

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Volume XIV

APRIL, 1926

Number 4

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Published Monthly by

THE PRESS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, INC.

LANSING C. HOLDEN, *New York City*, President; MILTON B. MEDARY, JR., *Philadelphia, Pa.*, Vice-President; FREDERICK L. ACKERMAN, *New York City*, Secretary; WILLIAM P. BANNISTER, *New York City*, Treasurer; FRANK C. BALDWIN, *Fredricksburg, Va.*; J. MONROE HEWLETT, *New York City*; HENRY K. HOLSMAN, *Chicago, Ill.*; WILLIAM B. ITTNER, *St. Louis Mo.*; EGERTON SWARTWOUT, *New York City*, Directors.

CHARLES HARRIS WHITAKER, *Editor*

Publication Office, 305 Washington Street, Brooklyn, New York

Editorial Office, Fisk Building, 250 West 57th Street, New York, N. Y.

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS THE COPY. \$5 PER YEAR. (Foreign \$6)

Checks or P. O. orders should be made payable to The Press of The American Institute of Architects, Inc., and all communications should be sent to the Editorial Office.

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THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

ing and development of the whole group by conference, consultation and criticism." This is the real argument that has appealed to all the young architects and made them join the Association. Who pays for the mistakes of these young men? The public, and I believe the public is beginning to know about our particular case.

(F): "To benefit Chapter finance." Yes, this is a possibility, but what return is expected therefor?

President Waid in speaking of the disadvantages of group practice "hit the nail on the head" in every case, but he mentions them as possibilities, whereas every one is a reality with us. The monopoly of public work has engendered bitter feelings; ambition for success has carried architecture into politics; the minority of Chapter members in the group, being organized, have, I believe, taken control of the Chapter; the employment of a publicity agent by the group has caused publicity that I believe to be misleading and unfair.

The President asks that each Chapter discuss this subject before the Convention, but unfortunately our Chapter is in discord on this subject; I believe that all officers, save one, and all delegates, save one, are of this group, and as I believe the Chapter vote to be controlled by this organized minority, so I believe discussion to be useless in our Chapter.

If you readers are red-blooded what would you do had you such a group in your midst? If you fight as I have been doing, you would have charges of unprofessional conduct preferred against you, as I have. For myself, "I should worry," for if the A. I. A. has a majority who favor the control of Chapters by groups with selfish interests, then I say I am well out of it. It is up to you individuals to help save the Institute, as some of us are trying to save our Chapter, of which I was once President. Let us stop all "hunting in packs."

ALBERT C. MARTIN.

Obituary

Neel Reid

Died at Roswell, Georgia, 15 February, 1926

Known throughout the South as an architect of extraordinary insight, vision and practical ability; a friend and leader in all things tending towards the beautiful, a diplomat who won his points, kept his friends—a simple, genial gentleman, Neel Reid.

It is natural for architects to give credit to a creative genius, and it is as a creative architect essentially that we memorialize him here. At a time when there was scarcely a trained architect in the South, when buildings were, for the most part, merely accumulations of materials rather than examples of architectural beauty, he began his study in Macon, Ga. He early had an inspiration of what architecture should be and would mean to the South. By quiet, patient, efficient work and study he won his way to the place of highest esteem in the profession which he served to his death.

Feeling the limitations of the field in Macon, he early came to Atlanta to enter the office of Willis F. Denny, who was considered at that time one of the leading architects of the South. He remained with Mr. Denny for several years when his ambition for further progress led him to enter Columbia University, where he completed the regular course in Architecture. After this he spent several years in Europe, and upon his return to this country he entered partnership with Hal F. Hentz, and shortly afterwards became further

associated under the firm name of Norman, Hentz & Reid. From this point on his opportunities for individual expression in his chosen field grew in a remarkable degree. Upon the death of Mr. Norman, the firm became Hentz, Reid & Adler, and it is under this latter association that most of the prominent work of Mr. Reid was done.

Foremost among his work should be mentioned the Howard Theatre, Muse Building and Rich Building, Atlanta. While his commercial work showed much unusual ability and charm, yet his first love was for residential work, among which should be mentioned residences for: Andrew Calhoun, Dr. Willis Jones, Carroll Payne and Hunter Perry. In all his work he did not consider his jobs complete until the last shrub was planted in proper relation and the last bit of interior decoration was handled in his own peculiar happy style.

Mr. Reid had an unusual faculty of inspiring all workers connected with any project, from draftsmen to the last workman upon the building, with an unusual *esprit de corps*, and consequent pride in the final result as an artistic achievement. He was a man of modest and retiring nature, so much so, in fact, that many of his close friends were unaware of the extent of his many charitable acts toward those in less fortunate circumstances. In his death his fellow architects feel a profound sense of loss, since Mr. Reid's contribution to architectural achievements of the South was of such unusual and marked degree. In his passing he leaves work which may be considered not only monuments to his taste and genius of expression, but which will endure as inspiration for generations to come.

As fellow members of the GEORGIA CHAPTER of the American Institute of Architects, we take this opportunity of extending our deepest sympathy to his family and business associates, and of offering this well deserved tribute to the personality of Neel Reid.

FOR THE GEORGIA CHAPTER,

ERNEST D. IVES.

John Tempest Walker

Elected to the Institute in 1922

Died 3 March, 1926, at Providence, R. I.

Mr. Walker, who was born on 18 April, 1864, died after an illness of several months. He was graduated from the Columbia University School of Mines in 1884. He was a member of the Psi Upsilon and "Early Eighties" fraternities at Columbia, and a member of the BOSTON CHAPTER of the American Institute of Architects.

J. B. Noel Wyatt

Elected to Associate Membership in the Institute in 1875

To Fellowship in 1889

Died at Baltimore, Md., 25 February, 1926

Alfred Dwight Foster Hamlin

Elected to Associate Membership
in the Institute in 1911

To Fellowship in 1916

Died at New York City, 21 March, 1926

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ber of small homes built with the number of plans supplied by the A. S. H. S. B. will show just how far short. Why this condition? Simply because the small-home builder is inclined to follow the line of least resistance and the other factors of the building industry, like sheep, follow the same course.

There are literally hundreds of agencies offering small-house plans in this country and the total number of plans (good, bad, and indifferent) would run into the tens of thousands. The small-home builder can buy a plan for the cost of a postage stamp on upward. Every contractor who has built a dozen houses has a plan library all his own. It might even be added that an occasional lumber dealer has been known to offer free plans. Is it any wonder that *your* bureau is not called on for more plans?

We dealers think we have prolific and tough competition but you architects are in worse shape. But it is not only within the industry that you have competition, but your worst competitors are the draftsmen in the employ of the autobody companies, those artists who sketch the allurements of travel—those designers of beautiful furs, clothing and jewelry. The greatest competitors of the building industry are the transportation, amusement and vanity industries. And this is the most serious of the problems that face us. We must face the fact that these other industries are better salesmen than we are.

Just two things have made a six billion dollar building program possible in the face of this competition: first, the housing shortage brought about by war conditions; and, second, the American's inherent love of, and desire for, a home of his own. *The force of these two factors is gradually diminishing.* The housing shortage is being gradually caught up with and unless something is done to stimulate home ownership on a larger scale—a few more six billion dollar years will see us completely caught up.

Another discouraging and detrimental factor which has entered the building industry and is increasing in numbers and destructive capacity is the so-called "Jerry Builder." He is to the building industry what a fake oil promoter is to the oil industry. The "Jerry Builder" has four parts, the "Jerry Architect," the "Jerry Contractor," the "Jerry Dealer," and the "Jerry Owner." The "Jerry Architect" is the one who produces the two-cent plan. The "Jerry Contractor" bids too low and cuts every corner to eke out a profit, to the serious loss and disappointment of the owner. The "Jerry Dealer" who is blind to everything except his own selfish interest and who, too, cuts every corner to eke out a profit, and finally, the "Jerry Owner," who is too careless or ignorant to take the proper precautions in his building program. This "Jerry Builder" must be removed from the industry or at least his ravages minimized.

Perhaps you have noticed the tendency of lumbermen to get directly to the owner in a building program. That policy is not to eliminate the reputable architect and contractor. We are ever anxious to, and do, cooperate with these, but this policy is an effort to protect the owner against the "Jerry Architect, Contractor and Dealer."

These are some of the facts with regard to the present situation in the American Building Industry. Out of these facts arise certain specific problems for the building industry to solve.

The architect's part in solving these problems is logically a large one.

From a lumberman's viewpoint there are certain things he can and should do from the start. It would seem a good plan to tackle the present problem of the small house plan. You are on the right track in providing the right kind of plans at low cost through your service bureau—but you do not go far enough. Your costs must be lower, your dis-

tribution widened. There are two ways of lowering costs: to give the same service for less money or more service for the same money. You may work along both lines.

Centralization of the distribution of plans would be a tremendous help. Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if there should be one central service station under the supervision of the American Institute of Architects in every city where every man in the city who wanted to build a home could go for a plan? At this central station you could have a library of all available house plans from the postage stamp plan up. It should not take the directors of that station long to find the right plan to fit the requirement of every home builder.

Why would not such a central plan station be practical? The realtors would welcome it, reputable contractors would be glad to avail themselves of such a service; it would be a godsend to every reputable material dealer; every worth-while factor of the industry would endorse it, and with all factors endorsing it, distribution would be simple.

Only two drawbacks appear: management and costs. The management should be in the hands of, or closely supervised by, capable architects. The management would be required to see that every factor of the industry got a square deal, as well as the home builder. Difficulties would vanish under such management.

There remains only the knotty problem of costs. We have said that plan costs for the small home must be lowered. Well, the costs could be lowered in a central station because the tremendous waste of the dozens of more or less elaborate plan services in every city would be eliminated.

On the other hand, your literature from the Service Bureau states that your plans are furnished practically at cost. This means then that the architect receives his profit more from planning larger dwellings than the average small home. Isn't it logical that if all small homes were under the supervision of architects it would be much easier to sell the services of an architect on a larger home and thereby increase your profits? Why cannot architects, realtors, contractors and material men cooperate on a program whereby the man who is building a home of two thousand square feet and under could have his plan without cost, by depositing a fee at the time of receiving the plan, said fee to be refunded at the completion of the home. Then concentrate on selling plans for homes from two thousand square feet up on a graduating scale of profit-producing prices. The deeper you delve into the possibilities of this plan the more practical the scheme sounds.

ARTHUR A. HOOD.

NOTE: Mr. Hood concluded his paper with an imaginative elaboration of the duties that might be performed by such a "central plan station," but as these do not bear specifically on the subject under discussion we are obliged to omit them for lack of space.

Obituary

Alfred Dwight Foster Hamlin

Elected to the Institute in 1911

To Fellowship in 1916

Died at New York City, 21 March, 1926

Mr. Hamlin, professor in the School of Architecture at Columbia University for twenty-two years, was killed in New York by an automobile.

A born idealist, he came of Puritan stock, and inherited that nobility of soul and courage which carried his father's crusade for Christian enlightenment to victory in the Near

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East. In that atmosphere he was born with the ideals which ruled his life, given as it was to the cause of helping others to see truth and beauty.

He prepared for his life work at Amherst, then at the School of Architecture of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris, and later made extensive studies of the principal monuments of architecture in Christian lands.

He was accomplished as a linguist in both classical and modern languages, and his mother tongue, English, flowed in pure, beautiful volume. His writings clearly expressed his ideas in a forceful, convincing, and scholarly style.

His books on the *History of Architecture* and *History of Ornament* set a new standard of correct teachings in these subjects and his numerous essays and lectures are profound in illuminating the humanism of our inherited record of the building art.

To the School of Architecture and to the realization of his ideals of scholarship and professional attainment he gave his whole busy life. A real architect in knowledge and feeling, his teaching was valuable to the student both in its sound instruction and cultural import.

In his teaching record of forty-three years at the University, Professor Hamlin was an indefatigable worker for the School, the success of which was his one ambition, but he always laid down his pen when a student came to him, for it was his pleasure to help the inquiring mind along the right road. He was lovable, and beloved of his students and co-workers, with whom he worked in sweet accord.

Courageous in the right, he was a fierce fighter against wrong, accepting no compromise in principles. To him the way of truth was normal, verity was always expected; his cleanly soul abhorred deception, and he could not abide any one so base as to cheat.

Professor Hamlin received the degree of M. A. from Amherst in 1885, and the degree of LL.D. from St. John's College, in 1912. He was a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, a member of the Archæological Institute of America, of the City Plan Committee of the Merchants' Association, and of the Century Club. He was Chairman of the Art Committee to raise funds for the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

His interest in the Near East, especially in Armenia and Greece, continued throughout his entire life. In 1919 he made an extended tour of the Near East as a Special Commissioner of the Greek Relief Committee, for which he was decorated by the Greek Government.

Surely he digged not in the earth to hide the talent given him! He has gone to show his good work to his Master and to receive his just reward. His Master will say—"Welcome, good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

WILLIAM A. BORING.

J. B. Noel Wyatt

Elected to the Institute in 1875

To Fellowship in 1889

Died at Baltimore, Md., 25 February, 1926

Mr. Wyatt was born 3 May, 1847, in Baltimore. When his family moved to Cambridge, Mass., he entered Harvard, graduating with a B.A. in 1870. After six months, studying

at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he spent three years in Europe in travel and at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. Returning to Baltimore to enter the architectural profession, he presently formed a partnership with Joseph Evans Sperry. This firm designed the Mercantile Trust & Deposit Company Building and St. Michael and All Angels' Church. Later he formed the partnership of Wyatt & Nolting, with William G. Nolting, which—during the forty years of its existence, up to the time of his death—was responsible for a number of important buildings in Baltimore, notably the Fifth Regiment Armory, the Keyser Building (in which the firm's offices are located), the Garrett Building, the Federal Land Bank, the Harriet Lane Home, one of the units of the Johns Hopkins Hospital; and the Maryland Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Sabillasville. The War Risk Insurance Building in Washington, the Baltimore Country Club, and many of the fine residences in the Roland Park section of Baltimore were designed by the firm, which also won the competition for the new Baltimore Court House. When the new campus for Johns Hopkins University was selected, Mr. Wyatt was chosen to serve with Walter Cook and Frederick Law Olmstead as the advisory board in its architectural development.

Mr. Wyatt was the oldest member of the Institute in Baltimore, and one of the first members of the BALTIMORE CHAPTER, of which he was past president.

Ernest George Washington Dietrich

Elected to the Institute in 1921

Died at Freeport, N. Y., 24 December, 1924

The BROOKLYN CHAPTER requests publication of the following memorial notice of Mr. Dietrich, whose sudden death at Freeport, L. I., the village where he resided, was a great loss to the profession and his many friends. Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 22 February, 1857, he was educated in the local public schools and was later graduated from Duff's College, Pittsburgh. He also attended the Western College of Pennsylvania, now known as the University of Pittsburgh, and studied architecture under Drum & Kuhn. During the years 1881-3, he was employed by James T. Steen, a Pittsburgh architect.

In 1884 there was formed, with Mr. C. M. Bartberger, a partnership known as Bartberger & Dietrich, located in Pittsburgh. This was dissolved in 1889 due to Mr. Dietrich's desire to enter practice in New York City. For many years he specialized in residential work but in his later practice his work became general. He was elected to the Institute in 1921, was at one time Treasurer of the BROOKLYN CHAPTER, and a member of the Fine Arts Federation.

This brief outline of his career will perhaps mean little to those without knowledge of his personal qualities. He was a man of sterling character, kind, considerate, always a gentleman, ready to render service and to give advice to anyone who asked, and to work for a worthy cause. In brief, to know him was to love him, and his passing was a grief to his many friends who held him in their highest esteem.

WILLIAM H. STANGLE,

CHARLES C. WAGNER.