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The contributions of Charlotte Perriand and of Prouvé to the general plan by Candilis are quite exceptional ones!

Jean Prouvé  
**House at Saint-Dié**  
(pages 200-201)

In its intelligent simplicity, this construction conceived and realized by Jean Prouvé, employing the elements forming part of his current architectural idiom, is a typical example of present-day housing: flexibility in the utilization of space and continuous integration of interior and exterior.

J. Dubuisson  
**The Cormontaigne residence, hotel with 1200 rooms, at Thionville**  
(pages 202-203)

Less satisfactory on the level of social organization and town-planning than on the plastic level, this complex is part of a new architectural cycle in the development of J. Dubuisson. A refinement of line is almost taking the place of the interior volumetric researches, up to now so dear to the architect. The expressive force passes to the exterior and the very close disposition of the volumes makes them all the more impressive.

Architect: Breuer  
Associated arch.: Gatje  
Superintending arch.: R. and M. Laugier  
**IBM Research Center at La Gaude near Nice**  
(pages 207-208)

Breuer, an Americanized European, has returned to build for Americans in Europe, this time in France, on a precipitous site in the south of France. This is a situation giving rise to the creation of fundamental values aiding in the comprehension of the uncompromising vigorous architecture thus willed into being by its creator. What an example for the nonentities that we are, to let ourselves, here on the soil of France, be devoured by the moths and the myth of Bureaucracy and Big Business! Obviously we would have liked Nervi to be present to finish off the structurel - but architects in all countries are always proud individuals. The building is handsome; the detailing is excellent (and it is said that French firms do not know how to attend to details!) and the building was certainly well financed.

Architects: Candilis, Woods, Josic, Dony  
Chief planner: Coquerel  
**Urban complex of Bagnols-sur-Cèze**  
(pages 210-211)

At Bagnols-sur-Cèze there has been undertaken within five years the organic welding together of two different urban units: the old and the modern. If the architecture at times, no doubt by oversight, has a purely decorative function, the whole complex of buildings, their interrelationship and their design proper (especially the individual apartments) display very interesting treatment, and one that is characteristically Mediterranean.

Architects: Salier und Courtois  
Assistant: Sadirac  
**Office building for the Marie Brizard et Roger concern at Bordeaux**  
(pages 216-217)

It is rather rare in France for the severity in the design of a building's skin to possess as much life as that of the building presented here. It is also rare for the interior flexibility to be so total; and as true. It is these qualities of integrity in the conception and in the realization that give to the building its real value.

Architects: Andrault and Parat  
**La Chancellerie housing complex at Bourges**  
(pages 218-219)

Few housing projects have any respect for the governmental and financial

regulations in force and at the same time comprise an approximately satisfactory architectural expression of the life of an agglomeration of 231 families. The terrain on which the buildings are sited, the tension set up among the various volumes, the differentiation of the spatial entities and the surfaces, the gradients, the correctly placed breaches in the walls at ground-floor level - all this invests this architecture with a modesty and sobriety that make it exemplary.

Architects: Lagneau, Weill, Dimitrievitch and Audigier  
Engineers: Prouvé, Lafaille, Sarger and Salomon  
Assistant: Jansovic  
Sculptor: Adam  
**Museum and Cultural Center in Le Havre**  
(pages 222-224)

Architecture here stands at the service of culture and social welfare; museum science, sclerotic for more than a century, is here reborn; man and the painting, man and the sculptured figure again confront one another in a meaningful relationship - and what is more, man here once again confronts man! The materials and the proportions, the colour scheme and the light, the functions and the technical functioning of the building respond to new needs; the interplay of the totality of the structural elements contributes greatly to the success of the whole complex. Winning team: Candilis, Josic, Woods, Piot, Dony, François, architects and engineers.



Ionel Schein

## Zu unserem Heft

Ein Heft über Frankreich ist ein Heft, das Einblick in eines europäischen Landes Experimentierwerkstatt gewährt. Ein Heft über Frankreich ist weniger Dokumentation fertiger und perfekter Leistung, als viel eher Präsentation interessanter Versuchsreihen, kühner neuer Konstellationen und Ideen.

Unser Pariser Korrespondent, vor 5 Jahren Initiator der durch viele deutsche Städte wanderten und vielbeachteten Ausstellung »Paris baut«, die er mit dem jungen Fotografen Cugini aus Zürich und dem jungen Grafiker Hans Weckerle, damals an der Werkkunstschule Hannover zusammen mit deren Leiter schuf, hat seine kritischen Augen diesmal in ganz Frankreich herumwandern lassen.

Vielleicht dient das Heft sogar als Führer zur modernen Architektur in Frankreich. Sein Aufbau geht davon aus, denn es zeigt nacheinander, im Uhrzeigersinn wandernd, Bauten aus den vier Regionen der Himmelsrichtungen. An einigen Stellen verweilt der Betrachter länger, dort, wo besondere bauliche Leistungen ein näheres Betrachten verlangen.

Nicht umsonst hat der Gärtner Monnier am Ende des vorigen Jahrhunderts als erster Betonkisten mit Eisendraht armiert, aus dieser Erfindung ist derjenige Baustoff entstanden, in dem die französischen Architekten heute Vorbildliches leisten. Nicht umsonst ist in Nancy ein Leichtmetallkonstruktor am Werke gewesen, der wegweisend war für eine Ideenreihe, die zu Aluminiumbauteilen über die ganze Welt hinweg führten.

Frankreich hat immer wieder Pionierleistungen hervorgebracht, denken wir nur an die kühnen Neuschöpfungen auf dem Sektor des Automobil- oder des Flugzeugbaus.

Wir wünschen, daß unser Heft von dieser Erfinderfreude auch der französischen Architektenkollegen lebendig Zeugnis ablege.

Sämtliche Aufnahmen in diesem Heft wurden von den Fotografen Joly, Paris, und Cugini, Zürich, gemacht.

Die Redaktion

## Notre volume

Ce numéro de la France est avant tout une série de prises de vue d'un « atelier d'expériences » au sein d'un pays européen.

Présenter l'architecture française n'équivaut pas à une documentation complète d'une architecture aboutie; c'est beaucoup plus une orientation concernant une série d'essais, un nouveau mode de pensée, et des idées neuves.

Notre correspondant parisien avait déjà initié, il y a cinq ans, l'exposition « Paris construit » - réalisée par le jeune photographe de Zürich Cugini, le jeune graphiste Hans Weckerle qui fréquentait alors l'Ecole des Métiers de Hannover et par le directeur de cette Ecole - elle avait été présentée dans bien des villes allemandes où elle jouissait de la plus grande attention du public.

Cette fois-ci, notre correspondant a posé son œil critique sur la France entière. Peut-être ce numéro peut-il servir de guide pour l'architecture moderne française, car il se compose de quatre parties montrant les constructions récentes des quatre régions des points cardinaux de la France. On montre quelques réalisations plus en détail, car leurs qualités constructives méritent notre attention.

Ce n'est pas pour rien non plus qu'à Nancy un constructeur de panneaux en fil de fer, au siècle dernier. Cette invention a engendré un matériau de construction moderne que les Français manient d'une façon exemplaire.

Cé n'est pas pour rien non plus qu'à Nancy un constructeur de panneaux en métal léger avait provoqué l'application de ses idées constructives dans le monde entier.

La France n'a cessé d'être un pays de pionniers, il suffit de rappeler les créations constructives nouvelles dans le domaine de l'automobile ou de l'aéronautique. Nous souhaitons que ce numéro puisse illustrer ce même génie d'invention qui habite nos collègues architectes français.

Toutes les prises de vue de ce numéro sont faites par les photographes Joly (Paris) et Cugini (Zürich).

La rédaction

## For our issue

An issue devoted to France reveals the fact that here is a country which is, as it were, one vast experimental laboratory. An issue on France is not so much a presentation of finished architectural achievements as it is of interesting experiments, bold new undertakings and ideas.

Our Paris correspondent was, 5 years ago, the initiator of the travelling exhibition "Paris Builds", which aroused keen interest on its tour of Germany; he was assisted at that time by the young photographer Cugini from Zurich and the young graphic artist Hans Weckerle, and he received support from the Hanover School of Applied Arts, where the project was created. This time his roving critical eye takes in all of France as its field of study.

This Issue will perhaps serve even as a guide to modern architecture in France; it is conceived as such, for it looks at projects in the major regions of France visited in clockwise order around the map. At some places the observer will want to linger, especially where real architectural achievement calls for closer inspection.

The garden designer Monnier at the end of the last century made a real contribution when he came out with the first concrete casings reinforced with steel wire; this invention has led to the modern construction material employed by French architects in creating their truly outstanding buildings. The same thing applies to a light metal constructor in Nancy, who was the pioneer for the development that ended in the use of aluminium construction elements throughout the world.

France has always been a pioneer - we need only recall what the French have accomplished in the field of automobile or aircraft design.

We hope that this Issue adequately documents the inventive and creative élan of French architects as well.

All photographs in the Issue were made by the photographers Joly, Paris, and Cugini, Zurich.

The Editors