

OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



DECEMBER 1963

CHAPTER REQUESTS

DISCUSSION WITH MAYOR ON CIVIC CENTER COMPETITION

Preliminary steps have been taken by the Chapter to open discussions with Mayor Wagner on the possibility of a design competition for a portion of the New York Civic Center.

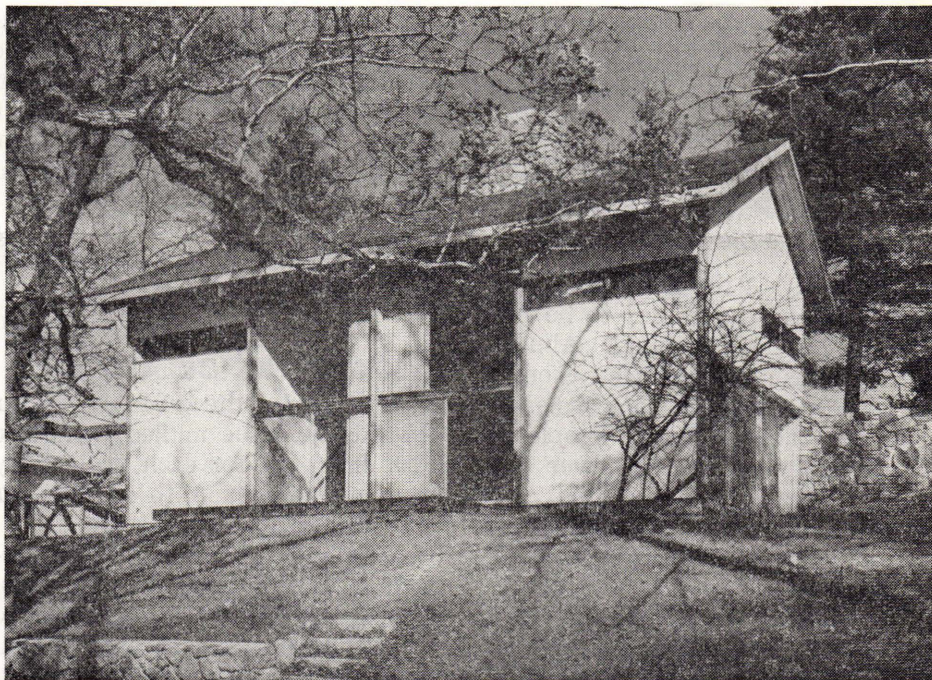
In his letter of November 12, 1963 to Mayor Wagner, Chapter President Geoffry Lawford mentioned that the Chapter has given long standing support to the Civic Center and has repeatedly commended the Mayor, his Civic Center Committee and its consultants for the good job they have done and, as Mr. Lawford said, "... the opportunity the plan offers for great civic design."

Continuing the letter, Mr. Lawford said, "... now that the plan has received official sanction, a framework exists in which we believe there is an area where a competition can beneficially fit. A small delegation from the Chapter would like to meet with you to discuss this question. . ."

Mr. Lawford's action was taken as the result of a special Chapter meeting held on November 4, 1963. This meeting asked consideration of a competition for the over-all design of the uncommitted portions of Area 3 and for any other appropriate areas in the neighborhood that will become part of the Civic Center and for which there are no existing contracts, commitments or other legal problems.

Proposals for a revised Civic Center plan were developed by the Mayor's Civic Center Committee, assisted by architectural and traffic consultants. Plan was made public a year ago on December 7, 1962 (OCULUS, January, 1963),

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



FIRST AWARD TO NEMENY, TWO OTHERS CITED IN COMPETITION

The New York Chapter has announced three award citations in its third annual house competition.

Architect George Nemeny won the first award citation for a new residence (shown above), a small country house marked by casual simplicity and flexibility of living space.

Architects Bruce Campbell Graham and Leonard Feldman were also recipients of awards. In addition, designer Helmut Jacoby was cited along with Mr. Feldman.

An award citation for ingenuity in design in altering an existing residence went to Mr. Graham.

A commendation for skill in providing amenities in the design of a new town house was awarded to Mr. Feldman and Mr. Jacoby.

The house created by Mr. Nemeny is designed to avoid the cramped, box-like rooms currently preva-

lent in smaller homes. To accomplish this the major portion of the house features a large, two-story central living area. The lower floor rooms flanking the living area have sliding walls to add to the space when desired.

The competition was open to any architect registered in the U. S. or its possessions who designed a house in New York City. Houses built anywhere in the country could be entered by registered architects practicing in New York City. New houses, alterations, and groups of houses, new or altered, were eligible.

Judges were: Professor John H. Callender of Pratt Institute School of Architecture; Ilse Meissner Reese, associate editor of Progressive Architecture; Ulrich Franzen, AIA; and Richard Stein, AIA.

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NEW YORK CHAPTER

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JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY —LEGACY FOR ARCHITECTS

The tragedy of the death of President Kennedy continues to be impossible to comprehend. Almost equally incomprehensible—though it can be viewed with compassion—has been the aftermath. People in this country—indeed all over the world—have been engulfed for weeks in a fearful wave of castigation, almost flagellation, much of it self-directed.

It must be said, however, that out of this, and out of the millions of words said on the subject, there have been some attempts to get at the real meaning of what happened in, and after, Dallas. Maybe there is no simple meaning in the complex tangle, but it should be possible to gain some degree of understanding of the late President himself—of the man himself. Surely, there is some meaning for architects among his words and actions.

That the late President was a friend of architecture is well-known. Perhaps not quite so obvious—but of even greater importance especially to architects—is that President Kennedy used words to express convictions; and he put his convictions into action. His record in this is quite clear: civil rights; international affairs; world peace; to name but a few. While all would not agree with either his convictions or the actions that followed, surely most men, however varied their political persuasions, that his convictions were positive and that he worked for them.

Maybe architecture would flower

into that excellence and high service the late President believed in, if only the convictions of all architects led them to take a strong stand for whole architecture and for the people for whom architecture is created; and if, again like the late President, they simply got to the work at hand. How much more civilized and productive the results of this would be than those that follow from the great rumblings of discontent, the fiery diatribes, the often incomprehensible strivings of those who always seem to have strong feelings against things, but never translate their emotions into productive action. How much better than the extravagant talk would be devotion of time and energy to the foot-slogging work of the profession.

Dudley Hunt

INSTITUTE HONOR AWARDS

Entry slips for the 1964 AIA Honor Awards must be mailed, with the \$10. entry fee for each project, by November 29, 1963, to 1964 Honor Awards, AIA, Washington, 6.

In asking for projects to be submitted to the jury, its chairman, Charles M. Nes, FAIA, had this to say, "The purpose of this annual program is to encourage and recognize excellence in architecture, and the awards will be made for distinguished accomplishments by practicing American architects, for any architectural projects completed since January 1, 1959.

"High quality design is not limited to a single area or to any small group of architects. Fine architectural projects are being designed and built all over the country and abroad by a number of our colleagues. Therefore, we urge all members to broaden the scope of this program and help to bring public attention to the variety and excellence of architecture now being created."

CIVIC CENTER, Continued from p. 1

and was approved April 18, 1963 by the City Planning Commission. The plan seeks to consolidate various existing government buildings and projected future Federal and City buildings, into a unified, landscaped center free of vehicles.

Charles Thomsen

THE FUTURE OF NEW YORK SCHOOLS

After spending two days around conference tables debating the future of the city's schools, architects and school administrators found several areas of agreement. The occasion was the Seminar on Urban Schools held during the summer, a joint undertaking of the Chapter School Committee and the City Board of Education, with the support of the Educational Facilities Laboratory.

The sheer size of the problem discussed, is intimidating: there are now one million pupils in the city's 860 schools, and new schools are being completed at the rate of 40 per year. It was pointed out that the problems of city schools differ from those of the suburbs in many ways other than size: in the social and economic make-up of the student bodies, in the scarcity of land, in the lack of local influence on school policy, and, on the other hand, in increased opportunities for specialized classes, on-the-job training, cultural extension, etc.

One major conclusion of the conference was that the problem of rebuilding this vast complex can never be solved unless it is treated as an integral part of the reconstruction of the city. This integration would call for the cooperation of all city departments in providing suitable sites for schools and in establishing predictable population patterns on which school planning can be based. It also requires a willingness on the part of school administration to deviate from uniform standards and adapt each school project to the peculiarities of site and program, making use of unorthodox solutions such as the combined-use school, the air-rights school, the school in rented space, and the park school, where appropriate.

Many aspects of the architect's role were discussed: the possibility of his consultation in establishing the program; the value of architectural competitions; the selection of architects; and, of course, fees. Each of these matters could be, and perhaps will be, the subject of a future seminar.

John M. Dixon

COOPER SQUARE— A PROJECT TO BE WATCHED

The problem of bringing about excellence in urban design when several factions in an area disagree among themselves and also with the city's proposed redevelopment for the area is pointed up by the controversy over the redevelopment of the Cooper Square area. When the city announced its plan five years ago, many residents expressed their astonishment at the proposal which seemed destined to displace the majority of the residents (who probably could not afford the new rents); disrupt or curtail major institutions; destroy an active business district; and send about 4000 homeless men into other areas of the city.

Acting with the aid of Charles Abrams, the citizens formed the Community Square Development Committee and Businessman's Association and hired Walter Thabit as planning consultant to examine the problem and advance a more amenable solution. His Alternate Plan, as it came to be known, provided for low-rent housing; retention of several reconditioned blocks; continued existence of important institutions; experimental units of artists' housing and furnished rooms; and long-term resettlement for homeless men.

James Felt, then Chairman of the City Planning Commission hailed the plan as "a real pilot project" in city-community cooperation.

Another interested party is Cooper Union itself. The school is in need of expansion room and is eyeing the most logical section for such growth: to the east of 3rd Avenue along 8th Street. Cooper Union President Dr. Richard F. Humphreys has encouraged alumni to exert their influence to seek fair treatment for the school under whatever plan is eventually adopted. Cooper Union being the cultural center of the entire area, Dr. Humphreys feels the school should be assured of future space to grow.

Another citizen's group, the St. Mark's Organization, seems to be more in line with the original plan as advanced by the city.

This entire problem bears close watching by architects, since it

may serve to illustrate the direction New York City planning and redevelopment will move in the future. In addition, there are a number of notable older structures that should be preserved in and around the redevelopment area, including the Old Merchant's House and Colonnade Row.

*Alexander Sanko &
James T. Burns, Jr.*

IMPROVING NEW YORK

Anyone who ventures on Manhattan surface travel these days finds he has considerable time available for pondering the subject of traffic. He might wonder if what was good for Denver and Baltimore will be good enough for New York. He might also wonder if building more parking garages will reduce the near saturation conditions (is everyone merely looking for a place to park?) or will it in fact aggravate them by attracting more vehicles into the center of the city.

Commissioner Barnes has scoffed at critics who suggest that traffic volume could and should be reduced by such measures as requiring night time loading and unloading in the garment district or prohibiting private automobiles from certain areas at peak traffic hours. He parodies these ideas with the suggestion that there be alternate days for boy and girl drivers. Mr. Barnes also claims to be a realist, pointing out that there are many different private motorists with many valid reasons for driving anywhere in the city at anytime. From this premise, he proceeds with the present program, that is more one-way avenues and electronic signal controls, designed to increase the capacity of streets.

But Professor Parkinson would undoubtedly agree that the volume of traffic will increase in direct ratio to the capacity of the thoroughfares that accommodate it.

S. Hart Moore

GIFTS AND GRATUITIES

OCULUS wishes to remind the membership that Section 1121 of the City Charter and the City Code of Ethics prohibit city employees from accepting gifts and gratuities. Violators of this are guilty of a misdemeanor.

NYSAA CONVENTION A SUCCESS

In October of this year, the NYSAA convention was held at Grossingers. It was well-attended—by almost 600 architects and members of their families, in addition to a host of exhibitors who manned 58 booths. The general consensus among those who went to the Catskills for the convention was that it was one of the best—if not the best—in the history of state organization.

Beginning on Sunday, October 20th, the convention officially began with a seminar on public relations, presided over by Morris Ketchum, Jr. and moderated by Allen Macomber, 2nd Vice President of NYSAA. Participants included Robert Denny, Public Relations Counsel for the Institute.

At an informal dinner Sunday night, Dean George A. Dudley of the Rensselaer School of Architecture spoke on architectural services for the 22 college campuses that are part of the New York State University Construction Fund. Models of these campuses were on display.

On Monday, the theme meeting of the convention, "The Efficient Architectural Office," was held with Richard Roth, Sr., as Chairman, Daniel Schwartzman as moderator and a panel composed of Henry L. Blatner, Arthur A. MacKnight, Frederick M. Ginsbern, Samuel M. Kurtz, Milton Milstein, and Daniel Perry.

Business sessions were held on the final two days of the convention. Elected as officers were those nominated by the nominating committee and reported in OCULUS, October 1963, including President Simeon Heller of Queens Chapter and Secretary Roger C. Spross of the N.Y. Chapter. All amendments to the By-laws that were listed in the October OCULUS were passed. Among the resolutions passed was one sponsored by the N.Y. Chapter calling for equal opportunities and increased incentives for all people.

The main speaker at the annual banquet was, Roy Carroll, Jr., President of the Institute, who outlined plans and activities of Institute.

Historical Building

Last month's meeting of committee was devoted mainly to a review of items on which the Committee had participated to some extent last season. These included: 1. Richard Morris Hunt Memorial in Central Park—no repairs have been made and the chairman has been delegated to make direct contact with the person in the Parks Department in charge of Central Park rather than send a letter to Newbold Morris who did not answer the last one sent; 2. Continuation of texts and sketches of Historic Buildings for the "Oculus"—Jim Cady agreed to continue his success in last season's issues, when four items were enthusiastically received; and 3. Washington Mews and McDougall Alley—the latest word is that the properties on East 8th Street have been purchased by someone who has promised to respect the existing stables if an adequate plan can be worked out for the new building.

Office Practice

The Office Practice Committee has started its activities with a bang (as usual). The committee is putting a number of projects under study. Some of the topics to be actively studied this year should be of great importance to the membership at large. To name a few: Professional Liability Insurance; Check List on Drafting Room Practice; Overhead Categories; Reduction of Shop Drawings; Materials Sample System; Accounting for the Smaller Office; and Insurance for Architects.

House Consulting

In a continuing effort to bring the Architect back into residential design, the House Consulting Committee has reaffirmed its Action Program. In the past, one of the more important aspects of the program has been contact with the West Side Urban Renewal Study, offering assistance to owners undertaking rehabilitation. That this program is now underway is attested to by an article which appeared in the *New York Times* of October 13th.

The Committee is also contacting, contractors, bankers and others interested in home building in an effort to show the value of architects in home building.

The response in the number of entries (22), and in the quality of entries, in the House Competition was encouraging. The jury commented however, that it was unfortunate that the Competition had not drawn more alterations and new houses designed by architects in the New York metropolitan area that are known to exist. It was suggested that the next competition attempt to do the following: 1. Announce competition with a small but attractively presented brochure; 2. Require a small entry fee of say, \$10.00; 3. Attempt to get A.I.A. or some other interested party to award prizes of \$500. and down; 4. Try to get publicity and showings of this year's entries so that notice of this year's publicity will be an inducement for next year's entries; 5. Call architects whom we know are doing good houses or alterations and encourage them to prepare entries; 6. Vary

entry requirements—ask first for 8 x 10 in. photographs as entries, screen these; then ask for more information on selective entries. Photographs would be used for magazines and newspaper stories and prepared 30 x 40 in. boards used for exhibition in gallery areas.

Architects Meet With Mechanical Engineers

In an unusually frank atmosphere hospital architects and their consulting mechanical engineers discussed serious professional problems at a dinner meeting of the chapter's Hospital and Health Committee held November 7, 1963 at the Hotel Biltmore.

The problems of the architects and the difficulties they experience with the consultants' documents were briefly reviewed by Allen C. Parette of Eggers and Higgins. This was followed by a discussion of the mechanical engineers' problems by Richard Baum of Jaros, Baum and Bolles. The remainder of the evening was devoted to a very thorough review by the architects representing the great majority of the architectural offices specializing in hospitals and the representatives of the leading mechanical engineering consultants. Armand Burgun, Chairman of the Hospital and Health Committee, acted as moderator.

It was agreed that the discussion was very useful to both sides and that it opened the doors to a solution of the problems of cooperation and coordination of the work of architects and engineers in the face of the growing complexity of the mechanical equipment of hospitals.

NYU ZONING COURSE

The second term of the NYU course, Zoning Design, is open to interested architects and others. Ten weekly sessions are scheduled beginning February 5, and ending April 8, 1964. Taught by engineer Solomon Sheer, Deputy Director, New York City Board of Standards and Appeals, the course will cost \$100. and will be conducted at the Architectural League.

FALLOUT SHELTER COURSE

A course in environmental engineering for fallout shelters will be offered by the New York Chapter of the ASHRAE. Open to architects and architectural graduates, the course will be taught Tuesday evenings at the United Engineering Center, 345 East 47th Street.

Further information may be obtained from Alfred Greenberg at MU 9-2320.

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.

BOOKS

The House Beautiful — by William Herman Winslow with illustrations by Frank Lloyd Wright, faithful reproduction of original edition first published in 1897. THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL PRESS, 117 Fir Street, Park Forest, Illinois. 1963. \$22.50 postpaid.

The most important thing about this book is the faithful reproduction of Frank Lloyd Wright's line drawings that frame the writings of William Herman Winslow

The history of the book began during the winter months of 1896-97. When Frank Lloyd Wright and William Herman Winslow published a limited edition. Bound in calf with gilt top, it was printed on handsome paper, twelve by fourteen inches, and only ninety copies were made. All were signed and numbered. Today, copies of the original are highly prized collector's items.

We now have a faithful reproduction of the original, thanks to W. R. and Marilyn Hasbrouck. Wright's design has been faithfully adhered to. It is printed on 80 pound "antique" finished paper and bound as was the original. A small folio of photographs, hand-sewn (as in the original), and showing the forms from nature which inspired the page designs, is tipped inside the front cover.

The House Beautiful would make a handsome edition to any bookshelf.

Charles K. Robinson

CRAFTS EXHIBITS

The following Exhibitions (admission free) will remain on view at the Museum of Contemporary Crafts, 29 West 53rd Street, New York City, until January 5, 1964.

Main Gallery: CRAFTSMEN OF THE EASTERN STATES. A Regional Survey of Work by American designer-craftsmen from both the Northeastern and Southeastern states.

Little Gallery: CERAMICS by GERTRUDE & OTTO NATZLER. A new Exhibition of Works by these internationally famous American designer-craftsmen.

Members' Gallery: TOY SCULPTURE by WILLIAM ACCORSI.

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY 14	Technical Committee Lecture Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:30 P.M.
JANUARY 29	Membership Cocktail Party Dining Room, Wed., 5:00-8:00 P.M.
FEBRUARY 10	Hospitals & Health Lecture Dining Room, Monday 5:15 P.M.
FEBRUARY 20	Anniversary Dinner Thurs. place to be announced
FEBRUARY 24	Technical Committee Lecture Dining Room, Monday, 5:30 P.M.
MARCH 17	Technical Committee Lecture Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:30 P.M.



WOMEN'S ARCHITECTURAL AUXILIARY

Good News! The WAA is very pleased to announce that all expenses of it's Fifth Annual Doric Debutante Cotillion, scheduled for December 26th, have been underwritten, for the first time. Fischbach & Moore, electrical contractors, have donated the entire cost of our ball. Our membership is delighted and relieved and we are most grateful, as will be the lucky architectural students who will benefit. Furthermore, now all money taken in will go to the scholarship fund. Do remember this when sending in your subscription. We are tax exempt too.

Miss Rebecca Lanier Douglass, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lathrop Douglass, is co-chairman of the debutante committee with Mary Ann Cox, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Ellis Cox. The daughter of an architect always serves with a daughter of a Patron Member who may not necessarily be an architect. Those to be presented also include: Misses Cynthia Shirley Carter, daughter of architect Robert I. Carter and Mrs. Carter, Old Lyme, Connecticut; Gaye Taylor, daughter of Mr and Mrs. William

James Taylor, a member of the New York Chapter and Miss Patricia Pei who will be escorted by her stepbrother, Ieoh Ming Pei, also a Chapter member. Others are: Misses Vingie Yvonne Dempster, Verita Korth, Janet Theresa Coates, and Margaret Stewart.

Special rates for college students have been made available at the Savoy-Hilton near the Metropolitan Club. Mr. Harold O'Brien is in charge of Doric Cotillion's out-of-town guest accommodations at EL 5-2600.

The Cotillion Chairman, Mrs. Robert W. Cutler welcomes inquiries at the Doric Office, 17 West 54 Street, New York. Telephone CI 7-4436 and CI 6-1288. If you can't be with us (we hope you can, it's fun!), do send your dollars and/or friends. Those tax deductible checks should be made out to the Women's Architectural Auxiliary and sent to the Doric office, 17 West 54 Street, New York. Tickets are \$25.00 and include President's reception, dinner and dancing.

Hildegard Sleeper
(Mrs. Harold R. Sleeper)

REYNOLDS AWARD FOR 1964

Nominations are now being received for the 1964 eighth annual R. S. Reynolds Memorial Award, the largest in architecture.

The international award, consisting of an honorarium of \$25,000 and an original sculpture in aluminum, is conferred each year on an

architect for design of a significant work of architecture in which aluminum has been an important contributing factor.

Nominations will be accepted by the Institute, which administers the Award, through December 31, 1963. The 1964 Award will be presented during the AIA Convention in St. Louis June 14-18.

CHRISTMAS GIFT

Gentlemen. Some time ago I retired from my profession—mechanical engineer and technical editor—and gave my books, files and magazines to an engineering institution.

However, I still have a set of *Architectural Forum Magazine*, January 1946 through November,

1962, which might be of interest to one of your members. Needless to say, he would receive the set with my compliments. The only condition: he must pick it up to save me the trouble of mailing the stuff.

William O. Heubner
914 PEekskill 9-2975
Peekskill, N. Y.

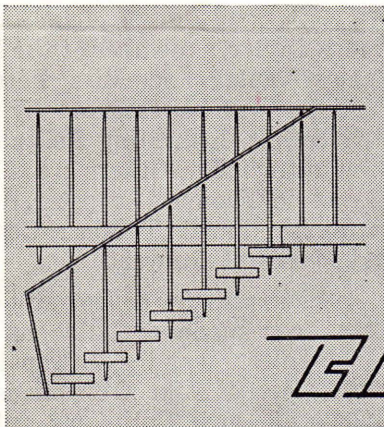
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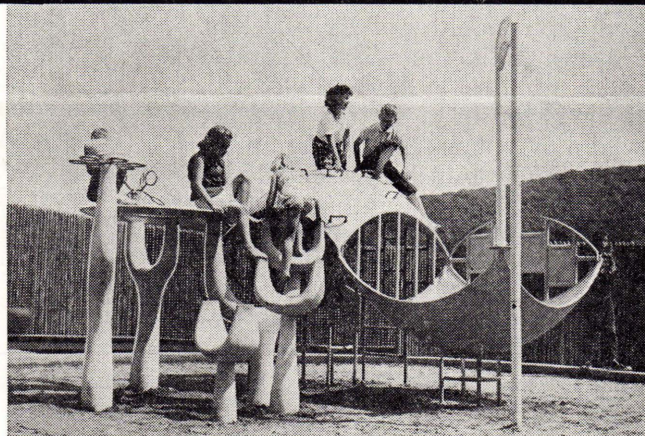


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COLUMBIA AWARDS

Seventeen graduates of Columbia University's School of architecture have been awarded William Kinne Fellows traveling fellowships, for the school year 1963-64. Each award of \$2,700 is to be used for six months of study and travel abroad. The winners are Jack Cosner, Laporte, Tex.; Jack DeBartolo Jr., Houston; Peter Frink, State College, Pa.; Richard Kaeyer, Yonkers, N. Y.; John Mahlum, Seattle; Joseph Scalabrin Jr., Butte, Mont.; John Smyth, Newport, R. I.

Also, Constantine Economou, New York City; John Hanna, Baltimore; Henry Korman, New York City; Jack Kushner, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Christopher Moomaw, Lincoln University, Pa.; Timothy Schmderer, San Juan, Puerto Rico; Harry Parnass, New York City; David Anthony Roth, St. Louis; Thomas J. Thomas, Teaneck, N. J.; and Arthur Thompson, Waxahachie, Tex.

CORRECTION

OCULUS regrets its omission of Frederick G. Frost, Jr. from the October issue list of members elected to the Nominating Committee.

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Corporate

John A. Wahl
transferred from the Bronx Chapter, A.I.A.

Associate

Raymond C. Sancho

CANDIDATES

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

Corporate

Lionel R. Coste	Raymond Palmer Hughes
Emilio Cividanes-Freiria	Kurt Wright Karmin
Myron Henry Goldfinger	Stanley Howard Pansky
Allan Hugh Grossman	Edwards Field Rullman
Jordan L. Gruzen	Alexander Richard Sanko

Professional Associate

David Ping-Chung Chang	Sponsors: Stanley W. Prowler and Eldredge Synder
Frederic William Neuwrith	Sponsors: William Lescaze and Henry A. Dumper
Dorothy C. Scott	Sponsors: William Potter and John C. B. Moore
David I. Smotrich	Sponsors: William Platt and Geoffrey Platt
Joseph F. Stuchlik	Sponsors: Ernest Akam and John S. Fountain

Associate

Michael Gregory Bobick	Sponsors: Taina Waisman and Sidney L. Katz
Anthony Jos. Di Marini, Jr.	Sponsors: Richard Roth and Bernard A. Kessler