

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER

115 EAST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

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Special Insert: By Hugh B. Ver Bryck

VOL. XIX, NO. 1 October 1957

COMING EVENTS

October 9, Wednesday	Technical Committee Dinner 6:30 P.M.	Speaker: Dr. Darrel Harmon - "The Physiology of Building Design"
October 17, Thursday	12:30 P.M. - Pine Room	Chairmen Luncheon
October 23, Wednesday	6:30 P.M.	Chapter Fall Meeting

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Your Chapter activities have been launched. The Executive Committee has approved the selection of Committee Chairmen and Committeemen. (See enclosed insert, ed.) With the first meeting of the Technical Committee (See page 3) we are off to an excellent start. Your Executive Committee sincerely hopes that this is the year that we will start telling the public more about architects through better design, better client relationships and better relationships with the public.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The American Institute of Architects Annual Convention will be held next Summer, July 8 through 11, at the Hotel Carter, Cleveland, Ohio. Please note this date now on your calendar.

Centennial Year Stickers are available at the New York Chapter Office for general use on correspondence, etc. Sheet of 94 for 26 cents.

The New York Chapter is proud to announce the purchase of a slide projector and screen for general committee use in bringing to the membership new and exciting aspects of the profession.

The 1955 winner of the Lloyd Warren Fellowship in Architecture, Charles R. Sutton, will discuss low cost housing and community planning at a special presentation on Wednesday, October 16 at 5:30 p.m. at 115 East 40th Street. The work and photographs of Mr. Sutton will be on public view from October 14 through 18.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF PERSONS IN ARTS AND SCIENCES

The July 16th Congressional Record contains the full text of a resolution endorsing the program of interchange of persons in the arts, sciences and allied fields. This resolution was introduced at the Centennial Convention in Washington last May by the New York Chapter. In reply to a letter from Edmund R. Purves, Executive Director of the A.I.A., Senator Fulbright requested and received from the United States Senate unanimous consent to refer the resolution to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and to having it printed in the Congressional Record.

HONORS AND AWARDS

S. Robert Greenstein has been named an associate of Kelly & Gruzen, architects and engineers, of New York, Boston and Newark. Mr. Greenstein is a registered architect in the state of New York, and a member of the New York Chapter.

Brother Cajetan J. B. Baumann, O.F.M. has been chosen as the American representative on an International Advisory Commission for the restoration of the Basilica of Calvary of the Holy Sepulchre in the Holy Land.

Harry M. Prince, of New York City, was elected to the presidency of the New York State Association of Architects at their annual convention, September 19 to 21, 1957, held in Buffalo, N.Y. Mr. Prince, a practicing architect in New York City, is a former president of the New York Chapter. He is a former Deputy-Commissioner of the Department of Buildings of the City of New York, and has served for the last twelve years as architectural consultant to the State Legislative Committee on Housing, in which capacity he has assisted in the drafting of the state-wide Multiple Residence Law, the Multiple Dwelling Law and the Mitchell-Lama middle-income housing law. He succeeds Trevor W. Rogers of Buffalo.

Joseph F. Addonizio has been appointed Executive Director of the New York State Association of Architects. The executive offices are located at 441 Lexington Avenue and serves the fourteen constituent Chapters and Societies which comprise the 2,000 members of the state organization. For the past 4 1/2 years Mr. Addonizio had served as executive secretary of the Bronx Board of Trade.

Robert W. Cutler was guest speaker last September 12th on Radio Station WNYC's program "Architecture For the Good Life". The subject under discussion was entitled "The Defense of Glass". Jeffrey Ellis Aronin has been moderator of these weekly Thursday evening programs.

COMPETITIONS

An international competition for a new city hall for Toronto, Canada has recently been announced. The competition will be in two stages: eight competitors will be selected from the first stage to compete in the second, each of these then receiving \$7,500. The winner will be the architect for the building, and will receive \$25,000 in advance on a 6% fee basis. Copies of the Conditions of the competition have been available since September 16, 1957, and can be obtained from Professor Eric Arthur, M.A., the professional adviser, c/o City Hall, Toronto, Canada.

The National Institute for Architectural Education, 115 East 40th Street, NYC, has joined the New York State Division of Housing in a new research program to determine how best to reduce the high costs of home construction. The Institute will conduct a series of national competitions for undergraduates at sixty-five architectural colleges. Three cash prizes will be awarded: (1) for the best entry by a student in elementary design for a typical apartment, (2) by an intermediate student for an entire building, and (3) by an advanced student for a project and site plan.

The A.I.A. offers four prizes for writing "that will further public understanding of architecture and the architect". A \$500 cash award will be made to the author of the best news or feature story published in a U.S. newspaper during 1957, and \$250 to the runner-up. Two identical awards will be made for articles judged first or second, on an architectural subject or personality published by a U.S. magazine during 1957. Actual tearsheets (not manuscripts) must be submitted not later than January 30, 1958, and addressed to the Assistant to the Executive Director, American Institute of Architects, 1735 New York Avenue, N.W. Washington 6, D.C. A jury of professional writers and architects will judge the entries. Awards will be announced by March 1, 1958, and presentation of awards made by the A.I.A. chapters of the winners.

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NEW YORK CHAPTER • AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

COMMITTEES FOR 1957-1958

ON THESE PAGES ARE LISTED THE COMMITTEES WHICH WILL BE SERVING THE CHAPTER FOR THE COMING YEAR. PLEASE SAVE THIS FOR REFERENCE. THE MORE THESE COMMITTEES KNOW THE THOUGHTS AND THE WILL OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS THE MORE EFFECTIVELY CAN THEY SERVE THE CHAPTER. CHAIRMEN AND COMMITTEEMEN WILL BE GLAD TO HEAR FREQUENTLY FROM THE CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP.

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DEAN LEOPOLD ARNAUD

JOHN C. B. MOORE

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS CONVENTION

This year's State Convention held at the Hotel Statler, Buffalo, New York, September 18 to 21, was well planned and executed, without an assist from the weather which was hot, sticky and wet.

The local Buffalo-Western New York Chapter, our host, provided perfect arrangements for educational tours and fun events. Roswell Pfohl, as Convention Chairman, had arranged every detail so that all events ran smoothly and on time. (He evidently had no jurisdiction over those Statler elevators). A salute should be given to Freddie Backus for his program planning. Speeches were excellent and Roger Allen was at his best. The Seminar on "Acoustics" with Robert Newman as speaker was a highlight for all. The largest number of exhibitors ever showing at a State Convention ballyhooed their wares.

This report would fail if no mention were made of the hilarious skit, written, directed and played by Tom Imbs and cast, titled "Mr. Frank Lloyd Wrong" -- a surprise presentation at a dinner-dance on Thursday.

The Business session went along smoothly until the question of the Association's approval of a proposed bill to license landscape architects was brought to the floor. Following caucuses by each of the Chapters, the Association approved this measure in principle, plus provisions for further conferences with the landscape architects and engineers.

On Saturday, Trevor Rogers vacated the presidency for our Harry M. Prince and Mat Del Gaudio installed the following new State Association officers.

President:	Harry M. Prince, New York Chapter
1st Vice President:	John W. Briggs, Central New York Chapter
2nd Vice President:	Frederick H. Voss, Westchester Chapter
3rd Vice President:	S. Elmer Chambers, Central New York Chapter
Secretary:	Simeon Heller, Queens Chapter
Treasurer:	Martyn N. Weston, Brooklyn Chapter

The New York Chapter was well represented with 15 delegates. Those who didn't go to Buffalo should make plans now to attend the State Convention in Rochester next fall, October 16 through 18, 1958.

TECHNICAL AND VISITING ARCHITECTS COMMITTEE LUNCHEON

Some candid remarks on earthquake design and slide presentations of a bright array of his recent thin shell structures were highlights of a talk by Mr. Felix Candela of Mexico City at a Chapter luncheon on Wednesday, September 25. The reception and luncheon honoring Mr. Candela was held jointly by the Committee for Foreign Visitors and the Technical Committee.

The views on earthquake design, prompted by the recent severe quake in Mexico, were perhaps a bit dismaying to those seeking a pat answer to the problem. According to Mr. Candela, "the attempt to design for indeterminate earthquake forces is problematic-- success is much the result of pure chance -- it is easy to justify something after it happens!" He reported that about 4 or 5 buildings collapsed completely, all of very poor construction; of the many others damaged, one or two are to be destroyed, the rest repaired. There were no conclusions as to the relative advantages of tall or low buildings, concrete or steel frames -- the same percent of each were affected. The worst effects were said to have been caused by the coincidence of a similar natural period of resonance for the building and the quake; when superimposed the effect is multiplied and "becomes too big to design for."

In presenting his own highly interesting work, Mr. Candela modestly brushed aside esthetics and stated that he designs curved thin shell structures because "I like them -- they are cheaper in Mexico -- competition there requires something a bit different." Mr. Candela was introduced by Robert W. Cutler and A. Gordon Lorimer. The large and enthusiastic attendance numbered 110, almost a record for a luncheon meeting.

STUDENT CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

A lecture series to commemorate the Centennial Year of the A.I.A. is being sponsored by the Schools of Architecture at Columbia University and Pratt Institute and of the Dept. of Architecture at Cooper Union for the Student Chapters of The American Institute of Architects. The lectures, entitled "The Architecture of the Last Hundred Years - Romance and Reality", are to be held in the Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium of the Metropolitan Museum at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, October 18th. The speakers are James Fitch, who will discuss Walt Whitman's Broadway; Sibyl Moholy-Nagy, whose topic is "The Dwellings of High Class New York One Hundred Years Ago"; and Paul Zucker discussing an "Experience of Three Dimensions, 1957 versus 1857."

Preceding the lectures there will be a Buffet Supper for the students at the Jager House, Lexington Avenue at 85th Street, sponsored by the New York and Brooklyn Chapters of the A.I.A.

NEW BOOKS

Estimating General Construction Costs 2nd Edition by Louis Dallavia F. W. Dodge Corporation	\$8.50	Religious Buildings for Today Edited by John Knox Shear, A.I.A. F. W. Dodge Corporation	\$7.50
Acoustics for the Architect by Harold Burris-Meyer & Lewis Goodfriend Reinhold	\$10.00	Arena, Auditoriums & Stadium Guide Edited by Arthur R. Goodfellow National Sports Publication	

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The New York Chapter extends its welcome to the following new members who have chosen to join the A.I.A. and actively support the profession:

Corporate

Samuel Sigmund Alderstein
Robert Blair Alpern
Benjamin Bailyn
Charles Gates Beckwith
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Allen C. Parrette
Robert B. Pils
Thomas O. Raad
Frederick Saphier
George Joseph Schwarz

Associate

Benjamin S. Miller
Robert Gerald Posner
Richard Roth, Jr.
Alan Sherwood Smith

CANDIDATES

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

Corporate Membership

William Henry Ahrens
George Martin Luther Gill
Roger W. Leliwa-Tyszkiewicz

Herman Charles Knebel
Robertson Ward

The Oculus is prepared each month by the New York Chapter's Publications Committee. It is primarily a medium for the interchange of news, announcements and reports on Chapter activities. This year your committee is inaugurating a series of special features that are designed to be significant to the metropolitan area in particular and thought provoking for the profession as a whole. Your reactions, comments and criticisms are urgently requested. Address all communications to "The Editor, Oculus, c/o New York Chapter, A.I.A., 115 East 40th Street, New York 16, New York."