

The Future for Architects

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BACK in the early part of 1935 the architectural profession and the building industry, after a long forced hibernation, roused themselves, and appeared to be getting ready, at last, to go back to work. At first the improvement was barely perceptible, but the renewed vigor persisted. Today 1935 appears definitely to have been the turning point and 1936, the architectural profession, and building industry agrees, will see the volume of building continue to grow.

Today we have two building jobs ahead of us. As citizens we will do our part in building a better and more truly democratic America. As architects we have similar work to do in a more material sense.

In the world's history the great artists have always been men of vision. Leonardo and Michelangelo understood and worked in the larger world beyond the confines of their own work shops. They did not hark back to a civilization that was gone. They looked forward to a better one that was to be made and they shared largely in the making of it. The architects of America, as men of visions, are going to do the same.

No matter how we stand, for or against the governmental procedure of the last few years, there is something stirring in our country which is immensely worth while. The tendency of the day is toward a more vital democratic philosophy. It is not the first time in history that a broader social vision resulted from a time of trouble than from eras of plenty. The frontier to be conquered is gone; here in the west and southwest the unknown wilds of lands and fortunes are no longer waiting to be conquered by rugged individualists.

The great era of expansion is over. The Architectural confusion the conqueror of our nation left behind them as they moved from frontier to frontier is right at our very door. Nowhere has this old procedure left its mark more distinctly than in the building of our cities and towns, and even in the structures in our wide open spaces. This architectural pêle-mêle is to be cleared away. As citizens and as builders we have now the difficult task of bringing order out of chaos.

This situation is particularly significant for the architect. This job of rebuilding America is under way. One example is the program to blot out the slums from the American scene. For the first time the old futile cries deploring existence of these blighted areas have been transformed into terms of action. These slums which are a result of the poorly planned and uncontrolled development of the past, are giving way to a detailed program of slum clearance and rehousing, which has engaged the resources of the Federal government. Provisions are not only being made for suitable environment for man's living, but also for his work, for his worship, for his education, for his recreation, for the affairs of his government. We are really rebuilding America. For evidence of this fact we need look no further than the Capitol City of this state.

Although the School of Architecture has been on an operative basis for only seven years it has graduates who are playing an important role in the building and rebuilding of the great Southwest of our United States.

Maurice Hefley, Arch. E. '31, and Sam C. Holland, Arch. E. '33 are architects for the National Park Service, charged with the job of inspecting and supervising the construction of park shelters, custodians houses, lodges, and other architectural features which are now being built in many of our National Parks. Hefley is stationed in the Kiamichi Mountains, and Holland is stationed at Lake Altus.

Some of the graduates from the school have turned to various phases of Architectural Engineering. H. J. Bronson, Arch. E. '35, is with the Mosher Steel Company of Dallas, Texas. Hans Sieber, Arch. E., '32, is a WPA Engineer at Oklahoma City, and Andy Campbell, Arch. E., '??', holds a similar position and is located at Chickasha.

Robb Moore, Arch. '33, H. J. Brownson, Maurice Hefley, John Marphy Bell, Arch. E., '32, and Sam Holland kept the air blue in the Architectural drafting rooms, this last summer and fall, getting out plans under the direction of Professor Smay, Architect, and Professor Mills,

Structural Engineer, for the new buildings for the College of Business Administration and Biological Science. Moore was in charge of detailing the main architectural features such as entrances, typical bays, and Stone details. Brownson assisted Professor Mills on the structural work. Hefley with the assistance of Holland turned out floor plans. Bell was in charge of turning out the mechanical and electrical plans.

Still other graduates have gone into the construction industry. Robb Moore is now with the Manhattan Construction Company, as Superintendent's Assistant and time keeper on the Business Administration and Biological Science Buildings.

Lawrence Plank, Arch. E., '30, has traveled around more than the average Architect and is now with the Coates-Goss Construction Company of Chicago and is superintendent in charge of construction of one of their jobs.

Maston Powers, Arch. E., '34, is doing contracting with his father in Oklahoma City.

Ralph Bolen, Arch. E., '35, employed by the State Conservation Commission at the State House, is in charge of estimates for flood control projects.

Robert Vahlberg, Arch. '35, was awarded a scholarship at M.I.T., paying his tuition and registration fees and admitted with full graduate standing last fall. During this school year he has been placing in the upper five in all of the Architectural Competitions between the School of Architecture at Harvard, Boston Architectural Club, and the School of Architecture at M. I. T. Vahlberg plans to return to Oklahoma City after completing his graduate work at M. I. T. and practice architecture with his uncle, Walter T. Vahlberg, Architect.

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Mrs. Haydon Fatally Injured

Mrs. Kathryn Allen Haydon, '34ex, wife of Larry Haydon, member of the dramatic art staff now on leave of absence, was fatally injured in an accident February 10 in Seattle, Washington.

Mrs. Haydon, a graduate of the University of Washington, attended the University for two years and had completed all requirements toward an M. A. degree in journalism except the final preparation of her thesis.

She and Mr. Haydon left Norman last June when he was granted a year's leave of absence on account of illness. They spent the summer in Washington and were living in Seattle during the present school year while Mr. Haydon was recuperating from his illness.

Mrs. Haydon, known on the campus as "Happy," was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority and was active in dramatic and journalistic circles. She had many close friends and admirers in Oklahoma.