

OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



OCTOBER 1961

CHAPTER HOSTS NYSAA CONVENTION AT SARANAC

by PETER VAN BLOEM

The New York State Association of Architects convention, held late last month at Saranac Inn, was by general agreement one of the most successful of recent years. The New York Chapter can take some pride as host chapter; particular thanks should go to **David Eggers** as Chairman and to **Frederick Woodbridge**, who did a fine job as master of ceremonies at the annual banquet, introducing the featured speaker, Congressman **John V. Lindsay** of New York. Special thanks should also go to **Mrs. Robert W. Cutler** of the Women's Auxiliary, and to **Gates Beckwith**, **Roger Spross**, **Marshall Smith**, **Rolland Thompson**, **John Handley**, **Norval White**, **Sherman Schneider**, **James Cady**, **Earnest Fuller**, and **Gillet Leferts** for their part in the program.

The Chapter came out well with all three of its resolutions passed. These included proposals for the formation of a World's Fair Committee and an Office Practice Committee. **Jeffrey Aronin's** resolution to study a proposal for licensing contractors was also approved.

Delegates voted to raise NYSAA dues from \$6 to \$9, which will result in a \$3 increase in Chapter dues. Although the proposed reapportionment of representation, which would have upped the Chapter delegation from 33 to 49 members, was tabled, a by-law to limit delegates to represent one organization was passed. This dual representation has long been a source of annoyance to members.

Highlights of the convention included talks by Urban Renewal Commissioner **William Slayton**, Planning Director **Charles Crangle**, Developer **James Scheuer**, Binghamton, N. Y. development director **Oliver C. Winston** and **Matthew Rockwell** of the Washington AIA staff. **Bill Conklin's** job as moderator was outstanding.

NYSAA officers elected at the convention were: **Frederick H. Voss**, President; **S. Elmer Chambers**, First Vice President; **Simeon Heller**, Second Vice President; **Allen Macomber**, Third Vice President; **Irving P. Marks**, Secretary; and **George J. Cavalieri**, Treasurer. Retiring President **John Briggs**, retiring Treasurer **Martyn Weston** and retiring Regional Director **Trevor Rogers** were roundly applauded for their contributions.

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HOUSE CONSULTING PANEL REORGANIZED

Chairman **Harold Edelman** of the newly reorganized House Consulting Committee urgently requests House Consulting Panel members to bring the sample books in the Chapter office up to date. Many architects are represented by houses well over ten years old. A description of the page requirements for new entries will be mailed on request.

The new committee, according to its chairman, will have two primary aims: 1) to acquaint the public with the function of the residential architect, and 2) to acquaint the architect with sources of residential work. These aims will be pursued in three categories: private houses, both urban and suburban; tract or development houses, including row housing; and houses within urban redevelopment. Any Chapter members interested in participating are urged to contact Mr. Edelman through the Chapter office.

EERO SAARINEN:

A REFLECTION



Photo by Joe Clark

On September 9 in the chapel at M.I.T. a simple and moving memorial service was held which brought together the family, friends and associates of the chapel's late architect, Eero Saarinen.

As I sat in the chapel a flood of memories came over me.

In the spring of 1935 it was my good fortune to team up with two other traveling students of architecture, one of whom was Eero, for a trip through Sicily, Egypt, the Near East, Turkey and Greece. An incident in Sicily came most vividly to mind as I recalled the experiences of our travels. It was in the Monreale Cloisters at Palermo late one afternoon. We were marveling at the intricate inland marble columns and carved capitals, when the slanting rays of the sun struck the pool and the reflections began dancing rhythmically on the walls and vaulting. We were entranced. What moments before had been a scene of static tranquil-

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
NEW YORK CHAPTER

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MAYOR'S PANEL OF ARCHITECTS

The City Civil Service Commission has established the following procedures for the filing and receipt of applications for the Mayor's Panel of Architects.

Application blanks are obtainable by the applicant in person or by his representative at the Application Section of the Department of Personnel at 96 Duane Street, Manhattan, New York 7, New York. They will be mailed on request provided that the request to the above section is accompanied by a stamped (4 cents) self-addressed 9½-inch envelope for each application requested.

All applications with accompanying photographs, where required, must be mailed or delivered to the Department of Personnel, Examining Service Division, Room 210, 299 Broadway, Manhattan, New York 7, New York, not later than October 27, 1961.

Applications will be examined by an Architectural Jury appointed by the Presidents of the following societies and recommendations will be made by them to Mayor Robert F. Wagner for his 1961 Panel of Architects:

New York Chapter, A.I.A.
Brooklyn Chapter, A.I.A.
Bronx Chapter, A.I.A.
Queens Chapter, A.I.A.
Staten Island Chapter, A.I.A.
New York Society of Architects.
Brooklyn Society of Architects.
The Municipal Art Society of New York.
Fine Arts Federation of New York.

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

by MORRIS KETCHUM, JR., FAIA

Editor's Note:

We are pleased to announce that Morris Ketchum, Jr., F.A.I.A. of the New York Chapter was elected Director of the New York Region of the American Institute of Architects at the Philadelphia convention.

Mr. Ketchum, partner in the firm of Ketchum and Sharp, was elected a member of the AIA, New York Chapter, in 1942 and has served in many capacities. He has been a member of the Executive Board and has served on the Membership Committee, Committee on Professional Practice, Civic Design Committee and the Nominating Committee.

Mr. Ketchum also has been extremely active on the national level where he has served as Chairman of The Institute's Committee on National Defense, Chairman of the Committee on Research and Co-Chairman of the AIA-Constructions Specifications Institute Committee. On behalf of The Institute and the U. S. State Department, he has designed and organized many traveling exhibitions.

He was advanced to Fellowship in The Institute in 1953 and was elected Chancellor of the College of Fellows in 1960.

I would like to report to the Chapter, as your new Regional Director, on the actions taken by the Board of Directors of The Institute at their post-convention meeting on the various resolutions introduced at the Philadelphia Convention, including four of the resolutions sponsored by the New York Chapter.

All convention resolutions are first referred to the Committee on Resolutions. This committee studies them, discusses them with their sponsors and then decides whether to submit them without change to the delegates, to make minor modifications before submission, or to ask the sponsor to withdraw the resolution.

Four of our Chapter's resolutions were submitted to the Convention with little or no change and approved by the delegates. At its post-convention organization meeting of April 29th, The Board took action on all resolutions passed by the Convention.

1. The New York Chapter resolution regarding the formation of Design Committees within The Institute was referred to a new Design Committee of the Board, composed of myself as chairman and Director Arthur Gould Odell, Jr., F.A.I.A. of the South Atlantic Region. We are to report to the fall meeting of The Executive Committee Board of Directors.

2. The resolution endorsing the continuation of the foreign buildings program of the State Department was referred to President Philip Will, Jr. and Secretary Carroll for appropriate presentation to the governmental departments involved. The Board thus carries on with its long-established support for this program.

3. The resolution regarding the elimination or modification of the "conflict of interest" provision in architectural services on Title I redevelopment projects was referred to The Executive Committee of the Board for action at their July meeting.

4. The resolution urging The Board to reestablish its Committee on Competitions and to utilize that committee to further the use of architectural competitions in appropriate private and public projects was referred for action to the July meeting of The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.

5. The resolution which praised the approach to urban planning and redeveloping by President Kennedy's administration, was withdrawn with our consent as premature with the option of again submitting it at the 1962 Dallas Convention.

The Chapter might also be interested to know that the resolution on revisions to the structure of The Institute sponsored by the Northern California Chapter, A.I.A., was referred to The Board's Committee on Structure composed of Director Harry C. Weller, Chairman; Director Oswald H. Thorson and myself.

Like the A.I.A. Chapters, the Board of Directors does a great deal of its work through committees whose progress is studied and guided by its Executive Committee. Before the end of the year, I hope to tell the Chapter about definite progress on the implementation of all these resolutions.

"ILLUMINATING" DINNER

The New York Chapter will join the Illuminating Engineering Society and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers in sponsoring a dinner meeting on November 16, at the Brass Rail, 40th Street and Park Avenue, New York. Mr. Jack Follett, New York Chapter, A.I.A., will speak on the Needle in Space for the Seattle Fair, which was displayed recently at the League. Mr. C. G. B. Garrett, head of the Department of Crystal Electronics of the Bell Telephone Company, will discuss and demonstrate the exciting new optical mesa.

Cocktails will be served from a cash bar at 6:30 p.m.

Roast beef dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$5.50.

Reservation requests will be mailed to all members soon.

CHAPTER LEGAL ADVISER FORMS NEW FIRM

The Chapter announces, with pleasure, that Nathan Walker, who for many years has served as our legal counsel, has formed a partnership for the practice of law with his son, Edward Nathan Walker, under the firm name, Walker & Walker.

THE NEW CHAPTER HEADQUARTERS

One of the rarest—yet most appreciated arts—is the ability to emphasize, to understand, to carry out the vision of another. But such an art comes easily and gracefully to Miss Hildred Zerman and A. Gordon Lorimer, under whose aegis the headquarters of the New York Chapter have bloomed so successfully. The office with its new room wears a new brightness and spaciousness. It immediately conveys a feeling of comfort, harmony, and efficiency.

The colors in the new room are predominantly ivory, a variety of tones in the blue-green range, and coral: (an ivory-tiled floor and L-shaped desk; deep turquoise walls; a sweeping panel of white drapery with blue and green stripes; coral bookshelves.) The transition from the existing room to the new one is easily made by carrying through the warm brown in the new, graceful desk for Mrs. Henkel, and by repeating the coral upholstery

WILL AND HASKELL

RECEIVE MEDAL

For their roles in behalf of Inter-American architectural affairs, AIA President Philip Will and New York Chapter Member Douglas Haskell, Editor of ARCHITECTURAL FORUM, have both been decorated with the Order of Cruzeiro Sul (Southern Cross) by the Brazilian Government, on the recommendation of the Brazilian Institute of Architects.

CONSULTATION REQUEST

The Chapter has been approached by a large public agency for assistance in establishing a panel of architects qualified and willing to review Contract Documents prepared by architects retained by the Agency and to inspect at intervals the progress of construction work with a view to general certification and compliance of such work.

Members of the Chapter interested in rendering such services should write to the Chapter Office and append a dossier of experience which, in their estimation, would qualify them for such an assignment.

in the new chairs.

For all this, the Chapter owes deep thanks to the several companies who gave their help so willingly. Special thanks are due the following: Mr. Roy Gilb of the Mastic Tile Division of the Ruberoid Company, the Circle Flooring Company, Inc., Perfect Contracting Co., Inc., and Davis Decorators, Inc.

Many years ago, it was the practice for tradesmen to advertise their services by hanging out a symbolic sign. This method was successful where the customer's problems were simple and solutions did not depend so much on exchange of information or sitting down and talking it over. But the business of the Chapter is that of *service*. What more fitting symbol of its business can there be than an attractive and comfortable headquarters that plainly invites the exchange of help and information?

BOOKS

The New Architecture of Europe by G. E. Kidder Smith. Meridian Books MG33, \$1.95, paper bound.

"An illustrated guidebook and appraisal" it says on the jacket, and author (and Chapter member) Smith delivers on his promise.

The Grand Tourist's tweeds, bulging on one side with spare Ektachrome, a couple of bars of Cadbury's, crumbling Gauloises and grimy Band-Aids; balanced on the other by TNAOE (weight, 15 ozs.), will proclaim him to the cognoscenti as a fellow. He will organize his day more intelligently—because the maps will tell him where things are, he will observe more intelligently—because he will have been able to read the text in the taxi, and he will even comment more intelligently—because he will know the *why* as well as the where, when and by whom. He will know where to get more information—because he can find the architect's address in the appendix, and if (as all the 173 so fingered will simply have had to) the man has moved, he has recourse to a full list of books and magazines locally available which might substitute, though they will be less to talk about back home.

And the Tourist's wistful arm-chair-bound cousin is better off for this book, too. Naturally he missed the last two issues of the Review, somebody purloined his Domus, and even if his subscription to *d'Aujourd'hui* had not run out, he never really understood it. Here, for under \$2 he can get the most thoughtfully assembled, critically appraised, well photographed set of 225 short take-outs on what has been going up in that fermenting old Continent, that will reinstate him in the running, and make him think as well.

If our Tourist or his cousin happen to be members of the New York Chapter of the AIA, they will be happy that the Brunner Scholarship was so well used—and it is quite excusable for them to bask in reflected glory.

Jan White



WOMEN'S ARCHITECTURAL AUXILIARY

Fall Meeting Nov. 1

FLASH . . . The fall meeting scheduled for Oct. 4 has been postponed until Wed., Nov. 1, at the Architectural League. Luncheon will be served at 12:30 following a board meeting at 11.

Debutante Cotillion Nov. 5

The Third Doric Debutante Cotillion, to be held Nov. 25 at the Metropolitan Club under the aegis of Mrs. Robert W. Cutler, WAA President, will continue to raise architectural scholarship funds. Other officers heading committees include Mrs. Alonzo W. Clark, Mrs. Morris Ketchum, Mrs. Irvin Leslie Scott, Mrs. Harold R. Sleeper, and

Mrs. Max Urbahn. Delightful daughters of WAA members to be presented include: Susan Grossi, co-chairman of the debutante committee; Pamela and Nancy Eggers, Joan Carol Cassens, Lisa K. Hunter, co-chairman and god-daughter of Mrs. Morris Ketchum, Ruth Elizabeth Fischer, Jane Frances Sheedy. About 250 guests are expected to dance to the music of Phil Bennett and sip champagne at midnight.

Scholarship grants totaling \$5,000 have already been made to Columbia University and Pratt Institute. This is how we do it—by having a ball! So why don't you come to the party, too?

CHAPTER OPENING MEETING OCT. 25

The Fall Opening Meeting and dinner of the Chapter has been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 25th in Gallery "A" of the Architectural League. President Frederick J. Woodbridge will preside. Included in the program will be a presentation of Architectural Awards of Excellence by Mr. Samuel Dreier, President of Dreier Structural Steel Company and a Director of the American Institute of Steel Construction to Walther Prokosch of Tippetts, Abnett, McCarthy, Stratton; Philip Ives and Emanuel Turano of Ives, Turano & Gardner; Harold E. Grey, Executive Vice President of Pan American Airways; H. C. Turner, Jr. of Turner Construction Co.; and Edward A. Murphy of Lehigh Structural Steel Co., for their respective parts in the design and construction of the Pan American Terminal building at International Airport, Idlewild.

NYSAA CONVENTION

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An important sidelight at Saranac was the preconvention meeting of the new Regional Council, AIA, under Regional Director Morris Ketchum. AIA Executive Director William Scheick outlined to the meeting recent activities of the Institute, and new developments, including a fresh approach for architects to the "package deal."

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Every year the problem of Christmas presents from contractors, subcontractors and suppliers becomes increasingly embarrassing to architects. What used to be a friendly exchange of greetings or at most a souvenir has become so inflated that the architect is often faced with the awkward alternatives of accepting gifts of substantial value or returning them. At its last meeting, the Executive Committee reaffirmed its determination to discourage such gifts as a matter of Chapter policy. It is hoped that members will help carry this policy out.

OCULUS ADVERTISING

The Publications Committee has received the blessings of the Executive Committee in its proposal to defray the considerable costs of publishing the OCULUS by accepting advertising from building materials suppliers, contractors, and other segments of the building industry. Rates have been set at \$30 per column inch per insertion, with discounts for multiple insertions. Applications for advertising, and names of suggested advertisers, should be forwarded to James Cady at the Chapter office.

SAARINEN

From Page 1

ity was now alive with gentle movement. I do not know how long we were thus spellbound, but the illusion of being suspended in time and space continued until the last glimmer of reflection had died away.

Eero was a man of few words, but I could tell that he had been greatly moved by what we had experienced that afternoon. Even after Cheops, Dendera, Luxor, Baalbek, Hagia Sophia, the Acropolis, and Delphi, he recalled those fleeting moments at Palermo with reverence.

Many years later, in designing the M.I.T. chapel, it is evident that Eero achieved the same serenity, the same vigor and originality that characterized the medieval builders of Monreale. I believe his chapel will take its place among the world's great architecture, and among the lasting reminders of the greatness of its architect.

N. N. Culin

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Corporate

H. Creighton Jones (Transferred to the New York Chapter from the North Carolina Chapter)

Associate

Richard R. Bergmann
Jay S. Klein
Orlando Maione
Lee Harris Pomeroy

CANDIDATES

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

Corporate

Norman Leonard Hoberman
Robert James Schwinn
Leonard Ernest Trentin

Associate

David Basch
John Anthony D'Angelo
Marion J. Gabrysiak
John Robert Kubasek
Peter Sury
William Barnett Gleckman

Sponsors:

{ Esmond Shaw
{ Geoffrey N. Lawford
{ Francis A. Pisani
{ Bonnell Irvine
{ John Nelson Linn
{ Albert M. Hyde
{ Samuel Paul
{ Reino E. Aarnio
{ Bonnell Irvine
{ Fred L. Liebmann
{ Walther Prokosch
{ H. Dickson McKenna