

# OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



JUNE 1962

## THE DALLAS CONVENTION: SURPRISES, DISAPPOINTMENTS, AND DREAMS

by Peter S. Van Bloem,  
Secretary

Amid balmy breezes and 90° weather a contingent of 31 chapter delegates arrived in Dallas early last month to attend the 1962 AIA Convention.

It was a time of some surprises and a few disappointments.

With high hopes delegates cast their 2.23 weighted ballots (the N.Y. Chapter had 69 votes) in an attempt to elect **Robert W. Cutler** Secretary of the Institute. Encouraged by 15 other chapters and their nomination seconds, it seemed as if New York would, at long last, get into the picture again.

The "smart money" had said that the fact that Bob was from a large firm, from New York, and not fully experienced in Institute matters would count heavily against him. But when **Fritz Woodbridge** made a fine, forceful nominating statement and was followed by three seconding speeches, we were floating on air. Then when we heard the nomination of **Clinton Gamble**, we could see we faced a worthy opponent.

And so, it turned out, we lost. Our thanks to Bob and **Max Urbahn**, who helped greatly with the campaign. Two other contested positions resulted in Secretary **Roy Carroll**'s win of the 1st Vice Presidency over 2nd Vice President **James Hunter** (we hope that Jim will be appointed to a high post, as he is far too valuable a man to lose) and **Arthur G. Odell, Jr.**'s victory over **Albert S. Golemon** for 2nd Vice President. Elected unopposed were **Henry L. Wright**, President and **Raymond Kastendieck**, Treasurer, and a number of Regional Directors.

A convention highlight for the Chapter was the caucus held Wednesday morning under **Fritz Woodbridge**'s chairmanship. More time

was given to a discussion of topics and candidates than is possible at the regular meetings.

It was interesting to note that this year the Chapter submitted more Special Resolutions than all other chapters combined. The action taken by the Resolutions Committee was, on the whole, quite successful:

1. Revision to F.H.A. Standards—referred to committee
2. F.D.R. Competition—referred to committee for negotiation with Fine Arts Commission and Congressional committees.
3. Home Building Design—referred to committee.

The proposed By-Law Changes were acted upon thusly:

1. First Vice-President to become President-Designate—approved.
2. Professional Affiliates—tabled.

The amount of time spent by delegates trying to "kill" or "save" the Affiliates proposal was dis-

proportionate to the extreme. Each speaker talked with either such colloquial humor or ceremonious pomp that the business session was shortly used up. It also took one hour for the tabulation of the votes by the "new" system of counting. It is small wonder that at the business session on Friday there was not even a quorum to transact business. When will the Board learn to put the business session in the middle of the Convention?

Between business meetings at the Dallas Memorial Auditorium there were some very fine talks including a keynote speech by Dean **Charles Colbert**, presentations of urban redevelopment programs by Institute members, panel discussions led by **Douglas Haskell**, **Tom Creighton**, and **Emerson Goble**, and the exhibition of the Dallas "Main Place" redevelopment by Columbia University.

There were, if anything, more than the usual round of parties and activities in and around the Statler Hilton hotel, home base for most of the convention-goers. Some active members got to see the "Madwoman of Chaillot" at FLLW's Humphreys Theatre; a good many visited Harwell Harris' remodeled Trade Mart.

Highlights, to this writer, were the presentation of the Gold Medal to Mrs. **Eero Saarinen** and the parting speech of **Philip Will** at the Annual Dinner. Will left a legacy which included the "expanded services—affiliate" idea, and left members with a "dream" of tomorrow. We applaud a man who has gone through two rigorous years at the head of the AIA and who can still talk about ideals and dreams.



Mrs. Max O. Urbahn, newly elected President of the Women's Architectural Auxiliary of the New York Chapter, with President Frederick J. Woodbridge, at the recent AIA Convention in Dallas. Photo by E. James Gambaro, FAIA.



# OCULUS

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
NEW YORK CHAPTERMARGOT A. HENKEL, *Executive Secretary*  
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New York 16, N. Y.  
MUrray Hill 9-7969FREDERICK J. WOODBRIDGE ..... *President*  
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C. GATES BECKWITH ..... *Secretary*  
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## OCULUS CONTRIBUTORS

As various Chapter committees take stock and lay plans for the coming year, the Publication Committee urges members to consider joining its ranks and/or becoming part-time contributors to OCULUS. This monthly bulletin, with a circulation of well over 1,400 belongs to all Chapter members, and depends on them to be a true forum of events, opinions, and ideas. Always welcome are suggestions and contributions for feature articles; coverage of Chapter and other pertinent New York events; book reviews, committee activity reports, items for "Improving New York". Please contact Chairman Philip Chu at MU 5-1272.

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Once again, the Publication Committee wishes to thank Carlson Press for the fine services it has rendered in publishing OCULUS during the past year. As usual, Miss Emma Carlson and her staff have been most cooperative, efficient, and reliable.

## NEEDED: SUMMER JOBS

Architectural firms with opportunities for summer employment of students are cordially requested to contact the Columbia School of Architecture, Room 405, Avery Hall. Telephone: UN 5-4000, Extension 445.

Practical experience of at least 12 weeks is now one of the requirements for Bachelor degrees.

## IMPROVING NEW YORK

As commencement approaches, college seniors usually vote recognition to "the man who has done the most for the class" (and often ballot, too, for "the man who has done the class for the most").

When New York celebrates the 300th Anniversary of its founding two years from now, however, it will not be necessary to go to the polls to find the city's "man who". He is currently at work at Flushing Meadow preparing a big show for the occasion, a show dedicated to—among other things—the realization of a great arterial road program for a great metropolis.

Cynics have questioned the need for this Fair, and impecunious corporations have hesitated, but Mr. Moses, as usual, has taken on all comers. He has rejected the counsel of his architectural planning committee, shrugged off the withholding of approval by the international body, publicly chided the largest exhibitors into the fold, and gotten his theme structure as a present. The Federal Government is still a holdout, but what outcome can there be but that Washington, too, will come to the Fair?

From the outset, the architectural profession has been piqued at Mr. Moses' decision to retain the basic plan of twenty-five years ago. The professional journals have scoffed, and have ridiculed the unimaginative Unisphere. Lately, however, the tune has changed a bit. Many architectural commissions have been awarded, and the caliber of the published designs is rising. It looks as though there really is going to be a Fair on April 22, 1964, and some of its parts may exceed the whole.

S. Hart Moore

## LETTERS

Sirs:

Regarding the Cadman Plaza Project (OCULUS, May '62), we wish to call to your attention that we are the architects for that portion of the project shown in the right hand half of the rendering, encompassing a shopping center, two high rise apartment houses, low rise buildings, and the Walt Whitman Library.

Morris Lapidus, Harle &amp; Liebman

## DETROIT INSTRUCTOR WINS BRUNNER AWARD

The Chapter's Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship has been presented this year to Denis Charles Schmiedeke, an instructor in architecture at the University of Detroit, it was announced by Frederick J. Woodbridge, Chapter president.

The \$5,000 scholarship award will be used to investigate and develop more efficient means of visual communication which will implement and facilitate architectural design, preparation of construction documents, and the process of construction.

The study is expected to produce methods of communication which will reduce production costs of architectural service, while expanding its extent. For the building trades, it will clarify the architect's intent and produce more efficient construction methods. And, since it will facilitate rapid comprehension of the nature and scope of a building project, it will benefit government agencies, mortgage institutions, etc.

## GARMENDIA NAMED TO STEWARDSON FELLOWSHIP

The James Stewardson Fellowship, a \$2,000 grant made annually by the New York Chapter, has been awarded this year to Nesbitt A. Garmendia, who will use the Fellowship to travel and study at first hand the architecture of Greece.

A draftsman with the architectural firm of Oppenheimer, Brady & Lehrecke, Mr. Garmendia is the second winner of the Stewardson grant. Last year's award, the first one to be made under the endowment, went to Edward T. Schiffer of New York for a projected study of prefabrication techniques in Europe.

The Fellowship was made possible through a bequest to the Chapter by James Stewardson, an architect and a citizen of England, who spent most of his professional life in New York City. He specified that the award be made annually "to a worthy architectural draftsman."

Mr. Garmendia is a graduate of Pratt Institute. He resides with his wife and two children at 51-09 39th Avenue, Long Island City.



## CHAPTER BULLETIN BOARD

### NYSAA Convention:

The 1962 Convention of the New York State Association of Architects will be held from October 10-13, 1962, at Whiteface Inn, Lake Placid. The theme of the meeting will be "Expanding Architectural Services." Host this year is the Eastern New York Chapter, AIA. The usual Pre-Convention Luncheon will take place on Thursday, September 20, 1962, at the Chapter Headquarters in New York. The top order of business will be a discussion of proposed resolutions to be taken up at the Convention. Ideas and comments will be welcome. 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.

### F.A.I.A. NOMINATIONS OPEN

L. Bancel LaFarge, Chairman of the Committee on Fellows, would be glad to receive the names of members who their colleagues feel are worthy of advancement to Fellowship in the Institute.

Fellowship can be conferred on AIA members for design, public service, service to the Institute, or literature, or a combination of these.

Please write your nomination, category, and reasons in a letter to the Chairman, in care of the Chapter Office.

### Shelter Courses:

To accommodate the continuing demand for enrollment in the Fall-out Shelter Analysis Course for Architects and Engineers additional classes have been scheduled at George Washington University, Washington, D.C., on: June 18-29, July 9-20, July 23-August 3, and August 13-24. Those interested should apply to the New York State Civil Defense Commission, 162 Washington Ave., Albany 10.

### Chapter Meeting Notes

At a special chapter luncheon meeting on June 6, the \$1000 Scholarship Award of the Plastering Institute of Greater New York was presented to Gert Dieter

Thorn of the Brooklyn Technical High School. At the same meeting the Chapter's one annual certificate of Honorary Associate Membership was given to Fred N. Severud, well-known New York engineer and long-time friend of the Chapter in acknowledgment of "the creative stimulus derived by the profession from his leadership in structural engineering and design."

In a third award, the AIA Ruberoid Scholarship of \$500 was presented to Miss Joyce Elayne Hedman, a student at Cooper Union.

Chapter members also discussed and approved the Institute's request to change the date when the new Chapter administration takes office to January 1st of each year.

### Van Bloem Resigns

At the May 2nd Executive Committee Meeting, President Woodbridge announced and accepted with regret the resignation of Chapter Secretary Peter S. Van Bloem as of June 6th, 1962. Peter, who has also served effectively as Executive Committee Liaison on the Publication Committee for the past two years, will also be missed by this Committee.

Mr. C. Gates Beckwith was appointed Secretary of the Chapter, pro tem, to complete the unexpired term of office.

### CHAPTER ANNOUNCES HOUSE CONSULTING PANEL

The Chapter has announced publicly that 50 architects have been appointed to its House Consulting Panel, a service designed to provide home owners and prospective home buyers with architectural as-

sistance on an hourly basis.

Members of the panel will advise on problems in connection with building, buying, or remodeling a home, according to Chairman Harold Edelman of the House Consulting Committee. Services are available at a fee of \$10 for the first half hour and \$15 for each hour after that.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of the service can either visit the Chapter office at 115 East 40th Street or telephone MURRAY Hill 9-7969. A list of panel members will be mailed to those requesting it. An individual seeking help will be assigned an architect, or he may review a book illustrating the work of panel members and select the one he thinks most suitable.

### FIVE BUILDINGS RECEIVE PRODUCERS' AWARDS

The New York Chapters of the Producers' Council and the AIA have cited five local buildings as outstanding examples of "fostering better community life".

Named for first mention in the commercial category were the Corning Glass building on Fifth Avenue by Harrison, Abramovitz & Abbe and the Pan American terminal at Idlewild by Tippetts-Abbett-McCarthy-Stratton.

In housing, worship, and education, these projects were cited: Chatham Green, by Kelly & Gruzen; the First Presbyterian Church House, by Edgar Tafel; and Junior High School No. 22, by Kelly & Gruzen.

The United Engineering Center, by Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, was chosen as an honorable mention in the commercial group.



### WOMEN'S ARCHITECTURAL AUXILIARY

The first meeting of the new board took place on May 17th under President-Elect Mrs. Max O. Urbahn. The following committee chairmen were appointed: Mrs. Robert W. Cutler, Chairman of the Doric Cotillion; Dorothy Chandler Scott, A.I.A. Liaison and Scholarship Chairman; Mrs. Harold Sleeper, Public Relations; Mrs. Robert Cutler, Publicity; Mrs. Samuel Arlen, Membership; Mrs. Roger

Spross, Historian; Mrs. Olindo Grossi, Program; Mrs. William E. Delehanty and Mrs. John S. Burrows, Tickets for the Doric Cotillion; and Mrs. Robert Jacobs, House Tour.

A House Tour is being planned for October. An invitation will be extended to the full membership of the AIA as well as members of allied fields.



### Fees & Contracts

The Fees and Contracts Committee is studying Chapter reactions to the 'Statement of Services and Schedule of Fees.' This pamphlet, prepared by the Committee in 1960, was distributed to all corporate members. We know that it has had widespread use and effectiveness. As conditions change, however, such documents need review and revision. We would particularly welcome comments from Chapter members both as to the text of the Statement of Services, and as to the appropriateness and adequacy of the Schedule of Fees. Comments should be addressed to David F. M. Todd, Chairman, Fees and Contracts Committee, at the Chapter office.

### Historical Buildings

At a recent meeting the committee discussed measures to save the Doric colonnade surrounding Pennsylvania Station, and to preserve a memorial to Architect Richard Morris Hunt in Central Park.

The neglected Hunt monument was brought to the attention of Committee Chairman Otto Teegen by an "interested citizen." It is located in Central Park, facing Fifth Avenue between 70th and 71st Streets. The chairman found the memorial badly in need of cleaning and repainting and stripped of some of its original bronze reliefs. The maintenance of this monument should be of particular concern to the Chapter not only because it is a rare example of a public monument to an architect, but also because the AIA was one of a number of organizations (including the Architectural League and the Municipal Art Society) that donated the memorial in 1898. As a result of committee discussion, Mr. Teegen wrote to Parks Commissioner Newbold Morris, requesting that his department take steps to repair the memorial.

### Hospital and Health

The Chapter has been informed that a request made by the Hospital and Health Committee for a research grant of \$30,000 from the

Health Research Council of the City of New York has been denied.

The purpose of the request was to develop a comprehensive index of hospital codes and regulations. A study by the Committee indicates that there are now approximately two dozen public agencies having jurisdiction over hospitals and related medical facilities. Most of these do not publish codes and the requirements of some are in conflict.

The Hospital and Health Committee plans to develop the index with its own resources.

### Office Practice

A survey of salary scale among various categories of technical employees of 30 New York offices was recently completed by the Office Practice Committee. The results are tabulated in a 6-page summary now available to Chapter members on request to the Chapter Office.

### Schools

Committee member Frank G. Lopez has prepared an outline of criteria for the selection of qualified architects to design public schools. After his list of criteria has been approved by the committee it will be submitted to the New York City Board of Education for use by its school construction advisory groups.

*John M. Dixon*

### MAKE CHOICES HERE FOR COMMITTEE WORK

The selection of Appointive Committees is an annual task with two basic goals—to obtain the best qualified and enthusiastic members for each committee's particular needs, and to make sure that every qualified and enthusiastic member is appointed to a committee about which he has expressed interest.

The limited administrative staff of the Chapter office, and the amount of cross-checking involved makes it impractical to prepare committee rosters from lists of preferences from previous years. Therefore, all interested members are urged to cooperate by signifying their next year's committee

preferences, AT THIS TIME, on the check list which will be found below. THIS REQUEST FOR CO-OPERATION IS URGENTLY EXTENDED EVEN TO THOSE NEW YORK CHAPTER MEMBERS WHO HAVE ONLY RECENTLY SIGNIFIED THEIR COMMITTEE CHOICES TO THE ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE.

Admissions	Hospital & Health
Awards	House Consulting
Brunner Scholarship	LeBrun Fellowship
By-Laws Committee	Legislative
Civic Design	Meetings
Convention — 1967	Membership
Design Committee	Metropolitan Builders
Education & Scholarship	Office Practice
Architect-in-Training	Programs
Scholarship	Publication
Advisory	Public Affairs
Student Chapter	School
Fees & Contracts	Speakers Bureau
Housing Fees & Contr.	Stewardson Fellowship
Finance	Technical
Fifth Avenue Assn.	Visitors
Chapter Headquarters	World's Fair
Housing Committee	Younger Architects
Historical Buildings	
Signed .....	

### MEMBERSHIP

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

#### Corporate

Poy G. Lee	{Transferred from Long
Salvatore Scutaro	{Island Society Chapter
William H. Crow	James S. Rossant
Edwin E. Fairfield	Michael D. Schwartz
Allan Nathanson (Readmission)	

#### Associate

Louis Bobrowsky	Harry Orthos
Howard R. Kronland	John F. Parkinson

#### CANDIDATES

#### Corporate

James S. Gaspari	Julius Stein
Charles B. McReynolds	Louis G. Theofilos
Robert F. Mueller	Frank J. Waehler
Lee H. Pomeroy	Jan V. White
Robert H. Simpson	

#### Associate

Robert R. Dvorak	{Kenneth M. Mitchell and
	{P. Whitney Webb
William T. Hoffman	{Joseph J. Oshiver and
	{Schutzel
George J. Mandelbaum	{Eli J. Held and
	{Harold M. Liebman
Francis X. T. Crowley	{Henry Szatmary and
	{Gustave R. Keane
Steven P. Papadatos	{Gustave Iser and
	{Norman Klein
Alexander Sanko	{Leon J. Haft and
	{Willard Scolnik

#### ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

#### By-Laws Committee

Gillet Lefferts, Jr., Chrmn.	C. Gates Beckwith
Geoffry N. Lawford	Harmon H. Goldstone
Frederick J. Woodbridge	

### OCULUS DIRECTORY

#### Stephen M. Olko

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