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OCULUS

June-July, 1949

NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS 115 EAST 40th STREET, NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

WALTER H. KILHAM, JR., President BEN JOHN SMALL, Vice President

DOROTHEA WATERS, Executive Secretary

M. MILTON GLASS, Secretary MORTIMER E. FREEHOF, Editor

FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

The membership of the Chapter is at its highest level. We hope to have more before the end of the year. Encouraging as this may be, it will serve little purpose if each one of us has not something of himself to give to the interests of the profession.

If we have just recognized, as some believe, the last great individualist in American Architecture it is all the more incumbent upon us, collectively or otherwise, to show that we can accomplish great things as well.

At least, the more each one does for the profession at large, the greater will be the opportunity for the individual. His good work will be the best publicity that advancing architecture can have.

Walter H. Kilham, Jr.

BUSINESS MEETING

Over 80 members attended the 80th Annual business lunch of the Chapter on June 1. The Secretary, Francis W. Roudebush, reported a total membership of 808. Of this impressive number, 98 are Chapter Associates, 17 are Student Associates and 4 Honorary Associates. Allowing for losses by death and transfer our net increase since the last annual meeting is 130 members, a phenominal gain for which credit is due in large measure to the energy and enthusiasm of Alonzo Clark and his Membership Committee.

All present stood in silent tribute while Mr. Roudebush read the names of the 10 members who died during the year.

The Chapter's finances for 1948 were reported on by William Potter, Treasurer. Inasmuch as the year's net operating loss of \$185.00 was covered by the balance remaining from 1947, Mr. Potter said there had been no need to draw on the contingent reserve fund. Our expanded program of activities has necessitated a larger budget for 1949, however, and despite the increased receipts which may be expected from our larger membership, Mr. Potter was somewhat fearful that 1949 will show a larger deficit than 1948, unless some means are found to meet the additional expenses.

Once again the reading of the Annual Reports was omitted and Harold Sleeper in his usual capable fashion gave us instead a summation of the year's activities, touching briefly on the work of each Committee with a word of praise for its Chairman. Highlights of the Annual Reports will be found elsewhere on these pages.

The slate of Officers for the coming year was read by Lewis G. Adams, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, after which Gannett Herwig, Herbert Lippmann, and Fred Genz counted the ballots. Mr. Herwig reported 190 votes cast (wasn't that total membership figure 808?) and the following were duly declared elected:

President, Walter H. Kilham, Jr. Vice President, Ben John Small Secretary, M. Milton Glass Treasurer, William Potter

New members of the Executive Committee:

Morris Ketchum, Jr. Robert Allan Jacobs

Continuing members: Harry M. Prince Daniel Schwartzman Harold R. Sleeper

Professional Practice Committee: Geoffrey Platt, Chairman Malcolm G. Duncan John C. B. Moore

Medal of Honor Jury: Max Abramovitz William Lescaze Lorimer Rich Stephen F. Voorhees Committee on Fellows to 1952:

WILLIAM POTTER, Treasurer

Louis Skidmore and Edgar I. Williams. Also Wm. F. Lamb and Clarence Stein to 1950 and 1951 respectively (to fill the unexpired terms of Ralph Walker and Arthur Holden who had resigned because of the new office each now holds in the national body).

After accepting from Mr. Sleeper the reins of office, the gavel, Mr. Kilham as newly elected President made a very short speech about one or two matters to which he plans to give special attention during his term. The matter of education is one. He stressed the importance of increasing our interest in the architectural schools and of using our influence in bringing about an improved educational program. Another hope is for the early development of a more distinctive American Architecture with less emphasis on European importations.

Before closing at our usual 2 o'clock dead line, the Chapter, on motion of Arthur Holden, gave a hearty vote vote of thanks and appreciation to Harold Sleeper and the outgoing officers for their hard work and splendid record of achievement.

VOLUNTEERS

The Executive Committee is now at work organizing committees, of which there are between 40 and 50, for the coming year. It would be of great assistance if the members would individually notify the President of the special work in the Chapter they may be interested in and would be willing to help with. Our activities cover a wide range of interests, including Civic Design, Education, Entertainment, Architectural Design, Legislation, Membership and Public Relations. A list of the committees appears in the front of the Year Book and Register.

For the Committee on Visiting Architects, we would like to know of OCULUS

those members who have a fluent knowledge of French, Spanish, Portuguese, German or the Scandinavian languages. Such knowledge will be of invaluable help, both in entertaining visitors and in helping them to work out an itinerary for their stay in this country. We would like to see the work of this committee extended to include a survey of interesting modern architecture extant in the city as well as in the country at large. Such a compilation should be of interest also to our own members.

Walter H. Kilham, Jr.

LENDING AGENCIES UNREALISTIC

In a recent home building discussion on the "Meet The Expert" television show John Hancock Callender, member of the Chapter's Small House Committee, stated that most of the country's lending agencies, and especially the FHA, are about 20 years behind the times in their ideas on house design and are holding back the normal progress of architecture. Mr. Callender said that these agencies have forced many people who preferred the advantages of a contemporary house to build instead the traditional colonial house with green shutters.

In an interview after the program, Mr. Callender went on to explain that although FHA regulations permit loans on contemporary houses, it has, been the agency's practice to reject, or ' lower the value of, loan applications for these houses on the grounds that they had lower resale values due to the reticence of the public to purchase homes of modern design. In opposition, Mr. Callender pointed to the numerous polls taken of the public's preference — notably the New York Chapter's recent one where 72% of the people polled preferred modern over traditional design - and stated that consumer preference of this proportion can hardly be considered a fad.

ROCHESTER INVITES YOU

This is the slogan of the New York State Association of Architects to advertise their next Convention to be held during October in Rochester. A very active convention Committee is already laying its plans for the fall get-together of the State Architects.

Will you be there?

We none of us know what Fate has in store for us next October, but if you would *like* to go, will you say so now on a postal card, and we promise it won't be held against you.

JOBS FOR JUNIORS

The following letter is one which we hope every practicing member of the Chapter will take to heart:

"I am asked by the Chairman of the Architects' Emergency Committee, as the representative from the New York Chapter, to ask the Chapter to urge its members through the OCULUS and other means to help in obtaining employment for the numbers of young men coming from architectural schools during June. There seem always to be more men than jobs, and there is a need for some special effort.

Robert S. Hutchins"

DESIGN CRITIQUE NO. 1

On Tuesday, May 10, at lunch Cameron Clark's Committee on Architectural Criticism and Aesthetics inaugurated a new procedure for architectural criticism. Robert Allan Jacobs of the firm of Kahn and Jacobs explained the reasoning which led to the design of the building at 445 Park Avenue, also known as the Universal Pictures Building. His talk was illustrated by lantern slides of plans, details, and photographs of the completed building. He showed, also, slides illustrating the proposed maternity building for Mt. Sinai Hospital and 1407 Broadway. Those present were privileged to criticize.

Mr. Jacobs explained that the old concept of a building as so many cubic feet of material displacing air should be discarded and that the proper way to consider a building is that its envelope encloses so much space. This line of thought led to the idea that the space should be enclosed with economy and grace, which his firm carried out by eliminating as far as possible heavy structural elements in the exterior walls.

In place of the usual 16' to 20' exterior column spacing and heavy masonry piers and spandrels, the building was laid out with 9' 8" spacing between the supporting members which are not H columns, but are lighter assemblies of angles, back to back. Instead of the heating lines being grouped close to columns as has been customary, the lines run up midway between the structural members in the exterior wall so that the result is a facade composed of many small (4'-10") modules, allowing a considerable flexibility in arrangement of partitions for exterior offices. This flexibility is not, however, sufficient in Mr. Jacob's opinion and he believes that this same system can be improved by making alternate window spaces

capable of being closed by a clipped-in solid panel. Mr. Jacobs brought up the interesting point that this procedure would practically allow the tenants to design the pattern of windows in the building. Some members of the Chapter were dubious as to the advisability of allowing this. At present the alternate panels are glazed with fixed panes. The smallest rentable space consists of two units, one window and one fixed panel, giving a minimum office of 9' 8" width. All panels, if desired, could be fixed as the building is completely air-conditioned.

Mr. Jacobs expressed a hope that the building industry will come up with a satisfactory economical solution for a 2 hour spandrel construction so that we can avoid the use of heavy masonry for this purpose, and gain not only space but the consequent economy in framing due to lighter loads to be carried by the steel frame. He also urged that the double-hung window be eliminated in favor of some other assembly much easier to maintain and clean without danger.

The use of the narrow spacing for structural supports in the exterior walls yielded an advantage in that the horizontal steel at the spandrels could be made much lighter than usual, and thus permit a greater window height, which in the Mt. Sinai job will be carried to the point of keeping window heads flush with the ceiling.

At the end of Mr. Jacob's talk the floor was thrown open to the guests for questions and remarks, but there were very few, as the subject had been presented with thoroughness and care. The question of new spandrel materials brought out a discussion on the use of more color in building exteriors, and Mr. Jacobs hopes it will be possible to get away from the traditional use of limestone and brick in favor of other more colorful materials.

RETIREMENT

The Panama Star and Herald announced on April 28 the retirement of Architect Meade Bolton after 31 years of service with the Panama Canal. Mr. Bolton has designed more public buildings in the Canal Zone than any other person, including schools, colleges, clubhouses, post offices, penitentaries, hospitals and churches.

Aside from his architectural achievements, he has designed for the Canal Zone several memorial plaques, also the airmail stamps, several centennial stamps, and most of the regular postage stamps now in use.

Mr. Bolton has been a member of this Chapter since 1941.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The New York Times of May 11, and the New York Herald-Tribune of May 29, published the following item in regard to the alteration of an old building at Sixth Avenue and 19th Street, recently opened as a Ford Agency by Knickerbocker Motors, Inc.

"The board of directors of the Avenue of the Americas Association adopted a resolution commending this rehabilitation job and released a statement by the Chairman of its architectural committee declaring that this building is a unique example of an alteration in which the combination between a new store and an old building above has been harmoniously handled. It reflects credit upon the planners* and the owners, as well as upon this avenue."

Here, despite our repeated efforts, we have the phenomenon of a virtual award of merit for design without naming the designers. A letter of protest to Stephen G. Thompson, Real Estate Editor of the New York Herald-Tribune brought the following (in part) reply:

"I'm the guy who's griping. I am not one bit averse to crediting architects for their work, but I'll be damned if I'm going to assume the responsibility of wet nursing every blooming one of them. I love architects. I used to think of being one. I'll guarantee you to credit architects if you'll guarantee me to provide their identities. Or, how about a fund to provide me an assistant to spend his days phoning around to find out who gets credit on all the stuff submitted that doesn't name the architect? I'm at your service and griping. What will you do?"

Well, what do we do now? *The "planners' were Mortimer E. Freehof and Lester H. Maxon, Associated.

CITIZENSHIP A PREREQUISITE

The New York Chapter's persistent efforts to have American citizenship considered one of the qualifications for corporate membership have at last been rewarded. At its annual meeting the Board of Directors of the Institute adopted a resolution recommending to the 1950 convention that the By-laws be amended so that thereafter one of the qualifications for corporate membership will be United States citizenship.

Since the Board's meeting in December, 1945, the citizenship qualification has been left to the Chapters. It may now be made a national prerequisite.

CANDIDATES

According to the By-Laws of the Chapter, names of candidates for membership shall be submitted to all members before consideration by the Committee on Admissions. Information received regarding the qualifications of the following candidates will be considered confidential:

Corporate Membership-

1. Emil Fels

Sponsors: Ben C. Bloch Walter Hesse

- Sunao John Iwatsu Sponsors: C. Coleman Carven Charles G. Ramsey
- Julian K. Jastremsky Sponsors: Leopold Arnaud George Fred Pelham
- Walter Patrick McQuade Sponsors: Max H. Foley Richard T. Leslie (B'klyn)
- Walter Frederick Noyes, Jr. Sponsors: C. Dale Badgeley Nembhard N. Culin
- 6. August Reuling Sponsors: James Kellum Smith Lawrence Grant White
- 7. Robert Jackson Smith Sponsors: Otto R. Eggers Daniel P. Higgins
- 8. R. Robert Swartsburg Sponsors: Max H. Foley Harvey Wiley Corbett
- Milton Bode Steinmann Sponsors: James Kellum Smith Lawrence Grant White
- William Richard Tappan Sponsors: Vito P. Battista Thomas Sapolsky (B'klyn)
- George Odend'hal Wilkinson Sponsors: George F. Axt George T. Licht
- Associate Membership-
 - 1. Ephraim F. Hubert Sponsors: Joachim C. Accurso Louis Hecht
- John Hayter MacFadyen Sponsors: Max Abramovitz Robert B. O'Connor
- 3. Ellsworth George Pardridge Sponsors: Arthur E. Dore Ben John Small

BRUNNER AWARD

At the business meeting on June 1, it was announced that the Brunner Scholarship for 1949 had been awarded to Olindo Grossi, Chairman of the Department of Architecture at Pratt Institute.

Some time ago, the Board of Education asked the Chapter to prepare a traveling exhibit calculated to instruct high school students in the work of architects and to imbue them with a sense of architectural values. This exhibit, to be shown in the schools' free-standing, glass cases, with some additional wall area available, will circulate among 54 high schools of the New York City area, starting with the fall term.

The project was taken up by Eleanor Pepper's Committee on Exhibits, who appealed to the membership for suggestions and help. Repeated requests, however, brought only meager response, and it appeared that the full brunt of this considerable program must fall upon Miss Pepper's Committee, a small group already occupied with their own problems of practice.

Accordingly, it was suggested by Harold R. Sleeper that this Exhibit be made the basis for a Brunner award. After discussion with the Executive Committee, Eleanor Pepper, and Robert B. O'Connor's Brunner Scholarship Committee, the idea was adopted. The latter Committee presented the following recommendation:

1. That a Brunner Scholarship in the amount of \$2000. be awarded for the study, organization and production of such an exhibit, with an additional \$1000. allocated toward its physical construction.

2. That Olindo Grossi be awarded this scholarship on condition:

(a) that he complete it by the required date,

(b) that he cooperate, without additional expense, with a competent student of industrial design,

(c) that he and his assistants work under the general supervision of a special committee composed, jointly, of members of the Brunner and Exhibition Committees,

(d) that he keep in mind the longer range objective of a possible course in architectural instruction for City schools.

Several candidates were considered for this award; Mr. Grossi was selected because of his ability, his experience and the splendid record of his work with students at Pratt; also the fact that the facilities and personnel of a well equipped model shop would be available at that Institute.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE **ANNUAL REPORTS**

The Editors of the OCULUS regret the necessity for considerable condensation of the many interesting Reports submitted at the close of the season. It is obvious that it would be impossible - much as it was desired to reproduce them in full. It has therefore been our attempt throughout to select for mention only the most significant details and to avoid repeated presentation of material already familiar to members through previous issues of this and other bulletins distributed by the Chapter. We present more fully a few items which we believe have not hitherto been stressed and have tried in the briefer articles to stimulate the curiosity of the members, who are welcome to study the complete texts on file at the Chapter office.

Public Relations

Albert G. Clay, Chairman

The New York Chapter has created during the last four years a program of Public Relations and an organization to carry out this work by means of a central committee, six subcommittees, and a firm of consultants. A generous appropriation of committee funds, reinforced by a special sum voted by the Chapter, has made this possible, and continued financial support will be needed if the present tempo is to be maintained.

At this year end, the Chapter will do well to review its efforts in this field and to assess the results, which are set forth in individual reports summarized below and in the amazing collection of documentary evidence which Messrs. Schnall & Krug have placed on file at the Chapter office, namely, newspaper and magazine clippings approximating 81/4 pages of a regular daily newspaper.

Our purpose is to bring the name of the New York Chapter, A.I.A., its work and the architectural profession in general before the public, and to keep it there by means of issuing information, written, spoken, and visual. How are we succeeding? Do we get results, or would these things happen anyway?

Thanks go to our Consultants, whose originality has given us many new slants on our own profession, and to our Executive Secretary, whose devotion to Public Relations and whose continuous work have helped to crystalize new ideas and to execute a program of action.

Consultants

Schnall & Krug, Associates

From June 1, 1948, to the present date a total of 64 different news releases have been prepared and distributed to the press. In addition to general press releases and building of good will for the Chapter by direct contact with the press, the Consultants have worked on the Museum of Science & Industry exhibit, "Tomor-row's World," the Store Modernization Show, and the Building and Maintenance Supply Exposition. They helped prepare the Chapter's publications East Midtown Manhattan and You Need an Architect.

Miss Waters and her staff report the number of inquiries from the general public has greatly increased in the past year, which points to the fact that the New York Chapter and its functions are becoming known to an increasingly wider field. The press must continually be reminded of the organization's strength and willingness to be heard. The Public Relations Consultants, with the cooperation of the membership and the various committees, will continue supplying the press with general information, reports of public interest, and statements of the Chapter's standing on public matters.

Editorial

Mortimer E. Freehof, Chairman

This Committee believes it has improved the OCULUS by widening its scope during the past year. It is noteworthy that on several occasions a surplus of material has made curtailing necessary. An attempt was made to test membership evaluation in the form of a trial balloon suggesting an additional charge by subscription to defray publication cost. The result was only sparse objection to such tax, but unanimous approval of the paper by articulate members and expression of a desire for its continuance.

In the thought that much of the OCULUS material might be of interest to certain persons outside the Chapter, we have made it our policy to send a copy of each issue to any nonmember mentioned therein.

The Committee has held to its program of watching for omission of architects' names in connection with their published work and calling such omission to the attention of the offending publication. We would like here to reiterate

some of our 1948 recommendations:

That argument and influence be brought to bear upon newspapers and other publications to establish a section devoted to architecture apart from unqualified reporting included in real estate sections;

That a program be instituted calculated to correct publication of erroneous information regarding construction costs;

That the public be informed of the relationship of architect and interior decorator to a building operation and to each other; and

That the Chapter's printed document describing the services of architects be revised to include performance of duties in connection with municipal departments and other public bodies.

Exhibitions

Eleanor Pepper, Chairman

"Tomorrow's World," an exhibit of the work of members, grouped around a three-dimensional scale model of a community covering approximately two square miles, was shown for the full month of October at the Museum of Science and Industry. This was the most ambitious undertaking in the Chapter's history, and the first time it had held a public exhibition of such magnitude outside its own headquarters. During the month an estimated 30,000 people viewed the display and listened to the stimulating daily talks by Chap-ter members. 10,000 copies of the pamphlet, You Need an Architect, were distributed.

On January 25, in conjunction with the evening meeting on the subject of "Is the Small House Architecture?" an exhibition was held showing the work of several architects, as well as some examples of that being carried on by the Revere Small House Institute.

The Education Committee and the New York State Education Department jointly sponsored, from May 31 through June 10, an exhibition of the work of students in the drafting schools in the New York area executed during the regular school year.

Under discussion is the tentative proposal for a public exhibition of the work of architects at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1950.

The Civil Affairs Division of the Army has asked the Chapter to sponsor and prepare an exhibit of American school architecture to be shown next year in Germany. We feel that this is an opportunity not only to show to the German people the work of our architects, but also to bring home to them the basic differences between our educational theories and theirs.

Education

Ben John Small, Chairman

This Committee continued its efforts to examine, evaluate, and improve the work of ten drafting schools in the metropolitan area. Committee members interviewed school directors and instructors, examined students' work, and reported thereon. The work of the Committee was widely publicized and received close cooperation from the schools concerned and from the State Education Department. That organization's suggestion that we join with it in studying the development of a revised curriculum for the schools resulted in the recent exhibition of the work of students.

Messrs. Teegen and Small continued to function as members of the Advisory Commission of the New York State Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences, Department of Structural Technology. Mr. Small addressed the student body at their "Careers for Youth" Forum. The Committee, upon invitation by the State Education Department, reviewed and reported on a proposed curriculum in Landscape Drafting.

As a means of developing an improved relationship between draftsmen and architects, the Education Committee, at the suggestion of Mrs. Nelson, initiated and recently concluded a series of nine lectures devoted to analyzing the New York State Registration Examination for Architects. Several hundred persons attended. It was not the intention to supplant the teachings of preparatory or tutoring schools, but rather to discuss the practitioner's approach to the State examination. It is hoped that these lectures may be maintained on a permanent annual basis.

The Committee, at the suggestion of the President, is about to initiate a detailed study of the State Examination for Registered Architects with a view to eliminating certain aspects which constitute unfair hardships. The study may involve a review of college curricula, at least for architectural school accredited in New York State.

Codes

James B. Newman, Chairman

The Code Committee started this year as a sub-committee of the Technical Committee, but at mid-year was made an independent body. Several meetings were held, discussions being devoted to current code legislation.

The New York State Legislature has authorized a new State Code, mandatory in all given communities unless such communities reject the same, although after rejecting they may reconsider and adopt the new code in whole or in part.

The New York City Code is in a state of continuous development. The City Council Code Committee and the Building Department and Board of Standards and Appeals make matters favorable for change when changes are actively desired and promulgated by the architects. Too often Chapter members will not express their desires, even when polled.

Revisions in allowable stresses in structural steel and changes in earthwork and foundation designs were completed this year by Council Code Committee action. A new committee has been set up in connection with proposed revisions of the theatre construction code and includes several Chapter members.

Professional Forum

Maxfield F. Vogel, Chairman

The Professional Forum Committee has sponsored three Chapter meetings devoted to discussions of legal documents of the A.I.A.; of nominations for national offices of the Institute; and of the general program of this Chapter for the forthcoming year. At the second meeting several resolutions were submitted and approved for presentation to the National Convention. The Committee has begun a study of competitions with a view to offering this subject for discussion at an early fall meeting.

Civic Design

Geoffrey Platt, Chairman

In August 1948, this Committee's report on *East Mid-Town Manhattan* was published. It was formally presented to the City Planning Commission at a luncheon meeting of the Committee. Copies may still be obtained at the Chapter office.

This Committee has made a number of proposals for revision of the City zoning laws in relation to the Harrison, Ballard and Allen survey and has recently taken up the matter of the widening of 42nd Street in connection with the United Nations development.

Activities

Daniel Schwartzman, Chairman

This Committee arranged a total of 30 meetings of various types during the past year, the largest proportion having been sponsored by the Technical Committee. Three sessions were devoted to Constructive Architectural Criticism, and it is felt that these were especially stimulating.

Technical

Lessing W. Williams, Chairman

The Technical Committee has held nine luncheon and two dinner meetings. In acordance with announced plans, two subjects were chosen for special emphasis, illumination and radiant heating. Generally good attendance indicates that the program may have struck a reasonable balance between variety and concentration. The criticism of Chapter members is welcomed as our only guide to improving our work.

Reports of meetings have been published in *Empire State Architect* and in *Progressive Architecture*, the latter giving them national circulation.

By-Laws

Philip G. Bartlett, Chairman

The Committee on By-Laws has made considerable progress in the task of revision assigned to it, but much work remains to be done.

At the outset, the Committee found that the present by-laws were generally considered difficult to use, because it was frequently necessary to refer to several different sections to ascertain a particular point. In addition a few instances of conflict were found, and one case where a recent amendment gave greater privileges to a new class of members than was probably intended.

The Committee therefore decided that it would be wise to investigate the possibility of rearranging and condensing the various sections. It obtained and studied the by-laws of several other chapters and organizations and has completed a draft revision of certain articles, rearranging the sequence and sections so that everything affecting, for instance, members, is now included under one article, and in certain cases condensing the paragraphs by careful wording without changing or omitting provisions.

Professional Practice

Frederick G. Frost, Ir., Chairman

This Committee has received numerous inquires from Chapter members on problems of professional ethics, as well as from laymen on questions involving certain practices of architects. Simple, routine matters could often be settled by the Chairman, but in many cases it was necessary to call a meeting of the Committee for a joint opinion. In the thought that the membership might be interested in the type of problem presented, the following examples are offered:

1. A Chapter member, invited to undertake a commission previously in the hands of an architect whose services had proved unsatisfactory and who was asking for compensation considered excessive by the owner, was advised to make every reasonable effort to have the owner reach a termination agreement with the first architect, but that in the event that such settlement was to be unduly delayed he should be permitted to accept the commission.

2. The Chairman expressed the opinion that a booklet or brochure printed by an architect and distributed to potential clients in answer to their inquiry for information on his experience record would not violate the Institute ban on advertising.

3. A member inquired about the ethics of advertising by a non-architectural firm of which he was a member. The Committee ruled that, so long as he kept his activities as an architect separate from those as a partner in the non-architectural firm, and so long as the firm's advertisements did not offer architectural services, there was no direct violation of the Institute rule.

4. The Committee expressed the opinion that the insertion of cards by architects in charitable publications, year books, etc., was in violation of the Institute rule.

5. The Committee decided that unpaid endorsement by architects of building products, while not a violation of the letter of the Institute rules, was certainly contrary to the spirit.

6. The client of a Chapter member complaining that he was being sued by his architect for payment on account of services rendered on an abandoned project, was told that the facts of the case were in dispute, and that the decision was a matter for the courts.

Year Book & Register

Richard B. Snow, Chairman

The Committee on the Year Book and Register has been collecting data for the 1949-1950 edition, which will be closely patterned on that for 1947-1948. The final text we expect to have ready by July 1, proofreading to start about the middle of July, and the final proof to be delivered to the printer September 1, so that the edition may be completed for distribution during that month. A preliminary estimate of the cost of printing 2000 copies amounts to \$1,095.00, which sum is currently available as the result of subscriptions collected, though with little leeway should costs not work out as anticipated.

Legislation

Louis E. Ordwein, Chairman

This Committee has prepared an interesting resume of bills affecting architectural practice and building which came before the State Legislature during the past year.

Unification

Matthew W. Del Gaudio, Chairman

The Unification Committee has held several meetings with members of other chapters to determine the desirability of unifying the profession in the Metropolitan area. Since the problem of the architect in this area, especially in relation to public officials, is such that the united effort of the profession is essential for its protection, it was agreed that a single group, representative of all local architects, was desirable and extremely necessary.

This Committee has convened with representatives of the Brooklyn and Bronx Chapters for consideration of methods of unification and ot the composition and duties of the proposed consolidated group.

Note: So many of the Reports summarized above contained paragraphs of grateful recognition of the assistance of the Executive Secretary and her staff that to repeat them in each case would have resulted in marked monotony, wherefore they are hereby collectively and appreciatively recorded.

TESTIMONIAL

At a gala dinner on May 18 at the Town Hall Club, the Chapter paid homage to its members who were elected to national office and to fellowships at the last Convention.

An international flavor was added to the reception preceding the dinner by the presence of 26 Brazilians, architects and their wives, who had just arrived in New York as part of a comprehensive tour of this country and Europe.

The Brazilians, who were special guests of the Chapter through the courtesy of Julian Levi and Philip Goodwin of the A.I.A. Foreign Relations Committee, added a note of gaiety and elegance to the occasion, if not a little confusion to the conversation.

One result of the necessarily late dinner hour was that Robert Kohn was unable to stay to the finish and carry out his duties as master of ceremonies. Harvey Wiley Corbett stepped into his place at short notice and welcomed the visitors with cordiality and well turned compliments, after which he introduced our 6 recently elected Fellows with due emphasis on the high honor this distinction implies. The six who were elected this year are:

> Matthew W. Del Gaudio Wallace K. Harrison Daniel Paul Higgins John C. B. Moore Louis Skidmore Harold R. Sleeper

Our well-known ambassador of good will. Julian Levi, then took over the proceedings and after a few appropriate remarks on the cordiality which exists between this country and Brazil, presented the guests by name. A tribute to his pronunciation was the fact that as each name was mentioned, some one stood up to acknowledge the introduction.

Sr. Nestor Figueiredo, who headed the delegation, expressed the thanks and appreciation of his colleagues for the hospitality shown them and hoped that the good will and understanding which now exists between our respective nations will be furthered by the exchange of ideas in cultural matters. His talk, which was given in his native tongue, Portuguese, was interpreted for our benefit by Sr. Maria E. A. Rodrigues, who also translated Mr. Levi's remarks into Portuguese.

Harold Sleeper, again taking the chair, called on the new Regional Director of the A.I.A. Arthur Holden, whom he introduced as the Chapter's most indefatigable and energetic member.

Mr. Holden said he would take as the text for his sermon the Book of the New Moses. He quoted from Commissioner Robert Moses' recent talk at Dartmouth University, in which the Commissioner attacked the rezoning survey of New York City as a waste of public funds. not calculated to solve the housing problem.

Mr. Holden, who on occasion in the past has vigorously supported Mr. Moses in certain measures, in this instance as vigorously denounced him for this attack, which he said is based on no technical knowledge or training whatever and is in effect an attack on the architectural profession.

Many a change has taken place since the passage of the Zoning Resolution in 1915 so that the well-being of the City demands a survey such as the one now being conducted by Harrison, Ballard & Allen. They are doing a good job in the opinion of the Architectural Advisory Committee appointed to consult with them. Mr. Holden called upon the architects of the city to meet this challenge of Commissioner Moses by endorsing the study and by explaining its purpose to the public.

When Ralph Walker, newly elected President of the Institute, was called on to speak, all present rose to their feet in tribute. Mr. Walker said his platform as the new President would consist simply in his belief that we should welcome the new, preserve what is best in the old, and try conscientiously to improve the quality and scope of our service.

The increasing complexities of present day practice make better training essential and to this end he proposes that the A.I.A. concern itself more vitally with matters of architectural education. He believes registration requirements should not be unduly difficult nor exclusive, and suggests as the basis for qualification 2 years of college, 4 years in a good architectural school and 3 years of practical experience.

In his new capacity Mr. Walker has many invitations to appear before groups both here and abroad. It is his intention, he says, to accept as many of these as possible in order to tell others of our work and ideals and in turn to learn from them. An occasion such as this, he said with a bow to our guests, was one he hoped would be often repeated.

Next year the A.I.A. Convention will be held in Washington, D. C., a particularly appropriate setting for the theme which is to be 150 years of City Planning, beginning with Pierre L'Enfant. Members' suggestions for developing this theme will be welcomed. The future of the Octagon Building, the A.I.A.'s headquarters at Washington, has yet to be decided. Once the staff has been housed in the new Administration Building, it is Mr. Walker's hope that some way can be found to finance necessary repairs to the Octagon so that the building in its charming garden setting may be maintained as an appropriate, dignified and fitting headquarters for the Architects of America.

FREE SKETCHES

The Board of Education of a neighboring town in Long Island recently sent out an "Invitation to Architects" to submit proposals for modernizing and enlarging its Junior High School which has become antiquated and inadequate. The Board offers to furnish all necessary information on its needs and architects are invited to provide, free, an over-all proposal including a "rough sketch of the proposed layout ... an estimate on the total cost ... the basis of the cost of your services as the architect for the project if it is decided to proceed . . . a statement of the extent of your services if you are selected as the architect."

This "invitation," called to our attention by one of our members, did not go unnoticed by our Executive Committee. President Kilham has written at some length to the Superintendent of the Board, acquainting him with our Code of Ethics, describing architectural competitions and cautioning him that any A.I.A. members who comply with this invitation will be subject to disciplinary action. Copies of Mr. Kilham's letter have also gone to the Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island Chapter Presidents.

DUE RECOGNITION

With pardonable pride, Harold Sleeper at the Annual Lunch of the Chapter — the last meeting at which he presided as President—read a letter from Robert Wagner, Jr., Chairman of the City Planning Commission, commending the Chapter for its help and cooperation in the Commission's efforts to continue the re-zoning survey of New York.

When a certain well known public official recently brought all his influence to bear on stopping this study, the Chapter joined with other civic organizations in protest. Letters to the Mayor, the Board of Estimate and other public officials were not only sent, but were also handed over to our Public Relations Consultants for as much publicity as they could muster. One very satisfying result was an editorial in the Tribune of May 28, citing the Chapter as one of the City's most influential civic organizations.

Following is the text of Mr. Wagner's letter: "As you probably know, the Board of Estimate adopted a resolution on May 26, 1949, extending the contract for the re-zoning survey, which has been under way during the past year. I need hardly tell you how important that matter is for the welfare of the City of New York. I wish to take this opportunity to express to you, personally, and in behalf of the Planning Commission, our deepest appreciation for your interest and your efforts in this matter. I know we can look forward to your continued support and cooperation in our joint efforts to improve the City's zoning."

TAX EXEMPTION

At the National Convention in Houston, attention was called to a bill in Congressional Committee called H.R. 3224 — the Earned Income Tax Adjustment Act of 1949. The Institute is actively interested in furthering action on this bill, which will exempt from income tax sums up to 15% of the taxpayer's earned net income — or the sum of \$10,000, whichever is the lesser — provided the taxpayer invests this sum in certain types of U. S. government bonds.

The extreme importance of this bill to professional men is that it allows them to set aside excess earnings in a good year against possible fluctuations in income in a later lean year. The bill deserves the wholehearted support of all professional men who are largely dependent upon earned net income.

All members who believe in this bill are urged to write to Congressman Clifford Davis of Tennessee, who introduced the bill, as well as to their own Congressmen and the Senators from their own State. Public hearings will be held very soon on this bill and endorsement by a reasonable number of the members should be of considerable value.

We know this was mentioned in the previous OCULUS, but perhaps you haven't done anything about it as yet.

DULL SEASON?

During the month of June the Chapter sold 437 construction contracts, 262 subcontracts and 231 sets of general conditions, not to mention fee schedules, filing systems, bonds, and other A.I.A. printed matter; also 23 copies of our Civic Design book, *East Midtown*.

Our LeBrun Scholar of 1948, Jouko Hakola, has returned from six months abroad with interesting reports and photographs of his research on public health facilities. Our current scholar, Agatha Turner of Lubbock, Texas, is now in New York being briefed on who to see and what to do on her architectural tour of Europe which is about to begin.

The influx of visitors from Europe is now at its height. Architects and students alike from England, Denmark, Sweden, Australia, Austria, British West Africa, Finland and Spain are calling on us at the rate of two a day (or are we beginning to see double?) They come here to see our buildings, to study our methods of construction, and to learn new uses of materials, and the Chapter Office is their first port of call. Truly it seems that "westward the course of empire wends its way".

Daily doses of first aid to persons perplexed as to what an architect is and does lend variety to the day's schedule.

Dull season?

New York Chapter, A. I. A. 115 EAST 40th STREET NEW YORK 16, N. Y.