

NEW YORK CHAPTER

MARGOT A. HENKEL *Executive Secretary*
115 EAST 40TH STREET
NEW YORK 16 NEW YORK

FRANK G. LOPEZ *Editor*



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

OCULUS

VOL. XVIII, NO. 4 JANUARY 1957

COMING EVENTS

January 17, Thursday	Gallery A - 12:30	"Regular Meeting" Election of Committee on Nominations
January 23, Wednesday	Gallery A - 5:15 to 6:30	Hospital Study Group "Psychiatric Unit in the General Hospital"
February 23, Saturday	U.S. Sub Treasury Building - 12:30	Centennial Dedication Ceremony Luncheon
February 27, Wednesday	Gallery A - 5:15 to 6:30	Hospital Study Group

1957 - A.I.A. CENTENNIAL YEAR

This month marks the beginning of the one hundreth year of The American Institute of Architects. It is also the 90th year marking the founding of the New York Chapter. A brief history of these events is included in a special insert of this issue. As the founding city, it is important that we of the New York Chapter take an active part in the celebration programs.

On January 15th at 11 A.M. at the Mayor's Office, City Hall, a proclamation will be signed designating February 17th through the 23rd as Architects' Week in New York City. Daniel Schwartzman, Chairman of the Centennial Observance Committee, and the Presidents of the five borough Chapters plan to attend.

The Centennial Dedication Ceremony and Luncheon is to be held on Saturday, February 23rd and the Centennial Dinner is scheduled for Thursday evening, April 25th. For both of these historic events the number of tickets available to New York Chapter members is limited. Your reservation slip is enclosed and must be returned to the Chapter Office before January 31st together with your check for payment in full.

CHAPTER LUNCHEON

On Thursday, January 17th at 12:30 sharp a "Regular Meeting" luncheon will be held in Gallery A of the Architectural League for the purpose of electing a Committee on Nominations. This committee is responsible for selecting the slate for our next year's officers. Every effort should be made by the Chapter members to see that a large representation attends this luncheon.

HONORS AND COMPETITIONS

Columbia University has announced the formation of an Architectural Advisory Council. Chairmanned by Frederick J. Woodbridge, the University's consulting architect, the Council members were selected from the Faculty of Architecture and from the Alumni of the School of Architecture. From the faculty, Dean Leopold Arnaud and Professor Charles Rieger were selected. The Alumni representatives are Arthur Holden, class of 1915 and William Platt, 1919.

Charles S. Haines has recently been appointed a full partner, and Victor J. De Masi a junior partner, in the architectural firm of Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith.

The Directors of the Reynolds Metals Company have announced the R. S. Reynolds Memorial Award to be made annually to an architect, anywhere in the world, who, in the judgment of his profession, has made a most significant contribution to the use of aluminum, aesthetically or structurally, in the building field. If circumstances require, the Award may be made jointly to two or more persons. It will consist of \$25,000 and an appropriate emblem. Awards will be made only for completed structures. Recipients will be chosen each year by a committee of distinguished architects. Inquiries should be addressed to: The R. S. Reynolds Memorial Award Committee, Third and Grace Streets, Richmond, Virginia.

As part of the 1957 celebration of its Centennial, the A.I.A. is sponsoring a program of Homes for Better Living Awards for both the best custom-built and mass-produced architect-designed homes of the past two years. The homes submitted must be located in one of 17 eastern states including District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and the Canal Zone. Applications must be made by February 15th to the Committee for the Homes for Better Living Awards, c/o The American Institute of Architects, Washington 6, D.C. Entries must be postmarked before midnight of March 30th.

Announcement has been made of the National Joint Conference on Church Architecture to be held on February 26, 27 and 28 in St. Louis. Sponsored by the Church Architectural Guild of America and the Bureau of Church Building, all architects are urged to attend. In conjunction with this conference, an architectural exhibit of Church Buildings will be held. Architects are invited to participate by submitting exhibits of Church Buildings completed since 1953. Further information as to exhibition requirements may be obtained from P. John Horner, A.I.A., Registrar, Church Architectural Guild Conference, 4227 Watson Road, St. Louis 9, Missouri.

HOUSE CONSULTING COMMITTEE - Giorgio Cavaglieri, Chairman

For several years the Chapter's Committee for Houses has operated a House Consulting Service to answer the many questions concerning small house problems which come to the Chapter Office and to make partial architectural service or advice available to people unable to employ full services.

Any Chapter member whose practice includes residential work or who is otherwise qualified to answer questions on small house problems is invited to join the panel by sending his (or his firm's) name, address and telephone number, his home address and telephone number, and the states in which he is registered to the Chapter Office together with \$1.00 to defray the costs of operating the service. Existing members of the panel who wish to continue to serve are asked to send \$1.00 to the Chapter Office also, and to notify the office of any change in their home or office address or telephone number, or in the states in which they are registered. The deadline for this information is January 31st, 1957.

HISTORICAL SKETCH ON FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1857 - 1957

Founding of the American Institute of Architects one hundred years ago next month signalized the emergence of the profession as a full time means of livelihood rather than as the avocation of talented amateurs such as Jefferson, physician Thornton, first architect of the Capitol and the Octagon, and lawyer Andrew Hamilton who designed Independence Hall.

This development of the profession had been gradual, paralleling the burgeoning economy of the young nation in creating burdens and problems - problems of attaining public recognition and understanding, of establishing and receiving equitable remuneration for services, of developing comradeship with fellow architects.

There were two premature attempts at forming a professional society, neither of which took hold. The first in 1803, was the "Brethren of the Workshop of Vitruvius." The second, "The American Institution of Architects," being founded in 1836 with a membership of 25 widespread - too widespread - among the cities of the East Coast.

By 1857, however, Richard Upjohn, architect of Trinity Church, succeeded in interesting fellow New York architects in forming an organization, the purpose of which was discussion and solution of their common problems. On February 23rd, the 13 founding members met in Upjohn's office in the Trinity Building, 111 Broadway. This membership included, in addition to Upjohn, his son Richard W. Upjohn, Edward Gardiner, J. Wrey Mould, H. W. Cleaveland, Leopold Eidlitz, Henry Dudley, Richard Morris Hunt, Frederick A. Petersen, Charles Babcock, J. C. Wells, John Welch and J. W. Priest.

The originally selected name was "New York Society of Architects," which was changed to A.I.A. at the second meeting on March 10. Articles of Incorporation were executed on April 13, 1857 with the appointment of 9 Trustees. The organization immediately took root and flourished, having a membership of 36 by February 1858.

Richard Upjohn, the guiding spirit of the first meeting, became first President of the Institute, serving from 1857 to 1876. Important in the success of the new organization were its firm decision to ban all political discussions in a time of great unrest, and the fact that it was at first a local New York group, permitting the necessary cohesion of direct and frequent meetings of the membership.

The Trinity Building, site of that first meeting, was designed by Upjohn in 1851. It was a five story structure of round arched windows, stone string courses and terra cotta cornice and keystones, with a lion's head by sculptor, Henry Kirk Brown, gracing the main entrance keystone. It was demolished in 1904 to make way for the present larger building occupying the site.

A bronze Commemorative plaque is to be installed on the present building now standing at 111 Broadway. It will be unveiled at the Centennial Dedication Ceremony on February 23rd following the Dedication Luncheon which will be held at the U.S. Sub Treasury Building.

The plaque is the design of McKim, Mead & White, the inscription was composed by E. J. Gambaro, casting is by Medallie Art Company and installation by William L. Crow Construction Company.

The inscription that this plaque will bear plus a sketch of the original Trinity Building as designed by Upjohn appears on the reverse side of this Special Report.

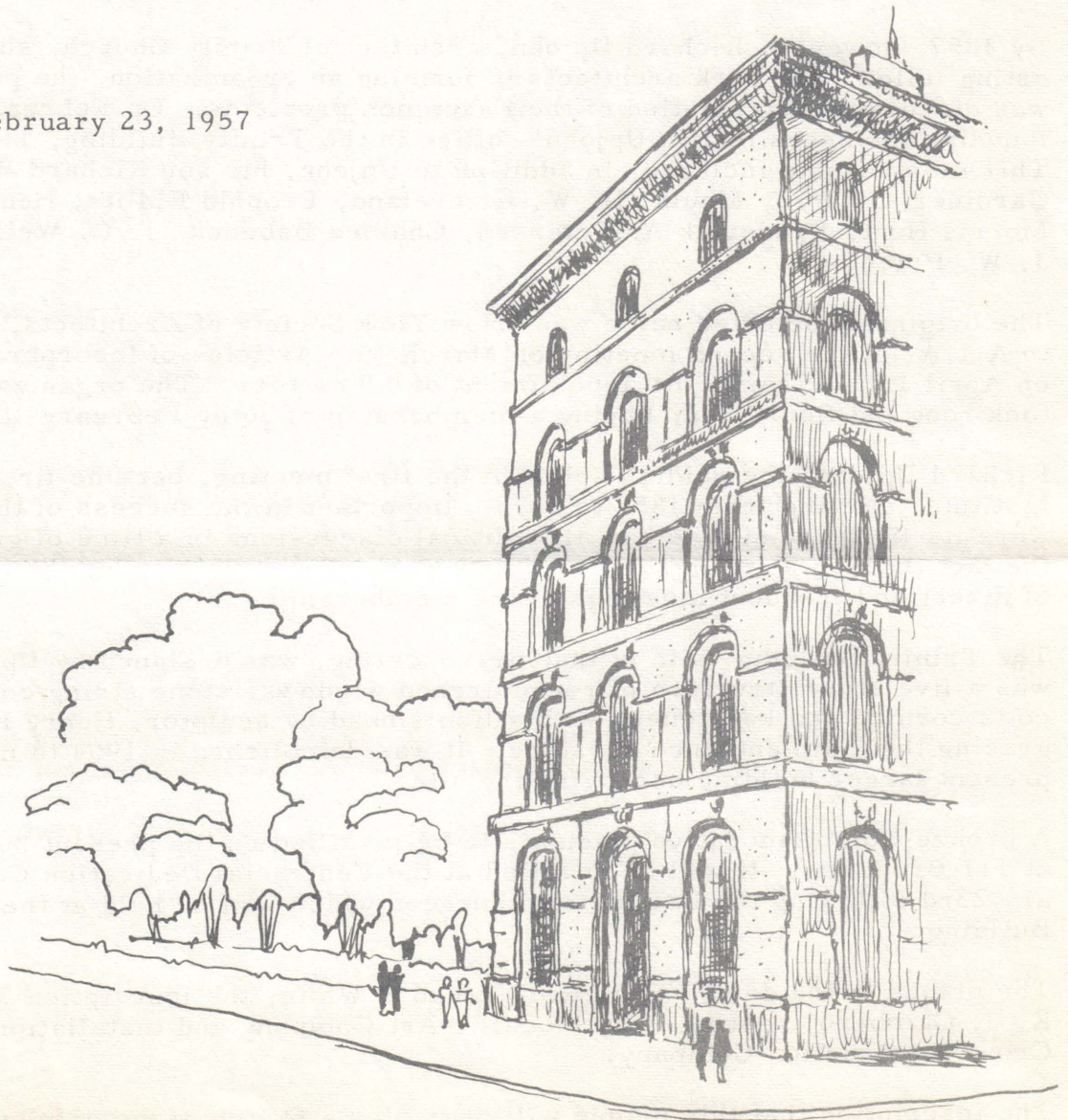
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF
ARCHITECTS

(Seal)

Was founded on this site
February 23rd, 1857 by thirteen architects
of ideals and vision

Throughout the years its
members have contributed
to the advancement of
architecture and have
encouraged the develop-
ment of the allied arts,
expressing the aspirations
of our people, bringing
into their lives inspiration,
beauty and comfort.

Erected February 23, 1957



NEW YORK CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The revised Chapter Directory is now being received by the New York membership. For this "labor of love" we express our sincere thanks and appreciation to Arthur S. Douglass, Jr. and Richard Campbell of Sweet's Catalog for the layout and cover design and to William Luttrell and Peter Van Bloem for proofreading. But especially, we are once again indebted to our Executive Secretary, Margot A. Henkel and to her capable assistant, Mrs. Richert.

HOSPITAL AND HEALTH COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION

Because of the varied activity of the Hospital Committee under the chairmanship of Isaiah Ehrlich it has been found expedient to split its functions into four sub-committees:

1. "Hospital Study Group", Mary Worthen, Chairman, conducts monthly lectures on various aspects of hospital planning.
2. "Field Trips", Harold Olson, Chairman, schedules trips every four to five weeks on Saturday mornings.
3. "Special Meetings", George Holderness, Chairman, holds seminars covering special problems of interest to principals of offices planning hospitals.
4. "Research", chairmanned by Daniel C. Jensen of the U. S. Public Health Service, is striking out into a new and untried field.

The Hospital Study Group is sponsoring a discussion on January 23rd at 5:15 P.M. on the subject of "The Psychiatric Unit of the General Hospital." Dr. Tompkins, Chief of Psychiatry at St. Vincent's Hospital will be the chief speaker.

CONSTRUCTION FILM SHOWN BY HOSPITAL COMMITTEE

On Tuesday, December 18th, the Study Group of the Hospital and Health Committee presented to about 40 guests an excellent color film of the construction of the Little Rock, Arkansas Veterans' Hospital. The film, prepared by the Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the U. S. Public Health Service, followed the project from the earliest surveys through each stage of construction to the final admission of the first patients. In spite of some technical difficulties encountered, interest was such that a second showing is being scheduled for later this year.

USE OF THE INITIALS A.I.A.

The New York State Registration Laws do not prohibit advertising by Architects as do the laws governing the practice of medicine. The policy of not advertising is one established by The American Institute of Architects. The following statement has recently been received from Edmund R. Purves, Executive Director, A.I.A., Washington, D.C., regarding the use of the initials A.I.A. in telephone directories, etc.

"It is perfectly proper for any Corporate member of the Institute to use the words, 'Member of The American Institute of Architects' or the initials 'AIA' or 'FAIA', in the case of a Fellow, in listings such as telephone books. We feel that this is simply an identification of a member with this organization, which is not only proper but desirable."

ATTENTION - WELL INFORMED ARCHITECTS WITH A BROAD, GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

The NBC Television Quiz program "Twenty-One" is in need of contestants who are specialists in no particular field!! "Twenty-One" is a program in which two contestants compete with each other to, theoretically, win unlimited amounts of money. To be considered eligible one is required to take a written examination and be interviewed in the office of Barry and Enright Productions, Inc., 667 Madison Avenue. If interested, call Mr. Howard Merrill for an appointment at Templeton 2-8600.

NEW BOOKS

American Architects' Directory - 1956 Bowker Publishing Company, 62 West 45th Street, New York, N.Y. (Murray Hill 2-0150) List price \$20. Special price to members of A.I.A. is \$15. To take advantage of this special price, members must place their title of A.I.A. or F.A.I.A. after their signature in placing orders with the Company. It is insufficient that the letterhead of the architect on which his professional status is given bears these titles, one or the other.

The souvenir book "Renaissance of City Hall", published last July in connection with the restoration of City Hall, is available for purchase at \$3.00 a copy. Inquiries may be made by writing or in person at the Department of Public Works, Room 1800, Municipal Bldg., New York 7, New York, attention of Mr. Ernest Neufeld. Checks should be made payable to the Dept. of Public Works.

Eric Mendelsolm, 2nd Edition
by Arnold Whittich
F. W. Dodge Corporation \$9.85

Modern Architecture in Brazil
by Henrique E. Mindlin
Reinhold \$12.50

Structures
by Pier Luigi Nervi
F. W. Dodge Corporation \$6.95

CANDIDATES

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

Corporate Membership

David Huey Hughes

Associate Membership

Paul John Grayson
Leon J. Haft
Joseph Martin Spanik
Paul Edward Cushing, Jr.
Henry Halevi

Sponsors: Robert W. Cutler and Stuart Baesel
Sponsors: Olivier de Messieres and Cyril S. Loftus
Sponsors: C. Woodford Dayton and John W. Severinghaus
Sponsors: Ely J. Kahn and Robert Allan Jacobs
Sponsors: Jeffrey Ellis Aronin and Pierre A. Bezy