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THE MAGAZINE OF LATHING AND PLASTERING ISSUE 1 • 1965

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SHOWPLACE FOR PLASTER
... PAGE 2

RED TOPICS MAGAZINE

treating subjects
vital to lathing and plastering

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ON THE COVER: A symphony of music and architecture surrounds patrons of Montreal's Place des Arts. "Floating" boxes are shaped on metal lath and plaster. Circular balcony railings are reinforced pre-cast plaster. Auditorium cloud ceiling (below) is composed of 76 interconnected units, each weighing 800 lbs., pre-cast with RED TOP moulding plaster. They conceal air conditioning equipment, loud speakers and catwalks for stage lighting

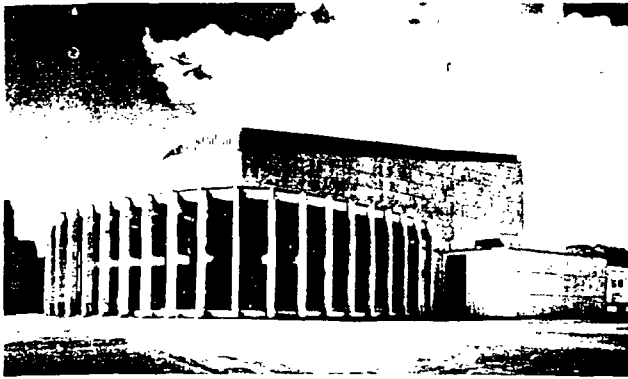


PLASTER PERFORMS A WORK OF ART IN THE

Place des Arts



BB011 0436



Plastering contractors: ST. LAWRENCE PLASTERING LTD.
General contractor: QUEMONT DURANCEAU
Architects: AFFLECK, DESBARATS, DIMAKOPOULOS
LEBENSOLD & SISE

LA GRANDE SALLE, first of a multi-unit center for performing arts, has a semicircular colonnaded facade of full-length glass at the front and decorated aluminum screen at sides. It will dominate the vast plaza, still to be completed.



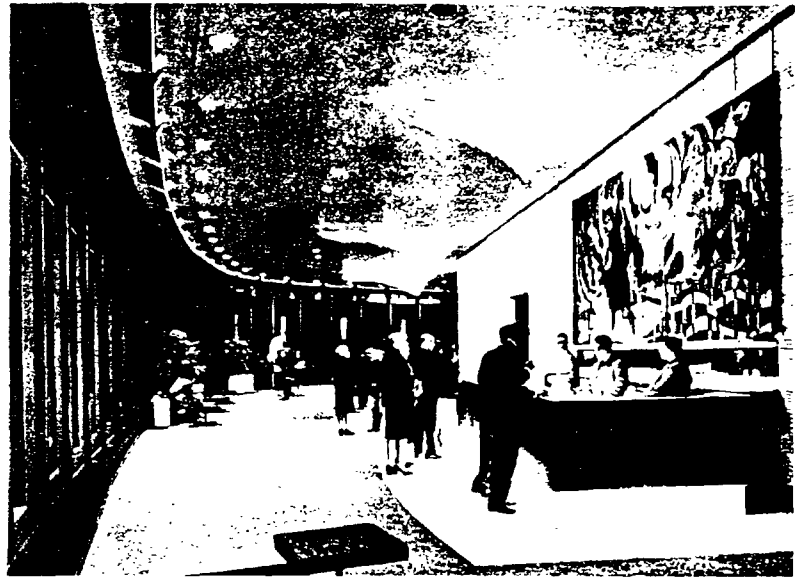
MUSIC LOVERS enjoy intermissions in several attractive lounges which display art treasures. AUDICOTE covers all lobby ceilings. Ventilation diffusers are individually encased in job-applied plaster frame (top photo).

Unusual architectural forms, functional and decorative, distinguish Montreal's new Place des Arts music hall, La Grande Salle. Extensive use of United States Gypsum's plaster systems helped to shape the design ideas.

Plaster forms the proper surfaces for the all-important acoustical effects in the auditorium. Decorative ceilings and walls in lounges are also rendered in plaster. Air conditioning diffusers in foyers have plaster frames. Each light fixture on the front of the box seats is recessed in a cove of metal lath, RED TOP plaster and IVORY lime putty coat, job-applied. Balcony railing fronts are all plaster.

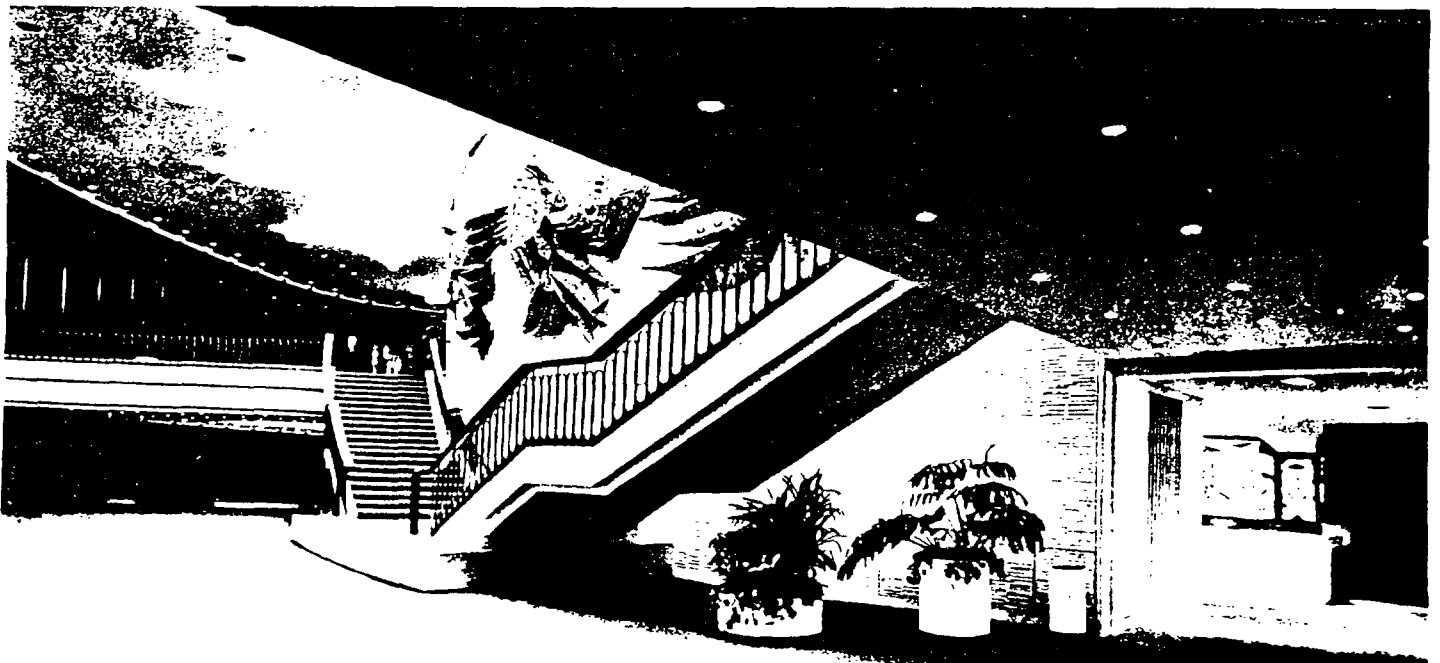
Rich-colored vinyl covered wall surfaces in the 3,000-seat hall are RED TOP hardwall plaster backed by ROCKLATH plaster base on TR-1 resilient clips attached to TRUSSTEEL studs. The suspended acoustical ceiling is a "cloud" pattern of precast plaster forms with large apertures. Each cloud weighed 800-lbs. wet. Openings permit sound to "escape" to areas between the real ceiling and the clouds, which are hung with 1/4-in. pencil rods. Ceilings in foyer, rehearsal room and lounges are coated with AUDICOTE acoustical plaster to contribute a quiet, relaxed atmosphere.

Some 33,000 man-hours were required for plaster in the Place des Arts. A very tight time schedule played in favor of plaster—work began in early April



and was completed the end of May. Since the music hall opened last September, patrons have enjoyed many works of art. But the first work of art was rendered in plaster.

PIANO NOBILE—largest and finest of several lobbys—serves as a meeting place during formal functions. AUDICOTE acoustical plaster on ceiling contributes to quiet, relaxed atmosphere.



Lath & Plaster Briefs

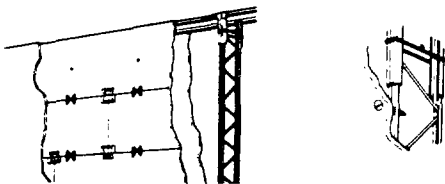
IMPROVED! You may not believe it possible but AUDICOTE acoustical plaster is now even better-- mixes better, trowels better, has better bonding strength -- and more resistance to mold development. Remember, too, AUDICOTE has outstanding sound absorption, beautiful appearance, variety of finishes, an incombustible surface, can be machine applied -- and is economical.

NOW AVAILABLE: U.S.G. has developed a small-nose cornerbead, with a 2-in. expanded flange (photo), for use with ROCKLATH plaster base. USG 4-R cornerbead promotes a better job. Expanded flange creates more plaster keys than the solid-punch type, greatly reduces probability of cracking. Available in lengths of 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 ft.



TIME IS MONEY! And new air-entraining MORTASEAL lime saves you time -- it takes just 15 min. from bag to board. Cuts costs. Resists suction, even from bone-dry concrete products. Mechanics have plenty of time to strike joints. Bonds better, too! Cuts loss from droppings. Stickier mortar is less likely to drop from tools and masonry units. MORTASEAL is double-hydrated lime, designed to be mixed with Portland cement, sand and water. Air goes completely through the mix and takes water with it.

HELPFUL HINT: When new style TRUSSTEEL regular runner track is used at partition top, use Trus-Lok drive-in starter clip to anchor top course of ROCKLATH plaster base. However, if top runner track is attached to suspended or furred framing (drawing), top course may be held by driving 1-in., 12 ga. flat head "A" point tapping screw through the lath between web wires and below stud shoes.



TESTS SHOW sprayed-on RED TOP plaster bond has a bond strength greater than 150 psi on concrete and plaster walls. R. W. Hunt Testing Laboratories states, "RED TOP plaster bond is non-toxic, resists acids and apparently is not affected by alkalies in concrete and plaster mixes." Test temperatures ranged from -35° to 275° F. without bond failure.

For complete information on any of these briefs, see your U.S.G. salesman, or write:
Editor, RED TOPICS
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An Old Master Looks At Acoustical Plastering

40-YEAR VETERAN SPEAKS ON MATERIALS AND METHODS

Forty years of plastering is a long time, and to succeed over four decades a man must be adaptable and sensitive to change. Such a man is H. D. Wagner, president of Herman Wagner, Inc., Harrisburg, Pa. He started many years ago as a lather and is now best known for hand-applied acoustical plastering. His knowledge of this industry would fill several volumes, but as an example here's his five-step method for time and cost-saving application of HI-LITE acoustical plaster, his particular specialty:

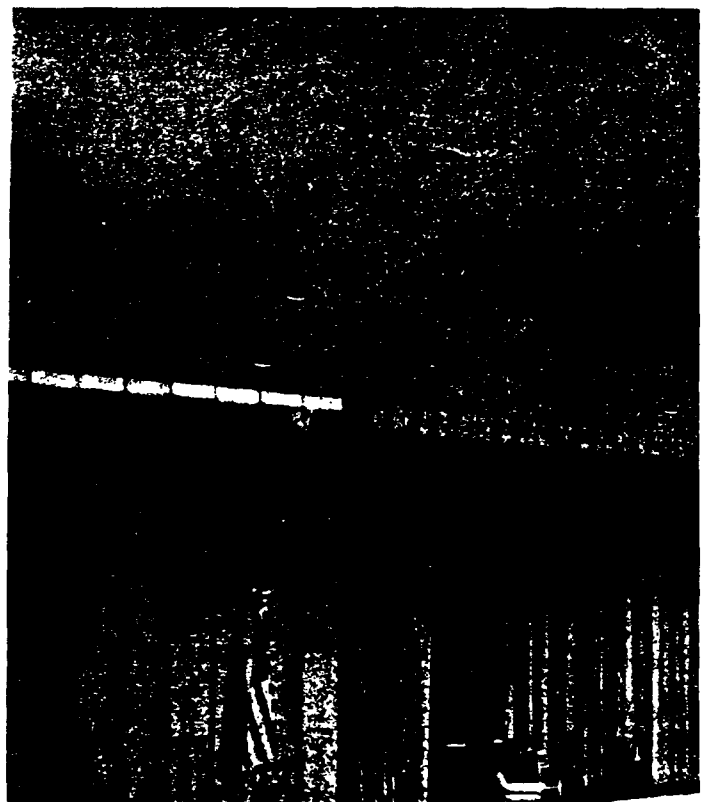
1. Make sure the total thickness of plaster from lath to surface is a full inch. This includes area around fixtures.

2. Apply a 1/4-in. scratch coat of sand and gypsum plasters. Imbed it well into the lath and scratch within 1/2 hr. of application. Do not leave any laps, bumps or holes in this coat. An even scratch coat is your goal.

3. The following day, apply 1/4-in. brown coat of perlite and gypsum. Trowel to form a good bond. Darby to an even coat and scratch again.

4. Follow the still damp raked brown coat with a 1/4-in. application of HI-LITE. Follow this as soon as possible with a second 1/4-in. application of HI-LITE. The darby man should follow the second coat as soon as possible.

5. After sheen or water leaves, start the stipple process (usually 1 hr. after application). Perforate the





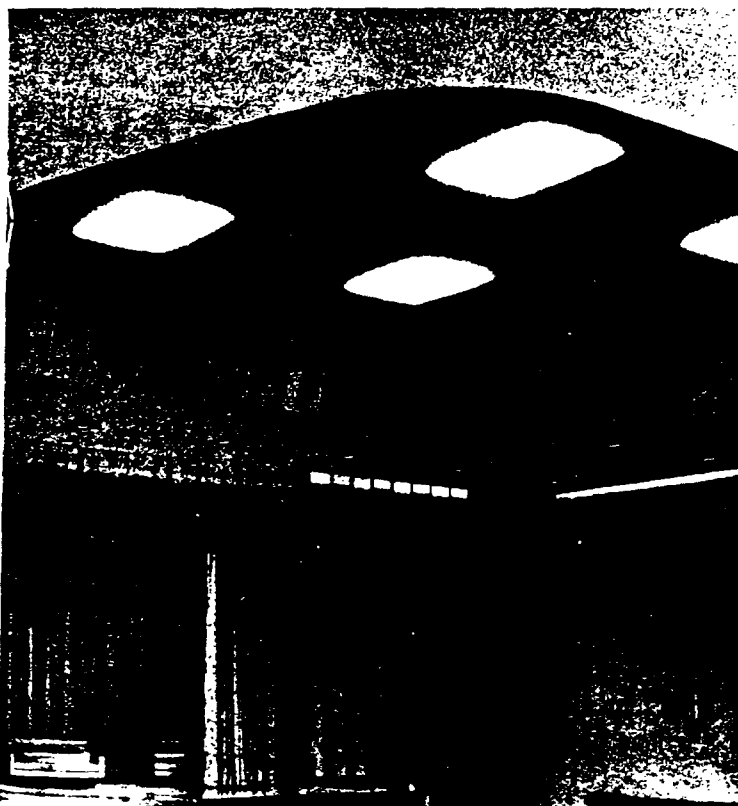
OLD MASTER at plastering, H. D. Wagner predicts architects will come back to plaster if "you have pride in your work and do a quality job."

next day and follow with "highlighting" (light application of pressure with a clean trowel). This removes all loose particles from stippling and gives a travertine effect. An alternate method, recommended in the industry, is to highlight after stippling, then perforate the next day.

"Our method has proved very successful, especially in school rooms. We benefit from the plastic quality of HI-LITE acoustical plaster. It also minimizes scaffold moves and saves us at least a day on each move," Wagner says.

Wagner's methods and reputation have led him to a secondary vocation—consulting. "Because our results with HI-LITE have been so successful, we have been called as a consultant on other acoustical jobs. Acoustical plastering has been the most profitable area of our business. We have convinced several architects to specify acoustical plaster rather than alternate products for sound control, fire resistance and appearance at a competitive price."

BEAUTY AND SOUND control enhance value of 600-seat auditorium in I.G.W. Feaser Junior High School, Middletown, Pa. HI-LITE acoustical plaster provided cost-saving answer to school's particular needs.



Plaster Problems

PROBLEM:

"Weak" Specifications for Lathing and Plastering

SOLUTION: Specifications and details provide your guide to estimating a given job and subsequently performing lath and plaster work. To be a successful bidder, you must figure in accordance with the requirements set forth in these specifications and details. However, when these specifications are "weak" and fail to cover proper lathing and plastering practices, a poor job frequently results. When this happens, it discourages future use of lath and plaster by that architect or owner. This, of course, hurts the industry as a whole.

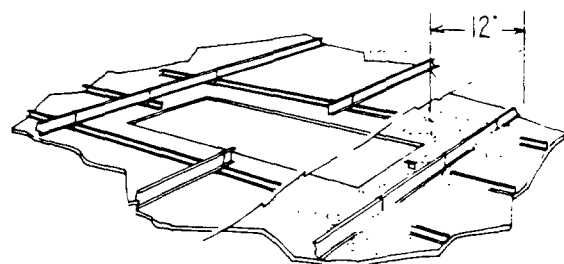
You must bid the job according to the guide lines established by the architect, even if incorrect, for this is the only way you can bid successfully. However, make it your responsibility to point out how the lathing and/or plastering should be performed and to quote the amount to do any extra work involved. It will pay dividends—more jobs of which the industry can be proud, fewer complaints and disappointed customers.

PROBLEM:

Cracks Around Openings in Suspended Plaster Ceilings

SOLUTION: Suspended ceilings with large openings for recessed light fixtures or outlets are more difficult to fur and lath than plain ceilings because of the numerous interruptions of channels and lath. When finished plaster cracks off the corners of such openings, it is particularly discouraging to the lathing and plastering contractor because he has already spent extra time on this ceiling. It also irritates the architect and the owner.

Openings in plaster assemblies build up stresses in the plaster at the corners. Cracking occurs if the plaster slab is not strong enough to resist these stresses. To minimize or eliminate such cracking, back plaster around the opening, particularly at corners. After the scratch coat has been applied, spray a strong plaster mix, such as 100 lbs. of plaster to 1 cu. ft. of sand, on the back of the lath, embedding the channels. Allow this coat to set before browning out the ceiling. This back plaster adds strength to the plaster slab around the opening and will materially help to resist cracking.



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Quality Walls In Half The Time

HISTORICAL FILE
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 Received APR 6 1965
 DO NOT DESTROY

Circle B is a fast-moving firm of young plastering contractors in Indianapolis, Ind. Their first big job with the so-called thin-coat plasters came with Greenview Manor Nursing Home in downtown Indianapolis. Up until that time they had used a competitive brand on smaller jobs. A test wall, installed in short order, proved both the superior workability and fine finished appearance of IMPERIAL plaster, hand trowel application. On the basis of the test, Circle B chose IMPERIAL for the job. Along with the IMPERIAL, they used hot-dipped L-P studs.

The Circle B team—Hollen Pruitt, Bob Capito and Bruce Morford—were quick to point out some advantages from the contractor's point of view: "We're doing the same job as with a two-coat system, and in half the time. An alternate figuring indicated savings of about \$12,000 over conventional plaster systems on the three-story, 77-unit nursing home."

Circle B, five years in business, spotted other areas that meant savings for the owners. For example, they eliminated a potential trouble spot—cracking around door frames due to heavy doors. First, columns were moved $\frac{5}{8}$ in. to permit a monolithic facing. And door frames were grouted from the top after they were installed. Further, in the hallways, the 2-hr. fire-rated double layer IMPERIAL base system was aligned to cover sides of the concrete beams.

The men from Circle B found some cost-saving techniques in using IMPERIAL plasters that meant money in their pockets. Mixing in plastic garbage cans, with a new type paddle recommended by U.S.G., cut waste to a minimum and speeded their operations. You read about that in the last issue of RED TOPICS.

U.S.G. invites you to test for yourself the superior qualities of IMPERIAL plasters, just as did the men from Circle B.



COST-CUTTING TECHNIQUES on nursing home job are discussed by Circle B co-owners Bob Capito and Hollen Pruitt.

TROUBLE SPOT around doorbuds (lower left) was spotted by Lathing Foreman Don Miller and eliminated at suggestion of alert plastering contractors. Story above tells how.

SUPERIOR WORKABILITY of IMPERIAL plaster (below) gets the word of any plasterer who has used it. Best by test—ask Circle B.



BB011 0440

A SCAFFOLD ROUTE TO PROFITS



J. S. PRUNIER & SONS' first office, circa 1928. Co-founder Henry, Sr., was recently nominated for "Who's Who."

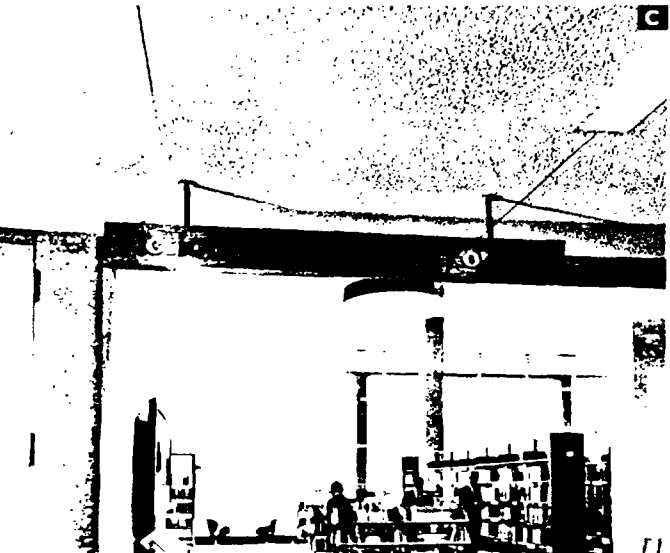
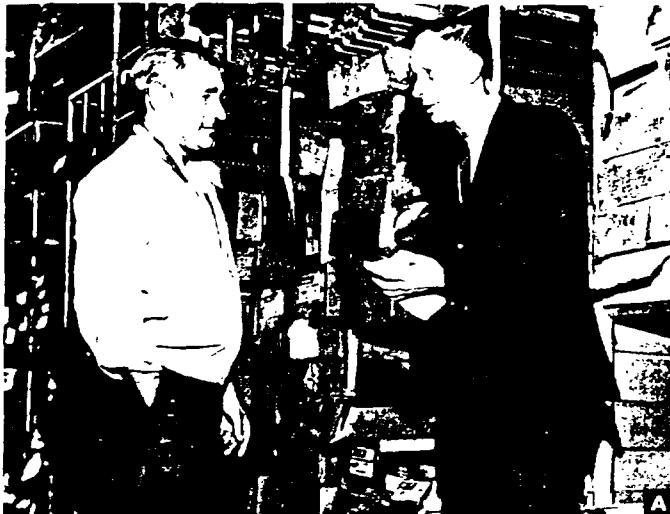
The road to lower operational expenses is a hard one these days. Henry Prunier, Sr., president of J.S. Prunier & Sons, Worcester, Mass., chose the scaffold route as one way to combat rising costs. The firm celebrated 50 years in the plastering business in 1964. In those 50 years of progress the family-owned company has learned how to compete and still retain the quality clients demand. To Prunier, the scaffold route means a warehouse full of tubular scaffolding—over 1,200 frames and 1,400 jacks plus accessories—representing an investment of more than \$100,000.

But owning that amount of scaffolding adds up to much extra business for the Prunier firm. It gives them a competitive advantage on price and the opportunity to help the general contractor at the same time. Conversely, they aren't at the mercy of a general contractor who has his own scaffolding. Then, too, the very fact that Prunier has the equipment has brought in a number of specialty jobs that others won't do. Refurbishing of masonry on a downtown monument was one of the more unusual.

Prunier provides non-competing contractors (masonry, painters, generals) with a rental erection service, at reasonable rates, to keep the equipment in use and provide some income for its upkeep.

Prunier, one of the pioneers in gypsum plaster, betters his competitive position in another way. He works closely with local architects on the design of jobs to take advantage of weight factors. By so doing he keeps the architect plaster conscious. Even though he doesn't sell all the jobs, he recently sold a \$100,000 plaster job against masonry. Commercial work, the backbone of his business, plus a fair volume of repair work he does as a service, pushed Prunier's 1964 volume over the million dollar mark. Recent commercial jobs included Holy Cross College, Worcester, the Worcester Public Library, a novitiate in Marlboro, a six-story intern residence and the largest FIRECODE plaster job in Fairlawn.

That's Prunier's scaffold route to more profits.



A. FULL LINE of accessories, completely catalogued, gives Prunier as large a stock as any contractor in New England. In-stock items cut costs. Henry Prunier, Jr. (top, right) checks stock with Omer Prunier, lathing contractor.

B. DRIVE-THROUGH warehouse, with equipment and supplies at truck-bed height, expedites loading of scaffolds, jacks, ladders and plaster.

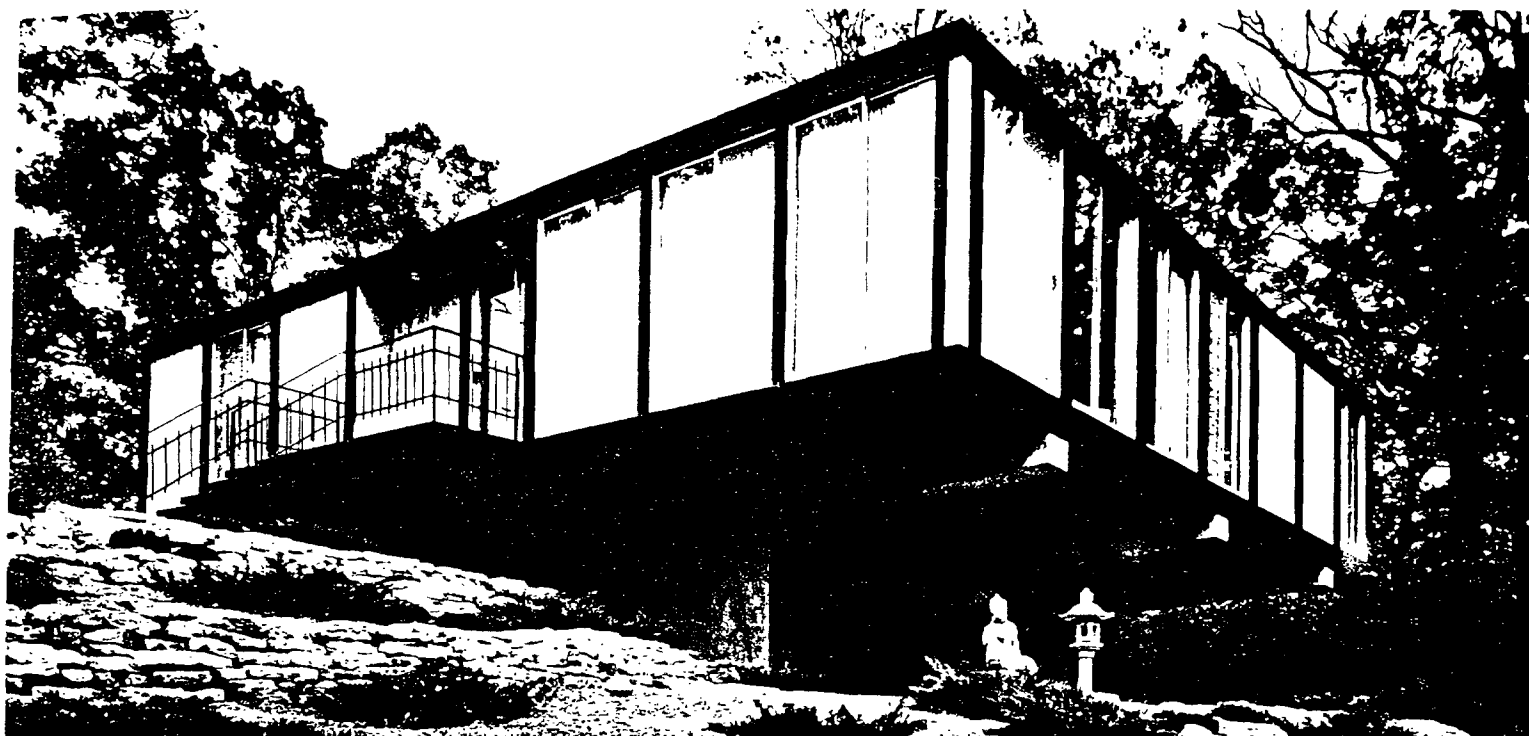
C. BEAUTIFUL HI-LITE acoustical plaster job in Worcester Public Library was one of many commercial jobs that pushed Prunier volume to new heights in 1964

HISTORICAL FILE

Trade-Mark Protection

Received *APR 6 1965*

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