

NEW YORK CHAPTER

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

O C U L U S

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COMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2nd. The 85th Annual Meeting at the Architectural League. Supper (informal dress) at 6:30 p.m. Meeting 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.

It is highly desirable that all Officers and Executive Committeemen, of both outgoing and incoming Administrations be present, also as many members of other Committees as can make it convenient to attend.

THURSDAY, JUNE 3rd, at 7:00 p.m. The Public Relations Workshop meeting. Walter Megronigle and Anson Campbell of Ketchum, Inc., will show us how to run a taut ship. Guests from four states will join us for this important discussion. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

THURSDAY, MAY 27th through SUNDAY, JUNE 6th, Exhibition "BUILDING YOUR HOME, 1954". 71st Regiment Armory, 34th Street and Park Avenue, sponsored by the Architectural League.

The exhibition will feature displays of the Architectural League, The New York Chapter A.I.A., Committee on Houses, and area Home Builder Associations, in addition to the leading manufacturers of home building materials and supplies. The widely acclaimed "Techbuilt-Excursion" house will be erected, landscaped and furnished, in the Armory.

The Chapter's booth will have on hand volunteers to answer brief questions concerning house problems. It will display by a series of progressive steps, the services an architect renders, from the initial conference to the completion of the house. Arrangements for the booth are by George Cooper Rudolph, Chairman on Committee on Houses, with Mortimer Freehof, acting as Chairman of the Subcommittee in charge.

AWARD OF LE BRUN TRAVELING SCHOLARSHIP

The LeBrun Committee, Robert Carson, Chairman, announces the award of the 1954 Traveling Scholarship to Brian John Crumlish, Urbana, Illinois. Mr. Crumlish, 26, holds a Bachelor and a Master's degree from the University of Illinois, has had considerable office experience and is a licensed architect.

There were 36 submissions for the program "An Elementary School" prepared in collaboration with Columbia University in honor of the Bicentennial. In addition to the committee, the jury included President Hugh Ferriss and Professor H. H. Linn, of Teachers College, Columbia. They considered the quality of the submissions very high. The drawings will be on exhibit in the Pine Room, Architectural League, May 17th through May 21st.

SCHOOL AND OFFICE

The Committee on Education under the chairmanship of Otto Teegen convened a Supper Meeting on May 5th to discuss the relationship of architectural schools and architectural office. C. Storrs Barrows, our Regional Director, was the Chapter's guest, and spoke briefly on his work with A.I.A. Scholarships. The meeting was small but significant. A distinctly high caliber of architectural employer was in evidence, as well as the three ranking Metropolitan schoolmasters, Messrs. Arnaud, Grossi and Shaw.

Mr. Teegen summarized the results of the Committee's questionnaire on which the practitioners' opinions of the recent graduates' capabilities grew cooler as the questions touched more closely on specifications and job management. A large percentage of the answers, however, expressed confidence that the graduates would ultimately be quite capable of taking over the responsibilities of the hoariest job captains.

In the general discussion such points were raised as Robert Carson's, that many recent graduates lacked reasonable discipline and respect for the educational opportunities offered in the offices; Richard Roth's, that more emphasis on actual field construction work and less on drawing would benefit the employers who are willing to carry the graduates for some time until they are really productive; and Daniel Schwartzman's, that respect for any office assignment be inculcated in the students, all phases of office work being important in the development of the architect.

Relatively few of those present agreed with Percival Goodman's thesis that born designers should be isolated at the earliest possible moment in the curriculum and given specialized training, leaving the balance to devote their energies to structure and shop drawings. The consensus rather was in agreement with Esmond Shaw's aim, to train men to become well rounded architects, not merely to supply hired hands for the offices. All of the practitioners at the meeting agreed that training must of necessity continue for a long time after school in the offices, and expressed their willingness (which, be it said, they have amply demonstrated) to assume their part in this, both professional and financial. A guest at the meeting spoke warmly of this admirable attitude which characterizes our Chapter members.

So great was the interest in the topic raised by Mr. Teegen and his committee, that an early meeting was proposed in which the recent graduates with two or three years of office experience would be heard.

EDITORS IN THE A.I.A.

Within the Chapter of ours, there is a group of members extremely valuable to our profession, who are not in the general meaning of the term practicing architects. While some of them maintain a private practice as well, their primary occupation is the editing of the various architectural publications which originate in this city and spread before the country the news of our work as accomplished and proposed.

Douglas Haskell of the Forum and of House and Home, Thomas Creighton of Progressive Architecture, Frank Lopez and James Hornbeck of The Record and George Nelson of Interiors, are examples of plowers of this special field. These men are truly an unofficial public relations department of this profession. The combined circulation of their publications is very large, although their policies and audiences differ considerably.

The Record has generally leaned toward the technical aspects of the profession and its series of details has long been a valuable addition to any architect's files. Progressive Architecture is dedicated to gathering examples of distinguished architecture whether executed or planned and presenting them in a most handsome format. The Forum and House and Home are inclined to add outside stimulus to their editorial content by organizing panels for discussion and by sponsoring actual architectural projects. Interiors specializes in presenting the handsomest and most advanced interior design available.

The editors are extremely busy men. They cover their fields most thoroughly, traveling about the country to see for themselves what is worth publishing. Many architects send in their designs with requests for publication, as do certain architectural photographers. All this material must be sifted and organized for publication.

Sometimes as in Progressive Architecture last January, a whole issue will be given over to an award judgment. This must be conducted like any architectural judgment, with the entries to be selected, a jury appointed and the awards made. In instances where discussion panels are set up, the work may be even more detailed. Here may be gathered together architects, contractors, real estate men and investors to be confronted with a problem that will stimulate those ideas which it is hoped will advance the Architects' cause.

NEW BOOKS

Quality Budget Houses by Katherine Morrow Ford and Thomas H. Creighton is a collection of stimulating solutions to the problems facing a family dreaming of a well designed contemporary house in the low priced field. Chockful of advice on economy in land purchasing, use of space, expanding plan, structural systems and equipment, and doing some of the work yourself. The illustrations, which include both plans and photographs, are chosen from the work of architects whose practice has been concentrated in small house design. Published by Reinhold Publishing Co. \$4.95

Survival Through Design by Richard Neutra is announced by Oxford University Press \$5.50.

Space Heating with Solar Energy -- The proceedings of a Course-Symposium held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology -- 1950, is announced by the Albert Farwell Bemis Foundation and M.I.T. (Cambridge 39 Mass.) 161 pages, 139 illustrations and diagrams. \$2.85

ARCHITECT-ENGINEER AGREEMENT FORMS

Members should give careful attention to the recent mailing from the New York Association of Consulting Engineers, for it concentrates between its covers the fruits of a great deal of thoughtful work by our own Fees and Contracts Committee and that of the Engineers on Agreements for engineering services. The varying arrangements for engineering changes are described beginning on page 19, and a sample contract form is printed in full beginning on page 28.

The Order Blank which accompanied the handbook lists five different forms of contract covering five different bases for computing the engineer's fee, and they may be ordered from the New York Chapter, American Institute of Architects, 115 East 40th Street, New York 16, N. Y. They are all set up on the basis of the Architect retaining the services of the Engineer, but will serve as a guide for other contractual arrangements.

CIVIC VIRTUE

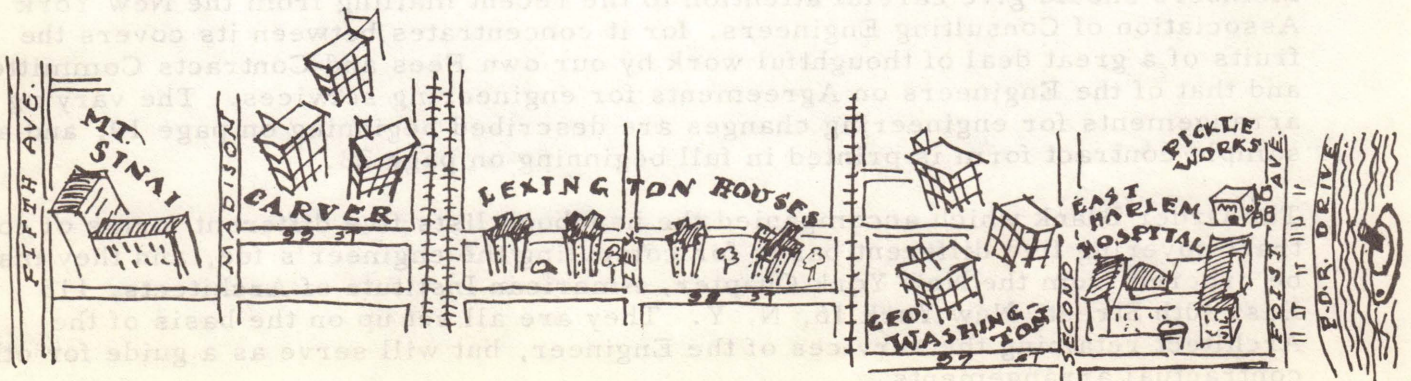
New York is getting impossible! Proposals to give it back to the Indians are heard every day, and the members who would not live in it if they were given the place, are swelling at a critical rate. And yet -- what tremendous and effective efforts are being made by the Housing Authority, by the Park Department, by the Board of Education, by the Department of Public Works, by private builders, not only to keep the city from deteriorating but to better it in every way.

As the schedules have worked out there is a concentrated area in the east 90's on Manhattan where benign changes wrought by planned improvement are as spectacular as any evil ones that might have been wrought by low flying bombers. A wide swath of civic virtue cuts cleanly across the eastern half of the island from Central Park all the way to the river. New and socially significant buildings are rising almost with the dust from the rubble on their sites.

This processional starts with the still sparkling new wing of Mt. Sinai Hospital (Kahn and Jacobs, Architects). Directly across Madison Avenue rise the impressive concrete skeletons of Carver Houses (again Kahn and Jacobs). From 99th Street they extend several blocks north. Cross the New York Central tracks and you come upon the extremely attractive group of Lexington Houses, completed in 1950. (J. M. Berlinger, Architect). These raise the tone of the neighborhood all the way over to Third Avenue where things suddenly open out like a Kansas plain. This huge plain will shortly be dotted with the units of George Washington Houses (Alfred Hopkins and Associates., Architects). Indeed some are already being enclosed.

Keep running down the easting and you will come on the impressive bulk of the East Harlem General Hospital (Charles B. Meyers, Architect). This structure runs to size; it is big, big, big! Its appearance suggests wonderful care and early convalescence. If your mouth waters making the tour of its perimeter, it may not be due entirely to the delectable qualities of the architecture, for on the northwest corner of 99th Street and First Avenue is a pickle works, apparently driving a brisk trade in hogshead lots. None-the-less the hospital is very appealing, too.

This staggering expanse of new cubage is bounded on the south by the Machine and Metal Trades High School (Eric Kebbon, Architect) completed in 1941 and looking a smart ten years younger, and on the north by a couple of very respectable older schools in that High Dutch Renaissance style which used to be fashionable for Manhattan's education facilities. Observe with pride the names of the architects participating in this forward march -- Chapter members all. Everywhere is a note of bustling self improvement. The sky is cleaner overhead, the children happier under foot. A city that can so heroically rebuild itself in the image of a better world is worth every hat full of beads it may have cost in the first place.



REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON YOUNGER ARCHITECTS

The Committee on Younger Architects has submitted to the Executive Committee a very comprehensive 25 page report which was received with enthusiastic approval. The report, in the form of an analytical essay, punctuated with specific recommendations, is well documented, closely reasoned, and forceful. It is presented in four main categories: A. Ages of Chapter members; B. Registration of younger architects; C. Younger Architects in the A.I.A.; D. Current A.I.A. Activities.

Section C is the longest and most important section of the report, dealing with the causes of the younger architects' too limited participation in Chapter affairs, also with aggressive efforts to make public commissions available to the young practitioners, more young architects on committees, more architectural criticism, graduated dues and several other measures.

Section D, Current A.I.A. activities, offers constructive critical comment on the activities and potentialities of several of the Chapter's important committees.

The report is a fine document, carefully prepared and attractively presented. It will be distributed to the membership in due time.

MEMBERS AT HOME AND ABROAD

Isadore Rosenfield has just returned from a tour of Puerto Rico and South America. He inspected work under construction from his plans and delivered two papers at the Second Institute of Hospital Planning in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

A discussion on television April 17th presented three Chapter members dealing with the topic "You, Climate, and Architecture". They were Frederick Woodbridge, John Callender and, needless to say, Jeffrey Aronin.

Melvin H. Smith of Brooklyn, N.Y., is not a member. He is a student at M.I.T. but he has just won the B.A.I.D.'s \$5,000 Lloyd Warren Scholarship, popularly known as the Paris Prize. Of course he will have to join the Chapter immediately on his return in appreciation of the all-Chapter jury which is sending him abroad.

In replying to a resolution read at a dinner in his honor on Wednesday, April 28th, Matthew Del Gaudio expressed his thanks for the warm praise of his leadership in the Architect's Council, for the loyal support of his lieutenants, and for the constant help and encouragement of his wife.

AN ARCHITECT'S CHOICE

An exhibition entitled "An Architect's Choice" will be on display at the Grand Central Moderns Gallery, 120 East 57th Street, from May 10th through June 8th. The exhibition consists chiefly in the integration of various works of art with architectural interiors designed by Allen and Edward Kramer. To be more fully noted next issue.

A CABLE FROM FRANCE

The Chapter acknowledges with gratitude the following cable received by Julian Clarence Levi expressing the sympathy of the French Conseil Supérieure, Ordre des Architectes on the death of Harvey Wiley Corbett:

"CONSEIL SUPERIEURE ORDRE ARCHITECTES ET SECTION FRANCAISE VOUS
PRIENT AGREER CONDOLEANCES EMUES DECES MONSIEUR CORBETT.
HENRI PROST"

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 the fact Mrs. Henkel will gladly issue one.



DUES LONG PAST DUE

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee it was reported that 75 out of 670 Corporate members and 25 Associate members have not paid their current dues which were payable in January and which amount to approximately \$2,800.

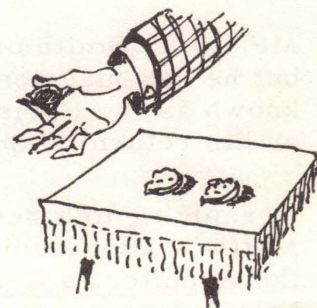
Your officers and committee cannot function in your interest without the financial means to carry on the many Chapter activities. If your delinquency is due to oversight, this notice and the most recent bill should serve as reminders. If there is temporary financial embarrassment, a call or visit to the Chapter Office will receive friendly consideration.

It is hoped that you will not, by continued silence, make it necessary to post your name as being in default in accordance with the By-Laws.

SHELL GAME

On this general topic of dues and membership cards: following the schedule printed in no little detail on the back of the statement, the editor sent in his first installment of national dues. Toward the end of April he was the proud recipient of a courteous printed letter from the Secretary and a membership card stating that it had expired on the previous March 31st. The next installment will doubtless bring an equally attractive and obsolete token. As it works out, a member may year after year follow to the letter the printed instructions for payment of dues, remain on the best possible terms with the OCTAGON and never quite get his hands on a card which has not expired.

Doubtless a little practical joke which the staff in Washington enjoys playing on the provincial membership, something like that carnival game in which the pea never turns up, no matter how many shells are lifted.



CANDIDATES

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

Corporate Membership

Delbert D. Ehresman
Dorothy Chandler Scott
George Gentoku Shimamoto
Dudley E. Soper
Wayne Amsden Soverns
David Fenton Michie Todd

Sponsors: Ely Jacques Kahn and James B. Newman
Sponsors: Arthur Loomis Harmon and Otto Teegen
Sponsors: John Scacchetti and B. Sumner Gruzen
Sponsors: Edgar I. Williams and James J. Bevan
Sponsors: John Walter Severinghaus and William S. Brown
Sponsors: Albert W. Butt, Jr. and William F. R. Ballard