



NEW YORK CHAPTER

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

115 EAST 40th STREET, NEW YORK (16)

BULLETIN FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 1943

Vol. VI, No. 2

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Once again we join with the League in the Annual Christmas Luncheon, this year to be held on Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24th. The usual preliminary ceremonies will begin at 12:30 and lunch will be served at 1:00.

Reservations MUST be made in advance at the League Office.

MRS BACON

The New York Chapter's Executive Committee has voted to initiate a program among Institute members for securing help for Mrs. Henry Bacon, whose husband was for many years and until his death a member of this Chapter.

The following letter will apprise our members of the situation and copies of it are to go to every other Chapter in the Institute:

"We hope you will permit us to draw your attention to the situation of Mrs. Henry Bacon, widow of the designer of the Lincoln Memorial at Washington. For a long time she has been in very embarrassed circumstances and dependent on the generosity of friends. Mrs. Bacon's distress is due to events entirely beyond her control and too long to relate here. She is seventy-eight years old, in good health and sound of mind, but being unable to earn a living, is in constant fear of being dispossessed and of not finding means of subsistence.

Over a period of several years some of Mrs. Bacon's friends have attempted to initiate action by Congress to take the form of a grant or pension for her. The idea was based upon the fact that Henry Bacon spent about \$27,000 of his own money over and above his fee to complete his assignment. Included in the work for which he was not reimbursed were the preparation

of models and paintings which were essential to perfect his designs and which are ordinarily paid for by extra funds. Also he was not repaid for traveling and hotel expenses incurred on the approximately thirty-six trips a year between New York and Washington for eleven years during which the memorial was being planned and built.

Search of records and review of the contract cannot substantiate any background for formal claims. The above information, however, is intended to establish a moral basis for an appeal to the generosity of Americans who look with respect upon the memory of Henry Bacon. His work on the Lincoln Memorial was more than a fulfillment of a contractual obligation. It embodied devotion to the highest tasks of a great artist seeking perfection at personal financial sacrifice, a sacrifice shared by his wife. Anything less than the incomparable monument to Lincoln which resulted from Henry Bacon's efforts would have been an esthetic calamity for Washington and for the forty-eight states.

It is now suggested that an appeal be made to our American people individually to help lighten Mrs. Bacon's burdens. A Committee on the Lincoln Memorial, Architectural League, 115 East 40th Street, New York, will receive funds.

A five dollar bill which shows a picture of the Lincoln Memorial would be an appropriate contribution for those who cannot afford more. Any amount, however, will be welcome.

COMMITTEE ON THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL

Fletcher Collins

Harold A. Caparn

Edgar I. Williams







## PROGRESS REPORT ON CHAPTER WORK

Civic Design and Development Its first public Report, entitled "Some Basic Redevelopment Problems", was recently issued by our Civic Design and Development Committee, and was reviewed somewhat at length in the New York Times of October 25. The many requests for copies of this Report have encouraged the Committee to expedite publication of the remainder of its material, now in preparation.

Legislation The two lawsuits recently brought by Civil Service groups have now been decided by the courts in favor of the private practitioners. These decisions, however, are being appealed, and we look to our Committee on Legislation to carry on in our behalf.

Techniques A new Committee has been set up in the Chapter to study the development of new materials, construction techniques, design research and related subjects. It is headed by Morris Sanders and is known as the Technical Committee. The group studying Design Research has already held a number of discussions. Chapter members wishing to join this group will be welcome and should apply to Morris Sanders.

Postwar Planning The establishment of a coordinating group of all planning agencies in the metropolitan area has been one of the major recommendations of our Committee on Postwar Planning. To implement this, a forceful resolution was presented by it to the Executive Committee, which in turn forwarded the resolution to the Commerce & Industry Association of New York, urging that association to organize such a group immediately. The Association has now announced the acceptance of Clarence Law, Vice President of the Consolidated Edison Company, as Chairman of the new group, the members of which will no doubt be appointed shortly.

Practice The American Society of Civil Engineers has set up a collective bargaining agency for the benefit of such of its members as may wish to avail themselves of this procedure. A detailed memorandum on this has been sent to our Professional Practice Committee for study and comments.

Architectural Fees The Committee on Fees and Contracts has been giving serious thought to making the Chapter Schedule of

Fees more realistic in the light of present day conditions, and will present some interesting suggestions at the January Chapter meeting.

LeBrun Award A six-months' travelling scholarship to a young man between 23 and 30 years of age is obviously impractical during war time, and the LeBrun Committee has accordingly made the following recommendations: (1) Postponement of awards for the duration; (2) Amendment of the Deed of Gift to permit extension of the upper age limit by the number of years during which it has not been possible to grant an award; and (3) When awards are again resumed, that as many be given as the then accumulated income will allow.

Without doubt many young men returning from the war will appreciate an opportunity to benefit by such an award in tiding them over the difficult period of re-adjustment.

Brunner Scholarship The Committee in charge of this award will meet shortly. The Brunner Award is not a student scholarship; it is given to architects whose professional background is more advanced and broader in scope than is generally implied by architectural school training and it is awarded for the pursuit of advanced study in some broadly defined field of investigation in architecture. A number of informal suggestions for the next award have already been made. Further suggestions from the members will be welcomed, but should be submitted without delay.

War Memorials Last July President O'Connor made an appeal to the Mayor, the Borough President and other City officials, urging that the design for any proposed war memorials or monuments be submitted first to the Art Commission for approval, even though this procedure is not called for by the Charter. We are pleased to report that on October 28 last, the Board of Estimate adopted a resolution to that effect.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

This Chapter has recently been faced with the problem of whether or not to recommend for Institute membership candidates who are not registered, but who nevertheless have the other desirable qualifications of education, training and experience.

In years passed this question posed no problem. The candidate merely became an Associate of the Chapter and remained so until he had successfully passed his State



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Legislation. The two laws recently enacted by the State Legislature have now been decided by the courts in favor of the private practitioners. These decisions, however, are being appealed, and we look to our Committee on Legislation to carry on in our behalf.

Technical Group. A new Committee has been set up in the Chapter to study the development of new materials, construction techniques, design research and related projects. It is headed by Morris Sanders and is known as the Technical Committee. The group study of design research has already held a number of discussions. Chapter members wishing to join this group will be welcome and should apply to Morris Sanders.

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Architectural Fees. The Committee on Fees and Compensation has been giving serious thought to making the Chapter Schedule of



examinations. A brief glance at our Membership list will show the percentage of our distinguished and successful members of today who began their architectural careers as Associates of the Chapter.

The speeding-up tendencies of today, however, are contagious and some of our candidates are impatient of intermediate stages of membership and even sometimes of examinations. At the last Convention of the A.I.A. the delegates voted that as a prerequisite to membership a candidate must satisfy the Board as to his professional qualifications and in states where a registration law exists, must be registered if practicing under his own name.

This leaves wide open the question of what to do about the otherwise qualified but unregistered man not practicing under his own name. Accordingly our Committees on Admissions and Membership, acting jointly, have set up a gauge of qualifications for membership which has received the hearty approval of your Executive Committee and is presented herewith as the policy of the New York Chapter:

"A. Applicants who are registered architects are by virtue of their registration eligible for A.I.A. membership, other qualifications being satisfactory.

B. Applicants not registered are eligible for Chapter Associateship, other qualifications being satisfactory.

C. Applicants not registered, but who apply nevertheless for A.I.A. membership and are not interested in becoming Associates, may be recommended for A.I.A. membership providing they are not practicing under their own names and providing they fall within the following categories:

1. Architectural teachers, writers and editors, and those who in their professional work are directly concerned with furthering the interests of the architectural profession.

2. Applicants who have practiced abroad and are now established here, who may be working in architectural offices even as subordinates, but who nevertheless can show evidence of their architectural experience and professional accomplishments.

3. Applicants who have held responsible positions in offices of standing, over a period of years, say ten years; or whose work in such an office has been an important factor in the office production. In these cases it is suggested that the applicant bring to the meeting of the Admissions

Committee at least one of his sponsors who can speak on his behalf and can vouch for the degree of his responsibility in the design or administration of his employer's office, and otherwise assist the Admissions Committee in establishing the applicant's eligibility and justifying his application for full corporate membership without going through the intermediate stage of Chapter Associateship."

#### TAXES

The A.I.A. Washington Representative has recently issued Bulletin #23 of which the major part is devoted to the Tax Bill now being put together in Congress. He stresses the importance to us as Architects as well as tax-paying citizens of taking an active interest in certain phases of the national tax policy. It would appear obvious that if the private enterprise system in this country is to continue and to be prepared to do its full part in the postwar period without dependence on government finance, it must be given tax relief to permit accumulation of reserves to carry through that period. This proposition falls into three categories.

First, money for maintenance, which cannot be spent under war scarcities, is being taxed away so that the pent-up need will find many companies devoid of maintenance funds after the war. A device for accumulating funds for this deferred maintenance seems essential, perhaps through some form of postwar credits.

Second, present taxes leave many businesses with insufficient working capital and reserves. Again some method of accumulating reserves for postwar reconversion needs is urgent. A special form of Treasury bond is suggested.

Third, it is suggested that the costs of planning for bona fide postwar projects should be permissible tax deductions.

These subjects, especially the first two, are now before the House Ways and Means Committee. It is really important that we should form some opinion about them and let our legislative representatives know what we think.

The Institute office wants (a) to know if the third suggestion is considered by the Chapters to be desirable, and (b) an indication of specific instances where private postwar planning would be undertaken under tax-exemption provisions but not otherwise.



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The New York Chapter is a registered architectural organization under the laws of the State of New York. It is a non-profit corporation and its purpose is to promote the interests of the architectural profession and the public. The Chapter is organized into a Board of Directors and a Committee on Administration and Membership. The Board of Directors is composed of representatives from the various branches of the profession and the public. The Committee on Administration and Membership is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Chapter and for the recruitment and retention of members. The Chapter is currently in the process of reorganizing its structure and its policies to better serve the needs of the architectural profession and the public. This involves a number of changes, including the restructuring of the Board of Directors and the Committee on Administration and Membership. The Chapter is also in the process of revising its constitution and bylaws to reflect these changes. The Chapter is currently in the process of soliciting input from its members and the public regarding these changes. It is hoped that this process will result in a more effective and efficient organization that better serves the needs of the architectural profession and the public.



This is important. Advise the Chapter Office of any specific cases you can cite. It should have real bearing on the outlook of such legislation.

#### FELLOWSHIPS

Our Executive Committee, acting on the suggestions of the Committee on Fellows, is this year recommending three New York men for advancement to Fellowship. The Chapter nominees are:

William Lawrence Bottomley  
William Gehron  
Alfred M. Githens

On the last page of the November Octagon, there appears a notice from the A.I.A. Jury of Fellows, urging the importance of supporting letters on behalf of the nominees. Your attention is called to this procedure, in spite of the fact that we see no reason to alter the sentiments of the Chapter, as expressed in the January 1942 issue of "Oculus", which we quote herewith:

"Fellowship in the Institute should unquestionably be an honor and a distinction, more closely resembling an honorary degree bestowed by an educational institution, rather than a test of friendship. The Executive Committee deplores the current custom of large quantities of supporting letters from the candidates' friends. However, until such time as some means can be devised of bestowing this honor solely on the qualifications and merits of the individual, your Committee is forced to recognize that supporting letters are a definite factor in election to Fellowship."

#### A62.1

Your attention is directed to a recent publication of the American Standards Association, Document A62.1. Max Foley of our Chapter is the Chairman of the Committee which has done important work in developing modular standards for building materials. The Association is sponsored jointly by the A.I.A. and the Producers Council.

One of the first producing industries to issue a pamphlet for distribution to architects, in conformity with A62.1, is the Structural Clay Products Institute, 1156 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. This pamphlet is known as the "ABC of Modular Masonry".

#### MEMBERSHIP

The following names have been submitted; For Institute membership:

1. John S. Burrell  
Sponsors:  
Frederick L. Ackerman  
Charles G. Ramsey
2. Thomas G. Coles  
Sponsors:  
Albert G. Clay  
James C. Mackenzie
3. Moukbil Kemal Tash  
Sponsors:  
Harvey Wiley Corbett  
L. Andrew Reinhard

For Associate membership:

1. R. Marshall Christensen  
Sponsors:  
Charles H. Higginson  
Francis A. McKeown



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Sponsors:

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4. Andrew Reinhard

For Associate membership:

1. E. Marshall Christensen

Sponsors:

Charles E. Ramsey

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On the last page of the November Bulletin, there appears a notice from the A.I.A. of New York, dated the 1st of November, 1942, regarding the election of Fellows. The notice is of the importance of supporting letters on behalf of the nominees. Your attention is called to this problem. In spite of the fact that we are no longer to alter the sentiments of the Chapter, as expressed in the January 1942 issue of "Continuum", which we quote herewith: "Fellowship in the Institute should not be questioned by an honor and a distinction, more closely resembling an honorary degree bestowed by an educational institution, rather than a test of friendship. The Executive Committee deprecates the current custom of large quantities of supporting letters from the candidates' friends. However, until such time as some means can be devised of bestowing this honor solely on the qualifications and merits of the individual, your Committee is forced to recognize that supporting letters are a definite factor in election to Fellowship."