

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL . . .



OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, 115 EAST 40 STREET, NEW YORK 16, NEW YORK
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ALONZO W. CLARK, SECRETARY; ALICE G. CANTWELL, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY; EDWARD EVERETT POST, EDITOR.
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COMING EVENTS

Thursday, Dec. 14, 1950, 7:30 p.m.

Architects, Structural, and Mechanical Engineers Forum

At this Forum, Mr. Gannert Herwig of the office of Alfred Hopkins Associates will speak for the Architect; William Eipel of Tuck and Eipel for the Structural Engineers, and John Hennessy of Syska & Hennessy for the Mechanical Engineers. Mr. Eipel is President, and Mr. Hennessy Vice-President of the New York Association of Consulting Engineers.

AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED

Preceding the Forum on December 14, the President will present certificates of award won by the following members in the preceding months:

AIA

First Honor Award in design of Commercial Buildings—to Harold M. Heatley and Ketchum, Gina and Sharp for design of the Davison-Paxon Department Store, Augusta, Georgia.

Award of Merit—to Ketchum, Gina and Sharp for design of Wallach's Clothing Store, Jamaica, L. I.

N. Y. State Association of Architects Annual Convention.

Awards in design of Commercial Buildings—to Seymour R. Joseph of Joseph & Vladeck, for the Carol Antell Specialty Store, New York.

Award in design of Educational Buildings—to Kelly and Gruzen for the Passaic Comprehensive Senior High School, Passaic, N. J.

Award in design of Residential Buildings—to Olindo Grossi for one-family house at Manhasset, New York.

Award in design of Institutional Buildings—to Ketchum, Gina and Sharp for St. Barnabas House, New York. Mention to William Gehron, for Nurses Residence and School, General Hospital, Queens.

Certificate of Merit to Matthew W. Del Gaudio for notable service to his community and to the profession.

Tuesday, December 19, 12:00 noon. N. Y. Building Congress Christmas lunch, Grand Ballroom, Hotel Astor. \$16.50 per person.

Wednesday, February 28, 1951 — Chapter's 82nd Anniversary Dinner, Hotel Biltmore. *Reserve this date!*

MILITARY DUTY

The Chapter is anxious to learn the names of members called or recalled to active service in the armed forces, or of any who, having volunteered, are accepted for such service. It is, furthermore, of interest to these members to notify the Chapter of their status, since they are eligible for release from the usual annual assessments. Chapter dues for members in active service are waived from the date of entry thereon, and, beginning in 1951, such members may be excused from payment of national dues for the period of their active duty. Waiver of the latter, originally permitted in 1942, had been cancelled, but was reinstituted last September. Exemption from payment of dues may only be obtained by written request. Members not themselves concerned are also urged to send in the names of others whom they know to be on active duty, and who may, as a consequence, have failed to read this notice.

GOVERNMENT DESIGN CONTRACTS

A Memo from the Octagon states that no defense building to amount to anything is here or even on the horizon, but inquires are coming in on what to do to qualify for government work. Here's a recapitulation of advice AIA has been giving members since last spring.

1. *Design contracts are negotiated at the local level*, by every defense department and most government agencies. First go to your district or local office. Call in person, tell them what you can do. Local firms usually get first consideration, even when jobs are highly specialized.
2. *File the best brochure you can muster*, tell all, angle it to support your claim for special consideration. Keep it up to date. File everywhere.
3. *Small architectural firms do get considered*, but only for jobs within their experience and competence. For bigger jobs, consider association.
4. *Don't come to Washington job hunting*. When you have a job on the hook, a trip to Washington may help land it.
5. *Help better the position of the profession as a whole*. Return survey forms and questionnaires. Get local government officials handling design contracts to talk to Chapters. Angle public relations work to defense and rearmament. We felt that it would be extremely helpful to the members of the Chapter to have this kind of situation brought to their attention.

YOU NEED AN ARCHITECT

... FOR YOUR HOUSE

The publication of a booklet with this title and a press release officially launched the Chapter's Small House Consulting Service to make partial architectural services available to those who contemplate building, buying or altering a house and are not in a position to engage the full services of an architect. The Chapter's Small House Committee, of which John H. Callender is the Chairman, deserves great credit for its successful development of this service which is more fully described in the booklet enclosed with this issue of the OCULUS. Additional copies of the booklet, with or without looseleaf description page, are available at the Chapter office at 5c each.

Jury for Mayor's Panel

The following have been chosen as the jury which will select architects for the Mayor's Panel:

Joseph Mathieu, Chairman, Brooklyn Chapter
Daniel Schwartzman, New York Chapter
Raymond Irrera, Queens Chapter
Harry Prince, New York Chapter, Alternate

Application forms were mailed to members of the profession in this area by the Municipal Civil Service Commission and had to be filed by November 30.

BRUNNER SCHOLARSHIP REPORT TO BE PUBLISHED

A study of the Harrison, Ballard and Allen Zoning Report by Bruno Funaro, 1950 Brunner Scholar, will be published some time this month. Copies will be distributed to members late in December or early in January.

AND TO ALL A GOOD NEW YEAR . . .

COOPER UNION STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR STUDENT ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

A recent action of the Executive Committee qualifies students of The Cooper Union architectural course for Student Associate Membership in the New York Chapter.

This recognition of the quality of architectural training at The Cooper Union comes at a time when this unique endowment is approaching its 100th year of activity. It was founded in 1859 by Peter Cooper who stipulated that it should always provide free tuition "to all who could meet its entrance requirements, regardless of race, creed or sex."

In a recent talk, sponsored by the Architectural League, Professor Esmond Shaw reviewed the architectural curriculum. There are at present 159 students in day and evening classes enrolled in architectural or pre-architectural courses. An average over the past six years shows that over one-third of the graduates pursued their architectural studies towards a degree in other institutions. Last year 80% of the graduating class of day students did so.

ANY NEWS FOR THE EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT?

Do you have any profound ideas or gripes you want to get off your chest? The *Empire State Architect* wants them, along with news of your interesting work, with photos, plans and descriptions. The publishing schedule and deadlines for 1951 are:

ISSUE	BUILDING TYPE	DEAD LINE
January-February	Industrial and Commercial	January 1
March-April	Hospitals	March 1
May-June	Churches	May 1
July-August	Apartments	July 1
	Housing Projects	
	Domestic	
September-October	Convention Roster	September 1
November-December	Schools	November 1

And *dead line* means the material must be in the hands of the Editor by that date and he is — George Dick Smith, Jr., 1328 Prudential Building, Buffalo 2, New York.

LEGAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SERVICES TO CONTINUE

The Executive Committee has voted to continue the following services for the benefit of members:

Mr. Nathan Walker, Chapter Counsel, will be available for consultation on all legal matters pertaining to Chapter activities.

Schnall & Krug Associates, our public relations consultants, are available to the membership for discussion and assistance on all aspects of the Chapter's contact with the public, be it written, visual or oral. Committee chairmen or their delegates are urged to discuss committee programs with the consultants to determine whether or not any current development is valuable for public consumption. The consultants are also anxious to discuss possible additions to committee programs in an effort to make news stories and articles.

Their assistance and guidance on questions involving Chapter or committee publicity, reports, statements, talks before groups, literature, and radio and television appearances are part of our program to educate the public on architecture and build good will for the Chapter and profession. All members are urged to cooperate.

ARCHITECT'S COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY

After the November 8th meeting of the Architect's Council, announcement was made of the organizational set up.

Officers:

President: Perry Coke Smith, N. Y. Chapter
Vice-President: Kenneth W. Milnes, Staten Island Chapter

Secretary: Michael A. Cardo, Bronx Chapter

Treasurer: Irving Seelig, Brooklyn Chapter

Member Organizations and their Representatives:

New York Chapter —

Perry Coke Smith and Harold R. Sleeper
N. Y. Society of Architects —

George J. Cavalieri and Julius Eckmann

Brooklyn Society of Architects —

Frank Randazzo

Brooklyn Chapter —

Irving Seelig

Bronx Chapter —

Ralph J. Marx and Michael A. Cardo

Queens Chapter —

Raymond Irrera and Oswald Fischer

Staten Island Chapter —

Kenneth W. Milnes and Maurice G. Usan

Supporting Organizations:

Westchester Chapter — Harry W. McConnell

After the above meeting, Perry Coke Smith announced, on November 16, 1950, that due to circumstances beyond his control, he has been forced regretfully to resign as the New York Chapter's delegate to the Architects Council of New York. Mr. Smith, who was elected first President of the Council, will continue in that office until the meeting of December 4, at which time a successor will be chosen.

Mr. Matthew W. Del Gaudio has been appointed to succeed Mr. Smith as the Chapter's delegate.

For the time being the Council will have its headquarters at the office of and through the courtesy of The New York Society of Architects, 101 Park Ave., N. Y. C. This will be the Council's mailing address and the location of committee meetings.

CHAPTER COMMITTEES

The November issue of OCULUS carried the names of the members of the Chapter's *appointive committees*. To complete the record, published below are the names of the members of the *elective committees*.

JURY FOR THE MEDAL OF HONOR

Harry M. Prince, *ex-officio*

Leopold Arnaud

Theodor C. Muller

Robert S. Hutchins

Julian H. Whittlesey

NOMINATIONS

John C. B. Moore, *Chairman*

Frederick G. Frost, Jr.

Ben John Small

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Clarence B. Litchfield, *Chairman*

Daniel Schwartzman

Benjamin L. Smith

FELLOWS

To 1951

Philip L. Goodwin, *Chairman*; Clarence S. Stein

To 1952

Louis Skidmore

Edgar I. Williams

To 1953

William Gehron

Leonard Schultze

APPOINTMENT OF CHAPTER MEMBER

William C. Vladeck, of Joseph and Vladeck, has been designated Technical Consultant of the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority. Mr. Vladeck is also a member of the Planning Commission of the town of Putnam Valley, New York.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

The attention of the members of the Chapter is called to an incident which came to the attention of the Chapter's Committee on Professional Practice which illustrates the embarrassment and financial difficulties to which an architect might subject himself when he neglects to clearly indicate to his client, from the beginning, the exact basis upon which his professional charges will be made and fails to verify this basis at least by letter if not in the form of a written agreement.

Client A called in Architect B to give his professional opinion as to how the simplest possible structural changes could be made to have the structure comply with the building code and to remove some violations now charged against the building.

Architect B examined the building, drew some partial sketch plans and made a search in the Building Department. Because of an existing tenancy, it was impossible to carry out any of the proposals. He sent a bill to the client for services rendered. The client refused to pay, stating that inasmuch as the job could not proceed, the architect's bill for services was excessive and issued a check for 1/6 of the amount requested, which the client considered to be a payment in full. The client also filed charges of unprofessional conduct against the architect. The architect threatened to file a lien against the property and start legal proceedings.

On the information submitted, the Committee found no evidence of unprofessional practice. They felt, however, that the architect was lax in not making the basis of his charges clearly understood to the client.

AIA DOCUMENT REVISED

AIA Document No. 276 (A Circular of Information Concerning the 5th Edition of the Standard Documents) has been revised and will now sell for \$1.50. The book contains detailed comments on the various provisions of the General Conditions, general comment on the other Standard Contract Forms, and valuable explanatory background material.

CHANGE IN CHAPTER STAFF

The Chapter regretfully announces the resignation of Mrs. Elizabeth Wood, who for the past several years has been a valuable member of the Chapter Office. She has become the manager of the New York Office of the Architects and Engineers Service, at 135 East 40 Street, and in that capacity will continue to cooperate with members of the profession in the metropolitan area.

Miss Jane Cummings has succeeded Mrs. Wood.

STATE RESORTS LEGISLATION

Appropriate legislation should be enacted to protect New York State residents from ever present dangers of fire for betterment of housing conditions existing in certain up state communities, particularly resort areas, stated Harry M. Prince, President of the Chapter.

In the past few years some hotels have spent thousands of dollars in correcting fire hazards. By far the largest percentage, however, of summer resorts in the mountain areas of the State that are occupied by New Yorkers are fire traps, which condition will not be corrected until a law or disastrous fire compels it. For the past three years, Senator MacNeil Mitchell, Chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Housing and Multiple Dwellings, and Assemblyman Justin C. Morgan have introduced legislation dealing particularly with fire protection for occupants of hotels, boarding houses, convalescent homes and similar types of residential dwellings throughout the State. This year, for the first time, the legislature overwhelmingly passed this important bill only to have it vetoed.

Senator Mitchell's Committee will reintroduce a modified version of the bill at the next session of the legislature. Mr. Prince said there has been general agreement that, insofar as existing dwellings are concerned, the bill's provisions should be limited to protection against fire. As to the dwellings erected after passage of the bill, the law should, in addition, contain some provisions as to light, air and sanitation.

Architects and the general public are sincerely urged to get behind this proposed bill which will help avoid in our State the occurrence of anything like the terrible LaSalle Hotel fire in Chicago, the Wincoff holocaust in Atlanta, or the disastrous fire in Dubuque.

ARCHITECTURE FOR STUDENTS

The circulating exhibition depicting contemporary standards of design for urban living which is currently touring the academic high schools of the City has been studied with evident interest by more than 18,000 students. Prepared by Olindo Grossi, Chairman of the Department of Architecture of Pratt Institute, working under the award of the Brunner Scholarship, the project was suggested by Frederick Ernst, Deputy Superintendent of the New York Board of Education.

Among the outstanding features of the display are large models showing proposed schemes for "Living in the City" and "Living in the Country." At one school the students were inspired to make a layout of their neighborhood and to replan the area for modern living. Further details may be obtained by consulting the more detailed progress report which appeared in a recent issue of *Progressive Architecture* or by visiting the exhibition itself, the showings at the various high schools being open to the public.

The exhibition is intended to instill in young people, as inheritors of New York's present chaos, a consciousness of the need for better planning. The fact that it has already aroused the interest of so many thousands of students, although it has to date appeared at less than one tenth of the schools at which it will eventually be shown, gives an encouraging prospect of future increased popular understanding of architectural problems affecting daily living.

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 A. Peter Amari
Sponsors: Julius Gregory & Joseph Krendel
- 2 Armand Phillip Bartos
Sponsors: Gordon Bunshaft & Richard Roth
- 3 Abraham Davis
Sponsors: Seymour R. Joseph & Moses Mendelson
- 4 Arthur Lewis Davis
Sponsors: Seymour R. Joseph & Moses Mendelson
- 5 Daniel Christian Jensen
Sponsors: Jack B. Basil & Robert W. Cutler
- 6 John Mjhnos
Sponsors: Gordon Bunshaft & Richard Roth
- 7 Emanuel Weisfeld
Sponsors: Lloyd Morgan & Joseph I. Watterson

Associate Membership

- 8 S. Richard Lepre
Sponsors: Andre Halasz & Esmond Shaw
- 9 Vladimir B. Morosov
Sponsors: Carl A. Beck & Arthur S. Douglass, Jr.
- 10 Beatrice West
Sponsors: Douglas Haskell & Lee Schoen

BUILDING CONTROLS

Since Chapter members are vitally concerned with the question of how much building will be permitted in 1951 and to what extent it will be controlled by government regulations, the OCULUS has prepared the following check list of pertinent orders to date and plans to keep it current by publishing monthly Supplements. Owing to space limitations it will not be possible to list for each regulation more than the title, authority, date of issue or of latest amendment, together with a word or two indicating its scope. A file of all listed documents is available for reference by members in the Chapter Office.

81st CONGRESS: P.L. 774—"The Defense Production Act of 1950," approved September 8, 1950.

"To establish a system of priorities and allocations for materials and facilities, authorize the requisitioning thereof, provide financial assistance for expansion of productive capacity and supply, provide for price and wage stabilization, provide for the settlement of labor disputes, strengthen controls over credit, and by these measures facilitate the production of goods and services necessary for the national security, and for other purposes."

Sec. 704—"The President may make such rules, regulations, and orders as he deems necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this Act."

THE PRESIDENT: Exec. Order 10161, Sept. 9, 1950.

Sec. 101—"The functions conferred upon the President by Title I of the Defense Production Act of 1950 are hereby delegated as follows: . . . (d) To the Secretary of Commerce with respect to all materials and facilities."

Sec. 501—" . . . the functions conferred upon the President by Sec. 602 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 are hereby delegated to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System."

Sec. 502—" (A) The functions conferred upon the President by Sec. 605 of the Defense Production Act of 1950, to the extent that such functions relate to loans on real estate involving residential property, are hereby delegated to the Housing and Home Finance Administrator."

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM: Residential Real Estate Credit—Reg. X"—Oct. 12, 1950.

"This regulation is issued by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System with the concurrence of the Housing and Home Finance Administrator, under authority of the Defense Production Act of 1950, approved September 8, 1950, and Executive Order No. 10161, dated September 9, 1950.

"Any inquiry relating to this regulation should be addressed to the Federal Reserve Bank or Federal Reserve branch bank of the district in which the inquiry arises."

"This regulation applies to real estate construction credit with respect to property on which a new residence, or a major addition or major improvement to an existing residence, is begun after 12 o'clock meridian, August 3, 1950. The regulation applies, in general, to banks, savings and loan associations, insurance companies, mortgage companies, loan companies, finance companies, real estate companies, or other institutions or individuals who are engaged in the business of extending real estate credit."

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System is responsible for administering its Regulation X applying conventional real estate loans (as distinguished from real estate loans made, insured, or guaranteed by the Federal Government or any agency thereof). *The Federal Housing Administration, the Veterans Administration, and the Department of Agriculture*, respectively, pursuant to the requirements of delegation of authority to the Housing and Home Finance Administrator, under Executive Order 10161, are responsible for administering the credit restrictions as they have been made applicable to loans insured, guaranteed, or made by those agencies.

U.S. DEPT. of COMMERCE — NATIONAL PRODUCTION AUTHORITY (NPA)

Inquiries in regard to the following regulations and orders of the NPA should be addressed to: Mr. N. P. Niles, National Production Authority, 42 Broadway, New York 4 (Telephone: DIgby 4-8000).

NPA REG. 1 (Sept. 18, 1950)—INTERPRETATION 1, 2, and 3 to REGULATION 1 (Nov. 10, 1950).

To prevent the accumulation of excessive inventories of materials in short supply—by limiting the quantities of such materials that can be ordered, received, or delivered. Affects, among others: cement, gypsum board, sheathing and lath, certain chemicals, wood, iron and steel, aluminum, columbium, cobalt, copper, magnesium, manganese, nickel, tin, tungsten, zinc, rubber, and certain textiles.

NPA REG. 2—as amended Nov. 16, 1950. (Includes: Interpretation 1 to Reg. 2, Oct. 20, 1950).

States the basic rules of the priorities system to be administered by the NPA—states what kind of orders are rated orders, how to place them and the preference status of such orders.

NPA REG. 3—Nov. 8, 1950.

Describes how and to what extent contracts and orders required to support either the U.S. or the Canadian Defense Programs may have the benefits of the priorities system of the U.S.

NPA ORDER M-1—as amended Oct. 26, 1950.

Applies to producers of steel, and provides rules for placing, accepting, and scheduling rated orders of steel. It supplements NPA Regulation 2.

SUPPLEMENT 1 to M-1—Oct. 26, 1950.

Applies to use of steel in construction of freight cars. **SUPPLEMENT 2 to M-1—Nov. 15, 1950.**

Applies to steel for construction of Great Lakes vessels. **NPA ORDER M-2—Nov. 1, 1950.**

To conserve the supply of rubber . . . modifies and supplements NPA Regulation 1.

NPA ORDER M-3—Oct. 19, 1950.

Prohibits use of ferro-columbium bearing steel for civilian use.

NPA ORDER M-4—as amended Nov. 15, 1950.

Prohibits the commencement of construction of certain types of buildings and other structures as set forth in a list of 48 specified recreational, amusement and entertainment purposes. Permits, within specified limits, small jobs . . . maintenance and repair . . . restoration . . . in the event of a disaster.

NPA ORDER M-5—Oct. 27, 1950.

Applies to producers, fabricators, distributors and jobbers of aluminum. Supplements NPA Regulation 2.

NPA ORDER M-6—as corrected Nov. 14, 1950.

Applies to steel distributors. Requires producers to establish allotments.

NPA ORDER M-7—Nov. 13, 1950.

Describes how aluminum, remaining after filling defense requirements, may be distributed and used in civilian economy.

DIRECTION 1 to M-7—Nov. 28, 1950.

Relates to permitted use of aluminum in December 1950.

NPA ORDER M-8—Nov. 13, 1950.

Limitations on tin alloys and reporting on tin imports. Supplements NPA Reg. 1.

NPA ORDER M-9—Nov. 16, 1950.

Applies to producers, fabricators and dealers in zinc. Supplements NPA Regulation 2.

NPA ORDER M-10—Nov. 30, 1950.

Inventory limitations for cobalt. Supplements NPA Regulation 1.

NPA ORDER M-11—Nov. 29, 1950.

Applies to producers, sellers, etc. of copper. Supplements NPA Regulation 2.

NPA ORDER M-12—Nov. 29, 1950.

Describes how copper, remaining after filling defense requirements, may be distributed and used in civilian economy. Substitution of other materials for copper.