

that any form of building technology could be employed provided it conforms to some modular design method. The only limit is the amount of alternative building products that could reasonably be used in any one system. This is only really limited by the size of the computer's storage ability (i.e. the more products there are, the larger the "system commodity library") and the speed of processing.

As part of its conclusion to a report entitled "Computer Aided Building - a study of current trends", published in October 1973, the Computer Aided Design Centre made the following statement:—

"The decrease in the cost of hardware, dissemination of information on techniques pioneered in research and increasing expertise of those involved in software development set the scene for rapid growth.

Whether this growth is realised will depend on three main factors: the willingness of management in all sectors of the industry to seize the opportunities and

make use of the available expertise; the ability of the professions to realise great change is under way and to adapt their attitudes to that change; and the co-ordination of sponsored research and development, directed to prevent duplication and misdirection. . . ."

Have our attitudes changed since 1973? Without wishing to "scaremonger", we are at the *start* of the age of "microelectronics" - a grossly underestimated technology. The sheer speed of its advancement makes it potentially more radical (as far as the possible effects on society are concerned) than anything of its kind this century. We are at the tip of an immense iceberg - the industrial revolution of the office perhaps.

There appears to be a blind disregard for computers in the building industry but beware the ices of the micro-processor! - the computer industry is lurking hungrily in the background sniffing around for yet another sales outlet - far better to use it now than become used by it later as just another sub-contractor.

National Joint Council for the Building Industry

Details of the National Joint Council's pay settlement promulgated on 31st March 1977 are as follows:—

The parties to the National Joint Council for the Building Industry having received recommendations from the Building and Civil Engineering Joint Board which had been considering a claim by the Operative Parties for:

- (a) an increase of 5% on total earnings;
- (b) improvement in sick-pay entitlement; and
- (c) an increase in holiday pay,

adopted the following terms of settlement:

Ratification of this decision having been declared by the Adherent Bodies as required by Rule 6.1.3.2. of the Rules and Regulations of the Council, the Management Committee hereby promulgate the terms of settlement to operate with effect from *Monday, 27th June 1977*.

1. *The 1977 Supplement:*

1.1. From 27th June 1977, operatives shall be entitled to a weekly supplement to be known as "the 1977 Supplement". This is to be 5% of each individual operative's total earnings, subject to the following:

1.1.1. Total earnings for the purpose shall be the figure of gross pay used for calculating National Insurance contributions (which includes sick pay), other than the 1977 Supplement itself.

1.1.2. The 1977 Supplement shall in no case exceed £4.00.

1.1.3. The 1977 Supplement shall not be less than £2.50 where an operative has been available for work during full normal working hours, except that the minimum for operatives whose wage rate is expressed as a proportion of the adult or craft rate shall be the corresponding proportion of £2.50.

1.1.4. The minimum 1977 Supplement, as defined in sub-para. 1.1.3. above, shall be reduced proportionately for any part of normal working hours for which the operative has not been available for work, in exactly the same way as the Joint Board Supplement.

1.1.5. The amount of the 1977 Supplement shall not be affected by the operative's absence on a day or days of public holiday for which there is entitlement to payment under the appropriate Working Rule.

1.2. Watchmen shall receive the 1977 Supplement on the above basis, with appropriate provision for proportionate reduction of the £2.50 minimum where fewer than five shifts are worked.

1.3. The 1977 Supplement is not to be added to payment for annual or winter holidays under the Building and Civil Engineering Industries Annual Holiday Agreement.

2. *Apprentices/Trainees*

From 27th June 1977, the following provisions shall apply to new entrants to the National Joint Training Scheme aged 16 or 17 years at entry:

2.1. Entitlement to Guaranteed Minimum Bonus shall begin from the commencement of the second year of training.

2.2. The Joint Board Supplement during the first year of training shall be:

Age at entry	J.B.S.
16	£3.40
17	£6.60

Apprentices/Trainees who were receiving the guaranteed minimum bonus payment before 27th June 1977, shall continue to receive it but their Joint Board Supplement shall not be altered until the commencement of the next year of training.

3. *Scaffolding Operatives:*

Negotiations shall continue in the Building and Civil Engineering Joint Board on a new training and pay structure for scaffolding operatives with the aim of introducing it from a date falling within the period of this settlement.

4. *Holiday Credits:*

Holiday credits for adults are to be increased by 15p per week (juveniles proportionately) with effect from 1st August 1977, with this amount being augmented by up to a further 5p per week from the funds of the Building and Civil Engineering Holidays Scheme Management Co. subject to discussion with the Board of that Company.

5. *Death Benefit:*

The amount of benefit payable under the Building and Civil Engineering Industries Death Benefit Scheme is to be increased to £2,500 where death occurs on or after 1st April 1977 and cover during unemployment under Rule 5.6. of the Scheme is to be increased from two weeks to four weeks with effect from the same date.

6. *Period of Settlement:*

The settlement shall be for 12 months and the Council shall not be required to consider any application or recommendation for a change in operatives' pay or for a change in conditions of a major character which would have effect before 26th June 1978.

Correspondence

Prices or Costs

Sir,

Reading Mr. Skoyle's article on "Prices or Costs", I regret to say, confused me. Perhaps being a Contractor's Surveyor has limited my way of thinking, as I always define costs as per I.C.E. 5th. edition clause 1(5) and JCT clause 11.

Both documents refer to prices and expenses, and the context in which these words arise, are themselves self-explanatory and do not contradict the term "Prime Cost" or "Costs" which appear elsewhere.

I am quite sure confusion does not occur at pre-tender stage and that the present situation has only arisen by the presence of many theoretical books published on the subject.

Yours faithfully,

D. Payne

Thaxted, Essex

Scarves for Lady Members

Sir,

I refer to the Institute News item in the March issue of The Quantity Surveyor. I am concerned that it appears that the proposed Institute scarves are intended for lady members only. Apart from the fact that I do not acknowledge that any distinctions should be accorded to or demanded by lady members of the Institute (if one was being very cynical one might say that a quantity surveyor couldn't be a lady, or a gentleman, in any case), the use of scarves as an item of neckwear is *not* confined to women. Also by implying this the

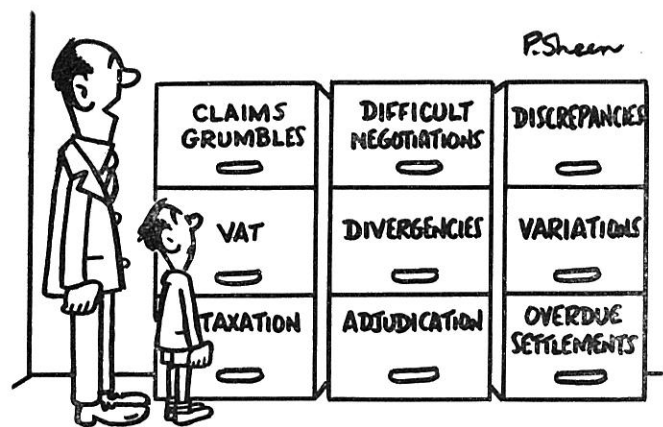
project could well be a "non-starter" by lack of demand. Obviously the wider the market the more viable the proposition will be, and hopefully the cheaper the product.

I should be grateful therefore if it could be made clear that scarves will be equally available to men.

Yours faithfully,

Beryl Foote (Associate)

Surbiton, Surrey



"One day, my son, all these will be yours"