Summary

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Summary

On this Issue

This Issue is devoted, in the main, to Craig Ellwood, one of the leading architects of a generation which had to live up to the great tradition of Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe and Frank Lloyd Wright, the giants of modern architecture. What's more, it must not be forgotten that Ellwood comes in the generation of architects that were obliged to take up their careers during the years of crisis and during the Second World War.
It was therefore extremely difficult for this generation to make a name for itself, and hardly had they arrived when they found themselves confronted by a still younger generation which called everything into question, not wishing to know anything about the past.
For this reason it is not surprising that only few architects of this age group have managed to distinguish themselves independently of their masters. We are certainly familiar with these little Wrights, van der Rohes and Corbusiers who have nothing more to say and are pleased merely to copy what their predecessors did, once and for all, so they think, at the beginning of the century. It seems to me that Craig Ellwood is one of the rare individuals who has been able to detach himself from the great masters and to go his own way. He too had his models, but, thanks to his personality, he departed from them in order to perfect a style of architecture which, however, appeared to have reached its apex of development. It is clear that many young architects are not following in the footsteps of Craig Ellwood; the age of architectural giants seems to be definitely over. Multidisciplinary teamwork has relieved the great masters. This Issue shows, nevertheless, that Ellwood still has his justification and that his works can serve as an example to many.

Erwin Mühlestein

Residence at Lake Forest III

(Pages 549–551)

The supporting skeleton of this home is of COR-TEN steel with heat-reflecting fill panels which are glazed. COR-TEN steel was selected for its structural qualities, seeing that it requires no maintenance and blends well with the surrounding landscape.
The architect utilized to the maximum the flexibility offered by a square plan (10.35 m on a side). The total transparency of the outside walls is justified by the nature of the environs; it also makes the steel structure very legible, and, finally, thanks to it, the outdoors is integrated with the interior of the house. Since the house has been modulated, it has been possible to repeat the same structural details throughout. Connections are made by welding or by means of invisible rivets. The skeleton was constructed in part on the site and was sand-blasted after assembly of all steel parts.
The rest of the construction consists of concrete slabs, "Terrarolith" flooring and partitions and ceilings of plaster panels. The woodwork is of withe oak. The house is air-conditioned, and the installation can be regulated and divided into nine different zones. The air is admitted at window parapet level, which prevents all façade condensation.
Submitted by Erdmann Schmocker, Chicago.

Home above the Lake of Biel

(Pages 552–554)

This house is situated on a slope near a village to the south of the city of Biel. The varied nature of the landscape and the highly precise building program dictated by the builder were determining factors for the plan. The U plan meets the following functional requirements:
At basement level: Double garage, entrance lock, guest room, sauna, laundry, cellar, storeroom, heating.
At main floor level: Access, living-room, dining-room, kitchen, bedrooms and swimming-pool contiguous to the atrium. This main floor was executed by means of the USM steel construction system and equipped with adjustable air-conditioning.
The basement is of concrete poured in situ. The rare interior partitions and the ceilings are of wood painted white. The main rooms are floored with French Jura limestone and the bedrooms with wall-to-wall carpeting.

Home for single mothers in Biel

(Pages 555–559)

In the context of the housing problem, the authorities have been endeavouring since 1958 to erect low-cost housing units for widowed, divorced or single mothers wishing to keep their children with them.
The project was speeded up in 1961 thanks to an anonymous donation of 250,000 frs. The municipality of Biel awarded land to a foundation set up with this end in view and known as "The Mother and the Child".
In principle, the children are cared for during the daytime by trained staff. The mothers can, of course, do the cooking themselves evenings and weekends, and lunch at noon in the common dining-room.
The residence units, on two floors, constitute the core of the complex. Each has an area of 20,5 m^2. They are made up of the following elements: bed-living-room for the mother, room for the child, kitchenette and sanitary facilities. The ground floor accommodates the common services: entrance, caretaker's flat, dining-room, library. The partially covered garden courtyard is planted with a fine stand of trees and serves as a relaxation area. On the top floor there are rooms reserved for infants and very small children. The basement accommodates the heating plant, the prams, shelters, the laundry and various storage facilities.
In order to accommodate the entire program, the architect was obliged to give an extreme interpretation to the building regulations.
On a basement structure of concrete, certain parts of which are waterproofed, a structure of 37 steel, which is riveted together, is laid out on a grid of 115 × 115 cm. The porticoes located every 4.82 m have a span of 9.00 m. The curtain-wall façades are of steel sections and are equipped with standard casements and insulating panes. The closed in parts are of asbestos-cement sandwich panels.
Protection against sunlight is assured on the outside by blinds. Acoustic insulation is assured by floor copings and double partitions. The hot-water central heating system is complemented in certain tracts by special ventilation. The builder saw to the furnishings and the curtains.

Trade Fair Building in Hanover

(Pages 560–564)

In January 1970 the Thyssen Hall was so heavily damaged by a fire that a reconstruction of the old building did not seem reasonable. There was a chance, then, to put up a new hall for the Trade Fair of 1971, with an opportunity of profiting by the technological progress made in the last 10 years.
Situated opposite the Fair information pavilion, the new Thyssen Hall is composed of two upper-level volumes, parallel to each other and running into a ground-floor tract; there are no intermediate supports, and the lower tract is entirely glazed and is accessible via 4 entrances. The wall supports are tubular elements having a diameter of 1.80 meters and housing all the service mains.
The ground-floor complex is to be used solely for the display of products and is constructed to withstand a loading of 1000 kg/m^2. The upper level accommodates rooms for the reception, for conferences and annexes. The basement level contains auditoriums, toilet facilities, kitchens, storerooms and the technical installations. A foyer leads to an auditorium with a seating capacity of 200 and a cafeteria.
The steel framework structure is composed of Vierendeel supports, one-storey high, circular studs and roof and ceiling girders. The supports are welded 15 mm-thick tubular sheet metal elements reinforced by filler elements. The beams and girders are section elements that are standard in the building trade. A total of 400 tons of steel was applied on the job.
The building is heated by a hot air system (40,000 m^3/h). The reception rooms, conference rooms, the cafeteria and the kitchens can be air-conditioned. A gas heater furnishes the heat (750,000 k/cal/h). The electric current (300 kW) is distributed via the floors and ceilings. Several lifts complete the technical equipment.
The façade is made up of rustproof steel parapet elements on the outside and sprayed with Thyssen color plastic on the inside; it is equipped with pivoting casements and insulating panes. The ground floor is fitted with simple windowpanes.
The materials manufactured by the builder naturally appear abundantly here in the shape of sheet-metal ceilings, either stainless or plastic-sprayed (Thyssen color).