## "From over-sweet cake to wholemeal bread": the *Home & Building* years: New Zealand Architecture in the 1940s Christine McCarthy

In 1940, when Helen Gosset, writing for the *New Zealand Home & Building*, asked her readers to "[a]nalyze for a moment the intricate exterior design which meets one's eye from the streets of a modern city," she gave a vivid account of urban life of that decade:

A complexity of motor wheels, iron girders, tall window - dotted buildings, flashing electric signs, vivid shop windows, traffic signals, and as a back drop for all this, the bustle of modern industry. These things make up the lives of moderns. Is it any wonder that they find a certain comfort in straight lines and the absence of ornament?<sup>1</sup>

In emphasising the time's comfort "in straight lines and the absence of ornament," she anticipated Vernon Brown's vivid disgust for over-sweet architectural cakes, and his desire for a wholemeal bread building.<sup>2</sup> These tensions (between over-sweet cake and wholemeal bread architectures) would be evident throughout the decade, with the continuance of traditional colonial images of houses, such as Chilwell and Trevithick's

Glendowie, <sup>13</sup> TR Gray house, Sanders Avenue, Takapuna, <sup>14</sup> TM Hawes House, Parnell, <sup>15</sup> and Brown & Simpson's DM Robinson House, Glendowie, <sup>16</sup> Coutts Chemists, Whangarei, <sup>17</sup> Auckland Glass Co Ltd, <sup>18</sup> and Pascoe's Plunket Rooms at New Brighton, <sup>19</sup> "Enfield" Homestead Methven, Canterbury, <sup>20</sup> the Edith Barrett House, <sup>21</sup> the GH Buchanan House ("White House"), <sup>22</sup> the Steeds Memorial Hut, Arthur's Pass, <sup>23</sup> the MM Cunningham House, <sup>24</sup> Canteen for Andersons

Longbeach,3 Homestead, WSR Grigg Bloomfield's LW Rainger House in Bassett Rd,4 and C Irwin Crookes' AK Voyce house,5 contrasting with the work of modernist architects such as Vernon Brown (1905-65) and Paul Pascoe. Brown (who taught at the Auckland School of Architecture from 1942 until 1965),6 and Pascoe, were perhaps the most published architects of the decade. Articles were published on Brown's Stilson's Coffee Inn on High St, Auckland,7 his own house,8 the Max Robertson House, Takapuna,9 the Mrs George Sinclair House, Takapuna, 10 the Nevill Wright House, Takapuna,11 the AJ Lemon's house, 12 the WS Robertson house,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "A Country House in Wooded Grounds" pp 10-11; for another example see "Modern Colonial" p 29.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> "Colonial Style always popular" p 15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> "In the Colonial Tradition" pp 19-22.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Shaw New Zealand Architecture p 144.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> "Stilson's Coffee Inn [High St, Auckland]" p 24.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> "An Architect"s Home in Victoria Avenue, Remuera" pp 13,15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> "Seaside House at Takapuna" p 37.

 $<sup>^{10}</sup>$  "Economical planning illustrated in a small house at Takapuna" pp 10-11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> "A House at Takapuna" p 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> "Planning for a Difficult Site" pp 11-12.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 13}$  "New Home at Glendowie for Mr. W.S. Robertson" pp 12-13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> "Cement Board on a Timber Frame" pp 26-27.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> "Space in a Small House" pp 22-23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> "Sunlight and Shadow on an Auckland Home" pp 12-13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> "An Interesting Combination – Pharmacy & Book Shop" pp 20-21.

 $<sup>^{18}</sup>$  "The Building Helps to Display the Product" pp 28-29; Shaw  $\it New Zeal and Architecture$  p 144.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> "Centennial Memorial Plunket Rooms at New Brighton" p 21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> ""Enfield" Homestead Methven, Canterbury" pp 6-7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> "A Pair of Christchurch Houses" pp 10-11.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 22}$  "A Pair of Christchurch Houses" pp 10-11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> "Steeds Memorial Hut: Arthur's Pass, Canterbury" pp 14-15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> "All withing 829sq.ft.: an interesting example of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Gosset "This brave new modern" p 25.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Shaw New Zealand Architecture p 144.

Ltd, Christchurch,<sup>25</sup> and Pascoe & Hall's W Chapman House, Clyde Road, Christchurch,<sup>26</sup> Kaikoura Council Offices,<sup>27</sup> Humphrey Hall House, Christchurch,<sup>28</sup> "A Verandah House,"<sup>29</sup> the Neal Buchanan House,<sup>30</sup> the BW Roberts House,<sup>31</sup> the Peter Pelz House,<sup>32</sup> the Valmai Fleming House, Christchurch,<sup>33</sup> the Risingholme Community Centre<sup>34</sup> the J Holt, House, Dunedin,<sup>35</sup> the Paul Pascoe House,<sup>36</sup> and the John Pascoe House,<sup>37</sup>

Conjunctions of old and new images were a point at which the decade began, with 1940 being New Zealand's Centennial year, 100 years after the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. New Zealand's Centennial produced significant architectural output, most notably

compact planning" p 15.

Edmund Anscombe's Centennial Exhibition in Rongotai, Wellington, and numerous centenary buildings dotted around the country, including: Horace Massev's Wellington Provincial Memorial and Bathing Pavilion;<sup>38</sup> Pascoe's Centennial Memorial Plunket Rooms at New Brighton, 39 WH Jaine's Centennial Plunket & Rest Room at Ngāruawāhia,40 Llew Piper's Memorial Plunket Rooms at Mt Eden,41 and Edward H Smith's Southland County Memorial Offices, Invercargill, 42 as architecture from the smaller centres increasingly featured in Home & Building. The new buildings of Whangarei, in particular, were well represented, with articles published throughout the decade on AP Morgan's JW Court's Ltd store,43 CB Watkin's Whangarei House, 44 Brown & Simpson's Coutts the Chemist,45 and Finch & Corne's Hawthorne Glass Co Ltd factory.<sup>46</sup>

Shaw notes, the centenary also "resulted in a belated official interest in Māori buildings. As a result a number of historically important structures were restored and some new ones built."47 He refers to the restorations of the Banks Peninsula Māori church, The Kaik,  $(1878),^{48}$ Onuku Tama-te-Kapua Ōhinemutu, Rotorua (1878),49 the building of Miller & White's concrete Centennial Memorial Church at Ōtākou Marae, Otago Peninsula (1940),<sup>50</sup> and the Whare rūnanga at Waitangi (1934-49).51 It was also a time of reflection of New Zealand's architectural past; for example architecture and buildings featured in the National Film Unit's Housing in New Zealand (1946) and two issues of the Centennial series Making New Zealand: A Pictorial Record of New Zealand's First Hundred Years (1940), "Houses" and "Public Buildings" by Paul Pascoe;<sup>52</sup> the "Houses" issue featuring Humphrey Hall's 1938 Le Corbusian-inspired house for him and his wife, on the corner of Park Lane and Lysaght Street in Timaru. Many other architect's designs for their own

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> "An Industrial Canteen" pp 33,35.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> "Room for three in 952 square feet" pp 14-15.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 27}$  "Kaikoura Council Offices" p 31.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 28}$  "An Architect Builds his Home Open to the Sun" pp 10-11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> "A Verandah House" pp 18-19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> "3 hillside houses in Christchurch" pp 16-17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> "3 hillside houses in Christchurch" pp 16-17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> "3 hillside houses in Christchurch" pp 16-17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> "Weatherboard in Christchurch" p 20.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> "Volunteers Build own Community Centre" p 37.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> "Planned for Sun and View" p 41.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 36}$  "An Architect's own Home at the Seaside" pp 10-11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> "A Mountaineer's Home" p 35.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> "The Birth of a Building" pp 35-39.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> "Centennial Memorial Plunket Rooms at New Brighton" p 21.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 40}$  "Centennial Plunket & Rest Room at Ngaruawahia" p 35.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> "Memorial Plunket Rooms at Mt. Eden" p 23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> "Southland County Memorial Offices" pp 17,37.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> "A Modern Store at Whangarei" pp 27-28.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 44}$  "A Modern Home at Whangarei" p 39.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> "An Interesting Combination" pp 20-21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> "A New Glass Factory at Whangarei" p 39.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Shaw New Zealand Architecture p 135.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Shaw New Zealand Architecture p 135.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Shaw New Zealand Architecture p 135.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Shaw New Zealand Architecture p 135.

 $<sup>^{51}</sup>$  Shaw New Zealand Architecture p 135.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Knight, C.R. "Making New Zealand [review]" p 37.

houses were published, including those of Vernon Brown,<sup>53</sup> George B Fritchley,<sup>54</sup> Thomas F Haughey,<sup>55</sup> AHM Manson,<sup>56</sup> Cecil W Wood,<sup>57</sup> Richard H Toy,<sup>58</sup> Humphrey Hall (his second house in Christchurch),<sup>59</sup> Paul Pascoe,<sup>60</sup> W Robin Simpson,<sup>61</sup> and C Trevithick.<sup>62</sup>

The beginning of the decade also saw the continuation of the war begun in 1939. *Home & Building*, the only New Zealand architectural periodical in 1940, strongly stated its editorial policy regarding the wartime context as follows:

It is "Home & Buillding's" editorial policy to review as much as possible of this [war] work, both for its architectural interest and for its effect on public morale. However, it is essentially part of the architect's mind, and of his duty, to look ahead to works of reconstruction and of peace. Therefore it is equally our policy to stimulate thought on future developments ... some of which certainly could not be undertaken at the moment ... to look ahead to the pleasant paths of peace.<sup>63</sup>

The war was to last until 1945. It produced articles such as "Household Hints for Wartime," 4 and spurred research into new technologies, most evident in the New Zealand architectural press 5 in a debate about prefabrication, with articles and editorials such as "Will prefabrication "Take on?," 6 "Prefabrication as applied to a National Housing Scheme," 7 "Prefabrication - The Answer?, 6 "England develops Prefabricated Unit System of School Construction, 69 and

RGR Beaton's "The Shape & Shadow of Homes to Come," 70 which asserted that:

The war has brought prefabrication to the fore. Army huts, sheds and other buildings of a military nature have absorbed thousands of standard parts prefabricated at a factory and transported sometimes hundreds of miles to be erected like sections of a Meccano set.<sup>71</sup>

Published prefabricated buildings included: the RGS Beatson house at Takapuna,72 Cotterill's Hemore and standardised maisonettes in Bealey Avenue, Christchurch,73 Pascoe's winning entry in the Rehabilitation Board's Pre-fabricated Housing competition, also in Christchurch.74 Wartime building also included various military emplacements and support buildings; the timber prefabs, steel and which accommodated part of the Auckland

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> "An Architect's Home in Victoria Avenue" pp 13,15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> "An Architect's Own Home" pp 33,35.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> "A Modern House for an Architect" p 15; "Architect Designs own Home in the Contemporary Manner" pp 18-21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> "An architect"s home in the Cashmere Hills" pp 8-9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> "An Architect Builds his Home among Trees" pp 14-15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> "Planned for Future Extension" pp 10-11; "1948 Medal Winning House" pp 16-19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> "An Architect Builds his Home Open to the Sun" pp 10-11. This was the second house Hall designed for his family, and was in Christchurch.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>60</sup> "An Architect's own Home at the Seaside" pp 10-11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> "An Architect Designs his own house" pp 5-7.

<sup>62 &</sup>quot;"Trevann" - an architect"s own home" p 5.

<sup>63 &</sup>quot;Architects and the War Effort" p 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup> "Household Hints for Wartime" pp 27,39.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> The New Zealand architectural press in 1940 comprised solely of *Home & Building*, now the official organ of the NZIA, the *NZIAJ* in abeyance since 1937, it was resumed in c1950.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>66</sup> This article referred to the *Architectural Forum*'s suggestion for "designs for a "house factory" - a large industrial unit for the mass-production of cottages." "Will prefabrication "Take on?"" pp 3,40.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>67</sup> Wilson "Prefabrication as applied to a National Housing Scheme" pp 10,37,39.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>68</sup> "Prefabrication - The Answer?" pp 7-9.

<sup>69 &</sup>quot;England develops Prefabricated Unit System" pp

<sup>41,61.</sup> 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>70</sup> Beatson "The Shape & Shadow of Homes to Come" pp 9,11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> Beatson "The Shape & Shadow of Homes to Come" p 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>72</sup> "The Prefabricated Home of Mr & Mrs R.G.S. Beatson" p 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>73</sup> "Standardisation in a group of semi-detached maisonettes" p 11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>74</sup> These were commissioned for building by the Department of Housing Construction following the competition. "Eight Prefabricated Houses in Christchurch" pp 12-13.

architecture school up until the late 1970s, are reputed to have once accommodated a wartime hospital facility. The end of the war was also the impetus for the building of memorials, including Richard Toy's "Otahuhu College War Memorial Gates."75 The war engendered new interests in the world beyond New Zealand. The local architectural press reflected international architecture in articles and book reviews examining Dutch brickwork,<sup>76</sup> modern Swiss architecture,<sup>77</sup> Czechoslavakia,78 architecture in the architecture of Kashmir and Ladakh,79 Swedish housing,80 Swedish public, cultural and commerical buildings,81 the architecture of Norway and Denmark,82 and Swiss

Architecture, 83 the majority of them written by Keith L Piper. New Zealand architects' awareness of international architecture was also present closer to home as the war bought with it the arrival of European refugees. Immigrant architects of the time included Friedrich Neumann, Ernest Gerson, Frederick Farra, Helmut Einhorn and Ernst Plischke, 84 and they were a productive influence on the development of modernism in New Zealand.

War-time restrictions on specific aspects on building, particularly the size of dwellings were reflected in numerous schemes examining how to design within a tightly prescribed building footprint, and included: E Rupert Morton's "The Small House of Today," Pascoe's MM Cunningham House, Pascoe & Hall's W Chapman House, Vernon Brown's TM Hawes House, Parnell, and Clifford Sanderson's "house for four people." This discussion extended to designs which

The end of the war produced a new understanding among young architects, and architectural students, that theirs was a revolutionary brave new world. In 1946 Auckland University architecture students published a manifesto and formed Group

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>75</sup> "Otahuhu College War Memorial Gates" p 34.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>76</sup> Callander "Dutch Brickwork" pp 36-37,39.

<sup>77</sup> Simpson "Modern Swiss Architecture [book review]" p 41.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>78</sup> Rosenfeld "Architecture in Czechoslavakia [1]" pp. 27,45,47; Rosenfeld "Architecture in Czechoslavakia [2]" pp 33,35,37,39.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>79</sup> Wall "Imposing Architecture of Kashmir and Ladakh" pp 20-21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>80</sup> Piper "Sweden: Solution to a Housing Problem" pp 20-21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>81</sup> Piper "Sweden sets good example in public, cultural and commerical buildings" pp 32-33,64.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>82</sup> Piper "Norway and Denmark are progressing architecturally" pp 36-37,63-64.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>83</sup> Piper "Swiss Architecture is Nearest to Local Needs" pp 39,41,43; Piper "Switzerland sets example" pp 39,41,43.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>84</sup> Shaw New Zealand Architecture p 141.

<sup>85</sup> Morton "The Small House of To-day" p 12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>86</sup> "All within 829sq.ft." p 15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>87</sup> "Room for three in 952 square feet" pp 14-15.

 $<sup>^{88}</sup>$  "Space in a Small House" pp 22-23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>89</sup> "Making the Most of 1.000 feet" pp 22-23.

anticipated extending buildings restrictions had been removed, producing Richard H Toy's own house,90 Graham F Fox's "house that grows with the family,"91 and Helmore & Cotterill's "small house planned in the Regency manner and planned for future extension."92 It also prompted an examination of the relationship between the inside and outside of houses, with articles proposing "interiors [which] don't just stay indoors,"93 and open planning integrated with the exterior.94 By the end of the decade building controls were being questioned,95 with a 1949 Home & Building editorial stating that "a legimate case for control of house building does not now exist."96

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>90</sup> "Planned for Future Extension" pp 10-11.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 91}$  "A house that Grows with the Family" pp 22-23.

<sup>92 &</sup>quot;A Small House Planned in the Regency Manner" p 11.

<sup>93 &</sup>quot;These interiors don't just stay indoors" pp 18-19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>94</sup> "An open plan integrated with woodland and view" pp 26-27.

 $<sup>^{95}</sup>$  "Architects ask for Removal of Building Controls" p 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>96</sup> "Are Controls Necessary?" p 15.

Architects Group Construction (later Company). In Wellington the Architectural Centre resulted. Both organisations involved women, reflecting the increasing prominence of women as architectural clients (EH Didsbury, 97 AD Crawford, 98 E Duncan, 99 Edith Barrett, 100 GH Buchanan, 101 Valmai Fleming, 102 Mrs George Sinclair, 103), architects (Monica F Barham, 104 Nancy Northcroft 105), architectural commentators (Helen M Gosset, 106 May Smith), and architectural students (Marilyn Hart and Barbara Parker). Both groups also made important contributions to New Zealand architectural discussion at the time and afterwards. The Group's manifesto, the publication of *Planning*, and the designing and building of numerous houses, exploring a new modern architecture for New Zealand.

<sup>97</sup> "Holmden: A block of 5 flats" p 12.

were mirrored in the activity of the Architectural Centre's Demonstration House, exhibitions such as Te Aro Replanned,107 and the publication of Design Review. The Centre's beginning and much of its agenda engaged with Town Planning, which post-war, had garnered renewed interest among architectural profession. This was reflected in articles asking "What is Town Planning?," 108 advocating to "Tell the Public about the Plans,"109 and proposing strategies "Towards Planning in New Zealand."110 By the end of the decade Raymond Pow, Senior Town Planning Assistant to the ACC and former student of Sir Patrick Abercrombie, published a series titled "Town Planning in New Zealand."111

As with any time-period a complex array of shifts occurred in architecture, which cannot be simply confined to a single decade. Taking the publications of the time in isolation though, a fascination with architectural

photography, and new interests in wall treatment, in particular with murals, are apparent during New Zealand's 1940s. The period published the photographic work of AJ Adams, FG Barker, RGS Beatson, Rowland Brialey, Gordon H Burt, CM Collins, Eileen Deste, Doree & Sache Ltd, Gerald E Jones, Maja, EA Phillips, Sparrow Industrial Photographs, and Raymond Syme. Home & Building published RGS Beatson's 1941 article, "An architect with his camera discovers the 60s," a photographic essay of the 1860s work of William Beatson, 112 and AGW Sparrow's articles: "Photographing Homes: How a Professional Photographer Works,"113 and "Photographing that Interior."114 The close of the decade saw the event of Home & Building's Photographic Competition in 1948,115 which was won by JG Patterson for their photograph of the Temple of Jupiter, Baalbeck, Syria. 116 The interest in interior walls can be seen in various articles including: May Smith's "Entertainment on your Walls,"117 Helen

<sup>98 &</sup>quot;Mrs A.D. Crawford's New Home" pp 6-7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>99</sup> "Mrs. E. Duncan chose Brick for her new home [advert]" p 22.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>100</sup> "A Pair of Christchurch Houses" pp 10-11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>101</sup> "A Pair of Christchurch Houses" pp 10-11.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 102}$  "Weatherboard in Christchurch" p 20.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 103}$  "Economical planning illustrated in a small house at Takapuna" pp 10-11.

<sup>104 &</sup>quot;Remodelled Brown Owl Milk Bar" pp 38-39,41.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>105</sup> "Woman Architect appointed Town Planning Officer for Christchurch" p 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>106</sup> e.g. Gosset "This brave new modern" pp 24-25.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>107</sup> ""This Brave New Wellington!"" p 9; Treadwell "What a City could be" pp 22-23,25,37,39,41,43.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>108</sup> "What **is** Town Planning?" p 13.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 109}$  "Tell the Public about the Plans" p 11.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>tiny{110}}$  Putt "Towards Planning in New Zealand" pp 27,29,31,33.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>111</sup> Pow "Town Planning in New Zealand: 1" pp 28-29,64; Pow "Town Planning in New Zealand: 2" pp 35,61.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>112</sup> Beatson "An architect with his camera discovers the 60's" pp 20-21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>113</sup> Sparrow "Photographer Homes" pp 16-17,39,41.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>114</sup> Sparrow "Photographing that Interior" pp 22-23,45.

<sup>115 &</sup>quot;Home & Building's Photographic Competition" p 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>116</sup> "Temple of Jupiter" p 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>117</sup> Smith "Entertainment on your Walls" p 27.

Gosset's "Mirror - Mirror - on the wall ...,"118 ARD "Polynesian Fairburn's Cave Drawings,"119 and Vernon Brown's "Pictures on your Walls,"120 where he noted that "perhaps one may assume that the great majority buy and hang their pictures as a matter of course, just as they buy curtains."121 Murals were to be the prime point of discussion about walls. "More than mere walls,"122 and "Fijian Scene/Murals in New Zealand,"123 discussed these, while "Trocadero Dine & Dance," "Stilson's Coffee Inn," and "An Interesting Combination - Pharmacy & Book Shop," featured James Turkington's murals in JO Owen's Trocadero Dine and Dance, 124 in Vernon Brown's Stilson's Coffee Inn, 125 and Brown & Simpson's Coutts the Chemists, 126 respectively. This fascination with the mural seemingly culminated in a "Mural Competition for Dominion Artists - "To express ideas for a better New Zealand,""127

the announcement of which stated that "An architect might define the muralist as a painter who has educated himself to applied art and co-relates his design in harmony with its architectural setting." <sup>128</sup>

Exactly what an architect was became a point of increasing interest, or perhaps more accurately, what the public thought an architect was, was an increasing issue of concern for architects. A *Home & Building* editorial in 1940 proclaimed that an architect is "**not** a transformer of the commonplace to the spectacular ... **not** a layer-on of art ... **not** a luxury. ... first and foremost, [the architect] is a planner,"129 advising the public to:

Be frank with him, as you would be frank with your physician. Spill your thoughts, needs, preferences, budget limitations. Tell him what you would like to have, but leave to his knowledge and ingenuity the technical means by which the result is to be brought about. 130

Numerous articles addressed this relationship between architect and client, including the eight-part series "How the Architect Works,"<sup>131</sup> WJ McKeon's "The Function of the Architect in the Life of the Community,"<sup>132</sup> RH Fraser's speech on the Architects' responsibilities to the community,<sup>133</sup> and PM Barclay's "The Architect and the Teacher,"<sup>134</sup> which asserted that:

Every citizen of this country has to spend the most impressionable years of his life in our schools, and there is laid the groundwork of his subsequent interests, the basis of his adjustment into society. There, with a careful and understanding treatment, the citizens of tomorrow could be given a rational, intelligent outlook towards architecture. And there is no time like the present. 135

The 1940s was hence a time of both radical change and restriction. It was the decade of

 $<sup>^{118}\,</sup>Gosset$  "Mirror - Mirror - on the wall ..." pp 37,39.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>119</sup> Fairburn "Polynesian Cave Drawings" pp 32-33,63.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>120</sup> Vernon "Pictures on your Walls" pp 15,33.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 121}$  Vernon "Pictures on your Walls" p 15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>122</sup> "More than mere walls" pp 16-18,45.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>123</sup> "Fijian Scene/ Murals in New Zealand" pp 7,26-27,45.

<sup>124 &</sup>quot;Trocadero Dine & Dance" pp 20-21,23.

<sup>125 &</sup>quot;Stilson"s Coffee Inn" p 24.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 126}$  "An Interesting Combination" pp 20-21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>127</sup> "Mural Competition for Dominion Artists" p 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>128</sup> "Mural Competition for Dominion Artists" p 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>129</sup> "Editorial" p 3.

<sup>130 &</sup>quot;Editorial" p 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>131</sup> "How the Architect Works [1]" pp 18-10; "How the Architect Works - 2" pp 18-19,47; "How the Architect Works [3]" pp 22-23; "How the Architect Works - IV" pp 23,45; "How the Architect Works [5]" pp 23,45; "How the Architect Works [6]" pp 23,47; "How the Architect Works No. 7" pp 23,37; "How the Architect Works-VIII" pp 35,43.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>132</sup> McKeon "The Function of the Architect in the Life of the Community [2]" pp 37,53,55,56; McKeon "The Function of the Architect in the Life of the Community" pp 35,53,55.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>133</sup> Fraser "N.Z.I.A. President Outlines Architects' Responsibilities to Community" pp 15,56.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>134</sup> Barclay "The Architect and the Teacher" pp 7,63.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>135</sup> Barclay "The Architect and the Teacher" p 7.

the building of RSD Harman's Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake Tekapo, 136 Bernard Johns' and Meldrum's Chemical Works and Industrial Laboratories at Gracefield, 137 RL Farrell's Greenlane hospital, 138 MK Draffin's Northern Roller Milling Co Ltd, Building, Emily Place, 139 Gummer and Ford's State Fire Insurance Building, 140 Colin C Lamb's Ovaltine Factory, Papanui,141 and numerous Department of Housing Construction flats.<sup>142</sup> The decade saw the deaths of several architects, including those of Edmund Anscombe (1874-1948), 143 John Campbell (1857-1942),144 AF Clark (c1899-1948),145 WA Cumming (-c1948),<sup>146</sup> William Martin Hutchison (-1949), 147 Eric Miller (c1896-

124

1948), 148 J Park (c1880-1948), 149 Llewelyn Richards (1865-1945), 150 WR Simpson (c1907-47),151 and Cecil W Wood (1878-1947).152 It also saw important new publications about architecture: Plischke's Design and Living 1947, 153 Paul Pascoe and Humphrey Hall's article in Landfall "The Modern House," 154 the Group's single issue of Planning, and the Architectural Centre's more enduring Design Review. The decade in which Home & Building dominated the architectural press was to become a decade of architectural discussion through both building and publication. At its end Home & Building had lost its lone status as sole New Zealand architectural journal, having been joined by the enthusiasm and irreverence of the Architectural Centre's newly founded Design Review, and a new generation of architects including: William Alington, James Beard, Charles Fearnley, S William Toomath, Anthony Treadwell, Alan Wild, and Bill Wilson.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>136</sup> "Church of the Good Shepherd" pp 5,10-11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>137</sup> "Chemical Works and Industrial Laboratories" p 19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>138</sup> "Architecture and Medicine Combine to Aid the Sick" pp 13-15.

<sup>139 &</sup>quot;New Wheat Silo at Auckland" pp 17-19,28.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 140}$  "State Fire Insurance Building" pp 14-16.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>141</sup> "New Christchurch Factory was Planned for Efficient Production" pp 20-21.

 $<sup>^{142}</sup>$  for example "A City Flat in a Woodland Setting" pp 14-15.

 $<sup>^{143}</sup>$  "Obituary [Edmund Anscombe]" p 13; Shaw New Zealand Architecture p 92.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>144</sup> Shaw New Zealand Architecture p 65.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>145</sup> "Obituary: Mr. A.F. Clark" p 7.

 $<sup>^{146}</sup>$  "Obituary [W.A. Cumming]" p 43.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>147</sup> "Obituary [William Martin Hutchison]" p 11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>148</sup> "Obituary [Eric Miller]" p 11.

<sup>149 &</sup>quot;Obituary: Mr. J. Park" pp 7-8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>150</sup> Shaw New Zealand Architecture p 66.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>151</sup> "Obituary [W.R.Simpson]" p 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>152</sup> Shaw *New Zealand Architecture* p 92; "An Appreciation of the Work of the late Cecil W. Wood" p 13; Munro "A Lifetime in Architecture" pp 27-29.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>153</sup> Shaw New Zealand Architecture p 147.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>154</sup> "The modern house" pp 121-125.

## **REFERENCES**

- "3 hillside houses in Christchurch" *Home & Building* (June-July 1948) X(4):16-17.
- "1948 Medal Winning House" *Home & Building* (April-May 1949) XI(5):16-19.
- "All within 829sq.ft.: an interesting example of compact planning" *Home & Building* (December 1945) VIII(4):15.
- "All withing 829sq.ft.: an interesting example of compact planning" *Home & Building* (December 1945) VIII(4):15.
- "An Appreciation of the Work of the late Cecil W. Wood" *Home & Building* (April-May 1948) X(3):13.
- "An Architect Builds his Home among Trees" *Home & Building* (June 1946) IX(2):14-15.
- "An Architect Builds his Home Open to the Sun" *Home & Building* (December 1946) IX(4):10-11.
- "An Architect Designs his own house." *Home & Building* (September 1940) IV(4):5-7.
- "Architect Designs own Home in the Contemporary Manner" *Home & Building* (June-July 1949) XI(6):18-21.
- "Architects and the War Effort" *Home & Building* (September 1943) VI(4):3.
- "Architects ask for Removal of Building Controls" *Home & Building* (June-July 1948) X(4): 8.
- "An architect's home in the Cashmere Hills" *Home & Building* (June 1943) VI(3):8-9.
- "An Architect's Home in Victoria Avenue, Remuera" *Home & Building* (June 1942) VI(1):13,15.
- "An Architect's own Home at the Seaside" *Home & Building* (October-November 1948) XI(2):10-11.
- "An Architect's Own Home" *Home & Building* (June 1942) VI(1):33,35.

- "Architecture and Medicine Combine to Aid the Sick" *Home & Building* (June 1943) VI(3):13-15.
- "Are Controls Necessary?" *Home & Building* (June-July 1949) XI(6):15.
- Barclay, P.M. "The Architect and the Teacher" *Home & Building* (December-January 1948-49) XI(3):7,63.
- Beatson, R.G.R. "The Shape & Shadow of Homes to Come" *Home & Building* (December 1942) VI(2):9,11.
- Beatson, R.G.S. "An architect with his camera discovers the 60's" *Home & Building* (March 1941) V(2):20-21.
- "The Birth of a Building [Wellington Provincial Centennial Memorial and Bathing Pavilion [Petone]]." *Home & Building* (September 1940) IV(4):35-39.
- "The Building Helps to Display the Product" *Home & Building* (April-May 1948) X(3):28-29.
- Callander, G.W. "Dutch Brickwork" *Home & Building* (March 1940) IV(2):36-37,39.
- "Cement Board on a Timber Frame" *Home & Building* (February-March 1949) XI(4):26-27.
- "Centennial Memorial Plunket Rooms at New Brighton [archt Paul Pascoe]" *Home & Building* (December 1940) V(1):21.
- "Centennial Plunket & Rest Room at Ngaruawahia [archt WH Jaine]" *Home & Building* (March 1941) V(2):35.
- "Chemical Works and Industrial Laboratories" *Home & Building* (June 1942) VI(1):19.
- "Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake Tekapo, Canterbury" *Home & Building* (June 1941) V(3):5,10-11.
- "A City Flat in a Woodland Setting" *Home & Building* (January-March 1948) X(2):14-15.
- "Colonial Style always popular" *Home & Building* (June 1945) VIII(2):15.

- "A Country House in Wooded Grounds" *Home & Building* (March 1946) IX(1):10-11.
- "Economical planning illustrated in a small house at Takapuna" *Home & Building* (June 1943) VI(3):10-11.
- "Editorial" Home & Building (June 1940) IV(3):3-4.
- "Eight Prefabricated Houses in Christchurch [archt Paul Pascoe, Prefabricated Houses for the Rehabilitation Board]" *Home & Building* (June 1945) VIII(2):12-13.
- ""Enfield" Homestead Methven, Canterbury" *Home & Building* (June 1941) V(3):6-7.
- "England develops Prefabricated Unit System of School Construction" *Home & Building* (February-March 1949) XI(4):41,61.
- Fairburn, A.R.D. "Polynesian Cave Drawings" *Home & Building* (June-July 1949) XI(6):32-33,63.
- "Fijian Scene/ Murals in New Zealand" *Home & Building* (March 1945) VIII(1):7, 26-27,45.
- Fraser, R.H. "N.Z.I.A. President Outlines Architects' Responsibilities to Community" *Home & Building* (February-March 1949) XI(4):15,56.
- Gosset, Helen M. "Mirror Mirror on the wall ..." *Home & Building* (June 1941) V(3):37,39.
- Gosset, Helen M. "This brave new modern" *Home & Building* (September 1940) IV(4):24-25.
- "Holmden: A block of 5 flats, 222 The Terrace Wellington for Miss E.H. Didsbury" *Home & Building* (June 1940) IV(3):12.
- "Home & Building's Photographic Competition" *Home & Building* (April-May 1948) X(3):5.
- "Household Hints for Wartime" *Home & Building* (December 1940) V(1): 27,39.
- "How the Architect Works [1]" *Home & Building* (September 1945) VIII(3):18-10.

- "How the Architect Works 2" *Home & Building* (December 1945) VIII(4):18-19,47.
- "How the Architect Works [3]" *Home & Building* (March 1946) IX(1):22-23.
- "How the Architect Works IV" Home & Building (June 1946) IX(2):23,45.
- "How the Architect Works [5]" *Home & Building* (September 1946) IX(3):23,45.
- "How the Architect Works [6]" *Home & Building* (December 1946) IX(4):23,47.
- "How the Architect Works No. 7: Supervision" *Home & Building* (March-June 1947) X(1):23,37.
- "How the Architect Works-VIII" *Home & Building* (March-June 1947) X(2):35,43.
- "In the Colonial Tradition" *Home & Building* (December-January 1948-49) XI(3):19-22.
- "An Industrial Canteen" Home & Building (December 1945) VIII(4):33,35.
- "An Interesting Combination Pharmacy & Book Shop" *Home & Building* (September 1945) VIII(3):20-21.
- "Kaikoura Council Offices" *Home & Building* (September 1946) IX(3):31.
- Knight, C.R. "Making New Zealand [review]" *Home & Building* (December 1940) V(1):37.
- McKeon, W.J. "The function of the architect in the life of the Community" *Home & Building* (August-September 1948) XI(1):35,53,55.
- McKeon, W.J. "The Function of the Architect in the life of the Community [2]" *Home & Building* (June-July 1948) X(4):37,53,55,56.
- "Making the Most of 1.000 feet" *Home & Building* (February-March 1949) XI(4):22-23.
- "Memorial Plunket Rooms at Mt. Eden [archt Llew S. Piper]" *Home & Building* (March 1941) V(2):23.
- "Modern Colonial" *Home & Building* (September 1943) VI(4):29.
- "A Modern Home at Whangarei" *Home & Building* (June 1943) VI(3):39.

- "The modern house" Landfall (June 1947) 1(2):121-125.
- "A Modern House for an Architect" *Home & Building* (April-May 1949) XI(5):15.
- "A Modern Store at Whangarei" *Home & Building* (June 1943) VI(3):27-28.
- "More than mere walls" *Home & Building* (December 1944) VII(4):16-18,45.
- Morton, E. Rupert "The Small House of To-day" *Home & Building* (June 1943) VI(3):12.
- "A Mountaineer's Home" *Home & Building* (October-November 1948) XI(2):35.
- "Mrs A.D. Crawford's New Home at Heretaunga Wellington" *Home & Building* (March 1941) V(2):6-7.
- "Mrs. E. Duncan chose Brick for her new home at Pakuranga [advert]" *Home & Building* (June 1941) V(3):22.
- Munro, R.C. "A Lifetime in Architecture" *Home & Building* (June-July 1948) X(4):27-29.
- "Mural Competition for Dominion Artists "To express ideas for a better New Zealand"" *Home & Building* (September 1946) IX(3):8.
- "New Christchurch Factory was Planned for Efficient Production and Complete Amenities for Employees" *Home & Building* (December 1946) IX(4):20-21.
- "A New Glass Factory at Whangarei" *Home & Building* (February-March 1949) XI(4):39.
- "New Home at Glendowie for Mr. W.S. Robertson" *Home & Building* (March 1945) VIII(1):12-13.
- "New Wheat Silo at Auckland" *Home & Building* (June 1943) VI(3):17-19,28.
- "Obituary [Edmund Anscombe]" *Home & Building* (December-January 1948-49) XI(3):13.
- "Obituary [Eric Miller]" *Home & Building* (December-January 1948-49) XI(3):11.

- "Obituary [WA Cumming]" *Home & Building* (January-March 1948) X(2):43.
- "Obituary [WR Simpson]" *Home & Building* (March-June 1947) X(1):7.
- "Obituary [William Martin Hutchison]" *Home & Building* (February-March 1949) XI(4):11.
- "Obituary: Mr. A.F. Clark" *Home & Building* (August-September 1948) XI(1):7.
- "Obituary: Mr. J. Park" *Home & Building* (August-September 1948) XI(1):7-8.
- "An open plan integrated with woodland and view" *Home & Building* (June-July 1949) XI(6):26-27.
- "Otahuhu College War Memorial Gates" *Home & Building* (June-July 1949) XI(6):34.
- "A Pair of Christchurch Houses" *Home & Building* (September 1944) VII(3):10-11.
- Piper, Keith L. "Norway and Denmark are progressing architecturally" *Home & Building* (February-March 1949) XI(4):36-37,63-64.
- Piper, Keith L. "Sweden sets good example in public, cultural and commerical buildings" *Home & Building* (December-January 1948-49) XI(3):32-33,64.
- Piper, Keith L. "Sweden: Solution to a Housing Problem" *Home & Building* (October-November 1948) XI(2):20-21.
- Piper, Keith L. "Swiss Architecture is Nearest to Local Needs" *Home & Building* (April-May 1949) XI(5):39,41,43.
- Piper, Keith L. "Switzerland sets example to develop our own architecture" *Home & Building* (June-July 1949) XI(6):39,41,43.
- "Planned for Future Extension: Architect shows how to enjoy your own home now but in future have all the space you wish" *Home & Building* (September 1946) IX(3):10-11.
- "Planned for Future Extension: Architect shows how to enjoy your own

- home now but in future have all the space you wish" *Home & Building* (September 1946) IX(3):10-11.
- "Planned for Sun and View" *Home & Building* (August-September 1948) XI(1):41.
- "Planning for a Difficult Site" *Home & Building* (March 1945) VIII(1):11-12.
- Pow, Raymond H. "Town Planning in New Zealand: 1. The Planners and Planning Authorities" *Home & Building* (April-May 1949) XI(5):28-29,64.
- Pow, Raymond H. "Town Planning in New Zealand: 2 Objectives in Planning" *Home & Building* (June-July 1949) XI(6):35,61.
- "The Prefabricated Home of Mr & Mrs R.G.S. Beatson at Takapuna, Auckland." *Home & Building* (December 1942) VI(2):10.
- "Prefabrication The Answer?" *Home & Building* (June 1945) VIII(2):7-9.
- Putt, C.E.H. "Towards Planning in New Zealand" *Home & Building* (December 1944) VII(4):27,29,31,33.
- "Remodelled Brown Owl Milk Bar" *Home & Building* (December-January 1948-49) XI(3):38-39, 41.
- "Room for three in 952 square feet at Mr W. Chapman's Home in Clyde Road, Christchurch" *Home & Building* (September 1946) IX(3):14-15.
- Rosenfeld, Maximilian "Architecture in Czechoslavakia [1]" *Home & Building* (March 1944) VII(2):27,45,47.
- Rosenfeld, Maximilian "Architecture in Czechoslavakia [2]" *Home & Building* (September 1944) VII(3):33,35,37,39.
- "Seaside House at Takapuna" Home & Building (December 1942) VI(2):37.
- Shaw, Peter New Zealand Architecture: from Polynesian Beginnings to 1990 Auckland: Hodder & Stoughton, 1991.
- "A Small House Planned in the Regency Manner and Planned for Future Extension" *Home & Building* (January-March 1948) X(2):11.
- Smith, May "Entertainment on your Walls [re: Murals]" *Home & Building* (March 1941) V(2):27.

- "Southland County Memorial Offices" *Home & Building* (June 1942) VI(1):17,37.
- "Space in a Small House" *Home & Building* (December-January 1948-49) XI(3):22-23.
- Sparrow, A.G.W. "Photographing that Interior" *Home & Building* (June 1945) VIII(2):22-23,45.
- Sparrow, A.G.W. "Photographer Homes: How a Professional Photographer Works" *Home & Building* (March 1945) VIII(1):16-17,39,41.
- "Standardisation in a group of semi-detached maisonettes [archt Helmore & Cotterill, Bealey Ave, Chch]" *Home & Building* (June 1945) VIII(2):11.
- "State Fire Insurance Building" *Home & Building* (September 1943) VI(4):14-16.
- "Steeds Memorial Hut: Arthur's Pass, Canterbury" *Home & Building* (September 1944) VII(3):14-15.
- "Stilson's Coffee Inn [High St, Auckland]" *Home & Building* (June 1941) V(3):24.
- "Sunlight and Shadow on an Auckland Home" *Home & Building* (September 1945) VIII(3):12-13.
- "Tell the Public about the Plans" *Home & Building* (August-September 1948) XI(1):11.
- "Temple of Jupiter [Baalbeck, Syria by J.G. Patterson, First Prize Winner in *Home & Building* Photographic Competition]" *Home & Building* (August-September 1948) XI(1):13.
- "These interiors don't just stay indoors" *Home & Building* (June-July 1948) X(4):18-19.
- ""This Brave New Wellington!" Replanning Te Aro" *Home & Building* (Oct-Nov 1948) XI(2):9.
- Treadwell, Anthony L. "What a City could be: The Wellington

- Architectural Centre Prepares a Town-Planning Scheme for Wellington" *Home & Building* (October-November 1948) XI(2):22-23,25,37,39,41,43.
- ""Trevann" an architect's own home" Home & Building (March 1941) V(2):5.
- "Trocadero Dine & Dance," *Home & Building* (September 1944) VII(3):20-21,23.
- "A Verandah House" Home & Building (April-May 1948) X(3):18-19.
- Vernon A. Brown "Pictures on your Walls." *Home & Building* (June 1940) IV(3):15,33.
- "Volunteers Build own Community Centre" *Home & Building* (August-September 1948) XI(1):37.
- Wall, Arnold "Imposing Architecture of Kashmir and Ladakh" *Home & Building* (June 1946) IX(2):20-21.
- "Weatherboard in Christchurch" *Home & Building* (August-September 1948) XI(1):20.
- "What is Town Planning?" *Home & Building* (April-May 1949) XI(5):13.
- "Will prefabrication "Take on?"" *Home & Building* (June 1943) VI(3):3,40.
- Wilson, Gordon F. "Prefabrication as applied to a National Housing Scheme" *Home & Building* (September 1943) VI(4):10,37,39.
- "Woman Architect appointed Town Planning Officer for Christchurch" Home & Building (February-March 1949) XI(4):9.