

wishes to have erected, but is seldom able to place them in that practical shape before the architect that they can at once be seen and put in execution. He therefore asks his advice as to the best means of obtaining the execution of his wishes.

The first duty of an architect then is to ascertain with great care and minuteness the views of his client; who in many of them may be mistaken from a want of technical knowledge, and it is his duty therefore to set him right. He should not take it for granted that because he can flippantly describe all the different arrangements of a building, both without and within, and to which his client in a sort of mystified manner will acquiesce, that he really does understand it; he should therefore take great pains to explain every part of the edifice and all the advantages of such and such alterations, and the disadvantages of his client's views, until he feels perfectly satisfied that he has, by patient investigation and tentative suggestions upon what his client's views are based, designed a building such as his employer desired to have, but which, from want of technical knowledge, he was unable to explain. Every attention should be paid to the object the promoter has in view, and the architect should divest himself of all preconceived ideas. It is his duty to follow out the suggestions and wishes of his client as far as possible, and give the best effect to his views; in so doing, he generally will succeed, not only in embodying the desires of his client, but been able to carry out his own taste in the general character of the design.

It is very possible, in fact it frequently happens, that the views of his employer are contrary to all good taste and rules of architecture; but he has no right to insist upon their abandonment. We see many buildings daily, in which some peculiar taste of an architect is stamped upon every feature of the edifices he erects. Thousands of buildings erected thirty years ago, and thought at the time as buildings of superior and tasteful design, are now only a matter of ridicule; therefore, in a case where a client insists, against the judgment of his architect, to have such a facade or construction of his building that would be an outrage to his better taste and an injury to him professionally, it would be better, more discreet, and show a nobler spirit, to suggest that his client should seek the assistance of some one more likely to comply with his wishes, than to force a work upon him that will always be a source of vexation and annoyance.

It is a difficult task, no doubt, for a young architect, desiring to make his mark in the early days of his practice, to make up his mind to refuse a wealthy client, on the score of taste and design; but if all members were imbued with the feeling that they represented an honorable profession and bound to maintain a high standard of honour in all their transactions, and would do nothing derogatory to its dignity, clients would learn to respect them more, and yield up more readily their own crude views. But here a word of caution may well be added against our own prejudiced ideas and taste. Many men are naturally gifted with a taste for the beautiful, although not architects by profession, and their suggestions should meet with respectful attention and be assisted by the experience and judgment of the architect in bringing them into harmony and form.

The next duty of an architect, after clearly ascertaining the wishes of his client, is to bring all his experience and knowledge to bear upon the work, in order that he may advise as to the best means of carrying it out.

Not only must he now show that he has endeavoured to grasp the wishes of his client, but he must also be able to suggest the best means to be adopted in executing the work; he must be prepared to show the reasons why certain wishes of his client cannot be carried into effect, without detriment to other portions of the building; and lastly, he must have a sufficient knowledge of building materials and labor, to give an approximate estimate of the cost; excluding nothing therefrom that he knows must come in afterwards as extras, in order that his client may decide, before he has gone too far, upon the advisability of proceeding with or modifying his ideas. To lead a client into the supposition that a building will cost only a certain sum, when the architect knows there are extras that will augment its cost nearly a third more, is a cruel wrong.

An error which many young architects are apt to fall into from the want of that experience which only time and practice can give, is that he is always sanguine he can get work done much cheaper than others, and is timorous in running up a sum sufficiently high to cover all cost, lest his client should abandon his intention. This is a grave error, and is apt to do a young man irreparable injury at the very outset of his practice. But whilst in England a recognized Architectural Surveyor can always afford a check to his calculations, if the client so desires it, in this country, the client has entirely to depend upon the architect for a near approximate estimate of the cost, before proceeding further; therefore it is the duty of the architect to furnish it, when required, at the fullest rates and keep nothing in the background.

These preliminary duties having been performed, the next is to prepare such details and instructions as will enable those employed to execute the works. Now, too great care cannot be taken in the preparation of these details and working plans. We do not live in a country where the carpenter, the stone-cutter and other branches of the building business, are obliged to serve for some years as apprentices, and consequently are well grounded in the details of their respective trades; but we have, in the district of Quebec, a very large number of mechanics who undertake to construct buildings with but a mere superficial knowledge of their business, and who, if left to carry out the working plans of a building, would, from their want of knowledge in their own art, commit no end of mistakes to the great annoyance of the client and his architect, and in many cases endeavour to throw the faults arising from their own want of skill and knowledge upon the architect.

There can be no question that the duties of an architect in superintending the execution of works, is one of great responsibility; and here it is that the French law, which holds the builder and architect equally responsible for any failure in the work, is frequently the cause of much trouble and litigation; but still even under these adverse circumstances, if architects, as a rule, asserted an independent spirit, and refused to proceed with any work in which the client or builder (the former too frequently being clandestinely actuated by the latter) attempted to deviate from the plans and specifications after they had been duly signed, insisted upon submitting all disputed points to the arbitration of two or three architects and builders of the highest standing in the place, whose decision should be considered binding, the onus would be taken off his shoulders. There is, however, on the other hand some cases we fear where great laxity