NEW YORK LANDMARKS—No. 6 AMERICAN RENAISSANCE

Perhaps Penn Station has inspired the apparent surge of interest in the preservation of New York's architectural heritage. In any event, several magazines have presented the issue to a nation-wide public in recent months. Life published a photographic survey of several notable landmarks in July of this year and the September issue of Fortune, includes a portfolio of ink and wash drawings by Nicholas Solovioff depicting New York commercial buildings in the flamboyant American Renaissance style of the early 1900's, of which Penn Station is such an illustrious example.

The effect of these drawings is to wipe away the collected grime of many years, revealing the chiaroscuro detail that stirred the hearts of the horseless carriage era. Fortune was able to present only a small portion of the drawings Solovioff produced to fulfill his commission. A somewhat larger selection was shown in September and October at the Revel Gallery, 11 West 56th Street, where the drawings be seen by appointment.

John M. Dixon

1964 BARD AWARDS ARE ANNOUNCED

The City Club of New York recently announced its 1964 Bard Awards for excellence in architecture. Named for Albert S. Bard, club member and devotee to the cause of city beautification, the Award program resulted last year in a highly controversial decision by the jury not to permiate any of the civic projects submitted.

This year the awards will be made for excellence in privately commissioned buildings completed before January 1, 1960. The jury consists of architects Edward Lar-rabee Barnes, Peter Blake, Philip C. Johnson and I. M Pei and Trustee of The City Club, Sidney W. Dean, Jr. Leon Brand, architect and member of the club's housing and planning committee is the administrator of the awards.

All entries must be submitted by January 20, 1964 and judging will take place on January 27th, at the headquarters of The City Club. The awards will be presented at a luncheon in honor of the winners on March 9th.

In 1965, the awards will again focus on governmental architecture in a program devoted to projects commissioned by city, state or federal agencies.

J. Roy Carroll Jr., FAIA, President of The American Institute of Architects, will be the principal speaker at the Chapter Fall Dinner.

Scheduled for November 19, at 7:00 P.M. in the Dining Room, the dinner is one of the major events of the chapter year. Awards to be made at the dinner include the Chapter Medal of Honor, to Ieoh Ming Pei, and citations, in the Third Annual House Competition. All entries in the competition will be on view in the Dining Room at Chapter Headquarters, November 18th through 22nd.
OCULUS IS YOUR MAGAZINE

The basic goal of the Publications Committee is to make OCULUS as effective as possible, for the benefit of the Chapter and of the architectural profession. To approach this goal, the interest and cooperation of all Chapter members are essential. The best way any member can help insure the success of OCULUS is through contribution of news, ideas, features, opinions or any other information that ought to be brought to the attention of the membership of the Chapter. The editors will greatly appreciate anything you can do to help.

IMPROVING NEW YORK

From a recent editorial in the New York Times:

LITTLE PARKS FOR BIG PEOPLE

New Yorkers wandering the streets of Paris, Rome, London and wherever this past summer will know they are there because suddenly they will come upon an unexpected little square or park. If these enclaves of trees, benches and repose were replaced by ugly parking lots or unsightly structures, European cities would lose much of their charm. And footloose New Yorkers would feel as if they had never left home.

Central park needs satellites. There are 850 playgrounds and recreational areas in New York, run by the Parks Department. Many of these are related to housing developments, parkways and school facilities. These are, to invent a phrase, practical parks. But Manhattan especially needs more impractical parks. Parks for grown-ups to take a break in, have their lunch in or just to sit and dream in. It's nice to think of some future time when little parks will replace parking lots right in the heart of town. Or provide a green carpeting for other land parcels, unoccupied or poorly utilized.

A beginning can be made, as suggested by Ely Jacques Kahn, former president of the Municipal Art Society, in The Times Magazine, by turning those huge National Guard armories into little parks. The city has negotiated fruitlessly for two such armories—at Park Avenue and 94th Street and at Park and 34th Street—because the state has placed an absurdly high price on them. City officials have suggested that these sites be used for a junior high school or middle-income housing. Surely one of the two armories could become a starter in a program of little parks. It is time that people replaced polo ponies; time for the city to be more impractically green.

The fountains can come later.

ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBITS

Museum of Modern Art:
STAIRS

The current exhibit of STAIRS at the Museum of Modern Art is a good mind-stretcher. The almost infinite potentials of this one architectural element are effectively suggested in illustrations of almost 100 examples of stairs and ramps, drawn from many cultures and periods. Most are real but some are visionary or imaginary stairs that lead nowhere—as at Hindu astronomical observatories. There is even a trompe l'oeil stair from a Baroque palace. Many of the examples, such as Rome’s famous Spanish Stairs, are parts of the city-scape. Works by modern architects include those of Le Corbusier, Jacobsen, Mies, Neutra and Wright. Most visitors will quickly think of several favorite examples that are not included, but that is part of the mind-stretching.

Bernard Rudofsky, who selected and designed the exhibit in collaboration with the Museum’s Department of Architecture and Design, comments on the diminished importance of stairs today: “Ascending or descending a flight of stairs once called for a display of grace unmarrred by physical exertion, while steps leading to altars and thrones imposed a veritable ritual of movement . . . Today, when only underprivileged people walk, when the word pedestrian has become synonymous with dull and slow, stairs barely survive as ‘back stairs’ and fire escapes. They have been superseded by machines—elevators, escalators, and cable cars.” He finds some hope for the return of gracious non-mechanical means of climbing, however, especially in the interest in ramps.

The exhibit will be on view until the Museum closes for renovations on December 1. On its reopening in the summer of 1964 we can expect to see at least one real ramp and several flights of stairs.

John M. Dixon

Jewish Museum:
RECENT AMERICAN SYNAGOGUE ARCHITECTURE

Drawings, photographs, and models of seventeen synagogues are on view at the Jewish Museum, Fifth Avenue and 92nd Street, in the current exhibition: Recent American Synagogue Architecture.

The exhibition reveals not only the problems confronting architects in search of appropriate forms of design expression for houses of worship in general but also those pertaining to synagogues in particular: synthesis of the religious, social and daily functions; accommodating increased attendance on the High Holidays; the limited number of liturgical requirements.

That there are no simple answers is demonstrated by the variety of designs chosen for this exhibition. Unpretentiously assembled by architect R. Meier, this show includes, among others, recent designs by: Peter Blake; Marcel Breuer; Davis, Brody and Wisniewski; Edelman and Salzman; Percival Goodman; Philip C. Johnson; Oppenheimer, Brady and Lehrcke; Sherwood, Mills and Smith.

Charles Thomsen

New York's Municipal Art Society, founded by Architect Richard Morris Hunt in 1892, looks backward with this handsome book to count some of the architectural riches of the past (pre-1930) which still exist in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and other environs of this expendable city. Most are in Manhattan, of course; examples of the nicely printed photographs (done with high craft by the Meriden Gravure Co.) include such familiars as the old U.S. Subtreasury building, the Stock Exchange, and one of the elderly iron bridges which seem all but growing in Central Park (above). Less familiar, even to New Yorkers, are such Brooklyn treasures as the colonnaded row houses on Willow Place and the flavorful Greenwood Cemetery Gates by Richard Upjohn—the younger, cooky-cutting Upjohn.

The book grew out of the list the Art Society has maintained in recent years of New York buildings worth fighting for. Together with his pictures, Editor Burnham's text makes it clear why, His is not the sentimental approach to saving old architecture. He even enjoys deflating some of the monuments a little. Yet few who examine this book could but cherish what Burnham cherishes; and some, perhaps, will go out and join the preservation fights. For the Society's list is anything but sacred; several of the buildings shown here are already on their way out of existence.

This is a perfect gift book—a description which has become a little sardonic in recent Christmas seasons because of the many empty publishing packages annually put forward in that category. This book is not empty; it is full of thought, skill, love.

Walter McQuade

Surveyors Needed:
If you are interested, and have the time, you may qualify for the position of Surveyor of Unsafe Buildings. Qualifications include at least ten years experience in building construction and three years residency in New York City. City employees are not eligible. Surveyor's fees are $50. Contact the Chapter office in writing by November 19th.

Stewardson Fellowship
Interested persons may submit applications for the Fourth Annual Stewardson Fellowship before Dec. 1, 1963. Established through a bequest of James Stewardson, an English architect who practiced in New York, the award, in the words of the donor, is to be made "... to a worthy architectural draftsman." Amount is $2,000; purpose travel; application forms have been sent out by Chapter Headquarters, from which additional forms may be obtained.

Mrs. John S. Burrows Jr. has been named president of the Women's Architectural Auxiliary of the New York Chapter, American Institute of Architects. Other new officers are Mrs. Ronald Allwork, first vice president; Mrs. Lathrop Douglass, second vice president; Mrs. Douglas Haskell, treasurer; and Mrs. Samuel Juster, secretary.

The annual W. A. A. tour of New York architects' homes, so successful last year, has been postponed until spring. It seems that some of the architects whose homes will be opened to the public are contemplating certain important changes—which we all know will make for additional interest.

Remember that important date ahead—The Doric Debutante Cotillion (the fifth) on December 26, 1963. Hope to see you at the Metropolitan Club.

Hildegarde Sleeper
(Mrs. Harold R. Sleeper)
BRI FALL CONFERENCES

Eight topics of general interest to the building industry have been scheduled for the Building Research Institute's 1963 Fall Conferences which will be held at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., November 19-21. The meetings are open to non-members of BRI, as well as to members.

More than 70 persons, recognized authorities in their fields, will take part in a wide variety of technical sessions, workshops, and panel discussions. Topics to be covered include mortars for masonry; impact noise in housing; mechanical fasteners in residential frame construction; safety needs and practices in housing; new approaches to high-density, low-rise housing; recent housing research; recent developments in residential heating; and problems in urban renewal.

COMMUNITY FALLOUT SHELTER COMPETITION

The Defense Department has authorized a national competition for the design of a shopping center incorporating fallout shelter with cash prizes totaling $55,000.

The competition is open to architects and engineers registered in the United States and to faculty members and graduates of accredited architectural and engineering schools.

Copies of the program and registration forms can be obtained by writing A. Stanley McGaughan, AIA, Professional Adviser, National Community Fallout Shelter Design Competition, 1341 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

Correction

OCULUS regrets the misspelling of the name of Martyn N. Weston in its October issue announcement of the jury for the Mayor's Panel of Architects.

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Corporate
Salvatore Coco
A. Corwin Frost
Ronald J. Klar
Nicholas J. Senesey
Mario V. Dini
James Falick

Associates
Andrew D. Alpern
Clarence D. Funnyc
Herman E. Sands

CANDIDATES

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

Corporate
Aly S. Dadras
Ronald David Goodman
Kenneth L. Haynes

Professional Associate
Edgar Waehler

Associate
John David Doran
Joel M. Rudick

Sponsors:
Robert B. O'Connor & Philip M. Chu

Sponsors:
John Bruce Dodd and William A. Hall

Sponsors:
Alan Nathanson & Pier I. Cherici
CHAPTER MEDAL OF HONOR TO IEOH MING PEI

The highest award of the New York Chapter American Institute of Architects, the Medal of Honor, will be presented to Ieoh Ming Pei on Tuesday, Nov. 19 at the fall dinner meeting.

In making this announcement, Geoffrey N. Lawford, Chapter president, said: "Mr. Pei's work is distinguished by an ordered simplicity, imaginative but un mann ered, by a mastery of site planning and by a deep interest and great accomplishment in the field of housing."

"His colleagues in the New York Chapter, deeply impressed with the scope and quality of his work today, are happy to make this award to an architect whose age offers the promise of many fine buildings in the future," he added.

Mr. Pei's work includes the multi-airline terminal at Idlewild and Kips Bay, a residential development in Manhattan.

Among Mr. Pei's other important projects are the Mile High Center and the Courthouse Square development in Denver and the Green Center for the Earth Sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge.

He has executed important work in housing and city planning in Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Cleveland and Los Angeles. In addition, much institutional work of his design is currently under construction.

Mr. Pei was born in Canton, China in 1917. He received his architectural education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and at Harvard University, and was awarded a travelling fellowship from each institution.

He came to New York as director of the architectural division of Webb and Knapp after working in the Boston area for a brief period. He now heads his own firm, I. M. Pei & Associates. Mr. Pei lives in New York City with his wife and four children.

The Medal of Honor has been awarded 33 times since it was initiated in 1917. Presented in recognition of distinguished work, it was given posthumously last year to Eero Saarinen. In 1961 Gordon Bunshaft, designer of Lever House, was the recipient.

BALLARD NAMED TO TOP CITY PLANNING POST

William F. R. Ballard, an expert in public housing and well-known architect was recently appointed by Mayor Robert F. Wagner as chairman of the City Planning Commission. He will serve until 1967, filling the unexpired term of James Felt who resigned almost a year ago.

Mr. Ballard is a director of the Municipal Art Society of New York and chairman of the advisory council of the Princeton University department of architecture. He holds an MA from Princeton in architecture.

A partner in the firm of Ballard Todd Associates he is best known for his positive stands on middle-income housing and demands for more imaginative design of public housing.

Mayor Wagner's appointment of Ballard was commended "as a significant step toward achieving the best possible future development of New York City," by Geoffrey N. Lawford, president of the Chapter.

"Mr. Ballard will inject a vital element of leadership and direction that will assure continued development of the planning program in a fashion worthy of New York City," Mr. Lawford said in a letter to the Mayor.

For further comments on the appointment of Mr. Ballard as chairman of the city planning commission see Improving New York on page two of this issue.

NYSAA CONVENTION BUSINESS PROGRAM

Important business to come before the NYSAA convention at Grossingers, October 20-23, includes a number of proposed by-law changes. Among these are following: CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
CONTINUED FROM P. 1

Article I, Section 4—Clarifies territorial area of NYSAA as principally the State of New York, since territorial area of constituent organizations extends beyond the state lines.

Article II, Section 1(b)—Recognizes that Rochester and Syracuse Societies are now Institute components.

Article II, Section 2(a)—Clarifies definition of constituent Members.

Article III, Section 5—Proposes re-appointment of voting delegates.

Article IX, Section 4—Provides for official representation in the New York Regional Council, A.I.A.

Article X, Section 1 & 2—Clarifies amendment procedures.

The Nominating Committee has submitted the following slate of officers for consideration:

President—Simeon Heller of Queens Chapter, AIA; 1st Vice President—Allen Macomber of Central N. Y. Chapter, AIA; 2nd Vice President—Millard F. White of Westchester Chapter, AIA; 3rd Vice President—Fay A. Evans of Eastern N. Y. Chapter, AIA; Secretary—Roger G. Spross of New York Chapter, AIA; Treasurer—George J. Cavalieri of New York Society.

The Nominating Committee consisted of John W. Briggs, Chairman, Herbert Epstein, Morris Ketchum, Jr., Stanley H. Klein, Donald H. Newman, Members, and Francis E. Hares and Seymour A. Goldstone, Alternates.

In accordance with the By-Laws, the 1st Vice President will also be President-Elect for 1965.

The appointment of William F. R. Ballard as chairman of the City Planning Commission is a matter of special interest and pride to this Chapter. While the sum of all the criticisms and suggestions voiced in this column in the past might seem to imply that the panacea for New York's problems would be the appointment of architects to head every city department, the chairmanship of the Planning Commission is obviously the most appropriate and most important post for which the Mayor could actually select an architect. Mr. Ballard's extensive experience in private practice and his acquaintance with civic affairs eminently qualify him for the job.

The development of a master plan for the City, thus far approached on a piece-meal basis to meet critical situations, is one of Mr. Ballard's announced objectives. This companion piece to the new zoning resolution is indeed overdue, and its completion will be a significant accomplishment. The master plan bears directly upon major problems which call for the new chairman's attention. These are transportation, parks and housing. There are programs in each of these areas—moving slowly and with little evidence of over-all coordination.

Mr. Ballard's new job will be a difficult one, and it behooves the Chapter to support him.

S. Hart Moore

Nominating Committee Named

Elected to membership on the Nominating Committee were: Giorgio Cavaglieri, William E. Lescace, Michael L. Radoslovich, and Norval C. White.

CORRECTION:

David F. M. Todd, chairman of the Fees and Contracts Committee notes in the July-August 1963 OCULUS report quoting the "Committee strongly recommended that the separate contract system be permitted for public work" actually should have read: "recommends that the single contract system be permitted for public work."

New Edition of Wright's "The House Beautiful" To Help Save Robie House

The early and now very rare "The House Beautiful" privately issued by Frank Lloyd Wright and William Herman Winslow in a limited edition of only ninety copies will have a new edition, partial proceeds of which will go toward preservation of FLLW's Robie House in Chicago.

The new edition faithfully adheres to the original design. It is printed on "antique" paper and binding similar to the original. Cost of the new edition is $22.50 a copy, postpaid.

Copies can be obtained from W. R. Hasbrouck AIA, The Prairie School Press, 117 Fir Street, Park Forest, Illinois.
Chapter Sponsors Exhibit: CHURCHES AND TEMPLES: POSTWAR ARCHITECTURE

On January 9, 1964, a major exhibition of religious structures designed since World War II will open at the Pepsi Cola Gallery on Park Avenue. Sponsored by the chapter, the exhibit will present architecturally-designed buildings in a category that affects most intimately. Following the one-month New York showing, the exhibition will be circulated nationally for two years by the American Federation of Arts. This show represents a superb opportunity to enhance the prestige of the profession with the general public, and to illustrate the architect’s imaginativeness and competence in perhaps the most dramatic building type.

You can help the New York Chapter stage a really impressive show—and at the same time garner possible laurels for works of your design—by submitting your own work in this field to the committee of selection of the exhibition (Marcel Breuer, Percival Goodman, Jan C. Rowan and Maurice Lavanoux, Liturgical Arts Editor). Deadline for receipt of submissions—which need only be photographs of completed buildings, reproductions of renderings and/or model photos, pertinent plans and sections, and a description of the program—is October 30. Selection of churches and temples to be included will be made the following week, and those architects chosen will be asked to prepare and furnish two or three 40 x 40 inch boards, each bearing a blown-up photograph of the project. Submission material should be sent to James Burns, Chairman, Exhibition Committee, New York Chapter AIA, 115 E. 40th St., New York 16, N. Y. Architects selected for exhibition will be informed where to send exhibit boards and when to send them.

The audience for this exhibition should be large indeed, and all means will be used to obtain widespread press coverage. Help your profession by sending in submissions of your best religious work as soon as possible, but in any event, no later than October 30.

Brunner Scholarship

Applications from active architects and those in related fields will be received until January 15 for the $5,000 Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship, offered annually by the New York Chapter AIA. The grant calls for study in some special field which will effectively contribute to the practice, teaching or knowledge of the profession. For further details: Chapter office.

Stewardson Fellowship

Interested persons may submit applications for the Fourth Annual Stewardson Fellowship before Dec. 1, 1963. Established through a bequest of James Stewardson, an English architect who practiced in New York, the award, in the words of the donor, is to be made "... to a worthy architectural draftsman." Amount is $2,000; purpose travel; application forms have been sent out by Chapter Headquarters, from which additional forms may be obtained.

RIBA Invitation

The Royal Institute of British Architects cordially extends an invitation to all and any members who will be over there at the time of their Annual Conference in 1964. The Conference will be held in Glasgow May 8-11.

MAYOR’S JURY TO NOMINATE

John Nelson Linn, president of the NY Society of Architects has announced jury members who will have the duty to select names for consideration as members of the mayor’s panel of architects for 1964.

Harold C. Bernhard, AIA, Chairman, Office of Shreve, Lamb and Harmon Robert G. Spross, AIA, Office of Voorhees, Walker, Smith, Smith and Haines Martin West AIA Kenneth W. Milnes AIA, Alternate.

New York City architects wishing to be on the Mayor’s Panel of Architects for 1964 should apply at the Application Section of the Department of Personnel, 96 Duane Street, New York, from October 2 through October 22, 1963.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Voluntary contributions toward the cost of additional land for the proposed new Institute headquarters building in Washington are being solicited by the A.I.A. Board. Contributions may be paid in two annual installments. Members who would like to contribute to this cause may obtain pledge forms from the Chapter office or from National headquarters.

WOMEN’S ARCHITECTURAL AUXILIARY

Many questions have been asked about our organization, now well into its fifth year. So we take this opportunity to set down facts and figures:

1. WAA is the only one of some 45 A.I.A. auxiliaries founded to concentrate on the raising of architectural scholarship funds.
2. WAA is now a tax-exempt organization and all contributions to the fund are deductible.
3. Funds are raised by “Special Events” and contributions.
4. Since our founding, and including the $5,000 granted at the May 1st luncheon, $10,000 has been distributed among 15 students by the various architectural schools receiving lump sums.

The current WAA Board of Directors names the total sum to be granted. The Chapter Scholarship Committee is advised by our WAA liaison of the total amount. The committee chooses one or more architectural schools of New York City to receive the funds.

The school of architecture selects the students to receive the WAA grants. In the grant, WAA stipulates one condition only—the student benefited must be in need of financial aid. In the past, it has been the policy of the various schools to break down the total sum into small scholarship grants. Columbia University, Pratt Institute, and Cooper Union have received the previous awards.

Hildegarde Sleeper
(Mrs. Harold Sleeper)
COMING EVENTS

October 15
Technical Committee Lecture
Dining Room; Tues., 5:30 P.M.

October 20-23
NYSAA Convention
Grossingers; Catskill Mts.

November 4
Hospital & Health Lecture
Dining Room; Mon., 5:15 P.M.

November 12
Technical Committee Lecture
Dining Room; Tues., 5:30 P.M.

November 19
Chapter Fall Opening Dinner
Dining Room; Tues., 7:00 P.M.

January 29
Membership Cocktail Party
Dining Room; Wed., 5-8 P.M.

February 20
Anniversary Dinner—place & time to be announced

October 8-12
UIA International Symposium on Architecture;
Mexico City; Followed by Second Pacific Rim
Architectural Conference, Oct. 12-18

November 19
The Fine Arts Federation of N.Y. Semi-Annual Meeting,
The Architectural League, Tues., 12:30 (Principal Guest Speaker, J. Roy Carroll, Jr., President, The American Institute of Architects)

OCULUS DIRECTORY

OCULUS is grateful to the following contributors who helped sustain the costs of this issue.

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ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE ANNOUNCES PROGRAMS

Programs of The Architectural League of New York, all of which are open to New York A.I.A. members and the public, are as follows:

The Pursuit of Civic Excellence

The Changing Alliance

Seminars on the Building Arts

Tuesdays at the League

Special program:

Annual Awards and Inaugural Dinner
May 21, 1964.

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Corporate
Saul S. Anton
Richard S. Hertzberg
Anthony R. Moody
Augusto R. Gauthier
Frederick Dunn (transferred from St. Louis Chapter)
John D. Caproni (transferred from Conn. Chapter)
Stanley Prowler (transferred from Brooklyn Chapter)

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

Corporate
Robert Lee Boyar
Jorge Victor Davila, Jr.
Leon Latimer Dunkley
Elliott Michael Glass
Hugh Hardy

Associate
Roger Steven Blaho
Emmanuel Misithopoulos
Sponsors: William Lescaze & Leon Brand
Sponsors: Harvey Orth & Ely Jacques Kahn