

NEW YORK CHAPTER

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

# OCULUS

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## 90 PERCENTERS

On October 22nd the Chapter was host to its own membership. The opening Fall meeting started with cocktails in the League Dining Room, moved one flight up to an excellent buffet supper and finished with a stimulating and fast paced review of what the season is to bring us.

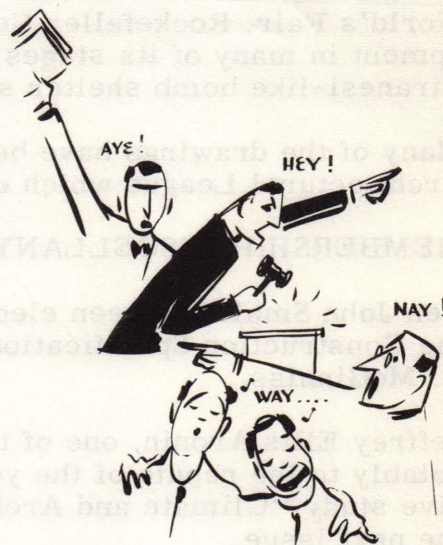
Hugh Ferriss took as the theme for this meeting "The Missing 90 Percent". This faction he identified as the 90 percent of the members who let the other 10 percent do the Chapter's work. We all want them to turn out and pitch in. The brief outlines by committee chairmen of work to be done indicate rich and interesting opportunities for service. The Chapter office welcomes and encourages inquiries as to the many billets still available for members willing to serve.

Of special note in the year's program is an analysis of the structure of the Chapter membership to be undertaken by Henry Hofmeister, and a broadening of the Technical Committee's program to include discussions of various building types.

Mr. Ferriss outlined with the help of an organization chart approximately the size of a candlewick bedspread the relationship of the various committees to the members of the Executive Committee which has been instituted this year. Each executor has as his special charge one or more groups and serves as something of a specialist in their activities, as well as a direct means of communication between them and the President. This relationship is shown diagrammatically in the chart of committees as presently formed which is published in this issue.

This is all very businesslike but the most striking aspect of the meeting was its gaiety. The room looked charming, the guests looked happy. Women members and Chapter wives were gratifyingly conspicuous by their presence. Many thanks are due Walker Cain for his perfect arrangements and his carefree graphic interpretations of the solemn subject of committee responsibility.

## MEETINGS





## POWER IN BUILDINGS

Our President, Hugh Ferriss, has brought out a record of his impressions of contemporary American buildings "Power in Buildings", published by the Columbia University Press. The work was made possible by an Arnold Brunner Award of the Architectural League of New York.

Intended for the enjoyment of the general reader, the text relates the author's introduction to architectural ideas as a student, his recollections of the exciting years of the nineteen twenties in New York, the great depression and the deep change in the thinking of the architects during that period of enforced cogitation with the resultant interest in functionalism superceding the more purely aesthetic attitude of the past. Mr. Ferriss now looks toward a different era when these recent gains may be humanized by a more individual approach.

The drawings, powerful as the buildings they represent, include a group of representative structures erected since 1929. There are dams, parkways, the New York World's Fair, Rockefeller Center, Taliesin-in-Arizona, the United Nations development in many of its stages and several unexecuted projects such as a spectacular Piranesi-like bomb shelter suggested for the Hudson River Palisades.

Many of the drawings have been assembled for an exhibition in the Pine Room of the Architectural League which opened on November 2nd.

## MEMBERSHIP MISCELLANY

Ben John Small has been elected President of the Metropolitan New York Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute. He succeeds our Associate Member Joseph A. McGinniss.

Jeffrey Ellis Aronin, one of the Chapter's "Under 40" members, has contributed notably to the repute of the younger architects by the publication of his comprehensive study "Climate and Architecture" (Reinhold, N.Y.) which will be reviewed in the next issue.

Don Hatch, who ably discharges the responsibilities of the Caracas office of Hare and Hatch finds that a thriving Pan-American practice is not enough to keep him from getting restless. He is therefore establishing the Galeria Don Hatch, a retail store specializing in fabrics, furniture and fine decorative accessories. It will be smartly located in Caracas in one of Mr. Hatch's own buildings.

## MURAL

A mural, two hundred and fifty square feet of it, by Robert W. Chanler (the recipient of that famous telegram) now hangs in storage in 58th Street and needs a new home. This work, a busy New York harbor scene with mythological overtones and considerable marine zoology, was completed in 1925 and is now for sale. It can be seen on application to Mr. W. F. Low, 116 East 58th Street, New York 22. Note to Talbot Hamlin: The Produce Exchange is there.



## THE EXHIBIT

"SIXTY YEARS OF LIVING ARCHITECTURE," a most appropriate title for Frank Lloyd Wright's works, thoughts and philosophy, opened on the site of the proposed Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth Avenue, on October 22nd. A man universally regarded as one of the leading architectural geniuses of this age comes forward with living proof of his reputation.

From the temporary enclosure which houses this, his most comprehensive exhibit, through each of his early drawings right down to the later products of his ever-increasing versatility, one is constantly aware of his greatness. The poetry displayed alongside many of the executed works brings into focus the fact that this gifted pioneer has now so well accomplished what so many of us have but dreamed.

As for the unexecuted works, one can but toast the intricacies, the exactitude and innovations of huge projects born, nurtured and produced from the imagination of a master craftsman. This is all too limited a space properly to praise the work which is now placed at our very thresholds. What can best be said is "GO," if you possibly can, to spend some of your most stimulating hours in admiration of a great man's life and works.

## QUOTATION

"Architecture partakes of so many skills that we must be careful not to let any one of them engross it. At the moment, there is a tendency to overemphasize both sociology and engineering, both of which are essential items in the architect's equipment, but which lead to grave errors if they are unleavened by art. The way to correct this state of affairs is to put art first. Architecture is first and foremost an art, but it is an art with social and scientific content and foundations. If one recognizes the fact that art is the key in this ordering of skills, architecture immediately becomes stronger, more able to stand on its own feet."

Christopher Tunnard: The City of Man.

Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1953 - p. 212

## FUNCTIONS OF THE CONSULTANT

The enclosure which comes with this month's mailing of the Oculus harks back to a discussion at the June Pre-Convention Luncheon of the relationship between Architect and Consultant.

The Executive Committee would like all Chapter members to be conversant with this A.I.A. Document No. 356 which fully and reasonably states the Institute's policy as regards the functions of the Consultant and his remuneration. The document was revised and approved by the Board of Directors, A.I.A., May 5, 1952.



## SMALL HOUSE PANEL

The first meeting of the Small House Committee was held November 12, George C. Rudolph, Chairman, presiding. Those present voted to continue the Small House Panel as a subcommittee of the Small House Committee.

All members of the New York Chapter are invited to participate in the panel. Being a member of the panel means that representative work (photographs) will be shown to prospective clients visiting the Chapter office. Because of printing and publicity costs a charge of \$10 is made to new members of the panel.

An effort will be made by the Small House Committee to publicize widely the fact that this panel of architects' services is available.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor, the Oculus

Dear Sir:

To your many other contented readers I leave the pleasure of admiring and applauding your editorial selection of news.

In an environment suffocating with "sock pieces" in magazines, saddened by the horror of "created" advertising words and deadened by "gobbledegook" and commercial misuse of language, it is delight with the crystal clear prose, the delicious slanted phrase and the fluent style for which I here sing your praises, oh! Editor Laureate.

Admiration by

Herbert Lippman

The Editor acknowledges this generous letter, however unmerited, with deep thanks in which his colleagues join. The policy of printing in full communications similar in tone will continue unchanged.

## CANDIDATES

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

### Corporate Membership

Le Roy Frederick van Lent  
Hyland Dinion  
John Bliss Corser, Jr.  
Apollinare Osadca

Sponsors: Alexander D. Knox and Joseph A. Murphy  
Sponsors: Richard T. Leslie and Arthur S. Douglass, Jr.  
Sponsors: Arthur C. Holden and Francis Roudebush  
Sponsors: Theodore Young and R. Jackson Smith

### Associate Membership

Robert Kurt Kessel

Sponsors: Vito Battista and Thomas Sapolsky