



OCULUS

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ALONZO W. CLARK, SECRETARY; ALICE G. CANTWELL, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY; EDWARD EVERETT POST, EDITOR.
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PRE-CONVENTION MEETING

At a luncheon meeting on Tuesday, October 17th, Chapter members were brought up to date on the program for the Convention of the New York State Association of Architects. A list of authorized delegates was announced and action to be taken at the convention was discussed in considerable detail.

The subject of a paid staff and office headquarters for the State Association was considered. It was the sense of the meeting that the delegates to the convention support any proposition for employing paid secretarial assistance for the Association's President and Secretary as part of their regular office staff as opposed to the setting up of a paid staff in a permanent headquarters office.

It was further decided that any appropriation for payment of the executive office staff be made from State Association funds and should these prove inadequate the necessary assessment should be levied from the constituent chapters and societies in proportion to the number of delegates at the State Convention.

On the subject of professional practice, Mr. Nathan Walker, Chapter Counsel, presented a report showing how we can strengthen our professional standing by working to enforce laws relating to the practice of architecture. The recommendations which he suggested were embodied in the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED that, in order to safeguard the interests of the public, a Special Committee of Architects be appointed, with necessary appropriation, by the New York State Association of Architects at its convention to be held during the month of November, 1950; that such Committee be empowered and directed to conduct an intensive investigation for the purpose of discovering violations of the State Education Law insofar as they relate to the practice of architecture, to cooperate with the State Education Department in the enforcement of such law, and to make certain that the violators are dealt with according to law.

BE IT RESOLVED that, at the Convention, a Special Committee of Architects be appointed, with necessary appropriation, to review the Code of Ethics of the profession of architecture and the professional registration law of the State of New York insofar as it deals with the practice of architecture, and to make recommendations accordingly.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTRACTS FROM CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Our membership seems not to be taking advantage of the recommendations issued by The Octagon and published in the September 1950 *Bulletin* for securing architectural contracts from the Armed Forces. Members should let the services know that they are interested in being considered for such contracts for defense projects.

At a conference held at the Architectural League on October 16th, attended by our President and the archi-

tectural and New York Press, Colonel Edwin P. Ketchum, District Engineer, and Mr. Charles K. Panish, Chief of the Engineering Division, New York District of the Corps of Engineers, outlined policy and procedure for obtaining architectural contracts for army projects under their jurisdiction.

The New York District includes New York State, northern New Jersey and certain overseas areas. It is one of forty-three such Districts throughout the United States which handle military construction of all types. (A complete list of these Districts is on file at the Chapter Office.) About half of the design work is done by the District Engineer's Office itself, the other half being let out on individual contracts to private firms of architects and engineers. This policy has been in effect for some time, but, with expected increases in the defense budget, the volume of work to be contracted may soon be substantially increased.

Projects are of two types: "Non-recurring," which involve research and original planning of special facilities and "recurring," which consist largely of adapting standard plans to meet special conditions. For the latter, the architect is principally concerned with site planning and the design of utility systems. Projects range in cost from \$50,000 to \$20,000,000.

Established policy is to spread contracts among as many firms as possible. Naturally, the larger contracts go to large offices with the staff and experience to handle them, but there are many smaller contracts which can be well handled by the undivided attention of the principals of small offices. The New York District is also interested in possible associations of two or more small firms, particularly if special experience such as site planning and utility layout can thus be obtained.

Fees for each contract are a negotiated lump sum based on actual work to be performed. Contracts include preparation of contract working drawings and specifications as well as checking of shop drawings. Occasional construction supervision on a consultative basis is usually also included.

Members of the Chapter desiring to be placed on the "Architect-Engineer Roster" of the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, should apply for a questionnaire to:

The District Engineer, New York District,
Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army,
80 Lafayette Street,
New York 7, N. Y.

While this questionnaire includes a formal statement of experience and capacity, the District Office is sincerely looking for men with managerial ability, with staffs that can be expanded adequately to take care of particular contracts, with experience in the various types of work to be done, financial responsibility, and the ability to meet time schedules. Any references that help to establish these qualifications should be attached to the formal questionnaire.

CHAPTER COMMITTEES

The Executive Committee wishes to extend the appreciation of the entire Chapter Membership to the more than 200 members who volunteered to serve on various committees for the current year. Such evidence of interest in Chapter activities was extremely gratifying and it is regrettable that the replies of some members were received after the Committees had already been formed and so they could not be called upon to serve. The names are being kept for future reference, however, should the need for replacement arise.

Members who are not serving directly are urged to attend as many luncheons and other functions of the Chapter as possible to benefit by the activities sponsored by the various Committees and to keep abreast of developments of interest and importance to the profession.

Committee membership for the year 1950-51 includes: [* indicates Chairmen]

ACTIVITIES — Ben John Small*

Thomas H. Creighton	Joseph A. McGinniss
Daniel Laitin	Ellsworth George Pardridge
<i>Sub-Committee Anniversary Dinner</i> — Francis Keally*	
<i>Sub-Committee Conventions</i> — Alonzo W. Clark*	

ADMISSIONS — John Thompson*

James Russell Colean	James W. O'Connor
Julius Gregory	George J. Sole
Geoffry N. Lawford	Ida Brown Webster

ARCHITECTURAL CRITICISM & AESTHETICS—

Daniel Schwartzman*

Richard G. Belcher	Jedd Starr Reisner
William N. Breger	Francis W. Roudebush
Philip M. Chu	

AWARDS — Eldredge Snyder*

Sub-Committee Apartment House Medal —

Frederick J. Woodbridge*

James C. Mackenzie	Jedd Stow Reisner
<i>Sub-Committee City Planning Medal</i> — Geoffrey Platt*	
Robert B. O'Connor	
<i>Sub-Committee Fifth Avenue Award</i> — Cameron Clark*	
Morris Ketchum, Jr.	Eldredge Snyder
<i>Sub-Committee Honorary Associates</i> — Francis Keally*	
LeRoy Barton	Charles Butler
S. Brian Baylinson	

BRUNNER SCHOLARSHIP — Francis W. Roudebush*

Arnold Arbeit	Charles Nagel, Jr.
Leopold Arnaud	Greville Rickard
L. Bancel LaFarge	Thorne Sherwood

BY-LAWS — M. Milton Glass*

Robbins Conn	Samuel Katz
Henry George Greene	Joseph B. Klein

CHAPTER YEARBOOK & REGISTER —

Richard Boring Snow*

CIVIC DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT —

Edward J. Mathews*

Geo. Anthony Bielitch	Clinton Loyd
Gordon Bunshaft	Francis Dodd McHugh
Simon Breines	Joseph J. Roberto
Walter O. Cain	Julian H. Whittlesey
Lawrence Lieberfeld	William Wiegand

CODES — James B. Newman*

John T. Briggs	Harry B. Rutkins
Julius Eckmann	John M. Liptak
Frederick C. Genz	Emmett Cecil Wood
Samuel M. Kurtz	

EDUCATION — Kenneth K. Stowell*

Leopold Arnaud	Olindo Grossi
Harold T. Brinkerhoff	Theodore Hood
Alan Burnham	Robert S. Hutchins
Gordon Bunshaft	Walter H. Kilham, Jr.
Walker O. Cain	Edward W. Slater
Arthur S. Douglass, Jr.	Ben John Small
Harmon H. Goldstone	Esmond Shaw
	Maurice Sornik

FEES & CONTRACTS — Howard S. Patterson*

Sub-Committee on State Contracts — Harold C. Bernhard**Sub-Committee on Dept. Public Works* — Jonathan Butler**Sub-Committee on State Housing* — B. Sumner Gruzen*

FINANCE — Robert B. O'Connor*

William Potter	Ralph Pomerance,
John W. Severinghaus	<i>Ex-Officio</i>

HOUSING — Ely J. Kahn*

George D. Brown, Jr.	Joseph A. McGinniss
George J. Cavalieri	George Nemeny
G. Harmon Gurney	Irving Rosenfeld
B. Sumner Gruzen	Albert H. Swanke
William I. Hohausen	

SMALL HOUSE — John H. Callender*

Philip G. Bartlett	Lawrence J. Israel
Victor Civkin	Sidney L. Katz
Harvey P. Clarkson	Frank G. Lopez
Ethan A. Dennison, Jr.	Edgar A. Tafel
Abraham W. Geller	

LE BRUN SCHOLARSHIP — Jack Bruno Basil*

Leopold Arnaud	Maurice R. Salo
Robert I. Carson	Thorne Sherwod
Randolph Evans	

LEGISLATION — Richard Roth*

Samuel M. Kurtz, Vice Ch., Fred. C. Genz, Sec'y

Sub-Committee on City Legislation

Frank C. Ackerman, Frederick C. Genz, Co-Chairmen

Charles Butler	Charles C. Platt
Julius Eckmann	Ralph Pomerance
Charles M. Hart	Chauncey W. Riley
Joseph B. Klein	Richard G. Stein
Samuel M. Kurtz	Otto J. Teegan
Charles B. Meyers	

Sub-Committee on State Legislation

Reginald E. Marsh, William R. Shirley, Co-Chairmen

Frank C. Ackerman	Samuel M. Kurtz
Charles Butler	Ralph Pomerance
Matthew Del Gaudio	Van F. Pruitt
Julius Eckmann	William H. Sypher
M. Milton Glass	Otto J. Teegan
Joseph B. Klein	

Sub-Committee on National Legislation

Charles M. Hart, Chauncey W. Riley, Co-Chairmen

Frederick C. Genz	Charles C. Platt
M. Milton Glass	Van F. Pruitt
Adolph J. Knappe	William R. Shirley
Samuel M. Kurtz	Richard G. Stein
Reginald E. Marsh	William H. Sypher
Louis Ordwein	

MEMBERSHIP — John P. Jansson*

Nicol Bissell	Walter F. Noyes
Alonzo W. Clark	Van F. Pruitt
Bradford N. Clark	R. Jackson Smith
William H. Fuhrer	Abraham Sperling
Samuel Katz	John N. Styffe

PROFESSIONAL FORUM — Maxfield F. Vogel*

PUBLIC RELATIONS — Geoffrey N. Lawford*
Sub-Committee Editorial Work — Edward Everett Post*
 Philip G. Bartlett William B. Hornblower
 Jack Bruno Basil Mary T. Worthen
 Harmon H. Goldstone
Sub-Committee on Exhibits — Eleanor Pepper*
 Carl Brauer Louis Hecht
 Arthur S. Douglass, Jr. S. J. Iwatsu
Sub-Committee on Speakers — Ronald Allwork*
 Joseph Blumenkranz Percival Goodman
 Ethan A. Dennison, Jr. Edward R. Tauch, Jr.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE — Edwin M. Forbes*
Sub-Committee on Programs — Mortimer E. Freehof*
 Ronald Allwork R. Jackson Smith
 Burton H. Holmes Harvey Stevenson
 Herbert Smith, Jr. Oscar L. Vaughan
Sub-Committee on Publications — Burton H. Holmes*
 Bradford N. Clark Chauncey Riley
 Joseph Kiell Mary T. Worthen
 Herbert L. Smith, Jr.
Sub-Committee on Field Trips — Harry R. Dowswell*
 Louis Hecht William R. Tappan

VISITING ARCHITECTS — L. Bancel LaFarge*
 Leopold Arnaud Earnest M. Fuller
 Elisabeth Coit Olindo Grossi
 Thomas H. Creighton Eleanor Pepper
 Anthony J. Daidone Lucien David

ARCHITECTS COUNCIL

Perry Coke Smith has been elected President of the newly organized Architects Council of New York. The Council, which held its first meeting on October 5, 1950, was recommended by the Unification Committee, after many months of study, as successor to the Joint Committee of Architectural Societies in the Metropolitan Area, and approved by members at the Chapter meeting held last May.

The Architects Council consists of seven member organizations: the New York, Brooklyn, Bronx, Staten Island and Queens Chapters, and the New York and Brooklyn Societies, each to have two representatives on the Council; dues to be at the rate of \$1.00 per member of each organization.

The Council will hold an organizational meeting on November 8, and will sometime thereafter announce the names of other officers and committee personnel.

HOUSE DESIGN COMPETITION

"Better House Design Competition" is being sponsored by the National Association of Home Builders and the *Architectural Forum*. The problem will be: Design of a detached one family low cost house suitable on a 60x100 lot. Copies of the program may be secured from the National Association of Home Builders, 1028 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., or the *Architectural Forum*, 9 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20. Copy is also available for reference at the Chapter office.

The Institute, which has set up a Committee of Collaboration with the N.A.H.B., believes that participation of well qualified Architects in this competition will contribute to the objectives of our collaboration with the Merchant Builders.

DESIGN PROBLEM—

N. Y. STATE ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINATION

Five drawings from the New York State Architectural Examination for License to practice, June 1950, will be exhibited with comments from the Licensing Board at Pratt Institute on Nov. 13 - 17.

These should be of considerable interest to members planning to take their Licensing Examination.

WARM WAR AND PUBLIC HOUSING

Low rental, fireproof public housing should not be curtailed at this time was the essence of a statement to the press made in early October by the President of this Chapter.

Mr. Prince pointed out that less than 10% of all buildings in the city are concrete and steel construction; also that there are 55,000 old-law tenements concentrated in slum areas. These are of dried out wood and wall-bearing construction, offering easy fodder for demolition and incendiary bombs.

"If there are no public shelters, such as were built in England," Mr. Prince said, "preparations should be made to intensify the clearing of slums. Public funds should be used to construct modern, fireproof, low-rent housing, which structurally offers air raid protection. Private enterprise alone has not built and cannot afford to build low-rental fireproof housing."

The safety factor is not the only reason to continue and to expand public housing, according to Mr. Prince. Public morale is maintained, building trades personnel are employed; the resultant fire-proof housing will provide shelter for homeless and casualties in the event of raids, and always there is the need for housing for veterans of past wars and of various phases of the warm war.

"We must take advantage of the lessons learned in England during World War II," asserted Mr. Prince. "All public housing was stopped at the beginning of the late war, although workers were not needed in industry at the time of the stoppage. Those projects which were being constructed and almost finished were allowed to be completed; others were left standing uncompleted. Deterioration of the buildings left unfinished set in. As the war progressed, so much demand arose for housing that the unfinished buildings had to be completed at a greater cost and at a time when scarcity of materials was acute."

LET THE PEOPLE READ

Authorization of \$9,000. with which to print the Harrison, Ballard and Allen Zoning Report so that the public could study it in preparation for public hearings was held up at least temporarily last month by the Board of Estimate, which is headed by Acting Mayor Impellitteri.

Urging the printing and publication of the report, the New York Chapter of A.I.A. wrote to the Acting Mayor as follows:

"As President of the New York Chapter of A.I.A., I have been requested by the Executive Committee to inform you of the Chapter's position with regard to publication of the Harrison Ballard and Allen Zoning Report.

"Further delay in making the results of this study available to interested groups . . . can, we believe, only lead to confusion and perhaps, to hasty and ill-considered action when the report is finally submitted. To withhold this report . . . on the grounds of economy can only be regarded as an ill advised procedure on the part of the "Municipal Government."

Chapter members will be interested in knowing that Mr. Bruno Funaro, as Brunner Scholar, has prepared an excellent analysis of the Harrison, Ballard and Allen Zoning Report. Mr. Funaro's analysis is now being studied by the Chapter's Civic Design and Development Committee to make recommendations on the stand the Chapter will adopt at the public hearings on the proposed plan.

LOCAL RECOMMENDED FEES

The July 1950 issue of the A.I.A. Bulletin stated, with reference to the Institute's own schedule of recommended minimum fees, that "in any area where a recommended minimum fee for any class of work has been established by any local Institute body differing from any of the foregoing recommended fees, then the fees for complete service should be in accordance with said local Institute body's schedule of recommended minimum fees."

Presumably, this means that if a member of one Chapter obtains a commission in the territory or jurisdiction of another Chapter his fee should be in accordance with that Chapter's schedule of recommended minimum fees.

But it is not as simple as it first may appear, for according to the A.I.A. By-Laws an architect may join any Chapter within the State in which he has his residence or principal place of business. Some members of the New York Chapter have both their residence and office on Long Island. Should they comply with the New York Chapter's or the Long Island Society's schedule of fees? And what about a member of one Chapter who receives a commission in another State? Should a member of the New York Chapter for instance, who receives a residential commission in New Jersey, abide by his own Chapter's recommended minimum fee of 12% or the New Jersey Chapter's 10% recommended minimum fee?

This second example applies equally well to the relationship between the New York Chapter and other adjacent Chapters, all of which have slightly lower recommended minimum fees for residential work.

This in turn brings up the interesting comparison between the various Chapters and Societies adjacent to the metropolitan area insofar as recommended minimum fees are concerned. As may be seen from the following table, the New York Chapter's recommended fees are slightly higher than the others for some classes of work, though the types of buildings in each class differ slightly between Chapters.

In this area, where the members of each Chapter frequently secure commissions in the territory of another Chapter, should not an attempt be made to establish a uniform set of fees? New England has shown the way with the recommended schedule of its Joint Committee representing Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire.

CLASS OF WORK AND PERCENTAGE FEE

CHAPTER	Util.	Conv.	Spec.	Mon.	Res.	Int.
New York	7	8	8	10	12	15
New Jersey	6	7	8	10	10	
Westchester	6	7	8	10	10	12
New England	6	7	8	10	10	

As far as can be determined, all of these fees include "normal" structural and mechanical engineering services with the possible exception of Westchester. The various Chapters' statements on this subject vary considerably, however, and are not altogether clear.

New York says that the Architect's fee should include the services of all engineers and other experts "normally" required for the project but that where the contemplated work involves "unusual" engineering and design features (or "special" consulting service) the extra cost of such special services should be borne by the owner.

In New England, architectural services include working drawings and detailed specifications including structural and mechanical work, but this is later defined to exclude

"special technical services" and the following "separate services": site engineering, any "special" structural engineering elements, including piping layouts, diagrams, schedules, etc., as may be necessary for estimating and installation. Even this clear statement is qualified, however, by another, saying that in some buildings "special" conditions require the employment of "special" technical and consulting service in excess of the service included under the Schedule of Minimum Fees.

Ed's Note: Quotation marks are ours, to emphasize ambiguous words and phrases. It was not possible to obtain the fees recommended by the Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, Staten Island and Long Island Chapters before going to press.

MEMBERSHIP

An ambitious program to increase membership in the Chapter has been mapped out by the Membership Committee, under Chairman John Jansson. Included in the plans are proposals to:

Make a survey of all registered architects and others in the architectural field available for various types of membership.

Encourage members to assist in enrolling new members from their offices into the Chapter.

Organize, coordinate, and cooperate with student groups at Columbia University, Cooper Union, and Pratt Institute in order to create a large reservoir of potential members.

Invite potential members to Chapter meetings as guests of the Chapter when the program is interesting and stimulating.

Constantly inform the entire Chapter that the Committee on Membership needs 100% cooperation of the membership to fulfill its purpose.

Contact by person, telephone, or letter, all newly licensed architects and recent architectural graduates, encouraging them to submit applications for membership.

Provide talks by members of the A.I.A. to other architectural organizations to encourage Chapter and Institute memberships.

The cooperation of all Chapter members is urged by the Committee in order to achieve the aims of this program.

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

Bertram Lawrence Bassuk

Sponsors: Samuel Glaberson & Antonin Raymond

Robert Lee Corsbie

Sponsors: Joseph B. Gunnison & John P. Jansson

Douglas Haskell (former Associate)

Sponsors: John W. Root & Clarence S. Stein

Huson Jackson

Sponsors: Olindo Grossi & Henry T. Shotwell

Henry Thomas Lisante

Sponsors: Vito Battista & Anthony J. DePace

George Gottlieb Miller

Sponsors: George J. Cavalieri & Matthew Del Gaudio

Associate Membership

Linza Henry Ford

Sponsors: John H. Bennett & Benjamin L. Smith