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Summary

On this Issue 6/70

Buildings for recreation and holidays:

this is the theme of the June Issue of Building+Home; this topic was also covered in Issue No. 4/1968.

The buildings presented in this Issue focus on some of the aspects of this vast field: the public baths in a health resort, the holiday and sports centre on the periphery of a large city, the motel, the vacation colony and, an entirely new form of residence, the sea hotel (seatel). The Blue Sky Hotel by Junzo Sakakura represents an especially attractive variation on the theme of the holiday hotel. In the new hotel and residence projects, the covered swimming-pool is becoming an increasingly important element of the programme. I have therefore regarded it as necessary to bring together in a technical survey all the aspects to be taken into consideration by architects engaged in such studies. The article by Bernd Kannevischer constitutes a sort of useful vade mecum for the planner. Jürgen Joedicke

The crystal palace, paradise for relaxation

Junzo Sakakura, Tokyo

Hotel Blue Sky

(Pages 190-194)

Not far from the famous hot springs of Shirhama, the owners and the architects wished to create a vacation paradise for couples and families.

Thanks to its location on a south slope overlooking the sea, the plan has a special quality all its own. Beyond the entrance zone, which is elevated, the bedrooms, alternating with patios, are stacked in successive terraces running down to the common facilities located at the bottom of the complex with the service installations. In the steel and coloured glass construction, purples, oranges and yellows are prominent and blend with other equally coloured materials. In the bedrooms, the traditional facing material, wood, has made way for painted paper, which is more in keeping with the character of a vacation hotel.

The swimming-pool with its irregular bottom and its grotto also testify to the daring of the entire design.

Public baths in a health resort

Günther Seemann, Karlsruhe

Paracelsus Bath at Bad Liebenzell 1964/68

(Pages 195-199)

The old pump-room dating from the 15th century was no longer in keeping with the exigencies of the health resort of Bad Liebenzell in the Black Forest. With the new bathing establishment, the municipality will be able to appeal to those who insist on modern therapeutic methods and at the same time reactivate the old public bath tradition.

The new baths are situated in the centre of the resort, close to the public park and the casino. The configuration of the steeply sloping site of poor quality (the construction rests on some hundred reinforced concrete piles), the regulations protecting the spring, etc. have necessitated a marked concentration of the plan. The group is made up of the treatments building on 4 levels, the swimming-pool and a connecting tract. The dressing-rooms, 97 cubicles and 279 individual lockers can accommodate a total of 283 visitors including a number of handicapped persons. Entry is from below. The heated swimming-pool proper (250 sq. meters, 30°C) is on the first floor with an annexed exercise bath used for therapeutic purposes.

The therapeutic establishment also includes hydrotherapy, massage facilities and rest cubicles. Mention should be made of the simple and unified conception of the faces, where panels of light concrete and dark aluminium bays alternate. A building volume of 21,000 cu. meters, i.e. 3,550 sq. meters of utility surface, cost a total of 9 million DM.

Express highway motel

Roland Rainer, Vienna

Esso Motor Hotel, Linz - 1969

(Pages 200-201)

Intended for the use of travelling business men, the Esso Motor Hotel stands on a tree-shaded site close to the Linz highway exit.

A 4-storey wing accommodates 47 single rooms and 60 double rooms. The other tracts are disposed around a patio. The 4-storey building is of prefabricated reinforced concrete. The transverse walls have a carrying function, and by way of terminal canopies, they support both the sandwich elements making up the faces and, on the south side, horizontally aligned concrete slats serving as sunbreaks.

Sports and recreation centre on the periphery of a large city

Kaija and Heikki Siren, Helsinki

Pirkkola sports centre, Helsinki

(Pages 208-211)

The Pirkkola centre is the first in the series of sports and recreation centres planned on the outskirts of Helsinki. It has grown out of a competition dating from 1959 and is situated on a hill rising in the midst of a natural park. In order to allow for a whole range of sports, the programme called for an arena building with swimming-pool, furnished with dressing-rooms, as well as grounds for football, volleyball, tennis, ice hockey and gymnastics. The rectangular volume of the hall forms a right angle with the dressing-room building. It is covered with double vaults. The athletic grounds are situated at a lower level towards the west. The recreation building with banquet rooms and living quarters, still in planning stage, will be located in the axis of the finished complex.

Seatel in Greece

Justus Dahinden, Zurich

Sea hotel near Athens

(Pages 212-213)

Owing to the ceaseless vertical and horizontal motion of the sea, there is no question of rigid foundations, and the solution which became necessary involved convex floating shells. A number of these shells combined make up a raft town which is essentially flexible. 70% of the surface of the earth, where it would not be necessary to lay out traffic systems, remain unutilized for purposes of city-planning. Marine architecture is a means enabling architects to escape from the rigid determinism of landbound designs.

This marine vacation hotel is anchored 70 meters from the shore in the Saronic Gulf south of Athens near the airport. Four circular levels accommodate 155 bedrooms with 310 beds. Each of the rooms, facing both the sea and a patio, is air-conditioned. The restaurant and night-club are connected by means of broad stairways and can make up a spatial unit. The main centre of interest, the swimming-pool, situated in the middle of the complex, is the principal focus visible from all the solariums, restaurants and promenades.

The floating shell, constructed on a dock and launched like a boat, is of "ferrocement". Most of the force of the waves is absorbed by a peripheral ring which can move separately from the shell.

Vacation colony in the Ticino

Manuel Pauli, Zurich, Rolf Christen, Lugano (supervision of building project)

Vacation Colony of the Migros Retirement Fund at Lugaggia

(Pages 214-216)

The sunny, gently sloping terrain below the level of the Cantonal highway was difficult to build on owing to numerous springs which had to be impounded.

The programme comprised parking sites, the manager's residence and 3-, 2- and 1-room maisonettes accommodating a total of 162 persons. It called, in addition, for common facilities, such as a children's playroom, heated swimming-pool and various playing fields and lounging areas.

As desired by the owner, the buildings are standardized in a few types and arranged in such a way that their installations are economically feasible, with adequate shade and sunlight for the residents. The organization of the complex takes into account the shape of the site. The materials utilized are simple and resistant, being rendered brick, raw concrete, natural wood and terra cotta tiles.

Total cost: Fr. 930,000.—, average cost per cu. meter: Fr. 190.44, average cost per sq. meter: Fr. 89.70.

Bernd Kannevischer, Zug

Indoor swimming-pools for hotels, holiday houses and other housing.

Basic principles, planning and equipment

(Pages 217-224)

In this article we present a survey of all the problems confronting contractors and architects building an indoor swimming-pool.

1) General: An increasing number of people are engaging in sports to introduce balance into the way of life imposed by industrial civilization (nervous tension, lack of physical exercise). Many hotel men are being obliged to install swimming-pools in their establishments for guests who insist on a daily dip winter and summer.

2) Clients' requirements: A private swimming-pool ought to be intimate and relaxing. Essential elements are relatively warm water, well organized changing cubicles and effective ventilation eliminating disagreeable chlorine odours, and features that are also highly appreciated are contact with the outdoor garden, discreet illumination of the water, massage jets supplemented if possible by a sauna, and a milk bar.

3) Programme: The dimensions of the pool depend on frequency of utilization, a factor which is to be determined precisely. If the general public, for example, is to join the hotel guests, this may have a decisive effect on the size of the installations. The entrance lobby can be combined with a restaurant commanding a view over the pool. In a hotel, lifts will give direct access to the installations. If it is on a small scale, the bathing superintendent and the cashier can be one and the same person. The most customary changing room system (booths with clothing lockers) will be dimensioned in accordance with the surface of the pool (cf. Table 3), after which there will be a sufficient number of toilets and showers.

4) Construction and size of the pool. The shape of the pool ought to correspond to the needs of the users. Good swimmers like an elongated rectangular

pool, which is the ordinary arrangement, moreover, being economical, easy to operate (water circulation) and making good use of the volume of the building. Rounded shapes are more harmoniously integrated in a garden or a landscape. The length of the pool ought to be a submultiple of 100 meters, e.g.: 10, 12.5, 16²/₃, 20, 25 meters. The pool will have a minimum width of 4 meters. Depths can vary between 0.40 and 2 meters. The bottom of the pool ought to be regular without sudden drops. There should be a sufficient number of handgrips and ladders. There are three possible construction materials (reinforced concrete, plastic and aluminium), the first being the most usual and, in general, the most economical. Concrete pools are most frequently poured in situ, but there are also available prefabricated elements. Large pools are surrounded by a service gallery containing heating ducts and installations. Pools poured directly in the ground with insulating additives and buried mains are rather ticklish to construct. In small pools, heat loss is minimal, so that heat insulation can be dispensed with.

5) Building: Climatic conditions inside the building are of prime importance. The temperature of the interior partitions should be above the condensation threshold of the surrounding air and remain around 24°C. The relative humidity of the air will range from 50 to 60%. The exterior walls will be composed with internal insulation and continuous vapour bar (K = 0.6 to 0.8). The interior tiling ought to be capable of absorbing or condensing a certain amount of vapour.

6) Acoustic correction. Echo effects will be reduced to a minimum by alternating reflecting surfaces (water, stone, raw concrete) with sound-absorbing ones (coffered ceilings, curtains, plants, etc.).

7) Technical equipment. The preparation of the water is a consideration of prime importance. The correct biochemical and physical equilibrium of the water depends on its replacement cycle, the filtration system, the disinfectant system and the pH regulation.

The SIA norm 173 distinguishes small pools (up to 150 cu. meters) and large pools.

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Special Feature

Architects: Suter + Suter, Basel
Massé, Bigot, Roy, Paris

Basel-Mulhouse Airport

(Pages 225-228)

Two articles of a Franco-Swiss Treaty concluded in 1949 and providing for the construction and operation of an airport divided into 3 sectors and regulating the problem of access roads have been the basis for the planning.

The studies began in 1950, and the definitive solution was not accepted until 1962, after the architects had submitted three successive plans, each of which was turned down owing to modifications in the programme. The complex, consisting of two air terminals connected by an intermediate international transit zone, can be extended towards the north and the south. The capacity of the runways and aprons, now limited to 14 planes, can be expanded to handle 28 planes.

The construction is of reinforced concrete poured in situ, the principal faces being of glass and black aluminium. Apart from the lamellated ceiling of the departure hall, lack of funds compelled the architects to choose simple and economical materials with a view to providing an agreeable atmosphere for the users of the airport.

Building volume: 103,550 cu. meters SIA
Utility surface: approx. 21,000 sq. meters