



OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, 115 EAST 40 STREET, NEW YORK 16, NEW YORK
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ALONZO W. CLARK, SECRETARY; ALICE G. CANTWELL, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY; EDWARD EVERETT POST, EDITOR.

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STATE MULTIPLE DWELLING LAW REVISION

The Chapter's Legislative Committee has called for public support for a group of changes to the State Multiple Dwelling Law to be proposed at the next session of the Legislature by the Joint Legislative Committee on Housing and Multiple Dwellings headed by Senator MacNeil Mitchell (Rep. Manhattan).

These amendments were drafted after many conferences with representatives of the real estate groups, tenants, welfare organizations, fire underwriters, business associations, architects, engineers, and city officials, and their adoption is recommended with public safety as the final objective in mind.

Of major importance is the amendment which would permit certain relaxation of building and safety regulations on garden-type units. Other amendments propose to increase the maximum of interior apartment kitchen space from 49 to 63 square feet, to ease restrictions in placing of garages in multiple dwellings; to provide for more rigid requirements in the placing of television antennae; to enforce installation of sprinkler systems and automatic alarms in stairways of certain types of fireproof tenement houses with only one means of egress, and to enforce the enclosing of elevator shafts in these buildings; to provide protection for stair bulkheads on flat roofs where there is no rail or parapet around the roof; and to do away with landlord's "delaying action" on the removal of items of violation issued by the Department of Housing and Buildings.

DISPERSAL FOR SAFER AND BETTER LIVING

A program to disperse major target areas in the United States by redirecting new plant construction and housing activity into the creation of new towns in outlying parts of metropolitan areas was presented on January 1, 1951, by the AIA, which took the unusual step of devoting the entire current issue of the Journal to the new towns plan, described as providing "the safety of space — the only feasible pattern for a bomb-proof civilization."

The leading article in the special issue is written by Albert Mayer, New York Chapter Member, distinguished recently for his planning of the new Indian capital of the East Punjab. It emphasizes the long-run nature of the present defense emergency and the desirability of making defense preparations that lead to better as well as to safer living, and is decidedly critical of many of the measures now being undertaken by our Government.

ANNUAL DINNER

You have a date, the twenty eighth, of February, that is.
Cocktails at seven, with music to leaven
Both drinks and the food that comes later
Speeches witty and wise,
Tailored to size
Will make a festive occasion
For donning black tie
And with your lady to hie
To the Biltmore for much celebration.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Committee on Public Relations of Chapter met recently during a luncheon and discussed sundry subjects. Most important concerned the following topics:

Credit

The ever-with-us problem of proper credit to the Architect on published material was talked about. The suggestion was advanced to have the Chapter print labels to read, "This photograph not to be used without proper credit to the Architect," with space provided on label for Architects' name. The various kinds of labels are being investigated together with price ranges. In the event of printing, articles about them will be run in OCULUS.

Oculus

To gain a wider readership for OCULUS, the Committee decided to establish a special column for signed editorials by guest writers, also gossip column about members and their work. Mr. Krug, Public Relations Consultant for the Chapter, will contact members individually for news and assist in the planning of the column.

Exhibits

Arrangements are in the making for an exhibition of American Architecture at the Metropolitan Museum. Exhibit will show pictorially both the history of American Architecture and also its affect on Europe and other countries of the world. Miss Eleanor Pepper will be in charge of exhibits and will make arrangements with Mr. Douglas for material and general exhibit planning.

Speakers

Television, radio and lecture platforms beckon chapter members who are interested and speak well. These avenues offer excellent opportunities for selling architecture to the general public. Interested members are requested to submit to the Chapter Office their names and a list of subjects best qualified to speak upon. Mr. Krug and Mr. Allwork will make necessary arrangements with radio stations, Speakers Bureaus, and other agencies where speakers may be required.

BOARD OF STANDARDS & APPEALS

Harris H. Murdock has been reappointed by Mayor Impellitteri for another full term of six years as Chairman of the Board of Standards & Appeals. This is indeed welcome news to architects and others who recognize the ability and honesty with which Mr. Murdock has served the building industry.

CANDIDATES

According to the By-Laws of the Chapter, names of candidates for membership shall be submitted to all members before consideration by the Committee on Admissions. Information received regarding the qualifications of the following candidates will be considered confidential:

Paul Bauer

Sponsors: Thomas M. Boyd & Santiago Iglesias, Jr.
(Puerto Rico)

Solfred Maizus

Sponsors: George Bain Cummings & Emmet C. Wood

FEB 28

HOME LIGHTING COURSE

A complete home lighting course, including lighting fundamentals and applications, is being offered by New York University this spring with the cooperation of the Residence Lighting Forum. An eight-week course, starting February 20th, class sessions will be held on Tuesday evening, 7:15 to 9:30, and will meet at the N. Y. U. campus, Washington Square.

Designed to meet the needs of the decorator, designer, the architect, homemaker, and everyone desiring lighting information, the course will include all the basic knowledge needed to understand lighting language, problems, and detailed information on the proper applications of light, and lighting design, as used decoratively and functionally in today's interiors. The course will include visits to several fixture show-rooms displaying the latest trends in modern fixtures.

The relationship of light and color will be discussed, with a demonstration of the color qualities of light sources and their effect on home-furnishings and food. Each lecture will be illustrated with films, or other equipment and material, and will be followed by a discussion period.

Information concerning the lecture schedule, registration and fees, may be obtained from Prof. Sidney G. Roth, Division of General Education, New York University, 3 Washington Square North, New York 3.

COMPETITION

A competition, involving cash prizes and open to architectural students attending any school in the Counties of Kings, Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk; to architectural draftsmen who reside, or are employed, in those counties; and to architectural students at any architectural school in the United States whose official residence lies within the Long Island area indicated, is being sponsored by the Brooklyn Chapter of the A. I. A.

Entitled "A Civic Group in a Local Neighborhood," the program calls for the arrangement on a six-block area in the Bushwick Section of Brooklyn of a dozen public buildings of varying size and function, together with a memorial plaza and an enclosed parking space to serve in case of necessity as a bomb shelter. Except in the case of a library whose plans and elevations are to be studied in some detail, the buildings will appear only as roofs in the general layout or as masses in the required aerial perspective. Special attention is to be given to landscaping, service areas, and pedestrian walks.

Copies of the program may be obtained from Vito P. Battista, Chairman of the Education and Registration Committee of the Brooklyn Chapter, 26 Court Street, Brooklyn 2, New York, by written request. All competitors must register their names and addresses with Mr. Battista before Thursday, March 1, 1951, and all drawings are to be delivered to him not later than 5:00 p.m., March 16. Judgment will be held March 22.

HISTORIC INSTRUMENTS

Often the tools survive the man, and the resultant work of tool and hand survive both. The century-old drafting instruments used by Thomas Ustick Walter, Philadelphia architect, who was appointed in 1851 to design extensions to United States Capitol, have been presented to the A.I.A.

In the hands of Walter, one of the original organizers of the Institute, these instruments delineated the famous dome of the Capitol and the wings now occupied by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The architectural instruments are being exhibited in the Octagon House, recently restored as an historic shrine by the A.I.A.

BRITISH ARCHITECTS' CONFERENCE

C. D. Spragg, Secretary of the Royal Institute of British Architects, has sent the following letter to the New York Chapter:

"I am writing to let you know that the British Architects' Conference in 1951 will take place from the 30th May to 2nd June, and will be held in Belfast at the kind invitation of the Royal Society of Ulster Architects who will be celebrating their Golden Jubilee.

"Visitors from the United States have always been very welcome at our Conferences, and if any of your members contemplate being in the United Kingdom during the period in question, I should be glad if they would let me know in good time so that I can send them the Conference programme."

The Chapter Office has requested a copy of the program for the information of any members who may be interested.

WASHINGTON REGISTRATION LAW

The Octagon reports that the first major change in a quarter century and climax to nearly a decade's work by the Washington A.I.A. Chapter occurred when the 81st Congress gave Washington Architects a new registration law. The new law prohibits so-called "designers" from rendering services proper to the architectural profession. Though this law may be interpreted by the non-qualified as favoring the architectural profession, its real purpose and impact is to give needed protection to the general public from persons who assume responsibilities requiring technical skill and experience without proper training. In a manner suited to the above, registration laws throughout the land should continue to be renewed periodically and improved in the interest of safety in construction, economy of planning and merit of performance.

JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE — PRODUCERS' COUNCIL MEETING

"Indoor Climate Control" will be the subject of an evening meeting jointly sponsored by the Technical Committee of the Chapter and the New York Chapter of the Producers' Council, Inc., to be held on January 24 at 115 East 40 Street, at 7:30 p.m.

Representatives of the Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Company, Owens-Corning Fibre Glass Corporation, and the Libby-Owens-Ford Glass Company, whose products are directly related to the control of indoor climate, will develop the subject.

The three panel members will discuss the principles involved in the use of the following methods:

1. Regulating the operation of heating and cooling plants.
2. Controlling the loss or entrance of heat through walls, floors, and roofs.
3. Controlling the loss or entrance of heat through and around windows.

This panel discussion will be the first in a new series of product presentations developed by the Producers' Council at the suggestion of the Department of Research and Education of the AIA.

Following the meeting, refreshments will be served by the New York Chapter of the Producers' Council, Inc.

LEAGUE FACILITIES AVAILABLE

Harold R. Sleeper, President of the Architectural League, has informed the Chapter that all members are welcome to use the facilities of the League bar and restaurant as individuals.

RESERVE NOW FOR AIA NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 1951 AIA Convention will be held May 8-11 at the Edgewater Beach Hotel, Chicago. Members who count on staying at convention headquarters should write now to Fred Saunders, Sales Manager, Edgewater Beach Hotel, for reservations. Until February 1 you can be assured of a reservation if you identify yourself as an AIA member; after that you take your chances with the general public.

HOW TO KILL YOUR TRADE ASSOCIATION

Don't come to meetings. If you do come, come late. If the weather doesn't suit you, don't think of coming.

Find fault with the work of the officers and other members. Never accept an office or committee appointment as it is easier to criticize than to do things.

Get sore if you are not appointed on some committee; but if you are, do not attend committee meetings. If asked by the chairman to give your opinion regarding some important matter, tell him you have nothing to say. After the meeting tell everyone how things ought to be done.

Do nothing more than is absolutely necessary; but when other members roll up their sleeves and use their ability to help matters along, howl that the association is run by a clique.

Don't bother about getting new members. Let the secretary do it.

When a banquet is given, tell everybody money is being wasted on blowouts which make a big noise and accomplish nothing. When no banquets are given say the association is dead and needs a can tied to it. Don't ask for a banquet ticket until all are sold. Then swear you were cheated out of yours. If you do get a ticket, don't pay for it.

Hold back your dues as long as possible or don't pay at all. If you don't receive a bill for your dues, don't pay. When you do receive a bill for your dues postpone paying until the secretary writes you for the money — then get sore because you've been dunned. If you receive a bill after you've paid — resign from the association or at least suggest to some of the members that the treasurer tried to work you or is manipulating the accounts.

Don't tell the association how it can help you, but if it doesn't help you, resign. If you receive service without joining, don't think of joining. If the association doesn't correct abuses in your neighbor's business, howl that nothing is done. If it calls attention to abuses in your own, resign from the association. When you attend a meeting, vote to do something, then go home and do the opposite. Agree to everything said at the meeting and disagree with it outside.

Get all the assistance the association gives but don't give it any. Talk cooperation for the other fellow with you; but never cooperate with him.

When everything else fails, cuss the secretary.

—From July issue of *Feed Institute's "Digest."*

WHAT SHOWS DO YOU SEE?

At the Museum of Modern Art thru January 28th.

"Good Design" — exhibition of best designs in home furnishings for the year 1950.

At the Museum of Modern Art January 17 thru March 18th.

"Lamps" — exhibition of prize winning designs in nationwide contest.

At the Brooklyn Museum thru January 31st.

"Italy at Work" — a large collection of furniture, metal work, glass, machinery, jewelry and ceramics, as well as model interiors for a theater lobby, a chapel and a dining room, illustrating progress of contemporary Italian design.

AMERICAN STANDARDS ASSOCIATION FORUM

The Place of Standardization in Construction was the subject of a panel discussion at the National Standardization Conference of the American Standards Association held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel last month.

This session was jointly sponsored by the American Standards Association, the A. I. A., the Producers' Council, and the Associated General Contractors. Chapter Member Lessing Williams, who is the Institute's representative on the Joint Committee of the A. I. A. and the Producers' Council, spoke for the architects, outlining the progress in standardization in recent years and pointing out many of the possible ways in which it can help the building industry in the future. The role of the American Standards Association in coordinating the activities of the many groups engaged in the foundation of standards was emphasized as being of particular interest to architects.

MEMBERS IN PRINT

Our fellow member, Jose A. Fernandez, is the author of *The Specialty Shop*, recently published by the Architectural Book Publishing Co., Inc. Most of its 304 pages are occupied by almost 500 illustrations, the great majority of which are photographic, although thirty-six pages are devoted to drawings of structural details, covering display cases, counters, tables, and other interior equipment appropriate to the type of building under discussion.

The historical sketch with which the book opens points out that until well into the nineteenth century retail stores scarcely existed in the United States, except in a few large cities on the eastern sea board, and even there little attention has, until very recently, been given to the specific requirements of different types of merchandizing. According to the author, it was not until after the great depression of the early 1930's that architects and merchants began to realize the need of individuality in shop design, with a view to attracting public attention and to securing greater effectiveness and efficiency in display.

The main body of the work outlines the entire procedure for the design of specialty shops from the time of original discussion of a project to its ultimate completion, and even includes some thoughts on subsequent maintenance. There are chapters on the store front, the interior, lighting, color, and concealed functions, not to mention many others, and each is accompanied by specifically-illustrative photographs.

The author's scheme of presentation of his text is excellent throughout and makes *The Specialty Shop* a highly desirable guide for any architect engaged in the design of retail merchandising establishments. The photographs and drawings constitute a rich fund of design ideas and, above all, a source of great aesthetic pleasure.

ARCHITECT'S COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY

At the third meeting of the Architects Council, held on December 4, 1950, Matthew W. Del Gaudio was unanimously elected President, to succeed Perry Coke Smith, resigned.

Delegates at the meeting were asked to inform members of their respective chapters of the requirements of the Bureau of Smoke Control for filing applications.

The Rules & Regulations may be purchased for 10c a copy at the City Record office, Room 2213, Municipal Building. Application blanks may be obtained at the Bureau office, 140 Nassau Street, New York, where they are to be filed in duplicate sets with plans and specifications, by a Professional Engineer, since Architects are not recognized by this Bureau.

**BUILDING PRODUCTS LITERATURE
COMPETITION**

The A. I. A. and the Producers' Council have announced the 1951 competition for literature relating to building products. The great success of the two previous competitions, in improving the standard of literature directed at the architect, raises hopes that this will become an annual affair.

Architects irked by the staggering volume of advertising and technical material will benefit if this is freed of useless verbiage and sales talk, made clear and concise and organized for instant reference, and they may be presumed to take an interest in its artistic quality. They can accelerate such improvement by sending to Ted Coe, at the Octagon, a list of recent publications that struck them as well conceived. Only the name and address of the firm, and title of the publication are wanted: Ted will secure the copies needed.

Manufacturers have shown intense interest in the previous competitions and particularly in the reactions of the juries, which have been codified as a reference guide to advertisers. The most effective means of sustaining this interest, and securing improvement for our own benefit, is a response from architects in the form of nominations.

BUILDING CONTROLS — 1st SUPPLEMENT

Since the publication of the December 1950 OCULUS, the OFFICE OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION has been created to direct, control, and coordinate all of the mobilization activities of the Federal Government and to report directly to the President. The following agencies are those most directly concerned with controlling building, building materials, and building credits and fall under its jurisdiction:

U. S. DEPT. OF COMMERCE — NATIONAL PRODUCTION AUTHORITY

Controls production, allocates scarce materials and requisitions necessary facilities.

**DEPT. OF INTERIOR, DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
and INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION —**
within their respective fields.**BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM —** for consumer and real estate construction credit.**HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR,
FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION,
and VETERANS ADMINISTRATION —** for loans for residential building especially when made or issued by the Government.

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The following regulations and latest amendments have been issued since those summarized in the December 1950 issue of the OCULUS to which they form the 1st Supplement:

U. S. DEPT. OF COMMERCE — NATIONAL PRODUCTION AUTHORITY NPA Delegation 1 —
as amended Nov. 1, 1950.

Delegates authority to *Secretary of Defense to apply ratings relating to procurement and construction programs of Dept. of Defense, Mutual Defense Assistance Program and other programs as designated by NPA.*

NPA Delegation 2 — as amended Nov. 2, 1950.

Delegates authority to *Atomic Energy Commission to apply ratings relating to operation and construction programs of AEC.*

NPA Delegation 3 — Nov. 8, 1950.

Delegates authority to *National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics to apply ratings relating to procurement and construction programs of NACA.*

NPA Delegation 4 — Nov. 8, 1950.

Delegates authority to *United States Coast Guard to apply ratings relating to procurement and construction programs of USCG.*

NPA Delegation 5 — Dec. 18, 1950.

Delegates authority to *Secretary of the Interior over metal and mineral ores and other crude or natural materials and mining, refining, and processing equipment for same until basic processing is completed.*

NPA Order M-1 — amended Dec. 1, 1950.

Applies to producers of steel, and provides rules for placing, accepting, and scheduling rated orders of steel. It supplements NPA Regulation 2.

Supplement 3 to M-1 — Dec. 15, 1950.

Relates to use of steel for construction of freight cars as part of the Canadian Freight Car Program.

NPA Order M-2 — amended Dec. 11, 1950.

To conserve the supply of rubber — modifies and supplements NPA Regulation 1. Amendment makes order applicable to January and February 1951.

NPA Order M-6 — amended Dec. 15, 1950.

Applies to steel distributors. Requires producers to establish allotments. Amendment applies to steel distributors and industrial and merchant steel products in Canada.

NPA Order M-7 — amended Dec. 1, 1950.

Describes how aluminum, remaining after filling defense requirements may be distributed and used in civilian economy. Amendment defines limits for use in January, February, and March 1951.

Direction 2 to M-7 — Dec. 16, 1950.

Directions and illustrations relating to permitted use of aluminum during first quarter for 1951.

NPA Order M-8 — amended Dec. 18, 1950.

Describes how tin, after filling defense requirements, may be distributed and used in civilian economy.

NPA Order M-13 — Dec. 1, 1950.

Applies to producers of high tenacity rayon yarn. Supplements NPA Regulation 2.

NPA Order M-14 — Dec. 1, 1950.

Describes how nickel, after filling defense requirements, may be distributed to civilian economy.

NPA Order M-15 — Dec. 1, 1950.

Describes how zinc, after filling defense requirements, may be distributed and used in civilian economy.

NPA Order M-16 — Dec. 18, 1950.

Regulates acceptance, delivery, and distribution of copper scrap and prohibits undue accumulations.

NPA Order M-17 — Dec. 18, 1950.

Limits acceptance of rated orders to percentages of previous shipments of steatite electrical ceramic products, electron tubes (except power tubes), and fixed composition resistors.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM**Amendment 1 to Regulation X —** Nov. 14, 1950.

Two modifications of date limitation relating to special cases of exemptions and exceptions.

Consumer Credit — Regulation W — Sept. 18, 1950:

Amendment 1 to Regulation W — Oct. 16, 1950: Interpretation to Regulation W in Federal Reserve Bulletin for Oct. 1950: Interpretation telegram of Nov. 16, 1950.

Applies in general to persons, banks, loan or finance companies extending credit of 5,000. or less, or discounting, purchasing or lending on such credit in connection with selling consumers' durable goods. Applies to materials, articles, and services in connection with repairs, alterations, or improvements to existing residential structures.