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Reorganization of Hamburg-Bergstedt

77

It is not possible to form an adequate idea of the reorganization plan for the old village of Bergstedt, on the outskirts of Hamburg, without looking at it within the framework of the development plan adopted for the entire metropolitan area. Hamburg is now the most important of all the industrial cities of West Germany. A system of urban express highways has been superimposed on the extremely centralized network of already existing streets and there is planned a two-fold decentralization: (1) the creation of new districts not conceived simply as dormitory suburbs but combining in close proximity living quarters and industrial plants, for around 10,000 workers and white-collar employees; (2) the construction of a new urban core about 6 km from the old centre.—As for Bergstedt itself, with its 500 ha accommodating around 4,000 residents, the problem here is to make of it a new urban district for a population of some 20,000. Six expert opinions have been called for in this connection from agencies specializing in questions of town-planning, including the Swiss firm whose report is published below.

Hamburg-Bergstedt Study

80

F. Schwarz & R. Gutmann, architects, Zurich; sociological consultant: Lucius Burckhardt

It is obvious that the present study does not seek to tackle the problem from the architectural angle, but is essentially functional in its approach. —In order to endow the new district with a minimum of neighbourhood autonomy, it is necessary to resort to an "active" new basis, not merely falling back on the present village centre as nucleus. On the contrary, it has to be provided with a shopping centre on a scale to neutralize the centrifugal tendencies which otherwise would disperse residents towards neighbouring districts or even the city itself. It is understood, of course, that the 20,000 residents posited for the future are by no means the goal of the reorganization plan but rather a result of the concrete development.—When one sets oneself the task of reorganizing a new district of a big city, it must not be forgotten that the self-contained existence of this neighbourhood has definite limits: its residents are denizens of the metropolis at large and they cannot be demoted to the status of provincials. On the other hand, there is operative what can be called the multilaterality or overlapping of relationships, i.e., the co-existence of two categories of workers, one having its work near its place of residence, in the neighbourhood, the other in other parts of the metropolitan area. And it is fitting that, from the outset, the relation between the two remain the same as in Hamburg as a whole, just as a certain ideal neighbourhood atmosphere cannot here be substituted for human contacts with the rest of the city, which are maintained by non-localized movements of people. Independently of this endeavour not to push to absurd lengths the autonomy of the new neighbourhood (it is from this standpoint as well that the schools are planned on its periphery so as to accommodate as the need arises pupils from adjoining districts), the concern with giving it a vital basis is favoured by the fact that the utilization coefficient for built-over areas constitutes a sure way of guaranteeing a minimum turnover to businesses located in the neighbourhood centre. However, it must be emphasized that excessively rigid solutions must always be avoided. Hence the importance of always proceeding deliberately by gradual stages, and that from the very outset. The same gradual way of going ahead also appears to be advisable as regards the green zones, which have always been important at Bergstedt as a recreation area and which are to be kept as such. From this point of view, the gradual reduction of farming ought not to entail the transformation into a "park" of everything that up to now has contributed to the special charm of the open countryside, last but not least the presence of small farms.

The Brown, Boveri Housing Estate "In den Wyden" at Birr

89

Prof. Ch.-E. Geisendorf SIA, R. Winkler FAS/SIA, Zurich; collaborator: K. Hintermann

With the labour market as it is today, firms are now obliged to offer their employees not only salaries but also housing. Thus Brown, Boveri & Co., Baden, organized a competition for a housing estate and the plans of the winners of the first two prizes have been combined. Apart from the shop and the kindergarten, the complex, which is in the immediate vicinity of the factory, is eight storeys high throughout the 12 buildings making it up but, fortunately, there is nothing "brutal" in this uniformity.

Apartment-house Complex at Bienne-Mett

92

1958/62. Architect: W. Niehus FAS/SIA, Zurich; collaborators: G. Albisetti and B. Davi

The complex, which comprises three 8-storey blocks and three 16-storey point blocks, is built on a site measuring 36,000 m² and answers to the considerable utilization coefficient of 1.35. All the apartments get the sun, either from the east and west or from the south.

Residential Buildings at Muri (Berne)

96

1959/61. Architect: Fr. Meister FAS/SIA, Berne

Attractive homes with (thanks to special permit) an attic storey offering very large terraces facing a magnificent Alpine panorama.

Reorganization Plan for the Lausanne District the "Ancien Stand"

100

Plan: Lausanne Town-planning Department

On what was once a drill field (67,000 m²) housing for approximately 1,000 people has to be built, which will also necessitate the provision of a school, a kindergarten, certain cultural and athletic installations and buildings as well as shops, a restaurant, etc.; the complex will supplement the old urban neighbourhood of Pontaise.

The Sculptor Ernst Gubler

101

by Rudolf Frauenfelder

Ernst Gubler, who died in Zurich on November 6, 1958, was born in the same town in 1895, the son of an interior decorator. He began as a student at the teachers' training college at Küsnacht like his brothers, the painters Eduard and Max Gubler. Then, after having studied at the School of Applied Arts and continued his training in Weimar and Munich, as well as during the course of his travels in southern Germany, and in Berlin and Paris, in 1932 he succeeded Otto Meyer-Amden at the Zurich School of Applied Arts, where he continued to teach until his death. During his lifetime little was seen of his work. Nevertheless he left behind him a considerable number of sculptures in addition to canvases and drawings. After his initial phase, which may be termed "Gothic"—and it must be remembered that his concern with baroque, which in his opinion was the opposite of Gothic, does not lessen the aptness of this classification—there came a period marked by a plenitude of forms, forms which had first been revealed by Renoir and Maillol. This period proved a never-failing dynamic force tending towards the baroque influences present in his last phase. Gubler was a man whose creativity was restrained and conscious; he always distrusted a sudden happy chance and his taste for meditation led him throughout the course of his life to jot down a number of notes and comments, to which were added more and more frequently fragments of verse.

The Painter Max von Moos

108

by Hans Neuburg

The exhibition of work by Max von Moos at the Lucerne Kunsthau (October to November 1961) will have come as a revelation and will have shown as truly deplorable the fact that the prize of the town of Lucerne has not been awarded this true artist. Son of the painter Joseph von Moos, Max von Moos was born in 1903. At the age of 16 he was studying in Munich but soon he was engaged in less academic activities, thanks to which he made the acquaintance of the Lucerne surrealist Ernst Maass. After working for some time as a graphic designer on his own account, he was, in 1932, nominated professor at the Lucerne School of Applied Arts, where he is still teaching to this day. Owing to his "instrumental" multiplicity, it is difficult to classify him, especially as in his case works of a quasi-apocalyptic surrealism (in this respect Max Ernst stands at the opposite pole) alternate, and this is above all the case in recent years, with the tachism to be found in a number of other canvases. Let us trust that the incontestable authenticity of his gifts will soon find a vast public!