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Résumés

Constructions en aluminium
(pages 179—183)

A la suite d'un bref aperçu historique, cet article donne une liste des qualités principales de l'aluminium et des formes sous lesquelles l'architecte s'en servira dans le bâtiment. Il énumère les manières d'en traiter les surfaces, comme l'oxydation anodique, le sealing, l'éloxation, et l'émaillage, ce dernier offrant une variété de couleurs toute nouvelle. Les alliages multiples du métal ont chacun leur traitement et leur emploi spécifiques; un des plus anciens exemples de toiture en tôle d'aluminium est sur la coupole de San Gioacchino à Rome, construite en 1897, et témoigne encore de la durabilité du matériau; la première construction d'ingénieur en aluminium, le Zeppelin, est connue. Dès 1945, l'emploi de l'aluminium dans le bâtiment prend un essor dramatique, révolutionnant l'aspect surtout des façades et fenêtres. Par sa légèreté et ses possibilités très variées de préfabrication à l'usine, l'aluminium offre de très grands avantages. Depuis les méthodes modernes de construction à structure intérieure, les façades, devenues indépendantes, s'exécutent ou comme remplissage entre les soutiens et plafonds, ou comme surface entière suspendue à la façon d'un rideau devant la structure; ici, l'aluminium commence à jouer un rôle nouveau depuis que cette écorce exterieure se divise en épiderme étanche et en couche isolante intérieure. Pour constructions de ce genre, deux problèmes essentiels se posent: le condensation de l'eau, plus importante que pour façades en matériau poreux, demande un aérage entre l'épiderme et la couche isolante; on bien, l'épiderme et l'isolation doivent être joints de façon absolument étanche à la manière d'une boîte de conserves, c. à. d. en éléments' «sandwich» scellés aux côtés. D'autre part, le facteur de dilatation (0,000024 cm/cm°C) qui est double de celui du fer, requiert le ménagement de jointures proportionnelles.

Bâtiment administratif de l'Industrie Aluminium SA, Zurich (pages 184—192)

L'édifice de l'industrie suisse de l'aluminium devait représenter ce matériau. Son épiderme, d'un éclat transparent, est porté par une construction en acier (axe 1,75 m) dont les cadres fortement dimensionnés émergent d'une pièce d'eau pour enjamber le bâtiment à une hauteur de quatre étages: l'espace vide qu'ils décrivent au-dessus du troisième sera réservé à une extension future. Les éléments de la façade: fenêtres coulissantes à vantaux carrés et parapets en aluminium oxydé jouant en différentes teintes de brun, se trouvent encastrés entre les piliers. Une entrée spacieuse contenant la loge du portier mène à une halle intérieure de grandes dimensions, éclairée par une rangée de fenêtres à l'étage supérieur et par la halle de réception adjointe qui reçoit à flots la lumière du lac. Un escalier à balustrades en verre placé vers le nord domine par son grand élan cet intérieur large et clair. Des galeries sur tous les étages relient les files ininterrompues des bureaux. Les pièces secondaires, toilettes, garderobes, ascenseurs etc. sont concentrées en un bloc situé au nord. La décoration intérieure: meubles simples en bois et aluminium, portes en bois armé d'aluminium vers les couloirs et peintes à l'intérieur des bureaux, les placards etc. présentent un emploi de ce matériel qui est extrêmement varié sans être doctrinaire. Plafonds Zent-Frenger à plaques d'aluminium perforées peintes en blanc. Des couleurs fortes, employées surtout dans la grande halle, neutralisent l'aspect un peu frigide qui accompagne souvent l'aluminium. Les fenêtres coulissantes à vitrage Thermopane possèdent un chauffage spécial qui suffira à l'édifice entier pendant les froids modérés.

Caisse d'épargne et d'emprunst, Los Angeles (pages 193—195)

Immeuble de 9 étages construit sur un terrain très étroit de 13 x 55 m. Les proportions étranglées de cette construction en acier et aluminium demandèrent des précautions spéciales contre les tremblements de terre: reposant sur des fondations renforcées par d'énormes piliers en béton, le mur arrière de la maison est formé par une plaque massive en béton armé, soutenue par deux murs auxiliaires formant angle droit. Avec, en surplus, un noyau de béton armé aménagé vers le nord du bâtiment et allant du fond au comble, la raideur de la construction semble assurée. La façade montre des rangées continues de fenêtres scellées alternant avec des plaques en porcelaine gris-bleu, encadrées en un système fin de nervures en aluminium. Les lamelles verticales en aluminium permettent un réglage individuel du jour dans les bureaux. A la fermeture hermétique vers l'extérieur correspond un système très différencié du conditionnement de l'air. Un réseau de conduites aménagé entre les plafonds en béton et les plaques acoustiques suspendues permet l'installation de prises tous les 60 cm. Ce petit gratte-ciel californien est un des bâtiments les plus légers de ce calibre.

Bâtiment commerciale Jespersen à Copenhague (pages 196—199)

Immeuble de bureaux construit entre deux bâtiments existants et supporté par deux paires de grands piliers qui diminuent graduellement en profondeur vers leur sommet. Larges d' 1 m 30, les deux piliers de chaque côté s'unissent au rez-de-chaussé pour en former un seul, d'une section de 3 m 50 sur 1 m 30. Les plafonds en béton armé projettent 5 m 50 env. de chaque côté. La façade vers la rue consiste de fenêtres scellées en rangées et de parapets en verre coloré. Des profils en aluminium largement espacés forment un rythme vertical et horizontal. Les carrés de verre coloré sont isolés à l'intérieur par une chambre d'air et par des couches consécutives en gipsonite, laine de verre et encore gipsonite. Une dernière couche en asbeste porte les lambris intérieurs. Des profils de bois larges 7 cm appliqués derrière les nervures en aluminium servent d'appui aux cloisons. Les éléments de la façade suspendue sont vissés aux cornières garnissant les bords extérieurs des plafonds.

Bâtiment administratif de Brown, Boveri & Cie. S. A., Baden (Suisse) (pages 200—203)

Immeuble de huit étages dont les grandes fenêtres éclairent les salles de dessin des bureaux de construction. Pour ne pas trop rapprocher le bâtiment du chemin de fer touchant au coin est, les premiers 1½ à 2 étages furent laissés libres. Leurs pilotis en retraite permettent un passage aisé dans la cour du complexe préexistant. Squelette en acier à façades suspendues; plafonds et bloc d'escalier avec toilettes, garderobes et ascenseurs bétonnés. La façade est en aluminium et verre, les éléments d'aluminium, les fenêtres, les cadres des parapets et les dormants étant fixés aux plafonds en porte-à-faux au moyen de chevilles. Cette façade présente des surfaces propres et lisses aisément lavables de l'intérieur, par l'ouverture des fenêtres.

Les jalousies sont aménagées derrière les parapets inclinés en verre bleu acier qui sont montés avec la plus grande précision aux côtes triangulaires des dormants, utilisant des cadres en Estrudal. Les plafonds sont chauffés au moyen de plaques en aluminium perforé système Zent-Frenger, joignant à la fonction de chauffage et de climatisation celle d'une isolation acoustique excellente et ayant l'avantage d'être très légères, qualité sensible pour constructions élevées. L'installation et le maintien de ces plaques sont très économiques. Les grands battants des fenêtres, qui s'ouvrent à l'intérieur, ont des profils spécialement étudiés en vue de la force considérable du vent.

Bâtiment administratif Grand Magasin Hertie, Berlin (pages 204—205)

Immeuble de huit étages à structure portante en béton armé, dont la longueur de 112 m est divisée en trois sections par deux fentes de dilatation. Le rez-de-chaussée laissé libre forme un passage à vitrines prolongeant celles du grand magasin «Ka-dé-wé» voisin, arrangées en adent pour produire un effet optique raccourcissant. Cette «rue en verre» ménagée de plain-pied demande que les façades surplombantes présentent des surfaces unies exemptes de toute lourdeur: le côté rue porte une façade suspendue à la manière d'un rideau, en aluminium et verre. Les autres façades furent développées selon leur fonction, les cants massifs étant revêtus de côtes étroites en marbre brut, la façade cour construite en éléments d'acier. Le poids minime, la grande résistance, l'incorruptibilité et surtout le façonnage facile de l'aluminium en font un matériel préféré pour la construction moderne, offrant au constructeur p. ex. des profils préfabriqués de la plus grande adaptabilité au montage.

Agrandissement et réorganisation d'un immeuble administratif à Almelo (Hollande) (pages 206—209)

La fusion de deux établissements voisins entraîna le regroupement et l'agrandissement des localités d'une vieille maison en briques de deux étages, sur l'enceinte d'une filature 19e siècle, tout en utilisant les constructions préexistantes. Un corridor existant dans la maison de bureau fut prolongé pour relier, vers la rue, les bureaux des directeurs et des employés, et vers l'arrière, une grande salle de 12 x 38 m avec une salle de conférences adjointe, ayant jour d'en haut par un toit shed. L'architecture est déterminée par le rythme des supports en acier DIN qui remplacent les piliers en maçonnerie le long de la Spoorstraat. Les façades en bois sont indépendantes de cette structure. La construction existante en bois est cachée par un revêtement en aluminium plié anodisé. L'aile nouvelle est rattachée à l'immeuble existant au moyen d'une façade d'entrée en retraite encadrée par des murailles en brique semblables à celles de ce dernier. Les matériaux naturels employés, comme le quarzite et le teak, forment avec le verre et le métal un contraste vivant.

Dôme de la Découverte pour le Festival de Grande Bretagne (pages 210—211)

Le dôme de l'invention fut la pièce centrale de la grande Exposition Nationale à Londres en 1951. Son énorme coupole d'aluminium représentait avec son diamètre de 120 m et son comble de 15 m, une œuvre de première importance en construction d'aluminium. La coque était portée par un filet de nervures transversales et longitudinales consistant de poutres en colombage trièdres en aluminium. Ces nervures étaient des segments de cercle dont l'intersection produisait des triangles raides. Le tout était recouvert en tôle d'aluminium, dont les plaques rivées se chevauchaient; les intervalles étaient remplis d'un mastic spécial, assurant ainsi à l'épiderme une certaine élasticité. La coupole entière reposait sur un cercle en construction d'acier, soutenu par pilotis légers en acier. La rotonde excentrique intérieure était en construction de béton indépendante; elle possédait trois galeries en demi-lune superposées dont la plus haute commandait une vue magistrale du grand espace intérieur.

Bâtiment avec bureaux et magasins à Zurich (pages 212—214)

Immeuble dont la façade en aluminium et verre fait irruption dans le traditionnalisme sacré de la Bahnhofstraße. Il est dommage que cette modernité très bien conçue doive se borner à élever le même cube sur la même zone, à la même hauteur qu'auparavant; que le manque de coopération entre les propriétaires ne permette une solution en un sens vraiment urbanistique; enfin que des lois vieillies prescrivent à ce bâtiment de porter l'élément inexplicable d'une corniche de 80 cm, et, ce qui plus est, d'être couronné par un toit de tuiles. Les plans et la façade sont développés de manière conséquente; les plafonds en béton armé portent sur une structure intérieure en acier; les façades autoportantes sont en éléments d'aluminium préfabriqués et sont suspendues aux bords des plafonds à la façon d'un «mur-rideau». Fenêtres basculantes à vitrage Thermopane; parapets en verre gris sécurisé.

Summary

New Construction with Light Metal
(pages 179—183)

Compared with iron and copper, aluminium is still a very young metal, which fact entails both advantages and disadvantages, the disadvantages being that the new material can very often only with great difficulty be adapted to the technical experiences and routines accumulated in working with the older traditional metals. The transition to the light metal requires detailed change-overs in the workshop and demands the overhaul of construction principles on the part of engineers and architects. Nevertheless the world production of aluminium, around 3 Million tons in 1955, e. g., has reached the figure for copper and has surpassed it in volume, this fact demonstrating that the above-mentioned difficulties can in general be coped with or are merely apparent. The many advantages brought to modern technology and especially to modern construction by the use of the new metal are recognized more and more and are decisive in effecting a large-scale transition to aluminium. On this occasion we should like to recall the words of Prof. Walter Gropius contained in a lecture delivered more than 25 years ago in Berlin: "The advantages of aluminium in modern building are its high degree of homogeneity, weather resistance, its capability of being precisely shaped and fitted together, and last but not least its attractive surface, so that the builder is no longer forced to coat outside surfaces with paint, as with steel, but can leave it untreated thereby achieving the aesthetically desired effect." By now it is almost impossible to think of construction without light metal. Architects must be exactly instructed in the mechanical properties of the materials they are utilizing. Aluminium possesses a series of properties which have made its utilization well nigh indispensable, namely: Slight weight: the specific weight of aluminium is 2.7 over against 7.8 for iron, which entails obvious advantages in construction. Good weather resistance: aluminium is always covered with a thin oxyde layer, which protects the metal against corrision. If this layer is strengthened by an electrolytic process — anode-oxydation — the metal is rendered even more weather-resistant. High degree of tenacity in proportion to weight: the tenacity, e. g. of the aluminium alloy used in construction, Anticorodal, is equivalent to that of structural steel. Easy malleability: aluminium can be easily bent, sawn, bored, drawn and pressed. The special possibilities possessed by this metal to be shaped have led to its being very widely utilized in construction; this applies also of course to aluminium alloys. The almost unlimited possibilities of bending profile sections etc. offer hitherto undreamed of opportunities to creative architects. This applies likewise to sheet metal, pipes, corrugated sheets, etc. Illustrations Nos. 1—10 show some of the manifold possibilities of this metal. Also aluminium can be easily subjected to various electrolytic processes which yield a surface appearance with manifold aesthetic possibilities. There are many light metals with an aluminium base which are at the present time available for use in construction, and they can be divided into three main groups: 1) Pure aluminium, 2) Unimproved alloys and 3) Improved alloys. Space permits mention of only a few of the milestones in the application of aluminium alloys in construction. The first aluminium rolling mill in the world was opened at Neuhausen am Rhein in 1892, which produced sheet aluminium to be used in construction. One of the earliest examples is the roof of the church of San Gioacchino in Rome. A great new development set in with the invention in 1906 by Wilm of Duraluminium. Older readers will remember the first use of light metals in dirigible and aircraft construction in the period from 1914—1918. Whereas the use of aluminium during the Second World War was sharply reduced, there has since then been a tremendous and still incalculable demand for it. There are probably very few industries and craftsmen now who do not in some way come into contact with aluminium.

Administration Building of the Aluminium Industry, Zurich
(pages 184-192)

One of the principal features of the twenty-year boom we have been living in is the far-reaching revolution in architecture, which now for the first time has made itself evident along the lake front in Zurich. Thus a development has started which is bound to have fateful consequences for town-planning in greater Zurich. In this district of the city there is concentrated, especially during the summer months, a great part of the authentic life of the city. Official measures have been taken to widen the green belt reserved for pedestrians along the lake front, such as the exclusion of through traffic from Seefeldquai and the shutting off of a street running down to the Lake from Bellerivestrasse. Further measures in this direction will be taken as time goes on. Also the building line on Seefeldquai has been set back 20 m. so that the green belt can be appreciably widened when the large villas and mansions along this street are acquired by the city and torn down. The first new construction in this district is the Administration Building of the Aluminium Industry AG. It stands on the site formerly occupied by the mansion of a silk manufacturer, built in 1897, and torn down two years ago. Its west elevation is set back 20 m. in accordance with the regulations described above. The garden, which at present appears to belong to the lay-out will later be integrated in the new extended public park along the Lake. This arrangement was made a condition for the granting of the building permit. This new building introduces a bright, cheerful element into this lakeside district which promises much for the future. It is three stories high and stands amid a fine stand of old trees. The point of departure—an aluminium building—gave rise to what for Zurich is a radically new type of building, a building completely covered with metal. One has to stop a moment and consider the impact of an all-metal building in our city which is otherwise dominated by stone buildings and granite elevations. The building has a steel skeleton which first had to be fireproofed with asbestos before the aluminium sheathing could be applied. The supports rise from the water-tight foundation structure for four stories with relatively small intervals—the interval measures 1.75 m. so that the smallest office is about 3.35 m. wide. The supports on the fourth floor stand free, that floor to be completed later. The building is entered through a comfortable vestibule with porter's office, leading into a sumptuous hall, which is splendidly lighted by means of a row of windows on the top floor, and through the reception hall from the Lake. A broad staircase with glass banisters is located at the north end of this hall and is the dominant architectonic element of this bright, spacious room. The hall is ringed by galleries on all floors, into which open all the offices and conference rooms. The stairs are in the exact center of the building. To the north of the stairs there is a utility block, including cloakrooms, lifts, etc. In this way the architect was able to arrange an uninterrupted row of offices all around the building all opening into the galleries. On the north side are the drafting rooms, on the top floor the conference room of the Board of Directors. The architect was able to design the whole down to the smallest details, as the owner gave him a free hand. He was even successful in introducing severely functional furniture into the executive offices, where the furniture consists of aluminium profiles and attachments and painted wooden parts. It was possible to avoid the chilly effect often produced by aluminium by introducing vivid colours, especially in the multi-storey hall. The floor of the hall and of the reception room facing the Lake is of small blue tiles; the galleries and corridors have flooring of deep red linoleum. Our colour pictures will give the reader a good idea of the colour scheme. Fluorescent tubing was deliberately avoided, illumination being provided by Swedish lamps, the same model being employed throughout the building. The windows are standard vertical sash windows. They have thermopanes and are fitted with a special window heating unit, which is sufficient to heat the entire building during the mildly cool weather of spring and autumn, so that the heating system proper, a Zent-Frenger Radiant system, needs to be connected only during the winter months. The ground near the Lake is not at all suited for foundations, and so test borings had to made down to a depth of 26 m. before construction could proceed. Experts from the Federal Institute of Technology contributed to the establishment of the optimum type of foundation. Pilings could not be used as the ground becomes more porous with increasing depth. A broad projecting foundation was found to be the best solution. The building has a total weight of around 10,500 tons. The total weight of the excavated earth minus water came to 9,600 tons. The high water table necessitated ground water insulation. The 4-storey building has a steel skeleton with axial interval for windows of 1.75 m. The ceilings are constructed of 13 cm. thick reinforced concrete slabs. The interior utility block with the lift shafts is constructed entirely of reinforced concrete. Zent-Frenger radiant heating is utilized throughout the building. The central hall is provided with floor heating units. The entire exterior elevation covering consists of aluminium. The vertical supporting pillars are anode-oxydized and there are fixed to them without bolts, by a special process, the Anticorodal profiles. A new process just initiated at the AIAG Chippis Works now renders possible the fabrication of such light metal profiles of almost any desired dimensions. Aluminium alloy Peraluman-30 was utilized for the parapet panels, which are anodeoxydized and stained dark-brown. The Alfol-insulated roof construction is covered with a double welt roof of aluman.

Standard Federal Savings & Loan Association Building, Los Angeles
(pages 193—195)

The new building of the Standard Federal Savings & Loan Bank stands on a very narrow site, 13 x 55 m. in downtown Los Angeles. The architect was confronted with 3 ticklish problems: there was danger of undermining in the near vicinity of the foundation, the huge steel beams had to be swung into place on a very restricted, cramped site, and there was a great danger that the slender high-rise building would not be able to withstand earthquakes. But these difficulties were all overcome, the earthquake danger being countered by the erection of a reinforced concrete wall at the rear of the building with reinforcing walls set into it at right angles. The elevation is characterized by continuous rows of fixed-pane windows alternating with gray-blue tiles simply comprised within an elegant aluminium grid. The heat-resistant window glass utilized eliminates 40% of the sunlight. The incidence of light in the interior rooms can be regulated as desired by vertical Venetian blinds. This creates the best obtainable working conditions in the offices. As by and large no windows can be opened anywhere in the building, great stress was laid on air-conditioning, with a system of double conduits. The temperature can be regulated separately in the individual offices. A special wiring system is installed between the concrete ceiling and the suspended acoustic slabs. This makes possible connections for telephone, signal system and lamps at intervals of 60 cm. A complete dining-room with kitchen as well as a large roof terrace are at the service of employees. The first two floors are used by the owner, but the remaining 7 floors are rented. The interior fittings for the Standard Federal Savings Bank as well as the furniture were designed by the same architects. This small skyscraper is one of the lightest buildings ever constructed, in proportion to its volume.

Administration building in Copenhagen (pages 196—199)

This is an office building in the city center of Copenhagen between two already existing office buildings. On the ground floor of the new building there was provided a driveway with parking facilities on both sides along the entire width of the site. The entire building is supported by two pairs of columns running from the basement all the way up to the attic floor. Reinforced concrete slabs project on both sides 5.50 m. The pairs of columns are 1.30 m. wide; on the ground floor they are run together into two large columns with 350/130 cm. cross section. The projecting reinforced concrete slabs on their exterior surface support one glass-aluminium Curtain-Wall each. The exterior skin facing the street consists of fixed pane windows with parapet panels of coloured glass. The vertical profiles are disposed at intervals of 2.14 m., i. e. at considerably wider intervals than are usual in standard office buildings. In the offices the electric wiring is housed in the upper part of the parapet. In a lateral annex, on the courtyard side, there is the main stair-well, on the street side on each floor toilet facilities. The architecture is well balanced and graceful.

Administration building of Brown, Boveri & Co. AG, Baden
(pages 200—203)

Brown Boveri decided to build over an open corner of an old four-storey office building with interior courtyard in order to create more office space for its construction department. The site is very restricted in area. The architects entrusted with the project succeeded in convincing the owners that the erection of a point-house was by far the best solution to the problems posed by this site. The ground floor was kept open for 1½—2 stories, with recessed columns, owing to the proximity of the railway line. The 8-storey point-house contains engineering offices with drafting rooms, for which reason as large a window area as possible was called for. The building is composed of a steel skeleton with suspended elevation. All the ceilings, the stair-well with cloakrooms. WC's and lifts are treated with concrete. The architects chose aluminium and glass as elevation material as they desired elevation surfaces which were as smooth as possible and easy to be washed. The windows are so disposed that it is possible to clean the entire elevation as well as the windows from the inside of the building. All the offices possess a Zent-Frenger ceiling for radiant ceiling heat. As for the colour scheme, it was the express wish of the factory management that the concrete parts of the building harmonize with the light beige colour of the other factory buildings. Therefore the beige-brown shade prescribed by the architect could not be applied. The light metal elements, windows, frames for the parapet slabs and window frames etc. were held in place by iron clamps which are spray-galvanized, which are fastened to the projecting concrete slabs. Extrudal was utilized for the profiles of the window frames etc. and Peraluman-30 for the 2.5 mm. turned down sheet metal for the continuous vertical window piers.

Hertie Department store Administration Building, Berlin
(pages 204—205)

Glass and aluminium give the recently completed Hertie Administration Building in the Wittenbergplatz in Berlin a modern character. The eight-storey reinforced concrete skeleton structure, 112 m. long and built in three sections by elongation joints, is 14 m. wide and 30 m. high. Owing to the close proximity of the KeDaWe Department Store, the ground floor of the Administration Building could be erected so as to provide a gallery of display windows in conjunction with those of the Store. The gallery consists of an interlocking arrangement of shop and display windows. To prevent the display windows in this "Glass Street" from being hemmed in by the building opposite, the architect, Hans Soll of Hamburg, chose a glass-and-aluminium suspended elevation for the street front, and this is the main feature of interest of the building.

The use of aluminium has ensured light, elegant and lasting construction, minimum weight, tenacity, weather resistance and malleability, and has given the architect optimum combination possibilities. The widespread introduction of steel and reinforced steel skeleton structure has permitted the application of the prefabricated assembly system to the elevation, thus considerably simplifying construction on the site, reducing construction time and enabling unskilled labour to be employed.

Extension and alteration of ten Cate office-building at Almelo
(pages 206—209)

The extension of the office department was necessitated because of amalgamation of two firms.

After studying the defining circumstances it appeared that extension of the office was possible on the site ofw eavingmill, next to the old building, with use of the extant main construction.

The architecture was to a high degree defined by the rhythm of the steel DIN-columns which replace the 19th century walled piers along the Spoorstraat. The teak fronts have been kept free of these points of support. The old joists and matching construction offered further no possibility to architecture and were covered with a folded anoded aluminium sheeting.

The transition from this part to the existing office-building is formed by the recessed entrance front, which is bordered by clean brickwork of the same kind as this office building. At the place of this entrance the corridor has been widened and has a ceiling of teak small slabs over a floor of quartzite tiles.

The Dome of Discovery for the Festival of Britain (pages 210—211)

The basic conception underlying the design of this great Dome, of 365' in diameter and 90' high at the center, was to contrast the visual solidity of a series of sweeping horizontal galleries of reinforced concrete construction, with the extraordinary lightness of the vast aluminium saucer dome which spans out and beyond all the galleries and which is supported only on very light tubular steel struts.

Office and shop building in Zurich
(pages 212—214)

The construction of the Waltisbühl building marks a radical stride forward in the architectural evolution along Bahnhofstrasse, the main artery of the life of Zurich. This building has given rise to vehement discussion in Zurich ever since its elevation first emerged from the scaffolding. It is felt that the aluminium and glass there utilized introduce a jarring note into the hitherto uniform architecture along the street. We can only observe at this juncture that this building possesses valuable architectural qualities and represents a trend which it will not be possible to stop. Unfortunately new buildings have to be erected on the identical sites as the old because owners cannot agree to have their old buildings torn down at the same time and thus give architects a freer hand. This puts a barrier in the way of any comprehensive city plan. One can only imagine what could be done if one considers the example of a city like Basle where an entire new city center is going up between the Albantor and the Station. It is regrettable that large owners in Zurich, despite the considerable means at their disposal as compared with the small private owners, are so conservative about building plans. As an example, in the construction of the new Bankverein building a unique chance was missed to extend Paradeplatz and give the Zurich city center its first underground parking facility. The Waltisbühl building houses on the ground floor a large men's clothing shop, which has also rented the 1th and 2nd floors and the first basement. The architect has been able to work out the plans and the elevations in a very consistent fashion. Recessed steel columns carry reinforced concrete slabs, which project on all sides. The elevations were hung as self-supporting Curtain-Wall type from the projecting reinforced concrete slabs. They consist of pre-fabricated aluminium elements with built-in insulated parapet sections. The building had to be provided with the suspended "cornice" required by the building code. All office space is easily subdivisible, and the partitions (in part sound-proofed) are of wood, the suspended ceilings of perforated plaster slabs with built-in sunken lighting fixtures. It is planned to install an air-conditioning plant, the air to be introduced into the rooms through the perforations in the plaster ceilings.