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uniformity of outward appearance expresses the general uniformity of his outward behaviour, costume, and appearance. The inner mental life of the man which retains its own personal individuality is expressed by the internal arrangements and decoration of his house, which can be as individual or even eccentric as may be desired, without offence to his neighbours. Such small differences of outward behaviour and personal characteristics as still remain would be expressed by the details of the front.

This seems to be the general principle that governs the treatment of houses in the mass.

DEFACING HISTORICAL RELICS.

I had the pleasure of examining the Bushmen paintings on the rocks close to the Brotherhood at Modderpoort, writes a correspondent of "The People's Weekly" (Bloemfontein). They are some of the finest in existence, and many are in excellent preservation. It was with feelings of extreme disgust our party noticed that some of the best relics have been defaced and chalk-marked pretty well all over by four Ladybrand visitors at Christmas. Right in the centre of a big slab containing some fine specimens, these trippers, all well-known residents of Ladybrand, had chalked up their names and the date, as an evidence of the importance they themselves attach to the fact that they have paid this visit. To say that this asinine act caused annoyance in the neighbourhood is to put it mildly. It is a case of pure ignorance and lack of intelligent appreciation of the value of these old national relics in this instance, otherwise the name would not have been placarded over this work of an almost extinct race. Some people have a happy knack of erecting monuments to their own folly.

COMPETITIONS.

Mr. Walter Cook, the president of the American Institute of Architects, relates in the "American School Board Journal" some experiences of school building competitions which certain of our educational authorities might digest with profit. Here, as in America, such bodies, with no very high sense of duty or clear understanding of their functions, are sometimes apt to forget that the only thing which their members can properly keep in mind is the best interest of the community. They seem to consider the designing and supervision of a new building as a sort of prize to be striven for by the architects—as it were a piece of meat thrown out to be scrambled and fought for by a pack of hungry dogs. This point of view might have a certain reasonable aspect if we could lose sight of the fact that the ability to produce an attractive design on paper is only one part of the architect's work—only partially related to his ability as the constructor of a building. Only too often this incompetence fails to fulfil the expectations raised by the drawings, either as to beauty or utility. And, the cases in which even the drawings are made not by the architect, but for the architect, are, unfortunately, not altogether unknown.

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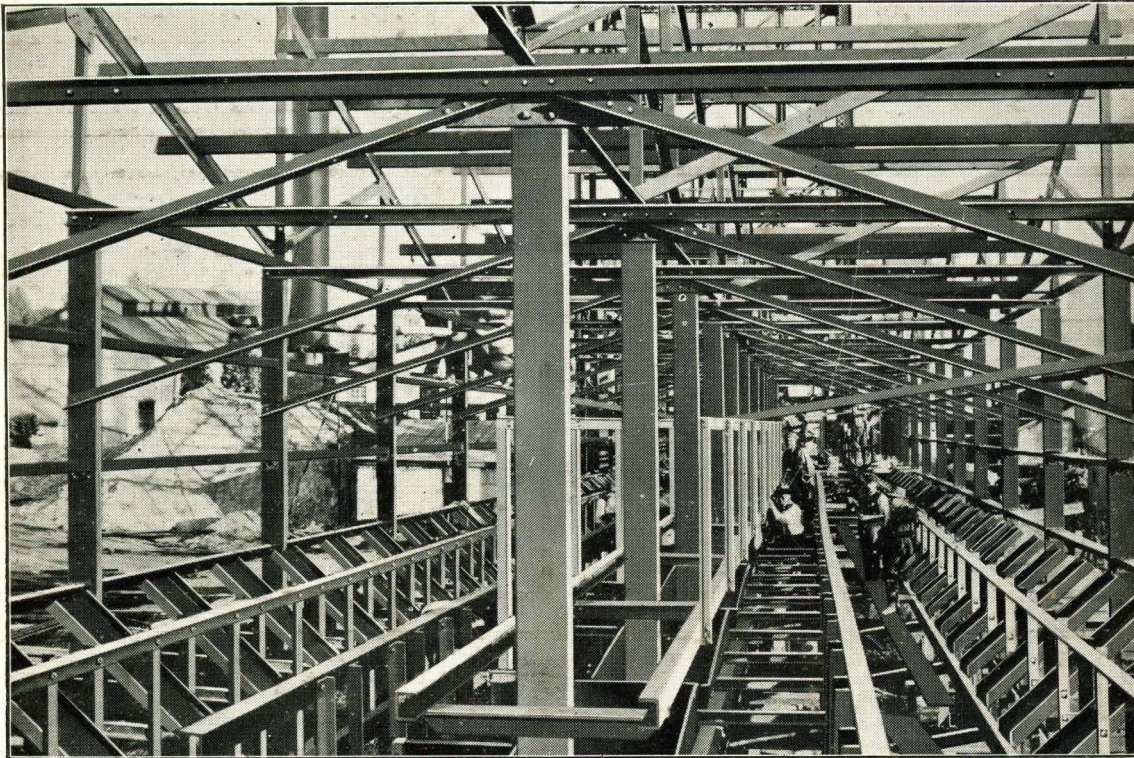
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