



## NEW YORK CHAPTER

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCULUS, VOL VI, No. 5 115 EAST 40th STREET, NEW YORK (16)

MARCH, 1944

### NEXT MEETING

Place: Architectural League  
Time: After Dinner, Tuesday, March 28.  
8:00 P.M. SHARP!  
Subject: Radiant Heating (See Enclosure)

This is to be the first of a series of round table discussions on technical problems in building, to be carried on in the manner of the Forum of the Air with the audience participating and with experts on each problem present to answer questions.

"Post War Paints and Finishes" will be the subject of the second Forum, to be held in May.

### FURTHER ACTIVITIES

Our Pre-Convention meeting will be on Tuesday, April 25, in preparation for the coming A.I.A. Convention, which this year will be in Indianapolis the first week in May.

Some of the subjects suggested for discussion are: Architectural Education, Post-War; Refresher Courses for men returning from the services; An Architects' Technical Service, which would be equipped to give accurate "experience data" on various building materials on the market; A placement bureau for architects and draftsmen returning from the services; The profession's opportunity for specific service in connection with postwar planning committees of their respective localities; How the Institute can cooperate more effectively with its Chapters; How the Chapters can cooperate more effectively with the Institute.

One effective way of bringing about discussion on any subject is by means of...

### RESOLUTIONS

An innovation this year is a Chapter Resolutions Committee, headed by Julian Clarence Levi, who will be glad to receive suggestions from the members in

connection with the aforementioned subjects (or any other pertinent subjects of national import), to present in resolution form at the Pre-Convention Chapter meeting.

Mr. Levi may be addressed at the Chapter office.

### SAFETY

Your attention is called to the 15th Annual Safety Convention and Exposition of the Greater New York Safety Council, to be held at the Hotel Pennsylvania on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, March 28th, 29th and 30th. All Chapter members are invited. Programs available at the Chapter Office.

### CIVIL SERVICE SUITS

Reports have been made from time to time in these columns regarding the progress of the two lawsuits brought by the Civil Service groups against the private practitioners. Both of these suits have been carried through the various stages of appeal right up to the Court of Appeals, the highest Court in the State.

Last week decisions were handed down in both cases, the decisions being unanimously in favor of the private practitioner.

### SERVICE COLUMN

We have learned with interest that the Texas Society of Architects is conducting a successful "service letter". As a feeler, the Society's Secretary sent a letter full of "home news" to its members in the armed forces and in response received many interesting replies from the men at the front.

We feel that the Oculus in a sense makes such a letter unnecessary. It can, however, serve admirably as a vehicle for exchange of news items interesting both to our members in service and those on the home front.

We hereby request that our members in service write us a line, or that their families send us news of them, which can be published in this "Service Column".







## EDUCATION OF AN ARCHITECT

At the Anniversary Dinner of the Chapter on February 17th, which incidentally was very successful both as to attendance and interest, Mr. William Wilson Wurster, our colleague from California, spoke on "Education for Architecture".

This proved to be a somewhat of an autobiography, in that he gave an account of his early training, his travel abroad following by apprenticeship in various offices, and finally the establishment of his own office in California, which grew from small beginnings to a very sizeable practice.

With the coming of the war, however, both clients and draftsmen faded away, and so Mr. Wurster considered the time opportune for closing his office and adding to his architectural education a further, and to him an essential, chapter. The kind of adult education he sought, however, was not easy to find even at the most progressive of architectural schools.

This "unknown field" lies quite outside of any designing or structural activities of the drafting-room, and concerns itself with matters of finance and ethics; questions of taxes, real estate management and administration both civic and communal, and finally with the relations between client and architect.

After years of practice Mr. Wurster felt strongly that an understanding of all these things is essential to any architect in the conduct of a successful practice, and lack of it, or at least small insistence upon it, accounts for many of our shortcomings and the fact that we have frequently been by-passed in work which we believed to be legitimately ours.

Since he was embarking on a more or less uncharted course, Mr. Wurster had to make it one largely of self instruction, of research and seminar study, and he chose to go to Harvard to enroll in their planning courses. Of all the phases of this study, the most interesting are the contacts to be gained with officials of neighboring towns and cities, who come to discuss their administrative problems.

Of human relations between the public, individually and collectively, and the architect, particularly members of the Institute, Mr. Wurster spoke critically. In the gracious and informal manner which characterized his whole address, he told

us some things which he frankly thought we "would not be pleased to hear". He counselled an easier, freer and less formal attitude on our part, and a surrender of certain ideas which the A.I.A. and many individuals now regard as prerogatives, with a resultant better understanding between ourselves and the public, to say nothing of our relations with other architectural organizations.

Incidentally Mr. Wurster's ability as an architect was most eloquently proven in a display of photographs of executed work on the walls of the Pine Room.

## NEW MEMBERS

Since the publication of our current Year Book on August 1, 1943, the following have been added to our roster:

## Associates:

1. Bro. Cajetan Baumann, O.F.M.
2. R. Marshall Christensen
3. William T. Snaith

## A.I.A. Members:

1. Ernest Mauritz Anderson
2. Dean W. Axline
3. Stephen Bochkor
4. John S. Burrell
5. Serge Ivan Chermayeff
6. Thomas Greer Coles
7. Livingstone H. Elder
8. Hermann Haviland Field
9. Harry L. C. Gall
10. Elsa Gidoni
11. Francis X. Gina
12. Robert T. Handren
13. Wallace W. Heath
14. Clarence Higginson
15. George S. Holderness
16. Seymour R. Joseph
17. Hippolyte Kamenka
18. Aaron Nathan Kiff
19. Morris Lapidus
20. Lester Storms LaPierre
21. William M. Leyh
22. Clarence B. Litchfield
23. Allan Gordon Lorimer
24. Francis A. McKeown
25. Joseph Neufeld
26. Paul Cornelius Reilly
27. Karl W. Rosenberg
28. Harry Bernard Rutkins
29. Thomas Stapleton
30. Moukbil Kemal Tash
31. Henry Dwight Whitney







## LOCAL BOY MAKES GOOD

We hereby congratulate our fellow member, Cornelius J. White, upon his appointment as State Architect for the Department of Public Works. We feel that in this appointment, an honor has been conferred upon the New York Chapter.

Not long ago Mr. White served as the watch dog of the Chapter's Treasury and so excellent was he in that post that he held it long beyond the usual statute of limitations. We hope it is in order to wish him the same success and record in his new post.

## CANDIDATES

The following names have been submitted for Institute membership:

1. George F. Axt  
Sponsors: Kenneth Stowell  
Ralph Walker
2. Harold T. Brinkerhoff  
Sponsors: Charles Butler  
Leopold Arnaud
3. Raphael Hume  
Sponsors: William Gehron  
Hunter MacDonnell
4. Charles H. Koop  
Sponsors: Benjamin W. Morris  
Walter H. Kilham, Jr.
5. Henry F. Seitz  
Sponsors: Benjamin W. Morris  
George Francis Morse
6. Frederick Lewis Sumner  
Sponsors: William H. Sypher II  
Anthony J. Daidone
7. J. Stanley Sharp  
Sponsors: J. Andre Fouilhoux  
Francis X. Gina

## PERSONAL

Chapter member Alexander D. Knox last week closed his office and left for M.I.T. where he will spend the next year pursuing a course in planning.

## EXTENDING OUR PRACTICE

A new Committee has recently been formed under the Chairmanship of Morris Ketchum, called "Fields of Architectural Practice". The members of this Committee have set for themselves an ambitious program, i.e., to define The Architect and his capabilities; to convince the Architect that he is capable of a great deal more than "exterior designing"; to outline the qualifications for these capabilities; to demonstrate methods of procedure for selling these capabilities; and finally to sell the whole idea to the general public.

Already many architects have been successfully extending their fields of practice, and information on this would be of inestimable value in carrying out our program. Mr. Ketchum's Committee accordingly requests that any Chapter member who is now engaged in any profitable activity, such as Product Development, Management Advisory Service; Industrial Design, etc., communicate this information to Mr. Ketchum.



