

NEW YORK CHAPTER

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

OCULUS

VOL. XIV, No. 6, April, 1953

85TH ANNUAL CONVENTION AT SEATTLE

The theme of the 85th Annual Convention of The American Institute of Architects meeting June 15th to 19th at Seattle, Washington, will be "A New Country, A New Architecture" which refers to the new regional building style of the Pacific Northwest taking its character from native wood construction.

The major subject of study and discussion will be wood as a structural material. No more appropriate topic could have been found for this convention whose locale is to be the heart of this country's lumber industry.

Three seminars will be addressed by noted representatives of the lumber research institute, logging companies, foresting societies, plywood and timber industries and lumbermen's associations who will speak on their respective specialties as related to architecture. There will be three additional seminars, "Condensation in Buildings", "The Influence of Oriental Art on Western Culture" and "Liturgical Arts".

Preceding these meetings, on June 15th, there will be a logging expedition across Puget Sound to the Olympic Peninsula where, under the auspices of the Washington State Chapter, AIA, and as guests of the Simpson Logging Company, a thousand convention visitors will see a demonstration of the company's operations, from felling a giant tree through lumber milling and the manufacture of plywood.

The Convention will present its honor awards in the Fifth Annual Exhibition of Outstanding American Architecture. The Gold Medal, highest honor given by The Institute for distinguished service to the profession, the Fine Arts Medal, Craftsmanship Medal and the Edward C. Kemper Award will also be presented at Convention ceremonies.

Chairman of the 1953 Convention Committee is Irving G. Smith of Portland, Oregon, assisted by Waldo B. Christenson of Seattle, Chairman of the Washington State Chapter Steering Committee. Headquarters will be at the Olympic Hotel, Seattle.

For excellent collateral reading, see the April issue of the "Journal" to which E. James Gambaro has contributed a colorful article, "Where The Rainbow Never Fades".

ARCHITECTS COUNCIL PICNIC

On June 3rd, 1953, at 1:00 p.m., the architects of the Architects Council of New York -- and that includes you -- will foregather at the New York Athletic Club on Travers Island.

There will be golf, tennis and baseball, track events, swimming and horseshoes; indoor events for the indoor minded or it if should rain. \$8.50 (plus golf fees) for the whole blessed PICNIC, including dinner and the trimmings. Details will follow. But! Mark that date! JUNE 3rd, 1953.



## RECENT MEETINGS

On March 11th, Professor Kay Fisker of Copenhagen addresses a large gathering in the League Gallery on developments in Scandinavian architecture since the turn of the century. His lecture was illustrated and followed a pleasant smorgasbord supper, sponsored jointly by the Chapter and the Architectural League.

The Architectural League concluded its Gold Medal Marathon with a dinner on March 19th at which announcement of the final awards in this series of exhibitions was made. These included a Gold Medal to Carl Koch, of Cambridge, for his delightful children's library at Fitchburg, Massachusetts; a Silver Medal to Chapter members Antonin Raymond and Ladislav Rado for their very distinguished Reader's Digest Building in Japan and an Honorable Mention to that inveterate prize winner Edward D. Stone for his already well-known Fine Arts Center at the University of Kansas. His associate was the late Karl Holzinger.

On March 24th, the Technical Committee held the second of its meetings on the "Metal Walled Buildings of Pittsburgh". This time it was the Alcoa Building, Harrison and Abramovitz, architects, in a fine illustrated presentation by Mr. Otis Mader. The manufacture and installation of the exterior aluminum panels, the sprayed-on back-up wall and the revolvable windows with their pneumatic gaskets, were all presented with clarity and interest, as was the very careful consideration of the water vapor question which was a factor in the design of this wall. The technical treatment was on an adult plane. The luncheon served by the League was excellent.

On April 2nd a group of Chapter members were the guests of the Water Service Laboratories. This firm specializes in the chemical analysis of water to determine its corrosion and erosion characteristics. The members were shown through the laboratories and inspected samples of piping. Dr. Sussman, the laboratory chemist, answered questions and held out considerable promise for the successful use of plastic piping.

## STUDENT MAGAZINE

LINE, the new architectural student publication, features interesting articles, set in a most distinctive format. Architects reading this journal will sense a fresh approach to the problems of the day. Volume 2, Number 1, contains fine contributions by such men as Frank Lloyd Wright ("... teachers were taught facts which is what they teach instead of Truth"); Morris Ketchum, Jr. ("Every architect is a student all his life"); and Kenneth K. Stowell ("...successful architectural achievement depends upon teamwork..."). There are also some fine thumbnail sketches to liven each page, as well as renderings of student projects and original literary work.

To bolster the financial situation of this really admirable publication, the students are offering a number of "patron subscriptions". Costing \$10 each, these subscriptions entitle the patron to a copy of all the numbers of LINE issued this year in addition to the inscription of his name on a special patron list in the following issues. You can enroll as a patron or secure a single copy (35¢, highly recommended) by addressing Line Magazine, 178 Stanton Street, New York 2, New York.



## TELEVISION LUNCHEON

More than 100 Chapter members were welcomed by Sylvester L. Weaver, Jr., Vice-Chairman of the Board of NBC, at a luncheon at Toots Shor's Restaurant on March 11th. The hosts were the Television Divisions of the National Broadcasting Company and the Radio Corporation of America, and they had arranged in addition to a seductively fine luncheon four well diversified and extremely interesting talks.

Mr. Weaver added to his words of welcome a panoramic view of Television developments to come and a specific hope that architects will keep pace with these and provide for them. O. B. Hanson presented with much precise technical detail the needs of Television broadcasting studios, using the NBC studios in Burbank, California, as an illustration. This talk offered as a special dividend a fine illustrated seminar on pre-cast concrete, the material which forms the shell of this building.

Sol Cornberg discussed the provision for telecasting facilities in various types of buildings. H. T. Sawyer introduced the subject of Industrial Television. This in general is an internal non-broadcast type which permits remote viewing. Its use in industrial supervision, hospital administration, teaching and even underwater operations is rapidly being developed. The texts of these informative talks, too briefly noted here, are available at the Chapter office.

## RECENT LEGISLATION

The Architects Council has furnished the Chapter office with the complete text of recent legislation summarized below:

Local Law 34/1953 -- Title A of Chapter 18 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York has been amended by the addition of a new section which provides that it shall be unlawful to park any motor vehicle in any vacant lot for which a proper driveway across the sidewalk has not been provided.

Local Law 44/1953 -- Subarticle 1 of Article 8 of Title C has also been amended by a new section which declares it to be illegal to place a stamp or label upon any piece of lumber to be sold without proper authorization from the lawful owner of the distinguishing mark.

The Department of Housing and Buildings has established rules for the installation of Automatic Wet-Pipe Sprinklers in Fireproof Multiple Dwellings Converted to Business Use. Such installation with certain exceptions shall be in conformity with Article 16 Title C of Chapter 26 of the Administrative Code.

## THAT NEW CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The Publications Committee worked on it. The Executive Committee worked on it. Mrs. Short, Miss Forsch and Mrs. Henkel worked on it. And we have Jim Short to thank for the fine cover design. It was inexpensive to print and it's worth its weight in gold leaf around the office. The Octagon has come out with a good one too. All set now?



## THE OCULUS SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES

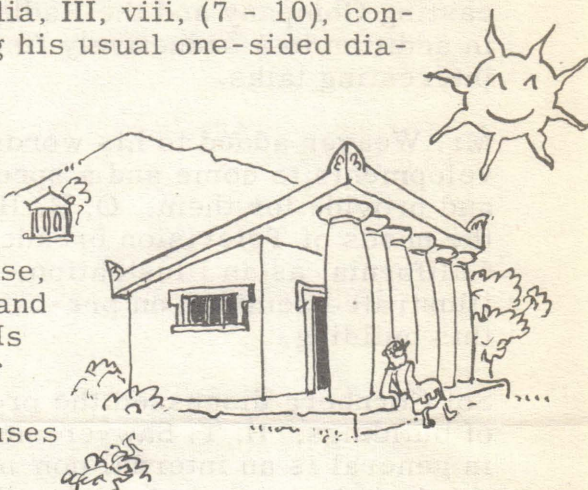
The inevitability with which Socrates develops the concept of the monopitch roof, his climatological observations which would do credit to Dr. Paul Siple himself, and a decidedly contemporary quality in his aesthetic ideology are all delightfully apparent in this fragment from Xenophon's *Memorabilia*, III, viii, (7 - 10), contributed by Harmon Goldstone. Socrates is conducting his usual one-sided dialogue, this time for the edification of one Aristippus:

Again his dictum about houses, that the same house is both beautiful and useful, was a lesson in the art of building houses as they ought to be. He approached the problem thus:

"When one means to have the right sort of house, must he contrive to make it as pleasant to live in and as useful as can be?" And this being admitted, "Is it pleasant," he asked, "to have it cool in summer and warm in winter?"

And when this was agreed to also, "Now in houses with a south aspect, the sun's rays penetrate the porticoes in winter, but in summer the path of the sun is right over our heads and above the roof, so that there is shade. If, then, this is the best arrangement, we should build the south side loftier to get the winter sun and the north side lower to keep out cold winds.

"To put in shortly, the house in which the owner can find a pleasant retreat at all seasons and can store his belongings safely is presumably at once the pleasantest and most beautiful. As for paintings and decorations, they rob one of more delights than they give." (Circa 385 B. C.)



## GETTING THE NEWS TO BURSON

Burson-Marsteller Associates, Inc. have been retained as public relations directors for the New York Chapter of the AIA to work closely with Daniel Schwartzman's Public Relations Committee. A sample of what the firm can do was seen in its capable handling of the National Convention public relations program here in New York last June.

Newsworthy items are, among other things, appointments, meetings, special projects, competitions and exhibits, annual awards, scholarships, cooperative activities (as with government bodies, etc.), honors to members, legislation and speakers. One effective way to handle these items is through your committee chairmen. They will contact Mr. Schwartzman, who will relay the information to the public relations counsel. However, Harold Burson tells us that sometimes he does not learn of an important event in time to take advantage of its publicity value. So get the material in early.

## NEW FELLOWS

Hearty congratulations to these Chapter members chosen for advancement to the rank of Fellow at the June Convention; Robert Allen Jacobs, Morris Ketchum, Jr., Albert Mayer, Geoffrey Platt, and Otto Teegen. All are cited for Design, and Messrs. Mayer and Teegen for Education also. A member of our neighboring Brooklyn Chapter, E. James Gambaro, is advanced for Service to the Institute.



## THE BRUNNER SCHOLARSHIP

The process of awarding the Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship is of interest not only because of the importance of the grant itself but because it represents a first-rate brand of committee work.

Founded by the widow of Arnold Brunner in his memory, the scholarship is so well endowed as to allow one or even two substantial grants annually for aid in advanced study, writing or investigation in the field of architecture. Many successful awards have been made in the past.

Two years ago, under the chairmanship of Francis W. Roudebush, the Committee decided that so great a financial and cultural responsibility merited carefully defined objectives. Bancel LaFarge was designated to work with the rest of the committee toward this end and the result was a well-drafted statement published by the Chapter (and currently available) under the title "The Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship" which defines the scope of the scholarship, eligibility, method of selection, and other practical considerations. Mr. LaFarge also developed a concise Application Form and a tabular method of evaluating the candidates which allows each committeeman full expression of his appraisal.

The scholarship is not confined to Chapter members. Beyond professional qualifications, United States Citizenship is the only limiting factor. The final award rests with the Executive Committee, which may also recommend a topic it considers worthy of investigating or a candidate it considers outstanding.

Recent awards have been made to Frederick J. Adams, planning education; Esmond Shaw, historical research; Addison Erdman, hospital research; and the current one to Paul Zucker, town planning. Olindo Grossi's fine High School educational exhibit was done on a Brunner Scholarship as was Bruno Funaro's lively analysis of the Harrison, Ballard and Allen Plan.

Applications, and they are welcomed, are received up to November 15th each year and the awards are announced the following February.

### MEMO FROM THE PRESIDENT

Referring to the luncheon at Toots Shor's, March 11th, which the National Broadcasting Company, at considerable expense and with a carefully arranged program, gave to the New York Chapter:

NBC had indicated that they would like to accommodate 125 Chapter members at the restaurant. When advised by us that a larger number had requested reservations, they kindly changed their arrangements to accommodate 135. About 30 members who requested reservations in addition to 135 were necessarily disappointed.

As it turned out, 40 members who had secured reservations did not appear at the luncheon and failed to notify our office that they would not appear. This regrettable performance reflected upon the good name of the Chapter and has involved our writing an apology to NBC. Is it too much to request the absentees that in future they keep their engagements?

Hugh Ferriss



## NEWSWORTHY

Louis Skidmore received an honorary LLD degree from Bradley University at the University's 56th Founder's Day Convocation.

Chapter members elected to the National Academy of Design on April 8th are William Gehron, Richard A. Kimball, Robert D. Kohn, Robert B. O'Connor, Edward D. Stone, Edgar I. Williams and Frederick J. Woodbridge.

George Howe (the Washington George Howe, author of "Call It Treason") published last month his second novel, "The Heart Alone", a leisurely study of family life and some rather specialized interpersonal relations.

Manon Peyrot has sailed for Holland, her native country, where she has accepted a long term of employment with the City Architect of Amsterdam.

Daniel Schwartzman has been elected President of the Architectural League.

Edgar Williams is tearing apart the Central Circulation department of the New York Public Library. When he puts it together again, it will have new furniture, new lights, new color, new life. In the meantime, Central Circulation is working very successfully in the Grand Entrance Hall right off 5th Avenue. It's impressive to see what a few people and a few books do to cheer up a library.

## V. A. EXTENSION OF ARCHITECT'S SERVICES

At a meeting on March 24th, announcement was made to representatives of architects and engineers societies that the Veteran's Administration will now require certification of a registered architect and a professional engineer to the effect that every plan and related specification meets or exceeds their requirements on their housing projects.

As this revised policy extends the responsibility and services of the architect and may involve an increase in fees, a number of Chapter members may be interested. Those who wish to be placed upon the mailing list of the V. A. to receive information and possible job contacts should send their names in to Mrs. Short at the Chapter office so that a list of such names can be forwarded to the V.A.

## CANDIDATES

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

### Corporate Membership

George S. Johnston	Sponsors: Max Abramovitz and Wallace K. Harrison
Reginald C. Knight	Sponsors: Walter F. Noyes, Jr. and Leopole Arnaud
Nicholas J. Mazziotta	Sponsors: Harvey W. Corbett and George F. Blount
Stephen C. Wheelock	Sponsors: William Van Alen and John M. Liptak

## HELP WANTED, MALE

Exceptional openings for a few good first and second tenors and first and second bassos. Apply A.I.Aires, Chapter Office, or Mort Freehof.