



OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, 115 EAST 40 STREET, NEW YORK 16, NEW YORK
HARRY M. PRINCE, PRESIDENT; GEOFFRY N. LAWFORD, VICE-PRESIDENT; RALPH POMERANCE, TREASURER;
ALONZO W. CLARK, SECRETARY; ALICE G. CANTWELL, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY; EDWARD EVERETT POST, EDITOR.

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NEW YORK CHAPTER BIRTHDAY — FEBRUARY 28th

The 82nd Anniversary Dinner promises to be a notable occasion in the annals of the Chapter. The Committee, under the general chairmanship of Francis Keally, is planning a stimulating program of timely interest to all of us.

Major General Lewis A. Pick, Chief of Engineers, Department of the Army, the principal speaker of the evening, will discuss the unparalleled building program of global dimensions being projected under his direction.

Toastmaster and catalyst of the evening will be Justice Irwin D. Davidson, of the Court of Special Sessions, a distinguished jurist and brilliant wit.

The social hour preceding the dinner will be enlivened with music, song and camaraderie. All members are urged to bring their wives or their husbands — as the case may be, and friends.

NOW is not too soon to send check and reservations to the Chapter Office. Circle in red February 28th on your calendar, 7:00 p.m., the Music Room at Hotel Biltmore.

1951 LeBRUN TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP

The New York Chapter, American Institute of Architects, announces the opening of the competition for the 1951 LeBrun Travelling Scholarship.

The award is made annually on the basis of a country-wide competition held among architects and draughtsmen between the ages of 23 through 30, all of whom must be United States citizens, and must be nominated by a member of AIA.

Applications for programs are being received at the New York Chapter Office. The winner of the competition will be given \$2800 to aid in six months' travel in Europe.

This year the problem will be a "Motel" for a town of 30,000 inhabitants. In a realistic approach to present day emergency thinking the program has been arranged to challenge the ingenuities of competitors to design the project not only for peace time use but also bearing in mind:

- Use of building as Center for evacuees from cities;
- Conversion into a medical First-Aid station;
- Curtailement of strategic materials.

Closing date of rendu April 30th. Awards will be announced May 15th.

Chapter members are asked to bring this announcement to the attention of any young architect or draughtsman who may be eligible.

J. Bruno Basil, former LeBrun winner, is Chairman of the Committee.

AIA HONOR AWARDS

The American Institute of Architects, desiring to encourage the appreciation of excellence in Architecture and to afford recognition of exceptional merit in recently completed buildings, continues its annual nation-wide program of Honor Awards for Current Work.

Awards will be made for distinguished accomplishment

in three classes of buildings: Residential, Industrial, and Hospital buildings.

All entries must be buildings designed by registered architects practicing professionally in the United States. The buildings may have been erected anywhere in the United States or abroad and must have been completed since January 1, 1946.

All entries to the national exhibition should be submitted directly to The University of Illinois, Navy Pier, Chicago Illinois, and must be shipped on or before April 21, 1951, to be eligible.

Copy of the complete program is available for examination at the Chapter Office or may be obtained from the AIA, Washington, D. C.

GOLD MEDAL

The 1951 Gold Medal for Architecture of the Architectural League of New York was awarded January 18 for the design of the Harvard Graduate Center to the Architects Collaborative of Cambridge, Massachusetts, a group consisting of Jean Bodman Fletcher, Norman Fletcher, Walter Gropius, Sarah Harkness, John Harkness, Robert S. McMillan, Louis A. McMillen, and Benjamin Thompson.

Members of the Jury acting in this decision were Harold R. Sleeper, Frederick J. Woodbridge, Daniel Schwartzman, and Benjamin Lane Smith, Chairman, and it was their opinion that the Harvard Dormitories constitute an outstanding example of projects of that type, with an excellent general plan and consistently good design in all the parts. It was felt that this work might well, and should, influence the solution of similar problems in the future.

Instructions to the Jury had stated that its members were to examine with care the work submitted to determine which, if any, was intrinsically of high quality and likely to have influence upon the general trend of architectural design. Several of the projects submitted were executed with limited budgets as regards available buildings funds, and the Jury noted a number of designs in which the architects had exhibited much skill in producing pleasing results under that handicap.

In addition to the Harvard Graduate Center, eleven entries were cited as good examples of one or more of the foregoing criteria. Members of this Chapter receiving commendations were Ketchum, Giná, and Sharp for St. Barnabas House, an institutional building exemplifying a high standard of design achieved on a limited budget; Olindo Grossi for a modest, but distinguished private house; Robert B. O'Connor and Walter H. Kilham, Jr., for a school at Wilton, Connecticut, economically but carefully planned on an irregular site; Kahn and Jacobs for the office building at 147 Broadway showing skillful and creative handling of masses; Carson and Lundin for the Esso Building, a dignified and harmonious addition to the group at Rockefeller Center; and Kelley and Gruzen for a school building at Passaic, New Jersey.

The projects are all on display in the main dining room of the Architectural League, where they will remain until February 10.

HITS AND MISSES

The distaff side of the New York Chapter was capably represented on the popular C.B.S. radio show "Hits and Misses" January 17th. Mr. Harry Marble, master of ceremonies, interviewed Roslyn Lindheim, Irene von Horvath and Ida Webster during the half hour show. Each was queried on background, education, experience and what started her on a career in Architecture in the first place, which until fairly recently has been almost exclusively a male preserve.

Mrs. Lindheim said interest was first aroused while a student at Radcliffe where she came in contact with the Harvard School of Architecture. Later she took her architectural degree at Columbia. A recent fellowship permitted three months travel in Israel and now she is collaborating with Joseph Neufeld, also a member of the N. Y. Chapter, in the designing of numerous health facilities for Israel.

Miss von Horvath, with a youthful background spent in Europe and Asia giving a command of six languages secured a degree in Architecture at Carnegie Institute of Technology. A lean period followed in making a place for herself but now she has her own successful practice in the city.

Mrs. Webster, who has her degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been engaged in practice in New York for eighteen years.

The three participants in the discussion all stressed the role of the architect, what she (in this case) does do for the client and how. They dispelled the old bugaboo "oh you make blueprints?" And as Mrs. Webster aptly put it, "If more people would engage the services of an architect there would be less hits and misses."

CHAPTER'S CIVIL DEFENSE PROGRAM

The Chapter's Advisory Committee on Civil Defense has prepared its Report No. 1 on Civil Defense, which is being distributed to all members. It is hoped that members will regard this report as their primer on the part the architect can play in civil defense.

The Committee's program will be initiated at a Chapter luncheon to be held on Thursday, February 8, 1951.

Harry M. Prince, President of the New York Chapter and Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Civil Defense of the AIA National Defense Committee, will speak on "The Architect's Role in Civil Defense."

C. McKim Norton, President of the American Institute of Planners and Vice-President of the Regional Plan Association, will talk on "Long Range Planning for Civil Defense," emphasizing progress on the Federal Defense Housing Bill.

This luncheon meeting is being held in collaboration with the American Institute of Planners.

A VALUABLE SERVICE

The Architects' Emergency Committee is now making its annual appeal for funds to maintain its services of finding jobs for draftsmen and finding men for offices. No fees are charged so continued operation depends upon voluntary contributions from both offices and men. These should be sent to the Committee, at 115 East 40th Street. Your support will be appreciated.

OF INTEREST TO ARCHITECTS

At the New York Historical Society, 170 Central Park W.
Retrospective of the work of McKim, Mead and White — thru April 8th.

At the National Academy of Design, 1083 - 5th Ave.
84th Annual Exhibition of the American Watercolor Society — February 18 — March 4th.

At the Museum of Modern Art
Lamps — exhibition of prize winning designs in nation-wide contests thru March 18th.

PUBLICITY

Realty Management, a trade paper going to some 10,000 real estate owners and managers in this area, is interested in receiving articles and pictures from architects doing new building or remodeling work in connection with income producing properties such as apartment houses, store buildings, industrial and office buildings. Proper credit with the attendant publicity is offered as the reward. Full information can be received from Chapter Member Lawrence A. Benenson, publisher of *Realty Management*.

NEW MEMBERS' MEETING

On November 15, 1950, Walter Kilham held the first of a series of small round table meetings for members. Among those attending were: Harry L. Alper, Alfred E. Ash, Franklin N. Breed, Keith Brown, Marvin H. Clapp, Carroll W. Everett, Joseph L. Hautman, George S. Lewis, Roslyn Lindheim, John Caleb McGowan, Herbert L. Smith, Cope B. Walbridge. Mr. Alonzo W. Clark of the Executive Committee was also present.

Among the subjects discussed were the need for a series of lectures, such as hospitals and ways of educating the public as to the achievements of women in the profession.

It was suggested that architectural magazines have short and timely articles on the advantages of belonging to the Institute for the benefit of prospective members. And as always there was a discussion of how to get jobs — with a suggestion that the old timers could help more by relaying to younger men the smaller jobs they do not wish to do themselves.

Questions concerning the work of the Chapter brought out information on the Small House Committee Service; why it takes so long to process applications; the dues; State Exams; etc.

LOWER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS?

The first of the perennials of what may be a series of bills attempting to reduce the requirements for the license to practice architecture has been introduced in the State Legislature, the Chapter Committee on Legislation reports.

The bill is S.I. 61, Print 61, introduced by Senator William M. Conrad. It would revise Section 7304 of the Education Law by adding a new subdivision 5, which states: "The department (State University), on the recommendation of the board, may waive specific qualification requirements, except as to age, character and citizenship, in the cases of applicants who are possessed of long established recognized standing and who have more than fifteen years of experience in the architectural profession."

All Chapter members are urged to protest to Senator Conrad and to Senator Earl W. Brydges, Chairman of the Committee on Public Education, to which committee the bill has been committed. Both Senators can be reached at the Senate Office Building, Albany 1, New York.

BUILDING CONTROLS — 2nd SUPPLEMENT

The National Production Authority now functions through five divisions: *Facilities and Construction* — to issue necessary orders for materials, equipment, etc.; *Tax Amortization* — for special tax incentives for defense plants; *Loans* — to issue certificates for RFC loans; *Building Materials* — for production and distribution of same for defense program; *Construction Controls* — for administration of regulations.

The following regulations and latest amendments have been issued since those summarized in the January 1951 issue of the OCULUS. They form the 2nd Supplement to the original summary of Building Controls in the December 1950 OCULUS. Owing to space limitations, previously published information cannot be repeated so it is important for interested members to keep these issues on file. The original summary in December 1950 Oculus is referred to as "0"; the 1st Supplement in January 1951 OCULUS is referred to as "1".

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE —
NATIONAL PRODUCTION AUTHORITY
NPA Notice 1 — amended Jan. 10, 1951**

Establishes list of scarce materials and prohibits accumulation in excess of reasonable demands or for resale in excess of prevailing market price. Includes certain *building materials* and *chemicals, iron and steel, forest products, metals and minerals, rubber materials, textile materials*.

NPA Delegation 1—(See 1)—amended Dec. 29, 1950
Amendment extends right to apply ratings to certain contractors for construction equipment for use outside Zone of Interior.

NPA Delegation 6 — Jan. 4, 1951
Delegates authority to *Civil Aeronautics Administration* to apply ratings relating to material orders for authorized programs.

NPA Regulation 2—(See 0)—amended Jan. 11, 1951
Amendment allows ratings to be extended to include accessories for production equipment but not machine tools; also limits performance date to a particular month.

NPA Order M-1—(See 1)—amended Jan. 22, 1951
Amendment, among other changes, raises required percentage ceilings and establishes minimum for suppliers on rated orders; establishes specific inventory controls; extends regulation to cover several additional ferrous products.

Supplement 1 to M-1—(See 0)—amended Jan. 17, 1951
Amendment restricts order to *U. S. Freight Car Program* and expands requirements of certification.

NPA Order M-2—(See 1)—amended Dec. 29, 1950
Amendment prohibits private importation of *crude natural rubber* and *latex*.

NPA Order M-4—(See 0)—amended Jan. 13, 1951
Amendment revises list of prohibited buildings, structures or projects for *recreational, amusement and entertainment* purposes to include 47 slightly different types; voids exceptions granted prior to Jan. 13, 1951 unless construction is started within 120 days after date of issuing exception.

Amendment also requires NPA authorization for commencing construction of an additional list of buildings,

structures or projects, which generally *do not further defense effort or increase nation's production capacity* for defense. Commencing construction means incorporating a substantial quantity of integral materials — such as footings or other foundations.

Additional list includes: *banks; community buildings; personal services; hotels; loft and office buildings; outdoor advertising signs; printing establishments; restaurants; storage, distribution, display or sale of consumer goods* (except wholesale food fuel, oil, gasoline, coal or gas supply facilities); and *warehouses* for personal effects. Except for exemptions (such as, within certain limits, small jobs . . . maintenance and repair . . . restoration in the event of a disaster . . . for the Department of Defense or Atomic Energy Commission), emergencies, or unreasonable hardship, no authorizations will be issued prior to Feb. 15, 1951.

Authorizations will be based on showing that building, structure or project furthers defense effort, is essential to public health, safety or welfare, or, considering type and quantity of materials on hand and needed, effect on community at large if authorization were denied. Application form NPAF-24 for authority to commence construction, pursuant to Order M-4, is on file at the Chapter office.

NPA Order M-7—(See 1)—amended Dec. 1, 1950
Direction 3 to M-7—Dec. 27, 1950

Relates to permitted use of *aluminum* during March 1951.

NPA Order M-8—(See 1)—amended Jan. 9, 1951

Amendment excludes *secondary tin-bearing materials* from certain restrictions.

NPA Order M-10—(See 0)—amended Dec. 30, 1950

Prohibits use of *cobalt* in certain specified products, limits inventories and, with certain exceptions, requires NPA allocation authorization for delivery. Describes distribution for essential civilian uses after filling defense requirements.

NPA Order M-12—(See 0)—amended Dec. 30, 1950

Amendment prohibits, with certain exceptions, use of copper, after March 1, 1951, in manufacture of some 250 items of *builders and miscellaneous hardware; building materials; burial equipment; clothing and dress accessories; furnishings and equipment; furniture and fixtures; household electrical appliances; jewelry, gifts and novelties; motor vehicles and other passenger transportation equipment; and miscellaneous*.

NPA Order M-15—(See 1)—amended Jan. 15, 1951

Amendment defines "manufacture" and "types" of zinc to which order applies.

NPA Order M-18—amended Jan. 12, 1951

Limits inventories, processing, mixing and preparation of *pigs and hogs bristles*.

NPA Order M-19—Dec. 27, 1950

Controls inventories and deliveries of *cadmium* and states purposes for which it may be used.

NPA Order M-20—Jan. 4, 1951

Establishes inventory limitations on *iron and steel scrap*. Supplements NPA Regulation 1.

NPA Order M-21—Jan. 11, 1951

Prohibits use of *refined grade of methylene chloride* where paint remover brand will do and limits extension of rated orders. Supplements NPA Regulation 2.

NPA Order M-22—Jan. 12, 1951

Regulates segregation, acceptance, delivery and distribution, and prohibits undue accumulations of *aluminum scrap*.

NPA Order M-23—Jan. 12, 1951

Applies to producers of *carded cotton sales yarn*. Supplements NPA Regulation 2.

NPA Order M-28—Jan. 17, 1951

Applies to producers of *leather* of certain types. Supplements NPA Regulation 2.

NPA Order M-29—Jan. 17, 1951

Applies to tanners of *horsehide fronts* and to tanners and dressers of *deerskins*.

NPA Order M-30—Jan. 22, 1951

Prohibits use of *tungsten* in certain specified products, limits inventories and makes it subject to allocation. Supplements NPA Regulation 2.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Residential Real Estate Credit—Regulation X—(See 0)
—amended Jan. 12, 1951; Supplementary Statement with respect to same; Interpretation of Jan. 4, 1951

Amendment extends regulations to include *multi-unit residences* such as apartment houses or apartment hotels; also adds numerous new provisions and modifies former sections.

Consumer Credit—Regulation W—amended October 16, 1950—(See 1)

Interpretation to Regulation W—Dec. 18, 1950

Applies to "over-allowances" on automobile trade-ins.

Interpretation to Regulation W—Dec. 21, 1950

Applies to credit for repair or replacement of property damaged or lost as result of a disaster.

Interpretation to Regulation W—Dec. 28, 1950

Applies to effect on price of services and labor performed gratuitously.

FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

Amendment—Jan. 9, 1951—to Part I, Regulation VII, Section 6 of "Regulations of the Federal Housing Commissioner Governing Property Improvement Loans of July 1, 1947 as amended"

Eliminates requirement for 10% cash down payment for properties in Alaska, territories or possessions outside continental U. S. and for certain "disaster credits".

ARCHITECTURE ON THE SCREEN

Scheduled for release February 1 was a motion picture entitled "The Second Woman," whose hero is presented as a member of the A.I.A. The film is a Harry M. Popkin production from the original screen play by Robert Smith, produced by Mort Briskin and directed by James V. Kern.

At the invitation of United Artists, the distributors, a group from this Chapter, including the Chairmen of the Small House Committee and of the Sub-Committee on Honorary Associates; one member each from the Executive, Admissions, and Legislative Committees; the Executive Secretary; our Public Relations consultant; and two of the editors of this bulletin, attended a preview a week before the contemplated date of public presentation at the Rivoli Theatre in this city.

The principal character (Robert Young), an architect of promise, finds himself pursued by a series of misfortunes involving the destruction, one after another, of all the objects, human, animal, and inanimate, most dear

to him. A young statistician (Betsy Drake) eventually perceives, as the audience has long since done, that the hero is the victim of some sort of deliberate persecution. Her slowness of mind, the complete failure of mental activity on the part of most of the other characters, and a number of complicated and far-fetched devices leading to the ultimate identification of the paranoiac villain, are all necessary to prolong the story to average feature length. Robert Young is competent as usual, Miss Drake is exceedingly pleasant to look at, and adequate performances are given by John Sutton, Florence Bates, Morris Carnovsky, and Henry O'Neill.

In spite of the weakness implied above, "The Second Woman" develops a high degree of suspense and excitement and is hereby recommended as a film of more than average quality. The setting on the California coast is magnificent, and advantage is well, if obviously, taken of the striking trees and rock formations of the region. For the most part the production avoids the architectural absurdities which so conspicuously characterized "The Fountainhead" and "The Miniver Story." To be sure, the hero loses some blueprints, and it does not occur, even to him, to have his drawings printed again, and the missing blueprints apparently included no less than seventeen sheets of large-scale interior details submitted as part of the initial entry in a competition. But his dream house, both inside and out, is a work of considerable charm and distinction, and we regretted its destruction by fire before we had had a chance to study it in more detail.

However, it was the conduct of the competition which caused profound dismay to all the architects present at the preview. Passing lightly over the fact that the hero, upon learning that he has not won, delivers himself of some strongly abusive comments on the ethics of the jury and the architectural value of the work of the successful competitors, it must be sadly recorded that the competition, somewhat casually sponsored, called for designs for a hospital on which the entrants worked for an entire year without recompense or recognition of any sort.

A short consultation with any qualified architect, of whom there are many in Los Angeles, would have eliminated, without in any way harming the structure of the story, this unfortunate detail, which tends to foster in the public mind the regrettable idea that architectural training and services can be utilized free of charge and that architects compete one against another within the profession. It was too late to obtain revision of the film before its release to the public, but it was intended to initiate a protest on the highest possible level.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The New York Chapter has requested The Institute to take some action on a national scale to correct the false impression created by the references to competitions, and to urge that in any future productions concerning architects a qualified advisor, thoroughly familiar with the profession, be retained.*

COMPETITIONS

Members are advised that they might subject themselves to serious disciplinary action in the event that they enter any competition under any program contrary to the recommendations set forth in AIA Document No. 213, dealing with the selection of an architect by competition.

More details on this, particularly in connection with school competitions, in the next issue.