Concrete: Its Uses and Abuses

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cost and permanence or durability, let me say quent economic waste. The manufacture of concrete blocks should be studied with variety of size as well as appropriate scale in mind. Corners and angles should be true, and crude and rock-faced surfaces avoided.

(b) *Backing for Stucco.* This is a legitimate field for the use of concrete blocks. Scale need not be taken into account; neither need such matters as sharpness of corners and angles or crudity of surface. Uneven chipping where blocks are cut approximately to the desired outline presents no obstacle to the perfect finish. Surfaces should be such as to which the stucco will most readily adhere.

COST AND PERMANENCE.

In a letter from an official of the United States Housing Corporation I find these words: "We were satisfied that there were certain types which would produce a good practical house at a very moderate cost, but it appeared to us that this could be done only where the same unit was repeated indefinitely, and our belief was that this would produce a deadly monotony." As to the monotony we have already heard; as to the that there may be cases where permanent houses would be a drawback in a developing community. There would be very little salvage in a wrecked concrete house, while the wrecking would entail almost as much expense as the constructing. Unless a community is well "zoned," buildings of a too permanent nature are an economic waste, even though the initial cost may be the same as for a building of less permanent character. Where, as in many of our communities, change is the order of the day, well constructed buildings of a more temporary nature are desirable. Buildings of a temporary nature can be "fire stopped" and made safe for occupancy.

FIREPROOF CHARACTER OF CONCRETE HOUSES.

In the letter above referred to, these words appear: "We found that the people who were interested in the concrete house were, almost without exception, trying to build every part of the house in concrete, including porches and all the trim." This would seem to me to indicate a deficient sense of humor on the part of the people referred to, as well as defective vision. I will grant that the designs of many architects who never intended to make a joke of their work are such as to be readily translated into concrete and would not lose in the process; but a concrete man with a sense of fitness, I'll call it humor, would not deign to affect the translation. I must still warn the enthusiast against excess; excess of imagination as well as excess in material means, or some of them may wish to make the door hinges out of concrete after all! Fireproofness, so to speak, and permanence are good qualities, for which it is possible at times to pay too much.

METHODS AND MEANS.

How to make the house reasonably fireproof, reasonably durable, reasonably attractive and reasonably economical in cost and in upkeep presents a series of problems for the architect and the concrete expert. As an architect, I shall receive the findings of the concrete expert and will make such application of the methods and means presented as may suit the particular case. I will even present the case beforehand to the expert—if it is not already covered—and aid him in his solution. I will even ask him now to present types of floors in structure and finish which are durable, economical and appropriate to a small house. I will ask the same concerning the roofs, high-pitched, low-pitched and flat.

There are many problems to be solved in connection with the design, construction and location of the concrete house, and I congratulate the concrete and cement interests that they have enlisted the services of so many serious-minded and enthusiastic men in the quest for the best along these lines. I hope that architects of vision and deep feeling may be called upon to co-operate.

Exhaustion of Southern Pine

According to a bulletin just issued by the Spruce Production Corporation of the United States War Department, only four mills out of 2,043 southern pine mills have timber supplies (southern pine) which will last more than twenty years. More than 1,600 mills will have exhausted their supplies in five years or less, and more than 1,900 mills in ten years or less. Attention is drawn to the fact that this rapidly approaching depletion, coupled with an expanding world market for timber, is bound to result in heavier demands upon the great timber areas of the Pacific coast and Canada. The present generation of timbermen in Canada will probably benefit as a result. This benefit may be extended to posterity if the short-sighted policy of the southern lumbermen is avoided.—CONSERVATION.

Enamelled Wire to be Manufactured in Canada

An addition is being built to the plant of the Eugene F. Phillips Electrical Works, Montreal, to provide a department for the manufacture of enamelled copper wire. This represents a new branch of industry in Canada.

It is also understood that the Canada Wire & Cable Company, Leaside, Ont., will shortly be turning out a similar product.