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Industrial Planning

by Hans Rudolf Suter

The abruptness of the first Industrial Revolution and the innovations to which it gave rise, as is widely recognized, only too often led industrial concerns to develop haphazardly. Hence the ever-growing need for planning, especially in those countries where a high standard of living makes it obligatory to create the best possible working conditions and methods of production in order to remain competitive. – Planning, which calls for study of the working environment and the actual production process, is therefore not entirely a matter of architecture and functionalism, but also has to take into account financial and economic problems, while at the same time not overlooking the problem of future expansion. – As, in many cases, the project involves not creating a new enterprise from the ground up but modernizing already existing plants, the best course will be to find a synthesis between what is and what ought to be, it being borne in mind that planning should be an aid to industry and not an obstacle.

Niederurnen "Eternit" Works S. A. at Payerne

1956/58; arch.: Prof. P. Waltenspühl FAS/SIA, eng., Geneva; in collaboration with J. Arnold, technician

Successive expansions of the Niederurnen works have not been able to cope with the ever-increasing demand. Hence the necessity of the new plant, set up this time in French Switzerland. – Close collaboration among the specialists involved has kept technical considerations strictly within the scope of the overall architectural requirements. The lay-out as a whole remains traditional; the plastic interplay of the various designs stems from the spatial articulation, it in turn being determined to a great extent by the actual production process. To be sure, "Eternit" products were featured in the construction. – Special attention devoted to lighting and the colour scheme.

Warehouse of "Eternit Verkauf-AG", Zurich

1957; arch.: O. Glaus FAS/SIA, Zurich; in collaboration with H. Kuhn, arch., Zurich; eng.: E. Schmidli, Glattbrugg-Zurich

There have been erected on a site measuring 37 m. × 72 m. two buildings, the main emphasis being put on convenience of access (long loading ramps for incoming and outgoing goods) as well as on the greatest possible reduction of internal movements. Total volume: 42,000 sq.m.; cost: 75 Swiss francs per sq.m.

Factory and main electric power station of "Aluminium-Schweisswerk AG", Schlieren

1955/57; Suter & Suter, arch. FAS/SIA, Basle; eng.: E. Ganahl SIA, Zurich; contractor: H. Herzig, arch. SIA, Brugg

Triple shed, without basement, for the manufacture of steel and aluminium tanks. Electric power station 4 floors, with basement. Board room.

Electric Power Station of the Utzenstorf Paper Factory

1954/55; Suter & Suter, arch. FAS/SIA, Basle; eng.: A. Wildberger SIA, Schaffhausen

A building for the boilers; an annex with transformer on ground-floor and generator on first floor.

Factory and Warehouse of the Robusta Mattress Co., Basle

1955/56; arch.: M. H. Burckhardt FAS/SIA and K. A. Burckhardt FAS/SIA, Basle; eng.: Gruner Bros., Basle

Buildings erected on a site measuring 30 m. × 130 m. between the street and the railway.

"Alfag" Works, Schlieren

1956/57; arch.: Dr. A. Meili, Zurich; P. Soutter, eng., Zurich

Repair shops for trucks and cars, spare parts storage, sales premises and offices.

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Printing-Works of Mondadori, Publishers, in Verona

1954/57; Dr. A. Meili, arch. FAS/SIA, Zurich; M. Mazzarotto, eng., Milan-Lausanne

The publisher Mondadori has had a new printing-works erected on the eastern outskirts of Verona (where for a long time he has had, in the centre of the city, one of the most efficient printing-works in the country). This new plant is designed to handle 30,000 volumes per month and also 10 million copies of magazines per month. As is customary in Italy, the complex is surrounded by walls or railings, with two gates each supervised by a caretaker. The main buildings serve all the manifold functions of a large-scale modern printing-works: typography, offsetting, rotary printing-presses and binding. Courtyards are laid out in the complex, and great stress has been placed on the problem of lighting, in part natural daylight (in contrast to the American worker, the European worker has a better morale when he remains in touch with the outside world), in part artificial lighting. The administrative building, in addition to a small day lounge for the general manager, comprises a court of honour contiguous to the entrance court, with pool, blue tilework and double staircase. The dominating material utilized is concrete, with brick masonry and a 144 m. elevation enhanced by pilasters of Prun marble (like the amphitheatre in Verona).

Metal Sculptures in an industrial plant in Zurich

by Eduard Briner

The firms of Luwa AG and Metallbau AG have not only acquired the great Helvetia by R. Kissling, formerly at the Swiss Bank Association, but have also set up works of modern sculptors, e.g. a bronze figure "The City" by Germaine Richier, an iron "Eagle" by R. Müller, the "Beast" by Chadwick, etc. Fine example of encouragement of the arts.

Workshop with Flat for a Master Cabinet-Maker in Lausanne

1955; arch.: F. Brugger FAS/SIA and C. Brugger SIA, Lausanne

Extremely simple construction (timber and brick) on the outskirts of Lausanne, in a country setting.

Factory of "Phönix-Elektrizitäts GmbH"

1957; arch.: E. Schulze-Fiellitz, U. S. von Altenstadt and E. von Rudloff

Factory belonging to a company specializing in electrical appliances. Factory contiguous to a warehouse. Also, a second building houses the management offices and the welfare premises.

Textile Factory near Helsinki

1955; arch. V. Reveti, Helsinki

Factory and three wings for administration and reception.

Encouragement of the arts by private industry and business in Basle

by Maria Netter

Besides earmarking a certain percentage of the cost of buildings of private concerns to cover their artistic ornamentation, just as in the case of public buildings, there is now a tendency exemplified by the large Basle firms of, among others (R. Geigy, CIBA, Transport Insurance and the Swiss National Insurance Company), to make available regularly funds for the acquisition of works of art to be integrated in their buildings or for the collections which they take pride in initiating. The fact that big business in Basle has ceased to be exclusively in the hands of the old City families no doubt goes a long way to explain this interest in contemporary art. The managers of Transport Insurance as well as of Swiss National take an active part in the organization of Swiss and local collections. CIBA has acquired twelve drawings done by German Masters from the Prince of Liechtenstein. Moreover, this firm has subsidized two major projects: the radiological analysis of the paintings of Konrad Witz (to appear) by Aulmann, and R. Rosenberg's study on "The Piano Sonatas of Beethoven".

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