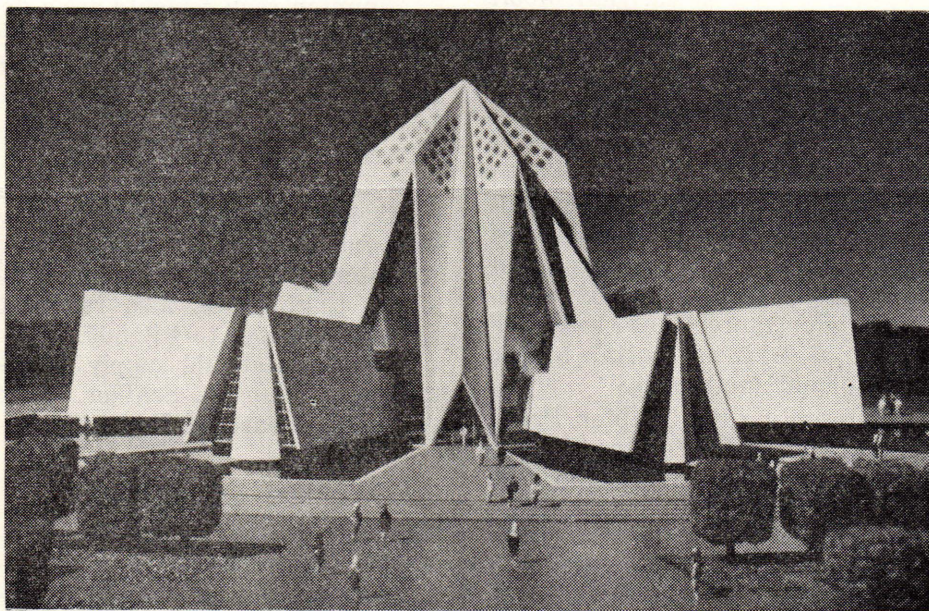


# OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



OCTOBER 1962



**"SPIRITUAL U.N." PROPOSED FOR WASHINGTON, D.C.**

An international "Temple of Understanding"—a project to enlist the support of nations and architects around the world—has been proposed for a 40 acre site on the Potomac in Washington, D. C. Designer of the temple (shown in preliminary model form above), and vice-president of its board of directors is Chapter Executive Committee member Lathrop Douglass, FAIA.

The purpose of the temple will be "to further, through education in the major religions of the world, man's awareness of his essential brotherhood"; in effect, a "spiritual United Nations."

The proposed structure will consist of six arms extending from a central core. These will contain separate chapels for the Buddhist, Christian, Confucian, Hindu, Islamic and Judaic religions. The building will also house a library.

Beginning October 12th, the

group, which has international sponsors ranging from Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt to Princess Rudiworavan of Thailand, will begin a world-wide campaign of "one million dollars in one dollar bills in one year's time."

Once the campaign has been launched, an international committee will be set up to prepare final plans for the structure. The design committee, expected to be headed by Lathrop Douglass, will consist of architects from all regions of the world.

*Charles K. Robinson*

## **STEWARDSON FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS CLOSE DEC. 1**

Competition is open for the 1963 James Stewardson Traveling Fellowship, a \$2,000 grant made annually by the Chapter "to a worthy architectural draftsman."

Men and women between the

ages of 30 and 50 are eligible. They must have been continuously employed—not as a principal—for at least one year in an architectural office in the territory of the New York Chapter immediately prior to making application. In addition, they cannot have previously had a traveling fellowship. The territory of the Chapter includes the Borough of Manhattan, southern half of Ulster and Dutchess counties, all of Sullivan, Putnam, and Rockland counties, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and the Canal Zone.

Applications will be accepted up to December 1, 1962. Promising candidates will be interviewed and an announcement of the award will be made on or before February 1, 1963. The Fellow will begin his trip within eight months after receiving the award and spend at least four months in travel. Application forms can be obtained from the Chapter, 115 East 40th Street, New York 16, N. Y.

## **CHAPTER FIGHTS FOR BREEZY POINT PARK**

The major housing development proposed for Long Island's Breezy Point "would be a tragic misuse of the land," the Chapter told a recent hearing of the City Planning Commission. It was urged that the street changes proposed to make way for the development be disapproved and "that steps be taken to acquire 4½ miles of beach front for full public use."

Speaking for the Chapter, M. Milton Glass, chairman of the Civic Design Committee, warned that if the city did not grasp this opportunity "we will have squandered a valuable natural asset of our region," and a prime recreation site.



# OCULUS

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
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## IMPROVING NEW YORK

At the beginning of this year most of New York's civic and professional organizations put out the welcome mat for the newly appointed Traffic Commissioner, Henry Barnes, and this column helped them do it. Since January Mr. Barnes has engaged in public disputes only with Robert Moses, the Commissioner of Investigations, the Board of Estimate, and the United Nations. Now, however, the skirmish lines are forming in a matter affecting the architects of New York, and Mr. Barnes, like the jay-walker, has had to watch his step.

It all started when the Fifth Avenue Association learned that the Traffic Commissioner was making plans to replace the present traffic light standards on their avenue with a more functional type that would project over the thoroughfare. The Association immediately protested, reminding Mr. Barnes that the present ornamental bronze standards, designed by Architect Joseph Friedlander in 1931, have both esthetic and sentimental value to New Yorkers. In an exchange of correspondence with the Association, Mr. Barnes has stated that the famous Mercury statues will be reinstalled on the new poles. This kind of lip-service could easily result only in a caricature of the original design.

Obviously a traffic control system installed 31 years ago may be inadequate today. The point is that

the old light standards, which have become an integral part of the Fifth Avenue scene, did combine beauty and utility, and their replacements should do no less.

As architects we write, speak, even picket, to preserve the best of the old and refine a portion of the new in our city. These traffic standards merit our attention and our support of the Art Commission to see that the distinctive character of Fifth Avenue is preserved.

S. Hart Moore

THE BATTLE OF  
PENN STATION (CONT.)

In a letter to Mayor Wagner last month, the Chapter came out strongly against the demolition of Penn Station, "a monument of great public, historic, and architectural importance that has well served as a great portal to the heart of our metropolis."

Representing the Chapter, President Frederick J. Woodbridge urged the city administration to take every possible step to guard against the loss of the station and to insure its future preservation and rehabilitation.

"Any assistance which the New York Chapter can give to this end is at your disposal," Mr. Woodbridge told the Mayor.

## BOOKS

"How big is a foot?", by Rolf Myller  
— Atheneum — \$2.95.

For doting grandfather-architects, serious father-architects, dutiful godfather-architects, penurious but obligated uncle-architects, a *sine qua non* for their Christmas lists: an imaginative little story, full of nonsense (and an equal amount of sense) about — of all things to tell children about: Scale. A delightful story in itself, it is a story with meaning, well written and charmingly illustrated in Chapter member Rolf Myller's inimitable style. From the child's point of view (it has been tested by this critic's critical offspring) it is as much a pleasure as from the adult's point of view — since this adult and the author were at school together (years ago).

Jan White

EDUCATION BOARD  
SEEKS ARCHITECTS

The Board of Higher Education is proposing to reorganize its Architectural and Engineering Unit in order to carry out the expanding construction program planned for the next several years. It will employ on its staff several architects or engineers, each to be completely responsible to the Director for all construction work at new four-year colleges and community colleges.

Minimum requirements are a degree in Architecture, Civil Engineering or City Planning from an accredited university plus ten years of responsible supervisory experience in the planning and construction of large buildings, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. License as a Registered Architect or Professional Engineer is also required. Salary: \$10,700. to \$12,500.

Applicants should supply all details to Arthur A. Schiller, Chief Architect, Board of Education.

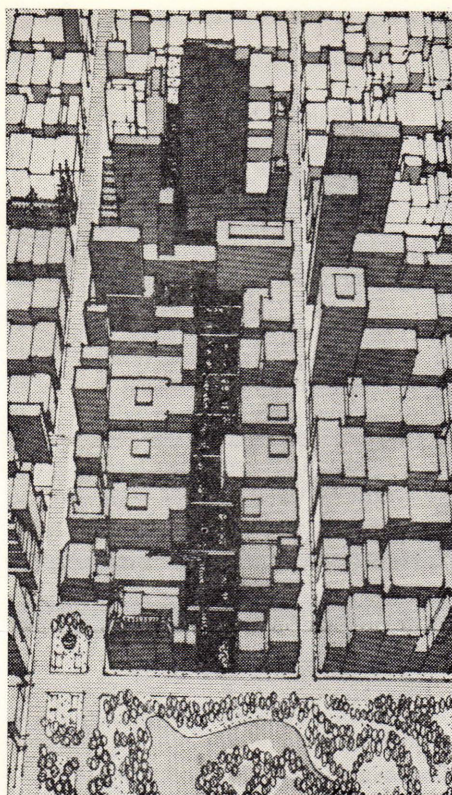
## PC AWARDS EXHIBITED

The New York Chapter of the Producers' Council reports that 23 designs of the finalists in its first annual Architectural Award Program for New York architects have been exhibited since May at the Architectural League, the Architects Samples Corporation, The Bank for Savings, (23rd Street and Park Avenue), Bankers Trust Co. (46th Street and Third Avenue), and the New York Convention and Visitors Bureau. PC plans to circulate these exhibits at various other locations.

## CONCRETE AWARD DINNER

The first Annual Award of New York's Concrete Industry Board, in recognition of an outstanding concrete structure, will be made to the Trans World Airlines Passenger Terminal at Idlewild by Eero Saarinen & Associates, Architects; Ammann & Whitney, Engineers; and Grove, Shepherd, Wilson & Kruger, Inc., Contractors. The award will be made at a stag dinner, Tuesday, November 13, at the Waldorf-Astoria. AIA members are invited. Reservations at \$25 per person, including cocktails, gratuities, and tax may be made through the C.I.B. office at 220 East 42nd St., New York 17.





## PEDESTRIAN MALL DISPLAYED BY CHAPTER

On display last month were models, plans, and renderings of the "pedestrian mall" proposed by the Chapter for midtown Manhattan. The mall, which would run north and south of Rockefeller Plaza from 42nd Street to 59th Street between Fifth Avenue and the Avenue of the Americas, has received support from civic and business groups throughout the city.

The exhibit, developed by advanced students of NYU's Graduate School of Public Administration and Cornell's School of Architecture, was open to the public at Chapter headquarters, and also featured the original studies by Pomerance and Breines that led to sponsorship of the project by the Chapter (see sketch).

The plans by N.Y.U., under the direction of Robert C. Weinberg, adjunct professor of urban planning, include preliminary area studies of land values and use, transportation and circulation, existing structures, and character of retail trade. Also included is a block-by-block analysis of 42nd through 58th Streets and a proposed method of carrying out the plan. The project, named "51½ Way," strives for a variety reflect-

ing the diversity of the city environment. It calls for landscaped squares, plazas, and open-air cafes, the whole to be unified by abundant greenery, specialized pavement, wall treatment and lighting, benches and fountains. The route weaves through a series of interconnected passageways breaking the gridiron "with a fluid movement punctuated by unexpected staccatoes."

The outstanding feature of the Cornell study was the development of two large scale models of the area which illustrate how a more formal, straight mall might look.

## 1963 MAYOR'S PANEL

At the request of the Mayor, the presidents of the seven New York City architectural organizations, the Municipal Arts Society and the Fine Arts Federation met at the Architectural League on August 23rd and selected a jury to review applications and recommend to the Mayor the names of architects for inclusion in his Panel of Architects for the year 1963. The jury: Morris Ketchum, Jr., (chairman), George Edward Beatty, Giorgio Cavaglieri, Frederick G. Frost (alternate).

Applications will be issued and received daily, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., from October 3rd, 1962 through October 23rd, 1962.

Application blanks are obtainable at 96 Duane Street, New York 7, N. Y. All applications, with accompanying photographs where required, must be mailed or delivered to the Department of Personnel, Examining Service Division, Room 210, 299 Broadway, New York 7, N. Y., not later than October 23rd.

## THE MAYOR'S PANEL: HOW IT STARTED AND HOW IT WORKS

*By E. James Gambaro, FAIA*

Sometime during 1936 Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia remarked that a few "political architects" were being given all the city's work, and that he wanted a more equal distribution of appointments.

La Guardia called on the city's senior architectural organization, the New York Chapter, AIA, for help. After some study, the Chap-

ter recommended that a Committee of Eight (now Nine) be formed, consisting of the presidents or representatives of the major art and architectural organizations in the city.\*

This Committee, in turn, was to elect three architects and one alternate of distinguished background and experience to serve on a Jury of Architects. The Jury was to vote on a list of applicants, and draw up a Mayor's Panel of Architects particularly qualified to handle city work.

At the suggestion of The Committee of Eight, the Civil Service Commission forwarded application forms to all Registered Architects in the city (this practice was discontinued about five years ago since the response from architects had averaged only about 15%). The first panel comprised 60 firms and individuals. Mayor Wagner's 1962 panel has a total of 287.

The system has been carried on by succeeding mayors, and has worked well over the years. Each August the mayor writes the chairman of the jury of the previous year, and the presidents of the nine participating organizations, requesting the selection of a jury to review applications, and to assist him in the preparation of a list of architects particularly qualified for municipal appointment during the coming year. The understanding is that this panel of architects will be used by the city in making all appointments for architectural work. The mayor has the prerogative of making additions of his own choice; but as far as is known, this has never been done.

It is incumbent upon all of us as architects to do our best to insure that those chosen for the Mayor's Panel are not only able, experienced, and qualified, but also are practitioners of high integrity and professional standing.

It speaks well for our profession that the panel and the architects chosen by it have enjoyed pleasant and friendly relations with various public officials for the past 25 years.

\*The New York, Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island Chapters of the AIA; the New York Society of Architects, the Brooklyn Society of Architects, the Municipal Art Society of New York, and the Fine Arts Federation of New York.



## COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 24	Chapter Fall Opening Meeting Dining Room and Gallery A, Wed., 6:30 p.m. Topic: "Architectural Competitions"
OCTOBER 30	Technical Committee Lecture Gallery A, Tues., 5:30 p.m.
OCTOBER 31	Hospital and Health Lecture Dining Room, Wed., 5:15 p.m.
NOVEMBER 13	Technical Committee Lecture Gallery A, Tues., 5:30 p.m.
NOVEMBER 27	Technical Committee Lecture Gallery A, Tues., 5:30 p.m.
DECEMBER 5	Hospital and Health Lecture Dining Room, Wed., 5:15 p.m.
JANUARY 3	Annual Luncheon (Election of Officers) Gallery, Thurs., 12:30 p.m.

FIRST CHAPTER MEETING  
ON N.Y.S.A.A. CONVENTION

On Thursday, September 20, the New York Chapter commenced its fall program with a luncheon meeting at the Architectural League attended by 39 members and three guests. The primary business concerned this year's New York State Association of Architects' Convention to be held at Lake Placid, October 10 to 13. The New York Chapter is entitled to 38 delegates, but at this writing only 18 members had indicated they would definitely be in attendance, thus all will be official delegates. This seems a disappointingly small delegation after last year's fine turnout at Saranac. The following is a resume of delegates authorized to represent the Chapter at the convention:

*Officers* - Frederick J. Woodbridge, President ex-officio; C. Gates Beckwith, Secretary ex-officio. *Executive Committee* - George D. Brown, Jr. *Representative to the NYSAA* - Roger G. Spross. *Alternate to the NYSAA* - F. Marshall Smith. *Legislative Committee* - Frederick C. Genz, S. Robert Greenstein, Samuel M. Kurtz, Harry M. Prince. *Delegate Members* - Thomas M. Boyd, Raphael H. Courland, E. Allen Dennison, William S. Fryer, Joseph Fuller, Anthony F. Inserro, Ralston W. Newsam, Michael L. Radoslovich, Daniel Schwartzman.

Mr. Woodbridge read the slate of proposed new officers for the

N.Y.S.A.A. and the following By-Law Amendments which were to be proposed at the convention:

- It is proposed to change the method of determining the number of Delegates to provide more equitable representation by constituent organizations.
- It is proposed that the term of office for President, Vice President, and Secretary shall be limited to one year.
- It is proposed to strengthen the function of the Legislative Committee and the Professional Practice Committee for recommending legislation.
- It is proposed to clarify the confusion resulting from last year's amendment with respect to signatures required for petitions.
- It is proposed to provide orderly procedure for succession and replacement of State Directors.

F. Marshall Smith

## WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

The president and the Board of Directors of the Women's Auxiliary gratefully acknowledge the many generous contributions resulting from a letter enclosed in the last issue of *Oculus*. Due to the response of a substantial part of the membership, the auxiliary looks forward to an active and successful year culminated by the presentation of scholarship grants greater than ever before.

## Louis Skidmore, FAIA

1897—1962

Shortly before *Oculus* went to press, it received the sad news of the passing of Louis Skidmore, founding partner of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, longtime Chapter Member and recipient of its Medal of Honor (1949), and winner of the Institute's Gold Medal, (1957). Memorial Services will be held at the Brick Presbyterian Church, 93rd Street and Park Avenue, at 11 A.M., October 24th.

## MEMBERSHIP

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

## Corporate

Charles McReynolds	Jack Paul Falco
Robert F. Mueller	Francis Lewis Ferguson
Lee Harris Pomeroy	Eduardo Molinari S.
Robert Henry Simpson	Herbert Wettstein
Julius Stein	Alan Schwartzman
Louis G. Theofilos	Arthur Paul Hess (Readmission)
Frank J. Waehler	Frederick Oman (Readmission)
Natale J. Colosi	Arnold S. Rinaldi*
David Phillips Dann	George H. Warren, Jr.

\*Our apologies to Mr. Rinaldi, who was erroneously listed as an associate member in the July-August issue.

## Associate

Robert R. Dvorak Charles M. Smith, Jr.

## CANDIDATES

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

## Corporate

Thomas C. Lehrecke  
George Joseph Mann

## OCULUS DIRECTORY

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