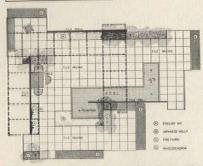
CERAMIC TILE



Design for Patio-Retreat by James Rose

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Required Reading

Forts . . . cont. from page 60 tury at the forks of the Ohio, and he describes the forms and techniques used in defensive constructions of palisaded wood, earth, masonry.

Defensive works are capable of arousing in architects the same excitement that ocean liners and airplanes do, or that automobiles used to, when Le Corbusier was first pamphleteering. The spectacle of a design that develops directly, with apparent inevitability, from a set of well-understood needs is a satisfying one. In the 20th century it is a spectacle likely to be summoned up mostly from thin, light structures designed to move through space, and architecture has often seemed by comparison a heavy-footed thing. In times like these, when bulldozers are tearing up the land in extravagant and ill-considered ways, it becomes a particular pleasure to consider the spare but powerful structures that resulted from the efficient movement of large quantities of earth (66,000 cu yds at Fort Pitt) into forms developed with economy from a well-understood need. Mr. Stotz illustrates his points with his own handsome drawings.

The opening chapters, contributed by Dr. James, are devoted to a discussion of the French and Indian War and its effects on the settlement of western Pennsylvania. The war and the settlement both were apparently a grubby business, short on romance, and the tale gains from the straight telling. Still, it is likely to be most interesting to readers with a special interest in the area.

-CHARLES W. MOORE

Milanese Architecture

NUOVE ARCHITETTURE A MILANO. By Robert Aloi. Text in Italian and English. Ulrico Hoepli, Milan. 378 pp., illus. 9000 lire.

Virtually all the significant buildings erected in Milan in the last five years, including many that have attracted attention all over the world, have now been compiled in a single volume of almost definitive scope. There are 426 photographs in black and white, 56 in color, and 475 drawings, including site plans showing the street location of every building illustrated. There are a short description of each design (in English as well as Italian) and indexes by architect and by building. There are also two introductory articles on the history of Milanese architecture and planning (though in Italian only). All in all, this is a useful and interesting book, and practically indispensable for an architect planning a trip to Milan.

—J. В.

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