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The present issue is devoted to the problem of the preservation and the renovation of old towns. There is no question here of selecting individual isolated buildings, but rather the problem is the over-all aspect, whatever it is that gives the old town its character. The preservation of whole districts of this type is a problem of practical utilization, and it involves economics, it being important to avoid both the purely commercial city and resignation to the growth of slums.

Lucerne: from the old town to the modern city 342
by Stani von Moos

There was initiated very early in the 19th century the structural transformation of the old town of Lucerne, which had gradually become the distributing centre for a large part of the interior of Switzerland. However, this transformation was carried out beneath the mask of "adaptation" of buildings to local architectural styles. The author recommends the creation of zones of preservation and zones of renovation, as well as the extension to the urban periphery of the functions proper to the modern business centre.

The problems confronting the old town at Ingolstadt 346
by Hardt-W. Hämer

This old garrison town has to a great extent preserved its historic contours. It is at the present time in the course of becoming the centre of a growing industrial region and a market centre for a population of one hundred thousand. There is still time to decide what streets and squares can be preserved. The author proposes a system of one-way thoroughfares giving motor traffic access to key points in the centre of the town.

Planning and construction in the old town of Aarau 349
by Hans Schenker

The author examines a study made by the Aarau section of the SIA. This study shows the methods by which the old town can be reorganized and made to serve vital functions without having its appearance modified. H. S., on account of the smallness of the lots, is of the opinion that preservation is illusory, and he judges a totally new plan equally illusory. He proposes the successive replacement of the old houses by steel and glass buildings.

The preservation of the monuments and historic sites in the centre of the city of Neuchâtel 352
by P. A. Debrot, C. Rollier, T. Waldvogel

In 1950 the Great Council enacted a law on the protection of historic monuments and sites, the provisions of which were introduced into the Cantonal law on building of 1957. A Cantonal commission is designating the monuments to be preserved. This would involve, for the City, the problem of adding an application regulation permitting the preservation around already designated monuments of suitable surroundings. One of the key problems is not so much the protection of the building as that of its exterior and party walls, in other words, of its cadastral limit.

The old town of Biel/Bienne 355
by Marc Schmid-Frey

Isolated from the traffic and from the business centre, the old town, at Biel, at least what remains of it, was to a great extent renovated in 1936 (as part of the measures taken to combat unemployment), with strict protective provisions being adopted. The enormous increase in real estate values is making the rentals insufficient. The town is therefore up against the problem of a new renovation for economic reasons, with the appearance of the whole being left intact. The old town, nevertheless, is not to be turned into a kind of Disneyland to attract tourists.

Preservation and renovation of the old town at Regensburg 358
by Paul Schlien

Regensburg is one of the largest and best preserved of the medieval towns of central Europe. Certain very old quarters are overcrowded and their houses in a bad state of repair. Reorganization and development demand enormous sums of money. Moreover, these quarters should be made inaccessible to speculators. The author proposes that the university the establishment of which at Regensburg has just been decided on be engaged in the financing of the renovation of the old town. In this way the town of the Perpetual Parliament of former times could be preserved and made to serve a useful function.

Reflections on the old town of Zug 362
by Hanns A. Brültsch

In Zug the old town is divided into a zone bordering the lake, of which increasingly less use is being made, a busy district with important buildings on the south side toward the Zugerberg, and finally a bogus old town dating from the 19th century. The first zone ought to be made into a shopping and strolling area, the second to be as well preserved and utilized as possible, whereas the third would have to be transformed into a modern centre.

The metal sculptures of Zoltan Kemeny 365
by Willy Rotzler

Zoltan Kemeny, the son of a stationmaster in Transylvania, has lived in Zurich for twenty years. From 1930 to 1940 Paris exerted its influence on him. As a designer of wrought iron work and of fashions, as well as a painter, he familiarized himself with the properties of the material. To this day he considers himself a painter and calls his creations "images in relief". After numerous experiments with various materials, he took up metal as a medium; but in contrast to certain contemporary sculptors who find their raw material in heaps of scrap iron, Z. K. resorts to identical elements, nails, screws, springs, rings—that is, to mass-produced products with which he composes configurations of infinite variety where the rational and the emotional merge. Also, by means of a refined colour technique employing fire and chemical processes, he invests his metal sculptures with an intense life.

The sculptor Raffael Benazzi 371
by Hans Neuburg

Born at Rapperswil in 1933, Raffael Benazzi works at the present time at Porto Ronco (Ticino) and at Ronchi (Massa Carrara). His teacher was Arnold D'Altri; Hans Aeschbacher likewise influenced him. Externally the shape of his sculptures has the concentration of pebbles or stones rolled by glaciers. However, he is no less preoccupied with the interior of the same shapes, visible in the mould. According to the material selected, the results are most varied. Wax sculptures, which the artist casts himself in lead or in bronze, reveal an interior composed of lamellae. His teakwood figures assume shapes that recall seashells. The transparency of the alabaster produces ornamental shapes penetrated by light. Works by Raffael Benazzi are to be found in private collections in Europe and America and in the museums of Vienna and Winterthur.

Walter Voegeli 375
by Peter F. Althaus

Walter Voegeli, the son of a blacksmith, was born in Winterthur in 1929. At first a pupil at the schools of applied art in Zurich and in Lucerne, he has lived since 1953 in Berne. A painter above all, he turned, in 1955/57, towards metal sculpture. He creates directly in the iron the formal elements of his sculptures. The main types he has created in this medium are "steles" composed of bars, "mural sculptures" made up of plates of iron and what he calls "apertures" ("Durchblicke"), in plates of metal.