



NEXT MEETING

Time: Dinner Tuesday June 29th, 6:30.
Place: Architectural League.
Subject: "Where Are We Heading?"

The Chapter is now embarking upon a new year and the course we set for ourselves must be plotted now. So on June 29th, we are asking those of our members who have this year undertaken some of the Chapter's activities to discuss with us its plans and policies for the immediate future.

Also your VOTE will be taken on an important question. See article herein on Civil Service vs. Private Architect.

A stimulating evening awaits us. Make your reservations early.

MEMBERSHIP

The following names have been submitted for Institute membership:

1. Francis X. Gina

Sponsors:

Robert Allan Jacobs
Morris Ketchum, Jr.

2. Wallace Walton Heath

Sponsors:

Bradley Delehanty
Wm. Lawrence Bottomley

3. George Strange Holderness

Sponsors:

Daniel Paul Higgins
Edwin Olsen

For Associate Membership:

1. Carl Beck

Sponsors:

Edgar I. Williams
Arthur L. Harmon

CONVENTION NOTES

A considerably larger number of delegates registered at the Annual Meeting of the Institute this year than did last, a fact which caused some private speculation on the improved status of the profession today, and was no doubt the reason for a certain feeling of optimism which seemed to prevail.

The New York Chapter was represented by 15 delegates; Frederick G. Frost was made official Recorder of the Convention.

The delegates settled down to 3 busy days of conferences, addresses and discussions, devoted primarily to the Ar-

chitect's Role in War Service and in the Post War Era.

Undoubtedly the high spot was the address on Wednesday afternoon of Brigadier General Henry C. Newton, head of Combat Command B of the Twelfth Armored Division, and himself an architect. A wider public recognition of the architect's work should be our principal aim, said General Newton, and one means of achieving this is by assuming leadership in civic affairs. It is not enough to serve on the art commissions or construction committees of our local bodies, said the General; architects should seek service on their local Chambers of Commerce, the zoning board, the tax league and the committee on business management.

He also advocated a great national architectural magazine of wide public appeal, to help spread the gospel of the architectural profession.

Post War Reconstruction discussions and reports occupied one full day, under the able chairmanship of Dean MacCornack. The proposed program of his Committee has appeared in full in the April and May issues of the Octagon. The Convention voted approval of the program and continuance of the Committee. It further recommended that the Institute prepare and distribute to the Chapters suggested procedures for local activities, including measures aimed to increase the efficiency of architects in planning techniques, in order that they may make their maximum contribution to their communities.

To the end of unifying and strengthening the profession, the State Associations suggested a plan for revising the present set-up of the Institute, by increasing regional districts so that there will be one district with a Regional Director for each State. This plan is to be studied further by the A.I.A. Board in conjunction with the State Associations.

The discussion with regard to registration as a pre-requisite to Institute membership ended by the delegates agreeing that all candidates must satisfy the Board as to their professional qualifications, and in States where a registration law exists, candidates must be registered if practicing under their own names.

The Treasurer's Report showed the finances of the Institute to be vastly improved. This was due partly to increased membership and rigid economies, and partly to the very gratifying response of the members to the appeal for the "War Chest," which has so far yielded over \$31,000 of which nearly \$17,000 was contributed by firms directly participating in the defence program.

The total membership of the Institute, including State Associations, now stands at 6143.

At the Annual Dinner certificates of Fellowship were presented to 3 members of this Chapter: Frederick G. Frost, Arthur C. Holden and Edgar I. Williams. Another New Yorker honored was Richard F. Bach, Curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, who was elected an Honorary Member of the Institute.

The new A.I.A. Officers are Raymond F. Ashton, President; Alexander C. Robinson, III, Secretary, and James R. Edmunds, Treasurer. Walter R. MacCornack continues as Vice President.

Special tribute was paid to Charles T. Ingham for his 9 years of service as Secretary; Mr. Ingham was made a Life Member of the Institute.

No diversions were planned, except for the ladies, but after the close of the sessions, the members of the Cincinnati Chapter used their precious 4-gallon per week gasoline rations in taking the visiting architects on a delightful tour of the city and surrounding hills.

HOUSES FOR HUMAN BEINGS

This is the title of an article appearing in the April issue of "Fortune" with the sub-heading: "Will the post-war house be draftless, dirtless, sun-heated and sound-proofed?" Reprints of this article may be obtained without charge by writing to the General Manager, Fortune Magazine, Time & Life Building, Rockefeller Centre.

PRE CONVENTION DINNER

The bare quorum of members who attended the Chapter dinner in May made up in enthusiasm what they lacked in numbers. Nearly everyone present entered into the discussion of

the several matters which our delegates were to present at the Convention.

Several new A.I.A. members were present at the dinner and took a bow: Chas. W. Beeston, Simon Breines, George C. Rudolph and Morris Sugarman. The former President of the Florida Chapter, Miss Marion Manley, was also a guest.

The recommendations of the Chapter Executive Committee, which were voted approval at the dinner, were that a closer coordination between the work of Chapter Committees and the corresponding ones of the national body should be effected by an interchange of minutes; also that the A.I.A. should set up a national Committee on Legislation.

Recommendations with regard to amending the A.I.A.'s Principles of Professional Practice were (1) that the A.I.A. should recognize the technical, scientific and engineering ability of the architect, where now it recognizes only his integrity, business capacity and artistry; (2) that to exempt from disciplinary action "advertising for self-laudatory publicity," when the Canons specifically state that such practices are contrary to professional ethics, is obviously contradictory and should be remedied; and (3) that the clause in the Institute's Schedule of Charges, calling for 75 per cent of the Architect's fee to be paid upon completion of "working drawings and specifications (exclusive of details)," leaving only 25 per cent of the fee to cover details and supervision, should be amended to read: "(inclusive of details)". This brought forth lively comments from the floor; many felt that details should either be defined, or left to the contract, and it was the general feeling that the Institute's Schedule as a whole was well worth further study and revision.

Frederick G. Frost, as Chairman of the Chapter's Committee on Public Relations, offered some constructive suggestions for making the Octagon a more vital and colorful professional publication and a more effective instrument of expression. Specifically he recommended that a paid editor with an assistant be engaged; that the ban against advertising in the pages of the Octagon be lifted; that a definite editorial policy be established and that some thought be given to telling the story of architecture in a "human and intriguing way."

This need for revitalizing the Octagon is so essential that Mr. Frost's Committee recommended that the A.I.A. allocate a generous portion of its funds for that purpose, and in order

to start the ball rolling his Committee was willing to offer a part of the funds allocated to it for Public Relations.

All of these matters were taken up at Cincinnati and in most cases were referred to the A.I.A. Board or to the appropriate Committees, for action. The Board authorized the engagement of an Editor to make a complete survey of requirements and budget costs for expanding the Octagon and adopted a new Rule to the effect that advertising may appear in the pages of the Octagon or other publications of the Institute providing it is under the control and supervision of the Board.

Sometime prior to our Pre-Convention dinner, President Williams had invited a number of the younger members to make suggestions as to how the Institute and particularly the Chapter could be more helpful to its members. Only 2 suggestions were forthcoming: one with regard to large scale improvements in New York City, a matter which has already been effectively undertaken by our Civic Design Committee. The other was a plea that something be done to change the "persistent attitude" of officers in the Armed Services that "architects have limited capabilities." The Institute, well aware of this "persistent attitude," has recently appointed a Special Committee on the Architect and Governmental Relations, which Committee has already embarked upon an effective program in which it hopes to enlist the cooperation of all the Chapters.

CIVIL SERVICE VS. PRIVATE ARCHITECT

A suit is now pending in the New York courts, brought by the Civil Service Technical Guild, to restrain the City from awarding school contracts to private architects. The City won the first round in the lower court, but Civil Service has appealed the decision and is now gathering its forces—and funds—for trial in the Appellate Division.

Meantime the architectural firms who have been awarded or designated for these contracts have met with the New York Chapter's representatives to discuss the defeat of this appeal.

Chapter members will recall a similar attempt by Civil Service about 3 years ago to prevent the City from awarding contracts to private architects, in which the Chapter, on behalf of the profession, entered into the defence as a "friend of the Court." The outcome was successful and the Chapter's share of the cost was \$1,200, which was voted to be paid out of our Contingent Reserve.

It has been estimated that our entry into the current suit as a friend of the Court will cost between \$1,000 and \$1,500, and the architectural firms involved have expressed their willingness to contribute.

Accordingly your Executive Committee herewith puts before you the following recommendation to be voted upon at the next general meeting: "That the New York Chapter appropriate from its Contingent Reserve Fund a sum of money which will be half of the legal expenses of this suit, not to exceed \$750."

We quote from a circular recently sent out by the Civil Service Guild to its members:

"Ever since its inception the Civil Service Technical Guild has been vigorously opposing the practice of 'farming out' to private practitioners the design and supervision of public works. Year after year we have introduced bills in the State Legislature and in the City Council to remedy this 'spoils' system. But to no avail. The private architects' lobby has been growing stronger and stronger and something drastic must be done immediately to destroy this parasite."

Come prepared to VOTE at the next meeting.

ELECTIONS AND REPORTS

The Annual Lunch, for which some 40 members had made reservations, was attended by 68. With food rationing and the shortness of help, this made for some confusion. However, the program was carried through as scheduled and the slate of officers, as recommended by the Nominating Committee, was elected unopposed.

Edgar Williams, retiring President, touched briefly on the Chapter's accomplishments this past year, among other things the good work done by a group of our members in revising the Handbook of Architectural Practice; our contingent offer of \$1,000 to the Institute's War Chest, which spurred on the other Chapters to oversubscribing the quota; the success of our joint dinners with the Architectural League and the Landscape Architects.

The newly elected President, Robert B. O'Connor, promised during his term of office to draw a fine line between democracy and efficiency, and also to see that the work of the Chapter represents what the members want it to represent.

Every Chapter Committee gave an account of itself. Excerpts from their Reports will appear in a later issue.