

Oculus

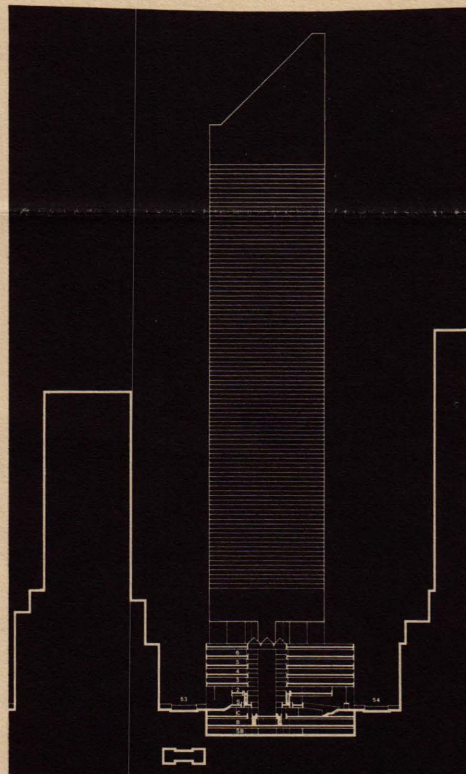
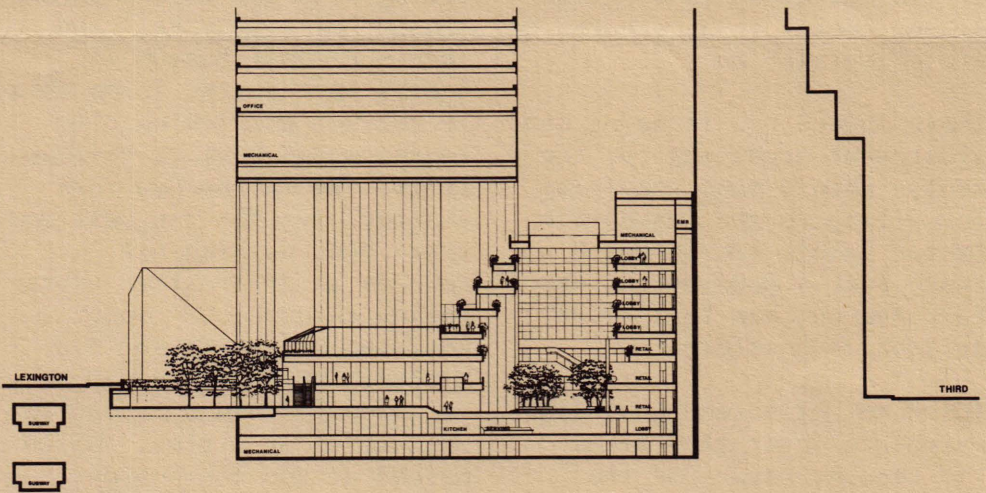
Plans for Chapters Annual Meeting and Party At Citicorp Center Completed and Set for June 21

"Let's have more of these great parties" was the refrain at the highly successful April reception for Philip Johnson. So come to Saint Peter's Church in Citicorp Center on Wednesday, June 21 (see details in enclosed announcement).

At 5:45 a tour of Citicorp, including a typical floor and the Tuned Mass Damper (four flights up from elevator) - the only such device in existence designed to minimize sway, a 400-ton block of concrete tuned to the natural frequency of the tower, controlled by instruments which sense the building's motion.

At 6:15 there will be expeditiously conducted ceremonies in the Church: citations to Douglas Haskell, Citicorp, Dover Press, Denis Kuhn, the 42nd Street Redevelopment Corp., Adopt-a-Building and Evelyn McGrath. Brendan Gill will be made an Honorary Member and will have some things to say. Henry Russell Hitchcock will receive the Award of Merit, and the Medal of Honor will be given to Hardy, Holzman, Pfeiffer. Peter Samton will then comment on his year as president and will turn the gavel over to Charles Hughes.

And then all will repair to Saint Peter's Living Room for a party. □



Plan of Citicorp Center at the Concourse Level, Chapter Annual Meeting to be held in the Church "Living Room" with entrance directly off of 54th Street.

Section through Citicorp Center, drawings furnished by Hugh Stubbins and Associates.

Architect Selection Panel Formed for New York City Convention Center

As *Oculus* goes to press we have received word that a panel consisting of James S. Polshek, Chairman, David Beer, Robert L. Geddes and Robert A. M. Stern has been appointed to review applications of those interested in being the architect of the New York City Convention Center. The panel will offer recommendations to Governor Carey and Mayor Koch, who will choose the architect through the board of directors of the operating corporation of the center to be created by state legislation.

Those interested in being considered as architect for the center should make inquiries in writing to the Convention Center Panel, c/o Thomas H. Baer, Baer & McGoldrick, 460 Park Avenue, New York 10022 as soon as possible.

The Panel will send questionnaires to interested firms and request return of the information to be postmarked no later than June 27. □

AIA Convention Notes

Why did AIA select Dallas for its '78 Convention? Its downtown area, nearly all office buildings and parking lots, with no dwelling units multiple or otherwise, has few urban amenities. Dallas overall is spread-city in the complete sense of the word. Historical allusions are skimpy, with rather too much attention paid to the Texas Book Depository. The new buildings are not very interesting with two superb exceptions: Pei's City Hall and Kahn's Kimball Museum in nearby Fort Worth. To me this is not yet the living city Texans would have us believe it is. We in the New York Chapter have for the past two years been pushing AIA towards an affirmative urban policy through our report entitled "New Life for Old Cities," which this year was transformed into a resolution "New Life for Cities," which passed at the convention. Obviously, AIA must have had Dallas in mind when the Board took out the "Old." They could also have (thinking of Dallas) called it "Old Life for New Cities." Maybe AIA knew what it was doing. To our delegates, New York never looked so good as it did upon our return.

The Convention itself was not especially eventful despite the changes in AIA bylaws which were voted to permit architects to act as contractors, and to allow limited advertising. The high point was Philip Johnson's acceptance of the Gold Medal, an earnest, witty extemporaneous evaluation of the state of architecture which I took to mean "Now Almost Anything Goes." The next morning he led a group he called his

"kids" - Eisenman, Stern, Moore, Gwathmey, Gehry, Pelli, Tigerman (he also called them, and a couple of absentees, the "best architects in America") - in a seminar on "Design in Transition." The panelists were at the top of their form before a very large, young, middle-American crowd.

All of which directs attention to the upcoming '82 New York Convention. What a marvelous opportunity it will be to celebrate our city, with all its resources - design, planning, technology, the superb physical setting! It can be the greatest architectural gathering ever, and it is not too early to start planning. □

Peter Samton

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Chapter Staff Member

Chapter Opposes Appointment of John P. Gulino to City Planning Commission and Responds to Hostile Questions at City Council Committee Hearing

Following Mayor Koch's appointment of John P. Gulino of Staten Island to the City Planning Commission (the new Charter required that the appointment be made from that borough), he was interviewed by chapter members Peter Samton, Charles Hughes, Herbert Oppenheimer, Jonathan Barnett, Alan Schwartzman and George Lewis. Gulino is a 33 year old attorney with backing from several organizations; his credentials were viewed by this group as being quite limited. It was concluded that Mr. Gulino's experience and approach to planning issues were not at a level which should be expected of a commissioner, and a recommendation was made to the Executive Committee - which approved it - to oppose the appointment at the City Council Rules, Privileges and Elections Committee's confirmation hearing. This is the second time the Chapter has acted to oppose a confirmation at the Council, the first being a lame-duck Beame appointment to the Board of Standards and Appeals.

George Lewis testified at the hearing - there was no other opposition; the Staten Island AIA chapter enthusiastically endorsed Gulino, citing his inexperience as a positive advantage in that his judgment would be unfettered. Lewis pointed out that the Chapter over the years has paid very close attention to issues before the Commission, that it considers it "to be of overriding importance that members of the Commission have backgrounds of wide experience in city-wide planning issues" since "the community boards' power and influence have increased greatly and there must be a strong, experienced

central Planning Commission to act on behalf of New York as a total entity." He said that the Commission "must not be viewed as a political body with members representing geographical constituencies.

Whereupon Lewis for two hours responded to largely hostile questions: Who is the Manhattan Chapter to comment on Staten Island affairs? Did you think Bob Wagner had enough experience? You are here because you didn't get your own way (the Chapter had recommended someone else); and so on. Sometimes it got quite acrimonious, and only the presence of Henry Stern, Carol Greitzer and one or two others kept the questioning to the subject of whether the appointee was qualified.

It was a foregone conclusion that Gulino would be approved, but the opposition was remarkably substantial: 13 against - including Mary Codd of Staten Island and several who ordinarily would be expected to be sympathetic to Koch's wishes; 29 in favor.

This episode raises a large question as to how New York architects are represented when public issues arise. The New York Chapter consistently speaks out at public hearings on behalf of what it believes are the interests of the profession as a whole. We have 1435 members as against 138 total in the other four AIA borough chapters (last available NYSAA figures). At this hearing it was thrown against us repeatedly that the Staten Island Chapter (26 members) supported Gulino. In effect, we were told that only Manhattan appointments are our business.

The Planning Commission now has a new member, and however hard the Chapter opposed his appointment, that is now over with. The Chapter will encourage him in his avowed intention to become the best of all commissioners. □

Candidates for Membership

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

AIA Member

Charles Anderson
Walter D. Brown
Ronald K. Fuchs
Paschal J. Iacullo
Jan Keane
David H. Taylor
John N. Vasilakis

AIA Associate

Peter J. Antinoro
Vincent K. Ng

New Members

The NYC/AIA Welcomes the following New Members:

AIA Member

Charles G. Brodie
Alan Gaynor
Carl R. Goedecke
Robert E. Kelley
Gerard F. Vasisko

AIA Associate

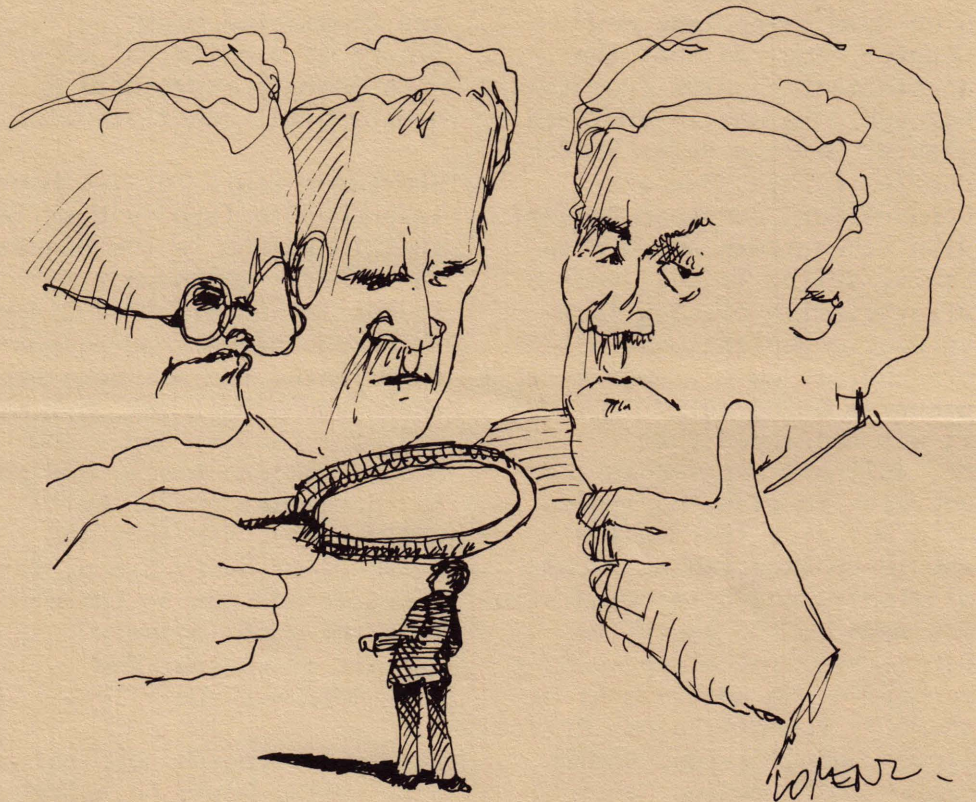
Angelo Volonakis

Chapter Housing Committee Meets with City to Discuss South Bronx Proposals

The Chapter's Housing Committee has met on two occasions with representatives of City government to discuss the proposals for the South Bronx. Our first meeting, on May 22, was with Deputy Mayor Herman Badillo and his staff and included representatives of HPD and the Planning Commission. At that time we expressed reservations about the lack of an overall planning framework prior to the design and implementation of the first 600 residential units on two sites by the New York City Housing Authority. Mr. Badillo informed us that rapid progress on the 600 units is essential and that the timetable would not permit the Housing Authority to wait for the development planning studies for the area prior to the initiation of their work. The Committee requested that, at a minimum, the planning process begin simultaneously with the development of the first two sites.

At the same meeting the Housing Committee presented a paper outlining specific items of concern relative to the design of the first phase housing. The Deputy Mayor asked that we address these matters directly with the Housing Authority and a meeting for that purpose was subsequently arranged by Juan Santana of his office.

John Simon, General Manager of the Authority and Eric Nadel of his staff, as well as representatives of the Program Planning and Design Departments, met with Mr. Santana and our committee on May 18. At that time we reiterated our concerns and informally discussed many of the items in our paper. As a result of our discussion Mr. Simon invited



A selection committee evaluating an architect. Cartoon by Albert Lorenz.

the Housing Committee's participation in the drafting of a Request for Proposals for each of the two sites. The RFP is to be advertised by the Authority some time during the month of August. It is our hope that by being involved in this way the Chapter will be in a position to assist the Authority in eliciting proposals which are responsive and of high quality. □

Herbert L. Mandel