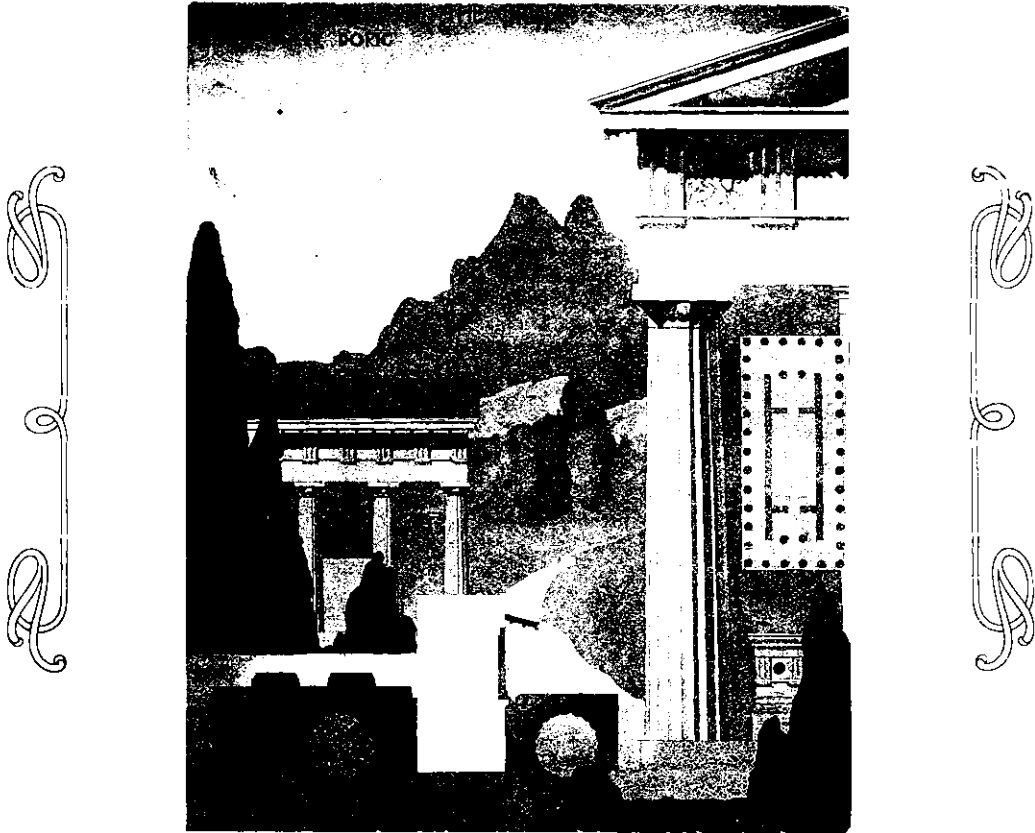


Bearing in mind the function of a monumental building where beauty and grandeur are the prime considerations, our sense of fitness is not disturbed when we observe practical convenience sacrificed to appearance. On the other hand, in a commercial structure, such a subordination of utility to appearance would offend, because in this latter building the function is that of use. When it is considered that the home is the life-long shelter of the family, the pranks of design committed by architects of the eighteenth century cannot be tolerated. With them, convenience and homeliness gave way to effect and symmetry; bedrooms went windowless so as to fit in with the grand fenestration schemes of the front, and to obtain symmetry of masses, kitchens were separated

frontages, are gems of Architecture. But the question of site is so important that, placed in a rural setting, these flats would appear altogether stiff and cramped and totally unsuited to the surroundings.

Going further afield we find latitude and climate considerable factors in deciding the quality of fitness. It is hard to imagine that the broad simple designs of the Greeks could have evolved in Northern Europe, where the temperate sun would never have modelled them. The Parthenon seen on an average English day could never seem that same Parthenon which originated in sunny Greece. Bearing this in mind, we might have a partial explanation of the cold and cheerless appearance of many of London's classic buildings. It would be hard to realise how say Salis-



Auckland Students' Association. Design by N. Garlick. (First Mention).
Subject: "A Composition of the Greek Doric Order."

bury Cathedral could have arisen in Greece where the powerful sunlight would reduce the intricate Gothic detail to a meaningless jumble of dark and harsh shadows. Even the beautiful Greek mouldings were found rather unsuitable to the low-altitude rays of the northern sun, which did not give a sufficient shadow to model the flat refined curves. And so in Gothic detail we find deep undercut moulds so suitable to the casting of deep shadows.

Coming now to the second requirement in judging Architecture from the standpoint of fitness, one is impressed with the great influence exerted by the nature of the setting. How perfectly, for instance, does the rambling country house nestle into the expanse of surrounding country! In the town, where every inch counts, its rambling restful appearance is not suitable to the busy confined space. On the other hand it cannot be denied that many of London's mansions, designed in keeping with their narrow

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In bygone days owing to lack of transport and intercourse, local building materials had perforce to be used. As a result types of buildings became indigenous to their districts. This explains half the charm and sense of fitness in England's rural