
SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

JUNE 1940

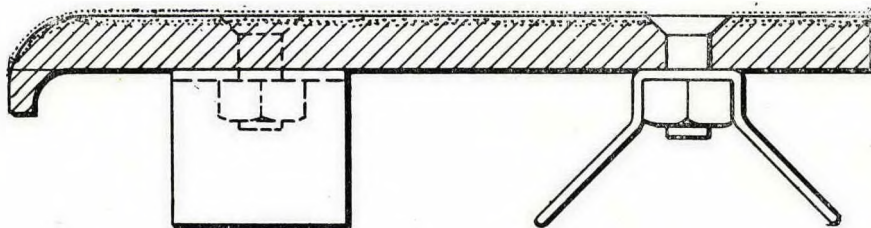
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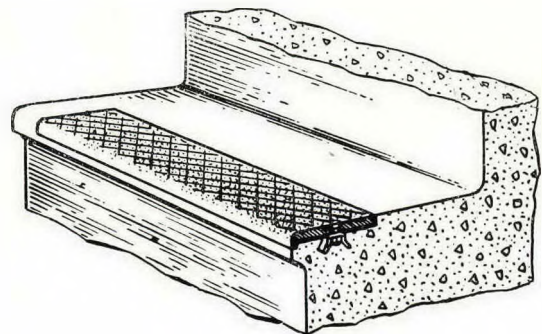


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THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

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HON. EDITORS: G. E. PEARSE, REX MARTIENSSEN. SECRETARY. A. S. PEARSE

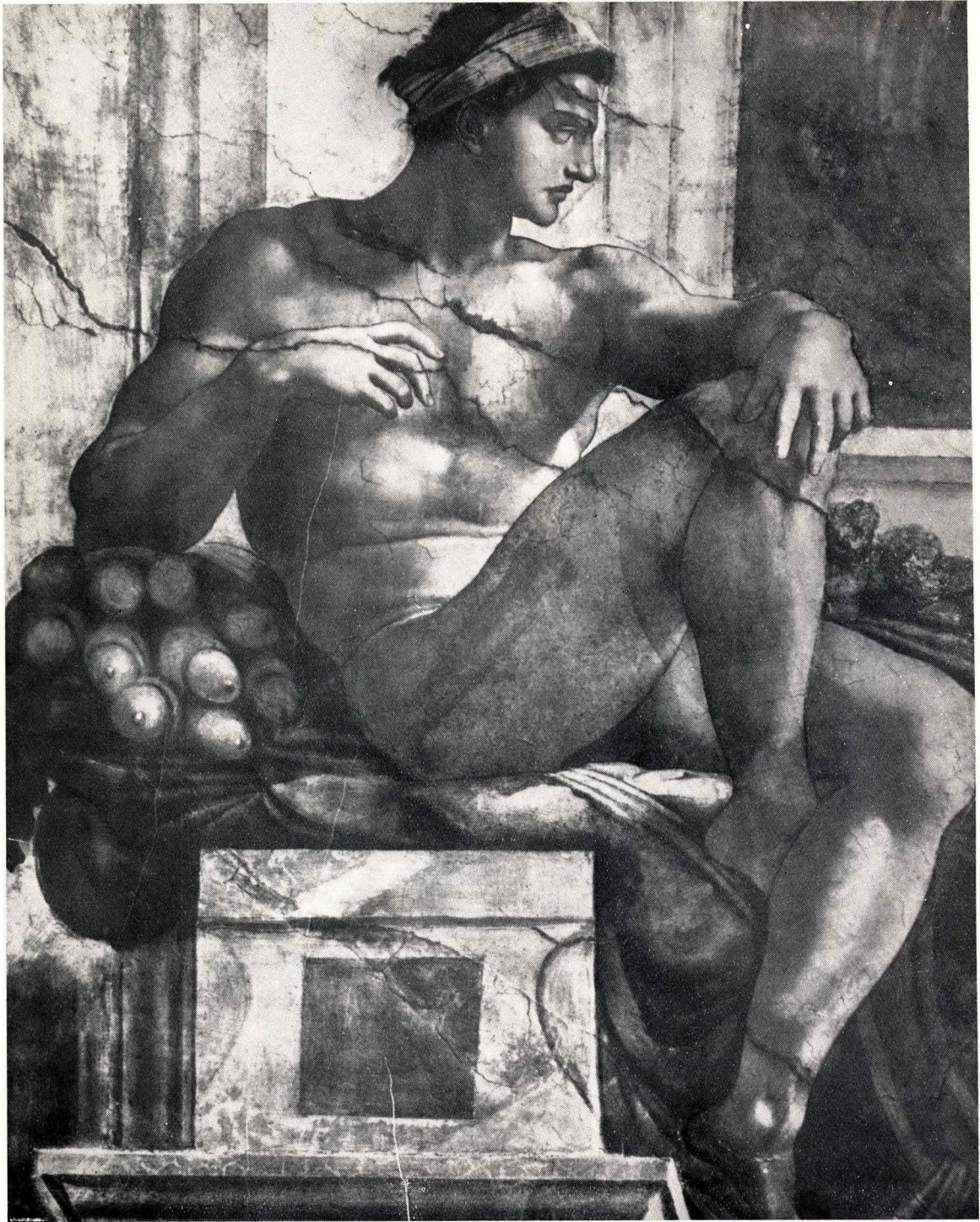


FIGURE IN SISTINE CHAPEL, ROME by MICHELANGELO

R A P H A E L

A N I N T E R P R E T A T I O N B Y W I L L E M H E N D R I K Z

Chronologically speaking, Raphael Sanzio, who was born at Urbino in 1483, belongs to the Renaissance, but in spirit and in the means he used to achieve his ends, he belongs to the generations of eclecticism which followed it.

The Renaissance was an age of experiment, where every approach was explored in an effort to reach complete expression of the humanism which was its guiding urge. The artists took up the experiments which their predecessors had investigated, developed them still further, adding to them new ideas, more vitality and greater force. The whole movement, from the inception of humanism in the paintings of Giotto to its overwhelming consummation in the work of Michael Angelo, was dependent for its very existence on this search for the significant in art. During the study of its forms, it is the realisation of the extraordinary progress, step by dynamic step, from the rigid conventions of Byzantium to the glorious freedom of the new expression, that holds us spellbound.

With the advent of Raphael, the Renaissance spirit had exhausted itself by so much achievement. Progress in art had reached that impasse which resulted in the astounding accumulation of those academic masterpieces under the weight of which the world is still struggling to-day. And it is Raphael who is the leader of the eclecticism that ruled the world of art from the end of the Renaissance to the birth of Impressionism.

His outstanding contribution to the achievements of the Renaissance is a sensitive and highly cultured selective discrimination. And if to be able to appreciate the most significant in the work of others, to use it for one's own success, is a talent, then Raphael was talented to the point of genius. He appreciated to the full the beauty in the works of his predecessors and contemporaries. His finely trained senses showed him the weaknesses in paintings, taught him how to select what was good and to reject what was bad in those works to which he turned for his inspiration. He was endowed with all the technical skill of drawing and painting which was necessary to enable him to indulge successfully in such subtle



FROM A FRESCO BY RAPHAEL

plagiarism. And so amazing was this man's control over the creative abilities of his predecessors and contemporaries that many sensitive writers and students of art have been completely misled.

The work of Raphael cannot be dismissed on the grounds that he was impressionable and borrowed too freely from his masters. In the Renaissance he is a significant figure, if for no other reason than that he recorded in his numerous paintings the combined achievements of the Italian masters; and the ability with which he summarised and selected their achievements for his own purpose is a clear reflection of the man's remarkable character. The world's conviction that he was one of the so-called "giants" of the Renaissance can be seen in the fact that the phrase "as beautiful as a Madonna by Raphael" is still regarded as the highest tribute which can be paid to a woman's loveliness.

There is no doubt that a sensitive study of the works of Raphael can be invaluable to a student of the Renaissance. He opens our eyes to the finer subtleties of the Northern Italian painters. We learn to appreciate still more the quiet dignity of the spacial compositions of Perugino; the vital and vigorous effects attained by Michael Angelo; the austere competence of Mantegna; the perfect poses in Leonardo da Vinci's compositions; the rich sparkling colours of Sebastiano del Piombo. . . .

When Raphael began to paint, the transformation from the mediaeval into what is still for many of us, the modern, was complete. There was nothing he could add to it. Yet Berenson has nothing but the highest praise for him. The plagiarism of which he was guilty is overlooked, and his virtues as a technician and an interpreter of the spirit of humanism are extolled to the point where the uninitiated cannot but accept him as one of the greatest figures in the Renaissance. Berenson writes :

"What wonder then that Raphael became on the instant, and has ever remained, the most beloved of artists ! A world which owed all that was noblest and best in it to classical culture, found at last its artist, the illustrator, who, embodying antiquity in a form surpassing its own highest conceptions, satisfied at last its noblest longings. Raphael, we may say, was the master artist of the humanists, and the artist of people nurtured on the classics he remains."

Berenson is a recognised authority on Italian painting, and his sincerity cannot be questioned. We are indebted to him for many a sensitive essay on Renaissance painting. But he belongs to a generation for whom the works of that appalling dead end in the history of art (the eighteenth-nineteenth centuries) embody—in his own words—its spiritual ideals and its spiritual aspirations. And knowing the taste of that generation we cannot be blamed for hesitating to accept Berenson's statements without question. He has a supporter in another sensitive art historian, Frank Mather. Mather writes of Raphael :

"Whether in portraiture or narrative, in mythology or symbolism, in pictures of the Madonna or in pure decoration, he gave to Italian painting its final stamp. He achieved a grandeur of space composition akin to the movement of a symphony, a hidden structure more appealing than any separate line of form. . . ."

But we are a generation removed from these writers. Between us lies an epoch of momentous revolution in aesthetic expression. The experiments of men like Corot, Manet, van Gogh, Cézanne, Matisse, Picasso, have opened our eyes to the weaknesses of those who imitate them. We are slowly learning



Above: PERUGINO

TO THE RIGHT: RAPHAEL
Marriage of the Virgin (Milan)



to discriminate between the real and the false. Our standards of value are no longer laid down by academicians of the eighteenth-nineteenth centuries who have been trained to uphold their traditions of painting based on a garbled knowledge of the classics. Living as we do, in a new age and under vastly different circumstances, the time has come for a revaluation of aesthetic standards—if such standards we must have—in terms of the new consciousness. And now that the fury of the revolution has abated, and we no longer feel ourselves obliged to take sides, we can measure the achievements of our contemporaries with those of their historic predecessors in an unbiased manner. Our scale of values may as yet be very incomplete, and the already overwhelming reputation of some of the moderns may blind us to their inconsistencies, but in this we are no less unfortunate than the people of the nineteenth century, and at least have this advantage over them, namely, that we are no longer repeating the achievements of the past in order to express ourselves, but are searching earnestly, if confusedly, for expression in terms of the present.

One thing, however does emerge very clearly in this admittedly chaotic search, and that is the dawning of a discrimination between the true and the false, between sincerity and charlatanry. We no longer believe blindly what we read—thanks to a few decades of the most flagrant abuse of the freedom of the Press—and are slowly learning to depend on our intuitive reactions rather than on doubtful intellectual persuasion by gifted propagandists.

And so, knowing the achievements of Giotto, Masaccio, Uccello, Piero della Francesca, Pollaiuolo, Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Sebastiano del Piombo, Mantegna, Michael Angelo we recognise Raphael for what he is—a man of astonishing adaptability, impressionable, extremely sensitive, cultured and refined, the embodiment of all the virtues of a Renaissance courtier. An artist of amazing technical ability, endowed with the keenest appreciation of the beautiful. But withal, an unscrupulous plagiarist who for centuries has been misleading the world by his undeniable graciousness.

T H E C E N T R A L C O U N C I L

RETIRING PRESIDENT-IN-CHIEF'S ADDRESS

The following is the address to the Council of the Retiring President-in-Chief, Mr. R. F. R. Day, A.R.I.B.A., M.I.A., of Cape Town :

Gentlemen :

It is customary for the President-in-Chief to make a statement of the more important events of the year's activities, but I think that the minutes and the report of the Executive ably deal with these.

I would, however, like to emphasise the importance of our collective effort for the obtaining of firm tenders, and that it has, to my knowledge, not yet been necessary to alter in any vital manner the existing forms of contract to meet these abnormal conditions.

As far as the work of the Contract Committee is concerned, I cannot over-stress the vital importance to every member of our Institute, and its future welfare, of the abolition of that troublesome and wholly unnecessary 5% discount in the existing form of contract. I may add that the Cape Institute objected to its inclusion when the existing form was first drafted. This discount tendency is definitely on the increase, and the building public must be told that the Institute's main object is the obtaining of firm competitive prices for the building public, and that we recognise no discounts. The tendering parties should naturally be given the opportunity of adding the competitive profit they require against the provisional and P.C. items affected. I sincerely regret the apparent increase in the use of P.C. and provisional items, due to war conditions, but I feel confident that both professions will strive for the reduction of their use in building contracts when normal conditions again prevail. This is only one instance of where the co-operation of both professions is vitally necessary.

If we are to receive our rightful protection of function, then we must convince the people and Parliament of the sincerity of our purpose. It is most unfortunate that we were, in 1927, forced by Parliament to admit unqualified persons. This provision, in some cases, has handicapped our professional efforts, particularly those of the architectural profession.

It is to be sincerely hoped that if our approach to Parliament is successful we may not again be forced to admit unqualified persons, and it was for that reason that I suggested the defining of the main functions of an architect, in the hope that the Board or Minister appointed would be guided by this definition when admitting new applicants. In the public interests, the onus of proof of the exercise of these functions must rest with the applicant.

I feel, too, that our new unprofessional conduct regulations will go a long way towards convincing the public of the sincerity of our purpose on their behalf.

DISPUTES

The human element, as usual, makes it impossible to avoid all disputes, but I would strongly emphasise that these be reduced to an absolute minimum, and that there is a responsibility on each Provincial body and its Vigilance Committee for their effective settlement. These bodies should let it be generally known that they will tax fees when disputed, provided, naturally, that both parties agree to abide by the award. This method has operated most successfully in the Cape for some years, and unnecessary Press publicity avoided.

These disputes have revealed two most important weaknesses in our educational machinery, and I would strongly urge a more thorough constructional and practical business training than in the past. The students are not to blame: it is the system. The young men are keen and learn rapidly—but we must ever be mindful of the building public and its hard-earned savings. I would personally strongly advocate that external practicing architects only be appointed as examiners on such subjects as hygiene, construction, specifications and, last but not least, professional practice, and that each student must obtain at least 60% in each of these subjects.

The Institute must have more control over the education of our future members, and whilst the educational staffs at the Universities are excellent instructors on their own subjects, they cannot be expected to possess the same knowledge as the properly trained and widely experienced practising architect. These are the members of to-morrow on whom the welfare of our Institute must rest, and we cannot underestimate this terrific responsibility.

One aspect of professional politics which seriously worries me is the lack of interest shown by some members. They do not appreciate the importance of the work executed by you and the Provincial bodies

on their behalf, and I earnestly urge that greater efforts must be made to encourage a more lively interest by individual members and Provincial Institute officials. I feel, too, that more publicity should be given to our professional activities, and the co-operation between the two professions must assume a more concrete shape if we are to succeed in establishing ourselves as the guardians of the building public's savings. There is no doubt that eventually the architect and quantity surveyor will have to co-operate much more closely than they do to-day if they wish to retain their identity, and the sooner this partnership of professional interests obtains a more definite shape, the more efficient our united services will be in the public's interest.

REVISION OF EXAMINATION REGULATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF ARCHITECTS AND QUANTITY SURVEYORS

The Central Council, at the instance of the Standing Committee on Education and Examinations, has approved of a radical revision of the existing examination regulations. The revised regulations, which have been referred for ratification to the Universities of Cape Town, Pretoria and the Witwatersrand, will thereafter be submitted to the Hon. the Minister of Education for final approval.

RECOGNITION OF "PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE" UNDER AN ARCHITECT

The Central Council resolved to ask for the collaboration of the Universities in not recognising (for the purpose of accounting for the twelve months' practical experience required by the Act, and specified in the Universities' regulations) any accumulation of periods of less than three months each spent by a student in a practitioner's office.

RE "PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE"

The Central Council, as the result of its discussion, recorded the view that the subject of professional practice should be dealt with more thoroughly by the Universities, and should be introduced into the curriculum much earlier than the final year. It noted with pleasure that steps in this direction had already been taken by the Universities, and referred the matter to the Standing Committee on Education and Examinations for detailed attention.

RE APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

In pursuance of the immediately preceding item, the Council decided also to ask the Standing Committee

to investigate the possibility of having a majority of external examiners on the existing Boards of Examiners, and of raising the percentage required for a pass in the more practical subjects of the architectural curriculum.

RE "R.I.B.A." SPECIAL FINAL EXAMINATION

The Council similarly resolved to request the Standing Committee to give serious consideration to re-establishing the Special Final R.I.B.A. Examination in South Africa for members of the Institute over 30 years of age.

RE "A.R.I.B.A.s" WHO ARE NOT "M.I.A.'s"

The Council, after detailed consideration of the principles involved, resolved that it be left to the Executive Committee to devise ways and means of facilitating the registration of salaried assistants, eligible for membership of the Institute, who nevertheless may experience difficulty in meeting the financial commitments involved.

RE FINANCES

Various economy measures, for the duration of the war, were considered by the Council, and their application left to the Executive Committee.

REMISSION OF SUBSCRIPTIONS OF MEMBERS ON ACTIVE SERVICE

The Council resolved: "That the remission of subscriptions be granted only to such members as were on full-time active service and applied for such remission"

FIRST COMPETITION FOR THE ROBERT HOWDEN PRIZE

The Council, in adopting the report of the Jury of Assessors, has pleasure in declaring that the winner of the first competition for the Robert Howden Prize is Mr. Frederic W. Powers, A.R.I.B.A., M.I.A., of Durban.

THE INSTITUTE'S YEAR BOOK

The Council resolved, as a necessary economy, to abridge the next issue of the Year Book. Complete lists of the names and addresses of all architects and quantity surveyors will, however, be published.

THE INSTITUTE IN RELATION TO THE WAR

The Council has obtained various data from Great Britain with a view to bringing into being in South

Africa a National Council of the Building Industries (representative of the professions of architecture and quantity surveying, the National Federation of M.B.A.s, the Trade Unions and the Chambers of Commerce).

The Council has decided on its policy of making representations to various Governmental authorities with a view to assisting practitioners, on the basis that existing salaried staffs should not be increased, and this policy will include representations to the Hon. the Minister of Finance in an endeavour to make loan funds available to the Provincial Administrations and Municipalities for building schemes.

PROFESSIONAL PROPAGANDA

The Council resolved to issue its main propaganda pamphlet in both English and Afrikaans, the wording of which (having been submitted to the constituent bodies of the Institute) will be brought to finality by the Executive Committee in June, 1940. One copy of the pamphlet is to be supplied, free of charge, to every member of the Institute and the Chapter, and additional copies are to be supplied at a cost to be determined by the Executive Committee.

In addition to the main propaganda pamphlet, a South African edition of the English "Adventure of Building" is in process of compilation.

THE "QUANTITY RULE"

The Council resolved (and has advised the National Federation), (a) that it is in favour of a Quantity Rule in the various centres of South Africa; and (b) that the limit in respect of such Quantity Rule be determined by the architects, quantity surveyors and builders at each centre.

RE "5% CASH DISCOUNT"

The Council resolved that the 5% cash discount should be omitted from the Standard Form of Building Contract, and that contractors should be afforded the opportunity of adding a competitive profit to the items concerned.

RE SPECIFICATION IN RELATION TO SPECIFIED BILLS OF QUANTITIES

The Council recorded its considered opinion that a specification should be supplied in every case, whether specified bills of quantities are used or not.

STANDARD FORM OF BUILDING CONTRACT: REVISION OF

The first meetings of the new Joint Contract Committee (representative of the Institute and Chapter, and the National Federation) took place recently, when the amendments suggested by both sides were exchanged. The meetings will continue in the near future.

CHURCH AUTHORITY CALLING FOR "QUOTATIONS" FROM ARCHITECTS

As a result of an advertisement appearing in the Press calling for "quotations" from architects, the Central Council advised the church authority concerned that architects, as professional men, are not permitted to submit such quotations. A practising architect has since been engaged for the new church contemplated.

REVISED DRAWINGS IN RELATION TO MASTER BUILDERS

A circular is being issued to members of the Institute and Chapter amending the wording of paragraph 2 of the Council's circular of September 2nd, 1939.

SUBMISSION OF ARCHITECTS' AND QUANTITY SURVEYORS' NAMES TO TRADE JOURNALS

A circular on this matter is also being addressed to members of the Institute and Chapter.

BAKER SCHOLARSHIP

The Council is considering, in conjunction with the Trustees, the administration and procedure of the Baker Scholarship in relation to future competitions.

THE SCALE OF FEES

The Council has under consideration the Scale of Fees for architectural and quantity surveying services (a) as to specific services rendered, and (b) from the point of view of effecting a closer collaboration between architect and quantity surveyor, in the interests of the building public.

The Council has decided to adopt the "quantum meruit" principle of assessing fees in cases of work abandoned at the preliminary stage (on the lines of the new R.I.B.A. procedure), details of which will be advised to members in due course; and accordingly to encourage clients and practitioners, where fee disputes occur, to refer the same to a specially selected Taxation Committee of the constituent body concerned.

" C L A U S E 3 (c) "

The Council is, on ministerial advice, completing its preparations for approaching Parliament for the amendment of the Act to include " Clause 3(c) " (i.e., to protect the work, as well as the title, of the architect and quantity surveyor). The final decision as to when to approach Parliament will be made in September, 1940.

T H E C A P E P R O V I N C I A L I N S T I T U T E O F A R C H I T E C T S A N N U A L G E N E R A L M E E T I N G

Minutes of the Forty-first Annual General Meeting of the Cape Provincial Institute of Architects, held in the Argus Board Room, Cape Town, on 12th March, 1940.

P R E S E N T

Messrs. L. A. Elsworth, Douglas Hoets, W. A. Ritchie-Fallon, H. J. Brownlee, W. W. Darroll, R. F. Ohlsson, H. L. Roberts, J. K. Parker, C. Wegerif, R. F. R. Day, C. A. Bowie, M. A. J. Langley, L. G. Cohen, G. Bromilow, B. Fraser, K. L. Kramer, R. H. Jones, H. A. P. Kent, M. Dembitzer, H. E. Twentyman Jones, S. R. Immelman, L. Marriott Earle, S. Chapman, J. Lonstein, A. L. Meiring, D. F. H. Naudé, L. W. Thornton White, F. L. Sturrock, H. C. Dashwood-Browne, R. E. de Smidt, and the Acting Secretary.

The President, Mr. Richard F. R. Day, occupied the Chair.

The Acting Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

O B I T U A R Y

Before proceeding with the business of the meeting the members, at the request of the Chairman, rose to their feet in token of respect to the memory of E. Osbourn, J. J. Niven, H. A. McQueen and E. Austin Cooke, who died during the year under review.

MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING

The Chairman proposed that as the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on 15th March, 1939, had been circulated to all members, they should be taken as read and signed. This was agreed to.

THE BALLOT

The Chairman at this stage of the meeting declared the ballot closed, and thereupon Messrs. Kent and Darroll were appointed scrutineers. The ballot papers having been dealt with in terms of the regulations, the scrutineers retired to count the votes.

PRESENTATION OF PRIZES

The Chairman presented the following prizes to architectural students of the University of Cape Town :—

The "C.P.I. Prize" of five guineas to Mr. L. G. Cohen for the best work done during the final year of the course; the "John Perry Prize" of five guineas being divided between Messrs. C. A. Bowie and A. J. M. Langley for the best work done during the third year of the course. The Chairman congratulated the prize-winners in suitable terms.

The winning entry for the 1939 C.P.I. Bronze Medal was announced as being the Police Station, Simonstown, designed by Messrs. Day, de Smidt and de Wet. Mr. Parker then presented the medal to the Chairman, Mr. Day, and congratulated his firm on their success. Mr. Day, on behalf of his firm, expressed his thanks for the medal and mentioned the valuable assistance rendered by his associates.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The Chairman, in proposing the adoption of the Report, said :

Gentlemen,

Before formally proposing the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts, I would like to take advantage of this occasion to say a few words.

This is our first annual general meeting for, I think, 15 years, that our Secretary, Major Duncan, has been absent, and I am sorry to say he has been ailing for some

little time. Despite his 71 years, he is an efficient executive official of your Institute. I would like to thank his able partner, Mr. McDowell, for acting for us in his absence, and our appreciation is the more real when we realise the added burdens of his accountancy practice. I'm sure we all miss Major Duncan and wish him a speedy recovery.

Your Committee, Gentlemen, have had a busy year, and the outbreak of war has most certainly not decreased their work.

The quantity rule has been extended from £2,500 to £3,000 on domestic work only; in other words, contractors will tender without quantities on these works. This increase was asked for in order to assist members and divert domestic work back to its legitimate competitive channels. This arrangement comes up for review by the quantity surveyors and the Master Builders' Association this year, and if members wish its continuance they must report the advantages enjoyed.

You have received circulars in connection with tendering under difficult war conditions, and I think we are to be congratulated on the stand taken by the whole of the Institute on behalf of the building public in obtaining firm priced competitive tenders. There are, of course, difficulties, but as yet they have not been found insurmountable, and the established form of contract remains unmodified. Contractors are asking for a certificate to cover materials reserved for specific works, and a discussion on this point would be welcomed.

Mr. W. J. Delbridge's happy suggestion that Mr. F. K. Kendall be elected a life member of the Institute of South African Architects, in appreciation of his many years' work on your councils and committees, had been unanimously adopted.

Your Committee and members of the Standing Committee of Education have not ceased in their efforts on behalf of the part-time students and have launched a bursary campaign. It is sincerely hoped that the provincial towns and municipalities without educational facilities will create bursaries for students who could not otherwise afford to attend a university. Members are asked to assist the Committee and

these students in this important matter, as it is our duty to see that every student has a thorough training, particularly in the final years of the course.

The absence of an efficient code of building regulations was proving costly to the public and a bane to architects. This matter has been referred to in the Annual Report, and I cannot over-emphasise its importance. Failing a satisfactory undertaking from the City Hall, your Committee intend taking the strongest line of action possible in the interests of the large building public and our members. Mr. Walgate, in seconding last year's Report, thought that I was optimistic in suggesting that these regulations would be completed early that year, and stated that they, Mr. Lightfoot and himself, had completed their report to the City Council and were awaiting the joint meeting to be called for its discussion. He was right. I may add, Gentlemen, they have now waited more than 18 months and, despite your Committee's endeavours over five years to obtain new regulations, the City Council maintained its intransigent attitude, and the existing state of affairs has become impossible. Why, only the other day plans were returned to an architect because the ground floor construction had to resist a live load of 112 lbs., whereas another department only required sufficient strength on the first floor of the same building for the same use to resist a load of 80 lbs.

No reasonable excuses existed for continued delays in promulgating these regulations. It is true that the Town Planning Department is behind its schedule, but this did not affect the general building regulations, and in the few cases that might be affected temporary provision could be made. Plans have still to go before a lay committee of Councillors, whether in accordance with the obsolete regulations or not—a responsibility which ought to be borne only by the technical staffs concerned.

I am pleased to report that the very cordial relations with the Central Council and other Provincial bodies established by previous delegates continues.

Our old friend Clause 3c is still receiving every attention, and we sincerely hope that every possible effort will be made to approach Parliament at its next session,

in order to effect its inclusion in the Act at the unanimous desire of the whole Institute. It will be readily appreciated that the onus for convincing the public and Parliament of the necessity for this protection rests with every member individually, as well as with the Institute's executive. Members' personal efforts to render good service to the building public was the best and strongest propaganda. Without the properly trained architect the whole competitive system of building must collapse, for he is the only trained specialist capable of producing the documents on which the competitive tenders are based, and as long as competition is the life blood of commerce no other system can be considered as a "water-tight contract." Most of the articles appearing in the Press and technical journals on the subject of propaganda are due to the direct efforts of your Committee, and the campaign will proceed on similar lines. On behalf of the Committee I must thank the technical journals for what they have done, with particular reference to "The South African Architect," which, I hope, will receive the support of our members.

The vital importance of settling disputes regarding fees with the minimum of publicity will be realised, and your Institute is at all times prepared to render every assistance. Whilst the human element exists, occasional disputes are unavoidable, but they must be reduced to an absolute minimum by the services rendered to the building public. I may add that the Institute has been successful in settling a number of disputes during the year.

The work of the incoming Committee will be increased during the ensuing year, and they will no doubt be handicapped by the absence of several members on defence duties, but I sincerely hope that they will put in as much thought and work as your last Committee, and I wish to take this opportunity of thanking them for all their assistance.

I wish to thank, too, Mr. Owen Eaton and Mr. Lightfoot for their very able work on your behalf on the Central Council, at which a number of very important questions have been dealt with, of which, unfortunately, time does not permit a detailed

description.

In conclusion, I have much pleasure in moving the adoption of the 1939 Report and Accounts.

Mr. Kent, in seconding the adoption of the Report and Accounts, said :

On behalf of the general body of members, I wish to thank you, Mr. President, and the Committee for the excellent work done during a difficult year. In your address you referred to the bursary question. I feel that we should not aim at full-time bursaries, but rather try to make provision to enable the student to attend part-time courses at the University while working in an architect's office in Cape Town. Regarding propaganda, I think that objective articles submitted weekly by a recognised architectural correspondent would be preferable to the present sentimental "write-ups" on the building page, which did the Institute no good. Members should be urged to support the new technical journals and bureaux as mentioned in the Presidential address.

With these few words I have pleasure in seconding the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts.

ADOPTION OF REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

There being no amendment, the Chairman declared the adoption of the Report and Accounts to be carried.

TENDERING FOR CONTRACTS UNDER WAR CONDITIONS

The Chairman invited a free discussion from the members present on the subject of tendering under war conditions for the guidance of the incoming Committee. Mr. Fallon mentioned that the building industry should be prepared for a shortage of timber in this country in view of the fact that in the United Kingdom the Government had seized timber and refused to liberate supplies. He suggested that the Union Forestry Department might carry out research work with regard to the fitness of indigenous timber for South African conditions.

It was the feeling of the members present that they agreed in principle with the payment to contractors for material received and stored, provided that the sub-contractors passed on an insurance policy giving full cover—all cases, of course, being left to the individual discretion of the member concerned.

DELAYS IN THE PASSING OF PLANS

This matter, being connected with the delay in the promulgation of the new Building Regulations, the Chairman, at the request of Mr. Roberts, gave a resumé of the work done during the year by the Committee. He stated that the City Engineer had been approached on a number of occasions and that the Committee had received several encouraging reports, but were nevertheless no nearer receipt of these long promised regulations.

The patience of the Committee had been exhausted, and should the new regulations not be produced within the near future, they proposed taking the matter further, even at the risk of antagonising the responsible officials concerned. The Council's Building Committee consisted of five laymen to whose dictation architects were being forced to submit. In all matters relating to Building Regulations, Johannesburg's system was incomparably better than Cape Town's. In Johannesburg all plans were handled and approved by the technical staff. In Cape Town, even when plans were in accordance with the archaic Building Regulations, they still had to go before the Council. Mr. Lonstein suggested that resolutions passed by the City Council and which became bye-laws should be made available to all members.

The question of plans submitted by "owner architects" was then discussed. Mr. Roberts proposed, and Mr. Immelman seconded, that the Annual General Meeting request the incoming Committee to obtain legal opinion where the "owner architect" is not the actual designer, but signs the documents as such. Mr. Roberts suggested that, should this be illegal, and "owner architects" be compelled to lodge an affidavit, work lost to the profession might revert back to its legitimate channels. Several members then quoted their experiences in the unnecessary delays

they had been subjected to in obtaining approval of plans. For the information of the members present, Mr. Parker said that through the efforts of Mr. Day and the Vigilance Committee it was discovered that some of the plans for private owners, approved of by the City Hall, had been prepared by Municipal employees. Specific cases had been reported by the Committee, and an undertaking had been obtained that this practice would be discontinued and the Municipal staff members penalised. He then moved that a vote of thanks and congratulations to the Vigilance Committee be recorded for their excellent work.

EDUCATION

Professor L. W. Thornton White, at the request of the Chairman, gave a brief summary of the position at the University. He said that there had been a tremendous influx of students. They had enrolled 33 students for the present year as compared with six or eight in past years. Twenty-seven of the new students had come from the northern part of the Union, the Rhodesias and from England.

At present they had a nucleus staff of three full-time and five part-time lecturers. In addition they were aiming at a total of 30 visiting specialists dealing with the whole range of building materials and building equipment. He extended an open invitation to members of the profession to attend these specialist afternoon lectures. On the suggestion of the Chairman he said that he would arrange to furnish the Institute from time to time with lists of lectures to be held.

A part-time course was in preparation, but unfortunately evening lectures were not possible owing to financial reasons.

The School of Architecture had been invited by the Building Centre to make use of their exhibition room. Members were invited to attend these exhibitions, and any constructive criticisms would be very helpful.

Mr. Bromilow moved that a message of sympathy be sent to Major Duncan with the meeting's best wishes for a speedy recovery.

AUDITOR

Mr. A. V. Solomon, Chartered Accountant (S.A.), was appointed auditor for the ensuing year.

Votes of thanks to the scrutineers for their services, and to the Chairman, were proposed and carried. Special tribute on behalf of the members was paid to the Chairman, Mr. Day, for his excellent services on the Central Council as President-in-Chief.

IMPERIAL AIRWAYS NEW BUILDING

HEADQUARTERS FOR BRITISH AIR TRANSPORT

Imperial Airways' new building in Buckingham Palace Road, Victoria—"Airways House"—was opened on June 5, 1939. From that date the operation of all air journeys by the Company's services, both on the European and Empire routes, was transferred to the new terminal, which is also the point of arrival and departure for a number of other European air lines.

With the rapid expansion of air travel, the Imperial Airways undertaking during the past few years has been growing at a tremendous rate. Few other organisations have rapidly overflowed successive premises so rapidly as this Company has done, and for some time past operations have been carried on not only from the main establishments, but from a number of outlying premises.

Now administration and operations have been centralised in a building of befitting size and modernity. Although planned with a simplicity that facilitates smooth and brisk working, the new air terminal is architecturally distinctive, and undoubtedly constitutes another imposing London landmark. With its curved facade, 34 ft. square tower rising 175 ft. above the pavement, and fine group of statuary outside the main entrance, the new building has many outstanding features of interest.

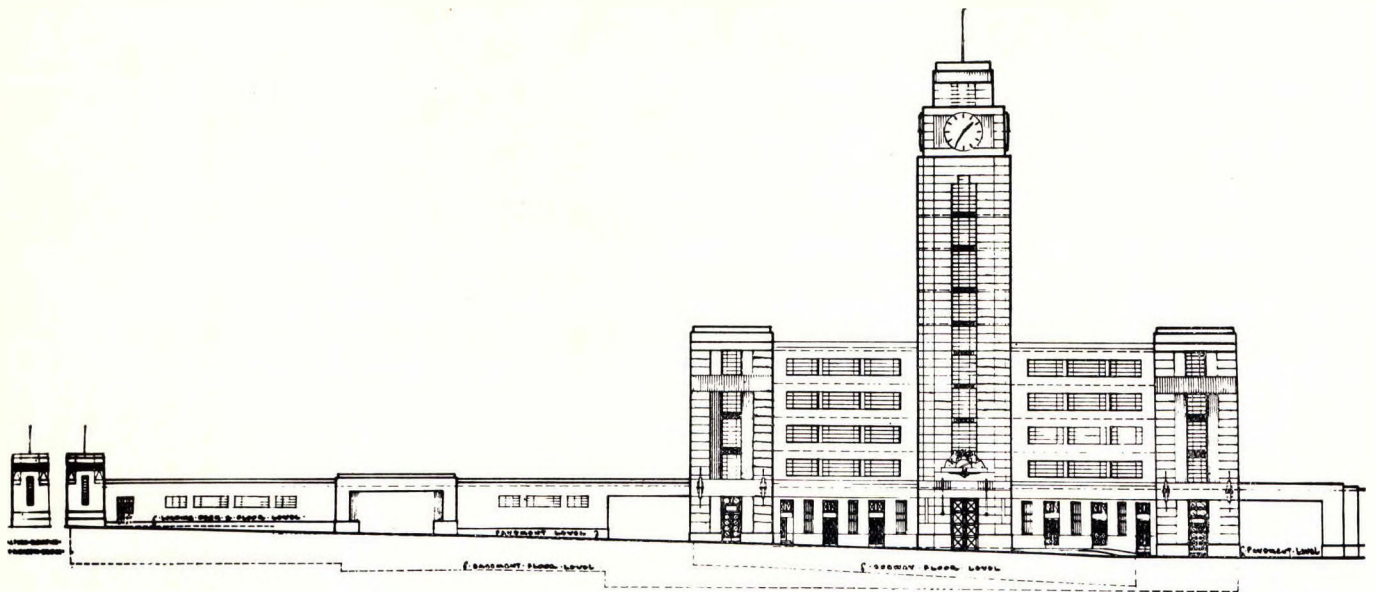
The architect is Mr. Albert Lakeman, L.R.I.B.A., who has been assisted by Mr. Walter H. Williams, L.R.I.B.A., the assistant architect to Imperial Airways.

S I T E

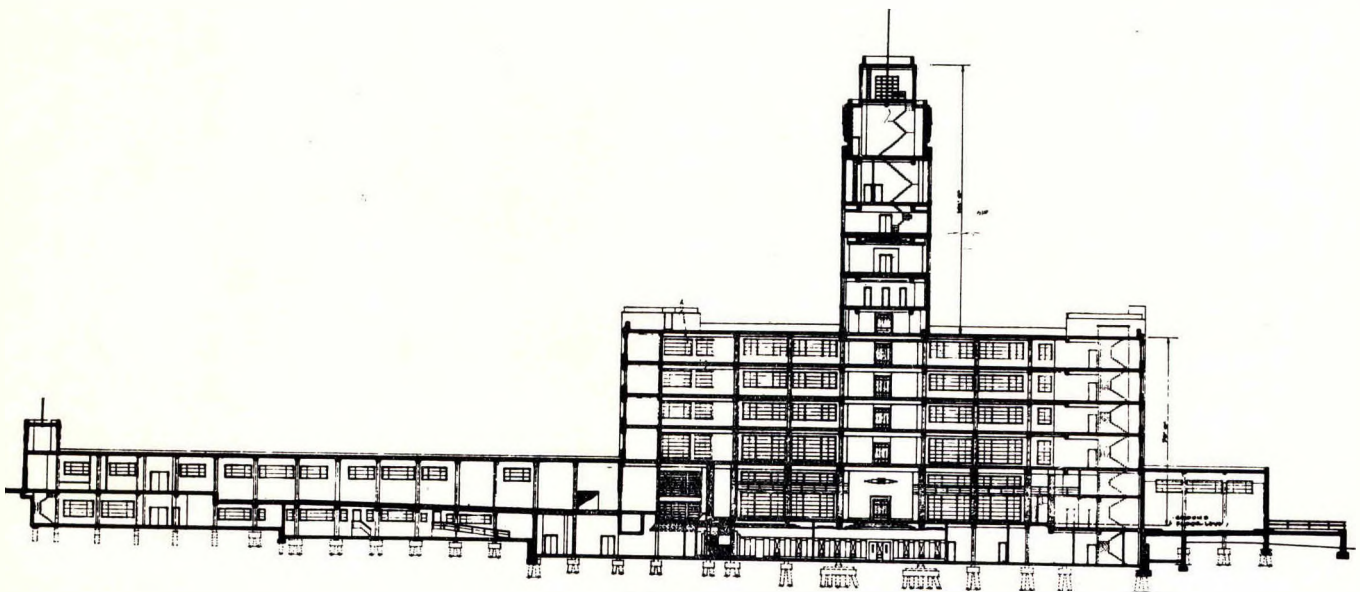
The site was chosen primarily because of its central position and direct access to platform No. 17, Victoria Station, which enables Empire passengers to board trains at the rear of the building running direct to Southampton, I—I the flying-boat base.

The area occupied by the building is wedge-shaped, the narrow end of the wedge being at the corner of Elizabeth Bridge and Buckingham Palace Road. It has a frontage of some 14 ft. to Elizabeth Bridge, and extends down to the east side of Buckingham Palace Road for a distance of 487 ft. For 248 ft. of this frontage, however, the building has a total depth of 80 ft.

It is of interest that the site of the building was once occupied by wharves and buildings on the banks

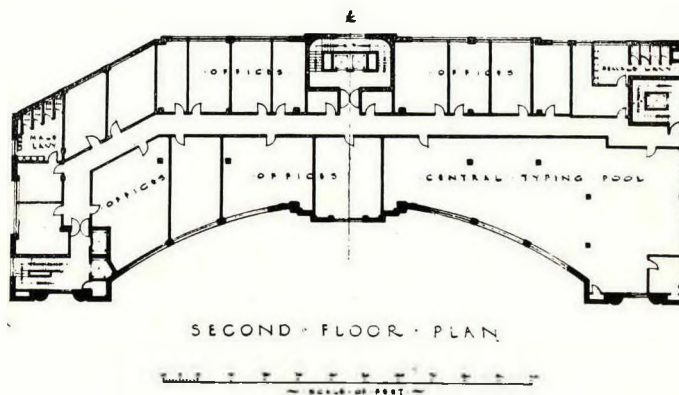
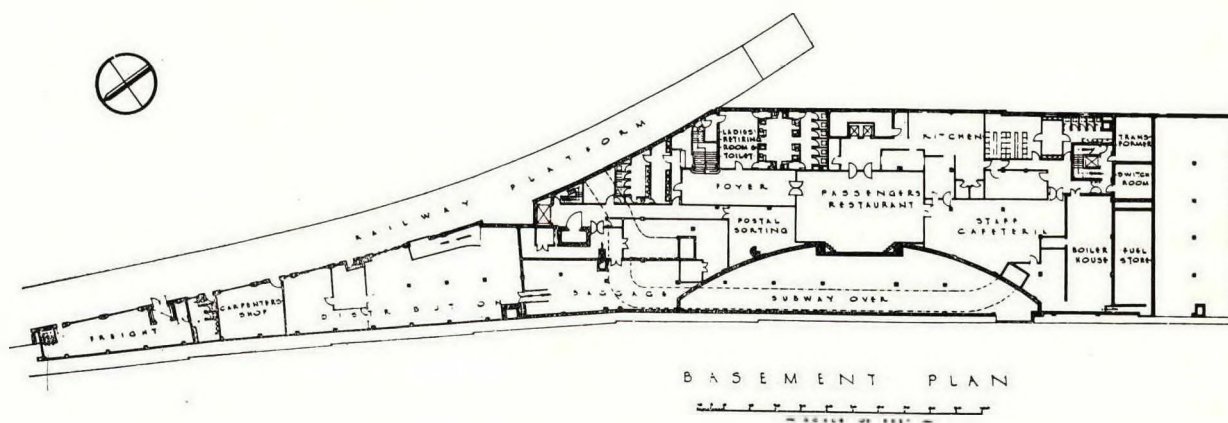
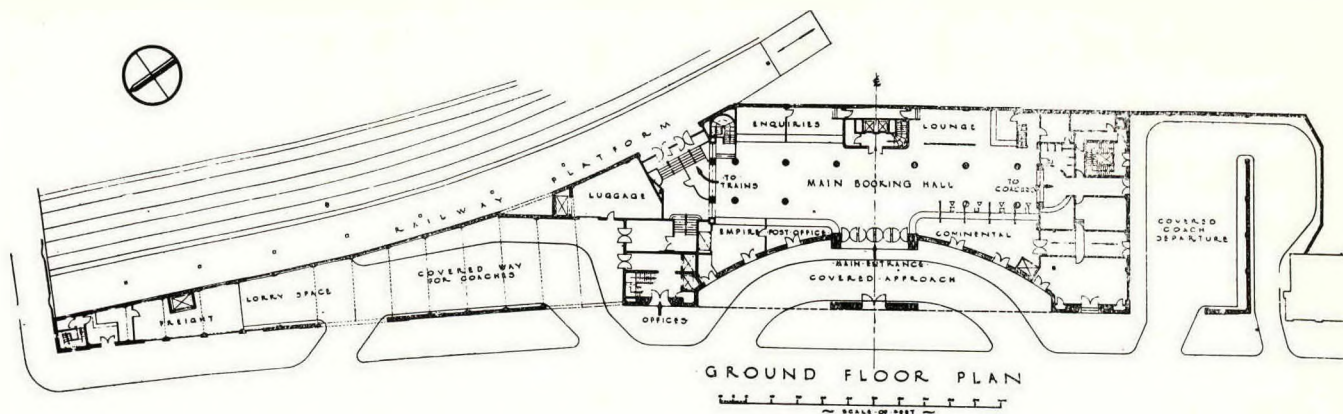


ELEVATION TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE ROAD



LONGITUDINAL SECTION

1/16" = 1' 0"



of the Grosvenor Canal, the corner of which actually came within the confines of the site.

The rear of the site is bounded by an apparently tangled skein of Southern Railway lines, broadening rapidly to make the wide expanse of Victoria Station. One strand of the skein runs directly alongside. This is platform No. 17, and to embark here passengers need only walk through the booking hall and down several steps directly on to the platform.

P L A N N I N G

In planning the building, particular attention was paid to the desirability of keeping the vehicles using the premises—coaches, taxis and private cars—off the main thoroughfare. As a result, the curved covered approach to the main building enables vehicles to load and unload their occupants well within the frontage line of the terminal, and also provides cover in inclement weather. This in turn influenced the design, and led to the curved facade between the north-west and south-west pavilions.

Ample accommodation is available for arrival or departure coaches by the provision of covered approach roads at the north and south ends of the building respectively. In addition, there is a taxi rank in the covered way at the north end, which is controlled by "Taxi" indicators operated by bells inside the booking hall.

The upper floors are planned to give efficient natural lighting and air circulation, and the offices are placed on each side of a central corridor connecting the three staircase blocks. A large telephone extension has been provided on the third floor, which has 10 switchboards and 500 extensions, and constitutes one of the largest private installations in London.

Easy handling of a large number of passengers at any one time is the principle which has governed the planning of the main booking hall. Passengers departing by coach for Croydon Airport will proceed out of the south end to the covered coach departure station, and those going by train to Southampton for the Empire services will leave by the special trains run by the Southern Railway from the north end which adjoins No. 17 platform.

The bustle and noise usually associated with the portering of luggage will be eliminated by reason of the fact that passengers' baggage will be taken from the booking hall by electrically operated hoists through a subway immediately underneath and transported by electric trucks to the railway platform.

Six teak-panelled telephone kiosks are provided at the south end of the booking hall, immediately

opposite which are a tobacco kiosk and bookstall.

Particularly noteworthy is the arrangement of the entrance to the offices occupying the four upper floors. This entrance leads direct from Buckingham Palace Road, where a foyer in the north-west pavilion gives access to the staircase and passenger lifts serving the upper floors. In addition a secondary staircase with lift for use of the staff is placed at the south end of the building, and is approached from the covered coach departure station. This arrangement means, in effect, that the offices are kept totally separate from that portion of the building used by passengers.

There is, however, a central staircase block having two passenger lifts and leading direct to the main booking hall, which enables members of the public having business with the office section of the building to have access to the upper floors. This staircase and the lifts also serve the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth floors in the tower, and it is interesting to note that they are housed in a subsidiary tower, connected at each floor level with the main tower, thereby enabling the complete area of the tower at each floor level to be utilised as effective floor space.

The conference room, Board room, and directors' luncheon room are on the sixth, seventh and eighth floors respectively; the ninth and tenth floors are occupied by the tank room and clock chamber, while the eleventh floor is the wireless apparatus room. There are four clock faces, each 14 ft. in diameter. Passengers have been provided with very generous accommodation in the basement. A staircase at the north-east corner of the main booking hall leads direct to a spacious foyer giving access to passengers' toilets. The lady passengers have a very comfortable retiring room and lavatory accommodation. The latter is planned uniquely, as there are six cubicles, each one self-contained, complete with lavatory, basin, dressing table and full length mirrors.

Leading from the foyer is a lounge buffet, with accommodation for about 60 persons. Large kitchens are provided for supplying the buffet and staff cafeteria.

There is a fully equipped first-aid room with male and female rest rooms adjoining, at the north end of the first floor, and this section will be under the personal control of the matron.

The boiler house, ventilating plant, electric switch room, transformer house, etc., are all housed in the basement at the south-west end of the building, while the north end is requisitioned for freight, mails and baggage.

C O N S T R U C T I O N

The provision of suitable foundations for this building proved a problem, as owing to the main and subsidiary towers, a heavily concentrated load came over a very small area of the site. After exhaustive investigation, including the sinking of a number of trial holes and test piles, it was ultimately decided to carry the whole of the two-storey portion of the north end, which extends 225 ft. from Elizabeth Bridge to the main building, together with the single-storey portion at the south end, upon a pile foundation. Reinforced concrete foundations, however, were designed to take the heavier loads of the main building, the main and subsidiary towers being carried on a reinforced concrete raft 82 ft. overall, north to south, and 63 ft. east to west. The under-side of the raft was taken down to the sand formation some 23 ft. below the pavement level of Buckingham Palace Road.

Some idea of the size of this raft is given when it is stated that it carries a total load of over 5,000 tons, and that certain of the main beams, 8ft. 6 ins. wide and 5 ft. deep, were heavily reinforced with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter steel rods. There is a total weight of over 112 tons of steel rods in the whole of the raft.

The building is of steel-framed construction, the outer walls being formed with brickwork. The main facades to Buckingham Palace Road and return facade facing Elizabeth Bridge, as also the four sides of the main and subsidiary towers, are faced with Portland Stone. The rear facade and that confronting Ebury Bridge are faced with selected stocks.

Internal partitions generally are in hollow blocks, finished with plaster on both sides. Floors are of hollow tile construction, with the exception of the first floor and all the staircases, which are constructed of reinforced concrete. The flat roofs are also of hollow tile construction, insulated with two inches of cork and covered with patent roofing. Metal sashes are used throughout, and the external window sills are all lead covered. The internal sills, in all cases except in panelled rooms, are formed with pressed steel.

I N T E R I O R F I N I S H I N G

The main booking hall, which is 20 ft. in height, and has a mezzanine gallery on the rear wall running north and south of the main staircase enclosure, is panelled throughout with Canadian figured birch having horizontal bands at dado and mezzanine gallery level formed with African zebrano. The

architraves, surrounds to the doors and central clock feature are in Burmese teak.

Very imposing are the fluted columns, 3 ft. in diameter, which are also in teak with ebonised base. The latter continues round the rest of the panelling as a skirting. The counters in the booking hall are all constructed of similar material, and blend harmoniously with the general scheme. Passenger scales are incorporated in the counter fronts, the actual platforms being sunk level with the floor.

The balustrade of the mezzanine gallery, together with the handrail of the stairs leading to this gallery and also to platform No. 17, are in iron-cellulose bronze with solid bronze handrail.

Booking hall floors and all the upper floors and staircases have been laid with rubber. The public rooms in the basement, as well as the staff canteen, have been laid with "Gurgun" wood blocks. The main and staff staircases have been panelled dado height with Australian walnut, and are plastered above. Surrounds to lift openings are in similar walnut. A bronze handrail on wrought iron balustrade, finished in cellulose bronze, has been provided on the staff staircase, while the lift cages for the staff and main staircases are panelled in figured walnut.

Panelling 8 ft. high with Australian walnut interspersed with mirrors, decorates the foyer and passenger lounge buffet in the basement. The ladies' retiring room is panelled with sycamore and cherry mahogany, having a mirror surround to the door leading to the toilets, and a corresponding mirror feature immediately opposite the latter.

Each of the six cubicles forming the lady passengers' toilets is panelled in sycamore and cherry mahogany, and has a small dressing table and full length corner mirror on one side, with washbasin and mirror with vitrolite and vitroflex surrounds fitted on the opposite side. The whole is enclosed with delicate shaded curtains giving complete privacy.

The Board room on the seventh floor is about 30 ft. square, and is panelled full height with English curled walnut panelling, the corners being curved on plan, while the directors' luncheon room on the eighth floor is similarly panelled.

The Chairman's room is decorated in fibrous plaster carried out in typical Georgian period style, and the Deputy Chairman's room is panelled full height with unpolished mahogany.

Panelling 7ft. 6 ins. high in English ash decorates the conference room on the sixth floor and also eight of the senior administration offices on the remaining floors. The general offices are plastered throughout

and finished in distemper and paint, with cream and brown as the colour scheme.

Lavatories are tiled 7 ft. high and plastered and painted above, while the floors are laid with patent jointless Latex flooring.

S E R V I C E S

Panel heating is installed throughout the building, while in the basement—foyer, buffet-lounge, kitchen, etc.—there is a system of artificial ventilation. An ejector plant has been provided in the basement to deal with a considerable portion of the drainage owing to being unable to connect direct with sewer on account of different levels. Electric and telephone cables have been run in floor conduits with access traps at convenient intervals.

The booking hall and other parts of the building in use by the public are illuminated by indirect lighting, while very efficient direct lighting is installed in the general offices and elsewhere. Microphones have been provided at certain control points, and connected to loud-speakers distributed in the public parts of the building. This ensures direct and instant notification to passengers of departure or arrival times of trains, coaches, etc.

The clocks throughout are electro-operated from a master clock in the Station Superintendent's office.

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