

# OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



JANUARY 1965

## TWO N.Y. LANDMARKS SAVED BY MARQUESA DE CUEVAS

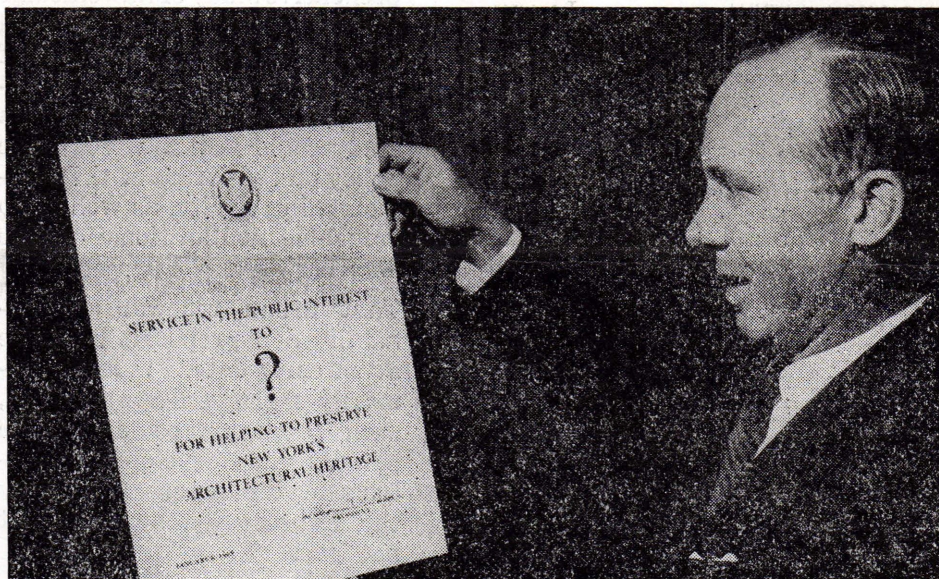
Shortly after the announcement was made that an unidentified purchaser had rescued the two historic structures at 680 and 684 Park Avenue from the wreckers' ball, Chapter President William D. Wilson presented a citation inscribed to "?" for action designed to "preserve New York's architectural heritage".

The citation may be claimed by a grand-daughter of John D. Rockefeller Sr., the Marquesa de Cuevas, who was recently identified as the purchaser of the two doomed landmarks girdled by demolition scaffoldings. Wreckers had in fact begun ripping the parquet floors and various interior features when the purchase halted the demolition.

The Marquesa, who lives in the houses on 68th Street adjacent to the two landmarks, plans to give the \$2 million mansions to the city for cultural use. Her magnanimous gesture will preserve the harmonious facade presented by the four house blockfront known as the Pyne-Davison Row. The Italian Consulate and Cultural Institute occupy the other two mansions.

While the rescue of the two New York landmarks was a heartening development, Mr. Wilson noted "Last minute reprieve for buildings through efforts of wealthy individuals is not satisfactory. It is urgent that the city enact the proposed landmarks preservation legislation to ensure that our historic assets are kept intact."

The four houses built between 1909 and 1926 have been described by the city's Landmark Preservation Commission as the finest of that period and type in the country.



## CHAPTER VOICES POSITION ON TWO ISSUES

In a series of statements to the daily press and through its representatives appearing last month before the Board of Estimate and the City Planning Commission, the New York Chapter, AIA, defined the position of its professional membership in two vital issues currently confronting the city.

1. In a report presented to the Board of Estimate and released to the Press, the Chapter supported generally the Lower Manhattan Expressway but proposed a four-point program to overcome certain deficiencies of the present plans.

2. At the Budget hearing of the City Planning Commission on December 21st, the Chapter pressed for a long range program not only on parks but also on the total recreation needs of the city.

In a letter to the New York Times, the Chapter also protested the regrettable tendency of the N.Y.C. Department of Traffic to persist in selecting the City's parks for its underground parking needs.

### THE LOWER MANHATTAN EXPRESSWAY

The report of the New Chapter on the proposed Lower Manhattan Expressway was submitted to the Board of Estimate at its public hearing on December 22.

The presentation was made by Chapter Secretary Elliot Willensky who emphasized that the Chapter, with the concurrence of the Municipal Art Society, favored an integrated vehicular facility across lower Manhattan. He pointed out, however, that the support of both organizations is contingent upon the implementation of a four-pointed program.

1. That the City Planning Commissioners initiate a pilot study of the areas immediately affected by the Expressway. This study should give due recognition to existing community values, the existing employment base, and the area's architectural heritage. It should define

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# OCULUS

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
NEW YORK CHAPTER

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## DEDICATION ADVERTISING

Clients, often church or community groups, urge architects to take advertising space connected with the dedication of a new building or promoting community projects. The following reflects the position of the Institute toward Dedication Advertising, as published in a recent A.I.A. *Memo*.

It seems virtually impossible to stave off requests for complimentary advertising for dedication or community projects. "Compliments of Joe Jones, Architect" is not permissible. It is paid advertising. So is "Compliments of Joe Jones" because it is assumed that Joe is so well known in his locality that he may as well have added "Architect" after his name. All that can be done is "Compliments of a Friend."

There is one way to handle the problem and that has been used with good results in some localities. This is to run an advertisement such as "Compliments of the Newburgh Chapter of the AIA." Joe Jones might pay for the ad in the Chapter's name.

The advantage of this is that the public sees that the architectural profession joins in complimenting the client on the new building. The Chapter can provide copy (a "mat") of the Institute's seal to enhance the appearance of the advertisement.

## CHAPTER VOICES POSITION ON TWO ISSUES

Continued from page 1

the area's relationship to proposed waterfront development, and to the World Trade and Civic Center projects.

2. That the City Planning Commission in full cooperation with the Traffic Commissioner and the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority pursue a comprehensive study of all vehicular transportation in the Central Business District. Since use of the automobile is a basic deterrent of the city's form, such a study could lead to a definitive policy on the future of the automobile in the city, as well as to valuable modifications of the Expressway.

3. That urban renewal and rehabilitation proposals be made at an early date. Financed primarily through Federal funds, such programs could provide planning and development controls of the areas affected by the Expressway, and last but not least

4. That an outside architectural consultant capable of offering strong design ideas and having the power to implement them be made one of the official leaders of the expressway planning team, just as he has been in the design of our bridges.

The report, also transmitted to Mayor Wagner, and other city officials, emphasized that it is not the Chapter's desire to further delay construction of a lower Manhattan thoroughfare: "In the time it takes to transform the idea into steel and concrete a considerable amount of planning and study can be accomplished to overcome the deficiencies of the present proposal."

The Chapter pointed out that a study of the area immediately affected by the expressway should give recognition to its existing community values, employment base and architectural heritage. It also should define the area's relationship to the proposed waterfront development, World Trade Center and Civic Center projects.

In releasing the report, Chapter President Wilson said that "a purely engineering solution is not an

answer to the many faceted problem. This should not be a vehicular facility which leapfrogs unconcernedly over the affected area; rather, it should benefit the deteriorated portion of the city it will span. To do this there must be planning. The City Planning Commission should study the area as it has studied the waterfront. Then it should set up appropriate controls as is done in urban renewal areas."

## A COMPREHENSIVE PARK PROGRAM

A N. Y. Chapter's statement urging a broad and comprehensive park program for the city was presented at a Planning Commission's hearing on the Park Department's capital budget request last month. Raphael H. Courland, a member of the Chapter's Urban Design Committee and Chairman of its Sub-Committee on Parks remarked that the long range plan sought by the Chapter should not be limited to parks alone but should include the total recreation needs of the city.

New York City's park program has evolved with many neighborhoods not getting the recreational open space they need. In other areas, present park spaces are being decimated by unchecked and continuous pressures. "We must guard against encroachments on our parks for multiple but incompatible uses and against the disappearance of park land due to claims of private interests and some of our public agencies," Mr. Courland said. The proposed sale of the Girl Scout High Rock campsite on Staten Island for private development was cited as an instance where land uniquely suited for parks may be diverted for other purposes.

"A study of our needs and of areas suited for recreational and park use could be the basis for a program of long-range planning which would assure proper consideration of open space requirements of our neighborhoods," Mr. Courland added. A study of the requirements for an adequate program, involving utilization of both private and public open spaces is planned by the Chapter.





A RECENT MEETING OF THE ARCHITECTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Left to right—P. Whitney Webb, Stanley Sharp, Max O. Urbahn, Henry L. Lambert, President of the New York Board of Trade, Neil Anderson, executive vice president of the New York Board of Trade and Bancel La Farge.

### PRO BONO PUBLICO: An Alliance of Architecture & Business

It is generally recognized in professional circles that there is an imperative need for enlightened and sustained participation by citizens in the architectural and planning problems which today confront the city. As AIA Vice President R. W. Allen recently stated: "It is not realistic that we as a [small fraction of the total population] can control the design of our environment, but it is certainly true that we can influence it, particularly if we are willing to assume positions of responsibility and leadership."

If the magnitude of the problems currently faced by the city goes beyond the architects' drawing boards, it also exceeds the patent medicine approach of what Lewis Mumford uncharitably labeled "Mother Jacob's Home Remedy." It requires an alliance of the creative elements of the city to the forces which are the prime movers of the economy. The former is technically equipped to interpret the ideals and aspirations of the community while the latter is able to implement these into positive and effective action.

The framework for such an alliance was recently established when the New York Board of Trade recently appointed a newly organized Architectural Advisory Council composed of six leading New York architects.

The Architectural Advisory Council was formed to provide professional guidance and advice to the New York Board of Trade in matters concerning the environmental improvement of New York and the upgrading of public and private facilities for housing, health, recreation, education and the cultural life of the City.

Henry L. Lambert, president of the New York Board of Trade, stated, "As part of its long-term program in support of civic improvement, the Board of Trade is frequently called upon to take positions in these matters. The Architectural Advisory Council will give us the benefit of top professional standards and judgement as an expert frame of reference in making our recommendations."

The chairman of the new Council is Max O. Urbahn, AIA, head of The Office of Max O. Urbahn, Architects. The other five prominent New York architects named to the Council are Stanley Sharp, AIA, Bancel La Farge, FAIA, and former president of the New York Chapter, AIA, Lathrop Douglass, FAIA, former vice president of the New York AIA, Peter Blake, AIA, noted architectural editor and author, and P. Whitney Webb, AIA, who is secretary of the Council.

Mr. Urbahn reported that "the work of the Council will be largely educational in making business,

industry, municipal agencies and civic groups more aware of the need for and the best means of making New York a more beautiful, efficient and inviting city for the millions of people who live and work here and for visitors from around the globe."

The new Architectural Advisory Council plans to coordinate some of its activities with the New York AIA in certain mutual areas such as the AIA's "open spaces" program. It also plans a series of meetings with key municipal officials for an exchange of views. The first such meeting is a luncheon meeting of the Council the latter part of January to which City Planning Commission Chairman William Ballard is invited.

In addition to its advisory role to the New York Board of Trade, the Council also expects to initiate creative proposals for improving specific areas and sections of the City. These would be recommended for action through the influential Board of Trade.

The Council is now completing the formulation of its *modus operandi*. It will very likely be enlarged at a later date. The New York Board of Trade is to be congratulated for its action designed to stimulate the business community to a greater role in improving the city with an awareness of the importance of architecture in such an endeavor.

*Charles Thomsen*

### 98th DINNER DANCE

Thursday, Feb. 18

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 \$12 for all members (and their guests) as signed to the Chapter during 1964, and for all those under the age of 40. Black tie. Individual reservations or reservations for tables of 8, 10 & 12 may be made through the Chapter office (MU 9-7969).



MORE IN S..., THAN IN A....

Commissioner, do you indeed  
Despise the City's handsome weed  
That fills New Yorkers' summer need  
The gracious-leaved Ailanthus?

So forward-looking in your stance,  
You don't enjoy the backyard plants.  
Plebeian, yet with elegance,  
This paradox, Ailanthus.

I fear, dear Sir, if you had seen  
That basket laced with prickly green,  
You would have called the picture mean  
And scorned the bright Acanthus.

Do, please your prejudice forget,  
And learn to love the City's pet  
Whose palmy fronds with clusters set  
Fail never to enchant us.

Elisabeth Coit

- ENVOI -

I thank you for your graceful plaint:  
T'is only pity that no saint  
Exists, whose sole domain  
Is guardian of the London plane!  
A tree,  
That always seems to me,  
The noblest species to be seen,  
Clothing a city in its green,  
With such a proud and lofty air—  
Even when winter strips it bare.

But I'll admit and well agree  
That every single shrub or tree  
That will defy our City grime;  
And bravely leaf and bloom and climb,  
Is well deserving recognition.  
And so say I, and my Commission!

So I will make a real endeavor  
To guarantee that never, never,  
Will I so recklessly condemn  
Your vigorous, humble backyard gem!  
Will seek to feel affinity  
And so restore sublimity  
And recognize the leaven  
Brought by "The Tree of Heaven"  
To the spirit of New York!

Commissioner & Mrs. William F. R. Ballard.



**DEVELOPING A CITY PROGRAM FOR ART IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

by PAUL J. GRAYSON

*Commenting on the increasing recognition of the fine arts in government sponsored or aided projects, Mr. Grayson, who is secretary of the Chapter's Committee on Aesthetics, recommends that this policy be extended to the other areas of applied art (lighting, graphics, etc.).*

Among certain professional groups and civic-minded citizens the crusade in New York City to obtain public funds and to create mandatory requirements for art in public buildings has been a long trying affair. The desire to improve the attractiveness and general appearance of public works has not been limited only to pressure groups or dedicated citizens. Various city agencies, long aware of the need for improvement, have been attempting to make such provisions for art through inclusion in specifications and setting up of allowances in construction budgets.

On a national and on a local level it is becoming apparent that much work is required to improve the appearance of various public buildings and much of the total urban environment as well. Public awareness and understanding of this need is in evidence in many cities today as expressed by the great expenditures for renewal programs now underway. New York City however appears to be lagging behind proportionately, for want of a definitive city-wide program and for want of strong public support.

At a recent meeting of the Chapter's Committee on Aesthetics attended by special guests Commissioner Gregory, of the N.Y.C. Department of Personnel, and Albert B. Bauer, of the N.Y.C. Department of Public Works, both stressed the need for greater public support to effect through the office of the Mayor, a coordinated program for the improvement of the urban scene. However, before a program can be developed, it may

be necessary to define some terms. When we refer to "art" in public buildings, does the word have the same meaning to the layman, as it does to the professional? Perhaps a misunderstanding has developed in definition. To the professional, "art" ought to include all of what is beautiful, appealing, or of more than ordinary significance. This could include the art-form of architecture, or the art-expression of the total environment. To the layman, or general public, the word "art" may denote what we professionals refer to as "fine arts," including such items as paintings or sculpture.

To some, the trend toward promoting "fine arts" for public buildings may appear as a weak solution in covering up poor architecture. Obviously this is not an answer to the long range problem of creating a more attractive total environment. The incorporation of art into building is not in itself a substitute for good architecture, and likewise, the restriction of construction funds to the very bare essentials, limits the potential of the architect and his effort toward better architecture.

It appears at this time, that the best place to start on a long range program is to begin with legislation which requires provision in construction budgets of public buildings for a percentage allowance for artwork. However, the funds should not be limited to fine-arts alone, but should permit expenditure in such categories as, landscaping, street furniture, graphics, or special lighting, to be employed and commissioned at the architect's discretion.

Programs that are presently in force in cities, such as Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore, and as reported recently in these columns, will be studied by the Committee as a guide in the preparation of a proposal to the Mayor for enactment by the City Council.

**A NEW F.H.A. POLICY**

by C. FRANKLIN DANIELS

*In this statement to OCULUS Mr. Daniels, Assistant Commissioner for Multifamily Housing, F.H.A., defines F.H.A.'s new policy toward works of art and the economic advantages that may be derived from a judicious use of art.*

Use of works of art to complement buildings or grounds in multifamily housing projects developed with mortgage insurance is encouraged by the Federal Housing Administration under a new policy which will result in both cultural and economic benefits and emphasizes the use of the work of living American artists.

Recent instructions issued to all of the local insuring offices of the FHA point out that works of art judiciously selected, executed and placed to complement the design of structures or grounds can increase the pleasure of residing within a project and stimulate tenant pride. Such works of art may justify their presence through esthetic contribution without necessarily having a utilitarian or practical function. They should, however, be felt to be beneficial enough to justify the rentals to support their cost.

To be eligible as part of the mortgage security, works of art must be considered to be a part of the real estate and include sculpture, decorative mosaics and murals. In general, up to one per cent of the FHA estimated cost of the buildings may be spent for art, although higher percentages may be allowed when warranted by special circumstances. The art may be free-standing, attached to, or integral with the structure. Its design and material must afford reasonable resistance to exposure, vandalism and theft.

The selection of the artist or sculptor is the responsibility of the architect. The FHA will not dictate matters of art but will review all

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## A NEW F.H.A. POLICY

*Continued from page 5*

proposals involving works of art to ascertain that they conform to the general criteria established. The FHA feels it is keeping pace with the times in establishing this new policy. It shares the belief of many conventional lenders that works of art generally serve to enrich the project, relieve monotony and contribute to a desirable residential environment. The new policy is an important part of the FHA effort to increase the design and livability of its insured multi-family projects.

## THE VELEZ BLANCO PATIO AND THE WATSON LIBRARY

Phase II of the Metropolitan Museum of Art building program will see the opening on January 26, 1965, of the Thomas J. Watson Library. The separate Departments of Prints and of Drawings with display, study and storage areas on the second and third floors of the structure. A laboratory for the study of paper is a feature as well as the superlative collection of art reference books.

An elegant main entrance to the library is provided by the newly opened Vélez Blanco Patio, a carved and colonnaded patio from a Spanish castle built between 1506 and 1515. Vélez Blanco is a small mountain village in southeastern Spain on the border of the ancient Moorish kingdom of Granada. An early example of the influence Italian Renaissance architecture had upon Spain, the marble carvings were actually done by imported Italian sculptors. The castle proper, built upon the ruins of a Moorish fortress for the Governor of Murcia, Don Pedro Fajardo y Chacón, is of Gothic design. The patio was a central courtyard adopting the forms of Classical architecture as transmitted by the new Italian Humanism. It therefore marks a significant turning point in the history of Spanish architecture as well as being a delight to the eye.

Finely cut marble details on capitals, spandrels, cornices, pilasters, gargoyle rain spouts, depict motifs and compositions of classical

origin. The carvings probably were done from pattern books which contained designs for classical details sketched from Roman monuments or copied from a drawing. The patio measures 53 x 46 feet, is two stories with a glass roof. Pink marble floor tiles and ceramic ceiling tiles were not in the original patio, but add color and texture to the neutral toned patio. The architect, like the Italian sculptors, is unknown.

The modern history of the patio continues with its removal at the turn of the twentieth century and sale to a French art dealer. After a few years George Blumenthal, president of the museum from 1934 to 1941, acquired the patio and installed it in his 70th St. & Park Avenue mansion. Having been bequest in 1941, it was dismantled, crated and given to the museum in 1945. In 1955 Geoffrey Lawford, former president of the New York Chapter, AIA and of the firm of Brown, Lawford and Forbes, began to study the inclusion of the patio as a forecourt to the library. He worked closely with Museum Director James J. Rorimer. The patio was rebuilt with funds provided by Ann and George Blumenthal.

*Jo E. Carroll*

## BOOKS

*Art Nouveau* by Robert Schmutzler.  
Translated by Edward Roditi.

Harry N. Abrams, New York.  
322 pp. Illustrated. \$25.00

In this well illustrated book the author traces Art Nouveau back to eighteenth century precedents. He treats the subject as a major movement encompassing architecture, sculpture, painting, graphic arts, interior design, furniture and crafts. A difficult book to write as Art Nouveau was complex and diverse, its growth uneven and widespread, the text is commendable. However, some of the author's interpretations of Art Nouveau attempt to vignette or categorize artificially related factors. Gaudí is called the genius of Art Nouveau architects, whereas he had no real connection with the movement. His structural concept was a highly

intuitive one tested with models. Any relation with Art Nouveau would have to be based on his use of curvilinear line. But the massiveness of the structures and the individuality in their design belies their classification as being 'Art Nouveau' style.

Although Art Nouveau was a logical development from the social theories of William Morris, his followers and their protest against mass production and the industrial revolution, it was a movement deliberately launched with the manifesto of Henry Van de Velde. "Total work of art" Gesamtkunstwerk was to transform traditional attitudes, abolishing distinctions between the applied and fine arts. Van de Velde himself worked in painting, book decoration, typography, industrial design, architecture, patterns for fabrics, furniture design, etc.

Art Nouveau style can be identified as an ornamental use of an ever recurrent snake curve, the silhouette of dark and light rhythmic line patterns swirling in continuous motion. Whether this be in the facade details of a Louis Sullivan building or an end paper for a book, the style is distinctly decorative. There is an oddly looping organic quality about it which has an oriental flavor. Tiffany vases and Horta inkstands illustrate this. The book is amply provided with good examples.

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*New York: The Art World, Arts Yearbook 7*, Edited by James R. Mellow. Arts Digest, Inc., N. Y., 1964, 162 pp., illus., \$7.50.

Known art critics and artists present a series of articles, reviews and critiques of current American art. Quite a few recent paintings and sculpture are reproduced in large color and black and white photos. Contributors include Hilton Kramer, Clement Greenberg and Philip Pearlstein. The role of the art critic and criticism, as well as the crisis in New York painting, the new figure painting, pop art and hard-edge painting are subjects reviewed. An attractive well written book on the contemporary art world in New York.



## COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

### THE AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION LIST

Should members of the AIA submit themselves to professional evaluation by lay groups? Many pre-qualification lists are currently prepared by government bodies and private associations. They are a boon to the architects who are on them; do they benefit the profession as a whole?

The American Hospital Association represents most of the hospitals in the United States. For many years it has provided, to any member hospital that seeks its guidance, a list of architects it considers qualified to undertake a hospital project. A vote in opposition to this roster by the AIA National Executive Committee (subsequently rescinded pending further study) encouraged the Chapter's Hospital & Health Committee to devote a special dinner meeting to a discussion of this problem. Consideration of the professional ethics of voluntary enrollment on this list was given, and a strongly worded resolution in opposition to the roster was prepared for consideration at the November 19th meeting of the Committee. Roger Mellem, AIA, a member of the AHA staff, was invited to attend this meeting and present the views of the AHA. He described the care with which their list was compiled, the inclusion of architects on the qualifying committee half architects, half hospital administrators), and urged expansion of the list from its current 100 names to include most of the approximately 500 architects now engaged in hospital practice, rather than a withdrawal of the roster. Following discussion, Chairman J. Armand Burgun appointed a special sub-committee to study the AHA roster and the broader question of providing guidance to hospitals in need or architectural services. Action on the resolution will be taken after the sub-committee reports.

R. H. JACOBS, JR.

*Hospital & Health Committee*

## MORE EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

The development of a program for the creation of more effective community organizations was the subject of a study undertaken jointly by the Citizens Union and the Citizens Housing and Planning Council. According to George Hallet, Executive Secretary of the Citizens Union, the recommendations of the two organizations were outlined in a report entitled "Program for Community Districts."

1. It should be made mandatory to notify community boards of all city public hearings on local matters involving their districts and to give them an opportunity to be heard.
2. The community boards should be larger than the 5 to 9 plus local councilmen permitted in the city charter and non-residents should be eligible if they have significant interests in the district.
3. The boards should be authorized to appoint committees on special fields of community interest and to include non-board members on them.
4. Each board should have an executive secretary and a fact-finder of its own choosing in addition to central staff assistance and the cooperation of all departments.
5. It would be better to have the boards appointed by the Mayor, who could open doors for them in all departments, instead of

by the Borough Presidents, as the city charter now provides.

6. So far as feasible the city departments should use the community districts for their local operations instead of the present crazy quilt of overlapping administrative districts with no relation to each other or to the community boards.
7. Within each community district a community center should be developed for local city offices, including an office for information, complaints and permits.
8. The community boards should work with the City Planning Department in the development of local master plans as part of the Master Plan of the city.

A bill to make the proper charter changes to effectuate some or all of these recommendations will soon be introduced in the City Council.

### 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 10, and ending April 28, 1965. Taught by engineer Solomon Sheer, Deputy Director of the N.Y.C. Board of Standards and Appeals, the course will cost \$100. and will be conducted at the Consolidated Edison Company, 4 Irving Place. Mr. Sheer is the editor of the OCULUS series on the New York Zoning Law.



## WOMEN'S ARCHITECTURAL AUXILIARY

### The Round Table

The first "Round Table" luncheon of the W.A.A. members and prospects had a fine turnout, and will be continued every first Tuesday of the month at the Architectural League, 115 East 40th Street. Just come. Last time the plans to make a slate of interpreters from our chapter was proposed and right there we found a group of French, German, and Russian representatives—Encouraged, we now need additional people who know Span-

ish and Portuguese, or whatever your other language is! Inform Mrs. H. R. Sleeper, 50 Sutton Place South, New York City, New York 10022—phone PL 5-5419. It is not too early to respond to the A.I.A. Convention planners request for language aides. The consensus is that this will be a useful offer coming from the New York chapter's auxiliary—and a good effort on the local level as well.



## UC ANNOUNCES ARTS CENTER COMPETITION

A competition for the design of a new University Arts Center at U.C.'s Berkeley campus has been announced. The two-stage competition is open to all licensed U.S. architects. Seven entries will be selected for the final stage. The winner will be awarded either the architectural commission or a cash prize of \$25,000. Each of the other finalists will receive \$5,000.

Registration deadline is January 30. Preliminary stage entries are due March 13, with judgment to take place on or before April 30. The competition winner will be announced July 19. Registration forms may be obtained by writing Spencer at 251 Kearny St., San Francisco.

Registration forms may be obtained from the competition professional adviser Eldridge T. Spencer, FAIA, 251 Kearny Street, San Francisco.

## 1965 HOMES FOR BETTER LIVING REGISTRATION: JAN. 31

January 31 is the deadline for the registration of entries in the 10th annual Homes for Better Living award program sponsored by the AIA in cooperation with *House and Home* and *American Home* magazines.

Entries may be submitted in three categories: 1) custom houses, 2) built-for-sale houses, and 3) garden apartments and townhouses. There is no limit on number of entries, and the judges are empowered to make as many awards as the submissions seem to warrant. There have been more than 300 awards since the first program in 1956.

All Honor Award houses and a selection of other award-winning houses will be published by *HOUSE & HOME*, and for the second year some of the entries, both award-winning and nonpremiated, will receive public and consumer recognition through publication in *AMERICAN HOME*. In addition, all award-winning entries will be displayed during our June convention in Washington, D. C., and later at the Octagon.

## NEWS BRIEFS

Lewis Mumford, eminent critic and cultural historian, was reelected President of the American Academy of Arts and Letters at the Annual Meeting of the Academy held last month at its New York headquarters.

### Burnham to Teach at New School

Alan Burham, AIA, Editor of *New York Landmarks*, and a Director of the Municipal Art Society, will teach a course entitled "Architecture—U.S.A." at the New School for Social Research, 66 West Twelfth Street, beginning in February, 1965, Spring semester.

### Chapter Members on the Air

Chapter member William Snaith discussed "The Irresponsible Arts" on WNYC Radio, on Lee Graham Interviews, January 10. In another interview with Lee Graham for her "People and Ideas" program of December 22, Richard B. Snow discussed some of the highlights of the chapter's *State of the City* Report.

### Symposium Set For Rebroadcast

The complete proceedings of the three panel sessions of the October planning symposium, "The Future By Design," have been slated for rebroadcast by radio station WNYC. The first panel, "The Forces Shaping New York's Future," was aired on January 1st.

The second panel, "Coping with the Future: What We Can Do, Can't Do, How and Why," is to be broadcast on Friday evening January 22 at the same hour. The moderator is Luther Gulick of the Institute of Public Administration and panel members include A. A. Berle, Roger Starr, and Alan Temko.

The final session will be presented on March 26 at 8:30 P.M. Former Chairman of the Planning Commission James Felt is the moderator of this session on Determining Priorities for New York City." Discussants include Charles Abrams, James Dumpson and William H. Whyte.

## CENTER FOR N.Y.C. AFFAIRS AT THE NEW SCHOOL

The New School for Social Research on December 21, announced the establishment of a major teaching, research, and discussion center devoted to the study and development of New York City. The new Center for New York City Affairs will open on February 1st.

Focussing exclusively on the problems of the New York Metropolitan area, the program of the Center includes:

1. Courses for professionals and laymen to increase public understanding of major local issues and problems in housing, city planning, city government, labor seminars and symposia on current issues such as Urban Renewal.
2. Pooling and promulgation of research studies, government reports, and other information on New York City affairs.
3. A sustained research program on all aspects of New York City life, with priorities determined on the basis of the City's overall needs rather than on the needs and concerns of individual organizations.
4. Increased coordination of the activities of city agencies and civic groups with related purposes.
5. Specialized training programs which will enhance in the professional qualifications of employees in public and private agencies.

## KAREL YASKO ADDRESSES ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE

How will the current trends in Federal Architecture affect New York? Karel Yasko, Commissioner for Design and Construction for General Services Administration, provided some of the answers in his address last month at the League, "The New Challenge of Public Architecture." Mr. Yasko expressed his delight that architects are beginning to respond to his challenge of two years ago made at the Architectural League to help make America a better place in which to live, especially in the densely populated metropolitan areas.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



KAREL YASKO—Cont'd from page 8

The dinner preceding Mr. Yasko's talk honored industrial contributors who had helped make possible the remodeling of the League's dining room. Mrs. Eleanor Allwork, was responsible for the redesigning. League members and their guests at the dinner were most enthusiastic in their praise of the rejuvenation of the area.

The contributors thus honored at the dinner were:

American Cyanamid Company whose carpet of their man made Creslan Acrylic Fiber was especially woven for the dining room.

The Bartos Company who made possible the remodeling of the background.

Shatz Painting Company of Rockefeller Center.

Thonet Industries who contributed \$1000 toward the new chairs.

U.S. Rubber Company who gave us the Naugahyde upholstery for chairs and banquettes.

Charles F. Zweifel & Co. who did the electrical work.

#### MEMBERSHIP

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

##### Corporate

Andrew S. Blackman	Oswald Nagler
Bernard G. Horvitz	Emilio M. Pucillo
Harold J. Levy	Donald K. Busch
James B. Baker	Hother K. Busch
Benedict Curatolo	

##### Professional Associate

Aaron Cohen

##### Associate

Gerald C. Lenaz

#### CANDIDATES

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

##### Corporate

John Desmond Evans	Eric Joseph Pick
Norman Dan Larsen	Harold G. Young

##### Associate

Edward K. Carpenter	Sponsors:
	James Burns, Jr. and
	Jan C. Rowan

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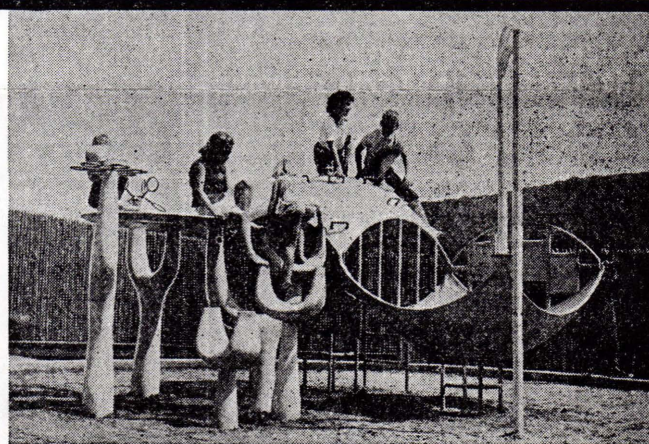
#### COMING EVENTS

JANUARY 26	Nominating Committee Luncheon Dining Room, Tuesday, 12:30 P.M.
FEBRUARY 2	Hospitals & Health Seminar Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:15 P.M.
FEBRUARY 16	Technical Committee Lecture Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:30 P.M.
FEBRUARY 18	Anniversary Dinner Hotel Pierre, 5th Avenue, 61st Street, Thursday
MARCH 10	Technical Committee Lecture Design Center, 5:30 P.M.
APRIL 6	Hospitals & Health Seminar Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:15 P.M.
APRIL 20	Technical Committee Lecture Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:30 P.M.
APRIL 29	A.I.A. Pre-Convention Luncheon Dining Room, Thursday, 12:30 P.M.
MAY 12	Prospective Members Cocktail Party Dining Room, Wednesday, 5:00-8:00 P.M.
MAY 18	Technical Committee Lecture Dining Room, Tuesday, 12:30 P.M.
JUNE 1	Hospitals & Health Seminar Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:15 P.M.
JUNE 2	Annual Luncheon Dining Room, Wednesday, 12:30 P.M.

#### JANUARY 27

"NEW YORK CITY ARCHITECTURE," a discussion of the city and its schools. Panel: Edward Stone, architect; Eugene Hult, Supt., Office of School Building; Cranston Jones, Architectural Editor of *Time Magazine*; Percival Goodman, architect. Wednesday, January 27, 8:30 P.M., P.S. 6, 81 Street and Madison Avenue, N.Y.C.

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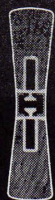


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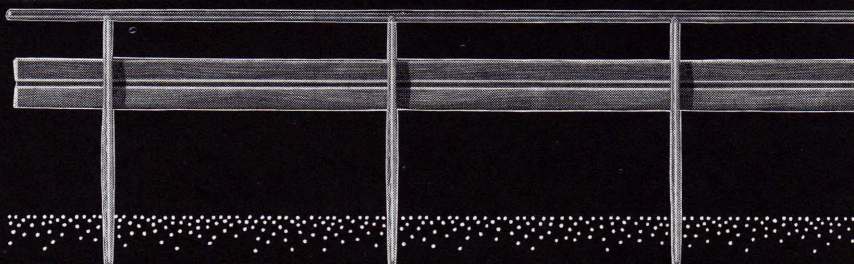
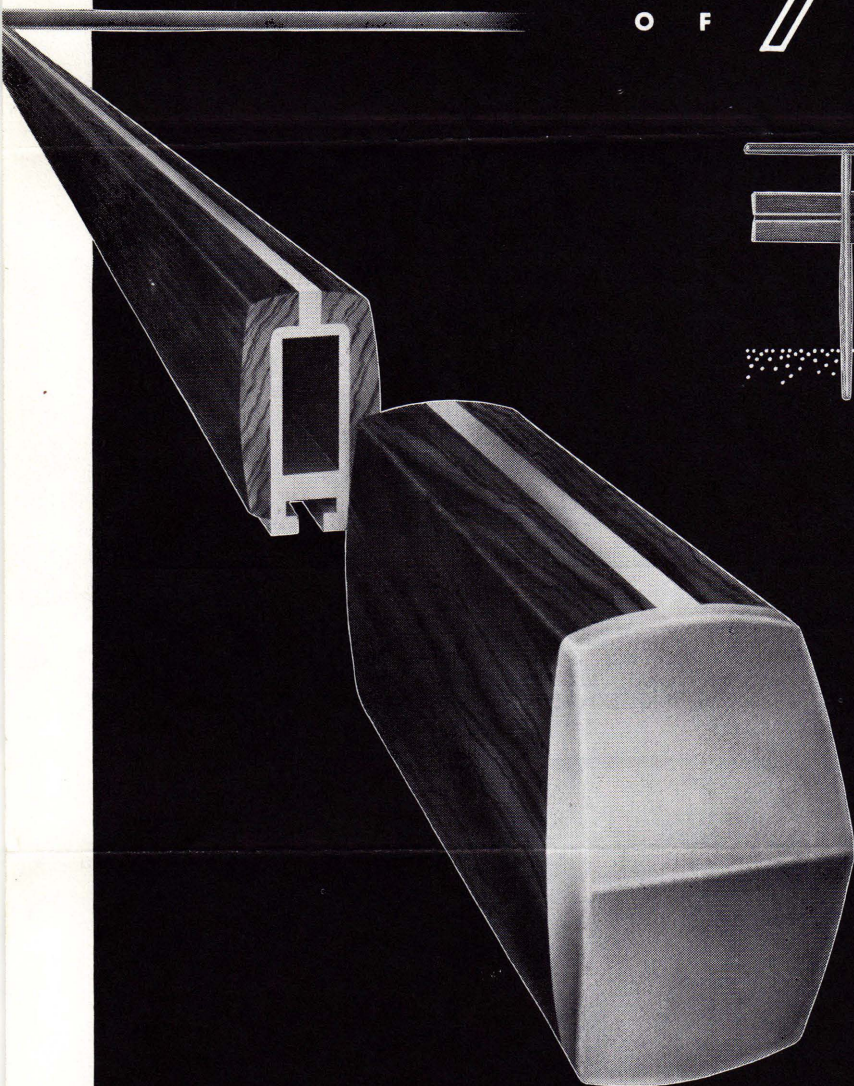
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