

NEW YORK CHAPTER

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

OCULUS

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THE YEAR'S WORK

This issue of OCULUS is devoted primarily to a review of the year's work as brought out by the annual Reports of the Chapter's many committees. Space has demanded that in printing they be abbreviated and the few lines permitted to each committee touch on the highlights only and bear but little relation to the time and thought each has consumed, in carrying out its year's assignment or on the devotion of those who made its work possible. The Chapter's Committee Reports follow:

ADMISSIONS - Eldredge Snyder, Chairman

Eleven meetings were held during the year when 87 candidates were interviewed, 62 for Corporate and 25 for Associate membership. One Corporate member was reinstated and one applicant for Associate membership was deemed unqualified.

AWARDS - Robert W. Cutler, Chairman

The Awards Committee unanimously recommended Mr. Thomas S. Holden for Honorary Associateship. The honor was bestowed on Mr. Holden at the Chapter's Anniversary Supper on April the twelfth.

BRUNNER SCHOLARSHIP - L. Bancel LaFarge, Chairman

The Committee received a total of eighteen applications for the 1956 Award. The standard of applications was rather better than the preceding year. The award was made to Caleb Hornbostel of New York City, for developing and completing the manuscript of a book to be entitled "A Materials Handbook for the Architect".

The recipient of the 1954 and 1955 awards, Ralph E. Myers, completed his color slide show "Architecture-U.S.A." in October. The films, now distributed to many chapters across the country, are in considerable demand. Addison Erdman, a secondary recipient of the 1955 Grant, has used the funds to further completing the manuscript of his book "Hospital Planning-Technical Writing", and Mrs. John M. Gilchrist, another 1955 recipient, reports the funds as having helped complete the indexing of historic buildings in the Borough of Manhattan, a project undertaken by the Research Committee of the Municipal Arts Society.

BY-LAWS - Harry M. Prince, Chairman

On January 19, 1956, at a special meeting of the Chapter, the November 15, 1955 draft of the new by-laws, with certain amendments, was adopted and approved. An index has since been prepared and made a part of the final by-laws. A printed copy of the completed document is being distributed to each Chapter member.

After eight years of intensive work, the New York Chapter, A.I.A., is now functioning under the provisions of these new by-laws, the first fully revised edition since the formation of the Chapter in 1868. May I again express my thanks and appreciation

## By-laws - Cont.

for the assistance rendered the By-Laws Committee by Messrs. Goldstone, Cutler, and LaFarge, not of course forgetting the splendid efforts of Mrs. Margot Henkel and all those others who contributed so much towards the redrafting and revision of the Chapter by-laws which became effective on January 19, 1956.

### CIVIC DESIGN - Edward J. Mathews, Chairman

The Committee met with Commissioners Felt, Wiley and Livingston at a traffic luncheon on January 5th and subsequently arrangements were made for continued cooperation between the Chapter and the City Planning Commission at an informal luncheon discussion at which Mr. Felt, the Chapter's President, and the Committee's Chairman were present. Largely due to Robert Weinberg's representations before the Planning Commission, action has been deferred on the choice of a site for a Municipal Office Building until the previously approved plan for the Manhattan Civic Center can be revised and used as a basis for site selection. The Committee has kept posted on two of the more important current planning developments in the city, namely, the Lincoln Square project and the new Chase-Manhattan Bank project with its accompanying study of the lower East Side and Harry Anthony has prepared an interesting and informative report on the traffic situation in the city.

### EDUCATION - Otto J. Teegen, Chairman

Because the development of the Architect-in-Training program turned out to be a project in itself, the Committee on Education was divided during the winter into two groups, one to launch the project and the other to take care of the usual matters brought to the attention of the Education Committee. Kenneth Stowell, Chairman of the latter group, reports that other activities of the Education Committee have been largely in the field of personal interviews, advising young men regarding their courses of study and the selection of architectural schools.

With the issuance of the Log-Books in February, the Architect-in-Training program was launched for its trial run in eight offices of which members of the Committee and President of the Chapter were principals. Since these same members are serving as Architect-Sponsors to the men enrolled, the Committee is in a position to get first hand information regarding the Candidates' general reception of and interest in the program. Sufficient time has not yet elapsed to allow an evaluation of the program's success, but since 80 Log-Books have been issued to date and some offices have added names to their original roster, the Committee is encouraged to believe a potential interest can be developed. The Committee plans to make a survey of how the program is working about the first of June, and again in September. If it finds the operation successful, next winter should be spent in getting the program started in many more offices.

### FEES AND CONTRACTS - Lathrop Douglass, Chairman

In its continuing effort toward improvement and implementation of the Standard AIA Owner-Architect agreement forms, the Committee mailed a questionnaire to Chapter members concerning use of these documents. The 163 returned indicated that only a little over half the percentage fee contracts are on AIA forms and of these the great majority have substantial modifications. The returns also indicate that about one-sixth of all contracts are fee plus cost and about one-fifth payroll-times-factor. All this points up the need for revision of the existing AIA documents and issue of a new document for payroll-times factor type. A discrepancy in fee schedules between the A.I.A. arbitration document and the American Arbitration Association has been called to the attention of the Executive Committee for action.

## Fees and Contracts - Cont.

No further work has been done on the three draft contracts and their circulars of information prepared last year because The Institute has forbidden Chapters to issue their own forms and is itself in the midst of a program of revising the standard documents. However in view of the uncertain results of this program and the inadequacy of the present AIA documents and circulars of information this Committee decided to prepare a "checklist of pitfalls" for the average practitioner in filling out his contracts, regardless of their origin or type. This will be complete in June.

## FIFTH AVENUE ASSOCIATION - Francis W. Roudebush, Chairman

This Committee met with the members of the Committee for Awards of The Fifth Avenue Association, and the following projects, built within the past two years were selected by the whole Committee for the Fifth Avenue Association Awards:

Best New Building:- The Manufacturers' Trust Company Branch, 508-14 5th Ave.

Honorable Mention for a New Building:- Office Building, 247-61 Madison Ave.

Best New Institutional Building:- The Donnell Library, 20-30 West 53rd St.

Best Altered Building:- Office Building, 430 Park Ave.

Best New Store-Front:- For the Northwest-Orient Airlines, 537 5th Ave.

## FINANCE - Robert B. O'Connor, Chairman

The Committee has carried out its customary duties with respect to the investments of the Chapter, and has continued to work with the Investment Advisory Service of Franklin B. Kirkbride, Inc. In December 1955 the proportion of common stocks in the overall holdings were reduced to approximately 50% in value of the total. This has somewhat reduced total income. A higher proportion of fixed income securities is, by terms of the deed of trust, maintained in the LeBrun Account.

The status of the funds as of April 26, 1956 is as follows: Brunner: Market Value \$156,500, income \$5,381; LeBrun: Market Value \$38,871, income \$1,945; Contingent Reserve Fund: Market Value \$53,276, income \$2,044. The total value of the securities increased during the year from \$246,297.00 to \$256,848.00 while the income dropped from \$10,107.00 to \$9,749.00.

## HISTORICAL BUILDINGS - Ferdinand Eiseman, Chairman

The recording of historical buildings in Manhattan for the National Survey is proceeding and a number of the records have been sent to Washington during the year. A substantial number for which George T. Licht is taking the photographs are ready except for that item. The historic house, Boscobel, which was seemingly lost, now has a chance of reerection on a site opposite West Point. The material was saved and stored and the group interested in the project have an option on the proposed site. The proposal to destroy Grand Central Terminal seems to be quiet for the moment and Pennsylvania Station appears out of danger. However, the old Wanamaker Building is slated to give way to an apartment house project.

## HOSPITAL AND HEALTH - Isaiah Ehrlich, Chairman

This committee, established in March 1956, is continuing activities started as a Hospital Study Group. These consist of a series of lectures on hospital planning, a series of field trips to hospitals of interest and a number of special activities. Four lectures, open to all, and two field trips were held during the year. Among the Committee's special activities were a dinner meeting on the subject of hospital construction costs, a critique of a hospital erected in 1954, with the hospital's staff, the designing architects and engineers present and a chapter-wide dinner meeting addressed by Commissioner of Hospitals McLean and Dr. Bluestone, a leading consultant.

## HOUSE CONSULTING - Philip G. Bartlett, Chairman

Apart from the operation of the House Consulting Service which is the continuing responsibility of this committee, its principal activity during the past year has been the design and staging of the Chapter's exhibit at the 1956 International Home Building Exposition at the Coliseum prepared by a sub-committee under the direction of Mortimer E. Freehof. The exhibit can be adjusted to fit various spaces and can be stored and re-used. The Bronx, Brooklyn, New Jersey, Queens and Westchester Chapters joined the New York Chapter in sponsoring the exhibit and in reproducing the Chapter's pamphlet "You Need an Architect - for your House" for distribution at the booth where Chapter members were present to answer questions on home building problems.

## LEBRUN FELLOWSHIP - Benjamin Lane Smith, Chairman

On May 10, 1956 the LeBrun Fellowship Committee Jury, consisting of Robert S. Hutchins, Frederick J. Woodbridge, Dean Arnaud, William J. Ward and Benjamin Lane Smith selected John Pawlikowski of 2650 N. Mason Avenue, Chicago, Illinois as recipient for the LeBrun Traveling Fellowship. The problem, "A Town Center". Bruce W. Beebe was suggested as the first alternate and Miss Linn Ericson as second alternate. Twenty-seven submissions were received. In response to a telegraphic notification, Mr. Pawlikowski telegraphed his acceptance and expressed his delight and appreciation. Exhibited drawings were at the Architectural League the week of May 21st.

## LEGISLATIVE - Herbert Lippmann, Chairman

This Committee is largely concerned with proposed legislative changes in N.Y. State Laws and works through the Committees on Legislation of the Architects Council of New York and the N.Y. State Association of Architects. Its members serve on the Council and Association Committees and have been active on them, proposing, supporting and opposing various legislative proposals. The Committee has continued its efforts to devise a formula for amendment of State Finance Law #135 which makes it mandatory to have four separate construction contracts (general, plumbing, heating, and electric) in all public building projects in New York State.

## MEETINGS - Roger G. Spross, Chairman

The Committee reports the following events during the year: October 4, 1955 officially opened the season with a Supper Meeting in conjunction with The Architectural League and the B.A.I.D. 167 members heard a lecture on "The Theory and Use of Today's Color". November 30th Fall Meeting attended by 86 members and wives. December 8th students from Columbia University and Cooper Union invited to showing of "Architecture - U.S.A.". January 19, 1956 By-Laws Luncheon Meeting, attendance 40. January 25th Membership Cocktail Party was attended by 41 members and 65 guests. March 29th Business Luncheon (Mixed Menu), attendance 42 members. April 12th New York Chapter's 87th Anniversary Supper Dance at the Colony Club, total attendance of 246. April 17th Pre-Convention Luncheon, attendance 34. June 6th Annual Luncheon for the Election of Officers. In addition, the Public Relations Committee arranged six lectures entitled, "Public Relations For You", the Hospital Study Group held four discussion group meetings, the Technical Committee had five luncheon meetings and the various Chapter committees held over 100 meetings during the course of the year. Efforts were made to co-ordinate the scheduling of functions of the Chapter, The Architectural League and the Beaux Arts Institute of Design in order to minimize overlapping dates.

## MEMBERSHIP - David L. Eggers, Chairman

This year the Committee established direct communication with the major architectural firms in the city as a means of encouraging new membership for the Chapter. It also sponsored the Membership Cocktail Party the effectiveness of which, in stimulating new memberships, is difficult to judge. A serious effort was made in the direction of obtaining student members which should be continued in the hope of establishing a Student Chapter with both Columbia University and Cooper Union participating. It is noted that the Chapter has a net gain of 64 members this year.

## OFFICE PRACTICE - George S. Johnston, Chairman

103 members have shown their interest in obtaining a Group form of Errors and Omissions Insurance and recommendations accordingly are being submitted to the Executive Committee. Work being done by the Building Congress in connection with practices within the industries have been followed closely and recommendations have been made in connection with procedure for handling shop and installation drawings. Other documents of the Building Congress are under review. The Committee is also examining Square and Cubic Foot Calculation Methods and have under discussion various items in connection with the Book of Standard Practice. The problems of the young practitioner are also being discussed by this Committee. Public Housing Administration Contracts for architects services were discussed at a joint meeting of the Office Practice Committee and Fees and Contracts Committee with the result that the subject is now under further discussion in Washington, and progress being made towards actual revision.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS - J. Gordon Carr, Chairman

At the year's beginning it was the opinion of the Public Relations Committee that it would better serve Chapter Members by instituting a program to study the possibilities of Public Relations on the part of each member rather than acting as a Public Relations operating body. Speakers were drawn from various activities having public contact in regard to public relations. The program started with a talk by Ketchum, Inc., the firm which is handling the AIA P.R. program at the national level; a P.R. director of a big organization; a P.R. firm; a Real Estate editor of a newspaper; the editors of three architectural magazines; and an advertising executive experienced in institutional advertising. All pointed up directly or by implication that there was much opportunity for P. R. by the architect but that its success depends on his own initiative and careful planning.

If the Chapter wishes to develop a real P. R. program for its activities and to bring the role of the architect to the public, it is recommended that thought be given to a program carried on by paid help, either as outside P. R. consultants or by a full-time employee of the Chapter Office. Individual members of the committee cannot do it properly because of lack of time, lack of proper experience, and lack of proper contacts.

## PUBLICATIONS - Geoffrey N. Lawford, Chairman

The year's activities centered on the publishing of the Chapter's monthly bulletin, the Oculus. With the distribution of the June, 1956 issue the Committee concludes its year's work, having published nine issues in all, commencing with that of October, 1955. In general, the Oculus has endeavored to cover Chapter activities, announcements, committee work and pertinent news of Chapter members. It also has offered some miscellaneous comment and has reviewed several books it thought of interest to Chapter members.

## TECHNICAL - Howard H. Juster, Chairman

This past year the Committee has prepared and presented a report to the Executive Committee on its proposals for the formation of an Architectural Library and Building Research Information Center. This Library would be jointly sponsored by the New York Chapter of the A.I.A. and the New York Public Library. The committee also arranged a series of five meetings for the Chapter membership. On October 4th a dinner meeting was sponsored in conjunction with The Architectural League and the Beaux Arts Institute of Design, which was followed by four luncheon meetings during the course of the year.

## VISITORS - Hugh Ferriss, Chairman

A large number of distinguished architects from abroad have signed our Book of Visitors, and most were entertained at lunch by some member of this Committee. Among them was Dr. Willem Dudok, returning to Holland after receiving the A.I.A. Gold Medal in Minneapolis, who was received on his arrival in N.Y., taken to lunch at the University Club, then to various buildings and art exhibits which he wished to see, and put onto his plane; also, Sir Lancelot Keay, Past President, R.I.B.A., and Lady Keay, who were received by the Chapter President and numerous members at lunch, at the League, January 17, 1956. A similar luncheon was given March 23rd for three distinguished Swedish architects: Carl Frederick Alberg, Director, Regional Planning Dep't.; Goren Sidenbladh, Director, City Planning; and Torsten Westman, Chief Planning Officer, all of Stockholm.

## FELLOWS - Lorimer Rich, Chairman

After full deliberation the Committee selected two names from the Chapter's membership for nomination to Fellowship, both of which were approved by the Chapter's Executive Committee. Chester B. Price was elected to Fellowship by the Institute. The other nomination was laid over until next year.

## MEDAL OF HONOR - Edgar I. Williams, Chairman

The Jury selected Antonin Raymond as recipient of the New York Chapter's Medal of Honor this year. The award was received by Mr. Raymond at the Chapter's Anniversary Supper April the twelfth.

## PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE - Jonathan F. Butler, Chairman

There have been very few problems presented to the Committee which involved alleged unethical practice of a serious nature. There have been two or three telephone calls a week of which about half are petty grievances involving unsatisfactory business relations and about half involving questions on proper ethical procedure. At least half the questions are from lawyers representing clients of Architects or Contractors. Over the period of the last two years, there appears to have been a real demand for what the Medical and Legal profession call a "Grievance Committee."

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER - Ronald Allwork

During the current year, Chapter Income (derived primarily from dues) has exceeded the estimates made at the beginning of the fiscal year. Disbursements have been kept well within budget appropriations.

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER - Cont.

The following is a summary of income and disbursements for the eight month period beginning October 1, 1955:

Income	\$30,352.79
Disbursements	20,846.96
Balance 5/1/56	<u>9,505.83</u>
Year-end balance 10/1/55	12,835.76
Total balance 5/1/56	<u>22,341.59</u>
Contingent Reserve Fund (Chapter)	34,193.27
Arnold W. Brunner Fund, Principal	125,312.27
Income Account	7,805.61
LeBrun Fellowship Fund, Principal	36,813.85
Income Account	7,102.32

Audit reports as of September 30, 1955 are on file at the Chapter Office.

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY, Harmon H. Goldstone

It is recorded with regret that the following twelve members have died during the past year:

William Adams	Harry R. Dowswell	Joseph M. Hirschman
Frank W. Binckley	Charles Ewing	William W. Kent
Joseph A. Cashdan	Sam J. Glaberson	Harold Werner
Alden De Hart	Julius Gregory	Albert Wilson

There has been, over the year, a net gain of 64 in Chapter membership accounted for below. For the first time in its eighty-eight year history, the Chapter is over one thousand strong.

	Corp- orate	Asso- ciate	Stu- dent	Unas- signed	Non-Res- ident	Emeri- tus	Honor- ary	Total
May 1, 1955	679	156	46	9	3	42	6	941
<u>Gains</u>								
New Members	69	26	15	1	-	-	1	
Transferred	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Internal	13	1	-	3	-	7	-	
	88	27	15	4	-	7	1	142
	<u>767</u>	<u>183</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1083</u>
<u>Losses</u>								
Died	5	1	-	-	-	6	-	
Transferred	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Internal	7	13	1	-	3	-	-	
Graduated	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	
Resigned	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	
Terminated	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	
	22	23	24	-	3	6	0	78
April 30, 1956	<u>745</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1005</u>

## THE CONVENTION

Just back from the Convention where he headed the New York Chapter's twenty-nine delegates, Robert W. Cutler reports as follows on the three resolutions prepared by the Chapter.

1. Competitions - passed by Convention, even though modified.
2. Method of election of officers - referred to the board for study.
3. Graduated Dues - the Chapter's proposal lost out to that passed by the Convention which provided for a two year period of graduated dues.

He also reported that Los Angeles was insufferably hot and that Benjamin Lane Smith and Mrs. Smith went on to Hawaii on one of the post Convention tours. Mr. Cutler expects to give a full report on the Convention to the Chapter at a later date.

## ARCHITECTURE - U.A.A.

Prof. Esmond Shaw reports that the film Architecture - U.S.A. has been shown eighteen times through various organizations and Chapter members. During the Home Show Exhibition at the Coliseum this film was shown twice daily for an entire week. It is hoped that this valuable film will continue to draw interest among our members for further showings.

## NEW BOOKS

The Chapter Office has received numerable announcements of new books of architectural material during the course of the year. The Oculus has attempted to review or at least call the Chapter's attention to most of them. Chapter members have been active in the field too and among those who we have still to mention are Ben John Small, who has completed Volume Two of the Streamlined Specification Standards published by the Rheinhold Publishing Corporation and Ronald Allwork who has recently prepared a handy Manual of Professional Practice for The American Institute of Decorators.

## APPRECIATION

As this last issue of VOL. XVII of "Oculus" goes to press its editor wishes to express his appreciation to all who have made its publications possible -- to Miss Mary Worthen and Messrs. Lefferts, Stein and Via his fellow members of the Editorial Board and to the many others who have contributed to its columns, to Mrs. Henkel and Mrs. Richert of the Chapter Office for the invaluable aid and forbearance and to Miss Carlson, our printer, whose "meeting of dead lines" has been in the best architectural tradition.

## CANDIDATES

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

### Corporate Membership

David Meyer Pellish

Herbert Bertram Gracer

### Associate Membership

Ernest M. Serra      Sponsors: Bruno Funaro and Saul Edelbaum