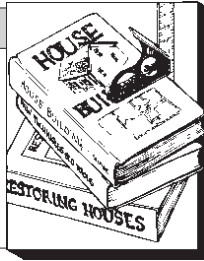


Sealants

Sealants: The Professional Guide, by the Sealant & Waterproofers Institute (1800 Pickwick Ave., Glenview, Ill. 60025), 1984. 64 pages softcover; \$10 for members or \$14.95 for nonmembers.



by Paul Hanke

Synthetic rubber elastomeric sealants—including polysulfides, urethanes, silicones, acrylics, acousticals, butyls and acrylic latex—were developed in the 1950s

Major topics include joint types and design, a generic discussion of sealants by classification, and writing specifications. Also covered are joint preparation, tools, and repair and maintenance.

to replace oil-base types in joints subject to movement. This small booklet gives an

overview of sealants and their applications for architects, engineers, specifiers and contractors. It will be of most use to the first three, as it is assumed throughout that they have done the legwork for the contractor.

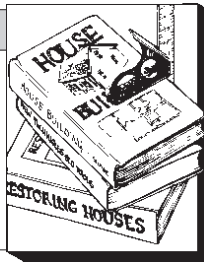
Major topics include joint types and design, a generic discussion of sealants by classification (into hot pour, two-part cold pour, compression seal and six other categories), and writing specifications. Also covered are joint preparation, tools, repair and maintenance, the use of backer rods, and design methodology.

Practical advice is offered on when to use shear and butt joints (shear-type joints generally are preferable) as well as fillet vs. butt joints (don't use the former with aluminum or plastic surfaces). Other tips focus on window and door frames and even tiled swimming-pool applications.

Although the booklet is informative, it says nothing about the respective characteristics of various sealants, or what caulk to use where. Consequently, it is of limited value. ■

The Great Dialogue

Frank Lloyd Wright and Le Corbusier. The Great Dialogue, by Thomas Doremus. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1985. 188 pages hardcover; \$35.



by Paul Hanke

This critical study of the works of two of the great masters of 20th-century architecture is absolutely fascinating reading. In fact, I'm eager to read it again so I can digest its contents more thoroughly.

Most critics and architectural historians, says Doremus, have focused their studies on *contrasting* Wright and Le Corbusier. At first glance, this isn't at all surprising, given the obvious stylistic differences between the American Wright, who championed "organic" architecture, and the Swiss-French Le Corbusier, an advocate of the ultra-modern International Style. But the author has looked beneath the surface and come to his own conclusions.

Instead of studying the obvious contrasts, Doremus *compares* the works of both men throughout their careers. In the process, he finds many striking similarities in their points of view as well as in their work.

But beyond his closely reasoned and thought-provoking analysis, Doremus uses the careers of the two great men as a springboard to develop his own theory of what "modern" architecture is really about. He contrasts this with the previous Classical (*Beaux-Arts*), Revivalist and Picturesque schools of architecture, and he contrasts both Wright and Le Corbusier with the "brilliant Neo-Classical" Mies van der Rohe, whose work, he says, "could not have been more different from theirs."

I will leave it to Doremus to present his case for the similarities between the two protagonists and his argument for a new

definition of modern architecture, for he is far more eloquent than I could be. For my part, I can highly recommend this book to those interested in the work of either man—or to anyone who is curious

Instead of studying the obvious contrasts between Frank Lloyd Wright and Le Corbusier, the author compares the works of both men throughout their careers. He also uses the careers of these two great men as a springboard to develop his own theory of what 'modern' architecture is really about.

about the form, content and meaning of modern architecture.

In fact, the only fault I can find with this book is that the many photos Doremus uses to illustrate his ideas are virtually all small, dark and fuzzy, which detracts from their value. Despite this drawback and the fact that the text isn't super-easy reading, this book is definitely worth the effort readers will have to put into it. ■