SKYLINES

KANSAS CITY
CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN INSTITUTE
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...Hermetically-sealed layers of air which provide barrier-free access in stores, theaters, public buildings, and industrial installations of all kinds.
Five miles from the center of Brussels, the Belgian Government is playing host to the world with its World’s Fair, the Brussels Universal and International Exposition. An estimated 35 million visitors are expected to walk, ride the Swiss loaned aerial tramways, or be propelled in mechanical wicker chairs over at least a portion of the 500 acre fairgrounds before the exhibition closes in mid-October.

Not since the New York World’s Fair in 1939 has there been such an interesting and varied assemblage of contemporary architecture in one area. The best architects and engineers of Belgium and the 47 participating nations have done an excellent job of presenting their architecture to a world audience.

To see the Fair at night is an adventure in itself. Whether you walk along the Belvedere Bridge or take a ride in one of the many little blue Mercedes busses, clever lighting everywhere brings new character and excitement to the pavilions and many government buildings.

There is a serious gaiety about the Fair as men, women, and children from all over the world visit the pavilions of theirs and other countries. They see a gigantic exhibit of culture and science, past, present, and future. At Brussels, as shown in history, architecture proves to be a most profound mirror that reflects the various peoples and cultures represented. It seems a necessary pity then, that by Christmas time this gathering will be dispersed, with only the Atomium remaining to remind Brussels and the world of its 1958 Fair.
Unquestionable one of the finest and most elegant buildings of the Fair, the pavilion of the United States draws large crowds to its 360 degree exhibit. Admittedly and successfully soft-sell, the U. S. displays its way of life in an orderly and relaxed fashion. The visitor is more likely to recall the U. S. pavilion as an experience rather than an exhibition. Biggest attraction was the voting booths, and the biggest mystery was the location of the rest rooms.
Spreading over a large site, the German Pavilion is perhaps the most precisely detailed building at the Fair. The light curtain wall enclosure, the airy bridges and the beautiful polished wood floors display a degree of craftsmanship seldom seen. One thing of interest at the Fair were the many pools of water at walk level and the many panes of glass with no visible muntins. Either somebody had a lot of insurance, or the matter of public safety is more closely watched in Europe than it is here.
In stark contrast to the many large, glass encased buildings of the Fair, the British Government Pavilion, greatly reminiscent of a contemporary cathedral, utilizes very little natural light in its displays of time-honored tradition and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Adjacent buildings display cultural and industrial progress.
The "wheel" by Isamu Noguchi is but one of several controversial art displays in the United States Pavilion.

The attractive and picturesque formal entrance to the Flemish Gardens, a highlight of the Belgian section of the Fair.
Each Pavilion had an eating place, where favorite foods of each country were enjoyed. Perhaps the most pleasant of these was the outdoor cafe of the Swiss Pavilion, overlooking a lake. Part of the British Pavilion is seen in the background.
The intriguing sculptural talent of Englishman, Henry Moore is interestingly portrayed in this grouping adjacent to the Pavilion of the United Kingdom.
Standing high above the Avenue des Nationa, the Carillion of the Netherlands adds a melodic note to the hustle and bustle of the people and activity below.
Appearing like a giant Christmas tree against the evening sky, the Atomium is the "mascot" of the Fair. Rising 360 feet above the Belgian section, it represents an elementary crystal of metal enlarged 150 million times. The spheres are 59 feet across, linked by tubes 9½ feet in diameter.
Here is a new and major piece of AIA literature which has been produced as part of the national public relations program. It contains in simple language a comprehensive picture of the architect and his profession. As such, it represents a basic document which can be of great benefit to the AIA and its members, if it is given wide distribution to persons of influence in all communities.

Copies are being sent from the Octagon to selected government personnel, trade association chiefs, editors and chief editorial writers of America’s leading newspapers, to leading publishers and magazine editors—both in the general consumer and in certain specialized fields, and to prominent broadcasters, producers, directors, and writers in the motion picture and television industries.

However, this is only part of the needed distribution system. To be effective, this striking and informative booklet should be placed in the hands of your most important clients, prospective clients, representatives of municipal and state government, community educators, heads of local civic and service organizations, and community editors and radio-TV station public affairs directors.

An initial press run of 15,000 copies is on hand at the Octagon. You may order copies of “Facts” by writing to “Facts,” The American Institute of Architects, 1735 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.; individual copies have been priced at 30 cents apiece, with a special price of 25 cents apiece for quantities of 25 or more.
NEW MEMBERS

Raymond L. Voskamp, Jr., is well known to the Chapter, having been a member in the past. Born in Kansas City, Ray attended Southwest High School, Junior College and received his B. S. Degree at K. U. Recently on the West Coast, we are glad to welcome Ray back to Kansas City.

Donald Lee Trent was born in Muncie, Kansas, graduated from Turner High School and received his B. S. Degree at K. U. An outstanding student and formerly President of the Student Chapter AIA at Lawrence, we admire his interest in applying for Chapter membership only a few months after graduating and starting to work in the office of Geis, Hunter and Ramos.

Carroll T. Hutchins comes from Tishomingo, Oklahoma and received his Degree at Oklahoma State University at Stillwater. A resident of Prairie Village, Carroll became a partner in the firm of Frangkiser & Hutchins in 1954.

CHAPTER NEWS

- Congratulations to two Chapter members who have received Fulbright scholarships to Europe. Dave Runnels is leaving in August for Vienna, Austria and Bill Conrad is leaving in December for Helsinki, Finland. It must be a real chore to wind up professional affairs to get away for a year and to arrange for the financial end of taking the families along, but the opportunity is rewarding in every way, as Jack Morley has stated many times since his return from Denmark. We wish them all the very best of luck and safety in their travels.

- After display at the Kansas
City (Missouri) Public Library, the Medal Awards Exhibit has been at the Johnson County Public Library (where very favorable public interest has been shown). In the middle of July, the exhibit moves to Springfield, Missouri.

- The annual spring awards given to students at Kansas University and K-State were presented by John T. Murphy and I. Lloyd Roark. Included among award winners at K. U. were: Douglas C. Smith, Kansas City Chapter Award of $50 for High Scholarship and Need; Richard S. Worrel, Voskamp and Slezak Award of $25 for Excellence in Working Drawings; Jerry F. Eaton, Kivett & Myers & Mccallum Award for $50 for Excellence in Site and Landscape Design; and Richard C. Murray, AIA Medal for High Scholastic Standing in the Five-Year Curriculum (Ray C. Gross, runner-up). At Manhattan, award winners included: Carlton Van Demon, Kansas City Chapter Award for Sophomore Class Scholastic Rating; and David M. Spiker, AIA Medal for General Excellence in Architecture (Don E. Anderson, runner-up).

- A double-page reproduction of all major newspaper mentions of KC/80 has been prepared for distribution at National Convention to Board Members along with a report of the project. The newspaper clippings make an impressive publicity showing for the Chapter and plans have been made for local distribution also to members of the Downtown Committee. It is possible that the report will also be published in the AIA JOURNAL this Fall.

- Word from Mr. W. Howard Adams, President of the Jackson County Historical Society is that work in photographing and compiling statistics for a list of Historic Buildings in the area is moving ahead under Mr. Hal Sandy's leadership. A recent building added is a residence in Independence designed by William McCoy in 1914. The house follows closely the lines of Wright's Oak Park, Chicago house and was done after McCoy studied with Wright. However, the Committee still has much work to do and Mr. Adams has requested aid from Chapter members in acquiring early sketches and elevations of houses and buildings in this area. Questions and information should be directed to:

  Mr. W. Howard Adams
  R. D. Mize Road
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