CHAPTER RADIO SERIES–ARCHITECTURE IN THE SPACE AGE

“Jeffrey Ellis Aronin and R. Buckminster Fuller on the air.”

by Paul Grayson

Each Sunday afternoon at 3:00 p.m., on Station WNYC, and WNYC-FM, the New York Chapter AIA is sponsoring a new series of radio programs entitled “Architecture in the Space Age.” The series began on August 6, 1961 and featured R. Buckminster Fuller in three lively recorded programs on “Basic Philosophy,” “Doomed Cities,” and “The Future.” The series will continue to October 29, 1961.

Jeffrey Ellis Aronin, in conjunction with the Speakers Bureau, developed the program series and serves as moderator. Timely issues are discussed with leaders in the field of architecture, engineering, and planning, which are aimed at informing the listener, professional as well as layman of new developments, philosophies, and attitudes of international significance, which undoubtedly will affect the future of our environment.

Future programs will include distinguished guest speakers and are scheduled as follows:

August 27, “Le Corbusier,” a discussion by colleagues, “Remarks on Receiving the AIA Gold Medal”


September 17, “Are Our Cities Destroying Themselves?” Lewis Mumford

September 24, “Does Technology Create Good Architecture?” James Richards

October 1, “A New Church Architecture for America.” G. E. Kidder Smith

October 8, “New York—The Glass City.” Philip Johnson

October 15, “The Revolution in Concrete Building.” Felix Candela

October 22, “How to Build A Great World’s Fair”

October 29, “Traffic Snarl—How to Solve It”

ARCHITECTS PARTICIPATE IN URBAN DESIGN

by Sheldon Licht

From September 27th through 30th at Saranac Lake, the New York Chapter will be host to the annual convention of the New York State Association of Architects. Once every 14 years each of the member organizations within the NYSSAA acts in this host position. (Of the 14 members, 10 are AIA chapters and 4 are societies of architects.)

Highlight of the convention will be a workshop/seminar: “ARCHITECTS PARTICIPATE IN URBAN DESIGN,” investigating further the thinking at Philadelphia last May, particularly in respect to the practical problems of obtaining and executing urban design and renewal commissions.

A partial listing of the speakers who will participate includes: William Slayton, Commissioner of the Urban Renewal Administration (Federal) under Weaver in the HHFA and is former Vice President in charge of urban projects for Webb & Knapp. Matthew Rockwell, Director of Public and Urban Affairs at the Octagon, member of both the AIA and AIP, and staff consultant to Carl Feiss’ National AIA Committee. James Scheuer, an active developer of urban projects on a national scale, best known among architects for his Sacramento area project, and Marin County plan.

The seminar/workshop occupies the entire day, Thursday the 28th, in three major sessions. The morning period, called “exposition,” presents the problems to the profession via the men who have been most involved in them to date: Slayton, Rockwell, Scheuer and others. In the afternoon, three workshops, at the scale levels of “Metropolis,” Continued on Page 4
ADVERTISING PLANNED FOR OCULUS

Early this year the Executive Committee submitted a request that the Publications Committee determine the ways and means of running advertising in the OCULUS to help defray operating costs, and permit the monthly publication to exist on a self-sustaining basis.

During the months that followed, a research program was undertaken by Publications Committee Vice-Chairman, James L. Cady, to investigate the advertising policies of other similar AIA Chapter journals. It was found that most Chapters run advertising to help defray publication costs. Some manage to break even, others run at a small profit which generally is applied to the Chapter operating funds.

At the June 20, 1961 Executive Committee meeting, the Publications Committee submitted its report and proposed that all advertising be limited to use on the end page of each issue, based on a three-column layout with standard size 8 to 10 pt. type. Photographs, trademarks, or special display advertising would not be permitted, as it would not be in keeping with the existing format.

The proposal was accepted by the Executive Committee and approval was given for the OCULUS to accept paid advertising for the coming year.

A special Sub-committee will be organized to handle the advertising program, and it is anticipated that this policy change will help expand the publication into a more valuable source of information, with broadened services.

An additional feature of the program is the plan to expand the mailing of each month's issue, to all registered architects in Manhattan, so they will have an opportunity to become aware of the many diversified chapter activities, its service to the profession, and its value as an official spokesman in the affairs of the community.

If you know of a manufacturer, distributor, or service organization, whom you believe would benefit by advertising in the OCULUS, please let us know by writing to the Chapter office.

IMPROVING NEW YORK

Perhaps it is too early to start reflecting on the Summer which has just about passed, or at least it will have in spirit been placed into our memories come Labor Day weekend. Nevertheless, as one who has spent his summer in the city, I cannot but reflect upon the missing link which would in my opinion truly make New York, "A Summer Festival."

We have had our Shakespeare in the Park, we have had our Village Art Show, Jazz on Thursday evenings in the garden of the Museum of Modern Art, the yearly park concerts, dance sessions, and so on...

The missing link, it appears to me, is the ensemble of these separated activities into one great Festival. Taking example from the Boston Arts Festival, which in its purpose, presents a citizen-financed panorama of all the great arts that today is without parallel anywhere in the country; I feel that the Gimbel's Committee doesn't go quite far enough in keeping with its slogan "New York is a Summer Festival."

The success of the Boston Arts Festival held each year in the Boston Public Garden, may be familiar to you. There is everyday an impressive and continuing exhibition of competition winners of Fine Arts, Sculpture, Architecture, Crafts, and Photography reflecting the best of the entrants' work on both a regional, national or invitational basis.

Large stage performances and concerts, including contemporary and classical Opera, Dance, Drama, Jazz, and Poetry, are held each day with capacity crowds at every performance.

New York's Central Park meadows is an ideal place for a Festival. The Gimbel Committee should be able to finance such a program.
Serving the architectural profession for over thirty years, the Architect's Emergency Committee has placed over 14,000 job seekers into positions of responsibility and advancement in architectural offices throughout the city. Many architects are familiar with the devotion and interest Mrs. Nelson has shown to the young, just starting architect, and to those more experienced architects, draftsmen, specification writers, designers and detailers, in placing them in the best available job for their experience and for the need of an office. he has found jobs for men, as well as men for jobs.

Mrs. Nelson conducts her office in an efficient and business-like manner, which over the past three decades has brought to her and the Committee the high regard and respect of all architects, not only in New York, but nationally and internationally as well.

Julian Clarence Levi, FAIA, with a group of distinguished architects devoted to the profession, met some thirty years ago to form the Architect’s Emergency Committee to help those members of the profession in need of assistance during the troubled depression period. Many well known and distinguished architects of today, remember with appreciation and gratitude the aid received through the Committee. Some fifteen member organizations are represented on the Committee, with Mr. Max Foley, Chairman, and Adolph Goldberg, Secy. of the Brooklyn Chapter, AIA. Since there are no charges for services, and no fees, support has come from subscriptions, donations and from the New York Chapter AIA, as well as other organizations. It is not necessary either that an applicant be affiliated with one of the member organizations to receive placement assistance.

Today, Mrs. Nelson is available to assist those in need of a job, or interested in changing to a position with better opportunity for advancement. Her office is open to all, Mondays through Fridays, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in unpretentious quarters at the Chapter Headquarters building, 115 East 40th Street, New York 16, N. Y. A call to her office at MU 5-8400 will set up an appointment.

For professional placement—see Mrs. Nelson, you'll be glad you did!

Architects Participate Continued from Page 1

There is, of course, no intention that a brief and intensive one-day workshop program of this nature can develop answers or solutions; but it can well act as an introduction to the problem of Architects Participation in Urban Design. (“When, Where, How, Whom do I ask.”) By continuing the discussion through post-convention activities, both the quality and quantity of renewal projects in the hands of competent Architects may increase.

The success of this convention can only be measured in terms of attendance. Only with the active enthusiasm and cooperation of all New York Chapter members will success be assured.

We will see you next in Saranac.
A Report:  
1961 A.I.A. CONVENTION  
by Peter S. Van Bloem

With the American Institute of Architects Convention as close to New York, this year, as Philadelphia, the number of Delegates allowed the Chapter was almost realized as some fifty-five member-delegates arrived and participated at one time or another in the meetings and conferences.

The Chapter had the distinction of proposing nearly half of the resolutions concerned with Institute matters. Of great interest to the Chapter was the “supplementary” dues resolution. The opposition offered by members was great and most vociferous. It was passed when amended to a two-year trial run. At the end of two years it must be approved for permanent adoption. The necessity of more funds for the Institute was almost unanimously agreed, but the method of collection, through the F.I.C.A. tax method was the cause of the uproar.

An interesting proposal by the Northern California Chapter would reorganize the Institute Structure.

Of great significance to the New York State Association of Architects was the change in the By-Laws which will limit membership in the Association to AIA members. In effect, this will allow present non-AIA members to remain in the Societies but will restrict new members to only Institute members.

Lest anyone think that the Convention was all business, we hasten to compliment the Philadelphia Chapter in the selection of learned and significant speakers. The Convention was host to the new Housing Administrator Robert C. Weaver who spoke on Administration aid to urban redesign programs. He was followed by Sir William Holford, President of R.I.B.A., who gave a delightful talk on the problems of planners in England. Wednesday the Convention was addressed by Italian Architectural Historian, Bruno Zevi, and Lewis Mumford who is well known for his critical discourses on Architecture and Civilization. A very fine presentation of the planning of Philadelphia was put on—complete with moving scaffolds and descriptions by its planners and architects in person.

This talk is about to be made into a motion-picture that will prove to be both entertaining and informative.

The highlight of the Annual Dinner was, of course, the medal presented to LeCorbusier. In response, he spoke several well chosen words and was roundly applauded.

The Officers of the Institute who were re-elected at the Convention are:

Philip Will, Jr., President

Henry L. Wright, First Vice President
James M. Hunter, Second Vice President
J. Roy Carroll, Jr., Secretary
Raymond S. Kastendieck, Treasurer

Other convention events: tours of the City, Fellows’ meetings and Investiture, Alumni Luncheons, Concert, Midnight Ball, Awards Luncheon, Beaux Arts Ball and at-home parties by Philadelphia Chapter members.

CHAPTER NOTES

Membership Dues: As you already know, the Chapter operates entirely on the income from the annual dues. In order to keep the many activities and functions of the Chapter running smoothly, it is necessary that you pay your dues when statements are received. Please do not postpone this obligation. Help keep the Chapter in the black.

Dues Increase Proposed by State Association: A proposal for amending the NYSSAA By-laws will be presented at the Fall Convention in Whiteface, N. Y. The Association’s plan is to increase the State dues from $6.00 per year to $9.00 per year. This change would require a majority vote and if passed will result in Chapter members being billed a total of $45.00 per year for both Chapter ($36.00) and Association ($9.00) dues. Perhaps you are not aware of it, but all members of the N. Y. Chapter are automatically members of the New York State Association of Architects.

Pre-Convention Luncheon: The usual Pre-Convention Luncheon will take place on Tuesday, September 19, 1961, at the Chapter Headquarter’s in New York. The top order of business will be a discussion of proposed resolutions to be taken up at the Convention to be held in up-state New York, September 28-30. Your ideas and comments will be welcome, and if you have a proposal, please be sure to send it in before the Luncheon meeting, so that it may be placed on the agenda for discussion.

Regional Council Meeting: This year’s meeting of the New York Regional Council of the AIA will be held on Wednesday, September 27, 1961 at Saranac Inn, on Upper Saranac Lake, Whiteface, N. Y. All Chapter members are invited to attend this meeting, which takes place one day prior to the opening of the Annual State Association’s Convention, which you are urged to attend.

NYSSAA Convention: The ’61 Convention of the State Association promises to be the best yet! Be sure to make your plans now to attend the meetings. The Theme: “Architects Participate in Urban Design.” Much effort has gone into the planning of a diversified program which includes cultural, educational and recreation activities. Besides the program, there’s so much more awaiting you at the beautiful Adirondack Mountains—Saranac Inn. Don’t wait . . . make your reservations now. Check the Coming Events Column in this issue for exact dates.

Surveyors: If you are interested, and have the time, you may qualify for the position of Surveyor of Unsafe Buildings. Write to the Chapter Office for more details, if you have had at least ten years experience in building construction and are a resident of New York City for at least three years. City employees are not eligible. The Surveyor’s fee is $50.00.

Bouquets to the Carlson Press: The Publications Committee wishes to extend its appreciation to the Carlson Press, and particularly to Miss Emma Carlson for the assistance given to the Committee during the past year. We look forward to a continued relationship. As you may gather, all committee members services are voluntary, and with the pressures of daily activities and office work running quite high, it is Miss Carlson and her staff who always come through in assisting the committee with last minute changes, typography errors, and rush assignments.
The W.A.A. members are happy to serve as Hostesses at the New York State Convention, September 27th-30th. See you there!

Mystifying, but true, we cannot get you architects to take home the OCULUS to your wives—So now, we will arrange a direct mailing to W.A.A. Members. Those who wish it, should send their names to our new office "At the top of 115 East 40th Street, New York, N. Y."

The Church and Temple Tour took place on June 10, and despite early thunder, lightning, and rain, was much enjoyed by the interested and interesting group—men included—who turned out for the occasion. Guides were provided at each site visited by bus; however the ladies themselves always seemed to find the plaques crediting the architect! A luncheon break at the Waldorf's Peacock Alley was sparked by a showing of Lilly Daché hats, modelled by some of our own young girls.

The 1961 WAA Scholarship Award of $2,500.00 went to Pratt Institute. The check was presented by Mrs. Robert W. Cutler, president, and accepted by one of our members, Mrs. Olindo Grossi, on behalf of her husband, Dean of the School of Architecture.

The W.A.A. is grieved to announce the passing in Paris, June 20, 1961, of its illustrious member Alice Fries Levi, wife of Julian Clarence Levi, F.A.I.A. — She was known and loved by all, and her unbounded enthusiasm greatly stimulated its efforts.

Mrs. Levi was the epitome of graciousness throughout a long life made the happier by her enjoyment of, and sincere participation in every cultural and social event into which she was drawn.

The memory of her understanding heart and quiet generosity will help sustain the Auxiliary's great loss.

COMING EVENTS

| SEPTEMBER 13, 1961 | Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. Pine Room Committee Chairmen's Luncheon |
| SEPTEMBER 15, 1961 | Friday Chapter activities officially start this day |
| SEPTEMBER 18, 1961 | Monday, 12:30 p.m., Gallery A School Committee Luncheon |
| SEPTEMBER 19, 1961 | Tuesday, 12:30 p.m., Gallery A NY Chapter AIA Pre-Convention Luncheon (please submit resolutions to the Chapter office in advance of meeting so they may be included in the agenda for discussion.) |
| SEPTEMBER 27, 1961 | Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. New York Regional Council of AIA Meeting at Saranac Inn, Upper Saranac Lake, Whiteface, N. Y. |
| SEPTEMBER 28-30, 1961 | Thursday through Saturday NY Chapter AIA Annual Convention Meeting at Saranac Inn, Upper Saranac Lake, Whiteface, N. Y. Theme: “Architects Participate in Urban Design” |
| OCTOBER 25, 1961 | Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Gallery A NY Chapter AIA Annual Fall Get-together Thursday, 12:30 p.m., Gallery A Nominating Committee Luncheon Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Anniversary Dinner Tuesday, 12:30 p.m., Gallery A National AIA, Pre-Conventional Luncheon Monday through Friday National Convention, Dallas, Texas Wednesday, 12:30 p.m., Dining Room Annual Luncheon |

Anniversary Dinner
School Committee
Monday, SEPTEMBER 18th, at 12:30 p.m. the N. Y. Chapter AIA School Committee will have as their guest at a luncheon meeting, Dr. Shirley Cooper. Dr. Cooper is the Assoc. Sec’y of the American Association of School Administrators, a department of the Nat’l Educational Assn. He is in charge of the school building architectural exhibit at the AASA convention, which is sponsored jointly by the AASA and the AIA. Dr. Cooper will discuss the growing importance of the architectural exhibit upon educators as well as upon the building industry as a whole. This will be the first meeting of the School Committee in its 1961-62 season, and is expected to generate considerable interest in the school committee and in the AASA architectural exhibits, applications for which become due on September 15th.

Brunner Committee
The New York Chapter’s Brunner Fellowships, which have produced important results from the research that they have sponsored in past years, have been increased in magnitude. The award will henceforth be in the amount of $5,000—still to be given for the purpose of study in some area of architecture of benefit to the profession and the public. A change has also been made in timing, so that applications are now due on January 15, with announcement of the Fellowship award to be made the following May. A number of the applicants in the past have been connected with schools, and this schedule fits the academic year better.

Since the award is now a sizable one, warranting even more serious and worthwhile applications than in the past, the Committee, chaired by Emanuel Turano, urges all Chapter members to act as ex-officio scouts. You are urged to do two things: stimulate applications from people who may, to your knowledge, be engaged in or thinking of beginning important research in some area of architecture; or report to Mr. Turano or to Tom Creighton, head of the “Idea” subcommittee, any suggestions you may have, or have heard of, for research that is needed. Often an idea and a person can be brought together, to produce an application for Fellowship which deserves attention.

The Committee is meeting during the summer, solely for the purpose of making sure that its winter task of evaluation and selection will not be a difficult one.

STUDENT CHAPTER NEWS
Columbia
The sincere effort that the Student Chapter Committee, New York Chapter A.I.A. made this past academic year left me with great hope that this committee can help the relations between the students and the A.I.A.

The committee, consisting of Messrs. Hunt, Gasperi, Kohn and Cecil representing the A.I.A.; Professor Romieniec, Mr. A. Lapidus and myself representing Columbia; and Mr. Korman representing Cooper Union, discussed some of the questions the students asked relating to the A.I.A.

One of the questions was, “How can the A.I.A. set up a student-practitioner relationship and how can the A.I.A. help us get summer jobs?” The answer was a student exhibition at the Architectural League where student work could be shown to employers. Some students said this and got jobs.

There were many questions regarding the actual function of the A.I.A. and its various committees. Mr. Herbert Lippman took the afternoon off to come and talk to us at Columbia about the A.I.A. and the Architect-in-training Program.

The question of how the A.I.A. could help us get speakers did not come up this year because of Columbia’s Four Great Makers Program. However, Louis Kahn did speak at a cocktail party arranged by the Membership Committee of the New York Chapter and all students were invited to attend.

The committee discussed many other questions:
1) Student representation at national A.I.A. Conventions.
2) Exhibition of working drawings of the more significant buildings going up today.
3) Exhibition of A.I.A. awards at our school.
4) Lectures from NCARB and many others.

Due to lack of time the Committee was unable to carry out some of the programs discussed. However, if the names of the school representatives and student members could be sent to the local A.I.A. Chapter before October 15, rather than later January, a lot more could be accomplished.

If the discussion and arrangement of programs continue and expand in the next academic year and those who are always present and helpful — Mrs. Henkel, Mr. Gasperi, and Professor Romieniec—are able to remain on this committee, a closer relationship can be worked out whereby the A.I.A. and the Student Chapters can be of profit to one another.

Carl Massara, President

MEMBERSHIP
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
The New York Chapter extends its warmest welcome to the following new members:

Corporate
James S. Brown
Joseph Caponnetto
Daniel Chait
William J. Desorden
John Morris Dixon
Henry S. Dobiecki
Raymond J. Frank
Albert M. Hyde
Leonard Jacobson
G. Peter Jennewein
Bernard A. Keister
Maurice W. Kiley
Stephen Alexander Kliment
Lawrence Litdfield
Edwin D. Martin
Deen McClure
Ralph S. Newasm
Julien Panero
Samuel Paul
James S. Polshnek
Joseph M. Ray
Frederick D. Kink
Bud A. Scott
Murray Spat
Robert L. Thornton
Associate
William Caldwell
Ivan Paulsen
Paul F. Sampiari
Lucille P. Young
Sheldon H. Cady
King Chin
Marjorie McC. Dickie
Alan B. Goldsao
CANDIDATES
Information regarding the qualifications of the following candidates for membership will be considered confidential by the Admissions Committee:

Corporate
Morris Abraham
Wallace Burton Berger
Leon Brand
Lowell Brody
Robert M. Bujac
Owen Lyle Delevante
Robert A. Djerian
Clovis Benton Helmboth
Henry A. Petter, II

Associate
Richard R. Bergmann
Jay Stephen Klein
Orlando T. Malone
Lee Harris Pomeroy
Lester C. Ransens
Sponsors:
Max O. Urbahn
P. Whitney Webb
Aaron Schwars
David L. Egers
Gustave E. Klemme
Alan R. Gonglom
Max O. Urbahn
P. Whitney Webb
Robert W. Cutler
Albert Kennely