

NEW YORK CHAPTER



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

L. BANCEL LAFARGE • *President*

ROBERT CARSON • *Vice President*

GILLET LEFFERTS, JR. • *Secretary*

MICHAEL M. HARRIS • *Treasurer*

MARGOT A. HENKEL • *Exec. Sec.*

COMING EVENTS

March 23, Wednesday
Technical Committee
Lecture
Gallery A—5:15 P.M.

March 26, Saturday
Hospital and Health
Committee Field Trip
600 East 233rd Street

April 6, Wednesday
Hospital and Health Dis-
cussion Group
Gallery A—5:15 P.M.

April 18-22, Monday
through Friday
A. I. A. Convention
San Francisco, Calif.

April 27, Wednesday
Technical Committee
Lecture
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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SEVEN NAMED FELLOWS

Six members of the New York Chapter and one member of the Brooklyn Chapter of the American Institute of Architects have just been elected fellows of the Institute. Investiture of the new fellows will be part of the program of the national convention of the A. I. A. in San Francisco April 18-22.

George E. Beatty, Lathrop Douglass, L. Bancel LaFarge, Geoffrey N. Lawford, A. Gordon Lorimer, Daniel Schwartzman and John Walter Severinghaus were among the 43 chosen for this honor, one of the highest in the architectural profession.

Lathrop Douglass, the designer of the Creole Building in Caracas, Venezuela and the Esso Building in Bogota, Columbia, is the author of many articles and books on architecture.

The president of the New York Chapter of the A. I. A., L. Bancel LaFarge, is the past president of the Municipal Arts Society of New York. Among examples of his firm's work are the B. O. A. C. space at the International Arrival Building, Idlewild and the Caneel Bay plantation resort at St. John, Virgin Islands.

Geoffrey N. Lawford, is currently engaged in reconstruction plans for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Museum and is Vice-chairman of the N. Y. Board of Examiners of Architects.

A. Gordon Lorimer has served as consulting architect for the Delaware Memorial Bridge, the New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maine and West Virginia Turnpikes. He acted as Chief Architect for the Department of Public Works of the City of New York.

Daniel Schwartzman, a designer of international scope, is a member of the faculty of Pratt Institute. He is past president of Architectural League of New York and past president of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

J. Walter Severinghaus is with the firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and best known for his work on such distinguished buildings as the International Arrivals and Air Line Buildings at Idlewild, and Ford Motor Co. Staff Office Building in Dearborn.

THE MOSCOW TRADE FAIR—1959

The Moscow Trade Fair of 1959 may be old hat by now, but Mr. Nelson's remarks are not. For, while discussing the Fair in general and his plastic umbrellas in detail, he will give a keen appraisal of Russian potential in planning, design, and construction.

Mr. Nelson is well-known to Chapter members as architect and industrial designer.

Remember the time: Wednesday, March 23rd, 1960 at 5:15 P.M. at 115 East 40th Street, New York, New York.

HOSPITAL AND HEALTH IN THE FIELD AGAIN

On Saturday, March 26 the H & H Committee will be visiting the Misericordia Hospital at 600 East 233rd Street. This is a very interesting building and we encourage you to be there at 10:15 A.M.

Be sure to attend the next H & H discussion group on Planning which will be on April 6th in Gallery A, 115 East 40th Street at 5:15 P.M.

SAN FRANCISCO CONVENTION

Send in your pre-registration forms for the San Francisco Convention. This promises to be one of the finest AIA Annual Conventions ever held. Time is growing short as April 18th approaches.

LETTERS

We are very happy to publish in part a most enthusiastic letter from Raymond H. Julian to the N. Y. Chapter President L. Bancel LaFarge. ED.

Charlottesville, Va., February, 1960.

With many thanks, and due to the kind offices of the Institute, I was able, last September, while travelling in England, to deliver an address to the Ilford, Essex, Chapter of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Ilford being a suburb of London.

While I have filled many speaking engagements in this country to various groups, I must admit that I had some qualms about appearing before a distinguished group of British architects. However, everything went very well, and I am most happy to report that I have never been accorded such a hospitality, and such a genuine warm welcome, as was given by those friendly gentlemen on that evening.

The reason I am writing to you, I feel very strongly that the members of the American Institute of Architects, and particularly the members of my own Chapter, should be informed of the most cordial reception which was given me by our fellow architects in Britain.

I hope that you will be able to direct a report of this cordiality in the most favourable and effective channels....

RAYMOND H. JULIAN,
New York Chapter, A.I.A.

OUR TRAVELING SECRETARY

We were most happy to see that the Executive Committee has seen fit to send, with their blessings, the Chapter Executive Secretary, our own dear Margot Henkel to the meeting of Chapter Executives at the Octagon in Washington, D.C. this month and later next month to San Francisco for the National Convention. Bon Voyage!

COLUMBIA ANNOUNCES

Tall, urbane Charles R. Colbert, AIA, brings a background distinguished by great interest and accomplishment in the areas of architecture, education and research to his recently appointed role as dean of the Columbia University School of Architecture. A senior partner of Colbert and Lowrey and Associates, New Orleans architectural, design and city planning firm, Mr. Colbert succeeds Leopold Arnaud. He will assume his duties on April 1. Colbert has been granted a leave of absence for the first three months of his new deanship to inspect other centers of architecture in the United States and Europe and to compare and evaluate educational techniques.

In accepting the Columbia post, Colbert stated: "I am convinced that Columbia's School of Architecture can and should become the most contributive academic force in twentieth century architecture. To accomplish this, these objectives should be placed before the School: to prepare the future architect, to inspire and assist the active professional, and to inform the public at large of the aims and obligations of the architectural profession...."

MUSINGS...

Today, we have no limitations in materials—we work in many climates, we serve a society that changes all the time. And yet, when looking through the various publications we see "accepted styles."

For the first time in History, most of us are limited by nothing other than the lack of imagination, individuality and possibly a sense of humor. (The Ancients also had to contend with function, budgets and bucolic clients.) Why not throw away our fears and take the first chance History has given us and use our freedom?

Let's design honestly, put in our buildings what WE feel, and forget "all the others." This is the only formula for getting away from mediocre buildings—and possibly achieving good ones.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

President L. Bancel LaFarge has announced the Nominating Committee for 1960 as a result of the 381 ballots received (of which 13 were void—architects still have difficulties with English words) as follows:

Morris Ketchum
John C. B. Moore
Robert B. O'Connor
Matthew W. Del Gaudio
Harvey Stevenson

BOARD OF EDUCATION SEEKS ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS

The new office of design, construction and physical plant needs civil, assistant civil and mechanical engineers for new construction and maintenance projects with specification and project supervision experience. Salary range \$6050-\$7100.

Applicants need not be New York City residents. Annual increments after July 1, 1960. Apply J. O'Connor, BE 3-7550, Ext. 301, 80 Lafayette Street, New York 13, New York.

EUROPEAN TOUR 1960

Applications and itineraries of the forthcoming European Tour have been forwarded to those members having requested information and applications.

As a reminder, our one month tour will take place this summer from August 8th to September 5th, 1960, at a total cost of only \$600, of which the charter flight costs \$236.50 and the land tour \$363.50. For your applications and detailed information write to the Chapter office in care of Robert Djerejian.

The tour has been made available to all A. I. A. members in New York State. We urge that interested members of the Chapter apply as soon as possible.

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Public Relations Committee
John James Carlos
James Stewardson Traveling Scholarship
Richard B. Snow, Chairman
Harmon H. Goldstone
Walter Prokosch
Professor Esmond Shaw
Daniel Schwartzman

COPPER AND BRASS AWARD COMPETITION

The Second Annual competition to honor the year's most outstanding contribution to the use, application, or metallurgy of copper and copper-base alloys has been announced by the Copper & Brass Research Association. Winner of the competition will receive \$1,000 and a bronze award.

Last year's award was given in recognition of the Seagram Building, the world's first all-bronze skyscraper.

Entries and nominations for the 1960 award may be submitted in any one of several classifications. Architectural submissions will be judged on the basis of originality of design of new or established applications of copper, brass, bronze, or other copper-base alloys.

Nominations for the 1960 award competition should be mailed to the Association no later than March 31, 1960. Entry forms with complete information are available from the Copper & Brass Research Association, 420 Lexington Avenue, New York 17, New York.

BUILDING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

As of April 5-7, the Building Research Institute of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council will bring its 1960 Spring Conference to New York, to be held at the Statler-Hilton Hotel.

These conferences have been designed for the interest and information not only of architects, engineers, contractors, and building owners, but also those associated with the financing and maintenance of buildings, and all the other fields involved in this complex operation known as the building industry.

WINNERS OF BRUNNER AWARD

John James Carlos, architect and editor of Architectural and Engineering News, has been awarded the \$3,000 annual Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, it was announced today by L. Bancel LaFarge, the Chapter's president.

Mr. Carlos will use the award to complete a unit lesson plan for use in secondary schools. The purpose of the plan is to encourage the creative study of architecture, its organized profession and its aesthetics. This technique will also serve as a basic program for the professional societies in their public education endeavors.

"Architects, sculptors, city planners, and other professionals," said Mr. Carlos, "have developed enriched experiences which can be imparted to the secondary schools which, for many people in this nation is one of the last, formal opportunities for gaining meaningful values in architecture and art."

The scholarship also awarded \$1,000 to Harold Edelman and Stanley Salzman, Associate Professors of Architecture at Pratt Institute, for the completion of their book on principles of architectural composition.

The Arnold W. Brunner scholarship, a major one in the architectural field, this year drew 30 applicants from a total of 11 states and one foreign country. It has been awarded since 1940, through a bequest to the Chapter by the late Arnold W. Brunner.

STRUCTURAL FAILURES

On February 23rd a team of structural engineers gave a series of sobering talks on this all-too-neglected topic. Words can furnish a resume of the discussions but not an adequate description of the frightening slides of crumbled concrete with dangling reinforcing and crumpled steel. Led off by Frederick S. Merritt of Engineering News-Record, as moderator, the team was completed by Jacob Feld, C.E., Ph.D., and Boyd G. Anderson of Ammann & Whitney, consulting engineers.

Under the title of "What We Have Learned from Construction Failures" and stressing the preventive motives of this investigation and publishing of structural failures, Mr. Merritt found they fall into four classes: general faulty designs, design oversights, faulty construction practices, and faulty bracing. Lack of continuity of professional designing personnel and pressure of competition on fabricators and contractors were mentioned as contributory causes.

Noting a discouraging similarity in failures occurring all over this country and Canada and believing that awareness will reduce incidence, Dr. Feld classified causes as follows: poor drafting, careless foundation construction, careless alteration, frost damage, heat effects, lack of bracing during erection, lack of complete design analysis in steel or concrete, failures of form work and wind effects. The realism of his slides made these points all the more convincing.

Mr. Anderson approached the subject from the point of view of "Architect-Engineer-Contractor-Relationship," and of the legal responsibility involved. Stressing the need for definition of responsibility, he suggested that errors of concept and design should be the responsibility of the architect-engineer team; errors in fabrication and erection that of the contractor. Between the first team, it is up to the architect to formulate his concept within the capabilities of reasonable construction and up to the engineer to provide sound concept through wide experience and faultless execution through painstaking thoroughness.

Mr. Anderson's discussion of architect-engineer supervision of construction, as it affects the contractors responsibility therefore, touched upon a subject upon which the profession is becoming increasingly sensitive. President LaFarge, present at the meeting, himself stressed the importance of this and called attention to the Chapter meeting on Architects' Liability Insurance to be held in May.

IMPORTANT WAIVER

Your Chapter is pleased to inform you that, through the efforts of the National Headquarters in Washington and your own Fees and Contracts Committee, it has been successful in having the New York Fire Insurance Rating Board change the new edition of the Completed Value Builders Risk Policy to include a Subrogation Waiver Clause in all of its future forms.

In the past, when claims were instituted, the insurance companies had the right to bring suit against third parties allegedly negligent, including Architects. The Waiver of this Clause excludes interested third parties from suit, so that the insurance companies will have no recourse against the Architect, Contractor, or Sub-Contractor.

ROBERT CARSON

Robert Carson, noted New York architect, and recent past vice-president of the New York Chapter, died March 1st of a heart attack in Palm Beach, Florida. He was 53 years of age. Mr. Carson was the designer of some of the nation's most outstanding post-war office buildings and the winner of many architectural awards. He was a member of the architectural firm of Carson & Lundin, 425 Park Avenue, for many years resident architects for Rockefeller Center. Mr. Carson designed and created the world-famous Christmas tree decorations and flower shows at Rockefeller Center.

Mr. Carson was born in Macon, Illinois, and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1928. Mr. Carson began his architectural career as a designer for the late Raymond M. Hood. After Mr. Hood's death, Mr. Carson joined the firm of Harrison & Foulhoux and in 1939 formed the firm of Carson & Lundin with Earl H. Lundin. They were resident architects for Rockefeller Center for the next 18 years. Mr. Carson was a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. He was a member of the National Institute for Architectural Education and its Board of Trustees.

We express our deep regrets.

APOLOGY

In our note lamenting the passing of William Adams Delano we erroneously noted that he was principal and founder of the firm of Adams and Delano. We thank the members for calling attention to the fact that the firm was Delano and Aldrich.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Corporate

SAVERIO G. BENTIVEGNA
ROGER BROOKS CARROLL
WILLIAM J. CONKLIN
HENRY T. C. DAVIS (changed from Associate Membership)
NATHANIEL FIRESTONE
WILLIAM F. HOLMES (transferred from North Carolina Chapter)
RICHARD C. HOOKS
FERDINAND L. LIEBMANN (Readmission)
JAN LORENC
ARNOLD I. LUNDENBERG
MICHAEL MAAS (changed from Associate Membership)
S. WILLIAM MITTLEMAN
J. LORRELL MULLETT (transferred from Chicago Chapter)
FRANCIS A. PISANI (transferred from Washington Metropolitan Chapter)
SHERMAN SCHNEIDER (changed from Associate Membership)
HARRY J. TRIVISONNO
EDWARD X. TUTTLE (transferred from Detroit Chapter)
CONSTANTIN VICHEY

Associate

EDWARD WILLIAM E. DOUGLAS

BOOKS

THE ART OF INDIA, Temples and Sculpture, by Louis Frederic, (Harry N. Abrams Inc., \$17.50, 468 pages, 426 Illustrations, mostly full page.)

Harry N. Abrams Inc. has just published a most beautiful book on Indian Art and Architecture. To leaf through it, is a most delightful and joyous experience. To look at the individual page multiplies the pleasure. Here, the work of thousands of unknown artists, each of whom within the framework of the established styles, expresses a feeling so universal, that it can be appreciated by all. However, historical developments, religious significance and other determining factors, that are important in fully appreciating the work, are concisely presented, and will fill a gap in most of our knowledge.

After studying this volume, it is clear that the study of the history of architecture to which we are subjected, is incomplete. To study primarily the Western accomplishments, means learning only part of the things available. Indian Architecture and Art in turn is only a fraction in itself, since many societies in the far East and elsewhere, have contributed. Not to study the Architecture of India, to an architect, is the same as not studying the great Cathedrals of Rheims, Notre Dame or Chartres when learning about Gothic buildings.

We must get to know what the other half has done, and there is no better way to start, than by picking up a copy of the "Art of India."

CANDIDATES

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

Corporate

OVIDIO ACOSTA
ALBERT ANAYA
LOUIS BATTOLIA
BERNARD BECK
HERBERT BIENSTOCK
JACK A. COHEN
THOMAS FRANCIS GALVIN
JOHN A. HAGMAN
WALTER EDGAR LEVI
JOSEPH R. PNIEWSKI
VICENTE VAZQUEZ
ARTHUR WITTHOEFT

Associate

JAMES MONROE BAKER
ANDREW SAUL BLACKMAN
WALTER JAMES DUGAN
ERWIN J. KEHRLE
ALFONSO W. LIMONGELLI

Sponsors:

{John W. Franklin
{Samuel M. Kurtz
{William B. Tabler
{David K. Spector
{Robert M. Beder
{W. M. Mandeville, Jr.
{John W. Franklin
{Samuel M. Kurtz
{Robert M. Beder
{W. M. Mandeville, Jr.

WOMEN'S ARCHITECTURAL AUXILIARY NEWS

The successful, beautiful and lucrative "Doric Debutante Cotillion," at the Metropolitan Club, having past, the Women's Architectural Auxiliary turned to ideas for increasing membership. A Tea was held at the Junior League, February 15th, for members and those eligible. The group proved to be interested and lively, offering many suggestions as

to the next benefit the Auxiliary should sponsor. Also discussed were plans for helping with the A.I.A. Dinner-Dance.

The Women's Architectural Auxiliary Scholarship Award of \$2,000 has been accepted by Mr. L. Bancel LaFarge, President of the New York Chapter, on behalf of the Education Committee, and was presented at the Annual A.I.A. Dinner-Dance.