

NEW YORK CHAPTER

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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COMING EVENTS

January 19, Thursday, Gallery A - 12:30 P. M.

Chapter Meeting
By-Laws Discussion

January 25, Wednesday, Dining Room - 5:30 P. M.

Cocktail Party for prospective
new members given by
Membership Committee

February 2, Thursday, Gallery A - 12:30 P. M.

Technical Committee Luncheon

February 9, Thursday, Gallery A - 5:15-6:15 P. M.

Public Relations For You

BY-LAWS

After more than eight years of work, the new by-laws are complete and ready to be presented to the Chapter membership for adoption. Started by a committee, under the chairmanship of George Boehm, carried on by a new committee under Milton Glass and finally by another of which Harry M. Prince was chairman, a completely new draft of the by-laws has been prepared.

The By-Laws of the New York Chapter have not been fully revised since the formation of the Chapter in 1868. The Chapter files are incomplete as to records of the various partial revisions. As nearly as it has been possible to ascertain, we are now working under a 1940 draft, plus subsequent amendments, addenda and interpretations -- all of which have led to frequent confusion and uncertainty as to the exact meaning of many sections.

Meanwhile, the Institute had been urging that all Chapters conform their by-laws to the "Advisory Form of Chapter By-Laws" (A. I. A. Document No. 273) for the sake of general uniformity and of consistency with the Institute By-Laws.

The redrafting of the Chapter's By-Laws has been a tremendous task. You are urged to give them your fullest consideration. They will be acted upon at a special meeting of the Chapter, January 19, 1956 at 12:30 P. M. at the Architectural League.

PRATT INSTITUTE

Two graduate assistantships, each covering tuition and providing a stipend of \$1,500., are being offered by the School of Architecture of Pratt Institute, Dean Olindo Grossi has announced. Assistants will have half-time schedules, which will permit them to complete their work for the degree of Master of Architecture in two years.

Qualified American and foreign students are urged to apply promptly in January for the Spring 1956 term.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE - Otto Teegen, Chairman

After having deliberated for more than a year over the method the New York Chapter should use in conducting its Candidate-In-Training program, the merits of which were recommended to all Chapters in, "The Architect at Mid-Century" published in 1954, the Committee on Education has come up with a version that differs appreciably from that issued by the National Committee. Details were outlined by the chairman, Otto Teegen, at the November dinner meeting and the Log-Books are now being printed.

The Candidate-In-Training program aims to assist individuals to obtain the modest experience during office internship needed in preparation for architectural registration. It is expected the Architect-Sponsor will make a special effort to give Candidates every possible opportunity to meet and participate in each of the general processes constituting an architect's practise including client conferences, programming, presentation, preliminary and working drawings, engineering coordination, specifications, checking shop drawings, control documents and construction supervision. Time spent in each of these fields will be entered in a log-book which the Candidate will keep in his possession while employed by others or until he received his architect's license. The program has no connection with any architectural registration board, State or National, nor is it assumed special recognition will be tendered the log-book record by such bodies, but the records will be certified evidence of the breadth of the Candidate's office experience and a valuable record for himself of the progress he is making toward qualifying in his profession.

The members of the Committee on Education will serve in an advisory capacity to all Candidates and Architect-Sponsors, and will be available for consultation at the request of either party. The program will be initiated this month (January) in the offices in which the Committee members themselves are active, such as Carson & Lundin (Robert Carson), York & Sawyer (Russell Colean), Ketchum, Gina & Sharp (Stanley Sharp), Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (Walter Severinghaus), LaPierre, Litchfield and Partners (Ben Small), Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith (Benjamin Smith) and the Columbia University School of Architecture (Bruno Funaro). However, inquiries from any Chapter members who wish to join the program should be made through the Chapter Office where their interest will find a cordial welcome. Architectural Candidates who are interested in joining the program should also make their inquiries through the Chapter Office.

ANNUAL ARCHITECTURAL JOURNALISM AWARDS

This series of awards for writing and photography in the field of Architecture was initiated two years ago by The American Institute of Architects, "to recognize and encourage writing ... that will further the public understanding of Architecture and the Architect."

A total of \$1,500. will be awarded in prizes of \$250. to the author of the best published work in each of six categories. In addition to money prizes, a certificate of merit will be given to the winner in each class and a similar one to his publisher.

Articles and photographs must have been published during the preceding year - from January 1, 1955 to December 31, 1955, inclusive. Submissions must be made by the magazine or newspaper - not by the author or photographer. Work must be submitted between January 1st and January 30th, 1956.

Further information can be obtained by writing to the Department of Professional Relations, The American Institute of Architects, 1735 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

LEBRUN SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

The LeBrun Scholarship Committee, Benjamin Lane Smith, Chairman, will soon announce a competition for the 1956 LeBrun Scholarship. The competition will be held in the early Spring with the award winner receiving \$3,000. for six months' foreign travel.

HOSPITAL STUDY GROUP

A large enthusiastic gathering attended the dinner meeting December 15th, chaired by Isaiah Ehrlich of the Hospital Study Group of the Chapter's Technical Committee.

Dr. Basil C. MacLean, New York City Commissioner of Hospitals, reviewed what he termed, "Gripes of a Hospital Janitor" or the many physical aspects of hospital planning which affect administration and patient care. He also explained the need for more single rooms for proper medical care, more toilets because of early ambulation, less glass, more acoustical treatment, greater use of pneumatic tubes, mechanization and new developments in electronic signal systems, more air-conditioning, more localized icemakers, more resilient flooring, grade entrances.

Dr. E. M. Bluestone, Consultant to Montefiore Hospital, spoke of the trend toward integration of medical services and health facilities for the hospital of 1956, and stressed the general hospital as the logical focal point of community health services for the healthy person as well as the ill patient irrespective of the nature of his illness.

According to Dr. Bluestone the hospitals of the future will integrate the care of the acutely ill and the chronically ill, the tuberculous and the mentally ill. Extensive out-patient services and diagnostic clinics will serve persons of all economic levels. Treatment will be individualized according to clinical need erasing the old stigmas of "private" and "charity". Patient care will be both intramural and extramural with the development of "homecare" programs which will greatly increase the demand on radiography, laboratory and central sterilizing services, medical records, administrative areas and storage for equipment used in the home. Integration will probably see the Public Health services allied closely with the hospital for joint use of laboratories and clinical facilities. In many places professional buildings are becoming adjuncts to the hospital for the convenience of the doctors. And all must be integrated in a physical environment conducive to the patient's well being and to ease of administration, be concluded. A lively question and answer session rounded out a stimulating evening.

The Hospital Study Group is planning to have meetings monthly, each one discussing some particular phase of planning. Meetings will be held at 5:15-6:30 P.M. and will be open to any one interested. Those wishing to receive notices of dates and speakers, please notify the Chapter Office.

NEW BOOKS

Architecture, Ambition and Americans By Wayne Andrews 315 pp.
New York: Harper & Brothers \$ 7.50

While architectural technique has been developing rapidly in recent years, there has been little architectural criticism to evaluate it in the vast amount of recent construction. Our publications avoid criticism except through selection and it is, in fact,

NEW BOOKS (Continued)

difficult to count half a dozen names in the field of Architectural Criticism who have the background to be considered equipped for the job.

Wayne Andrews enters this field from a background of study of America's wealthy families. Basically, his book considers these same people in relation to their buildings and architects. Possibly overimpressed by the aesthetics of large quantities of money (the Brown brothers of Providence amassed "a truly glorious fortune", and "Robert Percy Alden, a young gentleman with a delightful income", for example) he finds unabashed opulence in building, especially that of the past, to be a most important common denominator in criticism. He considers taste as the major generator of form and pragmatism as the generator of philosophy in building, and establishes two main schools of modern architecture on the basis of the taste that each represents. Mr. Andrews cites William James as the major proponent of his own point of view and those architects whom he includes in his camp he dubs "Jacobites". Those "dogmatic, absolutist worshippers of the machine, spellbound by modern materials . . .". He calls the "Veblenite" architects, a term of sharp rebuke, since he confesses to partisanship as "a frantic Jacobite". As in many tracts, the documentation is excellent but the selection is filtered to accommodate the demands of the thesis.

"Architecture, Ambition and Americans" covers virtually the same ground as James Fitch's "American Building". Mr. Fitch, however, succeeds in uncovering the generating forces - technical, economic and sociological - which produced our changing architecture. He found that the thread of development which runs through our whole architectural history can be analyzed today in relation to those same forces. The necessity for understanding this was also stated by Turpin Bannister in "The Architect at Mid-Century", the published analysis resulting from the Burdell Commission's study. Here were outlined the areas of work ahead of us, the responsibilities to be assumed - a program to encourage the growth of professional stature.

There has been a great improvement in the prestige enjoyed by our profession which has come about through the growing capacity of the architect to consider and solve all of the factors that go into today's construction. As the architect has become more willing to assume leadership as the coordinator of the building industry, as he has become more articulate about the social problems facing his community - as he has looked for the aesthetic solutions to the new building materials and techniques, as he has sought for economies in construction methods and as he has concerned himself with the form and equipment of today's homes and institutional, recreation, commercial and industrial buildings, so has his professional stature grown. This is the result of the architect's own serious day to day practice of his profession. None of this is considered by Mr. Andrews. His book leaves one with the conception of an architect whose only contribution is to the prevailing taste. With wide acceptance of this premise, the profession could be hindered for many years in fulfilling its responsibility: Indeed the decades after Sullivan's eclipse at the turn of the century can serve as a warning. This is the fundamental issue and the one on which to evaluate the book.

R. C. S.

CANDIDATES

Information regarding the qualifications of the following candidates for membership will be considered confidential by the Admissions Committee.

Corporate Membership

Albert Barash

Associate Membership

Patricia Elise Roberts

William H. Eisenberg

Sponsors: Richard M. Pott and David L. Eggers

Sponsors: Bruno Funaro and Ralph M. Meyer