

# O C U L U S

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

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GILLET LEFFERTS, JR., *Editor*



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The New York Chapter Office will be closed for four weeks during the summer, from Monday, JULY 21st to Monday, AUGUST 18th. All telephone calls and the selling of A. I. A. documents will be handled during this period by:

OFFICE SERVICES UNLIMITED  
104 East 40th Street, Room 106  
New York 16, N. Y.  
Telephone: OX 7-4990  
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## NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS' CONVENTION

Powers Hotel, 34 Main West, Rochester, New York, October 16-18, 1958. The President and Officers of the Chapter strongly urge all members to attend this Convention for the sake of a substantial representation.

## NEW YORK REGIONAL COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

The Regional Conference of the New York Area will be held simultaneously with the Convention of the New York State Association of Architects. The Conference will be held on October 15, 1958, 10:00 a.m., Powers Hotel, 34 Main West, Rochester, New York. All Chapter members are privileged to attend.

## ARNOLD W. BRUNNER SCHOLARSHIP

The New York Chapter, The American Institute of Architects, is accepting applications for the 1958 Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship. The grant for an amount up to \$2,400 for advanced study in a specialized field of architectural investigation is awarded annually by the Chapter. Candidates are required to be American Citizens with advanced professional backgrounds and currently active in architecture or related fields and should file applications now. Closing date for all applications is November 15th, 1958. Full information may be procured from the Chapter Office at 115 East 40th Street, New York 16, N. Y. (MUrray Hill 9-7969). Elisabeth Coit is Chairman of the Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship Committee.

The Architectural League of New York at 115 East 40th Street, will be closed from August 1 to September 1, 1958. The Bar however will be open during the first week of that time.

## ELECTIONS

At the Annual Meeting of the N. Y. Chapter on June 4th the following members were elected by 231 valid ballots to serve as officers of the Chapter for the following year:

President  
L. BANCEL LA FARGE

Vice President  
ROBERT CARSON

Secretary  
GILLET LEFFERTS, JR.

Treasurer  
MICHAEL M. HARRIS

Executive Committee  
1960  
GIORGIO CAVAGLIERI  
1961  
A. GORDON LORIMER  
1961  
MICHAEL L.  
RADOSLOVICH

N. Y. S. Association  
Rep. GEOFFRY N.  
LAWFORD  
Alt. GEOFFREY PLATT

Jury for Medal of Honor  
1959  
HARMON H. GOLDSTONE  
1960  
RICHARD KIMBALL  
1960  
LORIMER RICH  
1960  
DANIEL SCHWARTZMAN

Professional Practice  
Committee  
WALKER O. CAIN  
HARVEY STEVENSON  
PERRY COKE SMITH

Committee on Fellows  
BENJAMIN LANE SMITH  
GEOFFREY PLATT



## EDITORIAL NOTES

New York  
May 25, 1958

*IT is with a great deal of pride that the Staff of the OCULUS bids "so long" to our Editor. Gillet Lefferts has proven to be a discerning and sensitive young man with the talent of suiting the job to the personality in such a way that each one of us feels that we have written "over our heads." We are very happy to wish him "Good Luck" in his very important role as Secretary of the Chapter.*

P. V. B.

*Regarding "Letters" published herein, consistent with our policy, we shall continue to publish, with discretion, letters of "Protest and Praise" when we feel that they are of general interest. We reserve the right to withhold Editorial Comment where we prefer that the members draw their own conclusions or where we would like to hear further comment from the readers.*

## PROTESTATIONS AND PRAISE

New York  
June 2, 1958

Your bulletin would be almost perfect were it not for the fact that in your comment on "Examinations for Architectural Registration" delivered by Dr. Robert C. Killough, you failed to state that his discussion was held under the auspices of the New York Society of Architects. The inference from the article was that it might have been held under the auspices of the Architectural League. In the interest of accurate reporting I trust that you will clarify this in your next bulletin.

H. I. Feldman, President  
N. Y. Soc. of Architects

Atlanta, Ga.  
June 4, 1958

I have just finished reading the very excellent May Issue of OCULUS. I want to particularly express my gratification for the article "Thoughts on Professionalism."

It seems to me that it would be profitable to our members if they were given the opportunity to read this very clear exposition of the professional man and his relation to the community. This could perhaps be done by publication in the A. I. A. Journal.

The studies of the now defunct Package Deal Committee had from the very first shown that it is necessary to review our Code of Ethics in the light of Professionalism 1958 and its relation to the American business man.

Herbert C. Millkey  
Package Deal Committee

When the "OCULUS" accepted my article on "professionalism" for architects, I assumed that they would follow its suggestions. I was astounded at finding it sandwiched in between two items that violated its very basic principles—one an article by an unlicensed practitioner, an "Industrial Designer" (who, to add insult to injury, had been invited to write by the Editorial Staff), and the other a reprint of some nonsensical item printed in the November issue of the A. I. A. JOURNAL that advocates a complete turnabout of my effort to make an architect a professional. Now everyone in the office becomes an "architect": the draftsman, the office manager—even the mechanical engineer is an architect! How about the specifications typist? and the blueprint boy? What next? (With this new policy it would not surprise me to find myself being asked to vote for a plumber's helper for president of the New York Chapter!)

You also published an item about the A. R. A. in which you said: "Their stated policy is to unite all registered architects into one organization to promote and protect the profession of architecture." Sounds like a good idea to me. How about a little of that spirit in the New York Chapter "OCULUS"? When are we going to stop using our funds and efforts to help the unlicensed practitioner at the expense of the architect and the profession?

Henry Kohler  
A. I. A., R. A.

New York  
March 2, 1958

... I was delighted with the new format of the Oculus. It not only has dignity but the short, terse paragraphs make it very readable. I thought the slip page a contradiction. Both in length and content the article seems to belong in a magazine.

All in all congratulations are in order to all involved.

Isaiah Ehrlich  
A. I. A.

## THIS EDITION

The OCULUS is printing for the second year in a row, a Special Summer Issue. We have found that such an issue helps to clean up odds and ends such as special notices and that it helps to speed the processing of Candidates for Chapter Membership into Members.

July and August provide a time for the reorganization which takes place in all of the Chapter Committees. The Staff bids you all best wishes for a "restful" summer, hoping that you will return with renewed vigor in the Fall.



## SURVEYOR OF UNSAFE BUILDINGS

All those interested in serving as a Surveyor of Unsafe Buildings for 1958 please advise the Chapter Office by mail before October 1, 1958, giving your correct address and telephone number. It is required that one have ten (10) years' experience in building construction and that one has lived in New York City for the last three years. The Surveyor's fee is \$50.00.

## HERE AND THERE

Percival Goodman, F.A.I.A., spoke to the N. Y. Society of Architects on May 20th. He spoke on "Architecture and Design" . . . Henry Kohler helped in the inner workings of the Chapter by installing shelving in the Chapter storage closet in the upper floors at the League . . . August P. Petrillo, President of the Building Stone Institute announced that the Institute's 1958 Award for outstanding contributions to the field of Architecture was presented to Otto R. Eggers, partner in the firm of Eggers and Higgins. The inscription reads: "In recognition of a long and distinguished career in the field of Architecture and for his use of natural stone to create noble designs of beauty and durability which have been an inspiration to the peoples of the World" . . . Robert W. Cutler has been elected a Director in the Fifth Avenue Association . . . He has also been elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the Community Service Society of N. Y. . . . The Committee on Awards of the Municipal Art Society has designated Michael L. Radoslovich, Director of Architecture of the Board of Education to receive the organization's 1958 medal for outstanding service . . . Skidmore Owings and Merrill received a First National Honor Award of the A. I. A. for the Home Office Building at Bloomfield, Connecticut, for Connecticut General Life Insurance Company . . . Edward D. Stone received the same award for his Pharmaceutical Plant Headquarters in Pasadena, Cal., for the Stuart Company and an Award of Merit for his design of the U. S. Pavilion at Brussels . . . "Architecture not only reflects—it DETERMINES civilization . . ." is one of the quotations in the new booklet "Facts About Your Architect and His Work." It is published by the A. I. A. and should be circulated in the offices of all people who are interested in building or planning and who need an Architect. 30c a copy when you write to the A. I. A. office in Washington . . . Honorary membership award recipient James Felt, has been appointed chairman of the city's new Urban Renewal Board by Mayor Wagner. Major steps have already been taken to implement recommendations to improve Manhattan's upper west side and will be followed up by this Board.

## COMPETITION

The New York State Association of Architects has announced through its new Executive Director a competition open to students attending accredited architectural schools in New York State for a new cover design for its Empire State Architect. The prizes are to be \$100, \$50 and \$25. Particulars may be obtained from Mr. Joseph F. Addonizio, Executive Director, at 441 Lexington Avenue.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

Three nationally syndicated newspaper articles and a half hour television program on CBS have kept the Chapter's public relations program in high gear during recent weeks and contributed to greater understanding of the profession not only in this area but throughout the United States.

Through the Chapter's public relations counsel interviews were arranged for Associated Press with three members on school construction trends. The article, now appearing in the nation's newspapers, points out among other things that "Today's schools are better designed because there are greater numbers of highly competent architectural firms in the school field today than ever before in U. S. history."

The school story also reveals that school building costs have been held down, that the monumental type of school is a thing of the past, and that such spaces as shops, physical education facilities and auditoriums are all necessary teaching spaces, not frills.

The second story, also appearing in major papers in this area and throughout the United States, carries the headline, "Building Your Dream House? Needed: 1 Sturdy Architect." The first paragraph asks, "Planning to build your own dream house? Play it safe—have an architect at your side to ward off any and all possible nightmares." The story then details for two pages the function of architects in designing houses.

The third article concerned the many problems of skyscraper construction in New York. It too has been widely used.

The television program took up the subject, "How can we win the fight against slums?" Ron Cochran, distinguished news commentator, was moderator and Chapter members Arthur C. Holden and Kenneth M. Young; James H. Scheuer, president of the Citizens Housing and Planning Council; and Sidney Freiberg, president of the Morningside Heights Property Association, made up the panel.

The show was secured to help publicize "Planning and Community Appearance," the report just issued in book form by a joint committee of the Chapter and of the New York regional chapter of the American Institute of Planners. Mr. Frantz, public relations account executive for the Chapter, is now engaged in getting the widest possible publicity not only for this book but also for the planning philosophy which it states so well.

## NATIONAL CONVENTION

Fifteen minutes have been given to the Chapter at the Convention Meeting, in which time Arthur C. Holden will present the report of the Joint Committee on Design Control of the A. I. A. and the American Institute of Planners. The title of the report "Planning and Community Appearance" well describes one of the most valuable publications to come to light in recent years on the subject of Design Control. This document should be put in the hands of all Village, City and State Governments.



## RECORD HOUSES OF 1958

F. W. Dodge Corporation's third annual house publication, consists of three sections. Architect-editor Herbert L. Smith, Jr., member of the OCULUS staff, presents in the first section his views on current tendencies of planning and design necessitated by the growing crowdedness of our cities and the resultant desire for privacy in houses. In the second section each of the 20 honored houses is treated individually with pictures, plans and drawings—including details of outstanding design of electrical and mechanical systems; the third section features the newest available products and booklets for planning and building a house.

According to architect-editor Smith "The ideal contemporary house must be a quick change artist; but the effort and instability of hyperflexibility do have certain drawbacks." Adding to this he writes "There are those who claim our houses have been predicated on the requirements of the English tea ceremony, which most of us no longer perform; but there are also minor mutterings that we are now merely substituting the Japanese tea house for the English—while we persist in drinking coffee."

Discussing the "Court Yard Concept House" Smith states "The typical reaction to the outcropping of this type of house has been a nod to the unity and peace it provides, disdain for the possible bleak blankness of the outside walls. The obvious answer to that also is flowering: color, decoration, grilles, sculpture, mosaics, ornamental use of materials."

## REMINDER

The members are reminded that if they expect to be appointed to any of the Chapter Committees for the coming Season 1958-59 they must return the application blank that was sent to them for this purpose by the Executive Committee on April 12, 1958.

## NEW MEMBERS

The New York Chapter extends its welcome to the following new members:

### Corporate

JAMES CALI  
HERMAN M. COLE  
ULRICH FRANZEN  
JAMES P. LORNE

FREDERICK H. REUTER  
CHARLES S. SPECTOR  
JOHN JAMES TUDDA  
RICHARD N. WINGERSON

### Associate

FRANCIS W. AIELLO  
GUNTER GERHARD ARNDT  
HADYN H. CRAIGWELL  
EDGAR STELLWAGON CARR, JR.  
JACOB CHARLES GALLICK  
JAMES S. GASPARI  
GERALD PATRICK HOBBS  
JOHN KING  
GEORGE L. LARSON  
HASANALI ABDULLA MERCHANT  
ROBERT KENNETH LISTER MOORE  
ALFRED ROLA  
GARRETT VAN SICLEN RYERSON, JR.  
MARTIN SCHWARTZ  
MARGOT SPENCER  
ALON TARENDI  
RAYMOND RICHARD WELLS

In addition Frederick W. Adams, Jr. and Robert S. Lundberg have changed from Associate to Corporate members.

## THE CAPITOL

At the Annual Meeting of June 4th, retiring President Robert Cutler announced a special meeting of the Chapter to consider action on the proposed moving of the East Front of the National Capitol. A good deal of discussion took place at this Special Meeting, after which the members present reaffirmed the Chapter Resolution of March 29th, 1956. Essentially this Resolution opposes changes in the central portion of the Capitol Building.

## SANITATION DATA SHEETS

We quote from Sanitation Commissioner Paul R. Screvane's recent letter to the Chapter concerning Sanitation data sheets: "Copies are available upon request by interested professionals in this field. Requests should be made to the Operations Office, Department of Sanitation, Room 717, 125 Worth Street, New York 13, New York, or WOrth 4-3800, Extension 267 or 278."

## NEW BOOKS

Planning and Community Appearance  
A. I. A. and A. I. P.  
Regional Plan Association, Inc.  
\$2.50 for members  
Record Houses of 1958 (Magazine)  
The Editors  
Architectural Record  
\$2.95

## CANDIDATES

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

### Corporate

ROBERT BEATTIE  
CECIL C. BRIGGS  
ALEXANDER DIMITRATO  
CARLOS ANDRES FITZPATRICK  
EDWARD GRONER  
JOUKE JOHN HAKOLA  
LOUIS JENSEN  
BURTON F. NOWELL, JR.  
GEORGE J. VASSILEV  
NORVAL CRAWFORD WHITE

### Associate

ROBERT E. GRAY	Sponsors: James J. Souder Samuel M. Kurtz
HANS HARTMANN	Sponsors: Henry O. Niemann Henry Szatmary
ROBERT L. KNAPP	Sponsors: Charles Luckman W. L. Pereira
OTTO KOLB	Sponsors: Giorgio Cavaglieri Abraham W. Geller
LEE TIETJEN LOBERG	Sponsors: Eustis Dearborn Harmon H. Goldstone
PETER B. VAN TASSEL	Sponsors: Robert B. O'Connor Robert M. Beder