

(1964, Minneapolis)

The Breck School Chapel on the drawing board is rather different from the building itself. The ingredients are all there, but the structure suffered enormously from the translation. ~~But~~ the architect comments, "the concept was good but the execution lousy."

The building was well designed to fit the site. The arrangement of the interior spaces was well thought out, and they flow quite naturally one into the other. It is well lit; the furniture ~~is~~ fits the spaces it serves. It is well scaled both in relation to its surroundings and its constituent sections. But somewhere the building falls short of its plan.

On paper the sweep of the Spire is ~~one~~ <sup>building makes</sup> continuous. On paper the Spire is a single, continuous sweep, culminating in the noble spire. It seems to be heroic, <sup>a serious</sup> ~~an~~ image worthy of ~~our~~ veneration. But the building upon completion was immediately unofficially christened "the Glorious Erector." The faltering spire destroys the nobility of the gesture, embarrasses the building. Is the failure of the chapel spire due to the architect's ignorance of his ~~own~~ <sup>structural</sup> limitations? Probably not. The ~~correct~~ correct construction ~~was~~ did not demand <sup>special</sup> ~~the~~ skill from the builders. Yet they botched it. <sup>But</sup> The blame must not be settled upon them. The technological advances have rendered the builder out of practice. The construction of the Spire demanded a craftsmanship in constructing an organic shape from organic materials. ~~It is~~ <sup>which</sup> ~~The~~ <sup>tries</sup> ~~Bauhaus~~ <sup>could</sup> ~~can~~ build ~~its~~ <sup>design</sup> ~~his~~ forms from organic materials and Wright could ~~build~~ ~~to~~ ~~sketch~~ the form of a sea shell ~~form~~ in concrete, ~~but~~ to build an irregular organic form from something that cannot be pre-cast, molded, or welded seems to have been ~~an~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~an~~ <sup>arduous</sup> demand for the average small-time builder. Perhaps it is the architect's fault for not having realized his realistic, not the ~~over~~ <sup>does</sup> ~~ing~~ <sup>the image of</sup> ~~ed~~ <sup>standing</sup> limitations. The Breck Chapel ~~presents~~ <sup>does</sup> one with ~~a~~ <sup>the image of</sup> ~~many~~ <sup>standing</sup> ~~standing~~ ~~response~~ ~~on~~ ~~his~~ ~~legs~~, ~~and~~ aspiring to a heroic gesture, but caught in the act and embarrassed. of trying to do something ~~pretentious~~ embarrassingly pretentious.