

NEW YORK CHAPTER

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

O C U L U S

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COMING EVENTS

November 29, Thursday	Gallery A - 5:15 P.M. to 6:15 P.M.	Hospital Study Group "The Clinical Laboratories"
December 11, Tuesday	Gallery A - 12:30 P.M.	Technical Committee Luncheon
December 18, Tuesday	Gallery A - 5:15 P.M.	Hospital Study Group

A.I.A. CENTENNIAL

1957 is the centennial year of the American Institute of Architects, as you have heard repeatedly. The Washington Convention next May is being planned around the centennial theme, and year-long the Institute's chapters will be commemorating it in their activities. Since the Institute was founded in Manhattan in 1857, the New York Chapter has an interest and an obligation of a very special nature. We are cooperating with the other chapters in the metropolitan area; the Centennial Committee appointed by the several chapters expects shortly to publicize a stimulating program. Meanwhile, two events are announced. In both cases, limited seating capacity has stringently limited the number of tickets available to New York Chapter members; those available will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

COMMEMORATION TABLET CEREMONIES

It was on the site of 111 Broadway in downtown New York that the A.I.A. was founded. Come February 23, 1957 the founding 100 years ago will be commemorated by the dedication of a bronze tablet at the site, followed by a luncheon. Fifty tickets have been reserved for the New York Chapter. Tickets are \$5.00 each and are available at the Chapter Office.

CENTENNIAL DINNER

A Centennial Dinner Party will be celebrated jointly by all local New York Chapters on April 25, 1957 at Oscar's Delmonico, 56 Beaver Street, New York. Tickets are \$12.50 per person and are limited to Chapter members and their wives. The New York Chapter has 100 tickets. Members are advised to make early payment to the Chapter Office for their tickets. Oscar's Delmonico is limited and only a total of 280 persons from all Chapters can be accommodated.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR GRADUATE STUDY

The firm of Katz-Waisman-Blumenkranz-Stein-Weber, Architects Associated has announced this year's winner of the graduate scholarship at Pratt Institute: Robert B. Braydon of Brooklyn, an employee of the firm. Each year this firm selects a qualified candidate for this honor. The Oculus cannot applaud the practice too highly.

HONORS, COMMISSIONS AND COMPETITIONS

Announcement has been made of the formation of "The Cooper Union Centennial Committee" to sponsor a three-year development program for The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art. Architects who have accepted membership on this committee include Wallace K. Harrison, Robert O'Connor, Stephen F. Voorhees, Ralph Walker, Frederick J. Woodbridge and Frank Lloyd Wright.

William N. Breger has been appointed Chairman of the Department of Architectural Design of the School of Architecture at Pratt Institute. Mr. Breger, who came to Pratt in 1945, has a Bachelor's Degree from New York University, a Bachelor of Architecture Degree from Harvard and a Master of Arts Degree in Philosophy from New York University.

Fabric Design Competition

The Eleventh Triennale di Milano announces an international competition for printed fabric designs for curtains and furnishings. Closing date for entries is February 10, 1957. Sample copy of the program can be seen at the Chapter Office.

1956 Sidney L. Strauss Memorial Award

Charles Rockwell Ellis, Syracuse, New York, has been awarded the 1956 Sidney L. Strauss Memorial Award "in recognition of his past outstanding service for the benefit of the architectural profession".

V.F.W. Citation

Reino Aarnio has been awarded a citation for "an outstanding job as an Architect of Democracy in aiding America's cold war struggle against Communist propaganda overseas", by the New York State Veterans of Foreign Wars. The V.F.W. citation is awarded for Mr. Aarnio's accomplishment in conceiving, designing and executing the United States Pavilion at the recent International Trade Fair held at Stockholm, Sweden, which received excellent praise and comment in the European newspapers.

Enrico Fermi Memorial Competition

At the request of the Professional Advisor, John O. Merrill, F.A.I.A., of the Enrico Fermi Memorial Competition, we wish to call your attention again to this interesting competition. This international program for the design of a building to be located in Chicago's Fort Dearborn Project, is sponsored by the Chicago Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans and the Chicago Junior Association of Commerce and Industry. Architects, engineers, draftsmen and students in all countries are eligible. The jury consists of famous architects and physicists from this country, England and Italy; the objective is "to unite Art and Science in the design of a Memorial Pavilion," to quote the program; it is to honor the man who made the first controlled nuclear chain reaction. The program is remarkably free; there are no restrictions on extent, shape or volume except the size of the site. Prizes: top, \$5,000.00; seven other money prizes.

While announcements have already been mailed, the competition does not close until March 1, 1957. The program may be seen at New York Chapter A.I.A., 115 East 40th St., or information may be obtained by applying in writing to Fermi Memorial Competition, John O. Merrill, Professional Advisor, 100 W. Monroe Street, Chicago 3, Illinois.

STUDENT AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

Last month's "Oculus" contained a reference to our two student organizations but there was not space to go into details of this very important development. "Oculus" expects in the not-distant future to publish articles by representatives of these Student Chapters. It is good news indeed that our New York Chapter has given birth to two such affiliates: one from the architectural school at Columbia University, the other from Cooper Union. Each has seventy-two members.

We heartily welcome them both, and we applaud the efforts of our Membership Committee. The step is significant both for the students and for those of us whose formal student days are over.

MAYOR'S PANEL OF ARCHITECTS FOR 1957

We are informed by S. H. Galston, Director of the City's Bureau of Examinations, that all Chapter members who wish appointment to the Mayor's Panel of Architects for 1957 may obtain applications at the offices of the City of New York, Department of Personnel, 96 Duane Street, New York 7, N. Y. (Near Broadway and Chambers Street). This application should be filed not later than November 23, 1956.

DRAFTING TEACHERS WANTED

Ferris Institute (a technical training State College) at Big Rapids, Michigan, tells us it desperately needs instructors to teach architectural drafting. The Institute has had close contact with the Michigan Society of Architects and has employed as drafting instructors people with architectural training and experience. Salaries run from \$5,500. yearly to \$7,150., depending on education, experience, etc. If you are interested, write to: Jon P. Adams, Dean, Trade and Industrial Division, Ferris Institute, Big Rapids, Michigan.

DAN COOPER DONATES DRAPERY FABRICS

Our Chapter Office is now brightened with new draperies, for which the fabric was donated by Dan Cooper, Inc. While Dan Cooper has been officially thanked, such a generous gesture from a member of the American Institute of Decorators (and of the Architectural League) deserves public mention. Take a look next time you're in the Chapter headquarters.

HOSPITAL AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Hospital and Health Committee's first seminar, October 24th, had as its subject "X-Ray Planning and Protection". The well attended meeting was addressed by Dr. Carl B. Braestrup, Director of Physics Services, Department of Health, and Dr. Milton Elkin, Director of Radiant Therapy, Bronx Municipal Hospital, who so thoroughly covered the functional, structural and protection problems of the general hospital's radiological department as to leave no room, or time, for subsequent discussion save in the League's Bar.

The Committee, anxious to attract all those interested in hospital planning, whether Chapter members or not, emphasizes the termination of their meetings promptly at 6:30 P.M., for the benefit of the commuter trade. Detailed information for future meetings will be announced by separate notices. Projects for the near future include the November 29th discussion on Clinical Laboratories and a December 18th showing of a U. S. Army Engineers motion picture production (with sound) of Little Dock Veteran's Administration Hospital running the gamut of construction.

NEW YORK CHAPTER ENTERTAINS FRENCH DELEGATION

On the evening of October 29th the Gallery of the Architectural League echoed to the enthusiastic vocal exuberance of "chansons Francais". The occasion was the gathering of 50 distinguished French architects, a dozen French industrialists and as many Americans either professing a background of conversational French, or present merely to welcome our fellow architects from the Continent. The French Delegation was embarking on a two weeks' tour of the East and Middle-West to discover and investigate all things aluminum. Sponsored by L'Aluminium Francais, the program was arranged by Alcoa. As a result of this tour, the group intends to promote a greater use of aluminum in building programs upon their return to France. Even though the language barrier was an initial deterrent, the evening soon developed into a most successful demonstration of the mutual ties between architects of the two countries. Our chapeau is off to Maurice Gauthier who chairmanned the first of this year's Visitors' Committee Meetings.

BOOKS

California Houses of Gordon Drake
By Douglas Baylis and Joan Parry
Reinhold \$6.50

A Dictionary of English Domestic Architecture
By A. L. Osborne
Philosophical Library \$6.00

Small Commercial Buildings
By Richard W. Snibbe
Reinhold

An Encyclopedia of the Iron &
Steel Industry
By A. K. Osborne
Philosophical Library \$25.00

Design in Civil Architecture
(Elevational Treatments)
By A. E. Richardson & Hector
Corfiato
Philosophical Library \$15.00

American Architects Directory - 1956. The publishers, Bowker Publishing Company, 62 West 45th Street, New York, N. Y., advise us that copies are still available. The price is \$20.00. Bowker's telephone number is MUrray Hill 2-0150.

CANDIDATES

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

Corporate Membership

Ralph Eden Smith
John Joseph Andres
Carl J. Petrilli

Richard W. Snibbe

Associate Membership

Elvira Lombana
Aly S. Dadras

Sponsors: Benedetto Ferrara and Frank A. Berlenbach
Sponsors: George S. Johnston and Charles H. Abbe