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South African Architectural Record: Journal of the Transvaal, Natal and Orange Free State Provincial Institutes of South African Architects and the Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors

1938

Institutes of South African Architects and the Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors

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Rex Martienssen

Secretary A. S. Pearse

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THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

The Journal of the Transvaal, Natal and Orange Free State Provincial Institutes of South African Architects and the Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors.

202, Kelvin House, 75 Marshall Street, Johannesburg. Telephone 33—1936.

Volume Twenty Two Number Three, March Nineteen Hundred and Thirty Eight



J O H A N N E S B U R G

A view from the University ● Milner Park

THE BERNARD PRICE INSTITUTE OF GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH. UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

● PROGRAMME.

The Institute has been founded as a result of two gifts to the University, one by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the other by Dr. Bernard Price, and is pursuing research work in the field of geophysics which involves physical investigations relative to the earth and its atmosphere. This field covers such diverse branches of science as meteorology, radio, the constitution and behaviour of the upper air, the structure of the earth's crust, earthquakes, lightning and atmospheric electricity and cosmic rays.

The main object of the Institute is to provide a properly staffed and suitably equipped centre for the study of these subjects within the African continent. Before describing the building itself, a brief survey of the research work at present in progress may be of interest.

Wireless Atmospherics.

Africa is the chief source of the atmospherics of the world. The Institute is engaged in charting the places from which these atmospherics emanate and in determining their strength and nature. Instruments of such sensitivity have been installed that storms as far distant as 4,000 miles can be accurately located. This work is of practical importance in meteorology since the instruments detect stormy weather at sea and in other places where no meteorological reports are available. The value of this type of work in relation to such undertakings as the operation of aircraft is obvious since it is possible to warn aviators of the presence of thunderstorms along the route to be covered. Furthermore, the study of atmospherics and their possible elimination is of great value to radio communication.

Lightning.

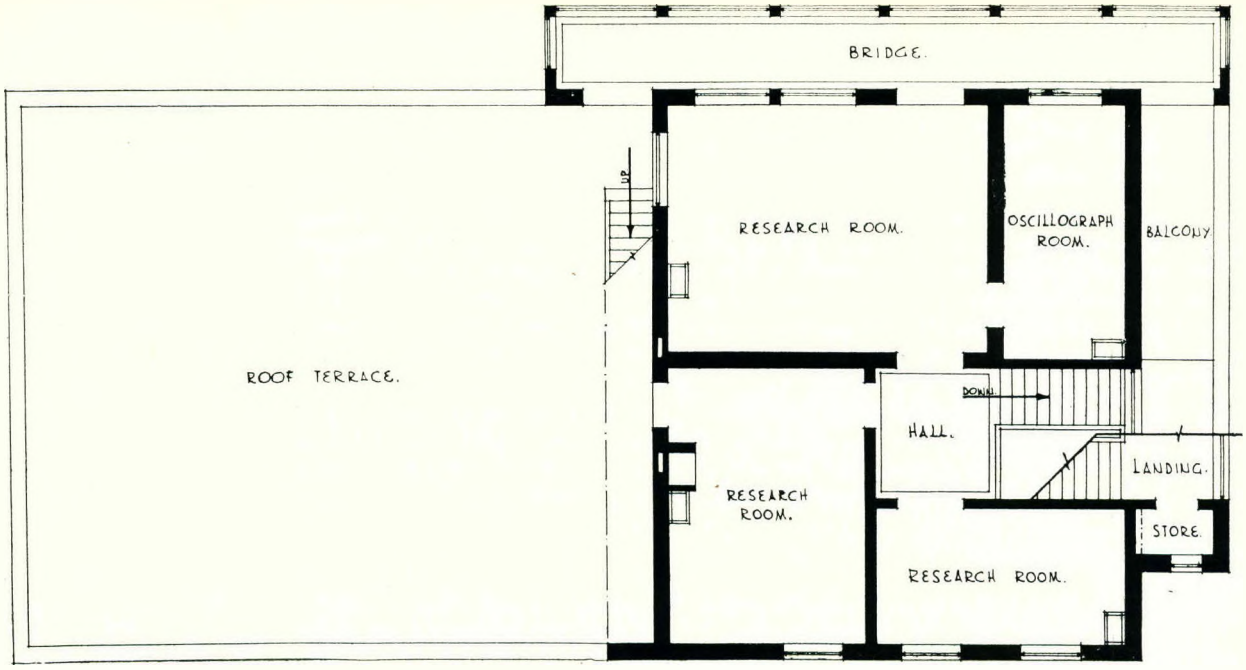
In the course of its studies into the nature and properties of lightning the Institute has invented lightning cameras which are the fastest ever made and which enable photographs of lightning to be taken in daylight. A special device is fitted which allows the lightning flash itself to operate the shutter of the camera, so that fogging by daylight is reduced to negligible proportions.

The Rand Earth Tremor.

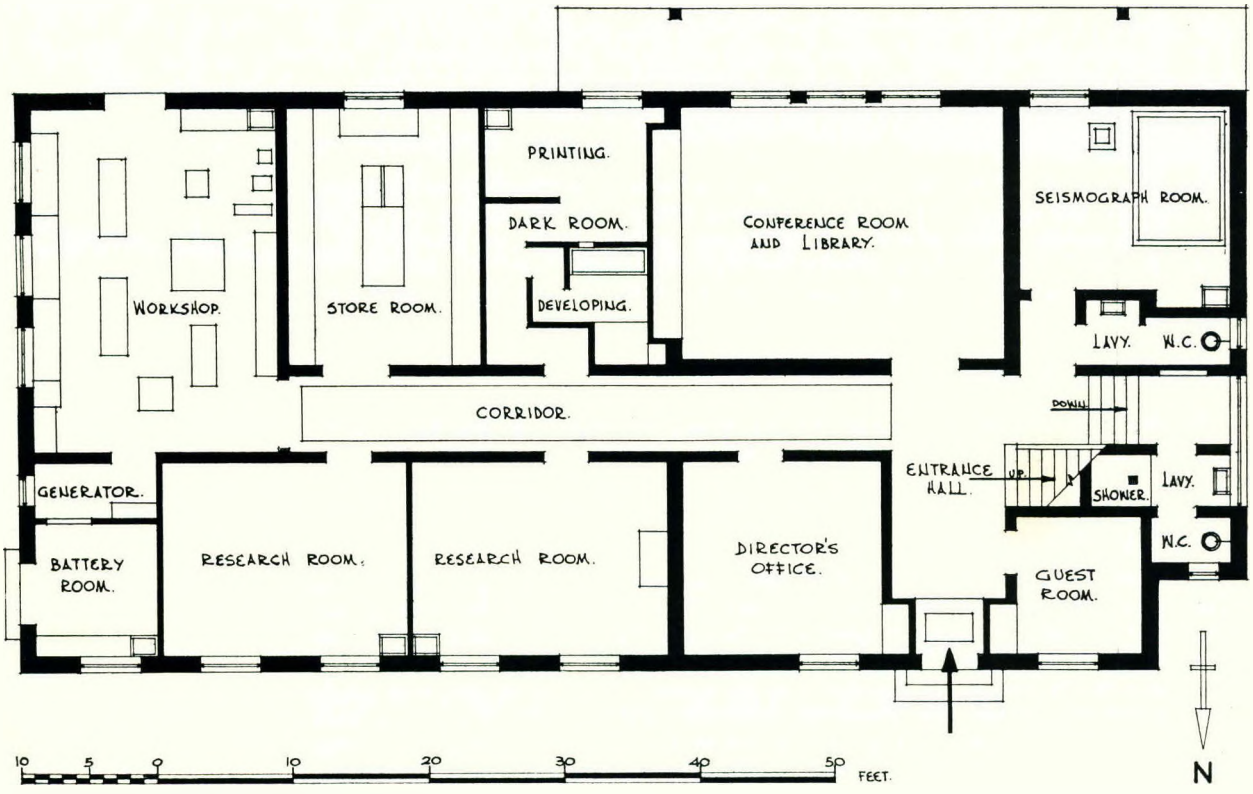
Equipment is being prepared for an intensive study of the Rand earth tremor, and special seismographs are being designed and tested for this purpose.

● SOLUTION.

The building housing the Institute was erected during 1937 on an eminence in the south-west corner of the University grounds, and is one of the most modern research laboratories in existence. It was planned by the architects in collaboration with the Director after consultation with authorities on laboratory design in Europe and America. Provision has been made to accommodate about ten research workers and the building has been designed to allow of extensions should additional space be required. The orientation of some of the rooms was a very important factor in the planning of the building.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Associated Architects: Messrs. F. Williamson & N. T. Cowin



NORTH ELEVATION

The following rooms are located on the ground floor : A workshop, facing east, equipped with all the precision instruments necessary for the construction and maintenance of research apparatus. A work bench is provided along practically the whole length of the east wall, and other storage space is provided in the form of shelving and cupboards, while the machine lines occupy the centre of the floor. Access to this room is obtained from the corridor, while a door on the south side provides a service entrance for heavy material.

Opening off the workshop is a small generator room, in which is located the generator for charging the batteries.

The battery room is situated next to the generator rooms, but completely separated from it. A switchboard is provided on the dividing wall between these two rooms. The battery room is entirely isolated from the remainder of the building, the only access to it being an external door on the east side. This has been done in order to prevent sulphuric acid fumes from filtering into the other rooms. Metal has been used only where absolutely necessary in this room in order to insure against acid corrosion, and the floor is graded towards the door so that in the event of any accident the floor can be immediately flooded with water, thus reducing the possibility of damage by acid to a minimum.

Adjacent to the workshop, a storeroom is provided with large cupboards, for the storage of equipment, lining both sides of the room.

The dark room, one of the most important rooms in the building, is divided into two main compartments. By planning this room in the manner shown in the plan, very satisfactory conditions prevail. Doors are unnecessary, as entrance is obtained through a light proof maze, the walls and ceiling of which are painted black so as to prevent any reflection of light. Only one pane of the printing room window is glazed, and this with photographically correct ruby glass. The remaining panes are " glazed "



DETAIL OF THE STAIRCASE

with 18 gauge sheet metal. Efficient ventilation of this room is achieved by providing a duct between the built-in fitting and the ceiling in the library. This duct, which also extracts air from the library, is led into a vertical vent shaft at one end, and this shaft also extracts the air from a drying cupboard located in a recess of the developing room. In addition to this extract duct special light proof ventilators are situated in the corridor wall of the dark room.

The library and conference room is provided with a large built-in cupboard and bookshelf, as well as a blackboard, epidiascope and screen, and Board room table. This room is used for meetings and also for advanced teaching.

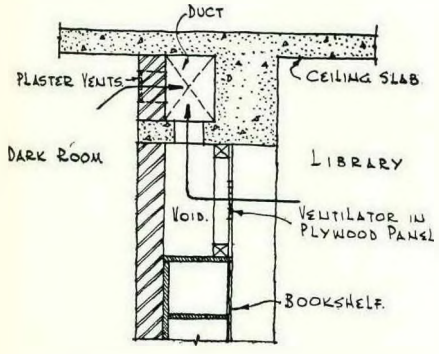
The guest room provides accommodation for visiting research workers from other centres, to enable them to live in the Institute while doing their work. A further amenity is the provision of a shower with hot and cold water, as part of the men's lavatory.

Two large rooms for general research and the director's office are provided on the north side of the building.

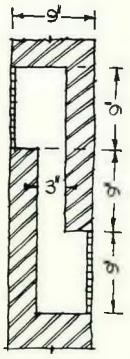
The seismograph room is similar to other research rooms, with the exception that portion of the floor slab and a concrete pillar 3ft. in height are completely isolated from the remainder of the floor in order that instruments mounted in these positions will not be affected by vibrations of a local nature. Both the pillar and the slab are built directly on rock, entirely separate from the other foundations of the building.

Accommodation on first floor is as follows : Two research rooms, facing north, particularly suited to radio research; the larger of these rooms is also fitted with a fume-cupboard ventilated by a vertical stack in the thickness of the 14in. external wall.

A large research and instrument room, situated on the south side, is somewhat higher than the remainder of the rooms on first floor and is covered by a flat boarded roof, while the whole of the remainder of the building is covered by flat concrete roofs. A wooden roof was used over this room in order to facilitate raising it should this prove necessary. It is possible that at some future date tall high-frequency apparatus may be accommodated in this room.



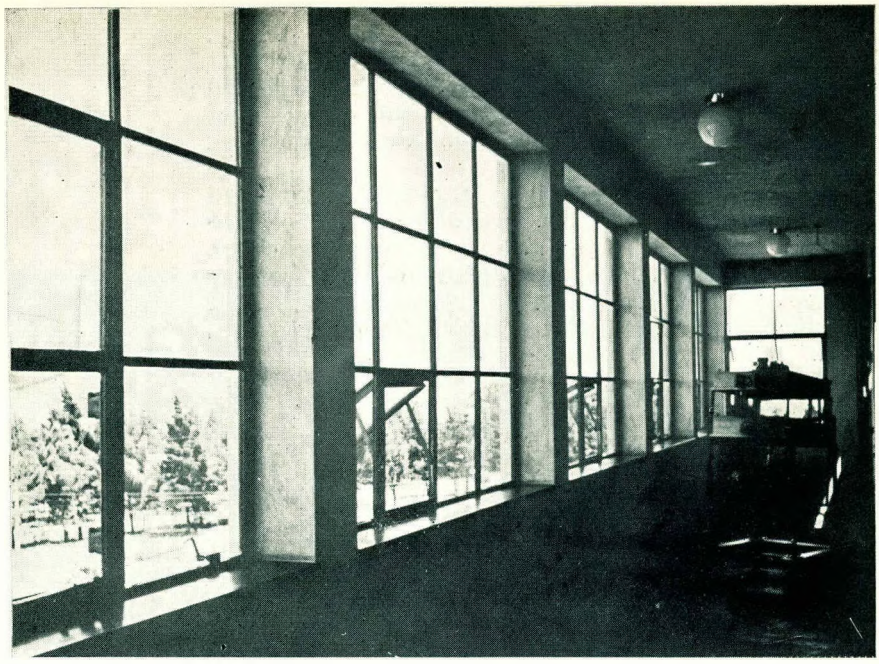
VENTILATION DETAIL OF LIBRARY AND DARK ROOM.



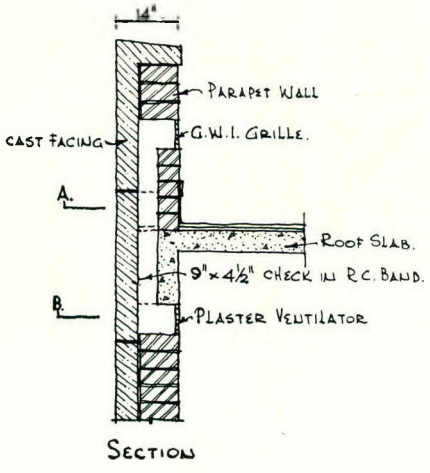
PLAN OF CRANKED VENTILATOR.



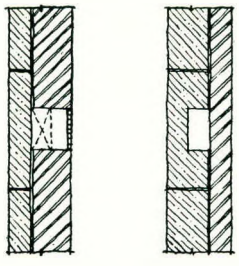
THE CONFERENCE ROOM AND LIBRARY



THE BRIDGE ● Showing the camera used for photography of lightning

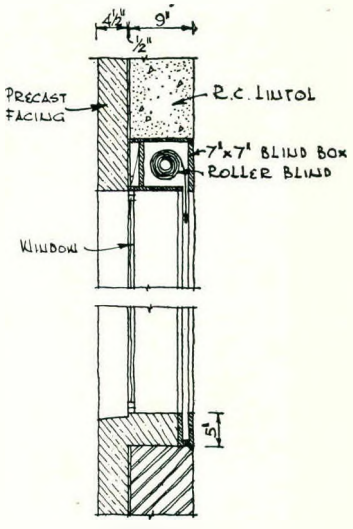


SECTION



PLAN AT B PLAN AT A.

DETAIL OF RESEARCH ROOM VENTILATOR.



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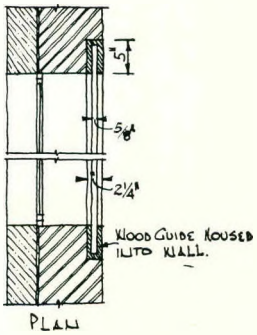


PLAN

DETAIL OF BOXES FOR LIGHTPROOF BLINDS

The oscillograph room has been primarily designed to house the cathode ray oscillograph equipment and other sensitive instruments necessary for lightning and atmospheric investigation.

The bridge, so named owing to its similarity to the bridge of a ship, has been designed for the observation and photography of lightning. It contains large windows on three sides and has been so orientated as to simplify observation of storms, the majority of which, in this region, approach from the south and south-west. At the same time observation of storms at other points of the compass is adequately provided for. A door at the east end of the bridge opens on to the roof terrace, while one at the west gives access to a balcony on the west side of the building. In order to provide an unobstructed view to the north from this balcony, the ceiling over the half landing of the main stair is kept at a low level. At the same time the landing does not suffer adversely, for ample head room is provided. As a result a view of almost 360° is obtained from the bridge.

A concrete stair connects the first floor terrace to that over the first floor. These two terraces provide large areas for various open-air experiments and solar and atmospheric observations.

The drainage of this building is somewhat complicated owing to the fact that each research room, as well as the workshop and battery room, are fitted with a sink, while both the developing and printing sections of the dark room are similarly equipped. All research rooms and the workshop are also provided with gas.

Metal windows have been used throughout the building and are of the hopper type, opening in two portions. With this type of window efficient ventilation is assured; unpleasant draughts at body level are avoided through deflection of the air upwards. Windows opening on to the bridge are of the ordinary casement type, while four of the bridge windows themselves have special opening portions in three sections, comprising two side hung casements and a top hung section all opening out, thus facilitating photography during storms.

The windows of all research rooms are fitted with pegamoid light proof roller blinds housed in wooden boxes, thus allowing any room to be completely darkened at will. In order that no light should enter a room from other sources when the blinds are drawn, air bricks in the walls are cranked in such a manner as to prevent the passage or reflection of light, while their function as ventilators is unimpaired. These cranked ventilators are of two types. Those in corridor walls are cranked horizontally, while those in outside walls are cranked vertically. It the latter type a short duct is run from the air bricks in the room vertically through the wall at ceiling level and the outlet is located in the parapet wall of the roof above. By this means ventilators in the precast concrete facing are avoided.

Hot water is supplied to both lavatories and the workshop sink from electric heaters located respectively in women's lavatory and workshop.

To allow for any temporary wiring that may be required, each research room is provided with $2\frac{1}{2}$in. x $\frac{3}{4}$in. wood battens fixed to walls and ceilings at approximately 4ft. centres, thus enabling screws and cleats to be fixed in any required position.

All research rooms are linked to the battery room, from which a low tension direct current supply is derived. In addition, any two research rooms may be temporarily connected electrically. The wiring for these purposes is carried on short battens on room walls near the ceiling and through sleeves in the walls as well as pipes in the floors. In spite of the complexity of such a system of wiring, it has been designed so as to be in no way unsightly. In the halls, corridors and private rooms no wires are visible.

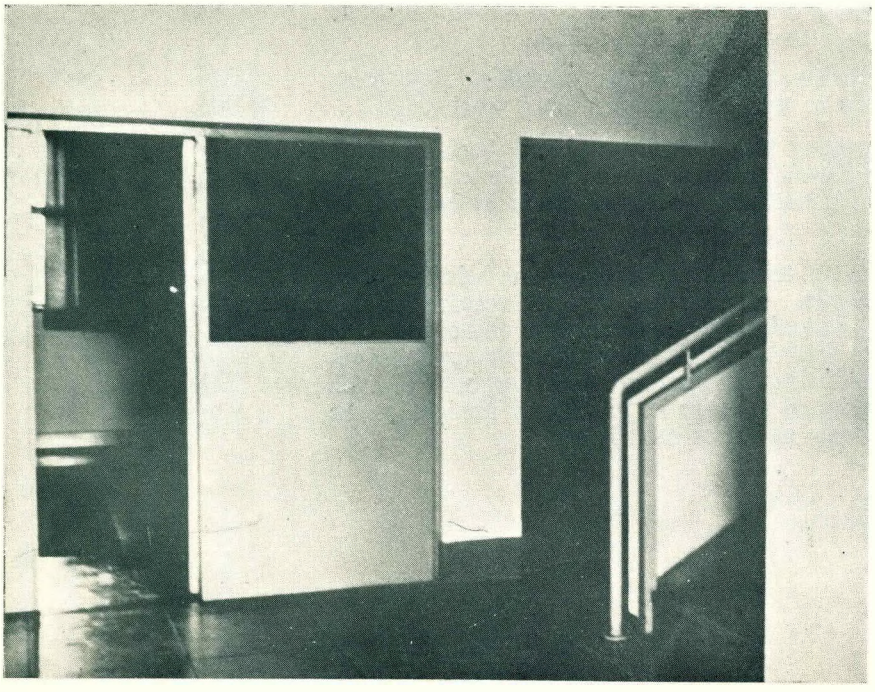
One of the minor problems that had to be faced in the design of the building was the protection of sensitive radio instruments from the magnetic effects of reinforcement in slabs and beams. As a result it was deemed advisable to earth electrically all reinforcements before the concrete was poured.

At each corner of the flat roofs short lengths of 2½in. wrought iron piping have been built into the parapet wall to serve as sockets for aerial masts, thus making a variety of aerial systems available. Two of these sockets are connected directly to earth, so that when the masts are in position adequate protection against lightning is provided. In the ceiling of each room devoted to radio research a 2in. pipe has been cast in the slab. A threaded brass rod is centred in this pipe and packed round with a resinous insulating material. To the top of the rod a metal cowl is fitted to make the whole fitting weather-proof. The aerial lead-in wire is also attached to this point, and the bottom of the rod is connected to the instrument room. By this means the lead-in wire from an aerial is made as direct as possible.

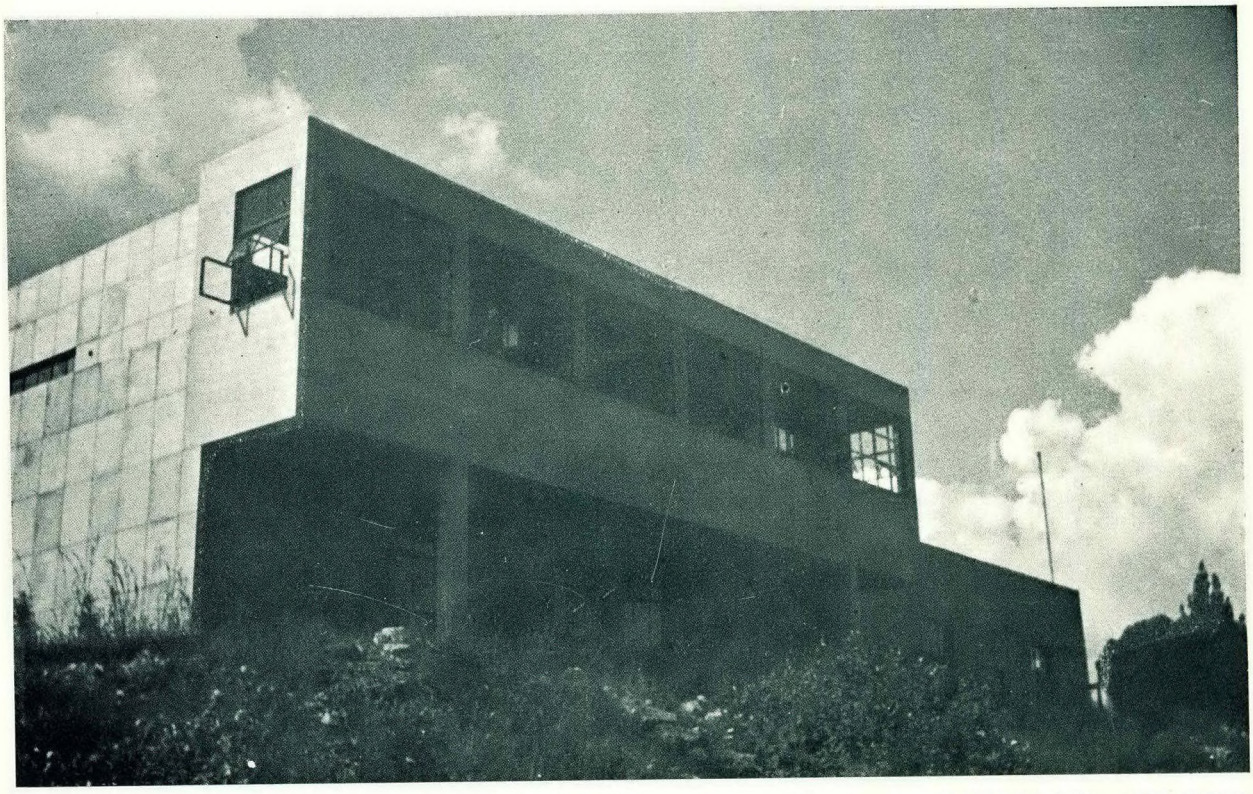
In view of the nature of the building, finishes possessing good wearing qualities were chosen in order to reduce maintenance costs to a minimum. The hall floors and main stairs are in a warm biscuit-coloured terrazzo. All walls, with the exception of those in the store room and battery room, are plastered. In these two rooms the walls are bagged and lime-whitened. Floors of the conference room, director's office and guest room are in teak wood block, while research rooms generally are finished in oregon strips. Other floors are in linoleum, while the floors of lavatories and the developing room are finished in red quarry tide. Lavatories have a 7ft. dado of white glazed tiles, while all sinks have a surround of the same material. A light grey washable distemper has been used on all plastered walls, except in the lavatories; all internal doors are of the built-up flush type, enamelled in a slightly darker shade of grey than the walls. All other woodwork is also enamelled in the same colour as the doors. Externally the building is faced with precast concrete slabs 4½ inches thick. As far as possible these slabs are of a standard size, four slabs being equivalent to the normal window opening.

The erection of the building occupied a period of eight months. It was completed at the end of December, 1937, and the total cost, including fittings, was a little over £8,000.

GORDON CHALMERS

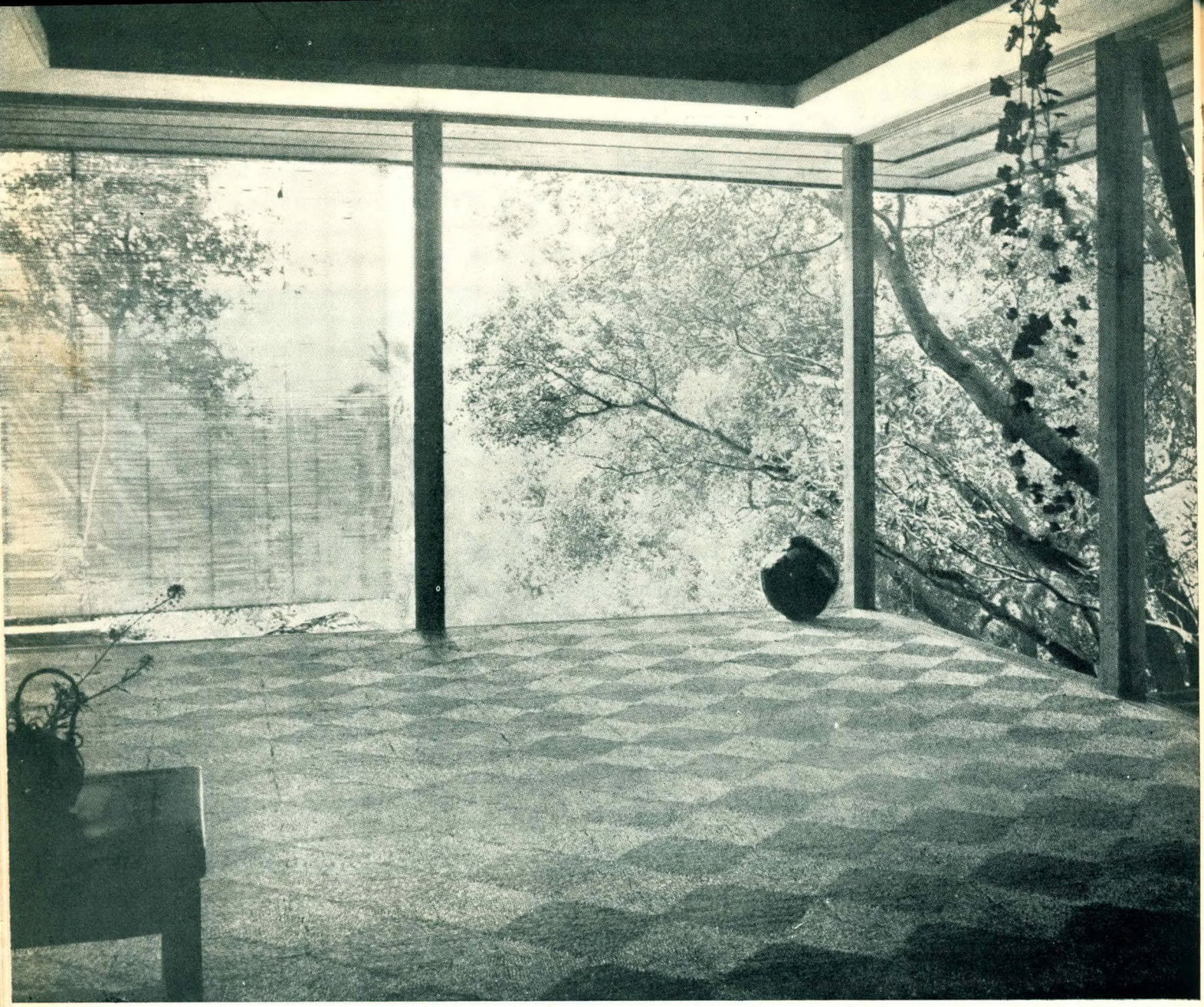


THE ENTRANCE HALL



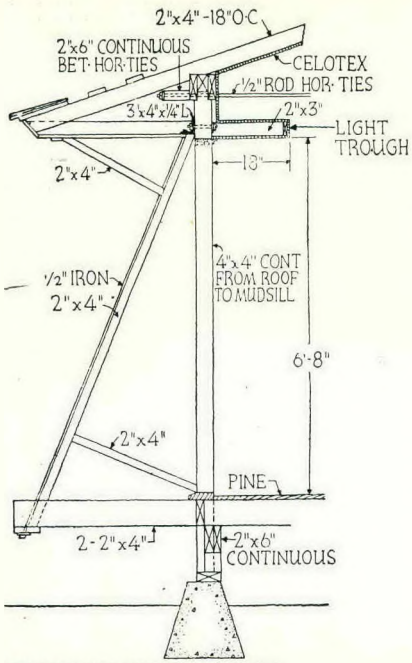
A VIEW FROM THE SOUTH-WEST ● Photos: DUNCAN HOWIE

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE DEVOTED TO A SHORT SUPPLEMENT OF RECENT OVERSEAS DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE



THE LIVING ROOM

AMERICA



SECTION THRU WALL





FLOOR PLAN

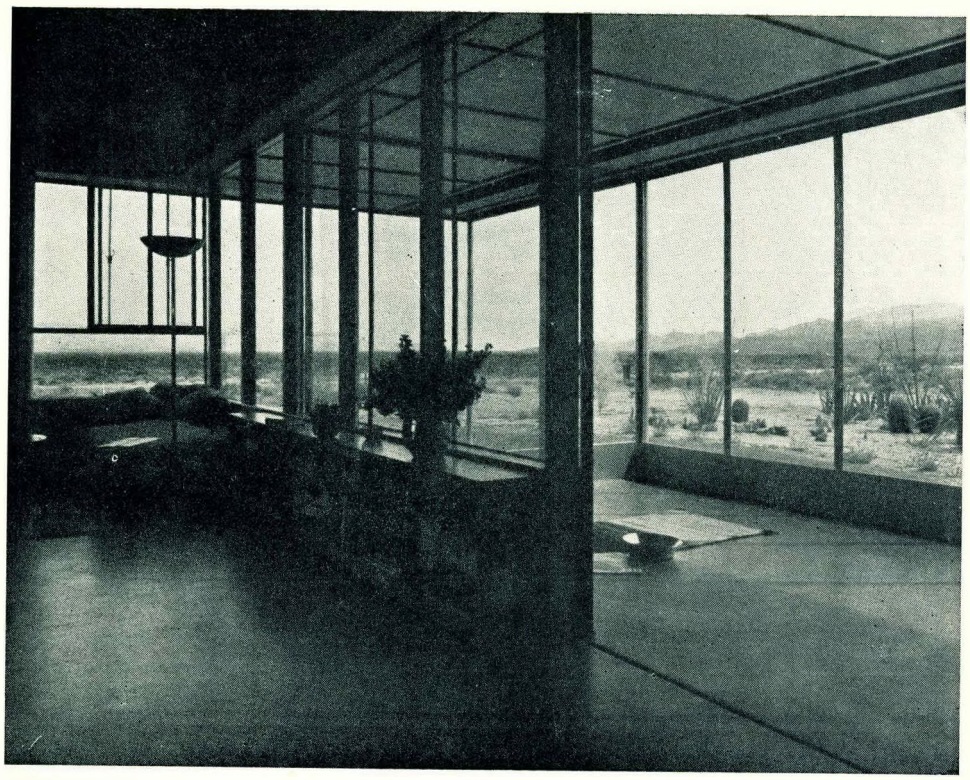
The house has been the immediate problem of the architect since the Lacustrine shelters of Neolithic man. Throughout the ages, it has changed in form and arrangement in accordance with the social needs of the times. And so with materials. From the wooden lake dwellings to the vaults of Hadrian's villa, and the steel and glass of our age, man has endeavoured to improve his protection from the elements, to create one small volume where comfortable living conditions may be maintained independent of external changes. The house in Los Angeles, California, by Harwell Hamilton Harris is significant in that it employs a traditional building material, timber, and in terms of this solves the problem of modern living. It demonstrates the manner in which this material has been organised to create volumes in harmony with our contemporary architectural philosophy. To live close to nature.

J.F.

HOUSE AT PALM SPRINGS ● CALIFORNIA



EXTERIOR



INTERIOR

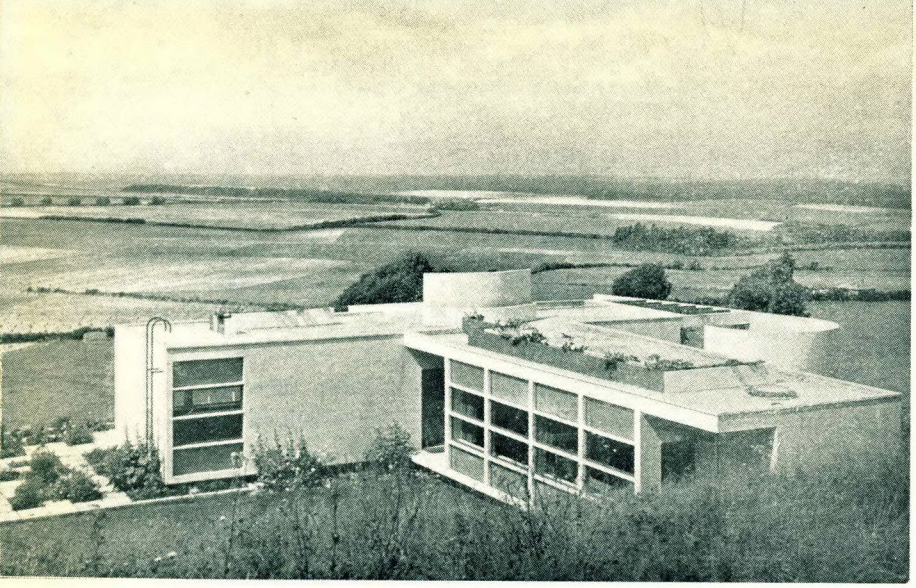
A M E R I C A

In spite of the large architectural output of the United States of America, and the highly organised condition of its building industry, little significant work has emerged. Richard J. Neutra takes a place among the few who have helped to make a contribution in recent years. By taking advantage of the large range of materials which American industry has developed he has produced work which although intensely individual, has, by virtue of its experimental nature opened up new prospects in the field of building technique. To peruse the specifications for some of his houses is to realise at once the fact, that here in South Africa our building methods are largely archaic. We are attempting to create architecture requiring an order of exactitude commensurate only with the machine, in terms of a method which can be symbolised by the scaffold.

Neutra is aware of the future for prefabrication in architecture and many of his projects are directed towards this end. The acceptance of mass production and its consequent economic implications open up a vast field for the contemporary designer, in that it will be possible to give the client so much more, combined with superior quality, for his outlay, than could be achieved by following older methods. Here lies the future of our architecture. Neutra is well on the way.

The house at Palm Springs, California, is an unusual problem. A house in a desert setting. Externally the uncompromising and stern lines of the building challenge the raw nature of the country. It establishes the intrusion of man, protects him from the hostile environment. Yet internally walls of glass bring the limitless wastes into the rooms. Vantage points overlooking the canvas on which light rings its subtle changes.

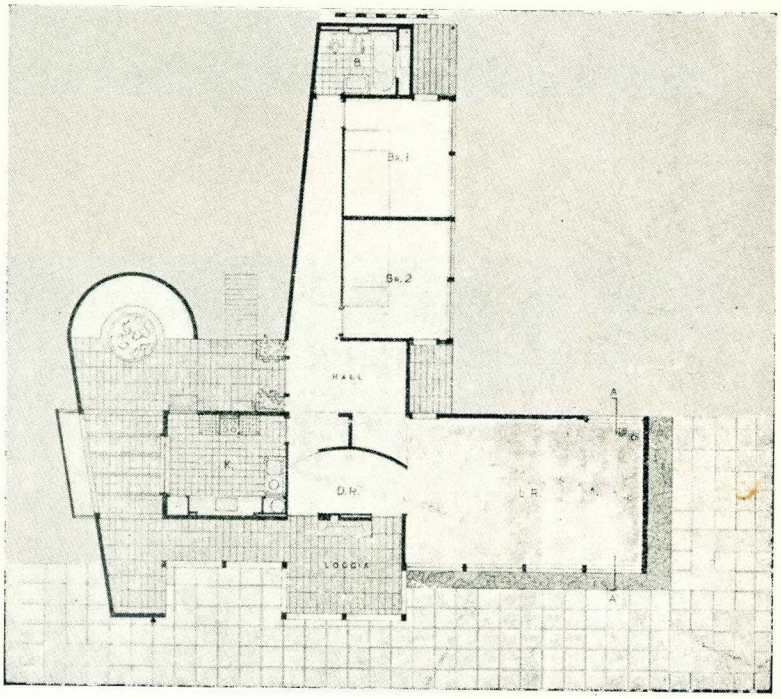
J.F.

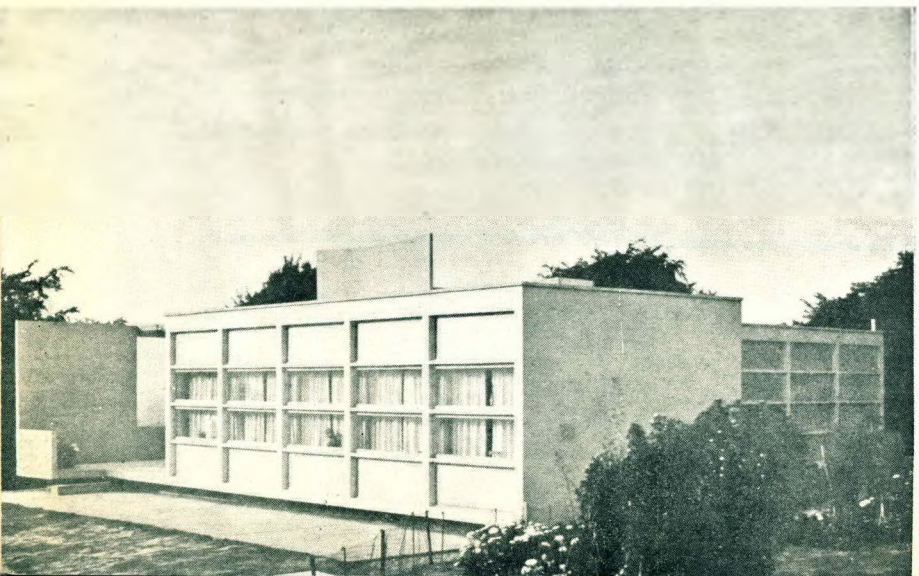


TWO BUNGALOWS AT WHIPSNADE

VIEW FROM THE SOUTH-WEST

PLAN OF LARGER BUNGALOW





WEST ELEVATION OF THE SMALLER BUNGALOW

E N G L A N D

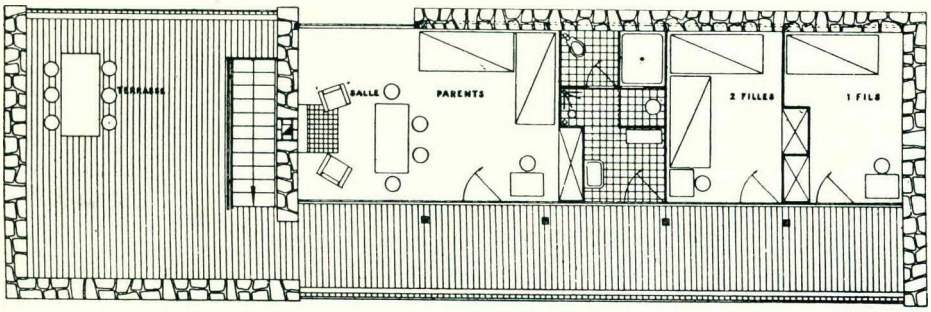
The contribution of the firm Tecton to architectural development in England is a significant, almost a decisive one. They have given practical expression to the ideological conception of architecture as a contemporary art in the fullest sense. Their work is notable for consistent effort towards establishing the essential relationship between available and developing technical equipment and the aesthetic forms arising from its proper use. Tecton was founded some years ago by Lubetkin, Russian by birth, but best known for his work in Paris. After his arrival in England he brought together a group of younger architects of sympathetic outlook and started an architectural practice. The membership of this group is intended to vary from time to time. This collaboration has created the nucleus of a New Architecture in England, which, though it follows in time the great movement elsewhere, may yet establish the universality of approach, moral principle and method. To undertake to work for this high purpose is to eschew all meretricious and sham methods by which success on a lower plane is so easily gained. "Stylistic" versions of what passes for modern may be made acceptable without effort; and it is just this pernicious vulgarisation that the creative contemporary architect must combat. Tecton, by consistent and unceasing endeavour, have brought to England some realisation of the immense future awaiting the New Architecture—a prelude, one might say, to an age of the planned development and re-equipment of whole towns and countries, when architecture may overtake and properly utilise the technical developments and resources of our time.

Thus far we can expect no more than isolated examples of significant architecture —collective creative effort has still to come for the most part. In the former category, then, we find the work of Tecton. A notable block of flats—Highpoint, in London— a small housing scheme, the rebuilding work at the London Zoo, as well as a new Zoo at Dudley; this represents the bulk of their executed schemes, but they are actively engaged on numerous projects, many showing an advance in method and technical experiment as well as an increasing grasp of organised and properly-related planning. They have not as yet built many houses—the small ones illustrated here, however, are characteristic of their general approach, and aptly demonstrate the strength of their work in a well-accentuated separation and relation of functionalised forms. At the same time, a certain weakness in plan articulation is discernible as well as a rather loose and indiscriminating use of shaped and splayed wall surfaces. Particularly noteworthy here, however, as in all the work of Tecton is an extraordinarily sensitive handling of building in relation to landscape. Their very considerable contribution to Zoo architecture owes not a little to the expert placing of ingeniously devised architectural forms against or amongst the natural surroundings. In the illustration of the house, the beauty of the English scene is accentuated by the calm elegance of light architectural forms, merging inevitably in an horizontal plane with the embracing countryside. The architects Tecton, then, are playing their parts in the rise of a New Architecture in England—a movement of universal importance and significance, and which, in its repercussions, may establish on a widely accepted basis the necessity for architectural organisation in a changed and changing world.

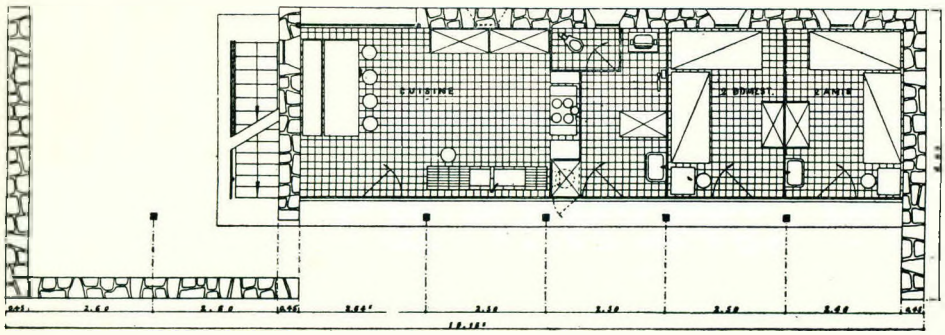
N.H.



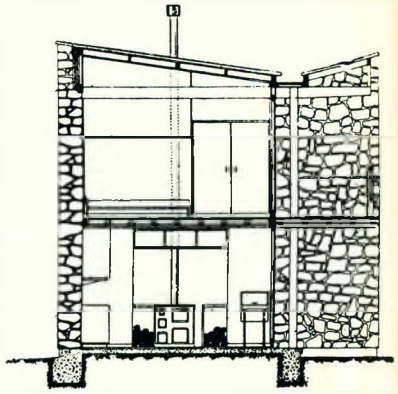
THE HOUSE AT MATHES



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



SECTION

F R A N C E

A house must be in harmony with its environment. It should retain the " caractere regional," which is itself determined by the particular conditions of living, customs, materials, and the essential dictates of the climate. Conversely it is not to be compounded of more or less exact copies, of more or less established forms which are deprived of all logical and aesthetic content : it should not conform to some universal formula on the pretext that technical developments have wiped out distances and frontiers.

This is particularly true of the week-end-house, the " House Minimum," the inexpensive retreat which is becoming so well known in European countries.

The House at Mathes, by Le Corbusier and Jeanneret, which, in its poised formality, its characteristic functionalism and in the intelligent and sensitive use of materials—wood and stone—is an example of this harmonious relationship between the house and the limiting conditions of its environment.

W.D.H.

THE CAPE PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting of the Cape Provincial Institute of Architects, held in the Argus Board Room, Capetown, on 14th March, 1938.

Present :—Messrs. C. P. Walgate, B. St. C. Lightfoot, A. C. Johnston, J. K. Parker, S. Chapman, R. F. R. Day, Professor Thornton White, W. A. Ritchie Fallon, R. F. Ohlsson, Brian Mansergh, K. L. Kramer, L. A. Elsworth, Douglas Hoets and the Secretary.

The President, Mr. J. K. Parker, occupied the Chair.

The Secretary read the Notice convening the Meeting.

The Chairman proposed that as the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on 15th March, 1937, had been circulated to all members they should be taken as read and signed. This was agreed to.

The Chairman at this stage of the Meeting declared the ballot closed, and thereupon Messrs. Chapman and Fallon were apointed 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 Capetown :

The " John Perry " prize for the best work done during the first year of the course, divided between Miss P. Jones and Mr. J. Perry.

The " C.P.I." prize for the best work done during the final year of the course to Mr. G. M. Hussey.

The "C.P.I." 1937 Bronze Medal was awarded and presented to Messrs. John Perry and Lightfoot for their design of the High Commissioner's Offices, Captown.

The Chairman congratulated the prize-winners in suitable terms.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

The Chairman in proposing the adoption of the Report and Accounts for 1937, said :—

It is customary at the Annual Meeting for the President to say a few words. This afternoon I intend to confine my remarks for the most part to matters which have occurred during the last year. Those of you who have read the Annual Report will notice that the Committee has had a busy year, and we hope that the work put in will be of benefit to the profession. There will always be those who criticise the lengthy discussions that take place on matters of professional interest, and we argue that the results achieved are not commensurate with the time devoted to the problems. It seem inevitable, however, that progress and change will always be gradual as long as we remain a democratic people. The meetings of the Central Council are valuable because they enable members to hear the views of other centres. Our own Institute has very wide boundaries, and this year we propose to invite Port Elizabeth to elect a member to represent the Cape on the Central Council.

I should like to take this opportunity of suggesting to the incoming Committee that the President of the Cape should in future make at least one visit to Port Elizabeth during his term of office to interchange views with the Local Committee. It would also be advisable to invite the Chairman of the Local Committee at Port Elizabeth to attend at least one meeting of the Cape Institute per year. Such proposals will involve an expenditure which cannot be met out of our present income, and I will like our representative on the Central Council to bring this matter up in Johannesburg next May. I may mention that we would have difficulty in balancing our accounts without the profits that accrue from the Kalendar.

Your Committee during the past year has given much attention to the question of professional propaganda. We all feel that the services that an architect can render to the community are not properly understood by the public. Architects should be concerned not only with the designing of buildings, but their advice should be sought on all planning problems. The Press has from time to time put the views of the Institute before the public, and we are grateful to them for this. Individually we can all assist in this general propaganda by our conduct, and endeavour to render our very best services to clients. Every job well done rebounds to the credit of the whole profession.

Architects also should be prepared to take a greater part in public life and city affairs. It seems strange that while other professions are represented in Parliament, in Provincial Councils and on numerous Municipalities, the voice of a member of our profession is seldom heard in these assemblies.

The City Council has advised the Institute that they are prepared to appoint a member of our Institute to advise them on the new draft regulations before they are officially promulgated. May I say your Committee are fully aware of the importance of this matter, and have suggested to the Council that two architects should be engaged.

A proposed sub-division of the Scale of Fees was discussed at the last Central Council meeting at Durban. Your representatives opposed any change in the existing tariff, and the Cape Committee subsequently prepared a statement which gave detailed reasons for their objections. The statement has been forwarded to the other three provinces and appeared also in a recent publication of the Record. The matter will be discussed again at the next Central Council meeting in Johannesburg.

Your representatives at the last Central Council meeting at Durban reached agreement with the other Institutes with regard to certain amendments in the much discussed Building Contract Form. The amendments proposed have been submitted to the R.I.B.A. for their criticism, and we hope that some time this year the new Contract will be in general use.

Members of the Institute will be glad to hear that Professor Thornton White contemplates arranging part time classes for the benefit of those students employed in architects' offices, who are unable or cannot afford to take the full time course. It will also be of interest to members to know that Professor Thornton White is preparing a refresher course for practising architects and assistants at the University. We hope that many will take advantage of these facilities.

The "South African Architectural Record," as members know, is at present the property of the Transvaal Institute. The Central Council at its next meeting will decide whether they will purchase it from the Transvaal for the sum of £1,100. If the Central Council purchase the Journal it will be an outright purchase. The Central Council themselves will become the Journal Committee, and will have to indicate the policy they wish the editors to follow. Each Provincial Institute has been asked to state definitely whether they are satisfied with the Journal as it is run at present. It has been urged that certain articles and illustrations published in the past were not in keeping with the dignity of the profession. Articles and illustrations dealing with painting and sculpture have appeared, which are disapproved by some members as having no architectural appeal and for other reasons. The editorial staff, however, believe that the articles and illustrations in question have a definite interest to a large number of our members, and in view of this they consider they would be justified in continuing to publish similar articles.

The opinion of your Committee is that during the last year or two, with a few exceptions, the subject matter in the Record has been of a high standard. The success of the Journal has undoubtedly been its novelty and fresh outlook on various problems in design. The Journal, I think, has a wide appeal, and its present editors and committee are both enthusiastic and hard working. My own view is that the Record would lose little of its

popularity if the articles complained of were omitted. By all means let us have papers on art and painting, but is it desirable that the official architectural journal of the Union should continue to publish articles which raise bitter controversy amongst its members. If we cannot agree amongst ourselves where modern art ends and indecency begins, let us turn our attention to other more important matters.

There are many vital problems which surround us at the moment. We ought to combine to preserve the beauty of rural areas and mountain slopes. In our towns and suburbs open spaces and playing areas are an urgent need. It is high time an Advisory Committee was appointed by the Municipality to look after the amenities of our town and to see that the aesthetic questions connected with the growth and development of the city are not neglected. A Fine Arts Committee consisting of representatives from the following bodies could educate and lead public opinion on matters of civic importance :—

Society for the preservation of Ancient Monuments.
Town Planning Association.
Land Surveyors' Institute.
Our own Institute.
S.A. Society of Artists.

In conclusion I should like to take the opportunity of saying how much we owe to our Secretary, Major Duncan, for his untiring service on our behalf. His experience and intimate knowledge of the regulations have been a great help to the Institute. We are fortunate also in having a Secretary who sees to it that we have a credit balance at the end of the year.

I wish to thank the members of the Committee, and in particular the Vice-President, Mr. Day, for their support during the year.

In conclusion, I have much pleasure in moving the adoption of the 1937 Report and Accounts.

Mr. Walgate in seconding the adoption of the Report and Accounts said :—

Mr. President, I should like to second your motion and at the same time comment on a few matters arising in the Annual Report and in your address. Firstly, the Institute Platinum Medal for good attendance at Committee meetings will have to be cut in two and shared between yourself, with 18 out of 18 possible, and Mr. Hotes, with 13 out of 13 possible. The attendance of most of the members has been splendid, and I am sure many of them have made considerable sacrifice to attain it. May I tender to those who have served on the Committee the thanks of the general body.

The opposition put up by our representatives against the proposed subdivision of the Scale of Fees was most valuable. The Scale as proposed seemed to my partner and myself full of difficulties and absurdities and we could see no possibility of it working satisfactorily in our own practice.

With regard to taking over the Record and making changes in it, we must remember that it is more like a working machine than a piece of modelling clay. You cannot remodel a working machine without stopping it, and stoppage would be disastrous to the advertising income. If we take it over we must take it as it is, and effect any desirable reforms very slowly and carefully.

You mentioned the part architects can and should play in preserving beauty where it exists and creating it where it is lacking. On my recent tour I visited several cities, notably Prague, where the appearance as well as the stability of buildings is controlled. We all realise the pitfalls of aesthetic authority, but I must say that the effect justified any effort. Now that our Institute has made its voice heard I think this matter might be put forward for consideration. I understand that it is the intention of the Committee to let its members take turns to serve on Central Council and get a wider view of professional activities. As an old hand may I warn those who

go against allowing persons who are not practising architects to tell us how to run our business. Only a practising architect can possibly understand the way an architect's practice is conducted, and from time to time in Central Council other members have expressed on the matter views both ill informed and ill considered. This needs watching out for.

With these few remarks I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the Annual Report and financial statement.

Adoption of Report and Accounts : There being no amendment the adoption of the Report and Accounts was declared to be carried.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD.

The Chairman after outlining what had taken place at a Special Meeting recently held in Johannesburg for the purpose of considering the purchase of the Journal by the Central Council, asked members for an expression of their views in the matter. He explained the difficulties that had arisen at the meeting referred to. On the one hand it was held, he said, that the Journal, if taken over by the Council should be subject to its control and direction ; on the other hand it was maintained that the editor having built up and made a success of the Journal should not be hampered by any unnecessary interference but should be allowed to carry on as heretofore. The question at issue had been referred to the Constituent bodies, hence his desire that the views of this meeting should be ascertained. A number of members responded to the Chairman's request, there being a consensus of opinion in favour of the Journal despite criticism of several of its past numbers ; but all were in agreement that it should be acquired by the Central Council as the official organ of the Institute of South African Architects.

It was finally proposed by Capt. Elsworth and seconded by Mr. Day that the matter be left in the hands of the incoming Committee, with the proviso that in the event of the Journal being acquired the Central Council be asked to exercise its control in a reasonable manner and to impose no conditions likely to embarrass the editorial staff.

The following members took part in the discussion :—Professor Thornton White, Messrs. Day, Kramer, Lightfoot, Mansergh, Parker and Elsworth.

Professor Thornton White, in response to a request from the Chairman, explained the position at the University in reference to part-time architectural education. Although external students, he said, are free to attend any or all lecture courses to help them sit for the certificate examination, at the present time we have no organised part-time course. We eventually hope to have a proper part-time Diploma and Degree Course, giving possibly M.I.A. and R.I.B.A. qualifications ; but delay is likely to be encountered in arranging the full course, firstly in meeting academic requirements and secondly in obtaining proper finance for the scheme.

● Declaration of Ballot : The Chairman announced the result of the ballot for the 1938-39 Provincial Committee to be :—R. F. R. Day, A.R.I.B.A. ; L. A. Elsworth, A.R.I.B.A. ; Fred M. Glennie, F.R.I.B.A. ; Douglas Hoets, L.R.I.B.A. ; B. St. C. Lightfoot, A.R.I.B.A. ; Brian Mansergh, A.R.I.B.A. ; R. F. Ohlsson, A.R.I.B.A. ; J. K. Parker, A.R.I.B.A., and Hubert L. Roberts, M.I.A.

● Appointment of Auditor : Mr. A. V. Solomon, Chartered Accountant (S.A.), was appointed Auditor for the ensuing year.

● Votes of Thanks : Votes of thanks were proposed to the Scrutineers for their services and to the Chairman for presiding at the meeting.

THE TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Eleventh Annual General Meeting of members held in the Assembly Hall, Kelvin House, Johannesburg, on Thursday, 10th March, 1938, at 1.30 p.m.

Present : The President, Mr. H. G. Tomkyns, in the Chair and 18 other members as shown in the attendance book.

The Chairman declared the meeting duly constituted.

The Notice of Meeting was taken as read.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE.

After enquiring if all members present had voted the Chairman declared the ballot closed.

Messrs. C. E. Cawse, G. Chalmers, W. D. Howie, and S. Lewis were appointed scrutineers to conduct the ballot.

The names of the members who had voted were called out and checked with the register, the total being 141.

The meeting was then adjourned until 5 p.m.

RESUMPTION.

On resumption at 5 p.m. the President took the Chair and 39 other members attended as shown in the attendance book.

The Chairman reported the death on the 9th March, 1938, of Mr. Allen Wilson, a Past President and one of the oldest members of this Institute and as a token of respect the meeting rose and stood in silence.

The Chairman also referred to the illness of Mr. A. S. Pearse, Secretary of this Institute, who, he was pleased to say was progressing favourably after an operation and would be resuming his duties within the next few weeks.

COMMITTEE FOR 1937-1938.

The Chairman received the scrutineers' report and declared the following members elected as the Committee for the ensuing year :—Messrs. N. T. Cowin, S. C. Dowsett, N. M. Eaton, D. S. Haddon, R. Howden, G. E. Gordon Leith, W. Gordon McIntosh, A. J. Marshall, R. D. Martienssen, D L. Nurcombe, Professor G. E. Pearse and Mr. H. G. Tomkyns.

The Chairman congratulated the new members on their election and thanked the scrutineers for the services. He also took the opportunity of thanking Mr. Furner, who had withdrawn from the committee, for the valuable assistance he had rendered to the Institute in the past.

MINUTES.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 11th March, 1937, were taken as read and confirmed.

COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1937.

This had been circulated to all members and was taken as read and approved.

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1937.

These had been circulated to all members.

Mr. Cowin, Chairman of the Finance Committee, then addressed the meeting as follows :—

"I have little to add about the accounts to what has already been circulated to the members in the Committees' Report. One of the outstanding features is the subscriptions in arrear, and this is inexplicable

during these prosperous times and gives one the impression that many of our members lack a sense of duty and espirit de corps to their Institute. We may not all agree that the Institute is run on the best lines, but we all do believe it is necessary to maintain an Institute and that cannot be done without funds.

The levies, £371 0s. 0d., by the Central Council absorb a large part of our revenue and a reduction in them would be welcomed.

The question is often asked whether our membership of the Scientific and Technical Club is of any real value to our members and whether we are justified in spending £232 0s. 0d. annually for this privilege. It is early yet to express an opinion about this and judgment should be deferred for a few years. The new club has not been open long and time must be given to our members to become familiar with it and make more use of it. There is always our association with other professions in this club to be considered and that is worth while.

It is a little disappointing to note a very large drop in the surplus from the Record this year, but what we have lost in cash we are told we have gained in the production of an outstanding periodical, and that is all that matters. That may be so but we should have an eye on profits and build up a little capital, which is so necessary in all undertakings. The advertisements are well maintained, as the Record is now well established and can be considered a good advertising medium, but for all that I am glad to have this opportunity of thanking the advertisers for their support.

Negotiations are proceeding for the sale of the Record to the Central Council and I hope this will go through, as a Journal receiving the unqualified support of the various branches of our Institute throughout the Union is undoubtedly desirable.

The Benelovent Fund capital stands within a few pounds of £1,000, which is satisfactory, but the fact remains that interest on invested funds is not sufficient to meet our disbursements and we have to draw on our capital, which should not be depleted annually."

Mr. Cowin then proposed the adoption of the Report and Accounts.

Mr. Martin, in seconding, also drew attention to the heavy outstanding subscriptions and suggested that the incoming committee should deal most rigorously with members in arrear, considering each case on its merits. He felt that the outstandings could be reduced by seventy-five per cent. and that the Finance Committee were themselves partly to blame owing to their lenient attitude towards members.

The Chairman agreed that the amount of £700 arrear subscriptions was alarming and measures should be taken to reduce this amount.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS.

Mr. N. T. Cowin proposed the re-election of the present Auditors, Messrs. Alex Aixen & Carter, and that their remuneration for the past audit be £10 10s. 0d. for the Institute Account and £21 0s. 0d. for the S.A. Architectural Record Account.

This was seconded by Professor Pearse and agreed to.

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT.

The President, Mr. H. G. Tomkyns said :—

"I have very much pleasure in welcoming you here to the Eleventh Annual General Meeting of the Transvaal Provincial Institute of Architects.

This is the first time we have met in this building, the new quarters of our Institute, and I hope every advantage will be taken by members of the addtional facilities now available.

I wish to thank members for the honour of being their President for the past year and to thank the Provincial Committee members for their loyal support during my term of office. I might add that the personnel of this Committee, to my knowledge, included more of the younger members than has

ever occurred in the history of the Institute, and incidentally eight of the twelve members had passed through the University of the Witwatersrand, a very encouraging sign of the interest now being shown by the younger members.

I wish to welcome the nineteen new members enrolled during the year and hope they will taken a keen interest in the work of the Institute.

It is not my intention to make any extensive review of the Committee's work during its year of office, but there are one or two matters of interest to the profession upon which some comments may not be out of place.

Small House Service Bureau: The scheme for a small house service bureau has been considered by your Committee and submitted in detail through the medium of the journal to members for their views, and I shall not, therefore, go into the details. I see difficulties in connection with it, but not insuperable ones.

In my opinion it is an excellent scheme, and is a step in the right direction to eliminate the speculative and jerry built house.

I hope it will receive the earnest consideration of all members and that the coming year will see the launching of the scheme.

Sub-Division of Scale of Fees and Union Journal. As these matters are on the agenda for discussion, I shall only make a passing reference to them.

The question of sub-division of fees as submitted by Mr. Eaton last year has been considered by the various Provincial Institutes throughout the Union and the Transvaal Provincial Institute was the only one to approve of the proposal with modifications, the other Provinces being vigorously opposed to it.

It would thus appear that the scheme will not come to fruition as uniformity throughout the Union is essential.

Negotiations have taken place between the Central Council and your Institute with a view to the former body taking over the "S.A. Architectural Record," and there is every possibility of this coming about in the near future.

As the journal is now a very good source of revenue, thanks to the unstinted efforts of the Editors, Journal Committee and Business Manager, it will be a very magnanimous act on the part of this Institute to give it up at the present time, but, I think a very necessary act in the common interests of the Profession throughout the Union.

During the various discussions held during the year on this matter a factor that struck me very forcibly was the apparent discord between what one might term the older and younger schools, that is with regard to the general contents and make up of the "S.A. Architectural Record." In my opinion, with the exception of one or two articles and illustrations, the issues of the past twelve months have been a credit to the Editorial Management, and I think that the Past President-in-Chief's reference in his Presidential address on Professional Co-operation might very aptly be applied in this case to both sections when he said he hoped that members would continue to develop a spirit of Professional Co-operation in an atmosphere of tolerance and goodwill. I only trust that this will be the outcome of this undertaking. (Applause.)

Hoardings. This matter was dealt with by your Committee and as a result a very big step forward has been made with regard to the erection of suitable standard type of hoarding in our streets.

With the help of the City Engineer, the desired structures, diagrams of which were illustrated in the Journal, are now being erected, the effect being very noticeable in our City to-day, when one can now walk along a pavement adjacent to a building under construction with a feeling of complete safety and members are asked to enforce the erection of satisfactory hoardings in every case.

Joint Committee—Architects and Quantity Surveyors. A Committee has been formed consisting of four members of the Transvaal Provincial Institute and four members of the Chapter of Quantity Surveyors whose duty it will be to deal with the matters affecting the common good of both professions and the interests of the building public in general.

In addition it will, from time to time, meet representatives from the Master Builders' Association to discuss and settle matters of common interest.

One meeting has been held and after a good deal of discussion it was agreed that closer collaboration between architects and quantity surveyors was necessary and means to bring this about should be given very serious consideration.

Allegations were made regarding the standard of drawings sent out by some architects and special reference was made to the habit of altering drawings without the knowledge of the quantity surveyor and builder subsequent to the taking off of the quantities and prior to the signing of the contract.

I think there is a good deal in this complaint and I hope members will make every endeavour to arrange for closer contact with the quantity surveyor in this regard for the good name of our profession.

A further contentious point was the question of the reduction of builders' commission on P.C. items. I think the time has come when very serious thought should be given to this question, not only with regard to builders' commission but also to fees chargeable by the architects and quantity surveyors on P.C. items, as the specialised branches have become so numerous and the amounts so high in contracts of to-day. I hope that the Committee will deliberate frequently and in this way clear up the many differences at present existing between the two professions.

Architectural Education. The work at the University of the Witwatersrand is still as active as ever, the number of students in the past year being 101.

I should like to take this opportunity of congratulating Professor Pearse, staff and students on the excellent standard of the work being turned out, and would put forward a plea to members to show a little more interest in the work of the students, and in this respect I would suggest that a review of drawings be held in the Institute's offices each year and that a criticism on the work submitted be given by a member of the Institute to the students on the lines of that given by the R.I.B.A. on exhibition drawings.

I would like to refer, whilst on this subject, to a matter I brought up at the presentation of prizes during the year, and that is the study of certain branches now being specialised such as structural design, acoustics and ventilation. The time has come when the student should cover these subjects very fully in his course in order to be capable of handling them when in practice.

I understand that Professor Pearse and Professor Thornton White are giving this matter their consideration.

Competitions. I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating the members of this Institute who were successful in the Argus Company's Ideal Home Competition.

It is anticipated that a number of competitions will be held throughout the ensuing year.

In conclusion, I wish to express thanks to the members of the Advisory Committees on Finance, Practice, By-Laws and the Journal, Trustees of the Benevolent Fund and representatives of the Central Council.

I also desire to record the Institute's appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. A. S. Pearse, its Secretary, in the past year and to thank you for your attendance here to-day."

SMALL HOUSE SERVICE BUREAU.

The President asked Professor Pearse to explain the position in regard to this Bureau.

Professor Pearse said he had not come prepared to give a dissertation on this matter. The details had been outlined in an article in the Record. The idea was in vogue in the large cities of America and the results were convincing and satisfactory. The whole idea was to counteract jerry building and to offer well-designed plans to the small house owner who now had to depend on unqualified draughtsmen.

He was pleased to say that he, personally, had noticed that considerable interest had been created outside the profession. He had been asked to address a meeting of building societies on the 24th March, who seemed keenly interested and if their co-operation could be obtained it would be the first step forward. A new township company had also approached him as to whether they could refer to this bureau at their auction sale shortly to be held, but he had pointed out that as the scheme had not yet been launched it would be ill-advisable to mention it.

Mr. Cowin asked if the Committee had discussed this matter and said he had not gone into it but felt that there was a danger of fees being reduced and the public getting the idea that these reduced fees applied to all architectural work.

Professor Pearse said the scheme worked elsewhere without endangering the statutory scale of fees.

The Chairman explained that the Committee had discussed this matter but as no replies had been received to the circular sent out, giving details of the scheme, it was decided to obtain the views of members at this meeting.

Professor Pearse said that the American Institute of Architects had not experienced any difficulty with regard to fee cutting. The point was, that it was an endeavour to improve the small surburban house. It was, in fact, repetition work and on twenty to thirty houses the fees worked out very little below the scale laid down for such work. The scheme should be encouraged as architects to-day were losing this work to unqualified draughtsmen and it would also give the young practitioner a chance of getting his name before the public.

Mr. Leitch asked if it was within the province of the Institute to discuss reduced fees.

Professor Pearse said that under a section of the Act fee cutting was permitted, if reported to the Committee.

Mr. Leitch pointed out that the Act laid down that an architect may charge, but did not say he shall charge, a reduced fee as would be implied if the bureau were established and plans offered at the suggested fee.

Mr. Sinclair thought the Central Council would have to consent to these fees being charged.

Mr. Haddon explained that as members have to notify the Provincial Institute of reduced fees, it was not necessary to get the Central Council's consent.

Mr. Leitch gave his experience of the working of a similar scheme in America which was not favourable and said it would be playing into the hands of the Estate Agents and he could not recommend it.

In reply to further questions by Mr. Leitch, Professor Pearse explained that the bureau would be under the aegis of the Transvaal Institute and the Secretary and they would have to be remunerated for their services.

Mr. Leitch said he had read several books dealing with this matter and was of the opinion that the jerry builder and not the architect would be helped. He proposed that a Special General Meeting should be called to discuss this matter.

This was not seconded.

Mr. McIntosh said the Institute was responsible for the architectural profession in this country and they were endeavouring, by fostering this scheme, to improve the small house which would prove a menace to the jerry builder and so eliminate them to a certain extent.

Mr. Sinclair endorsed this.

Professor Pearse said the scheme was well worth trying and if fee-cutting was reported, penalties should be imposed.

After further discussion it was agreed, on the proposal of Mr. Cowin, seconded by Mr. D. M. Sinclair, that members be again circularised with the object of obtaining their views on this matter and then referring them to the incoming Committee.

In the event of no replies being received, the Provincial Committee is to act as they think fit.

ARCHITECTURAL MEDAL.

Mr. Cowin proposed that a Gold Medal which would cost £12 for one and a half inch diameter and £14 for a two inch diameter for the die and £3 5s. 0d. and £5 10s. 0d. respectively for the medals to be struck, should be awarded triennially to the best architectural archievement for the previous year.

After discussion, Mr. Haddon's amendment, supported by Professor Pearse, that an award, in the form of a plaque affixed to the building, was preferable to awarding a gold medal to the architect, was put to the vote and carried as a recommendation to the Provincial Committee.

UNION JOURNAL.

The Chairman outlined the negotiations with the Central Council in regard to the sale of the "S.A. Architectural Record," and reported that the Transvaal Provincial Institute had agreed to the sale of the Journal for £1,100. At the Central Council meeting in May this year a final decision would be reached.

After a lengthy discussion as to the terms of sale, it was agreed on the proposal of Professor Pearse, seconded by Mr. D. M. Sinclair, that the matter be left to the Provincial Committee with power to act as they think fit.

BUILDING CENTRE.

The Chairman gave a resume of the negotiations that had taken place with the Building Centre and advised that the Provincial Committee had finally decided that the Institute should not interest itself further in this matter in view of the financial liability involved.

Mr. Martin stated that he was in favour of the Institute taking over the Building Centre and pointed out that it would be of great advantage to the profession.

After discussion, during which the Institute's Auditors' report on the affairs of the Centre, and also the letter from the Centre detailing the proposed terms of sale were read, on the proposal of Mr. Cowin, it was decided to endorse the Provincial Committees' recommendation that this Institute should not interest itself any further in this matter.

This was seconded by Mr. Leitch and agreed.

PROFESSIONAL FEES.

The question of the sub-division of the scale of fees as submitted by Mr. Eaton at the last Annual General Meeting was discussed.

It was agreed that this matter would have to be dropped in view of the fact that there was opposition from the Cape and Natal Provincial Institutes to this proposal and as the Chairman had pointed out in his address, it was essential to have uniformity throughout the Union.

The thanks of the meeting were accorded to Mr. Eaton for the time and trouble he had expended on this matter.

Mr. Cowin proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman for his untiring efforts on behalf of the affairs of the Institute during his term of office which was carried with acclamation.

The Chairman then declared the meeting closed.

At the first meeting of the newly elected Transvaal Provincial Committee the following officers were elected for the ensuing year :—President, Mr. D. S. Haddon ; Senior Vice-President, Mr. Rex Martienssen ; Junior Vice-President, Mr. D. L. Nurcombe.

THE CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN QUANTITY SURVEYORS
THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1937-1938

My position as President of the Chapter is rather a peculiar one because of my position as an official of a large local authority. Other Presidents have either been practising Quantity Surveyors or Salaried Members of the profession whose whole time was taken up in dealing with the profession. However, my position is such that I have been able to gather information usually denied other members of the Chapter, and I may be forgiven if, in this valedictory address, I deal with various matters from the angle of a civic official.

I wish to thank the Members of the Board for the great honour bestowed on me when I was elected President. I deeply regret that it was necessary for me to go overseas during my term of office, principally because of the importance of matters which were discussed during that period.

BUILDING ACTIVITY.

During the year building activity has been greater than ever. This can be borne out by studying the estimated cost of the building plans submitted to the City Council of Johannesburg during this period, the value being nearly fifty per cent. greater than the cost of building throughout the Union a few years ago. This activity has been a great value to practitioners generally, but more especially to the younger members of our profession. I do not think, however, I should be doing my duty if I did not indicate that there appears to be a diminution in the number of big buildings being erected by private enterprise. Nearly eighty per cent. of the plans submitted to the City Council of Johannesburg are for houses which do not fall within the quantity rule figure, namely £1,500. It would appear to me that it will be necessary for us, as a profession, to make up our minds that the work will gradually decline.

Another important factor which has been impressed upon me is that at least two large local authorities have during the last few months advertised for a number of quantity surveyors, which would appear to indicate that Councils are beginning to do both their architectural and quantity surveying work.

In the case of the Engineer's Department of the City Council of Johannesburg, building and engineering contracts together with departmental jobs have cost over a million pounds, and all quantities have been done in my office ! !

For the sake of the profession I believe this matter requires most careful consideration. I have my own personal views on the matter but, at this stage, would rather indicate that there is a problem which requires everyone's earnest consideration.

CLAUSE 3(c).

It will be remembered that the Central Council appointed a special Committee to deal with this matter. The question was fully discussed by the Board, but I did not think it correct for me—holding the views I did—to attend the Central Council meeting where this matter was discussed further. In my official and private capacities I have been associated with several large building schemes. On some of these schemes the Architect's, Quantity Surveyor's, and Consultant's fees have amounted to anything from twelve per cent. to sixteen per cent. I am definitely of the opinion that when our Act was before Parliament it was based on the assumption that it was necessary to protect the building public. I think it is very difficult to justify—

(a) That fees should be paid on the work of Consultants when they do the whole of the design, take out quantities, etc., especially as in some cases the cost of the work done by the outside Consultants is more than fifty per cent. of the total cost of the work.

(b) I think that it is wrong that these Consultants should be forced to include their fees, in many instances, in the cost of the work to be done under their supervision, and that they should draw their fees from the builder and not direct from the client.

(c) The Quantity Surveying profession has always taken up the point of view that it should receive its fees direct from the client and so I cannot see why other professional men engaged by the architect for the client should not be treated in the same professional manner.

(d) I do not think it is correct for one profession to charge fees on the consulting fees of another profession.

Some years ago the Central Council recommended that for this specialist work lower fees should be taken, but this was approved of by the constituent bodies. All constituent bodies of the Central Council have been warned, in no uncertain way, that their attitude was leading along a very dangerous path. This has, at last, been recognised by the R.I.B.A. because it has been found that engineering specialists are being called in to design large buildings, and these specialists employ either architects on their own staff or get an architect to do the elevations of the buildings entrusted to their care. In this way the client has been saved a considerable amount of money.

Both the architect and quantity surveying professions were united as far as their Bill before Parliament was concerned, and each section must stand or fall by the actions of the other.

I believe there are many qualified engineers who can, and do, design buildings and take off bills of quantities for those buildings and, although it may be argued that these are really engineering structures, the fees charged to the client are not as great as those as laid down under the Act.

JOINT DISCUSSIONS WITH ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS.

During the past year the Board has met the Executive of the Witratersrand Master Builders' Association, and a Sub-Committee of the Board met a Sub-Committee of the Transvaal Provincial Institute of Architects. I am of the opinion that these discussions should be encouraged. In Mr. Laing's Presidential Report last year he brought to our notice several matters which could only be solved by free and frank discussion between the quantity surveyors and the architects and builders.

I want to dispel any doubt in your minds that I am not in favour in principle of giving full protection to the architect and quantity surveyor. However, I believe it is essential that the two professions should take the engineering profession also into their confidence. I sincerely hope the Conferences which are now held between the architects and quantity surveyors will be extended to include structural engineers, electrical engineers, and heating engineers at least. If this is not done then it would appear to me to be fatal ever to attempt to get Clause 3 (c) put upon the Statute Book.

I indicated above the position of the R.I.B.A. That Institution has recently endeavoured to introduce into English legislation a clause similar to 3 (c). It is very doubtful whether it will be approved because, in my opinion, it did not take the structional engineering profession into its confidence.

I look forward to the day when not only will engineers have architects in their employ to do elevations for some of their structures, but that architects will have engineers in their employ who will be able to do structural work,

etc. When the complete design is done in the architect's office then, and then only, will the quantity surveyor be able to do his work completely. For the protection of the building public this appears to be most desirable.

EDUCATION.

One wonders, at times, whether it is realised the very valuable work that is done by Professor Bell-John in both the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Pretoria for our profession. From correspondence it can be safely assumed that Professor Thornton White, of Cape Town, is going to use his influence for the benefit of the profession. Certainly he has done a great deal to remove the deadlock which appeared to exist between the Board and the University of Cape Town.

I think also that we should be grateful for the attitude which was taken up, after the Board had made certain representations, by the University of Pretoria regarding certain matters affecting the profession generally.

LANGUAGE QUESTION.

I realise that I am treading on very dangerous ground in even referring to this matter, but I would make an appeal to all members to remember that it is now nearly twenty-eight years since Union. Many of the younger people now qualifying in the profession have more than a working knowledge of both languages. This is as it should be because our clients are drawn from both sections of the population. It is to be sincerely hoped that within a very short period the standard system will be available in both languages.

If we all appoarch this question in a spirit of toleration and mutual endeavour I believe it will be for the benefit not only of South Africa but for the profession which we all have the honour to follow.

BOARD ELECTION AND MEETINGS.

It would not be right for me to pass over this matter without some brief reference to it. It is to be sincerely regretted that many members who were asked to allow their names to go up for election have refused nomination. It is further to be regretted that seniors in the profession, who did a great deal to have the Act under which we operate passed, are no longer associated with the Board. Their knowledge and advice at times would be extremely useful.

Unfortunately three very valuable members of the Board over a long period of years, namely, Messrs. Laing, Puntis, and Williamson, have refused nomination. The work that has been done by these is tremendous, and their advice and co-operation will be sadly missed.

I do not know whether it is usually realised the sacrifices which have to be made on behalf of the profession by members of the Board. It is all very well for people like myself who hold fixed positions and whose employers allow them to do this work on behalf of the profession, but for the practising members and the dual practitioners the sacrifice is very great indeed. It is only necessary to think of the value of their services in their own businesses and then remember the number of hours they put in on behalf of the Board. Imagine for one moment the tremendous task undertaken by Mr. Moore and Mr. Cowling regarding the scale of fees. It must have taken hundreds and hundreds of hours to do the work apart from the time which has been given by Board members to consider their report.

Sometimes I feel that the Board is not always appreciated ; in fact, at times, hard things are said—it is to be hoped, thoughtlessly. Occasionally, one is forced to remember the Shakespearian quotation :—" The evil that men do lives after them—the good is oft interred in their bones." As your President, I wish to place on record my great appreciation of the assistance and loyalty of the members of the Board during my term of office.

A little more appreciation and tolerance, one with the other, would help tremendously.

THE SECRETARY.

No one who has ever had any dealings with the Secretary, whether he be a member of the Board, a member of the Chapter, or of the general public, can fail to recognise the work which he has done on behalf of the profession generally. Mr. Lewis has had a unique training, and his knowledge not only of secretarial practice but of legal practice has been, and still is, of inestimable value to the Institution.

Last year your retiring President suggested that he hoped the time was not far distant when Mr. Lewis' services would receive some tangible recognition. I believe the time has now come when some definite action must be taken in this matter, and I would like to suggest that it be a recommendation to the incoming Board seriously to consider this question.

In conclusion, I should like to offer most sincerely my personal gratitude to Mr. Lewis for his great help and guidance to me during my term of office.

At the first meeting of the 1938-1939 Board, held at Pretoria, the following officers were elected for the year : President, Mr. C. L. F. Borckenhagen ; Senior Vice-President, Mr. R. J. C. Prentice ; Junior Vice-President, Mr. A. A. Bjorkman ; Representatives on Central Council, Mr. T. Moore and Dr. E. J. Hamlin (Alternates : Professor H. Bell-John and Mr. C. L. F. Borckenhagen).

OBITUARY

ALLEN WILSON

In the death of Mr. Allen Wilson the profession has lost one of its oldest and most lovable members. He was born in London in 1860 and was a nephew of William Holman Hunt, R.A., the well-known English painter. The late Mr. Wilson was educated at Cheltenham Grammar School and was for a time a member of the firm of Messrs. Rainger and Wilson, builders, of Cheltenham. He qualified as an architect and quantity surveyor and came to South Africa in command of a regiment of the Royal Irish Mounted Infantry during the South African war. He rose to the rank of Major, was twice wounded, and was awarded the Queen's South African medal with a bar. At the end of the war he served as an expert member of the Military Compensations Commission and settled in Johannesburg to practice his profession.

One of his earliest buildings was the Municipal Offices or " Tin Temple," in Plein Square, which, after being used for technical and university purposes, was demolished to make way for an open space.

He designed the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital, the house of Mr. Tracey, Mountain View, now the Parktown School, the Standard Bank at the corner of Eloff and Market Streets, the grandstand of the Benoni racecourse, and many wholesale warehouses in Johannesburg.

He was president of the Society of Architects (London), S.A., Branch, the Transvaal Institute of Architects, the Association of Transvaal Architects, the Transvaal Provincial Institute of S.A. Architects and was also a member of the Central Council of the latter body. He was a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Mr. Wilson was a prominent freemason, a member of the Turf Club, and the Rand Club, and was for a time a volunteer in the Transvaal Horse Artillery.

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