

# THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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# THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

## Exhibitions

The Travelling Architectural Exhibition of the PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER, under the auspices of the American Federation of Art, consists of 123 exhibits—a special selection made from the Chapter's showing at the Convention exhibition at the Grand Central Palace, New York City. It is at present *en tour*.

## Research

The American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers announces that Mr. Ferry C. Houston has been appointed Director of the Society's Research Laboratory. Mr. Houghton has been connected with the Society and with the U. S. Bureau of Mines since 1918. He has already assumed his new duties at the Research Laboratory in Pittsburgh.

## Letters to the Editor

TO THE EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL:

The unanimous resolution of the NEW JERSEY CHAPTER published in the November JOURNAL, which condemns the Architects' Small House Service Bureau, can be answered in fewer words than it took to express the resolution.

It is not effective argument to quote the objects for which the Institute was created and then state that the Bureau does not fulfill them. To retaliate, those who back the Bureau *do* believe that it "promotes fellowship among architects," *do* believe that it "promotes the æsthetic, scientific, and practical efficiency of the profession," and *do* believe that it "makes the profession of ever-increasing service to society." This argument is just as conclusive as the NEW JERSEY CHAPTER's statement in the negative.

Let us go a step farther, however, and give reasons: A. Where the Bureau has been in operation competing architects have worked together, have become better acquainted, have learned from one another, and have learned to understand one another. B. Where the Bureau has been in operation the architects who have worked with it have improved their æsthetic, scientific and practical efficiency. At the same time, through the publicity service of the Bureau, the public has been made aware of the existence of the *genus* architect and has even gone so far as to consult some members of the species. C. The first aim of the Bureau has been to improve public taste and to get better homes for *that portion of the public* to whom architects in the past have paid scant attention, possibly because there is no money in it.

In the balance of the resolution there are six points raised: 1. The NEW JERSEY CHAPTER recognizes that there are "stock plans being sold . . . it goes on, and will be so whether or no." The answer is that if this is so it is the architect's business to see that these be *good* plans.

2. It is contended that the Bureau proponents spend time on the question of whether or not it is unfair to sell stock plans and other details of marketing to the exclusion of "the main objection." Though this objection is not given, the inference is that it is FEAR lest the Bureau take business away from individuals. It is a legitimate fear, but the Bureau is trying to get business for small-house architects, not to take it away.

3. Entangling alliances with manufacturers and possible

discrimination in products is another bogey. The Bureau aims to be fair; it is in close communication with the Structural Service Committee of the Institute. Any known unfairness should immediately be reported in detail.

4. In regard to agreements between the Bureau and its Regional Divisions full information is available. Occasionally some opponents of the Bureau drop into a Bureau meeting. They have been invited. If they would come oftener they would know more of the details.

5. In regard to the information required by the Post Office Department, it is published in the place required in the monthly bulletin the *Small House*. The yearly subscription is \$1.50.

6. Reference is made to the Convention action which endorsed the Bureau, where "the short sighted, the visionary, and the financially interested could be persuaded or dragooned into supporting such a proposal." So far financial interest has consisted principally in giving money and service. Most of the men "interested" are those known as being far sighted when public interest is concerned and they don't mind being "visionary."

ARTHUR C. HOLDEN, HENRY C. HAHN, JOHN T. BOYD, JR., LOUIS C. JAEGER, ELY J. KAHN, LEROY E. KERN, ROBERT D. KOHN, CHARLES BUTLER, R. T. WALKER, STEPHEN F. VOORHEES.

## Obituary

Murry S. King

Elected to the Institute in 1921

Died at Orlando, Florida, 21 September, 1925

Murry S. King was born in Pennsylvania, where he became a building mechanic in his teens. The knowledge of construction thus acquired serving him in good stead, he took up the practice of architecture and removed to Florida some twenty years ago, where he found himself a pioneer in his profession. He was largely responsible for the development of the city of Orlando, in both an architectural and a civic sense.

He was an organizer of the Florida Association of Architects and a charter member of the FLORIDA CHAPTER of the Institute. He was instrumental in the passage of the Florida architectural registration law, and sat through four successive governorships upon the Florida State Board of Registration and was a member of its successor—the Board of Supervising Architects.

As a citizen, public official, architect, he was sincere and able, painstaking and capable, and the many friends he gathered to himself in the course of a long and full professional life in his adopted State will recall his memory in no small esteem.

John P. Brennan

Elected to the Institute in 1921

Died at Pittsburgh, Pa., 11 June, 1925

Charles Brigham

Elected to Associate Membership in the Institute in 1870

Elected to Fellowship in 1889