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PUBLIC HOUSING AND DEFENSE HOUSING

IN

NORTH EASTERN STATES

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Route and Projects

Outlined by the Technical Division of the
United States Housing Authority

INTRODUCTION

Public Housing, as controlled by the United States Housing Authority, has enjoyed a period of uninterrupted development for several years. The present emergency has intensified the problem of low-rent housing but, by changing conditions, it has drastically interfered with the continuancy of the development. The demands to be satisfied at present are similar to those before but time schedule and considerations for site selection have altered. Needs carefully established by housing authorities have so far been of a stationary character - now needs of temporary urge not only disharmonize with future prospects but tend to overrule them. This lack in identity of present and future demands introduces new elements into housing. Emphasis is laid on flexibility of the project, and independence of locality has to be secured by utilizing demountable units.

New needs create new forms. After the emergency we can expect that public housing will, by incorporating these new needs, present solutions cardinally different from the achievements of today.

The time seems therefore appropriate to analyze the achievements housing has attained during its first period of development in the United States. An examination of merits as well as of shortcomings appears essential for the comprehension of the work created.

From public housing projects I have visited on a journey through the States of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois and Kentucky, I have selected eight projects. Each of these projects shows specific qualities of interest, and my critical comments attempt to analyze them.

It seems that the designer often loses his aesthetic balance when he endeavours to mould certain details into decorative features. The architecture of many houses appears ridiculed by baroque extravagances in canopies, porticos and similar objects. It seemed to me of interest to collect a number of such examples for the purpose of showing the importance of discipline in architectural design.

The first period of defense housing, to which my photographs taken in September 1941 refer, has not produced a satisfactory solution of the problems involved. The architectural appearance of many projects has suffered by aiming at prettiness in naive details. Superficial decoration is applied - from gay coloured shutters nailed onto the

sides of windows to cheap trellis work holding flower-boxes - details which will cause undue maintenance expenses. Variation was sought in painting the houses in colours tuned to the crude colour range in asphalt shingles.

Some important site planning experiences of public housing appear disregarded in many projects. Admitted that the site plan offers additional difficulties due to the aforementioned discrepancy between present need and the anticipated future use - there is no doubt that just these difficulties will stimulate designers who are acquainted with the planning principles developed in public housing, to arrive at interesting solutions. It is essential to visualize the dual purpose of such projects and, in consequence, to provide for the required flexibility. The effect of such planning will beneficially influence the present day principles of planning private low-cost developments. Subsequent experience will determine the desirable measure of community life for future private developments. Many advantages for health and enjoyment of life can be made available only on a basis of sharing: open greens, playgrounds, fewer roads, concentration of service facilities to the houses, are obvious results of community planning. Their advantages more than compensate for the seeming restriction of privacy which, in fact, hardly exists in any present day suburban development.

Very little attention has so far been paid to the correlation

which should exist between site planning for housing projects and town planning. It is evident that rectangular block plans are obsolete, and that city planning will follow up with the new patterns community planning is establishing. This is one of the most joyful prospects and bound to develop. Just as the rectangular pattern reflects the individualistic trend of a bygone period, future city plans will express the present social evolution manifest in our housing projects. No time should be lost by city authorities to revise existing plans, to halt haphazard suburban plot planning, and to correlate all future developments with the new principles of site planning.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS



Youngstown, Ohio

OHIO-2-1

WESTLAKE TERRACE HOMESSITE PLAN

The site plan of this project provides 618 dwelling units; it is of irregular shape and intersected by a public thoroughfare.

The triangular lower part, reserved for negro families, includes an old factory and a Y.M.C.A. building. The houses are laid out in two rows parallel to the surrounding streets, leaving a triangular playground in the centre.

The larger section of the project stretches in an oblong almost rectangular shape, from the intersecting road up to the hill top and to the extensive public playgrounds there.

The site plan of this section, housing white families, is of interest. Proper orientation of the houses laid out in parallel rows and not rectangular to the surrounding streets, allows for sufficient parking areas and pleasant recesses from the street. The U shaped grouping of the houses secures privacy for the interior courts which face onto a wide open garden lawn. This lawn leads right up to the Community Centre and is bound by two parallel foot-paths. A bend in its lower part produces pleasant perspective views up and down the hill and of the open courts. No road intersects this part of the project, and front gardens as well as back yards are kept



free from any vehicular traffic, still they are easily accessible from the street.

The position of the Community Centre on the top end of the project appears justified because of the large public playgrounds on the opposite side of the street. The building itself is opulent and contains a large gymnasium equipped with cinema operating room, various club rooms, library, class-rooms, and also some living quarters. An interesting feature is a special nutrition kitchen for children, a complete nursery, and doctors' consulting rooms. Neither planning nor architectural treatment of this building show an inspired solution of the interesting program, and they lag considerably behind the quality of the other parts of the project.

DESIGN

The houses are built in dark red bricks toning in harmoniously with the grey slate tiles of the roofs. The distances between the row houses are well in proportion to their building masses. The end houses towards the centre lane are placed traverse to the rows and show gables, which present a pleasing accentuation when applied on projecting parts; when applied on recesses, their intersection in the long roof of a row appears rather clumsy - an effect which could have been avoided by maintaining the length of the gabled end house equal to the depth of the row houses.



Cleveland, Ohio

OHIO-3-1

VALLEYVIEW HOMESSITE PLAN

Seventy two-storey row houses providing 580 homes are skilfully laid out on two terraces of a narrow hill front sloping down steeply to the industrial valley below. Intelligent use is made of the natural limitations of the topography. The houses are grouped along, as well as around garden plots and play areas.

The Community Centre on the upper terrace forms an attractive entrance to the project. A central portico opens to a garden space which conforms with the pleasant landscaping and the unusually beautiful display of flowers in the individual garden plots. The community grounds form the centre of the site plan, linking the two main terraces to one harmonious unit.

DESIGN

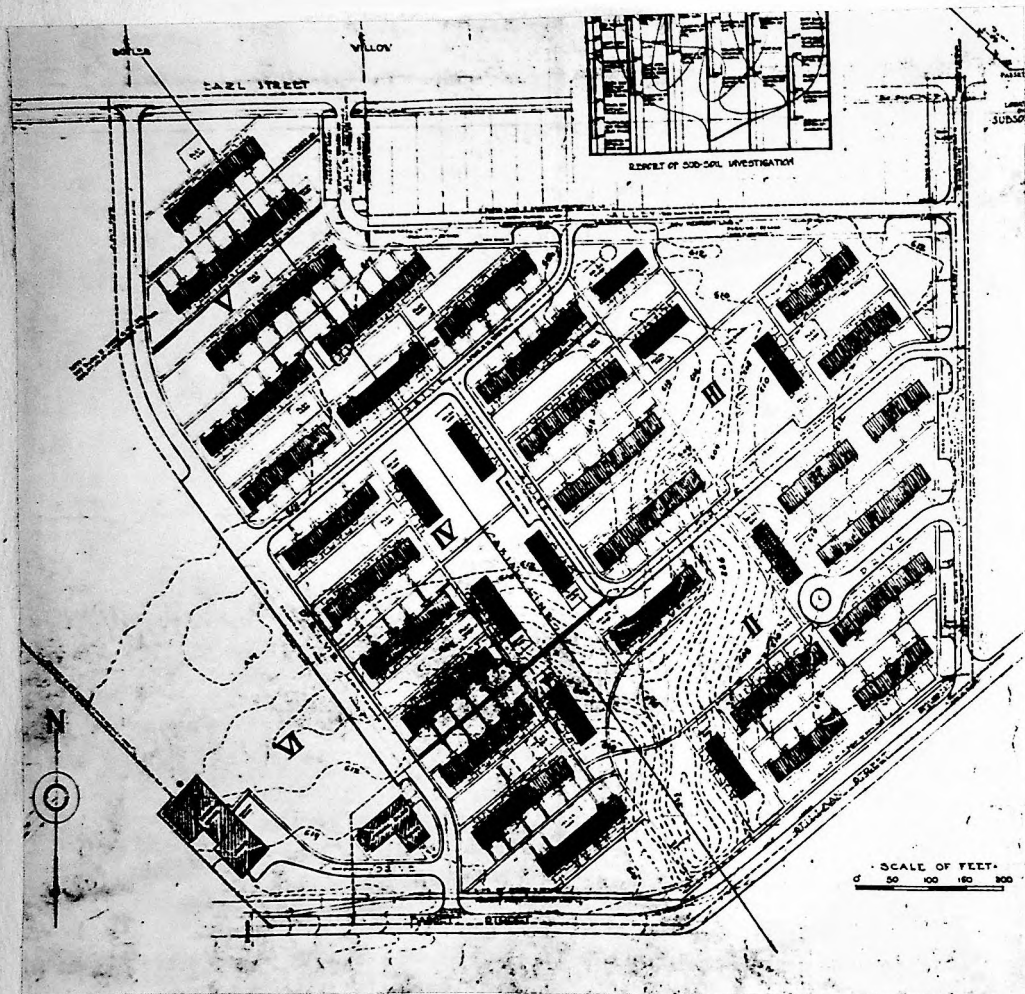
The architectural treatment of the houses does not come up to the quality of the site plan. The use of two different brick colours - pink and yellow - is not justified by any reason and counteracts the harmony of the well spaced courts. The roof projection appears exaggerated, and the height of the second floor windows is out of proportion.







The tendency of drawing the window-head too high is typical for a great number of projects. The top panels of these windows are not arranged for opening, a fact which eliminates their use for ventilation and herewith their only possible justification. The high position of these top panels makes them a nuisance for cleaning and also for the arrangement of curtains. The lack of proportion caused by such high windows is, in this project, emphasized to the extreme by the architectural treatment applied to the window-heads. They consist of recessed metal panels leading into the roof canopies and painted in the same colour as the windows.



Toledo, Ohio

OHIO-6-1

CHARLES F. WEILER HOMES

SITE PLAN

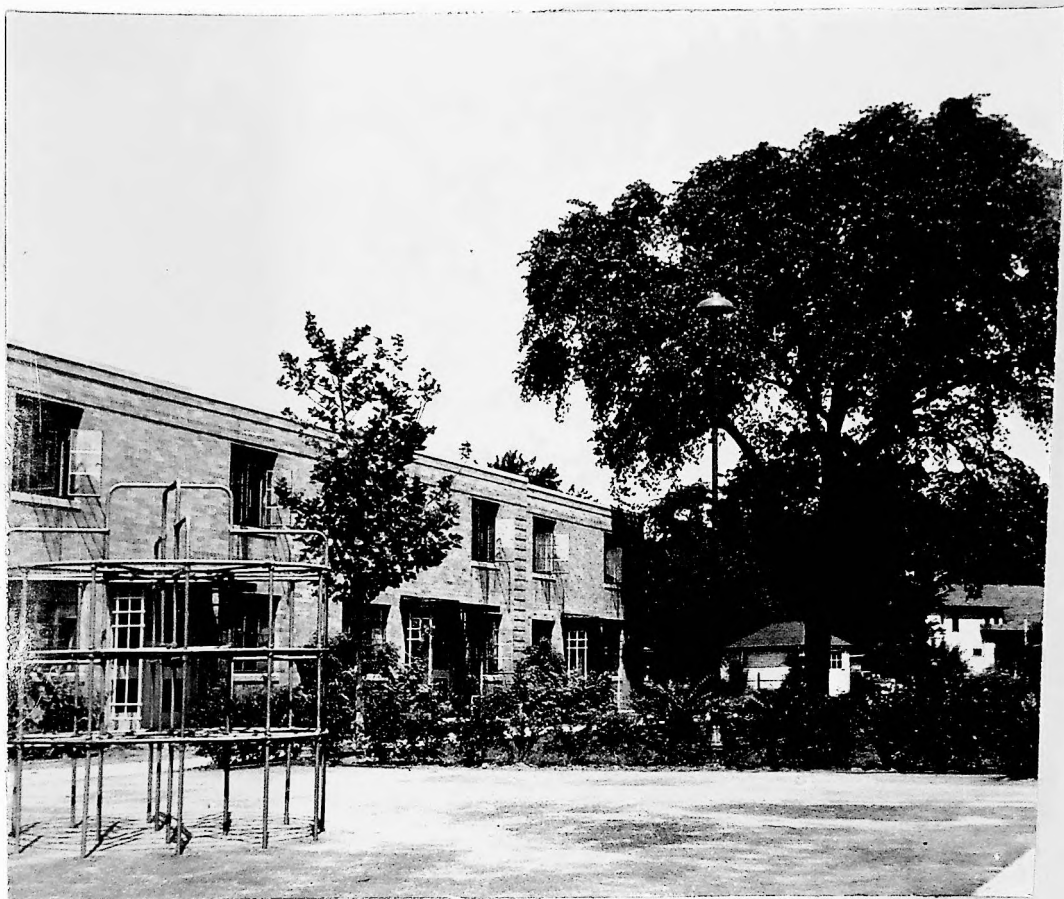
The site of this project, which provides for 384 dwelling units in row houses, is of irregular shape. It is nearly level with the exception of an undulation on the open lawn near Stillman Street. Some old trees, together with landscaping of a most distinguished quality, contribute to the beauty of this veritable garden village. Two open lawns give fine vistas through the project. The private gardens of the houses are maintained by the tenants, and excel in the beauty of colourful flowers.

The houses are laid out in parallel rows, and individual courts are formed by casually arranged traverse blocks. The distance between the rows is in excellent proportion to their building masses.

DESIGN

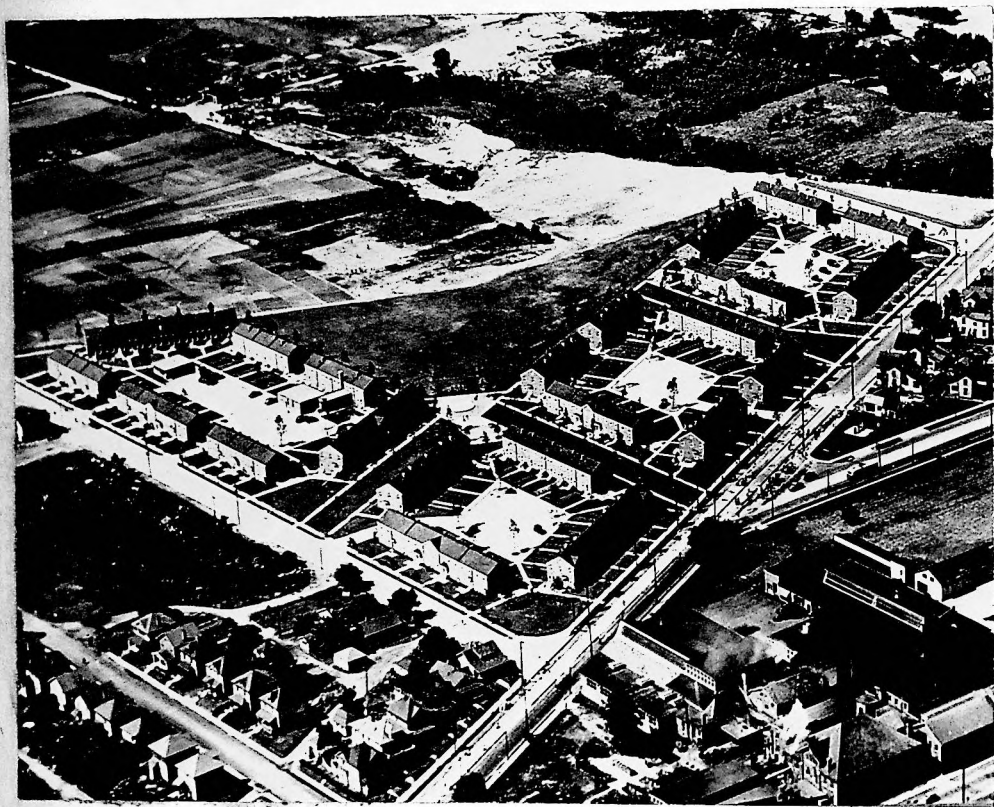
The architecture of the houses, built in yellow-pink bricks, is pleasant in its general appearance as well as in its detail. Stone coping is provided on all houses with flat roofs. The door canopies are well proportioned; the lattice work flanking the doors is equally well designed and is grown over with creepers. The simple logical treatment of architectural details gives this project outstanding distinction.











Dayton, Ohio

OHIO-5-2

DE SOTO BASS COURTS

SITE PLAN

This project, giving shelter to 200 negro families, is built on level land of no particular characteristics. Excellent spacing of the buildings and their open grounds, together with well balanced landscaping give this project distinction.

Four large interior courts are formed by row houses. The approach to the service entrances of the houses is from these courts, which are also used as parking spaces. The house fronts face either the streets or lawns which are arranged rectangular to the streets.

The position of the trees is well conceived, and so is the arrangement of bushes and flowers along the house fronts. The importance of balance between the width of the grass area in front of the houses and the width of the open central lawn is successfully demonstrated in this project. Further, that the distance of the foot-path from the front of the row houses is not arbitrary but determined by building height and open spaces confined between buildings. The same refers to plantation as regards size and number of trees and shrubs - their masses should relate to the masses of the buildings.





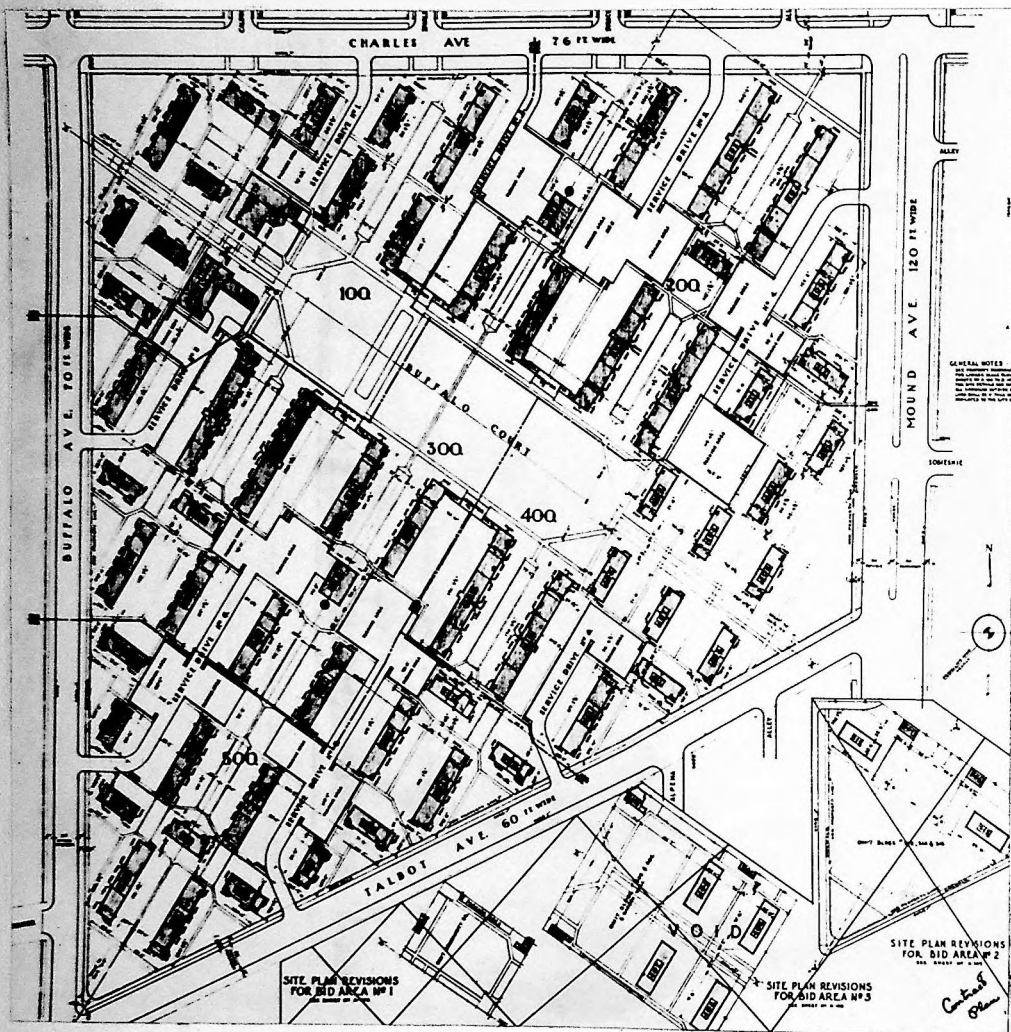




DESIGN

The architectural appearance of the houses is pleasant.

The windows are in wood and painted white as are the doors and panels. There is a certain opulence in these wood details which add to the specifically "friendly" character of this project.



Detroit, Michigan

MICH-1-5

THE CHARLES PROJECT

SITE PLAN

This project, 440 dwelling units, stands out with an interesting site plan showing regimented discipline. The general layout of the project, as well as the architectural appearance of the various uniformed groups express the principle of repetition.

A large rectangular open square forms the centre of the project. Parallel rows of houses are arranged rectangular to the longitudinal axis of this square. Their service yards include parking areas directly accessible by service drives from the surrounding streets. The view from the central square into these service yards is blocked by walls and long loggias. They form an architectural feature of the central square, each flanked by three-storey blocks arranged at the ends of the rows. A similar arrangement at Parkside Homes Extension appears to have more justification as there it closes courts towards a public thoroughfare with heavy traffic. Here, in the Charles Project, it is questionable whether the unfriendly appearance of these long walls when seen from the back yards, can be considered compensated by the not convincing necessity for seclusion of the central recreation area.







DESIGN

The houses are built in light red bricks as well as in white washed concrete blocks. The arrangement of these two different types is directed by considerations of specific architectural effects towards emphasis of symmetry and axial composition. The white towers of the three-storey blocks add liveliness to the large central square. All details are well conceived with regard to their practical purpose. The flat roofs of the houses show appropriate projection and have a well proportioned cornice in concrete.



Chicago, Illinois

ILL-2-1

IDA B. WELLS HOMES

SITE PLAN

The most interesting portion of the site plan, providing altogether 1,662 dwelling units, is the section with the four-storey apartment blocks. Ten blocks are laid out staggering diagonally across the shorter dimension of the oblong rectangular plot. Each of the diagonal blocks is divided into three building masses: one of a length equal to one half of the block, and two of a length equal to one quarter of the block. Projections and recesses are so arranged that each of them face the same courts alternatively. The whole arrangement plays for variety through repetition in a most satisfactory manner. No part in this section shows monotony in the so related masses of buildings.

Next to this section of four-storey apartments follows an oblong rectangular section which contains the large Community Centre building and play areas with swimming pool and sports grounds. These amenities are open to the general public and they form a recreation centre excellently situated for the tenants of the project.

A third section assembles in its centre part three-storey apartment blocks, and in its plots towards the streets, combinations of garden apartments with row houses above as well as two-storey row





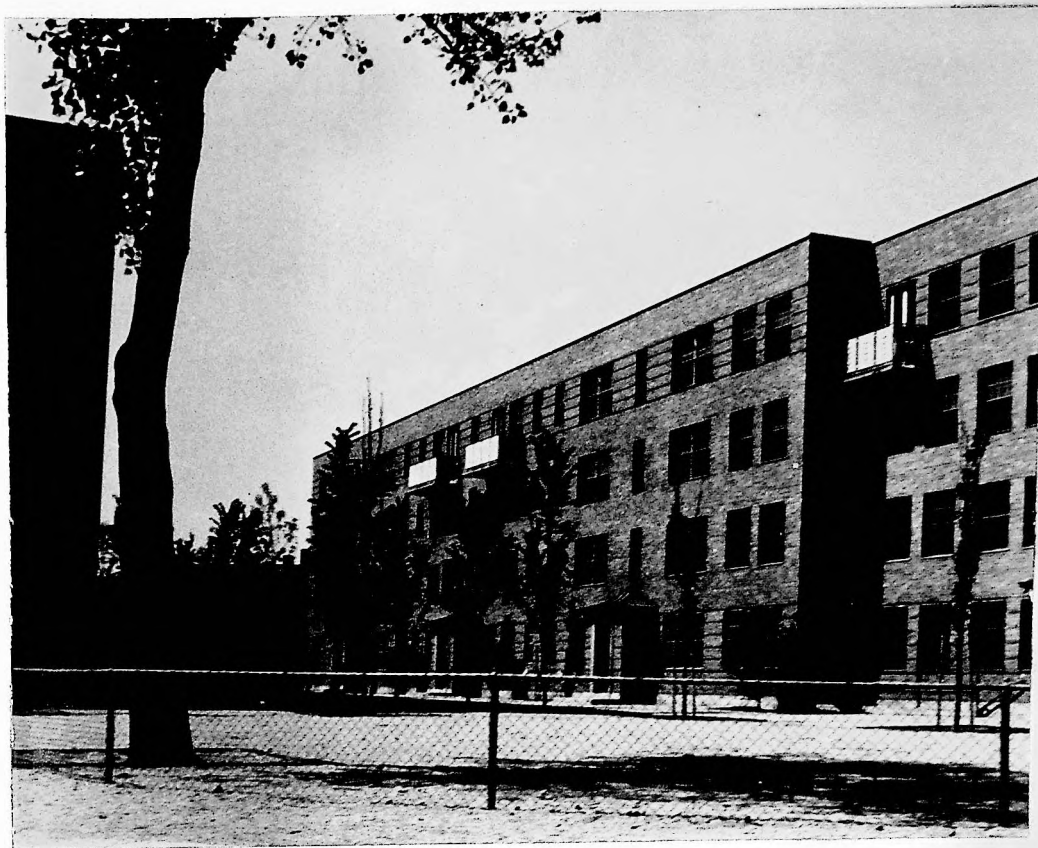
houses. Their layout is less original than the site plan of the first section. The fourth section has garden apartments above and two-storey row houses of which the greatest number is in this section. The chief merit of the site plan in these two sections is the arrangement of two wide and slightly bending private avenues, one of which has groups of beautiful old trees.

The landscaping of the project appears to lack restraint in the planting of trees. There are already too many now, and it seems that with a view into the future, a great number of the newly planted trees could have been spared.

DESIGN

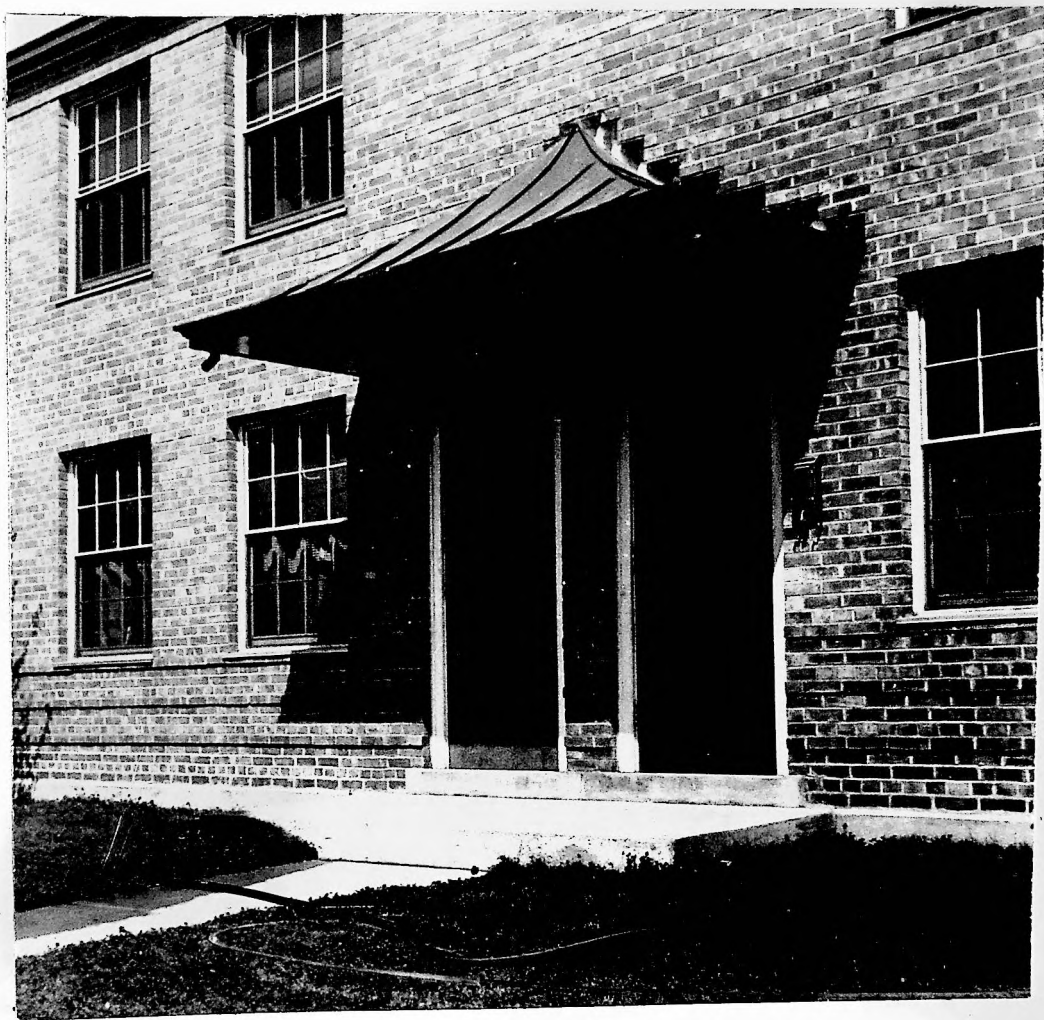
The houses are built in bricks of pleasant colour. Various attempts are made to bring unnecessary variation into the texture of the brick surfaces by means of projecting bands and other ideas of enrichment which fail to give the desired effect. Otherwise great care has been given to simple and practical architectural details.

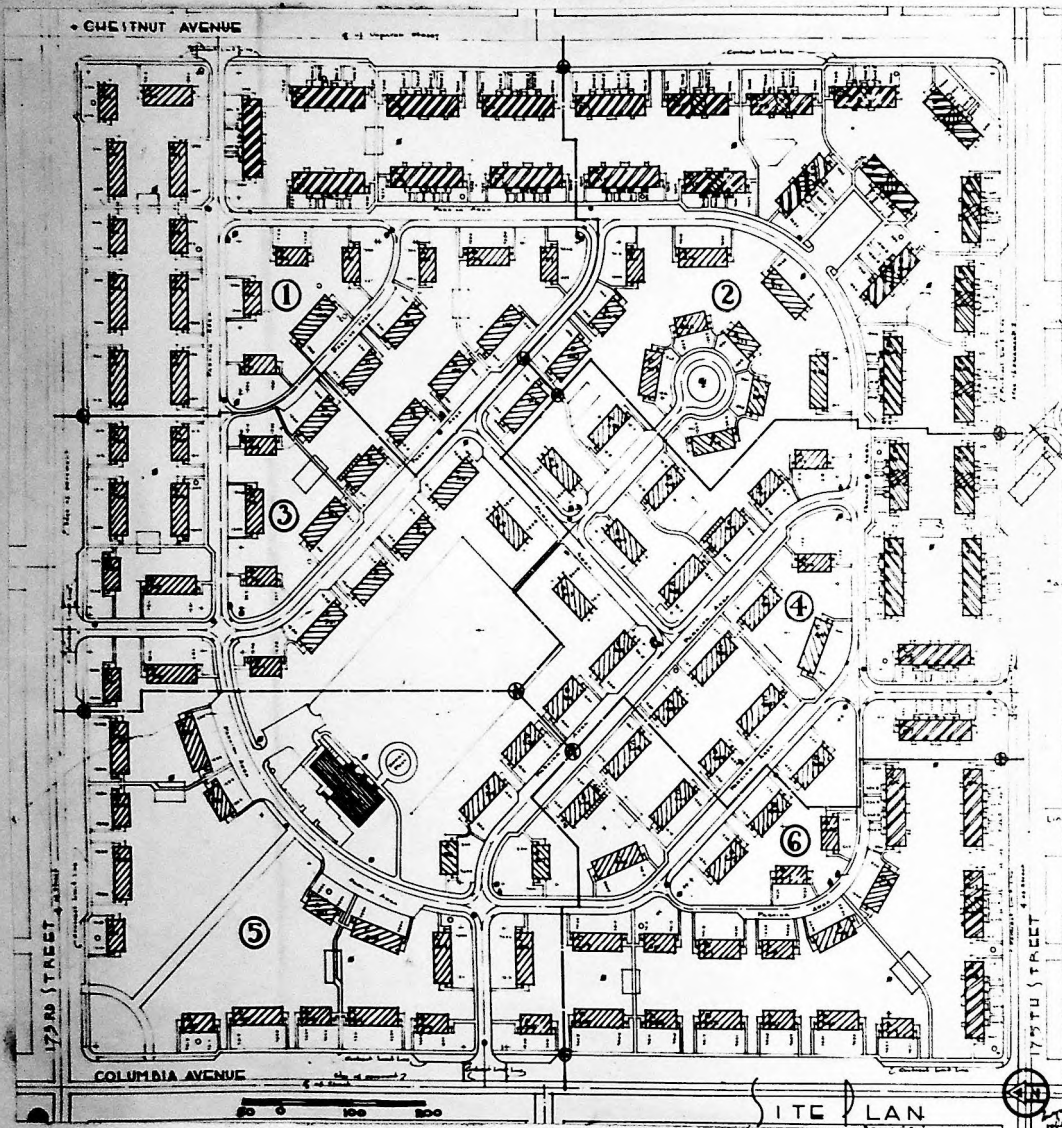
The four-storey apartment blocks introduce sporadic balconies for merely decorative effects. Their balustrades display large leaves cut out of metal sheets, painted white on a series of balconies, painted black on other blocks. If balconies were considered appropriate for the apartment plan, there was no reason why they were not arranged on each of the upper floors instead of



restricting them to the top floor only. Again a play for variety which did not originate in planning needs and consequently destroys harmony, which otherwise would have been fully achieved by the well proportioned building masses. The canopies and projecting entrance porches have copper roofs in a curved shape, baroque style, also hardly in conformity with the straight forward design of the houses.







Hammond, Indiana

IND-10-1R

COLUMBIA CENTERSITE PLAN

This is an interesting project housing 400 families in one-storey twin houses and two-storey row houses, comprising altogether 146 buildings on a square tract of land. A private interior road system divides the site in an outer and an inner circle, providing for an easy centralized communication, and for pleasant perspective views of the groups of row houses.

The one-storey houses are placed inside the inner circle; the two-storey row houses are in the outer circle. Great attention has been given to the incorporation of many fine old trees without evident effort in doing so - all groups look as if they have been casually placed on the right spot.

DESIGN

The houses are built in multi-colour bricks. Distinct concrete sockets add to their tidy appearance. The window-sills are in natural stone, hewn to a rough surface - a rather superficial attempt. All roofs are flat and project with about 9" - as an appropriate dimension; their bronze facing is, however, too heavy (5") for the proportion of the houses.







The two-storey houses have no canopies - a fact which provokes a marked relief for one who has seen the whole range of decorative canopies displayed. The design of the one-storey houses excels in a canopy supported by two graceful columns and with a sufficiently wide projection enabling it to be used as a shaded out-door space.

All houses have a well designed coal bunker which, in contrast to many other attempts in solving this important storage problem, contributes pleasantly to the architectural appearance of the houses. The reason is that no attempt has been made to camouflage it as anything but a practical coal bunker.



Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

PA-1-1
PA-1-3

TERRACE VILLAGE

SITE PLAN

This project will once be classified as a landmark in the architectural evolution inaugurated by low-rent housing in the United States. It truly represents the manifestation of qualities which are rooted in the unfaltering spirit of pioneering, and can be called characteristic for all outstanding works of American creation; boldness in attacking an engineering problem and sense for mass production without regret; mere repetition without losing the grip on the problem through striving for variation. Instead of muddling with complications superimposed by the original conditions of the site - which was intersected by small hills and undermined by old coal shafts - American ingenuity prompted the use of machines for the uncompromising purpose of creating building land.

Extensive building sites have thus been reclaimed in an unique process of reconditioning. Miserable slum quarters have been turned into healthy areas offering ideal building conditions in the centre of one of the most important industrial cities of the world. The beautiful terraces so created, tower majestically over the surrounding slums of the city. It will require only a few years for the newly planted vegetation to be full grown and then the value and beauty





of this creation will become apparent even to the sentimental adept of romanticism in housing.

The aesthetic enjoyment of this project starts from the convincingly established relationship of its building masses. The comprehensive rhythm and the ever changing contrasts of perspective effects due to the different levels of the terraces, disclose themselves inevitably when walking through the roads and courts of the project. Similar building masses in varying distances, varying directions and levels, provide for unlimited variation in lights and shades. This variety is produced on clear lines of geometrical orderliness as an essentiality for its satisfactory effect.

Terrace Village is laid out in two principal sections. The smaller one, comprising 802 units, is of older date, whereas the larger one, comprising 1851 units, has just been completed. The new section is formed by three terraces - the two higher plateaux rise dramatically from the surrounding lower main terrace. This lower terrace is again divided into two parts, linked up by the Community grounds excellently situated in the centre of the project.

The apartment blocks of the upper terraces are arranged in parallel and square blocks with simple undulated grass plots between their garden fronts, and levelled courts at their entrance fronts. The apartments on the lower terraces follow radial lines towards the intersecting slopes of the upper terraces. They keep on a right

angle to one circumscribing road which gives approach to the blocks arranged on both sides. The architectural orderliness particularly of this part of the project, is strikingly clear and beautiful, best seen from the upper terraces or from view points on the opposite hills. The relationship between spacing and height of building, is satisfactory in all parts of the project and contribute a great deal to its harmonious effect. Perfect air circulation is secured throughout the project.

DESIGN

The architecture of the second section is of impressive simplicity and in conformity with the grandeur of the site plan. All buildings are three-storey walk-up apartments, built in light pink multi-coloured bricks. All roofs are flat asphalt roofs with a just sufficiently large projection. Their cornices are partly faced with bronze resting on some yellow painted wood members not sufficiently distinct in design. The door architraves of the house entrances, show variations of simple and effective brick arrangement. The well designed garbage and dustbin shelters with their simple brick walls and stone capings, present a feature deserving attention.

The architectural treatment of the earlier section is less successful. The three-storey apartment blocks there are built in darker bricks with smooth surface. When comparing the two sections,



one can observe how colour and texture of bricks influence the architectural effect of a project. The light bricks of the second section give brightness whereas the dark smooth bricks of the first section convey a sombre effect, unfavourably increased by too heavy roof cornices.

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES
IN
PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS

WALLS

Brick surfaces in public housing projects do not require any decorative pattern or other enrichments. Housing architecture does not raise decorative problems and its interest should remain centred in mass composition and disciplined confinement of space between buildings as well as between buildings and surrounding objects of nature. Elaborate patterns on brick surfaces distract the onlooker from a clear conception of the architectural composition and destroy the beauty inherent in an uninterrupted brick surface. Some of the houses at the Ida B. Wells Homes in Chicago (page 39) offer an illustration of such enrichment and its effect.

The temptation to accentuate horizontal lines seems to be overwhelming for many designers. There are only two horizontal lines which have sufficient functional importance for emphasis - these are the base course and the roof cornice.

Change in texture or colour of wall surfaces can only be recommended when applied on a large scale and in geometrical orderliness. The two Detroit projects - one described on page 28, the other mentioned in this connection on page 63 - are the only good examples which can be offered. When applied on a small scale or on one building, as in the Valleyview Homes in Cleveland (page 10) the

attempt fails in its desired effect. The following examples of various efforts to interweave stone members or plastered surfaces in brick walls may prove that such enrichments are out of place in public housing architecture.

Sculptural reliefs in burnt clay present an architectural element which can give emphasis to selected points on the façades without interfering too drastically with the harmonious effect of the brick surface. The reliefs should avoid hard lines and their sculptural treatment should aim at producing softness in light and shade. There are already a few examples in existence in public housing projects.

The design of ROOF CORNICES should be directed by simplicity. Their form should present only a few distinct horizontal lines and should strictly adhere to the scale superimposed on all parts of brick architecture by the actual brick dimension.

Brick walls of houses with non projecting flat roofs should be ended up with a stone coping. If an additional brick band below the stone coping is desired - an arrangement not advisable for taller buildings - this band should be carried out without any appreciable projection. In the pictures of the Charles F. Weiler Homes in Toledo (page 16) the effect of two horizontal brick bands can be seen in combination with an accentuation of cornices by means of alternatively recessed brick courses. In spite of the distinguished detail applied,

the impression remains that the lower band would have been better omitted. The photographs of the four-storey blocks in the Ida B. Wells Homes in Chicago (pages 35 and 38) show a stone coping in correct scale, the effect of which would have been still more satisfactory without the horizontal brick band pattern between the 4th. floor windows.

If a specific domestic character is not aimed at, flat roofs should have sufficient projection. The Charles Project in Detroit (page 28) offers an excellent example with a projecting reinforced concrete slab.

The design of BASE COURSES should provide for a projecting concrete band reaching up to the height of the door-steps or plat-forms in front of the entrances. The Ida B. Wells Homes in Chicago (pages 34 - 40) show a satisfactory base course throughout the project.

If stone slabs are used for WINDOW-SILLS, attention should be paid to their thickness. It is surprising how many designers allow the architectural appearance of their project to be spoilt by the lack of scale in this detail. The complication seems to arise from the proper correlation between stone band and brick courses. It is evident that the height of two courses is too much and that the right dimension for the front part of the sills is slightly higher than one course.



COMMODORE PERRY HOMES
Buffalo, N.Y.

Neither the stone architraves, which combine two narrow windows above entrance doors, nor the two stone tablets placed alternatively above other doors, represent a desirable enrichment for the light pink brick walls - their friendly domestic appearance already being marred by the unproportioned height of all windows.



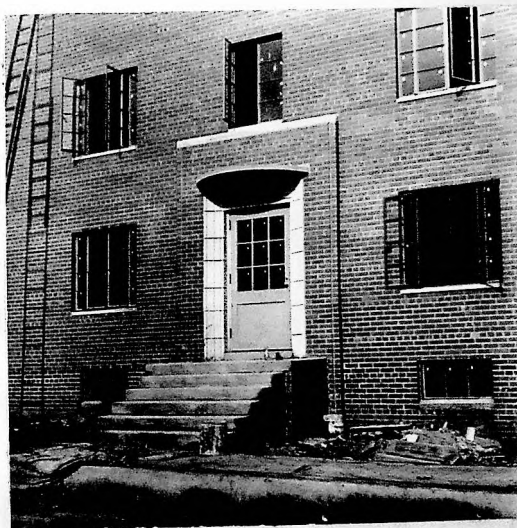
LAKEVIEW HOMES
Buffalo, N.Y.

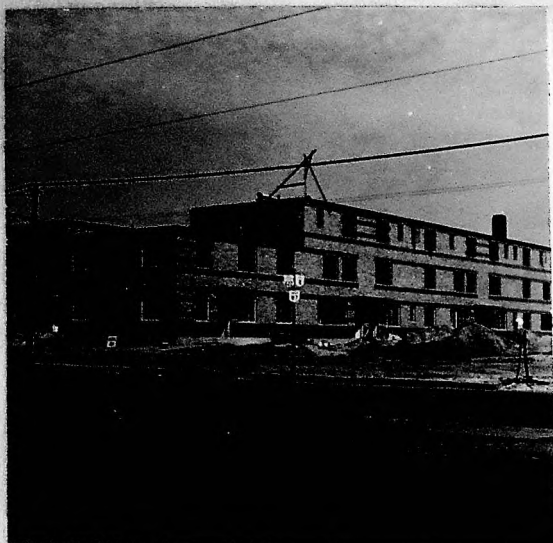
Stone architraves with decorative panels above the entrance doors introduce an evident false note in the architectural character of public housing projects.



EDGEWOOD HOMES
Akron, Ohio

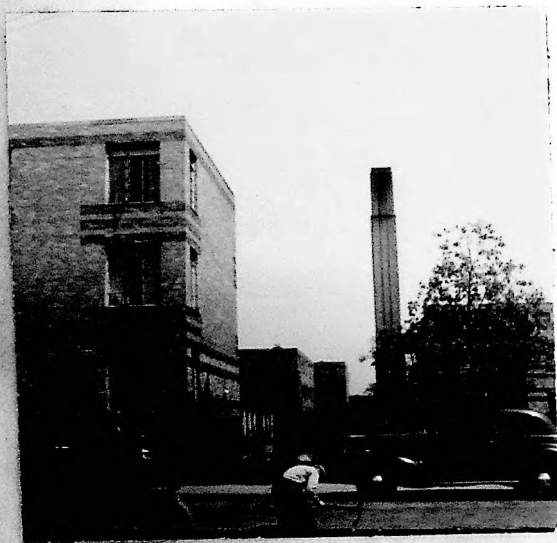
Besides lack of proportion between the elements assembled for a decorative effect, their practical use seems not to be attainable. Stairs are steep without sufficient space in front of the door - and the canopy will hardly give the desired protection.





OUTHWAITE HOMES EXTENSION
Cleveland, Ohio

Large horizontal bands of bricks in darker colour imprint a severe ornamental pattern on the light brick surfaces of the houses and apartment blocks in this project. The presentation of such treatment may have an unusual effect on rendered drawings but proves to be irritating when experienced on the actual building. The reason is that neither functional expression was sought nor were any graceful lines added to the logical mass composition of the buildings.



BRAND WHITLOCK HOMES
Toledo, Ohio

The two examples taken from one project show an often recurring attempt to accentuate window-sills and window-heads by continuing their horizontal lines right over the whole house front. Such attempt proves to be utterly unsatisfactory when performed on brick elevations by means of introducing any other material than a brick course of different colour. The effect is still less attractive when the window-sills are left higher than the corresponding band, as shown in the picture above. But even if properly executed with a projecting brick course - as shown in the picture below - there can hardly be any doubt that these houses would look more pleasant without any forced addition of horizontal emphasis.





PARKSIDE HOMES
Dayton, Ohio - 5-1

Selected cornices are accentuated by means of white rendered squares throughout this project. If applied to distract from unsuccessful window spacing, such forceful treatment may seem justified but it can hardly be evaluated as a proper remedy.

SULLIVANT GARDENS
Columbus, Ohio - 1-4

This combination of two-storey row houses with one-storey end houses shows that different wall surfaces do not conceal unbalanced mass composition but rather point at it.

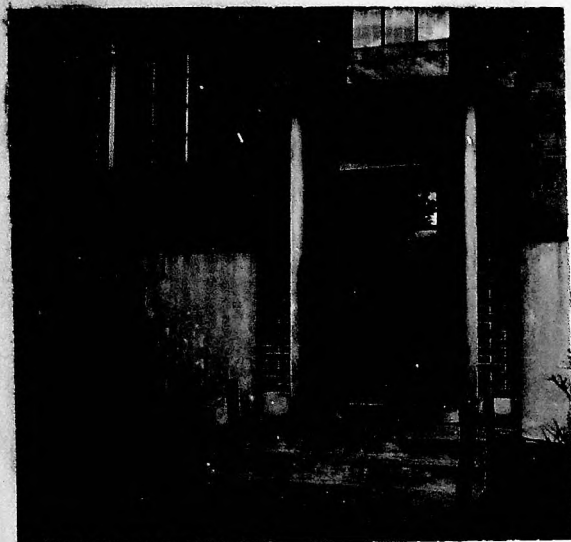


PARKSIDE HOMES EXTENSION
Detroit, Michigan-1-2

In this project as well as in another Detroit project in Charles Street (described on page 28) interesting use is made of the application of two distinctly different wall surfaces. Carefully designed details of cornices and of other architectural features contribute to the harmonious effect, chiefly due to the large scale on which variation was sought and to the geometrical orderliness in its application.



LAUREL HOMES
Cincinnati, Ohio



The entrance arrangement to the apartment blocks shows an advantageous set back of the door with a slightly projecting slab on top. The introduction of white surfaces next to the door opening is not recommendable as handmarks are bound to occur.

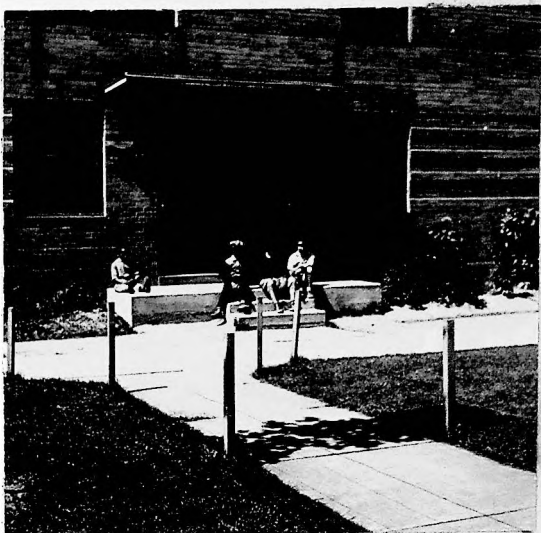
JANE ADAMS HOMES
Chicago, Ill.

The metal architraves in their pleasantly curved shape offer protection against handmarks.



WILLERT PARK COURTS
Buffalo, N.Y.

Sculptural reliefs applied here on both sides of the entrance doors form an appropriate and pleasant enrichment. The colour of burnt clay and the smooth bold surfaces of sculptures match excellently with the colour and texture of the brick walls.



JANE ADAMS HOUSES
Chicago, Ill.

Large animal groups decorate the court of this project. To produce them has given work and encouragement to young sculptors. Their presence gives permanent enjoyment to the children playing around them. Certainly an appropriate enrichment for public housing projects.



CANOPIES AND PORCHES

In all periods of domestic architecture the main entrance to a house was the object of emphasis and decoration. The wish to shield the door opening against rain and wind gave the opportunity to combine practical purpose with aesthetic intention. The resulting features - canopies and porches - have become part of public housing architecture but with the difference that these features occur there in sequence, that instead of one point many have to be emphasized, and that any emphasis when repeated falls into rhythmic order. This fact and the general character of simplicity in public housing architecture - resulting from the social idea itself and its financial structure - force upon the designer a high measure of discipline. He has to be aware that architectural features incorporated in public housing projects must lend themselves to repetition.

Most features of past architecture which were inspired by the desire to stand out or to dominate their surroundings are consequently not applicable to our problem however high their architectural achievement may have been. The entire range of wrought iron porches falls into this category. All copper roofs in baroque shape crowning so many canopies of public housing projects, are fundamen-

tally wrong. Appropriate for public housing are only such compositions of which every part is essential for fulfilling its purpose in its simplest form possible.

A canopy has to shield, and it is more important that it projects as far as possible in front of the door and, further, that it overlaps the opening sufficiently on both sides than that the cost allowed is wasted on decorating it with a 'pretty' copper roof. A reinforced concrete slab fulfills the purpose. A glance through the photographs shown here will prove that the simplest arrangement is most in keeping with the architectural character.

The same principle holds good for the roofs of porches. Trellis work on both sides will give support to creepers. These creepers in turn enrich the feature more gracefully than any elaborately ornamented precast columns. The porches of the Charles F. Weiler Homes in Toledo (page 20) present a simple arrangement to perfection. There are naturally also other solutions acceptable to which I refer in detail in my descriptions of projects and in my comments on the photographs shown on the following pages.

FOWLER'S GARDENS
Lexington, Ky. - 4-1



The spaciousness of this garden city makes the elaborate details of the porches appear appropriate, particularly as they are applied with appreciable restraint and not repeated in front of each door.

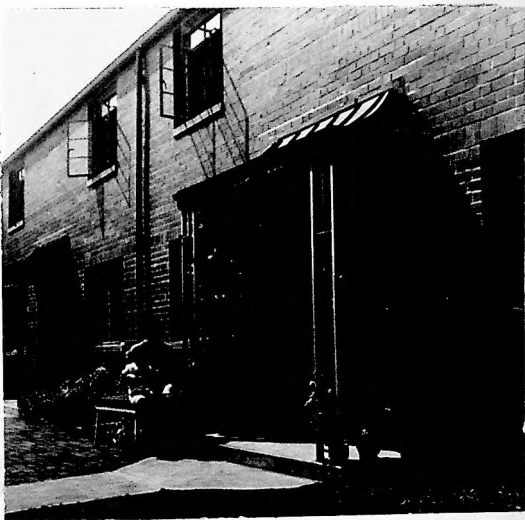
POINDEXTER VILLAGE
Columbus, Ohio

The graceful porches and door roofs in this project recall the shape of loose hanging canvas canopies - designed with an easiness which disarms any critical attack against their general advisability.



POINDEXTER VILLAGE
Columbus, Ohio

The impressive picturesque effect of these porches is the result of their minute correlation with the excellently spaced window openings and with the general mass proportion of the houses. The design of their details shows perfect scale conformity with the surrounding brick work - best craftsmanship is characteristic for both. It remains only regrettable that the porches are not wide enough to offer a shaded outdoor sitting place.



PIONEER HOMES
Syracuse, N.Y.

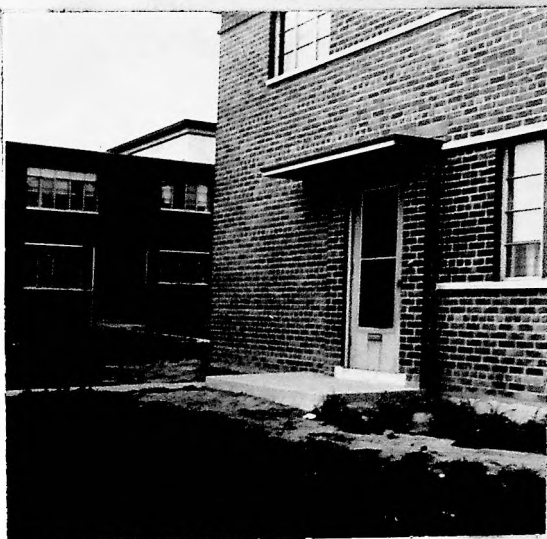


Three entrances to flats are combined in one group projecting in front of the building. The slightly ornamented columns add a graceful feature and give support to creepers.



PARKSIDE HOMES EXTENSION
Detroit, Mich. 1-2

No attempt is made to camouflage the small protecting roof and its sole purpose of shielding the door. The logical reasoning guiding the design of these buildings should not have permitted the carrying of window-sills all around the building - over parts where they are not required.



SULLIVANT GARDENS
Columbus, Ohio - 1-4

It is impossible to find grace in the here shown combination of four entrances to flats. The shape of the windows and their spacing share equally in the resulting undomestic architectural effect

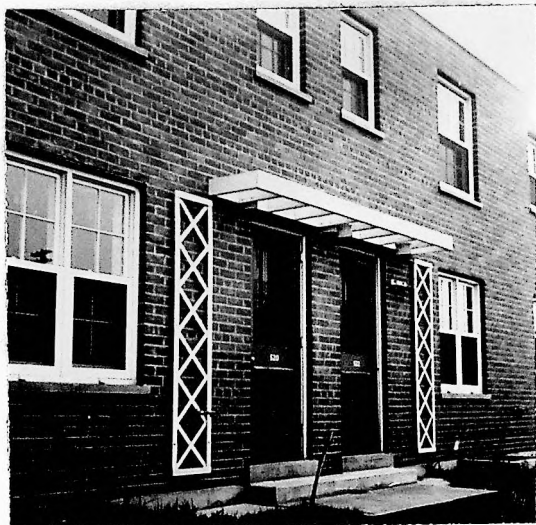


BREWSTER HOMES ADDITION
Detroit, Mich.

This project gives a rare display of almost unlimited variations on the theme of house entrances and porches. From abbreviated Georgian revivals with stone gables we pass on to straight lined trellis ornaments attached to brick pillars until we find ourselves in front of the familiar ordinary type of a wood constructed porch with the usual small copper roof and the wide trellis of unproportioned diagonal ornamentation.



BREWSTER HOMES ADDITION
Detroit, Mich



Next to and above some entrances we find only the elements displayed with which porches could be constructed - if so desired. There are canopies indicated, not solid but only in their open frames and, consequently, without any shielding function. We see trellis nailed flat on the wall and crowned with gable fragments in stone.





COOPERMILL MANOR HOMES
Zanesville, Ohio-9-1

A fine project is reduced in its architectural merit by porches, the details of which do not comply with the scale the brick dimensions dictate. There is justification for the arrangement of side trellis to porches - they will support creepers - but there is none for the flimsy brackets under the small canopies.

VINEYARD HILL
Wheeling, Pa.
WVa-3-2

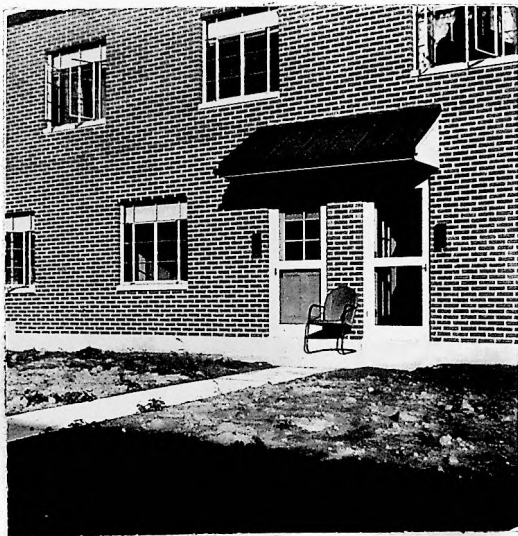
Curved shaped canopies with electric fittings on their soffits appear appropriate for entrances to apartments or to public buildings of housing projects. The railings of the stairs leading to high platforms at some entrances exaggerate the curved line.



PARKSIDE HOMES
Dayton, Ohio - S - 1



Bright shining copper is used as covering material for the canopies, the roof angles of which vary without any apparent reason. Quite apart from the ungainly shape of these features, their practical purpose for shielding the doors is not fully accomplished as they are not long enough to overlap the door openings sufficiently.



DEFENSE HOUSING

The following photographs were taken in September 1941 to illustrate architectural features characteristic for the first period of defense housing.

Private architects with experience in public housing have since been called upon to design defense housing projects and an interesting approach to the problems can be expected. Success will depend on the capacity of the designer to balance present need with future usefulness - a problem discussed in the introduction.

It should be borne in mind that defense housing projects form not only now an integral part of housing but that they will remain a permanent feature in the pattern which housing will present in the future. Demountable houses are also not merely a temporary feature - they are intended to continue their existence somewhere. It is evident that the prefabricated unit will predominate and that it will turn the architectural character of public housing projects towards mass production as final aim for future housing.



P.B.A. PROJECT
at Mt. Clemens, Mich.



This project is typical for a great number of P.B.A. Defense Housing projects. Two-storey houses are filed along interior lanes. Variation is sought not by grouping but by painting the houses in different colours, tuned to the various crude shades of the asphalt shingles with which the roofs are covered. The two-storey houses are painted in light colours up to the sills of the 2nd. floor windows - darker shaded colours are applied to the remaining part up to the roof. The floor plans of the houses follow orthodox lines, varying only in the arrangement for heating according to the fuel used.



P.B.A. PROJECT
at Mt. Clemens, Mich.

Canopies with light fittings are arranged on top of the entrance doors. The wooden platforms in front of the doors form one combined structural feature with the wooden steps. A board projects over the back-door and the kitchen windows, an arrangement apparently introduced for architectural effect more than for protection, as such is not sought above any other windows.



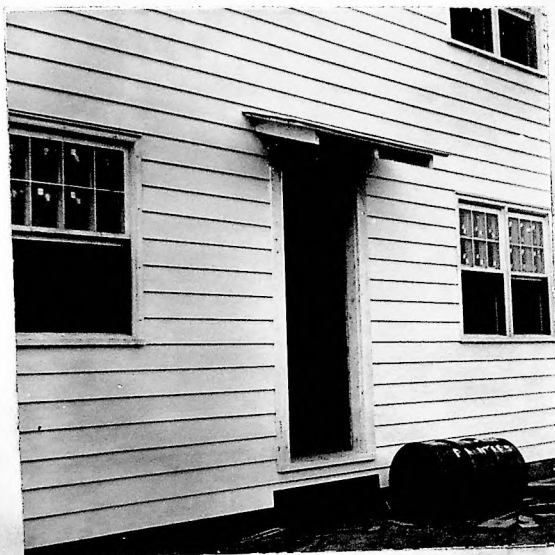


P.B.A. PROJECT
at Mt. Clemens, Mich.

The shutters always painted in the same crude colour of the asphalt shingled roof - each roof has a different colour - are not for real use. They are nailed on both sides of selected windows. However harmless such decorative attempts are, the maintenance in painting will be considerable.

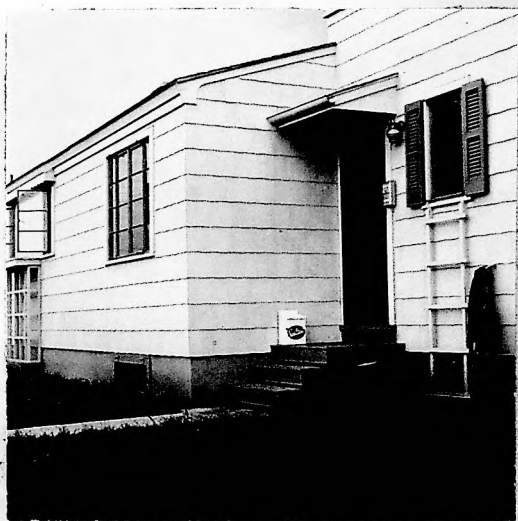
A.H.A. DEFENSE PROJECT
Akron, Ohio

The canopies protecting the doors show very poor craftsmanship in design and execution.



P.B.A. PROJECT
at Jeffersonville, Ind.

The little shutters on both sides of the small windows are nailed to the walls and have no other than a decorative purpose. Trellis arranged below these windows complete the feature. Below some other windows more elaborate trellis work is displayed, leading to a projecting board as support for flower-boxes. These windows are combined with a decorative soffit on top.





USHA DEFENSE PROJECT
at Buffalo, N.Y.

Great care is taken to ornate these houses with features originated in the catering arsenal of suburban speculators. Some houses have brick veneer, some stone veneer for selected portions on the first floor of the façades. Less care is taken to organize a satisfactory grouping of the houses. We see in the picture below, for instance, a row starting with a large gabled six-unit house, followed by a light coloured four-unit house and ending with a small two-unit house.



P.B.A. PROJECT
at Southbend, Ind.

These houses are treated in the same manner as the typical project on page 77. Coal stores are an additional feature combined with a canopy on columns in front of the door.



WESTLAWN HOMES
USHA PROJECT
in Warren, Ohio

The fact that no attempt was made to decorate these houses gives them distinction. Their appearance is clean and straight forward. The ample projection of the flat roofs and the protective corner treatment of the walls will secure a minimum in maintenance expenses.