

ARTHUR C. HOLDEN PRESIDENT
ROBERT S. HUTCHINS VICE-PRESIDENT
OTTO F. LANGMANN SECRETARY



FREDERICK G. FROST, JR. TREASURER
WALTER H. KILHAM, JR. RECORDER
DOROTHEA WATERS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

NEW YORK CHAPTER
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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ANNUAL MEETING

Arthur C. Holden was elected President at the Chapter's Annual Lunch on June 7. Messrs. Hutchins, Langmann and Frost, Jr. were re-elected Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively, and Walter H. Kilham, Jr. was elected Recorder. New members of the Executive Committee are Irvin L. Scott and Perry Coke Smith. Robert B. O'Connor, retiring President, was also elected to the Executive Committee to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Holden's election to the Presidency.

We quote below from Mr. Holden's remarks on assuming his new office;

"When a young man graduates from the United States Military Academy at West Point, he receives a commission in the U.S. Army. Beginning on a small scale, he becomes as Second Lieutenant a commander of men. The responsibility of the army officer for leadership increases progressively as he is given specific promotions.

"In contrast, when a young man graduates from a school of architecture, he receives a degree but he does not have a commission awaiting him. Even on a small scale he is not a commander of men. The architect goes into the ranks of citizenry. Do you remember the cry that Kipling put into the mouth of the soldier 'gentleman ranker': 'God help us for we knew the worst too young'? I have heard a cry from architect 'gentlemen rankers' which has sounded to me surprisingly like 'God help us for we knew the best too young'.

"Any man, whether he has served in the ranks as soldier or architect, knows that he cannot at once rebuild the world or even a small part of it according to his desires. The professional man must demonstrate that he can perform valuable services before he is given the opportunity to put his abilities and training to constructive use.

"In due course we shall consult together to organize ourselves for service. But before we can effectively organize, there

are obstructions which must be cleared away. Both our own vision and that which the public has of us, have been obscured by a misinterpretation of architecture. By resorting to a literary plagiarism, we can gain a new weapon that ought to be enlightening. Let us use this weapon together to attack the "Architectural Fallacy".

"Bernard DeVoto, in a penetrating book called "The Literary Fallacy", attacks the thesis that the culture of a period is enshrined in its literature, and that literary men are the keepers of the seal, the priests of the temple, the interpreters of the civilization of their period.

"Have we architects had a similar vision of ourselves?

"Mr. DeVoto, in reviewing some of the so-called representative authors of the 1920s, credits them with being able craftsmen, but shows that they were unaware of some of the great movements of the time, and thus hardly interpreters of its culture. He reveals them as more interested in mirroring their own souls than in delving into and understanding the culture of the 1920s. Literature, he points out, may shut itself up in an ivory tower and get out of tune with the life and culture of a period.

"We in architecture must not be guilty of the same fault. Cast your eyes upon the facades of Park Avenue or of a typical main street. It is clear that the designers are trained craftsmen. We suspect they may have walked through Spain, bicycled in France and motored through Italy. The architect draftsman knows how to put a building together just as the literary craftsman knows how to put a book together. I include in this the so-called modernists who evidently have studied the architectural magazines.

"But this type of accomplishment does not reveal coherence. We must increase our contacts with the community if we would realize our ambition to help mould

and interpret the community. We must dig in deeper to get at the roots. We must form new contacts. The day has gone when the professions can be regarded as mysteries to be practiced in water-tight compartments.

"The times cry out for an understanding of life and the forces which are moulding it. Let us make our first passion the passion to understand. We may thus learn how and where to apply our technical skills. If we understand our fellow men, we will learn how to serve them. If we can make them feel that we understand, it will be they who will call upon us, and who will demand of us that we do our best."

TIMELY WARNING

Some of the members of the New York Chapter have had and are having difficulty with the Wages and Hour and Public Contracts Division of the U.S. Department of Labor in regard to certain provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. The principal difficulty arises from a difference of opinion as to which employees in an architect's office are entitled to time and a half and double time for overtime.

The Fair Labor Standards Act is far from clear as to its application to the architectural and engineering professions. Until some clear definition is reached, the members of our profession who employ others may be in jeopardy financially.

The Executive Committee of the Chapter has decided to refer the matter to the national organization of the American Institute with a request that action be taken to obtain clarification of the Act.

Max H. Foley, Chairman
Committee on Fees and Contracts

HONORARY ASSOCIATE

The Executive Committee, acting on the recommendation of the Chapter's Committee on Awards, has nominated Major Irving V.A. Huie for election to Honorary Associate membership in the Chapter.

Major Huie is Commissioner of Public Works of the City of New York. An engineer by profession, he has for many years been actively interested in the growth and economic development of our City and particularly of late in its Postwar Planning program.

He has visited the Chapter on a number of occasions and is well known to many of our members.

Under our By-Law provisions, you are hereby notified that the election of Mr. Huie will take place at the first autumn meeting of the Chapter.

CANDIDATES

The following names have been submitted for Institute membership:

1. Charles Akers Bradbury
Sponsors: Lester Tichy
Lewis G. Adams
2. Joseph N. Boaz
Sponsors: Morris Ketchum
Henry L. Kamphoefner
3. S. Walter Katz
Sponsors: Othmar Krauss
Lionel Levy
4. Harry S. Kohl
Sponsors: Otto Teegen
Max Foley
5. Alfred Charles Shaknis
Sponsors: Wm. Lescaze
Edwin Forbes
6. Konrad Wachsmann
Sponsors: Elsa Gidoni
Walter Gropius
7. Julian Hill Whittlesey
Sponsors: Wm. Lescaze
Robert Weinberg
8. Oscar F. Wiggins
Sponsors: Wallace K. Harrison
J. A. Fouilhoux
9. Paul Zucker
Sponsors: Esmond Shaw
Morris Sanders

A SUMMING UP by ROBERT B. O'CONNOR

"Last June, in outlining what might have been called a program for the year, I said: 'We in the Chapter must continue the process of organizing the profession into a common Institute. We must increase in every way possible our technical competence. We must take a constructive part in the critical problems of our time and community. And we must constantly improve the effectiveness of architectural service as well as public awareness of its value'.

"I should like to consider the activities of the past twelve months in those general areas.

"The unification of the profession is a most important program. The growth in membership and activity in the Chapters is the normal and indispensable base for attaining this goal, and in this respect our own Chapter has made great progress. It happens that in this particular area we have a number of separate architectural organizations

some of considerable size and all of them with their individual aims and traditions. The progress of the Institute towards unification must give recognition to this situation and we must draw these other societies into the A.I.A. by suasion and common undertakings. It is my suggestion that the New York Chapter should make a deliberate policy of inviting the Officers and Executive Committees of all of these societies to a series of programs during the year which are of general professional interest. To certain meetings perhaps all of the membership of these groups should be asked. If we represent the Institute properly our activities cannot fail to interest anyone practicing architecture, and this community of interest will more effectively unite our organizations than any other factor.

"As the Technical Committee has stated on many occasions, its purpose is mainly educational and it aims at improving the architect's understanding and constructive interest in the technical aspects of our profession. This is of vital importance, because the professional competence of our members is the foundation stone of our value to society and the only lasting basis for public recognition.

"The work of the Legislative Committee has so far been largely negative, in the direction of staving off attacks from sources which would limit or expropriate our field of practice. We must, I believe, move from the negative to the positive and prepare ourselves, through our contributions to the public counsels, for the infinitely more important and valuable role of initiating worthwhile public action, whether by legislation or by civic initiative. This must be done with due attention to economy of time and of cost. But beyond that it is by taking our place in the discussion of urban redevelopment, of housing, of prefabrication, of building codes and zoning ordinances, that we shall prove to the public the need for the architect's training and experience.

"In the Chapter's service to the profession several matters must receive earnest and effective attention. We have the question of working conditions and salaries for employees for which some viable program should be developed or we may find ourselves in the postwar world with a program forced upon us. We have a solution to find for the civil service problem. How can the public interest be properly served by adequate forces without the historic evils of bureaucracy? We have provision to make for the simple, prompt and friendly return to

architectural pursuits of those in war service, and it will not be easy.

"We should set up a more comprehensive and more realistic basis of charges for the expanding requirements of architectural practice. And we shall definitely have to work out the means for improving our public relations and our legislative interest within a financial framework that will make it possible for all in the profession to join the Institute.

"This, then, is the picture of where we now find ourselves. As we pause momentarily to change horses, we had best consider whether we have the fortitude to follow the course which lies open before us. There is the promise of unprecedented activity in building for years following victory. Whether it is healthy and constructive beyond anything history has known will depend in the deepest sense on us.

"We shall have the temptation of doing just enough work to keep our offices filled with work. We shall have the temptation of getting by on what we remember of our school training instead of putting in the truly hard hours of learning how best to use the miracles which technology is offering us. We shall have the temptation of forgetting whether the desires of our clients make economic, social and aesthetic sense, or merely offer the opportunity of handsome fees. We shall have the very great temptation of devoting ourselves wholly to making money, after years of starvation fare, instead of giving time and thought and effort to making the profession a more effective instrument of public welfare.

"We must dare to face these temptations and to win out. If we truly believe that architecture is the mother of the arts and that our training gives us the right to lead in the planning and organization of our physical environment we can do no less.

"We shall have opportunities that no architect has had before to mould our coming civilization. Let us seize them firmly, - and the imperative responsibilities which they impose. For if we lose them now, chance will never return them a second time to our grasp."