



# OCULUS

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THE NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
115 EAST 40th STREET • DECEMBER, 1939 • WARD W. FENNER, EDITOR

## NOVEMBER MEETING

Fifty members attended the November dinner meeting held at the League on the evening of November 14. The hour of convening, which was six o'clock, made it possible to adjourn in time for the commuters to get home at a reasonable hour and still not duck out before the end of the meeting.

President Frost announced the adoption of a new policy for dinner reservations. In the past the Chapter has been billed for the number of dinners for which reservations had been made, based on the number of return postcards sent to the Chapter office. Usually there have been a number of members who have found at the last minute that they could not attend, but the Chapter has nevertheless had to pay for their dinners which had been provided. In the future each member who has made a reservation through the Chapter office will be billed for his dinner unless he has cancelled the reservation by four p.m. of the afternoon of the meeting.

Mr. Clifford C. Wendehack was introduced as a new member recently transferred from the New Jersey Chapter.

A letter from Mr. Alfred Rheinstein in reply to the resolution passed at the last meeting was read to the Chapter by Mr. Frost.

After a moment of silent tribute to our former member, D. Everett Waid, the following resolution with an accompanying appreciation was unanimously passed by the Chapter:

### D. EVERETT WAID AN APPRECIATION

In the death of D. Everett Waid, the Institute and the New York Chapter lost a loyal and devoted member.

Dan Waid got his early training in Ohio; from there he went to Chicago and later to New York, where he completed his architectural studies and entered on the practice of his profession with immediate success. His years of service as architect for the Metropolitan Life were in great part devoted to establishing high standards of construction for buildings on which loans

## NEXT MEETING

Time: Luncheon — 12:30, Tuesday,  
Dec. 12

Place: Architectural League

Subject: Relations between principal  
and draughtsman.

Come in person, and come with some of your office force, because we are going to discuss office personnel relationship which is just as important as your marital relationship without the introduction of any family skeleton. The best talent has been provided for this discussion.

were made by the insurance company. The crowning achievement of his career is the great addition to the Metropolitan Life Building now advancing toward completion and destined to cover the entire block to the north of the existing building.

With success came honors: The presidency of the Chapter, the treasurership of the Institute where he made a notable record extending over many years, and finally the presidency of the Institute. His work was further recognized by the award of the Chapter Medal of Honor.

The memory of his years of struggle to secure an architectural education evidently inspired his interest in that subject, and close to twenty years ago, by a generous donation he established the Waid Lecture Fund to aid in the education of architects and encourage art appreciation among the general public. This fund he later increased by further gifts, and he has by his will left to the Institute his residuary estate, to be added to the fund.

His desire to raise the standards of the profession was also shown in his long fight for the passage of a law regulating the practice of architecture in New York State. When the law was finally passed, it was most fitting that he should be the first president of the new Board of Examiners, and this office he held through the formative years, helping to establish high standards of enforcement, a service for

which the profession and the public owe him a debt of gratitude.

His deep interest in the construction of an office building for the Institute on the Octagon property in Washington is known to all, and it is a matter of real regret that he could not see this project carried to completion.

WHEREAS, the Chapter has learned with deep regret of the death of D. Everett Waid,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, that it express its sense of loss in the death of its distinguished fellow-member, D. Everett Waid, and its appreciation of his long and devoted service to his profession,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution with the accompanying appreciation be inscribed in the minutes of the Chapter and that copies thereof be sent to his family and his associates.

Our guest of honor for the evening, Mr. Seicho Washizuka, a member of the Nippon Architects' Association and of the Institute of Japanese Architects, was introduced by Mr. Frost. Mr. Washizuka was visiting America to represent his country's architects at the Fifteenth International Congress of Architects, and had attended the Institute convention in Washington. As a gesture of good will from his fellow countrymen Mr. Washizuka presented to the Chapter an ornamental and interesting Japanese carpenter's tool called a sumit-subo. Fundamentally it is a small wooden bowl in which is placed a wad of cotton saturated with black ink. A cord held on a reel attached at one side of the bowl is drawn through the cotton, and by means of a small pin is held in place on the surface to be marked. The cord is then snapped like our chalk lines, transferring the ink and producing a straight line. Accompanying this gift was a letter in Japanese. Mr. Frost balked at reading the original, but did read its translation; and Mr. Washizuka obliged by giving us the native version. Mr. Frost reciprocated



with a gracious acceptance, and handed Mr. Washizuka a letter of thanks to be delivered to his compatriots.

Following the presentation and acceptance Mr. Washizuka was kind enough to give us some impressions of the practice of architecture in Japan. Apparently the profession in the Orient is not having any better time than we are right here. Private work is practically non-existent, and what public work there is being done by government bureaus. There are two hundred of these, and each bureau does its own work. Perhaps there are advantages for us in that we only have to be turned down a couple of dozen times to have covered the field. A ray of light to the Japanese architect is offered by the fact that development in Manchukuo and China is in such a rush that the bureaus can't handle it all, and private architects are getting a look-in, but as Mr. Washizuka said, it can't last.

Edgar Williams gave a short résumé of the convention in Washington. He remarked that to his mind the highlights of the convention were: the wit and charm of retiring President Maginnis, the acceptance of the competition principle for public work, the discussions on housing, and the policy of the new President, Mr. Bergstrom, who assured the convention that he would work constantly for the return of architecture to private practitioners.

At least one person reads this sheet. One written suggestion was received in answer to Julian Levi's request last month. It was acted on and adopted at the meeting, and was to the effect that at future meetings all members wear a name badge for more easy identification especially among the newer and younger members. They will be supplied at the door.

Mr. Edgar Williams made a most interesting and novel suggestion as the possible basis of a program for some future meeting. He proposed that one meeting be given over to the discussion of architecture.

### ACCOLADE

Distinguished work, outstanding personality, and service to the profession have long been recognized by the American Institute of Architects as qualifying a man for some special recognition, and this recognition has taken the form of a Fellowship in the Institute. Relatively few men attain this distinction, but the Chapter has the pleasure of offering congratulations to

*Eric Gugler*

*Gerald Anderson Holmes*

*Mott B. Schmidt*

on their election to Fellowship in the Institute at the last convention.

### CANDIDATES

The following names have been proposed for membership:

#### *Institute Membership*

Richard Roth

*Sponsors* { Emery Roth  
Walter Hesse

#### *Chapter Associates*

1. John Shober Burrows, Jr.

*Sponsors* { Alfred Fellheimer  
Steward Wagner

2. Benjamin John Rabe

*Sponsors* { Dwight James Baum  
Daniel P. Higgins

### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Our membership committees during the past year and this have been exceptionally effective in increasing the members in the Chapter, both Institute and Associates. The following new members have been admitted recently:

#### *Institute Membership*

Newton Philo Bevin

John D. W. Churchill

Alton Lee Craft

Carl Feiss

Carroll Woodbury Harding

Anthony F. Inserro

Edwin B. Olsen

#### *Chapter Associates*

Harvey P. Clarkson

Addison Erdman

Raymond Kenneth Graff

Victor Philip Hugo

Charles Benjamin Irish

Michael Leone

Frank Barkley Luce

Andrew Weggenman

Charles Frederick Wise

Egerton Swartwout and Edward P. Casey have been made Members Emeritus.

### LeBRUN SCHOLARSHIP

The LeBrun Traveling Scholarship was founded by Pierre L. LeBrun in 1910. At that time Mr. LeBrun gave the sum of \$12,500 to the New York Chapter to establish in perpetuity an architectural traveling scholarship. From the income of this fund, the sum of \$1,400 is to be awarded not oftener than once a year to a deserving architect or architectural draftsman, resident of the United States, between the ages of 23 and 30, who shall, for at least three years, have been either engaged in active practice or employed as an architectural draftsman and who has not been and is not the beneficiary of any other traveling scholarship. The New York Chapter is to be paid an amount not exceeding \$100 every two years for its expenses in connection with the scholarship and any balance of income remaining shall be added to the principal of the fund.

This fund is to be administered by the New York Chapter, A.I.A., through its Executive Committee and is to be kept as a separate fund distinct from any other Chapter moneys.

Nominations may be made by any member of the A.I.A., and no one may nominate more than one candidate. Selection of the beneficiary is made by means of a competition conducted according to a program to be determined by the Executive Committee of the Chapter and the drawings called for are submitted for examination and judgment to a jury consisting of at least three practicing architects, no one of whom shall be connected with any school or atelier. The winner of the competition must remain at least six months abroad, devoting that time to traveling and the study of architecture otherwise than by entering any school or attending lectures. He must write not less than once every two months to the New York Chapter giving an account of the employment of his time.

The Committee at its recent meeting discussed an interesting variation of former procedure. The suggestion was made that this year rather than hold a competition for hundreds of entries, all but one of whom would have spent time and money to no avail, the applicants be requested to send the committee written statements of their qualifications and examples of their work. The Committee would then select five promising candidates who would be invited to New York to do a competition en loge, from the result of which the prize-winner would be selected. The chairman expects preliminary announcements to be issued about December first. The competition will probably take place about the first of April. Whether or not the winner will go to Europe naturally depends on the state of the war next spring.

The duties of the LeBrun Scholarship Committee are therefore to carry out the above schedule, to formulate a competition program for the approval of the Chapter Executive Committee, to act as Jury in examining and judging the entries and to submit their final choice for the approval of the Executive Committee.

The By-Laws provide that this Committee shall be at least five in number, one of whom shall be a member of the Executive Committee. The present committee consists of:

FRANCIS KEALLY, *Chairman*

WILLIAM A. DELANO

OTTO EGGERS

JOHN T. HANEMAN

WALLACE K. HARRISON

OTTO LANGMAN

JOHN V. VANPELT