

NEW YORK CHAPTER

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COMING EVENTS

The Technical Committee has arranged for two illustrated luncheon meetings on the METAL WALLED BUILDINGS OF PITTSBURGH. On February 26th, in cooperation with the American Iron and Steel Institute, the subject will be the "Gateway" and similar buildings; and on March 24th, in cooperation with the Aluminum Corporation of America, the talk will naturally center on their new ALCOA Building.

On March 11th the Architects are being invited by officials of the National Broadcasting Company to a luncheon discussion of future developments in television. On the evening of March 11th, Professor Kay Fisker will address the members of the Architectural League and the New York Chapter on Contemporary Danish Architecture.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER NEAR AT HAND

The 84th Anniversary Dinner of the New York Chapter will be held in the Bowman Room of the Hotel Biltmore on Tuesday, February 24th. President Ferriss will present the National Honor Award Certificates to the owners and architects of Lever House. In addition, a number of special awards will be made to Chapter members for "meritorious activities beyond the line of architectural duties." Distinguished guests will include President Glenn Stanton, Regional Director C. Storrs Barrows and the President of the New York State Association, Donald Q. Faragher.

The program has been developed to provide a light-hearted entertainment for Chapter members and their ladies. The Committee reveals that Frank McLloyd Wrong, noted architect on leave from the McCampbell Institute of Ancient Rites, will give an address on "Scottish Fifths". Once again the AIAs will provide the songs that publicize the foibles, follies and frustrations of certain of our members.

The price of the dinner, including cocktails, gratuities, and all of the above mentioned hilarious entertainment, has been fixed at \$12.50 per cover. Announcements, and reservation forms have been sent to all Chapter members.

1953 BRUNNER SCHOLARSHIP TO PAUL ZUCKER

The President of the New York Chapter is happy to announce the grant of the 1953 Brunner Scholarship, after careful evaluation of seven applications, to Professor Paul Zucker of the Faculty of Cooper Union, New York, for the advancement of his projected book, THE SQUARE: ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN CITY PLANNING. Professor Zucker, credited with a long list of publications on the history and aesthetics of architecture and city planning, is aiming his present work towards an historical analysis of this fundamental problem, the Square, and its bearings on Civic Projects today.

FORMS AND FUNCTIONS OF 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETIES

A luncheon meeting was held at the Architectural League on January 8th. The President, confirming notice previously mailed to the membership, announced that this meeting was called in response to the N.Y. State Association's request for constituent action on the Association's "Final Report of the Executive Secretary Committee", and stated that the object of the meeting was to apprise the membership, and to permit informal discussion of the Report.

The Report was then read by the Vice-President. The President then invited the following members to speak: Daniel Schwartzman, Voting Delegate to the State Association; Harry M. Prince, Delegate to and Vice President of the Association; and Matthew Del Gaudio, Delegate to and President of the Architects Council of N.Y.C.

After extended discussion from the floor the following motion was made, seconded and carried: To authorize the President to appoint a small committee of the Chapter to consult with the Regional Director, the President of the New York State Association and the President of the Architects Council of New York City for the purpose of more clearly defining the relative spheres of activity of the architectural organizations within the State.

In accordance with this motion, President Ferriss has appointed the following committee: Robert S. Hutchins, Perry Coke Smith, Edgar I. Williams, Hugh Ferriss, Ex-officio, Geoffrey Platt, Chairman. In connection with this subject of various organizations, members are asked to note a meeting sponsored jointly by the Chapter and the Architects Council for the evening of March 3rd, on "Civil Defense".

THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE GETS AROUND

On January 13th a meeting was held at the United Nations building. About seventy members attended. Gathering at 4 P.M., the members were divided into three groups for guided tours through the three Council Chambers, the General Assembly Hall, the Delegates' Lounge and the South Lobby for the General Assembly. After the tour Pat Healy, of the Offices of Harrison and Abramowitz, answered questions on the mechanical features of the buildings.

A dinner meeting convened at the Brass Rail, 100 Park Avenue, on Wednesday evening, January 21st. The publication "Lighting and Lamps" was co-sponsor and the subject of the after-dinner discussion was "A Fresh Approach to Home Lighting".

Victor Gruen, A.I.A., discussed the function of lighting in the modern home. Stanley McCandless advocated considering the use for which the room is intended and the objects to be placed in it before designing the lighting, suggesting the possible use of rheostats for control. William Pahlman showed slides of interiors, including designs for lighting rooms without the use of lamps. Frederick Kiesler, designer of the lighting at the Guggenheim Museum, explained his use of lighting to emphasize the relationship between the object and the viewer. Ward Harrison, lighting engineer of General Electric, feels that there is at present too much emphasis on artificial spotlighting and that there should be a greater use of horizontal lighting like that which naturally comes through windows.

CURRENT EXHIBITS

A fine exhibit opened late in January at the Museum of Modern Art -- "Post War Architecture in the U.S.A.". It is comprehensive and varies in scale from such imposing achievements as Lever House and the United Nations Building to such delightful unicellular essays as Soleri and Miller's Desert House or Twitchell and Rudolph's house by a Florida canal. Color slides shown in little stereoscopic binoculars are revealing of colors and site conditions. Often startlingly realistic, they replay the rather tedious effort of looking at them. The captions as usual are almost oppressively informative. The exhibit closes March 15th.

Following its first Gold Medal exhibition of the Decorative Arts, the Architectural League has set up an exhibition on two floors of Architecture, Landscapr Architecture and Engineering. There are 11 entries, 6 of them by New York Chapter members. In variety and quality of work, the exhibit is outstanding. It extends through February 27th, and someone may get a gold medal out of it.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY AND THE SCHOOLS

The current issue of the Citizen's Housing News contains a brief profile concerning the new President of the Citizen's Housing and Planning Council, William C. Vladeck. Frederick G. Frost, Jr., is the new Treasurer. Both of these Chapter members have been active in CHPC, "a membership organization to promote vigorous private action for housing, community planning and neighborhood improvement".

Robert S. Hutchins has accepted a three year appointment to serve as the architect member of the city's Art Commission. He succeeds Alfred Easton Poor.

Jose Luis Sert has been named Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Design. This paragraph appears too late for a news flash, but not for congratulations.

Walter H. Kilham, Jr. is acting as resident critic for a six-week problem in the architectural department of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia. The problem is a college library -- and a real college is the guinea pig. For the first field trip, the boys all appeared point-device, even wearing ties. Professor Kilham was touched at this degree of respect, then remembered that the library is being designed for a women's college.

BEAUX ARTS INSTITUTE OF DESIGN

Further news regarding the proposed open competition for architectural students deals with the program and prizes. The program is for a design of Municipal Library for a city of 200,000 and the prizes total \$450. The jury comprises Louis Justement, Washington, D.C., Louis Kahn, Philadelphia, Pa., John C. B. Moore, Robert O'Connor, New York; Alfred Shaw, Chicago; and Henry R. Shepley, Boston, Mass. The program will allow the utmost freedom in creative design and may well bring forth some interesting advances in the planning of libraries. The judgment will be held in New York on May 12, 1953.

NEW BOOKS

Hornbostel and Bennett again -- always a strong combination. This time it's Elmer A. Bennett and the project is a handsome, informative book called "Architectural Detailing" published by Reinhold at \$12.00. Mr. Hornbostel has selected the 165 details and written the text, and Mr. Bennett has executed the very fine scale drawings which, combined with photographs, make up the plates. The

NEW BOOKS (Continued)

book is organized in two sections: "Building Types" (Office & Laboratory Bldgs.; Banks -- etc.) and "Basic Details" (Sun Control & Ventilation, Lighting, Signs, etc.) with introductory and critical text for each section, and extensive cross references.

Don't go to this book for standard flashing details or sump pits. In spite of its wealth of technical data, it is primarily a book of aesthetic opinion. The details selected are the details Mr. Hornbostel likes. They are varied, they come from many latitudes, from perhaps a hundred different architectural offices, and they are not routine. They are invariably interesting, and most often extremely good-looking.

It does not seem long ago that the phrase "Why not frankly express" -- this or that structural situation was considered to cover any aesthetic emergency, however grave. In these more sophisticated days a perceptible proportion of the details in Hornbostel's and Bennett's book is devoted to cunningly concealed structural expedients which permit architectural elements to float in space or jut boldly.

The book is happily dedicated "To Henry Hornbostel, Architect", Caleb Hornbostel's distinguished father. The introduction by Richard Neutra is "amusingly philosophical", or so it says on the dust jacket.

NEW YORK STATE CARDS

You are a member of the New York State Association of Architects if you are a corporate member of this Chapter and if you want a card attesting to that fact Mrs. Short will gladly issue one.



CANDIDATES

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

Corporate Membership

William Stephen Shary Sponsors: George J. Cavalieri and Anthony De Rose

Associate Membership

Apollinare Osadca Sponsors: R. Jackson Smith and Theodore J. Young