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Summary

Apartment point-house at the Kottbuser Tor in Berlin (pages 181—184)

Triangular site at intersection of two important shopping streets in east of Berlin not far from sector boundary, facing north. Three things aimed at in plan: 1) avoidance of apartments with purely northern exposure, 2) inclusion of prescribed number of apartments, 3) creation of effect of spaciousness from town-planning point of view with at the same time possibility for parking space. One eleven-storey building alined north and south and two seven-storey buildings; between the point-house and the two seven-storey buildings there is a passageway opening into the shops on the ground floor. One-, two and a half- and three and a half-room flats, inside ventilated baths, built-in kitchens with direct ventilation and lighting.

Structure of concrete skeleton clearly revealed in elevations. In point-house concrete columns tapered upwards. Skeleton kept white, wall sections in between bright gray, balcony lattices and edges of asbestos-cement painted brick-red. Mineral colours utilized, afterwards coated with Silex for greater weather resistance. Roofs of shops on sides of point-house with inside rain gutters and where they adjoin point-house provided with prismatic skylight so that rooms in point-house are brightly lighted. Above display windows of shops 1.2 m. wide band of strong sheet steel behind which are attachments for electric signs and sun awnings; above this again a narrow glass strip acting as skylight so as to give light even to the back of the shops. This band painted white provides a solid background for the electric sign.

Apartment houses with cheap flats, Ina-Casa in Milan (pages 185—187)

A six-storey apartment house in Milan 127 m. long by about 11 m. wide. For most part comprises cheap three-room flats on stair-wells each serving two flats and on ends of building five-room flats. In middle of uppermost floor and on an attic floor built over it a group of 8 two-storey flats with inside stairs. Successful attempt made to create pleasant homelike atmosphere by use of bright, emphatic colours, avoids depressing gray tone of so many apartment houses. As Ponti himself writes: "Colour is life, joy, consciousness of life. In common parlance monotony, i. e. one single tone or one single colour, means boredom. The bold use of colour should be a component element of all houses. Only architecture which is based on an artistic composition is truly social because it realizes that dwellings are intended for people to live in. In addition to meeting the city-planning and technical requirements, we should satisfy the aesthetic sense of the people." The excellent suggestions of our colleague from Milan seem to lead to a solution of the apartment house problem which, on account of the enormous spread of this kind of building, is crucial in the planning of our cities and of our country. It is of the utmost importance to devote all our attention to this step-child of architecture—which is unfortunately in great part left to the mercy of speculators.

Solatia Apartment House in Lugano (pages 188—189)

An apartment house in Lugano situated so as to have an excellent view. Each flat occupies an entire floor. So planned that the individual flats have the character of a one-family house, emphasized by placing the stair-well completely outside the building proper. It is a ferro-concrete monolith conceived as a public, vertical "street." Landings in open and unglazed, in this way typical stairway noises eliminated. Strict separation between day and night rooms. Night rooms: three elegant bedrooms with bath, one bedroom for maid with wardrobe, a shower with lavatory for the children and a roomy hall with built-in wardrobes. Spacious loggia in front of main bedrooms on east. Day rooms: a large living-room, facing east and the view, with four-casement French window, a small dining-room, a pantry and a kitchen. Half-open loggia in front of dining-room, forming part of large south terrace shielded from view by concrete lattice. Large "studio" window as well as all living- and bedroom windows are French windows with Venetian blinds. Elevations reveal ceilings and in between untreated sand-lime brick masonry.

Apartment house with privately owned flats in Milan (pages 190—191)

Site: In the angle between Corso Sempione and Via Mussi, essentially triangular lot. Section on Via Mussi set back, resulting in T-shaped ground plan. Building ordinances of Milan require open outside stair landings for point-houses, these used in part to create separate service entrances to kitchens. Day rooms and night rooms sharply separated, as are the utility rooms grouped around kitchens. On ground floor on Corso Sempione shops, on Via Mussi offices. Car entrance from Via Mussi into courtyard with four garages.

Continuous balcony runs along all living-rooms and bedrooms, in part shaded by movable screens of rotary wooden slats. Partitions between individual sections of balcony of fixed wooden slats. Lower parts of balcony painted azure blue, metal sections black. Masonry between windows untreated brick. Shutter cases above bright, ivory-coloured windows painted plum blue, all wood parts left in natural colour.

Apartment House with five apartments in Los Angeles (pages 192—193)

Wooded site on a relatively steep east slope. Four one-storey flats alined one above the other with a fifth flat built on top of the uppermost, with a roof terrace. South wall of the living-room completely glazed, running along entire width of apartment and opening on to long side of garden. Directly accessible from this toward north a bedroom and a small kitchen with refrigerator. Behind kitchen accessible from bedroom, a bath with toilet. Garden of uppermost flat faces west, whereas on south there is placed a stairway as well as laundry and utility room for all flats. The upper floor flat over flat No. 4 has a roof terrace over the laundry. The details of the houses are similar and of almost Japanese refinement and charm, like the apartment house by the architect Craig Ellwood presented in Issue No. 2/55.

Two one-family houses on the Tegern lake in Upper Bavaria (pages 194—199)

Both houses situated on a height above the Tegernsee facing bold mountain ranges to the south. These modern types of construction fit more harmoniously into the landscape than the conservative, traditional styles. Ruf's two houses are not only examples of the best post-war German architecture but also are, of the houses Ruf has designed, the most consummately and clearly thought out in line with structural requirements and conditions.

House A planned by architect for his own requirements: for a family with two children. All rooms except entrance on north on same level. Separation between utility and living-rooms so carried out that there is created in front of the kitchen a half-covered garden-lounge area which is completely sheltered from the wind and cannot be seen into from the terraces. Large room alined east and west with big French doors opens on to the garden, a meadow with fruit trees and the landscape at large; includes a dining nook.

In House B utility rooms situated to right of entrance. Between living area and bedrooms a covered terrace which is a completely open garden terrace on the side getting the sun and continues in front of rooms as roofed passageway outdoors. In basement floor of House B are situated the secondary rooms: an additional bath, a hallway with wardrobes, the maid's room and a guest bed-sitting room, plus furnace and storer-room.

Construction:

Both houses have flat roofs covered with two-ply green-sanded Bauvin roofing felt. Exterior walls of basements consist of rammed concrete (30 cm. thick), interior walls in brick. On ground floor brick walls, exterior 25 cm. thick, interior 12 cm. thick. Glazing in both houses consists of Cudo-Insulation double panes. Solid ferro-concrete ceilings above basement floors, above ground floors timber rafter ceilings and insulation of rock wool matting. Walls of WC, kitchens, baths from floor to under surface of ceiling, in House A, faced with white wall tiles, in House B, with brightly tinted Detopak glass tiles. Living- and bedrooms have floors of fir and oak beading above a 2.5 cm. thick layer of chill cast asphalt which is laid over coco fibre matting for sound insulation. In House B dining nook and hall, in both houses the baths and laundry have floors of Jura marble slabs.

All living-rooms have smooth ply-wood doors with pine veneering, running from floor to ceiling.

Heating of both houses by hot water with steel radiators, with pressure oil burner. Hot water heating installation attached to heating plant, can be electrically heated in summer.

In House A, standing in isolation, beginning at the boundary of the lot is a quartzite masonry wall, 1.90 m. high; with accentuated horizontal seams, running all the way into the living area and dividing the latter into a vestibule and a dining area with window opening on to view of mountains to south.

On the west side of the living area and on the south side of the sleeping area are covered seating areas. The covered seating areas and a path 1.20 m. wide around the house are paved with yellow Jura marble slabs. Along the east boundary of lot runs a 2 m. high wall, white, topped by a slab, to insure privacy; also a steel lattice kennel for the watch dog.

In the large living-room and in the covered seating area on west are open fireplaces with large quartzite paving slabs, grate and copper hood. Rendered exterior walls as well as all untreated fireplace surface are whitewashed.

One-family house in Riehen/Baselland (pages 200—201)

Site: The house is situated in a depression on a hillside facing south. Set into the slope and viewed from north appears to have but one storey. Fine view out over the City of Basle and the distant range of the Jura.

Organization: On upper floor on the same level as the street is situated the garage with direct passageway to covered entrance terrace. House entered from here through hall running north and south around which are grouped the various bedrooms as well as the bath. On south side a continuous terrace runs along entire floor. Open stairs lead from upstairs hall down into living-room, connected on one side with dining-room, on the other with study. Kitchen situated in rear of lower floor against slope, can be reached directly by outside stairs.

Construction: Walls adjoining slope concrete with drainage. Ceilings and flat roof of ferro-concrete. South wall as well as fireplace of clinker masonry and remaining walls of rendered brick. Floors in rooms of upper stores inlaid various colours, in living-room and study covered with fitted carpet.

Two-family house in Riehen (pages 202—203)

Site: on a southerly incline on the heights above Riehen. Building is parallel to slope and close to street leading north so as to keep as much of the 700 sq. m. lot as possible open to the sun as lawn.

Organization: Same plan on ground floor and on first floor: Central hall, to north stairs, bath and kitchen, to south 3 bedrooms each as well as on one end separate WC. In front of work-room on first floor is a loggia, on ground floor the garage, heating as well as laundry.

Construction: Ground floor concrete masonry, ceilings above cellar and ground floor ferro-concrete. Roof of rafters covered with asbestos-cement slates and insulated with glass wool matting 5 cm. thick. Both gable ends untreated brick 39 cm. North elevation brick rendered, south elevation half-timbered.

One-family house on outskirts of Cologne (pages 204—205)

Site: on western outskirts of Cologne. Plan and rooms: Entrance is broad and somewhat recessed. Hallway opens into living area, through a bedroom hall with wardrobes to the bedroom area and through a small utility hall, with stairs to cellar, to the utility area. Living-room completely open to terrace and garden, as is the dining-room which leads into it.

Exterior construction: Outside walls, where broken by windows, consist of Dutch brick with accentuated bed joints, whitewashed. Solid walls faced with rough-cut graywacke. Roof slab of ferro-concrete projects far out beyond the walls. Interior construction: Large countersunk windows of living-room reach from wall to wall and from floor to ceiling. Thermax heating with units built into ceiling. Floor in living- and dining-room of rectangular Solnhofer slabs. Walls in living-room faced with various materials. The house is so planned that it can be subdivided if so desired.

Week-end House near Bollingen on the Lake of Zurich (pages 206—208)

Site: Level, rectangular lot bounded on north by railway line, on south by the Lake, on east and west by already built over lots. Sides facing railway and neighbouring lots kept as closed to view as possible and that facing Lake and mountains as open as possible.

Plan: House entered on lake side through covered seating area. Living-room and dining-room separated only by two-way fireplace standing isolated in centre of house. South wall of living-room glazed throughout its entire length and height, so constructed that it can be sunk between folded-together shutters into the lateral wall, resulting in a large open area facing the lake. Next to dining-room are situated the bedroom with two beds and built-in chests. Kitchen and dining-room separated by two-way china cupboard which also functions as service hatch.

Construction: Floor: Concrete and Ottiker flooring over air space. Walls: Wooden stanchion construction with outside framing, glass wool insulation. Fireplace: untreated brick. Roof: gravel stucco with inside rain gutters.

International competition for furniture of Cantù (Italy) 1955 (pages 209—210)

A wooden leg consisting of two sticks (laths) with notches running half their length corresponding to thickness of sticks. By means of these notches the two sticks can be fitted into each other at right angles and glued together. The cross shaped leg is marked by great stability and the resulting shadow effects are quite beautiful. Strength is assured by glue on eight surfaces of the crosses, reinforcement not necessary. This type of construction has a pleasing simplicity: it separates and joins together both at once. The cross joint can be extended and applied to framing of all kinds of furniture. In this type of corner joint clear and beneficial distinction between "skeleton and skin." In corner joint, the function becomes visible, constituting a fusion of the structural and the ornamental, in which lies the essence of furniture.

Project of residential area in Firminy Vert (Loire) (pages 213—216)

In Firminy, a town on the Loire, André Sive, whose apartment house constructions have often appeared in this publication, is planning a new residential district comprising about 1000 flats. The site is located on a north slope and in addition to the apartment houses will include a stadium, schools, a cinema, a shopping centre and playgrounds. The apartment houses are in great part planned to have four storeys, in addition to which on the south and west of a park area, and accenting the whole, will be erected a seventeen storey point-house with covered passageways and two-storey flats and an eighteen-storey point-house with a rhomboid-polygonal plan including small flats. The project is now in its first stages. All buildings for the most part make use of pre-fabricated elevation elements. We shall publish in due time a description of the completed town.