# **Chapter Presents Statement to Mayor's Commission on Building Codes**

On June 14 Frank Heitzman, Durwin Ursery, and Steve Glenn made a presentation as representatives of the Chicago Chapter AIA at a preliminary hearing before Mayor Washington's Commission on Building Codes concerning revisions currently under consideration. The following Statement was presented by Heitzman, Ursery, and Glenn at the hearing. Please direct your comments and reactions to the Chicago Chapter office.

The Chicago Chapter of the American Institute of Architects has historically been actively involved in efforts with the City of Chicago to improve and strengthen the Chicago building code for the benefit of the public health, safety, and welfare. Although the AIA is not specifically engaged in theoretical or academic research, its members experience the daily practical research of designing and constructing buildings using the code and have a good opportunity to see the results and effects of the law put into place in many buildings.

In 1976 the CCAIA Housing Committee focused its efforts on housing rehabilitation and sponsored in December of that year a very popular and timely seminar on the state of the art of remodeling. It was at that seminar that the perceived code problems, long experienced by members of our profession, became evident as a major impediment to rehabilitation on all levels in Chicago. A coordinated rehab code effort then began in July of 1977 by a group of volunteers, which became known as "The Ad-Hoc Working Committee for Residential Rehabilitation." This group was cosponsored by the Chicago Chapter, AIA and the Chicago Rehab Network. The product of this group was a document published in February 1978 known as the Blue Book, which served as a basis for later efforts.

As a continuation of this activity, the CCAIA participated in 1979 with the Metropolitan Housing and Planning Council in forming a task force to examine ways in which the rehabilitation of buildings could be made easier in Chicago. MHPC held public hearings and published a series of reports from this task force. The CCAIA had several representatives on this task force and played a key role in the authorship of those reports. The final report of this group was published in September, 1980, and contained recommendations for administrative and statutory changes which were intended for and were presented to the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Building Code Amendments.

As a result of this preparatory work by the CCAIA, the MHPC, and others, the Mayor's Advisory Commission began the major task of actually writing a rehabilitation code for Chicago, which ultimately became the new Chapter 78.1, *See Codes Statement, Pg. 2* 

#### 

1986 Distinguished Buildings Awards

#### September 19 6 p.m. The Art Institute of Chicago

Exhibition of Original Drawings Burnham Gallery DBA Winning Projects Finalists — Student Competition Work of Young Architect Awards Recipients

Ceremony Honoring Ten Distinguished Buildings Chicago Award (Student Competition) Winners Recipients of Distinguished Service Award Recipients of Young Architect Award

> **Reception** The Art Institute Garden

# Chicago Awards Exhibit Variety and Imagination

Enormous Scope to 1986 Student Competition Entries

The CCAIA Student Competition, "Chicago Awards," recognizes the work of fourth or fifth year architecture students, students in a masters program who have a Bachelor of Architecture degree, or students in a final year of a masters program who do not have another architecture degree. The distinguished student work is from the five midwestern schools: University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Illinois at Champaign, Illinois Institute of Technology, University of Notre Dame, and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

As chairman of the 1986 Student Competition, I tried to select a diversified jury to provide contrast among the final projects selected. The jury included John Syvertsen, AIA, Hammond Beeby and Babka; Joe Valerio, AIA, A. Epstein and Sons, Inc.; John Feehery, Booth/Hansen; Karen Johnson, Hammond Beeby and Babka; and Peter Landon, AIA, Weese Hickey Weese.

Of the entries submitted, five projects were selected as finalists, and five projects were awarded honorable mention. The jury considered the range of projects to be excellent and the quality of presentation to be exquisite.

After much discussion, one of the five finalists was voted to receive the \$500 first place Benn-Johnk Award donated by Chicago Chapter AIA Emeritus Member, William Benn.

The jury felt that a designation of second place should be given to the submission from Notre Dame University. Among the other three finalists, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee was represented with two winning entries and the University of Illinois, Chicago with one.

Honorable Mention Awards were divided between three schools: two from U of I at Chicago, two from U of I at

# **Codes Statement**

#### Continued from pg. 1

adopted by City Council in 1982. The Chicago Chapter, AIA participated in the writing of this chapter as members of the sub-committee and testified on behalf of the final draft in December of 1981 before the Building and Zoning Committee of the Chicago City Council. The innovative provisions of that section of the code have gone a long way toward encouraging legal rehabilitation of older structures.

However, today we still see many buildings being gut rehabbed either without a permit or with only a "general repair" permit. This situation concerns us because of the flagrant disregard for the code which still is evident and the potential for buildings being incorrectly constructed without some professional design input. The result of such "repair" work in many cases might be more dangerous than the existing building left in its former state. We think that the root of this wholesome disregard for obtaining proper building permits is that it now takes an average of two to three months to obtain a permit for rehabilitation in the City of Chicago. Most developers or even private owners cannot afford to wait for two or three months before beginning work on a small construction project. There must be some mechanism created to short-circuit these small rehab projects to speed up delivery of permits.

We would like to take this opportunity to reinstate our old and often-voiced concern for some attempt to write amendments to the Zoning Ordinance which would complement and coordinate with the rehabilitation provisions of the building code.

Chapter 78.1-7 allows sideyard setbacks as little as one foot, and no setback for existing porches to be enclosed. The Zoning Ordinance, however, will not allow this, and, therefore, the good intentions of the code revisions are minimized. Section 78.1-26 allows new dormers to be built out to the existing building line, however, the Zoning Ordinance requires that all new construction, including dormer additions, follow the present setback requirements of the contemporary code, which in many cases are more restrictive than those under which the existing house may have been built. Where there is no threat to existing adjacent properties, an exception to the new construction standards for setbacks should be allowed in the Zoning Ordinance.

Although Section 78.1-15 allows existing storefronts to be converted to residential

use, there is no similar allowance in the Zoning Ordinance. We think there should he

Sections 78.1-21 through 78.1-23 deal with "additional dwelling units" which concept should similarly be introduced into the Zoning Ordinance to allow for better utilization of existing units and space in existing buildings.

In short, we feel that we now have a very modern Building Code, with regard to rehabilitation, working in conflict with Chicago's Zoning Ordinance which does not yet recognize the unique problems of existing buildings.

Some of our general comments relate to the administration of the Department of Inspectional Services. The "bull-pen" organization of the plan-examiners work creates an air of conflict between the applicants and examiners, and encourages a certain amount of arrogance on the part of the examiners. Working conditions for these individuals are far from ideal, which creates tension and stress in the area. Psychologists could probably tell you why. Because of this atmosphere, one of the most dreaded jobs that an architect in Chicago has to do is come down to City Hall to try to get a building permit. Not that it has to be enjoyable, but there should be an atmosphere of mutual professional respect for this very important stage of the production of our man-made environment. We recommend that the plan examiners be separated visually from the waiting public and from each other. We feel that they will be better able to discharge their duties more professionally in relative privacy.

We also strongly recommend the restoration of the Building Department as a department separate from Inspectional Services. To our knowledge Chicago is the only major city in the world without a building department. This department should be headed by a registered architect very familiar with building design and construction, as has historically been the case in Chicago, until recent years.

In conjunction with this, we regret the lack of activity of the former long-standing Mayor's Advisory Commission on Building Code Amendments. Many members of the CCAIA have served on this commission, and many excellent code provisions came out of this group. We urge the reinstatement of this commission and the appointment of an architect to the Chairman's position, so that code revisions can be an on-going process, not a one-shot attempt as this present activity seems to be.

See Codes Statement, Pg. 8

# **Chapter Programs**

#### **Computer Committee and Micro Computer Users Group Offers SKOK CADD System** Presentation

Terrill Janssen and Loebel Schlossman & Hackl will present their SKOK CADD System at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, August 21, 1986 at LSH, 845 N. Michigan Ave.

The SKOK system is a mid-priced system running on Hewlett Packard series 9000 super-micro computers. They have recently released a version of their software running on IBM AT, which features an integral data management capability.

While SKOK primarily markets to architects, the LSH system is their first installation in our community. This will be a unique opportunity to see this system under fire.

Jeff Sweeney, AIA

#### You're a Young Architect. You've Got Some Ideas! You've Got Some Concerns! **Your Outlet?**

#### The Young Architects Committee.

We are seeking recent graduates and interested young architects to join the committee as active members to aid in raising the level of understanding among aspiring members of the architectural community.

Please join us at our September 10 meeting in the CCAIA Board Room at 5:45 p.m. We need your active participation and input! For information. please contact me at 670-3735.

Robert Robiczek, AIA

#### Advance Notice **INFORMATION OWNERSHIP** CONFERENCE in '87

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# **Chicago Awards**

Continued from pg. 1

Champaign, and one from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

When selecting the first place winner, the jury deliberated between the abstract eventual winner from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the conservative second place entry from Notre Dame University. The winning project portrayed optimism and energy which the jury felt was a refreshing change in direction. The second place submission displayed a well-developed skill for site development and a sophisticated manipulation of traditional puilding forms. Another interesting selection among the finalists was a University of Illinois at Chicago student's reconstruction of King Solomon's temple through the use of text and historical precedent.

All of the projects selected as finalists will be displayed this year, along with the Distinguished Building Awards, at the CCAIA awards presentation in the early part of September, and they will be published in the 1986 AIA awards catalog. During the 1986-87 academic year, all ten projects will travel to the five schools where they are displayed to the students and faculty.

Frederick Wilson, AIA

### 1986 Student Competition Winners

1.

1. First Place Benn-Johnk Award PALETTE SHOP Wade W. Weissman University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Jury Comments: It's zany but delightful... most imaginative and refreshing.

3



#### 2. Second Place

#### SOUTH BEND COUNTRY CLUB Luis Baldo, Daniel Keating, Alfredo Marr, Mary O'Toole University of Notre Dame

Jury Comments: *Elegant site plan... can imagine the view walking up the l8th fairway... meticulous presentation.* 



Finalist A RECONSTRUCTION OF KING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE David Valaskovic University of Illinois, Chicago

3.

Jury Comments: Excellent use of imagination based on a verbal description... beautiful balance of forms.

3.



4. Finalist

COMMUNITY CENTER FOR CHILTON, WISCONSIN Michael J. Martin University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Jury Comments: Well developed project... looks like a civic building... beautiful presentation. 5. Finalist

A SYNAGOGUE David Bader University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Jury Comments: Details and geometry well worked out ... believable worship space.

5



## Student Competition – Honorable Mention

#### **DR SHALOM SYNAGOGUE** cott Boer Jniversity of Illinois, Chicago

**AICROVILLE Tristine Kotov** Jniversity of Illinois, Chicago

**4ULTI-FAMILY HOUSING COMPLEX ean-Brice Viaud** Jniversity of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana

MIXED-USE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT ean-Louis Quertinonmont Jniversity of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana

**'ARK EAST CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN 'eter Wing Wah Tham and W. Johnson** Jniversity of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

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# August Calendar

- **4** Focus Deadline
- 6 "Simplified Financial Management." One segment in 3-day seminar sponsored by PSMJ. Information/reservations: 617/965-0055.
- 7 "Making Projects Profitable." One segment in 3-day seminar sponsored by PSMJ. Information/reservations: 617/965-0055.
- 8 "Going Bare." One segment in 3-day seminar sponsored by PSMJ. Information/reservations: 617/965-0055.

**"Architectural Models for Outdoor Sculpture."** Opens at Nina Owen Gallery, 620 N. Michigan through 10/5.

- 10 "Italian Renaissance Maiolica." Last day at Block Gallery, Northwestern Univ. campus. 491-4000.
- 12 Executive Committee Meeting. Board Room. 8 a.m.
- 20 Planning/Urban Affairs Committee Meeting. Speaker: Stuart Cohen on "Citylab." 12:15 p.m. Board Room.
- 21 Micro-Computer Users' Group & Computer Committee Program. Speaker: Terrill Janssen on SKOK CADD. 5:30 p.m. Loebl Schlossman & Hackl, 845 N. Michigan.
- 22 "The Unknown Mies van der Rohe & His Disciples of Modernism." Art Institute through 10/5.

- 26 Board of Directors Meeting. Noon. Board Room. Society of Architectural Administrators Meeting. Contact Pat Shearer, 641-5959.
- 29 IFRAA Art & Architecture Awards Program Deadline. Contact: Marni Welch, 415/849-2710.
- **31 Habs Submissions due.** Contact LPCI, 922-1742.



#### **TEACHING POSITION**

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# **Codes Statement**

Continued from pg. 2

The proceedings of the Building Board of Appeals and the Committee on Standards and Tests should be published in the monthly bulletins which supplement the code. The electrical bulletins, which are sent out to licensed electricians only, have the effect of interpreting or sometimes even changing code requirements. These bulletins should likewise be published as a supplement to the code and such provisions incorporated into the next printing of the code.

Finally, as in past testimony before the city, the Chicago Chapter of the American Institute of Architects continues to support the concept of incorporating one of the "model building codes" in Chicago. Some additions or amendments would have to be made to these codes to incorporate provisions specific to Chicago, but for the most part, the model codes come very close to the intent of the present code, but state the requirements in a much more understandable way. The three model codes, Uniform, BOCA, and Standard are well coordinated and have active research staffs which investigate proposed and present requirements on an on-going basis. Chicago could not and should not try to duplicate this professional support effort. Furthermore, architects are familiar with the model codes since they use them in their practices in the great majority of suburban communities around Chicago and most other cities in the United States. This familiarity helps in properly implementing the life safety requirements of the code into a building design from the beginning of a project without making an intricate code analysis for every situation. Because these codes are the product of much scientific research and are considered the "state of the art" throughout the world today, the city could not be criticized or held to task by the courts for the provisions of the code. That alone might

go far in helping to reduce the liability of the city and, hopefully, even the quality o buildings in the city as well.

In addition to the model building codes the National Electrical Code is published as part of the eminently respected National Fire Protection Association's National Fire Code, and has become, since its original conception in 1897, the virtual standard for electrical design and installation in America. It is widely recognized as being the most meticulously researched and tested code on this subject, and it is updated annually. The CCAIA has consistently urged the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Building Code Amendments to encourage the adoption of this modern code in place of the Chicago Electrical Code for electrical work in Chicago.

Thank you for giving us this opportunit to testify before this body, and we sincerely hope that you consider our suggestions in your deliberations. ◆



# State Legislation Impacts Architects

Activity during the recent State legislative session, which concluded on July 1, 1986, focused on many topics of interest to Illinois Architects. The Illinois Council AIA (ICAIA) was most active on the following issues:

Asbestos Indemnification — A bill introduced by Illinois Society of Professional Engineers and supported by ICAIA was passed by both houses which indemnifies contractors, such as architects, for abatement work under contract, by State agencies. Signature by Governor Thompson is expected.

Frivolous Suits — Although no progress was made in the repeal of the Scaffold Act, language pertaining to frivolous suits suggested by ICAIA was included in the final tort reform package. This language, modeled after federal rule procedures, requires attorneys to certify that suits the file have justification.

**Registration Act** — Work continues by 12-member Illinois Council Task Force, in conjunction with the professional and structural representatives, on improvements to our current registration act, scheduled for sunset expiration in 1989. A comparison of the proposed act t the current act will be presented in the ► September issue of *Focus*. An open meeting to discuss the proposed changes is being scheduled for mid September. Legislative action may occur next spring.

Procurement Code — Action on an overhaul of the State procurement code was delayed until fall. ICAIA was successful in adding language to the bill dealing with the procurement of professional design services. When passed, the code will basically follow the model of procurement procedures by the AIA.

These issues and others will be explored in more detail in an upcoming issue of ICAIA's AIA Reports.

For more detail or background content, contact Shirley Norvell, Executive Director of the ICAIA at 217/522-2309. *Robert Clough, AIA* 

# **Chapter Holds Retreat to Regroup**

The Chapter's Board of Directors, Committee Chairmen and chairwomen, and the Chapter office staff devoted Saturday, June 28 to discussion of the Chapter's goals and to formulating its objectives for the 1986-87 year. With June 1986 came the establishment of the Chapter's new June to June program year, and President Ed Uhlir's first action was to create the motivation for planning professional development seminars and programs that will focus on major concerns in the profession.

The fundamental result of the June retreat, held at Uhlir's home and encompassing  $7\frac{1}{2}$  hours of presentations and group discussions, was the creation of task forces in five major areas with specific charges.

#### FINANCIAL.

Charges:

• Develop an easier-to-understand budget report form.

Develop alternative plans for Chapter financing.

Develop a plan to increase

membership.

- Develop a plan for shifting Chapter
- reserves to increase interest income.Coordinate Chapter fund raising
- Coordinefforts.

#### LEGAL. Charges:

Determine current concerns with

regard to local, state and national legislation.

• Develop a format for publicizing issues to Chapter members and getting a reaction.

• Develop a procedure for addressing immediate issues, and responding to them.

• Develop a more effective working relationship with Illinois Council AIA.

#### MEMBERSHIP.

#### Charges:

• Develop a plan for recruitment of new members on all levels.

• Develop a procedure for new members to be quickly integrated into Chapter and committee activities.

Review Chapter benefits.

Serve as an advocate for the general membership in discussing board decisions, budget decisions, and committee programs.

#### PROGRAM.

Charges:

• Review and evaluate proposed Chapter programs to insure that they represent a broad mix of member interests.

• Work to insure a calendar that presents programs of perceived value that addresses current concerns within the profession.

• Evaluate programs with regard to costs in dollars, volunteer time, staff time.

• Make recommendations about allocation of staff time for committee activities.

#### PUBLIC AWARENESS.

Charges:

 Draft a program to deal with public information for the membership, the profession, for the general public.
 Develop and draft a procedure for handling and responding to public issues.

General concern was expressed during the days sessions for:

- Acting on behalf of the total membership.
- Creating a better understanding of legal and legislative issues facing the profession.
- Solving the problem of fund raising for the Chapter.
- Creating a better understanding of what Illinois Council does.
- Getting more members involved in committees.
- Establishing better coordination between board and committees.

Committee chairmen and chairwomen

met with the executive director, program director, and newsletter editor to share ideas and pose questions. Incentives and proposals ran high so that there was a general feeling of not having enough time to accomplish in that session all that the participants had hoped.

Those attending the planning retreat felt that it should be scheduled annually for the benefit of each new Board of Directors and heads of committees. While the momentum was at its peak a deadline of July 22 was set for calendars and budgets. This editor is already anticipating next year's Planning Retreat.



9



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On September 18 we will submit to the National AIA the name of our best recruiter who will be eligible to win the contest for our chapter size category. But remember, the applications, along with proper dues payment, should be at the Chapter by September 8 — absolutely1

What applicants will be eligible to give you recruiting credit? — all new applicants and those past members who have not been active since before April 30, 1985.

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# New Members

#### AIA

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Reinstating their AIA membership are: William B. Coney, Wiss, Janney & Elstner; Carl Schwebel, Greeley and Hansen.

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