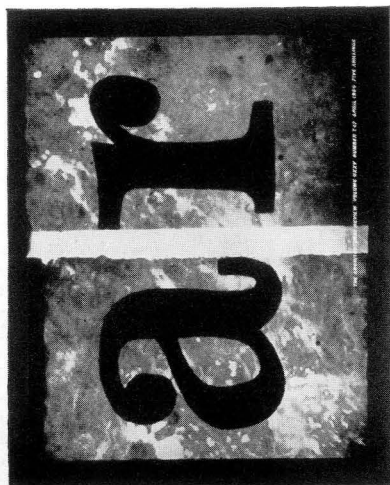


THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

Volume 125 Number 747 April 1959



On the cover, a photograph by Kenneth Garland continues THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW's policy of periodically appearing with a purely typographical exterior, in order to emphasize the range of possibilities in lettering that have been opened up by new graphic techniques, and to proclaim once more its belief in the importance of lettering among the companion-arts of architecture—a theme that is further emphasized in Nicolette Gray's article on *Expressionism in Lettering*, which appears on pp. 272–276.

Directing Editors

J. M. Richards
Nikolaus Pevsner
H. de C. Hastings
Hugh Casson

Executive Editor

Ian McCallum

Art Editors

Gordon Cullen
Kenneth Browne

Technical Editor

Lance Wright

Assistant Editors

production, Moira Mathieson.
literary, Reyner Banham.
Editorial Secretary Whi 0611-9

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: The annual post free subscription rate, payable in advance, is £3 3s. 0d. sterling, in U.S.A. and Canada \$10.50, in Italy Lire 6940, elsewhere abroad £3 10s. 0d. Italian subscription agents: A. Salto, Via Santo Spirito 14, Milano; Librerie Dedalo, Via Barberini 75-77, Roma. An index is issued half-yearly and is published as a supplement to the REVIEW.

THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
9-13 Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster, SW1
Whitehall 0611 Five Shillings

- 227 Correspondence
- 228 Marginalia
- 230 Frontispiece
- 231 Neoliberty by *Reyner Banham*
- 236 Offices at Paddington: *Architects, C. H. Elsom and Partners*
- 242 Caution—Road Works by *Raymond Spurrier*
- 247 Eleven Danish Houses: *Architect, Harald Plum*
- 254 The Open Stage by *Richard Leacroft*
- 263 The Exploring Eye: Remountable Palace
- 266 Interior Design
 - Showrooms in Bond Street
 - Shop in Knightsbridge
 - Wallpaper Showrooms in Nottingham
- 271 Design Review
- 272 Expressionism in Lettering by *Nicolette Gray*
- 277 Current Architecture
 - Miscellany
- 281 Exhibitions
- 283 Art in Use
- 284 Centenary
- 285 Counter Attack
- 287 Books
- 289 Skill
 - Pitched Roof Coverings by *Peter Whiteley*
 - Part I Unit Coverings
- 294 The Industry
- 298 Contractors

CORRESPONDENCE

Engineering of Excitement

To the Editors.

SIRS,—Your November issue, just received, displays on its cover drawings of five combinations of hyperbolic paraboloids.

Your comment on the frontispiece mentions that these are studies by students of the American engineer Catalano.

I would hesitate to raise a seemingly trivial correction by pointing out that Mr. Catalano is not an engineer, were I not compelled by other motives than pedantry.

Mr. Catalano is an architect.

This fact is only important in one respect: it is the architect, and only the architect, who can finally combine structural ingenuity with spacial meaning and correct scale. We need not even mention Soane's breakfast room (however much it is a 'structural fake') or Galla Placidia's tomb to realize that scale and geometric and structural forms in the hands of an architect-designer combine into an absolute whole. I mentioned these two examples intentionally, as they are diminutive in dimension and vast in scale.

This is the architect's mastery displayed. We have for so long now had to take our lead from the engineer, due to our complete poverty in purely architectural knowledge, that we seem to be trusting him wherever he leads us.

Catalano is tackling his investigations from the correct end: his first and main consideration is that of scale, and I mean architectural scale. The fact that he is investigating a 'new' structural shape is completely irrelevant in the final assessment of spacial values. After all, we haven't—most of us—yet mastered the architectural consequences of a cross vault.

Yours, etc.,

Lagos, Nigeria. S. BUZAS.

Venezuelan News Letter

To the Editors.

SIRS,—Interesting and informative as your Venezuelan Newsletter (November, 1958) was, I should like to comment on some of the points mentioned by your correspondent.

The true splendour of the Banco Obrero housing schemes here in Caracas lies, I feel, not in the attempt 'to preserve a human scale on the often dramatically-terraced sites,' but in the achievement of exploiting these sites with long, high cliffs and slabs of reinforced concrete frames, infilled with brilliant primary colours. Set against the mountain range, the whole is magnificently monumental in a way that is entirely architectural, and needs no apology in 'human' terms.

Few Caraqueñans imagine the schemes 'unite all classes of society' (in the common purpose of a better life). Admirable as they both are, one might as well refer to the Peabody Trust Housing with much the same degree of accuracy.

Lastly, and this on a point of