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## Publisher's note

For a long time FORUM's editors have recognized that America's continually mounting classroom requirements cannot be met through increased spending alone, that more intelligent spending is also mandatory. This has been the theme of most of FORUM's annual school issues—as it is this month.

Looking back, FORUM's editors can take pride in their contributions toward stretching the schoolhouse dollar and improving the design of America's educational plant—contributions which have been recognized by award juries and have been quickly accepted by school architects and educators (FORUM's 62,000 circulation includes 9,400 subscribers in the educational classification). For example:

In 1935, schools specially designed by leading architects for FORUM's November issue got the modern movement off dead center. Within two years modern schools began to appear in force.

In 1949, "FORUM's school for 1950," programmed by the editors and designed by the brilliant Matthew Nowicki, broke the monopoly that had accrued to the spread-out "finger-plan" school by setting up the counter-ideal of compact multi-use space. (This issue was judged by *Industrial Marketing* to be the best among all industry magazines for the year 1949.)

In 1953, the editors introduced a new approach to school costs which lifted the discussion above the usual narrow range of construction economics and placed it in the broader context of school policies, programming, and financing.

In 1957, FORUM commanded the attention of hundreds of newspapers with its sharp reply to "That *Readers Digest* article" which, wrongly accusing school boards and architects of building "palaces," was discouraging voters from passing school-bond issues. (FORUM's article earned an Award of Merit from *Industrial Marketing* and prompted requests for 19,302 reprints.)

In 1959, the editors gave the first rounded analysis of the efforts of the Ford Foundation to encourage school planning and equipment that could expand the effectiveness of teachers. And, FORUM's editorial on "Schools for an age of confusion" won an award from the National Education Association.

In this issue, FORUM's editors explore in depth the economics and techniques of schoolhouse prefabrication. The significance of this effort will be seen in the shape and structure of tomorrow's schools and, hopefully, in the further stretching of the school building dollar.—J.C.H. JR.