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Our New Office

In establishing an office and retaining an executive secretary, the Iowa Chapter, American Institute of Architects, has taken a long step forward.

The start is modest, with first emphasis on service to the chapter. The office will assume many routine duties with which officers have been contending; it will provide clerical assistance to committees; it will be a headquarters for the Iowa Architect.

But there is room to grow. When the Chapter is ready to consider additional means of reaching the public to promote architecture, the framework will be waiting.

The firm financial base approved at Ames (see page 8) reinforces the Executive Committee's belief that chapter activities will grow; the Committee has planned the current move accordingly.

Effective July 1, headquarters of the Iowa chapter will be maintained in the office of Bonomi Associates, to be located after that date at 422 Securities Building (418 7th St.) Des Moines. Robert F. Bonomi, chapter public relations counsel since 1956, is being retained as executive secretary. Building directories will list the Iowa Chapter as well as the Bonomi firm, and the telephone (AT 2-4309) is listed under both names.

The office will make no attempt to speak for architects, except at their direction.

The office will talk about architecture, and architects, at every opportunity possible under the beginning budget. Eventually, such an office could be an active clearinghouse of information about designers and their projects, drawing widespread attention to the substantial amount of creditable work being accomplished by the profession in Iowa.
The Perpetual Challenge

Selection of the theme “Education, the Architect’s Perpetual Challenge,” for the 1959 Central States A.I.A. Regional Conference has been announced by Charles Silletto, general chairman for the October 8-9-10 meeting.

Silletto, of the firm of Woodburn and O’Neil, said the theme was chosen as having scope enough to cover a program which would touch on the educational development of the architect, educational structures, and the architect’s need to maintain a current technical education.

“President George Horner is making arrangements for a block of tickets to the Iowa-Michigan State football game at Iowa City and we expect to have them available for those who want to wind up the week at a Big Ten football game,” Silletto said. It is proposed that the tickets be available only to persons registered for the conference.

Innovations in the manner of handling the construction trade supplier also are under consideration.

Announcements on this matter are expected to be ready in mid-July following the Executive Committee meeting at Clear Lake.

Tentative program plans call for an informal meeting of “early birds” Wednesday, October 7, the evening preceding the conference.

Registration will begin Thursday, October 8, with a welcoming luncheon planned for noon that day.

Regional Committees will meet Thursday morning. First of the major agenda programs will be set for Thursday afternoon; a buffet and entertainment will cap the program Thursday evening.

The tentative schedule for Friday calls for one major meeting at the Hotel, another to be held elsewhere at noon, and then a return to the hotel for another of the “Challenge” events and a period for handling regional business.

Cocktails, dinner and dancing will comprise the schedule for Friday evening.

Saturday’s events include a wind-up session on Regional affairs, a tour of architectural points in the Des Moines area, and . . . for those who secure tickets . . . the Iowa-Michigan State game at Iowa City.

Come to Clear Lake!

A capsule vacation giving architects the year’s best chance to renew acquaintance with their colleagues around the state . . . that’s the Summer Outing at Clear Lake July 10, 11, 12.

The committee, headed by Tom Waggoner of Mason City, have planned an easy-going program to afford plenty of relaxation while taking advantage of the lake area’s opportunities for recreation.

A cocktail party in the Sky Room of the Hotel Hanford, Mason City, will open the festivities. It begins at 9 p.m. Friday.

Saturday morning, architects and their ladies will rendezvous at the Judd cottage on Dodge’s Point, Clear Lake. Groups will form for golf, swimming, boating, fishing or plain relaxing, as the mood of the morning indicates. In the afternoon, speed boat rides will be added to the selection. An Executive Committee meeting will be held during the day.

A banquet is slated for Saturday night, followed by dancing at the Surf, or return to the Judd cottage, as desired.

Sunday, everyone is at leisure.

A list of desirable hotels and motels has been sent to the membership. Chairman Waggoner urges that everyone be sure of his accommodations, as mid-July is among the most pleasant, and therefore busiest, times of the season.

Come to Clear Lake!
Springboard

Action at Spring Meeting

Changes in the dues structure of the Iowa Chapter, A.I.A., were voted as members met at Iowa State University April 15, to debate the final four of proposals which had been approved in principle at the annual convention in January.

The action provided a springboard by which the chapter can begin expanding its services to the members, and to the public.

The changes, as revised and approved following an informative debate, will provide an estimated budget of $6,000 annually. The chapter voted to secure the services of a part-time executive secretary, and the Executive Committee was instructed to proceed on that project. (See page 6.)

President George Horner presented the proposed series of projects which the A.I.A. can undertake in Iowa, and said he would ask chairmen of committees to recommend projects and submit budget requests.

Among the subjects proposed are seminars for architects on subjects of general interest to the profession, and also on subjects for which there have been recent technical developments.

Other proposals include an awards program, a motion picture made from 35 mm slides of examples of Iowa architecture, publication of a chapter document, increase in the convention speakers budget, and a scholarship program.

Bernard Slater of the Iowa State faculty reported on a survey conducted at the January meeting on time, place and subject for proposed seminars under the “Operation Retread” proposal. He said September and April appeared the most popular choices and the late Frank Lloyd Wright had been most often suggested as the speaker. Ames was the approved location. Subjects most often suggested for a seminar, Slater said, were “design,” and “site planning.”

Keith Lorenzen, Education Committee chairman, reported that at least three of the schools in the region will participate in the design competition for which awards are to be presented at the Central States Regional A.I.A. Conference in Des Moines, October 8-9-10.
Thinking beyond the client

Does an architect have any responsibility to his community?

Yes! says a recent manual for use by chapters and state societies of The American Institute of Architects in the guidance of young architects.

Do what successful architects do, the manual says, plunge into your community life. Speak when you can. Serve.

The whys and wherefores are obvious.

The architect's job is not just to design houses or individual buildings. His houses and buildings create the environment for just about every human activity. The homes, schools, office buildings, factories, churches, theaters, hospitals, stores, shopping centers, railroad stations and air terminals and other structures the architect creates on his drawing boards are not just an expression of our culture and civilization. They also help determine the way we act and live. They make up our communities.

No wonder the architect must be particularly and vitally interested in the proper functioning of the community. His responsibility towards it transcends even the obvious edicts of good citizenship.

Consider the school architect, for instance. To design a functional school building which provides the best possible environment for learning, he studies not only the site and construction technique but every aspect of the activities that are to go on in the building. He talks not only to the school board and the principal, but to all the various specialists on teaching reading, writing and arithmetic—physical education, music, science, art, and what have you. He gets deeply immersed in the educational process. He wants the community to provide the best possible education for its children commensurate with sound financing.

No wonder he feels drawn far beyond the call of his immediate duty into active participation in his communities' school affairs.

An architect in Jackson, Mississippi, Robert W. Naef, FAIA, served on his city's school board for some twenty years. Naturally, he disqualified himself from accepting any school work. But he was of inestimable service to the citizens of his community by applying his professional knowledge to the review of school building plans and drawings, setting up criteria for the selection of other architects, and offering other advice on the all-important school plant.

There are literally thousands of other such examples of architectural service in civic and governmental activities.

Take city and community planning.

The architect's first duty is to his client, of course. But he also has his client in mind when he thinks beyond the client's building.

The individual building in the community does not stand by itself. Its physical and human environment is vital. Its purpose is to serve people who require light, clean air, green space for recreation, properly balanced traffic flow, playgrounds for their children, convenient services, and the myriad other things which come under the general heading of planning.

The job, it's true, must start on the drawing boards. But that is only a small part of the battle. To improve our cities and communities, to plan the revitalized cities and communities of tomorrow requires citizen action of all kinds. Architects are in the vanguard of that action.

You find them talking about a better human environment in the service clubs and civic organizations, on citizens' committees and government boards . . . wherever people join together to work for the common good.

In Baltimore, Maryland, for example, no less than seven members of the local chapter of The American Institute of Architects hold important municipal and civic posts:

The AIA chapter president is vice chairman of the Baltimore County Planning Board; the chapter vice president is a member of the Planning Council of the Greater Baltimore Committee. Other active AIA members serve on the City Zoning Committee, the City Art Commission, the Planning Council of the Greater Baltimore Committee and the Urban Renewal Committee. Another architect is the director of the Urban Renewal and Housing Agency.

In at least four of our cities—Louisville, Ky.; Kansas City, Mo.; Little Rock, Ark.; and Nashville, Tenn.—architects have joined in a voluntary effort to work out plans for proper city planning and urban renewal. They are devoting their talents and thousands of manhours to the public interest.

Elsewhere architects, like most professions, organize to protect their professional status and con-
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Continually strive within the AIA for ever higher ethical and professional standards.

In California, architects lent a new dimension to a governmental campaign. To win the understanding and support of the State Legislature, they have mapped out a program to tell their story to the harassed and busy Legislators on a continuing basis, particularly when the Legislature is not in session.

They organized hometown meetings with Legislators at civic and AIA chapter affairs. Individual AIA members were urged to make it a point to know the Assemblyman and State Senator from his District and either support him or support someone who can do a better job. Even the wives of Legislators receive special attention at chapter events, tours of new buildings, or special luncheons.

A similar intensive program in Montana has put the architects and their professional society on the map in that state. Until a year or so ago, the profession was practically unknown to the public, in conflict with engineers, and penalized by the State Legislature. Today, all three of these problems have been largely solved. The interim was a busy period in which every architect in the state personally plugged the chapter's legislative program in numerous ways.

And, modestly, Philadelphia architects, for example, deserve a bouquet for untiring and time-consuming efforts in spearheading and finally resolving—after five years—the controversial problem of curtain wall construction into law as an amendment to the Building Code. This achievement now places our city in competitive position with all other large metropolitan centers in the use of modern wall construction by industry and commerce. Also, we would be remiss if we did not add architects serving as chairmen of the Art Commission, City Planning Commission, and in official capacities in numerous civic organizations.

There is no way to measure how much of his working day the architect devotes to non-paying civic and governmental activities. Young men whose practice is just building up and retired architects with some time on their hands obviously can give more in terms of time than men at the peak of a busy architectural practice. But all architects alike give some time and plenty of enthusiasm to betterment of their communities.

They know it pays off—not just in new contracts which may lead to commissions or improved public relations for themselves and their profession, but in the better communities, the improved human environment which the architect envisions as providing, for his fellow man, better places in which to live, raise families, and have more enjoyable leisure hours.

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POST OFFICE AND FEDERAL BUILDING, Ford Dodge. Four stories and partial basement. Reinforced concrete frame, face brick and stone, fully air conditioned by absorption system. Cost estimated at $1,750,000 exclusive of land. Construction to begin summer 1959, completion 18 months later.

POST OFFICE AND FEDERAL COURT BUILDING, FORT DODGE. ARCHITECT: THE GRIFFITH COMPANY, FORT DODGE.
CON DRUG STORE, COUNCIL BLUFFS. ARCHITECT: ROBERT C. ROBINSON, COUNCIL BLUFFS.

DESIGNED BY IOWA ARCHITECTS

CON DRUG STORE, 32d and W. Broadway, Council Bluffs. One-story drug building 92x35 with basement to be finished as salesroom; rental units 35x51, warehouse 40x57. Masonry construction; pylon and front faced with Tennessee Crab Orchard stone; flagstone window-shopping area. Floor, 2½" concrete on steel joists. Acoustical ceiling. Rental units have individual heating, plumbing, air cooling, utilities. Contracts total $77,382; completed December, 1958. Contractors: Andersen Construction; J & S Electric; Bogardus Plumbing.

NORTHEAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, Grinnell. Steel frame, aluminum curtain wall. Classrooms, offices, kitchen, multi-purpose room, lockers. 19,000 square feet. To be bid summer 1959.
Problem: An Industrial Park

For five weeks during the spring quarter at Iowa State University, 65 architectural students applied themselves to developing an industrial park for Jefferson. (The problem was purely an exercise; Jefferson had previously hired a professional planner.) It was the first time such a problem had been assigned. Students worked in teams, with a faculty advisor. Six light industries were specified, with central services and optional features; strategic location and landscaping were stressed. Each of 13 teams entered 15 drawings.

WINNING TEAM, from left: W. D. Edgar, Clear Lake; Charles Burnidge, Elgin, Ill.; Thomas L. Kline, Des Moines; Richard Spelic, Omaha; John Hix, Dysart; Roger Burns, Cedar Rapids; Roger Boyer, Rochester, Minn.; George L. Nielsen, Ames.

DRAWINGS, top to bottom: Site plan, foundry, bottling plant.
SCULPTURE

An exposed aggregate panel for the MAYTAG COMPANY Headquarters Building Newton, Iowa

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The Convalescent Home

The structure shown on the cover of this issue represents a new kind of facility now beginning to appear in Iowa, the convalescent home.

The convalescent home fits a need, long expressed by medical authorities, for "someplace between hospital and home." It offers professional nursing care, under medical supervision, but does not maintain many of the treatment facilities required in a general hospital; care is therefore less expensive to the patient than hospital rates.

Patients may be transferred from the hospital to a convalescent home (or back again) as their condition permits; the home also might admit new patients who, in their doctor's opinion, do not require full hospital facilities.

Movement of patients in and out of this kind of convalescent home is only by doctor's order, like hospital procedure.

The need for convalescent nursing homes of this type has been considered pressing enough that they have been given priority for several years in Hill-Burton grants. The Margaret and Howard Hall Convalescent home in Cedar Rapids is the first independent structure of this kind to be built in Iowa under a Hill-Burton grant.

The new convalescent home, for which bids were taken May 22, adjoins Mercy hospital and is connected to the radiation center constructed in 1956. Like the earlier project, sponsor money for the new home was contributed by the Hall Foundation.

The project under construction now will contain about 30 beds. Its service facilities, however, could handle three times as many patients; the structure is designed for addition of two more floors. Contracts for the present project total about $570,000.

Three other convalescent homes of this type exist in Iowa. One is attached to Allen Memorial Hospital, Waterloo; an addition of about 30 beds was constructed at the Sioux Center hospital; an existing hospital at Burlington was remodeled for convalescent patients.

The Burlington project is unique, and distinguished as an example of community-wide planning for what administrators term "progressive patient care." Three general hospitals had been operating in the city of 36,000, but there was no intermediate facility. After a survey of the area's total needs, St. Francis hospital was converted to a 150-bed convalescent home.
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SCHOOL BOARDS MEET: A.I.A. WILL EXHIBIT

Dates for the 14th annual convention of the Iowa Association of School Boards have been set: November 19 and 20. All meetings will be in Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Des Moines.

The Iowa Chapter, A.I.A., plans an exhibit similar to its display last fall, and with the same financial arrangements.

Members of the chapter will be invited to display photographs and drawings of current school projects. Each firm may submit up to three mounts (30x30 or 40x40), comprising one or more schools. Firms which exhibit will pay a fee of $5 per mount, which will defray the cost of exhibit space.

Photos are required for completed projects; renderings may be displayed for schools under construction.

In 1958, fifteen firms provided 25 panels for display. In addition, the chapter manned a booth and distributed copies of the special Schools edition of the Iowa Architect. Another Schools edition is planned for distribution at the 1959 School Boards convention.

DURRANT & BERGQUIST EXPAND FIRM

Durrant and Bergquist, Dubuque and Boscobel, Wis., on April 17 announced expansion of the firm to include four new partners: George E. Deininger, Jerold W. Dommer, Donovan D. Kramer and Donald P. McGinn.

Deininger, a graduate of the University of Nebraska, is registered in Wisconsin and Iowa, and has been with the firm since 1949.

Dommer, a native Nebraskan, joined the firm upon graduation from Iowa State College in 1953, and is registered in Iowa. Kramer received his degree from the same college in 1954, when he joined the practice. He is registered in Iowa.

McGinn has been a structural engineer for Durrant and Bergquist since 1952. He holds a B.Sc. in architectural engineering from Iowa State. He is an architect registered in Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois, and is registered as an engineer in Iowa.

Dommer and Kramer are new corporate members of the A.I.A. in Iowa; Deininger and McGinn have been assigned to Wisconsin.

Joseph G. Durrant founded the firm at Boscobel in 1933, and was joined by Raymond G. Bergquist in 1946. The Dubuque office was established in 1948. The organization includes 23 members and is active in Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois. Bergquist is a member of the executive committee of the Iowa Chapter, A.I.A.
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NOTE: CHANGE AFFECTS REGISTRATION RENEWAL

The Iowa Board of Architectural Examiners has announced a change in its practices affecting renewal of registration.

It has been the custom to accept renewals after the June 30 deadline, charging a late penalty of $5.

The Attorney General has ruled that the examiners may not continue this practice, but must consider any architect who has not renewed his registration by June 30 as no longer licensed to practice in Iowa.

Any architect who permits his registration to lapse must therefore go through the entire registration procedure (except examinations) before reinstatement.

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STAFF APPOINTMENTS

James E. Parks has been appointed to the staff of the engineering and research division of the Goodwin Companies, announces C. T. Bridgman, division director.

Parks recently completed a technical course at SCPI headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Tom A. Frisk is a new sales representative for Adel Clay Products Co. F. L. McCrea, manager, has assigned Frisk to central and northwest Iowa.

NEW CORPORATES NAMED

Admission of four new corporate members of the A.I.A. is reported by Chapter Secretary W. D. Fretver. This listing is designed to be inserted in the first section of the chapter directory published in January of this year.

The new members are:

- BORG, JOSEPH E.
  Principal, Brooks-Borg
  816 Hubbell Bldg., Des Moines

- DOMMER, JEROLD WILLIAM
  Principal, Durrant & Bergquist
  666 Loras Blvd., Dubuque

- KRAMER, DONOVAN DALE
  Principal, Durrant & Bergquist
  666 Loras Blvd., Dubuque

- PEIFFER, LEO CLEMENT
  Principal, Crites Peiffer
  306 Tenth St. S.E., Cedar Rapids

NEW BOOKS

Saving Dollars in Building Schools by David A. Pierce
Reinhold Publishing Corp., $5.95

David Pierce, consultant architect to the Ohio State Board of Education, has written a comprehensive and excellent analysis of cost factors in school design.

The original research for the book was undertaken by Mr. Pierce under the sponsorship of the Ohio State Board of Education which desired additional information to combat the recent articles attacking school design which were authored by several well-meaning, but totally uninformed writers who were emotionally and technically unprepared to criticize architectural design.

According to Mr. Pierce, there is too much feeling about schools and not enough facts. Much has been written about initial savings in school construction, but little about the true cost of a school facility to a school district.

"Saving Dollars in Building Schools" contains many graphs and charts comparing walls, roofs, classroom shapes and sizes, school finances, fuel costs, lighting, acoustics, and direct cost comparison of different school plans; comparisons that reveal months of painstaking research and compilation of data.

This is a book that belongs in every architect's office. H.B.