

THE
OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



Convention Notes and Notices

Tentative Programs—Congress and Convention

The Midwestern Conference of Architects

Evaluating Various Evaluations of The Fort Wayne Housing Project

Don't Be Your Own Architect!

Architectural Building Dollar Value Received Greatest of All

With The Chapters

Volume 11

JULY
1939

Number 7

TENTATIVE PROGRAMS

THE SEVENTY-FIRST CONVENTION—THE XV INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ARCHITECTS

SEPTEMBER 25, 26, 27, 28, 1939—WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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Convention Notes and Notices

Registration at the Convention.

Delegates, members and guests should register with the Credentials Committee, upon arrival at the hotel. For the convenience of those arriving on Sunday, September 24, the Credentials Committee will be on duty at The Mayflower Hotel on the afternoon and evening of Sunday from 1:00 P. M. to 10:00 P. M.

Registration will continue on Monday, September 25 from 9:00 A. M. until 6:00 P. M., at which time registration records will be closed.

Prompt registration upon arrival at the hotel will greatly expedite the work of the Credentials Committee—and save your time.

Resolutions Procedure.

Resolutions offered by The Board of Directors will be printed in The Board's report and moved for adoption when the relevant section of that report is before the Convention.

Resolutions concerning matters not covered in The Board's report, or requests for opportunity to present items of new business, must be presented to the Committee on Resolutions for its action and approval before the close of the afternoon session of Wednesday, September 27, at 7:00 P. M.—provided that an exception to this time limit for filing resolutions may be made by unanimous consent of the Convention.

A general rule to this effect will be offered for adoption by the Convention at the morning session on Monday, September 25.

Program, Documents and Tickets.

The official program of the Convention with complete information concerning procedure; all Convention documents, including The Board's report, The Treasurer's report, and synopses of various committee reports; and such tickets of admission to special events as may be required—will be available on the opening day of the Convention.

Meetings Before, During and After the Convention.

Board of Directors—Annual Meeting:

At The Octagon, Washington, D. C., September 20 to 23, 1939, inclusive.

Board of Directors—Organization Meeting:

At The Octagon, Washington, D. C., September 29, 1939.

Board of Directors—Semi-annual Meeting:

At The Octagon, Washington, D. C., September 29, 1939.

Chapters or members having communications for The Board should address them to The Secretary of The Institute at The Octagon for delivery there not later than September 15.

Associations and Other Groups:

Meetings of associations and other groups, at The Mayflower Hotel, unless otherwise stated in the official program, will be held as follows:

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture—

September 29 and 30, 1939.

Meetings, etc., Continued.

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards—

Dates of this meeting to be announced later.

State Associations of Architects—

September 26, 1939.

The Producers' Council, Inc.—

September 26 and 27, 1939.

Further information concerning these various meetings may be obtained from the secretaries of the respective groups, will be printed in the program and will be posted in the hotel.

Hotel Headquarters and Reservations.

The Mayflower Hotel, 1123 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C., will be the official headquarters of the Convention. This hotel is convenient to the public buildings of Washington, to the Departmental Auditorium in which the sessions of the XV International Congress of Architects will be held and to the business section of the city.

All of the business sessions of the Convention will be held in The Mayflower.

Places of other meetings and special functions will be shown in the program.

The Mayflower is one of the finest hotels in Washington, with complete facilities for handling a large convention, including auditoriums, banquet rooms, secondary meeting and committee rooms.

A parking service for automobiles is maintained by the hotel.

The hotel will endeavor to accommodate under its own roof all who make reservations in advance—up to a total of 850 persons. Reservations in excess of that number will be allocated to one of several nearby first-class hotels, each of which has modern rooms and service.

All requests for reservations should be made direct to The Mayflower, on the assurance that desirable accommodations will be available provided such requests reach the hotel *not later than September 15, 1939.*

Your reservation should refer to the Convention of The Institute, should specify the type and price of room desired, should state the date and time of arrival, and should request a confirmation.

Those making reservations that are received by The Mayflower *later than September 15*, may not find rooms as desirable as those who make reservations before the dead line.

The rates at The Mayflower and its associated hotels are as follows:

Single room and bath for one person (for 75 rooms only at The Mayflower)—\$3.50 per day.

Single room and bath for one person (for 50 rooms only at The Mayflower)—\$4.00 per day.

Single room and bath for one person (for 50 rooms only at The Mayflower)—\$5.00 per day.

Rooms with double bed and bath for two persons (for 150 rooms only at The Mayflower)—\$5.00, \$6.00 and \$7.00 per day.

Double rooms with twin beds and bath for two persons (for 200 rooms only at The Mayflower)—\$7.00, \$8.00, \$9.00 and \$10.00 per day.

Williamsburg and the World's Fair.

Immediately following the adjournment of the Convention and Congress, on the late afternoon of Thursday, September 28, those who desire may arrange for the Williamsburg trip on which the delegates to the International Congress will be the guests of The Institute. One or more steamers will be chartered for the occasion.

Plans for the descent upon the World's Fair in New York are in the making. Special cars or regular trains will run at convenient hours on Saturday and Sunday in order to transport comfortably to New York all participants in the Convention and the Congress—in good time for their inspection of the World's Fair, and for their participation in Architects' Day at the Fair on Monday, October 2.

Transportation Arrangements and Costs.

The Institute is advised that those attending the Convention and the Congress may take advantage of the substantially reduced railroad rates from many points in the United States to New York, on account of the World's Fair, with a stop-over privilege in Washington. Consult your local ticket agent for lowest fares, or combination of fares, from your city to Washington to New York to your city.

Steamer tickets and incidental tickets for the trip to Williamsburg will be available at the Convention at the time of registration.

Tentative Programs—Congress and Convention

THE FINAL PROGRAMS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE OPENING SESSIONS

CONGRESS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER TWENTY-FOUR

Morning

(At the Departmental Auditorium)

11:00 A.M. Registration begins.
Registration recessed at 5:30 P.M. until
9:00 A.M. on September 25.

Afternoon

No events scheduled.

CONVENTION

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER TWENTY-FOUR

Morning

No events scheduled.

Afternoon—Evening

(At the Mayflower Hotel)

1:00 P.M. Registration begins.
Registration recessed at 10:00 P.M. until
9:00 A.M. on September 25.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER TWENTY-FIVE

Morning

(At the Departmental Auditorium)

9:00 A.M. Registration continued. (Registration desk will close at 6:00 P.M.)

12:00 Noon. *Formal opening of the Congress in the Great Hall.
The President of the Congress will preside.
Address of welcome.

*NOTE: Addresses given in foreign languages will be immediately translated and transmitted directly to the seated delegates by means of the Filene-Finley System of individual telephones.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER TWENTY-FIVE

Morning

(At the Mayflower Hotel)

The President, Charles D. Maginnis, Presiding
9:00 A.M. Registration continued—closing at 6:00 P.M.
10:00 A.M. Opening of the Convention.
The President's Address—
Charles D. Maginnis.
The Report of The Treasurer—
Edwin Bergstrom.
*The Report of The Board of Directors—
Charles T. Ingham, Secretary.
11:30 A.M. Adjournment.
12:00 Noon. At the Departmental Auditorium
Opening session of the XV International Congress of Architects.
All attending the Convention of The American Institute of Architects are cordially invited to be present at the opening session of the Congress.

*NOTE: The Board's report—printed and distributed in advance—will not be read in full. Resolutions contained in it will be acted upon when relevant sections are presented.

CONGRESS**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER TWENTY-FIVE—Cont.****Luncheon**

(At the Willard Hotel)

1:00 P.M. Get-together luncheon—the Congress and The Convention. Tickets at registration desk.

Afternoon

3:00 P.M. Tour of Washington.

5:00 P.M. Reception of the Congress and the Convention by The President of The American Institute of Architects, at the Mayflower Hotel.

Evening

(At the Pan-American Union Building)

9:30 P.M. Official Reception of The Congress and the Convention.

Music by the United States Navy Band.

All are invited. Admission by card. Formal dress.

CONVENTION**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER TWENTY-FIVE—Cont.****Luncheon**

(At the Willard Hotel)

1:00 P.M. Get-together luncheon—the Congress and the Convention. Tickets at registration desk.

Afternoon

(At the Mayflower Hotel)

The Vice President, Frederick H. Meyer, Presiding

2:30 P.M. Report of The Board, continued.

5:00 P.M. Reception of the Congress and the Convention by The President of The Institute, at the Mayflower Hotel. Admission by card.

6:00 P.M. Registration closes.

Evening

(At the Pan-American Union Building)

9:30 P.M. Official Governmental Reception of the Congress and the Convention.

Music by the United States Navy Band.

All are invited. Admission by card. Formal dress.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER TWENTY-SIX**Morning**

(At the Departmental Auditorium)

9:30 A.M. First business session of the Congress in the Great Hall.

Discussions of Themes I and II.

After the Reporter-General has spoken, Mr.

Sverre Pedersen of Norway will open the discussion on Theme I.

Speaker for Theme II not yet appointed.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER TWENTY-SIX**Morning**

No convention session is scheduled.

(All are cordially invited to attend the session of the Congress at 9:30 A.M., in the Great Hall of the Departmental Auditorium. Discussions of Theme I, Planning and Development of Rural Districts; and of Theme II, The Relation Between Population Density and Built-up Area.)

CONGRESS**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER TWENTY-SIX—Cont.****Luncheon**

(At the Willard Hotel)

12:30 P.M. Joint informal luncheon.

Tickets at registration desk.

Afternoon

(At the Departmental Auditorium)

2:30 P.M. Discussion of Etude A, The Architect's Copyright.

After the Reporter-General has spoken, Mr. Carlos Contreras of Mexico will open the discussion.

3:30 P.M. Visit to Mt. Vernon, the home of George Washington, followed by tea or buffet supper at some nearby point.

Evening

(At the Mayflower Hotel)

9:00 P.M. Congress delegates are cordially invited to attend the evening session of the Convention, to hear the report of The Institute's Committee on Education.

CONVENTION**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER TWENTY-SIX—Cont.****Luncheon**

12:30 P.M. Joint informal luncheon of the Congress and the Convention, at the Willard Hotel.

Tickets at registration desk.

1:00 P.M. Luncheon meeting of Officers of Chapters, at the Mayflower Hotel.

Afternoon

(At the Mayflower Hotel)

The President Presiding

2:30 P.M. Opening of the session.

Report of the Committee on Federal Public Works, by Charles Butler, Chairman of the Committee.

Report of the Committee on Housing, by Walter R. McCornack, Chairman of the Committee.

Report of the Credentials Committee.

Nominations of Officers and Directors.

Report of The Board of Directors—continued.

Evening

(At the Mayflower Hotel)

The Chairman of the Committee on Education, C. C. Zantzinger, Presiding

9:00 P.M. Report of the Committee on Education.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER TWENTY-SEVEN**Morning**

(At the Departmental Auditorium)

9:30 A.M. Business session of the Congress in the Great Hall. Discussion of Theme III.

After the Reporter-General has spoken, the discussion will be opened by Mr. Emile Maigrot of France, who will treat subdivision A; Mr. Henry van de Velde of Belgium, who will treat subdivision B; and Mr. Uno Aahren of Sweden, subdivision C.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER TWENTY-SEVEN**Morning**

No convention session is scheduled.

(All are cordially invited to attend the session of the Congress at 9:30 A.M. in the Departmental Auditorium. Discussion of Theme III, Contemporary Architecture Compared to the Architecture of the Past—A. From the technical point of view; B. From the aesthetic point of view; C. From the social point of view.)

CONGRESS**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. TWENTY-SEVEN—Cont.****Luncheon**

(At the Willard Hotel)

12:30 P.M. Congress luncheon.

Tickets at registration desk.

Afternoon

(At the Departmental Auditorium)

2:30 P.M. Discussion of Etude B, Comparison of remunerations received by Architects in different countries.

After the Reporter-General has spoken, the discussion will be opened by Mr. Percy Erskine Nobbs of Canada.

5:30 P.M. Lecture on "Light and Architecture." Interesting speakers, in a colorful, non-technical presentation of an important and timely subject.

Evening

(At the Mayflower Hotel)

8:00 P.M. Banquet of the Congress and the Convention.

Admission by ticket. Formal dress.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER TWENTY-EIGHT**Morning**

(At the Departmental Auditorium)

9:30 A.M. Business session of the Congress in the Great Hall. Discussion of Themes IV and V.

After the Reporter-General has spoken, the discussion of Theme IV will be opened by Mr. H. S. Goodhart-Rendel of England; of Theme V by Mr. Alberto Calza Bini of Italy.

CONVENTION**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. TWENTY-SEVEN—Cont.****Luncheon**

(At the Mayflower Hotel)

1:00 P.M. Joint meeting and luncheon with The Producers' Council. All are cordially invited. Tickets at registration desk.

Afternoon

(At the Mayflower Hotel)

The Vice-President, Frederick H. Meyer, Presiding

2:00 P.M. Report of the Committee on Membership, by Alfred Shaw, Chairman of the Committee.

2:30 P.M. Polls open.

2:30 P.M. Report of the Committee on State Organization, by John R. Fugard, Chairman of the Committee.

5:00 P.M. Proposed revision of Institute Documents. (Notice to appear in August OCTAGON.)

7:00 P.M. Polls close.

Evening

(At the Mayflower Hotel)

8:00 P.M. Banquet of the Congress and the Convention.

Admission by ticket. Formal dress.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER TWENTY-EIGHT**Morning**

(At the Mayflower Hotel)

The President, Charles D. Maginnis, Presiding
10:00 A.M. Opening of the session.

Report of The Committee on Architectural Competitions by Eric Gugler, Chairman of the Committee.

Completion of action on Board's report.
Unfinished business.

CONGRESS**THURSDAY, SEPT. TWENTY-EIGHT—Cont.****Luncheon**

(At the Willard Hotel)

12:30 P.M. Joint luncheon—the Congress and the Convention.

Tickets at registration desk.

Afternoon

(At the Departmental Auditorium)

2:30 P.M. Business session of the Congress. Presentation of resolutions by the presiding officers of all business sessions. Discussion of the resolutions and their presentation to the Comité Permanent International des Architectes.

3:30 P.M. Business session of the C. P. I. A. for the ratification of the resolutions presented by the Congress, in the Central Committee Room.

4:30 P.M. Formal closing session of the Congress in the Great Hall, the President of the Congress presiding.

Formal presentation of the resolutions by the Secretary-General of the C. P. I. A. for action by the Congress.

Adjournment.

Evening

6:00 P.M. Departure for Williamsburg by boat.

Boat leaves the waterfront at 6:30 P. M.

Dinner on boat, followed by entertainment.

CONVENTION**THURSDAY, SEPT. TWENTY-EIGHT—Cont.****Luncheon**

(At the Willard Hotel)

12:30 P.M. Joint luncheon—the Congress and the Convention.

Tickets at registration desk.

Afternoon

(At the Mayflower Hotel)

The President Presiding

2:30 P.M. Opening of the session.

Unfinished business.

Report of Committee on Resolutions.

New business.

Announcement of elections and honors.

Installation of Officers and Directors.

3:45 P.M. Adjournment of Convention.

(At the Departmental Auditorium)

4:30 P.M. Closing session of the Congress.

All are cordially invited to attend.

Evening

6:00 P.M. Departure for Williamsburg by boat.

Boat leaves the waterfront at 6:30 P.M.

Dinner on boat, followed by entertainment.

Events Following the Congress and the Convention

INFORMATION concerning events and tours occurring on Friday, September 29, Saturday, September 30, and Monday, October 2, will appear in the official programs of the Congress and the Convention. Meanwhile, the following notes briefly outline plans now in the making for those days.

The Williamsburg Tour.

Upon arrival at Old Point Comfort, Virginia, on the morning of Friday, September 29, breakfast will be served at the New Chamberlain Hotel.

After breakfast the party will leave for Williams-

burg by bus and private automobile, passing through the historic cities of Jamestown and Yorktown en route.

In Williamsburg there will be specially conducted visits to the principal buildings of the Restoration, followed by luncheon at the College of William and Mary.

In the afternoon the tour of inspection will be completed. The return to Old Point Comfort will be made in time for departure by boat at 7:00 P. M. Dinner will be served on the boat.

The boat arrives in Washington about 7:30 A. M. on the morning of Saturday, September 30. Breakfast will be served on the boat.

The cost of the Williamsburg trip will be approximately \$16.00, which will include passage and stateroom on the boat, meals on the boat, breakfast at Old Point Comfort, bus fare to Williamsburg and return, luncheon at Williamsburg, and admission fees.

Visit to Wilmington, Delaware.

On Saturday, September 30, following the return to Washington from the Williamsburg trip, those who desire may visit housing projects in the vicinity of the National Capital, go to the National Bureau of Standards to see the methods employed in testing building materials, or visit other points of interest.

All who attend the Congress and the Convention are cordially invited to visit the Pierre duPont Estate near Wilmington, Delaware, to see "Longwood Gardens." Trains will leave Washington at

2:00 P.M., for Wilmington, where buses will be waiting to take the party to the duPont Estate.

In the early evening, at twilight, there will be a special showing of the illuminated fountains of the Gardens, in honor of the visiting architects.

Thereafter, the party will proceed to Philadelphia by bus in time to take evening trains for New York.

Train and bus tickets for this tour will be available at special rates.

Architects' Day at the World's Fair.

No events are scheduled in New York City on Sunday, October 1.

Monday, October 2, has been officially designated as Architects' Day at the New York World's Fair.

The members of the profession and their friends will be welcomed to the Fair at a formal ceremony on the Fair Grounds.

Every effort will be made by the authorities and by a special committee to make Architects' Day a memorable one.

Time Extended For Submission of Theme Papers

THE dead-line date for the submission by American architects of papers on the Themes to be discussed at the Fifteenth International Congress of Architects has been extended to August 25. In the May number of *THE OCTAGON*, on pages 4 and 5, the titles of the various themes were published. They have also been carried in the Program which appears herein. It was noted in the May issue that all papers should be submitted to the Secretariat, The Octagon, Washington, D. C., not later than July 1. The decision to extend the time limit to August 25 was made due to the fact that since these papers will be submitted in English, there will be no prior translation necessary before they can be considered by the various Reporters-General.

The writing of these papers is a manifestation of the interest taken in the Congress and its proceedings by the architects of the United States. Many American architects have requested this extension of time and it is anticipated that their contribution to the achievements of the Fifteenth International

Congress will be even more notable than was that which they made to the Fourteenth International Congress at Paris in 1937, when the papers submitted by the architects of the United States commanded much attention.

The various Chapters are urged to appoint one of their members to submit a paper, in the Chapter's name, carrying the identity of the author.

Authors may submit more than one paper. According to precedent papers submitted are printed in the *Final Report* of the Congress. Every person registering at the Congress will receive a copy of this report when printed. The *Final Report* will also be sent to architectural societies throughout the world as well as to all foreign governments.

Registration forms for the Congress, as apart from the Convention, may be obtained from The Secretariat at The Octagon. Those registering at the Congress will be entitled to active participation in the sessions, to vote on motions placed before the assembly, and to participate in all social functions on the same basis as professional delegates.

The Midwestern Conference of Architects

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT CHARLES D. MAGINNIS at Notre Dame University, June 24, 1939

GATHERED here in a university setting it would seem no less than becoming to think of architecture in its academic implications as a fine art. But we must be cautious. For this historic concept of our interest is not as popular as it was, even among ourselves. In the new world of mechanisms to which we are now committed, we are expected to relinquish our aristocratic pretensions. It is indicated to us that Architecture as a fine art is henceforth an anachronistic pomposity. Many of us feel a little resentful at the violent shift of sentiment which makes for such an assault upon our youthful orthodoxies. We were always taught that Architecture was both an art and a science. While admittedly it is upon the science rather than upon the art it must mainly rely for its modern validity, some of us cling to our faith that it is not irrevocably secularized. For, once it ceases to be an instrument of the spirit, we might as well relinquish it *in toto* to the engineer. We do not forget that it is the supreme business of architecture to interpret the contemporary life, and that ours is an era of scientific preoccupations. I will not discuss the validity of this emphasis, however instinctive it is with the architect to be conscious of the principle of proportion even in the spiritual order. For the present, I fear, we must be reconciled to the spectacle of Architecture turning its back on the stately past to meet the urgency of the present topicalities.

This process of reorientation has so disconcerted the profession that we are now divided between those who are prepared to accept the complete implications of the modern realism and those who protest that it is only a surface phenomenon which leaves the old values where they were. It means for us at least a new versatility and a more exciting and adventurous calling at the same time that it sharpens our apprehension about the complete competency of a profession which is capable at a critical time of such fundamental differences.

You have been significantly occupied in this conference with its realistic adjustment to the new conditions. Obviously many believe that the public influence of the profession and its principles is gravely prejudiced by its present nebulous organ-

ization. The American Institute of Architects has formally indicated its correspondence with this belief and has embarked on the practical study of the conditions under which the terms of its membership may be modified to accomplish a single inclusive body. No one will question the qualifications of the committee to which this problem has been entrusted nor can any one fail to perceive in the sympathies of its personnel the sincerity with which The Institute has made this gesture towards a real unification.

It is occasionally asserted that The Institute is so solicitous about its traditional integrity as to leave room for the suspicion that it enjoys the unction which comes from the implication of its limited numbers. So stated, that is a misapprehension which should be removed at once. Out of a long experience of Institute sentiment, I am prepared to say that what is true is that its membership is solicitous only to conserve those principles which for almost a century it has upheld before the American public to the honor and the benefit not only of its own organization but of the whole profession. From the beginning, the doors of The Institute have been hospitably open to every qualified architect who subscribed to those principles.

Of recent years, immediate geographical problems made for the gradual development of those State Organizations whose relation to The Institute is now so anxious a concern. Many of these are doing admirable service in the architectural cause and include men who are as eager as we to maintain the best professional ideals. In the discussions over the feasibility of unification it has been intimated that some of these societies are not indifferent about their own autonomy. Clearly if this be true, it will not simplify the task of contriving the type of unity which is the objective of the present effort. The results of this study, however, will be presented to the next convention where, it is indicated, further action will be sought for the acceptance of competition as a single principle in the selection of architects for Federal work. You have noted with satisfaction, I am sure, that the Treasury Department has already adopted a policy which gives recognition to the claims of private architects to be chosen

through a system of regional competitions.

We are indebted to the earnest efforts of The Institute's Committee on Federal Public Works for a result which carries these new opportunities to all the members of the profession, whatever their affiliations, with particular significance for our young practitioners. Let me say here that we have contended vigorously, but as yet vainly, for the larger recognition which would involve a complete architectural service, but the Government is inflexible in its belief in the superior capacities of the Supervising Architect to deal with the technical and standard elements of the official problem. I am glad to say that, with this reservation, the present attitude of the Treasury Department is most understanding and cooperative.

It would be pleasant if I could assure you that all is well generally with our interest, and that architecture is taking its proper place in the life around us; but it too obviously isn't. I have repeatedly said that, in the magnitude of the national scene, the architect is a carver of cherry-stones, that his interest is confined to the units of the physical community, that he is still denied that spacious exercise which would come of the opportunity to influence the civic organism, and this in spite of the fact that the ugly city is the most challenging artistic problem of this country. We all know what the architectural faculty might accomplish as an attribute of enlightened civic administration, but we know, too, the profound discouragement which lies in the way of those political reforms which would make it possible. These are not to be achieved by the profession of itself, however integrated, but only by the slow process of public education. It is one of those symptoms of national inefficiency which we must accept in our larger faith in the ultimate validity of the democratic idea. Meantime, the development of our public authority will most effectively be advanced by localized effort.

Such a regional conference as this is enormously stimulating. The national attributes of The Institute are invaluable, but they do not include the capacity to project its image vividly into the local picture. This is why those who have held this office of President have constantly emphasized the idea that the Chapters are too prone to wait upon the initiative of The Octagon instead of finding

their own particular avenues of influence and their own dynamic impulse. I am firmly convinced that this delegated leadership is the most pressing need of our profession. Our credo is clearly written at our conventions so there need be no hesitancy in proclaiming it. Our policies are framed there by the popular will. There should be no hindrance to carrying them into action. There is no infallibility to architectural conventions. Our favorite ideas are often not popular there, but they get a fair hearing and, not seldom, find an ultimate vindication. Meantime, we have no right to manifest our faith in them in ways which appear disloyal to convention decree. Nor, on the other hand, are we bound either to surrender them or to wait in expectation that they will rise up again of their own buoyancy. There is usually a middle way in which we may patiently carry them to a better fortune if they are worthy of it.

This meeting gives me a fitting occasion to take account of a recent widely-published criticism of the building interest which demands from me a statement of our own position. So long as the causes of the depression remain inscrutable to the specialists, no interest can know the measure of its obligation to correct it. The building industry is generally recognized as the most fundamental factor in the national economy. It has always regarded itself as the chief victim of the business slump. There are now those, however, who are bold enough to say that the impediments to the general recovery lie chiefly within the building industry itself. Not only are the high costs of its labor and materials paralyzing long-term investment but it is charged that these costs are artificially established and maintained by its selfish groups in defiance of the national interest.

This is so grave an indictment that no element associated with building should shrink from an examination of its merits. The public is particularly aroused over the failure so far to bring construction within the costs which are necessary in order to realize the social purpose of the slum-clearance projects on which Government is spending vast sums. It is clearly entitled to know if and what conditions in the building industry are working against this beneficent enterprise and whether the industry has the capacity and the disposition to correct them. I am sufficiently confident of the sen-

timent of the architectural profession to promise here the earnest participation of The American Institute of Architects in any comprehensive inquiry into this subject.

It has been stated of my own profession by a critic of consequence that architects are not taking advantage of the economic possibilities of the modern design. That is so far inaccurate that the architect, generally speaking, has brought the most stark and scientific terms to the solution of the slum problem and the small house. For he can be as passionate in the search for triumphant economies, if that be his job, as he is known to be in the essays of imagination. Moreover, his professional relation

to the housing projects is such as to give him exceptional encouragement to find the utmost savings in methods and materials. In this effort, it is fair to say, he is frequently frustrated in the encounter with antiquated building laws that can well be liberalized without prejudice to rational standards of safety.

The architectural profession in America would be unworthy of its honorable tradition if, in this social crisis, it were not only on the side of economy but one of its most effective instruments.

The architect who is true to the principles of his art can bring nothing but beneficence to his country.

Evaluating Various Evaluations of The Fort Wayne Housing Project

By JOHN ESSIG, Executive Secretary, Fort Wayne Housing Authority.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This article is in reply to "An Evaluation of the Fort Wayne Housing Project" which appeared in the May, 1939, number of THE OCTAGON, page 6.*

THE Fort Wayne Housing Authority project, comprising fifty small houses to rent for \$2.50 per week each, appears to be going through the second phase of its public relations aspect. The rather wide press discussions of it are now giving way to lengthier magazine discussions "evaluating" and "appraising" the project.

The original publicity concerning the project was entirely spontaneous, not one line of it being released from the Fort Wayne Housing Authority or by the F. H. A., which cooperated in the project. The Fort Wayne Housing Authority has consistently taken the position that this project was a local affair and designed solely to meet a condition which the Authority knew existed in Fort Wayne. There is and has been no desire on the part of any member of the Housing Authority members or cooperating city officials to proclaim a panacea for all American cities or to establish a cause or school of thought in the field of public housing.

But apparently the very spontaneous nature of the publicity which this little project has received has resulted in certain misapprehension concerning its real purpose and the need which brought it into being. These misapprehensions are reflected in the

"evaluations" and "appraisals" now appearing concerning the project.

One such evaluation appearing in THE OCTAGON under date of May 1939, seems so typical and goes to a group of such importance in the field of housing that it merits an answer.

Everyone wants to see the standards of American living raised materially. In the field of housing it would be nice to see every American family living in centrally heated homes with electric refrigeration, tile baths, and all of the other desirable things which our building industry can produce, at a price. But to accomplish that under our present national public housing program is going to cost sixty-four billion dollars and take better than eighty years at the present rate of progress.

In the meantime, nearly three generations must be born, grow up and die in shelter units which are leagues below present public housing standards, which do not even have the simple public health necessities of running water and sanitary facilities. To offer these generations something which is a little better than present surroundings was the aim of The Fort Wayne Housing Authority.

The proof of the pudding lies in the eating and

the record of tenants to date offers some interesting facts to which theory must adjust itself.

Every one of the fifty families moving into the Fort Wayne houses got (1) more space than they had before, (2) sanitary facilities which they did not have before, (3) cheaper heating costs than they previously paid, (4) rents which they could afford to pay or which local charities could pay at a saving over previous relief rent allowances.

By way of illustration: a family of five came from a house without plumbing and comprising two rooms that would fit inside the living room of their new house. A family of seven came out of a tent. Arguments that bedrooms in the new houses contain only 88 square feet, whereas a group of swivel chair experts have concluded that 90 square feet should comprise a minimum (without regard for placement of doors and windows), do not affect these families very much.

True also, these houses are more or less separately located and do not comprise a new garden community development. It would be nice if they did, although this might be qualified by the statement that they should remain single family homes with private yards and not become apartment units at least as far as Fort Wayne is concerned.

But the neighborhoods in which the houses are located are the same in which the tenants previously lived. They are certainly no worse off from this standpoint than they were before. No school problems or transportation problems have been created. And in the last analysis, isn't it highly possible that people make neighborhoods as much as structures?

Again, in this connection, the record speaks for itself. The Family Service Bureau of Fort Wayne reports: "Even in the short time the few houses have been occupied, we can see constructive changes not only in the family groups with which we are acquainted, but in the attitudes of its members, which have no doubt been brought about by the improvement in their housing situations." From the Associated Catholic Charities of Fort Wayne: "The new W. P. A. houses are filling a long felt need here. We have one client's family living in one on McCormick Street and they are most en-

thusiastic about the house. We believe it has changed their whole outlook on life to have a decent, clean home in which to house their children."

No apology needs to be made for the fact that the Fort Wayne houses will be completely paid for in twenty years rather than sixty years. Sixty years ago the best housing did not have electric lights, running hot water or oil heat. Bathtubs were rare in 1871. Sixty years from now we may want to start a movement to lift poor people out of unairconditioned "slums" not equipped with lighting giving forth beneficial sun rays. Again we in Fort Wayne are confident that the next generation will do a better job than we can and we are glad to leave them free to proceed.

The job of housing our low income people is a colossal one. Every eight hundred million dollars which can be appropriated for U. S. H. A. will find ten-fold demand for its use, demand in urban areas where the Fort Wayne program could not be worked. While our housing project was done for Fort Wayne and for Fort Wayne alone, we cannot help but feel that it left federal funds free for other cities and, therefore, contributed a bit toward the solution of low cost housing elsewhere. It cost the city nothing except a small loss in tax revenue, probably uncollectible anyway, more than offset by a gain in public health economy. It cost the federal government nothing but W. P. A. labor which would have been employed anyway and perhaps on less worthwhile projects.

Comparisons between our houses and others existing yet in blueprint form only do not impress us. After all, though only started last November, the fifty units comprising the Fort Wayne Housing Project are up and occupied, all fifty families are happy, there have been no vacancies and no tenant turnover, and the houses are beginning to take on real charm as tenants start their little gardens and settle down to contented living in better quarters than they have ever known before. Evaluations, appraisals, criticisms and praise all fade into insignificance in the fact of fifty families whose home surroundings have actually been improved and whose social and family attitude has visibly advanced.

Don't Be Your Own Architect!

BY ROGER BURLINGAME

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I KNOW that a resolve is much like a button on a fat man's coat—to button it is to undo three others. Nevertheless I have made one resolve that is flat and final and will last as long, I hope, as I do: I shall never again undertake any kind of construction without first hiring an expert.

I know that there are folk who despise the services of experts, who hark nostalgically back to their jack-of-all-trades ancestors. To them architects and such specialists are parasites, luxuries, superfluous agents who reap large profits out of a job that any normal, intelligent person could do for himself. That, in the country, is the popular belief—an architect is an exceedingly high-hat young man who makes pretty sketches, produces elaborate blueprints, and makes you buy innumerable things you do not want. He orders all the most expensive equipment; not from a good mail-order house, but from big, fancy concerns. He probably gets a rake-off from the manufacturer on every item, and it is you who pay, through the nose. . . . Those are the theories. My bitter experience does not substantiate them. And this same bitter experience has proved to me that ours is, beyond a doubt, an age of experts.

Remodelling the Old Homestead

I came to the country after a life of city-living, and many burdens dropped from my shoulders. I was free, secure, no revolution could get me. I had bought an old house full of tradition and surrounded by fertile soil. There was abundant water. It was beautiful.

My wife and I did not want to go primitive—at least not all the way. We had work to do and we conceded the value of electricity, plumbing, and even oil burners. But, we thought, it is silly to pay a lot of money for those things; they can all be done very cheaply, if only we put a little thought into our remodeling and work it out bit by bit. We were in no hurry. We had lots of catalogs, in which the prices of sinks, bathtubs, stoves, pumps, heating plants, and other units were quite remarkable. We would shop around until we

found what we wanted and then buy it; in that way we would acquire a special affection for each little thing. And finally, what a bulge we should have on our expensive neighbors who had put themselves into the hands of architects and contractors!

The Direct Approach

We were very clever about it. We began by making friends with the local people. We flattered ourselves that we got along very well with the natives because we regarded them as our equals, if not, indeed, our superiors. I began by going regularly to a roadside beer garden where I knew the artisans of the countryside gathered after the day's work. The bartender was highly co-operative. He would point out a mason, a carpenter, a plumber in the crowd and I would invite him to have a beer with me. I took a lot of time over this and had some good talks about democracy, communism, crop control, the machine age, local government, the birth rate, brewing, Prohibition, and the double standard of sex morality. It ended by my making many appointments, and soon many specimens of automotive archeology were rattling up the rubble of my driveway. Though I had carefully spaced the meetings with my various new friends, they all arrived at once—at a moment, I suppose, when a general depression had struck the countryside. I held separate conferences with each while the others looked at the view. The general silence was remarkable.

Work Begins

The plumber was a charming man who frankly told me that he would do our jobs as soon as he finished with some more important work he was doing for a contractor somewhere else. The carpenter and mason would be glad to come as soon as the plumber got out of the way. But the plumber could do nothing until the others had finished, and there were actually moments when the technical exigencies required the work of all three in close conjunction! During the following week they sent in their figures and I must admit they

were unexpectedly low—for a while we were the envy of all our extravagant friends. Then the equipment from the mail-order houses (which I had insisted on, instead of letting the artisans work through their own proper channels) did not arrive. Then parts of it arrived and others did not. Then slowly—oh, how slowly!—the work began.

In the course of that summer I fired three men, stopped one fist fight, and failed to stop another. Of the jobs my workmen friends did, I have since replaced one septic tank twice, another once, a pump twice, a heating unit once, a hot-water system twice, one complete sewage disposal system three times, and, judging from the noises which alarm us each day, there is much yet to be done. . . . But through that summer I retained my faith in the local artisans.

II

The New House

Sometime later our little farmhouse got too small for our needs, and I decided to build a small additional guest house, cottage, or, as my wife grandly termed it, "lodge." Someone suggested an architect and I laughed. An architect for a house 26 x 30? My wife and I were architects enough for that. So we drew up a pretty set of plans and telephoned for the carpenter. He was delighted with the plans, explained that he was a builder and, indeed, contractor as well, and was accustomed to to this kind of job. I winced when he said "contractor"; I told him I did not believe in contracts, that I was friendly with many local artisans and that if he would do the woodwork, I would find my own masons, electricians, plumbers, and so on. He made me an estimate and I was delighted with it. Having been my own architect, I then became my own contractor.

Owner Acts as Contractor

It was autumn, an unpropitious time to begin a house. Nevertheless each assured me he could get his job done before the freezing weather. I spent days on the telephone reassuring myself about this. I got good, reasonable estimates. The mason came and began to excavate. He worked magnificently while I stood and watched, thinking of all I was saving by dodging the architect and the contractor. Then it happened that I was given a difficult and exacting job in my own professional field which

would keep me away from home a good deal of the time. So I started off gaily, after securing from my artisans a number of solemn promises.

Three weeks later I came home to find the excavation a desert; it was, that is, totally uninhabited. I telephoned my men and found they were out on other jobs. When I finally got the mason he told me he had arrived at a point where he could not proceed without the carpenter; the carpenter had the plans. I asked him if he had tried to reach the carpenter. The question astonished him. My friend had a telephone in his house only so that the rich and great might call him. He rarely called anyone except in cases of illness or, as I learned later, financial stringency. The carpenter, it appeared, was waiting patiently to be told when we were ready for him. Direct liaison between these people does not exist; they depend upon a central co-ordinator. I resolved then to stay at home—or at least to come home every night until things were under way.

I then discovered another aspect of this business. Everything ran smoothly for a week or so. My own job had reached a phase where I could work at home. Thus I could go out every few hours and look at my house. The work was going on in what appeared an orderly way. I engaged an electrician and a plumber to come at whatever time the others were ready for them. Abruptly, one day, no one appeared. For a full week none of them could be reached at all. Abandoning the telephone, I drove to their houses. Frightened children stared at me, inarticulate; if they could be induced to speak they told me that dad and momma were away, they had no idea where. If momma was present she told me that her man was twenty miles away. This presented a vivid picture of how our modern civilization has decentralized the old-fashioned artisan.

They had quit, it developed, because neither the electrician nor the plumber had arrived when the job was ready for them. These gentlemen, when I asked them why, suggested that they were not clairvoyant. They were both surprised that I, being on the job continuously, had not told the plumber and the electrician precisely when to come. In other words, I was expected to have such an exact technical knowledge of the work that I would know to the minute the time for the entrance

of each new technician. Now, of course, we must all wait for the thaw. And so the winter dragged through. . . .

The Heating Plant

But the most pointed example of my failure as an architect and contractor came when I installed my heating unit. I wanted, of course, the convenience of oil. One day I managed to corner my plumber long enough to discuss with him the cost of what, in my abysmal ignorance, I called an "oil-burning furnace." He covered acres of paper with figures and finally arrived at the conclusion that he could install this instrument for \$300. I asked him if this meant complete. Complete, he replied, to the last radiator. I agreed.

When the installation was finished, he presented his bill, which was, to be sure, just \$300. But two days later a magnificent truck arrived and from it was unloaded a fine, new, shining, and exceedingly compact piece of machinery. The boss of this expedition presented me with a bill for \$250.

"For the oil burner," he said.

"But it's in!"

He looked alarmed at this, went into the cellar, and came back smiling.

"No," he said, "there's no oil burner there."

"Well, what is it, then, that my plumber installed?"

"Why that's the oil-burning furnace."

"But I understood it was complete."

"It is."

"Then what's this for?"

"This is the oil burner."

I got my plumber as quickly as possible; I made the matter appear so urgent that he came in something under a week. I explained the thing as calmly as I could, so as not to alarm him. I had agreed, I told him, to have an oil-burning furnace installed, complete, for \$300. Now, suddenly, it was to cost me \$550.

"No," he said. "I lived up to my agreement. I presented my bill. It agrees exactly with my estimate."

My plumber was an old friend. He had read some of my books and, though I think he disapproved of them, he professed a certain admiration for my general ability and usefulness. "I hope," he said, "there hasn't been any misunderstanding."

I talked and he talked. I said oil-burning furnace and he said oil-burning furnace. Then, at last, his eyes lighted. "Oh," he said. "Well, well, well." He laughed and he tried not to laugh. I'm afraid I got very mad. He did his best to quiet me.

"It just happens," he said, "that I never in my life met anybody who didn't know the difference between an oil burner and an oil-burning furnace. You see the furnace is a unit complete in itself. But you have to have an oil burner to make it work, just as you have somebody to shovel coal into a coal-burning furnace to make it work. This machine, you might say, shovels the oil into your oil-burning furnace. Well, well, well," he finished, "it's a funny world."

III

The Voice of Experience

It isn't a funny world. I have since learned that. My 26 x 30 job cost me upward of \$7,000. Counting the fee of a good architect and the reasonable profit of a good contractor, I believe \$2,000 could have been subtracted from the total. The job of remodeling the main house with plumbing, heating, wiring, and other accessories, counting replacements, cost some \$10,000. With a competent architect and contractor allowed to choose their own material and, under reasonable guidance, their own methods, I believe I might have cut \$3,000 off this cost and had, to boot, a real sense of security in my structure and equipment.

Yes, the world may look funny to a man like my plumber when he meets someone like me—but not otherwise. It is an exceedingly well-ordered world, but it has, as I said, moved far beyond the grasp of the amateur. It is a world of well-trained specialists, each equal to his function but so necessarily absorbed in that function that he can have no time or space in his mind for outside matters.

The men who worked for me were right. In a society patterned on the machine, the units of that social scheme can no longer be expected to inform one another of their functions. Indeed, any such show of initiative on their part might be highly dangerous. The smooth working of our civilization depends upon extreme specialization. The mason must stick to masonry, the carpenter to carpentry. They must not step on one another's province, even to the extent of a telephone call. In a job such as my cottage they might have done this without dis-

aster; but their training is based, as it should be, on more complex jobs. Just as the proper functioning of the cylinders of an internal-combustion engine depends on a proper timing mechanism, so must the proper functioning of artisans depend upon the co-ordinating mind of a co-ordinator.

In my maturer reflection on my building experiences, I do not, therefore, blame any of the willing artisans who worked for me. On the contrary: I believe I owe them an apology. If they took me for a ride, it was at my own bidding. If they were confused or disordered, haphazard or negligent, it was because they knew from the start that they were working for a man who had only the vaguest inkling of what he wanted done, and not even that much of any of the technics involved. They have given me, to be sure, a pretty liberal education in these matters, but there is not time enough left

in my life to learn what the dullest architect has mastered in respect to a single one of the building trades. The information of experts and its instruments were patiently perfected by centuries of laboriously accumulated knowledge.

Who am I, then, to attempt to co-ordinate work? How can I hope, alone, even to bring together the proper experts? The study of experts has become a technic in itself; it must be so. The specialist in my case—at least as far as my home life is concerned—is the architect. Another is the contractor. Their fee, which looks so large on the first plans, goes to pay for a lifetime of study. From this sum you may deduct the loss of your own time and energy, plus the delay and disorder I have described. Let the good architect pick a good contractor and let the contractor pick his material. For they are experts in an experts' world.

Architectural Building Dollar Value Received Greatest of All

BY MYRON L. MATTHEWS, Secretary, The Dow Service Daily Building Reports, New York.

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THE cost of architectural and engineering services in the design of buildings and their supervision while under construction, together with the management of the erection process by a reputable building contractor, is today the best low-cost insurance to the owner of getting a quality building money can buy. Too often, to the owner's later sorrow, one or the other, or both the services of these professional and practical construction experts are dispensed with in the name of economy. Immediate economy of a small fractional cost of the full cost of buildings which are long-term investments for somebody — even in the case of speculative units — usually turns out eventually to have been a false, temporary economy interfering with rentability, resale and refinancing at a future date. Often have owners pitifully been heard to remark in such a situation, "If I had it to do over again the architect or engineer with the contractor would have complete charge".

The Architect's Fee

The money the architect can get from his customary 6% designing commission is hard-earned. It amounts to about what the lender of mortgage

money gets for the use of his money. The owner pays this without thought of evasion, skips the architect, thereby jeopardizing the soundness of the entire venture. The lender is placing a growing emphasis upon this point and many banks today will not lend a nickel unless a competent architect is employed and also a good contractor. Owners omitting architectural services today may tomorrow find serious refinancing troubles as a result.

How the Fee Is Earned

Now what does the architect have to do to earn his 6% designing fee and what does he do with the money thus earned? He must provide an adequate office, maintain a sufficient staff, originate and produce sound plans and attractive designs, maintain contact with clients on work under construction, perform a complicated buying function and an equally complex superintendence function (usually a small extra percentage), keep informed of new trends in design, construction, materials and treatments, squeeze out time somewhere in which to influence new assignments into his office, and continuously keep such an eagle eye on his costs that he can accomplish all the foregoing within

the fixed and narrow margin of 6% of the total cost of the work entrusted to him—the sum total obviously constituting a big league problem in business management. It is true, of course, that in some large metropolitan architectural offices, various functions are divided and allotted to specific individuals. In such offices the material or equipment salesman may never reach or see a member of the firm. Instead he will see the firm's specialist on his particular subject. Of the approximately 8,000 active architectural offices in the United States only a few rank in this classification. The great bulk, in point of numbers, is made up of those in which the principals are active in all phases of the work, or in which one partner is responsible for the artistic performance of the office, another for engineering and technical superintendence and a third for organization management and new business. Sometimes all this is done by two partners and sometimes by one.

—On an Office Building

Take the progress of a small project through a one-man office. The job, we will say, is an office building for a factory, to cost \$40,000. The architect's gross income is \$2,400. Here is what he does to earn it. First, it costs him something in personal time to get the business, and perhaps something more in the way of club dues, civic or social activity, entertainment, or other form of "selling overhead". Thereafter he must familiarize himself with all the requirements of his assignment. He must draw up initial plans and elevations and get them approved by the owner, maybe in the face of a building committee representing as many conflicting opinions as it has members. Then he must prepare complete specifications and detail drawings, call in contractors, supply them with copies of the blueprints and specifications, and, after a few days, receive their bids. All through the construction period he must supervise and scrutinize the various contractors' performances. He must keep a running check-up of costs in order to be able to approve the contractors' "estimates" for his client to pay. In addition, he may need to hold two or three conferences a week with his client. If the preliminary period is covered in two months and erection is accomplished in four more, he receives the munificent remuneration of \$92.00 a week for

his services, most of which goes to meet his fixed overhead and organization expenses.

—On a Residence

The above is for a commercial building. If, however, the \$40,000 job represents a residence, assuming someone wants to spend that much for a home, the proposition looks even less alluring because it quite probably entails working for a client who cannot read blueprints, knows sufficiently little about architecture to desire impossible accomplishments, and fusses and frets about the progress of construction from day to day. He writes his architect, telephones him, visits him personally—and expects his architect to sit idly by while he talks away valuable time. He wants the architect to change the design of the breakfast room so that it will accommodate a certain manufacturer's fixtures as contrasted to another manufacturer's, equally good and perhaps better, included in the specifications. He is unable to understand why it would all necessitate a structural change in the house and cares less. Finally he does—but at the expense of his architect's time which the latter cannot tack onto his bill like the attorney or doctor for instance. And then in a day or two it starts all over again.

Supervision

Architectural design and supervision in no way should be regarded as a policing power hampering the builder in turning out a good building inexpensively. Or any reflection upon his honesty and integrity. Most good builders prefer working with architects and engineers and actually are anxious to share the responsibility for final results with a supervising technician. A builder who had been very skeptical of the Federal Home Building Service Plan stated at an organization meeting in his locality, "Does this plan mean that a competent architect is to supervise the construction of houses that I erect? Then I am for it! Half of the headaches in my business are the complaints that this or that detail of the completed house is wrong. As I see it, owners should be better satisfied, complaints minimized, since I shall be working from carefully prepared blueprints and material lists, with costs accurately figured."

Some owners, and builders, too, have felt that architects and engineers sometimes cramp the style

of a contractor to an extent affecting the pocket-book of the owner adversely and unnecessarily. This view is wrong and is rapidly giving way to intelligent enlightenment. More and more, greater reliance is being placed upon the architect by both owner and contractor. Contractors show increased confidence that the architect must in his central position guard both the owner's interest as well as the contractor's, not to mention his own. Then, too, to a growing degree, banks are taking direct interest in buildings under construction in which they are financially interested.

All of this may bring up a material question in the owner's mind: With bank supervision, or F. H. A. supervision, or supervision of a reputable builder, why do I need architectural supervision?

The answer lies in the fact that the supervision of a bank or F. H. A. is primarily in their own interest and not in the owner's interest except insofar as their interests are the same. From a practical point of view this isn't "very far". Furthermore, the so-called supervision of banks and F. H. A. while an admirable advance in the right direction can hardly be classified as more than superficial. Contractors prefer to work with an architect because their two separate functions are not competitive. One does not encroach upon the other. They go together like twins. The architect is the owner's expert designer, supervisor and general arbitrator and coordinator. The 6% he gets may well be the most value per dollar an owner receives.

Virginia State Association of Architects

THE Director of the South Atlantic District of The Institute, Merrill C. Lee, of Richmond, sends the following report concerning the organization of the Virginia State Association of Architects:

The Chapter called a meeting of state architects June 29, 1939, and presented plans for the Virginia State Association of Architects. We have approximately 130 registered architects in the State of Virginia. Of this list approximately 100 are practicing architecture and it was extremely encouraging, when the roll was called, to find that we had 73 architects present.

The work of handling this Convention was ably undertaken by Pendleton S. Clark, past President of the Virginia Chapter. Among the notables present was Leigh Hunt, who was the principal speaker, and whose approach to the problem was the

means of gaining the unanimous consent to the formation of the State Association.

The temporary President of the Association, W. Leigh Carneal, stressed in his opening remarks the wonderful work being done by The American Institute of Architects, and expressed his earnest desire to have the Association affiliate with The Institute as soon as the organization work can be perfected.

The results are extremely encouraging, and I am sure that the Organization will be a potent factor in the raising of the standards of the profession in the State, as well as of great help to The Institute.

Temporary officers of the Association are:

President.....W. L. CARNEAL, Richmond
Vice President.....J. B. HEARD, Danville
Secretary.....O. M. BULLOCK, JR., Richmond
Treasurer.....CLARENCE HUFF, JR., Richmond

Housing Seminar

AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

IN addition to courses in various departments which have bearing on but are not specifically directed to the problem of housing, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology now offers, during the regular session, a Graduate Seminar in Housing. This seminar is an elective subject, open to graduate students from any department.

The seminar will be conducted by the Faculty Committee on Housing which has been studying the problem of bringing the collective forces of the school to bear on the housing problem.

Direct inquiries to Professor John E. Burchard, Room 5-119, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The School Medal Awards—Addendum

THE Chairman of the Committee on Education; C. C. Zantzing, announces that a School Medal of The Institute and a copy of Mont Saint Michel and Chartres has been awarded to Theodore Q. Hoffman, in recognition of his excellent scholarly standing in the School of Architecture of Cornell University.

This announcement of Mr. Hoffman's award is in addition to the list of School Medal awards published in the June number of **THE OCTAGON**.

All School Medal recipients are eligible for the Milton D. Medary Scholarship.

The terms of the Milton D. Medary Scholarship Fund stipulate that ". . . The Institute shall devote and use the net income of the fund to establish and maintain one or more scholarships to aid in defraying the expenses of one or more students doing post-graduate study in architecture, and on the further condition that the beneficiaries shall be selected from students who have received the School Medal . . ."

Recent Appointments

THE President of The Institute, announces the appointment of the following Institute members to serve as representatives of The Institute on various committees and in other capacities as indicated:

To serve on the American Standards Association Sectional Committee for Project A-62: Max H. Foley of New York, Chairman; Henry S. Churchill of New York; Frederick G. Frost of New York; Clarence A. Jensen of Chicago; and Theodore Irving Coe of Washington, D. C.

To serve on the American Standards Association Sectional Committee on Building Code Requirements for Wood: Professor George H. Young, Jr.,

of the College of Architecture, Cornell University.

To represent The Institute at the annual meeting of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, to be held in Cleveland, Ohio during the week of January 22, 1940: C. Merrill Barber of Cleveland.

To represent The Institute on the American Committee for Planning Urban Underground Utilization: Ralph Walker of New York.

Frank R. Watson, F.A.I.A., of Philadelphia, has been elected an Honorary Member of the Colegio Nacional de Arquitectos of Havana, Cuba.

Members Elected—July 15, 1939

Chapter	Name	Chapter	Name
ARKANSAS	Howard Eichenbaum	NEW YORK	Walter H. Kilham, Jr.
BALTIMORE	Eben D. Finney		Eugene Raskin
	Amos John Klinkhart		Ides van Waterschoot van
	Carroll R. Williams, Jr.		der Gracht
CHICAGO	J. Stewart Stein	SOUTH TEXAS	Seth Irwin Morris, Jr.
CONNECTICUT	Larch Campbell Renshaw	UTAH	Paul Kendall Evans
	(Mrs.)	WASHINGTON, D. C.	Slocum Kingsbury
MINNESOTA	Cyril Paul Pesek		Gertrude Sawyer
	Glynn William Shifflet	WASHINGTON STATE ..	Clare Moffitt
MISSISSIPPI	*Juan G. Landry		

*Readmission

Necrology—Members

AS reported to The Institute from June 11 to July 20, 1939. Please report any omissions to The Secretary, at The Octagon.

Members.

Edwards, Williams A.
Savery, Albert H.

Heckert, Sidney F.
Will, George G.

With The Chapters

NEWS NOTES FOR CHAPTER SECRETARIES

Cleveland.

April 10, 1939 meeting: In line with the continuing policy of the Program Committee to bring before the Chapter, as a whole, disciples of the new thought movement in Architecture; for the promotion of greater discussion on this subject amongst the local profession, through the efforts of Antonio diNardo we had with us, at a most interesting dinner meeting, Antonin Raymond, Architect from New York.

Mr. Raymond came to this country as a youth from Czecho-Slovakia, served in the offices of such men as Cass Gilbert, VanBuren McGonigle, and Frank Lloyd Wright before going to Japan in 1919 with the latter in connection with the Imperial Hotel at Tokyo. He opened his own office in Tokyo the following year, and during the next nineteen years became the leading architect of the Orient, designing some six hundred structures, including many Embassy and official buildings, schools and colleges, and large industrial and warehouse plants. He may be described as a thorough and conscientious modernist with his work illustrating strong personal characteristics and philosophy.

Mr. Raymond gave a very interesting and engaging talk, after which there was a question and answer period during which the local architects endeavored to satisfy their own opinions on modern architecture.

A large turnout of architects resulted in this meeting, which undoubtedly was one of the outstanding meetings of the year.

May 8, 1939 meeting: At one of the largest dinner meetings of the year, the Cleveland Chapter met at the Cleveland Society of Artists Club to wish God-speed to our friend, Walter R. McCornack, F. A. I. A., leaving Cleveland to take up his new duties as Dean of Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and bidding a rousing welcome to the retiring Dean, Professor William Emerson, F. A. I. A., who had so kindly accepted our invitation to join with us. There were a number of out-of-town architects present, notably among them being Charles F. Celarius and Frederick W. Garber of Cincinnati, and Clair

Ditchy, the Regional Director of this district, from Detroit, as well as a number of other guests invited by the individual members.

June 6, 1939 meeting: A buffet supper and refreshments were served preceding this, the last regular meeting of the year. Chapter President Weinberg presided.

Mr. Weinberg called the attention of the Chapter to the advisability of the Chapter paying a portion of the expenses for the delegates to the Seventy-first Convention in September. After discussion Mr. Walsh moved, Mr. Copper seconded, that the Chapter stand the expense, up to \$25.00, for each man who is elected to represent the Chapter at the Convention.

FRANCIS K. DRAZ, *Secretary*

Connecticut.

The regular meeting of the Chapter was held on June 14 at New London, Connecticut. The afternoon session was devoted to a tour through the U. S. Navy's Submarine Base on the Thames River just north of New London. The new barracks under construction, as well as the technical activities of the Base, provided a most interesting afternoon. Dinner was served at 6 P. M. at the Mohican Hotel in New London. Regional Director Harkness was the Chapter's guest at dinner and addressed the Chapter informally at the business session.

HAROLD D. HAUF, *Secretary*

Eastern Ohio.

A dinner meeting of the Chapter was held June 16, at the Youngstown Country Club, Youngstown, Ohio, with Clair W. Ditchy, Regional Director, as guest.

This meeting developed into a round table discussion as to the aims and objects of The A.I.A. Mr. Ditchy pointed to the fact that if it were not for the present organization of The A.I.A., the architectural profession would not be held in such high esteem by the public; that the General Conditions, Contracts, and other Institute documents, are all forms developed after The Institute based

on fifty years' research and experience.

Mr. Ditchy stated that there are now approximately 15,000 architects in the United States, 3,000 of which are members of The A.I.A. With this in mind The Institute is now stressing the increase of membership of the organization and especially the inclusion of the younger architects.

Charles F. Owsley was a delegate to the Midwest Regional meeting at the University of Notre Dame on June 23 and 24.

ROBERT F. BEATTY, *Secretary*

Florida South.

When the Chapter met in May, Russell Pancoast, President of the Florida Association of Architects, gave a glowing report (do Quakers ever glow?) of obstacles overcome, and progress made in improving the State Architects' License Law.

The July report was different. Mr. Pancoast presented the whole sad story of the bill's withdrawal, but with the cheering assurance that a number of Florida Architects know more about political procedure in 1939 than they knew in 1938. Mr. Spohn pointed to the historical fact that the architects of Texas presented an architects' license law to the Texas Legislature for forty years before one was passed. Calling the class of 1980!

In the early stages of the Chapter's work with the Southern Pine Association, toward bettering the grade of lumber in local construction, Brother John Skinner made a pertinent suggestion. You have all thumbed through volumes of official lumber specs hunting for a sentence you might incorporate into your own specs, without running up the blue-print bill. So-o-o, you will know what Brother Skinner meant when he suggested a condensed specification for framing lumber.

Boys, we have it! It came today. One sheet, letter size, suitable for "highest quality" residences in South Florida, another sheet, same size, suitable for "average" residence work, same address. This is a report of progress.

It appears that the local politicians are all on vacation. Two local planning boards have just been reorganized, City of Miami and County of Dade. But that is not enough. Both these boards have architects on them. Members Kiehnel and Smith are of the Miami Board, and Mr. Smith is the Chairman, indeed, of the Dade County Board.

Never did a district cry louder for a long-range planning program than ours. Take the Bill-Boards—but no, I can't stand it. Don't we have fun?

MARION I. MANLEY, *Secretary*

Iowa.

Because of the widely separated location of the various Chapter members, the Iowa Chapter holds meetings only two or three times a year. The last meeting was held on June 1, on the occasion of Professor Kimball's twenty-fifth anniversary as head of the Architectural Engineering School at Iowa State College.

In order to provide a continued interest on the part of the younger men entering the practice of architecture, the Chapter authorized the organization of a group of student associate members to the Chapter.

A resolution urging the authorities of the college to concentrate the architectural library in the building of the architectural school to make it more readily available to the students was adopted.

The Chapter set the date for its annual meeting for November 3 at the State University of Iowa at Iowa City. The following tentative schedule was adopted:

In the morning the Chapter business meeting will be held; the afternoon session will be a joint meeting with the national convention of the American Society of Acoustical Engineers. Professor Knudsen of the Acoustical Society will give the main address followed by two short talks by J. Woolson Brooks and Leland A. McBroom of Des Moines for the architects; two similar talks by members of the Acoustical Society, and general discussion. The evening program will be headed by a talk from some architect of note yet to be selected.

The Iowa Chapter would be pleased to have as their guests, at Iowa City on November 3, architects from surrounding states who might be interested in meeting with the American Society of Acoustical Engineers.

AMOS B. EMERY, *Secretary*

Kentucky.

The question of better representation throughout the state has always been a problem confronting the Kentucky Chapter.

This is due to the fact that, of the architects

registered in Kentucky, fifty percent are located in Louisville, with the remainder scattered throughout the state. However, considering the number of architects located in Lexington, plus the fact that Lexington is just a bit too far from Louisville to permit active participation in Chapter affairs with the present policy of holding meetings in Louisville; the question of a branch chapter, as permitted by the by-laws, was advanced at the June meeting.

It is hoped that this procedure might prove attractive to architects in the Lexington area with a resulting increase in the number of Institute members in this section.

Ossian P. Ward, Thomas J. Nolan, and Thomas J. Nolan, Jr. represented the Chapter at the Mid-West Regional Meeting, June 23-24, 1939 at South Bend, Indiana. Mr. Ward reported that the meeting was very interesting and instructive, and that he believed there was sufficient interest manifested to justify continuation of such annual meetings.

BERGMAN S. LETZLER, *Secretary*

New York.

This Chapter held on June 7 its annual meeting and election of officers, at which the principal interest centered around several alternative slates presented by the members. The votes resulted in the election of Frederick G. Frost, President; Harvey Stevenson, Vice-President; Charles C. Platt, Secretary; Cornelius J. White, re-elected Treasurer; and Robert S. Hutchins, Recorder. The two new members of the Executive Committee are William E. Lescaze and T. Merrill Prentice, Recorder.

Mr. Harmon, in making his address as retiring President of the Chapter, reviewed briefly the problems before the profession and placed principal emphasis upon the relations between practicing architects and the younger members of the profession. He stressed the great importance of considering policies in this connection and putting them into effect before the situation becomes one in which the younger men may be forced into a position of opposition to, rather than of cooperation with, the body of employing architects.

After announcement of the receipt by the Chapter of a first payment of \$25,000 for the Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship Fund, Mr. Moore, Chairman of the Education Committee proposed the following

use for the income of the fund: "A comparative study of the influence of local conditions on regional architecture in the United States—the analysis of the practical effect of geographic and social factors on past and present building."

Mr. Platt, speaking for the Legislative Committee, reported that the profession is facing encirclement from many directions, government architectural bureaus, Civil Service associations and trade unions. His suggested remedy of the appointment of a "Czar" of the profession on full time, financed to defend and promote its interests, while presented in a semi-serious vein, left the Chapter with something of vital importance to ponder over.

The May dinner held at the World's Fair, at which the members of the Board of Design and a number of the foreign architects of the Fair were welcomed, brought out the largest attendance of any Chapter meeting this year. William F. Lamb of the Board of Design spoke very interestingly of his problems as Coordinator of Design, in particular of the difficulty of achieving a perfection of result with such a vast array of diverse and conflicting factors. However, the Fair itself speaks well for the successful job that was eventually accomplished.

CHARLES C. PLATT, *Secretary*

Saint Louis.

Still we have no registration for architects in this backward State of Missouri. In spite of our efforts along with engineers, the legislature has adjourned without considering this progressive legislation. The architects of the state have fallen back into the doldrums and remain at the mercy of speculators, registered architects from other states who can practice unrestricted in Missouri, discriminated against in competitions, etc. for at least another two years.

For our June meetings, for the past two years, we have invited the ladies, that is, wives and prospective wives. Accordingly on June 27 the really active members of the Chapter gathered during the afternoon for swimming and badminton and later gathered around the flowing bowl of President Spearl's punch at the pool. Following this, dinner was served to about sixty-eight members and guests.

F. RAY LEIMKUEHLER, *Secretary*

