

O C U L U S

NEW YORK CHAPTER

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

MARGOT A. HENKEL • Executive Secretary

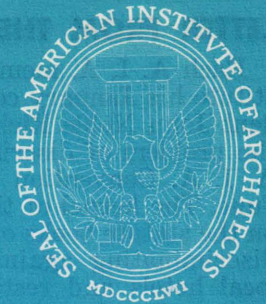
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NURSING STATIONS

On Wednesday, March 18th, Mr. John Thompson of the Yale University, School of Medicine, at the invitation of the Hospital and Health Committee, 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. The meeting will take place at 115 East 40th Street, from 5:15 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.

THE CHURCH—STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

At a dinner meeting at 7:00 P.M. on March 24th the Technical Committee will present a program for the Chapter membership dealing with the design and construction of the First Presbyterian Church in Stamford, Connecticut.

The Church was designed by Wallace Harrison of Harrison and Abramovitz while the adjoining school and parish house were designed by Sherwood Mills & Smith of Stamford as associated architects.

Mr. Yen Liang of Harrison and Abramovitz will discuss the design aspects of the Church while Mr. Patrick DeLuca of DeLuca Construction Co. will discuss the actual erection of the structure.

Talks will be illustrated by colored slides. Ladies are cordially invited to be present.

ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE TOUR

The Hospital and Health Committee is planning a field trip for Saturday, April 4 at 10:00 A.M. to the Rockefeller Institute at East 66th Street and York Avenue. The meeting place will be in the lobby of the Founders Hall Building. We will inspect the Caspary Auditorium, Laboratory and Faculty Buildings.

These buildings were designed by Harrison and Abramovitz, who are members of the New York Chapter, A.I.A.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE

Members are reminded to return as soon as possible the Reservation Blanks attached to the Official Announcements of this year's Anniversary Supper Dance. Please include your check with your reservation request in the amount of Ten Dollars per person. A limited number of tables for six persons and eight persons will be available in addition to the ten person tables announced earlier. Requests for table size and location will be filled in order of receipt.

All Associate and Student Members are cordially invited with their ladies to enjoy the outstanding social event on the A. I. A. Calendar. It will be Friday, April 10, 1959, 9:00 P.M., Crystal Ballroom, Park-Lane Hotel, Black Tie.

"ARCHITECTURAL CRITICISM"

Plans are well on the way to make the April 30th Publications Committee seminar on Architectural Criticism an absorbing evening. Printed criticism of current architectural work, a subject close to all of us, will be the heart of the program.

The panel will be made up of four people, each prominent in the following fields; syndicated columnist, architectural historian, real estate editor, and architect.

After a short statement of their views, followed by a joint panel discussion, the meeting will be opened to questions from the floor.

We know all of you will want to note the date of April 30th and the time of 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

COMING EVENTS

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

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

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

April 4, Saturday
Hospital & Health Committee Field Trip
Rockefeller Institute

April 10, Friday
New York Chapter A. I. A.
92nd Anniversary Supper Dance
Park Lane Hotel—Crystal Ball Room—9:00 P.M.
299 Park Avenue (48th and 49th Street)

April 15, Wednesday
Hospital & Health Discussion Group
Gallery A—5:15 P.M.
Subject: Theory of Hospital Planning
Speaker:
Isadore Rosenfield

April 21, Tuesday
Technical Committee Luncheon
Gallery A—12:30 P.M.
Subject: Levels of Illumination

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Each A. I. A. member has received from The Institute his January copy of MEMO, in which President John Noble Richards, F. A. I. A., has exposed the problem of discrimination confronting the 1959 A. I. A. Convention to be held in New Orleans in June. The kernel of the problem is caused by a Law on the statute books of the State of Louisiana plainly discriminating against the negro race in selected local hotels and restaurants, and consequently affecting the free choice of some of our A. I. A. membership whether to attend the Convention or not.

For information and clarification of the situation to the membership of the New York Chapter, the following letter from the President of the East Bay Chapter, A. I. A., Berkeley, California, is hereby reprinted:

"Some of our chapter members asked that discussion of discrimination in AIA convention cities be taken up at a meeting of the entire East Bay AIA membership.

Accordingly, a discussion took place at our chapter meeting on January 8, 1959. The members adopted the following resolution and also voted that both the resolution and the action be reported to Mr. Edmund Purves, Executive Director of The Institute, and to each member AIA chapter.

Will you notify members of your Chapter, please? The resolution, as adopted, follows:

WHEREAS, The American Institute of Architects is a professional society dedicated to the improvement of man's physical environment and includes in its membership Architects without respect to their race, creed or place of national origin, and

WHEREAS, The American Institute of Architects assembles annually in convention, not to engage in social controversy, but rather for the purpose of serious discussion of said improvement of man's physical environment through better design, improved construction technics and higher standards of professional practice, and

WHEREAS, In order to achieve the purposes so stated, it is necessary that all of the membership of The American Institute of Architects have the freedom to attend and participate fully, without embarrassment, in the activities of the convention.

NOW, THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED, By the East Bay Chapter of The American Institute of Architects that The American Institute of Architects be requested to select or hold to the selection of cities as seats of conventions only when responsible assurances can be given, that all members of The American Institute of Architects will be welcome, without possibility of embarrassment because of race, creed, or place of national origin."

A full discussion of the situation will be invited by your President at the Chapter's Pre-Convention Meeting in May, 1959, with recommendations from your Executive Committee as to appropriate action which the membership might direct your Delegates to take at the 1959 Convention, to prevent any such situation from recurring in the whole future of The American Institute of Architects.

President, N. Y. Chapter AIA
L. BANCEL LAFARGE

LETTERS—"SCHOOL DOLLARS"

February 19, 1959
New York, N. Y.

Our second issue carried a feature article called "School Dollars": facts or frills, which apparently in its circulation nationally is met with tremendous response from architects. We have been surprised and, needless to say, are delighted with the response and requests for reprints of this article.

Therefore, we have decided to go ahead with the reprints in quantity of the article and we would appreciate your publicizing the availability of the material from our magazine. The feature article actually is based on an objective digest of two reports—the first from the California Department of Education and the second from the recent research conducted by the New York State Department of Education.

JOHN JAMES CARLOS, Editor

Copies may be obtained from Architectural & Engineering News, 452 Fifth Avenue, New York 18, N. Y. Longacre 3-6143 (Ed.).

NEW ARCHITECTS ENTERTAINED

An invited group of architectural students, graduates, newly registered architects and members of architectural firms attended the Cocktail Party sponsored by the Membership Committee and Student Members Sub-Committee on Tuesday evening, February 10th. President L. Bancel LaFarge welcomed the 86 guests, who were also addressed by Gates Beckwith, Chairman of the Membership Committee; Harvey Clarkson, Chairman of the Student Members Committee; and Julian Clarence Levi, a Fellow of the Chapter. Membership and Executive Committee members helped in introducing the Chapter to students and graduates from Columbia University and Cooper Union.

HOSPITAL LABORATORIES

On February 18th Dr. Paul Gallop, Assistant Professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Chief of Biochemical Research at the Long Island Jewish Hospital spoke to the Hospital Study Group of the Hospital and Health Committee on "Automation in the Hospital Laboratory."

Dr. Gallop indicated that there are coming into wide use automatic equipment capable of vastly accelerating procedures formerly performed by chemists and bacteriologists as well as equipment which makes determinations not hitherto possible. He also reported that the use of radio-active materials is becoming routine in hospital laboratories.

Dr. Gallop stressed that the new developments will not require radical change in laboratory planning. The main need is to provide adequate floor space, insure reliability of electric current supply and that there be a minimum of voltage fluctuation. He felt that because of the high cost of the new devices and because many people in the laboratory can use them, plans should provide for central equipment rooms.

PARENTS

An architect-parent in Conshohocken, Pa., says he asked his son what he learned in 6th grade history only to be told that Eli Whitney was famous for his remark, "Keep your cotton-pickin' hands off my gin."

Charette

THE KEOGH BILL—IMPORTANT

The Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives has just approved the Keogh bill (H. R. 10) to permit self-employed people to defer payment of income taxes on limited amounts of income which they have laid aside for their retirement. The bill, which will encourage the establishment of voluntary retirement savings, passed the House last session but reached the Senate too late for action.

An early vote by the House is expected on the Keogh bill. The AIA along with other professional organizations suggests that all members telegraph or write their congressman immediately urging him to vote for the bill. In addition, it would be well for members to communicate with their senators and request their support for H. R. 10.

The Citizens Union (tel. BARclay 7-0342) or the League of Women Voters (tel. OREGon 9-3730) will furnish you with the names of your local representatives. Address all communications to the Congressmen at the House Office Building and the U. S. Senators at the Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

Concerted action will be necessary to get the bill through the Congress this session.

REMINDER

We would like to remind you that the A. I. A.'s convention is scheduled for June 22 through June 26, 1959 in New Orleans.

P. R. REPORTS

Your Chapter and your profession in general have lately been receiving greater recognition and stature in the press and receiving the attention they are due. This is due in part at least to our Public Relations Program.

For example, when the proposed new zoning resolution story broke in mid-February, both the New York Times and the New York Herald Tribune were on the telephone in very short order to get the Chapter's reaction. Too many of us remember days when the architect was the last, not the first, to be asked for his opinion on matters architectural; or he wasn't asked at all!

Thanks to some hard work by Jack Gurney, chairman of the Civic Design Committee, and to the speed with which our public relations counsel works, the Chapter had an answer in both papers the next morning. In fact, its reaction was the first detailed one on the principles of the new resolution.

The Chapter's story to the press gave equal credit to the City Planning Commission, and to its consultants, Voorhees Walker Smith Smith and Haines, for "an outstanding effort which can contribute greatly to the orderly and imaginative development of the entire Metropolitan area."

On the other hand this reminds us that a few firms—both large and small—still have not contributed to make possible the Public Relations Program, even under the same budget as last year. Please give this matter prompt consideration, for every piece of publicity which reflects credit on the Chapter and reveals the profession as a leader, not a follower, will sooner or later benefit you individually.

A copy or copies of the new zoning resolution will shortly be available in all public libraries.

Further donations to the Public Relations Fund have been received from: Kelly & Gruzen; La Pierre Litchfield & Partners; Mayer, Whittlesey & Glass.

HERE AND THERE

Samuel S. Adlerstein has announced new associates to his firm by the names of Arnold Lundenberg and Richard Cornell Hooks. They join John James Carlos as associates—this is the same man who is Editor of the *Architectural and Engineering News*—and in his spare time . . . Regional Plan Association lists Max Abramovitz as a new member to the Board of Directors . . . Eric Gugler was re-elected Vice President of the National Institute of Arts and Letters . . . F. W. Dodge Corp. reports good omens in construction . . . Have you been reading about these World Travel Tours? They make our wine palate water . . . An interesting article in the *Architectural Record* about one of the leading architects of the day—Alvar Aalto.

At any time during the past two centuries a New Yorker returning to this city after an absence of fifty, or perhaps only twenty-five years, might well have been confused by the new location, or even the disappearance, of theatres he had known well. It is impossible in one small gallery to record all the Temples of Thespis that New Yorkers might want to recall, but in the exhibition *New York Theatres—Today and Yesterday* there may be seen a cross-section of architectural achievements—and atrocities—from the John Street Theatre erected in 1761 to the theatre most recently built, and even with a glimpse into the future to the projected Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. The exhibition opened in the Theatre Gallery of the Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Avenue at 103-104 Street, and will continue through October 4th.

We note with interest that sculptor Paul Manship and painter Alfred Crimi are also members of the N. Y. C. Art Commission . . . William Dudley Hunt, Jr., has a new book on "The Contemporary Curtain Wall," and was recently appointed senior editor of the *Architectural Record*.

The following is an excerpt of some interest taken from the N. Y. Construction News last January:

"1958 was dotted with events that stood out on the calendar. The Seagram building, Mies van der Rohe's, austere exercise in construction geometrics was finished and represents probably the apogee in this architectural idiom. Even the gardens at the entrance have a severe, no-frivolty-here look about them. The discipline imposed on the building almost makes Lever House, forerunner of the no-nonsense skyscrapers, seem slightly rococo . . . One of the most curious buildings in New York City, finished during the past year was the Bank of New York Building on Fifth Avenue, between Forty-fifth and Forty-sixth Street. Curious because of the juxtapositional effect gained by use of a traditional material, limestone, in the modern, curtain-wall manner . . . After several false starts, the Grand Central Terminal Building, is now on its way. An octagonal, glass-walled building has been set by the building's architects, Roth, Gropius, and Belluschi."

The NYC architectural firm of Holden, Egan, Wilson & Corser has moved to new quarters at 630 Third Avenue.

Urbahn, Brayton and Burrows, Architects, moved to new and larger quarters at 635 Madison Avenue, New York 22, New York . . . We do know that plans for an apartment building at Park Avenue and Sixty-ninth Street are under way and that an interesting architectural combination, Victor Gruen and Kahn & Jacobs, have been assigned to the project.

RELATED ASSOCIATIONS CONTINUED**ARCHITECTS COUNCIL OF
NEW YORK CITY—1959**

Delegate: A. Gordon Lorimer

Alternate: Frederick G. Frost, Jr.

We are pleased to publish the following appointments to Architects Council committees:

Audit and Finance

William Potter

City Legislative

Joseph B. Klein

John S. Linn

Harry B. Rutkins

City Planning and Zoning

Ben C. Bloch

George J. Cavaliere

M. Milton Glass

State Legislative Committee

George H. Bissell

Frederick C. Genz

Samuel M. Kurtz

Henry Steinhart

Publicity

Mortimer E. Freehof

Clarence B. Litchfield

CUTLER APPOINTED BY MAYOR

Robert W. Cutler, partner in Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and past president of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, has been appointed a member of the Art Commission of the City of New York by Mayor Robert F. Wagner.

Mr. Cutler is a member of the Mayor's Special Committee to Study Inspectional Practices in the Department of Buildings and a director of the New York Building Congress and the Building Research Institute. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Fifth Avenue Association and a Trustee of the Community Service Society.

FELLOWSHIP ANYONE?

Last month we published an article explaining what and who the Committee on Fellows is. This month we are appealing to you to give further thought on this subject.

The committee will be very interested to review your suggestions of members who should be advanced to Fellowship. Heaven knows that if you or we would like to be considered on the basis of service or design there must be many others who have contributed greatly to the Institute and to Architecture and really deserve nomination.

Remember Arthur C. Holden is the chairman to talk to.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Corporate

RAPHAEL H. COURLAND

RAY E. CUMRINE

RICHARD F. CURRAN

ROY FRIEDBERG

Associate

HOWARD H. BREWER

In addition the chapter also extends welcome to: ROGER W. SHERMAN who is being readmitted after being resident-out-of-state.

BASIL YURCHENCO who is transferred from the Eastern New York Chapter.

OLIVIER DE MESSIERES and EDWARD J. HILLS formerly Associate Members who are now Corporate Members.

BENJAMIN BAILYN who has joined the chapter as an unassigned member.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE TALK

"Plastic Coatings" was the subject of a talk given by Guy Rothenstein of Frederick P. Wiedersum Associates at a meeting sponsored by the Technical Committee on Thursday evening, February 19.

He opened the first part of his talk with a discussion of the composition and general properties of vinyl coatings, then went on to discuss the general characteristics of these materials which make them particularly applicable to building construction: life expectancy, maintenance and important factors concerning application were stressed.

At the end of the first part of the meeting Mr. Rothenstein answered questions from the floor regarding more specific problems, failures, and special situations concerning vinyl coatings.

In the second part of the meeting Mr. Rothenstein spoke on Epoxy Resins as plastic coatings. After briefly giving the background and nature of their formulation he went on to speak of their characteristics, and application to building, generally contrasting these with vinyl coatings and suggesting areas of superior performance.

DEFINITION

If you are under any illusion that America is not hellbent toward Bigness, the following definitions of *A Small Business* promulgated officially by the Federal Government's Small Business Act may enlighten you. *A Small Business* is (1) A service business doing \$1,000,000 a year or less (2) A wholesale business doing \$5,000,000 a year or less (3) A manufacturing business with 250 workers or less.

Charette

APPELLATION

Bernard Tomson, authority on state laws governing architectural practice, says many states allow anybody to practice architecture and sign drawings so long as the signer's *rightful identification* is affixed. This made possible an interesting case cited by Tomson in which an architectural undergraduate signed his working drawings followed by the identification "Ignorant, Inexperienced Student" and saw them sail through customs unchallenged.

Charette

CANDIDATES

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

Corporate

JOHN J. CARLOS

CHARLES L. MAGRUDER

ROBERT FREDERICK GATJE

ILSE M. REESE

BURTON H. HOLMES

GEORGE A. SANDERSON

EASON HARRIS LEONARD

Associate

DAVID L. ARDITO

Sponsors: HARVEY P. CLARKSON

ALLEN R. CONGDON

JOHN C. DEBRULYE

Sponsors: ASHFORD S. ELLIS

GEORGE HILS FERRENZ

WILLIAM J. FRANK

Sponsors: GEORGE S. HOLDERNESS

ALLEN R. CONGDON

DAVID KENNETH SPECTER

Sponsors: THORNE SHERWOOD

JEFFREY ELLIS ARONIN

HERBERT DAVID WARRINGTON

Sponsors: ALBERT KENNERLY

ROBERT W. CUTLER

DANIEL H. WATTS

Sponsors: RICHARD ROTH

ALBERT KENNERLY

FERDINAND L. WYCKOFF, JR.

Sponsors: WILLIAM PLATT

GEOFFREY PLATT