RECORD VOTE ELECTS NEW NOMINATING COMMITTEE

New York Chapter members, in a record-breaking vote turnout, elected a new five-member Nominating Committee whose task it will be to recommend a slate of candidates for election to the Executive Committee as well as the other elective Chapter posts.

Elected to serve on the new Nominating Committee were: former Chapter Secretary C. Gates Beckwith; George D. Brown Jr., Vice Chairman of the Housing Fees and Contracts Committee; Elisabeth Coit, FAIA and Secretary of the Brunner Scholarship Committee; Edgar Tafel, Chairman of the Aesthetics Committee and recently appointed as the Chapter’s representative to the Fine Arts Federation; and former Chapter President Frederick J. Woodbridge.

Commenting on the large vote return, Chapter Secretary Elliot Willensky gratefully acknowledged the part played by the 451 Chapter members who returned their ballots in making this Nominating Committee election the most successful one in the Chapter’s history. “The number of ballots returned was almost twice the number usually received. Regrettably two envelopes containing ballots were unsigned so that only 449 votes were tabulated,” he said.

Secretary Willensky also stated that the large turnout of votes provided the newly elected members with a clear mandate that they are reflecting the views of a larger proportion of Chapter members than previous Nominating Committees. “As a result, their task is that much more significant,” Mr. Willensky added.

CARVER HOUSES PLAZA: AWARDS AND ACCOLADE

In mid-February, Lady Bird Johnson, in the company of not more than a dozen people and all but unnoticed by the public, visited the Carver Houses amphitheater and plaza. A month later, on March 15, the design of architects Pomerance and Breines and of landscape wizard M. Paul Friedberg received the City Club 1965 Award of Merit in Landscape Architecture and Urban Design.

With funds provided by the
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

WAGNER’S PLANS FOR LOWER MANHATTAN Praised

The New York Chapter applauded Mayor Robert F. Wagner for authorizing the “vital planning study” of lower Manhattan and at the same time urged him to broaden its scope.

Chapter President Wilson, said that the organization was “impressed and encouraged” by the Mayor’s announcement of a formal planning study for the area south of Canal Street. He expressed disappointment, however, that it “seems to take no cognizance whatsoever of the Lower Manhattan Expressway.”

In a letter to the Mayor, Mr. Wilson said: “You will recall that the New York Chapter favors the Lower Manhattan Crosstown Expressway, although our support for this vehicular facility was made very strongly conditional on the implementation by the city of overall area planning studies.” He added that the Mayor’s study takes a large step towards fulfilling one of the Chapter’s conditions.

“We urge you to amend and broaden the directive for this vital planning study,” the letter said, “to include in its analysis not only the effects of the Expressway on lower Manhattan but the actual area it will cover.”
STEPHEN FRANCIS VOORHEES
1878-1965

The Executive Committee of the New York Chapter, AIA records with lasting affection, the passing of STEPHEN FRANCIS VOORHEES, Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, and President of the Chapter, 1930-1932, and recipient of the Chapter's Medal of Honor in 1944.

Architect and men with a genius for winning the devotion and cooperation of his fellow men, he gave of himself unstintingly and furnished an example of an architect's capacity for leadership and service to his community.

As one of the founders of the New York Building Congress, and as its first President, he won the respect of the entire Building Industry of his city. He enhanced the respect in which the Building Industry and his own profession were held throughout the nation by his outstanding services as a national leader.

The lives of those he leaves behind him have been enriched by his trust and his love for his fellow men.

The Executive Committee of the New York Chapter, AIA directs that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to his family and to his partners, and that it shall be printed in the OCUCLUS.

WILLIAM D. WILSON
President
ELLIOT WILLENSKY
Secretary

Mr. Frost has long worked in the large-scale housing field and has headed a number of community, professional and public service organizations.

Mr. Frost is the representative of the Paris-based Union Internationale des Architectes to the United Nations and a member of the Standing Committee on International Relations of the A.I.A.

Among current commissions, Mr. Frost's firm is writing the architectural chapters of the new building code for the City, an $800,000 project under the direction of Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn.

EXHIBITION PLANNED ON LANDMARK PRESERVATION

The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and The Municipal Art Society are planning a joint exhibit to promote Landmarks Preservation. It is hoped that dramatic illustration of new uses for threatened landmark buildings may serve to alert the public and owners of these structures that they could have a useful economic life as well as adding interest and variety to our urban environment. In addition to showing proposed new uses for landmark buildings, it would be desirable to demonstrate how valuable old buildings have been reclaimed in the past. Members who have projects which they wish to exhibit should contact Mrs. Louis Vaczek, Executive Secretary, The Municipal Art Society of New York, (MU 9-2152). Information on the size and character of presentation panels will be forwarded to those who wish to exhibit.

The exhibit will be given maximum exposure. We hope to use shop windows volunteered by cooperating department stores along Fifth Avenue. A publication on the exhibit is being considered and there is a possibility that the American Federation of Art may circulate the exhibit.

We hope you will be able to help in this important contribution toward Landmark Preservation.

Co-Chairmen of the Exhibit Committee:

BERNARD J. ALBIN
Municipal Art Society

MARTIN H. COHEN
N. Y. Chapter Historic Building Committee
ART FOR ARCHITECTURE
Edited by John M. Dixon and Estelle Dodge

ART WORK SUBMISSION FOR N.Y.C. SCHOOLS

The New York City Board of Education is one of the rare city agencies with a definite policy on art work included in its building program. This policy is described in the latest directive issued by the Board's Office of School Buildings and its Bureau of Design. OCULUS will initiate next month a debate on this policy.

ARTIST'S SELECTION

It has been the practice of this office to request the architects whose school projects have art work, to submit the name of the artist or sculptor for approval by the Office of School Buildings before preliminary art sketches are started. The reason for this request is that a variation of art work by different artists is desirable.

SUBJECT MATTER

After the artist or sculptor has been approved the subject matter should be given due consideration. The artist will be informed of the school name, area background, and other factors that may be utilized as suitable subjects for works of art. In general, the type of art or sculpture work should be simple and contemporary in feeling to accord with the architectural character of the building. Distorted human figures or so-called "progressive art work and sculpture" are not desired and will not be accepted. Before any art work sketches are finalized, they must be approved by the architect and his office.

MATERIAL AND LOCATION

Due consideration should be given to the materials used for the art work. Hard materials such as metals, marble, venetian mosaic, stone, tiles or terra cotta are the materials desired for all art work.

Also the location should be seriously considered and indicated on the contract drawings for General Construction, as well as in the specifications. In schools where sculpture is desired, it should be located out of the reach of pupils. The murals, if located at a low elevation, should be of an indestructible material.

BRI SPRING CONFERENCES


Information about registration and further details about the Conferences may be obtained from Milton C. Coon, Jr., Executive Vice President, Building Research Institute, 1725 De Sales Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20006.

ART COMMISSION SUBMISSION

In the submission of material to the Art Commission, it should be presented with such clarity that the laymen of the committee can readily obtain an idea as to location of the art work with relation to its surroundings. In the submission a small scale model is advisable, which shows the art work with relation to the setting. The Art Commission Applications (in triplicate) should be submitted to this office two (2) weeks before the Art Commission meeting. (Meetings are held every second Monday of each month.) The sketches and models, when ready for the Art Commission, are to be submitted one week before the meeting, to this office.

SELECTED ARTIST AND SCULPTOR

It should be understood that a commission for art work to acceptable artists or sculptors is dependent on the approval of the respective art work submitted. It is advisable to select an artist or sculptor, residing within the Metropolitan Area, for convenient inspection of art work by the Art Commission Members and this office, particularly for the stage payments.

WOMEN'S ARCHITECTURAL AUXILIARY

Volunteers Needed

A Volunteer Service Bureau is being formed by Virginia Sherer (Mrs. Richard) and Marion Turkel (Mrs. Norbert). So report any and/or special skills to them plus a willingness to help the Auxiliary. We do need working members as well as those who do nary a lick but lend us the luster of their names and their financial support. Regular and Patron members often change from one category to another as personal considerations dictate. So, no excuses now; just join in time for the annual scholarship awards dinner in May and our famous "This 'n That Husbands" Art Show that evening.

Lincoln Center Tour: April 29

That is the day the W.A.A. will hold its unprecedented, never to be repeated visit to Lincoln Center. Nothing of this scope has been attempted before. Beginning at 11 A.M., tickets with luncheon will be $15.00, without luncheon $12.00. Since the tickets will be extremely limited in number, apply to the W.A.A. office in writing as soon as you receive your detailed notice which follows this announcement. The money is to be set aside for scholarships, but we promise you also a stimulating and very exciting day.

HILDEGARDE SLEEPER
Public Relations Chairman
Vincent Astor Foundation, the Carver Amphitheater was completed last summer as an experiment in the N.Y.C. Housing Authority efforts to revitalize the empty and inert spaces of formal lawns and shrubbery, standard non-features of its many low-rent projects. At the Carver Houses in East Harlem, these grass-filled courtyards had become a source of friction. Children and teenagers of this congested neighborhood needed more active play space while the recreational needs of adult residents were inadequately served.

In the new design for the Carver Houses public space, both needs are fulfilled in an imaginative sequence of levels, spaces and materials, the merits of which are summarized in the Bard Award received from the City Club last month. The ingredients, according to the jury were: "intelligent understanding in zoning areas for children and adults, separating active pleasure from passive; realistic ruggedness in finish, but the inclusion of natural growing things. Here, a genuine environment replaces a tired gesture."

**Accolade**

The makers of the "genuine environment" received a different and unexpected accolade when, on February 15, Lady Bird Johnson made an impromptu visit to see whether the design might have some relevance to the slum redevelopment plans for Washington — Photographs of the project borrowed from Mrs. Astor by Mr. David Rockefeller had been lent to Sec. Udall who in turn had shown them to Mrs. Johnson.

**N. Y. ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE GOLD MEDAL COMPETITION**

The Architectural League of New York has announced the 1965 program for its 63rd national Gold Medal Competition and Exhibition of works completed between January 1, 1961 and December 31, 1964. The League is currently accepting submission of those entries in the allied arts which include architecture, interior design, engineering, mural painting, sculpture, landscape architecture, craftsmanship and industrial design. Entries must show a relationship to architecture and include at least three of the six building arts. The competition is open to any practitioner who is a citizen of the U.S., or its territories. Membership in the League is not required.

Deadline for the preliminary submission of entries is May 10. Entries will be judged from May 10 to May 28, and those selected will be eligible to enter the final competition slated for September 13. Gold and Silver Medals, Honorables Mentions and a Collaborative Medal of Honor will be awarded at the Jury's discretion. Selected entries will be exhibited from October 18 through November 5.
NEEDED: SUMMER JOBS
At about this time each year, architectural students begin to formulate vague plans for the approaching summer. Certain lucky ones may be selected to participate in a formal training program developed by a few architectural firms. For others, it will be an uneasy search for a precarious berth. For most the summer is a baffling period fraught with disillusionment. The formal education of the student, of the future architect, remains more often than not confined to the eight or nine months of his school’s academic year while his summer months become a hit or miss affair.

There is no grand plan to solve this ever-recurring dilemma. Nor is it possible for many firms to undertake special summer training programs.

The problem, nevertheless, may be rendered less acute and a most important first step taken if a special effort is made by individual firms to admit as many students as possible into the inner sanctum of the professional world. Most urgently needed: a summer’s participation in the fascinating world of architecture, its intricacies, its maddening dullness, its exhilaration.

JOHN ARMS
Co-Chairman,
Student Chapter Comm.

NEW EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES GOAL: SUMMER TRAINING
In a new endeavor consistent with and complementing its present scholarship program, the Equal Opportunities Sub-Committee on Education under Chairman Simon Breines will seek to provide practical summer training experience to architectural students who are Negro, Puerto Rican, or of the minority groups.

Architectural firms with opportunities for summer employment of these students are requested to address their inquiries to the Equal Opportunities Committee in care of the Chapter office.

Mr. Breines, in initiating this program puts it this way: “If we are going to encourage these young people to study architecture, we should try to get them employment both for educational and economic reasons.”

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AWARDS: A REPORT
by BONNELL IRVINE, Education Scholarship Committee

Since its formation a little over a year ago, the Equal Opportunities Committee has awarded five grants under its special assistance program to Negro architectural students. The development of this program to date is briefly noted in the report which follows. We feel this is a gratifying result and hope the Chapter will.

However we have much more to do. In this year’s fund raising effort, we are increasing the portion that goes to our new Endowment Fund, and to other important contributions, such as work with high school students, on which we will later report more fully. But, we need to increase the number of contributors, and the amount of the contributions. Please give us your help while your mind is on the subject.

ALBERT MAYER

This will review the processing of the Equal Opportunities awards of $800.00 provided in April 1964 and $3000.00 provided in September 1964. Of this $3000.00, $2500.00 has been awarded to five Negro architectural students.

At this time, our records show 14 students in attendance as regular daytime degree candidates and two as evening certificate students. The distribution is City 5, Columbia 2, Cooper 2 (evening) and Pratt 7. Total attendance of degree students in New York City is now about 950.

We list below brief notes regarding the five students and their awards.

1. Mr. Harold I. Francis, 2nd year, Pratt Institute.—Awarded $800.00 on May 27, 1964.

Harold Francis has only the help of his mother who has a modest income from her job with the New York City Department of Housing. He works summers for the Department also but yearns for a summer job in an architect’s office.

To quote from Dean Grossi’s letter of recommendation, “Mr. Francis is a serious young student... He has already demonstrated ability to succeed. A great obstacle in his career is his financial status.”

2. Mr. Albert C. Morgan, 2nd year, Pratt Institute.—Awarded $650.00 on September 23, 1964.

Mr. Morgan lives with his retired mother and father. The family income is limited to Social Security and a Veteran’s Disability Pension. Albert did surveying work this past summer.

3. Mr. Clarence Pete, Jr., 4th year, The City College.—Awarded $450.00 on January 11, 1965.

When Mr. Pete was asked why he had not returned the Financial Statement part of his application, he wrote, “... (the form) does not apply in my case, because I have no father, nor mother, nor legal guardian to sign it. I have been providing for myself for all the years that I have been out of the armed forces. Please send me further instructions.”


Captain of the CCNY freshman fencing team, averaging B in his studies, Eglon Simons wrote in his application essay on why he chose architecture, “... The satisfaction received by knowing that you have done your part to add to the community and its comfort.”

5. Mr. David Danois, 2nd year, Pratt Institute.—Awarded $300.00 on January 11, 1965.

Mr. Danois is an excellent student who stands in the upper 8% of his

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

class. He worked half of this past summer and then attended the Marine Corps Officer Training Program. His application essay included, “My desire is to plan and improve man’s physical environment as much as I possibly can.”

The Scholarship Committee plans a final Equal Opportunities Awards meeting in the coming weeks. At that time we will distribute the $1300.00 remaining. We will again review the applications of five candidates who have received no grant so far. We will also have five new applications to consider.

THE METCALF-MCCLOSKEY ACT

by Robert H. Jacobs Jr., Hospital and Health Committee

At a packed meeting at the Biltmore Hotel on February 4, more than 100 members of the Hospital and Health Committee and their guests were led by Antonio A. Sorieri, First Deputy Commissioner of the State Department of Social Welfare, through the intricacies of the new Metcalf-McClosky Act regulating the construction of medical facilities in New York State. Mr. Sorieri, who is the administrator of the Act, was assisted by Dr. John Bourke of the State Department of Health and by Dr. Jack Haldeman of the Hospital Review and Planning Council of Southern New York.

The Metcalf-McClosky Act was put into effect on October 1, 1964, with the laudable intent of reducing the rising costs of medical care and providing for a better distribution of medical services, by prohibiting the construction or extension of any private, voluntary or municipal medical facility (with some exceptions) unless given approval by the State. In order to evaluate adequately each proposal for improved or expanded services, the Act requires the institution to file complete information on every factor that might conceivably influence this judgment. Information required ranges from the financial reliability of the applicant to the architectural plans for the proposal itself. While final determination rests with the Board of Social Welfare and the State Department of Social Welfare, these agencies are required to consider the recommendations of a great variety of public and private agencies. These include the Regional Hospital Review and Planning Council (a voluntary agency), the State Hospital Review and Planning Council, the State’s Commissioner of Health, the State Health Department’s Division of Hospital Review & Planning, the Division of Environmental Health Services, Chronic Disease Services, Special Health Services, and Division of Laboratories and Research. Psychiatric facilities are reviewed by the State Commissioner of Mental Hygiene.

Hospital architects, already concerned with the large proportion of their design fees being devoted to processing applications and obtaining approvals from the score or more of agencies now concerned in one way or another with hospital construction, were appalled last Fall when they first obtained the application forms from the Area Office of the State Department of Social Welfare. Mr. Sorieri, while admitting the current inability of his Department to evaluate these applications, stressed the point that the only safe course he could follow would be strict observance of each and every provision of this Act, and expressed the hope that in time the administrative machinery could be strengthened and improved. Dr. Bourke offered the cooperation of the Department of Health and the State Hill-Burton program in giving guidance to this new state authority. Dr. Haldeman offered a means by which the step requiring the approval of his agency, the Hospital Review and Planning Council of Southern New York, could be obtained in as little as two months if a separate and simplified application were made to them.

Such assurances did little to modify the view commonly held by hospital architects that the Metcalf-McClosky Act will increase the time necessary to complete a hospital project, increase the cost of hospital expansion and improvements, and discourage both needed modernizations and long range institutional planning.

LETTERS

MORE ON THE AILANTHUS

The unmistakable symbolism and, the certain impact of that green page in the January OCULUS has earned this Editor his second nice letter of the year and a promise for more poems. Most rewarding indeed is the story which appeared subsequently in the New York Times quoting Miss Elisabeth Coit’s subtle thrust as well as Commissioner and Mrs. Ballard’s agile riposte.

C.T.

To the Authoress:

Dear Betty:

Many, many compliments to you for your delightful little poems on the Ailanthus Tree and for provoking Bill and Mrs. Ballard to reply to you in equally delightful verse form. I got a real thrill out of this.

Some time ago I concluded that resort to verse might prove a way out from neglect and misunderstanding of the architect’s problems, on the part of the public. Architects and other technicians need a medium of expression that is not ordinary and dry-as-dust. Don’t stop with one effort. The accomplishments of one Coit and two Ballards greatly encourage one Holden. If we keep it up we may encourage others.

Arthur C. Holden

To the Editor:

Dear Mr. Thomsen:

I want to compliment you on the space given to the two delightful pieces of verse by Mr. and Mrs. Ballard and Betty Coit. I am glad to see the Oculus utilize a medium so long neglected as a means for the expression of the architects’ problems. I have written Betty Coit, as per the enclosed. If you would like to have a few selections from my Sonnets for My City to deal out, I would be glad to supply you with copy that you feel would have a bearing and have an interest to Chapter members.

Arthur C. Holden
F. A. I. A. NOMINATIONS OPEN

The Chairman of the N. Y. Chapter’s Committee on Fellows, Harry M. Prince, invites all corporate members of the Chapter to present candidates for advancement to the rank of Fellow in the Institute, one of the highest honors in the architectural profession. The honor is bestowed for distinguished performance in architectural design, literature, education, public service or service to the profession.

Nominations should be submitted in writing to the Chairman in care of the Chapter Office. They must be accompanied by information supporting the nomination as well as its category. Deadline for nominations is April 15.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Corporate
John M. Rowlett
Robert F. Gutzelt
David W. Deere
Marvin A. Flam
Jacques E. Guiton
Irvine H. Kaplan
Bernard A. Marson
Stuart K. Perts
Baldur Peter

Associate
Edward K. Carpenter

CANDIDATES

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

Corporate
Burton William Berger
Minor L. Bishop
Ramon Carbia, Jr.
David Evan Glasser

Professional Associate
Roger Steven Blaho
Micha Koeppel

Associate
Stephen Dean Jakobs
George Gy. Militzer
Orest Prykhan

MEMBERSHIP

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COMING EVENTS

APRIL 6
Hospital & Health Seminar
Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:15 P.M.

APRIL 14
Technical Committee Lecture
New York City Building Code Revision
Donnell Library Center Auditorium,
20 W. 53rd St., N.Y.C., Tuesday, 5:30 P.M.

APRIL 21
Office Practice Committee
Open Meeting
Dining Room, Wednesday, 5:30 P.M.

APRIL 29
A.I.A. Pre-Convention Luncheon
Dining Room, Thursday, 12:30 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.

JUNE 14-18
A.I.A. Convention
Sheridan-Park Hotel, Washington, D. C.

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Special Structures
Structural Design - Supervision

SUMMER JOB DIRECTORY PLANNED BY OCULUS

In cooperation with the Student Chapter Committee and as a service to Chapter Members and their firms, OCULUS will publish in its next issues a directory of architectural firms which will have employment opportunities for students next summer. Architectural firms wishing to be listed are cordially invited to address all pertinent information to Charles E. Thomsen, Editor, OCULUS, in care of Chapter Headquarters.

Architectural firms which have a student training program are requested to define their experiences with their program for publication purposes.

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