



Vol. VIII

O C U L U S

No. 2

NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
115 EAST 40th STREET
SPRING EDITION, 1946

BY LAW AMENDMENT

Your Executive Committee proposes to set up a Finance Committee to take the place of the present Committee on Audit and Budget. Our Chapter accounts are audited regularly by a professional auditor and it is the duty of the Treasurers under the existing By Laws to prepare the budget. The continued existence of an Audit and Budget Committee is accordingly superfluous.

Therefore notice is hereby given that at the Annual Meeting of the Chapter on June 5th you will be asked to vote on a new Article 12, Section 8 (b) to read as follows:

Finance Committee. This Committee shall consist of three members appointed for three year terms, expiring in successive years. The Treasurer shall be ex-officio an additional member of this Committee. The Finance Committee shall, under the authority of the Executive Committee, supervise the investments, trust funds, annual audit and financial policy of the Chapter and shall recommend to the Executive Committee appropriate action.

HAIL COLUMBIA

The lecture series "A Practical Course in Home Building", proposed by Dean Arnaud and set up by Columbia University's School of Architecture was so enthusiastically conducted by Harold Sleeper and Fritz Woodbridge that an entire extra session was devoted to questions from attentive and eager listeners.

Columbia will repeat the series in the fall due to the lively interest maintained throughout the spring session.

THIS IS IT

Annual BUSINESS MEETING

June 5th

Review of the year's events
and plans for the future

Election of officers

12:30 SHARP League Dining Room

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE WILL MEET

Thomas Creighton will conduct the discussion at the dinner meeting of the Technical Committee on June 11th. The subject for the evening will be "New Products".

NO ALIBI

Notices of Chapter Business Meetings, hitherto couched in obscure language, arranged in a maze of dull black mimeographed symbols blurring a sheet of pale white paper will hereafter go out to members on a snappy, two-toned, specially designed pastel postal, handy to stick in mirrors, shove into coat pockets or prop against ash trays. NOW can we have a quorum?

NOTICE OF COMPETITION

A competition to select a design and an architect for the proposed Minnesota State Veterans Service Building will be conducted by the Commission in charge of the project during the months of May to October, 1946.

The building is to be erected on the grounds of the State Capitol in St. Paul. A total sum of two million dollars has been appropriated by the State Legislature for that purpose.

The Commission, of which Governor Edward J. Thye is chairman, has full authority to conduct the competition, to select and employ an architect and to let contracts for the erection of the building. Roy Jones, F.A.I.A., Head of the School of Architecture at the University of Minnesota is the professional advisor. The jury will consist of Leon Arnal of Minneapolis, Harvey Corbett of New York and John W. Root of Chicago. The program has been approved by the Competition Committee of the American Institute of Architects through its sub-committees of the St. Paul and Minnesota Chapters.

The competition is by law "open to all". 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th prizes, amounting to \$5000, \$2500, \$1500, and \$1000 respectively will be awarded for the four most meritorious designs submitted, provided they are endorsed by the jury as suitable designs for the building. The winner of the competition shall also be selected as the architect for the construction of the building.

Prospective competitors should apply to John McConneloug, Secretary, State Veterans Service Building Commission, St. Paul 2, Minnesota, requesting a copy of the program. They should give full particulars of their individual or firm names and addresses and state whether and in what states they are registered to practice architecture.

BRITISH ARCHITECTURAL STUDENTS IN AMERICAN OFFICES

The letter quoted in part below was written to Robert Allan Jacobs as a result of the helpful interest he showed last year in finding a temporary spot in an American office for a British architectural student. Mr. Jacobs referred the letter to Perry Coke Smith who agreed that the contents would be of general interest to members of the Chapter. The writer is Professor Lionel Budden of the Liverpool School of Architecture in the University of Liverpool.

"I am venturing to approach you directly on behalf of a number of our students who, with full approval of our Board of Studies, are most anxious to gain experience of practice in the United States.

The benefits which (a former student) received as a result of the period spent in travel and in working have so impressed us all here that we are very anxious that a similar group of the best of the present Third Year students should, if possible, have similar opportunities of extending their knowledge, interests and sympathies.

Under the regulations governing our five year course all students are required to spend the Summer Vacation and Autumn Term immediately following the Third Examination in gaining experience of practice in approved architectural offices. Eight of the best of the present Third Year students . . . would be free to come over any time in July or August and to remain till the end of December.

If their remuneration were to cover their living expenses this would meet their needs. All of them have excellent academic records and I can vouch for their good character.

Any help that you might be able to give in securing definite offers of employment would be immensely appreciated by my colleagues and myself."

Of the eight students named in Professor Budden's letter, four are holding one or more scholarships, five are ex-service men, two have been prisoners of war and one is the State Scholar of Iraq. Four and possibly a fifth have been placed so far. If you can help to secure employment for the others write to Perry Coke Smith at once and offer your suggestions.

Our hope is that eventually a closer and at the same time more formal bond can be established through the A.I.A. and the R.I.B.A.

MEMORIAL FUND FOR PAUL PHILLIPE CRET

Those who respect the influence and achievements of Mr. Cret are asked to subscribe to the fund established by the University of Pennsylvania to honor his memory. Robert S. Hutchins as a member of the Committee will be glad to give any details.

Checks should be made out to the University of Pennsylvania.

HOUSING INSTITUTE BULLETIN

The Housing Institute has given a courtesy subscription to the New York Chapter office and its bulletin arrives bi-weekly containing a digest of all current affairs pertaining to housing as well as a breakdown of the figures on available building materials, probable length of time required to procure them and other valuable information.

Members who would like to see the bulletins are invited to the Chapter office where the pamphlets are available for reference.

CANDIDATES

The names of the following candidates have been presented for membership in the Institute:

1. Gustave Gabriel Abrams

Sponsors:

George F. de Zeller
M. Milton Glass

2. Jack Bruno Basil

Sponsors:

Henry Otis Chapman
Otto Eggers

3. Joseph Blumenkranz

Sponsors:

Sidney L. Katz
Richard G. Stein

4. Paul Jerman

Sponsors:

Alden deHart
Willis N. Mills

5. Joseph A. Murphy

Sponsors:

Alexander D. Knox
Robert S. Hutchins

6. Lester Wickham Smith

Sponsors:

Stephen F. Voorhees
Willis N. Mills

AESTHETICS OR COSMETICS

To the New York Chapter:

I was much grieved recently at seeing that the Public Library had had its "face washed", and want to make some kind of a protest to someone.

I am therefore writing to you, though you may disagree with me, to present the matter for discussion from an aesthetic standpoint of cleaning old buildings and monuments in general, and perhaps make some resolutions and representations.

It is very true, I think, that most modernistic buildings look better new or clean because their surfaces do not receive the "patina of years" attractively. In either Gothic or "classical" architecture the reverse is true, as if the designers, building for the ages, knew that their buildings would become more beautiful year by year, thanks to the weathering of the stone, the streakings of grime and soot, and even pigeon-droppings.

Who wants to change the color of the Parthenon, remove the wonderful purple "washings" of Palladio's basilica at Vicenza, or for that matter any of the buildings or monuments of London or Paris?

At the time of George V's Jubilee there was a great washing of buildings in London, however—so somebody must want to do it—with effect as disastrous as on the Public Library in New York.

I could of course go on and on, but will spare you.

—Edward Steese

LORIMER FILM SUCCESSFUL

An April Moduletter from the Producers' Council records twenty eight meetings arranged for the purpose of showing A. Gordon Lorimer's slide film "A Scotsman Looks at Modular Construction". The meetings were scheduled through the AIA Department of Technical Services in Washington, D.C. and the film was presented to groups of architects, builders and members of the Producers' Council in cities from New York to the West coast.

INCLUDING THE SCANDINAVIAN

Conférence administrative le cinq juin.
Conferenza di affare il cinque junio.
Junta administriva el cinco junio.
Samantrave den 5e juni.