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Summary

Justus Dahinden, Zurich

The new holiday centre "Hostellerie Rigi"

(Pages 216-219)

Architectural aspect:

In place of the former hotel, which burned down, there is planned a hotel complex in connection with the «Rigi-Kalbad» centre, the ski slopes, the railway station and the new ice rink. The promenade runs across this zone to be reorganized and leads to the future village square in front of the sports hotel, forming a shopping centre in the village. The complex, situated on the south slope of the Rigi, will be made up of public buildings, sports facilities accessible to the community, squares, gardens and the new cable-railway station.

The siting on a mountainside has been a decisive factor for the over-all plan. The existing buildings, on a very human scale, are low, and their steeply pitched roofs vary greatly. In the composition of the complex, account was taken of this native local architecture, already existing trees and the fields which will be preserved to block further expansion of building. It is sought to articulate the volumes tightly in order to keep to the given scale and to provide varied views. An attempt is made to establish far-reaching penetration of the spaces by transition zones under cover (terraces, etc.). The various premises will be grouped around interior courtyards, but they will preserve an external outlet.

The conception of the interior spaces, especially of the hotels, is based on the same quest for continuity (connection: among: lobby, newsstand, shops, reception hall with fireplace, bar, dining room, to form one single continuous volume, but a structured one). The rooms are planned for day and night occupancy, with the character of living rooms suitable for families (separable sleeping nooks, galleries, etc.). The rooms with more than one bed constitute living units for groups, etc. At the ends of the buildings there are real suites with south terraces.

The complex will have 400 beds. The sharply structured architecture permits the restaurants to accent their façades, and it permits the grouping of series of spaces that are interconnected functionally, without there being created any impression of exaggerated dimensions. In front of the beer café on the ground floor there is a shelter for ponies. The main hall of the hotel is supplemented by a banking window, the information desk, a travel agency, cafés, a bank, telephones and a telex. An underground corridor connects the hotel directly with the sports facilities, the indoor swimming pool, the hairdresser's and the grounds. The shops face both the foyer of the hotel and the village square. The hotel with individual apartments is a terrace building with longitudinal accesses serving studio-apartments on standard floors and 2 1/2-room apartments on the top floor. They are also furnished for both day and night occupancy. The open stairwells permit integration with the outdoors. This hotel is also in direct connection with the sports facilities.

The indoor swimming pool guarantees a constant swimming season in an unstable mountain climate. A pitched wooden roof covers the pool with its diving apparatus. The glazed walls maintain contact with the outdoors; they can be opened up in summer. And there are open-air dressing booths. The ice rink will become a public square in summer and can be used for public events. The grand hotel planned on the periphery of the old manor grounds is conceived as a conference site. The rooms command a fine panorama, and the location is restful.

The functional aspect:

The Rigi hotel centre is planned for a style of vacationing that is casual and no longer subject to the regimen of the traditional hotel. The complex comprises a sports hotel with 150 beds, a self-service restaurant with capacity for 150 during the season. There is a beer café seating 70, dining room seating 150, an apartment-hotel with 70 units for sale or to let (e.g.: reservation of sold flats between seasons by the hotel company). The final stage will comprise another grand

hotel with amply dimensioned conference rooms.

The essential change, expressed by such a programme, consists, however, in the new conception of the rooms, which will no longer be dormitories, but units for day or night occupancy. Thus, the room key becomes the key to a week-end apartment, and the hotel unit becomes a functional area comprising living, sleeping and sanitary areas. This change is accompanied by a new conception of service. The guest is no longer a passive and anonymous element in an impersonal zone, but by the institution of a «guests' committee», where the guest can speak his mind, there is created a system in which individual needs are taken functionally into account. This is shown, for instance, in the choice of types or restaurant, ranging from the speciality restaurant to intimate bars, where the guest can cook on his own.

Each apartment has its own bar. A machine for ice, beverage vendors, tea and coffee are available night and day. Self-service plays a dominant role in this new conception of vacationing.

The guest has a choice of a wide range of services covering all his conceivable needs. The illumination of the rooms is adjustable, the telephone functions directly with the outside, and a laundry is at the disposal of the guests. Moreover, there has been created the system of the week-end subscription, whereby the guest enjoys certain advantages.

Owing to the fact that the hotel company re-lets the apartments when they are not occupied by their owners, even people of modest incomes can afford luxury accommodation.

Now then, the leading attraction of the complex is the sports centre equipped for winter and summer: 4 curling rinks, with dressing facilities, skating rink with stands for 1000 spectators, ski slopes running down to the village, indoor swimming pool open all year, sauna, relaxation areas, bocchia, golf, horseback riding, etc.

Aris Konstantinidis, Athens

Vacation colony at Paliouri on Chalcidice, Northern Greece

(Pages 220-223)

This tourist colony, which will be made up finally of a motel with 144 beds, pavilions, playgrounds and recreation zones, a grand hotel, holiday houses, a campsite, a restaurant with bar and, in the centre, a swimming pool, is situated 130 km from Salonica in the western part of the peninsula. It is part of a chain of establishments. Konstantinidis has just built Poros, Andros, Mykonos, Olympia and Kalambaka (Cf. B+W, 6/62, 6/63). The constructions create an effect of lightness with their free disposition of volumes on the shore of the sea and induce a real holiday atmosphere.

Materials: reinforced concrete, walls of untreated red brick, masonry red and grey, floors of terra cotta, shutters and balustrades of dark green Novopan, with red posts.

Knud Friis and Elmar Moltke Nielsen, Aarhus

Hotel Hvide Hus at Ebeltoft, Denmark

(Pages 224-227)

This hotel, accessible via the roof restaurant on top, is situated on a sloping site in a residential district on the outskirts of Ebeltoft. The site commands a splendid view of the hills and the sea.

The staggering of the white volumes, which provides a garden for each room, is a distinctive feature of this hotel, an aspect which is highly important for publicity reasons.

Eduardo Anahory, Paris, and Pedro Cid

Porto Santo Beach Hotel at the airport of Madeira

(Pages 228-232)

This hotel, constructed in connection with the airport, comprises 71 bedrooms with baths, and it is situated in a vineyard of this renowned island. A transverse wing on the south comprises the entrance, the lobby, lounges and the dining room; the shorter north wing contains the utility services, and the west wing, which is very much elongated and staggered, offers a clear

view to all the rooms. The recessed stairs interconnect the wings and furnish direct access to the gardens. An underground passageway provides for efficient flow of services. Since on this island there are neither materials nor skilled construction workers, the hotel was entirely prefabricated and transported to the site on the island. The supporting structure is made up of a steel skeleton and untreated reinforced concrete walls. The interior partitions are covered with wood, those of the bathrooms with plastic. The facing of the ceilings in the bedrooms is of heraclith, that of the corridors of reed matting, this permitting indirect lighting. The sunbreaks on the balconies are made up of sliding shutters of bamboo grown locally, with which there have also been manufactured the movable blinds on the terraces. The dining room is decorated along the walls with dry stone, which recalls local constructions. The entrance is decorated with tiles that are typical of the place («azulejos»). Prefabrication has made possible considerable economies: \$ 3,300, which is equivalent to one half the cost for conventional types of construction.

Leo Hafner, Alfons Wiederkehr, Zug

Porto Christo Novo holiday town on Mallorca

(Pages 33-236)

The continuing business boom is threatening to engulf all the coastlines, for financial interests and business men are on the look-out for building sites and have begun to build without any over-all plan. This explains the chaos obtaining at the present time. Few places have preserved large areas which are subject to systematic planning. However, architects have to be called in at the very beginning of such a project. At the Triennale, Italy exhibited in detail the consequences of such a lack of coordination, which is leading to the crowding of millions of people in certain spots on the Mediterranean, whereas sensible planning would have offered vacation areas for everyone.

Now then, the following example is one of the rare exceptions in the generally gloomy picture: the problem here is a complex financed by a Spanish-Swiss company on a site measuring 535,000 sq. meters, designed for 5000 people. The basic study had to do with the water supply, electric power, roads and green zones. There is a park area along the sea-front where private construction is prohibited.

The project is made up of volumes in stairs looking on to the sea and two protected sandy bays, which will be the exclusive bathing beaches. The area is subdivided into 8 zones, the first of which to be completed comprises 16 apartments with 3 rooms, 28 with 4 beds and 41 with 4 rooms, plus 6 pavilions with 7 1/2 rooms, 2 apartment blocks of which one will have 4 to 5 floors and the other 10 floors. The duplex apartments are on the shore.

Type A (3 rooms on 1 floor) is made up of a living-room with fireplace nook and two bedrooms, Type B of a living room with fireplace and kitchenette and two double bedrooms on one floor and a half, Type C being a variant, which is larger, on 2 levels, with garden measuring 10 sq. meters. Type D is a pavilion measuring 375 sq. meters with 7 1/2 rooms and 9 to 10 beds. The very ample living room contains a fireplace nook, a large area with kitchen, dining nook and covered terraces; the bedroom wing is isolated and is disposed about a sundeck.

The architecture is in the local rustic style, without going in for pseudo-folklore.

Alfred Altherr, Zurich

House with guest room on a cliff in the Centovalli, Ticino

(Pages 237-240)

Near the overcrowded lake shores, with their teeming tourist industry, the unspoiled forests of the upper Ticino still provide sites adapted to the building of vacation houses for city-dwellers seeking calm and relaxation. This house on two levels is situated on a wooded slope covered with chestnut trees and ash trees; it is a very wild district above the route to Domodossola. The ground floor at grade

level comprises the owner's apartment made up of a living room with fireplace connected with the bedroom by a sliding door. A terrace is situated on the east side, and there is another one, with split level caused by a stone table, forming a partially covered shelter on the west side. This orientation offers the best sunlight and the best views. The air-conditioning, the kitchen and the bath are located on the north. The garden level houses a small summer apartment with covered shelter, sleeping nook and kitchenette, bathrooms and studio.

Craig Ellwood, Los Angeles

Week-end house above a gorge on the southern California coast

(Pages 241-242)

In Southern California there are extensive undeveloped coastal stretches along the Pacific with high steep cliffs, among which deep gorges have been scoured out. Here real estate prices are not yet so high as in Los Angeles, where one must pay from \$ 500. to \$ 1000. per square foot on the seafloor, i. e., around ten times the price per square meter. (5000 to 10,000 dollars or 20,000 to 40,000 Sfr.)

Ellwood has bridged over one of these coastal gorges with a (planned) week-end house. It has a span of somewhat more than 20 meters, and consists of two steel lattice girders with roof and floor decking in between. The small structure, intended solely for relaxation and rest, is entirely glazed. Everywhere there are views out over the endless reaches of the Pacific Ocean and into the trackless gorges of the coast ranges. California Polytechnic College has invited Ellwood to have this house done as a student project this year by fourth term students. The students will do all the work including the detailing.

Wolfgang Windbrechtinger and Traude Windbrechtinger-Ketterer, Vienna

Bellevue tourist restaurant in Vienna-Grinzing

(Pages 243-246)

The City of Vienna has had built a tourist restaurant at the end of the "skyway route" on an ample site, surrounded by vineyards, from where there is a panoramic view over the countryside and Vienna.

Besides a restaurant with terraces, open all year, it was intended to arrange a park for the use of the many people who stroll here on Sundays. The complex is made up of a terrace-restaurant with its services, a series of small open-air terraces, facing in various directions to diminish the impression of overcrowding, and play areas. The covered interior courtyards, equipped with benches and wooden tables, closed off by whitewashed walls, are located between the two main buildings and recall the old Viennese "Heurigen". They are grouped around a large central garden, where there is a grille sheltered from the wind. The centralized kitchens serve the restaurant, the courtyard and a self-service counter 17 m. long, serving meals at moderate prices.

The tapestry, the vases and the decorated sandstone wall are the work of Maria Bilger, Vienna.

Materials: untreated concrete painted white, interior furnishings of pine, floor of red clinker (restaurant, kitchens, court with grille) or covered with gravel or flagstones (arbour courts).

Melchior Bega, Milan

Ponte Motta highway restaurant at Cantagallo near Bologna

(Pages 247-250)

This cantilevered building, erected by BP and by Motta, is 70 m. long and 13 m. high, and is provided with two 30 m.-high advertising pillars; it is one of the largest such installations in the world, covering 70,000 sq. meters of ground.

The ground floor comprises the sales outlet for Motta products, with bar and tea-room and self-service shop; the first floor contains a restaurant with 200 seats featuring Bolognese specialities, a snack bar for 60 persons with grille and kitchens. Moreover, there are 6 shops or offices, a bank, a travel agency, the post office with sales of Italian Government Monopoly products, a hairdresser's, a florist's and newsstands.