

NEW YORK CHAPTER

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

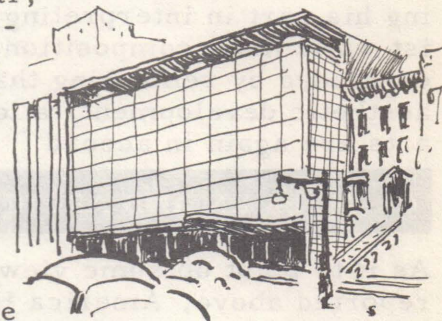
# OCULUS

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## COMING EVENTS

**CIRCUS PARTY** - April 15th - A joint venture of the A.I.A., B.A.I.D., and the League. Last year's Mississippi River Steamboat Party has taken root as an annual event. The costumes will be different, the success no less.

**ANNIVERSARY MEETING** - March 23rd - Last year the Chapter began what may become a popular tradition of holding its Anniversary Meetings in famous New York buildings and cultural centers. Those who attended the Buffet Supper at the Metropolitan Museum of Art will always remember it. This year, on March 23rd, the 86th Anniversary will be observed successively in the Museum of Modern Art, The Whitney Museum of American Art and The University Club across the street. The Committee is hard at work to make it a truly gala event, and the stimulating combination of settings should alone insure its success.



The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. with a reception in the ground floor gallery of the Modern Museum, where we will see an interesting exhibition. At 8:00 we will go to the Auditorium, where we will meet our hosts, hear the speaker of the evening and observe the presentation of Awards, Citations, and the Medal of Honor.

Following this meeting, the assemblage will move through the adjoining Whitney Museum, en route to the University Club. The Whitney will show us a ground floor exhibition of sculpture, and a second floor exhibition of paintings, both from its permanent collections.

Proceeding from these galleries across 54th Street we arrive at The University Club where a Buffet Supper will await the peripatetic architects and wives. On the walls of the banquet room will be "Monuments of Manhattan", a rare architectural exhibition under the sponsorship of The University Club and the Municipal Art Society.

Groups holding private suppers before the Reception are urged to schedule them to permit their parties' arrival at the Museum by 7:30

Walker O. Cain  
Committee on Meetings





## ARCHITECTURE AND THE ARTS

As the second in a series of meetings sponsored by the Schools of Architecture of Columbia University and Pratt Institute, the Cooper Union Art School and the New York Chapter, A.I.A., Cooper Union held a symposium on "Architecture and the Arts: The Common Area; Problems and Challenge", on February 17 in the Auditorium of the Museum of Modern Art. The speakers were John Ferren, painter, Pierre Kleykamp, architect and designer, and George Kratina, sculptor with Paul Zucker acting as moderator.

The talks centered around the perennial question of why in the modern age, the arts have abdicated their historic roles of handmaidens to architecture. Mr. Ferren in a witty statement, made it quite clear that as far as he is concerned, he has no interest in seeing his art employed as mere decoration and that he has as yet seen no modern building that has inspired him with the wish to contribute anything to it. Mr. Kratina took the more positive view that sculpture might be managed as a means of relating or integrating the people passing through or around a building with the building itself in space.

The real difficulty seems to be that whereas in the periods when architecture and the arts were at their closest, the artists were like members of an orchestra, each playing his part in interpreting the composition, today the artist sees himself as a soloist while most compositions, unfortunately, are without solo parts. Mr. Kleykamp concluded by remarking that as we are now only at the beginning of a new phase of aesthetic development, a long time may perhaps pass before architecture and the arts are again in accord.

## CRAFTSMEN AND ARCHITECTS AT AMERICA HOUSE

As if to point up some views and even to refute others expressed in the symposium reported above, America House Gallery, 32 East 52nd Street, opened on March 3rd a beautiful little exhibition called "The Designer-Craftsman and The Architect". The American Craftsmen's Educational Council, Mrs. Vanderbilt Webb, Chairman, has selected some recent instances of actual collaboration between Architect and Craftsman and has suggested collaboration for this exhibition in other cases. The result is extremely happy. The show has the scale of a band box, is charming, easily encompassed, and extremely provocative in its special field. The architectural projects provide a suitable occasion for displaying actual chunks of material - glass, ceramics, mosaic, tile - and the scope of the design is in every case imaginatively conveyed. Mr. Dominique Mailliard, director of the gallery, is responsible for the attractive installation of the exhibits, as well as for much of the impetus of the show as a whole. Chapter members who go to see it will come away with ideas. It closes March 23rd. Exhibitors are:

Warner-Leeds

Charles H. Warner, Jr.

Frans Wildenhain assisted by

Henry Gernhard

R.B. O'Connor & W. H. Kilham, Jr.

John Urbain

McKin, Mead & White

Paul Ashenbach

William S. Cowles, Jr.

Jean Nison - Robert Pinard

Moore & Hutchins

David Holleman

Kelly & Gruzen

Robert Greenstein Assoc.

Adolph Gottlieb



## EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT

Members are cordially invited to submit examples of their work to the "Empire State Architect", the official publication of the New York State Association of Architects of which you are a member. The building types to be featured in forthcoming issues are listed here:

### May-June Issue ---

Educational buildings. Deadline for material, April 15, 1955.

### July-August Issue ---

Housing Projects, Apartments, Hotels, Motels, and Private residences. Deadline for material, June 17, 1955.

### September-October Issue ---

Annual Convention Issue, Buildings of all types. Deadline for material, August 19, 1955.

### November-December Issue ---

Municipal and Public Buildings. Deadline for material, October 14, 1955.

Send the material to Warren Neal Wittek, 232 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo 2, New York.

## MONUMENTS OF MANHATTAN

Under the sponsorship of the University Club and the Municipal Art Society, an exhibition, "Monuments of Manhattan", is on view at the University Club. The Society is attempting to arouse public opinion toward preserving the architectural heritage of the city from constantly threatened demolition and where this is not possible, to document and photograph a list of some two hundred and fifty buildings of historic and architectural importance against the day when the wrecker may make his appearance.

The present exhibition consists of photographs, renderings and drawings of many of Manhattan's most distinguished buildings and monuments, some of them still standing and some long since vanished. The collection suggests that the practitioners of the latter Nineteenth and early years of the present century, finding themselves in a handsome but somewhat spartan and provincial city, undertook to remake New York in the image of a magnificent European capital. Although the vision is no more, some of the efforts to realize it were certainly spectacular.

The drawings for the Cornelius Vanderbilt house which stood on Fifth Avenue at 57th Street designed by George B. Post are not only wonderful examples of draftsmanship but also extremely entertaining as sidelights on the social and artistic feeling of the era. There are also many fine examples of the work of McKim, White, Carrere, Hastings, Flagg, Gilbert, Warren, Hunt, and Trumbauer, as well as Mangin, McComb, Renwick and Upjohn of an earlier period.

This fine exhibition is to be the last scheduled feature of the Chapter's Anniversary Meeting on March 23rd.



## NEW BOOKS, BRIEFLY NOTED

### TOWARD BETTER SCHOOL DESIGN

by: William W. Candill

The F. W. Dodge Corporation, N.Y. \$12.75

A valuable and richly documented essay on the approach to designing a school.

### THE SPECIALTY SHOP, A Guide

by: Jose A. Fernandez

Architectural Book Publishing Co., N.Y.

\$12.50

An opulent revised edition of a fine work, filled with photographs, details and helpful hints.

## BRUNNER SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

President Hutchins has announced the award of the 1955 Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship in the amount of \$2400 to Mr. Ralph E. Myers, A.I.A., of Kansas City, Missouri, for the second consecutive year.

Mr. Myers has been editing the first of a series of 30 minute lectures in the form of colored slides with tape-recorded commentary, entitled "ARCHITECTURE - U.S.A".

## PLASTICS IN BUILDING

The guest speaker at the Technical Committee's luncheon meeting on February 3rd was Dr. Edward B. Cooper, Director of the General Laboratories of E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Company. Dr. Cooper's talk was an excellent introduction to Plastics in Buildings in which he described the physical characteristics of various plastics and illustrated with slides the molecular structure which results in these properties. The meeting was well attended.

## REFERENCE VOLUME

Architects are invited to inscribe their names in the columns of a directory being prepared by the MONTHLY BULLETIN - NATIONAL ARCHITECT, of Detroit. The projected issue is to be called "Who're National Architects". Obviously aiming at a brusque, colloquial efficiency, this title may seem a little less than adroit, depending as it does for its effectiveness, even its propriety, on a nice use of the apostrophe, but the volume will doubtless find a welcome place on the reference shelf.

## CANDIDATES

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

### Corporate Membership

Paul Canin

Allmon Fordyce

Ervin G. Palmer

Henry William Stone

Note: Under the most recent rules of procedure, sponsorship of applications for membership has been discontinued. Instead, each candidate gives references, whose views are solicited by the Committee on Admissions.

### Associate Membership

David Friedman

Francis Paul Gassner

Guy Sammarco

Sponsors: Stanhope B. Ficke and Lester H. Maxon

Sponsors: Morris Ketchum, Jr. and Addison Erdman

Sponsors: Joseph B. Klein and Roger G. Spross