

PATENT SPECIFICATION

Application Date: May 9, 1919. No. 11,652/19.

149,726

Complete Left: Feb. 13, 1920.

Complete Accepted: Aug. 26, 1920.

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

Toy Construction Blocks.

I, ALBERT MÉRICANT, Engineer, of 29, Avenue de Chatillon, Paris, France, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

5 The object of this invention is a toy in which a certain number of elements or pieces are put together so that the construction formed thereby has the outward appearance of one of the following build-
10 ings: a church, townhall, country house, mayoral offices, villa, railway station, farm, *etc.*, it being possible to construct such buildings in different styles.

15 The separate elements which are of different dimensions comprise pieces having the form of bases or basements columns or pillars, flooring, panels, sloping roofs, ridge-tiles, raised banks, doors, windows, garrets, balustrades, *etc.*

20 These pieces may be made of wood, cardboard papier mâché or compressed paper with a base of cement plaster stucco or of ebonite hardened india-rubber, *etc.*, and generally of material which does not
25 crumble, is strong, preserves its shape and can be cut or moulded. These pieces may be employed in their natural state or one or more of their surfaces may be painted or coloured or be covered with paper or
30 linen so as to form designs suggesting for example the shape of a window of a door of a piece of sculpture or other ornamental object.

35 The characteristic feature of these pieces is that they can partially penetrate one another and be combined so that their combination produces a firm construction the different parts of which are tightly
40 joined together and remain in the same position even when being conveyed from

place to place or when the constructed toy is moved whilst the separate pieces are being grouped together.

For building a church the different pieces comprise for example:

45 Columns formed of a quadrangular prism of square section on each of the four surfaces of which is a longitudinal fluting. One or both of the ends of this
50 column are formed with a cleft running right through opposite the flutings and of the same height as the pieces termed "bases" or "basements" so that at this
55 point the column has the shape of a doubly forked piece the four prismatic parts of which that are of the same dimensions confine the two perpendicular planes forming the crossing of the "bases."

60 The "bases" are formed of flat pieces formed with notches or recesses midway of their height so that the combination
65 of two elements placed perpendicularly with their notches in engagement form a rigid combination that is not deformable.

70 The flooring is made of thin smooth pieces the corners of which are cut away to allow of the passage of the columns.

75 Panels which are either solid or cut out to imitate windows, doors, small round windows or porticoes of any style are slid
80 into the grooves of the columns to fill up the gaps and to complete the imitation of the construction which it is desired to build.

85 In order to preserve the parallelism of height between the various columns and in a manner to bind the elements of this construction elements termed tenons or
ridges are arranged at different intervals in their height which are formed with

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openings possessing the straight section of the columns which run through them. These elements which are of very varied forms suited to the plan of the building are combined to form floorings or raised banks.

For the purpose of forming roofs, panels having the desired slope of the roof required are slid into the grooves of the columns and behind parallel to the inclined edge of these panels the sloping piece forming roofing is placed.

In front of the garret windows solid parts with two slopes may be arranged

in imitation of the roofing of the garret. Above the raised banks balustrades formed by cut out panels are slid into the grooves of the columns.

The top of the columns may be surmounted by a head of pyramidal or other shape; vases or other objects being combined with the doubly forked end of the column.

Dated this 9th day of May, 1919.

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15

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

Toy Construction Blocks.

I, ALBERT MÉRICANT, Engineer, of 29, Avenue de Chatillon, Paris, France, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

The object of this invention is a toy in which a certain number of elements or pieces are put together so that the construction formed thereby has the outward appearance of one of the following buildings: a church, town hall, country house, mayoral offices, villa, railway station, farm, *etc.*, it being possible to construct such buildings in different styles.

The building elements employed are of different dimensions and comprise various pieces adapted to form bases or basements and columns or pillars and the invention is mainly characterised by the employment of apertured elements by means of which the columns are bound together and maintained in vertical and parallel positions, flooring elements of rectangular shape with their corners cut away and panels of varied designs, all as hereinafter described.

These pieces may be made of wood, cardboard, papier mâché or compressed paper, with a base of cement, plaster, stucco or of ebonite, hardened india-rubber, *etc.*, and generally of material which does not crumble, is strong, preserves its shape, and can be cut or moulded. These pieces may be employed in their natural state or one or more of their surfaces may be painted or coloured or be covered with paper or linen so as to form designs suggesting, for example, the

shape of a window, of a door, of a piece of sculpture or other ornamental object.

The elements are arranged to interengage and be combined so that their combination produces a firm construction the different parts of which are tightly joined together and remain in the same position even when being conveyed from place to place or when the constructed toy is moved whilst the separate pieces are being grouped together.

The annexed drawing illustrates, by way of example, a toy representing a church and some of the elements entering into the construction of that edifice.

Figs. 1, 2, and 3 are respectively side, rear and front elevations of a toy church constructed according to this invention.

Fig. 4 represents in elevation and top and bottom plan a pillar with sharp corners and also in top plan a pillar with rounded off corners assuming the appearance of a corner column.

Fig. 5 represents one of the elements from which the base or basement of the toy building is constructed.

Fig. 6 represents in elevation and in plan the assemblage of two of these elements engaged one with the other.

Fig. 7 is a plan of an example of square flooring.

Fig. 8 is a plan of an apertured element serving to bind together and maintain the pillars parallel in the vertical direction.

In building the toy church illustrated I employ columns 1 (see also Fig. 4) of square section, in each of the four sides of which is a longitudinal groove or fluting *a*. One or both of the ends of this column

are formed with a double cleft *b* running right through opposite the flutings *a* and of the same height as the elements 2 (Figs. 5 and 6) from which the "bases" or "basements" are constructed so that at this point the column has the shape of a doubly forked piece the four prismatic parts of which are capable of straddling two base elements 2 at their point of junction, when the latter are connected together as hereinafter described.

The base elements 2 (Figs. 5 and 6) consist of flat pieces *c* formed with notches or recesses *d* midway of their height so that the combination of two elements placed perpendicularly with their notches in engagement form a rigid combination that is not deformable (Fig. 6).

The floorings 3 (Fig. 7) are made of thin smooth rectangular pieces *e* the corners *f* of which are cut away to allow of the passage of the columns 1.

Panels 4 (Figs. 1 and 3) which are either solid or cut out to imitate windows, doors, small round windows or porticoes of any style, are slid into the grooves *a* of the columns 1 to fill up the gaps and to complete the imitation of the construction which it is desired to build.

In order to bind together the columns in any construction and at the same time ensure the columns being held in vertical and parallel positions elements 5 (see Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 8) having spaced square apertures *g* of a size to admit the passage of the columns are arranged at different intervals in the height of the building, these elements being supported by the upper edges of the panels 4. These apertured elements 5 which are of very varied forms suited to the plan of the building may serve to represent string courses *b* or cappings 6.

For the purpose of forming the pent roof shown, two panels 7 (Figs. 1 and 3) having their edges inclined to correspond to the slope of the roof required are slid into the grooves *a* of the columns 1

together with a roof element 8 which is lodged in grooves cut in the panels 7 parallel to their sloping edges. In Fig. 3 the roof element 8 is omitted.

Between the panel 4 formed with the dormer window 9 and the roof element 8, a solid block 10 with two slopes may be arranged in imitation of the roofing of the dormer window. Above the capping 6, balustrades 11 formed by cut out panels are slid into the grooves *a* of the columns.

The top of the columns 1 may be surmounted by a head of pyramidal or other shape, or vases or other objects may be attached to the doubly forked ends of the columns.

Toy building blocks have previously been proposed comprising beams, pillars and posts of square cross section having longitudinal grooves in their sides and cross-shaped recesses or mortices at their ends, the beams, pillars and posts being used in conjunction with thin slotted boards which serve as a filling.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:—

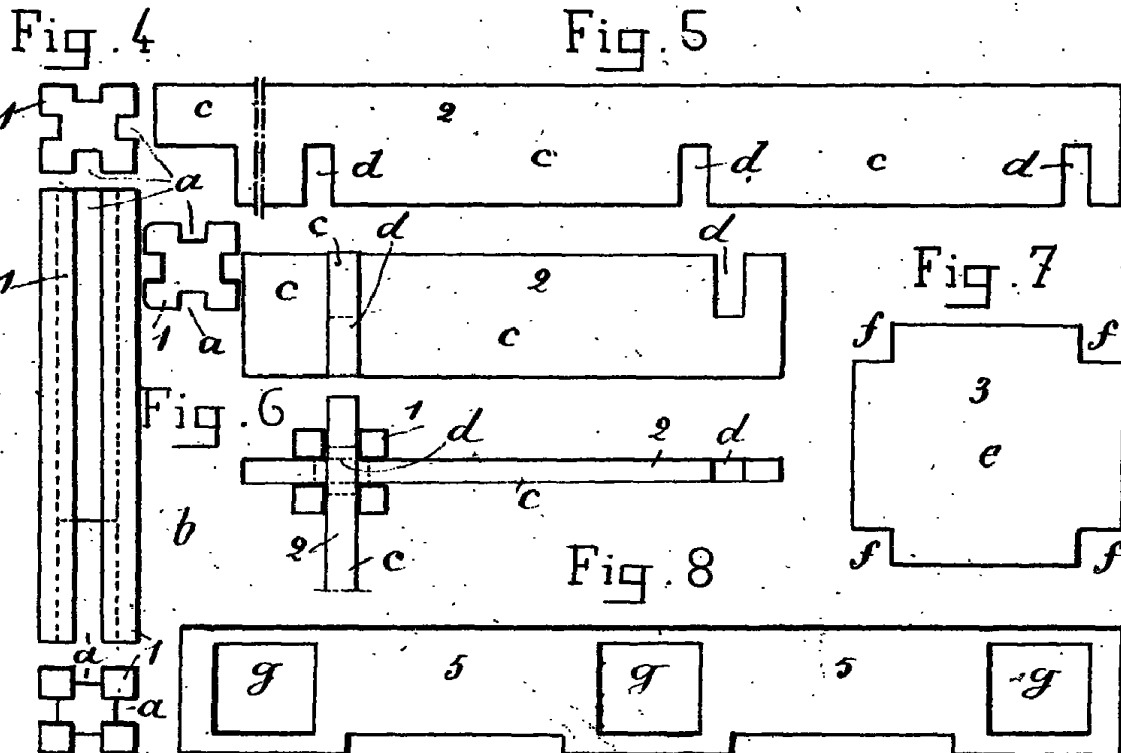
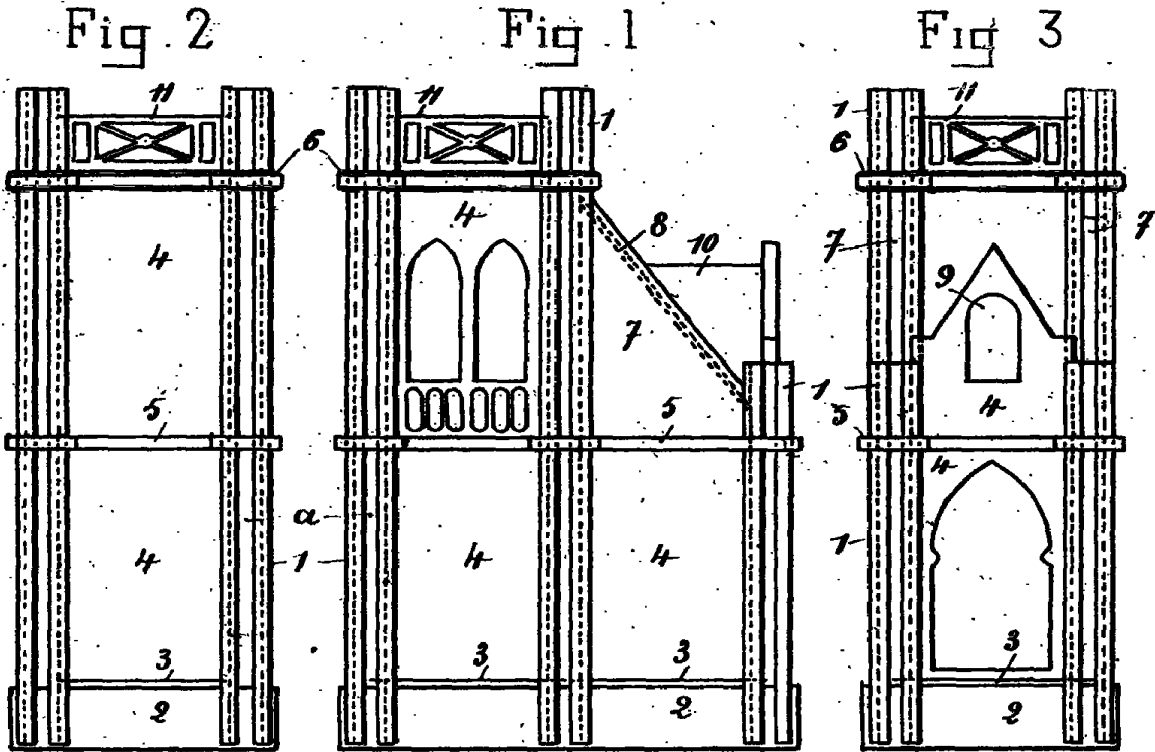
1. In a toy building construction comprising square columns and slotted base elements of the kind described, apertured elements adapted to bind together and maintain the columns in a vertical and parallel position, flooring elements of rectangular shape with their corners cut away and panels of varied design all substantially as and for the purposes described.

2. The improved toy construction substantially as described and illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

Dated this 13th day of February, 1920.

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[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]



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