



BATTERY PARK

James C. Mackenzie has been commissioned by our Civic Design Committee to study the treatment of the entire area of Battery Park. This is the second project sponsored by this Committee and financed by funds which it possesses for use in making studies and surveys for the benefit of the City and the Chapter.

The first project, proposed last December, is to be a competition for a study of Foley Square. This will be in cooperation with the Municipal Art Society, and is contingent on approval of the program and also upon similar financial support being advanced by the Municipal Art Society.

The interest in Battery Park has been aroused by Park Commissioner Moses' threat to demolish the old Aquarium and to rebuild it in the Bronx, the Magoon plan for a proposed new barge office, and the ventilating shafts which must soon be built in this area for the new tunnel. The Committee has decided that the Park should be considered in its entirety as a local district plan and that Mr. Mackenzie, President of the Fine Arts Federation, who is known for his interest in the Battery, should undertake this study.

The fund which makes possible these projects of the Civic Design Committee is one which was announced by the OCULUS in October, 1938. It was started by a gift of \$1,000 from Nelson Rockefeller. This fund has since then been increased by Wallace K. Harrison with a contribution of \$200.

Bearing directly on the planning of large scale areas is the Urban Redevelopment Corporations Bill, now pending in Albany. This bill has been endorsed by the Merchants' Association, the New York Building Congress, the Regional Plan Association, and many other civic organizations. It provides for corporate entities formed for the purpose of neighborhood planning and progressive reconstruction. The bill has now been endorsed by the New York Chapter's Executive Committee.

LUNCH MEETING

Time: 12:30 p. m., Tuesday, Mar. 25.

Place: Architectural League.

Subject: PARTIAL SERVICES.

The Chapter lunch on March 25 will be followed by a meeting devoted largely to a discussion of partial services rendered by the profession through various government agencies. The purpose of introducing this subject is to provide an open forum at which the members may express opinions and make suggestions to further the interests of the profession.

A number of our members are, or have been, engaged in rendering partial services in connection with public architecture for the Federal, State and City Governments. Their experiences should provide for us a valuable basis for formulating a policy in regard to such services.

R.I.B.A. FUND

Delay no more! Make your contribution to the children of British architects today.

The day we went to press our Fund had reached \$1,765.00. The Fund will close at the end of the next Chapter meeting, when the final total will be announced before adjournment.

SHREVE FOR PRESIDENT

A short time ago the Chapter learned that petitions had been started on the West Coast for the nomination of Richmond H. Shreve for next Institute President. A similar petition was immediately circulated within our Chapter.

Simultaneously the Chicago Chapter passed a resolution favoring a third term for President Bergstrom, and sent copies of that resolution to all other chapters. Our President immediately wrote to Mr. Bergstrom for an expression of his wishes and was informed that Mr. Bergstrom declined a third term.

Thereupon, our Chapter's petition for Mr. Shreve, containing 24 signatures, was filed with the Secretary of the Institute.

S.I. 57

The annual attempt of organized groups in Government Bureaus to build up those bureaus at the expense of private enterprise is again being made at Albany. The Phelps Bill, Sen. Int. 57, was introduced in the State Senate and referred to the Civil Service Committee, of which Senator Seymour Halpern is Chairman.

This proposed law would make it illegal for a department head to employ architects or engineers in private practice to prepare complete drawings and specifications, and would limit their work to consulting only. It would make it necessary to increase the number of Civil Service employees whenever the public work program became too large to be handled by the present force of employees.

In the first case the bill is inimical to private architects because it would deprive them of work for which they are fitted and to which they are entitled. In the second case it is inimical to all citizen taxpayers because it would greatly increase the public payroll.

While we have had assurances from various quarters that the bill may not be passed, and while the New York State Association, to which we pay dues, spends a part of those dues in maintaining a representative at Albany during the Session whose duty is to help prevent the passage of such legislation, it is nevertheless the duty of every civic-minded member of the Chapter to do his and her part to help.

The New York Chapter is fully aware of the economic problems of the Civil Service Offices—it is for that reason that the next Chapter meeting is to be devoted to partial services. We do not wish to take over any work now done by Civil Service employees. But neither do we wish them to take over work which is rightfully ours.

No doubt pressure groups are even now urging passage of this bill. Why not counteract this by writing a line at once to Senator Seymour Halpern, Senate Chamber, Albany, N. Y.? No long explanations are necessary. It is the number of protests that counts!

THE MAYOR HONORS US

Mayor LaGuardia has honored the Chapter by accepting our invitation to become an Honorary Associate. The Certificate of Membership was handed to the Mayor by President Frost at our 84th Anniversary Dinner on Tuesday, February 25.

William Adams Delano presented the Mayor to Mr. Frost with the following citation: "Fiorello Henry LaGuardia: Mayor of this City of New York, which during his terms of office has been enhanced by public improvements in architecture and city planning that serve as an inspiration to the nation; often and ably supporting the fine arts by precept and example; architect of the City's destinies;

"The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects gladly admits you to its membership as an Honorary Associate."

The dinner was held in the main gallery of the Architectural League and was attended by 128 members and guests. A reception preceded the dinner.

After President Frost had presented the Certificate of Membership he turned over the meeting to the Mayor who addressed his "fellow architects." He thanked the Chapter for what he termed a very personal honor in contrast with those received as chief executive of the city of New York and reserved "the right to hold this honor as my own." The text of the Mayor's speech is on file at the Chapter office.

MEDAL OF HONOR

The Chapter's Medal of Honor was presented at the Anniversary Dinner to Clarence S. Stein, former Chairman of the New York State Commission on Housing and Planning, in recognition of his high professional achievement, particularly in the field of housing. The citation was read by Philip L. Goodwin, a member of the committee for the award of this medal. Mr. Goodwin said:

"To Clarence Stein, the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects awards its Medal of Honor for high professional standing and particularly in consideration of his work in the field of low-cost housing.

"As a pioneer in the study of housing and a profound student of its sociological as well as its architectural problems, his researches over the past twenty years have been a valuable and influential contribution to our mental attitude toward, and our knowledge of, this important civic problem. He has made application of his knowledge in such solutions as Sunnyside on Long Island, Hillside in the Bronx, and Fort Greene Houses in Brooklyn."

40 UNDER 40

This month the Architectural League is exhibiting the work of 40 Architects Under 40. Fifteen of the exhibitors are members of our Chapter and four are candidates whose names appear elsewhere in this OCULUS.

The nineteen Chapter members and candidates exhibiting are Ballard, Bennett, Carr, Culin, Frost, Jr., Hamby, Hare, Hatch, Huntington, Jacobs, Kilham, Kosmak, Mills, Nelson, Payer, Platt, Snow, Studds, Van Der Gracht. Two other exhibitors are A.I.A. members but not of our Chapter.

The arrangements for the exhibition were in charge of a committee which included Chapter members Clarence Dale Badgeley (chairman), Frederick G. Frost, Jr., Perry Coke Smith, Ernst Payer and Robert Allan Jacobs, who was toastmaster at the dinner preceding the preview. In introducing 40 Architects Under 40 the toastmaster said:

"This is an exhibit of the work of architects under 40. We are the generation that did not build the New York skyline, the Gothic dormitories in the colleges, or the Triangle in Washington. We were just getting out of school or into practice when the stockbrokers were jumping out of windows. This was also the time of the big switch from Beaux Arts to Bauhaus, from cornices to corner windows. What little important work the thirties offered hardly kept the big offices open. The skyscrapers were all built. So were the state capitols. We found a few small houses, a few shops, an occasional school. Later on some bigger jobs arrived, but in comparison with the twenties, the sum total was neither impressive nor very profitable. Nevertheless, we started something.

"Here and there, all over the country, people are living in a new kind of house. They tell us that they are glad they changed. They also tell their friends. The modern house is no longer an imported freak, but a home for plain, everyday Americans. Our shops have completely changed the old standards of commercial design. And in schools we are saving money that used to be thrown away on Corinthian columns, and letting a little light into the corridors.

"The problems of the 40 under 40 include finding the elusive client who will have confidence in a younger man. They also include the question of survival in a period of inactive building. Neither of these, however, is any different from the problems our friends over 40 started with and face today. Our big job has been to break down the prejudices of an outworn eclecticism and to replace them with something more positive and vital."

YOUR VACATION

Time passes quickly and before we know it Spring will be here, and with it the annual A.I.A. Convention—to be held this May in California.

We are entitled to 19 delegates. In making up the list of nominees from which to elect the slate of delegates it would be helpful to the Executive Committee if all members who have any idea of going to the Yosemite for the Convention will so notify the Chapter office.

The Convention train will start from Chicago on Monday, May 12, which means leaving New York on Sunday, May 11. It will be possible to take in all the events of the Convention, side trips, etc., and return leisurely to New York before Monday, June 2.

No more delightful three-week vacation could be arranged. Information on fares and costs in last *Octagon* is not clear. (*This is stating it very politely!*—Ed.) Chapter office is endeavoring to get the facts.

The April meeting of the Chapter will be the pre-Convention meeting at which all issues we wish to put before the A.I.A. for consideration and action must be discussed and clarified.

A few of the timely subjects to which we should be giving thought are: the continued encroachment of Government bureaus, the coordination of all Chapters in the Civilian Defense Program, the position of the Architect in relation to society in general, a national standardization of fees, a broadening of the base of A.I.A. membership along the lines of the R.I.B.A.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP CANDIDATES

The names of the following men have been presented:

- For Institute Membership*
- George W. Kosmak, Jr.
Sponsors { Walter H. Kilham, Jr.
Richard B. Snow
 - Raymond Willard Olson
Sponsors { George Trofast-Gillette
Sherley Morgan
 - Irvin Leslie Scott
Sponsors { R. H. Shreve
William F. Lamb
 - Lester D. Claude Tichy
Sponsors { Alfred Easton Poor
William F. Dominick
 - Gabriel Angelo diMartino
Sponsors { Max H. Foley
Harry B. Brainerd
 - Michael Meredith Hare
Sponsors { Harvey Wiley Corbett
Lawrence Grant White
 - William Hamby
Sponsors { Leon Gillette
A. Stewart Walker
 - George Nelson
Sponsors { Henry H. Saylor
L. Andrew Reinhard