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COVER: First Universalist Church, Chicago, Ill.; Schweikher, Elting & Bennett, Assoc. Architects. Hedrich-Blessing photo

One Hundred Years of Significant Building

Beginning a series of monthly presentations of the most significant buildings of the past century of American architecture, buildings nominated by a panel of fifty architects and scholars. The series starts here with office buildings; will continue monthly through the year which precedes the 100th Anniversary of the American Institute of Architects.

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The Architect and the Engineers

The author, trained as an architect, has spent most of his business life in the industrial world, surrounded by engineers, practicing as an engineer. He stresses the opportunities for architects and for architectural thinking in this technological era.

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American Embassy Buildings

A second group of embassy office buildings and housing designed by American architects to symbolize the American way of life in cities throughout the world.

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The Architect as Universal Man

Fragmentation of the arts into various specialties may seem inevitable in an age of specialization, but it is not conducive to vitality or universality. An article by Herbert Read

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SECOND GROUP OF AMERICAN EMBASSY BUILDINGS

RARELY HAVE AMERICAN ARCHITECTS been challenged as in the program of building embassies abroad by the State Department. Architects commissioned to plan the various buildings are asked for designs which will (1) represent American architecture abroad, and (2) adapt themselves to local conditions and cultures so deftly that they are welcomed, not criticized, by their hosts. Architecture is asked to undertake a highly important diplomatic mission.

The designs here shown are a second group (first group, Architectural Record, May, 1955) in a program generally characterized as remarkably successful. The device of an architectural advisory panel, assisting the Foreign Buildings Operation of the State Depart-

ment in the selection of architects and in reviewing their designs, has led to good communication between the architectural fraternity and officialdom both in Washington and abroad.

At the beginning of the program the panel consisted of Pietro Belluschi, F.A.I.A., Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning, M.I.T., Henry Shepley, F.A.I.A., Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson & Abbott, Boston; and Ralph Walker, F.A.I.A., Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith, New York; and chairman Col. Harry A. McBride, former Assistant Secretary of State. In a plan of rotation of panel members, Mr. Walker has been replaced by Richard M. Bennett, F.A.I.A., Loebl, Schlossman & Bennett, Chicago.



Embassy Residence and Staff Quarters Seoul, Korea

Earnest J. Kump, Architect

The design of the new building recalls Korean precedents, but it is so planned as to permit economical construction in a day when Korean lost many of its old skills and crafts.

The structure is of reinforced concrete laid out on a modular basis, with walls faced in colored tile and the deeply projecting roof covered with like material. The representational rooms are located in a one story wing connected to the main house which is the family's private residence. A portion of the old residence will remain as a separate part of the architectural composition, and be used for guests.

Staff Housing Vienna, Austria

Henry Hill, Architect

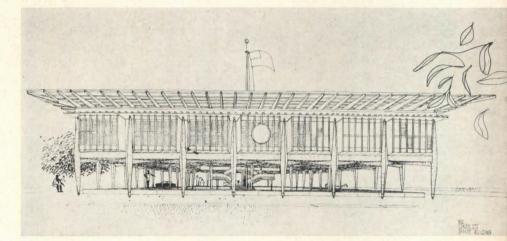
Staff housing in Vienna will consist of twostory, garden type units of one, two and three pedrooms. The units are staggered and arranged in groups around an interior green space.

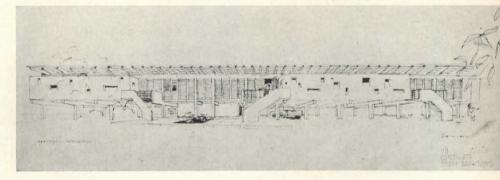
The structures are concrete with a marked vertical emphasis on mullion supports to give a visual two-story scale to the horizontal masses. Another exterior feature is the decorative use of colored tile inserts in spandrel acings, and in panels in which windows do not occur.

Staff Housing Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Carl Koch, Architect

The buildings will be of reinforced concrete faced with natural or precast stone. This apartment house will be built around an interior garden fronting on two sides with playground facilities for children. Balconies for each apartment will face this garden. A built-in garage and storehouse for the use of Embassy personnel will also be included. As it is built on a sloping street the height of the structure will vary from three to six floors.





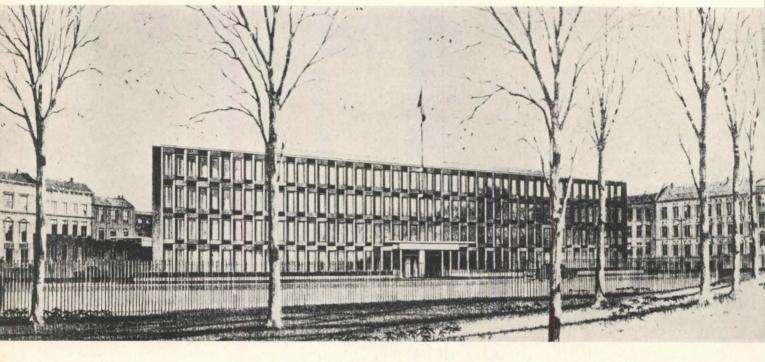
Office Building and Staff Housing Accra, Gold Coast

Harry Weese, Architect

The office building will be set in a one and a half acre plot. It is to be of reinforced concrete raised on stilts around a garden with offices on the second floor. It will not be air conditioned, but the four sides of the building are to be faced with screened wooden jalousies and further protected from the sun by a large roof overhang. The net office space is over 8,000 square feet in area including a gallery and reception room.

The staff housing will be located on 7.39 acres, in two buildings having two one-bedroom, four two-bedroom, and two three-bedroom apartments, making eight units altogether. Later three houses for Consulate officers will be added. Buildings will be of reinforced concrete raised on stilts with open car parking underneath. Exterior walls will be of screened wooden jalousies to catch prevailing breezes. Large overhanging roofs will protect against the sun and rain. The insulated ceilings will be dropped to create a ventilated space under the roof.







Office Building Amman, Jordan

Paul Rudolph, Architect

The climate does not require air conditioning but the architect has taken pains to provide sun protection for roof and walls. The former consists of a complete roof covering by means of spaced, concrete ribs which are beam-supported on full two-story columns. The latter, wall protection, is accomplished by a cavity wall approximately 20 inches thick.

These two features combine into a unified piece of architectural design; the open roof and its columns providing a disciplined form under which the more irregular mass of the building creates an interesting pattern of masonry.

Office Building Oslo, Norway

Eero Saarinen, Architect

The building is triangular in plan and virtually occupies the whole of the property. Perimeter offices surround an enclosed interior court. A special feature is the precast exterior wall which is load-bearing at each floor and obviates the use of columns. This permits treatment of the elevations as an over-all pattern of windows, mullions and spandrels.

The exterior facing will be in effect a dark granite chip terrazzo, and the windows double glass casements made of teak wood and painted white.

Office Building Karachi, Pakistan

Richard J. Neutra, Robert E. Alexander, Architects

The proposed U. S. Embassy office building will house the business activities of the Embassy, U.S.I.A., I.C.A., and the Defense Attaches, and will be a permanent fireproof building, completely air conditioned.

The office building will contain approximately 69,000 gross square feet, including a garage and equipment wing. A warehouse of 16,000 square feet will also be constructed at the rear to be used in connection with U.S.I.A.



Office Building Quito, Ecuador

Vincent G. Kling, Architect

The proposed U. S. Embassy office building will house the business activities of the Embassy, U.S.I.A., and a portion of the Defense activities. The building will be constructed, in the majority, of native materials and will be a reinforced concrete and anti-earthquake structural system. Although located on the equator, a heating system will be required because of the sudden changes of temperature. The present scheme provides for approximately 30,000 square feet.



Office Building Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Don Hatch, Architect

The Embassy office building will be located on a triangular site on the present exposition grounds and will overlook the bay. The building will be partially air conditioned with the use of colored aluminum vertical fins and heat resisting glass to reduce the glare of the sun, and will be oriented so as to take full advantage of the ocean breezes. Extensive piling will have to be used as the ground water is approximately two feet below the sidewalk level during the rainy season.