

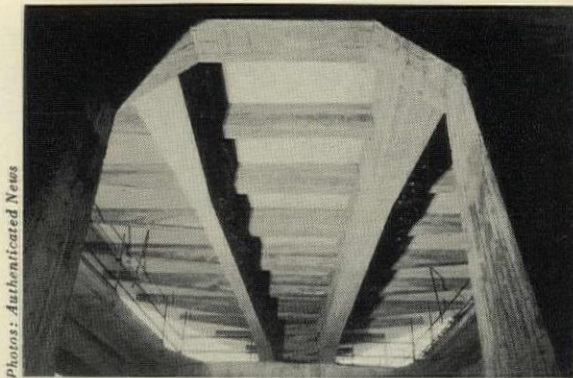
POWERFUL CONSTRUCTION DETAILS MARK MILAN SKYSCRAPER

But Final Effect Is Diluted

MILAN, ITALY.—The latest large-scale commercial building in this city's postwar construction boom, the headquarters of Pirelli Company, has reached completion. A notable array of Italian architectural and engineering "names" designed the building: Architects Gio Ponti and Alberto Rosselli and Engineers Antonio Fornaroli, Guiseppe Valtolina, and Egidio Dell'Orto; with the structural-engineering collaboration of Pier Luigi Nervi and Prof. Arturo Danusso. The result of this combination of talents is a building of interesting structural innovations covered with a skin bringing it perilously close in appearance to the run-of-the-mine curtain-wall buildings of New York's Park Avenue.

Structurally, the building comprises four giant, hollow supporting pillars—two at each end—which contain emergency stairs, elevators, and electrical and air-conditioning equipment. Between these are four intermediate bearing pillars. These piers, as can be seen in plan above, diminish in size as they reach the top of the building where there is less weight to bear. Central hall of each floor is widest at center of building, narrowing at ends where traffic is least.

The strong forms created by the use of prestressed concrete in the pillars and ceilings (*below*) evoke a far greater response than the bland façade of the completed building. Here can be detected the "fine Italian hand" of Nervi.



Photos: Authenticated News

