

SKYLINES



JUNE 1955

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SKYLINES

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Skylines

JUNE 1955

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Convention time and the summer lull is upon us. This month in Minneapolis U. S. architects will gather for the 87th A.I.A. convention. Kansas City will be well represented. The entire Board of Directors will be there plus several other members.

Featured in the convention program will be the unique color slide presentation of Ralph Myers entitled "Architecture—U. S. A." This presentation has a tape-recorded synchronized commentary prepared by Ketchum, Inc., A.I.A. public relations counsel, and undoubtedly is one of the finest pieces of public relations the profession has yet assembled.

A sneak preview of this show was given at the June KC Chapter meeting and the enthusiastic reception at this local level will surely be multiplied a hundred fold when it is released nationally.

No chapter meetings will be held during July and August. The next regular chapter meeting is scheduled for September.

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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**THE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS**

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

The American Institute of Architects is a unique, interesting and powerful organization with over 10,000 members. It is a leader in the construction industry and a factor in the welfare of the entire national economy. While we bear some resemblance to the professional organizations in the construction industry and have an overall similarity to trade associations—we are singular and apart. A true analogy cannot readily be made with other organizations or business corporations. However, one might compare a corporate member of The Institute with a stockholder of a company. Possibly the membership does not understand fully the organization it owns as a corporate member or “stockholder”.

The Institute’s Board is comparable, in many respects, to the board of directors of a corporation. The elected group of officers and directors establishes Institute policies and oversees administration within the framework of by-laws and convention mandates. The regional directors are your direct line of contact with the policy-making body.

The actual operation of The Institute is conducted by the staff of 42 under the Executive Director. This professional staff is experienced and well trained. It conducts a business whose annual budget is three-quarters of a million dollars. (The Institute is now a three million dollar corporation.)

The Institute has its own property and its own headquarters buildings which include the Octagon House of historic fame—now chiefly used for receptions and exhibitions. Our method of functioning has been described to you in the publication “You and the A.I.A.” that was issued a year ago.

Another very important element in Institute operations is the contribution made by the committees. Except for certain specialized functions performed by the Jury of Fellows, The Board of Examiners, and the Committee on Competitions, the committees are charged with the general duties of exploring and recommending action in their respective fields of operation. The committees are the life blood of The Institute and its success and progress depends in large part on the self-sacrificing and devoted members who generously contribute of their time and talents for the benefit of the

entire profession. We never cease to marvel at the selflessness and devotion of the national and chapter officers and committee members.

Your Board, committee chairmen, and staff are in effect public figures. Our public is not only the membership and the architectural profession, but the construction industry as well. As we operate in full view criticism falls on us. We welcome constructive criticism based on a knowledge of the facts. We are constantly endeavoring to improve The Institute's operations and services and appreciate thoughtful suggestions as to how that may be done. However, criticism based on ignorance and irritation results in time-consuming application by officers, Board members and staff who could be more productively engaged otherwise, and in the long run mitigates against the effectiveness of The Institute.

POLICY BOOK

To bring to the attention of the membership the policies of their organization, we recently initiated the issuance of policy statements in booklet form. The first such publication appeared after the 1954 convention and included existing policies as promulgated by convention action and the Board. It has been amended to incorporate changes made by the Board since that time. A revised edition will be issued after the next convention.

STATUS OF THE PROFESSION

As we grow, expand our activities and our interests, and as our horizons widen, the question arises whether or not The American Institute of Architects is fulfilling its proper and possible role. We have proclaimed our leadership, the essentiality of the architect and the importance and prestige of his organization—The American Institute of Architects.

Let us take a look at the profession. Reports from all sides indicate a most satisfactory economic situation. The reports on their respective areas rendered by the regional directors at the last meeting indicate a degree of engagement and affluence never before attained. (The reports were summarized in the April 11 issue of the MEMO.) We hope the economy will remain on a high level.

We have in our own profession a most sensitive barometer, name

the dollar volume of the work in your offices, in the preliminary stages, in the contract-document preparation stage and in the completion stage. The Government and the construction industry are interested in the results of surveys of these dollar volumes. Such surveys not only afford vital information which only The American Institute of Architects can supply, but also give to our members an indication of how to shape their offices and their careers in order that they will not suffer should anything untoward be in the making.

Does the AIA represent the profession? Statistics will show that we include in corporate membership approximately 75% of those eligible to join The Institute under present policies and procedures. Are the AIA and the profession synonymous? We like to think so, but licensing to practice architecture, the education of the young architect, and origination and determination of rules and regulations which legally govern the architect, all lie outside of the jurisdiction of the AIA.

A major objective of The Institute could well be the establishment of The Institute as the organization which directs, safeguards, and controls the profession and which is in reality synonymous with the profession. All activities related to architecture and dominated by architecture might well be gathered physically as well as theoretically. We have the site. The attainment of this objective will require hard work, some radical thinking and considerable drive. So drastic and so far-seeing an idea as the expansion of The Institute might generate objections.

So far, the philosophy has prevailed that an associate is a sort of probationer outside the pale. This is true in a sense. However, during the probationary period, the probationer should be under the direct jurisdiction of the parent organization. Before urging a representative organization of the construction industry, we might make ourselves the truly representative organization of the architectural profession.

If we do not take steps to assume and maintain the position which should be ours and which people believe should be ours, we may become a hollow symbol. It is not a question of whether or not we choose to be exclusive; it is a question of survival in a highly competitive economy.

FUTURE OF THE PROFESSION

The Architectural profession in this country is engaged at an unparalleled magnitude. Reports from all over support this statement. The profession is prosperous. Its organization, The American Institute of Architects, is prosperous.

The architect has achieved a more universal recognition. He and his work are recognized by an ever-increasing public. The architect is understood and his services are sought. The position of eminence which we have attained is neither a sinecure nor an exclusive preserve. Others are taking and exercising a vast interest in planning. Fields of planning which we have considered to be ours alone are being entered successfully by others.

Talent and initiative in every facet of the planning program are welcomed. However, at no time has it been more incumbent upon the architect to improve and broaden his service than at present.

The American Institute of Architects is alert. It strives continually that architectural services offered by our members will be of so high and so important a calibre that there will be no danger of the architect becoming merely a purveyor of technical services.

The architect will not lose his position as long as he exercises his initiative, raises his sights, and broadens his comprehension of the forces which create the communities in which we live.

chapter NEWS

The chief item of business at the May Chapter meeting concerned the passage of a resolution to this effect: That the Chapter join with the Missouri State Association of Architects in urging that a competition be held for the new governor's mansion in Jefferson City.



NEW JUNIOR ASSOCIATE MEMBER Earl C. McCamis. Native of Edgertown, Missouri; attended Plattsburg High School; graduated B.S. in Architecture, KU, '49. Has worked for Richard Hansen, Charles Keyser; now is associate of Wm. B. Fullerton, Jr.

KC CHAPTER MEMBERS on national committees for the coming year were recently announced from the Octagon: I. L. Roark, Jr., Chapter Affairs; Clarence Kivett, The Architect and the Government; Frank R. Slezak, Centennial Observance; David B. Mackie, Awards and Scholarships; Edgar Voskamp, Collaboration of Design Professions.

Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Kansas City Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, held Wednesday evening, June 1, 1955.

PRESENT: All members of the Board.

Present at the meeting was Mr. Herb Anset, Chairman of the By-Laws Committee. After considerable discussion in regard to action taken by Mr. George Bain Cummings in regard to our proposed By-Laws it was moved by Mr. Slezak and seconded by Mr. Murphy that the By-Laws Committee omit all paragraphs from the new By-Laws to which Mr. Cummings objected, except for paragraph "B," Section 2, Article 2, under membership, and to resubmit it to the National Board for approval. Copies of the By-Laws and this action taken to be sent to Mr. Beryl Price, Chairman of the National Chapter Affairs Committee; Mr. Frank McNett, Central States Regional Director, and Mr. Bains Cummings. The Committee was also instructed to ask Mr. Price to put this matter of membership qualifications on the agenda for the Chapter Affairs meeting at this year's National Convention. Motion carried.

Under new business the Secretary presented the application for Junior Associate membership of Mr. Earl McCammiss. It was moved by Mr. Hollis and seconded by Mr. Slezak that his application be accepted. Motion carried.

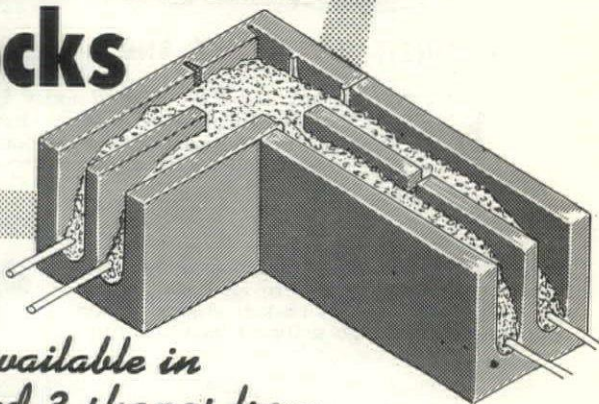
It was moved by Mr. Hollis and seconded by Mr. Slezak that \$400 be split between the seven delegates going to the National Convention. Motion carried.

It was decided that our delegates have a caucus on Tuesday morning of the Convention at 11:00 to discuss matters to be considered at the Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

D. R. Hollis, Secretary
Kansas City Chapter, A.I.A.

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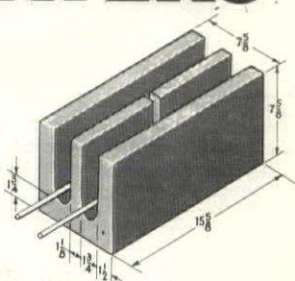
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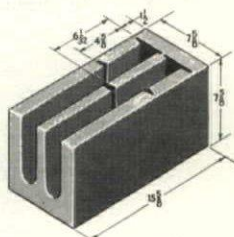
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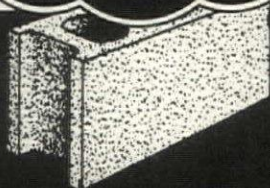
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87th convention the AMERICAN INSTITUTE of ARCHITECTS

KEYNOTER — ALBERT MAYER

The keynote address at the 87th Annual Convention of The American Institute of Architects, which meets June 21-24 in Minneapolis, will be delivered by Albert Mayer, F.A.I.A., of the New York firm of Mayer and Whittlesey. Speaking on the theme of the Convention, "Designing for the Community," Mayer, through his long and distinguished experience as an engineer, architect, housing authority and city planner, will have many stimulating and provocative thoughts to offer.

Albert Mayer studied and started his professional life as an engineer, and in a very short time had established himself as a very successful engineer and builder. Then in the thirties he became deeply concerned with housing problems and the great needs for some slum clearance. These interests drew him close to Henry Wright and Clarence Stein, early leaders in this movement, and even in the early thirties Mayer was a stimulating force in this new and challenging area.

GOLD MEDALIST -- WILLEM DUDOK

The Gold Medal of The American Institute of Architects, its highest professional honor, will be awarded in 1955 to Willem Marinus Dudok the distinguished Dutch architect and city planner.

Architectural critic, writer and historian Talbot Hamlin comments on Dudok as follows:

"For nearly 40 years, Willem Marinus Dudok has been working devotedly for the humanization and enrichment of the modern world. In his architecture and city planning, he has been keenly alert to the modern materials and structural methods, but to him these are merely means toward the production of towns and buildings that may become inspiring and delightful shelters and homes for the human spirit.

"Since this ideal has always controlled his work, it is natural that his insistence on rich colors, beautiful tactile qualities of surface, and use of occasionally 'arbitrary' modulations of form to give interesting patterns in light and shade should seem perhaps to some of his more austere

contemporaries superficial or too playful for serious consideration. Yet, in any architecture that claims to be democratic in aims, the extraordinary way in which Dudok has designed for people is of the highest significance, as is his companion concept that visual beauty is something the people themselves demand.

"Thus it is no accident that Dudok was the first modern architect who designed and built schools primarily for children, and—because of the influence of these buildings on visiting educators—was the initiator of modern school design. The same quality interpreted in adult terms distinguishes all the best of his architectural work, like the Hilversum town hall. . . . For us today, his work stands as magnificent affirmation of an architecture designed always to set human beings at the very center of the focus."*

Unlike the glassy and almost fragile-looking buildings designed by some of the French and German modernists, Dudok's designs are unmistakably Dutch: solid, simple and unpretentious. He builds mainly in brick, and his mark is the expert handling of the building mass, almost like compositions in vari-shaped building blocks.

His principal works are in Hilversum, where he has been city architect since 1928. Dudok's first buildings were executed for the town, which is not far from Amsterdam, and among his works there are the town hall, public baths, an electric draining mill, many schools, an abattoir, and a number of country homes for private clients.

Throughout the years he has maintained an extensive private practice as architect and city planner. In addition to Hilversum, he is responsible for the city plans of Wassenaar, Zwolle and the town and reconstruction plans for The Hague and Velsen-IJmuiden. He designed the Exchange in Rotterdam, town halls for The Hague, Amsterdam, and Velsen in Holland, and for Curacao in the Dutch West Indies.

In Paris, Dudok designed the Dutch Students' home at the Cite-Universitaire, and in Calcutta, India, a cinema and several stores. His varied practice also includes: the head office of the Royal Dutch Steel Works in IJmuiden, a monument on the Zuidersea dike, workmen's housing, a country home for the Princess Matemeh Khanoum, and a municipal theater in Utrecht.

Dudok was born in Amsterdam, July 6, 1884, and received his education at the Royal Military Academy at Breda. After eight years as an officer of the corps of engineers, he became engineer of the city of Leiden in 1913. Two years later he accepted the post of Director of Public Works for Hilversum, and has made his home there ever since.

In his long and distinguished career, Dudok has won many honors. A special ceremonial assembly was held in the town hall of Hilversum to mark his 70th birthday in 1954. At that time he received tributes from architects throughout the world and an international Committee of Honor participated in the event. For that occasion a comprehensive survey of the life and work of Dudok was published, with the aid of the Prince Bernhard Fund, by G. van Saane, Amsterdam and F. G. Kroonder, Bussum.

AWARDS

The Board of Directors made the following awards to be given at the Convention:

Gold Medal—Willem M. Dudok, architect and city planner, Hilversum, Holland.

Fine Arts Medal—Ivan Mestrovic, sculptor, Syracuse, N. Y.

Craftsmanship Medal—John Howard Benson, calligrapher, Newport Rhode Island.

Award of Recognition of an Organization for Distinguished Achievement in Architecture or Other Planning—Kohler Foundation, Inc., for the restoration of Wade House, Greenbush Village, Wisc.

Edward C. Kemper Award—Turpin C. Bannister, FAIA, Urbana, Illinois. Editor of "The Architect at Mid-Century."

Citation of Honor—Reinhold Publishing Corporation, New York, N. Y., for its work in producing, at considerable financial risk, the Report of the Commission for the Survey of Education and Registration.

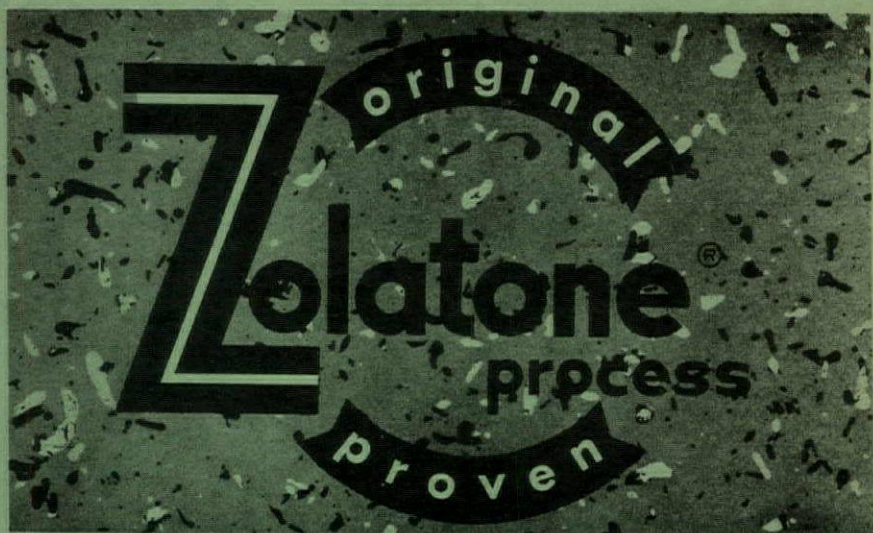
Honorary Fellowship—Kay Fisker, architect, Copenhagen, Denmark; C. H. Aslin, President, R.I.B.A., London.

Honorary Memberships—Carl Sandburg, writer and poet, Flat Rock, N. C.; James W. Follin, Commissioner, Urban Renewal Administration, HHFA, Washington, D. C.; George B. Melcher, Flour City Iron Works, Minneapolis, Minnesota; C. D. Spragg, Secretary, Royal Institute of British Architects, London, England.



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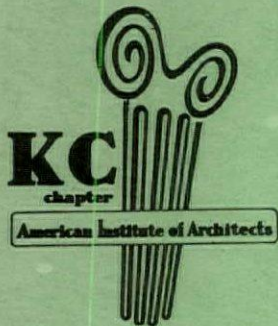
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