Aug. 28, 1956 R. R. STEIN 2,760,275

MODEL STORE FRONT

Filed June 30, 1953 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

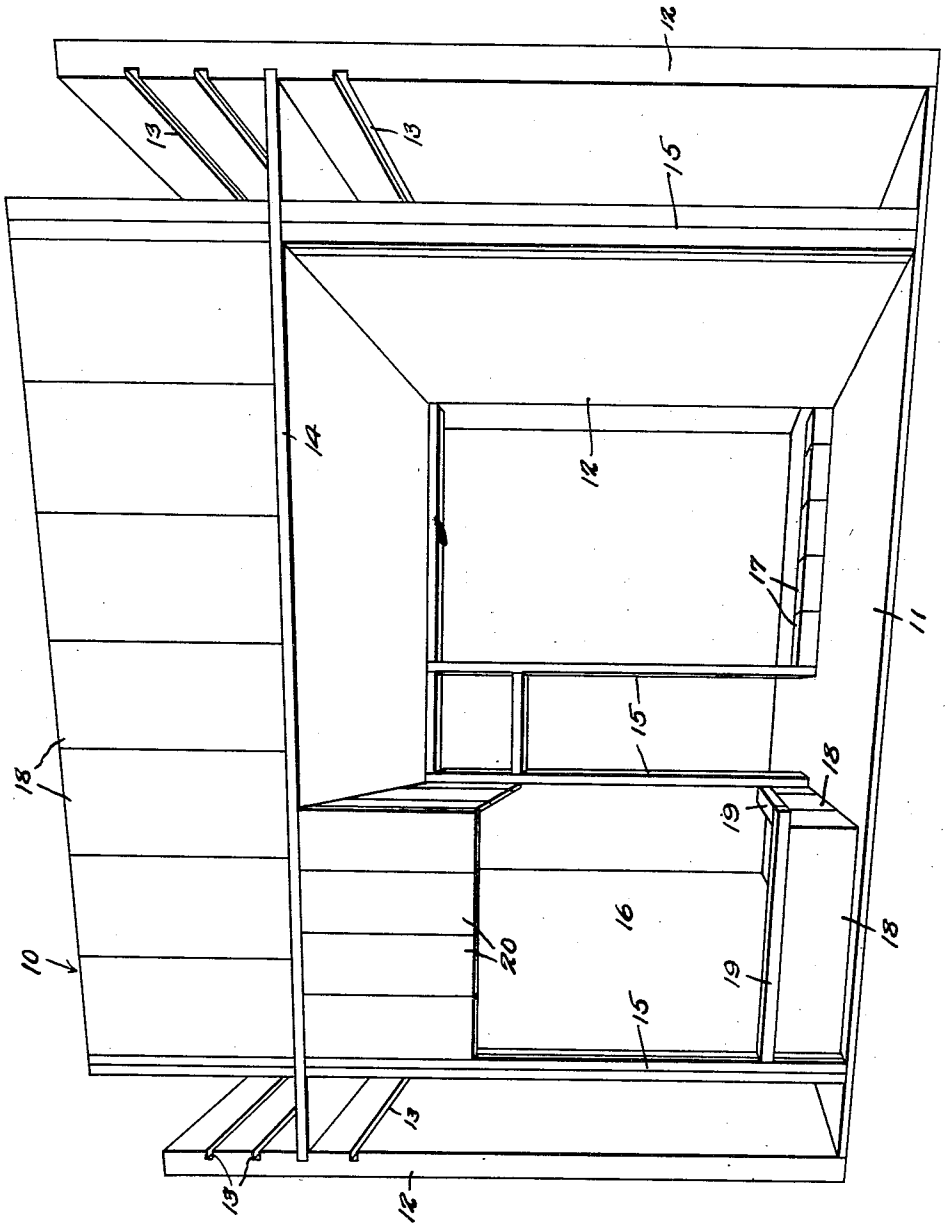


Fig. 1.

Robert R. Stein
INVENTOR

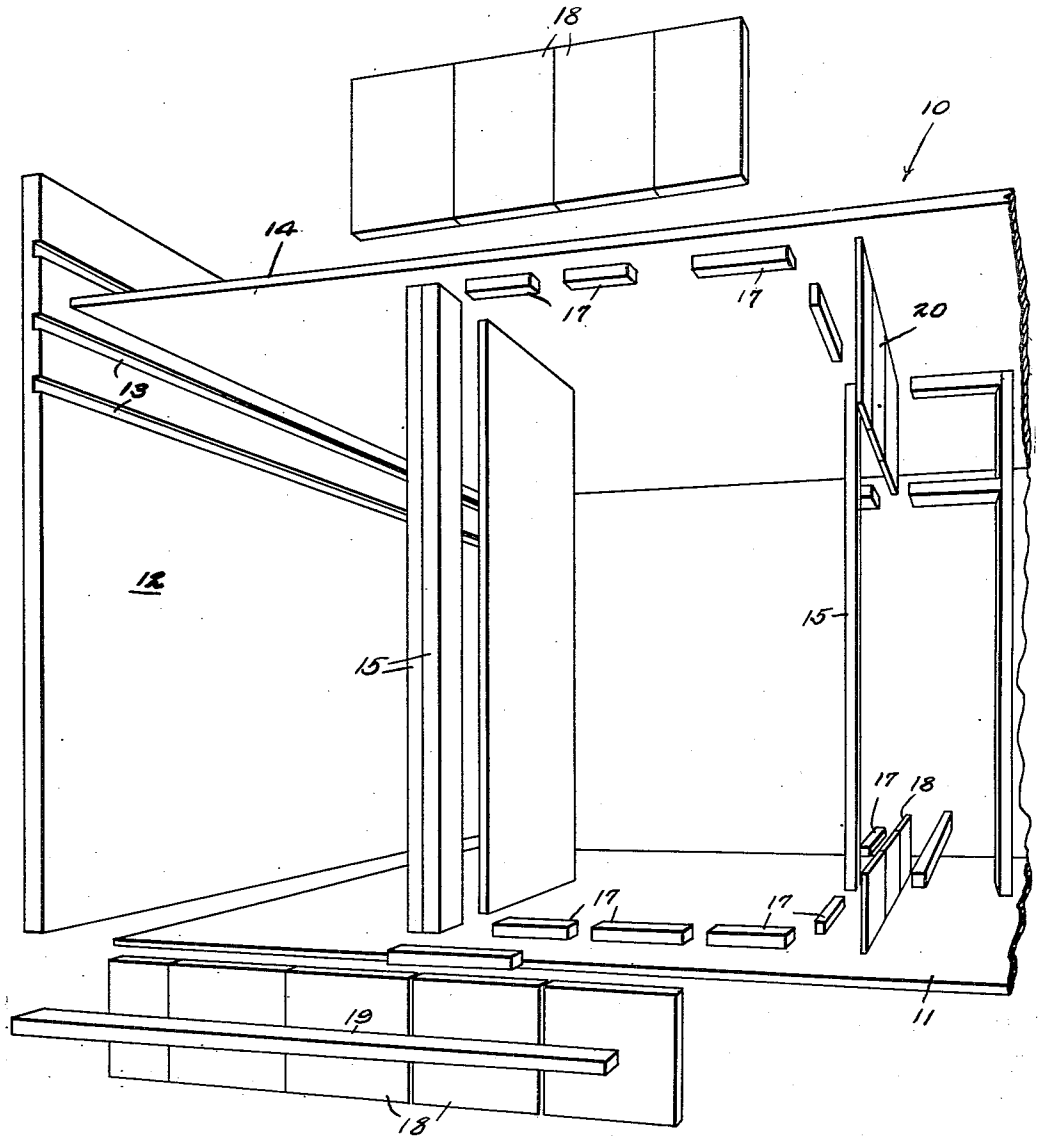
BY Cl Arnowles.
ATTORNEYS.

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Fig. 2.



Robert R. Stein

INVENTOR

BY C. A. Snow & Co.

ATTORNEYS.

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MODEL STORE FRONT

Robert R. Stein, Port Chester, N. Y.

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2 Claims. (Cl. 35—16)

This invention relates to building structures and more particularly to the construction of a building, in the form of a model, to represent the building in its completed condition for visualization by an architect, designer or builder.

It is an object of this invention to provide a building structure which may be readily constructed as a representation of all of the necessary, or desired, building elements in their position before the actual building process, or remodeling of the building, is commenced so that any changes in the location of certain building sections, or elements of the related building may be readily determined and agreed upon by the builder, or his client, in preparing the necessary construction drawings.

It is another object of this invention to provide a building structure which may be readily constructed, in a small scale form, to represent a building to be constructed, or remodeled, with all of its parts in the relative position where they will be in the final construction of the building so that the proper, desired, building structure may be easily viewed by the builder and client. Further, the model building structure may be easily altered so that the actual structure may be viewed and agreed upon before the actual building is started.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a model building structure, of the kind to be more particularly described hereinafter, which employs connecting devices for the model building elements whereby the building elements may be readily assembled together, moved in their relation to one another and disassembled when it is desired.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a readily assembled building structure in a disassembled form to be carried about in a crate or box from one place to another for assembly when the building elements are removed from the box and the building elements and their couplers are properly assembled.

Other and further objects and advantages of the invention will be hereinafter described and the novel features thereof defined in the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a building model constructed according to an embodiment of my invention.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view, partly broken away and partly in section, of the invention, the parts thereof being shown as a disassembly, or an exploded view.

In the building industry at the present time it is customary to erect a model of the building to be constructed or remodeled before the final drawings are completed so that the builder and the client of the builder may agree upon the structure which will go into the construction of the building. In place of going to the trouble of fully constructing a model of the proposed building it is more desirable that the elements of the building be formed separately so that the building elements may be assembled and the building actually decided upon before the actual construction of the building is begun. With this in mind I have constructed a sort of model

building which may be assembled from a kit and the various building elements moved in the model to the most desired position as agreed upon by the builder and client. The various elements of the model building kit, when the building is disassembled may be carried about until an agreed form of the model has been determined.

The model is designated by the numeral **10** in the drawing and is formed with a metal floor **11**, the floor **11** being made of a magnetically susceptible metal. A pair of side walls **12** are supported on the opposite sides of the side edges of the floor **11** and extend vertically upwardly therefrom. The side walls **12** may be made of plywood or some other lightweight material and are provided, adjacent their upper ends or edges with longitudinally extending horizontal slots **13** for supporting a ceiling **14** in vertically spaced relation to the floor **11**. The longitudinal slots **13** extend parallel to each other and parallel to and in alignment with the slots **13** of the opposite side wall **12** so that the ceiling **14** may be located between a selected pair of slots **13** in determining the height of the ceiling **14** relative to the floor **11**. The ceiling **14** is also formed of magnetically susceptible material, as the floor **11**, and a plurality of magnetically susceptible piers **15** are positioned between the floor **11** and the ceiling **14** for further supporting the ceiling from the floor. The piers **15** may be moved about between the floor **11** and the ceiling **14** to any desired position, and in Fig. 1 of the drawings the piers have been moved about to provide a show window **16** on the forward side of the building **10**. The show window **16** has been shown in Fig. 1 as being on one side, the left side of the building but it is understood that such a show window need not be constructed in the building, unless desired, and the particular size of the show window may also depend upon the selection of the persons viewing the model **10**.

A plurality of magnets **17** are disposed within the building **10** for supporting the various elements of the building in their desired positions. The magnets **17** may be called "couplers" as that is their function in coupling the various building elements together in their selected relation to each other. The permanent magnets **17** may be made of any ferrous material, permanently magnetized, or when desired the magnets may be formed of bar stock and "plugged" with suitable magnets for using the magnets and the bar stock as hereinafter described.

When the construction of the building model has been begun and the side walls **12** erected on the floor **11** the ceiling **14** may be slid in the grooves **13** of the side walls **12** for positioning the ceiling **14** at the position desired relative to the floor **11** and the piers, which engage between the floor **11** and the ceiling **14** may then be moved to their proper position intermediate the side walls **12** as desired.

When it is desired to place any interior structure within the model **10**, the interior structure will be connected to the floor **11** or to the ceiling **14** or supported between the floor **11** and the ceiling **14** and this interior structure may be moved about within the house by merely moving the interior structure with a light hand force.

The interior structure of the building is shown in the drawings as bulkhead forming sheets **18** which extend vertically upward from the floor **11** and terminate at their upper end in spaced relation to the ceiling **14** as clearly shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings. The bulkhead forming sheets are also of magnetically susceptible material and may be formed in a single sheet, as shown on the lefthand side of Fig. 1 of the drawings, or may be formed of a plurality of bulkhead forming sheets **18** backed up by a stiffener or brace **19**. The bulkheads **18** are secured to the base or floor **11** at their lower edges by the magnets **17** which are magnetically secured to the floor **11** and

will bear against the magnetically susceptible bulkhead sheets **18**, along one flat edge of the magnetic block **17** to support the bulkhead **18** in its vertical position. A cross bar **19**, also made of magnetically susceptible metal, may be positioned along the upper edge of the bulkheads **18** and will be magnetically attached thereto for removal upon application of a force, as by the fingers of a person removing the bar **19** from the upper edge of the bulkheads **18**.

A valance may be provided in depending relation to the ceiling **14** when desired by attaching sheets of valance forming, magnetically susceptible metal to the lower side of the ceiling **14** as clearly shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings. Magnets **17** engaging on the lower surface of the ceiling **14** may also bear against the valance forming sheets **20** for securing the upper end of the valance sheets to the lower side of the ceiling **14** in the same manner as the magnets **17** which engage the floor **11** and support the bulkheads **18**.

By the use of the magnetic block for securing the building forming elements together in a desired manner the building forming elements, especially those building forming elements within the model **10** may be moved about to any selected position and when a final determination has been reached as to the particular form and arrangement of the building to be constructed from the model, the drawings of the building may be made and the model **10** disassembled and the model forming elements returned to the box or crate to again erect a model for some other specifications.

While the specific details of one embodiment of this invention have been herein shown and described, the invention is not confined thereto as changes and alterations may be made without departing from the spirit and scope thereof as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A model building of the kind described comprising a magnetically susceptible floor, upstanding side walls on the side edges of said floor, said side walls having aligned horizontally extending registering grooves therein adjacent their upper edges, a ceiling engaged at its side edges in a pair of selected aligned grooves in said side walls, upwardly extending magnetically susceptible piers between said side walls and engaging at their respective ends said floor and said ceiling, permanent magnet blocks on the upper side of said floor and the lower side of said ceiling engaging said piers, upwardly extending magnetically susceptible metal bulkhead forming sheets engageable at one end thereof with said floor, permanent magnet blocks on the upper surface of said floor engaging said sheets detachably securing said bulkheads forming sheets to said floor.

2. A model building of the kind described comprising a magnetically susceptible floor, upstanding side walls on the side edges of said floor, said side walls having horizontally extending parallel registerable grooves therein adjacent the upper edges thereof, a magnetically susceptible ceiling slidably engaged at the opposite ends thereof in aligned ones of said grooves, magnetically susceptible piers between said side walls engaging at the respective ends thereof said floor and said ceiling, permanent magnetic blocks on said floor engaging one side of the lower end of said piers and permanent magnetic blocks depending from said ceiling and engaging a side of the upper end of said piers, said blocks detachably securing said piers to said floor and ceiling, valance forming magnetically susceptible sheets depending from said ceiling and permanent magnet blocks on the lower side of said ceiling and engaging said valance forming sheets for detachably securing said valance forming sheets to said ceiling.

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