

ROOF DESIGN COMPETITION.

PRYSVRAAG VAN DAK-KONSTRUKSIE.

Questions Raised by Competitors.

Vraë Gestel Deur Mededingers.

1. There is no classification of Domestic Buildings while a roof designed for one type would probably be quite unsuitable for another type.
2. While the suitability, or not, for particular districts is mentioned, the more important question of suitability for different types of houses is not.
3. A competitor might concentrate on designing a suitable roof for a native or sub-economic house, believing that this is the most important problem at present, while the Assessors might pay more attention to the design of a roof for a house costing £1,000 and upwards.
4. Clause 4 mentions patented designs only and not patented materials. It is quite possible to use a patented material, which, however, can be purchased by anyone, in a roof design which need not necessarily be patented.

We have in mind four patented materials, excellent for roofs and using no scarce or imported material, but the incorporation of one or more of these materials in a roof design might automatically rule out the competitor on the grounds that the material can only be supplied by one firm.

- 5a. A competitor might wish to enter a roof design he has already patented but which he is willing to allow to be used freely without infringement of his patent rights and without payment of Royalty.
- 5b. Under Clause 4 instead of free use being made of the design it would become a Government monopoly. Also, if the patent were ceded, there is no mention of any recompense being made by the Government.
6. We do not think any Competitor would agree to Clause 6 unless he is only interested in winning a monetary prize. We believe that it is the Government's aim to find satisfactory roof designs using materials that are neither scarce nor imported and which can be used universally. This aim will be defeated if the designs are to become the monopoly of the Government. We have been issuing roof designs for the last two years and answer questions every week about substitute materials for roofs but, if we entered one of our designs and it was accepted, it could then only be used with the consent of the Government. While we do not believe that it is the intention to restrict the use of the designs to Government work only, nevertheless, the wording of Clause 6 is such that this might be the case.
7. Under Clause 3 and 4 it is not clear whether the Competitor should submit costs or not or whether the Assessors are to be the sole judges of the cost.