

Spring West Side Tour To Salute Renewal's Architects, Benefit WAA Scholarship Fund

Take a Busman's Holiday, Sat., April 15, at bargain rates and join the "Spring West Side Tour", the Women's Architectural Auxiliary's salute to the architects of the almost completed West Side Urban Renewal Area.

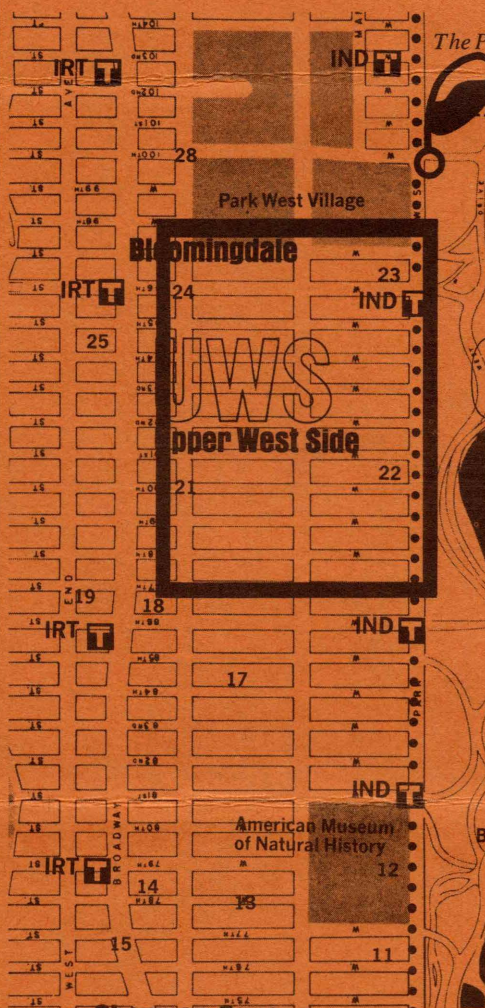
The WAA's rain-or-shine, 2 to 5 p.m. tour (see map) will feature several of the Area's outstanding interiors: remodeled brownstones, duplex model apartments in a new middle income coop, the "Space Shelter" of a well-known artist, plus private gardens, and the new building of one of New York's oldest schools.

As part of the event, 25 architects or firms associated with the WSUR will receive Citations from the City, presented by Donald H. Elliott, chairman of the City Planning Commission, at a 3:30 p.m. ceremony in Trinity School's auditorium, 91st Street and Columbus Avenue.

The Dic-Underhill Joint Venture has generously contributed toward underwriting the Salute. H. Dickson McKenna, Executive Director of the NYSAA, donated five autographed copies of his new book, *A House in the City*, for a raffle.

Co-chairmen for the combined tour and tribute are Mrs. Ralph E. Leff and Mrs. Donald Reiman, who coordinate their work with Mrs. Saul Edelbaum, WAA Scholarship Chairman, and 36 hostesses.

Proceeds from the afternoon go to



Map: Courtesy of AIA Guide to New York Tour area boxed off.

the WAA Scholarship Fund, which has raised \$120,000 and helped 400 architectural students in the past 14 years. Tickets are \$5.00, tax deductible, available only through the WAA Scholarship Fund, 190 East 72nd St., NYC 10021. For information, call TR 9-0494.

Active Support for Madison Mall Continues — Some Details Questioned

James Polshek has sent a letter of Chapter support for the proposed Mall to all merchants on Madison Avenue from 42nd Street to 57th Street. Polshek is being assisted by a special Mall task force, a sub-committee of the Urban Planning Committee headed by Robert Meadows. The task force arranged a meeting between the Mayor's office of Midtown Planning and architect members of Community Planning Board No. 5, which has since given the plan its approval.

The sub-committee does not agree with the Mall being open to express buses and feels the plan's implementation has not been explained. Contingent upon its full support the task force has volunteered to work with the Citizens for City Malls and will give slide presentations to merchants.

The Fifth Avenue Association has opposed the Mall. Chapter member Robert Cutler, a member of the Association has questioned the priority of the Mall versus redevelopment of Harlem and Bedford-Stuyvesant. They do not consider Madison Avenue a depressed street. The Businessmen for Madison Mall support the Mall on the basis that there has to be action in midtown to counteract the flight of businesses, and one of the ways to do it is to make the city center more attractive for both office workers and shoppers. They maintain that good business midtown indirectly benefits Harlem and Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Chapter Invites Requests To Review Significant Buildings

A new review service has been initiated by the Executive Committee of the NYC/AIA expanding its activist role in the area of "constructive critic of the urban environment". The Chapter is writing local community groups and public and private agencies and corporations, offering to review significant projects. Several neighborhood groups have already requested such a review.

A letter, signed by President Frost explains that the stated concern is with the design concepts which may influence the larger environment...i.e. general urban texture, visual unity or neighborhood activity patterns. It states that it is not the intention of the Chapter to serve as "sole arbiter of design or collective practitioner". The letter further suggests that such a review take place as early in the design stage as possible.

But some differing views of this service have also been voiced. There is the possibility, for example, this may amount to adding another "layer" of people to be satisfied. And, it has been noted that architects have not always had an impressive record with regard to judging their peers.

Several methods for organizing such a review service have been suggested. The appropriate method would vary with each project as determined by the President and Executive Committee.

Since various aspects presently remain undefined, the scope and projected success of such a review board may yet evoke some lively debate.

LY

Chapter Members Visit Albany Legislators

Fritz Frost, Leon Brand, Herb Oppenheimer and George Lewis traveled to the State Capitol on March 15 to meet with several legislative leaders and their aides. The object was to present Architects' views on a number of issues including: the Statute of Limitations, the proposed New South Richmond Development Corp., local housing referenda, seed money for design of middle income housing, the proposed Council on Architecture study, and multiple construction contracts.

Joel Howard of the General Building Contractors Association was very helpful in making appointments and finding the way around. The group was able to present detailed explanations of the various bills to Deputy Minority Leader Blumenthal, Minority Leader Steingut, Senator Marchi and others. In all cases they were well received. Several of the legislators noted that they lacked the staff necessary for in depth analysis of many proposals presented and appreciated the Chapter's effort to keep them informed. Assemblyman Blumenthal said that the Chapter initiated bill to provide seed money for design fees for housing before mortgage approval would require support of the Division of Housing and Community renewal. Senator Marchi and his assistant, Robert Straniere indicated that Chapter support for the proposed public service corporation designed to guide the development of the last remaining open area on Staten Island would be most welcome.

Several law makers expressed the belief that the restriction against single construction contracts would not be repealed this year because of labor union opposition. Advice was received on the best time to present proposed legislation and on which committees and agencies to concentrate effort.

The most valuable aspect of the trip was the knowledge gained of

legislative procedures and the opportunity to meet some of the leaders and their staff members.

Leon Brand reports that the Political Affairs Committee has initiated similar contacts with the New York City Council.

JD

James Stewart Polshek New Columbia Dean Resigns 1st Vice-Pres.

Columbia's President William McGill has announced James Stewart Polshek's appointment to the Deanship of Columbia's School of Architecture, effective immediately. In addition to the Deanship he has been appointed Special Assistant to the President for Physical Planning and Development.

Mr. Polshek, replacing Kenneth Smith, was chosen by a special Search Committee chaired by Professor Alexander Kouzmanoff.

Mr. Polshek will resign as NYC/AIA 1st Vice-President and President Elect in order to devote the time and energy his new role will demand. The Committee on Nominations has the difficult task of selecting a successor for the Chapter's vote.

Exhibit Task Force To Be Formed

Howard Juster, Chairman of the Commission on Building and Site Design has been asked by the Executive Committee to organize and coordinate the appropriate Chapter committees in order to work with the UDC in the presentation of a building systems exhibit.

A similar exhibit had been considered earlier by the Exhibits Committee but was dropped.

The current plan might include joint sponsorship by the Chapter. Meanwhile, exhibits at the Chapter headquarters are being assembled and installed as time permits by the headquarters staff.

JD

Building Code Manual

The New York Society of Architects' 1972 Building Code Manual is now available. It consists of over 1000 pages in its two volumes, and it includes numerous changes, corrections, and new local laws. It is available at \$20 per copy plus \$1.40 tax and \$1.75 handling; send check to the New York Society of Architects, 101 Park Avenue, 10017.

Hearing on New NCARB Exam — Reactions Negative



Questions at the NCARB hearing. Seated second from left: Richard Stein Chairman of the New York State Board of Architectural Examiners. Photo: Kurt Karmin

When members of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards read the transcribed tapes of the open hearing held in New York on March 2 they'll know there was some scathing opposition to the proposed examination procedures. About 175 persons attended a three hour meeting sponsored jointly by the N.Y. Board of Architectural Examiners and the NYC/AIA Meetings Committee. Richard Stein, Chairman of the State Board, gave a slide presentation which he made clear was NCARB's and not his. He also emphasized several times that the new exam procedures had not been adopted as yet by either the NCARB or New York State.

The NCARB proposes two exams—a Qualifying Exam for those without professional degrees, and a Professional Exam for all candidates. The Qualifying Exam would be a two day exam similar to the present four day exam. The Professional Exam would be a two day exam, machine graded. BA graduates would be required to have two years experience and MA graduates one year to take the Professional Exam. There are eight combinations of education and experience standards proposed ranging from seven years to twelve.

These were some of the questions

and statements:

- Why not abandon the exam and follow the European system of licensing by schooling?
 - This exam is geared to those who read well.
 - Why can't we use books during the exam?
 - How can you prepare for this exam?
 - The older professionals object to the emasculation of the three years experience.
 - It's a slap in the face for the twelve year candidate (Thomas Sapolsky).
 - It has the medieval quality of a guild.
 - With this exam the profession will become so elitist we will have no power (Vito Battista).
 - Schools may not be equivalent to the equivalency exam.
 - The schools should be made to educate architects for licensing.
 - Why not apply step by step examining similar to medical profession?
- Moderator Bernard Spring of City College, and panelists Ronald Allwork, Vice President of the NCARB, and Frederick Voss of the State Board added their opinions and answers to the tape and Stein promised that all comments would be given consideration by both the State and the NCARB.

KK

Voorhees Campus Offers Cooperative Education Program

The New York City Community College, (Voorhees Campus) answering the needs of both the profession and the undergraduate, offers a Cooperative Education Program in Architectural Technology. Cooperative education gives the student the opportunity to balance classroom theory with practical work experience. The college operates its Co-op Program on a twelve-month-a-year basis. The students attend college for a minimum of two semesters and then work in the field.

A coordinator from the college will be available to meet with offices to discuss their needs. When the needs of the office are made known, the coordinator will arrange for student interviews.

Further information may be obtained by contacting:

Dir. of Cooperative Education
VOORHEES CAMPUS
NEW YORK CITY COMMUNITY
COLLEGE
450 West 41st Street
New York, New York 10036.

Public Service Fund Press Conference

Representatives of the **Engineering News-Record** and the **New York Construction News** recently heard Public Affairs Committee Chairman David Glasser explain the purpose of the fund raising drive the goal of which is to raise \$300,000 over a five year period. \$100,000 is being raised through assessment of Chapter members while the remainder is being sought from contractors, developers and materials manufacturers. The press conference was aimed at exposing potential contributors outside of the profession to the program. The Sunday Times recently carried a short notice describing the plan. Additional volunteers to help solicit contributions are still needed. Contact David Glasser.

JD

City College School of Architecture Needs Material for Library

LAST CHANCE to be among the first to donate books, magazines, pamphlets, slides and photographs to City College School of Architecture Library! The College budget restricts acquisitions to 1200 annually, an insufficient rate to provide the needed breadth of resources in this burgeoning 738-student school (still free!) Isaiah Ehrlich has generously donated a large part of his personal architectural library.

Remember that contribution of any library material is tax deductible: current market value being accepted by the I.R.S. for deduction purposes! In effect you can clean out your house, reduce the live load on your sagging floors, provide an educational service and gain a tax deduction. Call Norval White, Chairman, Department of Architecture @ 621-2118. He will arrange for pickup (within 20 miles of the School).

Chapter Suggests Institute Program for Contacting Potential Members

Seeking new members has always been the responsibility of the individual chapters. In a letter to Executive Vice President William Slayton, Frederick Frost and James Polshek asked the Institute to consider supplementing the Chapter's role with invitations of its own. Citing the NYC/AIA as example the letter points out that we mail to each newly licensed architect in the five boroughs an invitation to join, a copy of **Oculus**, a copy of an Application for Corporate Membership, and dues information. The mailings do not cover potential corporate members in Long Island, Westchester, New Jersey, or Connecticut, nor is there room to include descriptive literature on the AIA.

The Chapter suggested a national mailing to successful candidates which might include a letter of invitation to join, a copy of MEMO, a revised version of the publication "Won't You Join?" and addresses of all component chapters. The proposal was initiated by our Membership Committee.

KK

Historic Buildings Committee To Develop List of Architects Interested in Restoration

The Historic Buildings Committee, under William Shopsin, will develop a listing of architects interested in restoring Landmark Buildings and/or executing designs for new construction in Historic Districts.

The Committee, along with the Municipal Art Society, suggested such a list to the NYC Landmarks Commission because the Landmarks Commission cannot give direct referrals in response to requests for professional assistance in interpreting and satisfying the Landmarks Law. It can, however, make known that such a list of qualified professionals is available from the NYC/AIA.

The Historic Buildings Committee is presently developing a format for a portfolio—of portfolios—that will include for each architect a photograph or drawing of an executed project of restoration work (if available) as well as a statement of the architect's philosophy of Landmarks preservation. The Committee will not pass judgement in any way on the quality of the work or the qualifications of the architects in the master portfolio.

JPH

Towards Improving the Relationship Between the Architect and City Government

The Urban Design Council, at the request of the Mayor and in an effort to improve the relationship between architects and City government, recently completed an investigation of the procedures the City follows in retaining private architects and the use it makes of its own in-house architects "with an end towards recommending major changes in this process so as to ensure a high quality of design in schools, libraries, firehouses and other civic buildings."

In its study, "A Report on the Working Relationships of Architects and The City of New York", the Council noted that "the success or failure of the relationship between City and architect has an influence on how well the City looks and how efficiently it functions.... For the most part the relationship today is not as good as it should be; and the City is not getting the kind of work it should be getting."

Further, that revisions to the present system would be necessary to make the good buildings that are now produced in spite of the system become the norm rather than the exception.

The report describes the architect-City relationship stating the problems, from initial Capital Budget and site acquisition procedures inclusive through completion of construction, and making recommendations to remedy them.

Basic to the Council's recommendations is the creation of a City Architect, directly responsible to the Municipal Services Administrator, whose responsibilities and authority would include, for all Municipal Services Administration projects, all important planning or design decisions customarily made by clients retaining architects for private work, including realistic programming and budgeting, architect selection, fees, contracts documents, review, con-

struction, etc. Each would be uniquely evaluated towards obtaining the best possible results for an individual project. In time, the concept of a City Architect, which is not new, being operative in both Los Angeles and Chicago and a traditional part of European local government, could be extended to other agencies responsible for their own construction programs.

The NYC/AIA has designated a committee chaired by Leon Brand to analyze the Urban Design Council proposal for a City Architect.

The committee, aided by George Lewis, is studying how the concept of the City Architect works in the cities using it. Alexander Cooper, Executive Director of the Urban Design Council noted that the City is awaiting the committee's report before acting towards implementing the City Architect proposal. This report evaluating the proposal is expected to be complete by June.

Chapter members who have had experience with the City Architect concept or who have comments concerning it are invited to share them with the committee by contacting Leon Brand. A copy of the Urban Design Council Report is available for study at the Chapter office.

JDK

Executive Committee Actions

March 7, 1972

- Confirmed the Chapter's recommendation of the following names as possible successors to Walter McQuade on the City Planning Commission (in alphabetical order): Jonathan Barnett, Angela Cabrera, Elaine Dowe, and Barbara Reach.
- Discussed the speed with which a successor to Thomas Galvin had been appointed to be Chairman of the Board of Standards and Appeals; it was agreed that Mr. Frost should write the Mayor recommending that the Chapter be consulted on appointments which are of direct concern to it.
- Heard a report on meetings with representatives of The Architects' Technical Assistance Center (TATAC) concerning its relationship with the Chapter, its need for funds and for assistance in recruiting volunteers and in public relations.
- Appointed James Doman Chairman of the Scholarship Committee for the coming year, noting that this Committee's work must begin in the spring. Directed that the Committee assume responsibility for the Chapter's entire Minority Scholarship Program and that its membership include representatives of the four local architectural schools and representatives of ARCH.
- Directed that a task force be formed to investigate the possibility of Chapter co-sponsorship with UDC of an exhibit on industrialized construction at 103rd Street and East River Drive.
- Directed that a task force be formed as liaison with UDC on building research.
- Approved distribution of the Hospital and Health Committee's comments on the Plan for New York City.
- Agreed to respond to a request of the Chairman of Community Board No. 6 that the Chapter look into questions raised by the proposal of Beth Israel Hospital to build a 41-story mixed use tower on Stuyvesant Square.

Candidates for Membership

Information received by the Secretary of NYC/AIA regarding the qualifications of candidates for membership will be considered confidential.

Corporate

Irwin Jay Feifer
Alan Green
Perry Green
Claude Samton
Eugene Van Sharpe

Associate

Lenore M. Lucey
James Whitefield Rhodes
Andrew Zdzienicki

Welcome to New Members

The NYC/AIA welcomes the following members:

Corporate

Gilbert F. Dillon
Harry J. Groezinger
Sidney Feirtag
Keith R. Kroeger
Neil B. Mitchell
Ayla Karajabey Chatfield

Associates

Theodore D. Kleiner
Thomas J. Fallon

Going to the Houston Convention?

A group flight, Delta #901, leaves Kennedy at 9:30 a.m., on Sunday, May 7, arriving Houston 12:01 p.m., at a cost of \$143 per person. A flight for May 6 at the same time may also be arranged. To make reservations and to inquire about any other travel arrangements for the Convention, contact the United States Travel Agency, 1425 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, (202) 783-5161.

New York Chapter
The American Institute of Architects
20 West 40th Street
New York, New York 10018
212 565-1866
George S. Lewis, Executive Director

Executive Committee
Frederick G. Frost, Jr., FAIA, President
James S. Polshek, 1st Vice-Pres.
Robert F. Gatje, Vice President
Samuel M. Brody, Vice President
Der Scutt, Secretary
James B. Baker, Treasurer
Lawrence Litchfield, Director
Howard H. Juster, Director
James A. Rossant, Director
T. Merrill Prentice, Jr., Director
Richard Stein, Director
Judith Edelman, Director

Oculus Committee
J. Arvid Klein, Editor and Chairman
John Doran
David P. Helpern
Kurt Karmin
Joel D. Kaufman
Linda Yang