

A Kodak publication

PROFESSIONAL DARKROOM DESIGN



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SECOND EDITION, 1967—First Printing

INTRODUCTION

The need for workroom planning arises when a new studio or photographic darkroom is contemplated, or the existing facilities are to be modernized, expanded or moved to another location.

When reviewing possible buildings in another location, after considering them from the geographical and convenience point of view, professional advice should be sought as regards the structure of the building and the availability of adequate services, i.e. electricity, water and drainage. It is very important to make sure that the immediate and the intended uses of the building are permitted by planning regulations and bye-laws.

Alterations to an existing building will have to comply with building regulations, while new premises will need planning approval in addition.

Before the architect or builder is consulted, the photographer should use his experience to prepare a preliminary layout from which the architect can draw detailed plans. In this preliminary layout the following factors must be considered:

- 1 The space available
- 2 The expected volume of work
- 3 The number of people working in the space
- 4 The major pieces of equipment to be installed
- 5 The physical flow of work through the area
- 6 The size and type of work to be undertaken

In estimating the volume of work to be carried out in darkroom and workrooms, allowances should be made for periods of peak production and the possibility of future increases in production load. Consideration should also be given to the possibility of future changes in the nature of the work, such as the addition of colour processing. If these allowances are not made, the facilities may soon become inadequate, with numerous inconveniences and delays causing disruptions in the normal flow of work. To correct such a situation, darkrooms may have to be enlarged at a future date, resulting in extra construction costs, further interruptions in production, and probable sacrifice of necessary space in adjoining rooms. If the rooms are planned with forethought, then