Builders (Associated) Re-Developments Limited over 1965-66, 11,500 building contractors completed new subsidiary Master Builders (Associated) Re-Developments by the Housing Commission and then offered for public famatory and actionable. The editors accordingly hereby publish this article, and offer an apology to these persons.

“The editors have been advised on behalf of these persons that the true facts in this matter are as follows:—

The land was originally slum land acquired and cleared by the Housing Commission and then offered for public tender. The area has been developed by Master Builders (Associated) Re-Developments Limited over the past seven years. It has been and is being developed according to a layout and plans approved by the Housing Commission and in accordance with town planning and other permits. Provision for and location of off-street car parking has been made in accordance with town planning conditions and the requirements of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, the responsible authority concerned.

Master Builders (Associated) Re-Development Limited were constituted to commence construction of Own-Your-Own flats some seven years ago. At that stage the Company employed a panel of architects, nominated by the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects, to design the flats. In the last seven years, 17 blocks of flats containing 361 units have been established. The balance of the area comprising 9 acres with 421 flat units will be completed in 1968. For a variety of reasons impossible to foresee, the original project appeared to be threatened with failure. Rather than wind up the organisation and thus sacrifice something that was considered to be of benefit to the public and to the image of the building industry, A. V. Jennings Industries (Australia) Limited acquired all the shares of the other shareholders in the Company.

Since the 1st March, 1966, this Company has continued to develop the area and has had to absorb the considerable losses which had been sustained in the venture to that date. Prior to Master Builders (Associated) Re-Developments Limited becoming wholly owned by A. V. Jennings Industries (Australia) Limited, the Architects’ Panel was disbanded by mutual agreement.

The project is developed in accordance with town planning and Housing Commission requirements by the Company’s fully qualified experts with due and proper regard for open space and neighbourly planning, visual continuity, sensible orientation, notions of privacy and good architecture. It was never a fundamental principle to treat the Harris Street area as a park. At all relevant times it was part of the planning of the area that Harris Street should be closed to public traffic and to be used for the purpose presently proposed, and no statement to the contrary has ever been made by any person on behalf of Master Builders (Associated) Re-Developments Limited. To say that someone has “sold out” in principle and in fact, is accordingly untrue. It is recognised that the development of Harris Street as a car parking area in accordance with the planned scheme of development, is essential in the interest of the project to form its environmental aspects as well as the aspects concerned — is conferring upon flat owners the full benefits and advantages of living in a planned area. Not the least of these is the benefit of the provision of properly planned car parking spaces for the use of residents’.

¶ The number of flats now equalled the number of houses being built in Melbourne” is a statistic given by Mr. G. N. Crowley, director of the Housing Industry Association’s economic research department.

¶ The Rural Bank of N.S.W. reports its survey of the building industry in its quarterly journal “Trends”. In 1965-66, 11,500 building contractors completed new buildings in Australia valued at $1,608m, 54% in houses and flats. Less than 1% of all building firms are responsible for more than half the total value of new building work.

*Lord Casey inaugurated the Australian Institute for Urban Studies in Canberra on June 28th. Mr Humphrey Carver, Canadian town-planner, addressing this first conference, strongly criticised Victorian Housing Commission tall flat blocks (C-S 154 Aug. ’65), describing them as prisons illustrating an urban society imprisoned by its own, out-of-date systems. In its first three years the Institute expects to require from $250,000 to $300,000 for its research programme, plus an annual budget of $40,000 for operational costs. Financial support so far has come from the Myer Foundation and the Social Science Research Council of Australia. Mr L. M. Perrott, architect (Melbourne) was elected Chairman of the Institute. A management board of 16 was elected which will immediately press for Commonwealth Government assistance. Possible projects outlined in submissions to the Prime Minister: 1. A study of Australian population growth and distribution to 1980/2000, emphasising trends in the large cities. 2. A study of technical and economic aspects of decentralisation, including an examination of the validity of the arguments advanced for decentralisation. 3. An examination, focussed on the capital cities, of land available for housing. 4. A survey of urban planning in Australia, ranging from finance to public administration to professional training. 5. A study of the role of public authority housing in urban developments. 6. An examination of new patterns for efficient metropolitan growth in Australia. The Institute has the capacities to match the dynamics of the coming urban explosion, control the flames and clear the smoke.

¶ Leonard James Walters (63), A.R.A.I.A., has been appointed W.A. Government Architect. Mr. Walters entered the State Public Service as an architect in 1933 to assist with the planning and design of Yallingup Caves House.

¶ Victorian State Cabinet plans to set aside 250 acres for parkland opposite La Trobe University. This will be the first major park for Melbourne since 1933, ½ million people later.

¶ A twenty-four-page brochure on the Sebel Design Award 1967 (won by Jerry Arnott for an Auto Zoom movie camera) is good coverage of the competition and Mr Harry Sebel deserves congratulations in promoting this venture. The standard of the designs awarded major prizes is very high. However, amongst the host of designs given honourable mentions there are some which to this reviewer appear to have special qualities of originality, skillfulness or practicability. The reputation of the award and the achievements of the winners will be more esteemed in the future if they are not tagged with such a long string of also-rans.

Good straightforward architecture in this house in an outer area of Brisbane is achieved with unpretentious materials crisply organised: asbestos cement cladding, corrugated galvanised iron roof, timber post and beam frame, brick paved ground floor. Double storey height living room, parents’ bedroom and study on the ground floor, children’s bedrooms and play space upstairs. A central two-storey core of brick walls and concrete floor slabs contains the stairway, kitchen, laundry, and two bathrooms. John Railton, archt. Iezzi Constructions Pty. Ltd.

¶ An apology — complaints have been made by A. V. Jennings Industries (Australia) Limited and its subsidiary Master Builders (Associated) Re-Developments Limited and by Mr A. V. Jennings that certain statements made in “Cross-Section” Issue 176, June 1st, 1967, concerning the area referred to as “Hotham Gardens” Estate at North Melbourne, are untrue, defamatory and actionable. The editors accordingly hereby publish this article, and offer an apology to these persons.

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A report, a little late but better than never, on the Association of Australian Architecture Students' Association Convention in Brisbane: "Gio Ponti pontificated in a genial manner, while Tony Gwilliam thrust ideas of tomorrow quietly into the centre of discussions. Stefan Wewerker (Germany) didn't turn up and Ralph Erskine (Sweden), who was to fly on to Brisbane after visiting India, didn't visit India. Harry Seidler filled in with a mainstream lecture (the architect is a Renaissance type universal man) and Gilbert Herbert promoted the attitude of intellectual analysis. Gwilliam stays on at the Solar House O'land University as a Research Fellow for a couple of months, Ponti returns to Italy (via Japan) impressed with Australia's space and egalitarian society. Gwilliam politely tuned everybody in to Buckminster Fuller's "Design Decade" and the nature of inflatable structures. "Today" was suddenly old hat and the students felt the pulse of the future; dynamic stuff, just what the doctor ordered. The guest speakers were somewhat horrified by the lack of "self-direction" in the students and seemed to feel that local architectural processes must be a shade reactionary. The students? Who knows, they had a ball! Consensus of opinion suggested that U of NSW might be more "with it" than the rest. Life in a computerised ad-mass society is a reality that scares most, but then the Bauhaus manifestoes had similar effects years ago. As one NSW student put it: "Pop is only a stage of development through which the new epoch is understood. It will be replaced by something much better and more wonderful". Thank goodness for that! Some had suspected it could be a permanent affliction. Nevertheless "Archigram" boys and "Metabolists" are much closer to the truth than some of us care to admit — and in Brisbane, the students gave their vote for tomorrow and the "big adventure". All the papers read at the Convention as well as the summing-up report can be obtained from the A.A.S.A. Box 234, Post Office, Broadway, Brisbane — cost $2.00. Those interested in tape recordings of talks should also enquire at the above address.

Photos above are of two inflatable structures built at Queensland University by 1st, 2nd and 3rd year architecture students under the direction of Tony Gwilliam. Located in the Great Court, the structures attracted enormous interest. Engineering students prowled about and were impressed. Next aims are to build a whopper for a "Student Happening" theatre and to market minatypes for the beach.

In Brighton, Vic, eight home units, each of 15½ squares, each with private gardens front (20' x 20') and rear (18' x 40'), with 3 carports for every 2 units; follow a concept of row housing combined with private external spaces. Pressed cream brick, painted grey trim, steel roof deck. Cost $112,000. Clarke Hopkins and Clarke, archts. S. W. & J. Gardiner, bidrs.
no wading
through 'oceans' of literature...

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Like a great cosy secular monastery, suffused with the warmth of materials in their as nearly-as-possible natural state, the Union building for the University of Newcastle, N.S.W., relaxes itself beautifully amongst a grove of eucalypts. The major spaces—dining, snack room, private dining and multi-purpose common room, are all served directly from the kitchen, which in contrast to the fairface brick and stained timber common elsewhere, is white tiled with a white plaster ceiling. Roofing is brown glazed terra cotta tile. A collection of copper clad room lights serve the kitchen. Total area 22,625 sq. ft. Contract price $344,836.00. Ancher, Mortlock, Murray & Woolley archts (partner in charge Ken Woolley, senior assistant Glen Murcutt). Almost in anticipation of the kind of criticism that has been ventured by Robin Boyd in his article, "The State of Australian Architecture" in the June issue of Architecture in Australia, e.g. "The Sydney school . . . had no time for looking wistfully to a reluctant technological future which kept retreating beyond one's grasp. It looked back, hoping to find what was best in the recent past and hoping to re-do this even better. Some-

St. Matthew's C of E on a corner site at Cheltenham, Vic., is an impressive composition of many angular forms. Externally the shapes are given cohesion by the constant colour theme of rock face brown concrete block, dark brown roof tiles and dark stained timber. Internally the white plaster planes of the ceiling are given directional emphasis by broad timber straps. In the main space the roof soars to the apex conjunction of three massive precast beams, then genuflects towards the altar. The angular concept in plan leads to details that only time will tell whether they have been courageous or outrageous, e.g. the side chapel receives top lighting along its walls through a fibre glass parapet gutter, and side lighting through glass set into the blockwork direct, without sub-frames. The complex is composed of the church and chapel, seating 300, a church hall for 300, Sunday school accommodation and ancillary rooms. In-situ columns and precast beams are finished in exposed aggregate. Contract sum $95,000. Chancellor & Patrick, archts. Wearing-Smith & Brown, str. consultants. Milmark Constructions, bdrs.
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