Architecture in Government Housing

The Museum of Modern Art, New York

A project to house 317 Negro families of low income. The site was chosen for its proximity to market, school, recreation facilities and hospital. The buildings will be two story flats, group houses and three story apartments.

Exhibits
- Model of development
- Perspective view
- Typical living units and social rooms
- Map showing location of site


A development of three story houses to house 654 low income families. The previous density of population was 87 persons per acre. The new buildings will house 120 persons per acre but by orderly planning will provide increased light, air and recreation grounds.

Exhibits
- Site before demolition vs. site as planned
- Night view of facade


Foundations are being laid for this low cost housing development which will cover an area of approximately 10 city blocks. The development will consist of 4 super-blocks, each of which will be surrounded by a park area. Each super-block will include a social room, nursery school and two play grounds. Neighborhood stores are also included in the plan. 1614 families will be housed in two, three, four and five room apartments.

Exhibits
- Perspective rendering
- Facade
- Details
- Plan of typical building: basement, first floor and typical floor
- Site plan
- Photographs of site before and after
- Map showing Williamsburg in relation to New York

The first project started by the Housing Division, it houses 284 families in two and one half, four and five room apartments. It is a limited dividend corporation organized by the American Federation of Hosiery Workers. Rentals are not, however, limited to hosiery workers only and the aim of the management is that the majority of tenants form a cross section of the industrial population of Northeast Philadelphia. Rental includes electric light and refrigeration, heat and use of laundry. For the kindergarten and swimming pool nominal fees of 5¢ are charged. The average rental is $9.35 per room per month. It was ready for occupancy January 1, 1935.

Exhibits
View from swimming pool
Detail of houses
View toward pool
General view
Bath house
Site plan
Plans


Westfield Acres is a Federal Housing Development financed entirely by the Federal Government. It is sponsored by the Camden Labor Housing Committee, a committee in which all organized labor, i.e. the American Federation of Labor and Industrial Unions are represented. It will house 598 families in three, four and five room apartments.

Exhibits
Facade renderings
Plans
Model of development
Suburban Resettlement is a division of the Resettlement Administration. This Administration, like the Public Works Administration, was created under the Emergency Relief Act. Unlike the Housing Division, however, Resettlement is set up to do its own building and has a construction division. Its objectives as stated by J. S. Lansill, Director, are:

(a) to secure a large tract of land and thus avoid the complications ordinarily due to diverse ownerships;

(b) in this tract to create a community, protected by an encircling green belt upon which there will be no building;

(c) to design a community for people of predominantly low income, and so arranged and administered as to encourage that kind of community and family life which will be better than they now enjoy;

(d) the dwellings and the land upon which they are located to be held in one ownership, preferably a corporation to which the Federal Government will transfer title, which corporation will rent the dwellings and not sell them;

(e) to set up a municipal government in character with such governments now existing or possible in that region;

(f) to provide those public services of educational and other character which the community will require;

(g) to accomplish these purposes in such a way that the community may be a tax paying participant in the region, that extravagant outlays from the individual family income will not be a necessity, and that the rents will be suitable to families of modest income; and,

(h) concurrently with these efforts to develop a land use plan for the entire tract, and under the direction of the Administrator, to devise a system of rural economy coordinated with the land use plan for the rural portions of the tract surrounding the Suburban community, and to integrate both the physical plans and the economies of the rural area and the Suburban community.

Four complete towns, each with its protective greenbelt of small farms, parks and gardens, are being built with relief labor by the Resettlement Administration. They are near Cincinnati, Milwaukee, Washington, D.C., and Bound Brook, New Jersey.
Hightstown, New Jersey. Alfred Kastner, principal architect, Louis I. Kahn, assistant architect and co-designer.

A town for garment workers to be completed September 1, 1936. A cooperative holding corporation will purchase the project from the Government and through supervised management will operate the community until the full amount is amortized. Several subsidiary cooperatives are already being organized.

Exhibits
Map showing location of project in relation to marketing centers and transportation facilities
Map of town site, farm area and woodland
Town plan
Rendering: one story house, foreground study
Rendering: one story house, background study
Rendering: two story house, in perspective
Rendering: Swimming pool
Rendering: Community Center
Plans
Model of development


The total area contemplated for this project was 3,900 acres for the town site and agricultural belt. Of this 125 acres was the approximate area of the first unit to be built for 750 families, but planned for an ultimate population of 5,000. The dwelling units are one, two, three and four bedroom houses in groups of two to six, a few single family one story houses, a small percentage of flats and one three story apartment house. Orientation was given great consideration so that in general all major bedrooms and living rooms face park areas rather than streets and receive as much sunlight as possible. The population was to be drawn from the surrounding industrial towns, the income range being probably between $900 and $1500 a year. A town center for the first unit was planned to take care of eventual growth. The final use of the agricultural belt would probably have included a cooperative farming system.

Exhibits
Map showing location to adjacent centers
Map showing relation to New York
Panorama
Business center
Renderings and plans of one story house
Model of double house by Henry Churchill
Plans
Model of double house by Albert Mayer
Plans