

FEBRUARY 1964

OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



N.Y. CHAPTER MEMBER NAMED PUBLISHER OF A.I.A. JOURNAL

Wm. Dudley Hunt, Jr., of the New York Chapter A.I.A. and Chairman of the Publication Committee was appointed publisher of the Journal of The American Institute of Architects by Executive Director William H. Scheick, who said, "Hunt's appointment to the newly created position of publisher is a logical step at this stage of the Journal's growth. The publication of the magazine has become an increasingly more complex operation with the growth in AIA membership and with the increasing amount of publishable material developed by new projects of the Institute. . . . The appointment of a publisher will enable us to continue to improve the Journal's value to its readers and integrate its operations more effectively. With his broad background as an architect. consultant and journalist. Hunt is eminently qualified for the position."

Joseph Watterson, FAIA, will continue to serve as editor of the magazine, a position he has held since 1957. Watterson retired from private architectural practice in New York to become editor of the *Journal*. He established a completely new format for the magazine, brought many new editorial innovations to its pages and thereby has been largely responsible for the *Journal's* excellence as a professional magazine.

Architect, author and consultant to several publishing firms, Mr. Hunt will also bring to the *Journal* his extensive editing experience from five years as senior editor of the Architectural Record.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER-DANCE FEBRUARY 20—HOTEL PIERRE

The chapter's main social event of the year is slated for Thursday, February 20th when the N.Y. chapter will hold its 97th Anniversary dinner-dance in the Cotillion Rooms of the Hotel Pierre, 5th Avenue and 61st Street.

The reception will start with cocktails at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner, dancing, and entertainment from 8:00 p.m. until midnight to the music of Ben Cutler and his orchestra. Black tie and formal dress are de rigueur.

Individual or group reservations ought to be submitted promptly to the Chapter's office to insure a place in this well attended event. For the convenience of driving guests, the Hotel Pierre has a garage with its entrance on 60th St.

MAYOR'S ART PANEL NAMED

Max Abramovitz and Edward D. Stone have been named to the art panel formed by Mayor Wagner. The panel, consisting of 87 New Yorkers prominent in the arts and related fields, will advise the mayor on the city's cultural problems. Under study are ways by which the cultural resources of the city are made more easily available to the public, with a view toward expansion and improvement of existing facilities where needed.



FREDERICK G. FROST JR. NAMED TO U.N. POST

Frederick G. Frost, Jr. has been named by the Union Internationale des Architectes headquartered in Paris as its representative to the United Nations. The American Institute of Architects has also appointed him a member of its Standing Committee on International Relations.

As representative of the international organization, Mr. Frost attended the second session of the United Nations Committee on Housing, Building and Planning from January 22 to February 4. Much of the work of the conference was devoted to the mechanics of organization in the international housing and planning programs of member nations. According to Mr. Frost some examples of progress and accomplishments were presented but the efforts of the committee are severely hampered by the limited financial resources of the United Nations.

The U.I.A. is one of several international, non-governmental organizations whose professionals and other experts advise the United Nations on its economic and social programs.



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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS NEW YORK CHAPTER

MARGOT A. HENKEL, Executive Secretary 115 East 40th Street New York 16, N. Y. MUrray Hill 9-7969

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MARCH PUBLICATION DATE FOR BPR

The 3rd Edition of the AIA Building Products Register will be published in March, 1964.

Developed after 12 years of study, the *Register* was created as a technical reference for architects, engineers and others in the construction industry. It is a source of factual product data at the initial stage of material selection, prior to research into more detailed information areas.

A new look will characterize the 3rd edition. It will be in standard $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ inch size with a hard cloth-bound cover. This change from previous editions makes it easier to handle. Product data, within 27 different categories, paralleling those of Sweet's, are condensed into threeline listings across two pages under an average of two dozen pertinent criteria headings.

Other features include: Abstracts of Technical Standards, Testing Methods, Specifications and Manufacturer Association Standards and Literature; general information on proper product usage; a Product Type Index; an Index of Manufacturers; a Trade Name Index; a Directory of Organizations and a List of Abbreviations. Heavy stock dividers between categories, also indexed, will further assist the speed of search.

The Board of Directors of the Institute has approved free distribution of one free copy to each AIA Corporate Member requesting it. Additional copies are available to members at the prepaid price of \$15 prior to publication February 29, 1964. Thereafter the price will be \$20. Sales to non-member architects, engineers, specifiers and to others will be on the same basis. All orders of five or more copies will receive a 25% discount. Each Manufacturer-Lister will receive one complimentary copy.

For copies, write AIA BUILD-ING PRODUCTS REGISTER, at the Institute. Make checks payable to "The American Institute of Architects—BPR."

AWARD TO HENRY SANDIG

The Grand Prize Award for the design of a drycleaning plant has been made to Chapter member Henry Sandig. Announced in the January issue of *American Drycleaner*, sponsor of the nationwide annual competition, the Grand Prize was also awarded to Henry Lesher and Louis Stein, Owners of Iris Valet Service Inc., New York City.

According to the magazine, the purpose of the competition is to pay tribute to outstanding examples of architecture and engineering and to present useful ideas and information to members of the drycleaning industry.

LETTERS

Gentlemen:

In February of last year the name and assets of The Architects Samples Corporation were purchased by the Equity Corporation, owner of the Architects Building and the adjoining building at 103 Park Avenue.

When a business changes hands it is natural for the people who patronize and use its services to wonder: will that business change? As a user of these services, can I still expect in the future the responsible services I have always received in the past?

The answer is: you can be assured that The Architects Samples Corporation stands ready to serve you with the same resources, the same know-how as it has in the past 50 years.

Let me stress, in particular, our Information Center. Behind the desk at all times is a staff (many of whom are the same men you've been dealing with for years) who know the building products field intimately, and are in a position not only to draw upon files crammed with product literature and directories covering every aspect of the construction field, but add to this the irreplaceable ingredient of personal knowledge.

Our Information Center is still a "one-stop" service for professionals who daily save themselves the time, trouble, and expense of researching from many separate sources the kind of reliable, impartial information they need and need at once—in order to render professional judgments.

So if you haven't visited us for a while, please drop in and take a look for yourself. Or, if you have a particular problem, phone us at MUrray Hill 3-1400 or write us at 101 Park Avenue, New York 17.

You'll perhaps notice one small change. The display and information center of The Arichitects Samples Corporation is now called The Architectural Materials Center. We changed the name because the kind of elaborate exhibits manufacturers place in the Architects Building and the information on file can no longer be adequately described by the traditional word "samples." The Center houses examples, not samples, of the newest in the building materials and furnishings.

We will look forward to seeing you soon.

Henry C. Nancken, Pres.

Gentlemen:

On Wednesday, 15 April 1964, the American Society of Civil Engineers is sponsoring a forum for discussion of the architectural and structural designs of three major buildings at the N.Y. World's Fair: General Electric; A. T. & T. and Eastman Kodak.

A.I.A. members and guests are cordially invited to attend. The meeting—at 7:15 p.m.—will be held at the main auditorium of the Engineering Center, 345 East 47th Street, New York City.

Stephen M. Olko Program Chairman Metropolitan Section, A.S.C.E. EOOKS

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

High Gothic by Jans Jantzen. Translated from the German by James Palmes. Pantheon Books. Englewood Cliffs, N. J. 1963. Illus. 179 pp. \$4.95.

The implication of the word "Gothic" to the modern mind is high spires, pointed arch windows and a diaphanous sense of space. Hans Jantzen, in his book *High Gothic*, explains with great clarity the meaning of the High Gothic Cathedral. In his mind, the apex of this style are the cathedrals of Chartres, Reims and Amiens. To this end Mr. Jantzen discusses the technical, theological, artistic and social factors admirably.

The book covers these three major cathedrals and ranges far into their past for reference and into their future for the impact of these works. The book is divided into the component parts of the Gothic cathedral. To illustrate his thinking, and to educate those readers who might not be as familiar with Medieval and Gothic architecture, Mr. Jantzen intricately describes the predecessors of the High Gothic. In scholarly fashion, he creates a background for this study. His thinking is analytical, methodical.

The initial descriptions, in the book, of the physical make-up of the Gothic cathedral, its progenitors and creators, are tiresome. However, when the author lovingly describes the effect of light, the impact of the stained glass, the honesty of structural approach and the adoration with which these monuments were built, the book becomes engrossing. Mr. Jantzen is in love with the visual and mystic aspects of the important characteristics of Gothic—light and space.

In this book, there is also something for today's practicing architect. More than merely an appreciation of an era, the book is a guide to understanding of the impact architecture can have upon people—of the excitement in architecture. Of course, creativity did not die with the Gothic; and, perhaps, the Gothic can still stimulate architects to better architecture.

Sheldon Licht

Office Practice

This committee, with sixteen projjects underway, is beginning to bring forth some fruit for the general membership. In the not too distant future the committee will make a direct report to the membership in connection with the Professional Liability Insurance project. The sub-committee on Drafting Room Practices has requested information from some fifty representative firms in order to develop a specific and cogent outline. The sub-committee on Accounting for Smaller Offices is presently reviewing new forms and books that are now being developed, and which are so urgently needed.

House Consulting

At a recent committee meeting, the subject of development of Comprehensive Architectural Services for small firms was raised. One possibility discussed was that the small firm might associate with another architectural firm or with other disciplines in order to provide more comprehensive services. The committee is looking further into this question that is of such great interest to the general membership.

| | COMING EVENTS |
|--------------------|---|
| FEBRUARY 20 | Anniversary Dinner-Dance Thursday, Hotel Pierre, 5th Ave. & 61st St. |
| FEBRUARY 24 | Technical Committee Lecture Dining Room, Monday, 5:30 P.M. |
| MARCH 4 & 5 | PHA Design Seminar New York City, Wed. & Thurs. |
| MARCH 17 | Technical Committee Lecture Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:30 P.M. |
| APRIL 6 & 17 | Student Exhibition |
| APRIL 9 | Student Exhibit Cocktail Party |
| APRIL 14 | Technical Committee Lecture Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:30 P.M. |
| APRIL 20 | Hospitals & Health Lecture Dining Room, Monday 5:15 P.M. |
| APRIL 30 | Pre-Convention Luncheon Dining Room, Thursday 12:30 P.M. |
| MAY 6 & 7 | Hospitals & Health Seminar |
| MAY 7 | Hospitals & Health Dinner Biltmore, Thursday, 7:00 P.M. |
| MAY 12 | Technical Committee Lecture Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:30 P.M. |
| MAY 14 | Membership Cocktail Party Dining Room, Thursday 5:00-8:00 P.M. |
| MAY 25 | Hospitals & Health Lecture Dining Room, Monday 5:15 P.M. |
| JUNE 3 at most and | Annual Luncheon Dining Room, Wednesday 12:30 P.M. |
| JUNE 15-19 | A.I.A. National Convention St. Louis, Missouri |



WOMEN'S ARCHITECTURAL AUXILIARY

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K. Frizzell, Julian Clarence Levi and Edgar Tafel have been chosen and

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THE HOUSE TOUR

Announcement of the date: April 14th which falls on a Tuesday, must be posted here lest you fail to save the hours of 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM that day. The homes of

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Committee Listing Correction

OCULUS notes with regret that Gerhard E. Karplus has been erroneously omitted from the list as member of the Admissions Committee.

RUDOLPH, SERT, BARNES AT COLUMBIA

The Columbia University School of Architecture has announced that Edward L. Barnes, Paul Rudolph and Jose Luis Sert will be guest speakers in a series of lectures and exhibitions featuring their works:

EDWARD L. BARNES Feb. 17 - March 6Exhibition Feb. 19, 4:00 p.m.Lecture PAUL RUDOLPH

March 9 - 27Exhibition March 12, 4:00 p.m.Lecture JOSE LUIS SERT

April 20 - May 8 Exhibition

April 22, 4:00 p.m.Lecture The lectures will be held in Room C of the new Law School Building, Amsterdam Avenue at 116th St.

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Corporate

James D. Agura Berta Jobin Aaron Chelouche Jorge V. Davila, Jr.

Ronald D. Goodman Joseph H. Solomon Dale F. Sprankle

CANDIDATES

Information regarding the qualifica-tions of the following candidates for membership will be considered confiden-tial by the Admissions Committee:

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