Work of young architects in the Middle West

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EXHIBITION 28 (Apr. 3 - 30, 1933)

WORK OF YOUNG ARCHITECTS IN THE MIDDLE WEST

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK

WORK OF YOUNG ARCHITECTS IN THE MIDDLE WEST

FOREWORD

It seems appropriate in the year that Chicago is the cynosure of architectural eyes that there should be an exhibition of the work of men whose attitude toward architecture is newer and younger than that of those in charge of designing the buildings for the Century of Progress Exposition. Some of these young men are working for the Exposition but their work will be lost in the midst of the official architecture which dominates the main pavilions.

This exhibition is also a logical successor to the International Exhibition of Modern Architecture held by the Museum in 1932. The younger generation, now beginning their independent practice, have broken away from academic design. They have not as much opportunity to build as their predecessors, but more to observe and study. As a result this exhibition consists mainly of projects, but projects which show not only research into new problems but great strides away from the Beaux Arts classical (not to mention the Beaux Arts "modernistic").

The two trends apart from the general one toward modern design which deserve comment are: first, that toward housing as a sociological study as well as a problem in design; and second, toward the mass-produced house.

The problem in housing goes far beyond architecture into industry, economics, sociology and politics. In the end many experts will have to have a hand in solving it. But it is the peculiar province of the architect, in other words, the artist, not only to co-ordinate the work of city planners, politicians, engineers and economists, but to imagine new solutions of old problems and new ways of living.

It is the architecture of housing which is particularly emphasized in this exhibition. It may be that none of the three projects shown will prove to be the cheapest or the most practicable solution of the given problem. They remain, however, important architecturally as suggesting an aesthetic direction in which the practical questions can be approached.

Lewis Mumford's pioneer writing, the work of Clarence Stein and Henry Wright, the recent developments in housing in Europe, have all contributed toward an interest in housing. The carefully prepared charts of the A.I.A. Housing Exhibition summarized the attempts all over the world to solve this problem and presented the facts to the American public.

Of the seven architectural firms invited to participate in this exhibition, four worked out housing programs. It is encouraging to see the interest of young architects turning to live problems of this kind rather than to the mortuary chapels of our architectural competitions.

The mass-produced house which, through analogy to "Model T" the public greeted a year ago with such enthusiasm, has reached a more mature stage. American Houses Inc., of which Robert W. McLaughlin is the architect, has built its first house in Hazelton, Pa., and General Houses Inc., Howard T. Fisher, architect and engineer, has recently completed its first house near Chicago. Both houses are completely modern in appearance as well as in engineering.

Although the hope of future housing lies rather more in land economics and revised financial structure than in Fordized production, standardization, which had reached every field but this one, has at last converted domestic building from a craft into an industry.

It is no accident that the two important fields open to building today (palaces, churches and state capitols will not be so much needed in the future) are the very problems in which modern architects are most interested. We need no longer fear steel houses masquerading in colonial dress, or large scale housing developments which resemble Cotswold villages.

Modern architecture, so new that two years ago it needed a "Rejected Architects" secession in New York, is today seriously considered by industry, real estate and politics.

Philip Johnson

(1)

HAMILTON BEATTY

Madison, Wisconsin

Born in 1907, Madison, Wisconsin. Graduate of the University of Wisconsin. Studied at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College, University of London. Worked with Le Corbusier in Paris. Now practicing architecture with his wife, Gwenydd Beatty, in Madison. He was awarded special prize in the Milwaukee Home Show Small House Competition, 1932.

EXHIBITS

MODEL: A Contemporary Satellite Community # 33,501

MOUNT: Plan # 33.502

MOUNT: Typical Houses # 33.503

MOUNT: Commerce Centre # 33.504

A detailed explanation of this project # 33.505 by Mr. Beatty is attached to the model.

MOUNT: C.W. Thomas House, Madison, Wis., 1930
Photograph and plan.

(2)

HUBERT C. BEBB

Hinsdale, Illinois

Born in 1903, Wyanet, Illinois. B. Arch. Cornell University, 1928. Worked in the offices of Armstrong, Furst & Tilton, and Philip Maher in Chicago. Since practicing independently in Chicago, has built his own house and executed various small commissions.

EXHIBITS

100 MODEL: House for Richard Conover, Hinsdale, Ill. #33.506

5 Plan #33.507

(3)

HOWARD T. FISHER

Chicago, Illinois

Born in 1903, Chicago, Illinois. After graduating from Harvard University, worked in various offices for short periods of time. Now vice-president of General Houses Inc., of which he is also architect and engineer. Besides various minor commissions he has built a house for Walter T. Fisher, Winetka, Illinois. The first house designed as architect for General Houses Inc. has just been completed in Hubbard Woods, Illinois. Others are in construction, including one for the Century of Progress Exposition.

EXHIBITS

100 MODEL: House for the Century of Progress Exposition to be built by General Houses Inc. #33.508 Plan. #33.509

5

20 MOUNT: Photograph of Ruth Page House. #33.510 Plan. #33.511

5

20 [MOUNT: Photograph of Interior, Ruth Page House.] Not exhibited #33.512

20 MOUNT: Construction photographs of Ruth Page House. #33.513

GEORGE FRED KECK

Chicago, Illinois

Born in 1895, Watertown, Wisconsin. Studied at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Illinois, where he has also taught. Worked in the offices of D.H. Burnham & Co., and Schmidt, Garden & Erikson in Chicago. Since 1926 has been practicing independently in Chicago, doing mostly residential work. Now building a house for Century Homes Inc., at the Century of Progress Exposition.

EXHIBITS

200 a MODEL: A Country House # 33.514

20 b MOUNT: Plan of Country House
Rendering of house at Century of Progress Exposition. # 33.515

20 c MOUNT: Cruger Apartments, 1926. Plan. # 33.516

20 d MOUNT: "Miralago", 1928.
Small Office Building, 1932. Plan. # 33.517

20 e MOUNT: PLAN OF "MIRALAGO" # 33.518

In association with R. PAUL SCHWEIKHER

200 f MODEL: Housing Project "A" # 33.519

100 g MODEL: Plot Plan of Housing Project "A" # 33.520

15 h MOUNT: Housing Project "A" - Sections # 33.521

15 i MOUNT: Housing Project "A" - Detail Plans # 33.522

(5)

HANS OBERHAMMER

Downers Grove, Illinois

Born in 1904, Brno, Czechoslovakia. Studied under Wilhelm Kreis at the Academy at Düsseldorf. Worked in various offices in Germany, and with Schmidt, Garden & Erikson in Chicago. Since 1930 has worked for the Century of Progress Exposition. He has built office buildings and houses in Europe.

Of his training as an architect Mr. Oberhammer says: "I want to mention the fact that I am a trained bricklayer, my first step to study architecture. This training is required in Germany before entering a technical school. Training based upon this principle should be advocated in America. It would do away with the draftsman-designer type."

EXHIBITS

20 MOUNT: Project for Hotel, Muenchen-Gladbach, Germany. 1928. #33.523

20 MOUNT: Project for Hotel and Bathing Beach, Aussig, Germany. 1930. #33.524

20 MOUNT: Project for Courthouse, Berlin. 1930. #33.525

20 MOUNT: Project for Hotel, Restaurant, Store, and Cinema, Rheine, Germany. 1929. #33.526

(6)

ROBERT PAUL SCHWEIKHER

Chicago, Illinois

Born in 1903, Denver, Colorado. Studied engineering at the University of Colorado. B.F.A. Yale. In 1929 won the Matcham Fellowship at Yale which enabled him to spend a year travelling in Germany. Since his return has worked for several Chicago firms including those of David Adler and Philip Maher. Now practicing independently in Chicago.

EXHIBITS

100 MODEL: House for Charles W. Eliason, Jr. #33.527

10 MOUNT: Plan #33.528

10 MOUNT: Rendering of Interior of Eliason House. #33.529

100 MODEL: Small Suburban House Adaptable to Row Houses. #33.530

10 MOUNT: Plan and Isometric #33.531

100 MODEL: House for Vories Fisher #33.532

10 MOUNT: Plan #33,533

In association with GEORGE FRED KECK

(Listed under George Fred Keck)

(1)

JOSEPH L. WEINBERG AND CONRAD & TEARE

JOSEPH L. WEINBERG, Cleveland, Ohio. Born 1890, Omaha, Nebraska. A.B., Harvard. Worked in various architectural offices, including those of Albert Kahn in Detroit, and Walker & Weeks, and J. Milton Dyer in Cleveland. Practiced architecture in Cleveland from 1923 to 1930 in partnership with Charles Morris, building several theatres and an auditorium. Since 1930 has devoted entire time to a housing and slum reclamation project for Cleveland in association with the firm of Conrad & Teare.

WILLIAM H. CONRAD, Elyria, Ohio. Born 1901, Elyria, Ohio. B. Arch. Cleveland School of Architecture, Western Reserve University. Studied at the Fontainebleau School of Fine Arts. Before partnership with Teare, worked in Cleveland in the offices of Joseph L. Weinberg and Antonio diNardo. Member of faculty of the John Huntington Polytechnic Institute, Cleveland.

WALLACE G. TEARE, Lakewood, Ohio. Born 1907, Cleveland, Ohio. B. Arch. Cleveland School of Architecture, Western Reserve University. Studied at the Fontainebleau School of Fine Arts. Before partnership with Conrad worked in Cleveland in the offices of Wright & Hohl, and Antonio diNardo. Member of faculty of School of Architecture, Western Reserve University.

EXHIBITS

650 MODEL: Project for Housing Development, Cleveland, O. # 33.534

45 MOUNT: Plan of district - today
Plan of district - as proposed. } # 33.535

10 MOUNT: Aerial photographs of district.

40 MOUNT: Perspectives # 33.536

15 MOUNT: Project in Words. # 33.537