

OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER

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

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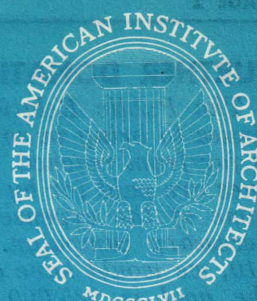
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THE STUDY GROUP CONTINUES

The February meeting of the Hospital Study Group, on Wednesday, February 18th will be devoted to "Automation in Hospital Laboratories." The speaker will be Dr. Paul Gallop, Chief of the Medical Research Laboratory of the Long Island Jewish Hospital and Visiting Associate Professor at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

This is one in a series of lectures on various aspects of hospital planning organized by the Hospital and Health Committee. Lectures start at 5:15 and end at 6:30 P.M. They are held at the Architectural League. There is no charge and anyone may attend.

A medical facility of the atomic age, one which has not received adequate attention from Architects, is the center for group medical practice.

On Saturday, February 28th at 10:00 A.M. there will be a tour of inspection of the Upper Queens Medical Center at 59-25 Kissena Boulevard, Flushing, Queens. Half block north of Horace Harding Boulevard.

This is the newest center erected by an affiliate of the Health Insurance Plan (H.I.P.) and was designed by a member of our Chapter, Abraham W. Geller.

Mr. Geller, who has received considerable acclaim for his previous work with this building type, will lead the tour.

On Wednesday, March 18th Mr. John Thompson of the Yale University, School of Medicine will speak on "The Nursing Station and the Utility Room." His talk will be based largely on a study conducted by Mr. Thompson with the United States Public Health Service.

"COCOON SPRAYS AND PLASTIC COATINGS"

The increased resort to expose shell concrete roofs has brought with it a demand for a waterproof finish which can be easily applied to vertical as well as horizontal surfaces without changing the design aspect of the concrete.

Guy Rothenstein, an associate of Frederic P. Wiedersum Associates, and an expert on material research, particularly plastics, will discuss several plastic coatings at a meeting arranged by The Technical Committee on February 19th at 5:15 P.M.

Mr. Rothenstein's talk, documented by slide films will be divided into two parts:

1. A re-evaluation of sprayed-on vinyl sheetings, a material used in building for over five years, and
2. A report of epoxies, one of the largest architectural plastic coatings. The Architectural Coatings Corporation of New York cooperated with Mr. Rothenstein to assemble material to be used in his talk.

ADVANCE NOTICE

The Publications Committee (*that's us*) wish to announce their forthcoming Seminar on April 30th which will be about "Architectural Criticism." You may have noticed articles of criticism by professionals lately—well so have we!

COMING EVENTS

February 18, Wednesday
Hospital & Health Discussion Group
Gallery A—5:15 P.M.
Subject: Automation in Laboratories

February 19, Thursday
Technical Committee Seminar
Gallery A—5:15 P.M.

February 28, Saturday
Hospital & Health Committee Field Trip
Queens Medical Center

March 3, Tuesday
School Seminar Luncheon
Gallery A—12:30 P.M.

March 11, Wednesday
House Consulting Committee
Seminar 5 P.M.
Subject: "It's on the House"

March 18, Wednesday
Hospital & Health Discussion Group
Gallery A—5:15 P.M.
Subject: Nursing Station & Utility Room

March 24, Tuesday
Technical Committee Dinner
Dining Room—
6:30 Cocktails
7:00 Dinner
Subject: Stamford Church

All events listed above take place at 115 East 40th Street, unless otherwise noted.

FURTHER DONATIONS

The Public Relations Fund Raising Drive continues to bring in some monies. The goal, however, is far from reached. We wonder if members, whose dues are paid for by their firm, should not shoulder some of the expense of this voluntary but wholly necessary campaign. If every member gave only \$10, we would have only \$10,000, and as you know the goal is \$25,000. With some members giving \$0.00 you can imagine how far short of the goal we are.

Thanks for contributions since the last Oculus issue go to: Bloch and Hesse, Messers Ferrenz and Taylor, Gerald K. Geerlings, Gustave W. Iser, Lloyd Morgan, Persich and Giacomelli, Richard R. Scherer, and Toro-Ferrer.

DATES TO NOTE

February 17th to 20th is the Annual National Church Architectural Conference and Exhibition in Los Angeles . . . March 12th Percival Goodman will speak at the Architectural League on Craftsmanship in Religious Buildings . . . March 26th at the League John Burchard will talk on the works of Pier Luigi Nervi . . . Dan Cooper, Architectural League V. P. for Design will preside on meeting at League for "Craftsmanship of Ceilings" February 26th . . .

On Thursday, March 5th, 1959, a luncheon will be tendered to the Honorable Harris H. Murdock, Chairman of the Board of Standards and Appeals, in the grand ballroom of the Roosevelt Hotel, Madison Avenue at 45th Street, New York City, at 12:00 noon sharp. Tickets are available from Charles M. Spindler, Treasurer, 164 Montague Street, MAIn 4-6810, at \$7.00 per person. Table arrangements can also be made with him.

MORE IS MORE

In 20 years, costs of school building have increased only 150% while all-type building has gone up 210%, according to studies of the American Association of School Administrators.

SCHOLARSHIP

A scholarship of \$1,000 open to New York City high school seniors planning to attend a school of architecture was announced by the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

The scholarship is the first of such annual awards just set up by the Plastering Institute of Greater New York, Inc. to encourage more young men and women to become architects.

Applications for the stipend should be made through school principals or members of the Chapter and forms should be mailed not later than February 16, according to Walter H. Kilham, chairman of the Chapter's Education and Scholarship Committee.

INTRODUCING . . .

And we won't tell you who, but one speaker rushing to the speaker's table (when asked by this reporter a very simple question), replied, "Please don't bother me now. There's no time to think. I've got to talk."

—Charette

LOST: A roll with nine photographs each 20 x 22 including monuments, sculpture (Hercules) and Architectural Projects, St. Sofia, Pantoon. If found please call Roman Verhovskoy, Tel. Sc 4-4983, 14 West 87th Street.

FELLOWS AND GOOD FELLOWS

The attention of members is called to the work of the Chapter's Committee on Fellows. It is the function of this Committee to select candidates for advancement to Fellowship and then with the approval of the Executive Committee to prepare the necessary nomination forms and data to be sent to the Jury on Fellows in Washington. Written suggestions are solicited from the membership. Each suggestion will be carefully investigated by the Committee.

Work on the preparation for nominations for next year should be commenced not later than March first. Therefore address your suggestions to the Chapter Committee on Fellows, chairman Arthur C. Holden, at the earliest possible opportunity.

ANNIVERSARY SUPPER DANCE—APRIL 10th

This year's Supper Dance will be a Black Tie affair in the elegant setting of the Crystal Ball Room Suite of the Park-Lane Hotel at Park Avenue and 49th Street.

Tables for ten will be grouped around an adequate Dance Floor and a choice of two hot suppers will be served at the tables between 11:30 P.M. and 12:30 A.M.

There will be continuous music by a seven-man orchestra from 10 P.M. until 2 A.M.

Our accommodations include a separate Cocktail Room where the Festivities will begin at 9 P.M.

Official Announcements will be mailed soon so please return the Reservation Blanks early with seating requests.

REYNOLDS AWARDS

The American Institute of Architects has announced a new set of regulations for the annual \$25,000 R. S. Reynolds Memorial Award for significant use of aluminum in architecture.

These new rules increase the emphasis on the creative and architectural value of the structure selected to receive the Reynolds Award.

Prime consideration will be given to the creative value of the architect's contribution to the use of aluminum and its potential influence on the architecture of our times.

Under the new regulations, an architect may be nominated for the Reynolds Award by anyone—including himself or his firm. Nomination forms can be obtained from the AIA in Washington, D. C. (1735 New York Avenue, N.W.)

The Reynolds Award Jury selected by the AIA, will give preference to works of architecture completed during the last three years. But the Jury may acknowledge earlier work if it desires.

ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE'S PROGRAM

We note with increasing interest the development of The Architectural League's most ambitious cultural program—20 evening events emphasizing collaboration of the building arts—are being held this year. All 20 events are open to the public.

Morris Ketchum, Jr., League president and partner in the New York architectural firm of Ketchum and Sharp, said that there would be 10 "one-man" programs and 10 panel programs. The panel programs include reviews of the engineering work of Pier Luigi Nervi, the old and the new architecture of Puerto Rico, and mural paintings in New York City's public schools. Exhibitions in the League's main gallery are complementing the panel programs.

REGULAR MEETING

At the "Regular Luncheon Meeting" held on Tuesday, January 27th, in the Dining Room, attended by 50 members, the following were nominated for positions on the standing Committee on Nominations: Ronald Allwork, William F. R. Ballard, Elizabeth Coit, Alonzo W. Clark, III, Robert W. Cutler, John Faron, George Holderness, and Robert B. O'Connor.

President L. Bancel LaFarge opened the meeting by presenting an A. I. A. Certificate each to Messrs W. Wilson Atkin, Peter Blake and Julian Neski for their meritorious work in preparing exhibits of outstanding examples of architecture in the United States today for the 1958 International Exposition in Russia. Mr. Atkin prepared the program booklet in Russian and Messrs. Blake and Neski assisted in selecting the examples of architecture.

The assigned members present unanimously elected Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller as an Honorary Associate Member in the calendar year of 1959. His qualifications were read by Percival Goodman, Awards Committee chairman.

The Chapter unanimously voted to support the \$500,000,000 N. Y. State School Building Fund which is up for referendum to the voters. John C. B. Moore, School Committee Chairman brought this bill to the attention of the members present and it was agreed to circularize it to the entire membership to assure its passage on the heels of the Gerosa report.

DEW LINE

The design and construction of the Arctic Distastant Early Warning installations was the subject of a well attended meeting of the Technical Committee, Monday evening, January 19. An excellent film by Western Electric Company made for the U. S. Air Force was shown. Also color slides illustrating the design of the buildings—and the problems encountered—were presented and narrated by Mr. Gannett Herwig, partner of La Pierre, Litchfield & Partners, Architects for the projects. After the film presentations Mr. Herwig answered questions from the group. The committee is to be congratulated for a very interesting and informative meeting.

COMPREHENSIVE SHOWS OF CERAMICS ON VIEW

Open at the Metropolitan Museum of Art is the Ceramic International, a biennial exhibition initiated in Syracuse, N. Y., in 1932 as an annual national showing. Today ten European countries as well as Canada and the United States are represented.

The complete exhibition comprises some 500 pieces and was first shown late last year at the Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts. The collection here includes about 350 works and will continue on tour to other cities after it leaves New York.

TOUCHE

We overheard one architect at the Forum (perspiring from his workout as seminar chairman) say, "The mind is a wonderful thing. It starts working the minute you're born and doesn't stop until you stand up to speak in public."

HERE AND THERE

Sanford Hohauser was one of three young American architects to whom the Corinth Fund presented its 1958 medals for "significant contribution to the esthetic and engineering advancement of our civilization and leadership within the architectural profession." . . . The Museum of Modern Art has scheduled an exhibition on "Four New Buildings" for Feb. 11 through April 19. The buildings include: Wallace Harrison's First Presbyterian Church in Stamford, Conn.; Eero Saarinen's project for the Trans World Airlines terminal at Idlewild; Jorn Utzon's project for the Sydney Opera House; and Guillaume Gillet's church, Notre Dame de Royan . . .

Voorhees Walker Smith Smith & Haines announces that Stephen F. Voorhees and Ralph Walker have withdrawn from the firm, but will continue as consultants . . . Urbahn, Brayton & Burrows have new offices at 635 Madison Avenue . . .

A completely revised edition of the "Handbook of Architectural Practice," edited by Clinton H. Cowgill, F.A.I.A., is available at \$8.00 from the Octagon . . .

The National Institute for Architectural Education has elected the following new officers: Chairman, Esmond Shaw; Vice Chairman, Joseph Judge; Secretary, Jose A. Fernandez; Treasurer, Daniel Schwartzman; also four new trustees to serve until 1961—Lathrop Douglass, B. Sumner Gruzen, Caleb Hornbostel, and Alfred Easton Poor. Trustees continuing on the Board are: Giorgio Cavaglieri, Arthur S. Douglass, Jr., Sidney L. Katz, and Otto Teegen.

John C. B. Moore, chairman of the Chapter's School Committee, gave a statement that the Chapter has "both challenged and refuted Lawrence E. Gerosa's charges on school construction costs and suggested that the Controller 'cease his tilting at windmills.'"

James J. Souder was moderator for Panel Discussions on Noise Control January 14th and 15th at the Hotel New Yorker . . . Our felicitations to A. Gordon Lorimer who was elected Vice President of the Architects Council of New York City . . . At a recent celebration at Versailles (France) to inaugurate Rockefeller restorations, the Minister of Public Education, M. Berthonin conferred a medal of the Order of "des Arts et des Lettres" on Welles Bosworth, raising him to the grade of "Commandeur" in recognition of his valued contributions during so many years to the preservation of France's Historic Monuments at Versailles, Fontainebleau and Reims. Bosworth is well and active though nearly ninety years old . . .

PHOTO CONTEST

Chase Brass and Copper Company is sponsoring a photographic contest for black and white pictures and color transparencies which best illustrate the bronze exterior of the Seagram Building. The Contest is open to all camera fans with duplicate prizes for the black and white and color divisions. Entry blanks can be obtained from photographic stores or from Chase Brass & Copper Co., P. O. Box 2611, Grand Central Terminal, N. Y. 17. Contest closes

—Charette March 15, 1959.

ART NOUVEAU ET AL

Architects have contributed more to the design of 20th century objects than any other single group, an analysis of the current exhibition of useful objects at the Museum of Modern Art reveals. Selected from the Museum's own collection, the show, which began Wednesday, December 17 and will be on view through February 22, traces the development of design here and abroad from the turn of the century to the present day. More than 600 pieces of furniture, lamps, glassware, silver and china are included.

The French architect Hector Guimard is conspicuously represented in the first section of the show dealing with Art Nouveau style.

In the section devoted to work from the Bauhaus, the German school famous in the 30's, furniture by Marcel Breuer, Mies van der Rohe and Le Corbusier is displayed. The last section of the show, where more recent work is on view includes chairs by Aalto, Breuer and Eero Saarinen and a lamp by Philip Johnson and Richard Kelly.

—N. Y. Construction News

THE RISE OF THE SKYSCRAPER

Colonel William Le Baron Jenney, architect-engineer of Civil War fame, had returned from his construction job a little early one day in 1883. Mrs. Jenney was surprised from her reading. Jumping up to greet her husband, she dropped her book on the bird cage. In one split second, Colonel Jenney's nimble mind envisioned the future of American Architecture. "If a fragile bird cage can hold up that heavy book, why couldn't a steel frame hold up a building?" A building's weight supported by its frame, not its walls! Walls would be nothing more than "curtains" to keep the weather out and the people in!

William Le Baron Jenney was no idle dreamer. He molded his vision into concrete reality—Chicago's 12-story Home Life Insurance Building, the first steel-frame curtain wall skyscraper in the world.

—Interior Decorators News

NEW CANDIDATES

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

Corporate

NORMA MERRICK FAIRWEATHER

TIBOR FREUND

WILLIAM MARTINEZ ROIG

Associate

CARL SHEAFF MEYER

Sponsors: ARTHUR S. DOUGLASS, JR.

and JOHN P. JANSSON

JOHN M. BUCHHOLZ

Sponsors: JOSEPH BATKA and
EDWARD A. WORTH, JR.

WILLIAM ST. CLAIR CHILDS, JR.

Sponsors: ROBERT A. JACOBS and
JAMES B. NEWMAN

NEW MEMBERS

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

Corporate

GUSTAVE R. KEANE (by transfer)

Associate

STEPHEN WATTERSON

FRANK J. WAHLER

KIDDER SMITH AWARDED BRUNNER

Mr. L. Bancel LaFarge, President of the New York Chapter announced today the award of the 1959 Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship to G. E. Kidder Smith for a pocket "Guide to the Contemporary Architecture of Europe." Mr. Kidder Smith is well known for his previous books "Switzerland Builds," "Sweden Builds," "Italy Builds" and others.

The Guide would plot the location, identify and give information on all noteworthy contemporary structures (since 1920) in Western Europe. National maps, small sketches of the most important buildings, with street addresses, name of the architect, completion date and brief description of the building should make this an outstanding aid to the traveler, student and professional as well as to the interested layman.

Mr. Kidder Smith's project was selected from among the record number of applications thirty-three, received by the Chapter's Brunner Scholarship Committee.

NARROWS BRIDGE

The New York, Brooklyn and Staten Island Chapters of the American Institute of Architects announced their full support of construction of the Narrows Bridge and its approaches, including the Seventh Avenue route, as proposed by the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority.

The three architectural organizations urged at the same time that the "program include specific proposals for relocation within the area of families displaced by bridge approaches" and declared that "it is imperative that immediate steps be taken by the City Planning Commission and agencies of the various boroughs toward replanning areas affected."

L. Bancel LaFarge, Irving Marks and Michael S. Diamond, presidents respectively of the New York, Brooklyn and Staten Island chapters of the Institute, pointed out that the Narrows Bridge and its approaches will greatly relieve traffic congestion between Brooklyn and Long Island and points south and west.

"At the same time," they declared, "this project will have profound impact on the development of the entire Metropolitan area. Bold, forward-looking plans should be drawn up immediately for the areas affected, so that their full potential can be realized for the City and its residents."

COLUMBIA NAMES HEAD OF ARCHITECTURAL SCHOOL

Dr. Grayson Kirk, president of Columbia University, announced the appointment of Prof. James Grote Van Derpool as Acting Dean of the School of Architecture. He succeeds Dean Leopold Arnaud, who retired Feb. 1 after twenty-four years as dean.

ADVICE

We have received the following succinct advice from an out-of-state Chapter Chairman regarding an AIA policy matter on which we recently wrote him: "If you are having trouble ignoring the facts, organize a committee and it will help."

—Charette