ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW YORK CHAPTER, JUNE 1964

President, William D. Wilson
Vice President, David F. M. Todd
Secretary, Elliot Willensky
Treasurer, H. Dickson McKenna

Executive Committee:
Richard Roth
Lewis Davis

Committee on Fellows:
George Nelson
Douglas Haskell

Jury for the Medal of Honor and Awards of Merit:
Peter J. Blake
Peter Ming Pei
Arthur C. Holden

Committee on Professional Practice:
Herbert B. Oppenheimer
Eustis Dearborn
Albert H. Swanke

Representative of the New York State Association of Architects:
George D. Brown, Jr.
Jordan Gruzen — Alternate

William D. Wilson, new president of the Chapter, is a partner and chief of design in the firm of Holden Egan Wilson & Corser, architects and planners. A resident of Darien, Conn., Mr. Wilson formerly served as chairman of that city’s Building Board of Appeals, and as vice chairman of its Planning and Zoning Commission. A Woodrow Wilson Fellow and a Proctor Fellow, he is a graduate of Princeton University where he was member of Phi Beta Kappa. Mr. Wilson received his M.F.A. from the Princeton School of Architecture and later was a visiting lecturer there.

CHARLES THOMSEN

AWARD OF MERIT TO ALFRED H. BARR JR.

On the luncheon meeting agenda was the selection of a recipient for the Chapter’s Award of Merit. This award is granted to prominent representatives of fields and professions other than architecture for meritorious work in their particular field. Past awards have gone to James Felt, O. H. Ammann and Lewis Mumford.

Alfred H. Barr Jr., director of collections and a trustee of the Museum of Modern Art was named this year to receive the Award. A distinguished art historian and director of the Museum from 1929 to 1943, Mr. Barr was recognized by the Chapter as “a pioneer force in creating and developing one of the world’s foremost institutions of contemporary art.” He was instrumental in assembling the first comprehensive exhibition of modern architecture at the Museum in 1932, and thus “stirred the minds of architects and public alike to the sponsoring of a creative contemporary architecture in the United States.”

RUTKINS MEMORIAL AWARD TO SAMUEL M. KURTZ

Also honored by the Chapter at the annual meeting was Samuel M. Kurtz who served as chairman of its Office Practice and Legislative Committees, vice chairman of the Fees and Contracts Committee, and currently chairman of the World’s Fair Committee. Mr. Kurtz was voted to receive the second Harry B. Rutkins Memorial Award given in recognition of outstanding committee work and service to the profession and the Chapter. He is the editor of Empire State Architect.
PROGRESS REPORT ON NEW BUILDING CODE

Completion of the first draft of the architectural portions of the new building code ends the first phase of the job, but is just the beginning of the next phase—review and revision.

The seven architectural articles being drafted by Frederick G. Frost Jr. & Associates are now in this phase. Three of the seven articles are receiving an initial review by the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute; the other four are already in second or subsequent draft form.

The article on Classification of Buildings, which contains a number of innovations, has after review and revision, received the approval of Brooklyn Polytechnic, has been distributed to the Industry Advisory Committee for its review. It is now being issued to a national mailing list of over 150 industrial and professional organizations. The article on Definitions has been twice revised, but further changes are being deferred pending more development of the other articles. Two others now in second draft are Building Limitations and Means of Egress. Mr. N. Dan Larsen is in charge of the architectural section of the Building Code project.

Brooklyn Polytechnic will refer all of the approved drafts to the Industry Advisory Committee. The New York Chapter is represented on this Committee by Mr. Harmon Gurney.

S. HART MOORE

PENNSYLVANIA STATION POST MORTEM: TWO VIEWS

Monumental Blunder
by JAMES CADY

Penn Station, now being demolished, has been in a death struggle for years. No one seriously objected several years back when the plastic ticket booth eyebrow was swung from the great sawed-off columns. Some of the magazines even gave the 'modernization' quite a lot of space and not unfavorable comment. But all that is behind us now and the new brutalism is making way for the new romanticism. Then everyone was still concerned with form following function, and since Penn Station was a full size reproduction of an extravagant Roman Bath, anything that could expedite passage through its cavernous, drafty concourses, grim platforms, and bottlenecked taxi stands—could only be an improvement. A few years ago we wouldn't have been caught alive defending any pre-Sullivan-influence building. In the haste to 'preserve our architectural heritage' the largest white elephant in town was seized as a symbol. Surely no one really thought it could (if indeed should) be preserved? Preserved by whom? For what?

Penn Station, however large, however many visitors it awed, and commuters it infuriated, like Nero's famous Golden House (which was considerably larger) makes way for the inevitable arena, which in time our descendants will probably become just as attached to as a thing of great beauty, form, style, etc. as some people were to Penn Station. The truth is that Madison Square Garden is obsolete, inadequate and ugly and we need an important functioning sports palace more than we need a Roman Bath.

In the recently published book of New York Landmarks, Alan Burnham, Editor, only the steel and glass concourse of Penn is pictured. This outer concourse is invisible from the monotonously columned facades. There is no ecstatic praise of the columns, the eagles, the Caracallan vastness. Other than bringing the then (1910) newly electrified trains into the city through river tunnels, most of the recorded publicity surrounding the destruction of Pennsylvania Station has missed a central point made by the 'preservationists.' The function of the Station was to celebrate the arrival of a railroad passenger in New York, introducing him to the city through a series of great and sequential spaces. The historical veneer was fancy dress, eclectic trappings over a modern steel cage. But, in the context of the misguided spirit of 1910, McKim handled it with grace and talent. Spaces of such grandeur transcend the stylish or stylistic detail with which they are embellished.

If the Station had been preserved, drastic alteration of circulation would have been necessary to solve the present inadequacies of the building. This might have restored some of the spatial grandeur of McKim's original design when the trains entered under the open glass shed and the debarking passenger experienced this grand crystal palace without sneaking up tortuous stairs inserted later when the tracks were decked over.

Why, in a seedy and vulgar section of the city where almost nothing of any quality exists, must this distinguished building be torn down? What of all the other shoddy blocks where a Madison Square Garden might go and truly be an improvement. Progress is the functional and aesthetic nurturing of civic development so that what we have is better or more appropriate for our present condition than what we had. The reduction of a great entrance portal to New York to the level of a glorified subway station is hardly progress.

After surrounding the city with worthy entrances such as Saarinen's T.W.A., Nerli's Bus Terminal, or SOM's Arrivals Building, we need the transportation system with a long history and a most promising future. With the merger of the Central and the Pennsylvania roads, all non-commuter and long-line traffic will be brought into Penn Station, greatly increasing its importance, as will the de-
MRS. RONALD ALLWORK
NEW WAA PRESIDENT

Mrs. Ronald Allwork has been named president of the Women’s Architectural Auxiliary of the New York Chapter, A.I.A.

The organization has also appointed a new board of officers composed of Mrs. Lathrop Douglass, first vice president; Mrs. Robert Thorson, second vice president; Mrs. Olindo Grossi, secretary; Mrs. Samuel Arlen, treasurer; and Mrs. Maximillian O. Urbahn, chairman of the executive committee.

Mrs. Allwork, a member of the American Institute of Interior Designers, is treasurer, secretary of the Allwork Company Inc. She is also a member of the board of the 49th Street Association.

The WAA raises architectural scholarship funds through a series of events it sponsors. These events include the annual Doric Debutante Cotillion.

OCULUS REGRETS . . .

The Fifth Avenue Association and several published articles on the announcement of the winners in the Association’s Architectural Award Program have failed to acknowledge the participation of Chapter member Eldredge Snyder on the panel of judges named by the Association and by the N. Y. Chapter to select the winning entries. OCULUS deeply regrets having compounded this omission in its May issue.

1964 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The 1964 session was apparently marked by an undercurrent of antagonism between the State Legislature and Governor Rockefeller who vetoed 352 or 27 percent of the 1327 bills. This is the largest number ever disapproved since he became Governor.

Of particular interest to the architectural profession were 19 bills, 11 of which were signed into law; including a bill permitting the Board of Regents to endorse out-of-state professional licenses which was opposed by the NYSAA.

Approved by the Governor and endorsed by the NYSAA were: (a) two bills affecting engineers and land surveyors; and legislation (b) requiring separate specifications for certain public work where the entire cost exceeds $50,000 instead of $25,000; (c) State Building Code enforcement of labor law provisions relating to sanitation standards, fire and radiation hazards, stairways, elevators and exits; (d) permitting municipalities under the Multiple Residence Law to establish review boards; and (e) a number of amendments to the Multiple Dwelling Law affecting New York City advocated by the NYSAA.

Measures vetoed by the Governor included legislation increasing the number of trustees of the State University Construction Fund from 3 to 5; and several bills advocated by the NYSAA to bring various sections of the Multiple Dwelling Law and those of the Building Zone Resolution into more realistic compliance with each other.

Highlighting the session was the successful fight of the NYSAA which helped to defeat the corporate practice engineering bills and a number of measures relating to the Education Law. Also successful was the adoption by the Legislature of the continuance of the Gioffre and Brydges Committees to pursue their studies on tax relief (Gioffre) and the revision and remodification of the Education Law (Brydges).

On the other side of the coin, the Legislature failed to enact either of the statute of limitation bills that had received wide-spread support. Most disappointing to the New York Chapter was the defeat of the single contract discretionary legislation that had been sought by most public agencies.

Copies of legislative reports by the NYSAA on bills introduced in the 1964 session are available upon request from Mr. Joseph F. Addonizio, Executive Director, NYSAA, 441 Lexington Avenue, New York 17.

H. I. FELDMAN, AIA, Chairman
NYSAA Legislative Committee

1964 FHA HONOR AWARDS FOR RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

The Federal Housing Administration has announced its second program of honor awards for residential design. One or more entries may be submitted by July 1, 1964 by architects, designers, builders or owners of projects completed on or after January 1959 and had FHA commitment before construction, whether or not a mortgage was eventually insured. Eligible for this award program are individual houses, multi-family housing (rental, cooperative, condominium), nursing homes, or housing for the elderly.

Glossy color or black-and-white photographs including a front view of the building should also show its relationship with the site, its landscaping, and the neighborhood. Complemented by detailed plans and drawings, the material should be inserted in binders not larger than 14” x 16” and not less than 10” x 12”.

Further instruction for the preparation of entries may be obtained from the Director, Architectural Standard Division, FHA, 811 Vermont Ave., N.W. Washington D.C. 20411.

Certificates will be awarded to the designers, builders and owners of the winning entries.

SEVERUD - PERRONE - FISCHER
STURM - CONLIN - BANDEL
Consulting Engineers
Reports - Buildings - Airports
Special Structures
Structural Design - Supervision
4th ANNUAL HOUSE COMPETITION

The New York Chapter has announced its fourth annual house design competition. Open to any registered architect in the U.S., the competition seeks to stimulate a further appreciation of attractive and efficient design, according to William A. Hall, chairman of the Chapter’s House Consulting Committee.

Awards will be made for the best designs submitted in three categories: new houses; alterations in houses, and groups of houses, new or altered. All entries must be submitted by September 14, 1964. Further details and entry forms are available from the Chapter office at 115 East 40th Street, New York 10016.
Above is the cover of a booklet which has been sent to “public officials and others who have responsibility for urban design in New York City” by The Park Association of New York City, Inc. The booklet was derived from an exhibition prepared by landscape architects Robert L. Zion and Harold Ereen, and shown at The Architectural League in May, 1963.

In his preface to the booklet, Park Association President Whitney North Seymour had the following to say:

“The New Parks exhibit set forth a number of exciting new ideas for small parks located in congested areas of New York City. Suggestions were made for replacing parking lots and similar small spaces with sitting parks, utilizing a number of varied design features to give them comfort, interest and practicality.

“When the exhibit was first announced, one City official conceded that the idea was novel, but quickly brushed it aside as too expensive. Besides, he wondered, where would the cars go? Another high official in the Department of Parks has said that three acres is the smallest size park that can be 'controlled and managed,' a view which necessarily rules out small parks of the type presented.

“We believe, however, that the ideas proposed deserve closer study and consideration. The cost of park land in heavily congested areas may be high in dollar amounts, but not in relative terms. The assessed valuation of the land for the sample sites in this exhibit ranges from one-tenth to one-third of the annual tax revenues realized from the blocks in which they are located. One of these small parks could be constructed and permanently acquired for only a fraction of a single year's taxes on the block it would serve. It is self-evident that the presence of the park would increase the value of the adjoining properties, quite probably in excess of the park's cost.

“The question of where the cars would go if a park displaced a parking lot is by no means unanswerable. New York has not yet found a comprehensive solution to its general automobile problem. Ugly parking lots are certainly not the long-range answer—at least

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

AIA ON THE AIRWAVES

Chapter members Walker Cain and Lathrop Douglass will be guests of Duncan McDonald on his radio station WQXR show, “Observation Point,” at 2:30 on January 16 and 23, 1964, respectively.

The forthcoming programs, featuring Cain on urban planning and Douglass on architecture and business, are part of a four-program series on architecture.

Buying or leasing an apartment was the subject of the January 2 show. Arvin Shaw, a member of the Chapter's Public Affairs Committee, discussed the pros and cons of co-ops and condominiums.

On the January 9 show, buying a home in the city and the suburbs was discussed by William A. Hall, chairman of the Chapter's House Consulting Committee; Harold Edelman, former chairman, talked about suburban and town houses and remodeling an older house.

City planning and the need for more open spaces is the topic to be covered by Walker O. Cain, chairman of the Chapter's Urban Design Committee, on the January 16 show.

Architecture and business, the last show in the series on January 23, will be discussed by Lathrop Douglass, vice president of the New York Chapter. He will give consideration to the influence of good and bad design on the community and the business world.

IMAGE OF THE ARCHITECT?

“Another architect who made good...!”, was the comment of William Lescaze when he noticed in the daily press that Jimmy Stewart went to “...Princeton, where he earned a degree in architecture—only to go into the theater immediately after graduation.”
Committee announces the death of

With deep regret, the Publications for January 29, 1964, the Chapter age of 34 years on October 26, 1963. Members Committee felt that it years, Roberts M. Bujac, at the professional sphere constantly expanding article was prepared by a Member­

With preparations under way for the reasons an architect should be­

WHY JOIN AIA?

With preparations under way for its annual cocktail party, scheduled for January 29, 1964, the Chapter Membership Committee felt that it should find expression for some of the reasons an architect should become an AIA member and, conversely, why new members are needed. Accordingly, the following article was prepared by a Membership Committee member for publication here.

A MATTER OF MUTUAL NEED

Within a period of redefinition of national purpose, restatement of goals and directions and massive alteration of the country's physical plant, the architect finds his professional sphere constantly expanding to include, as AIA ex-president Philip Will has said, "the total physical environment." As his responsibility increases, so does the influence of the architect on his society; and the profession is now in the strongest position of its history.

It follows from this that any objective analysis of the relationship of the architect to his professional organization must assume a full membership, if architecture is to satisfy the demands upon it and to realize the potentials of the time. Professional standards, liaison with the lay public, technical research, design leadership can be best established and maintained only if AIA represents the great majority of American architects. A vigorous AIA, speaking for its membership, wields considerable influence on issues which a single individual can but little affect. Educational criteria may be established and maintained by guidelines set with AIA assistance, thus buttressing the future of the profession. The complexities of modern documentation and legalities may be ordered and codified through the pooling of experience and skill of the many; and then will become readily available to the individual.

These are some of the needs which the AIA meets for the architectural profession; but what of the needs of the AIA? One need is to replenish Chapter strength and leadership with young men as they become productive members of the profession. Another need is for enthusiasm and vigor in the realm of ideas and the establishment of policy. There is also a need for active participation in the ever-developing role of the organization which has represented the architect for over a century, in the strengthening of its public service and in the creation of new paths of influence and responsibility.

Finally, there is the need for young architects to face with complete honesty the fact that his personal, professional growth is intimately allied with — and perhaps almost limited to — the strength and growth of the sole professional organization.

For all of the reasons listed — and others — Chapter members are urged to submit the names of any who are eligible for membership to the Chapter office, not later than January 17, 1964, so that invitations can be issued for the Membership Cocktail Party.

Wallace B. Berger NEW YORK LANDMARKS

For those interested in New York — its past in buildings — and particularly for those who hope to save some of this past for posterity, the new book, New York Landmarks, edited by Chapter member Alan Burnham and published by Wesleyan University Press, is just the ticket.

Further good for the cause can be accomplished by ordering a personal copy from the Village Committee for the Clock on Jefferson Market Courthouse, for the other proceeds of the purchase price to help in the maintenance of the big four-faced clock.

Orders, and checks for $12.80 including postage, may be sent to Village Neighborhood Committee, Inc., 44 West Ninth Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

Books


ACTION, with the support of the Ford Foundation, sponsored the writing and publication of Face of the Metropolis. The target of the book is the "consumer" of architecture and city planning; as Meyerson says in his preface, "With this book, my colleagues and I hope to stimulate a wider and more sophisticated public interest in urban design and architecture. ... We hope that our appraisal and exposition will help the reader become a more informed critic and thus create more articulate demands on architects, landscape architects and urban designers. New demands will undoubtedly require them to surpass the offerings that are illustrated [in the book], and nothing would please us more than to see this book become an epitaph to prevailing professional practice. Like the musician or even the cook, designers and planners cannot excel without a responsive clientele. To do better, they need to hear both complaint and applause."

The makeup of the book is simple and forthright. A leadoff essay on the historic American vocabulary of town and city forms and its use and/or misuse today is followed by the main section of the work, a pictorial and descriptive (frequently constructively critical) portfolio of some 70 examples of architecture and planning in the "center city," and the "outer city."
These were not all chosen necessarily for outstanding design or plan, but for their importance as examples in the over-all contemporary picture. Most of the plans have been realized, but significant programs not carried through, such as Victor Gruen’s Fort Worth plan and the first design for Back Bay Center in Boston, are also illustrated. All variety of clients and influences are here shown: international—UNESCO and the United Nations Headquarters; business—Seagram, S. C. Johnson, Connecticut General; government—Chandigarh, Toronto City Hall; redevelopment agency—Penn Center, Charles Center; projects built as a result of citizen interest—Wright’s Kalita Humphreys Theater, Quaker rehabilitation project in Philadelphia, Youth Library in Massachusetts.

It is to be hoped that *Face of the Metropolis* succeeds in its primary aim of creating increased public awareness of—and participation in—our urban design problems. Then, the task of the architect and planner in the design of our environment will become more meaningful, if more difficult; more stimulating, if more painstaking; more lasting, if more time-consuming. In the meantime, read this book and try to get your colleagues, staff members, and clients to read it. Perhaps then we can begin to reweave the New York fabric.

*James T. Burns, Jr.*

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### 97th DINNER DANCE

**Thursday, Feb. 20**

Hotel Pierre, 5th Ave. & 61st St.

**Reception 6:30 P.M.**

**Dinner-dance 8:30 P.M.**

Join your friends and associates for the Chapter’s major social event of the year. The cost has been maintained at $15 per person with drinks on an individual basis. Special rate of $11 for all members (and their guests) assigned to the Chapter during 1963, and for all those under the age of 40. Black tie. Individual reservations or reservations for tables of 10 may be made through the Chapter office (MU 9-7969).

### COMING EVENTS

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<tr>
<td>JANUARY 29</td>
<td>Membership Cocktail Party</td>
<td>5:00-8:00 P.M.</td>
<td>Dining Room, Wed.</td>
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<td>FEBRUARY 10</td>
<td>Hospitals &amp; Health Lecture</td>
<td>5:15 P.M.</td>
<td>Dining Room, Monday</td>
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<td>FEBRUARY 20</td>
<td>Anniversary Dinner-Dance</td>
<td>5:15 P.M.</td>
<td>Hotel Pierre, 5th Ave. &amp; 61st St.</td>
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<td>FEBRUARY 24</td>
<td>Technical Committee Lecture</td>
<td>5:30 P.M.</td>
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<td>MARCH 17</td>
<td>Technical Committee Lecture</td>
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<td>Technical Committee Lecture</td>
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<td>APRIL 30</td>
<td>Pre-Convention Luncheon</td>
<td>12:30 P.M.</td>
<td>Dining Room, Thursday</td>
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<td>MAY 12</td>
<td>Technical Committee Lecture</td>
<td>5:30 P.M.</td>
<td>Dining Room, Tuesday</td>
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<td>MAY 14</td>
<td>Membership Cocktail Party</td>
<td>5:00-8:00 P.M.</td>
<td>Dining Room, Thursday</td>
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<td>MAY 25</td>
<td>Hospitals &amp; Health Lecture</td>
<td>5:15 P.M.</td>
<td>Dining Room, Monday</td>
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<td>JUNE 3</td>
<td>Annual Luncheon</td>
<td>12:30 P.M.</td>
<td>Dining Room, Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUNE 15-19</td>
<td>A.I.A. National Convention</td>
<td>12:30 P.M.</td>
<td>St. Louis, Missouri</td>
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**WOMEN’S ARCHITECTURAL AUXILIARY**

If you are already a member of the WAA, we send a New Year’s Greeting from your President and a preview of events planned for 1964; if you are not a member, we wish to invite you to join our organization. There are two classes of membership: active and patron. If you wish to be an active member send your application and $5, dues to our membership chairman: Mrs. Samuel Arlen, 82 Holbrook Road, White Plains, New York; or come into our headquarters: *The Room at the Top* at 115 East 40th Street, New York 16, New York.

If you are too busy to attend our business meetings or to help in our various activities, you will be kept informed of auxiliary events if you become a Patron Member by sending in your $10. as a contribution, tax exempt, to our scholarship fund.

Our next membership meeting—a luncheon—will be held, Wednesday, March 11, 1964 at the New York World’s Fair. Another future event is the House Tour in the Spring—exact date to follow. We plan to be the hostesses again for the various auxiliaries at the National AIA Convention in June.

We certainly hope you did not miss our Doric Debutante Cotillion. From all reports the *Fifinella* was the most successful of all.

*Hildegarde Sleeper*  
*(Mrs. Harold R. Sleeper)*
LeBRUN TRAVELING SCHOLARSHIP FOR 1964

The Chapter, trustee under the will of Napoleon LeBrun awards $3,000 for travel outside the U. S. for the study of architecture.

Qualifications: U. S. citizenship and residence, Age 23 through 30 years, Architectural office experience of at least 1 1/2 years, Beneficiary of no other traveling scholarship, Nomination by a Corporate member of the AIA.

Subject of Competition: A Summer Colony for Visual Arts.


Write: Chairman, LeBrun Committee N. Y. Chapter, AIA, 115 East 40th St., New York 16.

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MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Corporate
Clifford F. Hart
transferred from the Brooklyn Chapter A.I.A.

Martin Schwartz
Richard L. Boyar
Leo L. Duplsey
Elliot M. Glass

Robert L. Boyar
Herbert F. Mayer
Emmanuel Mithenonouls
Lawrence M. Schles

Leon L. Dukley

Professional Associate

Edgar Waehrer

Associate
Roger S. Blaho
John D. Donn

Unassigned
Brock Arms

CANDIDATES

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

Corporate
Charles A. Brindish
Roger Brooks Carroll
Anthony J. DiSanto
Lester Philip Glass
Alan B. Goldsmith
Martin Chandler Growald

Max Kandel
Henry Lohse
Richard R. Moger
David Kenneth Specter
Ferdinand L. Wyckoff, Jr.

Roger Brooks Carroll
Herbert F. Mayer
Emmanuel Mithenonouls
Lawrence M. Schles

Lester Philip Glass

Associate

Eugene S. Smith

Sponsors:
Gustave R. Keane
and John N. Linn

NEW PARKS Continued from page 1

we hope they are not—and some formula must be found to place the automobile in proper perspective in its relationship to other human needs in the City. People need convenient places to park just as much as cars do.

“As for the three-acre minimum park size policy, we hope and trust that this outlook will soon change. We already have many successful small parks of a fraction that size in New York (Bowling Green is one-half acre; Abingdon Square is one-fifth acre; Father Demo Square is one-tenth acre; Jackson Square is one-fourth acre; the Plaza is three-fifths acre). Observation in Paris and other European cities shows that parks on small lots can work perfectly well.

“Above all, the important consideration is people. We have many congested areas in New York—both residential and business—where there are no parks at all within easy walking distance. We hope the ideas presented here will provide a workable means for creating cheerful new parks where they will serve the people who need them.”