

NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
ONE FIFTEEN EAST FORTIETH STREET, NEW YORK 16, NEW YORK



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OCULUS

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COMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 10th, 12:30, Special Business Meeting Luncheon at the Architectural League, to decide on ways and means of raising funds for entertainment at the forthcoming Convention in June. The meeting is open to all members in good standing.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15th, 12:30, Technical Luncheon at the Architectural League. Harry R. Dowsnell has arranged a discussion on "Curtain Walls" by representatives of the Celotex Corporation, Detroit Steel Products Co. and the Kawneer Co.

THURSDAY, MAY 1st, 6:30, Professional Forum Dinner at the Architectural League. Although plans for this dinner have not been completed, it promises to be an outstanding event. The topic for discussion is one that should interest each and every member -- "The State of the Profession." We hope to have Dr. Burdell of Cooper Union, Ralph Walker and Kenneth Wischmeyer among the speakers.

STUDY GRANT

The Committee on Housing has received from the Lavanburg Foundation a grant of money which will enable it to make a study of "Dwelling-Shelter and Congestion." The investigation will be carried out during the course of the next twelve months, and it is hoped that additional funds will be forthcoming for publication of the results.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

You can add the New York State Association Membership Card to that collection in your wallet if you are a Corporate Member in good standing of the New York Chapter, A.I.A. The Chapter Office will issue you one on request.

BETTER FEES FOR ARCHITECTS

The Fees Committee invites the attention of Chapter members to the recently released increased fee schedule for state-financed housing. This was published in the Empire State Architect for January-February, and copies are available through the State Division of Housing. We wish to express appreciation of the cooperation of Commissioner Herman T. Stichman. John P. Riley, Coordinator of Construction for the City Board of Education in Brooklyn, has also been working with our Chapter Fees Committee on a new schedule of fees in connection with school work.

A.I.A. CONVENTION -- EXHIBITS

In connection with the 84th Annual Convention of the A.I.A., June 23rd through 27th, there are being organized a whole series of related exhibitions that even native New Yorkers should find of interest!

At Lever House, a "Steel and Glass" exhibit is being arranged under the chairmanship of Dean Leopold Arnaud. It will trace engineering contributions to architecture from 1851 to 1951. At the Waldorf-Astoria, more than sixty product manufacturers are combining to produce a show of "Structural Resources for Architectural Design." The New York Public Library at 42nd Street is planning a display of American Public and University Libraries. The Museum of Modern Art will show selected modern buildings. It is hoped that the Architectural League dining room will be hung with pictures by the Society of Architectural Photographers.

There will probably be an exhibition and study tour of the United Nations Buildings including a demonstration of the simultaneous interpretation equipment in one of the meeting rooms. The Public Works Department of the City of New York and the Regional Plan Association are being approached for a display in the Low Library at Columbia University. Staten Island is planning exhibits in the new St. George Branch Library and in the waiting room of the new Ferry Terminal. The Bronx Chapter is concentrating its exhibits in the County Court House. There will be shows at the Brooklyn Museum, the Brooklyn Public Library and at Pratt Institute. Also at the Freeport Library and probably at the Nassau County Trust Company in Mineola.

Some of these plans are still tentative, but there will be plenty to look at wherever you happen to be!

EASING CONTROLS

By all appearances, things are going to be materially better in commercial and industrial construction in the coming quarters of 1952 and 1953. In a talk before the New York Building Congress on March 6th, Frank R. Creedon, Assistant Administrator of the National Production Authority and Director of the Facilities and Construction Bureau, declared that all commercial and industrial buildings which were under construction at the inception of the Controlled Materials Plan have now received allotments of materials necessary for completion. Many new applications are being favorably acted upon with the immediate issuing of permission to start followed by allotments of controlled materials for later quarters of 1952-1953. Approvals granted in metropolitan New York and north-eastern New Jersey should help to relieve the marked unemployment in the Building Trades that these areas have experienced.

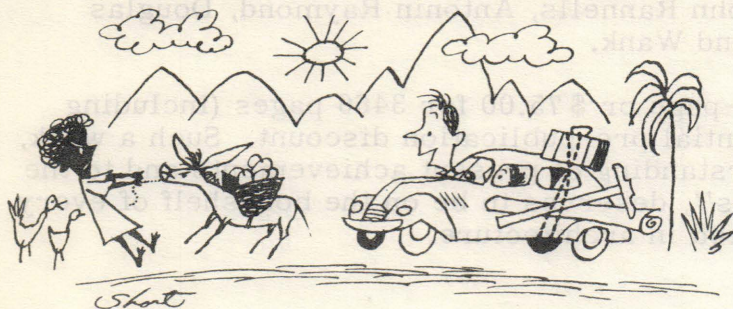
Defense Production chief Manly Fleischmann, quoted in the Wall Street Journal of March 21st, stated before the House Small Business Sub-committee that decontrol of steel and aluminum will go ahead on schedule even if the demobilization program is stepped up. The only things that could set back the decontrol timetable would be a strike in the steel industry or outbreak of a full-scale war. Controls will be relaxed, although not completely, on practically all forms of carbon steel by the fourth quarter of this year or the first quarter of 1953 at the latest, Mr. Fleischmann said, and will be eased for aluminum in the first or second quarters of next year. No relief in sight on copper, (small arms ammunition requirements), but the steel and aluminum picture is promising and plans for decontrol are already mapped out, even to appropriate alterations of the CMP forms.

TRAVEL NOTES -- from Morris Ketchum

This January, at the low ebb of winter, my wife and I took off for the Caribbean. Following a brief trip to New Orleans, we flew to Jamaica. Sixteen days later it took us six hours to fly from Jamaica (Kingston) to Jamaica (Idlewild). In the meanwhile, we had covered the entire island, from the Stone Age merchandising of Kingston's shopping district to the coral beaches of Montego Bay.

As is usual with architects, the trip combined a vacation with business. In spite of gloomy predictions to the contrary, both were in perfect balance--thanks to my considerate clients. They met us at the airport at 3 A.M., drove us to a hotel that had once been the "great house" of an old sugar plantation, allowed me to set a leisurely work schedule, loaded us with hospitality and loaned us a car. After helping them to plan a modernization program for their department store in Kingston, I found myself

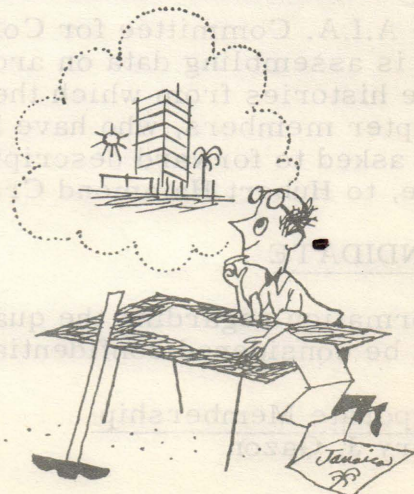
driving bravely--English style--up the left hand side of the road and "hooting on my hooter" (horn to you) at the hordes of livestock and pedestrians. What roads! Their hair-pin turns led us up over seven thousand foot mountains, through forests of bamboo, tree ferns and coconut palms, past fields of bananas and sugar cane, along a sea coast bordered by a green and purple ocean to another "great house" hotel at Montego Bay.



Air at 85 degrees, water at 80 degrees and rum at 125 proof quickly restored us to vacation status. We divided our time between acquiring a tan, exploring the shops, driving to Eighteenth Century plantation houses and listening to Calypso music. The tan was our passport to New York; the shops gave us a new viewpoint on retailing; the old buildings and the Calypso music provided the right background.

Jamaica's shopping districts have everything that we are striving for and everything that we are trying to leave behind us. Completely open store fronts--closed after hours by overhead steel shutters--are one step ahead of our glass fronts. Sidewalks are covered with arcades just as they are in our newest shopping centers. Inside, sales floors like warehouses, lit by the equivalent of candlelight, display row after row of cardboard boxes reaching up towards the ceiling. There is still plenty of elbow room left for store planners.

Before all the members of the New York Chapter take off to rebuild Jamaica, they should be told that whatever they earn must be spent there. You can't take it with you--there's a law. It can go for fine living, or for fine clothes, or fine fun--but it can't be exported. This is no handicap in my eyes, as we hope to keep right on spending money and time in this pleasant land.



FORMS AND FUNCTIONS

Coming off the press on April 14th is a set of books on architecture the like of which has not appeared since 1894. It is Forms and Functions of 20th Century Architecture, edited by Talbot Hamlin, F.A.I.A. The purpose of the work is to illustrate what has happened in the past 50 years in the development of the elements of building, the interpretation of the principles of composition, the evolution of different types of buildings and their relation to city planning.

To be published by the Columbia University Press, this 4-volume "landmark of architecture" has been 7 years in the making. It was conceived by Professor Hamlin, who saw the need for it during his teaching experience. Then the idea was developed by a committee of five, who formulated the program and invited over fifty distinguished contributors to write articles on the building types with which they were particularly familiar. Over half of these special contributors are members of the New York Chapter; beside Professor Hamlin, they include: Max Abramovitz, Leopold Arnaud, Simon Breines, Charles Butler, J. Gordon Carr, Henry S. Churchill, Alfred Fellheimer, William Gehron, Alfred M. Githens, Percival Goodman, Albert Halse, Arthur Loomis Harmon, Wallace K. Harrison, Douglas Haskell, Morris Ketchum, Jr., William Lescaze, Clarence B. Litchfield, John C. B. Moore, Lewis Mumford, George Nelson, Robert B. O'Connor, William Pereira, John Rannells, Antonin Raymond, Douglas Lorimer Rich, Benjamin Schlanger, Roland Wank.

The price is an amazingly low 2-cents-a-page or \$75.00 for 3466 pages (including 3475 illustrations!) and there is a substantial pre-publication discount. Such a work, "an indispensable guide both to the understanding of present achievements and to the logical development of future possibilities", deserves to be on the bookshelf of every professional, student and layman interested in architecture.

FORUM ON ZONING LAW

Chapter members are invited to attend a forum on the proposed new Zoning Law to be conducted by the Brooklyn Society of Architects following a dinner at "Michel's", 346 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, 8 P.M. Tuesday, April 22nd. The speakers will be Lawrence M. Orton, City Planning Commissioner, Frank Barrera, Counsel to the Brooklyn Real Estate Board, and Latham C. Squire. Further information may be secured from Charles M. Spindler, 164 Montague Street, Brooklyn (MA 4-6810).

ARCHITECT-BUILDER RELATIONS

The A.I.A. Committee for Collaboration with the National Association of Home Builders is assembling data on architect-builder relations to be published in the form of case histories from which the names of architects and builders will be omitted. Chapter members, who have had dealings with contractors on multiple-house projects, are asked to forward descriptions of their experiences, both satisfactory and otherwise, to Hubert Hammond Crane, A.I.A., 3711 Camp Bowie Boulevard, Ft. Worth, Texas.

CANDIDATE

Information regarding the qualification of the following candidate for membership will be considered confidential by the Admissions Committee:

Corporate Membership
Henry J. Gazon

Sponsors: A. Peter Amari and Max H. Foley