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CONTENTS

Cover—Line Drawing from a "Faesite" Advertisement

BUILDING CONTROL 92

THE INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTS ADDRESS OF RETIRING PRESIDENT-IN-CHIEF 93

THE TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE, ADDRESS OF THE RETIRING PRESIDENT 95

THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION AND SOUTH AFRICA'S WAR EFFORT 97

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATED SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SOCIETIES OF SOUTH AFRICA 100

ROUND THE CIRCLE 101

THE INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTS EXTRACTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 104

THE TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTS, ANNUAL REPORT 108

KURT JONAS, B.ARCH., M.A., A.R.I.B.A. 110

REPORT OF FIRST QUARTER OF STUDIES AT THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM 112

AFRICAN LIFE IN COLOUR FILM 114

SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

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

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BUILDING CONTROL

by C. L. F. Borckenhagen, F.S.I., Dip. Q.S.

Chairman, Executive Committee of the Central Council of the Institute of South African Architects

The Building Industry was placed under control for the first time in July, 1941, when Mr. Ivan Walker, Controller of Industrial Man Power, was given powers to regulate private building activity by means of a permit system. The objects of this control were to ensure that sufficient skilled labour would be available for the large Defence building programme.

So far as his powers and functions allowed him, Mr. Walker exercised his authority wisely and did all he could to ensure as little dislocation of the Industry as in the circumstances could be. At the outset, however, the Central Council of the Institute of Architects and Quantity Surveyors foresaw, and brought to the attention of the Government authorities, that the problem would rapidly change from one of inadequate man power to one of inadequate materials.

In the intervening months the Government has placed under control various materials, such as steel, electrical conduit and corrugated iron. These controls and others, such as Imports and Prices, were administered, so far as they affected the Building Industry, with little, if any, co-ordination, and certainly with no co-ordination with the Control of Man Power, and with the Industry. The position with regard to certain materials vital to the Industry has meanwhile become increasingly serious.

The Institute, after many attempts to focus Governmental attention on this growing problem, finally put up a scheme to the Industrial and Agricultural Requirements Commission for control of the Building Industry. This scheme received the full support of the Commission and was transmitted to the Government.

Results followed quickly, but it was with considerable disappointment that the professions learned that a Controller of Building Materials, and not of the Building Industry, had been appointed, thus leaving Building Man Power, steel, etc., under separate control. The only cause for satisfaction was the choice for this position of Colonel Holdgate, F.R.I.B.A., a man of high repute and wide experience.

The publication of the regulations for the control of Building Materials has increased the feeling of uncertainty in the Industry. It is found that Colonel Holdgate has "frozen" three-quarters, and in some cases all, of merchants' stocks in a very long list of building materials. The "frozen" stocks are intended for use upon Defence Works and "urgent and essential requirements for Government and public services." No control has been placed on materials held by persons other than merchants, and the general public are left to scramble for the goods not "frozen."

The "freezing" of 100 per cent. of a large list of electrical equipment will undoubtedly have the effect of paralysing the whole Industry, as very little building can be contemplated in these times without an electrical installation of some sort.

The greatest surprise, however, is that timber, and particularly soft wood, has not been placed under control. Under present conditions timber is the "key" material of the Building Industry, and if timber were placed under a properly conceived control it would not be necessary to control many of the one hundred and seventy-one items appearing in the Regulations.

Colonel Holdgate's regulations must be viewed, however, as an urgent step to secure Defence requirements and he should not be too hastily judged in view of the haste with which he has had to take action. It is believed that he will not leave matters as they are at present, but will expand his activities and revise his regulations in order to achieve a more satisfactory result.

But his scope and powers are limited and the Government must again be urged to adopt a fully co-ordinated scheme for the control of the Building Industry upon the following broad lines:—

(1) Creation of a control of the Building Industry to have direct authority over the issue of building permits.

(2) Survey of vital building materials with regard to stocks, supply, consumption and the needs of the Defence Department.

(3) Complete "freezing" of all vital building materials in short supply.

(4) Establishment of a priority rating for all building.

(5) Requirement from all applicants for building permits for a statement of the quantities needed of material in short supply, and of skilled labour.

(6) Issue of permits for building in accordance with the priority rating and the available materials and labour, and subject to limitations of the quantities of materials in short

supply (which may, in the discretion of the Controller, be less than that applied for).

(7) Encouragement and regulation (in conjunction with the Industrial and Agricultural Requirements Commission) of the exploitation of local materials such as timber, and the manufacture locally of articles required by the Building Industry.

This scheme will ensure that available materials and labour are used to the best national advantage, and if wisely pursued will encourage the utilization of alternative materials and compel architects and builders to arrive at designs and techniques which are less wasteful than those at present in vogue and will thus tend to rationalise building.

The absence of a clear-cut State policy is leading to chaos, and the Industry in the present uncertain position is groping and unable clearly to see the problems before it. When the Industry knows what the limitations are and what will be required of it, the community and the Government will find that it will rise to the occasion and will greatly assist in keeping the country on that even keel which is so necessary in times of crisis.

THE INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTS

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

ADDRESS OF THE RETIRING PRESIDENT-IN-CHIEF MR. W. W. TONKIN, L.R.I.B.A.

As I expected twelve months ago, this year has proved to be a year of difficulties, but if all the difficulties have not been surmounted, I submit that the outlook is clearer to-day than it was twelve months ago.

My intention to-day is not to review the work of the past year but rather to glance towards the future, yet I cannot refrain from expressing my appreciation of the great amount of solid work which has been accomplished by the Executive Committee and the Standing Committee on Education.

I should not be surprised to learn that Mr. Borckenhagen, Mr. Haddon and Mr. Furner, for example, only kept in touch with their own offices by consistently breaking the Sabbath. I must also thank these gentlemen for keeping me in touch with all important matters during my year of office.

Now, turning to look at the future, I would first mention those controlling bodies and Government Commissions established in recent months, which affect our Institute. Amongst these are the Control of Imports and Exports, the Control of Man Power, the control of various building commodities, the Control of Prices, and the Industrial and Agricultural Requirements Commission.

This Institute has repeatedly offered to assist the various officials and bodies concerned with the administration of these controls, and it is to be regretted that, with a few notable exceptions, these offers have not been taken advantage of.

The Controller of Man Power has made full use of our offers of assistance and of the policies which we have advocated, and it is gratifying to hear of the appreciation which has been expressed of our services.

The Price Controller also has accepted, and is acting on, information submitted by us.

With regard to the Industrial and Agricultural Commission which has already issued some valuable reports, I am glad to state that our representations have been received very sympathetically, to which the Chairman of the Executive Committee will refer in more detail in his Annual Report.

From my own personal experience, I have seen the value of the Local Advisory Committees on Man Power Control and I advocate their continuance in the future, perhaps in a slightly modified form, as I consider that they should be able in the future to " spread over " the volume of building services and do much to eliminate unemployment.

It was singularly unfortunate that the Control of Man Power

was not combined with the Control of Building Materials at the same time. The Chairman of the Executive Committee recently pointed out the pressing need for appointing a Controller for the Building Industry, one who, with a wide knowledge of its requirements and in close touch with the controlling bodies previously mentioned, should be able to co-ordinate the results obtained by their efforts and apply them to the Building Industry.

Writing on 24th March, the Minister of Commerce and Industries informs us that he has appointed an Architect as Controller of Building Materials and he hopes that we will communicate direct with that Controller.

These controlling bodies should be of the greatest assistance when the great question of National Planning is seriously tackled—and here it is advisable that I should remind you that our Institute made early suggestions as to the need for a Council of National Planning.

Very recently the Union Government made a move in the formation of a body to deal with this very important matter, but so much valuable time has been lost that it would appear necessary that a full-time, rather than a part-time, Commission should get to work.

I do not suggest that our Institute should be represented on this Commission for it may well be that the professional man's knoweldge of technical difficulties may restrict his outlook and put a check upon his imagination. Our work will commence when a broad, general scheme has been adopted and it will be our job to unravel the technical tangles which will certainly be encountered when the scheme is examined in more detail. We should even now be preparing in our offices, and in our Universities, methods for overcoming these technical difficulties. For example, under National and Regional Planning, industries may be started in the country districts and perhaps we may have to face the splitting up of our largest towns into several smaller towns, which will involve solving problems which do not usually confront us in our town practices.

You will have realised by now how important is the institution of a Joint National Council for the Building Industry, and it will be to the lasting credit of this Institute that it took the first practical step in this direction, and I also pay tribute to the Federation of Building Trade Employers, because it is with their assistance that the nucleus of the Joint National Council is actually in existence.

The Executive Committee has also taken up the question of the organisation of Defence Building Works, of the use made of our members therein, and of the conditions under which our members are employed in a military capacity thereon. While the early results of our representations were distinctly disappointing, we have nevertheless, by continuous pressure, succeeded in having a Liaison Officer appointed between our Institute and the Defence Department.

Mr. Furner is to be thanked for the extremely enthusiastic way in which he has tackled his task. His Report has now been submitted to the Defence Department and there are already indications that it is bearing fruit.

In Great Britain, similar disappointments were encountered at the outset, but I am able to inform you that the position has now greatly improved and that Architects are being employed on Defence Building Works in ever-increasing numbers.

From the foregoing remarks you will be able to realise that, as regards the Union Government, our Institute has at last been placed on the map, and that in itself is perhaps the best piece of propaganda that could have been devised.

Finally, I wish to thank the Registrar and his staff for all that they have done for me during my year of office, and conclude with expressing my hope that this Annual Meeting will be helpful to all of us, and that the coming twelve months will strengthen us as an organisation, bind us more closely together, and improve our status in the eyes of the Government Authorities and the Public.

THE TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE • ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MARCH 1942

Address of the Retiring President, Mr. A. STANLEY FURNER, F.R.I.B.A.

The past year has been a strenuous one for your Committee as, not only have we had to face the difficulties arising from the war and the necessary reorganisation of our finances, but we have had to work without the assistance of our late Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all members of the Committee and of the various sub-committees for their very loyal and energetic support through the whole year which is reflected in their attendances at the various meetings. To pick out names is invidious, but I am sure that the Committee as a whole would be disappointed if I did not mention in particular the excellent work done by the finance sub-committee, Messrs. Dowsett, Haddon and Hanson, in a year where finance was of such importance to the Institute.

I would also like to express the appreciation of the whole committee for the work done by our new Acting Secretary, Miss Murray, who took over the work at a difficult stage and has helped us so willingly and ably through a period of considerable anxiety. Our very sincere thanks are also due to Mr. Fleming, who has given so much of his valuable time to the Local Advisory Committee in connection with the control of the Building Industry.

The terrible ordeal through which our so-called civilisation is passing to-day will inevitably change our mode of life, our method of thought, and the organisation of our government, and this in its turn must have its effect upon the building Industry and the architect, and whereas our endeavours to bring the war to a successful conclusion are paramount, in our spare moments some consideration may well be given to the future of our profession.

" With the exception of those in the direct employ of Government and local authorities, only very partial use has been made of the knowledge and experience of architects in this country since the outbreak of war. Reports . . . have shown that the neglect of a profession so closely connected with the essential building industry has contributed to the high costs, the waste, and the loss of time which is so rightly deplored."

These are not my words, but an extract from an interim report of the R.I.B.A. Reconstruction Committee, but they can be applied with equal force to conditions in this country. This side-tracking of our profession on all sides is most persistent. During my recent visit to America I found evidence of a similar mental attitude on the part of the Government there to the architects in the early stages of war building, and one cannot help wondering why this universal dislike of employing architects exists. I think a little candid introspection by the profession as a whole might be indulged in with advantage—as to whether the service we give the public is what the public requires of us, or whether it is what we think the public should require of us ; and also as to whether our mental equipment—economic and technical, as well as our capability in planning is fully adequate to modern requirements. The profession must be deeply concerned with its future, both immediate and remote, and one important phase of this future lies in the position of the official architect and government departments.

In times of stress such as the present it is only natural that a large proportion of architectural effort should be handled by official architects but, to quote once more from the R.I.B.A. Report :

" It is very undesirable that a great increase of the personnel of public offices should take place by the temporary employment of poorly paid architectural draughtsmen having little or no direct responsibility for the work on which they are engaged. Architects in the employment of the Government should receive adequate salaries in accordance with their responsibilities and every effort should be made to secure that architects of ability are appointed to the highest positions on the technical staff of all government departments concerned."

The duty of watching over the general welfare of the profession in the Union falls upon the Central Council, and a short outline of some of the work done in this respect during the past year may be of interest to those present this evening.

BUILDING CONTROL

As soon as the control of the Building Industry was gazetted, which was done without reference to our profession, Central Council immediately made representations to the Controller of Man Power and succeeded in getting the policy modified in a number of respects. Representatives of the Institute were appointed to the Central and Local Advisory Committees.

The restrictions on building are now largely eased, but the Institute is approaching the Government with the intention of controlling materials rather than man power—which the Institute has for some time past realised was likely to be the major problem.

TENDERING DIFFICULTIES

The Central Council has consistently been prepared to co-operate with the Federation of Master Builders and progress, though slow, is being made towards solving the problems of tendering and drafting special war conditions of contract. Every effort is being made to establish a joint National Council of the Building Industry and some progress has been made in this direction.

NATIONAL PLANNING

A deputation from the Central Council approached the Minister of Finance urging the appointment of a Commission to enquire into the need for National Planning. After the interview with the Minister, the suggestion was amended to a request for the appointment of a Board of National Planning. It is interesting to note that the Government has since announced the appointment of a Planning Council.

DURBAN RAILWAY STATION

The Institute re-opened representations with the Minister of Railways asking that the Design for the Proposed New Railway Station in Durban be thrown open to competition. This request was not granted but the Minister agreed to the appointment of an Architectural Consultant and has since asked for the nomination of three architects, but expressed the wish that they be from Durban. As this involves a serious question of principle, the question has been referred to the Provincial Committees for their opinion.

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

Following the failure of its first attempt in June, 1939, when a deputation was received by the late General Collier to place the profession in such a position that it could give its maximum assistance to the war effort, Central Council this year again put forward proposals for the re-organisation of the works sections of the Department of Defence. The proposals were not accepted but it was agreed that a " Liaison Officer " between Defence and the Institute be appointed, and it is hoped that this will result in better conditions for our members in the Army, particularly in the case of soldiers in the P.W.D.

Disapproval of the extensive use of the Cost plus form of contract used so largely by Defence has been expressed, and it is interesting to note that the Controller and Auditor General in his last report roundly condemns this form of contract.

STUDENTS

Arrangements have been made to facilitate the speeding of examinations in the case of advanced students at the Universities to enable them to enlist more rapidly than would otherwise have been the case.

It will be appreciated that much has been attempted and a little achieved, and it is hoped that more will be done to enable the profession to take a fair and responsible share in the war effort and post-war reconstruction. Those members of our Institute now in the army doing the work of architects, or work of a similar character are, I know, raising the status of our profession and making those with whom they are in contact realise the value of the trained architect, but we must still aim at a fuller appreciation of adequately rendered architectural service, whether it be to our war effort or in times less strenuous.

Due to the partial stoppage—which quite possibly may become an almost complete stoppage—of normal building work during the war, the consequent arrears will require making good as soon as possible after the war and it is possible —perhaps probable—that the government may control very largely this post-war reconstruction. Without in any way belittling the official architect, very great care must be taken that this work is handled in an imaginative, efficient and economic way and that the dead hand of a certain type of officialdom be at all costs avoided.

" It is suggested," say the R.I.B.A. committee, " that full use should be made of the services of architects in private practice in preference to an inordinate and probably temporary growth of staffs employed by the Government and by local authorities. A reasonable relationship of fees to salaries as between private and official architects engaged in similar types of reconstruction work is clearly desirable. In all cases the architect should be commissioned at the earliest stage of the project and he should be given reasonable freedom of action so that the full benefit of his knowledge will also be of value."

The profession to-day is, I am convinced, at the crossroads ; its existence is threatened by the over-development of official architecture, the inroads of the engineer into an architecture becoming of necessity more and more scientific, and in which the architect himself may perhaps not be advancing sufficiently

rapidly in scientific training, and possibly by the large constructional firms employing salaried designers, which can be seen in America.

Whether the profession as we know it will weather the storm remains to be seen. If it can fulfil the needs and requirements of the public, it will survive in its present form ; if not, it must change and with it the architect as we know him to-day.

Though your Provincial Committees and Central Council can do a great deal, it is the individual members who are fundamentally responsible for the future of the profession. To prevent work going, as it is going, to official architects, engineers and construction firms, we must give adequate service to every client who seeks assistance from the profession.

I hope the future will bring a closer collaboration between all the elements of the building industry, a greater loyalty between architect and architect and a stronger link between each member and the Institute.

Competition there must always be, but let it be rather friendly rivalry.

The old world we knew is dissolving before our eyes and we must do what we can while we have time to prepare ourselves for the new conditions of the future.

THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION AND SOUTH AFRICA'S WAR EFFORT BY NORMAN HANSON B.ARCH., A.R.I.B.A.

A paper read to the Annual General Meeting of the Transvaal Provincial Institute March 1942

The subject of my survey—The Architectural Profession and South Africa's War Effort—may, in itself, raise some questions from members. It may be asked : should professional bodies act or attempt to act collectively within this country's war effort ? Is it not enough that individual architects be left to make their own personal decisions ? My contention is, that it is not.

It is quite clear that the Government's policy is to utilise existing organisations wherever possible to further and maintain the national war effort. And, clearly, that is the policy most likely to get effective results.

It is open to individuals to make their maximum contribution for the defence of this country, but their efforts remain individual.

Has not the architectural profession something more to offer the community ?

It might be instructive to look at the situation in England in this respect.

At the outbreak of the war, architects were reserved at the age of 25. Subsequently, the age was varied, from 21 for some classes to 35. In these changes the Royal Institute played an active rôle, putting forward emphatic views of the necessity of preserving the entity of the architectural profession as a whole.

Other bodies connected with the profession, such as the Association of Architects, Surveyors and Technical Assistants have been equally emphatic on this subject.

This policy has been thoroughly vindicated. To name two directions only, the architect has proved that he is indispensible in all branches of Civil Defence, and, again, in the formulation of plans for immediate and post-war reconstruction.

Reports of the greatest value have, from time to time, been published and presented to the Government Authorities.

In Civil Defence, the architect has shown ability to plan, to correlate, to co-ordinate and to organise, which is unequalled by any other professional men.

This, of course, need not or should not surprise us. It is unfortunately true, however, that the public, and the Government and Defence Authorities in general, in South Africa do not understand or appreciate the rôle of the architect in society or in the defence of society. Such awareness can only be induced by positive, determined and energetic action by the organised profession—our Institute.

Nothing, in my opinion, can contribute more to a better understanding between architect and public, and architect and authority than active participation, in a positive, collective way, by the profession, in Civil Defence.

This should be familiar ground by now. So I will do no more at this stage than mention the directions within Civil Defence where the architect can be of inestimable value. In the formulation of a shelter policy and in its realisation, in the inspection and reporting of war damage ; in first-aid repairs to buildings ; in re-housing and billeting ; in camouflage and lighting restrictions, the architect, as technician, touches on the key elements of Air-raid Precautions. To imagine that the private practitioner cannot take part in all these aspects of war-time building is a mistake, It is only necessary to quote the record of architects in England up to January of this year. This is it :

THE EMPLOYMENT OF ARCHITECTS

The Ministry of Works and Buildings has to a considerable extent utilised the services of architects in private practice in connection with the large amount of building work necessary for the prosecution of the war.

Over 200 firms of architects, employing upwards of 650 technical assistants, have been employed on the construction of hospitals, hostels, camps, stores, etc. In addition, panels which comprise in all over 350 firms of architects have been drawn upon for the carrying out of air-raid shelter schemes in Government buildings, reporting on air-raid damage and advising on precautions to be taken for the safeguarding of historic buildings. During the six months which ended on September 30th, some £66,000 was paid in fees to architects in private practice.

RECONSTRUCTION

In regard to reconstruction, this is an issue which is of immediate consequence to the architectural profession. Reconstruction is a vital factor in building up a nation's war effort. Point has been given to this contention by a recent statement in Parliament by General Smuts. It is clear that he considers that the immediate planning of the post-war world has direct bearing on present efforts, and he proposes to set up a Council or Board to examine the whole of South Africa's economic, industrial and social structure, and to recommend essential changes in the light of that research. The profession must see to it, that the function of the architect is not overlooked or ignored.

As an indication that reconstruction concerns the architect deeply, I quote the activities of the R.I.B.A. in that direction. A reconstruction committee drawn from all sections of the profession was set up by the R.I.B.A.—post-war society and the architect being the subject of its investigations. Its work covers three main points:

1. Analysis of the position of the architectural profession in relation to physical reconstruction.

2. Practical considerations in connection with reconstruction, concerning which the Government may seek advice from the profession at any time.

3. Propaganda on broad lines to demonstrate to the public the immense opportunities underlying national reconstruction, and the part the profession can play in this work.

The committee's work is carried out in groups, whose investigations cover such subjects as Professional Status, Town Planning Qualifications, Planning and Amenities, Housing, Building Legislation, Building Industry, Building Technique and Publicity. Second interim reports on these subjects have already been published, as one of the cardinal principles of the committee is speed in research and in the issue of reports. It is unnecessary to stress the importance of this Royal Institute undertaking, or to underline the need for parallel action in this country.

What then, is the record of our own Institute since the outbreak of war. It is with regret that I must state that the record is one of omission rather than achievement. There has been no consistent endeavour to relate architectural affairs with the country's war effort. On the contrary, we may say that the preservation of the private practice, which springs to a great extent from private, that is, non-public, enterprise has been the main pre-occupation of architects. I do not, for a moment, suggest that the architects themselves are responsible for this state of affairs. The causes are deep and numerous. It is particularly true, however, that the individual architect had little choice in the matter. The status of the profession is generally so low that no reasonable alternative has been apparent to most architects.

But where we may find reasons for an individual's actions, it is not possible, I think, to excuse the apathetic attitude of the Institute. I can think of one exception during the two and a half years of war, and that is the short-lived attempt to link the profession with Civil Defence. My impression at that time was that there was a real willingness on the part of architects to assist and participate in C.P.S., the formation of which was not a little due to official Institute action. The sorry story which is not known to the profession as a whole, of that frustrated effort is merely a symptom of a wider " laissez faire" attitude. Recent developments in the Far East and in North Africa must bring home the necessity for a radical change in attitude in the profession.

A realistic review of the position of building at the present moment in itself points to a course of action vastly different

from that pursued in the past. The distinction between essential and non-essential has been heightened to a degree that leaves no room for doubt. The acute shortage of building materials, the inefficient and wasteful building methods, rooted in the past, as well as the increasing danger to our ports and industrial centres, impel a drastic revision of the "laissez faire" policy. It is my proposal, therefore, that work on all non-essential building be stopped in an equitable manner, and that the architectural profession give a definite lead in this direction. But we cannot, I think as a profession, press for such a change unconditionally. The cessation of normal civilian building activity means that the technical resources, the skill, the knowledge and the experience of the architectural profession should be diverted into other appropriate channels.

The profession, as a body, must be given its opportunity to participate officially in the various branches of the war effort. And more than participate—it must be so placed that it can improve the war effort—for I believe that it is possible for architects as such to do so.

To prove that our representative bodies can be of direct service, I can quote the position in Durban to-day. The Central Council's action in relation to C.P.S., to which I have referred earlier, had one positive outcome. It is heartening to know that in Natal, the Provincial Institute carried forward on the suggestions embodied in the Report of the A.C.C.D., and formed a Durban Architects' C.P.S. Committee. This committee, by pursuing an active policy, received official recognition within Durban's C.P.S., and, in fact, has been functioning for twelve months and more. Private practitioners have been available in the City Hall offices to advise the public on protective measures, and to collect and correlate essential data for formulating a comprehensive policy.

It is a fact that this preliminary work is proving invaluable to-day, when extensive preparations are being made in Durban to meet all contingencies. It is no less essential in the Transvaal that the architectural profession participate as a body in such vital activities.

Before putting forward formal proposals to this meeting, I should like to summarise the type of immediate action that I visualise. I consider that the attention of the proper authorities, military, semi-military and civilian, should be drawn to the potential usefulness of the architectural profession in the following directions:

1. AIR-RAID PRECAUTIONS

(a) Assistance in the formulation of a national A.R.P. code for South Africa.

(b) The collection and correlation of essential data.

(c) The planning and construction of shelter systems for specified areas.

(d) The organisation and administration of "first-aid" repairs to war-damaged property.

(e) The examination and alteration of existing structures for use as shelters.

(f) The planning of evacuation, as far as the preparation of reception areas is concerned.

(g) The planning and construction of suitable rest and feeding centres for bombed areas.

(h) The planning and carrying out of the details of lighting restrictions.

(i) Advice and instructions to the general public on all the matters enumerated.

To present a strong case to the relevant authority, detailed technical reports on these items should be drawn up.

2. RECONSTRUCTION

(a) The planning of towns to meet the needs of post-war industrial expansion and social and economic adjustments; and

(b) The planning of war time construction for adaptation to peace time requirements.

I consider, further, that it is the duty of the Institute, as the professional, and therefore the most disinterested, section of the Building Industry, to lead the way to a planned war time use of our material resources. This entails:

(1) The stoppage of all non-essential building; and

(2) The most complete exploitation of the resources available for essential purposes.

To achieve this latter objective, the Institute must undertake research into the potentialities of South African produced materials, and into the necessary reduction in the use of imported materials.

In the light of this work, the authorities must be impressed with the need of absorbing the architectural profession into the task of essential building such as hospitals, schools and sub-economic housing.

This completes my survey—the Architectural Profession and South Africa's War Effort—and of formally moving that "as this general meeting of the Transvaal Provincial Institute takes a serious view of the present war situation as it affects South Africa, and, in turn, the architectural profession, it agrees

to instruct the incoming Provincial Committee that:

(a) It directs the energies of this Institute towards pressing for the proper utilisation of the architectural profession within the framework of South Africa's war effort; and that

(b) Parallel with this drive, the Institute makes every endeavour to discourage non-essential building, and to direct the technical and material resources of the Building Industry towards meeting essential building requirements"

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATED SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SOCIETIES OF SOUTH AFRICA

The election of Professor G. E. Pearse to the office of President of the A.S. and T.S. for 1942 will come as gratifying news to his colleagues in the architectural profession. Not only is this a signal honour to our profession but it links in a very positive manner the activities of the architect with those varied and significant branches of science and industry which normally lie beyond the immediate horizon of our work. In the central organisation which links chemists, geologists, physicists, engineers and architects, is to be found a body of extreme importance to the scientific worker ; and in the case of the architect the association with professions technically equipped as are these allied bodies is a powerful factor in enhancing our standing and the recognition of the architects as a group of trained and scientifically reliable technicians.

Professor Pearse was born in South Africa and trained as an architect in Johannesburg and London. He was elected an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1912, and after working for some time with Sir Herbert Baker started practice in Johannesburg. During the war of 1914-1918 he served with the Royal Engineers in Mesopotamia, and on his return to South Africa he resumed practice in Johannesburg. In 1921 he was appointed to the newly established Chair of Architecture at the University of the Witwatersrand, a position which he at present holds.

Since his appointment at the University he has seen the School of Architecture grow and develop in what can only be a most gratifying manner to him. The energy and high ideal that he has given to his academic work have been well rewarded, and the results of his steadfastness are known in a wide field to-day—one which spreads far beyond the confines of this country.

In spite of this dominating occupation he has not neglected his responsibilities to the profession, serving on the Transvaal Provincial Committee for many years, and for many periods on the Central Council of the Institute of South African Architects. He has supported in particular all reforms leading to better and more adequate codes for town planning on a national scale, and he has worked hard for the recognition of the younger architects by responsible bodies—Government and private.

As an architectural historian Professor Pearse has played a leading part in instilling a full, an even meticulous, regard for the elements of the great historical epochs of architecture in his students. His best known work in the historical field is fittingly devoted to a South African subject. In his monumental work on Eighteenth Century Architecture at the Cape which was published in 1934, he provided us with a definitive work on this fascinating branch of our own architectural heritage, and set at the same time a standard of scholarly accuracy which must always remain a guide to those who would follow with similar works.

As a Carnegie Grant holder he visited Europe and the United States, in 1931-1932, to study architectural education in overseas schools, and on this trip established many valuable links with the profession in these areas. In a few months time the School of Architecture will celebrate its twenty-first birthday with a large exhibition of work by past and present students ; it comes as a happy coincidence that this will take place during his year of office as President of the Associated Scientific and Technical Societies.

We congratulate Professor Pearse on being the first member of the architectural profession to receive this honour, and we are confident of his intention to bring to his new responsibility a sense of the high ideals for which his profession is striving in these most difficult times.

R. M.

ROUND THE CIRCLE by ANGUS STEWART, B.Arch.

It is probably some queer streak of conscience that made me offer to write some form of regular commentary on events, personalities, even architecture and in fact anything that might be of interest to the local world of architects. It was Mr. F. L. H. Fleming's reference to "authorship and editorship" made in the course of a short speech on the journal at the last Annual General Meeting of the Transvaal Institute that finally impelled me to action. There cannot be editing without contributions and one has promised so often to send something in, but one has seldom done so. These notes, while they can only lower the standard of authoriship, cannot further, alter, or in any way add to the policy of the journal. It was on the alleged lack of "policy" that Mr. Fleming's main criticism rested, whereas I have inferred that the journal has a "policy." I think that that "policy" is not obscure to a regular reader of the journal. Perhaps we of to-day have had our minds dulled by propaganda and are no longer able to recognise the less blatant, the more tenuous propagation of an aesthetic approach to architecture. It is held by some that the journal "is lost in the clouds," is too "academic," and during the discussion Dr. Martienssen dealt with this tendency and its inevitability in the circumstances—for there is another aspect of the journal's "policy," which is contained in the statement: "The Editors will be glad to consider . . ." Now I do not wittingly propose to provide an alternative source for Dr. Martienssen's "light relief," nor as I have stated before do I propose to write an editorial or leader, which is a matter for the Editors and I am not well acquainted with their views in this respect. I also should not presume to write practical notes on building construction for the profession. It might well be asked of what do I intend to write? My reply can only be to put on paper some thoughts that pass through one architect's mind.

As it was at the Annual General Meeting that I had the idea of these notes, we might start with it; and as it was Mr. Fleming who flicked the whip, we might more particularly start with him even though he would disclaim all responsibility for the thoughts. The necessary quorum for the meeting was constituted by a fair mixture of old and young members or more correctly older and younger, and of the former Mr. Fleming most often held the floor. A quiet, dignified, yet clear speaker, he did to my mind signify a professional man. The point is not unimportant in these times when some quarters would decry all things professional which are placed in two upper brackets of class, and others would organise for business, and still others would form concepts "blood" and "soil" and attach mysterious properties to them. One wonders how the several new standards will compare with the better of the old. The retiring President in a speech which was in many ways different from the usual "presidential" spoke of the future and I hope that his speech will be read. Mr. Norman Hanson, the most vocal of the younger members, read an excellent paper which, though touching in part on matter raised by Mr. Furner, dealt with the present. The immediacy of the call did not seem to be realised by the meeting except on the smaller issue. The meeting throughout was characterised by a strange air of urgency and complacency. It was late by the time Mr. Hanson spoke and minds were wandering; my eyes were wandering too. It is something that has distracted me before, it is the maw of the stage of Kelvin House. I wonder if the proscenium could be curtained after the war? As it is the President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary, sit against a background which is part wood and part white wall. The decoration of the hall ends abruptly at the proscenium arch, and the rest lacks scenery and curtains.

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Speaking of halls, last time we—that is the pair of us—were at the Twentieth Century Cinema, we received a circular letter signed by the organist, which announced that alterations were to be effected in order to provide a stage for local talent. I wonder, with some trepidation, whether the architects or the organist are to have charge of the contemplated alterations, for the proprietors or management, or both, seem to be continually tinkering with Johannesburg's best cinema—I speak only of the architecture. First the plant-box in the main foyer was removed, then some statuary of which the centre piece seems to be a replica of the Hollywood "Oscar" was added to the proscenium frame which holds the screen, then the tongue-shaped sounding board immediately above and before the screen was patched up and the cup-like indentations disappeared, and now there is to be a setting for spectacles. Is there to be no end to it? There is a peculiarity about this sounding board. It is painted light

blue, probably because this colour is theoretically a spatial colour ; yet against the chrome yellow ceiling I have always felt it to be the contrary. I remark on it, not because I wish to be hyper-critical but because the peculiarity has interested me and I wonder if others have noticed it ? If one wished to be critical one could point to this or that aspect of the decoration or to the V-pole under the main stair, which I believe is justified by the construction ; though if the construction is justified by the treatment of the steps is another matter. But all such points are minor criticisms for it is an elegant theatre and what is more, with its parabolic end and free standing screen, a complete hall. The Hollywood award, if such it be, is justified but I think that the architects might have been consulted on the provision for " Oscar " ; they might have designed a niche or a pedestal, or found a box for it. There is another hall in Johannesburg which compares with the Twentieth Century, and the two halls illustrate the range of the modern medium. I refer to the Great Hall of the Witwatersrand University, which for lack of a better definition can be said to be an essay in modern academic. Spacious, quiet and chaste, it functions excellently. One night we attended a recital which was given by Marda Vanne and Gwen Frangcon-Davies and in which they covered a large part of their histrionic range. Sitting well back, we heard the merest whisper without any strain and the whole recital was rendered much more enjoyable by the absence of the usually ubiquitious microphone. This hall is if anything more formally complete than that of the Twentieth Century for it lacks that most intractable feature—the gallery, and has the full benefit of the graceful ceiling which runs from end to end in a series of varying concave forms within an enclosing sweep. In comparing the respective ceilings of the cinema and university halls, one cannot help but remark on the greater refinement in treatment which is necessary for the unaided human voice. These two halls should not really be compared for each was built for a different function, yet the treatment of dadoes must be compared. In the cinema hall the dado is flexibly treated and follows the rake of the floor, while in the other one it seems to have been determined quite arbitrarily and lines with the highest tier. I call such a line a drawing-board line.

Of course, in the discussion on halls I have omitted those which are treated " atmospherically " and draw their inspiration from Spain, Fairyland and Tudor England. There are, however, also Tudor houses. I marched past two, a week or so ago—and it seemed to take quite a time. The first one we passed was a restrained and not unpleasant house standing in an equally restrained garden, which faded out into an old plantation. The next which seemed to be about half a mile away but was probably less than a quarter, was a large, very large, pretentious house, built perhaps a hundred yards from the road to which it was linked by a lawn, studded with exotics, and cropped right up to the fence. What interested me were the comments of the men—all laymen—in the ranks immediately ahead and behind me. One in emphatic terms much preferred the first, and that with myself who remained silent, made two out of nine, who were not overcome by the intricate pattern of the half timbering and plaster, the broken roof and size of the second house. Now I think that two out of nine with a little architectural taste is quite a fair proportion. A long way further on and standing a long way back from the road was another pastiche, this time in Cape Dutch. Now if you like the pastiche, this one is, I suppose, quite well done. It might be niggardly to complain that original Cape Dutch was apart from the town house usually a single story affair. Yet this large house seemed to be a mighty pile. It seemed to shout : " our business is in the city, but we live here." My mind went back to a genuine edition. I recalled the low spreading manor house, the nearby rambling stables and servants quarters, and the wine cellars, in poor repair, not far away. The buildings were close to the vineyards and the oak trees cast dappled shadows on the white walls of the group. And that is the point, it was a group—an organism. A long way further on we passed the class of house which I should say cost about £5,000, rising steeply, and came to the class which cost £2,000, more or less. It was an area in which the speculative builder had been busy. " Modernistic " flat roofed houses which covered the site up to the limit of the by-laws, with punched out corners for glass and roughened parapets for tiles, each resembled nothing so much as a cartoonist's idea of a minor war-time profiteer aggressively doing his bit in a ration suit. In this case the purpose was to house an ordinary family. Soon after we came upon the house which costs £1,000, falling slightly. As you might realise we were returning to the city. If spacious grounds cover a multitude of sins there is no disguise for the smaller houses which stand hard upon each other. There is a need for something drastic and a need for architects.

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We have lost some young architects recently. Brilliant temperamental George Abbott who promised so much. Brilliant, stable Kurt Jonas whose loss to architecture cannot be estimated ; learned, scholarly and suave, he had I think emotional depths which were not always realised. A better pen than mine, has written of these two, and it is another

whom I would recall. There are some people whom one meets infrequently and at irregular intervals, yet as time passes these meetings seem to form a regular if minor beat in one's life. Such a one in relation to myself was the late Lieutenant E. A. Ralph, who has been killed in Libya. He was a diploma student when I was at University and we would bump into each other at lectures. Quite often in those days we would have a short conversation. He would at one time tell me about the difficulties of being a clerk of works, and at another of drawing window schedules or other details. I never knew the jobs on which he worked, he was a good employee in that respect. Once I remember discussing wages and no doubt there was some grumbling. I never knew what he was paid, he was a fairly typical South African. In later years our occasional contacts were mostly limited to perfunctory waves of the hand. I remember seeing him not so long ago in the ill-fitting uniform of a cadet, Eric Ralph was big and it seemed a trifle too small for him. I did not meet him again until a friend and I went to make some inquiries at the Drill Hall and found that we had to see Eric Ralph, then a Second-Lieutenant. Second-Lieutenants can be as prickly as the points on their pips, but he, a little diffident as always, was friendly and helpful. I never saw him again. So a small thread in one's own life but a stout cable in another's is snapped. His, so far as I know, was an anonymous contribution to architecture, forgotten in numerous minor and major works. Yet I imagine Eric Ralph made a good officer, and moreover he was a good member of the community, like tens of thousands of others whose works are difficult to place. The evaluation of a man cannot be made solely in terms of architecture.

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It was an incomparably smaller sacrifice that Mr. Hanson asked members of the profession to make. Their least duty is to consider if Mr. Hanson's analysis of the position is correct. If he is correct and the time for private building during the war is passed, then it is for the profession to act. The point was raised at the meeting that if members of the government were complacent, is there any onus on architects to bother ? In another connection one member seemed to attribute absolute and irrevocable powers to matters " settled in Parliament." These two not unrelated attitudes raise pertinent questions in relation to the functioning of parliament. Must the lead always come from the government ? Do the letters M.P. necessarily carry more weight than the letters M.I.A., or do they merely indicate a difference in function ? This matter of the profession giving a lead in the building industry is not unconnected with the status of the architect. Too often nowadays is the architect thought of as a mere co-ordinator. It is perhaps not always realised that an architect's first thumbnail sketch does at so early a stage determine the subsequent manner in which all others from the most eminent consultant to the most knowing artisan will be able to function ; that they will properly fulfil their functions also depends on the skill of the architect. The relation of an architect to a building and of architects to the building industry is not analogous, but Mr. Hanson was correct in holding that the profession was the only possible quarter from which a lead could come. Should the profession not then seriously consider what the lead is to be ?

THE INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTS

Extracts from the Report of the Chairman of the Executive Committee, 1941-42.

In reviewing the work of the Executive Committee during the past year, it may not be out of place to state that it has been one of the most difficult years in the history of this Institute; that the Executive Committee has had to face situations and make decisions for which there are no precedent in our records; and that there are still more difficult years ahead of us there can be little doubt.

JOINT NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

In meeting our problems in the past we have found ourselves severly handicapped by the difficulty of obtaining information, and by the lack of co-operation within the Industry, and this aspect grows more acute as our present difficulties increase. We have, therefore, pressed forward with the scheme for the establishment of a Joint National Council of the Building Industry, a matter in which I believe it is the duty of the Professions to give the lead. The task is by no means an easy one and we are indebted to our President-in-Chief for raising the matter at our last Central Council meeting and for continually keeping the matter in the foreground during his year of office.

The Executive Committee has made some progress in this direction, in spite of the more immediately urgent matters which have presented themselves from time to time, and in face of what at first was a somewhat lethargic response on the part of the Builders' Federation. As long ago as June of last year the matter was raised at joint meetings with the Federation when the proposal that the then operating Joint Committee should be formed into a permanent committee as a nucleus for, and with the object of establishing, a Joint National Council, was put forward. All negotiations at that time fell through in the confusion caused by the Government's proclamation of the Building Industry as a controlled industry.

However, after further pressure by the Institute the Builders' Congress, during November, 1941, passed a resolution directing their Executive Committee to collaborate in the formation of such a Council, and your Executive Committee followed up the matter by again requesting that a Joint Committee be set up on the lines previously suggested. This has at last been done and at the first meeting of the Joint Committee held in December it was agreed, "That the Joint Committee should be regarded as a nucleus which would develop into the Joint National Council desired."

At the last meeting of the Joint Committee the matter was again raised and a considerable measure of support obtained from the Builders' delegates. A Sub-Committee was set up to report as soon as possible upon the constitution of the proposed Joint Council, and I confidently hope that some definite progress will be made during the forthcoming year.

JOINT COMMITTEE WITH BUILDERS

As mentioned above, a Joint Committee of the Institute and the Builders' Federation has been set up on a permanent basis and has had two meetings. Apart from the consideration of the question of the proposed Joint Council, the Joint Committee has considered the difficulties of tendering under present conditions and of qualifications of tenders.

The Institute's delegates have realised and understood the difficulties of the Builders and have formulated a solution upon lines which have proved acceptable to the Builders. The proposals will be more fully dealt with later on the agenda, and consist briefly of special war contract clauses:

(a) Requiring P.C. amounts to be inserted in tender documents for certain materials for which Builders cannot obtain firm quotations:

(b) Protecting Builders against the failure of suppliers to fulfil orders by reason of the war or acts of Government, and

(c) Protecting Builders against the raising of wages by the Government, other than by way of Industrial Agreement.

The Joint Committee also collaborated in the drafting of qualifying clauses for the use of Builders in tendering. These are intended as a temporary measure until the contract clauses above referred to can be brought into operation.

The draft contract clauses have already been agreed upon and are subject to approval by this Council or its Executive Committee, and by the Executive Committee of the Federation.

It is anticipated that much useful liaison work will be performed by the Joint Committee, even apart from its consideration of War-time contract clauses and its spade-work upon the proposal of a Joint Council. It is therefore recommended that it should remain in operation until such a time as the Joint Council can take over its duties.

BUILDING CONTROL

As is generally known the Building Industry was proclaimed a controlled industry during July, 1941. The Institute had in no way been consulted, and we immediately took steps to approach the Controller asking for representation upon the

Committees to be set up and setting forward the principles upon which we considered the control should be applied. The attitude of the Executive Committee was that the Government had full right to impose the control which, as you all know, was intended to ensure a sufficiency of skilled labour for the large Defence Building Programme. The duty of an Institute such as ours was clearly to co-operate with the Government and in no way to jeopardise the policy of the State, particularly in War-time. There were, however, many ways in which the policy of the Controller could be modified so as to ensure a minimum of hardship to the public and to our Professions, consistent nevertheless with the main object of the Control.

I am happy to state that the Controller agreed to representation of our Institute upon the Central and Local Advisory Committees, and that tributes have been paid to the valuable and disinterested service given by our nominees. In particular I should like to mention the very valuable service given by the Institute's two nominees on the Witwatersrand Local Advisory Committee. From this Committee has been demanded an immense amount of work and our representatives have served unstintingly, attending upon as many as five full days per week.

It is further gratifying to record that the representations of the Institute upon matters of policy have been largely successful. This has been ascribed not merely to our powers of persuasion, but rather to our constant endeavour to serve national rather than sectional interests. We have received criticisms from our own members, but I do not think we need regret our standpoint.

The Institute has from the beginning of Control urged that the measures adopted should not be regarded as temporary, but should be continued during the period of the War and should, from time to time, be adopted to meet contingencies as they arise. The time has now arrived for a complete reconsideration of the methods of Control. The principal object towards which the present system has been directed, namely, the ensuring of sufficient skilled labour for Defence Building Works, has been effected and in most centres there is evidence of unemployment amongst building artisans.

The Institute has continually warned, not only the Controller of Man Power, but also the various Government Departments concerned, such as the Minister of Commerce and Industries, the Price Controller, the Controller of Imports and Exports, and others, that the Building Industry is faced with an acute shortage of vital materials and that such shortage can only lead to severe unemployment. While the representations of the Institute have not met with much response we have, nevertheless, continued in our efforts to bring matters upon a proper footing, and to have the problem tackled upon the right lines.

An approach was made to the Industrial and Agricultural Requirements Commission requesting an investigation and survey into the needs of the Building Industry. The Commission, however, did not see its way clear to conduct such an investigation, and proposals were then put forward to it that the scope of Building Control should be extended and amended to lay stress upon materials which are in short supply rather than upon man power, and the appointment of a technically experienced Controller has been urged. A fairly detailed scheme for such control has been placed before the Commission, and it is gratifying to report that the Commission has fully adopted our proposals and has sent forward a recommendation to the Government that they be acted upon. We have, in the meantime, forwarded copies of the correspondence to the Minister of Commerce and Industries asking for attention to be given to the matter. This was done after consultation with, and with the approval of, the the Chairman of the Commission.

OTHER CONTROL MEASURES

As members of the Central Council are aware the Government has proclaimed many other control measures which, directly or indirectly, affect the Building Industry. There are, for instance, the Control of Imports and Exports ; the Control of Prices ; the Control of Corrugated Iron, etc. ; and the Control of Steel. The Executive Committee has made repeated representations to the Government asking to be consulted on control schemes affecting the Building Industry, and asking for representation upon the Committees and Councils set up thereunder. It is with regret that I have to report that these efforts have been met with polite disinterestedness on the part of the officials concerned. The Institute cannot, however, let the matter rest and if no success is achieved with the proposals we have put forward regarding Building Control, we must find other means of bringing our point of view to the notice of the Government. It is indeed a sad reflection upon officialdom that a professional body such as ours, which can give disinterested and valuable advice, should be completely ignored.

There is, nevertheless, one direction in which our offers of assistance have not been rejected. The Price Controller has responded quickly to our representations regarding hoarding and price raising in building commodities. His task is a very difficult one with an inadequate staff, but we hope that he will be able to achieve results before long.

NATIONAL PLANNING

During October last year, the Executive Committee considered the question of an approach to the Government on

the necessity for a scheme of National Planning. It was left to a Sub-Committee to investigate the matter and to approach the Government urging the appointment of a Commission to investigate the need for the setting up of a National Planning Authority. A memorandum on the subject was drawn up and a deputation attended upon the Minister of Finance during November. Mr. Hofmeyr evinced considerable interest but was critical of various aspects of the proposals, and more particularly of the suggestion of a Commission which he felt would be a waste of time. After further consideration by the Sub-Committee, a further letter was sent to the Minister amplifying the points raised and amending the proposal for a Commission to one for a "Board of National Planning," on a permanent basis, to proceed immediately with the drawing up of plans for economic and industrial development and improved social conditions. The correspondence has been published with the minutes and most members will know the details of the proposals put forward.

It is gratifying to report that the Industrial and Agricultural Requirements Commission, in a report recently published, made similar recommendations to the Government, and that the Government has announced its intention to set up an "Economic and Social Advisory and Planning Council." From Press reports of the Prime Minister's statement, it appears that the functions and duties of this Council will be on very similar lines to those put forward by the Institute, but it is not in any way clear whether the Government will heed the representations of the Institute upon the matter of the personnel of the Council.

The Institute has now to face the big task of preparing itself to deal with a matter more closely allied to the ordinary function of Architects. The Executive Committee, in bringing its National Planning proposals before the Government, was in particular concerned with the need for proper and adequate Regional Planning, which it envisaged as being an important part of the National Planning proposals. After the announcement by the Government of its intention to establish the Planning Council we wrote to the Minister of Finance drawing attention to this aspect, and offering to submit a detailed memorandum on Regional Planning, an offer which the Minister has accepted.

The matter is of such vital importance that when we come to deal with it later on the agenda it should be urged that we set up a strong Committee of the men, whether members of this Council or not, who are best qualified and experienced to speak on this subject. To this Committee should be entrusted the task, under the control of the Executive Committee, of preparing this memorandum for submission to the Planning Council.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

On initiative originating with the Board of the Chapter, the Executive Committee, at the outset of its year's work, considered the building works organisation of the Defence Department in particular relation to its effectiveness and to the use made of our members in it. A special Sub-Committee was set up to draft a memorandum and to bring the opinion of the Institute to the notice of the Government. This memorandum was based upon one previously prepared by Mr. Dudley S. Mann, who was co-opted to the Committee, and the Institute is indebted to him for initiating this matter and for his services in connection therewith.

The Institute was of opinion, from various evidence at its disposal, that the Defence building organisation was not functioning satisfactorily and that the principal reasons were :

(a) The division of responsibility and overlapping caused by the large number of different authorities, both military and civil, who were entrusted with the work, and

(b) The failure of the Defence Authorities to use to the best advantage the men in the Army who are technically trained and experienced in building work.

The memorandum prepared provided for :

(i) The setting up of a single unit (called the Staff for Engineering Services) co-ordinating, under single control, all the various personnel responsible for Defence works, and

(ii) The utilisation to the best possible advantage of the men trained and experienced in building work, with ranks, and at rates of pay, comparable with their ability and the degree of their sacrifice.

After many efforts the memorandum was finally brought to the notice of the Chief of the General Staff and a conference was called by the Defence Authorities to consider the matter. Unfortunately the Chief of the General Staff himself was unable to be present, and it is to be regretted that no representatives were invited from the Public Works Department and from the Directorate General of the Air Force.

The conference, from our point of view, was very disappointing and we received the general reply that, though the lines of organisation suggested by us would probably be an improvement, it was then already too late to attempt the necessary re-organisation. We were, however, successful in having the principle agreed to of the appointment of a Liaison Officer between the Institute and the Defence Department.

After many delays, the reasons for which need not now be entered into, the Liaison Officer, Mr. Furner, was finally

appointed and got busy in earnest at the beginning of this year. Mr. Furner's Report has been completed and sent on to the Defence Force Authorities, and a copy has been sent to us. This matter will be dealt with later when Mr. Furner reports to the Central Council on his work, but at this stage I think it should be recorded that Mr. Furner has devoted a very great deal of time and thought to his job, and that he has prepared a very excellent Report, for which the whole Institute and the Defence Department should be grateful. It is to be hoped that the Report will receive the attention it merits from the Defence Authorities, and I may say that there are already indications that it is not being pigeon-holed.

DURBAN RAILWAY STATION

As instructed by Central Council last year, we revived our request to the Minister of Railways that an Architectural Competition be held for the proposed new Railway Station at Durban.

The Minister agreed to meet a deputation from the Institute, and in August last year we were received by the Minister, with the Railway Board and with the heads of the Administration.

The meeting was a successful one and, although we did not get the Minister to agree to a Competition, he nevertheless agreed to the engagement of an Architectural Consultant upon this scheme. He expressed himself, however, as being in favour of the limiting of the selection of such a Consultant to Architects resident in Durban, and has asked the Institute to nominate three such Architects for final selection. Since the matter is not at present urgent your Executive Committee has delayed action so as to get the opinion of other centres on the important principle of the limitation of choice to local Architects on a building project of such national importance.

The deputation, as you will see from its report, raised other matters at the interview, one of which was the proposed S.A.R. Hotels. The Minister stated that the Administration had not yet decided whether to proceed with the erection of these Hotels, but he intimated that, should they proceed, they would in all probability decide to hold a Competition in order to choose an Architect.

COST-PLUS-PROFIT CONTRACTS

As is generally known there has been a spate of cost-plus-profit contracts for urgent Defence building requirements. The Executive Committee has taken every opportunity to draw the attention of the Authorities to the undesirability of this class of contract, which is, indeed, no contract at all. The results of the very large amount of work put out in this way have been very far-reaching and may well be felt for many years to come.

The cost of building has risen very steeply in the last nine months and a great deal of this rise has, I believe, been directly due to these cost-plus-profit contracts for the following reasons :

(i) There is no incentive for Builders to take the risk of ordinary tendering when so much work is available whereon any risk has practically been eliminated ;

(ii) The output of labour has seriously declined because of the amount of work available to artisans on Defence jobs, where there is no incentive either to the Contractor or to his men to limit labour costs.

It would have been unwise and unfair for us to have expressed, without full knowledge, any opinion as to whether the urgency of the Defence work warranted the adoption of the cost-plus-profit system to the extent to which it has been used. Nevertheless, we have consistently urged that alternative methods be explored, and that the cost-plus-profit system be limited as far as possible.

The matter has received notice in influential Government quarters and in his last Annual Report the Controller and Auditor General uttered severe criticisms of this form of contract, basing his argument largely upon the finding of a Select Committee of the British House of Commons. The matter was thereafter ventilated in our Parliament, and in its Select Committee on Public Accounts. This latter body has recommended to the Government that a Committee or Commission be appointed to investigate and report on this and allied matters. It appears that the Government will act upon this recommendation and we trust that it will see its way clear to appointing a private Practising Quantity Surveyor or Architect to serve upon the Committee or Commission. It will be our duty, in any event, to offer to give evidence at the investigation.

APPRECIATION

I wish to express my thanks to the President-in-Chief, to the Members of the Executive Committee, and to the Registrar, for the work they have done and for the assistance and advice they have rendered me during my difficult year of office. In particular I should like to record my appreciation of the way in which Mr. Haddon and Mr. Furner have constantly held themselves available for consultation upon urgent and important matters.

C. L. F. BORCKENHAGEN
Chairman of the Executive Committee.

THE TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTS

The Committee's Annual Report for the Year Ended 31st December, 1941

To the Members of the Transvaal Provincial Institute :

Your Committee has pleasure in submitting this, the Fifteenth Annual Report, together with the Annual Balance Sheets and Accounts, for the year ended 31st December, 1941.

MEMBERSHIP : The Membership at the close of the year consisted of 181 Practising, 127 Salaried, 8 Absentee, and 36 Retired, a total of 351 members, equal to 55 per cent. of the total membership of the Institute of South African Architects.

During the year under review 11 new members were enrolled, three members died, one resigned and two were transferred to, and one from, other Provincial Institutes, the increase in membership as compared with the previous year being five.

The new members enrolled during 1941 were : Miss J. R. Drury, Messrs. J. B. Dey, A. C. Dold, F. L. Jarrett, H. N. Joubert, W. A. McDonald, F. O. Muller, A. J. Murray, M. D. Ringrose, A. Stamelman, and J. Vavra.

OBITUARY : It is with regret that your Committee has to record the deaths of Messrs. J. Lockwood Hall, and H. G. F. Higgins.

COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS : Following the election of the Committee at the annual meeting in March, 1941, Mr. A. Stanley Furner was elected President ; Mr. W. Gordon McIntosh, Senior Vice-President, and Mr. C. D. St. Leger, Junior Vice-President for the ensuing year.

Owing to the absence of Capt. Tomkyns on Active Service, your Committee appointed Mr. N. L. Hanson as a member of the Provincial Committee.

During the year 12 ordinary, one joint, and four special meetings of the Committee have been held, and the following is a record of members' attendances thereat :

A Stanley Furner (President)	17
W. G. McIntosh (Sen. Vice-President)	15
C. D. St. Leger (Jun. Vice-President)	17
S. C. Dowsett	15
N. M. Eaton	9
D. S. Haddon	15
N. L. Hanson (Co-opted)	14
R. Howden	10
A. J. Marshall	12
Dr. R. D. Martienssen	16
Professor G. E. Pearse	8
D. I. H. Smail	14

Capt. H. G. Tomkyns (On Active Service)

During the year Messrs. S. C. Dowsett, N. M. Eaton, R. Howden, W. G. McIntosh, A. J. Marshall, Professor G. E. Pearse and Mr. I. Smail were absent on leave for various periods.

Your Committee has been assisted throughout the year by Sub-Committees on Finance, Practice, Journal, and the S.A. Academy, and the thanks of the Institute are tendered to members of those Committees for the valuable services rendered by them.

GENERAL MEETINGS : In addition to the Annual General Meeting, two Special General Meetings were called to deal with Provincial Work, and Control of Building.

Provincial Work : A full Memorandum on this matter has been drawn up by your Committee and will be discussed at the forth-coming Annual General Meeting.

Building Control : At the request of the Controller of Man-power, your Committee appointed Mr. F. L. H. Fleming as our Representative on the Local Committee of the Divisional Inspector of Labour. Mr. Fleming, with Mr. A. J. Marshall, acting as his Alternate, attended many meetings, and the Institute owes a debt of gratitude for the work done and time spent on this matter.

CENTRAL COUNCIL : The 1941/42 Central Council met at Johannesburg on the 15th and 16th April, 1941.

At this meeting Mr. W. W. Tonkin (O.F.S.P.I.) was elected President-in-Chief, and Mr. B. V. Bartholomew (N.P.I.) Vice-President-in-Chief.

Your Institute's representatives on the Council during the past year were :

Mr. A. S. Furner, alternate, Mr. S. C. Dowsett.
Mr. R. Howden, alternate, Mr. A. J. Marshall.
Mr. W. G. McIntosh, alternate, Mr. N. M. Eaton.
Mr. C. D. St. Leger, alternate, Mr. D. S. Haddon.
Professor G. E. Pearse, alternate Dr. R. D. Martienssen.

FINANCE: The Revenue and Expenditure Accounts and Balance Sheets as at 3st December, 1941, of the Institute Account, the S.A. Architectural Record Account, the Catalogue Service Bureau Account and the Benevolent Fund, are attached to this report.

Institute Account: It will be noted that the excess of Revenue over Expenditure for the year amount to £140 11s. 11d.

Subscriptions paid during the year were more than the previous year by £220.

Administrative Expenses show £48 increase as compared with 1940.

S.A. Architectural Record Account: This account showed a loss for the year of £385 3s. 10d. due to cancellation of several advertisements on account of War conditions.

Catalogue Service Bureau Account: In this Account the excess of Expenditure over Revenue was £127 0s. 6d.

Benevolent Fund Account: During the past year the total Revenue amounted to £97 13s. 5d., the Grants-in-aid total £48. Accumulated Funds were increased by £49 13s. 5d. and the total Funds at the end of the year amounted to £999 14s. 1d.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: The Institute wishes to express its appreciation and thanks for the way in which Members responded to the request for payment of subscriptions, especially in these abnormal times.

Remission of Subscriptions has been granted to many members on Active Service.

PRACTICE: Several enquiries and one Arbitration have been handled by this Committee, and your Committee take this opportunity to thank those members who gave up so much of their time in conducting those enquiries.

It was noted that too many disputes on fees have been reported to the Institute, because Agreements had not been entered into between Architects and Clients.

The Institute deprecates the fact that it has come to its notice frequently during the year that some Architects make a practice of undertaking to assist clients to obtain Building Loans.

S.A. ARCHITECTURAL RECORD: The Committee expresses its thanks to Professor Pearse and Dr. Martienssen, the Honorary Editors.

The thanks and appreciation of the Institute are also extended to the Advertisers whose support enabled the continuation of this publication at its high standard of excellence.

Articles appearing in the "Record" have been reproduced by publications in various parts of the world.

ARCHITECTS CATALOGUE SERVICE BUREAU: This service has now been made a yearly one as from January, 1942, and arrangements have been made to distribute copies to all Architects, Quantity Surveyors, Government and Municipal Offices in the Union.

BENEVOLENT FUND: The Committee wishes to express its appreciation and thanks to Members who contributed to this Fund during the past year.

S.A. ACADEMY: The 22nd Annual Exhibition was held in the new Exhibition Hall of the Municipal Offices in June, 1941.

The thanks of the Committee are expressed to the Transvaal Art Society, Judges, Hanging Committee, and all those who assisted in making the Exhibition a success.

ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION: There are now 116 students taking Architecture and Quantity Surveying at the Witwatersrand School of Architecture, and 66 students at the Pretoria University.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION: We have to thank Miss Hookham for carrying on as Acting Secretary after her marriage in April, until we were able to make other arrangements. In July, 1941, we secured the services of Miss Murray, who has been with us since that date. Owing to the stringency of Finance and the War, we did not feel justified in appointing a full time Secretary and Business Manager.

After eight years service in connection with the advertising in the Journal, Mr. McDonald has severed his connection with this Institute.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: During the year the offices were removed from 202 to 611, Kelvin House.

By Order of the Committee,

B. MURRAY,

February, 1942. Acting Secretary.

KURT JONAS, B.ARCH., M.A., A.R.I.B.A.

The news of Kurt Jonas's death at Jerusalem came as a great shock to his many friends in the architectural profession and in the University. In a life already packed with a wide range of activities before he took up his architectural studies, Jonas found time to maintain studies and enquiries of extraordinary diversity. At the time of his death he was in Palestine on a Union Government Post-Graduate Scholarship for the purpose of investigating the development of domestic architecture in the Near East. Only a few days ago his first report reached the University, and although he was, then, battling against ill-health it was quite apparent that he was tackling his new field of research with the gusto and painstaking thoroughness to which we had become accustomed in all his undertakings in the university and architectural worlds.

Jonas came to the University of the Witwatersrand in 1934 and graduated Bachelor of Architecture in 1939. In 1941 he was elected an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects; and in the same year received the M.A. degree for a thesis on "The Historical Development of Colour Perception as illustrated by Deficiencies of the Colour Perception of the Ancient Greeks." The question of How the Greeks saw Colour had interested him for some time, and a preliminary to his thesis was the publication in the South African Architectural Record, of November, 1939, of a paper on this subject. The paper caused considerable interest in England and drew comment from several scholars. The culture of Ancient Greece was a subject very close to his heart, and in one of the last letters I had from him he indicated that he was eager to undertake a detailed study of characteristic elements of the Greek city; in particular the Agora. There is little doubt that had he been able to make such a contribution, our knowledge of the subject would have been the richer for his scholarship which was always penetrating and illuminating.

Parallel to these activities (and to many others which lay beyond my own knowledge) Jonas managed to work for architecture in the rôle of enthusiastic exponent of the contemporary idiom.

Apart from work in an architect's office in which he was responsible for much brilliant designing he infused into the Architectural Society a new vitality which resulted (amongst other things) in a series of stimulating lectures and debates (Jonas himself was unsurpassed on the debating platform) and two important congresses.

The first of these—on Abstract Art—involved an enormous amount of preparation for the exhibition of pictures and prints, and perhaps even more difficult, the marshalling and co-ordinating of six speakers who spoke (two an evening) on three consecutive evenings. The exhibition made history, and the collected papers were subsequently published in the "Record" as special numbers.

I was in Europe during the 1938 Congress which was on Town-Planning so did not experience the organisation which Jonas must have initiated to make this ambitious and far-reaching symposium a practical success. An international note was struck by the foreword which M. le Corbusier contributed to the published record of the Congress, and which I sent out to South Africa from Paris.

Mention of the congresses reminds me of further branches of Jonas's own activities in the architectural world. First his papers in the "Record" which were numerous and spread over many years. The first indication of his ability in the direction of criticism and appreciation was an essay on Minoan Painting which he wrote as a first year architectural student in the course of his Fine Arts studies. This was subsequently published in the "Record" during 1936, as were many papers on art and architectural topics. Amongst these was "The Hermes of Praxiteles—Greek original or Roman copy?" (1934) an incisive enquiry into the problem of style, period and authenticity in a field which has too often been obscured by pedestrian scholarship. In 1935 in an article entitled "Revelation at Venice," he discussed in a problem of quite a different order—the arrangement which results in the supremely beautiful "space-planning" of the Piazza San Marco at Venice—and here again his capacity for sustained argument and the mashalling of relevant data was given full range.

During 1936, the South African Architectural Record printed a group of four papers—"Towards a Philosophy of Architecture," "Psychology and Architecture," "The Language of Architecture" and "The Genesis of a House." Once again a wide range of discussion and a wide field of executed architecture were allied to express a critical and evaluating frame for architectural creation to-day.

During 1938, was published a verbatim report of a lecture —"The Architect in the Social System"—in which, as the title suggests, Jonas left the ground of architectural technique and form to discuss in a paper of great depth and richness of allusion, the vital and complex problems that face the archi-

tect and coming architect in their work. An article of considerable length, this report is also an interesting reflection of his characteristic interlocking of ideas and the clarity of his argument-structure.

One of the most brilliant lectures on art I have heard was given by him to the Architectural Society in, I think, 1937. It is a great loss that this fine exposition of the meaning and interplay of contemporary movements in art was never recorded, and though I discussed the possibility of his setting down the essence of the lecture, Jonas, could not after the event (and understandably) recapture the mood or continuity which so often is only generated on the platform and not in the rather bleak realms of the written word. For this long and intricate performance he did not use more than half a dozen short notes.

Jonas, who was a strong advocate of group work, showed this propensity not only in the Congress mentioned, but as a student he was an enthusiastic co-worker in research and design projects. With four colleagues he presented a thesis for the Bachelor's degree on Native Housing which was subsequently published by the University of the Witwatersrand and widely reviewed. Perhaps we are not accustomed to the architect playing the rôle of researcher into the wider problems impinging on our work. Jonas worked constantly to inspire a greater " awareness " of all the implications of architectural work, and though his views on architectural responsibility and scope (always trenchant) were sometimes too harsh for many " traditionalists," time has shown, and the cumulative pressure of current events is further rendering brutally clear, the indisputable necessity of vision and a capacity to collaborate in the architect who is to shoulder the burdens of protection and reconstruction. The erratic or ill-equipped amateur in architecture can only be a liability in the field of practical endeavour; inspired isolation can never offset the real advantages of informed and systematic work. Though Jonas's eclecticism compelled him to work in extraordinarily diverse spheres his instinct for order and organisation gave coherence and point to every branch of investigation that he undertook. So, perhaps, the unexpected seemed almost to become characteristic of his movements and interests, but no matter where his explorations led him, what had been done was always consolidated, rationalised—a solid contribution—before he moved away to something else.

So at the time of his death his research was into historical types and progressions rather than into the mechanics of present-day architecture. He was reading avidly and widely in the University of Jerusalem, aflame with new enthusiasms—in spite of overshadowing illness, and of these last efforts we have a fragmentary memento in his report so full of promise yet destined to be the concluding passage in a crowded record. All who knew Jonas must remember him in the particular light which circumstance decreed for their friendship or collaboration. From the University we see him in the world of ideas, always seeking out wisdom and understanding, discussing a reference in some classical writer, arranging a congress—" the happiest I have felt in South Africa," debating and disputing, sharing homage to the Greeks. He died in such a life and the report below shows us one facet of a many-sided spirit.

R. D. MARTIENSSEN—27/2/42

Report on First Quarter of Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, under the Union Government Post Graduate Research Scholarship, 1942-43

The development of house architecture in the Near East is a fairly specialised subject, but it involves the need for an extended study of the historical background from the earliest times onwards, and at the time a certain familiarity with the results and methods of archaeology is essential, if field work is to yield fruitful results.

I have, therefore, felt justified in setting aside the first two quarters almost exclusively to background studies in these various spheres. In doing so, I am not attempting to follow any chronological order, i.e., concentrating first only on the prehistoric period, then proceeding, say, to early Egyptian or Mesopotamian, but I am tackling all the major aspects more or less simultaneously. These are :

(1) General history of the Near East.

(2) Near and Middle Eastern Art.

(3) Archaeology—methods and results, the latter particularly in Palestine and Syria, as the actual fields of my future work.

(4) General literature on the development of the house.

(5) History of Muslim Architecture.

As to (1) I have taken Breasted's " Ancient Times " as a general introduction to be followed by some reading on the history of Islam. On (2) I am attending lectures by Prof. L. A. Mayer on Muslim Art and Archaeology, though unfortunately this course was already in its second half when I came to the University. I have read so far the following books connected with this part of the subject : F. Sarre " Die Kunst des alten Persiens," Glueck and Dietz " Die Kunst des Islam," Reifenberg " Denkmaeler der juedischen Antike," which is also relevant to (3), Sir Th. Arnold " Survivals of Sassanian and Manichean Art in Persian Painting," LeCoq " Manichaeische Miniaturen " and " Auf Hellas Spuren in Ost-Turkestan," Hoever " Indische Kunst."

Points 3 to 5 are more intimately connected with my subject proper and I, therefore, wish to deal with them in a little bit more detail. On Archaeology I am attending the lectures and seminary of Prof. Sukenik. The lectures, two a week, give a general introduction into the aims and objects of archaeology as well as its methods of work, naturally with special reference to Palestine and the Near East. The seminary, also of two hours a week, deals with pottery, combining an account of its development and its rôle in archaeological research, particularly the dating of finds, with practical instruction in the drawing, describing and recording of pottery. All the lectures are, of course, in Hebrew, and I cannot deny that I have found greater difficulty with the language than I originally anticipated. Even now, though I can understand the lectures, I cannot yet express myself easily and am accordingly still rather handicapped as far as, for instance, the active participation in the seminary work is concerned. Hence I am devoting a fair amount of time which otherwise would at least in part still go to my research work, to the learning of the language. Of books read in connection with point three, I wish to mention Koepp " Die Archaeologie " (vols. I-IV), Flinders Petrie "Methods and Aims in Archaeology," Albright " The Archaeology of Palestine and the Bible," Watzinger " Denkmaeler Palaestinas " (vol. I), and " Damaskus, die antike Stadt," which at least mainly falls under this heading.

On the development of the house I have not yet done any specialised reading, but have made a very detailed and careful study of the one fundamental general book on the subject, namely Oelmann's " Haus und Hof im Altertum." I have taken full notes and copied most of his diagrams, so as to have this invaluable material readily available as a general guide and for purposes of comparison, once I get to my own subject. A preliminary survey of the literature on the subject has revealed that there are only a few very minor specialised studies in this field, so that I may hope to break some new ground.

The field of Muslim Architecture is not only the one on which there is in existence the richest literature, but attention also tends to concentrate on it because here one finds the best opportunities of studying some of the finest examples of this remarkable architecture in situ. Unfortunately indifferent health has hitherto prevented me from utilising these possibilities, but I have meanwhile attempted to lay the foundations by some reading. The most important source, of course, is Cresswell's monumental work on " Early Muslim Architecture." Of this I have completed the first volume, again taking a fair amount of notes, since this book cannot be removed from the library and is always in great demand. The second volume, which is only available at the Government Archaeological Museum, I have only started, and since during term-time I cannot very often go there, I will hardly be able to complete

it before the March vacations. In addition to Cresswell I have read the excellent book by Briggs on "Muhammedan Architecture in Egypt and Palestine," as well as Rivoira's "Muslim Architecture," which in spite of the author's almost intolerable prejudices contains some valuable material not contained in the other works. Lastly "Damaskus, die islamische Stadt," by Wulzinger and Watzinger, must find its place here. In all these works the main emphasis is laid on religious and monumental architecture, but there is also some material on domestic work, and in any case an acquaintance with the general development of Muslim architecture is essential for my subject. In this short account of my reading I have mentioned only the books read, but not articles consulted in journals, encyclopedias, etc., although, of course, this type of thing occupies hardly less time than the study of the major works.

During the last four weeks I have also spent some time on a few problems of the history of Muslim architecture, arising out of my reading. Though these problems have no direct bearing on my subject of research, I hope I am not interpreting the terms of my scholarship too widely if I believe that in part at least I may also devote my time to general studies in the history of architecture for which my stay here gives me special facilities. The first of these problems, the minor one, concerns the early history of the great Mosque at Damascus. Here I have come across certain Arab sources which, as far as I can see, have hitherto not been taken into account, or alternatively, have been wrongly interpreted. On the one hand there is a substantial Arab tradition to the effect that a synagogue had preceded the church which the Arab conquerors later transformed into a mosque—a tradition which indeed is irreconcilable with certain architectural evidence so that it could only refer to an earlier building on the same or perhaps an adjoining site. But on the other hand there is a still more emphatic and very early tradition speaking of a dome over the transept of the original church. For various reasons, however, the introduction of the dome has been considered as the one assured and distinctive change introduced by the Arabs in this building. Yet, as far as I could make out, all the literary evidence for this generally accepted theory is very much younger than the one for a dome in the church, and hence a reconsideration of the history of this most important monument in early Muslim architecture may become necessary, I am still continuing my work on this little problem, and hope that I will also have an opportunity of going to Damascus for some first hand impressions, though, of course, next to nothing of the original mosque remains. The other and more general problem is that of the origin of the horse-shoe arch. It is connected with the previous one insofar as the Damascus Mosque contains the first known example of the structural use of this particular form of arch which was to become so characteristic of Moslem architecture. The question of its origin has puzzled many students in the field. One of the theories advanced was that it derived from the similarly shaped arches of certain Indian rock temples. This was advocated, inter alia, by Rivoira, and though he offered little proof, the arguments against it are also not very convincing. I, therefore, tried to follow this suggestion, and although I found certain intermediate forms which would make it possible to build up a very attractive case, I have yet come to the conclusion that the real solution is much simpler: namely that the arches in Damascus were Byzantine and just taken over with the rest of the church (as Watzinger maintains), and that generally the horse-shoe arch is nothing but a development—perhaps a little decadent—of the semi-circular arch, and widely used during the sixth and seventh centuries in the Byzantine Empire. Proof for this contention comes from many sides, and I cannot attempt to give it within the framework of this report. I am, however, working on a little article on the subject which I hope to finish within about a month and which I will then send to you. Perhaps you may be able to use it for the S.A. Architectural Record, and in any case I would much appreciate your comments and criticisms.

This more or less completes my account of the first three months of work. I trust that future reports will prove somewhat more positive, for I clearly realise that all I have done hitherto is only in the nature of preliminaries. However, I also feel that I am beginning to get into my subject and into the new working conditions and am confident that I will be able to make the most of this wonderful opportunity of study.

K. JONAS, JERUSALEM, 1/2/1942

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AFRICAN LIFE IN A COLOUR FILM

An African rhythm modulated the film shown by Mr. H. E. Bock, at the University, on March 19th, at the first of the series of lectures planned by the Architectural Society for 1942. The title of Mr. Bock's exposition was "Native Life and Native Culture," and he had travelled to Natal, the Eastern Transvaal, and even as far North as Zimbabwe to obtain the very fine coloured moving-picture record of different aspects of life in the various kraals and villages.

In his brief introduction Mr. Bock commented on the high standard of formal design and layout to be found in the dwellings of the Bantu people, and the fine sensibility shown in their adaptation to the African scene. He referred to the possibility of the climate's causing local modifications of the Bantu instinct for pattern and colour. "It is easier," he said, "for the Native of the Transvaal with its dry, conserving climate, to add some lasting decoration to his hut, as the dry climate does not spoil the fragile patterns and decorations which are only made of mud. The Zulu living in wet Natal has developed a different style of hut from that of the Transvaal Native. The Zulu hut is built of reeds and grass, and the walls have to be thoroughly reinforced with branches. This construction stands up better to the weather. Any decorations of mud would only be washed away. That is why the Zulus have plainer huts but more colourful and elaborate costumes. Their designs of beads and bangles, etc., are most outstanding and very decorative."

Mr. Bock had photographed much of this decoration, the brilliant colours, particularly red and white, standing out effectively from shining chocolate-coloured bodies, and making a striking pattern against the background of blue sky and drab earth. He had taken pains to record the African people in movement, the movement of daily activity such as cutting corn or sweeping their yards, and the more insistent movement of tribal dances.

Scenes of dwellings and courtyards were of special interest to architects ; two villages were particularly fine in this respect: Paledi's Stad near Bronkhorstspruit, and the Kraal of Chief Maklala near Pietersburg. In the latter the audience was treated to an enthralling sequence of pergolas and covered courts, set among walls decorated in the most enlivening manner. The vigorous earth pigments caught in the interplay of strong sunlight and dense shadow formed a mobile composition of great charm. The wall plays a significent part in the layout of Bantu dwellings, linking the various units, defining zones of domestic activities, and providing partial enclosure for the family group. It also serves as a base for decorative virtuosity of a range extending from the brilliant restraint of rich terra-cotta over the whole area to complicated patterns of zigzags, lozenges and wavy lines in three or more colours. Earth reds are predominant in these compositions.

In showing the dancing and the dwellings in different regions Mr. Bock also caught the magnificent scenic backgrounds to rural African life, the sombre curves of Natal hills, and the warmth of the veld under blue skies. Very often the dwellings seemed to be grouped among indigenous trees which added their subtle shadows to the more ruthless darks cast by wall and eaves.

The lecturer emphasised the rhythm of his photographed dancers by a happy introduction of gramophone recordings of Bantu music and chanting. One particularly fine tribal procession was that of a Zulu wedding, in which the bride, groom and wedding guests appeared in full traditional regalia.

Mr. Bock is to be congratulated on his initiative in bringing this very real South African heritage of colour and rhythm within the range of members of the public. It is to be hoped that he will find the time to edit his film more fully, by means of captions and explanatory notes. Such films as this should reach a wider public of South Africans, as well as those publicity organisations whose task it is to make South Africa known to the people of other countries.

H.M.M.

Zulu Huts, Natal



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