"TE ARO REBUILT"

(continued from previous page)

to all town-planning in New Zealand: the relation of open spaces to the buildings that surround them; with enclosed and sheltered squares for individual purbuits and for civic occasions.

But still another problem has been opened for discussion. Four groups out of the ten have devoted their attention to the residential areas.

Parks or Gardens

It is notable that the bungalow is not the unit from which they start. But large multi-unit blocks of high population density are dispersed among wide green spaces, parks and sports grounds. This is very different from the usual New Zealand standard of dwelling. In the heart of Wellington a suburban residential scheme with one-eighth of an acre to each house is clearly an anachronism. Indeed most of the old houses in this district have long ago been turned into boarding houses and flats-an economic consequence of the mounting value of the land. Every big city in the world faces this problem. And if there is any solution, it can only be made by approaching the difficulty in a broad and

open scale, in some such way as the students have set about it. For my part, I can never quite see why discussion of this topic generates such heat. The issue is plain, and the decision one of individual preference. Either one can travel daily to Trentham or Eastbourne or Porirua to enjoy one's own garden, or one can live in a flat in a park near the centre of the town. Economic circumstances force the choice on most of us. It is not possible any longer to have a house with a garden in the town.

There are many other problems controversial put forward for discussion in the students' proposal. But let us hope that the Exhibition has succeeded in penetrating, at least, the indifference

that Wellingtonians (in self-protection, no doubt) assume towards their surroundings. I am sure that some of them have had their minds stirred to imagine the

WHAT To Aro could be-a general view of the central exhibit in the architectural section

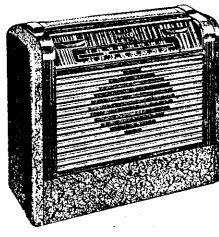
feeling of spaciousness and openness, its spent, and it may well be looked back rhythm, order and scale. If the Exhibi- on as a decisive moment in the develoption has achieved this, the great effort ment of Wellington.

possibilities of a modern town with its and work of the students has been well

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