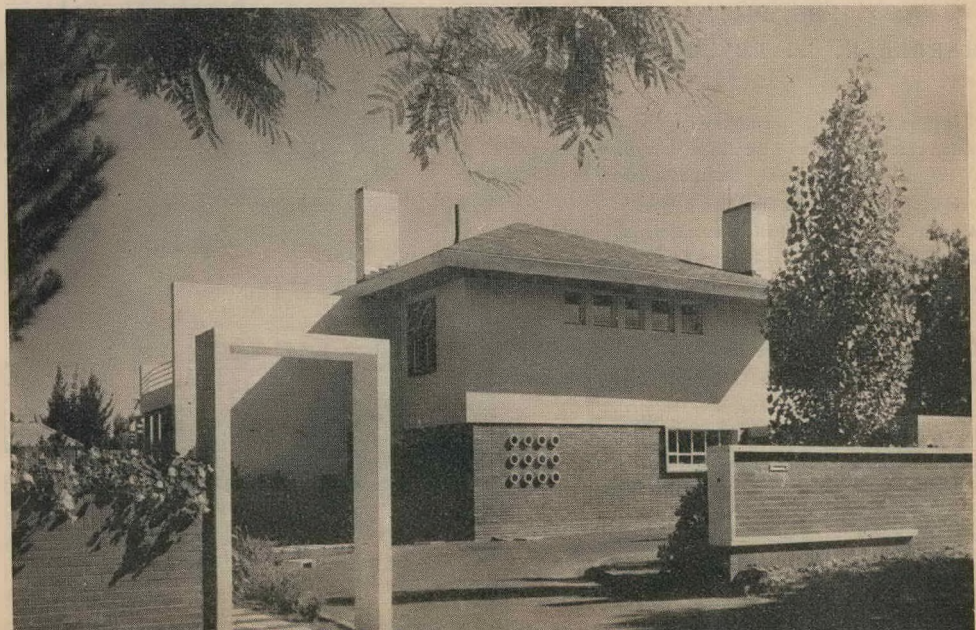
Landscaping is simple. A built-up grass terrace along the north of the house is defined at its western extremity by the concrete screen and curving brick wall, and a flight of brick steps leads to the sweep of lawn on the natural slope. Planting is restricted to simple masses and to flower boxes, while full use is made of the accents created by the existing trees, and a few fruit trees dotted about the lawn lend an atmosphere of informality to the north garden.

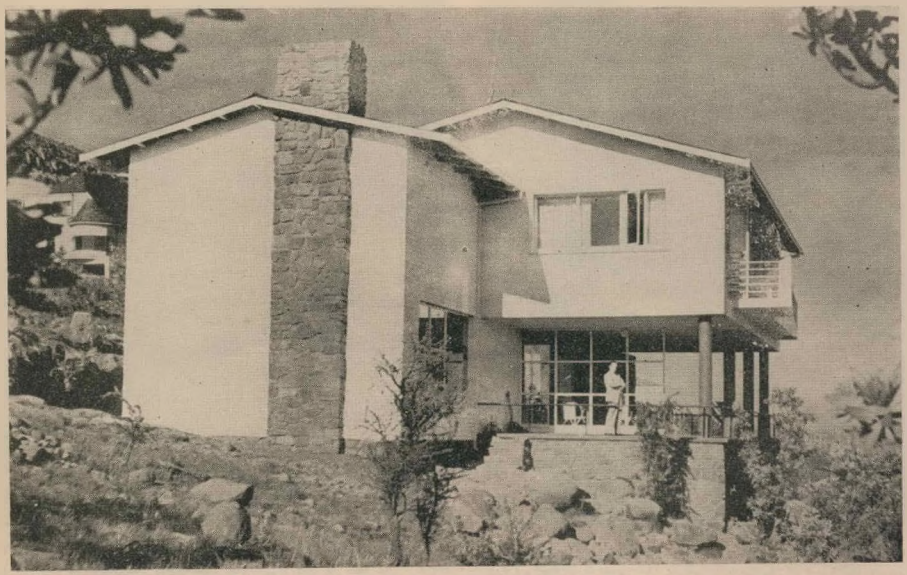




ABOVE.—Two views of the main bedroom. The wall above the panelling at the head of the beds is cream, the panel is in figured Ash. The white fitting under the window runs the length of the north wall, and contains ranges of drawers. Its top is extended to form the window sill, and is painted apple-green to match the venetian blinds above. The large movable fitting at the foot of the beds is white, the walls generally are off-white with a pale green ceiling, and the rug is oatmeal colour.

BELOW.—South Elevation, showing the entrance "propyleaum" in concrete. The wall to the study and the upper sun-porch is painted pale blue. The south wall is relieved by the 8-foot plum coloured brick plinth. The projecting concrete surround of the kitchen window is jade green, that of the passage window on the West is terra cotta. Outbuildings are light grey, and plum coloured brickwork with precast lime washed concrete slabs for the street boundary wall.





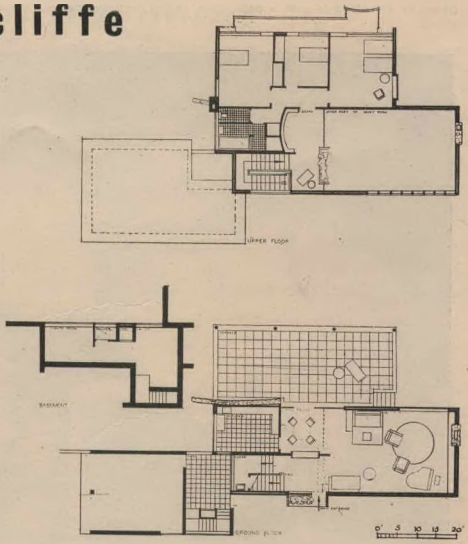
View from the North-East.

Residence at Northcliffe

HAROLD H. LE ROITH, ARCHITECT

Built on a site which slopes steeply to the north at Northcliffe, about eight miles from Johannesburg, this is a house for a man who is extremely interested in music. The hilly nature of the area gives this house a magnificent view over a broad landscape which stretches about fifty miles to the horizon and includes, as a background, the extensive range of the distant Magaliesberg Mountains.

The main element of the plan is the large double-volume lounge-music room which provides the setting for the owner's musical interests. The broad terrace which occupies almost the whole length of the north side of the ground floor of the house, provides for outdoor living and gets the full benefit of the views. All the living rooms and the bedrooms face north and, at the same time, capture the view.





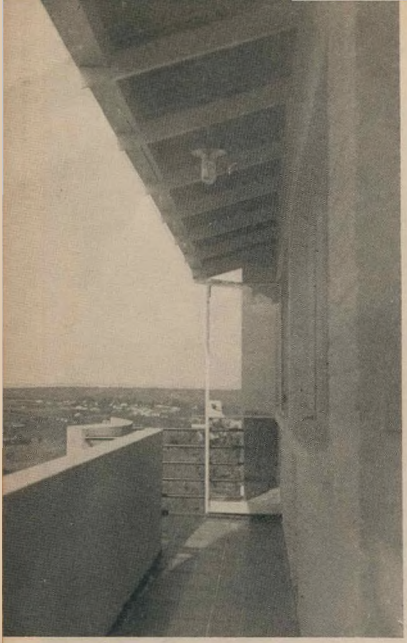
The Music Room, showing the Library above the Dining Room.



The Music Room, seen from Library. Clerestory lighting at right.



From the North.



LEFT. — The view looking towards Johannesburg from the upper balcony.

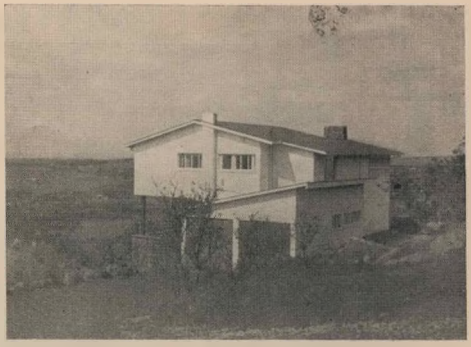
BELOW.—The Loggia with the view of the Magaliesberg Range in the distance.



Construction generally is of cavity walls of stock brick, colour-washed a pale green externally, and plastered and distempered internally. The ground floor is carried on foundations of untrimmed natural stone from the site, which material has also been used in the fireplace and the chimney stack. The upper floor is carried on a reinforced concrete slab supporting strip flooring. The roof is of corrugated asbestos painted green. The reinforced concrete columns on the north are painted a deep maroon and the paving of the terrace is of natural stone.

The zoning is distinct, in that the sleeping quarters fit over the whole of the north terrace, and give a feeling of being projected into space.

The garden is left in its natural state and the use of the natural stone for foundation and chimney stack and part of the terrace wall ties the formal building to the informality of the landscape.



From the South-West.



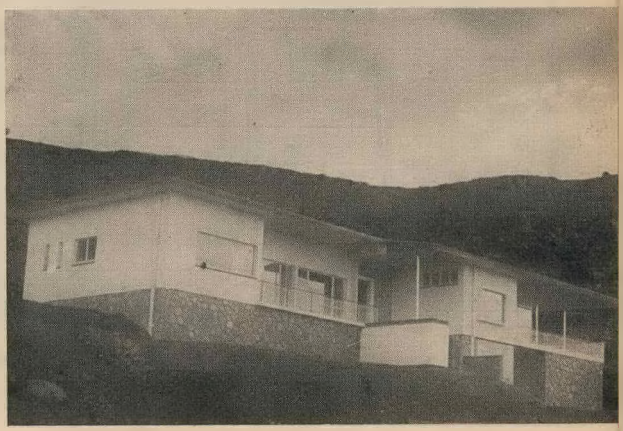
E. Robinow

ABOVE.—General view from the North-West, showing the living terrace over the garage and servants' quarters. The foundation walls are random rubble with protruding joints. BELOW.—The long low north front, seen from the North-East, nestling against the rocky hillside.

Residence at Northcliffe

HAROLD H. LE ROITH, ARCHITECT

Situated on a rocky, steeply sloping site at Northcliffe, this house comands a panoramic view of the Magaliesberg to the north-west. The plan is so orientated that living rooms, study, bedrooms and terraces have a northern aspect. Long northern elevation with low pitched roof and deep overhang gives feeling of snugness emphasised by hill behind.

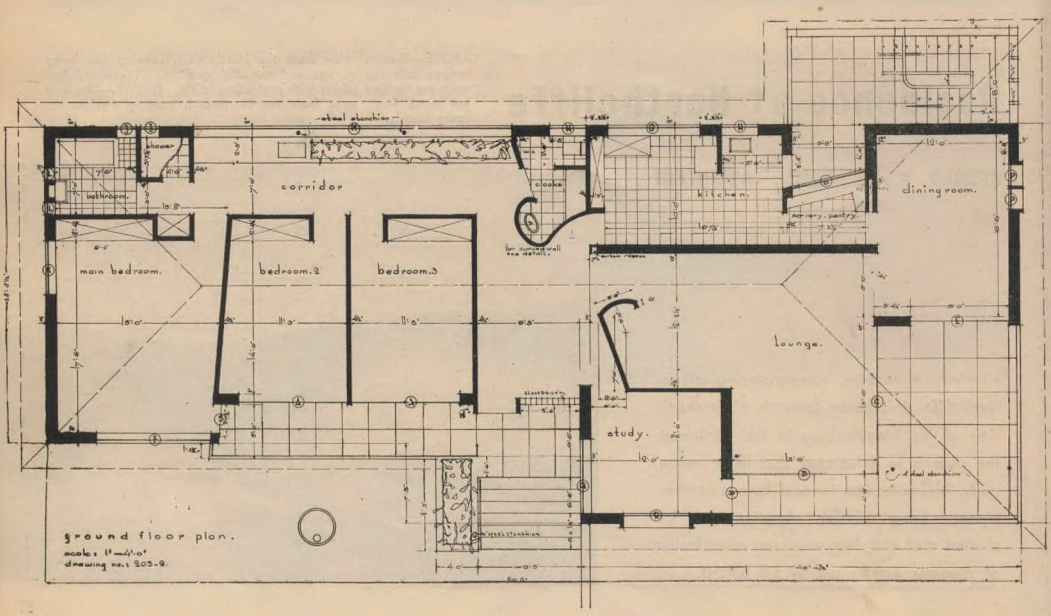




West Elevation, showing low-pitched, asbestos cement roof, painted black, with broad eaves overhang.

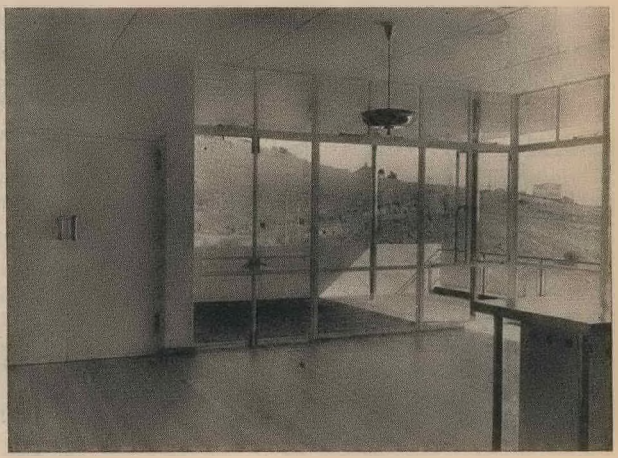
CONSTRUCTION LINE

A rubble plinth with protruding "V" joints is constructed of stone quarried from the site, while the walls above this are of plastered stock brick painted white. The upper floor is carried on a reinforced concrete slab supporting strip flooring. The roof is corrugated asbestos painted black. Ceilings are of compressed fibre board.





The Corridor, showing built-in flower sink and planting box, with facilities for the preparation of cut flowers. The curved wall at the end leading to the Cloak Room, is painted tomato red, and the window wall is apple green.



The Living Room, showing the glass wall fronting on the living terrace. The roof over the terrace is supported by the chromium plated tubular columns. At left, the pair of double doors leads to the dining room, which also has a glass wall onto the terrace.

THE CAPE PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

ANNUAL REPORT 1945-1946

MEMBERSHIP

The membership at the close of the year consisted of 130 Practising, 60 salaried, 10 Retired, 2 Absentee and one Life member, making a total of 203. The death is recorded with deep regret of Mr. T. Simpson and Mr. J. R. Maitland.

MEETINGS

The Annual Meeting, two Special General Meetings and twenty-one Provincial Committee meetings besides numerous Sub-Committee meetings were held during the year. At the first meeting of the Committee Mr. B. St. C. Lightfoot was elected as President with Mr. E. D. Andrews as Vice-President for the year under review.

The following is the record of members' attendances at Provincial Committee meetings, showing the actual attendances and possible attendances.

	Attended	Possible
E. D. Andrews	21	21
K. V. Commin	19	21
A. S. Cruickshank	19	21
R. E. de Smidt	11	21
L. A. Elsworth	16	21
T. B. Gibbons	12	21
B. St. C. Lightfoot	11	11
D. F. H. Naude	18	21
H. L. Roberts	14	21

During the year under review the President was granted leave of absence for approximately six months and the thanks of the Committee are due to Mr. E. D. Andrews, the Vice-President, who very ably acted in his place.

FINANCIAL

The audited accounts accompanying this Report show the financial position to be as follows:—

Revenue for the year exceeded expenditure by the sum of	£54 8 8
The Balance Sheet shows that Assets as at 31/12/45 exceeded Liabilities at the same date by the sum of	£547 12 9

As compared with the previous year the following items of revenue show increases:— Subscriptions by £43 1s. 0d., Profit on Kalendar £27 4s. 6d., Profit on sale of contract forms, etc., £6 0s. 11d. Subscriptions of members on active service remitted amounted to £147 as compared with £201 12s. 0d. in the previous year.

The levy paid to the Central Council amounted to £273 as compared with £219 4s. 8d. during 1944; the increase in levy is due to improved collections during the year under review. The surplus of income over expenditure amounting to £58 8s. 8d. compares very favourably with the deficit of £39 3s. 3d. in the previous year. As you are aware from previous Statements of Accounts, the Institute operated at a loss for the years 1943 and 1944. The total subscriptions remitted in respect of members on active service during the war years amounted to £749 3s. 6d.

CENTRAL COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of the Central Council was held in Johannesburg on May 22nd and 23rd; at this meeting the Cape Institute was represented by Mr. B. St. C. Lightfoot and Mr. E. D. Andrews, and amongst the varied items dealt with were Architectural Competitions, Demobilisation matters, Revision of the Scale of Fees, Membership of the Institute, Architects' fees in relation to Price Control, Fees for Housing Schemes, Conditions of Engagement with S.A.R. & H., Educational matters, etc.

At the Central Council meeting Mr. B. St. C. Lightfoot was elected President-in-Chief of the Institute.

THE PORT ELIZABETH LOCAL COMMITTEE OF ARCHITECTS

At the Annual General Meeting of the Local Committee held on 9th March, 1945, Mr. H. J. Tanton and Mr. M. D. Berman were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, with Mr. J. F. Brinkman as Honorary Secretary. The affairs of the local body of architects were looked after very efficiently by the Local Committee in close collaboration with the Provincial Committee.

THE EAST LONDON LOCAL COMMITTEE OF ARCHITECTS

On 28th November the Provincial Committee formally approved the proposed Constitution of the Local Committee established at East London. Mr. J. W. H. Farrow and Mr. J. F. R. Simpson were elected Chairman and Honorary Secretary, respectively.

THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

The number of students attending the Architectural and Quantity Surveying classes at the University of Cape Town during 1945 was 127; of these, 38 were first year, 28 were second year, 12 were third year, 30 were fourth year and 9 were fifth year Architectural students. In addition there were six Quantity Surveying students in the first year and four in the second year. Nine students qualified during the year.

C.P.I. BRONZE MEDAL AND OTHER PRIZES

After revision of the conditions for the C.P.I. Bronze Medal it is hoped to resuscitate the competition during 1946.

The C.P.I. Prize for 1945 was awarded to K. M. Poole.

VIGILANCE AND PRACTICE SUB-COMMITTEE

A considerable number of meetings were held during the year with regard to matters affecting professional conduct and disputes.

PASSING OF PLANS AT CITY HALL AND NEW BUILDING REGULATIONS

The Committee regret to report that the proposed Plans Passing Department has not yet come into being, but the City Engineer has undertaken to do his utmost to avoid unnecessary delays in the approval of plans. Recently all Practising members were circularised with a copy of a letter from the City Engineer's Department, explaining the various matters which most frequently necessitated the return of plans for amendment; it is suggested that members should make it a routine practice to check over the various points mentioned before submitting plans. Relaxations and amendments to the Building Regulations have been circularised amongst members from time to time. The Institute is now submitting a memorandum on the obsolete Building Regulations to the Commission of Enquiry into Municipal Affairs.

NATIONAL HOUSING

The Institute through the Central Council was asked by the Director of National Housing to assist the country in solving the grave and acute housing shortage. In the Cape the administrative work has been carried out by a representative of the Director, assisted by a Regional Technical Committee. On this Committee your representative is Mr. Andrews. The Director has up to date commissioned 24 firms of architects to undertake the design and supervision of houses in the Cape Peninsula. At the moment 128 houses are on the way to completion, 151 are just being commenced and the quantity surveyors are busy with a further 93. In addition two ex-servicemen practising members have been commissioned to undertake housing schemes of approximately 50 houses at Worcester.

The difficulties have been great and the shortcomings obvious, but the Minister's thanks to the Institute given personally to your President-in-Chief are indicative of the Government's appreciation of the Architects' contribution to this national problem.

The Committee desires to record its appreciation of the services of Mr. Andrews for his valuable assistance in organising the collaboration between the National Housing Commission and the Institute.

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION WORK

After many months of negotiation the Institute finalised the agreement under which Practising architects will be commissioned to perform work on behalf of the Cape Provincial Administration. The agreement was circularised to Practising members from which it will be noted that the basic fee had been increased from 5% to 6%.

C.P.I. HOUSE PLANNING SCHEME FOR EX-SERVICEMEN

Arising out of the resolution passed at the last Annual General Meeting, members were invited to submit plans for houses under this scheme. Seventy-two designs were accepted and after pricing were exhibited at the D.S.D.C. Owing to unsatisfactory facilities provided by the D.S.D.C. for exhibition, arrangements are now being made for the permanent exhibition to be held at the Building Centre.

SCHOOLS EXHIBITION

Early in 1945 a highly successful "Schools Exhibition" was held by the architectural students and was supported by the Institute; it is felt that the Exhibition had great propaganda value.

STANDARD TYPES OF ROOF TRUSSES

Arrangements are now being made for sets of Standard Types of Roof Trusses to be made available for sale to members and students; proceeds of the sale will be paid into the credit of the Institute's Benevolent Fund. The Committee are indebted to Mr. Cruickshank for his services in this matter.

GENERAL.

Other matters, apart from the foregoing, which have engaged the attention of your Committee during the past year will be dealt with in the Presidential Address at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

B. ST. C. LIGHTFOOT, President.

THE NATAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

ANNUAL REPORT 1945-1946

Your Committee have pleasure in submitting this, the Nineteenth Annual Report of the Natal Provincial Institute of Architects, together with the Annual Balance Sheet and Revenue and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1945.

MEMBERSHIP

The Membership at the close of the year consisted of 59 Practising, 18 Salaried, 3 Retired and 1 Absentee Member, making a total of 81 Members.

Four new Members have been enrolled during the year, one Member transferred his membership to the Cape Provincial Institute, two Members have transferred from the Salaried to the Practising class.

COMMITTEE

At the last Annual General Meeting the following Members were elected to the Provincial Committee: Messrs. B. V. Bartholomew, F. W. Powers, D. C. McDonald, S. N. Tomkin, I. Park Ross, G. E. le Sueur, J. S. Simpson, Alan Woodrow and Jas. Corrigall.

At the first meeting of the newly elected Committee, Mr. S. N. Tomkin and Mr. B. V. Bartholomew were elected as President and Vice-President respectively for the ensuing year.

MEETINGS

One Annual General Meeting, three Special General Meetings, twenty ordinary and special Committee Meetings, besides numerous sub-committee meetings were held during the year.

The following is a record of attendances at the ordinary and special Committee Meetings:—

	Meetings	Leave Granted	Attendance
B. V. Bartholomew	20	9	9
Jas. Corrigall	20	9	10
G. E. le Sueur	20	1	19
D. C. McDonald	20	1	19
F. W. Powers	20		20
I. Park Ross	20		17
J. S. Simpson	20	3	15
S. N. Tomkin	20	1	19
Alan Woodrow	20	1	18

Mr. L. C. Lambert, of the City Engineer's Department, was co-opted on the Committee and attended a number of meetings.

REPRESENTATIVES, 1944-1945

On Central Council: S. N. Tomkin, B.Arch., A.R.I.B.A. Alternate: F. W. Powers, A.R.I.B.A.

On Board of Education: S. N. Tomkin, B.Arch., A.R.I.B.A. Alternate: A. V. Nunn, A.R.I.B.A. (T.P.I.).

On Technical College Council: Col. G. T. Hurst, F.R.I.B.A.

On Local Advisory Committee of the Government Control and Building Industry: Mr. Bartholomew is the architect representative.

On Demobilisation Regional Committee, Durban Area: F. W. Powers, Alan Woodrow, C. S. M. Taylor and Col. G. T. Hurst.

On Building Bye-Laws Sub-Committee: G. E. le Sueur, E. L. Black and C. R. Fridjhon.

LOCAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

B. V. Bartholomew, A.R.I.B.A. (Chairman), S. N. Tomkin, B.Arch., A.R.I.B.A., D. C. McDonald, A.R.I.B.A., and F. W. Powers, A.R.I.B.A.

Members are reminded of the facilities afforded in courses of Architectural Education at the Natal University College.

Full particulars of these courses may be obtained on application to the Secretary of the University, Commerce Building, Warwick Avenue, Durban.

For an architect to enter into articles with a student or pupil who has not passed the matriculation examination of the Joint Matriculation Board, or is not in possession of a certificate of exemption from the examination issued by the said Board, until such student or pupil has been approved by the Standing Committee on Education and Examinations, is an act of unprofessional conduct.

★ ★ ★

The 1945 session has been a strenuous one, as will be seen by the number of meetings held during the year. Thanks are due to those members of the various committees who

have given so much of their valuable time to the various matters concerned, and they are to be congratulated on the amount of work put through.

Many matters of importance to the profession have engaged the close attention of your Committee.

As a result of a deputation to the City Council a Liaison Committee has been formed to collaborate with the Institute; the President, Mr. S. N. Tomkin, being the Institute's representative on the Committee.

Among other matters of importance—amendments to building Bye-laws, City Council's Post-War Planning, Bowling Town Planning Report, Competitive Designs for Flats for Ex-Volunteers costing £122,000, have occupied the close attention of your Committee.

A History of the Natal Institute of Architects, and the Natal Provincial Institute of Architects has been compiled by Col. Hurst, and copies will be available for sale in the near future.

A function, in the way of a social cocktail-party, to welcome the return of members of the profession from active service was held in the private lounge of the Durban Club, was well attended and proved a great success.

NATAL PROVINCIAL PUBLIC WORKS

As a result of a deputation to the Natal Provincial Administration a liaison between the Provincial Administration and this Institute has been concluded, and the appointment of private practising architects to carry out public works on the lines of the policy carried out by the Transvaal Administration has been arranged.

FINANCIAL

The audited statement of Accounts for the year under review reflects a credit balance of £5 19s. 0d. as compared with a deficit of £89 16s. 0d. shown for the previous year. This surplus is the result of a special levy made on members during the year to augment our resources.

Subscriptions remitted in respect of members on Active Service and irrecoverable subscriptions amounted to £99 11s. 0d. The levy payable to the Central Council amounted to £107 12s. 4d.

Only essential expenditure has been incurred during the year and economies effected wherever possible.

The Investment Account at the Natal Building Society now stands at £187 8s. 10d.

Members are reminded that the annual subscription is due on 1st January in each year, and should be remitted as early as possible to the Secretary, and are requested to regard this obligation as one to be discharged without unnecessary delay and thus save much time and expense in the collecting of fees.

CENTRAL COUNCIL

The 1945 Session of the Central Council took place at Johannesburg in April last, Mr. Haddon, the retiring President-in-Chief, occupied the Chair. Mr. S. N. Tomkin, this Institute's representative, attended the meeting.

Many subjects of interest and importance to the profession were dealt with, among them being National Housing Commission and Housing Problems, Architectural Competitions, Building Control, Revision of the Scale of Fees, and Increase in Annual Subscription of Practising Members.

Mr. B. St. C. Lightfoot (C.P.I.) was elected President-in-Chief and Mr. D. M. Cowin, Vice-President-in-Chief and Chairman of the Executive Committee for the ensuing year.

Your Committee wishes to place on record its deep appreciation of the excellent work put in by the Members of the Central Council and for giving so much of their valuable time in promoting the interests of the profession.

INCREASE OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Central Council on 19th December, 1945, it was unanimously resolved that the annual subsmription of Practising Members be increased to Ten Guineas for the year 1946.

Thanks are extended to the "South African Architectural Record" for its Journal, which has been circulated to members during the year.

Thanks are also due to the R.I.B.A. and Allied Societies for their Journals and Kalendars received from time to time.

This report has been kept as concise as possible in view of more detailed information which will be given in the Presidential Address at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT MR. S. N. TONKIN

Before proceeding with the business of the meeting, I should like to welcome new members present and the many members for whom this is the first General meeting that they have been able to attend for a very long time. Their presence here to-day is certainly counted by the Institute as one of the benefits of peace.

GENTLEMEN: In moving the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts, I shall follow the custom of my very worthy predecessors by briefly reviewing the past year's work and events, and permitting myself the privilege of a few general comments.

After 12 months in the chair, I'm certain every President feels that the past year has been a very strenuous one, and I am no exception. Your committee has worked splendidly and conscientiously to the very last moment — two meetings having been held yesterday afternoon.

Apart from the regular and special Executive meetings, which far exceed 20 in number, there have been more than 50 sub-committee meetings on Housing, Bye-Laws, Education, Professional Practice, Town Planning, Elevational Control, etc., etc., while matters have been dealt with in relation to a great number of outside bodies such as Ratepayers and Civic Associations, the Associated Scientific and Technical Society, Traffic Advisory Board, the Red Cross, Master Builders and others. Every member of the Committee served on a large number of sub-committees and there was no shirking. In addition, for a major portion of the time Mr. Calvert McDonald acted as honorary secretary to the Institute, and carried your committee over a difficult period. I wish formally to express my very sincere thanks to all members of the committee as well as those members co-opted on various sub-committees for their unstinted support and hard work during the past year that has added pleasure to the privilege of occupying the Chairmanship of your Executive.

GENERAL MEETINGS: During the year, three special General meetings were called, in April, June and October, and a fairly full report of the Executive's activities has been given to members up to that time, eliminating the necessity for repeating them here.

Briefly, events of note have been the establishment of a Liaison with the Durban Corporation Authorities and the Natal Provincial Council, both of whom have handed work out to the Institute amounting to a quarter of a million pounds. A great deal of difficulty was experienced in establishing these liaisons and it is to the credit of previous committees as much as to the present that this has now been achieved.

Members are fully aware of the method of selection adopted for the Corporation flats which, incidentally, are now at the working drawing stage. As to the Provincial work, your committee was requested by the Province to elect a liaison committee of two members to assist them in the selection of members for the work in hand. Mr. Corrigall and myself, as President, were elected as your representatives, while Mr. Walters was elected as representing the Quantity Surveyors, the Provincial members being the Provincial Secretary and the Provincial Architect. This committee was called together at very short notice to make selections. Your liaison members stressed the importance for the Province to submit a programme of works, stretching over a period, in order that the work may best be distributed evenly throughout the profession. We were told that while every effort would be made to do this in the future, it could not be done at that meeting. A very full discussion resulted in the selection of Messrs. Hamlin, Park-Ross and le Sueur for extensions to the King Edward VIII Hospital, Messrs. Alan Woodrow and Tomkin & Partners for the Provincial offices and the appointment of Mr. S. Jewitt to supervise the erection of a school.

Under the circumstances that prevailed, every possible democratic basis for selection was applied in launching the work for both these public bodies, and it will be the important duty of the incoming committee to carry on from this point to weld still stronger ties with them and our profession.

Our Provincial Institute is the only one in the Union which is not participating in the National Housing Scheme due to the separate constitution of the Natal Housing Board which is following a policy differing from that of the Union Government. I should like here to congratulate Mr. Hamlin on his election to this Board. I feel certain that the time will come when the exemplary manner in which our colleagues have assisted the Union Government elsewhere will bear fruit for the Profession as a whole. The Minister of Health and Housing has in fact already expressed his deep appreciation of the valuable assistance architects have rendered the National Housing effort in speeding the production of houses of high practical and aesthetic merit. I feel sure that our own Institute's willingness to assist this National crisis comes from a public spirited viewpoint and will be clearly evident when our numerous offers of assistance are called upon.

TOWN PLANNING AND THE "BOWLING REPORT":

It is difficult to overstress the importance of the Profession's participation in public work. The functions of the architect in present day society are little known, and the public

generally cling to the belief that an architect is a not very practical luxury. Our Central Council as a body as well as individual members who have been given important planning posts have done a tremendous amount to dispel this fallacious idea. But much remains to be done. And this can best be achieved by our participation in public works and Town Planning problems which will demonstrate that, by our training, we have a function to fulfil in contemporary society which is an integral part of advancing techniques, a part which holds the balance between unrelated advances in specialised branches of commodity production, engineering and social development, a part which can help introduce order from chaos.

Your sub-committee which dealt with the Bowling Report, treated the matter exhaustively and had the pleasure of receiving extremely favourable comment on it from a well known Town Planner whose name cannot be divulged for professional reasons. I hope the incoming committee will continue to pursue this matter with thoughtful care and vigour.

CENTRAL COUNCIL: It would be impossible for me to go into detail on the matters handled by your Central Council. I can assure you, however, that we are very fortunate indeed in having the very active members who devote an incredible amount of their time to the profession's affairs.

They are about to issue a regular News Letter in the near future which will be a welcome method of acquainting members of the items of general interest that are constantly being handled by them, and I should like on your behalf to record our grateful thanks for their excellent efforts.

FINANCE: The levy of £2 2s. 0d. unanimously agreed to at the last Annual General Meeting saved a sad financial situation resulting from the waiving of subscriptions by members on Military Service, and by virtue of this levy we were able to pay part of our debt to the Central Council last November, and by virtue of the increased subscription we are once more in a position to undertake the development that is essential for our organisation if it is to grow into the force it deserves to be.

I have heard it expressed that the £10 10s. 0d. is preposterously high compared with other professional bodies such as doctors, accountants, etc. Investigation shows, however, that such organisations have memberships treble and more than our own with the consequent possibility of reduced subscriptions. It is in fact surprising that as much as has been achieved was done with so little finance. But, it is certain that if we wish to expand and strengthen our organisation, that this can only be done by the employment of adequate staff, proper premises and equipment—of which we possess none; it all belongs to Mr. Chaplin—and the creation of circumstances where the committee does not have to count its pennies before sending out a circular or copies of a report, asking for a legal opinion or sending a delegate to a Conference.

EDUCATION: Members will have noted that a full time course in Architecture has been established at the N.U.C. in Durban and, judging by the number of first year students that have registered this year (33), most offices must be well equipped with very junior staff. It is hoped that the Students' Exhibition which was held in 1945 by a mere handful of students, will this year, now that there are over 100 students, be a big display and an occasion for the profession to render encouragement to those entering the profession.

HISTORY OF NATAL INSTITUTE: Colonel Hurst has now completed his task which he claims was an "order" of the last general meeting, and while I have not examined the finished product, I should like to thank Col. Hurst formally for his kindness in devoting so much time in carrying out this "order." The copies will sell at 10/6 and Col. Hurst, who chooses to call himself the "Perpetrator" rather than Author has, I am certain, introduced his own brand of humour to brighten the pages of our dusty past.

On your behalf I should also like to thank Mr. B. V. Bartholomew, who has represented this Institute on the Building Control Committee, and Mr. Taylor, who has been your representative on the D.S.D.C.

I also wish to thank Mr. Chaplin for his assistance throughout the year despite his ill health, and for his assistance to our new Secretary, Mr. Ritchie, whom I should now like to introduce to members.

Finally, after this report which has developed into several pages beyond the limit which I had set myself, I wish to thank all members of this Institute for their spontaneous cooperation when called upon to back the work and decisions of the executive; I feel that a new spirit is developing within the profession and if further social functions such as our last will increase the general interchange of ideas and constructive criticism, then the incoming committee must ensure at least an annual social function starting from 1946.

SUGGESTED INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR U.N.O. HEADQUARTERS

Prompt action to guard against mishandling of the design of permanent headquarters for U.N.O. is sought by the magazine PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE which has urged the U.N.O. Interim Headquarters Committee, Edward Stettinius as chief of the American delegation at London, and President Truman to see that architects of all the member nations are invited to enter an international competition. Defining the design of U.N.O. headquarters as the most important architectural assignment of all time, the magazine points out that architects of the world must make sure it is the best design possible.

In response to an appeal sent to architectural societies, leading architects, and professional publications of foreign countries, PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE has received assurance of strong support for the proposal to hold a professional competition. First cabled replies came from the leading magazines of Europe—THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW of England, L'ARCHITECTURE D'AUJOURD'HUI of France, and DAS WERK of Switzerland. The editors of PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE are continuing their efforts to win professional support here and abroad for the international competition.

The American Institute of Architects has indicated its approval of a properly conducted professional competition. The American Society of Planners and Architects advanced a resolution in support of such a competition at the time of the San Francisco Conference, with the prompt concurrence of the American leaders of the C.I.A.M. (Congress International des Architects Modernes). It is urged that this method of selecting the architect of the U.N.O. permanent headquarters would draw upon the finest talent available in all the member nations.

In the lead editorial of the March issue of PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE, Kenneth Reid, editor-in-chief, poses the question as follows:

"Now that the question of a permanent home for the United Nations Organisation has burst, literally in our own back yard (we live only a few miles from the favoured site), we are more than ever conscious of the urgency of having the establishment properly designed by the most competent architect (or architects) that can be found in the world.

"Surely, here is the most challenging architectural opportunity in all modern history. We cannot conceive of any disagreement on the point that the scheme for the United Nations Organization headquarters, both in general plan and in detail, must be the absolute best that the greatest architectural talents of our times can produce. But how can this laudable objective be attained?

"To us it seems that the only practical and logical answer is an international architectural competition such as has already been talked of privately within A.I.A. councils and is now publicly proposed by the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

"Even though the U.N.O. establishment is to be in the United States, we must recognise that every one of the United Nations has a stake in the success of the organisation and an interest in the determination of its physical environment. Also, since architecture is in a sense an international language, we should be willing to acknowledge the presence of a number of great architects in other countries, and we should be eager to set up the best we have to offer to be judged against the best that they can devise.

"Manifestly, the holding of a competition presents many difficulties, not the least of which is to determine upon a competent jury to decide the results and a professional adviser and technical committee of sufficient calibre to write an adequate programme. We believe, however, that these difficulties can be surmounted and we feel that the advantages of the competition method are so great as to warrant the attempt to surmount them.

"One idea that has been proposed is to ask each Nation to designate a limited number of its top-flight architects to enter a single-stage international competition. How to pick its entrants would be left to each country to determine for itself. They could be chosen by national competition or elected by their fellow architects or selected by the heads of governments—whatever was considered appropriate. Then, the the final world-wide competition, every country would be on an equal footing and the total number of designs to be considered by the jury would be held to a reasonable number that would not be overpowering.

"There are, undoubtedly, a variety of ways in which a competition could be set up, and since the question is of great moment to a large number of architects, we invite as many

suggestions as our readers may be moved to send us. What do YOU think should be done?

"While we wait for your recommendations, we are seeking active support for the competition idea among the leading professional journals of the world and among the professional bodies in every country. We think it is the only fair solution."

The Museum of Modern Art, which is currently exhibiting a collection of photographs and plans of designs which were put forward 20 years ago in a competition for design of the League of Nations home, at Geneva, has urged a proper competition this time. In the exhibition — "A Home for U.N.O.: Must We Repeat the Geneva Fiasco?" — text describing the political manoeuverings that frustrated the architects' activities is summed up in the statements, "The Competition Failed; the Building Failed; the League Failed." The Palace, completed in 1938(!) for the League, is shown—also the drawings of Le Corbusier & Jeanneret, held to be the rightful winners of that competition. Their honest design was discarded for the pretentious Palace.

CONTEMPORARY JOURNALS

"THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW," January, 1946.

This is a special number prepared by the Association for Planning and Reconstruction on "Industry and Education." This number seeks to show the inter-relation between Industry and Education and the path along which developments should proceed. "Industry for the first time has become vaguely conscious of its social and educational responsibilities. Education is in the throes of reorganisation." The significance of the new Education Act on Industry is referred to and an attempt is made to show the importance of the link between factory and technical college, for, in the past, it has been the exception rather than the rule for industrialists to take interest in the educational system, the product of which they must employ from a comparatively early age. This number seeks to imply an open-minded approach to the broad methods of education, all of which lay a growing stress on education for citizenship and not only a training for technical mastership.

Behind this analysis—well illustrated and comprised of a wide range of authoritative contributions—lies the role of the architect, and it is the purpose of this number to show architects and others "how manifold is their task and how rich must be its fulfilment."

"THE ARCHITECTURAL FORUM," January, 1946.

Pride of place is here given to Frank Lloyd Wright's proposed Guggenheim museum for non-objective art, which is described and illustrated by drawings and the model which has already been heavily featured in the American press. Wright is possibly the only contemporary architect known by name to the average American. He has received a great deal of publicity, and he has, without doubt, the ability to maintain a good press by the shock value of his often novel and unconventional architecture. This extraordinary building is essentially a simple solution to the problem of museum circulation, in spite of its apparent complexity; but the architecture and structural interpretation of the vertical spiral concept is such, one ventures to suggest that only a Wright could hope to sustain, especially when one reads that "estimates on reinforcing steel have come out so high that Wright has turned the job over to the shipyards for an estimate on welded steel construction." One may also quarrel with the awkwardness of the junction between the lower rectangular structure and the main spiral form. In spite of the Forum's defence of the logical and organic and the picture of "great ramps whirling round and round to the dome of stainless steel and glass tubing," the ultimate evaluation of the validity of the conception, whether in terms of "emotional experience," or organic architecture can only be derived from the actual experience of viewing exhibits in relation to a continuous incline. Man's normal proclivity is for the horizontal.

Seven attractive small houses, forming part of a co-operative private housing venture, are illustrated and discussed with the story of the scheme and the house-owners' criticisms.

Two war-time community centres are analysed and criticised in terms of the established importance of neighbourhood planning. The one is a commercial and the other a non-commercial example.

Under the head, "Prototype Design," standardised and systematised designs for the sales and service units of the

International Harvester organisation and library buildings for the Tennessee Library Council are published.

Marc Thompson analyses in an authoritative national survey the answer to "What's wrong with our Air Terminals?" His report reveals that most American airports are inefficient, inadequate, poorly planned and badly located. He deals with the existing conditions under various headings and his criticisms are well supported by photographic evidence.

Among the "Previews" is an extensive development of a permanent base for military air transportation, which sets a timely standard.

"PENCIL POINTS," January, 1946.

This is a special number prepared by Thomas H. Creighton, A.I.A., devoted to a review of architectural progress in America during the war years as recorded in the architectural press from December, 1941 to August, 1945. It takes the form of a critical analysis of trends as indicated by significant examples of design and a consideration of the probable direction of architectural evolution from now on. Under the head "Since you went away," it is primarily addressed to those returning from war service.

Under "Materials and Methods," "Modular Co-ordination," "New Developments of Steel in Building Construction," and "Timber Design Progress during and since the War" are brought under review.

In addition Part I of a series of presentations on methods of employing "Acrylic" plastics is published. "Acrylics" are methyl methacrylate resins sold under the trade names "Lucite" and Plexiglas." This part covers considerations in "see-through" applications and light conductance.

"THE ARCHITECTURAL RECORD," January, 1946.

Three houses in California designed respectively by Anderson and Simonds, Neutra and Michael Goodman, are planned for extensive outdoor as well as indoor living.

Part II of "Designing with Fluorescent Lighting" deals with supplementary lighting, drawing rooms, offices and lighting levels, and is well illustrated by photographic examples.

Building Types Study 109 features the low-rent apartment building, and deals with density, planning, construction and heating.

PROFESSIONAL NOTES AND NEWS

TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE

For the information of members the following is a resume of some of the matters dealt with by the newly elected Transvaal Provincial Committee at its first meeting on 19th March, 1946.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mr. John Fassler was elected president of the Institute for the ensuing year. Mr. A. V. Nunn was elected Senior Vice-President, and Mr. A. C. Fair Junior Vice-President.

REPRESENTATIVES ON CENTRAL COUNCIL

Messrs. J. Fassler, D. M. Cowin, N. L. Hanson, D. S. Haddon, and W. A. Macdonald, with alternates in the same order: W. G. McIntosh, A. V. Nunn, A. C. Fair, C. C. Irvine Smith, and C. E. Todd.

ELECTION OF SUB-COMMITTEES

The following sub-committees were elected for the ensuing year:

Finance Committee:

Messrs. N. L. Hanson, E. Todd, W. D. Howie, H. G. Porter, C. C. Irvine Smith, N. W. Gallagher, A. V. Nunn, N. I. Finkelstein, A. C. Fair, H. L. Meyer, H. N. Joubert and P. H. Connell.

Practice Committee:

Messrs. J. Fassler, A. V. Nunn, A. C. Fair, W. A. Macdonald, D. S. Haddon, N. L. Hanson, D. M. Cowin, W. G. McIntosh, C. E. Todd, H. Fyvie, W. D. Howie, C. C. Irvine Smith.

Academy Committee:

Prof. G. E. Pearse, J. Fassler, F. L. H. Fleming, A. S. Furner, B. S. Cooke, W. A. Macdonald and Mrs. H. Martienssen.

Small House Service Bureau:

Messrs. D. M. Cowin, D. S. Haddon, N. L. Hanson, A. S. Furner, W. D. Howie, J. Fassler, A. C. Fair, M. D. Ringrose, H. G. Porter, C. C. Irvine Smith, C. H.

Sayce, P. H. Connell, K. D. L. Sivewright, R. L. Niebuhr, H. Fyvie, E. Todd, A. V. Nunn.

REPRESENTATIVES ON A.S. & T.S.

Prof. G. E. Pearse with Mr. J. Fassler as alternate. Mr. D. S. Haddon, with Mr. N. L. Hanson as alternate.

REPRESENTATIVES ON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. D. S. Haddon, with Mr. W. G. McIntosh as alternate. Mr. N. L. Hanson, with Mr. D. M. Cowin as alternate.

REPRESENTATIVE ON S.A. STANDARDS INSTITUTE, CIVIL ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL AND BUILDING COMMITTEE

Mr. W. D. Howie, with Mr. H. N. Joubert as alternate.

RPRESENTATIVES ON PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION LIAISON COMMITTEE

Mr. D. M. Cowin with Mr. A. V. Nunn as alternate. Mr. W. G. McIntosh, with Mr. C. E. Todd as alternate.

REPRESENTATIVES ON TOWNPLANNING ASSOCIATION

Mr. J. Fassler and Mr. D. M. Cowin.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ON NATIONAL HOUSING AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. D. M. Cowin, with Mr. A. V. Nunn as alternate.

REPRESENTATIVES ON BUILDING CONTROL

Mr. M. D. Ringrose, with Mr. A. D. Philpott as alternate for Johannesburg and Mr. V. S. Rees Poole for Pretoria.

BURSARY COMMITTEE

Messrs. J. Fassler, D. S. Haddon and D. M. Cowin.

BUILDING BY-LAWS SUB-COMMITTEE, JOHANNESBURG

Messrs. D. M. Cowin, D. S. Haddon, N. L. Hanson, A. Snell, A. C. Fair, B. J. Clinch, H. Fyvie.

BUILDING BY-LAWS SUB-COMMITTEE, PRETORIA

Prof. A. L. Meiring, E. Todd, W. A. Macdonald, F. W. Mullins, W. G. McIntosh, A. V. Nunn, C. S. Lodge, N. Eaton, C. R. Whale.

★ ★ ★

BUILDING CONTROL

The Johannesburg representative on Building Control reported as follows :—

Building Allocations, 1945-1946. — The classified list of building allocations for the Union of South Africa has now been decided upon.

Classification	Allocation of Permits : 1945-1946
1. Government, excluding housing	£4,000,000
2. Municipal and Public Utility (excluding Housing)	£2,000,000
3. Housing	£25,000,000
4. Industrial	£4,000,000
5. Commercial	£1,000,000
6. Institutions (Education), Hospitals, Churches	£1,500,000
7. Miscellaneous	£500,000
	£38,000,000
(a) Economic Houses erected by the Commission	£3,500,000
(b) Municipal Economic Houses	£1,000,000
(c) National Housing	£6,000,000
(d) Houses for ex-volunteers and serving soldiers, etc.	£2,000,000
(e) Industrial Housing	£1,000,000
(f) Owner occupied houses	£5,000,000
(g) Speculative Houses (uncontrolled prices)	£250,000
(h) Speculative Houses, 1,400 N.H.S. controlled prices	£1,750,000
(i) Native Houses	£500,000
(j) Flats for ex-volunteers, etc., since April, 1945	£2,500,000
	£23,500,000
Government Housing (approx.)	£1,500,000
Totals	£25,000,000

Percentage to total permits of £38 millions — 65%

NOTE.—Of the above allocations, 33% in each category is for the Johannesburg Building Control area.

(It is found that the above rate of expenditure has been too high, and for March the allocations are being reduced to a rate of £35 millions per annum.)

With regard for the allocations for National Houses, the Deputy Building Controller has decided that if the National Housing Commission is unable to absorb their allocation during February-March, the surplus would be divided amongst the other housing quotas for the Witwatersrand.

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY BUILDING CONTROLLER

Owing to the fact that applications already received for Building Permits to erect blocks of flats in Johannesburg and on the Witwatersrand to the value of over two million pounds exceed the quota which can be allocated to this type of building for the twelve months period commencing the 1st April, no further applications can be considered for the present.

The Director General of Demobilisation has been notified and requested to advise the various Discharged Soldiers and

Demobilisation Committees on the Witwatersrand to this effect.

For general information it is mentioned that the flat projects agreed to are only those where ex-soldiers are accorded preferential treatment as regards both accommodation and rentals.

MEMORIAL EVENING TO THE LATE SIR HERBERT BAKER

The Transvaal Provincial Committee approached the Central Council concerning the arrangement of this function, and suggested that the evening be held during the period the Central Council is in session. The Committee also suggested that it be permitted to make all the necessary arrangements. This proposal was agreed to by the Central Council and a Memorial Evening taking the form of a symposium was held at the University of the Witwatersrand on the 26th April, under the joint auspices of the Central Council, the Transvaal Provincial Institute and the Students' Architectural Society. The meeting was addressed by Professor G. S. Pearse, Mr. Fleming, Mr. V. S. Rees Poole, and Mr. Gordon Leith.

LECTURES DURING 1946-1947

A sub-committee comprising Messrs. Fassler, Howie, and C. C. Irvine Smith was formed to inaugurate a programme of lectures as soon as possible. It was agreed that the lectures be held at Kelvin House on Saturday mornings as an experiment, except in cases where an evening would be more appropriate. It was hoped that practitioners and assistants would thus be enabled to attend. The first of this series of lectures will, however, be given by Mr. P. H. Connell, a member of the National Building Research Institute, on Tuesday, 28th May, 1946, at Kelvin House, at 8.15 p.m. The subject will be "Building Research in South Africa."

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

In view of the difficulty experienced in dealing with the business of the Institute during afternoon meetings, it has been decided to hold the Provincial Committee meetings in the morning in future, so that the whole day will be available if necessary to dispose of the business.

NOTICE TO EX-SERVICEMEN

Mr. T. V. Hunter, of D.S.D.C., has indicated to the Institute that he is prepared to interview ex-servicemen who are members of the Institute, or employees of members, who wish to make application to the D.S.D.C. for financial assistance to rehabilitate them in civil life, or support for permits for controlled articles (motor cars, tyres, etc.) at the S.A. Club, Eloff Street, on weekdays from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

MEMBERS ARE URGED TO SUPPORT THE BENEVOLENT FUND

THE BENEVOLENT FUND OF THE ARCHITECTS OF THE TRANSVAAL.

Members are earnestly requested to support the Benevolent Fund with contributions.

The fund is at a very low ebb and has had many calls upon it.

Accent On Housing

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

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

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

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