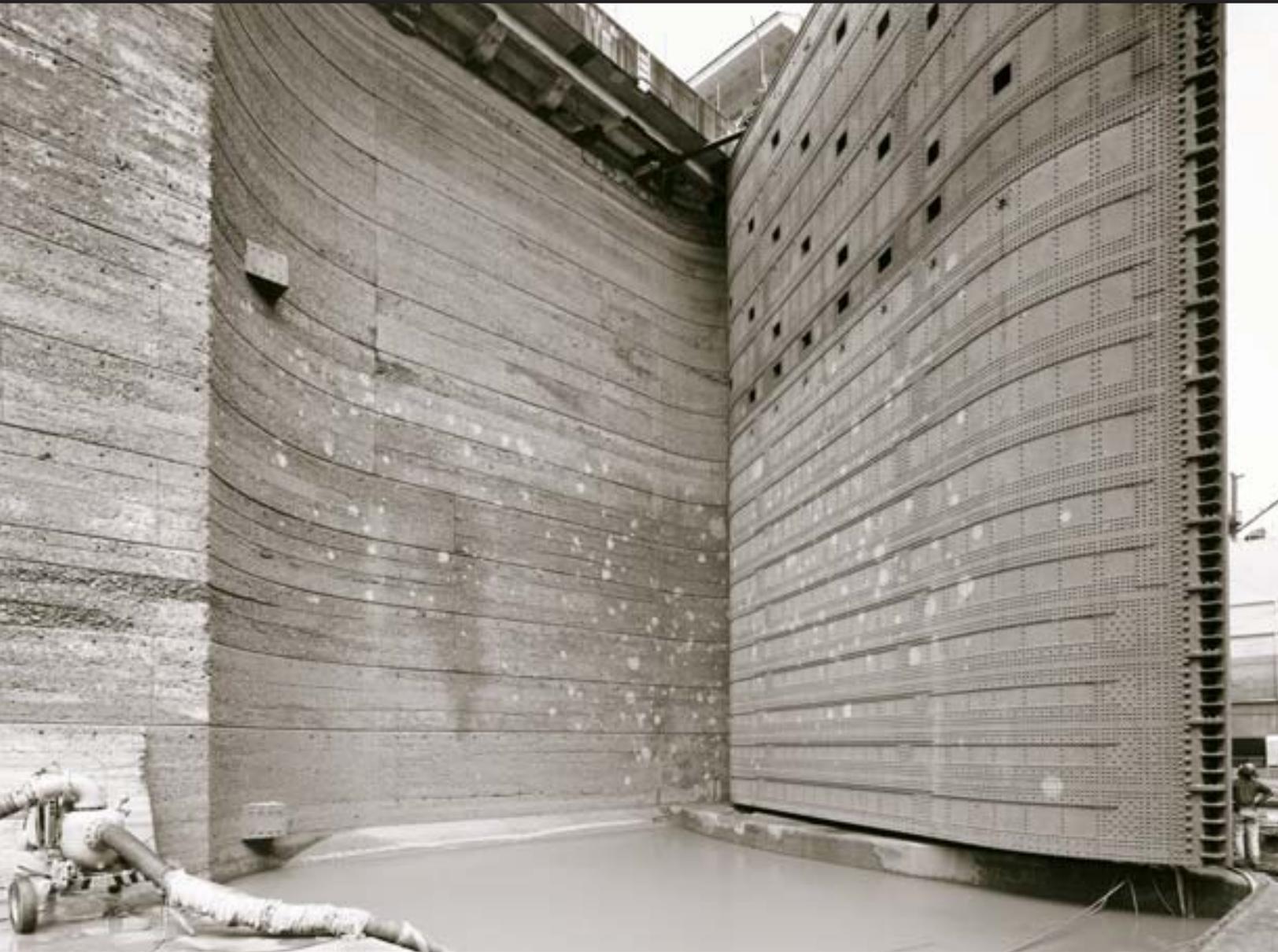


OCEAN TO OCEAN



FIGHTING MALARIA, YELLOW FEVER, LANDSLIDES, AND COUNTLESS OTHER HAZARDS, workers toiled for 10 years to accomplish one of the greatest engineering feats of all time, the Panama Canal. Completed in 1914 at a cost of 27,000 lives, the project was immense, its impact enormous. Ships could go from one ocean to the other in hours, the grueling journey around Cape Horn a thing of the past. Here, photographer Jet Lowe captures the turn-of-the-century ingenuity that made it possible. **IN A MULTI-YEAR PROJECT, THE HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD** documented the locks in architectural drawings and large-format photographs. Some of the original equipment is still in use, helping the waterway handle about 14,000 ships a year. **THE LOCKS, WHICH LIFT SHIPS 85 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL FOR DEPOSIT IN ANOTHER OCEAN**, are considered the canal's crowning achievement. No one had attempted anything like them, and building with concrete was relatively untried. Nothing to rival the canal would be seen again until the construction of Boulder Dam during the Depression. **THE CANAL WAS OPENED BY PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON**, who pressed a button in Washington, DC, relaying a signal to New York, then on to Galveston, then on to Panama to detonate a charge that blew out the last bit of earth separating the Atlantic and Pacific. **THE DOCUMENTATION OF THE GATES, VALVES, FLOODWAYS, AND MECHANISMS** will become part of the HAER collection, hosted by the Library of Congress at http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs_haer.