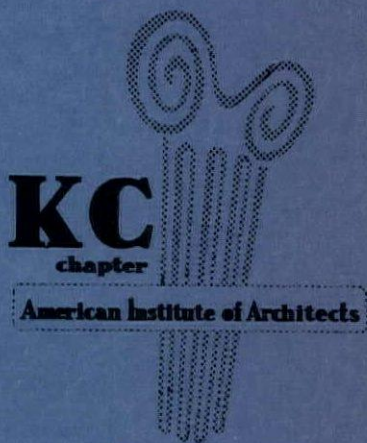


Skylines

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NOVEMBER 1954



SKYLINES

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Skylines

Volume 4, Number 11

November, 1954

Following the stimulating feature of Muralist Arthur Kraft and Sculptors Richard Hollander and Robert Hillwell at the October meeting, comes now a program devoted to

SCHOOLS

An informal program, "Conversation and Color Slides" will be presented by Philip Will, Jr., Fellow of the Institute. Partner in the firm of Perkins and Will, he possesses vast experience in school work, having received international recognition on several projects.

Area school officials will be invited guests of the chapter.

Be there Tuesday, November 16, 913 Baltimore, 5:30 p.m.

Your attention is called to the importance of making RESERVATIONS for the chapter meetings. Please call the chapter office by noon, Monday the 15th. Arrangements must be made with the caterer and last minute calls cause undue hardship on the program committee.

ANNUAL MEETING in December will feature Architect Joseph D. Murphy and Artist Robert Harmon of St. Louis, presenting their latest ecclesiastical designs—St. Peters and Resurrection churches. Preview these projects which are scheduled for publication in national magazines.

THE CHAPTER OFFICE MOVES on or about December 1 to new quarters at 429 Scarritt Building (Ninth and Grand). Executive Secretary Betty Martin, in the roomier space, will be better able to handle overload work. The telephone number remains the same, Vltor 9737. If your office needs outside stenographic help, get it from Miss Martin.

BOARD ACTIVITY during the past few months has centered on the work of establishing new by-laws for the chapter and the execution of the Articles of Incorporation, items which were presented to the October chapter meeting and approved by the membership. Under the new by-laws, a study of a program of action and budget structure for the coming year is being made by President Simon and Past-President Roark. After approval by the board, the program will be presented to the Annual Meeting of the chapter for consideration.

NEW MEMBERS approved by the board:
EARL R. WILSON, corporate. Partner in the firm of Wislon & Earnheart, Kansas City, Kansas. Native of Kansas, attended Kansas State College, began professional practice in 1931 at Milford. Associate member of KC Chapter since 1952.

LAWRENCE L. DOWNS, junior associate. Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, graduated Bachelor of Architecture, Washington University, St. Louis, 1949. Now with Neville, Sharp and Simon.

JOHN E. JAMESON, junior associate. Born in Lawrence, Kansas. B.S. in Architecture, University of Kansas, 1951. Now with Voskamp & Slezak.

LLOYD ROARK travels to Washington December 6 and 7 for a meeting of the National Committee on Chapter affairs. They will pursue recommendations of the Education and Registration Survey Report.

GEORGE H. MIEHLS, president of Albert Kahn Associated Architects and Engineers, Inc., has been announced as the first speaker of the Fall by the Department of Architecture at the University of Kansas. George M. Beal, head of the department, invites Kansas City architects to three appearances: Monday, October 25 at 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 26 at 11:00 a.m., and again at 6:00 p.m. The Tuesday evening talk will follow an informal supper in the Student Union Building, and those planning to attend the supper are asked to make reservations with Mr. Beal.

A STAINED GLASS WINDOW—a tribute from American architects to the builders of the great French cathedrals—will be unveiled at Chartres Cathedral on October 7th. The gift has been made possible by a contribution from the American Institute of Architects' Henry Adams Fund and donations of individual architects and AIA chapters. The 26-foot high window depicts the life of St. Fulbert, Bishop of Chartres, who started the cathedral in 1041. Although the original structure was destroyed by fire in 1194, the present cathedral rests on the foundations built by St. Fulbert.

The American architects' gift window was designed and executed by Francois Lorin, a distinguished French artist and craftsman, who has been able to re-create the famed "Chartres blue." He is of the third generation of Chartres glass-makers. While his work conforms in scale and color to its medieval surroundings, the design is an expression of the era in which we live. As such, it is expected to rank as an outstanding example of contemporary ecclesiastical art.

Officially representing the Institute at the dedication ceremonies will be former AIA President Ralph Walker and Julian Clarence Levi of New York. Other participants include U. S. Ambassador Douglas Dillon, the Bishop and Archbishop of Chartres, Jean Maunoury, Architecte des Monuments Historiques of Chartres, and French government officials.

*How the
individual architect
can help himself
and the profession*

In your community

1. Seek leadership not only in the planning and building of your community, but also in the civic and social life of that community.
2. Join a community action group; raise a voice for community betterment.
3. Know and make friends with your lawmakers in Congress, state and community.
4. Draw attention to the leadership which architects enjoy in the construction industry and their contributions to society as a whole.
5. Make the public realize that the architect—as an individual and as an organized group—can be of great service to the community.
6. Cooperate as an individual or a group with civic bodies concerned with
 - ▶ neighborhood and community planning,
 - ▶ urban redevelopment,
 - ▶ studies of traffic, housing, school and recreational needs,
 - ▶ formulating and checking on building legislation (codes, zoning, etc.).
7. Analyze your community and draw up list of local “thought-leaders.” Mail to this list reprints of magazine articles or speeches which help to explain the services of the architect. Attach a brief personal message and mark significant paragraphs for attention.
8. Suggest an architectural exhibition or lecture or panel discussion at a local museum, art association, women’s club.

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architectural forum

NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL STATES DISTRICT WICHITA, KANSAS

October 21, 22, 23, 1954

Frankly, some of us attended the Central States Regional Conference with misgivings . . . the advance publicity had not been too informative nor too well timed; the subject "Of Grass Roots and Architecture" did not sound too promising; we as a Chapter had heard of no activity on a Regional level since our last conference in Des Moines.

Well, our hosts, the Kansas Chapter and its President, Glenn Benedick, did themselves proud! It was a fine conference from every angle; the seminars were interesting, informative and factual; the entertainment was excellent (in spite of the fact we were in Kansas); the business meetings really accomplished something.

The success of the seminars was largely due to Walter Rolfe, FAIA of Houston, Texas, a dynamic personality, a speaker par excellent, and a man who actually made us all want to go out and do the good things in life and living.

Credit for the hospitality and entertainment must be given to Sid and Barbara Platt. Think Tom Peddie had his fine Italian hand in it, too. Just so Sid doesn't feel too elated at compliments . . . shall we point out that his training in the K. C. Chapter is finally producing results?

The business sessions were of course conducted by our Regional Director, Frank McNett of Grand Island, Nebraska. Let's back off and look at this fellow . . . Frank is a very important man to us; he is not only our Regional Director (Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, St. Louis and Kansas City Chapters) but is one of the twelve men who sits on the Board of Directors of the Institute. In other words, he is our contact with the national organization, thru the region, thru the chapter, to you and me. This is the man who represents **US**. Frank was elected to his position at the National Convention in Boston last summer with the full support of the Kansas City Chapter. His term of office is for three years, thus he is

a "freshman" on the Board of Directors and this was the first regional meeting at which he presided.

Frank came to the Regional Conference fresh from a Board of Directors Meeting a few days before in Louisville, Kentucky. He reported their thinking and their attitude toward specific matters directly to us.

For those of you who may not know, there is a Regional Council which is made up of the President and one other appointed member of each Chapter in the region. This Council is only an advisory body to the Regional Director. McNett freely discussed the problems of the Institute with this Council, the matters were resolved and later resolutions were passed on the floor of the Regional Conference as to the opinion and attitude of the region, which were in effect instructions to Frank of our wishes which he should try to convey to the national level.

Frank's handling of all this procedure, and his effort to comprehend the intent of our region in relation to the Institute was masterful. All of us who attended the conference left with the feeling that we, as individuals, as a chapter, and region, had excellent representation on the Board of Directors of the Institute.

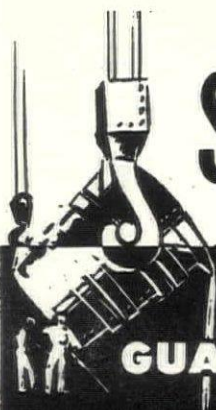
Frank has a big job. If we are called upon to help him in any way, chapter, regional or national, he deserves all the help we can give him. He has promised to visit us and you should all make an effort to personally meet him.

Of course that character from St. Louis, Bob Elkington, would try to make an imprint on the proceedings. Bob invited us to have the Regional Conference in St. Louis next year and, after the unanimous vote accepting, announced, the very next day, that the Conference would be held at the Hotel Jefferson on October 13, 14 and 15 of 1955! Although they don't say it . . . they are determined to outdo us all on this Regional Conference business . . . For the hell of it—let's all plan to attend just to see if they do!

Might say as a parting thought that these guys attended the conference: Herb Anset, Bob Baker, Bob Earnheart, Bob Everitt, Don Hollis, Ralph Moore, John Murphy, Lloyd Roark, Joe Shaughnessy, Bill Simon, Les Simpson, Frank Slezak, Ed Voskamp, Ray Voskamp, Earl Wilson.

If they think it is worthwhile and important enough to spend their time this way . . . why don't you?

Bill Simon



STEEL

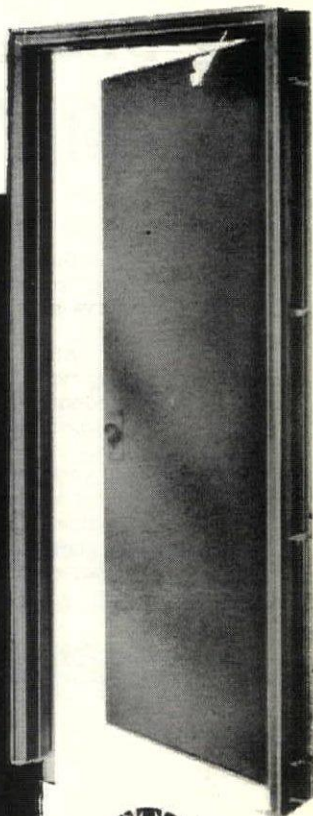
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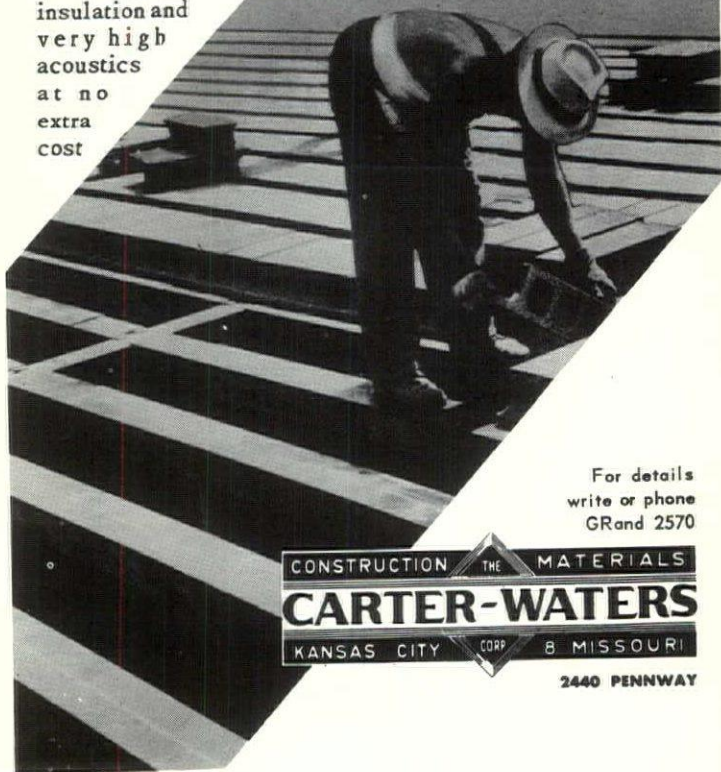
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"OF GRASS ROOTS AND ARCHITECTURE"

In these days of pressure, change, rush, and confusion, are the "Grass Roots" of architecture being covered with the "dust" of the efforts of those who study, teach or practice it, or are they being carefully cultivated, nurtured and attended in such manner that the development or advancement of it will in future years prove its continued value to mankind?

At least two schools of thought seem to be present among those whose interests lie in architecture.

One seems to lead to the idea that the practice and progress in architecture today, everything, plan, design, and materials, must be different from anything yet experienced.

The other, more conservative, certainly embraces the necessity of progress, but chooses to stay more or less clear of experimentation, uncertain or unproven areas of that which constitutes good practice.

This conference theme and program have been specifically chosen, planned, and designed to provoke thought and discussion, to take a look at the "Grass Roots."

It is hoped we may observe where they are bare and uncovered, merely covered with "dust" or where they are receiving the kind of care and consideration that will assure a better, stronger, more exciting and successful practice of the *profession of architecture*.

Resolutions Adopted by the Conference

Resolution Number One.

Whereas, the custom of distributing to the Chapters, certain funds to help defray the cost to the delegates of attending the National Convention has been of little benefit to the Chapters, therefore

Be it Resolved that the Central States District in 9th Conference assembled, voice its opinion that the Equalization Fund should be abandoned.

Resolution Number Two.

Whereas, the newly-formed Regional Council properly assumes responsibility for satisfactory functioning of its member Chapters, and

Whereas, it is desirable that Delegates from the Chapters be acquainted with the background and policies currently obtaining, and

Whereas, it is necessary for Chapter members to be in active attendance at Chapter meetings in order to have this information, therefore

Be it Resolved by the 9th Regional Conference of the Central States District that the Chapters be urged to screen their delegates to the National Convention carefully and to select in so far as possible, as Delegates, only members who have attended at least 50% of the regularly scheduled Chapter meetings.

Resolution Number Three.

Whereas, the Institution of Fellowship serves a useful purpose by holding before the membership the reward for distinctive service, and

Whereas, severe limitation in the number of members advanced to Fellowship tends to create a select coterie removed from the membership by an invisible barrier of selectivity, therefore

Be it Resolved by the Central States District in 9th Annual Conference assembled that the Jury of Fellows be advised that members of that region favor expansion of the College of Fellows to a figure approaching five per cent of the total membership in The Institute, and further, that the College of Fellows be encouraged to undertake a program of activity which will develop the talent and prestige of the Fellows.

Resolution Number Four.

Whereas, there are greatly increased duties imposed on the National President of the A.I.A. requiring a tremendous amount of personal time. There are many capable men available to take the position for one year who would not be able to operate on this basis for two years. Further, the accepted practice of taking the office for two years deters a candidate who cannot afford the two year term, from accepting the single term. The new proposed policy releases the President from many of the routine executive duties now required, making the President instead a leader and spokesman for The Institute in a policy-making capacity, therefore

Be it Resolved that by-law change be made to limit the Presidency of The Institute to one year, provided an opportunity for re-election is permitted after an interim of two years as provided in the by-laws.

Of Grass Roots and Architecture

Resolution Number Five.

Whereas, in the past, it has been felt that three year terms were necessary to give time for Regional Directors to familiarize themselves with The Institute and to become indoctrinated. Since an enlarged and more efficient Staff takes over more of the routine administrative duties and furnishes the necessary background information to acquaint incoming Regional Directors with current conditions and problems, it is believed that a shorter term of two years instead of three would be an advantage. The added responsibilities recommended which require Regional Directors to make written reports on annual visits to each Chapter impose a greater burden. This, coupled with the proposed change in Board of Directors' meetings from three to four a year, makes a shorter term of Board Members desirable. Many other organizations and governing bodies have found two year terms quite satisfactory. The Institute's growth in recent years is providing additional capable men to serve. Regional Directors usually come well prepared, frequently having held offices at Chapter or Regional levels and having served on Committees at various levels. Specifically, enthusiastic work by a Regional Director can best be accomplished over a shorter tenure of office, and with new leaders taking office more frequently comes renewed interest from the members, therefore

Be it Resolved that a by-law change be made to limit the term of a Regional Director to two (2) years.

Resolution Number Six.

Whereas, privileged architects of the Central States District, their wives, guests and associates have grazed on the succulent roots offered by the Kansas Chapter throughout the days of October 21, 22 and 23; imbibing nightly of the bountiful dewes so thoughtfully provided by the Host Chapter, therefore

Be it Resolved that the record show a delightful continuation of the renaissance of Architectural Organization within the District, begun nine Conferences ago.

Resolution Number Seven.

Whereas, Walter Thomas Rolfe, Fellow of the American Institute of Architects of Houston, Texas, has given so generously of his valuable time and talents and has contributed immensely to the success of the 9th Annual Conference of the Central States District in "keynoting" the theme of the conference and

Whereas, his energy, enthusiasm and sparkling wit seemingly welded together the spirit of the Architects in attendance, in the common welfare and progress of our profession.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by this Conference that it express its deep and heartfelt thanks to Walter Thomas Rolfe for his wonderful efforts and participation in the conference and that this resolution be placed on the minutes of the conference and a special copy of it be sent to Dr. Rolfe.

Resolution Number Eight.

Whereas, the ladies of the Kansas Chapter of the A.I.A. responded so well in their efforts to provide entertainment for the ladies from the visiting chapters and;

Whereas, their success was of colossal proportions and;

Whereas, their committee as well as all the ladies of the chapter gave unstintingly of their time since last January and;

Whereas, all visiting ladies and visiting members unanimously agree that they had a wonderful time;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Central States District in 9th conference assembled do hereby extend their sincere thanks and congratulations to all members of the Women's Activities Committee for a job well done.

An Excerpt from The Report of the Board To the 86th Convention

For half a century The Institute has had as its national headquarters The Octagon, a mansion designed by the architect who won the competition for our national capitol, Dr. William Thornton. Col. John Tayloe, with the advice and encouragement of General Washington, built the house in 1798-1800. So closely connected has The Institute been with the preservation of this historic landmark that we alone are credited with having saved and maintained it for the nation.

A recent examination of the structure has revealed such disturbing evidences of deflection in certain floors and in the main staircase that portions of the building have been closed as a safety measure. The mortised joints between joists and heavier beams have shrunk and loosened. There is no sign of rot or of deterioration in the seating of beams on the solid brick walls.

Recommendation of the Committee on Building and Grounds advises strengthening the floor structure by the addition of steel beams, in a manner found effective in a similar fault in Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. The Board requests authority of the Convention to draw upon the Reserve Fund for means to bring The Octagon to structural stability, particularly in view of the approaching Centennial Convention, when the eyes of all the membership, and the public as well, will be focused upon the building that, when the White House was burned in 1814, became the Executive Mansion for President and Dolly Madison.

The Convention adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That The Board be and hereby is authorized to draw upon the General Reserve Fund for essential and necessary repairs to The Octagon, to an amount not to exceed forty thousand dollars (\$40,000).

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