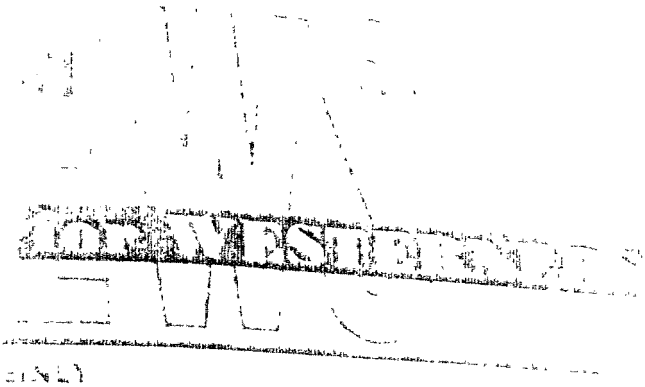
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Crane Co.
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COVER:
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THE RECORD REPORTS 11
News from Washington. By Ernest Mickel 17
News from Canada. By John Caulfield Smith 18
Construction Cost Indexes 38

REQUIRED READING 42

DESIGN FOR TOMORROW 105

FUNCTION AND EXPRESSION IN ARCHITECTURE 106
By Lewis Mumford

THE HENRY AND EDSEL FORD AUDITORIUM 113
Civic Center, Detroit, Michigan. Crane Kiehler & Kellogg, O'Dell, Hewlett & Luckenbach, Architects

PLANT DESIGNED FOR EMPLOYEES' WELFARE 121
Asten-Hill Manufacturing Co., Philadelphia, Pa. The Ballinger Co., Architects and Engineers

SIX EAST AND WEST COAST HOUSES 124
A Presentation Prepared by John Hancock Callender, A.I.A.

ATHERTON, CALIFORNIA 124
Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Appert. Joseph Allen Stein, Architect

OLD GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT 129
Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Walther Prokosch, Walther Prokosch, Architect

APTOS, CALIFORNIA 132
Beach Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Charles O. Martin. Hervey Parke Clark & John Beuttler, Architects

BETHESDA, MARYLAND 135
Residence of Harry N. Hirshberg, Jr. Arthur H. Keyes & Basil Yurchenko, Architects

CROMPOND, NEW YORK 138
Residence of Mrs. Benjamin Halprin. Stanhope Blunt Ficke, Architect

RAYMOND, WASHINGTON 140
Residence of David M. Fisher. Paul Thiry, Architect

BUILDING TYPES STUDY NO. 180 . . . SCHOOLS

WHERE DO SCHOOL DESIGN SPECIALISTS FIT? 144
By Paul W. Seagers, School of Education, Indiana University

TORRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN 148
Swanson Associates, Architects

MILL PLAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, FAIRFIELD, CONN. 151
Lyons & Mather, Architects

PENN VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, LOWER MERION, PA. 155
Karcher & Smith, Architects

WILLAMETTE HIGH SCHOOL, LANE COUNTY, ORE. 160
Wilmsen & Endicott, Architects

SHOP AND BAND BUILDING, GRAINGER HIGH SCHOOL, KINSTON, N. C. 168
John J. Rowland, Architect. James M. Simpson, Associate

ADDITIONS TO SWEENY HIGH SCHOOL, SWEENY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEX. 168
Donald Barthelme & Associates, Architects

CULVER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL, CULVER CITY, CALIF. 171
Daniel, Mann, Johnson & Mendenhall, Architects

ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING
TECHNICAL NEWS AND RESEARCH

MASS PRODUCED WALLS IN NAVY HOUSING 178

STRESS ANALYSIS METHOD FOR CONCRETE SLABS 180

INTERIOR APPLICATIONS OF PLYWOOD 183
By Frederick F. Wangaard, Associate Professor of Forest Products, Yale University

TIME-SAVER STANDARDS 187
Interior Plywood: 1–5. By Frederick F. Wangaard

PRODUCTS . . . For Better Building 189

LITERATURE FOR THE OFFICE 190

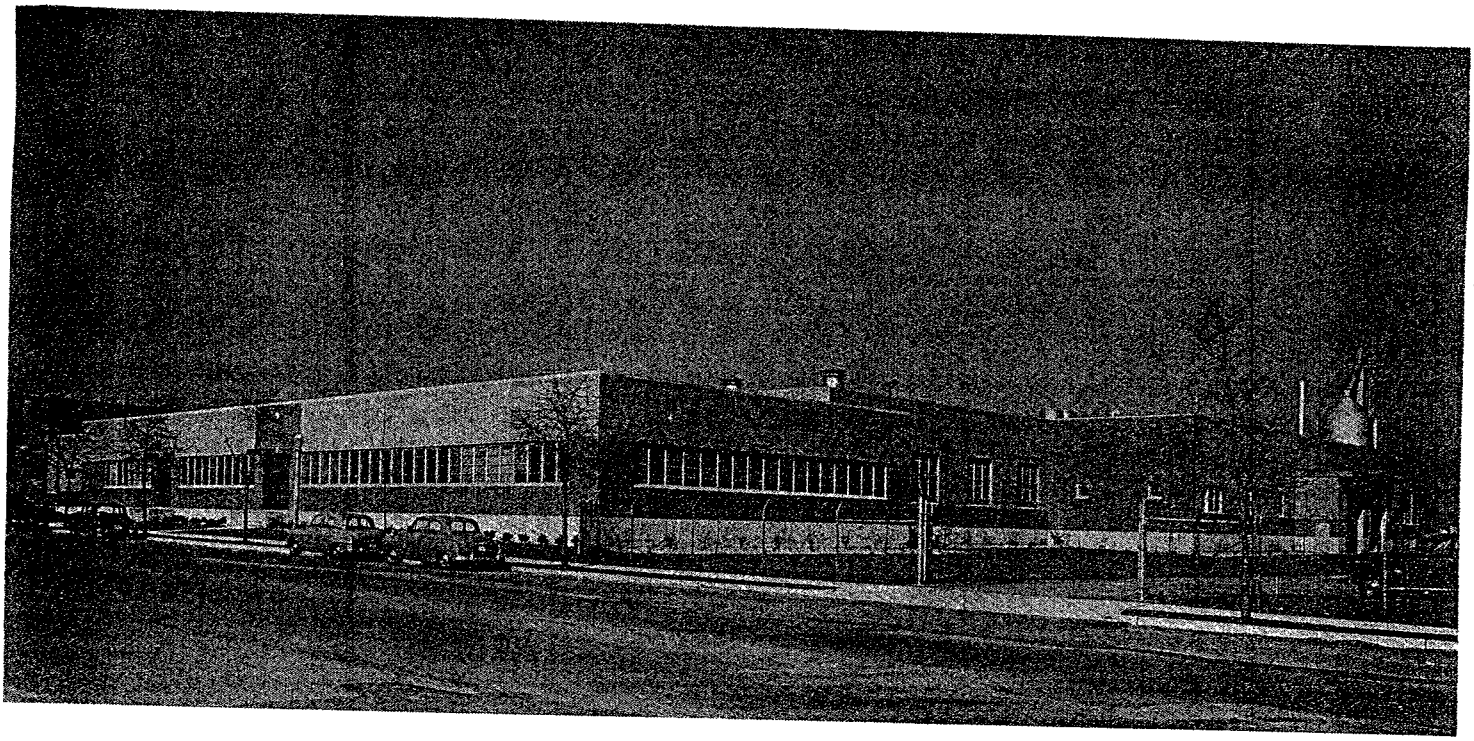
INDEX TO ADVERTISING 6

INDEX TO ADVERTISING

MANUFACTURERS' PRE-FILED CATALOGS
Symbols "a", "b", and "e" indicate that catalogs of firms so marked are available in Sweet's Files as follows:
a—Sweet's File, Architectural, 1951
b—Sweet's File for Builders, 1951
e—Sweet's File, Engineering, 1951

ab Acme Appliance Mfg. Co. 260
abe Adam, Frank Electric Co. 95
a Adams & Westlake Co. 263
Aerofin Corporation 312
Air Devices, Inc. 338
Alan Wood Steel Company 30–272
a Alberene Stone Corporation 74
a Allen, D. W. Manufacturing Co. 314
abe Allied Chemical & Dye Corp. 294
a Alumiline Corporation 342
abe Aluminum Window Manufacturers Assoc. 99
a American Air Filter Co. Inc. 255
ab American Biltrite Rubber Co. 262
American Bleached Shellac Mfgs. Assn. 344
ae American Blower Co. 297
a American Brass Company 83
American Bridge Company 323
American Hardware Corporation 61–92
a American Seating Company 338
abe American Structural Products Co. 253
Amplex Corporation 200
ab Andersen Corporation 265
a Anemostat Corporation of America 7
Arabol Mfg. Co. 346
Architectural Record 286–287
ae Armstrong Company 316
abe Armstrong Cork Company 31–227
a Arrow-Hart & Hegeman Electric Co. 63
Art Metal Company 305
Atlas Plywood Corporation 196
ae Barber-Colman Company 86
abe Barrett Division 294
Bell Electric Company 212
ab Bell & Gossett Company 79
Benjamin Electric Mfg. Co. 235
ae Bethlehem Steel Company 102
abe Bilco Company 336
Blodgett, G. S. Co., Inc. 32
abe Blue Ridge Sales Division 285
Books 284–300–304–342
a Bradley Washfountain Co. 258
a Brasco Manufacturing Co. 326
Brown Company 269
ab Bruce, E. L. Co. 53
a Bryant Electric Company 288
Burnham Corporation 322
ae Burt Mfg. Co. 344
a Byers, A. M. Company 4
ae Carrier Corporation 56
Case, W. A. & Son Mfg. Co. 3rd Cover
Cast Iron Soil Pipe Institute 80
ab Ceco Steel Products Corporation 313
abe Celotex Corporation 335
ae Certain-teed Products Corp. 37–283
a Chase Brass & Copper Co. 88
Chicago Hardware Foundry Co. 322
abe Church, C. F. Mfg. Co. 309
Cipco Corporation 266
Cleveland Hotel 282
Combustion Equipment Division 272
a Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute 273
a Congoleum-Nairn, Inc. 84–85
Connor, W. B. Engineering Corp. 293
a Consolidated Water Power & Paper Co. 225
b Continental Radiant Glass Heating Corp. 310
Corbin, P & F Division 61
C-O-Two Fire Equipment Company 100
b Crane Co. 98
a Curtis Companies Service Bureau 245
a Curtis Lighting Co., Inc. 231
a Cutler Mail Chute Co. 318
Dodge, F. W. Corporation 208–209
a Douglas Fir Plywood Association 65
e Dravo Corporation 349
a Dukane Corp. 345
Du Pont, E. I. de Nemours & Co. 8–9
ae Durisol, Inc. 318
Eagle Pencil Company 51
a Ellison Bronze Co. 254
Employment Opportunities 310
Faber, A. W. Castell Pencil Co., Inc. 276
ae Facing Tile Institute 57
a Fairbanks-Morse 72
Fart Company 274
ae Federal Cement Tile Company 23
Federal Seaboard Terra Cotta Corp. 311
a Fenestra Building Products 198–199
a Fiske, J. W. Iron Works 344
a Fitzgibbons Boiler Company 308
abe Flintkote Company 215
abe Flynn, Michael Manufacturing Co. 292
a Follansbee Steel Corporation 248
a Formica Company 350
abe Frigidaire Division 62
a Garden City Plating & Mfg. Co. 87
General Air Conditioning Corp. 306
General Electric Co., Wiring 10
abe General Motors 62
a General Portland Cement Co. 322
a Geyser, E. K. Co. 191
Globe Automatic Sprinkler Co. 268
Globe-Wernicke 241
Glynn-Johnson Corporation 194
a Granco Steel Products Co. 52
a Granite City Steel Co. 52
a Great Lakes Carbon Corp. 341
abe Great Lakes Steel Corporation 207
ae Grinnell Co., Inc. 47
Guth, Edwin F. Company 75
Haertel, W. J. & Co. 93
a Hardwood Products Corporation 33
a Hart & Hegeman Division 63
a Haws Drinking Faucet Co. 348
ab Heatilator, Inc. 257
ae Hendrick Manufacturing Co. 306
a Hillyard Sales Co. 346
a Hoffman Specialty Co. 213
Holophane Company, Inc. 251
ab Homasote Company 39
a Horn, A. C. Company, Inc. 69
a Horn Brothers Company 270
ab Hunter Fan & Ventilating Co., Inc. 280
abe Ilg Electric Ventilating Co. 27
a Imperial Brass Manufacturing Co. 16
Infra Insulation, Inc. 15
ae Inland Steel Co. 226
ab Insulite Division 217
International Nickel Company, Inc. 54
a Jackson & Church Co. 326
Jenn-Air Products 328
ae Johns-Manville 201
Johnson Service Company 101
ae Josam Manufacturing Co. 279
ae Kalman Floor Company 308
Kaufmann & Fabry Co. 320
a Kayline Co. 274
abe Kaylo Division 302
Kennard Corporation 256
a Kennecott Copper Corp. 88
ab Kentile, Inc. 223
ab Kewanee Boiler Corporation 94
Kewaunee Mfg. Co. 214
Keystone Steel & Wire Company 203
Kinetic Chemicals Divisions 8–9
Kohler Co. 328
ae Koppers Company, Inc. 219
ab Kwikset Sales & Service Company 2nd Cover
a LCN Closers, Inc. 271
ab Lawson, F. H. Co. 336
Lees, James & Sons Company 331
abe Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Co. 285–321
a Litecontrol Corporation 60
Lone Star Cement Company 334
a Lorio Iron Works 318
ab Louisville Cement Company 55
ab Ludman Corporation 2–3
a Ludowici-Celadon Company 246
ae Macomber, Incorporated 78
ae Mahon, R. C. Company 43
a Marble Institute of America 325
a Marlo Coil Company 238
a Mastic Tile Corporation of America 1
McKenna, Jay G., Inc. 326
McQuay, Inc. 221
a Medart, Fred Products, Inc. 67
ab Mengel Company 73
a Mercoid Corporation 320
a Metal Products Corporation 334
Midget-Louver, Inc. 314
ae Mills Company 81–249
a Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co. 28–29
ab Minnesota & Ontario Paper Co. 217
ab Miracle Adhesives Corp. 252
ae Mississippi Glass Company 58
ae Modine Manufacturing Co. 303
Monroe Company 312
ae Moore, P. O. Inc. 332
ab Mosaic Tile Company 34–35
ae National Electric Products Corp. 334
a National Gypsum Company 275
National Plastic Products Company 71
National Radiator Company 324
abe National Steel Corporation 207
a Natural Slate Blackboard Co. 345
e Nelson, Herman Division 255
a Neo-Ray Products, Inc. 329
ae Nesbitt, John J., Inc. 24–25
a New Castle Products 46
Norcor Manufacturing Co. 308
ae Norton Company 284
Nova Sales Co. 39
Ohio Hydrate & Supply Co. 278
a Otis Elevator Company 192
a Overly Manufacturing Co. 76
abe Owens-Corning Fiberglas 281
abe Owens-Illinois Glass Co. 253–302
ab Paine Lumber Co., Ltd. 307
a Parkay, Inc. (Wood-Mosaic) 216
ae Peelle Company 70
a Penberthy Injector Co. 330
Pennsylvania Wire Glass Company 237
Philippine Mahogany Association, Inc. 50
ab Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company 36–299
a Pittsburgh Reflector Company 261
a Portland Cement Association 296
ae Potter Fire Escape Co. 22
Powers Regulator Co. 19
Preferred Utilities Manufacturing Corp. 342
ab Pryne & Co., Inc. 333
a R.C.A. Rubber Co. 259
RLM Standards Institute, Inc. 330
Radio Corporation of America 242
Refinite Water Refining Equipment 280
a Republic Steel Corporation 64
abe Revere Copper & Brass, Inc. 66
abe Reynolds Metals Company 229–267–339
ae Richards-Wilcox Mfg. Co. 218
Richmond Radiator Company 229
a Rilco Laminated Products, Inc. 264
a Rixson, Oscar C. Company 244
Roberson, L. N. Co. 316
ae Robertson, H. H. Co. 291
ab Roddis Plywood Corporation 90
ae Rohm & Haas Company 239
ab Rolscreen Company 224
a Rotary Lift Co. 204–205
a Rowles, E. W. A. Co. 343
ae Ruberoid Co. 104
Russell & Erwin Division 92
ab Russell, F. C. Company 48–49
a Sanymetal Products Co., Inc. 247
a Sarco Company, Inc. 243
a Sarcotherm Controls, Inc. 343
a Schieber Manufacturing Co. 324
a Schlage Lock Company 233
Scientific Apparatus Makers Assoc. 347
a Seaporcel Metals, Inc. 240
Sherer-Gillett Company 312
a Simpson Logging Company 77
Sjostrom, John E. Company 314
ae Sloan Valve Company 4th Cover
Smith, Alexander & C. H. Masland 59
a Smith, H. B. Co., Inc. 278
ab Standard Dry Wall Products 317
a Standard Electric Time Co. 232
ae Stanley Works 202
ae Stark Ceramics, Inc. 211
Statement of Ownership 340
Sterling Hardware Mfg. Co. 316–347
abe Strand Steel Division 207
Structural Clay Products Institute 91
a Structural Slate Co. 345
Struthers-Wells 210
Summerbell Roof Structures 328
ab Surface Combustion Corp. 319
Sweets Catalog Service 208–209
Swivelier Company Inc. 26
ae Sylvania Electric Products, Inc. 337
ae Taylor, Halsey W. Co. 338
ab Thrush, H. A. & Company 298
Timber Engineering Company 222
a Titus Manufacturing Corp. 330
Titusville Iron Works Co. 210
Todd Shipyards Corp. 272
abe Trane Company 290
a Tremco Mfg. Co. 306
a Trinity Division 322
Truck Mixer Manufacturers Bureau 234
ae Trumbull (T) Electric—Department of General Electric 315
abe Truscon Steel Company 64
a Tuttle & Bailey, Inc. 97
Unistrut Products Company 89
United Refrigerator Company 276
ab United States Plywood Corp. 228
a United States Quarry Tile Co. 236
ae United States Steel Corp. Subsidiaries 206–323
a Universal Atlas Cement Company 206
a Universal Bleacher Company 340
b Universal-Rundle Corporation 68
a Upco Co. 324
Van-Packer Corporation 250
ae Viking Corporation 336
Vilter Refrigeration & Air Conditioning 332
ae Wakefield, F. W. Brass Company 327
a Waylite Co. 230
a Wayne Iron Works 332
ae Webster, Warren & Co. 282
a Weil Pump Co. 347
West Coast Lumbermens Association 289
West Dodd Lightning Conductor 346
Western Pine Association 348
Westinghouse Electric Corp.—Electric appliances 20–21
Westinghouse Electric Corp.—Lighting Division 103
b Westinghouse Electric Corp.—Better Homes Bureau 295
Westinghouse Electric Corp.—Refrig. Specialties Dept. 301
Weyerhaeuser Sales Company 44–45
ae Wheeling Corrugating Company 40–41
Will-Burt Company 348
ae Wing, L. J. Mfg. Co. 320
a Wood Conversion Company 96
Wood Window Program 82
a Wright Manufacturing Co. 220
Wurlitzer, Rudolph Co. 310
a Young Radiator Company 277

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PLANT DESIGNED FOR EMPLOYEES' WELFARE

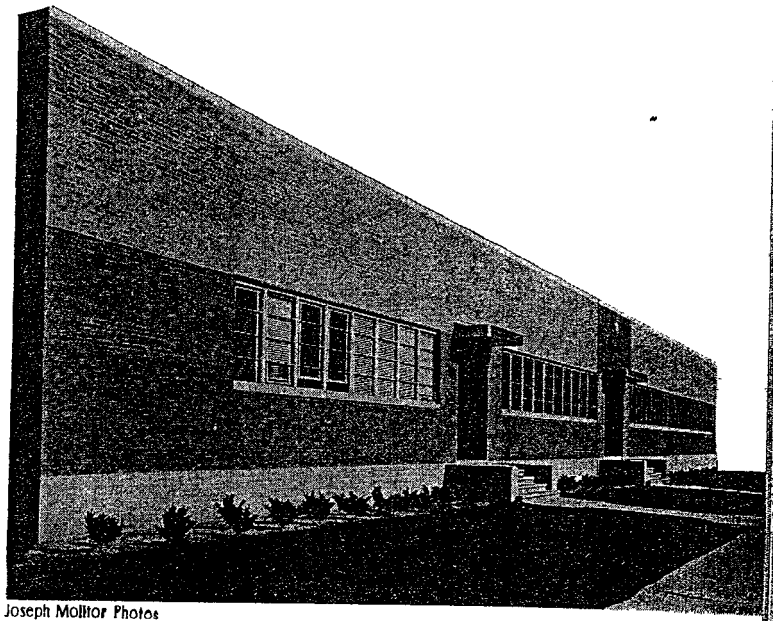
Asten-Hill Manufacturing Co.

Philadelphia, Penn.

The Ballinger Co., Architects and Engineers

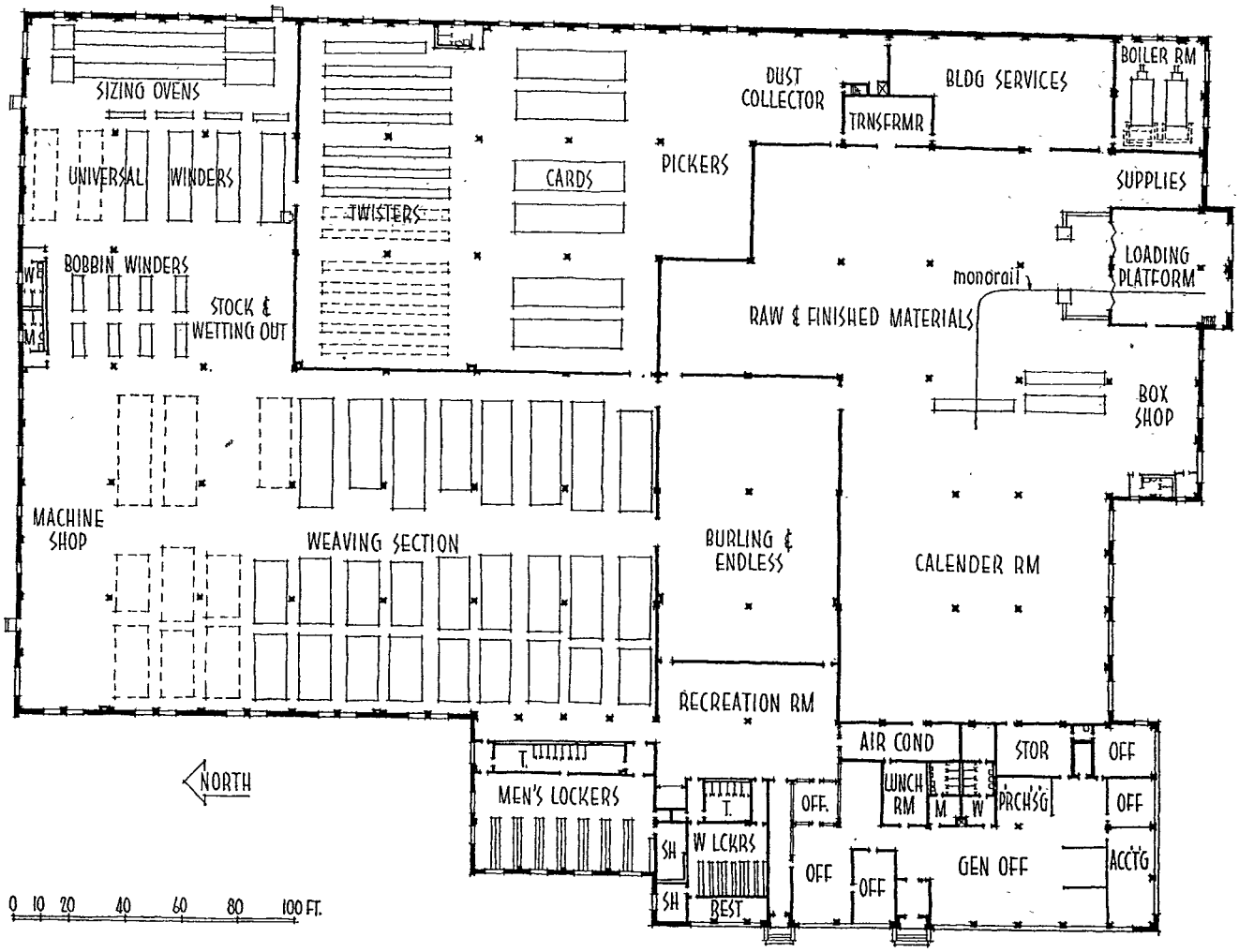
APART FROM THE USUAL CONSIDERATIONS for efficient processing layouts, the designers of this asbestos dryer felt plant were faced with a major problem of controlling asbestos dust. Uncontrolled, the dust accumulates on all projections and rough surfaces in process areas, and presents a silicosis-like health hazard to employees. Dependable control of temperature and humidity is also vital in manufacturing the felts. The goal of the owners was to construct a plant which would combine production efficiency and product control with pleasant and healthy working conditions.

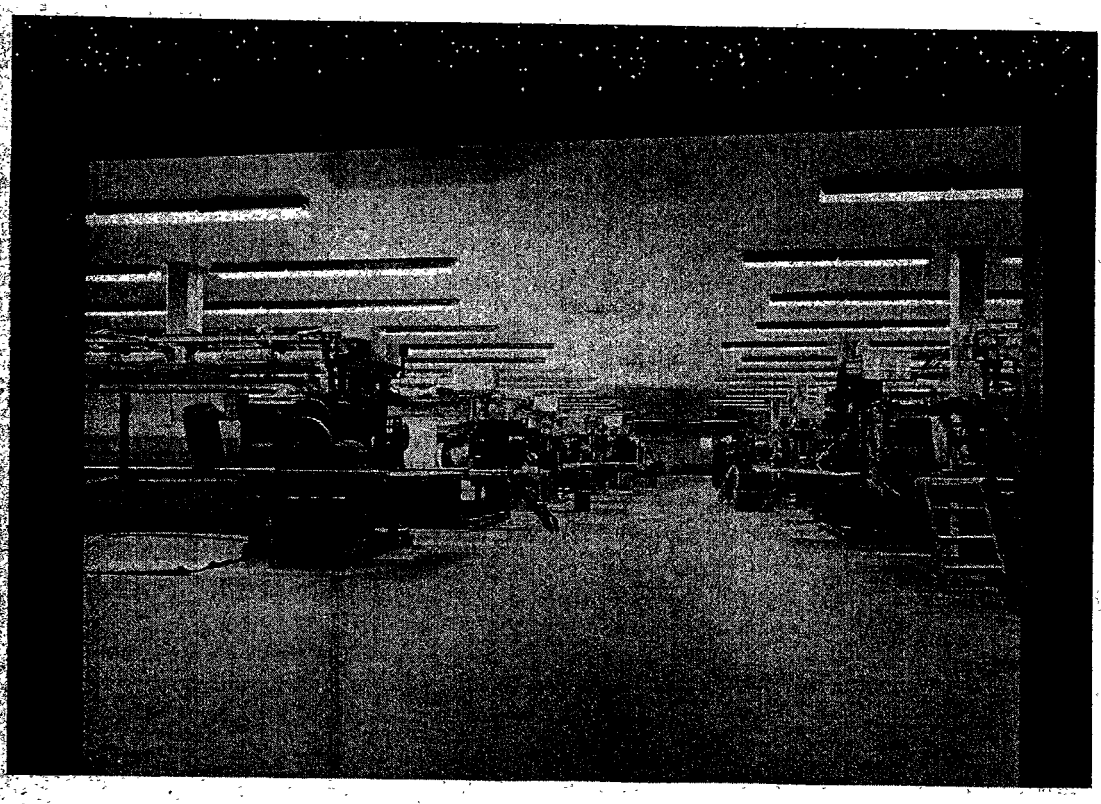
The resulting design succeeds in providing good solutions to these problems within a neat, attractive structure. Especial attention was given to the employees' welfare, even to selection of a site near the workers' homes, although it was known that the deeply filled ground would require pilings. Other provisions include a parking area, pleasant locker, shower and toilet rooms, good lighting, and a general purpose room for lunch and recreation. Asbestos dust is removed from segregated process areas by a carefully planned system of hoods, ducts and fans, together with tunnels under the floor. The dust is then conveyed to electro-static filters and to a cyclone tower where it is salvaged for other use. A portion of the air is reconditioned for recirculation. Separate comfort air conditioning is provided in the office areas.



Joseph Molitor Photos

The one story plant is surfaced with bands of light and dark brick, limestone trim, polychrome terracotta at main door. Flat roof employs special regulated drainage discharge system





Provision of clean, comfortable working areas has considerably improved employees' morale, with resultant increased efficiency. The well-lighted, air conditioned weaving section (left) is typical of these areas. The steel frame structure is designed around a continuous materials flow line, passing successively through the blending, carding, twisting, spooling, spinning, weaving and calendering departments. Expansion space for additional equipment (dotted lines on plan) is provided in each section. Glazed tile walls and hung plaster ceilings in these areas help minimize dust problem. Ceilings are left exposed in such other rooms as the raw and finished materials section (top right). Offices (bottom right) have plaster walls, acoustic ceilings, asphalt tile floors

