



NEW YORK CHAPTER

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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O C U L U S

RICHARD B. SNOW *Editor*

### COMING EVENTS

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May 26, Thursday, Gallery A - 12:30 P.M. Technical Committee Luncheon:  
"Environmental Problems and  
Landscape Architecture" an illus-  
trated talk by Dale Hideo Sasaki

June 1, Wednesday, Gallery A - 12:30 P.M. Annual Luncheon

### A.I.A. 87th ANNUAL CONVENTION

The 87th Annual Convention of A.I.A., whose theme is to be "Designing for the Community" will be held in Minneapolis, June 20-24. Headquarters will be in the Radisson Hotel. A full program of luncheons, dinners, exhibitions and tours has been planned for members and their wives in addition to the regular sessions of the convention.

Five buildings have been selected for First Honor Awards which will be presented at the Awards Luncheon. Two of these honors are to Eero Saarinen and Associates for the General Motors Technical Center's restaurant building at Warren, Michigan, and for the women's dormitories and dining hall at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa. The remaining three are to Ralph Rapson and John van der Meulen for the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm, to Ernest J. Kump for his school in North Hillsborough, California, and to Charles B. Genter of Pace Associates for the General Telephone Company of the Southwest building in San Angelo, Texas. Twenty-two additional buildings will receive Awards of Merit. The Annual Dinner on the evening of June 23 will be the occasion for the Investiture of New Fellows and the awarding of the Gold Medal of the Institute to the distinguished architect and city planner of Hilversum, Holland — Willem Marinus Dudok.

### TRIBUTE TO HARVEY WILEY CORBETT

The proceedings at the dinner in honor of the late Harvey Wiley Corbett at the League on February 17th, have been admirably recorded by Jeffrey Ellis Aronin in a mimeographed booklet of some dozen pages. Julian Clarence Levi presided at the dinner.

The remarks of many of Mr. Corbett's friends, colleagues and clients are transcribed at length, and pay tribute to him as an architect, educator and beloved citizen. Of particular interest are the delightful paragraphs sent to the dinner by Hugh Ferriss, who was himself being honored in St. Louis that particular evening.

Mr. Aronin has generously indicated that he will provide a copy of the proceedings to any member who wants one.

## **ARCHITECTS, EDUCATORS AND CONSULTANTS**

Architects and educators were brought together on April 30th at a one day conference on school plant design, sponsored by Columbia University. Under Bruno Funaro's chairmanship two well-attended panel discussions were conducted with school superintendents and educational consultants interrogating members of the Committee on School Buildings of the A.I.A., who came from Maine (Harriman) to California (Reid and Wright) for a meeting in New York.

Among the subjects explored but not resolved were the concept of the school within a school, propounded by Drs. Cocking, Englehardt and Austin, but not clearly developed as to its physical implications, and the question of the interlocking responsibilities of the architect, educator and consultant in the analysis, programming and design of the school plant. After attempts were made to delineate sharply the spheres of jurisdiction, it became increasingly apparent that the school development was the result of a continuing collaboration.

## **NEW LOOK AT AN OLD STAND-BY**

After years of familiarity with that permanent resident of every architectural office, Chapter members had an opportunity to become better acquainted with Sweets Catalog at the Technical Committee Luncheon on Thursday, April 21.

Arthur Douglass of the F. W. Dodge Corporation, and our fellow member at the A.I.A., explained the great amount of research and service that goes into making these catalogs a desirable and functional tool in today's construction.

The preparation of this hundred-weight of information represents a thorough indexing, re-organization, analysis and development of technical information so that it will be of greatest service in bringing to designers, detailers and specification men a complete explanation of manufacturers' materials.

## **NEW C.S.I. PRESIDENT**

Joseph A. McGinniss, Associate member of the Chapter, was elected President of The Construction Specifications Institute at the National Association's eighth annual meeting held last week in Washington, D.C.

Mr. McGinniss is a past President and co-founder of the New York Chapter of the Institute, a national association of architects, civil engineers, structural engineers, mechanical engineers and specification writers who are working for a greater coordination of effort between various professions involved in construction projects.

## **KEYNOTER**

Olindo Grossi addressed a group of college administrators representing 372 colleges at the 34th annual convention of the National Association of Educational Buyers on May 2nd at the Biltmore Hotel. He spoke on various aspects of long range campus planning and on the changing architectural characteristics of the modern educational plant.

Although no names appear to identify the authors, Dean Grossi may well have had a hand in the preparation of an article appearing in the December and January issues of "Career Briefs", published by Pratt Institute. This was an excellent vocational guidance essay called "City Planning and the Architect."

## NEW BOOKS

**THE SPECIALTY SHOP (A GUIDE) COMPLETELY REVISED EDITION BY JOSE A. FERNANDEZ, A.I.A. (ARCHITECTURAL BOOK PUBLISHING CO., INC. \$12.50).**

This book should be of assistance to architects and merchants alike, in the study and solution of the problem of planning and designing an efficient and appealing shop. After a short historical survey of the small shop from Roman times to the late Nineteenth Century when pullers-in were often employed to drag the customers bodily into the stores, the author sets forth by photographs and comment the entirely new school of shop design which began in this country in the early 1940's with the Lederer shop on Fifth Avenue. The varying aspects of the problem are taken up in separate chapters: Store Front, The Sign, Interiors, Lighting, Color, Display, to mention a few. All are handsomely illustrated, many with example of the work of Mr. Fernandez who himself, is a distinguished cultivator of this particular vineyard.

There is no doubt that in the field of merchandising modern design has created for itself an entirely original type of building. At the same time, a careful leafing through of this book leads to the suspicion that a number of cliches are beginning to be recognizable, some of which are not quite up to the standard set by the main body of work in this excellent book.

## TOWARD BETTER SCHOOL DESIGN

By William W. Caudill The F. W. Dodge Corporation, N.Y. \$12.25

Mr. Caudill's impressive essay, although well illustrated, is far more than an annotated picture book. It treats of the approach to designing a school, beginning with the physical and psychological needs of the pupil and the aims and processes of education. Drawing on data gained through extensive research (and in this case that term implies far more than a vigorous thumbing of magazines and handbooks), Mr. Caudill discusses the pupil's environment (his classroom) as affected by natural light, air movement, ventilation, noise, etc., and how the cost of creating this environment is affected by various factors.

He discusses the school in relation to site, neighborhood, community and city, the planning process and considerations of architectural design. Extensive use is made of the case study, always well illustrated. There is an extensive presentation of the Texas A. & M. Engineering Experiment Station's data on natural light and air circulation; while this is by no means universally applicable in all climates, it is of interest to the school planner. So is the volume as a whole; it is recommended.

## SPRING DRIVE

The fund drive, the every-member canvass, the community chest are becoming as much a part of American life as the mid-winter vacation and the giant 21-inch screen. The New York Chapter inaugurates its Annual Spring Appeal herewith to the 53 Corporate members and 17 Associate members whose current dues, payable in January and representing some \$2,087.50, are as yet unpaid.

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.

## LETTER FROM EDWARD D. STONE

Mr. Robert S. Hutchins  
New York Chapter A.I.A.

Dear Bob:

Will you please convey my gratitude to the New York Chapter. Since speeches were not in order, I did not have the opportunity to say that it was the nicest thing that has happened to me in my professional life, and that it provided me with encouragement and incentive to really do some good architecture in the future.

I had wanted also to say that my loyal group here in the office had contributed untold aid in our attainments.

With warmest personal regards to you and other officers and the Chapter as a group.

Sincerely yours

(Signed) Ed (Edward D. Stone)

## BRIEF REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Session of the New York State Legislature ending April 2nd, 1955.

Two Bills intended to permit corporations to practice engineering were defeated in Committee. Four Bills (of five proposed by us) amending the construction sections of the Labor Law were passed and are before the Governor for signature. These Bills chiefly remove some contradictions in City and State Laws affecting mixed factory and non-factory occupancies which are common in New York City. Bill amending the Public Housing Law to permit loans to non-profit housing companies (Banking institutions, Foundations, Labor Unions, Veterans' organizations, etc.) was passed and is before the Governor for signature.

The above are just a few highlights of actions involving approximately eighty (80) Bills which were studied and discussed by the Legislative Committee of the New York State Association of Architects since January. Many conferences were held with enforcement officials and legislators to obtain support for those measures endorsed by this Committee for opposition to other measures. The efforts of this State Legislative Committee, under the tireless and experienced chairmanship of Matt Del Gaudio, deserve our thanks and appreciation.

-Herbert Lippmann

## CANDIDATES:

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

### Corporate Membership

Henry Charles Brockman      James J. Giacobelli      Bruce Campbell Graham

### Associate Membership

Gary Laredo

Donald Ripley Peirce

Harry T. Skolodz

Robert K. Stewart

Sponsors: Esmond Shaw and Arnold A. Arbeit

Sponsors: David L. Eggers and Robert L. Bien

Sponsors: Gilbert L. Seltzer and Calvin McCormick

Sponsors: A. Henry Johnson and Adolph H. Knappe