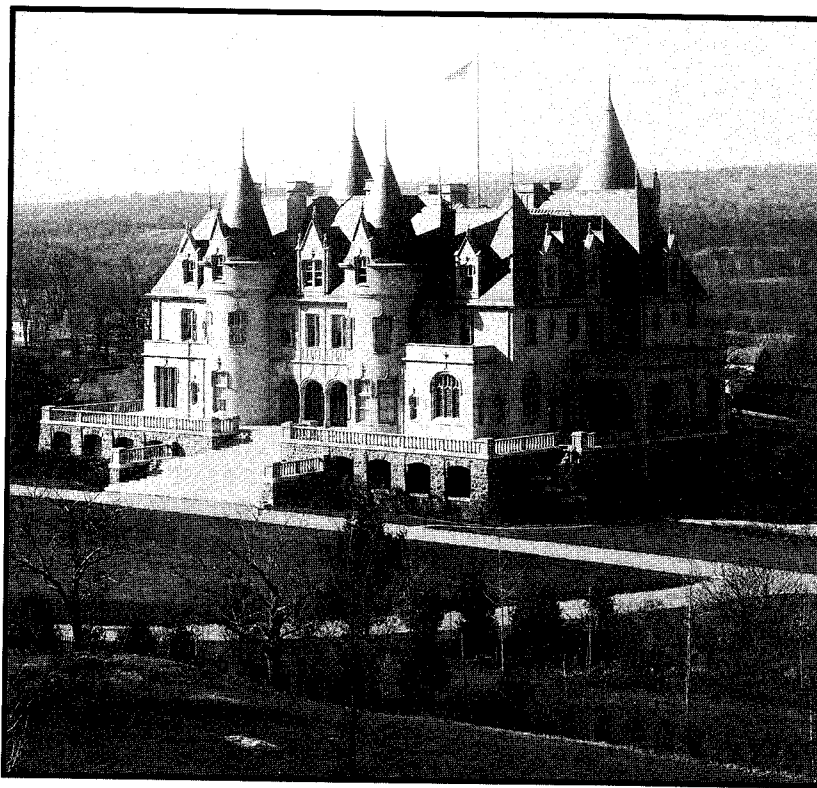
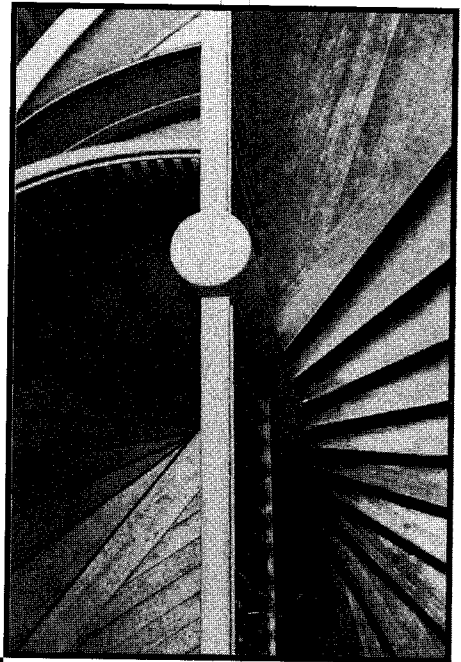


CASTLES in the AIR It was a folly from the start: a French castle plunked in the hills of Northfield, its five-story towers rising dreamlike from the landscape. New York millionaire F. Robert Schell built the Chateau as a summer house for himself and his wife. The cost is unknown, but construction—which lasted from 1901 to 1903—included 42 Italian laborers imported for the purpose. The finished chateau boasted 125 rooms, including 36 bedrooms, 23 bathrooms, and a private chapel. It is said that when Mrs. Schell first saw the Chateau, she sat down on the steps and cried. *Why* she cried was not recorded.

The childless Schells enjoyed entertaining students, inviting Mount Hermon graduating classes to dinner or bringing Northfield girls for an evening party. After Robert Schell died in 1928, his wife refused to live in the Chateau. Instead she spent sum-



mers at the nearby Northfield Inn—insisting on a room on the far side so she wouldn't see the Chateau. The school bought the mansion for \$34,000 and used it for guests and conferences. It also became the setting for the annual senior dance, the Chat. By 1963, the Chateau had deteriorated so badly that it had to be torn down. The long-gone building's site lies near the Northfield golf course.