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The Problem of Student Housing in Switzerland and Abroad 297
by Balz E. Hatt

This problem is all the more urgent in Zurich because there are located here not only the University but the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology as well. The number of students in Zurich exceeds 7,000 and will probably rise to 10,000 in 1970. The proportion of foreign students is 20%. 31% of all the students live outside the city, and the shortage of rooms is such and the rents of those that are available so frequently exorbitant that some students, especially in 1956-57 (after the arrival of some 300 refugee students from Hungary), have been obliged to seek accommodation in hotels or in tents. The students themselves have set up a room service and, in addition, a Commission for the Study of Student Housing Construction (WOKO) is functioning, being concerned among other things with a large-scale survey of conditions abroad.—In France, since the fine but already outmoded Cité Universitaire, interest has been directed not so much to student housing as such as, in conformity with the concept of the "student in society", to residential facilities for young people in general, whether students or workers, tending toward housing units that are excessively large, in which the student residence is degraded to the status of a mere dormitory and refectory (Antony).—In England, we find mainly "homes", with the system of tutors by which the old tradition is maintained, including something of the old hierarchical structure.—In the Scandinavian countries, for example in Denmark, there has been a quest for more practical and relatively individualistic solutions, the attitude here more closely resembling our own: self-administration of student houses, financing out of special foundations, with the possibility for the rooms to be sold to specific student groups ("cantons") and to be used as hotels during vacations.—Finally, in Germany, student residences rarely accommodate more than 200 members, although one of the four in Berlin has a sleeping capacity of 630.—In Switzerland, especially in Zurich, the provisional policy is to concentrate on renting, on a group basis, houses slated for eventual demolition, pending the hoped—for solution of the whole problem with the construction of the new Federal Institute of Technology, whose architecture section, moreover, took the first awards at a convention in Berlin devoted to student housing, this being a most hopeful sign. The centres to be built in the future should not accommodate more than 1200 residents at the maximum and should be designed in such a way as to guarantee an essential minimum privacy for everyone while at the same time furthering a certain community spirit.

Plan for Student Residences at Yale University, New Haven, Conn., USA 303

Architect: Eero Saarinen Birmingham USA

E. Saarinen has conceived his plan as a contribution to the contemporary architectural idiom. He has placed the main stress on the individuality and diversity of the student residences to be realized, and he has deliberately excluded everything that is purely utilitarian and standardized. Hence the creation of polygonal buildings, with resort being made to a new method permitting the construction of stone walls (crushed stone held in concrete) which are as "modern" as a curtain wall but do not create an effect of "poverty" or uniformity any more than the older buildings.—These new Yale Dormitories are evidence for America of a new conception of housing, their diversity and their concentration surely confirming the trend that is getting under way to avoid the excessive dispersal of housing outside the cities and to return gradually to the urban centre.

University Institute with Student Lodgings, Geneva 307

1959/60. Architects: A. Gaillard FAS/SIA and F. Gaillard. Engineer: R. Perretan SIA, Geneva

There have been created near the Institute in the park of Mon Repos 3 dormitory pavilions with 5 single rooms each, with possibility for future extension, plus a community building.

Student Centre of the Free University of Berlin, Berlin/Schlachten-see 310

1959/60. Architects: H. Fehling, D. Gogel, P. Pfankuch, Berlin-Grunewald

Four types of house for around 30 students each divided into sub-groups of 6 to 8, which tends to encourage a community spirit and to constitute a sound political education—financed from American funds.

The Marchiondi Spagliardi Institute in Milan-Baggio 312

Architect: V. Viganò, Milan

This reformatory is at the present time no longer in the very centre of Milan, where its high walls and barred windows gave it the appearance of a prison, but in the countryside, at Baggio. It is intended to be a youth centre in healthful natural surroundings, with the main emphasis on re-education under conditions of maximum possible freedom.

Nursery and School Children's Centre in Zurich-Schlieren 316
1957/60. Architects: H. Escher & R. Weilenmann FAS/SIA, Zurich

This complex includes a nursery and, in addition, a supervised play centre for children already of school age.

"Erika", Youth Home, Zurich 318

Architect: W. Frey FAS/SIA, Zurich

This establishment has the function of assisting its wards to find their way back to a normal life in their natural families, and it seeks to do this by putting them from the outset into "familial" groups. Thus, in addition to a central building for all group activity, there have been created 5 pavilions each accommodating a group of 10 to 15 children confided to the care of a corresponding number of teachers, a married couple moreover handling the administration. The complex is on a highly concentrated plan leaving ample space for the garden and playground.

The Final Phase in the Work of Martin Lauterburg 321

by Hans Christoph von Tavel

The very last works of the painter Martin Lauterburg, who died in June last year, are of major importance because they reveal the emergence of the non-representational conception in an artist who had previously, to be sure, been highly subjective but whose inwardness expressed itself in terms of external real objects. The new conception becomes apparent, among other things, in the "Composition with Sphere in Space", completed only a few days before his death. The fundamental aspiration of the works of L.'s last phase is to liberate painting from being a mere copy of the external world and thus to enable it to rise to the status of a rigorously intellectual art.

The Painter Richard P. Lohse 327

by Hans Neuburg

R. P. Lohse was born on September 13, 1902 and exhibited his first canvases at the age of 16. He has always been a designer by profession and has never ceased to maintain a close relation between this craft and his art proper. He was a co-founder of the "Allianz" and exhibited successively in São Paulo, Pittsburgh, New York, Winterthur, Berlin, at the Biennale of Venice in 1958 and at the Stedelijk Museum of Amsterdam (1961); his work on the organization of exhibitions is an authoritative source. For a long time he was editor of "Bauen und Wohnen", and at the present time he is one of the moving spirits behind "New Graphic Design".