

ON CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE



## DARLINGHURST

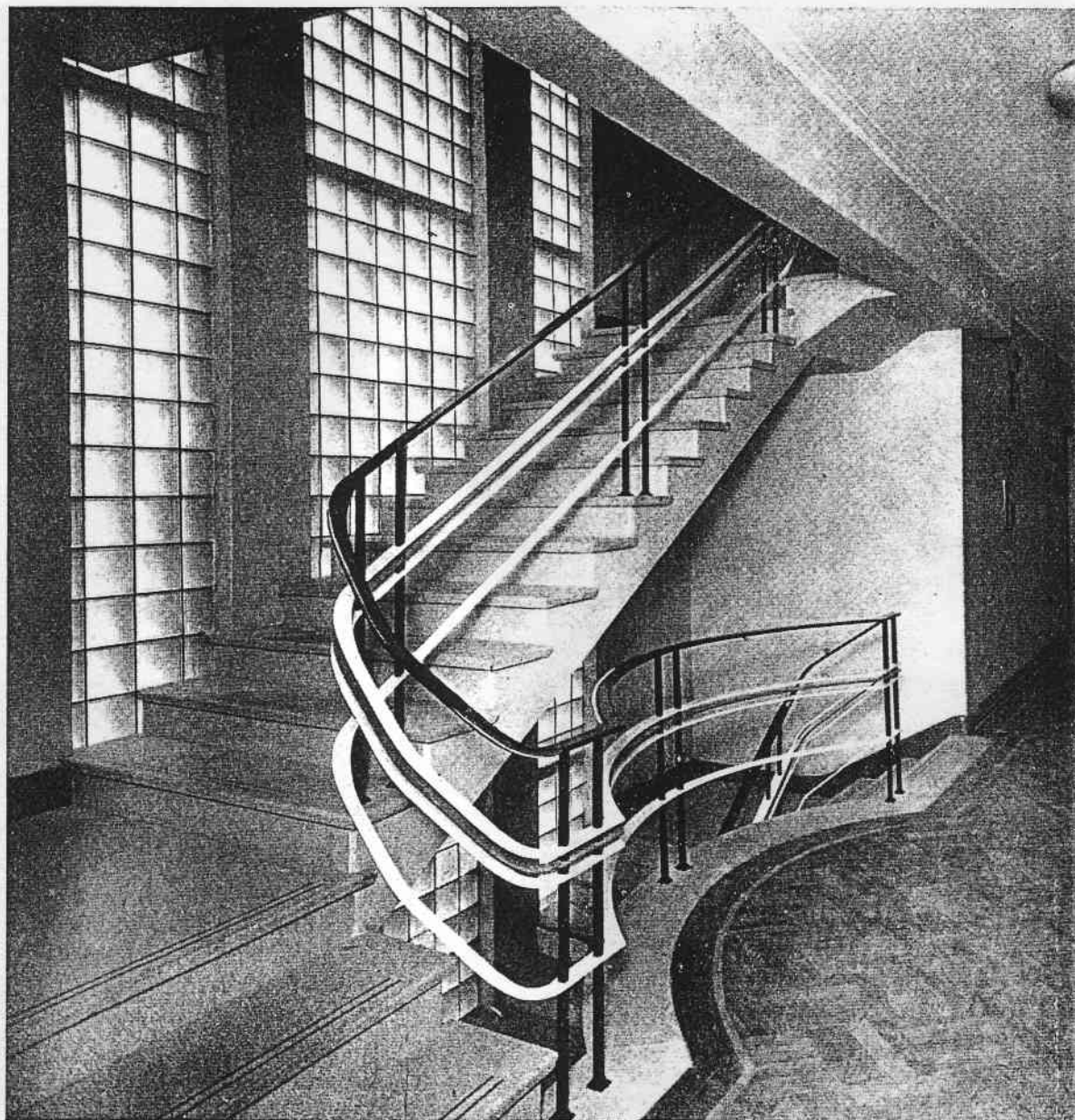
THE activity in flat building in the city of Sydney and the nearer suburbs defies a suitable adjective. There has never at any time been such feverish building in the history of the city or the industry.

Closer in it is the bachelor and small family flat that is predominating. The minimum of accommodation in the most central position seems to be the desideratum. The planning of flats to meet this demand has advanced so that it is quite astonishing to see the small area into which the required accommodation can be packed.

Mont Clair, Liverpool Street, Sydney, is the latest to be completed. Its proximity to the centre of the city makes it ideal for the bachelor, the business girl and the small business family. This fact has influenced the planning. Flats are not all to the same plan. There is quite a variety within limits, but the requirements of the class just enumerated have guided the layout.

The exterior is attractive and tells at once that false economy has not been attempted. Seven stories high, verticality has naturally become the motif, but it has not been stressed unduly.

■ On opposite page: The bent glass windows and concrete hoods give a Continental feeling to the façade. Above: The vestibule is carpeted over the parquet and walls are textured.



The flanking bays are recessed and use has been made of this feature of the plan in the provision of garden space on each side of the entrance. Bent glass windows and rounded corners to the brickwork add character to the projecting centre bays. All headers in the brickwork further emphasise this point.

A reinforced concrete hood over the entrance follows the curves of the walls above it and on plan is a series of three sweeps. The two floors immediately above feature bent glass windows in the centre. This resolves itself into a brick fin, which runs like a tower right up the face of the building and terminates in a flagpole.

54 The stair-well is lit by three continuous panels of glass masonry. The wrought iron balustrade is finished in black, red and cream, and is a notable piece of work.

The front flats on the first and second floors where these windows occur are the largest in the building, thus accounting for the extra windows. The plan varies at the third floor level, but remains the same from there up.

The steel frames of the windows are painted cream and the concrete heads over windows are the same colour. A light shade has been chosen for the brickwork.

Many steps in the brickwork lead into the



entrance doors, accommodated in a recessed porch. Panels are all glass and the frames Queensland maple. Push bars protect the glass panels.

The name MONT CLAIR is in metal letters over the doors.

The entrance vestibule is spacious, with parquet floor and a patterned carpet. The amount of parquet flooring in the building is a pleasant feature and a distinct departure that is certain to be repeated in other structures of a similar nature. All the public halls and corridors and every floor throughout the building except bathrooms and kitchens are parquet.

Walls are textured and the plain ceiling carries a large lighting fixture of glass and chromium.

Three broad steps lead up to the corridor and the reception desk. The latter is conveniently situated. Strip lighting at the corner pier is notable.

All door heads on the ground floor are circular and doors feature a large single panel. The door furniture is modern in design.

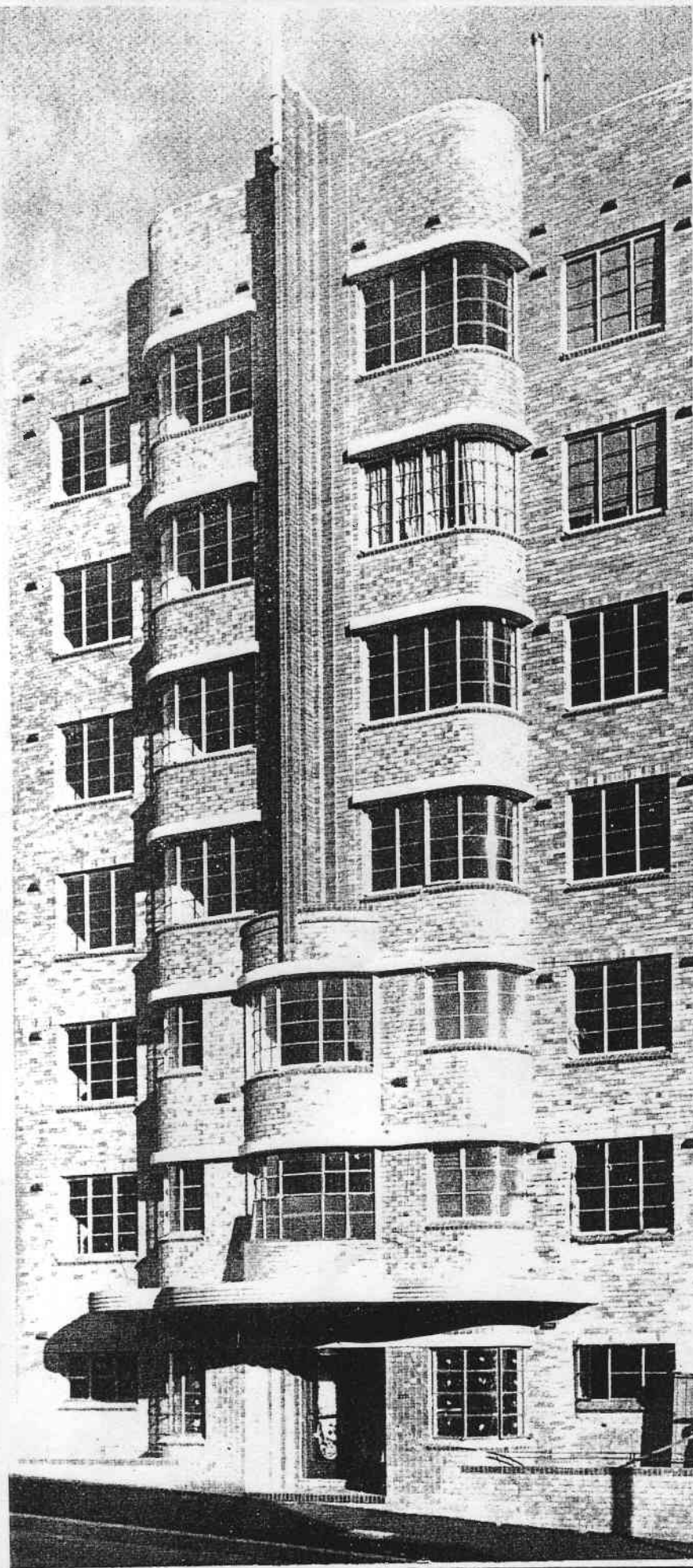
Corridor walls are textured and the ceiling is treated in the same way. The elevator door is maple, with an ornamental panel of glass. There is an electric clock immediately over the door.

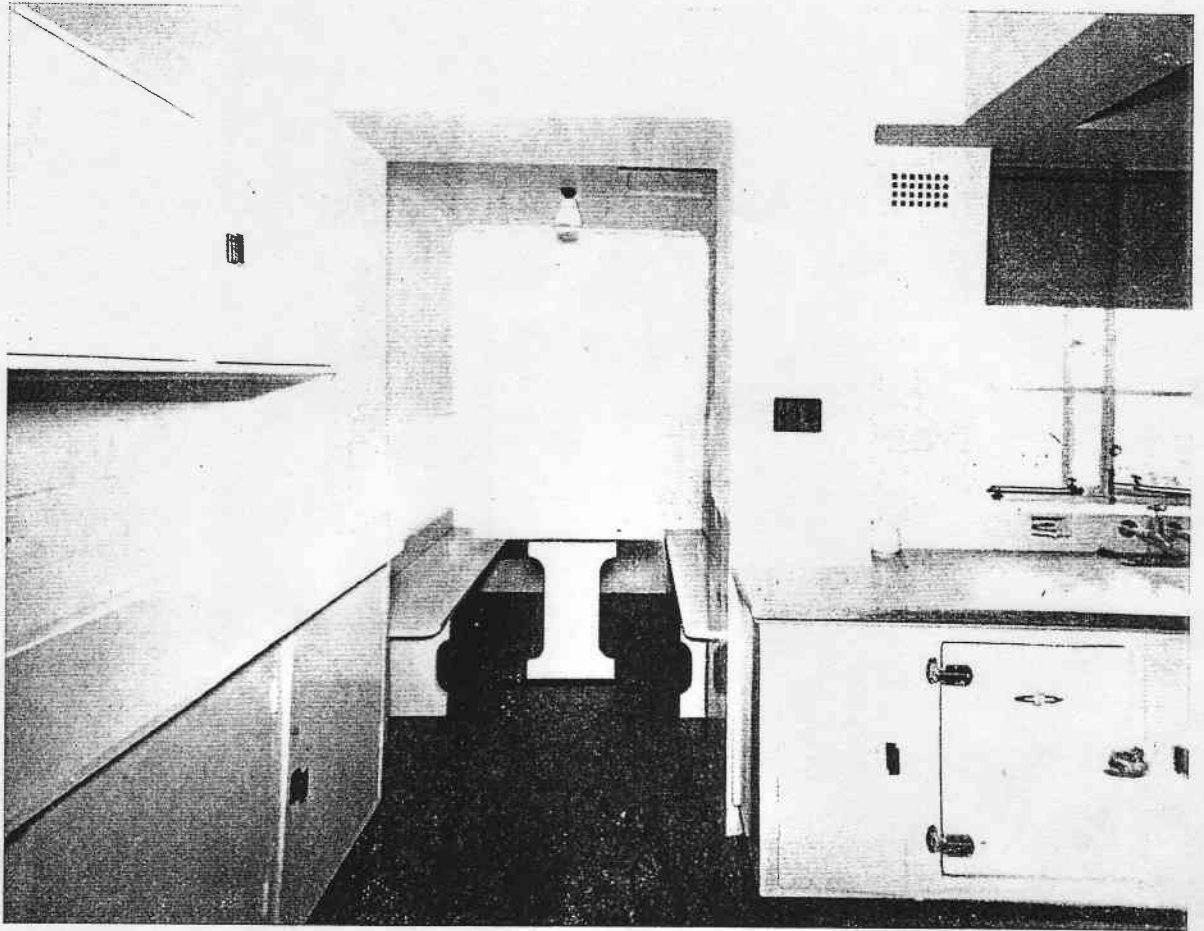
The elevator car is panelled in flush walnut veneer, with a frieze of fluted ebonised wood. The ceiling is stepped up to form a recess for the modern light fitting.

A feature has been made of the stair hall. It is lit by three panels of "Insulux" (Agee) Hollow Glass Bricks, which extend the full height of the building. Light from here is diffused along the corridor on each side.

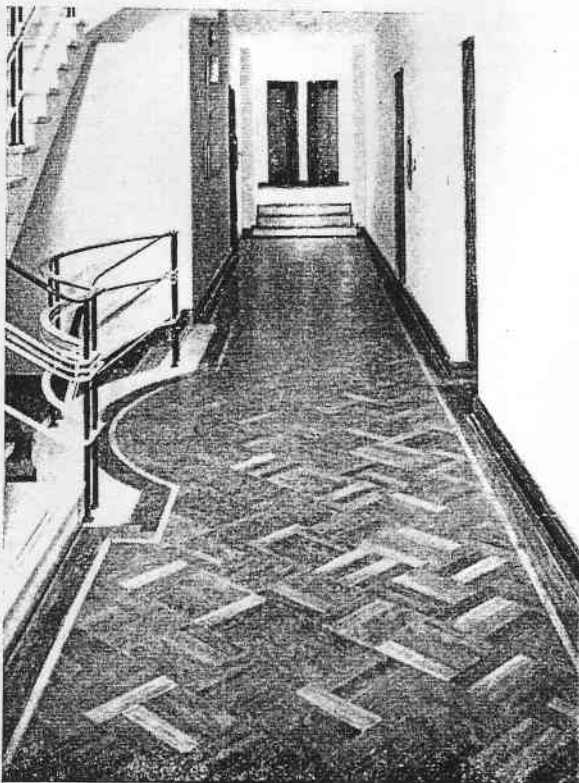
As well as this the staircase is

Seven stories high, the building is modern in conception and designed on Continental lines. The central tower feature adds height.





■ Above: Kitchens are completely fitted with cupboards. Refrigerators are built in and cooking equipment is electrical. At left: A view showing the large expanse of parquet flooring.



further distinguished by the wrought iron balustrade, which has been treated with more individuality than usual. There is a sweep on each floor and, as the balustrade is continuous from the ground floor to the roof, there are many intricate curves in it. The top member is painted black and the remainder are picked out in cream and red. The stairs are terrazzo.

Bachelor flats consist of a bed-sitting room,

ARCHITECTS: ESMOND B. WILSHIRE &  
H. R. HODGES.

BUILDERS: S. D. C. KENNEDY & BIRD PTY. LTD.

ELEVATOR & DOORS: WAYGOOD-OTIS (AUST.) PTY. LTD.

INCINERATION: MALLEYS LTD.

PARQUETRY FLOORING: GEORGE HUDSON PTY. LTD.

WROUGHT IRON RAILINGS: W. J. THOMPSON PTY. LTD.

STEEL FRAMED WINDOWS: AQUILA STEEL CO. PTY. LTD.

BUILDERS' HARDWARE: BROOMFIELDS LTD.

FLUSHING VALVES & FITTINGS: JOHN DANKS & SON  
PTY. LTD.

METAL LETTERS: WUNDERLICH LTD.

GLAZING: FRANK G. O'BRIEN PTY. LTD.

"INSULUX" (AGEE) HOLLOW GLASS BRICKS: AUSTRALIAN  
WINDOW GLASS PTY. LTD.

BENT GLASS: AUSTRALIAN WINDOW GLASS PTY. LTD.

ROOFING MATERIALS: JAMES HARDIE & CO. PTY. LTD.

bathroom and kitchen. The furniture is most modern. The bed in these flats is fitted with a cabinet at each end and bookshelves on the table tops formed by these cabinets. There is also an extra mattress in the lower portion of the bed. This can be drawn out to make a guest bed when desired.

A lounge and dining room in one of the larger flats is illustrated. The floor is parquet, with a flower pattern carpet over portion of it. Walls are papered in an oatmeal shade and the ceiling is quite plain as a foil for the light fitting. The minimum woodwork has been used. Skirtings are small and picture rails and architrave have been omitted altogether.

The lounge suite is green and beige and a dropside table is provided for dining. The side-

■ The lounge-dining rooms are tastefully furnished. Floors are parquet, with flower pattern carpets, and curtains and lounge suites harmonise with the colour scheme.

board is modern in design. Heating is by an electric fire.

The bedroom is carpeted on the parquet and the suite is maple. The bathroom is tiled in green and cream and the fittings are green. Floor tiles are buff.

The kitchen is electrically equipped with range, refrigerator and several smaller fittings. Built-in cupboards are a feature and a breakfast recess is also provided.

Cream wall tiles are used on the lower portion of the walls and above the plain surfaces are coloured off white. The table and fixed seats in the breakfast recess are cream, with a dark skirting. The latter is continued around all fittings and is recessed under cupboards.

Cupboards are arranged with a view to minimising work, and the black handles present a neat appearance. Windows are ample. Kitchens in the smaller flats are well equipped, but without breakfast recesses.

