

Zeitschrift: Bauen + Wohnen = Construction + habitation = Building + home : internationale Zeitschrift

Herausgeber: Bauen + Wohnen

Band: 20 (1966)

Heft: 12

Rubrik: Summary

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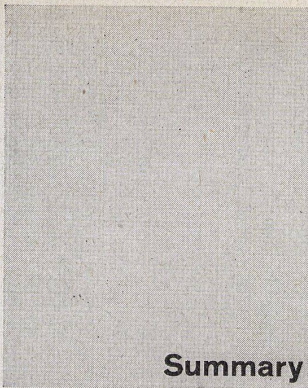
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Summary

Franz Füg

and Gérard Staub, Associate Peter Rudolph
Construction engineer: Marcel Des-
serich
Air-conditioning and heating engineer:
Walter Wirthensohn

Church at Meggen, near Lucerne

Construction period: 1964-66

(Pages 455-469)

In 1961 the parish competition jury recommended the carrying out of the plan. At the outset there was provided in the plan the following: differentiation is realizable within a simple design, a church can serve more than one function, the grouping of worshippers around the altar is possible without a radial arrangement, the sacred is not the responsibility of the builders and "ornamentation" ought not to be appended but ought to emerge from the nature of the construction.

To prevent the proportions of the building from being determined solely by taste and technical conditions, the plan was disposed in 5 pentagrams uniformly located within a circle.

The circumference is identical with the outside dimension of the church, and the circle is divided into 360°. The church is elevated in the shape of a spiral, along the longitudinal axis of which are represented the hours and the days of the solar year, visible at the top of the supporting structure and along the upper edges of the façades.

The buildings on the site were carried out with prefabricated elements: supporting structure of steel, roofs of non-conducting prefabricated panels, partitions of prefabricated elements: in the church marble panels, in the tower concrete plates and wooden slats, in the presbytery, Durisol panels one storey in height and vitreous steel frames. The steel construction was described in great detail in the Swiss Building Journal of 1966/18. We must, however, here append a description of the tower: From the static point of view, the tower represents a bracket structure. It was constructed in 5 sections in the factory. The lowermost part of the tower was anchored in the concrete foundations by means of 16 Dywidag blocks, each one possessing a prestressed force of 25 tons. The 4 other parts of the tower were placed one over the other by means of a crane.

In each building there has been installed a hot-air heating system. The air is blown into the church over the entire length of the façade, at floor level, by way of a vent; the hot air system also serves as a defroster for the façade, which is 13.5 m. high. In summer, the fresh air is utilized for ventilation and, during the night, to renew the air inside the church. The installations can be activated either automatically or manually, the temperature being regulated automatically.

The façades of the church are ornamented with marble panels measuring 150×102 cm., and their thickness is 28 mm. The panels near the roof supports measure 148×139×2 cm. The brightness inside the church depends on the thickness of the panels. It represents 1.5 to 1.8% of the outdoor brightness. The average degree of translucence, the grain and the colour of the panels seen against the light, vary from one block to another but are similar within each single block. The colour of the greyish-white

marble panels, against the light, ranges to brown, grey and sandy. The brightness and the colour of the light inside the church as well as the colours of the panels vary under the influence of the outdoor light and the intensity of the sunlight.

Thanks to acoustic slabs on the roof, the echo period is reduced, on the average, to 2.5 to 2.7 seconds when the church is full. The organ, which is detached, resembles, from two sides, Spanish Baroque organs: on the inside of the church, it has tin pipes, towards the outside, wooden pipes.

Gustav Peichl, Vienna

Dominican Convent in Vienna-Hacking (girls' boarding school)

(Pages 470-475)

The project comprised a boarding-school for 100 girls ranging in age from 6 to 18. The site was a large park with a stand of old trees on a gentle slope facing east. The site is accessible from the east via a street.

The entrance to the boarding tract lies on the north side.

Whereas there are on the upper side of the complex two halls, a gymnasium and an all-purpose hall (separate entrance from southwest), the residence and study quarters are grouped down the slope, arranged in an interlocking bilateral pattern along a corridor at grade level. There are, on the floor just above, groups of six and of two single rooms, each accessible by way of an internal stairway. This plan makes possible a grouping into secluded tracts of 20 girls, all of them coming together only in the dining-room, at recesses and on the playground. A remarkable feature is the fact that each residence group has its own music room. Living tracts and hall structure are connected by two laterally arranged corridors and halls.

The construction materials employed are raw concrete and pinewood.

Y. C. Wong, R. Ogden Hannaford, Associates, Chicago

Eight rowhouses in Chicago

(Pages 476-478)

Eight rowhouses of very simple architectural conception, of high quality construction, integrated with the outdoors and yet very cosy.

Two decks of prefabricated concrete were placed on two fire-proof brick walls with an interval of 6.70 meters. One of the decks forms the floor of the first floor, the other the roof, the former being slightly shorter.

The ground-floor ceiling does not come across to the south windows, but stops about one meter away. Thus, the living area at grade level appears two stories high. On the north face of the house, the entrance leads into a "family room" which opens directly into the kitchen. From this all-purpose room a stairway leads up to the bedroom level.

In the centre of the houses, at grade level, there are the utility rooms and the bath, on the first floor there is another bath. The ground floor is slightly countersunk in relation to the garden on the south. This garden has the same dimensions as the living room and is surrounded by walls two meters high. This garden constitutes an extension of the living area of the house, especially in summer.

On the upper floor, the south room can be converted into a studio, into a master bedroom or into two small bedrooms. Living surface of the house: 180 sq. meters.

Knud Friis and Elmar Moltke Nielsen, Copenhagen

Rowhouses in Ebeltoft near Copenhagen

(Pages 479-481)

The problem of low rental housing can be resolved in different ways, either by the erection of large apartment houses or by the construction of row complexes. Our Danish example is the happy result of an experiment carried out in a Copenhagen suburb. Houses intended to accommodate two retired persons each were erected in

the midst of a complex of single-family units. These elderly people, then, are not cut off from the world and can live in contact with an active population of young people and children. The architects have succeeded in giving the complex a beautiful coherence by disposing it along the arc of a circle. In this way, the large meadow on which these houses are built constitutes a kind of large garden courtyard.

These houses look very simple, as is the material employed on them: ren- of dark wood. The whole complex is an aesthetically satisfying unity. The construction cost is 60,000 Danish dered brick for the exterior walls and doors and windows frames likewise parapets, battening of dark wood, Crowns per house, or near 35,000 DM, which is reasonable. This figure includes deep-freeze.

Carl R. Frederiksen, Mogen Hammer, Henning Moldenhawer, Hubert Paulsen, Copenhagen

Housing project on the Stampedammen in Usserød near Hørsholm

(Pages 482-484)

This agglomeration comprising 58 houses is situated near a large body of water in the vicinity of a forest and of farmland. The Danish architects have here shown us how to solve the problem of erecting small housing units in conjunction with already existing complexes.

This complex is made up of groups of 4 to 6 houses each having its own garden, bounded either by the wall of the adjoining houses or by a very low wall which does not obstruct the view out over the Danish countryside. The little lanes of this village constitute genuine attractions, owing above all to their small walls painted white which offer no end of surprises to the visitor. These lanes also serve as playgrounds for the children, who likewise have 6 other places especially reserved for them.

There are 2 types of house, of identical size. In Type A, the entrance is situated on the east side and gives access to a hall separating the living room from the dining room. The living room itself is located on the south side, while the kitchen-dining-room unit is on the north side along with 3 bedrooms whose windows, towards the south, open onto the garden.

In Type B, it is necessary to cross a patio to reach the entrance, which fact slightly diminishes the residence value of the house. The bedrooms are situated, in this case, on the south side, and their windows face west. The dining room, the kitchen and the living room are located in the west wing, their windows face south.

On the inside, these houses are furnished in the traditional Danish style, characterized by neatness and absence of pretentiousness.

Jean Fehmerling, Rungsted Kyst, Denmark

Plan for a terrace complex at Ormesson near Paris

(Pages 485-488)

Ormesson-sur-Marne is situated around 15 km from the centre of Paris. Here the building society of a bank is planning a housing colony, on a site measuring 17 hectares, with about 340 single-family houses of various sizes, 4- and 5-room houses being in the majority. The site has a slope of 10-15% toward the south and the Marne. For the time being there are planned 6 house groups. Since the slope is rather steep, garages can be installed under each of the garden terraces. In each group there is envisaged a three-storey multi-family house, with 2-, 3- and 5-room flats being planned, the latter as maisonettes. Owing to the slope, nearly all units enjoy a view over the valley of the Marne. The flats in the multi-storey blocks each have their own private entrance. The complex promises to become a successful project owing to the interesting variety of the sloping site and the scale in accordance with which the units are adapted to the site.

Richard Neutra, Los Angeles
Contact-architect in the Switzerland:
Christian Trippel, Zurich
Associate: Bruno Honegger, Zurich

»Casa Tuja« house on a forested slope of Monte Verità in Ascona

(Pages 489-496)

The famous south slopes of Monte Verità in Ascona were already partially built over when the owner began to look for a site. He found a building site offering enough advantages at the northern end of the best area of Monte Verità; this site is orientated towards the east, with a magnificent view of Monte Tamara and the Magadino Plain. Thus, this site does not command a panorama of the Lake and of the Brissage Isles like most of the residences of the "international set".

This east orientation on an abrupt slope covered with forest presented the architect with many problems. Moreover, the triangular site extends out in a point, which is wooded, in such a way that it was absolutely necessary to build up as high as possible so as to obtain an agreeable view and plenty of sunlight. Finally, Richard Neutra, the architect, was bound to meet the demands made by the owner and his wife. He therefore executed the following plan: large residence area, studio, master bedroom, bathroom, WC, dining-room-kitchen unit; on a garden-level floor: 2 guest rooms, with bath, installations and 2 garages.

Neutra divided the residence area into 2 zones: a low zone, facing east, and the other, 3 steps higher, orientated towards the west and the wooded landscape.

The first zone is made up of a big room measuring 10×6 meters, in the southeast corner of the house. On the north, there has been installed a small studio and the master bedroom. The whole house is glazed on the south side, the east and west, with the windows running from floor to ceiling and with sliding doors. The dining-room is situated in the southwest corner of the house. From there, after the leaves have gone, there is a clear view through the trees on to the lake and the nearby islands.

The entrance is located at the lowest point of the site, in the southeast corner. The house is entered at garden level. Three steps lead to another stairway by means of which there is access to the centre of the residence area. In this way, the visitor comes suddenly upon these rooms and, across the terrace, discovers the magnificent Ticino landscape lying before him. Nearly all the rooms have doors opening to the outdoors, sliding doors or ordinary ones. Thus, the gardens themselves are incorporated, as it were, in the house.

The projecting canopy roof and the terraces are characteristic of Neutra's designs. They are present again in this house. The residence zone is very clearly recognizable from the outside thanks to the continuous glazed bays and to the sliding doors that communicate with the outside. At garden level, the guest rooms display the same design conceptions.

The west face, with the long row of windows all at the same level, is truly the product of the same creative impulse. The upper floor, with a framework structure of steel, rests on the floor below, the latter being constructed of reinforced concrete.

Throughout the house very few different construction materials have been employed. The floor, in the residence tract, consists of white Cristallina marble, which is found again in the interior construction of the fireplace, one side of which faces into the living room and the other into the studio. Finally, it is possible to close up the living room fireplace completely when it is not being used.

And here is the opinion of the owners living in the house: "We appreciate above all the impression of calm, the harmony of the proportions, the sensation of great size, although the dimensions are not grandiose, and, finally, the elegance of the whole house." This assessment fits in with Neutra's objectives. This house, then, is a typical creation of this architect, characterized again by the attention devoted to the details and by the nobility of the colour scheme and the materials selected.