MEDAL OF HONOR
The New York Chapter made the
anniversary dinner on February 25th the
occasion to present its highest award,
the Medal of Honor, to Robert Bar-
nard O'Connor. Dean Arnaud read the
accompanying citation:

"Robert Barnard O'Connor, Archi-
tect; born on Long Island, educated
at Trinity College and at the School
of Architecture of Princeton Univer-
sity; and for many years a partner in
the firm of Morris and O'Connor and
now of O'Connor and Kilham; de-
signer of many distinguished struc-
tures, among which may be singled
out the Union League Club of New
York, the Westchester County Office
Building and the Avery Memorial

You have given untiringly of your
time and counsel, and despite an ac-
tive and exacting practice, you have
twice served on the Executive Com-
mittee of this Chapter, you have given its
Secretary, and you have filled its Presi-
dential chair in 1943 and 1944.

During World War II you served
with distinction, first as Chief Archi-
tect and later adding the duties of
Chief Engineer of the Second Zone
Construction Quartermaster's Office.

This Chapter, which you have served
so well, recognizes in you an example
of a skillful practitioner of irreproach-
able integrity, a cultured gentleman
and a devoted professional.

We honor ourselves in presenting to
you the Medal of Honor of the New
York Chapter of the American Institute
of Architects for 1946."

Perry Coke Smith,
President

Leopold Arnaud

Eric Kebbon

Walter Kilham, Jr.

Kenneth Reid

Jury of Award

As Mr. O'Connor received the medal
from Mr. Smith whole hearted ap-
plause and enthusiastic comments con-
firmed Chapter approval of the jury's
tribute.

COMMITTEE WORK
Activities
Kenneth K. Stowell is acting as moder-
ator at the March 25th dinner meeting
at which deans and department heads
of five leading eastern architectural
schools will delve into the subject of
How Architecture Is Taught Today.

Discussion will be informal, based
on questions submitted by members
in advance or brought up from the floor.

Leopold Arnaud of Columbia, George
Koyl of the University of Pennsylvania,
Everett Meeks of Yale and Professors
Olindo Grossi of Pratt Institute and
Jean Labatut of Princeton will cope
with such topics as

"To what extent does current archi-
tectural training equip the student for
actual architectural practice?"

"What in your opinion is the great-
est improvement in educational prac-
tice in the last twenty five years?"

Civic Design
Since the decision of the United Na-
tions to make New York City the
world capital, the Civic Design Com-
mitee has devoted itself to vigorous
work on plans and recommendations
for rezoning the area adjacent to the
site, in order to provide a suitable
setting as well as to control the growth
and possible exploitation of the sec-
tion.

As early as December 28th Frederick
J. Woodbridge made a statement to
the public through the press empha-
sizing the committee's stand and urging
that immediate consideration be given
by the City Planning Commission to
problems of traffic control, width of
streets, limitation of the height of
buildings and of residential settlement
in the area.

Since the first of the year represen-
tatives of the Civic Design committee
have attended all hearings of the City
Planning Commission and have fol-
lowed its proceedings closely. On
March fifth the committee submitted
a joint resolution with the Citizens
Housing Council and the Citizens
Union supporting the City Planning
Commission's amendment to the exist-
ing zoning resolution relating to the
area, but proposing the adoption of
a far more drastic rezoning plan. This
would permit the establishment of a
new type of zone, temporarily restrict-
ning construction in a designated area,
until a comprehensive general plan is
adopted.

The Civic Design Committee mean-
while is proceeding to prepare an idea
in graphic form for the development of
the area which it will submit to the
city authorities in the near future.

Legislative
The Legislative Committee has func-
tioned and has reviewed practically all
legislative matters of interest to the
Chapter; particular study was made of
all state legislation where changes in
the Multiple Dwelling law were in-
troduced and all were analyzed to de-
termine the effect on building.

A complete report was submitted to
the Executive Committee recommend-
ing that the Chapter go on record as
disapproving the "pet" Civil Service
Bill which would prevent the private
practitioner from rendering services to
the state or city. This measure failed
of passage.

The committee recommended to the
Executive Committee that it register
disapproval of legislation introduced
with respect to changing the non-
political set-up of the New York City
Housing Authority. This action was
taken. The bill however was passed
though in a modified form somewhat
limiting the broad powers sought by
the city.

Sidney Strauss further reports that
at the last moment a bill relaxing the
Education laws which regulate the
practice of architecture was forced
through. Should such a law become
effective the doors would be wide
open for anyone having a license in
another state to come into New York
State, be given an oral examination
and his license. Opposition can be
registered by writing or wiring Gov-
ernor Dewey at once.

Public Relations
The New York Chapter will be repres-
tented at the Metropolitan Home Show
at the Grand Central Palace during
the week of April 19—26 by an ex-
hibit showing the function of the architect in rental housing and conversion projects.

An exhibition of the best in contemporary store architecture will be the Chapter presentation at the Store Modernization Show at the Grand Central Palace in July.

A full report of the progress and plans for possible expansion of the Halloran Hospital project was given at the January 21st meeting of the Chapter by Albert G. Clay, chairman of the Public Relations Committee and received unanimous approval. While the plans for standard units designed to facilitate wheelchair living are still in the preliminary stage, pending the completion of the test house adjacent to the paraplegic wards at Halloran Hospital, news of the project has reached the whole North American continent and Europe. Dr. Howard Rusk's feature article on the work of the New York Chapter, which appeared February 2nd in the New York Times, and the excellent account in the February issue of Progressive Architecture, brought in a flood of inquiries and requests for plans from all over the country from hospitals, individuals, communities, architects and veterans' organizations. Nearly one hundred sets of preliminary blueprints have been sent out and many more names are on the list for the final drawings to be issued this spring.

The American Red Cross exhibited the scale models of the project in the Madison Avenue windows of the International Business Machines Corporation during the first three weeks in March as a major part of their drive for funds.

Technical
The indefatigable Technical Committee carries on with weekly luncheon and dinner meetings with capacity attendance at the noon sessions as usual. Transcripts of these meetings have been well received, judging from the number of favorable comments and letters received and another set will soon be on your desk.

Harold Sleeper announces that the April 16th meeting will be a dinner held jointly with the Producers Council. Gordon Lorimer will report on progress in modular construction.

NATIONAL CONVENTION
The 1947 Convention of the Institute will take place in Grand Rapids, Michigan on April 29, 30 and May 1 at the Pantlind Hotel which will serve as Headquarters. It will be preceded by five seminars on April 26 and 27 with panel discussions on Schools, Hospitals and Urban Planning.

The March issue of the AIA Bulletin will contain full details of the matters to be taken up at the Convention. Meanwhile you will receive notification shortly of the New York Chapter's annual pre-convention business meeting at which instructions to delegates will be issued. It is important that you read the Bulletin carefully before attending this meeting so that you will be fully informed on the main issues.

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

1. George David Brown, Jr.
   Sponsors: Henry S. Churchill
   William F. R. Ballard
   Peter Copeland
   Sponsors: Simon Breines
   Sidney L. Katz
   Bruno Funaro
   Sponsors: Leopold Amaud
   Talbot Hamlin
   William A. Dowling
   Sponsors: Clement V. Tillion
   George F. Axt
   Leroy A. Perry
   Sponsors: William Shary
   Sylvester Murphy
   Benjamin Schlanger
   Sponsors: Julian C. Levi
   Kenneth Stowell
   Thorne Sherwood
   Sponsors: Willis Mills
   Lester W. Smith
   Max Otto Urbahn
   Sponsors: Lewis A. Coffin
   Jedd S. Reisner
   Elroy Webber
   Sponsors: Simon Breines
   John D. W. Churchill
   Sponsors:

Associate Membership:

10. Robert John Cika
   Sponsors: Antonin Raymond
   Sampson Levy
   William E. Kahn
   Sponsors: Simon Breines
   Ralph Pomerance
   Jurgen Edward Luders
   Sponsors: Sidney M. Shelov
   Gordon Bunshaft
   Edmond A. Pachner
   Sponsors: J. Stanley Sharp
   Morris Ketchum, Jr.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
MEETS SOON
Last June the Chapter chose Harvey Stevenson, Chairman, John Moore and Edgar Williams as the committee in charge of this year's elections. This group will meet soon and will welcome recommendations from members. Please send in your suggestions as soon as possible in order to expedite the work of the committee.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS
Thomas Creighton, editor of Progressive Architecture, has been invited to give his talk on Architectural Journalism at the March meeting of the Tennessee Chapter in Memphis and during April at meetings of the Connecticut, Kansas City, Minnesota and Virginia Chapters. Mr. Creighton's discussion of the function of the architectural magazine in the field of criticism was one of the high spots of the symposium conducted at the November dinner meeting of the New York Chapter.

Eleanor Pepper addressed the Woman's club at Great Neck, Long Island on Architecture as a Career for Women illustrating her talk with photographs of the job she considers the most exciting assignment of her life—the redesign of the buildings at Hunter College and at Lake Success for the use of the United Nations.

The Chapter office gratefully acknowledges two additions to its bookshelf by members; Addison Erdman and Charles Butler contributed a copy of their book Hospital Planning and George Boehm sent his latest publication, Building Code of the City of Mount Vernon.

IS IT SO MUCH TO ASK?
Reservations for ALL dinner and luncheon meetings must be tabulated and reported by the Chapter office to the League at least twenty four hours in advance so that the chef knows how many meals he will be required to provide.

If you keep the possibility of your attendance a secret until the last minute two situations arise—both of them unfortunate.

1. There may not be enough dinner to go around. This happens when twenty or more members telephone for reservations on the day of the meeting.

2. The Chapter office, in trying to allow for last minute attendance, gives too large a guarantee and loses money on the deal. The deficiency must be made up out of the Chapter's main source of income—your dues.