

NEW YORK CHAPTER



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

L. BANCEL LAFARGE • *President*
ROBERT CARSON • *Vice President*
GILLET LEFFERTS, JR. • *Secretary*
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COMING EVENTS

November 27, 1959, Friday
Women's Arch. Aux. Ball
Metropolitan Club
1 East 60th Street

November 30, 1959,
Monday
Hospital & Health
Discussion Group
Gallery A—5:15 P.M.

December 15, 1959,
Tuesday
Technical Committee
Symposium
Gallery A—5:15 P.M.

All events listed above take place at 115 East 40th St., N. Y. C., unless otherwise noted.

OCULUS

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DAVID L. EGGERS THE NEW V. P.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of David L. Eggers to the post of Vice President of the New York Chapter, following the retirement of Robert Carson from that office.

Mr. Eggers is a former Chairman of the Membership Committee and has been a director on the Board since 1957 as well as being Chairman of the Admissions Committee in his spare time.

To complete the shift required by this new development, Mr. Max O. Urbahn assumes the position of Director to fill out the Board, while Michael L. Radoslovich becomes the Chairman of the Admissions Committee.

We wish all these new appointees well and offer any help that we can give. At the same time we regret Mr. Carson's retirement, but thank him for his services this past year.

HOSPITAL AND HEALTH AGAIN ACTIVE

The Hospital and Health Committee is planning six meetings this season on matters relating to hospital planning. An attempt will be made to relate the topics of these meetings to the various field trips.

The first in the series on Monday, November 30th, is on a timely and controversial subject: "Ventilation and Air Conditioning of the Surgical Suite." The speaker will be Mr. Arnold Windman of Syska and Hennessy.

We urge the attendance of new members along with the old standbys. These discussions are interesting and informative. Remember, at the Chapter Headquarters at 5:15 P.M.

HEATING AND COOLING MATTERS

As the second program of the year arranged by the Technical Committee, "Recent Developments in Heating and Air-Conditioning for the Modern Building" will be the subject of a talk by Mr. Charles Broder of the Port of New York Authority on Tuesday, December 15th at 5:15 P.M. at Chapter Headquarters, 115 East 40th Street, New York, N. Y. The host of new problems created by modern architectural design and construction necessitate a comparable application of new techniques and designs in heating and air conditioning. The available equipment in the field and the methods that are employed in designing them for the buildings of today will be presented and discussed.

Mr. Charles Broder is a graduate engineer and has a Bachelor of Science Degree and a Master of Science Degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is a licensed professional engineer with many years of experience in the building industry. As the staff mechanical engineer of the Port of New York Authority, he is responsible for all of the mechanical design in Port Authority Facilities.

LETTERS

October, 1959
New York City

"Laying" what on the table? or just *lying* there?
Anyhow, congratulations on the new format.

William J. Ward, Jr., A.I.A.

EDITOR: *All the above is to say that Mr. Ward's very sharp eye caught us in the misuse of the word "laying" in the article which said we did not want the OCULUS to be found "laying on a table . . ." Thanks for the comments.*

October, 1959
New York City

A good try but in my opinion the format of the old "Oculus" was better.

The convention of the New York State Association of Architects, held recently at Whiteface Inn, Lake Placid, New York, is completely ignored in this issue. Why?

19 members of the New York Chapter attended the convention as delegates. Two of them, Bob Cutler and Geoffry Lawford, ran for high offices in the Association. Yours truly, a former president of the New York Chapter, ended a two year term as State Association president.

If the State Association and its activities are of so little interest to the Chapter membership as to be completely ignored by the Chapter's official publication, then why is the Chapter paying so much for membership in the State Association — OR — did somebody just goof?

Harry M. Prince, A.I.A.

EDITOR: *We heartily agree with Mr. Prince—it would appear that OCULUS had ignored the NYSAA Convention. But it is true that the convention which was advertized in the Summer Issue falls at a time between October write-ups and printing. We hope that the report elsewhere in this issue will provide our readers with the news.*

ZECKENDORF ONCE SAID

"I could 'exemplify' what I am talking about by telling you the New York story on decentralization of industry. New York for years and years, being at the seaboard, had the industry of America. It was a great harbor. It had the benefit of the canal systems for communication and later the railroads. It was the market place. It had the tremendous labor pool . . . It was industry and it lived off industry.

"However, industry changed and the Island of Manhattan . . . did not change because it could not change, surrounded as it was by rivers. New York had to go in for 'verticalization' and industry had to go in for 'horizontalization.' The city stood at a crossroad and commenced to lose industry . . . until today I would hardly call New York an industrial city in the accepted sense of the word. It lost industry, but it realized that it could do something else for the nation and play another part.

"It recognized that in inverse ratio to the urge to decentralize came the necessity for recentralization of a center market place, an idea center . . . If New York could only go about the business of reattracting the sales and buying forces of these very industries that left it, it might then find a function in the national orbit.

"It went about that business . . . with extraordinary success. We have some statistics that indicate . . . that there has been built in the City of New York on the Island of Manhattan, since the year 1947, more first-class office space than there exists in all of the City of Chicago today."

INVITE FROM THE WAA

The Founder's Committee of the Women's Architectural Auxiliary, New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, is sponsoring the first annual Doric Debutante Cotillion to be held Friday, Nov. 27, at the Metropolitan Club, 1 East 60th Street.

Music will be by Ben Cutler's orchestra and a champagne supper will be served at midnight.

The recently founded auxiliary of the more than century old American Institute of Architects is extending invitations to members of the Chapter, the Auxiliary and friends. Proceeds will benefit the scholarship fund.

The Founder's Committee sponsoring the ball includes: Mrs. Alonzo W. Clark, III, Mrs. Robert Ward Cutler, Mrs. Morris Ketchum, Jr., Mrs. Irvin Leslie Scott, AIA, and Mrs. Harold R. Sleeper. Alternates of the Founder's Committee will also serve as members of the Doric Cotillion. They are: Mrs. Lathrop Douglass, Mrs. David Hughes, Miss Eleanor Pepper, AIA, Mrs. James J. Souder, and Mrs. Maximillian Otto Urbahn.

Miss Hester Suzanne Woodfin is Chairman of the Debutante Committee and Miss Mimi Spaeth is Chairman of the Post Debutante Committee. Mr. Peter Wistar Ambler serves as Chairman of the Floor Committee.

Information regarding the cotillion may be obtained from WAA headquarters, 24 West 55th Street, New York 19, N. Y. Tel.: CI 7-4436 or CI 6-1288.

BUILDING CODES

On Thursday, October 15, Chapter member William B. Tabler, architect for Statler-Hilton and innumerable other hotels, initiated the season's series of programs sponsored by the Technical Committee with a thorough discussion of the inconsistencies in building code regulations throughout the Nation.

With brief introductory reference to his address before the Cleveland Convention in 1958, Mr. Tabler undertook to bring the audience up-to-date on the illogical and wasteful state of current codes with which commissions in various parts of the country have brought him into contact. Feeling that it is the responsibility of the Architects as a group to take a definite stand in this matter by recommending the adoption of a standard code as a means of reducing discrepancies, eliminating labor featherbedding, achieving uniformity of interpretation and minimizing of revisions and reviewing personnel.

As a member of the A. I. A. Code Committee, he found that there are four well established codes in use in various parts of the country: the Southern Conference Code, the Pacific Coast Uniform Building Code, the Building Officials of America Code, and the National Building Code of the NBFU. Unfortunately, the four groups cannot be persuaded to agree on which code should be selected. Furthermore, while it is necessary that the code adopted be authoritative, most states will require an Enabling Act to permit reference to an out-of-state standard.

By way of illustration, Mr. Tabler presented a series of beautifully prepared charts used in seeking code interpretations on a current garage-hotel project in San Francisco.

The advantages of code simplicity and universality to the local architect, as well as to the nationwide practitioner, were made most apparent by the logic of the presentation.

HOUSING DESIGN AWARDS PROGRAM WIDENED

The 1960 *Homes for Better Living* awards program has expanded from a regional to a national competition, embracing all 50 states. The program, sponsored by the American Institute of Architects in cooperation with House and Home and Life, is aimed to encourage and give special recognition to good design and sound construction in homebuilding.

Any house, designed by a registered architect and completed since January 1, 1957, is eligible. Custom-built houses and houses built for sale are to be judged in separate categories. These categories are further subdivided into classes according to size and cost.

Entry slips and more detailed information can be obtained by writing to the:

American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C.

The deadline for submission of entry slips is January 15, 1960, but the actual entry material must be postmarked no later than midnight February 12, 1960.

ARCHITECTS HAVE MOSES FOR DINNER

Robert Moses, Commissioner of the Department of Parks of New York City was presented the Allied Professions Medal of The American Institute of Architects last Wednesday, October 28, at the testimonial dinner sponsored by the New York Chapter.

John Noble Richards, the Institute's president, made the presentation.

The Allied Professions Medal was established by the board of the American Institute of Architects in 1957 to honor an individual or professional organization for achievement in the design professions related to architecture in the fields of landscape architecture, planning and engineering.

Mr. Moses, who was unable to be present to accept the award at the Institute's convention last June, is president of the Long Island State Park Commission; chairman of the State Council of Parks; chairman of the Triborough Bridge & Tunnel Authority; member of the City Planning Commission; City Construction Co-Ordinator; chairman of the Mayor's Slum Clearance Committee; and chairman of the Power Authority of the State of New York.

At the same dinner Mr. G. E. Kidder Smith, architect, author and critic, was invested a Fellow in the Institute.

Mr. Kidder Smith was one of thirty-nine architects from all sections of the nation elected last spring as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. Because he was abroad compiling a guide to contemporary European architecture, he could not attend the Institute's convention when the other members of the profession were invested.

Also attending the meeting which was broadcast on radio were L. Bancel LaFarge, president of the New York Chapter; James Felt, Chairman of the City Planning Commission; Edmund R. Purves, Executive Director of the AIA; Commissioner Alfred Lama of the New York State Assembly; Frederick H. ZurMuhlen, Commissioner of Public Works and the Presidents of neighboring Chapters all adding to the total of 203 attending.

HERE AND THERE

Those who have been hungry for architectural criticism will find some sustenance in Chapter member Walter McQuade's new department on architectural commentary for *The Nation*. A quick look at the first one (in the August 29 issue) gives the impression of pretty forthright and candid notes on some of the newer buildings in New York . . . The October 12 AIA MEMO had a nice item on Julian Levi: "Julian Clarence Levi of the New York Chapter was pleasantly surprised when the Chamber of Commerce at Lille, France, awarded him its medal 'in recognition of his activities in Franco-American relations.'"

Olindo Grossi's seminar speech on "Inside Our Profession"—and directions for education, has been described as one of the high points of the New York State Association of Architects annual convention. . . . Chapter members George D. Brown, Jr., Giorgio Cavaglieri, G. Harmon Gurney, and Samuel Raten-sky held a fine Visitors Committee panel session on October 15, comparing American and Russian housing with 16 visiting Russian Architects . . . The same Russians showed that they really keep up with the American press at a cocktail party which Ed and Maria Stone gave for them—the first thing each wanted to see in the Stone's house was the mosaic coffee table Maria Stone had made, and which was once mentioned rather obscurely in a picture caption.

The architectural exhibit "Form Givers at Mid-Century," organized by *Time* magazine for the American Federation of Arts, is continuing its rounds of the country—it recently closed in Boston and is now in Pittsburgh. New York firms included are: Breuer, Harrison, Johnson, SOM, and Stone . . .

William Tabler's new Pittsburgh Hilton is to open in early December with much pomp and fanfare . . . Like it or not, the Guggenheim Museum is certainly generating architectural comments—press and otherwise . . . Jose Fernandez got the *New Yorker's* Talk of The Town treatment for his Kitty Kelly shop suspended over the ramps in Grand Central . . . The new Grand Central tower (now apparently dubbed Grand Central City) by Roth, Gropius and Belluschi, will reportedly have "one of the most ambitious landscape, roofscape and site development patterns ever planned for a New York office building."

Signs of the times: Grove Press has just re-issued an expensively boxed, warm-red-bound edition of Viollet-le-Duc . . . Robert Moses will be more perplexed than ever. At the A. I. A. testimonial dinner for him at the Sheraton East Hotel, October 28, he spoke of the apparent disparity of spirit in the contemporary architect who enjoys studying European Antiquities . . . *Harpers* magazine promises a number of articles on architecture for the coming year.

The Architectural League launched the third of its preliminary exhibitions of its "1960 National Gold Medal Exhibition of the Building Arts" with a dinner on November 5. This part of this year's comprehensive and ambitious program covered Health and Recreation. Speakers included Basil Yurchenco of the New York Chapter talking on "Planning of Clinics," Emerson Goble of Architectural Record on "The Future In Homes For The Aged," and Chapter member Paul Nelson on "Hospitals For Tomorrow." The recreation side of the exhibit will be discussed at a dinner meeting on November 19.

EUROPEAN TRAVEL

The possibility of an extremely interesting European travel tour has come to our attention. Sir Henry Lunn, Limited has sent us the following information concerning a 30 day jaunt for Architects next Summer or Fall.

The tour, based on 60 to 90 participants, would operate on \$360 including the usuals, plus air charter of about \$250 per person. Parts of the trip read:

Leave NEW YORK by air for LONDON . . . A tour of London with special emphasis on the architectural aspects of historic London . . . A visit to the RIBA and the School of Architecture. Visits to many building projects. An excursion to the refurbished Paladin Villa, Chiswick House and Adams masterpiece, Syon House, with other visits if possible . . . Oxford with visits to some of the famous buildings: Blenheim Palace, Vanburgh's great palace built for the Duke of Marlborough; Stratford-on-Avon to see the theatre; Coventry to see the new Town Center and Cathedral. Leave London for Dover and Ostend . . . Continue to BRUSSELS . . . Reims to DIJON. Drive through the Jura Mountains to GENEVA by way of Bourg . . . Sightseeing at Geneva . . . Lake Lemane to Lausanne. Visit the great cathedral of Milan and also the Scala Opera House before driving through Verona and Padua . . . VENICE, the Queen of the Adriatic . . . The Palace of the Doges, St. Mark's with its beautiful square . . . See the famous Rialto Bridge. RAVENNA, the city associated with Dante and famous for its magnificent examples of 6th Century Christian architecture particularly the churches of S. Apollinare and S. Vitale . . . to ROME . . . While in Rome you will have the opportunity to visit Roman buildings, monuments to the great architects of the Renaissance including St. Peter's in the Vatican, the Capitol and the Palazzo Farnese at Caprarola. Drive to FLORENCE. Two days will be spent in this magnificent city of the Renaissance. You will stop at Pisa . . . A day's drive along the Italian Riviera through Genoa, largest port of Italy, to NICE . . . Matisse's chapel. The tour continues to MARSEILLES where you will be able to visit Le Corbusier's original concept "La Cité de Lumiere" . . . Lyons, then on to CHALONS-SUR-SAONE . . . Continue on through Burgundy and then through Auxerre and Sens, each with buildings of historic importance, to Fontainebleau where a visit will be made to the famous chateau before driving on to PARIS. In Paris, visits to UNESCO and many of the interesting new buildings. There will be opportunity to meet with French architects . . . and on the 30th day arrive back home.

If you are interested, please call Mrs. Henkel for more information (Murray Hill 9-7969).

NEW MEMBERS

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

SOLOMON BAUM	JOSEPH FULLER
GERARD A. BRUNKHORST	SIDNEY S. PAUL
LIONEL A. F. CAPELLA	HAMILTON PIKE SMITH
HENRY N. COBB	FRED L. SOMMER
JAY FLEISHMAN	EMERY S. TABOR

And to the following Corporate Member who was transferred from the Potomac Valley Chapter, Maryland to the New York Chapter:

EDWIN B. MORRIS, JR.

STATE CONSTRUCTION PROCEDURES

Please excuse us. In our haste to make known the availability of the revised edition of the State Construction Procedures Manual we gave you, in the October Issue, the wrong address, write to:

New York Executive Department
Division of Housing
270 Broadway
New York 7, New York
(Price \$3.00)

NYSAA CONVENTION

Gone but not forgotten is this year's New York State Association of Architects Convention. Of particular note was the end of the term of Harry M. Prince, who has done such a fine and thorough job for the Association for the last two years.

The Convention continued to show progress as it adopted, with minor modifications, the new By-Laws. Included as an added feature this year was a Seminar program, "Inside Our Profession," moderated by Thomas Creighton, F. A. I. A. The panelists were Olindo Grossi, A. I. A., Dean of the School of Architecture at Pratt Institute, Vincent C. Kling, A. I. A., of Philadelphia and John J. Calanese, Assistant Attorney General. Questions and answers followed the panel discussions.

Our congratulations to the newly elected:

John W. Briggs, President; Frederick H. Voss, 1st Vice President; S. Elmer Chambers, 2nd Vice President; Simeon Heller, 3rd Vice President; Allen Macomber, Secretary and Martyn N. Westen, Treasurer.

Our thanks go to the following Chapter members who attended the Convention:

John Carlos, George J. Cavalieri, Robert W. Cutler, Matthew W. Del Gaudio, Fred C. Genz, Nathan R. Ginsburg, Olindo Grossi, James S. Hornbeck, L. Bancel LaFarge, Paula Treder, John Nelson Linn, Harry M. Prince, William Potter, Daniel Remeta, Harry B. Rutkins, Roger Spross, Michael Radoslovich, Thomas H. Creighton, Geoffrey N. Lawford, Louis E. Ordwein, Daniel Schwartzman, Gillet Leferts, Jr., Charles E. Fouhy, Alton L. Craft.

WHAT IS YOUR QUESTION?

Q. *What is a Design Conference?*

A. A place where conversation is substituted for the dreariness of labor and the loneliness of thought.

Q. *What ever happened to the custom of incising the architect's name permanently in some modest but conspicuous manner on each building he designs?*

A. This custom has been superceded by placing the Architect's name in the cornerstone box and sealing it away. This assures anonymity and provides scarcely needed publicity 50 or 100 years hence when the structure is razed.

CHARETTE—May, 1959

CANDIDATES

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

Corporate Members

HENRY THOMAS COLEMAN DAVIS
S. WILLIAM MITTLEMAN

Associate Members

ROBERT JOHN BRIDGES
MICHAEL DAVID NEWMAN

Sponsors

{ Edwin Harris, Jr.
{ Gunther G. Arndt
{ Harry P. Jaenike
{ Nicholas J. Sensy