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Presenting the new Editor

With this Issue Prof. Jürgen Joedicke takes over the responsibility of editing Building+Home.

Jürgen Joedicke is well known to the readers of our journal. Over the course of the last few years he has published a number of his theoretical articles and architecture criticisms in Building+Home, and recently he has been entrusted with the preparation of issues devoted to special topics.

We have again been able to retain the services of Mr. Füg; he will work on individual issues. Franz Füg is not unknown either to our readers; he was chief editor from 1958 to 1961. We are very happy that he has decided to become once more a member of our team.

Lutz Kandel will assist both of the above as an associate editor.

Our previous editor Ernst Zietzschmann is leaving us in order to assume other responsibilities. We thank Ernst Zietzschmann for his long years of valuable service.

The management

Every new team of editors cherishes the understandable wish to do things better than before. Whether or not it achieves this goal depends not only on the correct judgment of its own potentialities but also on whether it obtains the necessary help and support from all sides.

The journal Building+Home has acquired a good name for itself in the two decades of its existence: it has been and continues to be the international Swiss architecture journal with world-wide connections. Building+Home has also been the journal which, since the first year of its existence, has come out uncompromisingly for Modern Architecture. Many of today's leading architects found here, as young architects, a medium which was wide open to new ideas – these architects continue to be our associates.

Declarations of basic principles are always problematical, because they run the risk of being dogmatic. However, the reader has at least the right to know what the new Editor's intentions are.

To put it in quite general terms, the new

Editor's aim is to furnish information, in a manner that is lively and critical.

Building+Home is expected to become a forum of new ideas and, at the same time, the place where architectural problems can be objectively discussed.

In the last few issues already attempts have been made to present exact analyses or architectural criticisms instead of general descriptions of buildings. I am very much aware what ticklish questions architecture criticisms give rise to, but I also believe that such criticisms can promote the development of architecture if they are based on demonstrable criteria and objectively, i.e., free from all polemics, discuss all the pros and the cons.

In order to inform the reader in a comprehensive manner and to permit him to form his own opinion, projects will be presented in detail – with all the necessary construction details and with true-to-scale plans, sections and elevations. Photographs are required, but the uncontrolled proliferation of beautifully made-up photographic views has in many architecture journals encouraged a trend that is only deleterious to serious discussions of architecture. The means with which the architect and his co-workers express themselves is the plan. Therefore more space will be devoted to the plan.

The main emphasis is, then, to lie not only on buildings per se but on their type of employment, in order once again to do justice to the concept contained in the title Building+Home.

More space than heretofore will be devoted to fundamental theoretical articles taking up the problem of environmental planning in a period of rapid transformations. What is involved in this connection is the presentation of the scientifically ascertainable aspects of architecture and planning-method. Under this heading belong all the problems

of team-work rationalization of construction, industrial construction, building technology, determination of needs, general architectural theory and criticism and, above all, the broad field of town planning. Here too we have researches in the fields related to architecture, such as sociology, psychology, physiology and engineering in general. The publications of articles in such fields ought to familiarize the architect with the latest discoveries, which can be highly useful to him.

This same aim should likewise be served by the new forum appearing at the beginning of each issue, which presents in a lively style the latest in the way of plans and constructions all over the world, along with the competition now appearing regularly in each Issue. At intervals there will be reports in the column "On the History of Modern Architecture" on historical facts which are necessary for the understanding of the present – day situation.

The Chronicle, divided according to specialized fields, will contain a discussion column. In this section I hope to bring editor and reader into closer touch with each other. The editor will in this way be helped in his work by both criticism and encouragement. As long as architecture journals are merely leafed through and not read, any attempt at improvement will break down against the argument that the previous form evidently meets the wishes of the readers.

No editor, not even the best informed, can deal with the entire and complex field of modern town-planning and architecture. Any attempt to write on anything and everything leads ineluctably to the dilettante's approach. The editor depends on the support of experts in special fields and on the active collaboration of his readers. And to ask for this support and collaboration is not the least of the purposes of this brief introduction to the aims of the new editor.

Jürgen Joedicke

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