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Less thought and effort are applied to the planning and execution of housing than to industrial and institutional projects. Is not this fact tied up with the habit of solving problems with a limited number of parameters in a rational fashion, but more complex ones simply by trusting to instinct? The endeavours of the Swiss Werkbund in the field of housing construction aim at systematically tackling the complicated problems involved in large-scale housing projects; examples of such endeavours are the Housing Commission and the Project Teams for Werkbund Colonies. A basic parameter check-list is contained in our Housing Commission issue (WERK, October 1966). The present second issue is a workshop report and presents the work done on the preliminary project of the Adlikon-Regensdorf Colony of the Swiss Werkbund, a project which is now being appraised.

In the Housing Commission issue last year two hopes were expressed: first, that housing research, which was hardly capable of further development on a voluntary independent basis, would receive State support and encouragement; second, that experiments in the shape of Swiss Werkbund model colonies can be carried out. The first hope has not been realized up to the present; the second, however, has come a step closer to realization, and we now have the Adlikon preliminary project. The experiment is a special one: it has to do with an already existing prefabrication system and must be capable of realization within a tight budget. Nevertheless, this makes it, at least for the Zurich area and housing market, almost more than a model project: it is a key project.

The capacity of the prefabrication firm, which in the case of Adlikon will be both supplier and builder, is so great that successful teamwork will have far-reaching consequences on housing in the Zurich area; failure, on the other hand, would, for a long time to come, be pointed to as proof that the norms set by the building trade are incapable of improvement. Is that a Werkbund Colony?

The Werkbund Colonies of the Thirties renewed housing in its totality: its aim was the manifestation of a new living style, with a feeling for air and sunlight, and free from the conventions of the outmoded solid upper middle-class mansion. Free orientation towards the street, inclusion of the garden, functional plan, convenient installations, economical construction methods and – last but not least – the modern style, these were the themes of each one of these colonies.

Nowadays we are compelled to adopt a more selective procedure; we can be glad when we find a project on which we can apply any single one of our actual themes. For this reason, the initiators of the Adlikon Colony were early convinced that they are going to build not the representative Werkbund Colony, but at most only one of them.

The relationships between the colony and the community and region from the planning point of view 610

In this article the future prospects of the community are analyzed, in relation to the spread of Zurich. In the near future the Furt Valley extending to the northwest of Zurich will have an express highway, an exit being planned for near the future colony. A rapid-transit railway is also being planned on this roadway, but realization is not yet in sight.

Integration of the SWB Colony in the financial structure of a community 614

This article shows what costs accrue to a community when a builder suddenly erects a large housing project on its territory and the population begins to grow. This kind of research turns out to be very useful in negotiations with the authorities of the town.

Integration problems 616

This article attempts to envisage what integration phenomena could occur in the relations between the old residents of the community and the new residents of the colony. Criticism is levelled at the great distance from the new colony to the centre.

Adlikon SWB Colony, requirements and costs, basic factors 618

This article presents an investigation of the extra costs entailed by certain additional amenities, calculated in terms of the monthly rental. There are taken into account not only the installation costs themselves but also the structural adaptations.

Housing supply and housing demand 621

This investigation is based on a sociological survey of renting families in suburban communities and has to do with their requirements and with their readiness to pay something for these. Moreover, a study is made of the renting families in respect of size of household and family income.

The development of the preliminary project 625

The housing plans are here assembled on the basis of possible sites and of presumed demand for housing. The houses are made up of the different types of lodging, on the building-box principle.

Adjustment of the project to the production factors 634

After the plans are conceived, they have to be harmonized with the given facts of the prefabrication system, with due care being taken to keep to

the deck dimension given and to employ as uniformly as possible all kinds of fabricated deck elements.

Gardens

638

The colony introduces the urban style of living into a semi-rural region. It cannot serve as a substitute for the city. For this reason, attention is devoted to achieving a close connection between the apartment and the surrounding grounds. As large areas as possible of the site are allocated to individual apartments; it is intended that these private gardens be used as freely as possible – even the erection of sheds and stalls for small animals is envisaged. Also the common ground is not supposed to become a park closed to children but to be used for all sorts of games and hobbies.

Additional research schemes

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A number of generally interesting research projects could be carried out within the scope of this preliminary project, projects which were handed out in the shape of research assignments. The rudimentary state of building research in Switzerland is shown by the fact that such researches are not financed by public authorities and the necessary money has to be diverted from a private building project. The architects united in the FAW have now submitted an application for governmental financing of five additional research projects:

'Demands on housing and neighbourhood and resultant costs of individual requirements.'

'Legal formulation of the guiding scheme for the colony.'

'Collection and comparison of different types of development and colony.'

'Collection and comparison of housing plans.'

'Resultant costs of large-scale building projects for public instances.'

Research of this kind would contribute to a general rationalization of construction.

Anthony Caro and recent English sculpture

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by Jean-Christophe Ammann

The exhibition 'Recent English Art I and II' (February/March 1967) in the Berne Kunsthalle occasioned a number of observations on the latest developments in English sculpture. Around the year 1960 the works of Anthony Caro had altered the traditional picture of the post-war period, which was determined by sculptors like Moore, Hepworth, Armitage, Butler, Chadwick and others. The basic change, besides the employment of synthetic materials and colour, was the resort to simple shapes. This idiom and the light plastics employed possess the advantage of bringing about an intensive dialectical relationship among colour, volume and space. – The author takes up the works of Anthony Caro, born in London in 1924; Philip King, born in Tunis in 1934; Michael Bolus, born in Cape Town in 1934; Tim Scott, born in London in 1937; William Tucker, born in Cairo in 1935; Isaac Witkin, born in Johannesburg in 1936; Derrick Woodham, born in Blackburn in 1940; David Annesley, born in London in 1936; Tony Morgan, born in Pickwell in 1938; David Hall, born in Leicester in 1937.

Egbert Moehsngang

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by Alfred Scheidegger

The painter and graphic artist Egbert Moehsngang comes from a family of German musicians. He was born in Amberg near Nuremberg in 1927 and has resided in Berne since 1950. He has attended neither art schools nor academies, and his teachers have had no noteworthy influence on him. Some years ago he gave up representation and began to create spatular compositions in vigorous gleaming colours, sometimes employing gold-leaf. Moehsngang has tried out all graphic techniques. At the present time he is working almost exclusively with engravings. Every creation is preceded by intense concentration. Even in the series of engravings bearing historic titles, we never have scenic illustrations, but materializations of mental processes.

On the graphic art of Alfred Hrdlicka

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by Friedrich Czagan

The Austrian sculptor Alfred Hrdlicka, born in 1928, is a pupil of Fritz Wotruba. His first successes were initiated in 1960 by his stone sculpture 'Crucifixion'. Individual graphic works began to appear as early as 1951. Since 1959 there have been coming out his series of etchings, among which the narrative psycho-dramas 'Martha Beck', 'Winckelmann' and 'Haarmann' are based on criminal cases. In these cycles Hrdlicka displays a sovereign mastery of the technical resources of zinc and copper etching and mezzotint engraving, combined at times with applications of Indian ink and tempera.