

Skylines



May

52

KANSAS CITY CHAPTER

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

KANSAS CITY CHAPTER
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

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Skylines

KANSAS CITY CHAPTER • AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

MAY - 1952

CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday Evening
May 13

The Wishbone
4455 Main Street

Presentation of

AWARDS

to architects and owners of

outstanding buildings completed in 1951.

The regular Chapter meeting procedure will be followed, with the business session preceding the cocktail hour and dinner. Homer Neville's committee on Awards will announce the winning entries immediately after dinner. A guest speaker will follow the presentation of the Awards.

The business session will be devoted chiefly to a report on the progress to date in regard to the Central States Conference to be held here in October, and a discussion of the tasks facing us in achieving a successful convention. A report of the meeting of all conference committee chairmen will be given by General Chairman Frank Slezak, and he will then lead the discussion from the floor on various important details.

Business Meeting	5:30 Sharp
Cocktails	6:15
Dinner (\$2.25)	6:45
Awards and	
Guest Speaker	7:30

PHONE RESERVATIONS VI, 8110

The Awards committee announces that 35 nominations were made in this years competition, including some out of town jobs. There are seven classifications of buildings. Judgment and awards will be made in three degrees:

Medal Award
Mention Award
Certificate of Merit.

Further details on this important Chapter meeting will be given in the regular meeting notice.

Notes From The Directors

APRIL MEETING

Two members who were recently nominated to Corporate Membership, were given a lengthy period of indoctrination in regard to their responsibilities as a Corporate Member. This discussion by the Board members consisted of information in regard to fees, ethics, the relation to the profession, their responsibility to younger members and how they can contribute to a general up-grading of the profession through Chapter activities. The Board is establishing this indoctrination as normal procedure for all new Corporate Members.

Treasurer Simon presented a tentative budget for 1952 which was carefully reviewed by the Board and suggested revisions made.

Discussion was held in regard to delegates expenses to A. I. A. National Convention and a tentative budget was set up pending receipt of information from Washington in regard to their allowance to the Chapter.

A lengthy discussion was had in regard to members who leave the profession for other work. It was decided that a review of the non-corporate membership would be made to determine those who were not actively connected with the profession so that a determination could be made in regard to their future membership.

Discussion was had in regard to Government Agencies further encroachment to the practice of architecture. A specific example was discussed in regard to a program for Kansas City. It was decided that the president of the Chapter take the necessary action through local channels and forward information to A. I. A. in Washington for further action.

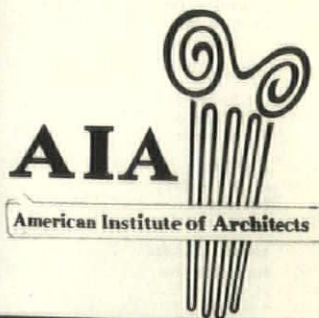
Mark Your Calendar

- May 7 - Associates & Jr. Associates Meeting
World War II Memorial Building
Linwood & Paseo 8:00 P. M.
- May 13 - Chapter Meeting
Medal Awards Presentation
4455 Main Street 5:30 P. M.
- June 10 - Chapter Meeting
Regular monthly meeting procedure, except
we will be guests of the Carthage Marble Co.
for dinner and cocktails.
Speaker: Romer Shawhan, Director of
Marble Institute of America
- July 8 - Stag beer party at the recently completed
contemporary home of Architect Wiles
Gillespie at 4017 Locust Street
- August 11 - Annual Chuck Wagon Party with the ladies.
Associates and Jr. Associates in charge.

Architects Identification Signs For Project Sites

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A R C H I T E C T S



THIS IS A SAMPLE REPRODUCTION OF THE ARCHITECTS IDENTIFICATION SIGN ADOPTED BY THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

This sign measures approximately 48" x 18" and is produced by the "silk screen" process. The material is quarter-inch masonite, which can readily be nailed or screwed to a barricade, or reinforced with 2 x 4's on the back for mounting to a tree, post or shed roof.

Provided a chapter total of 100 or more are ordered, these signs are priced at \$6.80 each. It is important that orders be placed NOW so these signs can be mass produced. Individual orders placed at a later date will mean a unit price of \$10.00 or \$13.00 each, since this is a four color job.

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The symbol part of the sign provides a unique tie-in with chapter identification thru use of the free-form column cut thru with the phrase "American Institute of Architects." The column (which has been dubbed "the hairpin") is grey. The "AIA" is black. "American Institute of Architects" is black on a bright red background.

THE PRICE IS RIGHT AND THE SCHEME IS GOOD. LET'S ORDER UP A SIGN FOR EVERY JOB, IN TOWN AND OUT, AND PUT THE PROJECT OVER!

CENTRAL STATES

Conference . . .

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OCTOBER 9, 10, 11, 1952
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Program Committee

announces

speakers for seminars. . . .

Edward D. Stone	- New York,
Charles Eames	- California
Bruce Goff	- Oklahoma
Emil Frei	- St. Louis

Comment from the Octagon:

"... glad to see a return to the focusing of attention on Architecture as an art and related subjects. It seems that in these days of controls, governmental encroachment, social security and everything else, that we have been inclined to forget for the moment that architecture is not only a fine art but that it has a pre-eminent position in the world of Art. It looks to me as if you are well on the road to creating an inspirational affair."

Edmund R. Purves
Executive Director

Meeting

All Associates and Junior Associates

Wednesday Night, May 7, 1952, 8:00 P.M.

World War II Memorial Building
Linwood and Paseo

All associate and junior associate members should plan to attend this meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to outline our portion of the work and responsibilities in the effort to make the K.C. Chapter the finest in the land. It will be an excellent opportunity for all views and ideas to be expressed. Members of the Chapter Executive Committee will be present to enter into the discussions.

After the meeting the group will adjourn to a nearby room for refreshments and individual group discussions of the profession of architecture. Ahem! Nuf said!

John C. Monroe, Jr., Chairman
Associates & Jr. Associates Committee

TELEPHONE LISTING IN THE YELLOW PAGES of the phone book will be carried again next year. Although the new phone book is not due out until December, the company is already checking its yellow page listings. All corporate members or firms with corporate members are eligible to be listed under the A.I.A. heading at the nominal fee. Anyone wanting to check with the telephone company in this regard should call BA. 9900, extension 485, or write to the directory sales manager at 11th and Oak, room 1433.

Under the agreement with the telephone people, the Chapter pays for the one-inch space which contains the Institute seal and appropriate phrasing, and they secure the listing of local chapter members in the A.I.A. "box".

A NEW ROSTER OF ALL K.C. CHAPTER MEMBERS is being mailed out with this issue of SKYLINEs, together with the recommended schedule of minimum fees, the standard A.I.A. Owner-Architect contract form, and the code of ethics. Jim Mantel is in charge of the roster for our chapter. He can be reached at VI. 8110, in case he doesn't have your listing right. The present count on our membership by classification:

2 Fellows
87 Corporates
24 Associates
49 Junior Associates

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT AT KANSAS STATE COLLEGE attracted some 100 persons from Kansas City, most of them chapter members. The talk by Mr. Wright was given Tuesday April 29. K-State is to be warmly commended for bringing to their guest lecture platform this school year the two most widely known architects in the country. Richard Neutra spoke there last fall.

ALBERT B. FULLER, the steady man on our Board of Directors, suffered a slight heart attack about a month ago and was confined to Bell Memorial Hospital for two weeks. He is recovering nicely, his office tells us, and will soon be out and about again.

ERNEST O. BROSTROM recently held two talks on "The Church and its Architecture" before ministerial classes at the Baptist Seminary in Kansas City. Many questions were fired at the architect-speaker including: 1) What does an architect do? and 2) How does one approach an architect. The public relations and public education problem facing our profession is probably our biggest job, both as a chapter and as individuals.

NEW MEMBERS approved at the April meeting of the Board were: Guy Sumner with Edward W. Tanner - Associate Member. Harvey Fink with J. W. Radotinsky - Junior Associate Member.

R. J. FALWELL, Junior Associate who is currently with the Wadsworth Homes concern, is a pretty small fellow, but we wouldn't recommend that anyone get tough with him--he's won four AAU wrestling championships since graduating from Kansas State where he lettered three years in the mat sport. A steady performer since 1940, Ralph is currently a top contender in the Olympic trials in the 114 1/2 pound class.

K. C. CHAPTER PRODUCERS' COUNCIL has prepared a printed text of a transcript of the proceedings of the joint meeting held with our chapter in February concerning building products literature. The 40-page SKYLINES-size booklet is a good follow-thru of a very successful meeting. Anyone interested in the booklet should contact Sterling Ronai, VI. 5672.

THE HOUSE FOR YOU

A Series of 6 Lectures Sponsored by

**The Kansas City Chapter of the
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS EXTENSION
and
KANSAS CITY ART INSTITUTE AND
SCHOOL OF DESIGN**

One of the activities of the Chapter's Committee of Education and Public Relations, headed by Chairman John Murphy, has been the production of a six-lecture series on Residential Design and Construction.

This is the second year that this series has been conducted in conjunction with the University of Kansas Extension and the Kansas City Art Institute and School of Design. The Chapter was represented by five speakers and the sixth was Mr. Dorr Carroll, Jr., a mortgage banker who presented very pertinent information concerning financing.

Members of the committee composed an excellent mailing piece which the University of Kansas Extension mailed to a selected list of several thousand people which was very carefully compiled by other members of the committee.

Seventy persons enrolled for the series and attendance was very good. The University of Kansas Extension issues a very nice certificate to each person who attends five or more lectures and forty-six were issued for this course.

The enthusiasm and deep interest of the group was evidenced by the very fine way they presented questions to the speakers and entered into the discussions. Quite often it was difficult to complete the discussion within the two hour period.

The excellent ability of our speakers to present interesting lectures brought many nice compliments from those in attendance. From remarks overheard it was discovered that certain ones who spoke really possess that "appeal" where the ladies are concerned! Such remarks as "he's cute", etc., were overheard during the intermission.

February 21
"How to Select A Site"
Angus McCallum, A. I. A.

McCallum opened the series with a very thorough lecture concerning all phases of site selection. He stressed the importance of selecting the right community for a home in a certain price range and all of the factors which

would enter into this. During his discussion of particular sites and orientation he employed the use of many sketches on the blackboard. He very definitely established and brought home to the group the importance of their using great care in the selection of a building site.

February 28
"A-B-C's of Home Planning"
Ralph E. Meyers, A. I. A.

"How to Determine the Right Plan for Your Family" was the theme of the second lecture. With the help of blackboard sketches and slides, Meyers demonstrated the "Do's and Don't's" of the house plan, the effect of family size, habits, interests, and activities and the relation of house to site, sun and weather. Room sizes and inter-relation, one and two story plans, the "split level" and expandable house were discussed.

Also of much interest to the audience was a portion explaining architects' fees and what they could expect in return from a competent architect.

March 6
"What About Financing?"
Dorr Carroll, Jr.

The only non-architect member of the lecture panel was Dorr Carroll, Jr., Vice President of The City Bond and Mortgage Company. Beginning with a history of the development of home financing methods, Carroll proceeded to explain "conventional", F. H. A. and G. I. programs. He very precisely explained regulation "X" and the advantages and disadvantages of each particular method of financing. He explained the characteristics of a "good risk" from the mortgage bankers standpoint. He concluded his lecture with a very flattering explanation of the superiority of the Architect Designed Home in the eyes of the mortgage loan banker.

March 13
"In and Out Design"
John C. Morley, A. I. A.

Morley presented, through the use of the blackboard and slides, a discussion of the correct use of materials to create a house with a personality. He brought out clearly the importance of the proper use of materials in designing a home. As in all cases, the audience was very active in presenting numerous interesting questions to the speaker.

March 20
"The Construction of Your House, Materials & Methods"
Robert S. Everitt, A. I. A.

Everitt began by discussing the recent advances in methods of lighting a home and proceeded to present a very complete picture of all phases of mechanical equipment in the home. After discussing this he covered various aspects of good sound construction and presented various "mock-ups" and samples which were of much interest to the audience.

March 27
"Round Table By All The Experts"

At this final session a short resume of each lecture was presented and then a "round table" discussion with all speakers taking part was presented. The audience presented written questions which were discussed by various mem-

(Continued on Page 11)

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bers of the panel. Some very lively and informative discussions followed with all of the various view-points being well amplified.

The entire series of lectures was under the immediate supervision of one of our outstanding young associates, John C. Monroe, Jr. Acting as moderator, he did an excellent and most dignified job of greeting our guests, introducing the speakers, outlining subject matter, and keeping the question periods moving in an orderly and interesting manner. His conduct was a distinct credit to the profession and the Chapter should be proud of the way he represented us.

Thirty-Nine Named To Fellowship

Thirty-nine members of the A. I. A. will be advanced to fellowship in the Institute in a ceremony during the Annual Banquet June 25th at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City. The event forms part of the 84th annual convention.

Fellowship in the Institute is the highest class of membership and is conferred in recognition of distinction in design, service to the public or the profession, or service to the Institute.

Some of the more familiar names among the 39 are:

Max Abramowitz of New York
Welton Becket of Southern California
Thomas H. Locraft of Washington D. C.
Maynard Lyndon of Southern California
Antonin Raymond of New York
Eero Saarinen of Detroit
L. Morgan Yost of Chicago

These men all received their fellowship for achievements in design.

Lawrence Hill of St. Louis becomes a F. A. I. A. for achievements in the field of education.

NATIONAL MENTION

In the "Report Card" column of the March issue of National Architect, the official publication of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, a reprint of a SKYLINE article appeared which called attention to the vital need for better public relations for the architectural profession. The first two paragraphs of Tom FitzPatrick's article which appeared in our March issue are quoted directly by the national publication.

Missouri Association of Architects

The annual meeting of the Missouri Association of Architects was held April 19 at Jefferson City and the chief item of business was the dispensation of funds which had accrued while the organization was a chapter of the A. I. A.

The Directors voted to refund all dues which had been paid into the Association from 1948 to 1951 since the meeting of last year dissolved the unit as an A. I. A. chapter and formed an independent Missouri corporation. This means the Kansas City Chapter will receive about \$900.00.

Other business disposed of at the meeting included:

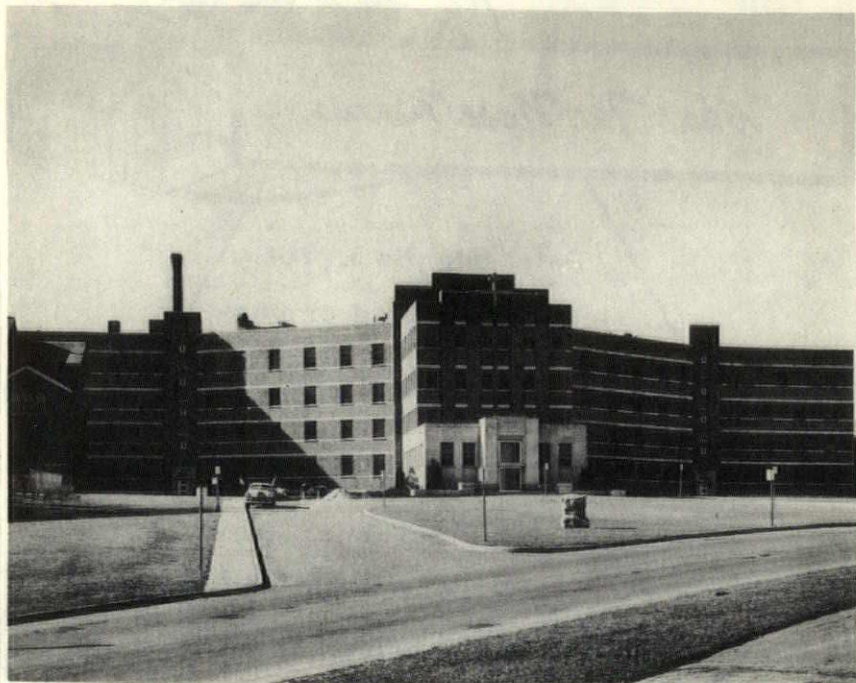
- The reduction of the dues from \$5.00 to \$3.00 per year.
- Election of: Harold Casey (Springfield), President
J. B. Shaughnessy, Vice-President
Rex L. Becker (St. Louis), Secretary
Wm. Bovard, Treasurer
Robert Everitt, Director for 4 years
Dave Clark (Columbia) Director for 4 years
(Directors remaining in office are: R. P. Buchmeuller (Sikeston), Robert Elkington and B. J. Applegate (St. Louis), Truman Martinie (Joplin) Luther Willis (K.C.), and Eugene Meier (St. Joseph).

- Reading of first draft of By-Laws. A meeting to approve the By-Laws and establish committees was held April 26. (A report of this meeting and a digest of the By-Laws and aims of this organization will be carried in the next issue of SKYLINES).

A great amount of time was devoted to the discussion of the advisability of continuing the Missouri Association as a corporation independent of the A. I. A. When all factors were carefully considered, it became apparent that a separate organization would be of greater benefit to the profession in this state.

Under the present Association only registered architects of the State of Missouri are eligible for membership. Architects-in-Training can belong, but are not required to pay dues and have no voting power.

This organization will permit the architects of Missouri to band together (as the professional engineers have already done with much success) as one statewide group to look after the best interests of the profession. It undoubtedly will be a stronger body than it had been as a combination chapter of the St. Louis and Kansas City A. I. A. groups.



When Carroll and Dean, AIA, designed the new addition to St. Mary's Hospital, they specified and used X-Ray protection materials made by the Ray Proof Corporation.

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APRIL CHAPTER MEETING

Program Committee Chairman Bob Everitt presented an excellent speaker at the April meeting in the person of Bruce Goff, head of the department of architecture at Oklahoma University and creator of many unusual architectural designs. Speaking under undesirable acoustical conditions, Mr. Goff delivered a thoughtful discourse on the many aspects of architecture, which unfortunately was partially missed by some "in the back row" of the crowded meeting room.

STUDENT GUESTS

Guests of the chapter at the meeting were the senior members of the A. I. A. student chapters at Kansas State College and Kansas University. The teaching staffs of both schools were also well represented. More than fifty guests attended the dinner and heard Mr. Goff.

Our own chapter turned out well for the April affair, some 80 members attending.

THE MYSTERY OF ARCHITECTURE

Thruout his talk Architect Goff touched on the mystery, strangeness and uniqueness of architecture. He compared it to other fine arts and noted the striking parallel of the great artists in music and writing and so on and great architects. The new work of the good architect is always greeted with scepticism and criticism because it's not like his last fine piece of work. Not until he does still another good design is the last appreciated.

Just out of grade school, Goff designed a house which was laughed at. Disturbed, he talked to his first employer, who told him that those in the trenches cannot be seen and no one knows he is there. It's the fellow out in no-man's-land who gets shot at, and then from both sides.

The mystery in architecture, Goff stated, is that element in the design which prompts men to look again, to question, to admire and to inquire. Mysticism begins where reasons fail. Architecture is not bound by its material. The thinking that we call designing may make ideas transcendent materials and the material.

It is the architect's opportunity and obligation, he said, to open doors, to expand the horizons of all the arts. And the architect must conjure his inspiration to order. He may feel like doing a church and be asked to do a skating rink. Or, he may be feeling like hell and be asked to design a church. Those are the perils of a profession of the arts.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Leonard Bailey of Oklahoma City, who was a member of the Kansas City Chapter some 30 years ago before they had a Chapter in Oklahoma, was a guest at the April meeting. He gave a detailed report of the National Board meeting held in March, and had much praise of the individual and collective activity of the Board members. He also advised us in regard to the forthcoming Regional Conference.

Lorentz Schmidt, F.A.I.A.

1885 - 1952

At the March meeting of the Institute's Board of Directors held in Washington, a memorial resolution commemorating the death of Lorentz Schmidt, Kansas' best known architect, was passed. A resident of Wichita since 1915, Mr. Schmidt was Central States District Director from 1948 to 1951. He died February 5 of cancer. The publication, NATIONAL ARCHITECT, carried the following in its March issue:

Mr. Schmidt was the only practicing architect in Kansas ever to be elected to fellowship in The American Institute of Architects. Prof. Paul Weigel, Head of the Department of Architecture at Kansas State College, was so honored in 1947.

When Mr. Schmidt was elevated to fellowship in the Institute at its 83rd Annual Convention in Chicago last May, his citation read,

"Lorentz Schmidt has been advanced to Fellowship for service to the Institute. Despite a serious physical handicap, Schmidt worked his way through school and college and became an outstanding citizen of his community. He led an effort to raise architectural standards in Kansas which culminated last year when an architectural registration law passed the legislature after a thirty-year struggle. He was largely instrumental in organizing what ultimately became the Kansas Chapter of the A.I.A. and is currently Regional Director of the Institute's Central States District. Through his high ethical and professional standards, his life-long interest in the welfare of students and young people, and his ceaseless activity in municipal and state affairs, Schmidt has been an inspiration to the young practitioner and to those with whom he has been associated."

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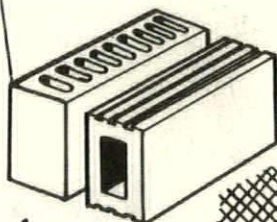
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The Psychology *of* *Progress in Architecture*

Our civilization is based on the idea of progress. We are conditioned to look at progress as a condition of our survival. The desire to be progressive often makes people approve of things, which they are not quite able to evaluate. The resulting disappointment makes people prejudiced against everything that is different from what they have seen before. The architect who sells his halfbored ideas under the slogan of progressiveness is at least as much of a cause of conservative attitudes as the conservative himself who is willing to condemn without adequate evidence.

Architecture is concise commonsense. To design, to designate means to make a decision with every line we draw. To make decisions we have to have a purpose as well as knowledge. Progress in architecture means increasing knowledge and a growing consciousness of purpose. There is no art without a purpose. The goal of making money is insufficient to inspire architecture. We have to have ideals of human values that will guide us in producing architecture conducive to creative living. We have to have ideals of economy, a selfdiscipline that forces us to give the most with the least possible means. The personal integrity of the architect is a precondition of producing progressive designs.

The quality of architecture depends on how many good ideas we are willing to give up to look for better ones. To be able to look for better ideas in spite of everpresent deadlines, we have to increase our efficiency. There is no thinking without preconceived ideas. Yet it would be no more than wishfull thinking if we always incorporated our preconceived ideas into our final designs just to prove their workability. An openmindedness is required to facilitate decisions of rejection whenever esthetic concepts fail to boost one another's effect. A selfcriticism is needed to keep us from falling in love with our personal achievement. Selfsatisfaction would make us repeat ourselves endlessly and exclude all chances of selfdevelopment and progress. It is in human nature that we speak of our progressiveness most after we degenerated into copying the latest fads.

Whatever mental blocks we develop will affect the quality of our designs. We cannot expect any help from the psychiatrists to remove our mental blocks and to solve our problems of mental efficiency. We have to improve our way of thinking by analyzing our own work as to how decisions were made. We will find methods which we developed to meet deadlines and which instead of helping us to produce solutions faster, make it impossible to find adequate solutions at all.

The psychology of progress in architecture aims at developing a clarity of thought needed for producing progressive designs. Truly progressive designs are easier to sell than arbitrary stylistic ones.

G. Peter Keleti

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR YEAR 1952

STANDING COMMITTEES - 1952

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