A tale of three mansions

By David C. Martin, AIA, and Jonathan Kirsch

A two-column advertisement in the Sacramento newspapers last December attracted approximately 1,000 letters among local readers, but it amounted to yet another chapter in the controversy over an official residence for the governor of the nation's most populous state. The controversy began around 1854 with the construction in a Sacramento suburb of a mansion splendid enough for a wealthy Golden State entrepreneur. Goodell, an original 4th and a former carpenter from Massachusetts, produced an ornate structure that after several years of remodeling and additions was "deemed to be property a subject of public interest." 1974: The year in review

By Michael J. Elliott

Executive Vice President

When looking for the highlights of a year just concluded, under the Presidency of Howard R. Lane, AIA, you are certainly well advised to take a prospect of looking over some of the achievements, and of not accepting any credit and acknowledgment. Nonetheless, the story must be told with whatever short-comings might emerge. We apologize in advance for any oversights and omissions.

A committee with 1974 treasurer Federic P. Lyman and past president Robert Bolling, FAIA, as co-chairs, examined the Chapter's organizational framework and structure to see whether or not it serves the needs of the members, both in terms of help to the members and service to the public by the profession. A report was submitted to the final meeting of the 1974 Board with suggestions as to future actions. The regionalization of Chapter-profession activities is one such document.

The Architects in Government committee, chaired by Herbert A. Windoell, planned an important meeting whereby Chapter members could meet with selected public officials to determine the various procedures they used in the selection of architects. The group also prevailed upon its national AIA counterpart to hold a meeting away from the state capital in Los Angeles. No less, the Architectural Education committee, chaired by Jim Free- man completed and distributed a report on the various curricula and training of architects, and that he anticipated that the lengthy document will be updated on a regular basis. The Associates (William Taliaferro, chairman) planned and executed their usual seminars to help those taking the architectural license examinations. Thomas (Tim) Yeelehard's handicapping

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where Jerry Brown spent several of his adolescent years. The story began in 1857, when hardware-and-steel magnate Albert Gallatin commissioned Nathaniel Dudley Goodell, Architect, to design a mansion splendid enough for a wealthy Golden State entrepreneur. Goodell, an original 4th and a former carpenter from Massachusetts, produced an ornate structure that after several years of remodeling and additions was "deemed to be property a subject of public interest."
The Board of Directors of the California Southern Chapter has given their endorsement to the architectural competition to select the architect for this project. At that time, all participating architects were prepared by the State Capitol Commission to give data from each local chapter, that it should be wisely utilized to serve the needs of the state, including many from our own chapter.

As you know, Wong and Campbell won the competition and were authorized to execute the plans. This they did, but the legislature did not fund the construction and the project died. Nevertheless, the concept of an executive mansion as a part of the State Capitol" is a building whose grand scope of the program, ser­
tinuing Regional Director.

L. A. ARCHITECT "... lively words and pictures...

You are reading what promises to be the most effective communication of the Chapter has ever undertaken. L. A. ARCHITECT is published by the South­ern California Chapter/AIA under the professional editorship of Jonathan Kirsch, with the guidance of the Chap­ter's editorial committee. It is a periodi­cal designed to evoke more interest and larger attendance at the diverse programs and news of Chapter activities. Board actions, Board actions, Board actions, and related items of interest through lively discussions and debates.

The Board has been frustrated for several years in its effort to produce a regular monthly newsletter. The appointment of Mr. Kirsch as editor will only allow us an opportunity to vote, said Mrs. Gordon. The Early California Chapter/AIA will be published by a group of architects from throughout the state, including many from our own chapter.

Support of the Mall location in no way may be construed as a reflection on the architectural profession or the political one. Most architects who are aware of the situation feel very strongly that the size of the Council Board should be increased, not decreased, for the purpose of serving the membership. This they did, but the legislature did not fund the construction and the project died. Nevertheless, the concept of an executive mansion as a part of the State Capitol." is a building whose grand scope of the program, ser­tinuing Regional Director.

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By Kenneth Dillon, AIA

Effective November 24, 1974, the City of Los Angeles ordinance on low-cost housing was put into effect. The ordinance — sometimes called "the Bernardi Ordinance" after its sponsor in the City Council — is designed to provide "the substantial and increasing number of housing for low-income families.

The ordinance, which applies to all multi-residential developments of five units or more (including apartments and condominiums by light and mass transit), will have the effect of dispersing low-income housing throughout the city rather than having it in large concentrations in particular areas.

Condominiums will be directly affected by the new rule, since it affects the design of the project and requires L.A. the Housing Authority, and any other L.A. public housing authority, to issue building permits. While the precise language used by the City Council, the requirements seem to be:

- That 15 percent of the units will be built cheaply enough so that they may be rented to families with low-income persons. Unfortunately, the ordinance does not specify how these units are to be determined.
- That the units must be "dispersed throughout the development," have the same number of bedrooms, and be designed to harmonize with the rest of the development. (This probably means that the old Manhattan Beach Trail is suitable, but that units in the attic space will not be acceptable.)
- That the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles must approve the projects prior to issuance of permit. (This means taking the drawings to the Housing Authority and obtaining an approval for the Building and Safety.) It would seem more advisable that the City plan with the Housing Authority with preliminary drawings in order to avoid redrawing the latter's work.

Developers and developers will have to enter into complicated agreements with the City Housing. However, these will probably be drafted by attorneys rather than architects. The ordinance does not build inexpensively enough to provide the low-cost housing, then the developer must show that a "reasonable effort has been made to comply." If the Housing Authority agrees, then an approval will be granted. The "reasonable effort" must be defined.

On January 16, 1975, the L. A. Housing Council, under the chairmanmanship of Douglas S. Tranquilo, held a practice seminar to explain and review the new ordinance. A copy of the ordinance and available explanations of administrative procedures will be made available. The seminar will be held at 11 a.m. at the City Council, City Attorney's Office. Date and time are tentative. The seminar will be open to the public.

**PHOTOGRAPHERS!**

A photography competition on the subject of "the Man-Built Environment" is now being sponsored by the SCC/ AIA. It's open to architects and non-architects alike, and winning photographs will be published in L. A. ARCHITECT and exhibited throughout the region.

Photographs dealing with any aspect of "the Man-Built Environment" should be submitted to the Seaver Gallery by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 1975. Photographs should be at least 8x10-inch prints (no slides) with the photographer's name and address on the back. Pola­roids and duplicate negatives will be judged. A $250 first prize, $100 second prize, and $50 third prize will be awarded. Winners will be judged by a jury including members of the Seaver Gallery, the Southern California Council of Architects, and Margot Shulman and Marvin Rand, Mayor Tom Bradley and David Greenberg, President of Emmerich Communications. Winners will be announced at the February meeting.

Photographs may deal with any aspect of the Man-Built Environment — buildings, streets, engineered constructions, parks and gardens, etc. The attitude expressed may range from lyrical to critical. Honor and merit awards will be presented. Each photograph will be presented in each category.

**NOSTALGIA**

By Fredric P. Lyman, AIA

November was a month for Yale in Los Angeles. For the first time since 1950, the last time, the Yale-Harvard football game — correctly billed as "The Game"— was played locally in Los Angeles and on Channel 28, as though the event were a kind of intellectual curi­osity, which it perhaps was.

On the preceding Friday, after suf­fering the usual irregularity of time, we made our way to the L.A. Public Library for an evening of "The Game," a simulation held by the Los Angeles chapter of the Yale Club and the Los Angeles chapter of the Yale Alumni. The event was successful in the minds of many people who attended, those whom the event did not reach. Some, like myself, were inspired and left us easy prey for the questioner of less effective presentations of Gene Nalle and Bob Russell, Basic Design Critics, who developed a system of teaching fundamental design concepts free of stylization by re­stricting first-year design students to the use of one material — Wood — with the result that, of course, no nails, no glass, no stone, no bricks, no tricks, no anything else. There emerged a unique architecture instead of the usual forlorn, but unusual logic. Louis Kahn saw fulfillment in it and I think he learned much from them.

**BREATH OF LIFE**

Nalle said that our job was to breathe a breath of life into a design which meant color, and he used colored pencils to demonstrate. He used oil pastel for the geometric discipline that pencils make possible; he despised arbitrary design, and he urged us to recognize that design had no meaning. He said that since geometry had always been a kind of architecture, it was absurd to reject it. I remember Nalle muttering to himself when Scully came to visit the class on October 15, 1974. Scully is a cartoon character on the television show "The Life of Christ for Zeus: "Well, this is the way it is — you go over to Europe and get all this humanism."

From Nalle's ideas and criticisms, the present conference for the simul-
taneous expression of plan and space. private building ever have in this concept could not be the southerners. A Scully would never use. Myself that the house of the Southern California Chapter, and the CCAIA.

Arthur F. O’Leary, AIA, has announced the appointment of the Office Practice Committee of the Institute for 1975. A former Chapter member, O’Leary also served as Chairman of the Communications Committee during 1974.

Mayor Tom Bradley announced that Carl Maston, FAIA, has been appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals for the term of the profession before the Commission. Jerry brings his experience as 1975-1976 chairman of the Chapter’s Environmental Planning Committee to these important appointments.

Mrs. Rose Marie Baker, First Vice-President of the Southern California Chapter, AIA, Inc. was elected and installed as Recording Secretary of the Architectural Secretaries Association, a national organization of 20 chapters. The Southern California Chapter, AIA, Inc. was awarded the 1974 ASA Award for the “Best Contribution to The American Institute of Architects” for their Workshop '73.

IN THE NEWS

Nervous viewers of the film “Earthquake” were reassured by the comments of a “real architect” who was invited to the studios of KNBC (Channel 4) to refute the warnings of the architect portrayed in the film by Charlton Heston. Who was “the real architect”? None other than Howard Lane, AIA, the 1974 Chapter President. The film portrays an earthquake that ravages Los Angeles, prompting the make-believe architect (Heston) to mutter: “I don’t know why they build these 40-story monstrosities.” Replied the unimitigated Architect Lane: “The movie was really just science fiction.”

Mrs. Mrs. Roger Bown 363-4407 or Mrs. Arthur O’Leary 469-4195.

Mrs. Robert Tyler.

The series begins Wednesday evening, January 29, 1975, and continues consecutive Wednesday evenings. The eighth meeting is set for those planning the examination for course credit. The course costs $50 for two units of credit, $35 non-credit, $5.25 single lecture admission and $2 for students. Bette Kneissl, AIA, Southern California Chapter Auxiliary, is the instructor. Enrollment information may be obtained by calling UCLA Extension 825-7321, Mrs. Roger Bown 363-4407 or Mrs. Arthur O’Leary 469-4195.

Yale in Los Angeles

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building the Laboratories at the University of Pennsylvania. The main task force charged with policy development for a state land-use plan, and Rex Lotery, AIA, has been appointed as Chairman of the Task Force. He will direct the efforts of the Task Force to recommend legislative bill that will be introduced at the 1975 legislative session. Lotery is a former President of the Southern California Chapter.

Mois Moser-Khalili, AIA, has been selected by the International Joint Committee on Tall Buildings to edit a section of its monograph on the architecture of Tall Buildings. The completed monograph will consist of five volumes and is projected to publication in 1975 or 1976. Mois Moser-Khalili now practices in Teheran, Iran.

The AIA has appointed Jerry L. Pollack, AIA, as a member of its Urban Planning and Design Committee for 1975. Jerry has also been named to the 1975 CCAIA Coastal Plan Task Force “to coordinate architects participation in the six Coastal Zone Regional Committees and to recommend CCAIA positions to be taken on behalf of the profession before the Commission.” Jerry brings his experience as 1975-1976 chairman of the Chapter’s Environmental Planning Committee to these important appointments.

The 1974 Roster of Architects in Government, a national publication, is now available to Chapter members by mail from the Chapter office.

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