

IN THE FUTURE

Huge new buildings are now on the boards, planned to clear out slums, renew blighted pockets, remake whole city blocks. Some plans may fall through. Many will proceed. Beyond them lies a future which will make all today's buildings seem pigmy or primitive. Plastic houses mass-produced like cars. Entire cities airconditioned under translucent domes. Science and technology will make all possible. Architects will make it livable.

IN TRUST

Every building records a moment of social history. The older streets of Australian cities are a treasure-house of information on our past tasks and living habits. It is a looted treasure-house, for outdated buildings usually must go or be remodelled. But the alterations need not be ruthless. When modernising old buildings an architect holds a little of history in trust. He finds ways of serving new needs without destroying old delights.

IN UNIVERSITIES

The special problem of the university is the creation of a close community of buildings conducive to study and exchange of ideas. Buildings serving different purposes yet with a common character and cause. As a symbol of the country's intellectual life the university faces the added challenge to lead in architecture. All over Australia old universities are expanding. New ones are growing. Some meet this challenge. Some fail.

IN INTERIORS

Architecture lives indoors. The exterior design of buildings may shape cities for a tourist's postcards, but the design of the interior spaces where we live is the real medium of architecture. Width, depth, height: three dimensions are controlled: shapes, colours, equipment, textures: all details are coordinated. The object is a mood appropriate to each activity of our lives. For ceremonies or for sitting. For work or worship.

OPEN SPACES

Architecture does not stop at the window pane. In the outdoor spaces around or between buildings the architect's aim is unchanged though his materials are different. Trees, lawn, sculpture, benches, paving. He composes them for comfort, enjoyment and the visual delights of perspective and light and shade. Open space is the most important space of all in a crowded city or drab town. But this is the least patronised of any art in Australia.

IN CHURCHES

Chartres and Salisbury, St. Peter's and St. Paul's . . . the churches have inspired the greatest buildings in history, and some of the poorest. For church design demands more than any other building from an architect. A sense of reverence, of fundamentals, of inner simplicity, and truth. Building materials may be transformed by imagination into a symbol of faith. And faith is not relative to size.

IN HOSPITALS

A hospital must be a giant laboratory for doctors, specialists, nurses - impeccably functional and sterile. It must also be a factory for an army of staff - efficiently planned and orderly. More important to most of us, it must be a monument of reassurance to the sick or injured. The patient is human. He should be helped to find such potentially frightening surroundings comforting, and as comfortable as possible.

IN SHOPPING CENTRES

The mountain comes to Mohammed: the city stores move out to the suburban housewife. In shopping centres the architect creates an easy environment for shopping. Easy for selling. Easy for servicing and stocking behind the scenes. But housewives are people. They also are entitled to ease. To comfortable amenities. To dignity. And to freedom from the guerrilla war as waged by outdoor advertisers in the old shopping streets.

IN COMMERCE

Competition is keen. Commerce in a big city is a tough world. The architect serves his client by ruthless efficiency in planning, and rigid economy in structure. And by imaginative ideas that stimulate interest or make visual drama out of an economic necessity. He also keeps in mind the effect of the building on the city, on the community, and on the customer who is always right.

IN RECREATION

Recreation often calls for the colossal and spectacular shape. Giant auditoriums and stadiums done at the scale of humanity in the mass. Collaborating with the engineer, the architect has scope here to explore new structural frontiers. He makes a huge music shell by spinning a web of wires. But recreation also means relaxation. He also provides an intimate space. A quiet mood. Simplicity and rest.