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Summary

Paul Friedrich Posenenske,
Offenbach and Kassel

Federal Institute of the Fine Arts in Kassel

(Pages 202–209)

The ten higher schools of art in West Germany are now all undergoing structural changes. The continuous debate now under way concerning the ultimate goals of modern society, the function of art and of artists in the community and of the Institute of Fine Arts as an institution within the framework of society is producing a sharper awareness, which constitutes a starting-point for processes of transformation based on analysis and research. The work at such a school is tending more and more to criticism and experiment, and this determines its structure from the standpoint of organization and architecture.

At the time of the planning of the new building in Kassel, the following requirements had been previously stipulated:

1. Variability and flexibility of tracts capable of being adapted to different functions by modification of their dimensions and shape.
2. Reduction to the minimum of special installations.
3. Development of elements that are mutually adapted for illumination and fittings and that permit as many different combinations as possible.

Moreover, it was necessary to give structural expression to the two types of activity carried on here: individual and group study and experiment and information and communications functions. The building-site is located in the heart of the city near the place where the "Documenta" exhibition was held. The auditorium building is in the centre of the total complex. It accommodates mainly the tracts and premises constantly used by the whole school, in particular, the administration offices, the large auditorium, the hall, the cafeteria, the library and the seminar rooms. Owing to its central location, it is easily accessible from all work premises. The steel-frame construction of this part of the complex permits future development vertically.

J. Zweifel & H. Strickler, Zurich

Staff pavilion of the Glarus Cantonal Hospital

(Pages 210–213)

The plan of the staff building of the Cantonal Hospital of Glarus was developed within the scope of the over-all plan for the whole complex worked out by a team of architects. In 1952 the pavilion for the nurses comprising 48 rooms was built, as well as four houses for the staff physicians. The realization of new construction stages in this hospital as well as the expansion in hospital staff have occasioned the need to erect supplementary quarters for the staff.

At the outset the program envisaged the construction of four new houses for the staff physicians, 30 rooms for the nurses and 24 rooms for other personnel. For the hospital gardeners it was decided to build a greenhouse, a work room and various storage facilities.

The architects decided to build the four new doctors' houses to the south of the group of residences constructed in 1952. The nurses' quarters and those of the other employees are built on the south slope of a sunny hillside. The quietness of the site, the proximity of the hospital and the fact that the hill could not be used for any other purpose influenced the architects in their selection of this place.

The complex is connected with the hospital by means of a pathway which can also be used by vehicles.

The difficulties of the sloping site determined the construction method. For reasons of stability, there was chosen a combination of prefabricated elements and parts concreted in situ. Thus the wall on the slope side, the ceilings, the ground-floor pillars and the lateral faces of reinforced concrete were poured in situ.

Hecker/Lange, Freiburg

The Biological Institute of the University of Freiburg in Breisgau

(Pages 214–217)

The new building of the Institute of Chemistry of the University of Freiburg, published in our August 1968 Issue, represented the first example of completely standardized assembly. All the remarks made at that time concerning the systems of measurement, the supporting frame, the installations and the interior finishing are also applicable to the Biological Institute building.

This building stands in a spacious garden in a residential district. The favourable site conditions have permitted the adoption of a cruciform plan offering excellent expansion potentialities and a concentration of large surfaces and high interior tracts, which facilitates the natural daylight illumination in the laboratories. The cruciform plan represents the point of departure architecturally, and at the same time it is the basic element of the combined construction systems, involving a double-ribbed structure envisaged for the construction of later science buildings at Freiburg.

This cruciform plan is made up of four laboratory units grouped around a central core with shafts for technical installations, stairways, lifts and utility rooms. These lab units, from the standpoint of both rough construction and interior finishing, resemble the lab units in the Chemistry Institute. Beneath the north arm of the cruciform plan there is a U-shaped hall comprising an entrance court which gives access to the two auditoriums.

Above the ground floor housing the classrooms, there are five floors of labs with varying floor plans. The exhaust air plant is installed above the core, on the sixth floor. At basement level, the cruciform plan is expanded so that it forms a rectangle covering a surface of 6000 sq. meters. Here there are located technical installations, workshops, air-conditioned rooms and other utility premises.

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Chicago

John Hancock Center in Chicago

(Pages 218–221)

North Michigan Avenue, between East Delaware Place and East Chestnut Street, two blocks from Chicago's Water Tower. Site: 104,000 square feet, only 50 per cent of which will be used for the John Hancock Center tower. Height: 1100 feet,

tallest residential-office building in the world.

Shape: A tower, tapering on all four sides three inches at each story, from 41,000 square feet at the base to 16,200 square feet at the summit. Exterior: The exterior design will feature a structural steel frame fully expressed in metal and glare-resistant glass. Structure: The structure will be an integral part of the exterior, with diagonals providing stability and strength.

John Hancock Center will be a unique approach to architecture, affording the most economic use of space in high-rise construction; in effect, it will be a bridge-type structure consisting of a trussed box. The two-fold use of the building for public and residential needs will create an architectural landmark, alive and in use 24 hours a day.

Landscaping: A large, sunken court adjacent to Michigan Avenue, open to the sky, will feature landscaping and a large pool, creating a pleasant and inviting atmosphere.

The apartments will offer a commanding view of Lake Michigan and the Chicago skyline. Elevation above street noises, an advantage usually reserved for only the highest apartments in conventional buildings, will make each unit a prime apartment. — Area: 49 floors, from the 46th to the 94th, a total of nearly 1,000,000 square feet. — Size: Apartments will range from efficiencies to four-bedroom, luxury residences, with a total of 750 units. — Lobbies: A completely separate lobby for apartment residents on the ground level will provide privacy and easy access to high-speed, express elevators. A two-level "Sky Lobby" on the 44th and 45th floors will contain conveniences for residents, including specialty and service shops, a year-round swimming pool and club.

Offices: A variety of depths and sizes will accommodate the needs of both large and small tenants.

Area: 34 floors, from the tenth to the 43rd, a total of approximately 1,000,000 square feet. Size: Office floors will range in size from 29,000 to 40,000 square feet.

Major arteries, including Outer Drive and the Kennedy Expressway, are readily accessible from the building. An external, spiral ramp at the east side of the building will provide easy access from ground level. Area: Seven floors, from the third through the ninth, at total of 280,000 square feet. Capacity: Over 1100 cars.

Sky Level: Four floors, beginning with the 95th, a total of 47,000 square feet, will be used for commercial operations, including public restaurants and clubs. — Sky Lobby: Commercial space will be available for service and specialty shops in the Sky Lobby on the 44th and 45th floors. — Ground Level: Two-level retail space will be available within the first and second floors. In addition, two levels below street grade, adjacent to the landscaped court, will be devoted to exhibit and commercial space.

Z. S. Makowski, London

Frames of plastic material

(Pages 222–227)

Up until only recently the use of plastic materials in the building trades was limited to non-carrying parts of buildings. In the meantime, plastics have spread into ever wider fields of application. In fact, plastics constitute a new group of materials, and that is why it is not logical for them to be treated merely as substitutes for conventional materials. Plastic materials are too costly to be used in place of steel, aluminium, concrete or wood. On the other hand, if plastics are employed in an intelligent fashion in forms corresponding to their properties, their special qualities (light weight, stability, transparency and resistance to corrosion) can be exploited

for resolving construction problems effectively and economically.

It can be expected, therefore, that in the future plastics will be used in new fields and in forms different from those we are now acquainted with.

Justus Dahinden, Zurich
Collaborator: M. Niermann

Pilgrimage churches and parish centers Uganda (East Africa)

(Pages 228–232)

Mityana as a parish and pilgrimage center

The church was consecrated on 11th February 1968 by bishop Dr. J. Stimpfle of Augsburg. In establishing this new community center different problems were put to the architect: town-planning, church construction and the social involvement of the diverse activities on narrow space.

Accommodation and adaptation in country and culture

Localities and vegetation have contributed to form and material. Relations appeared moreover with the ancient African way of construction. The hot climate and the high humidity of air, coupled with an intense irradiation of the sun under the equator lead to buildings turned east-westwards with cross airing and large front rooms.

The church of Mityana as compensation of its profane surroundings

In Mityana arose a unity of town-planning on narrow space: school, hospital, social center, Karmel-convent, community home, hall, kindergarten.

The church of Mityana as an open house

The church is to be opened by sash walls in screened outside courtyards roofed partially with tent-cloth. These atria, extended in front of the main room, are in their turn in an open contact with the village square. One steps so the place of the liturgical action by chance and from all sides.

The church of Mityana as a meeting place

One assembles around a center, from which is held speech and reply. The church in Mityana renounces orthodox church benches, one sits on ground elevations. The speaking and sighting contrast is also good with full assembly (1000 believers), without technical resources. The atria adjacent to the church make possible an enlargement, they serve also as instruction rooms.

The church of Mityana as celebration place

The place of the altar is integrating completely in the community room. The liturgical center gets the necessary brightness by a modest sky-light. The employed materials (bricks on floor and walls, mahogany for the altar, the ceiling and the doors) are the same as with the other buildings.

The church of Mityana as devotion place
Symbol and signs play a considerable part on this continent. The three edged cones are in this sense, they express particular qualities of space, baptism with choir for the singers, choir for the nuns of the convent, tabernacle, confession room.

The convent of Karmel in Mityana
Directly joining to the church lies the convent of Karmel with separated spheres for the doorkeepers and the seclusion.

The pilgrimage buildings of Nandere and Katosa

The room having several purposes is covered with a double stretched plastic tent; it renounces closed outside walls. It is also used for school purposes, meetings of the community, as for cinema, performances and theatre.

The pilgrimage center of Namugongo
The divine service is celebrated in a charming landscape in a natural arena with a covered liturgical center in form of a tent. The open-air altar is on a little island in the lake.