



NEW YORK CHAPTER

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

115 EAST 40th STREET, NEW YORK (16)

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 26, 1944

Dinner 7 p.m. 115 East 40th Street

Subject: Forum on Fees.

What are an Architect's services worth and on what basis should he be paid? Is the old 6% (which this Chapter has been recommending in its printed Schedule of Charges since January 1914) still good-- if we can get it-- and is it still an ideal to which we should cling? Or should we now recommend a sliding schedule based on the varying types of work an Architect is today called upon to perform?

Four prominent members of the New York Chapter will present their different points of view on this moot question at next Wednesday's dinner, to be followed by a discussion in which any and all present are invited to take part.

The clan will gather at 6:30 and dinner is called for 7 p.m.

Reservations must be made in advance. Telephone CA.5-6034 or CA.5-8400.

TAXES

Our last issue on page 3 contained an article entitled "Taxes", in which members were asked whether in their opinion the costs of planning for bona fide post-war projects should be tax-exempt and also if they knew of any specific jobs for which plans would go ahead if tax exemption were permitted, but would not go ahead otherwise.

The basic thought involved here is that post-war planning is being delayed by tightness of funds due to heavy taxation, and now that Congress is working out a comprehensive tax bill, it is up to us as Architects and as tax-paying citizens to express ourselves.

Our request brought forth only one reply!

Your Executive Committee, loath to

let this opportunity slip by, has notified the A.I.A. Representative that in its opinion tax-exemption for post-war planning is desirable and should have a definite effect on private corporations which would not otherwise allocate funds to this purpose.

MEMBERSHIP

The following names have been submitted for Institute membership:

1. Serge Ivan Chermayeff

Sponsors: Hermann H. Field
Philip L. Goodwin

2. Seymour R. Joseph

Sponsors: William I. Hohauser
William C. Vladeck

3. Joseph Neufeld

Sponsors: Elsa Gidoni
Simon Breines

4. Karl W. Rosenberg

Sponsors: Jacob Moscovitz
Benjamin Moscovitz

5. Harry Bernard Rutkins

Sponsors: Charles Butler
Matthew W. Del Gaudio

6. Maxfield Franz Vogel

Sponsors: Cameron Clark
Chester B. Price

The following name has been submitted for Associate Membership:

1. Bro. Cajetan J.B. Baumann, O.F.M.

Sponsors: Leopold Arnaud
Robert J. Reiley

ANNIVERSARY

This year we celebrate the 75th anniversary of our incorporation. It was in the year 1869 that the papers were completed which made us a "body politic and corporate" under the New York State Act for the "incorporation of Benevolent Charitable, Scientific and Missionary Societies". The incorporators were Richard M. Hunt, Peter B. Wight, George B. Post, James Renwick, Arthur Gilman and John Davis Hatch.

This year our Anniversary Dinner, which is ~~always~~ held in February, will take place on Thursday, February 17th. Ladies are not only invited but expected. A more detailed announcement will be broadcast later, but please mark February 17th on your calendar now.

LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Congressman Lanham, Chairman of the House Committee on Buildings and Grounds, has started a series of open hearings on the general subject of post-war measures, with the idea of "hearing what everyone has to say on the subject and then introducing legislation developed from these discussions."

As this seemed a made-to-order opportunity for us Architects to advance some of our ideas, the Executive Committee of the New York Chapter lost no time in drawing up a Memorandum covering what it believes to be the current feeling of the majority of our members with regard to the Government's relation to the field of architecture.

This Memorandum, which appears below, has been forwarded to the A.I.A. Representative, Este Fisher, as the statement of the Executive Committee, for presentation at the aforesaid hearings.

"The Executive Committee of the New York Chapter, A.I.A., is strongly in favor of certain principles which should form a basis of legislation which affects the planning professions and the construction industry. Conversely it is fully opposed to practices which, if encouraged by legislation, will be harmful to the interests of the people as a whole.

The Committee believes that the Federal Government, through its various agencies concerned with planning and construction, has important responsibilities to the people. These are the following:

A. Correlative Functions

1. To gather statistical data and act as clearing house and correlating agency for information.
2. To conduct research.

B. Responsibilities in Fields Reserved to the Federal Government by Constitutional Provisions (i.e., Post Office, Military, etc.)

1. Determination of construction needs of the Government.
2. The preparation of programs for projects.
3. Selection and supervision of professional services and the negotiating and letting of contracts for such services.
4. General supervision of construction progress and of project accounting through the medium of supervision of professional services.
5. Preparation of plans, letting of contracts, supervision of construction for "maintenance", and minor "alteration" work.
6. Establishment of standards for the information of those preparing plans and as a basis of comparison for alternative methods.

C. Administration of projects of obvious interstate, regional, or international scope according to the procedure indicated in Paragraph B. above.

D. Establishment through the constitutional authority granted to it, of a sound long term credit system through which states and subdivisions of states may better promote the public welfare in fields reserved to them.

E. Fostering the development of strong professional groups in local areas as well as a sense of local responsibility for public welfare (without such a sense of individual participation, our Constitutional system is in serious danger.)

The Committee realizes that, in war time or during emergencies, temporary powers must be delegated to the Federal Government which under normal conditions cannot be for the best interests of the nation. It disapproves, however, of any extension of these powers, other than as a temporary expedient, and insists upon their relinquishment as soon as the need for them has subsided. The Committee believes that Federal Agencies should be prohibited from exercising the following functions:

1. Preparation of plans and other

1. Determination of the needs of the Government, the preparation of programs for projects.

2. Selection and supervision of professional services and the negotiation and letting of contracts for such services.

3. General supervision of construction programs and of projects now going through the medium of supervision of professional services.

4. Preparation of plans, letting of contracts, supervision of construction for "maintenance", and other "operational" work.

5. Establishment of standards for the information of those preparing plans and as a basis of comparison for alternative methods.

6. Administration of projects of obvious interstate, regional, or international scope according to the procedure indicated in Paragraph 5, above.

7. Establishment through the constructional authority granted to it, of a sound long term credit system through which states and subdivisions of states may better promote the public welfare in fields reserved to them.

8. Fostering the development of strong professional groups in local areas as well as a sense of local responsibility for public welfare (without such a sense of individual participation, our constitutional system is in serious danger).

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The Committee believes that Federal Agencies should be prohibited from exercising the following functions:

1. Preparation of plans and other

2. To conduct research

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20. To conduct research

documents for building projects except to the extent indicated under Paragraph B. (Government Agencies, normally, are unable to draw the outstanding members of the professions, with a result that the bulk of works executed through Federal Agencies is inferior to that designed by professional men in private practice. Because of proximity to the job and because of his being the author of the documents, the private practitioner is better able to handle the responsibilities of supervision of construction and interpretation of drawings and specifications).

2. Provision of Federal funds to pay for projects of a scope naturally limited to a State or locality within a State, except in cases where the national interest is clearly concerned.

The Committee further believes that there should be no increase of Federal Agency personnel in the planning and construction fields except as required for the specific purposes indicated above and under no circumstance should there be a net total increase. (Planning Bureaus have tended to limit initiative and invention, the result being detrimental. Large bureaus are not efficient or economical. The planning professions are a great natural asset in local areas in many forms of community welfare and health. The growth of Governmental Agencies tends seriously to break this down.)

ARCHITECTS MEET

The Annual Meeting of the New York State Association of Architects, held in December at the Architectural League, was attended by the Delegates from our Chapter, Messrs. Lescaze and Langmann. While a variety of subjects was discussed during the two-day session, conclusive action was taken on only two items.

The Delegates voted on the matter of dues in accordance with the recommendation of this Chapter, i.e., that the dues remain at \$2. per year per member, but that each Architect belonging to one or more of the constituent organizations of the Association be paid for by each organization to which he belongs.

(Heretofore members have been paid for only by the single organization of their choice.)

Three new Vice Presidents were elected: William Lescaze of this Chapter, Ralph Winslow of Rensselaer and Raymond Irorra, the President of the Queens Society.

Charles R. Ellis of Syracuse, John T. Briggs of New York and Maxwell Cantor of Brooklyn continue as President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

The question of engaging an Executive Secretary, regarding which President Ellis sent out a questionnaire last November, occupied a good part of the discussion. The majority of Delegates from the constituent organizations reported unfavorably on the matter of substantially increasing the dues to provide for this added expense. Nevertheless, the candidate for the post of Executive Secretary appeared before the Delegates and submitted his ideas on how this job could be handled, and subsequently a committee was appointed to consider further ways and means. To date no decision has been reached.

GROWTH

Frederick G. Frost, Sr., our Membership Chairman, reports that during the year just closed this Chapter took in 53 new members. Statistics for 1943 are:

Membership January 1	460
Gains: New members	53
Losses:	21
Net gain	32

Membership December 31 492

Of our 74 members now in the Armed Forces, 37 have asked for waivers of their dues; we have also 19 Members Emeritus. Thus out of the above total 56 are non-dues paying members.

CHAPTER PERSONAL

It is always gratifying to hear that hard work has been rewarded.

J. Davidson Stephen, member of this Chapter and holder of the Civic Design Scholarship at Cranbrook, who described at our October Chapter Dinner his studies of the Detroit Sphere of Influence made under the direction of Mr. Saarinen, has now been engaged by the City of Louisville, Kentucky, to make similar studies for the plan of that City and its surrounding area.

