The University of Queensland Press has published an occupational survey "Architecture in Queensland" by S. A. Rayner and F. B. Lucas. Responses are recorded to a questionnaire sent out to 427 architects registered in the State, and by what must have surely been a prodigious follow-up programme and loyal cooperation from the profession, a 95 per cent return was obtained. The book should be bought (it is remarkable value for money at 5/-) not only by Queensland architects but by those in other States—for it gives a lead that could well be followed all over Australia, through local chapters or the R.A.I.A., to determine the state of the profession now and in the future. To entice further readers, some of the things discovered were e.g.: 3 architects claimed they worked 70-79 hours per week but most (82%) settled for about 40 hours. The median income lies close to £2,350, but the range varies from under £1,000 to over £5,000 (6%). The total value of work completed in a normal year by private offices appears to be some £29,000,000—i.e. about one half of the total value of buildings completed in the entire State. The authors finally declare "The conclusion is inescapable that, even after full allowance is made for the relatively small percentage of diploma students who complete their course in minimum time, the supply of newly qualified architects should shortly be more than sufficient for the State's minimum needs." However, even on the author's assumptions: an eventual ratio of one architect per 3,000 population, and an unimproved increase in the share of the State's bldg programme, their conclusion is not "inescapable" and it would be acting too hastily to infer that student numbers should be reduced for fear of future unemployment. (Although there may be other good reasons for trying to keep architecture schools small).

Comparison of this photograph of the finished YWCA headquarters in Perth, with the model (C-S May 1963) must ameliorate any impressions then created; crisp detailing of the final work upset only by the mixed bag of tricks in the perimeter fencing. Archts. Cameron, Chisholm & Nicol; bldrs. R. J. Davies Pty Ltd; cost £56,000 for 11,200 s.ft., inclusive of all fittings and furnishing.

Copper fleche, grey conc. tile roof, grey conc. blocks and stained timber compose this charming little triangular church: St. Johns Presbyterian at Warrandyte (Vic). Hipwell Weight & Ross, archts.

Essentially the points made by Professor C. D. Buchanan, Professor of Transport at the University of London, in his contribution to the R.A.C.V. Traffic Symposium in Melbourne were (i) decide upon what kind of environment a city should have i.e. pedestrian dominated, vehicle dominated, compact, dispersed, linear or radial, (ii) establish the lines of communication that will serve this environment, emphasis serve, (iii) provide the policy, controls and finance to enable the goals to be achieved. This sounds only like classical town planning method, but Professor Buchanan has added to this the shock of prophecy—the impending anarchical crisis of traffic suffocating the life of the city.
This hefty brick and concrete kindergarten at Ivanhoe Park, Manly, sits as comfortably under its great fig tree as the now familiar (C-S No. 133, & the new architecture, by Robin Boyd) St. Ives kindergarten rests amongst the gums. The St. Ives kinder would seem to envelop the kids with greater sympathy, but to judge performance from users' responses; in both cases the little dears love their environmental alma maters. The concrete roof at Ivanhoe Park seems designed to take another floor at a later stage, but by then the strained over-and-under detailing at the junction of beams and eaves may well be passe.

This office suite and store for Gilbeys Ltd in Victoria Park, WA, has been completed recently at a cost of £8366; Howlett & Bailey Pty Ltd archts; L. Lillyman Pty Ltd bldrs. To disguise a low-pitched a-c roof with a uniformly deep a-c fascia invites some challenge, but this is altogether better than the crudity of work of a decade or so ago, wherein the steep-pitched roof found refuge behind a monstrous and totally unrelated facade fascia. Split masonry block walling painted black externally (with pumice powder additive) extends up to door head height, with steel boxed columns carrying roof structure.

In Bouverie St, Carlton (Melb) this office and warehouse for Makower McBeath & Co. Pty. Ltd., has a forceful facade —marred perhaps by an unsightly finish to the brick parapets. The combination of materials—sandy-cream brick, bronze anodised aluminium, grey glass, black steel fence—makes a very subtle harmony of colour. Eggleston MacDonald & Secomb, archts.

This house at Glen Waverley (Melb), Earle & Associates, archts; with low pitched roof, conc. block walls, exposed rafters and shady verandah is typical of the sort of neat, uncomplicated and almost ingenuous architecture that has been produced by post World War II graduates in sufficient quantity and quality to give rise to the suggestion that there is a "Melbourne School"—a regional style. The style has not changed much over the last ten years—it is a safe way of ensuring reasonable and pleasant designs—and there is little recent domestic architecture in Melbourne that is adventurous or blessed with any spirit of innovation. Speculative builders have pre-empted the basic vocabulary of glass and solid panel rhythm and by adding an assortment of public-pleasing features, debased the initial thought and made the style popular, and paradoxically, this has lead to a better standard of spec. houses.

The Melbourne "Sun" introduced a new feature to appear weekly on Tuesdays—"No Place Like Home", written by Mr. Harry Winbush, head of the School of Architecture at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Besides the expected general information for the prospective homeowner, on finance, renovations, decorations, etc; the column assesses the stock range of builders' houses for sale. A worthwhile analysis, for it points out not only what the buyer gets for his money, but also what he doesn't get (e.g. sewrage facilities, polished floors, fences etc); and it is also critical of fittings and planning. The level of the column drops to catch-phrases however with remarks such as "The feature wall of stained and varnished pine in the family living area is a happy thought." The service is apparently directed towards readers who find the "Age" R.V.I.A. Small Homes Service too highbrow, or at 10 guineas per plan, too expensive.
This imaginative little weekend house at Somers (Vic) has a lens-shaped plan, battered stud walls, floor to ceiling window slits, glass "blisters" set in the wall and boarded ventilating panels—an unusual and sensitive combination of typical motifs of the architect, Peter Burns. (The man in the doorway is the owner, Mr Ryan).

An unassuming and relaxed design for this house at East Brighton (Vic). Conc. block, stained timber fascia and posts, white painted window joinery. Ronald M. Lee, archt.

Asked to design a building for a lift-slab company, many architects would be tempted to use a single lifted slab as an appropriate, if rather gimmicky, theme to present an "image" for the firm. Happily, in this office & factory for A. B. Carr Holdings Pty. Ltd.—Lift Slab Aust. at Brookvale NSW, the architects Edwards Madigan & Torzillo resisted the temptation, and produced instead a satisfyingly simple and apt composition in brick plane walls and timber fascias.

This is a model of St. Andrews Presbyterian Hospital, now under construction in East Melbourne. The completed first stage of the contract was for the structural shell only—£180,000. By negotiating this contract separately before bldg trade cost increases in July '63; £10,000 was saved. The second contract for the infill is for approx. £143,000. Earle & Associates, archts; Hardcastle & Richards, str. engrs; Eric Kolle & Associates, mech. engrs; Hamilton Forster & Padgham, q.s.; A. R. P. Crow & Sons Pty. Ltd., bldrs. ¶ The S.A. Housing Trust plans to build an 18-storey block of 140 flats, on the corner of East Terrace and Halifax Street, overlooking the parklands. The block will be the largest built in S.A.

In Perth, a model was exhibited of the proposed Mitchell Freeway to be built on 19 acres of reclaimed land at the city end of the Narrows Bridge. Public comment ranged from a layman's ecstatic "We only hope that we will live to see this marvellous project completed!" to the outraged cry "If the Govt's plan for river reclamation is carried out it will ever remain as a monumental record of the rape of the river by the 1963 Parliament of W.A.", from Mrs. B. Rischbeith, president of the Citizen's Committee for the Preservation of Kings Park and the Swan River; with a guarded "No criticism can be made without full knowledge of the facts involved, but I can say that the project must be functional and aesthetic," from the President of the W.A. Chap- ter of the R.A.I.A., W. T. Leighton, who also observed, more meaningfully, that the road system seemed unnecessarily complicated.

¶ A biography—"Walter Burley Griffin" by James Birrell (U. of Q'land Staff Archt), published by the University of Queensland Press; price £5.5/-, adds stature to Griffin's swelling reputation. Although most Australian architects would be prepared to concede that Griffin was a great architect, their opinion as a rule has been based upon limited knowledge and hearsay. The information and scope of work illustrated in the book now enable this vague impression to become a certainty, for those who will care to read and observe. Every architect should buy this book—it is not merely a valuable record, but also a stimulating experience. But since the book is bound to be the standard reference work on Griffin for some time to come, it is a pity that it was not twice as long, with more plans, original drawings and details. Some primary sources of research that are hinted at are left hanging, so that there is still plenty more to be said and argued about Walter Burley Griffin e.g. on p.14: "In the Archives of the New York Historical Society there is a twelve volume autobiography by Marion Griffin. Unfortunately, it is a very bitter document and may never be published." But presumably it may be read for "One remark in it suggests that Griffin's plans for concrete masonry were taken from his office in Sydney by the editor of "Building" on the pretext of studying them for publication. They subsequently were taken to America and given to Wright, and from these, she claims, the famous Millard House and its companions were built." A trail for some architectural sleuth to follow!

Stop Press: reports on Buckminster Fuller's visit to Australia and the Victoria Architectural Medal Awards will be in the May issue of C.S.
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