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COMING EVENTS

January 3-30

January 12-February 13
Jewish Museum, Fifth Avenue and 92nd Street, New York: Recent paintings and drawings by Phil Guston.

January 13-March 6
Asia House, 112 East 64th Street, New York: Exhibit on Ancient Art from Afghanistan.

January 16-30
Lever House, 390 Park Avenue, New York: Exhibition of the League of Present Day Artists.

January 19
New Britain Museum of Modern Art: 10:30 a.m., Director’s slide talk: Nineteenth Century America.

January 26
New Britain Museum of Modern Art: 10:30 a.m., Director’s slide talk: The Ash Can Generation.

Through January 30
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Fifth Avenue and 82nd Street, New York: Early American Cities.

February 5-27

February 9
New Britain Museum of Modern Art: Director’s slide talk: At Mid-Century.

Through February 13
Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven: Travel in nineteenth-century America, prints for the Mabel Brady Garvan collection.

Through February 27
Gallery of Modern Art, 2 Columbus Circle, New York: Five decades of Salvatore Dali.

March 5-27
New Britain Museum of Modern Art: Eric Sloan’s Placements, early American tools, Norman Reis, photographs.
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VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1  JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1966

FRONT COVER: New Haven College student center building overlooks the Elm City from its West Haven hillside vantage point.

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CONSOLIDATION . . .  A FRESH START

Richard L. Howland
President-elect, The Connecticut Society of Architects, Incorporated — A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

The purpose of the now-realized consolidation was both a simple one and a great one — to make it possible for all Connecticut architects to join together for the more effective advancement of our profession.

For many years there were two major architectural societies in our state. The elder was the Connecticut Chapter, A.I.A., having had in the past a highly selective admissions policy and being a component of the national professional organization. The Connecticut Society of Architects had a simpler, more direct membership basis and concerned itself primarily with affairs within the State of Connecticut.

In recent years, both organizations have been revitalized by new people, new policies and new emphases. In the meantime, the national organization has become extremely active and effective on the national scene. I believe that any nonmember would be astonished at the range and impact of the activities engaged in by the American Institute of Architects; they are too many to catalogue here, but we are all gaining many benefits therefrom, whether knowingly or not.

The Connecticut organizations have both had the same basic purposes — the improvement of architects and architecture, and through them, the improvement of all man’s lot here on this earth.

While both have been aiming for the same large but distant target, they have been operating under some disadvantages:

- Two organizations were divisive of the profession in Connecticut. It would seem that many architects felt an aversion to choosing between the two and were lost entirely to any concerted action and most other benefits. At the same time the profession as a whole lost their important support.

- The many architects who belonged to both organizations found that active participation in either tended to result in abandonment of the other.

- Meetings in alternate months arranged to avoid mutual interference resulted in but four active “program” meetings a year for each — far too great a dilution to sustain a serious program of ongoing activities and quite inadequate for the growing needs of Connecticut’s practitioners.

- In legislative activities, the appearance of two organizations to speak for the interests of one group caused wonder, if not suspicion, which has probably been detrimental and could easily have been more so in the future.

With consolidation now effectuated, certain advantages will accrue:

- All Connecticut architects can now join together under one banner and present a united front to the public in all respects.

- There will be a common meeting-ground for all — a forum for discussion of problems, a means of sharing in solutions, and a vehicle for group action.

- The combined group includes the experiences, leadership, and energies of the separate organizations. With the larger directorate and more frequent meetings, it should be quite practical to develop better integrated, long-range programs and activities of greatly increased value and interest.

- Legislative action can be taken in a united fashion, voicing the opinion of the one large organization of Connecticut architects.

- All Connecticut architects will be able to share more fully in the benefits of a virile and active national organization, as well as having a part in the shaping of national policy and action of the profession as a whole.

- A single headquarters office with adequate space and full-time personnel should be possible, instead of two inadequate offices, each with part-time staffing. This will mean increased service to the membership, as well as better service and information to the public.

(Please turn to page 38)
ATMOSPHERE FOR WORSHIP

Beth El Synagogue
New Haven, Connecticut

JACOB WEINSTEIN, ARCHITECT
Jack A. Halprin, Inc.
General Contractor

Tall trees shade inviting entrance.
When Architect Jacob Weinstein was commissioned to design and direct the building of Beth El Synagogue in Westville, he proceeded on the basis that a house of worship and fellowship should have simple classic lines, but must also have great warmth.

The site was ideal. The synagogue would be built on the crest and side of a hill against the backdrop of towering West Rock. The setting was dramatic, yet serene.

Considering environment, purpose and function, the building is shaped in the form of a “U”. Care was taken to preserve a number of stately shade trees which lend an atmosphere of tranquility and permanence. The classic elevation of the building adds to this a feeling of dignity and warmth.

The steel framed structure is masonry covered. The facade is brownish speckled white brick which gives a pleasant hue. The cavity wall construction with four inch brick, two inch air space and six inch block backup ensures a non-leaky, dry masonry wall.

The roof overhangs the building’s brick columns which separate the long panes of glass. Insulrock was used for the roof slabs. The covering is twenty year bonded tar and slag Koppers roofing. Glazing in the sanctuary, social hall, activities and classrooms is Coolite. This was selected because it is heat reducing and glare absorbing. It is a blue color on the exterior and warm grey on the interior. The panes are set in aluminum sash, twenty-eight feet high, in the sanctuary area.

Walls and ceilings are treated acoustically. Lighting in the sanctuary, social hall and activities room is recessed incandescent down lighting, and other areas have fluorescent fixtures.

A large entrance hall was designed to extend the building’s welcome to visitors. As one enters, the library, chapel, rabbi’s office and secretary’s office are to the left. The 130-foot sanctuary, to the right, has dividing doors which fold into the walls so it can be used
as one great room, or divided so a portion can be used as a social hall or for coffee hours following services.

Natural birch color was used for all wood doors and woodwork, and block walls were painted beige color. The flooring is beige vinyl tile. This attractive combination of soft tones carries out the architect’s intention of creating a friendly environment.

The lower area of the building is reached by a stairwell leading down from the entrance hall. Its railing has metal mesh running from the rail to the tread on each step so small children may have a fingerhold as they go up and down stairs.

Beneath the sanctuary is an activities room, a stainless steel kitchen and pantry, and the building’s heating and cooling plant. There is a recirculating water system which conveys hot water or chilled water, depending on the season.

The north wing, easily accessible by corridors from other parts of the building, has its own entrances and exits. The wing contains a kindergarten and nine classrooms for older children. The area has underfloor and wall insulation.

Jacob Weinstein created a synagogue which borrows from the Greek, but has its own distinctive character and is completely compatible with its surroundings. He achieved a combination of warmth and clean lines which will stand the test of time — the true measure of good architecture.

It passes another test, too. It was made for people to use, and it has met and passed this requirement.

JACOB WEINSTEIN, following his graduation from Yale University in 1908 as a civil engineer, worked for a construction company in Oregon and later returned east to study architecture at Columbia. He is a member of the Connecticut Chapter, AIA and an emeritus member of the Connecticut Society of Architects. He has his office in New Haven.
WEST MAIN OFFICE

New Britain Bank and Trust Company, New Britain, Conn.

HIRSCH • HAMMERBERG • KAESTLE, ARCHITECTS

Frank E. Downs Construction Company, General Contractor
Accessibility, beauty and convenience were the abc's wanted by New Britain Bank and Trust Company for its West Main Office. Hirsch • Hammerberg • Kaestle, Architects, started with a site near an intersection. Access was available to two streets. This obviated the traffic problems on a corner location at a traffic light, and provided adequate space for traffic lines approaching the drive-in teller location.

A giant maple tree was preserved and used as the focal point for a low clean-lined building. In the landscaping plan yews, Japanese yews, pink dogwoods, white pines, Ward yews and Korean rhododendrons were planted to provide screening on each side and the rear of the site. The landscaping created a setting which frames the building attractively, and makes it an asset to the area.

Discriminate use of brick, porcelain enamel facia, solar bronze glass and bronze finished aluminum frames harmonize with the natural setting. The design extends an invitation to enter.

The architects did a complete design including signs, counters and all fixed furniture. The result proved the wisdom of this course because the building and its contents are related to the purpose of branch banking. The interior is dramatized by a combination of recessed fluorescent lamps and incandescent recessed spots.

Year 'round comfort for customers and staff is assured by a combination warm air heating and air conditioning unit. An acoustic ceiling and carpeted floor maintain a restrained sound level for conversational privacy and the relaxed atmosphere desired for customers to transact their banking business.

The brick walls, glass, and bronze finished aluminum frames dominate the interior design, but this is expertly tempered by the interior decoration and functional furnishings. Heatherbrown Welsh quarry tile in the lobby floor provides the right transitional note from outside to inside.

A parking area for eighteen cars is sufficient for even peak periods. The drive-in teller with adequate feeder space enables customers to
Interior of office provides convenient arrangement for customers’ banking needs.

take care of deposits and withdrawals with ease and speed.

This fourth branch of New Britain Bank and Trust was needed to accommodate a local area and is situated between commercial and residential sections of the city. The bank wanted a facility small in size, and with provision for expansion when needed in the future.

While it is somewhat smaller than conventional branch banks, it has stations for three commercial tellers, one note teller, a walk-up teller and a drive-in teller. The vestibule is earmarked for an expansion of the lobby should the need arise for an additional officer.

According to W. R. Synnott, vice president and treasurer of New Britain Bank and Trust, the office has done even better than expected since its opening, and the bank has received many favorable comments from New Britain people who are using this facility.

The foundation is concrete with a 2500 psi rating. Structural steel framing is used with a metal roof deck. Walls are Harvard Matte Blend brick and brick and block.

The building is 1500 square feet and was constructed at a cost of $40 per square foot. This includes drive-in windows, night depository, signs and banking counters. Landscaping was $5000.

Koton & Donovan of West Hartford and Onderdonk & Lathrop of Glastonbury worked with the architects as engineering consultants. Currier, Anderson, Geda were landscape architects, and the landscaping was done by Matthews Landscape Service of New Britain.

IRWIN JOSEPH HIRSCH, who supervised this project for Hirsch Hammerberg Kaestle, began his architectural practice in Middletown, New York. Subsequently he worked in Raleigh and Greensboro, North Carolina, and later in York, Pennsylvania. He is a registered architect in Connecticut, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts, and is certified by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. A member of the American Institute of Architects, he is also active in the Construction Specifications Institute.
Lighting dramatizes the neighborhood banking facility.
Creating a healthful environment for man, at work and at play, is a responsibility of the architect. The problems of environmental design which are essential to public health have become so complex that a wide range of specialists, with an equally wide range of technology, is necessary for our highly technical society.

The dangers of pollution of man's environment have increased in proportion to this technology and with the rapid growth in population and urbanization. Where yesterday's concern was limited to air, food and water — the basic essentials for life — today it extends to chemical, biological and radiological contamination; liquid, solid and gaseous wastes; and sound, vibration, radiation and many other factors. Each of these environmental problems needs resolution and competes for attention.

The problems of unnecessary radiation exposure to the public has received considerable attention from public health authorities in recent years. This concern is based on the fact that ionizing radiation can produce biological damage of three types: (1) the somatic effects or damage to the body cells exclusive of the germ cells; (2) genetic damage causing alterations in the germ cells which play a part in the hereditary process; and (3) shortening of life expectancy of individuals.

Accordingly, there is need to be constantly alert to ways and means of eliminating unnecessary radiation to the general public. As it relates to exposure from x-ray sources, the problems of structural shielding are neither so complex nor involved as to make resolution difficult.

With the boom in new construction, as well as the renovation of older buildings, the need for radiation shielding in the design of offices where x-ray equipment and other sources of ionizing radiation are employed is more important than ever before. This applies particularly to offices of dentists, physicians, veterinarians, podiatrists and others who use radiation equipment.

X-ray equipment of higher kilovoltage is employed more frequently today. For example, the average dental x-ray machine of a few years ago operated at a peak of 65 kilovolts. Modern machines have a kilovoltage peak of 90.

The increased cost of rentals causes professional men to find that offices of smaller area are adequate for their needs. Accordingly, air distances between rooms are shorter, allowing for greater radiation intensity to reach other areas.

Where previously fairly dense materials were used for wall construction, today, in general, the plaster or wallboard used has very little attenuating effect on the primary radiation beam.

For these three reasons, the architect must be sensitive to the need for adequate radiation shielding in the design of new structures and the renovation of older ones.

Information on structural shielding is available. Handbook 76 of the National Bureau of Standards titled, "Medical X-Ray Protection up to Three Million Volts," should be considered a must for the architect's library. Additional information is available from local and state health departments and radiation physicists of the several state colleges.

Architects may obtain a copy of NBS Handbook 76 by writing to Dr. Leonard F. Menczer, Hartford Health Department, 56 Coventry St., Hartford, Connecticut 06112.
Office Profile

KANE & FAIRCHILD ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS
The firm of Kane and Fairchild Associates, Architects and Planners, offers extensive services to its clients.

The practice was established in 1941 as a partnership between Joseph E. Kane and Henry E. Fairchild and was expanded in 1961 to include James K. Farrell, Harvey M. White and William H. Rallis.

Joseph Kane, a graduate of Rhode Island School of Design, began his career as a construction superintendent for Albert Kahn, Inc., and established his own practice in 1931. Henry Fairchild followed graduation from the University of Texas with graduate study at Yale University. After experience in the offices of Paul Cret and Douglas Orr and a term as an instructor at Pratt Institute, he began his private practice in 1939.

Mr. Farrell is a graduate of Hartford Technical Institute and first came to the firm in 1951. He was followed in 1955 by Mr. White, a graduate of Carnegie Institute of Technology, and in 1958 by Mr. Rallis, a graduate of Kansas State University.

These five architects act as a design team, maintaining constant collaboration and coordination. The principal who heads a project has a wealth of creative talent to draw upon as needed and is backed by competent technicians to follow through on the infinite details of a project. The resources of the firm are augmented by a group of experienced consulting engineers who, through long years of association, have become an integral part of the Kane and Fairchild Associates organization.

The early projects of the firm were in public housing and, in the years that followed it has designed and supervised over $100 million of construction in this field alone. These have ranged from small 30-unit housing for the elderly to a complex 1000-unit development for the U.S. Navy; from one-story, multiple-unit developments to luxury, high-rise apartment buildings.

Since then, too, the firm has been active in all types of building design and has accumulated comprehensive experience. This very diversity itself has provided opportunities for variety in design and the use of new materials and methods to achieve the goals of successful and economical results.

A listing of completed assignments includes school and college buildings; office, store, bank and other business structures; churches and temples; fire and police stations and other civic and government buildings; shopping centers; and factories and warehouses. In recent years, the firm has also planned and designed industrial parks, urban renewal projects, sewage disposal plants, town parks and municipal swimming pools.

Kane and Fairchild Associates regards the continuous supervision and coordination of all phases of a project until it is completely finished as a most important part of its service to clients. To this approach, the firm brings practical knowledge, well developed resources, and a sincere interest in the client and his problems. A portfolio of representative work appears on following pages.
ABOVE: Entrance to Orchard Hill School
South Windsor, Connecticut
1963
Office Profile

TOP LEFT: Entry Detail
The "600" Apartments
Bloomfield, Connecticut
1964

TOP RIGHT: View from fountain plaza
The "600" Apartments

LOWER LEFT: "The Lafayette"
186 Apartment Project
Hartford, Connecticut
1966

LOWER RIGHT: PHA Housing for the Elderly
New Britain, Connecticut
1964

TOP: Woodland House
238 Luxury Apartments
Hartford, Connecticut
1962

MIDDLE: Sage-Allen Department Store, West Hartford, Connecticut
1962

BOTTOM: Enlisted Men's Social Club at the U. S. Naval Submarine Base, New London - Groton, Connecticut
1965
Office Profile

OPPOSITE: Entry Detail
Beth El Temple of West
Hartford, Connecticut
1962

TOP: Exterior view from
road, Beth El Temple

MIDDLE LEFT: St. Paul's
Episcopal Church, Darien,
Connecticut
1963

MIDDLE RIGHT: Sanctuary,
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

BOTTOM: Chancel Detail,
Renovations to Christ
Church Cathedral, Hartford,
Connecticut
1964
TOP: 1000-unit Capehart Housing Development
U. S. Naval Submarine Base
New London - Groton, Connecticut
1958-59

BOTTOM: Harvey M. White House, West Hartford, Connecticut
1962
It is of interest that the first new building at New Haven College is a non-teaching facility and one financed by the students themselves.

Students come to the college's lofty West Haven campus by car from distances as great as fifty miles or more and they need to have a place "on-campus" where, between classes, they can eat, study, relax and conduct the affairs of various student organizations.

A quick-thinking college administration headed by President Marvin Peterson, Board Chairman Roland Bixler and Committee Head Norman Botwinik, saw that student contributions in the form of activity fees combined with modest profits from snack-bar, dining room, and book-store could create the needed funds to pay for the new facility on a self-liquidating basis.

Separate and fast growing daytime and night-school enrollments, numbering twelve hundred and fourteen hundred respectively, had already made earlier lounge and dining facilities crowded and inadequate, and the existing spaces devoted to these uses were ideally convertible into much-needed teaching spaces.

A list of the wanted activity areas was given to Henry F. Miller of the firm of Davis, Cochran & Miller, New Haven Architects.

Based on a previously prepared master plan for college expansion, the project was given a steep-sloping site having a commanding easterly view of the entire city of New Haven. North and west of the site are two existing college buildings. These structures, formerly occupied by a county orphanage, are English Georgian in style and have red brick walls with white marble trim.

The new student center is near-square in plan. Floor areas on four different levels are reached by means of a central stairway that gives ready access to all the principal facilities. This stairway is approached from the main campus.

(Please turn to page 28)
ABOVE: Balconies look out over the City of New Haven to the harbor and Long Island Sound beyond.

LEFT: A double stair leads from dining room to landing overlooking the entire room. Food service line emerges past cashier located below the stairs.

TOP RIGHT: Giant size fireplace with black metal hood dominates east side of student lounge.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Entrance lobby has information desk with administrator's office to the rear.
LEFT: White concrete panels and red brick piers harmonize with exterior brick and marble of existing Georgian buildings.

BOTTOM: Besides selling textbooks at enrollment time, a Book Store, near main entrance, does a year-round business in clothing and student supplies.

entrance by way of a wide gallery leading between a snack bar on one side and a book store on the other. The gallery is more than just a passageway and is designed to be used for art shows and other exhibits.

A large student lounge and a dining room, located one above the other, form the East section of the building. Their combined height equals that of the three-story western section. Entering from campus at the mid level of the three-story portion, one has access to the main lobby, book store, gallery and snack bar. Once in the center stairway at the end of the gallery, it is one-half level to the lounge floor. Another half level up from the lounge floor takes one to the game room, music lounge, conference room and activity offices. Going down from the gallery level one-half flight there is a landing overlooking the main dining room. Another full flight down takes one to the dining room floor level which opens to grade level on three sides due to the downhill slope of the site. On this lower floor are also located the food serving room, kitchen and faculty dining room, as well as the boiler and transformer rooms and a sizeable storage area.

Another interesting feature in the planning is the arrangement of the balconies which not only serve as terraces and viewing platforms but also provide the required means of egress from the lounge.

The balcony and parapet railings are of white cast-concrete panels. Three foot square brick piers support the balcony and the roof edge giving depth and modeling to the facades. This combination of red brick piers and white concrete
panels creates a color-scheme closely harmonizing with that of the older brick Georgian buildings.

Finishes are very simple and much of the interior wall area is unpainted block. The large rooms are high-ceilinged and well lighted. Simple and colorful furnishings, selected under the guidance of John Ghoreyeb, student activities director, give an attractive accent against the neutral background of the unpainted walls.

A giant fireplace dominates the east side of the lounge and is visible from the main stairway through a glass wall. In fall and winter, a fire is kept burning constantly and the hearthside area becomes a favorite rendezvous for rug-lounging students. Glass interior walls are used extensively elsewhere in the building to increase the sense of spaciousness and to invite patronage of the various goods and services that are offered.

In the lounge, opposite the fireplace, there is provision for a stage platform usable for lectures or concerts. Visiting speakers can address an audience of five hundred or more students seated on folding chairs that are stored in closets just outside the room entrances. Both lounge and dining room are designed to accommodate student dances. In warm weather their adjacent balcony and terrace create an added dimension in the form of outdoor gathering places that have a spectacular view of the nighttime lights of New Haven.

(Please turn to page 33)
Designing for the Handicapped

"The Greater Hartford Handbook for the Handicapped," compiled and published by The Junior League of Hartford Inc. in cooperation with the Greater Hartford Chamber of Commerce Committee on Architecture for Everyone and the Hartford Rehabilitation Center, is a 48-page digest of information to help handicapped individuals in the area.

The Handbook for the Handicapped provides information on such features as parking arrangements, entrance steps, doorway widths, telephone booths, restrooms and other facilities at approximately 200 public buildings in the area. Copies of the booklet are available at offices of the Greater Hartford Chamber of Commerce.

Buildings specially cited by the Committee on Architecture for Everyone were Hartford Public High School, the Life Insurance Agency Management Association office, the Alfred C. Fuller Music Center at the University of Hartford and the new Bloomfield swimming pool and bath houses. Charles DuBose is committee chairman.

Undergraduate Study

Henri Peyre, Sterling Professor of French at Yale, heads a committee of eight faculty members who will study and make recommendations on the creative and performing arts in undergraduate education. Representing architecture on the committee is Charles H. Brewer, Jr., assistant professor of architectural design.

President Kingman Brewster, Jr., of Yale, charged the committee to consider: "1. What should be the role of esthetic, musical and dramatic sophistication in the education of undergraduates generally? Should it go beyond the traditional historical, critical and analytical studies: If so, how? What role, if any, should be played by the faculties and facilities of the professional schools in the creative and performing arts?

"2. How should Yale educate those undergraduates in Yale College who have demonstrated a truly professional potential in one or another of the creative and performing arts? Are special curricular arrangements desirable? What should they be? How should eligibility be determined? What impact, if any, should such special programs have on Yale College admissions policies?"
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WANTED: Architectural draftsman - small office, growing, good future. Andrew S. Cohen, 38 Grove St., Waterbury.

WANTED - 2 or 4 drawer file cabinet for 3 x 5” cards. Box CA-1.

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New Advertising Director

Gerald G. Hotchkiss has been named advertising director of Connecticut Architect to succeed Edwin F. Thayer who resigned at the end of 1965.

Mr. Hotchkiss, who retired recently as vice president of The First New Haven National Bank and is currently president of the Manufacturers Association of New Haven County, brings a long record of achievement and distinction to his newest career. A native of Plainville and a long-time resident of New Haven, he is active in civic and community affairs.

In his new capacity, he will be responsible for contacts with Connecticut Architect's advertisers, for advertising space sales, and for assisting advertisers to maintain the high advertising standards consistent with the ethical demands of the architectural profession.

Mr. Hotchkiss is a director of the Quinnipiac Valley Development Corporation, Quinnipiac Council of the Boy Scouts of America, United Fund of Greater New Haven, Junior Achievement of Greater New Haven, and a director and past president of the Kiwanis Club of New Haven. He is a past president of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, former vice president and general chairman (1962) of the Greater New Haven United Fund, and a former director of the Greater New Haven Better Business Bureau and of the New Haven County Taxpayer's Research Council which he also served as a member of the executive committee.

He is a former vice president and general manager of Miner, Read & Tullock, Inc., and has been a director and finance committee chairman of the National Association of Frozen Food Distributors and director of New England Frozen Food Distributors. He is a member and former director of the Citizen's Action Committee. He is also an instructor in Effective Speech, New Haven College School of Executive Development.

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The large third floor game room has tables for ping-pong and pool and opens on a balcony that overlooks the campus from a point just above the main entrance.

Since it opened in September the building has been teeming with activity. Students, staff and trustees already find it hard to picture how the college could have managed to get by without it in the past.

Working with the architects were mechanical engineers Hubbard, Lawless & Blakeley, and structural engineer Henry A. Pfisterer. The builder was Edwin Moss & Son of Bridgeport.

Henry F. Miller earned his degree in architecture at Yale University in 1948 and received the AIA School Medal for his work at Yale. Following a year as an instructor in Architectural Design on the Yale faculty, he joined the office of Harold H. Davis in New Haven. In 1956, he entered the partnership of Davis, Cochran and Miller, his present association. He is a member of the Connecticut Society of Architects and the Connecticut Chapter, AIA, currently serving as Preservation Officer in the latter. He is also a past president of the Connecticut Building Congress.

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Architectural Research at R.P.I.

A Center for Architectural Research within the School of Architecture at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute has been announced by the Board of Trustees of the institution.

Alan C. Green, associate professor of architecture, has been named director of the center, and Morton C. Gassman, also an associate professor, has been named senior design coordinator. Objectives of the center are to:

- Formalize an area of endeavor for which the School of Architecture has already developed a reputation, experience and basic staff;
- Encourage the development and expansion of architectural research at Rensselaer as a service to the appropriate sponsors and to the architectural profession generally;
- Enhance the educational program generally and the graduate programs specifically, of Rensselaer's School of Architecture through development of advanced studies that would draw their strength, directions and uniqueness from the research activities;
- Create a special activity for the School of Architecture that would have a national reknown, and which would be particularly appropriate for Rensselaer.

Dr. Clayton O. Dohrenwend, Rensselaer provost and vice president, pointed out that unlike most academic disciplines, research in architecture is still in its infancy. Rensselaer's School of Architecture has been a pioneer in academic architectural research, having been active in the field for some nine years.

To date, Rensselaer's architectural research program has been performing professional research services to various private and public sponsors through the medium of sponsored research projects; has been aiding the architectural profession by making available the results of its studies; and has been contributing to the professional and intellectual environment of Rensselaer and its School of Architecture.

Professor Green, a native of Ontario, Canada, has been a member of the faculty of the School of Architecture since 1958. He is a graduate of the University of Florida and received his master of architecture degree from Rensselaer in 1958. He is the author of some twenty published research reports and has been active in numerous civic programs.

Professor Gassman joined Rensselaer's faculty in 1953 and was promoted to assistant professor in 1956 and to associate professor in 1962. He received his bachelor of architecture degree in 1951 from the University of Cincinnati and his master's degree from the Cranbrook Academy of Art in 1953. He has done much research work in city and regional planning and is active in a number of civic organizations.

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Large Military Constructor

The latest report of the U.S. Department of Defense listing the 100 largest defense contractors shows that the F. D. Rich Company in Stamford, Connecticut, is the largest single defense construction contractor in the country.

The Rich firm is also the sponsor of Stamford's $88 million Urban Renewal Program and the developer of a $20 million corporate office and research park in that city, in addition to its other military and commercial work.
About Your Architect – A Guide to Architectural Services in Connecticut,” a booklet recently published by the Connecticut Society of Architects, has been reprinted. Written for architects to use in explaining architectural services to laymen, it is of interest to everyone concerned with architecture and building.

Write to the Connecticut Society of Architects, 2377 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut 06518, for a free single copy. Architects may obtain copies in quantity at the rate of twenty copies for $5.

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Connecticut Architectural Registration Board

The State of Connecticut Architectural Registration Board, at a regular meeting held December 3, 1965 took a number of actions which are of general interest to all Connecticut architects.

A matter of real importance to the architects and professional engineers of Connecticut is the imminent hiring of an “investigator” to serve both boards. Two public acts of the 1965 Session of the General Assembly authorized the position, but not the money. However, the necessary funds were granted after a special appeal to Governor Dempsey by the two boards.

The Architectural Registration Board approved a general outline of this individual’s qualifications and duties and voted to meet jointly with the Engineers’ Board on the 21st of January. It is hoped that definitive action may be taken at that meeting in order that this assistant, thought to be so essential to successful enforcement of the registration laws, can start functioning at once. Other matters of particular concern to these two registration boards are to be discussed and acted upon at this meeting.

In other actions at its December 3rd meeting, the Architectural Registration Board approved fifteen new out-of-state registrants, twelve of these through NCARB certification and three under the new law effective October 1, 1965.

Note was made of a ruling by the Attorney General that an architect or an engineer may use the plural of either title on his letterhead, card, or other printed material when there are in fact more than one architect or more than one engineer in the firm. Also, in answer to a question posed to it, the board ruled that the executor of the estate of a deceased architect must ensure that immediate steps are taken to provide the continuous direction and responsibility of a registered architect to all jobs in progress at the time of death. Noted also were several telephone listings in bold type, which is considered to be a violation of the Code of Ethics.

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As architects, we are each a solver of problems, and we face them every day. Yet as a group we should face up to some larger problems:

- The first problem of our profession is its group confusion as to its exact function in today's society — and tomorrow's. We need to set our house straight as to what we do stand for, and what we don't and won't stand for.

- Another problem is that of our own competence in this rapidly changing world. We must give thought to the formal education of new practitioners and also to the continuing education of established professionals.

- Public education, that is the education of the public about architects and architecture, is another and very serious problem. We all realize how little the public-at-large understands either the function of the architect or the very real importance of good architecture. Much remains to be done in this field.

- Within the building industry we have other problems. There is the "package-dealer" with his siren song of guaranteed costs and no hangovers. There are the "gray areas" between the practices of engineering and architecture, with others developing. There are improvements needed in building codes and particularly in their interpretation and administration. And, we have always with us the ethic-breakers and the law-breakers.

There surely is no lack of problems in architecture!

What we need is more architects who will take a serious interest in the common problems by which they live. Every man who has earned the right to the title "Architect" has also taken on the obligation to help make that title more honored and more meaningful. The most effective way to do this is to join in this single organization and work toward a better profession for all of us.

We need men who can help us find our way to agreement on a straightforward and lucid statement of our common purposes. We need men who can lead us effectively toward our objectives. We need men who will interest themselves in the education of young architects and in upgrading the skills of more mature practitioners. We need men who believe that educating the public to architects and architecture is important. We need men who are willing to address themselves to the problems we have within the building industry and with ethics and business procedures. In short, we need all Connecticut architects who regard their profession as more than just a means of livelihood.

For all these reasons, I most solemnly and sincerely urge all non-affiliated Connecticut architects — come, join with us — for your own good, for the good of the profession we all hold dear, and for the ultimate good of all people.

Executive Committee


Starting in 1967, the executive committee will consist of eleven members including four officers, the immediate past president, and six other members, at least three of whom will be from among incumbent members of the executive committee.

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