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Letters

The Spoiler's Hand, by Dan W. Lufkin
former Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection

Energy and the Architect: Two Views
by H. Evan Snyder and Robert H. Mutrux, AIA

CSA/AIA 1973 Honor Awards
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Architects: Huygens and Tappe

Residence, Woodbridge, Connecticut
Architect: Charles H. Brewer, Jr.

Housing for the Elderly, Torrington, Connecticut
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American National Red Cross Building, Farmington, Connecticut
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from the president

I welcome this opportunity to address you in this first issue of the new Connecticut Architect. In January of this year, publication of the Society's bi-monthly magazine was placed in the capable hands of Com- municn Publicsn, Inc. of Hartford. Mr. Evan Snyder, president of the firm, has assumed the role of editor and publisher, and he and his staff are planning dramatic changes, both in the magazine's format and in its editorial content. I believe that, after reading through this issue, you'll agree that we now have an excellent vehicle for telling the story of architecture and architects to the people of Connecticut.

I'm sure that Mr. Snyder would welcome your comments, both positive and negative, as he begins his first year with the publication. Also, I hope many of you will have an opportunity to meet him as he works more closely with our Chapter's public relations efforts.

Our profession, as well as our magazine, is going through a metamorphosis. High interest rates, energy shortages, and a general slow down of construction within the state are all taking their toll, not only on the design professions but on the entire fragmented building industry.

It is my hope and plan that we can rise to the challenge of these times, using the problem solving talents we possess to change some of the inequities in our present, not so perfect, system and come out of this period as better architects and better businessmen. We have for too long operated below our potential and have not prepared properly for the future.

The National A.I.A. has done a respectable job of looking at our future for us and providing assistance when requested. Their development of Masterspec, office financial systems, educational programs and public relations assistance, which are available to each of us, cannot help but make what we do just a bit easier and better.

We are all searching for new areas in which to work, for better ways of using our abilities, and for quicker ways of delivering buildings and controlling cost. Many of us are working comfortably with the construction side of the industry for the first time and finding, along with some predictable problems, other areas of mutual respect.

We are in a period of great change, but we must possess the qualities of leadership which are essential for meeting the challenges now before us. We can effectively and creatively plan and develop our future — we must.

David N. LaBau
President, CSA/AIA

from the publisher

Having followed Connecticut Architect as a reader for some time now, I find it rather strange not to see a column headed "The Publisher's Uneasy Chair" in the front of the magazine with the sage and witty remarks of Bill Allerton. Furthermore, it seems presumptuous to attempt to follow in his spacious footsteps. Thus the new Connecticut Architect will not regularly feature a column from the publisher, unless we feel that there is something that needs to be said and there's no place else to say it.

We do want to take this opportunity, however, to thank the directors of the Connecticut Society of Architects for entrusting the management of this publication to us, and to say a few words about the role of the magazine in the total program of the CSA.

Perhaps the first thing that is noticeably "new" about Connecticut Architect is that it is now a four-color, instead of a one-color, magazine. The decision to go this route was not easily taken, because of the obvious factors of cost and the technical problems of accurate color separation and reproduction, etc. We felt such a step was necessary, however, if the magazine were to fulfill adequately its role as a showcase for the architectural profession in this State. The added dimension which color brings can clearly be appreciated in the display of the winners of the CSA/AIA Honor Awards for 1973.

Beyond its function as a showcase, however, we hope to see Connecticut Architect greatly expanded as a forum for the exchange of ideas and for discussion of problems affecting architecture and the entire construction industry. We have tried to get the ball rolling in this issue with a provocative statement from Dan Lufkin, former Commissioner of Connecticut's Environmental Protection Agency. We have also prepared a survey on "Energy and the Architect" which should form merely a beginning for continued investigation of the subject. Plans for future issues include articles on the subject of designing for energy conservation and on the great potential for the use of solar energy systems. Other ideas and contributions along these or related lines from the readership will be greatly appreciated.

One final remark addressed to the architects of Connecticut seems appropriate as we begin 1974. This is your magazine. Its success or failure in filling your needs will depend very much on what you are willing to contribute to it in terms of creative and thoughtful concern. Pretty pictures and attractive layout will not be enough, if Connecticut Architect is to be a magazine of which we can all be proud.

To the Editor

This is a special moment for Connecticut Architect. Happily, its publishing life continues with renewed vigor, and we see great promise for the future of our magazine. Soon, we believe, the effective communication so critically needed will come even closer to reality. Our expectations are heightened as new participants take up their tasks enthusiastically.

While we look eagerly to the future, this special moment is the appropriate time to glance back along the way we've come in reaching this time and place. Figuratively, we've reached a fork in the road, and some who have been very much a part of Connecticut Architect's progress to date now wave us on with best wishes while they take their separate way.

Two men, especially, have made it possible for this magazine to survive, to improve and to gain recognition in these difficult years of its beginning. I refer, of course, to Rufus K. ("Bill") Allerton, Jr.,

(continued on page 21)
Two hundred years ago, the poet, Oliver Goldsmith, surveyed the changes taking place in rural England. The Industrial Revolution was in its infancy. Agriculture was giving way to trade. Green Fields were being plowed under to make room for expanding cities. Rural population was being rapidly urbanized. Sound familiar? In his poem, "The Deserted Village," Goldsmith described the sad fate of "Sweet Auburn, lovliest village in the plain." Looking out over its scarred meadows and abandoned dwellings, he wrote:

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
    Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

The development process which Goldsmith described so eloquently has broadened and accelerated over these past two centuries. Modern man's proudest works have devastated his most important inheritance. Almost every triumph of his civilization has been a defeat for the land — the land on which he lives, the thin finite covering of his planet upon which he depends for life itself. For all our wondrous works and soaring dreams, the process of life is sustained by six inches of soil and the fact that it rains every now and then.

All primitive peoples have venerated, even worshipped, the land on which they lived. But, of course, they are only savages and don't know any better. The American Indian treated the land as a trust from his gods. For 9,000 years, before the coming of the white man's civilization, he lived in harmony with fields and rivers, mountains and plains. And he would be enjoying this harmony yet, if we had not dispossessed him to make room for our cities and suburbs, our highways, and railroads, our strip mines and our junk yards.

Do any of us genuinely believe that our way of life can co-exist with nature for 9,000 years? I doubt it very much. After all, we've only been at it for 200 years and look at our results already! We should know that when the delicate balance between man and nature is broken, man must lose. We cannot live on a synthetic planet. Astro-turf is no lasting substitute for the living earth. An hermetically sealed astrodome is no replacement for the great outdoors. Yet of all the environmental concerns that plague our conscience, land use planning ranks lowest in every survey and opinion poll.

We demand immediate action on air and water pollution because we can see and feel their noxious effects. But even as we watch, the skin of our own countryside being flayed to make way for roads, developments and shopping centers, we feel no pain. After all,
we tell ourselves, air and water are necessities that belong to all. The land is a commodity that has been bought and sold — used and abused — throughout history. It has been the ultimate standard of individual success and private wealth. Land is not the common bond we share as neighbors, but the sure sign of our separateness as owners. "Private Property" is a phrase as important to us as any in the Declaration of Independence or the Bill of Rights. When the environmental prophets warn us that uncontrolled, irresponsible use of land spells inevitable disaster, we bury our heads in the dirt like ostriches and post "Do Not Trespass" signs on our foolish tails.

In recent months, I have spent much time in the state of Oregon. There I have seen both the most hopeful signs of awakening environmental concern and many discouraging indications that old attitudes are going to be extraordinarily difficult to change.

Oregon, as you know, has passed some of the most far-reaching legislation in the country to preserve and protect its environment. One area where Oregon has been innovative is in land use regulation. Grant County, for example, which is roughly the size of Connecticut and has only 8,000 inhabitants, has begun a land-use regulation program not only to maintain its character as an agricultural community, but also to guarantee land use that will be consistent with the land's productivity and long-term ability to sustain life. Without going into great detail, the burden of proof is on the developer to demonstrate that any development planned is in harmony, not conflict, with the character and desires of the community.

There are many who will respond automatically with cries of "Anti-growth," or "Restrictive." I suppose, viewed from a state which has almost 500 times as many people in an equivalent space, Grant County must appear like a feudal enclave. Yet the people of Grant County know that, without planning and regulation on a local level, their land will become subject to State or Federal planning or, worse, the planning or no planning of private developers and overflow populations. They've seen that scenario played out by their neighbor to the south — California.

They know that random growth will totally destroy the agricultural potential of the land and wreck its current economy and character. They know that the bulldozing of forests and ridgelines will permit flooding and degrade water quality, as will the filling of wetland areas. They know that the building of small-lot communities will pollute the water, and
that new highway and access routes will bring trucks and automobiles to degrade the air and drive away the wildlife they cherish.

Grant County may be an extreme example — a kind of 18th Century “Sweet Auburn” lost in the 20th Century — but its example is an object lesson to every community in every area. Unless the people who live on the land act to protect it, the land is going to be changed, corrupted, even destroyed. An if it can happen in Grant County, it can happen anywhere in our fifty States, and when that happens, the life and the lifestyle supported by the land will be changed, corrupted, and destroyed as well.

As the Rockefeller Fund’s Task Force on Land Use has stated, “It’s time to change the view that land is little more than a commodity to be exploited and traded. We need a land ethic that regards land as a resource which, improperly used, can have the same ill effects as the pollution of air and water and which, therefore, warrants similar protection.”

This Bill of Rights for the land seems so obvious that we may wonder why land-use planning is not in effect everywhere. Why is land last on the list? The answer is that long-range, balanced use of land has been no match for the short-range lure of private profit from land. For example, Federal land use legislation — highly publicized as an issue on which both parties can agree — has been stripped of all penalties and sanctions and is now as noble looking but ineffectual as a toothless old lion.

Even in its present bland, advisory form, the proposed legislation arouses unrighteous indignation among the special interests. The most recent edition of the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association Newsletter carries the classical response to all land use legislation:

“The bill in Congress is the most dangerous piece of legislation that could come out of this Congress . . . for its intent is clearly to destroy the traditional rights of private property ownership.”

Private ownership seems to be so unassailable a defense against public regulation, that most attempts at local, State and Federal legislation have foiled on this slippery political rock. But there is nothing in the Constitution or the common law that gives the owner of land an absolute license to use it in a manner adverse to the interests of his neighbors or the community at large — in legal terms, adverse to the public health, safety and welfare.

Unless the people who live on the land act to protect it, the land is going to be changed, corrupted, even destroyed.

It is land use, not land ownership, that is at issue. And land use has always been subject to restriction by zoning laws, health and building codes, safety ordinances and the traditions of good neighborliness. What is needed now is a new concept of land use that follows logically and consistently from our growing awareness of the sheer survival implication of its misuse. Without disturbing any of the rights that accrue to the land owner (and this is totally feasible), we must focus the attention of local policy makers and legislators on the responsibilities that arise equally with land use.

Unfortunately, the ultimate and only responsibility of the land owner is to himself and to the first commandment of real estate, which is: “Thou shalt make the best deal possible.” And this has meant getting the best price without the necessity of estimating the true cost to the community and the country, both short and long term.

On the local level, this has usually led to unrestricted development of open or agricultural land regardless of the ultimate impact on the character of the environment, the tax rate, the school system or the proliferation of services needed to support new population growth or a new influx of tourists, industrial workers, or shoppers.

Growth itself is not the enemy. We cannot nor do we wish to — decree an end to growth or the mobility that offers the greatest economic and social benefits to all our citizens. But we must understand how to deal with growth before we are inundated by the flood of new households being formed each week — more than 27,000 — equal to a city the size of Wethersfield, Connecticut. Against this background, what of the next 200 years?

The survival problem of land use cannot be solved unless we are willing to make hard, informed and potentially unpopular decisions — decisions not to halt growth or preserve the status quo, but to channel balanced growth into those areas best equipped to handle it and make certain that the life-supporting characteristics of the land are preserved, for the quality of life as well as life itself.

This process will require an intellectual honesty and moral courage we have not yet demonstrated. On the local level, there is often a total disregard of anything but the role of land in increasing the Grand List. On the State level, there is an equal zeal to maximize the income-producing, job-sustaining aspects of the land. And on the Federal level there is often a failure of political nerve in no offending the voter by interfering with what he considers to be his private interests.

In Oregon, for example, the Federal Government is quite strict in its protection of public lands against the depredations of cattle and timber interests. This is entirely right and commendable, but also politically easy. But when it comes to providing similar protection against the ravages of the ordinary citizen — hiker, camper, trail bike rider or snowmobile — the Federal establishment has no stomach for regulation. Too many votes are at stake. And so the beautiful Strawberry Mountain area in Oregon is being systematically destroyed by hordes of visitors who are ruining the vegetation, compacting the soil, polluting the waterways, destroying the integrity of the forest simply because there is no licensing or permitting system in place to balance use with the capability of the land to handle it.

In 10 years, Strawberry Lake and its surrounding lands will not longer be fit for camping or recreation, not because the people were willfully destructive, but because the government did not have the courage to impose a few simple land-use restrictions that would keep the land alive, beautiful, and available for the people to use and enjoy for generations to come.
We are not going to secure our future . . . until we begin to treat our land and related water resources with greater integrity and concern.

Here in Connecticut we have a water and air quality program second to none in America. Our state-wide solid waste system is ahead of that of any other State, but our land-use activities are ambiguous and indecisive. The Office of State Planning has drawn up and distributed a preliminary Plan of Conservation and Development, but there has been little effective attempt to promote discussion of its principles or its provisions, and it is languishing in political limbo. It's going to be up to concerned citizens to bring it under careful scrutiny and to extract forcefully its useful directions for effective land-use planning.

This will require a rewriting of that first commandment of real estate. Instead of "Thou shalt get the best deal," it must be amended to read, "Not only for yourself but for the total environment to which the land belongs."

Good land use planning for Connecticut will take place only when the people demand it. Only when they begin to ask hard questions of every interest dealing in their most precious resource—from the individual owners, sellers, and developers of land to the boards, commissions, and legislative bodies that control and approve its transfer and use—will the people of each community begin to inventory the land within their borders. How much acreage is still undeveloped? Who owns it? Is there a present need for more open space or recreation land? What plans does the State Highway Department have for future construction through their land? Is the new Resource Recovery Authority planning future facilities there? Has the community prepared a plan for regulating its inland wetlands designated an agency to carry out its provisions? Is any large-scale development being contemplated that might violate Federal or state air-or water-quality standards? Are there literally held lands which could be obtained, rough purchase or donation to the Town, the State, or a Nature Conservancy Trust for creation or greenbelt use or as a buffer against overdevelopment?

The people of each community should begin to demand that all current activities take stock of their vanishing land resources. Highways or secondary source might push air pollution above allowable standards and thus eliminate other, perhaps more balanced, growth alternatives; where the changing of a water course might endanger the community's future supply of fresh water and sewer capacity. In other words, it must begin at the local level.

We are not going to secure our future as a state, a nation or even a species until we begin to treat our land and related water resources with greater integrity and concern. No land development of any kind should be permitted by local authorities unless the developer is able to prove that its environmental impact will not be destructive to the overall quality of life around it, both short and long term.

In Connecticut, the Department of Environmental Protection has established a Natural Resource Data Bank to give planners and decision-makers the technical information they need to measure the impact of each new land use decision. But will the State fund it? Will the communities use it?

The purpose of environmental impact statements is not to stop development—but to permit communities to choose intelligently, from a range of alternatives, the one that is least destructive and most in conformity with their objectives. Development is thus in balance and harmony with the character of the community. Is a private water company, for example, holding land no longer needed for protecting water purity which could be bought by the community or the State and taken off the commercial market? In the high-density strip from Stamford to Enfield, there are presently 65,000 areas of potential multi-purpose land being held by three water companies which should not be sold for private development. Are zoning regulations being used to lever the best real estate deals and then being amended so the deals can go through? Or are these lands under thoughtful planning for full, multi-purpose benefits for future as well as present generations?

I don't know the answers. I do know that good results will happen only when each individual citizen begins to see himself as a custodian of the land, and not merely its consumer. They will happen only when each public official has the courage to represent the interests of the land as well as those of his constituents.

They will happen only when the Federal government passes laws that not only set wise, constructive guidelines but establish rewards and penalties for intelligent or destructive state and local land use. They will happen only when every owner of land—private, State or Federal—is willing to make the tough decisions not solely on the basis of personal or political expediency, but also on behalf of all those in this and future generations to whom that piece of land might be a blessing and a benefaction.

In our complex, modern society, the preservation of human rights is constantly under attack. Land-use planning must not be thought of as an assault of one of these rights—the basic privilege of land ownership guaranteed to every individual under law. Instead, land-use planning must be considered as crucial to the preservation of even more fundamental rights—the Constitutional guarantees of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. For when the land is gone, drained, paved over, destroyed as breeding ground, open space or habitat, life goes with it. Without sufficient land for recreation, for controlled expansion or as a buffer between the eco-system and industrialized society, our liberty is lost as well. We become prisoners of our technology and alienated from the world which gave us birth and gives us life. If we do not modify our patterns of population growth and land utilization, our happiness will vanish as well, and all of us—young and old, black and white, rich and poor—will end our days in sterile ghettos, not only in our crowded unplanned cities, but everywhere.

When next we hear our children sing, "My country 'tis of thee sweet land of liberty," let us consider carefully what these words mean. Let us have the political courage, the economic sophistication and the social vision to make those decisions necessary to preserve this sweet land—this sweet land of liberty which we are in danger of destroying, not through war or carelessness but, as Oliver Goldsmith warned 200 years ago, through "the spoiler's hand and the rage of gain."
As one sits, motor idling, in a line of cars running three blocks from the friendly service station on Main Street, one begins to feel — as Tom Lehrer (mathematician cum entertainer) puts it — "like a Christian Scientist with appendicitis." Prayer seems ineffectual — even the silent wish that the pumps won't be shut off until after $2.00 worth has been pumped into one's own tank.

As winter begins to wane, it seems that many of the direst predictions by innumerable "experts" in the press and elsewhere at the start of the crisis in November have failed to materialize in fact. While the fear lingers that the worst may not yet have come, there seems to be some relaxing of the earlier panic about whether there would be enough petroleum to heat and light homes, offices and factories, and to propel gas-hungry vehicles along the highway.

One cannot take lightly, however, the tremendous impact which the energy crisis — or "Crude Crunch" — has had and will continue to have on all sectors of the American and world economies in general, and upon the architectural profession and the entire construction industry in particular.

Public attention — both that of the general public and of the Federal Government — has been called to the apparent wastefulness of energy resources caused by badly designed and poorly constructed buildings, especially the "Glass Monsters" of the International Style which dominate our citiscapes. A growing movement concerned with "architectural energy conservation" would dictate vast changes in the way office buildings, homes and factories are designed in the future.

Simply stated, "architectural energy conservation" means that buildings must be designed to save fuel, even at the expense of making them look less pretty. Bernard E. Cabelus, Connecticut's state building inspector, put the problem more succinctly in a November interview with the Wall Street Journal: "It's a matter of conservation over aesthetics."

What appears looming ahead for the architect is a grating confrontation between "style" and conservation of energy. Can a building be designed which will combine the traditional amenities of openness to the external environment and, at the same time, reduce the amount of energy required to make it function? Can a building, completely sealed off from the outside and utilizing only 10 percent of its exterior for glass, be at all an inviting place to live or work? How much natural light do people really need to live and work efficiently and happily?

Worse yet, will the day finally arrive when a builder will have to submit plans to a Federal or State agency which can, if it decides that the proposed structure will consume too much energy, send the architect back to his drawing board? While the answers to these questions are by no means clear, it is apparent that the architectural profession will be called upon to assume an important role in solving such problems. And it may be taking some hard knocks in the process!

The ground rules of the construction process will also be changing. The end appears near for the awarding of design and construction contracts on a "low-first-cost" basis. No longer will architects, engineers and builders secure large contracts by submitting the lowest possible bids. The initial cost of constructing a building designed to utilize fully its materials, its site, and its function in consideration of energy requirements must be more costly than construction which emphasizes low cost and which often leads to faulty design, poor workmanship, and an end product which is more expensive to maintain in the long run.

The General Services Administration, which spent $845 million in construction of new federal buildings across the country last year, is now testing this hypothesis in its new facility currently being built in Manchester, New Hampshire. Fred S. Dubin, of the New York-West Hartford engineering firm Dubin-Mindell-Bloome Associates, estimates the seven-story structure will be completed within its $6 million budget, despite eleven-inch walls and a totally insulated roof. The engineers have calculated that the Manchester building will require 8 billion BTUs to keep it at 70 degrees in winter and 75 degrees in summer. If built to normal GSA standards, it would have taken 13 billion BTUs to accomplish the same task. Under the system of "life-cycle costing" used by the Dubin firm, total energy savings over the operating life of the building (about 33%) are related to initial increases in capital expenditure, with surprisingly low differentials in total investment.

Perhaps unfortunately, the implications of the energy crisis on the practice of architecture are not limited to the realm of aesthetics. In the face of tight money, frozen housing subsidies, and impounded public works funds, the crisis and...
yet another layer of uncertainty to the profile of the construction industry. The recently issued 1974 Dodge/Sweets Construction Outlook predicts that contracting for new construction work nationwide will total $101 billion this year, only two percent above the 1973 level of $98.7 billion. Construction equipment needs fuel, and so do the trucks which bring building materials to the job site. Scarcity of fuel also puts constraints on the manufacture of many types of building materials, most notably those requiring a high consumption of energy — aluminum, steel, brick, glass and cement, to name only a few. Short supply, higher prices, and the likelihood of substitution for such commodities are very much the order of the day.

Futhermore, once buildings are built and occupied, how will they be heated and lighted? The largest question mark in the present energy-supply situation involves the utility companies — in this area, Connecticut Natural Gas and Northeast Utilities. Shortages of natural gas have been less critical than those of petroleum, principally because of the supplies available through two national transmission lines serving Connecticut have been supplemented to a great extent by gas produced at the CNG liquefaction facility at Rocky Hill. But what does the future hold? Price limitation and the well heads and other regulations of the gas industry through the Federal Power Commission have caused a 50 percent reduction in domestic production over the past 18 years, and may well have been responsible for the complete elimination of exploration activity for new reserves. Certainly, a revised national energy policy should take into serious consideration the implications of these developments.

Northeast Utilities, the largest supplier of electric energy in New England, is dependent on oil for 75 percent of its generating power and is thus most vulnerable to anything that threatens the continuing supply of that fuel. Even with the conversion of several facilities to coal and the use of high-sulphur residual oil to turn the turbines, and with an increase in electric power generated by nuclear units ( currently 21%), NEU must continue to fund an extensive program of research to develop alternative sources of energy production. Of these, the most promising seems to be the fuel cell, to which NEU has committed $5 million over the next three years. A 26,000-kilowatt demonstration fuel cell plant is expected by 1976, with commercial application possible 10 years afterward. Still the question remains, Will it be too little, too late?

The Connecticut Yankee Atomic power plant at Haddam, Connecticut, one of the state's two nuclear plants.

The word "unclear" crops up again and again in assessing the impact of these factors on the economy and on the construction industry. Even if the Arab states were to lift their oil embargo tomorrow, it might well be too late to alter the dismaying forecasts for 1974.

One fact is clear: things can never be the same as they were before the valves were shut off. But perhaps that is not the worst that could happen. The brighter side of the picture is that America has been challenged to find solutions to its energy problems in a re-ordering of the use pattern of all energy sources. The necessity for this re-ordering process has long been evident, but it has taken the energy crisis to make us respond creatively and, one hopes, effectively.

Architects and others in the construction industry have been particularly challenged to show that they really are concerned about the ways in which the man-made environments they create respond to this serious, long-term problem. How they respond to the challenge may well determine how well they survive in the future.

by Robert H. Mutruex, AIA

Mark Twain once said about the music of Wagner that, 'It isn't as bad as it sounds.' The same might be said, after calm deliberation, of the so-called "energy crisis." Although there is indeed a severe restriction in the immediate availability of fuel oil and gasoline, there is no actual shortage either in the world's fuel nor in its energy. We still have the inexhaustible heat of the sun and that of the earth's core; we have the untapped power of the tides, mountains of oil-bearing shale, and vast forests of firewood. And we shouldn't discount the dried dung of innumerable camels, who, parenthetically, are capable of doing a week's work on 25 gallons of plain water.

As far as energy in its myriad forms is concerned, witness the boundless antics of those legions who, round the clock, nourish our gargantuan appetites for vicarious athletics, comedy, violence, and sex. For energy of a destructive nature, one has only to scan the daily headlines on the subject of North Ireland, Vietnam, or the night in any of our large cities.

Furthermore, there seems to be no sign of embolism in the flow of that special form of energy which, coupled with inspiration, results in the phenomenon of creation. This force, since the beginning of time, has been limitless in its supply. One need not seek it in the frozen wastes of Point Barrow, the jungles of South America, nor the deserts of the Middle East. It lies in the deep and mysterious wells of the human spirit. It has surged forth in such improbable sites as Vinci, Italy; Lachaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland; and Richland Center, Wisconsin—birthplaces, respectively, of Leonardo, Le Corbusier, and Frank Lloyd Wright.

Its potential cannot be calibrated in barrels, in octane content, nor in the fluctuations of the stock market, yet its byproducts represent man's finest accomplishments. None of the world's masterpieces could have been created without it. On the other hand, all the world's architecture, art, music, poetry, drama, philosophy, and science, until a mere century and a half ago, were created when the prime source of heat was the ceramic stove and the most rapid form of transportation was the horse.

(continued on page 21)
"To honor distinguished architectural design within Connecticut, and to develop public awareness of architecture in Connecticut"

Seven Connecticut buildings received Honor Awards from the Connecticut Society of Architects/AIA at the Society’s Annual Meeting on November 28. Chosen from among fifty projects submitted for consideration, the seven winners include a variety of building types: two single-family residences; a moderate-income housing complex; housing for the elderly; an elementary school; an office building/laboratory; and a church.

All architects registered in Connecticut were invited to participate in the program, regardless of where their offices are located. Of the 47 firms registering entries, sixteen were from firms with offices outside the State and, of the seven winners, two were among this group.

Winners were selected by a six-man jury, including three architects and three experts in the areas of planning and construction. The jury members were:

George Achenbach, a developer-builder from Middletown, Connecticut. President of Achenbach Realty Companies in Essex, and developer of Addition Grove in Glastonbury and Westlake in Middletown, he was chairman of the Governor’s Task Force on Housing, which completed its report in 1972.

Ernest Gonzalez, an architect-planner and writer on architecture and related subjects for the New Haven Register. A former Staff Planner for the town of Hamden and now a resident of Guilford, Mr. Gonzalez was particularly helpful in pointing out the site-planning considerations that were critical to the success of the winning entries.

Paul Manafort, Commissioner of Public Works for Connecticut. With many years of experience in the construction industry, Mr. Manafort was most interested in the influence that good architecture can have in a transitional urban neighborhood, by establishing standards of design and construction that future buildings would have to follow.

William DeCossy, AIA a principal in the New Haven firm of Orr, DeCossy, Winder and Associate, which has received a number of awards from the CSA/AIA, including the Trinity College Science Building (1971) and the SAAB Corporate Headquarters in Orange, Connecticut (1972).

Richard Quinn, AIA, who opened his own practice in 1973 in Bloomfield, after several years as an associate in the Hartford firm of Russell Gibson von Dohlen. Mr. Quinn has wide experience in planning educational facilities and is a member of the CSA/AIA Board of Directors.

Willis N. Mills, Jr. AIA, chairman of the 1973 Honor Awards jury, is a principal in SMS Architects of New Canaan, a firm which has received Honor Awards for six projects in past CSA/AIA programs. He has served three terms as a member of the Board of Selectmen in Wilton, Connecticut.

In addition to including non-architects on the Honor Awards jury for the first time in an effort to broaden the selection process, the group’s choices were also presented through nine Connecticut newspapers. Ballots were included so that the response of the general public to the award-winning buildings could be solicited.

The response for public comment on the winning projects was indeed gratifying. The Baily residence in Darien by architects Huygens & Tappe garnered the most first-place votes in the balloting, followed by the Housing for the Elderly in Torrington, designed by Ulrich Franzen & Associates.

“I believe these new steps were timely and worthwhile,” commented chairman Willis Mills. “Broader participation was achieved with a twenty percent increase in registration over the 1972 program. The jury was quicker to get at the primary design problem to be solved in each entry reviewed. There was far broader sensitivity to user attitudes and, not surprisingly, a healthy skepticism about extravagant design effects. The jurors were pleased to have been asked to participate and free in expressing their enthusiasm or criticism. Finally, the press was quite cooperative in devoting major coverage to the program in a time of shortage of newsprint and shrinking publishing budgets. I am confident that this sort of broader participation, a more representative panel of jurors, and an effort to solicit public response will continue in 1974.”
Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Bailey
Darien, Connecticut
Architects: Huygens and Tappe, Inc.
Boston, Massachusetts

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Lytle
Woodbridge, Connecticut
Architect: Charles H. Brewer, Jr.
New Haven, Connecticut
Residence of
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Bailey
Darien, Connecticut
Architects: Huygens and Tappe, Inc.

Architects Huygens and Tappe were given a beautiful site with a spectacular view when they were asked to design a house on Long Island Sound in Darien, Connecticut. Their response is both private where privacy is needed and expansive where the dramatic view demands a broad outlook.

A neighboring house and driveway approach are screened from view by a series of white masonry walls. Once beyond an almost oriental driveway entrance court, the house opens up to the view with spaces flowing freely into each other, sharing the view through floor to ceiling glass walls. The contrast between glass walls and round, over-scaled concrete columns dramatizes the protective aspect of this house by the sea. The generous overhang shades the glass from summer sun and further emphasizes enclosure and protection.

"This residence reflects an extremely skillful solution to the open floor plan, with excellent privacy from unwanted views," said the jury. "The design showed a great deal of restraint. In brief, the reality fulfills the promise of the site."

Residence of
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Lytle
Woodbridge, Connecticut
Architect: Charles H. Brewer, Jr.

This residence for an artist and his family is skillfully placed on an undulating wooded site. The primary requirement given to the architect was to create a living environment where spaces would flow into each other while each retained its own identity.

Inside the major living spaces are open. The bedrooms are separated into a wing and the owner's painting studio made off-limits by a balcony entry which gives him time to declare his privacy before his work space is encroached upon.

The jury "admired the geometric relationship between plan and section. The easy flow of one space to another and the changing sources of natural light provide a stimulating environment appropriate to the artist-owner. The development of a sophisticated construction system involving prefabricated roof panels and common residential materials is handled with logic and imagination."
Housing for the Elderly
Torrington, Connecticut

Architect: Ulrich Franzen & Associates,
Architect Franzen said, “The most important aspect of this project is its site, a dormant area chosen by the Housing Authority and the architect because it was at the center of Town along the river. By building on this site, the core area was upgraded, while placing the elderly within walking distance of all downtown amenities.” The Jury agreed, noting that “the new tower for the elderly sets a design standard for future development in the area which will be a positive influence in Torrington.”

The fourteen-story structure contains 200 dwelling units, predominantly efficiency apartments. There is a semi-circular solarium on each floor which is conveniently located near the elevator core for easy access, to invite neighborly socializing and people-watching. The view over the landscaped pond on the immediate site and the long view over the city of Torrington from the tower are handsome.

The Jury felt the architect had given a sense of dignity to the elderly of Torrington through careful site selection and concern for human needs, while providing a structure that sets a high design standard for future development.

American National Red Cross Building
Farmington, Connecticut

The primary concern of Hirsch-Kaestle-Boos headquarters of The American National Red Cross and the Red Cross’ Greater Hartford Chapter in Farmington was to consolidate a variety of office and laboratory functions in a low-rise structure that would relate visually to the University of Connecticut Health Center.

The four-acre site is carefully landscaped, with the main floor raised on a pedestal, providing easy pedestrian access to the main floor and minimizing the visual effect of the required trucking services. The massive character of the nearby Health Center is echoed in the Red Cross Building’s sparing use of glass, deep sloping sills below the windows, wide column facings and simple window details.

In order to expedite construction and lower costs, conventional contracting procedures were by-passed in favor of the construction management system. This brought the builder directly onto the design team and helped the Red Cross gain occupancy months sooner than might ordinarily have been possible.

The Jury praised the “careful attention to proportion and materials that develop a strong visual relationship to the neighboring health complex. It is a restrained and handsome building — and a good neighbor. The sculptural symbol is a particular welcome spark of color at the entrance forecourt.”
Housing for the Elderly
Torrington, Connecticut
Architect:
Ulrich Franzen & Associates,
New York, New York

American National Red Cross Building
Farmington, Connecticut
Architect:
Hirsch-Kaestle-Boos Architects, Inc.
New Britain, Connecticut
New Hope Towers
Stamford, Connecticut

Associated Architects:
Robert L. Wilson-James Evans
Stamford, Connecticut

Blessed Sacrament Church
East Hartford, Connecticut

Architects:
Russell Gibson von Dohlen
West Hartford, Connecticut
New Hope Towers
Stamford, Connecticut
Associated Architects: Robert L. Wilson-James Evans

New Hope Towers had to provide two hundred units of cooperative housing for low and moderate-income families on two acres in Stamford's urban renewal area. Therefore, a high-rise building was the only way to solve the density imposed by land and zoning criteria.

Repetition of formwork brought construction economies that allowed such amenities as balconies and air conditioning. The alternating rhythm of the projections weaves its way up the tower giving the building an immediately recognizable shape from the nearby Connecticut Thruway.

The lower tower contains larger apartments with more bedrooms and keeps those families closer to the ground. The taller tower shares a common plaza level with its lower neighbor. A day care center and some professional office spaces are located at the plaza level.

The jury was “impressed by the spirit of New Hope Towers, which seems to overcome the many obstacles associated with high-density, high-rise, moderate-income housing on a limited site in an urban renewal setting. The building’s vigorous forms seem to us an appropriate symbol for New Hope.”

Blessed Sacrament Church
East Hartford, Connecticut
Architects: Russell Gibson von Dohlen

Blessed Sacrament Church in East Hartford, by architects Russell Gibson von Dohlen, is a dramatic example of the dynamic changes taking place in church design. This building is essentially a single room used both for religious worship and parish community activities. It seats as many as 500 at Sunday Mass, while accommodating a variety of weekday uses.

The architects have created a space that allows the congregation and clergy to develop their own expression of worship through varying seating and sanctuary arrangements. Yet in this flexible room, there is a fixed element — the Chapel, an intimate space with seating for twenty-five and a place for the permanent reservation of the Blessed Sacrament.

The low profile of the building’s exterior and its white stained cedar siding relate to the residential scale of the suburban setting. The low-level windows bathe the perimeter of the room with natural light, leaving interior walls free and clear as a backdrop for banners and liturgical art. A bright red carpet covers the entire floor and is the only “built-in” color in a white envelope of space.
The jury felt that "the Church was an excellent translation of the new concept of flexible liturgical space, with all the quiet simplicity of the New England Meeting House. The delicate overhead space frame and lighting provide an intricacy and a level of visual detail that helps to enrich this worship-activity center."

Shepherd Glen School
Hamden, Connecticut
Architects: Carlin, Pozzi and Associates

The Shepherd Glen School in Hamden, by architects Carlin, Pozzi and Associates, has a circular floor plan based on an educational specification for 600 pupils and requiring a centrally located Instructional Materials Center surrounded by relatively large open plan Learning Units. The kindergarten through sixth-grade school provides them teaching in these non-graded learning centers.

The concentric plan has the Instructional Materials Area at the center ringed by storage and support functions. The five 125 pupil Learning Units radiate from the central core and are equally accessible to the center or the out-of-doors. Community facilities, such as gymnasium and cafeteria, complete the circular plan arrangement. What is also impressive about this school is the informal, non-institutional character of the natural lighting, structural system, and choice of materials.

The jury "liked the circular plan so directly expressive of the educational program. The translation of plan into section admits natural light where it is most needed. Materials are chosen to enhance the teaching environment and to relate to the wooded residential site. All in all, we wished we had had a chance to learn in such a pleasant setting."

"The circular plan is directly expressive of the educational program."
Shepherd Glen School
Hamden, Connecticut

Architects:
Carlin, Pozzi and Associates
New Haven, Connecticut
letters
the former publisher, and Frederic D. Barrett, our former business manager. Bill and Fred brought Connect/cut Architect into existence, then sustained it with countless hours of hard work and generous quantities of paste, paper and perseverance. As one who watched their effort from the beginning, I take the occasion of this special moment to express deep appreciation to Bill Allerton and Fred Barrett for having brought our magazine this far along its way.

Connecticut Architect is not sufficiently venerable to have its history written just yet, and I won't attempt to do it here. Much has happened though, in the nearly ten years since Bill and Fred proposed this magazine to the “old” Connecticut Society of Architects. Some months in preparation, the first issue was published in January of 1965. In his introductory statement, Editorial Board Chairman Andrew S. Cohen expressed the hope that “Connecticut Architect will grow and prosper—earning its place as the voice of the Connecticut Society of Architects.” Governor John Dempsey, in a congratulatory message, expressed confidence that the new magazine would be “well received”.

Largely because of the efforts of Bill Allerton and Fred Barrett, both of those wishes have been fulfilled. Connecticut Architect has grown, its circulation has increased, and it has prospered—not perhaps in a financial sense but certainly in the good will of its readers. And it has been well received; in 1970, the American Institute of Architects chose Connect/cut Architect as its best component publication of the year.

So, at this special moment, I know that the entire membership of our Society and the many loyal readers of Connecticut Architect join me in expressing to Bill Allerton and Fred Barrett sincere appreciation for a job well done!

Ralph T. Rowland, AIA

energy
This is the form of energy that produces “the words, the deeds, and the art” that, according to Ruskin, are the true measure of a civilization. Today’s architect and his client might pause between gas stations to ponder their combined product on those terms. Would Jefferson have made still greater contributions to our nation’s history (and its architecture) if he had been trained under one of those prize-winning all-skylight roofs? Would Franklin have discovered something more than electricity, or invented something better than that eponymous stove, in an atmosphere of four-season air-conditioning? Would Lincoln have augmented his command of language and his depth of human understanding under 150-foot candle illumination?

Tomorrow’s architecture will be built in a period which will surely be called austere, but which was once par for the course. It may or may not match the quality of the past, but it is certain to bear the imprint of these peculiar times.

In this context, it may be that a so-called underdeveloped country, in addition to demonstrating that it is possible to press a point without resorting to 7.5-ton “Daisy Cutters” and flaming chemicals, may be providing the so-called civilized world with a tremendous blessing in disguise.

Suppose we let the Arabs keep their oil. This may be one sure way of delaying the consumption, in a few myopic decades, of what it has taken millions of years to produce. Remember that when the Greeks built all those legendary ships, they transformed the groves of Arcady into a rocky wasteland. And when we decimated our primeval forests, we were left with the Dust Bowl.

We might for a moment, forego the miracle of internal combustion and the magic carpet we call the Thruway, and take a walk along one of Connecticut’s country roads. Or better still, take a bicycle. The experience is guaranteed to be immensely rewarding.

First of all, we will be striking a telling blow for the conservation of fuel, and be reminded at the same time of the need to preserve our own resources.

Secondly, we will be released from the tyranny of the dashboard and the foot-pedal; this new-found freedom is bound to send a white-hot flash of creative fire through our veins, and a veritable torrent of crisis-free designs will inevitably flood our drawing-boards.

Thirdly, we will in all probability be too tired to do anything at night, thus doing our pious bit, by default, for zero population growth.

But if there is still some creative drive inside us and we haven’t got a 4B pencil handy, we might turn the thermostat way down and revive the too-long dormant New England tradition of bundling. Who knows what may spring forth? A new Michelangelo, a Wren, a Mansard, a Richardson, a Mies? Try it! You have the president’s blessing!! You have everything to gain and nothing to lose but your chilblains!!!

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January—February 1974
The new symbol seen above will signal a continuing series of CSA Professional Programs in this journal and in monthly CSA bulletins. The education series represents a critical forum for the exchange and exposure of new concepts from purposefully disparate viewpoints, and offers the opportunity to acquire fresh professional skills.

Commissioner of the 1974 CSA Education Series is Michael P. Buckley, AIA, an associate in the Hartford firm of DuBose Associates. In addition to its chairman, the Education Commission will have an Advisory Board to generate as well as to review program concepts. Committee heads will be assigned specific areas of responsibility, such as para-professional education, college and university liaison, and career guidance.

Buckley visualizes four major areas of concentration in the new education program. Technical seminars will provide lectures by professionals in varied areas of specialization, such as soil testing, the urban rehabilitation process, and fire safety. Seminars and training laboratories will be organized to introduce new management concepts for improving organizational skills. An extensive review of existing services, concepts, and techniques will be conducted by means of seminars on the topics of designing for energy conservation, and research and proposal funding, to mention a few.

Finally, a "bandit series" will offer such presentations as "Wizardry in Architectural Model Photography," "Stage Management/Tricks of Verbal Presentation," in addition to a few case studies of project failure, and other similar areas of interest.

The Education Commission also hopes to establish a series of radio interviews with Connecticut architects on WTIC in Hartford, for which the Commission will propose the program format, topics, and speakers. Currently under investigation is the possibility of creating a continuing program on Environmental Awareness for Connecticut Public Television. According to Buckley, these efforts "will be undertaken to nourish the public sensibility, to address environmental and architectural issues with broad public interest, and to explore appropriate images for future development patterns in the State."

Presently, the Commission has arranged an education seminar session slated for March 13 at the Choate School in Wallingford, prior to the CSA chapter meeting. The seminar will focus on a case study of the new office structure in Manchester, New Hampshire, sponsored by the General Services Administration. John Barnaby of Dublin-Mindell-Bloome; Chris Law, assistant CSA Administrator; and Thomas Kasuda of the National Bureau of Standards will be the speakers at the full-day conference.

Members of the Education Commission's Advisory Board to date are architects Don Baerman, Norman Baier, Jared Edwards, Ed Jeter, Jerry Lunt, Richard Sharpe, and Bill Sapienza, and Peter Borgemeister, executive director of the CSA.

The increase in costs, training and admissions coupled with shortages of doctors, nurses and technicians have caused hospital administrators to look to sophisticated communications systems as one answer to their problems. Tomorrow's hospital will require a wide spectrum of communications facilities including voice, data and video systems. Underfloor ducts, conduit and riser systems, switchboards and apparatus closets must be planned early. Expensive rearrangements and unsightly exposed wiring can be avoided later on.

Coordinated communications preplanning is essential. Our building industry consultant can help you plan for the communications needs of a modern hospital or any other building where sophisticated communications systems are required. He knows communications. And he has experience working with people who build. Call the building industry consultant when your plans are still on the drawing board. You add him to your team without cost or obligation. Dial 1-800-922-2953, toll free from anywhere in Connecticut.
people

• As part of its annual meeting program, the Connecticut Society of Architects presented two Lay Awards and a Special Citation to area residents on November 28, 1973.

Dan W. Lufkin of Newtown, former Commissioner of Environmental Protection, was honored with a Lay Award "for [his] contribution to environmental quality" and for promoting "broad public participation in [Connecticut's] efforts to protect its natural environment."

Robert James Torello of Branford, director of Derby's Redevelopment Program, was cited with a Lay Award for "exemplary service" and in particular for "his actions in support of the preservation and restoration of Derby's historic Opera House."

The Special Citation was presented to Hugh McK. Jones, FAIA, of Guilford, former officer and director of both the CSA and the AIA. He was highly commended for "his many years of dedication to architecture in all its aspects," which "contributed ... to the advancement of the profession and the growth of the Society."

• Donald Canty, former editor of City magazine, has replaced Robert E. Koehler, Hon. AIA, as editor of the AIA Journal, official publication of the American Institute of Architects. Koehler resigned as of January 1, 1974.

A native Californian, Canty earned a B.A. in philosophy from Santa Clara University and an M.A. in journalism from Northwestern University. Before joining the Architectural Forum staff as managing editor, he was editor of Western Architect and Engineer.

In 1967, he moved to New York, where he created City, a magazine on urban life and environment, which later became the publication of the National Urban Coalition until last year.

An author of three books on urban affairs, Canty is currently working on a fourth under a Ford Foundation fellowship.

• Carrell S. McNulty, Jr., FAIA, announces his withdrawal from SMS Architects of New Canaan, Connecticut, and the establishment of a private practice. Mr. McNulty's new office is located at 1210 Post Road, Fairfield, Connecticut.

• Baltimore architect Archibald C. Rogers, FAIA, was formally installed on December 7, 1973, as the 1974 president of the American Institute of Architects, succeeding S. Scott Ferebee, Jr., FAIA, of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Rogers, chairman of the board of RTKL Inc., a Baltimore architectural firm, served as AIA first vice president for 1973. As chairman of the AIA's National Policy Task Force, he piloted the Institute's efforts to promote the establishment and implementation of a national policy for urban growth and land development. In recognition of his contributions to the architectural profession, he was elected a Fellow of the Institute in 1967.

An active participant in community affairs, Rogers has held positions on the Governor's Council on the Arts in Maryland, the Expressway Advisory Committee of the Maryland State Roads Commission, the Anne Arundel County Zoning Commission, the Greater Baltimore Committee and its Planning Council, and the Maryland State Board of Examiners and Registration of Architects.

He and his wife, Lucia, reside at "Belvoir" in Crownsville, Maryland.

• Andrew B. Smith, AIA, of Plainville, has become a partner in the Hartford architectural firm of David E. Woodard, AIA. DEW Architects, as the new partnership will be called, has offices in Bushnell Plaza, One Gold Street, Hartford.

Smith became associated with the Woodard group in 1972, after four years with the Hartford firm of Russell, Gibson and von Dohlen. A 1963 graduate in architecture from the University of Colorado, he served as an officer in the U.S. Navy from 1963 to 1968.

DEW Architects, founded by Woodard in 1971, is currently working on several major building projects in Connecticut and Massachusetts. These include the Naval Underwater Sound Center at the U.S. Navy base at New London, a service center for Connecticut Light and Power Company in East Hampton, Conn., and a new library for the Williston-Northampton School in Easthampton, Mass. The firm also designed the recently completed Whitney Avenue office building for SNET Co. in Hamden.

Smith lives with his wife, Barbara, and their two children in Plainville.
James F. Russell, AIA

James Francis Russell, vice president and founder of Russell Gibson vonDohlen, Inc. Architects, has been appointed to the board of the University of Hartford Associates.

The 25-member board of directors is the planning and policy-making arm of the Associates, whose membership represents about 200 Connecticut business and industrial firms.

Russell received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from Cornell University in 1948, after serving with the U.S. Army. A member of several architectural associations, including the American Institute of Architects and the Connecticut Society of Architects, he established his own architectural firm in West Hartford in 1954.

Russell resides with his wife and three children at 169 Duncaster Road, Bloomfield.

competitions

The Portuguese Ministry of Public Works announces an international competition open to both Portuguese and foreign architects for the purpose of gathering design ideas for the development of Porto Santo Island.

In preparing their entries, participants are asked to concentrate on the island's location in the Archipelago of Madeira, in regard to its tourist trade potential.

The competition, with a deadline of March 15, 1974, has been approved by the International Union of Architects. The registration fee of $80 and all inquiries should be addressed to: Competition Secretariat, Planning of Porto Santo Island, Rua Ferreira Lapa No. 29, Lisbon 1, Portugal.

The Connecticut Building Congress announces the establishment of $1,000 in scholarship aid for Connecticut high school students interested in pursuing a career in the construction industry.

The statewide association of architects, engineers, general contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers stipulates that the award be made on the basis of potential and need, and that it be annually renewable on the basis of grades and performance.

The recipient will be selected by a committee of educators, building industry representatives and community leaders. Serving on the scholarship awards committee are the following: Ogden Miller, guidance counselor, Shepaug Valley High School, Washington; Herbert L. Emanuelson, attorney, Emanuelson & Wynne, New Haven; Allen Hubbard, engineer, Hubbard, Lawless & Osborne Associates, Inc., New Haven; Augustus G. Kellogg, architect, Environmental Design Group, New Haven; Robert E. Baker, developer, Woodbury; Gerald A. Foster, psychologist, C.N. Flagg & Co., Inc., Meriden; Edward S. Noble, general contractor, W.J. Megin, Inc., Naugatuck; John E. Plantinga, engineer, Meyer, Strong & Jones, New York City; and Ernest G. McVey, retired principal, Sleeping Giant Junior High School, Hamden.

Applications have been distributed to all Connecticut public and private secondary schools, and must be completed and returned by April 20, 1974.

For further information, contact the Connecticut Building Congress office, 2377 Whitney Avenue, Hamden.

The Scope/Convention and Cultural Center in Norfolk, Virginia was one of seventeen winners of the Prestressed Concrete Institute's 1973 awards. Fraioli-Blum-Yesselman of New England, a Hartford-based firm, participated in the Center's structural design. Last year the $30 million complex received the regional award in the White Cement architectural competition, sponsored by the Portland Cement Association.
announcements

- The Hartford Architecture Conservancy, a newly-formed group committed to preserving Hartford's buildings, held its first meeting December 12 at the Connecticut Historical Society.

Inspired by the New Haven Preservation Trust and incited by the demolition last August of the Victorian Loomis-Wooley mansion in West Hartford, HAC was organized for the purpose of increasing public awareness of the necessity for preserving threatened landmarks.

The organizational meeting's program, led by architect Jared I. Edwards, included talks by James M. Fitch, director of the program of Restoration and Preservation of Historic Architecture at Columbia University; Christopher Tunnard, professor of city planning at Yale University; and John W. Reynolds, president of the Greater Middletown Preservation Trust. Melanchton W. Jacobus, curator of prints at the Historical Society, provided slides and commentary on threatened buildings in the Hartford area.

The open discussion period which followed the speeches focused on past efforts and future plans of HAC. Edwards explained that the failure of a small group of citizens to save the Wooley House from demolition made them realize the immediate need for an organized and realistic effort.

In November, HAC, made a last-minute attempt to stay the wrecker's ball from demolishing the Garde Hotel in downtown Hartford. "It would be a shame to see that magnificent site overlooking Bushnell Park turned into a parking lot," Edwards said. Another group of individuals collected 200 signatures on a petition to save the Hotel—all to no avail.

One of HAC's current projects is the preservation of the Romanesque YMCA structure built in the 1890's and situated at the corner of Trinity and Pearl Streets. Although the Y's board of trustees asserts that the cost of renovation would be prohibitive, HAC members are requesting a three-month delay in demolition to study alternative plans. If HAC's efforts do not meet with success, the site of the razed building would be used as a surface parking lot.

In addition, the group is concerned with the future of the Lawler House in West Hartford and the Hill-Stead in Farmington. The former is an eighteenth-century woodframe farmhouse which will soon be for sale. HAC is looking for a private buyer interested in restoring the house. The Hill-Stead was built in 1901 and designed by Stanford White. Since 1946, the house has been a museum, endowed by the former owner's daughter. The outcome of the current court actions on behalf of the continued existence of the Hill-Stead Museum is uncertain.

Also discussed at HAC's first meeting were plans to seek zoning and legislative incentives for preservation efforts and to establish a "revolving" fund which would allow the organization to purchase, refurbish, lease or sell a threatened historic building.

As of this date, no officers have been appointed; however, the next general meeting is slated for February for that purpose and to discuss further action. All inquiries should be directed to Jared I. Edwards at Frid, Ferguson, Mahaffey & Perry or to Tyler Smith in John Dollard's office.

The 1974 Architects-Engineers Public Affairs Conference, to be held in Washington on March 18 and 19, will feature seminars and meetings with members of Congress.

Under the joint sponsorship of the American Consulting Engineers Council, the American Institute of Architects, and the American Society of Civil Engineers, the conference will provide architects and engineers with the opportunity to discuss recent legislation concerning their professions directly with their Congressmen.

The first day will be devoted to talks on such topics as professional ethics, procurement processes, and energy conservation, whereas the second day will be reserved for a series of informal visits by individuals with their senators and representatives.

For further information, contact Nancy Hallmark of the American Institute of Architects, 1735 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Courses in interior design are being conducted nationally under the auspices of the Public Buildings Service for General Services Administration specialists in an attempt to upgrade federal office design.

The week-long sessions deal with the problem of creating an appropriate working environment for the average working American, who spends approximately one-third of his life in an office, according to PBS Commissioner Larry Roush. The program, which is part of a two-year-old effort to develop more economic and flexible uses of office space, also stresses the important interrelationship among the architect, the space planner, and the interior designer.

The courses are being taught by Associate Space Design of Atlanta, headed by William Pulgram.

The Factory Mutual System is offering a seminar, entitled "Designing for Firesafety and Hazard Control," for architects, contractors, and others concerned with property protection philosophy.

The program will feature demonstrations, discussions, and lectures emphasizing loss prevention design and how it can be achieved using various construction techniques and materials. There will be discussion concerning new legislation enacted at the State and Federal levels to implement the National Fire Research and Safety Act of 1968 and the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1973.

The three seminars in 1974 will be held March 19-21, May 14-16, and October 15-17 at Factory Mutual Engineering and Research, 1151 Boston-Providence Turnpike, Norwood, Massachusetts 02062. Applications and further information are available from P. G. Lasky, Program Coordinator, Education Department.

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GSA study group

A 19-member panel began studying the U.S. General Services Administration's architect-engineer selection process on December 10, according to Administrator Arthur F. Sampson.

Sampson said the appointment of the panel, which is "composed of highly-qualified members representing the professions, private government, the academic community and the press," is "a major step in carrying out the commitment we made October 30" to review selection practices.

Gerald D. Hines, a Houston real estate developer, chairs the committee. Nine members of the committee were appointed by the GSA administrator, including the chairman, and ten by the following national organizations: The American Institute of Architects, the National Society of Professional Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Consulting Engineers Council, the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Bar Association.


Members nominated by organizations are J. Neils Thompson, director of Balcones Research Center and professor of civil engineering for the University of Texas at Austin; Louis A. Bacon, president and chief executive officer, P & W Engineers Inc., Chicago; Elmer K. Timby, member of the advisory board of Howard, Needle, Tamman and Bergendorff of New York City; William A. Carlisle, senior vice president and secretary, Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle and Wolff Associates of Columbus, S.C.; Robert L. Durham, president, Durham Anderson Freed Co. of Seattle, Wash.; Emanuel Pisetzner, partner, Weiskopf and Pickworth of New York City; Richard H. Stanley, president of Stanley Consultants, Muscatine, Iowa; Dr. Charles Burchard, dean of the College of Architecture, Virginia Polytechnic Institute of Blacksburg, Va.; Bill N. Lacy, former dean of architecture at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, now director of architecture and environmental arts, National Endowment for the Arts; and Harold Gold, attorney with Lewis, Mitchell & Moore, Washington.

housing bonds

The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority has announced the sale of $44 million in tax-exempt revenue bonds towards the financing of low and moderate income housing in the State.

CHFA received six bids for the bonds and accepted the bid of a syndicated group headed by the First National City Bank of New York. The First National bid was based on a net interest rate of 5.701 percent.

Guests of the CHFA luncheon announcing the sale also heard an address by U.S. Senator Lowell R. Weicker (R-Conn), whose amendment to the Omnibus Housing Bill will assure assistance to housing finance authorities by providing federal guarantees on taxable bonds sold by such agencies and interest rate subsidies on tax-exempt bonds.

The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, although created by the General Assembly in 1972, is an independent and entirely self-sustaining corporation whose goal is to provide maximum assistance in meeting the State's housing needs.
A $3.5 million plant expansion by Trio Industries Inc. of Bridgeport is under construction on a 21-acre site in Shelton, with completion scheduled for November 1974.

Trio, a subsidiary of Buildex Inc. (AMEX: BLX), is a leading fabricator of architectural metalwork and windows.

Shreve, Lambe, and Harmon Associates of New York are the architects for the 110,000 square foot plant, and the E & F Construction Company of Bridgeport serve as general contractors.

Construction of the new plant is one of the first industrial expansions funded under a new self-sustaining program of the Connecticut Development Commission.

books


Antonin Raymond left his mark on modern architecture by synthesizing traditional Japanese forms with revolutionary Western ideas. His career began with an apprenticeship with Frank Lloyd Wright and was highlighted by honors from several governments, including the third class Order of the Rising Sun of Japan. Examples of his work are found in Japan.


Enlarged to include international organizations, this updated edition features a comprehensive listing of information on building and construction for reference by architects, contractors, surveyors, and engineers.


The book attempts to familiarize the architect and others with the strategy and terminology of real estate financing. Contributors include major figures in the fields of development, law, economics, and mortgage banking.


This revised and enlarged second edition is designed to aid layout planners, industrial engineers and industrial architects in planning the most efficient arrangement of facilities. Muther's book, which can also serve as a textbook in industrial engineering courses, describes a layout-planning approach and specific procedures.


Rams, real estate appraiser and market analyst, discusses ecological and environmental issues, and related aspects of property rights.


The Construction Specifications Institute has bound a limited supply of its monthly publication's 1973 issues. The twelve issues of Construction Specifier, containing 14 documents and articles on CSI history, are bound in a dark red library binding, stamped with gold.
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