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Summaries in English

School Buildings 393

by Lucius Burckhardt

The author indicates the seven most urgent tasks in any Swiss educational reform plan: (1) The activation of latent reserves of talent, (2) the promotion of professional knowledge among adults, (3) the reform of the apprenticeship system and its conversion into professional training on a higher school level, (4) a new principle of selection which does not rest alone on 'repeating a year' and 'failing', (5) the introduction of uniformity in academic requirements and in examinations throughout the country, (6) the concentration of the special emphasis on technical institutes and universities and (7) the assimilation of the new teaching methods.

School construction and new teaching methods 394

by Jean-Claude Steinegger

This article grows out of the fear that the numerous school buildings, such as have been erected in the last few years on the basis of severely conceived and uniform building programs, are becoming swiftly outmoded as a consequence of the new teaching methods. It is by no means so certain that the basic unit of a school will for all times be a classroom accommodating 30 or 40 pupils. Educational experts are exploring new ways of increasing the effectiveness of teaching. Their findings are going to have certain effects on school building construction.
The investigations of the educational experts are proceeding in two directions: psychological and technical improvements. Instruction in school can be more effectively organized by embracing increased pupil participation and by incorporating methods that intensify or even compel such participation. Moreover, the teaching can be better adapted to the inclinations and abilities of the individual pupil as well as to his level of maturity. On the technical side, the means to achieve this are available: what we already have in the way of language-teaching equipment could be applied in the future to many other subjects of the curriculum.
The consequence of these innovations will be that the pupils will work in different kinds of groupings from the present-day class. The teacher will do less formal lecturing, will do more coordinating, and will be able to devote more attention to the individual pupil. However, the relations among teachers will also change, since increased and more intense cooperation will be demanded of them.
The author, in particular, describes two schools which were consistently designed on the basis of the new construction principles: the Senior High School in Wayland, Massachusetts (1960; architects: Architects Collaborative, Cambridge) and the Collège audio-visuel in Marly-le-Roi (1966; architect: P.-A. Dufetel).

'In der Känelmatt' High School in Therwil BL 399

Architects: Belussi SIA & Tschudin BSA/SIA, Basel

The two building stages succeeded one another very rapidly. The 1st comprises a main tract with ten standard classrooms, an auditorium tract and a gymnasium tract with caretaker's flat. The extension wing comprises a three-storey classroom tract with six standard classrooms, a girls' handicrafts room, a music room, as well as the second gymnasium with cloakroom and utility rooms. The two tracts of the 1st and second construction stages are connected by an open-sided covered recess yard and are grouped around a central, protected and sunny yard.
An abstract window by the glass painter Jacques Düblin, Oberwil, as well as a granite sculpture standing outdoors by the sculptor Alfred Wymann, Dornach, animate the whole.

Primary school in Bergdietikon AG 405

Architect: André Studer SIA, Gockhausen ZH

The school is situated on a slope in the midst of a new colony of detached residences. The building comprises six classrooms, the manual training room, the polyvalent gymnasium with stage and different utility rooms. Special attention was devoted to the outside arrangements: a recess yard situated above the entrance next to the gymnasium descends in steps and benches to the paved court below. On the forecourt there is a fountain of Solothurn limestone.

School for English-speaking children in Berne-Gümligen 414

Architect: Thomas Schmid SIA, Zurich

This school was constructed in the summer of 1966 by means of the CLASP-Brockhouse System. The building program called for six classrooms in accordance with the English norm for school buildings in which there are 20 pupils per room, along with the required utility rooms, plus expansion capacity accommodating an additional four classrooms, a polyvalent room for gymnastics and a canteen. The CLASP System in this case has proved that it is flexible in design and highly articulated in appearance. Special account was taken of the question of scale in relation to the neighbouring buildings.

Collège de Bellevue in La Chaux-de-Fonds 418

Architect: Jean-Pierre Lavizzari SIA, Lausanne and La Chaux-de-Fonds

The large longitudinally aligned entrance hall on the ground floor gives access to three groups of eight classrooms each on two levels, as well as the covered and open yards to the southeast of the building. The open ground level contains only the steel pillars that support the upper level. Whereas the walls of the ground floor are of reinforced concrete, the elevations of the upper floors consist of a steel structure carrying prefabricated concrete slabs.

Erlimatt Secondary School in Pratteln BL 427

Architect: Wilfrid Steib BSA/SIA, Basel

The five-storey classroom tract with the pertinent special rooms and the domestic science department in the projecting basement tract dominate the complex; adjoining, on the upper edge of the site, are the auditorium and the caretaker's flat and, beneath, more a kind of foundation for the structures behind, 2 gymnasiums. Short alternating flights of steps and recess yards of varying sizes connect the different tracts. The construction materials are untreated concrete, prefab parapet elements and supports, light brick facing, fir-panelled ceilings in the classrooms.

Town-planning conceptions from Chios 433

by George Lavas

In the 14th century the Republic of Genoa secured possession of the island of Chios thus controlling the production of mastic. The villages built during the Genoese period are extraordinarily compact and suggest modern architectural designs. The module of the village is the span of the barrel-vault employed here. On the ground level these vaults serve in some places as streets and in other places as store-houses. The upper level of the houses is accessible by way of open courtyards, and on the upper level identical vaults constitute the living or bedroom tracts. A stairway leads from the courtyards on the upper level on to the flat roofs, which are interconnected and which serve at the same time as play areas and as a pedestrian communications network.