but construction of these is only just beginning, except
for some temporary schools for urgent present needs,
of which there are not many because construction
workers have been discouraged from bringing their
families. Housing and government buildings have the
first priority because of the decision to move the seat
of Government to Brasilia next year. Great efforts are
being made to get the life of the city well under way,
and the Government solidly established there, by this
date because soon afterwards there will be a presiden-
tial election. President Kubitschek (who cannot con-
stitutionally be re-elected) has been the driving force
behind the construction of the new capital; the energy

which is near the southern tip of the residential belt,
a temporary shopping and recreation centre for the
working population, known as the ‘free town’ because
any enterprising trader is free to set up there on the
understanding that the whole place—which is mostly
single-storey and timber-built—will be cleared away in
a few years. The total population of Brasilia, including
the inhabitants of the free town and others that serve
the needs of the construction workers, the admin-
istrators, transport workers, police and those who run
the services already established there like the airport,
the power-station and the hotel, is now about 45,000.

The only industries so far established are small ones
connected with the building works, and some of these
are probably only temporary. There is also some tem-
porary agriculture, because in order to create a source
of food in this hitherto unpopulated region, financial
help has been given to farmers to start smallholdings
on a short-term basis on land that may eventually be
too near the centre of the city to be permanently
agricultural—it may be required for parks and playing-
fields or outlying housing areas.

There is also a long-term plan for promoting agri-
culture in the region. Land is to be leased to farmers on
initial leases of thirty years. Owing to the poor quality
of the soil at present they will be helped to improve its
fertility, on the basis of a survey of the potentialities
of different areas and the crops most suitable for each,
which has already been made. So far forty-three farms
have been allotted to tenants by the Ministry of Agra-
culture, and besides these four large model farms have
been planned, which the Ministry will operate itself.
The area over which this and similar regional planning
is going forward is about 2,000 square miles, and a
commission has recently been set up to study the
future of the even bigger region of which Brasilia will
eventually be the centre.

The programme for building and siting hospitals
and schools in and around the city is fairly complete,

The Palace Hotel, the second building
to be completed (2 on plan, page 94):
above, looking along the bedroom
wing—the public rooms occupy the
single-storey wing on the right; right,
looking down the 400-ft.-long corridor,
with bedrooms on the left and a
continuous screen on the right of
pierced concrete blocks with holes
filled with glass.