Proposed Designs for Ramsey Homes
Original Plans by Delos Smith of Smith, Werner and Billings, July 15, 1941

First proposed Site Plan with center larger apartment building and two quadplexes (not built to this plan)
First proposed elevation of center large apartment building with concrete piers and shiplap siding (not built)
First proposed elevation of quadplex units with concrete slab and drop and shiplap siding (*not built*)
Revised Plans by Delos Smith of Smith, Werner and Billings, Oct. 10, 1941

Revised Site Plan with four quadplexes (constructed)
Revised Plans by Delos Smith of Smith, Werner and Billings, Oct. 10, 1941

Elevations with *Fabcrete*: Entrance Door Side and Living Room Side(*constructed*)
Floor plans of typical unit in quadplex with first floor on left and second floor on right
Detail of proposed skylights over bath since bath had no windows.
Wooden plaque to be installed once completed.
Delos H. Smith, FAIA (1884-1963)

• Project Architect and Noted Architectural Historian
• Inaugural member of the OHAD Board of Architectural Review
• Worked for US Housing Authority and Alexandria Housing Board
• Noted ecclesiastical and civic architect
  • Rebuilding of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Rock Creek
  • US Capitol Prayer Room
  • New York Avenue Presbyterian Church
  • Montgomery County Court House in Rockville, MD
Elements of Modern Design

• Influenced by Bauhaus and International Style
• Underlying social purpose
• Overtly unornamented
• Use of experimental, industrial and durable materials (precast concrete panels, metal canopies)
• Structure informs design
• Rectilinear: Flat roofs, punched windows, flat façade
• Use of green space and courtyards to encourage health
Concrete Panel Construction (Fabcrete or Vita Crete)

Cameron Valley Homes under Construction with Experimental Precast Concrete Slabs
(Source: The Architectural Record, 1942)
PRECAST SLABS FOR HOUSING

For many years mass housing has been a fertile field for experimentation with all manner of materials and ideas, and in recent years precast concrete, latest of concrete developments, has begun to appear in new housing ideas. The two shown on this page are of more than passing interest, as they are experimental projects for federally financed war housing. The current call for demountable units, built in factory production and quickly erected and moved, coupled with present or expected shortages of certain materials, lends fresh interest to this use of concrete.

Still in the drawing stage is another experimental housing project, also for Alexandria, Va., done with precast concrete slabs, this one for UNMA. The same precast slab unit is used for floors, walls and roof. The "systems" on the slab form piers or studs as the case may be. Floor piers run directly over the wall slabs, transmitting the load directly to the foundation walls. The wall section (left) and the header above show how slabs are joined together and are tied with rods and tie wires. Architects are Smith, Werner & Billings.
The present invention is directed to improvements in building constructions, and more particularly to buildings that are formed from pre-cast units of cementitious material.

The primary object of the invention is to produce a building employing units so constructed that they may be easily and quickly assembled and held in rigid relationship to provide walls, partitions, floors and roofs.

Another object of the invention is to provide a building unit which is light in weight, water and fire proof and so fashioned that the units when united can be used to produce a building of any desired size and shape, and at a minimum cost.