

NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
ONE FIFTEEN EAST FORTIETH STREET, NEW YORK 16, NEW YORK



FRANCIS KEALLY, PRESIDENT • • MORTIMER E. FREEHOF, VICE-PRESIDENT  
FRANK G. LOPEZ, SECRETARY • • • JONATHAN F. BUTLER, TREASURER  
JANE C. SHORT, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY • HARMON H. GOLDSTONE, EDITOR

# OCULUS

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## COMING EVENT: 84th CONVENTION -- JUNE 23-27, 1952

Every mail is swamping you with programs, platforms, lists of speakers and events, all of vital interest to you. We will not repeat them here. To insure a record attendance at all sessions it is hoped that New York architectural firms will make it possible for their professional employees to attend the daytime events.

## ARCHITECTURAL SYMPOSIUM

The Junior Council of the Museum of Modern Art will present a symposium on "Crossroads in Architecture", Tuesday, June 24, at 8:30 p.m. in the Museum Auditorium, 11 West 53rd Street. The moderator will be Douglas Haskell; speakers will be William Zeckendorf, Alfred Levitt, Kenneth Welch and Florence Knoll. Admission fee for Museum members \$1.50, for non-members \$2.00.

## NATIONAL HONOR FOR MOSES

Robert Moses, New York City Coordinator of Construction, has been elected to Honorary Membership in the AIA and will receive a Certificate at the Convention here this month. This award is in recognition of Mr. Moses' long career of service to the City, State and Nation in fostering parks and parkways, housing and public works.

## COLLEGIATE HONORS FOR MEMBERS

We congratulate this month two members of the New York Chapter who have been honored by universities. Robert W. McLaughlin, Jr., of the firm of Holden, McLaughlin and Associates, has been appointed director of the School of Architecture at Princeton University, and Daniel P. Higgins, principal of Messrs. Eggers and Higgins, has received the first annual Girardian award presented by alumni of Girard College.

## JOBS FOR GRADUATES AND STUDENTS

Chapter members are asked to bear in mind that many young men coming out of architectural schools this month will be seeking employment. The Architect's Emergency Committee cannot place all of them, and we are urged to make every effort to assist in finding openings for new recruits to our profession. Thomas McLain Boyd AIA of Stop 3½ Ponce de Leon Avenue, San Juan, Puerto Rico, suggests that there are interesting openings for student summer jobs in his area. Anyone interested in such an opportunity should get in touch with Mr. Boyd.



## ANNUAL MEETING: NEW YORK CHAPTER AIA

Eighty-nine members attended the Annual Luncheon Meeting on June 4th, together with the guests of honor. President Francis Keally presided.

The reading of the minutes of the last Annual Meeting was dispensed with; the reports of the Secretary, Treasurer and Nominating Committee were read and approved; balloting was announced as closed and Messrs. Douglass, Erdman and Freehof were appointed tellers.

The President called on all Committee Chairmen to give summaries of their Annual Reports. Full reports are on file in the Chapter Office; highlights are given below. A special vote of thanks was made to George Boehm for his work on the By-Laws.

Matthew Del Gaudio discussed briefly the work of the Architects Council and its connection with that of the Chapter. Arthur Holden discussed Convention plans.

Two Awards of Merit, the Chapter's Medal of Honor and an Honoray Associateship were the next order of business. Eric Kebbon read the citation of the Award of Merit presented to Cleveland Rodgers, editor, author, active member for many years of the New York City Planning Commission -- an outstanding citizen who has contributed much to the best interests of his city. Morris Ketchum, Jr. read the citation of the Award of Merit presented to Buckminster Fuller in recognition of his imaginative and experimental contributions in the fields of construction and engineering. The President announced that the Chapter's Medal of Honor was being given to the firm of Mayer & Whittlesey for their town planning in India and their distinctive contributions to both public and private housing in this country. He read the citation and presented the Medal and Certificate which were accepted by Milton Glass on behalf of the firm. Arthur Holden proposed the name of Francis Henry Taylor, Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, for election to Honorary Associateship in the Chapter; he was unanimously elected.

The President called for the report of the tellers who announced that 266 ballots were cast. Of this number 21 were voided and 10 were blank. The Nominating Committee's slate was elected as follows:

### Officers:

Hugh Ferriss, President  
Geoffrey Platt, Vice-President  
Harmon H. Goldstone, Secretary  
Eldredge Snyder, Treasurer

### Committee on Professional Practice:

Lewis G. Adams, Chairman  
Walker Cain  
Frank G. Lopez

### Executive Committee (to 1955):

Herbert Lippman  
L. Bancel LaFarge

### Committee on Fellows (to 1955):

Ely J. Kahn  
John C. B. Moore

### Jury for the Medal of Honor:

President (ex-officio)  
William Lescaze  
Perry Coke Smith  
Archibald M. Brown

### Committee on Nominations:

William Potter, Chairman  
Mortimer Freehof  
Alonzo Clark

Francis Keally then made a brief speech thanking his fellow officers and co-workers for their loyal support. He retired as President and turned the affairs of the Chapter over to the new President, Hugh Ferriss, and to the newly elected officers.



## SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Chapter records with regret the death of three Members Emeritus, John R. Rockart, Elwood Williams and Matthew A. Wylie, and of four Corporate Members, John W. Cross, Warden H. Fenton, Leonard Schultze and Melvin P. Spalding.

Changes in membership during the year are set forth below:

	Corp- orate	Asso- ciate	Stu- dent	Unas- signed	Non Res- ident	Emeri- tus	Total
June 1, 1951	682	134	90	11	3	33	953
<u>Gains</u>							
New Members	28	13	-	-	-	-	
From other Chapters	4	-	-	-	-	-	
From other Categories	1	1	-	1	-	3	51
	33	14	0	1	0	3	1004
	715	148	90	12	3	36	
<u>Losses</u>							
Died	4	-	-	-	-	3	
To other Chapters	10	1	-	-	-	-	
To other Categories	5	1	-	-	-	-	
Graduated	-	-	37	-	-	-	
Resigned	4	1	-	1	-	-	
Terminated	4	4	49	-	-	-	
	27	7	86	1	0	3	124
	688	141	4	11	3	33	880

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The total receipts of the Chapter for the year 1951, consisting of receipts from Members Dues, Sale of Documents and interest on the Reserve Fund Investments, was \$25,688.52. Disbursements during the year 1951 amounted to \$25,938.21, leaving a balance in the General Funds on December 31, 1951, of \$1,411.72. Various changes were made in the Reserve Fund Investments on the advice of our investment counsel, Mr. Frank B. Kirkbride, and the Finance Committee.

The Contingent Reserve Fund as of December 31, 1951 stood at \$22,705.88; this is \$1,914.32 more than previous year. The LeBrun Scholarship Fund decreased by \$1,512.21 and on December 31, 1951 stood at \$31,339.83; the income account also showed a decrease to \$7,013.52. The Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship Fund stood at \$44,768.52 as of December 31, 1951 representing a decrease of \$57.37; the income account stood at \$5,252.11, a decrease of \$2,916.63.

The above report is for the calendar year 1951. An audited final statement for this period is on file at the Chapter Office. Receipts and disbursements for the first five months of 1952 are in keeping with the Budget Schedule. An audit through May 31, 1952 is also on file in the Chapter Office.

## HIGHLIGHTS from COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities, C. Herbert Wheeler, Chairman

Scheduled all meetings, luncheons and dinners. Cooperated with Technical and Education Committees in planning their functions. Arranged Fall Dinner Meeting with talk by Anthony Minoprio and December and June Business Meetings. Recommendations for next year: a member of Executive Committee should serve to coordinate activities; selection of Committee and planning of program during the summer; more meetings on business and professional relations, on National AIA affairs, on orienta-



tion for new members; a club table for informal daily luncheons at the League.  
Annual Dinner, Eldredge Snyder and Robert A. Jacobs, Sub-Chairmen  
Arranged 83rd Anniversary Dinner at the Biltmore. Admiral Jelley was the principal speaker. Awards of Merit and Mention Awards were made by the New York State Association of Architects.  
Professional Forum, Richard Stein, Sub-Chairman  
Arranged Spring Dinner Meetings at the Waldorf with talks by Dr. Burdell, Ralph Walker and Walter Taylor on "The State of the Profession". Apartment House Medal Awards were made at this meeting.

Admissions, Irving D. Harris, Chairman  
Considered fifty-five applications for Associate and Corporate Membership. Maintained strict standards for professional qualifications; examined witnesses in doubtful cases; accepted no hearsay evidence.

Awards, Eric Kebbon, Chairman  
Except for Awards of Merit, granted by the Executive Committee, and for the Medal of Honor, all Chapter awards are now administered by Sub-Committees under the general jurisdiction of the Committee on Awards.

Brunner Scholarship, L. Bancel LaFarge, Sub-Chairman  
Two grants were recommended from the twelve applications received; to Huson T. Jackson for "A Survey of Important Architecture and City Planning Works in the New York Region" and to Addison Erdman for "An Investigation of Modern Hospital Planning and Architecture Throughout the United States and Canada." Recommendation for next year: wide circularization in both June and September to attract more applicants.

LeBrun Scholarship, Jack Bruno Basil, Sub-Chairman  
Program, "A Library for a Town of 30,000", written by Dean Arnaud. Four hundred applications received; forty-nine actual entries. First Place awarded to Robert Entzeroth; First Alternate to Robert Chappelle. Recommendations for next year: that the deed of gift be modified to meet present conditions; and that deans of various schools of architecture serve on the committee.

Apartment House Medal Award, Morris Ketchum, Jr., Sub-Chairman  
Inspected all apartment houses constructed in Manhattan since 1949. Unanimously recommended for the Medal: Manhattan House, 200 East 66th Street, for which Mayer and Whittlesey and Skidmore, Owings and Merrill were associated architects. A Medal was also recommended for the owner of this distinguished building, New York Life Insurance Company.

Fifth Avenue Association, Cameron Clark, Sub-Chairman  
Cooperated with the Fifth Avenue Association in recommending new buildings and alterations of merit completed in the Fifth Avenue section in 1950 and 1951. Those honored by awards from the Fifth Avenue Association were: Kahn and Jacobs for 100 Park Avenue as the best building over six stories in height; Carson and Lundin for the Irving Trust Company, 21-25 West 51st Street, for the best building less than six stories in height; Dan Everett Waid, Harvey Wiley Corbett and Arthur O. Angilly, a special citation for excellence of design for the new office building of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company on the block between Madison and Fourth Avenues and 24th and 25th Streets; Harry M. Prince for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 838 Fifth Avenue, as an institutional type building; Walker and Poor for the Fifth Avenue Office of Bank of Manhattan Company, 535 Fifth Avenue, as a two-story alteration; J. Gordon Carr for Eastman Kodak Stores, Inc., 20-24 East 45th Street, as the best large storefront alteration; and Peter Copeland Associates for Revlon Products Corporation, 745 Fifth Avenue, as the outstanding small store alteration.



#### Civic Design and Development, Geoffrey Platt, Chairman

Collaborated with the City Planning and Zoning Committee of the Architects Council in a detailed study of the Harrison, Ballard and Allen rezoning proposals. At the April 22nd hearing before the City Planning Commission, Geoffrey Platt for the Council and Frederick Frost, Jr. for the Chapter both strongly supported the proposal. While "controversy is limited to matters of detail...the Architects Council (with a membership of approximately 1250 practicing architects) is in unanimous agreement that the Harrison, Ballard and Allen proposal should serve as the basis for the urgently needed new Zoning Resolution."

#### Civil Defense, Bruno Funaro, Sub-Chairman

Cooperated with the National Committee of the AIA on matters concerning the position of architects in Civil Defense, with the State Committee and with the Architects Council on local matters. In connection with the latter and with the New York Society of Professional Engineers inaugurated a city-wide survey of buildings suitable for use as shelter areas, to be followed by recommendations as to supplementary construction and alterations needed to meet government safety standards. Supported Civil Defense authorities in their efforts to obtain State and Federal aid for an adequate shelter program.

#### Education, Herbert Lippmann, Chairman

Prepared a resolution to improve interstate registration relations adopted by New York State Association of Architects at their Buffalo Convention; and one to permit interstate certification quickly and conveniently for one commission only, to be presented to the Chapter Caucus for consideration at National AIA Convention. Maintained collection of professional school catalogues, advised many prospective students, arranged exhibit of New York registration examination questions, and brought up to date and redistributed the Chapter pamphlet, "So You Want to be an Architect". Arranged January dinner at which James M. Fitch presented critique of current architectural trends.

#### Fees and Contracts, Howard S. Patterson, Chairman

Have developed new consolidated documents combining description of the architect's services with "Principles of Percentage Fee" and "Principles of Cost-Plus Fee". This will mean fewer documents and will give a client a clear and comprehensive picture of what the architect does for his fee. Documents define frequently controversial aspects of architect's services and set forth a graduated schedule as the basis of percentage fee, -- to be submitted to the Chapter in the fall. A special group, under Frederick G. Frost, Jr. working with a committee of consulting engineers has developed a standard form of architect-engineer agreement now being reviewed by Chapter Counsel.

#### Fellows, William Gehron, Chairman

After careful consideration of the Chapter membership, the committee selected candidates, as worthy and eligible, for Fellowship. All of their recommendations were subsequently approved by the Jury of Fellows in Washington. Of thirty-nine members of the AIA advanced to Fellowship this year, the New York Chapter is proud to be able to congratulate seven: Max Abramovitz for design; Max Foley for service to the Institute and for science of construction; Robert Hutchins for design; Robert McLaughlin for design and for science of construction; James O'Connor for design; Alfred Easton Poor for design and for public service; and Antonin Raymond for design and for science of construction.

#### Finance, J. Walter Severinghaus, Chairman

Held regular meetings in November and May to review and act upon recommendations of Franklin B. Kirkbride, Chapter's Investment Counsel, regarding portfolios of securities for the Brunner Scholarship Fund, the LeBrun Scholarship Fund and the



the Contingent Reserve Fund. Recommendation for next year: that the Executive Committee and the LeBrun Scholarship Sub-Committee review previously submitted suggestions for modifying the LeBrun deed of trust.

Housing, Henry S. Churchill, Chairman

With a \$5,000 grant from the Lavanburg Foundation has undertaken a long-range study of the effects of urban congestion on the living habits and housing requirements of people. If the first year's work develops satisfactorily, there is a possibility of the grant being extended. With the help of a part-time research assistant it is expected that considerable progress will be made over the summer.

Legislation, Richard Roth, Chairman

Committee met regularly both before and during the State Legislature Session; reviewed summaries of some 6,000 bills and selected about 300 of these for support, to oppose or on which to take no action. (On many of the latter, however, letters from individual members also seem to have influenced legislative action.) Of all bills supported only three of importance failed to pass and only four were vetoed. Eleven supported bills were passed and signed. Fifteen opposed bills were killed or vetoed. Little remains to be re-introduced next year. The Committee worked closely with the Legislative Committee of the Architects Council and constituent organizations of the New York State Association of Architects. A resume of recommendations by the Committee on bills important to architects and the action taken on each of them is available in the Chapter Office as well as a summary by Commissioner Gilroy of amendments to the Multiple Dwelling Law. Recommendations for next year: consideration of whether to take action also on bills of prime importance to real estate interests rather than architects; urge earlier introduction of multiple residence bills to give time for study.

By-Laws, George Boehm, Sub-Chairman

Carried out much needed revision of the last eight articles of the By-Laws to incorporate all amendments to date, to simplify and modernize them to agree with the recommended By-Laws of the Institute and to re-arrange where necessary. (The first ten articles have previously been revised.) An index of the whole proposed new By-Laws is being prepared. They will be studied by the Executive Committee over the summer and submitted with recommendations to the Chapter in the fall.

Codes, Samuel M. Kurtz, Chairman

The committee submitted reports on the proposed BSA Waterproofing Rules to the Architects council; on proposed modifications to the Building Code in regard to increase in filing fees and on consideration of State Standard Building Code for places of public assembly to the Legislation Committee and Chapter Office. They were represented at a public hearing on the proposed State Building Code for one- and two-family dwellings. Recommendations for next year: disposition of previously submitted recommendations on proposed refrigeration rules; more information on Chapter action taken on committee recommendations and on legislation affecting Codes; quicker submission of committee proposals to Building Code Committee of the Architects Council; autonomous status of this sub-committee.

Medal of Honor, Frederick G. Frost, Sr., Chairman

The Committee reached a unanimous decision to award the Medal of Honor for 1952 to Mayer and Whittlesey.

Membership, R. Jackson Smith, Chairman

Except for the loss of 86 student associates the committee has been able to maintain the post-war trend of membership growth. A study of new members this year shows that 80% applied as a result of discussions with members. It is earnestly



hoped that each Chapter member will continue to accept personal responsibility for bringing new members into the Chapter. 45 new members have joined the Chapter this year: 32 Corporates and 13 Associates; 4 of the Corporates were transfers from other Chapters.

Nominating, Robert B. O'Connor, Chairman

The Committee proposed the slate of Officers and Elective Committee Members as set forth in the account of the Annual Meeting. It was submitted to the Chapter Members and all nominations elected.

Professional Practice, Robert S. Hutchins, Chairman

The Committee attended to a number of cases left over from last year and has disposed of all matters referred to it this year. The general policy has been to resolve problems quickly through informal personal discussions rather than to bring formal charges through the Judiciary Committee of the National Office. The results of these conferences appear to have been satisfactory whether the parties were complaining or complained against. The Committee has also answered inquiries at the rate of four or five a month.

Publications, Harmon H. Goldstone, Chairman

The Committee met monthly to produce nine issues of the "Oculus" in its present informal format. This format has proved quicker to produce, allows for illustrations and makes for easier reading. Costs to produce and distribute it by first-class mail are about two-thirds of former years' expenses, though it contains only about half the amount of copy. Recommendation for next year: other committees and individual members should keep the editor better informed on activities of general interest to the Chapter.

Public Relations, Mortimer E. Freehof, Chairman

Initiated preparation of list of selected buildings; through Brunner funds this has been developed by Huson Jackson and will be published by Progressive Architecture in time for the Convention. Through persistent efforts has improved situation of mention of architect's name in connection with building publication. Has tried, with partial success, to place articles to educate the public on problems and functions of the architect. Consultation with professional groups of lawyers, doctors, accountants reveals similar aims and difficulties. Cooperation with Producers Council, Building Trades Employers Association and New York Building Congress has proved fruitful. Much of the Committee's time was devoted to the Convention. Many projects discussed or started are recommended for further action next year; more articles to explain the architect to the layman and also to school children; possibility of paid institutional advertising; a standard architect's sign for buildings under construction -- probably on a national basis; possibility of certificates of award to merchant builders; work with building loan agencies to get them to consider architectural merit in passing on loans; formation of a speakers' bureau; organization of exhibits illustrating functions of the architect; publicity through radio, television, movies; attempt to correct misrepresentation of construction costs.

Small House, Abraham W. Geller, Chairman

Committee is developing a questionnaire intended to shed light on the difficult and delicate problem of restrictive influences in the house building industry; it is hoped to have it in members' hands by the fall. Also in work is a brochure on the architect and the operative builder. A number of requests from other chapters on the working of the Chapter's small house consulting service were received and answered.



### Technical, H. R. Dowswell, Chairman

Ten luncheons were held, three of which were jointly sponsored by the New York Chapter of the Producers Council and one by the Concrete Industry Board. Subjects discussed by competent authorities included: "Procedure before the Board of Standards and Appeals", "Architectural Contracts with New York City", "Building Hardware", "Pre-stressed Concrete", "Non-Masonry Enclosure Walls", "Planning Elevator Installations", etc. Average attendance was only thirty-nine; peak attendance forty-seven. Recommendations for next year: consider discontinuance of technical luncheons unless attendance is larger; possibly a ballot on proposed subjects would arouse interest; continue joint sponsorship with Producers Council. Committee also answered many technical queries by laymen.

### Visiting Architects, Leopold Arnaud, Chairman

Visits from about twenty foreign architects and correspondence with at least as many more. Countries represented were: Argentina, Australia, Colombia, England, France, Holland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Spain, and Venezuela. Itineraries and letters of introduction were arranged for visits in New York and around the country; questions concerning education and registration were answered. In addition, a three-day itinerary was laid out for a group of ten Canadian students who came to New York on an architectural tour.

### BRUNNER SCHOLARSHIP

\$2,400 in prize money may well attract a number of applicants for the 1953 Brunner Scholarship. Prospective candidates are reminded that credentials must be filed by November 15, 1952 on forms obtainable at the Chapter Office.

### WRIGHT RECORDING

A 40-minute set of records of Frank Lloyd Wright's speech at the Houston Convention has been bought by the Chapter. Interested members may rent it for \$1.00 per week.

### WOODMAN, SPARE THAT ARCHITECT!

Eric Kebbon and the Board of Education are to be congratulated on the planning of Public School No. 6 at Madison Avenue and 81st Street. Their imagination and wisdom in sparing the fine old trees on the site give to the new school a scale, humanity and charm all too rare in New York.

### CANDIDATES

Information regarding the qualifications of the following candidates for membership will be considered confidential by the Admissions Committee:

#### Corporate Membership

Reuben Henri Bowden	Sponsors: Mortimer Freehof & Kenneth B. Norton
James S. Hornbeck	Sponsors: Herbert L. Smith, Jr. & Wallace K. Harrison
John Gregory Milmoie	Sponsors: Charles H. Koop & Walter H. Kilham, Jr.
Jule Robert Von Sternberg	Sponsors: George C. Rudolph & Ronald Allwork
Hans N. Wormann	Sponsors: William Corbett & Ferdinand Kramer
Kenneth Merrill Young	Sponsors: Albert W. Butt, & William S. Brown

#### Associate Membership

Frederic A. Davidson, Jr.	Sponsors: R. Jackson Smith & Daniel L. Eggers
Alfred T. Drake	Sponsors: Roger G. Spross & Perry Coke Smith