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A Study of a Polyvalent Construction System

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by Georges Maurios

This construction procedure involves the building of private homes or apartment houses. It is based on the pre-fabrication of heavy supporting elements of reinforced concrete. The façades and the interior partitions are lighter and can be of metal or synthetic foam material. The aim of the study is to offer the residents of a house a maximum of flexibility both on the inside and on the outside. For this reason a centralized installation duct is dispensed with, and the sanitary and kitchen installations, then, must not be built in around one single core. The façade elements are treated as box-units which can be positioned as the resident sees it.

Housing Colony for Employees of Brown, Boveri AG at Turgi 472

Architect: Thomas Schmid SIA, Zurich

Pre-fab parts: Büchel light-construction system

The Büchel light construction system resembles the systems we find in England and the U.S.A. It is based on light, 13-cm-thick wood-frame panels; on the outside there is bolted on asbestos-cement weather insulation. The restriction to one or two floors does not under all circumstances signify an especially low ground utilization quotient. Utilization figures of up to 0.45 can be attained with atrium projects.

Housing Project at Inwil ZG

475

Architect: Peikert Bau AG, Zug

Arcade types: Architect, F. Ehrat, Zug

Maisonnette type: Architect, Romeo Stalder SIA, Adliswil

The W-62 housing construction system developed by the firm of Peikert Bau AG in Zug uses broad wall panels, every two of which constitute a continuous slab. These supporting walls are arranged on the basis of a fixed module of 3.60 m. However, the disposition for reinforcing longitudinal walls is variable. Fabrication is effected in mobile shops or in permanent factories. Assembly is done by means of a high slewing crane. The sanitary installations are concentrated in a sanitary block, the attachments for flats occurring at every second bundle of mains. Finishing is restricted to windows, woodwork, painting and flooring. The construction system was elaborated at the same time as a housing plan at Inwil, Zug. Over and above this, the architects Ehrat and Stalder have designed variants with arcade and maisonnette types.

One-Family House of Pre-fab Concrete Elements in Zug 478

Architect: Rainer Peikert, Zug

There was selected as the basis of the construction a skeleton of spatial elements, which even in assembly require no reinforcement. The H-supports and templates accommodate in their cavities the pipes and mains. The pre-fab method creates a rather severe aesthetic effect, and this is counteracted by painting all the walls and finish in a variegated colour scheme.

Schwabgut Housing Project in Berne

480

Architects: Hans and Gret Reinhard, Thormann & Nüssli, Wander & Leimer, Eduard Helfer, Berne

Building engineers: Emch & Berger, Berne

Pre-fab elements: Element AG, Tafers

This project comprises differentiated housing types including three high-risers, four slab buildings, several three- to eight-storey structures and an atrium colony. For the high-rise blocks there could be organized a team of architects that rationalized the planning. Various fundamental studies could be carried out: first, an estimation of optimum block depth and its relation to costs, then, a stairwell and lift study, and, finally, basic research into the problem of balcony suspension with avoidance of tension and cold bridges. In this way, very attractive prices could be achieved for these houses, prices which lie below the general market values.

'Hinter den Höckern' Colony at Zeiningen AG

484

Architect: Ernst Stocker, Zeiningen

Pre-fabrication: A. Mergenthaler AG, Zeiningen AG

The small colony consists of two detached homes, a six-part row-house and a centralized garage and heating building. There were used small-sized concrete elements with a maximum width of 1.80 m. Assembly is effected dry by means of bolting and welding, without pouring or plastering. The elements when in place are ready for painting or papering. A 'Kompriband' (a compressed strip) is forced into the visible joints. It is possible to build in standard installations, such as: kitchen elements, cupboards, partitions, etc.

Mühleboden Atrium Colony at Therwil BL

486

Design: Ulrich Löw & Theodor Manz, Basel

Construction system: Loma

The Loma construction elements are in principle shells of artificial stone which can be filled with concrete and become permanent components of wall and ceiling. The result is homogeneous, seamless constructions. The entire rough construction can be done with only five such shell elements. Parts can be broken off along prepared grooves, yielding elements which can be used for all required detail constructions. The plan is to build a detached house colony with L-plan houses and $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$ rooms in Therwil.

Flats, Offices, Dining-halls and Cloakrooms in Marcianise near Caserta, Italy

488

Architect: Angelo Mangiarotti, Milan

The project in question is part of an industrial complex for the production of building panels. The four assembly stages are clearly distinguishable from the model photos: (1) setting up of the pre-fab cruciform supports, (2) assembly of the pre-fab peripheral beams, (3) placement of the transverse beams, (4) roofing.

Prattelerstraße Housing Project at Muttenz BL

491

Architect: Istvan Bandy, Birsfelden

This relatively large project made it possible to plan the houses according to the pre-fab big-panel method, with special stress being laid on a flexible system, so that the units of varying sizes could be built with the same elements. The element dimension is a derivative of the maximum transport width of 3.90 m. A housing exhibition revealed the particular suitability of the $5\frac{1}{2}$ -room unit as a self-owned flat and possibly too as a single-family house.

The Othmar Huber Collection, Glarus

494

by Gisela Fehrlin

The collection of the physician Dr. Othmar Huber in Glarus contains, among other paintings, a number of significant works of modern art which were excluded from German museums as 'decadent art'. The collector, in selecting these works as well as in his purchases of additional pictures and sculptures, has always taken as his criteria artistic creativity and expressive power. Along with Picasso, Gris and Vlaminck, the collection contains works by the 'Blaue Reiter' group (Marc, Macke, Kandinsky, Klee, Javlenky), the Expressionists Kirchner and Nolde, the sculptors Barlach and Lehbruck, as well as those of younger painters like Poliakoff, Feito and Spescha.

The Painter Bruno Meier

500

by Felix Andreas Baumann

The painter Bruno Meier, who died in Zurich on June 10, 1967, was born in this city in 1905. His first oils made their appearance after a brief period of training at the Zurich School of Applied Arts (around 1932). His really creative period set in only around 1939, in his own opinion. A decisive experience in his development was a sojourn in Florence (1936), where his conceptions of space were influenced by Giotto, the painting of the Trecento and Early Renaissance architecture. There followed a period of study in Paris. In 1947 Meier turned from pencil drawing to oil. In his attempts to come to terms with cubism, he employed surfaces to represent volumes, often reducing colour to a single scale of grey tones. Later he began to employ bright pastel tones. The most important works of his late period are large-scale compositions showing human figures in a dematerialized room with sparse use of a few props to suggest three-dimensional space.