

# OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



JANUARY 1966

## CHAPTER AND CITY

In a series of statements to the daily press and through its representatives appearing this past month before the Mayor, the City Planning Commission, the City Council, the Board of Estimate and the State's Joint Legislative Committee on Housing and Urban Development, the New York Chapter AIA defined the position of its professional membership on four vital issues currently confronting the city.

1. In a letter to the *New York Times*, Chapter President Max Urbahn continued to press for a moratorium on the sale of city-owned land in Staten Island and a one-year crash program to develop a comprehensive master plan by a Staten Island "Task Force" or "Authority" especially created for this purpose (OCULUS November, 1965).

2. To implement this program, further restriction of speculative developments on Staten Island was advocated by Executive Director Charles Thomsen testifying before the Building Committee of the City Council. The Chapter urged the passage of a local law which would withhold the issuance of building permits on unmapped or unimproved streets.

3. At a City Planning Commission hearing on December 7, the Chapter recommended the demapping of West Broadway, south of Washington Square Park, to its original 75 foot R.O.W.

4. The Chapter also urged the Board of Estimate, at a public hearing on December 16, to approve "without further delay" the map submitted by the Commissioner of Parks establishing a 260-acre addition to Breezy Point Park.

## ON STATEN ISLAND: TWO ISSUES

Consistent with its efforts to implement a major crash program for the planning and development of Staten Island, the New York Chapter continued to press for a series of immediate emergency measures designed to protect principally the Island's open lands from premature programs such as the proposed Richmond Parkway and from further abuses of speculative developments. Specifically aimed at the latter was the Chapter's support of a local law by the City Council to prohibit new construction on unmapped or unimproved streets.

### BUILDING PERMITS

Testifying for the New York Chapter at a special hearing of the Council's Building Committee last December, Executive Director Charles Thomsen urged the early enactment of Local Law Int. 820 now pending in the City Council. If enacted, the law would require official mapping of a street as a pre-condition for the issuance of *building permits*. It would also continue the present legal requirements of suitable street improvements before a certificate of occupancy can be issued by the Superintendent of Buildings. Similar controls should be exercised, Mr. Thomsen asserted, "where inadequate sanitation and other facilities make new construction improvident at this time."

Recognizing the burden placed on private owners and their properties "placed in the limbo created by such a law," Mr. Thomsen added, "we are confident that these temporary hardships would be rewarded a thousandfold by the sound development of the Island according to

the contemporary concepts of urban planning." If anything, these hardships underlined the urgent need for such a crash program as advocated by the New York Chapter.

Local Law 820 now pending in the Council is a new attempt by the City to correct the inadvertent removal of the mapping requirement when the General City Law was amended in 1963 at the urging of Staten Island home builders. Actually sought by the builders was the elimination of the street improvement requirement for building permits. The argument was that any street improvement prior to building would be undone during the course of construction, thus doubling the street improvement cost.

In 1964 the city attempted to amend the General City Law to restore the mapping requirement as a pre-condition to the issuance of building permits. This bill passed both Houses of the State Legislature, only to be vetoed by the Governor. While conceding the desirability of such legislation, the Governor indicated that it should be pursued through local law.

### RICHMOND PARKWAY

The urgency for an all-out top priority program for the planning and development of Staten Island was forcefully driven home this past month when plans for the first section of the Richmond Parkway were rushed through to meet the deadlines and qualify for federal and state aid. In spite of last minute personal efforts of Mayor Lindsay and against the stated opposition of civic groups and the New York Chapter AIA, Superintendent John Burch McMorran of the State



## STATEN ISLAND ISSUES RICHMOND PARKWAY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Department of Public Works proceeded as scheduled on the contracts to build the first section of the Parkway estimated to cost \$16 million.

The concern of the Chapter over the serious effects that this north-south artery would have on the future of the island were expressed by Chapter President Max O. Urbahn in a telegram to Transportation Council Chairman Arthur E. Palmer on January 26th. Recommending that the bid opening date for section 1 of the parkway be delayed beyond the prescribed 45 days, Mr. Urbahn questioned the validity of the proposed route "particularly in the northern sector of the island where the parkway would cut through the heart of the Staten Island greenbelt." He urged that serious consideration be given to alternate routes which would preserve the natural features of the open land area now used as parks and camps.

In this last minute effort to delay the premature project, Mr. Urbahn recommended the thorough review of the possibilities offered by making the proposed artery an expressway. "As you know," he stated in his communication to Mr. Palmer, "the City Planning Commission has recommended that Richmond Parkway be made an expressway. We support this proposal." In view of the Chapter reservations Mr. Urbahn concluded, "We strongly urge that the receipt of bids be postponed."

The proposed route of the Expressway was criticized by Staten Island groups, including the Staten Island Citizens Committee on Planning, which issued a report in November 1965 recommending an alternate route. The main objection advanced by the committee was that in its obvious aim to provide access from the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge to the outer crossings, the new roadway would destroy the heart of the Staten Island Greenbelt.

"Staten Island is an oasis of partially developed land in the heart of Megalopolis. It may seem to possess limitless extents of rural woodlands and farms, but the scale

of this open space is much more restricted than is generally realized. For instance, the newly acquired High Rock Nature Center is only 60 acres, as compared with Central Park of 840 acres, and its widest point only 1450 feet across. The minimum width for the parkway is 300' or twice as wide as Park Avenue. The virgin woodland, through whose entire length the parkway is projected, varies in width from 500' to 3000' for a distance of 4 miles. The parkway requires considerable cuts and fill due to the rugged nature of the terrain through which it will pass. Hence, the swath through the heart of the Greenbelt will change the character on the adjacent lands: the camps to the west, the nature center to the east, and Latourette Park woodlands on both sides will be left as thin strips of open space."

The alternate route proposed by the Citizens' Planning Committee was rejected by both the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority and the State Department of Public Works because of the "fantastic additional funds (11 million) for the construction of a road which is grossly inferior to the original route in every respect, including scenic appeal . . . a route which would needless dispossess 83 families."

The report by the Staten Island Citizens' Planning Committee was instrumental in the Chapter's joint statement with 13 civic organizations of New York City and the Island urging a review of the transportation plans for the Island generally, and of Richmond Parkway in particular. (OCULUS, November 1965).

### 99th DINNER DANCE

Thursday, February 24  
M/S Europa • Pier 88  
6:25 - 12:30

- Cocktails
- 7 Course Dinner, 2 Wines
- Brandy and Cordials
- Dancing and After-Dinner Drinks
- Robert Smith's Building Congress Quartet
- Presentation of 5 Awards by AIA
- Presentation of 4 Architectural Scholarships by WAA

## A COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Plans for the Richmond Parkway, being implemented notwithstanding indications by the City that they should be delayed, pinpoint the difficulty in achieving a possible collaboration between the city and semi-autonomous or quasi-public agencies, despite lip service to the desirability if not imperative necessity for such a collaboration.

Methods for achieving this needed control and collaboration were suggested to Mayor Lindsay by Chapter President Max O. Urbahn and by Urban Design Committee Chairman B. Sumner Gruzen in a letter dated January 26th:

"In these crucial early days of your administration's bold undertaking to frame a new direction and a new pattern for the City and its future, we urge your attention to one particular problem which has created a very serious obstacle to the development of a sound and coordinated comprehensive master plan for this City.

"Our City Charter has charged the preparation of this comprehensive plan to the City Planning Commission. It is obvious that a major element in any city plan is the organization and mapping of streets, highways, bridges, and tunnels. Such work is the legal responsibility of the City Planning Commission. The function of a Traffic Department is to establish ways of moving traffic along the route established by the City plan. "Therefore, our professional opinion is:

1. That no proposals for mapping of building circulation routes in our city should be made except by the City Planning Commission,
2. That the specialized knowledge of the Traffic Department is a requirement in the organization of circulation routes. A representative of the Traffic Department should be an advisor or member of the City Planning Commission.
3. That an office bearing a title such as Coordinator of Traffic or Coordinator of Highways, etc., is redundant."



# OCULUS

VOL. 38 — Number 4

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
NEW YORK CHAPTER

CHARLES E. THOMSEN, Executive Director  
MARGOT A. HENKEL, Executive Secretary

115 East 40th Street  
New York, N. Y. 10016  
MUrray Hill 9-7969

MAX O. URBANH ..... President  
DAVID F. M. TODD ..... Vice President  
OWEN L. DELEVANTE ..... Secretary  
H. DICKSON McKENNA ..... Treasurer

## BOARD OF EDITORS

Charles E. Thomsen, Chairman and Editor  
Elisabeth Coit, Vice Chairman

Neil Berzak ..... N. Dan Larsen  
Marvin Flam ..... Gerald C. Lenaz  
William B. Gleckman ..... Alexander Sanko  
Seymour D. Gurliitz ..... Samuel M. Kurtz  
Charles S. Telchin

*The following is directed toward certain statements made by Mayor Lindsay at a special meeting with the architectural community, and in his campaign position paper, "A Program for New York's Housing Crisis." It was prepared by the Housing Sub-Committee on Review, headed by James Baker, Kurt Karmin and Irving Weiner.*

## HOUSING COMMITTEE

SAUL EDELBAUM  
Chairman

JOHN J. GROSFELD  
Secretary

JAMES BAKER

GEORGE A. BIELICH

LEON BRAND

SAMUEL BRODY

MYRON GOLDFINGER

S. ROBERT GREENSTEIN

JORDAN L. GRUZEN

NORMAN C. JAFFE

KURT KARMIN

WILLIAM F. PEDERSEN

SAMUEL RATENSKY

WILLIAM H. ROEHL

RICHARD ROTH, JR.

DEMETRIOS SIDERAKIS

HENRY D. WHITNEY

IRVING WEINER

## DIALOGUE WITH CITY HALL: A HOUSING PROGRAM FOR NEW YORK

January, 1966

The Honorable John V. Lindsay  
Mayor of the City of New York

Dear Mayor Lindsay:

The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects sees in your administration a magnificent promise for the enlightened design and bold planning of our city. During your campaign you issued "A Program for New York's Housing Crisis" and you graciously consented to speak to our profession, answering its specific questions on housing, planning and design. You have appointed an excellent Task Force to help develop such a program.

The task of our profession in these early days of your administration is to actively support and expand proposals we find vital to the goal of a great and beautiful environment. To this end, we transmit to you the report of our housing committee. Your aim and ours is to create a true rebirth of New York City.

Max O. Urbahn, *President*  
New York Chapter, AIA

**1** "We must stop considering housing as separate from the overall planning process. We must think no more in terms of housing projects, and begin to think once again, about neighborhoods; we must include within their borders, shops, markets, and recreational facilities geared to the specific needs and desires of the residents."—*Speech to A.I.A.*

In order to tighten the relationship between planning and housing we recommend the following steps be taken as soon as possible.

1. Reorganize the housing and planning agencies into a single New York Redevelopment Agency.
2. Insure that no new public housing projects or semi-public housing are built without vital related neighborhood facilities.
3. Redesign the landscaping and provide as many community facilities as possible in all existing public housing projects.
4. Encourage and assist the City Planning Commission, through financial appropriations and by the assignment of broad powers, to proceed with and complete the master plan it has begun.

**2** Direct the City Housing Authority to submit to the City Planning Commission within six months for approval a step-by-step program to create 50,000 new low rent apartments over the next four years by using air rights, vacant land and abandoned buildings.—*Position paper.*

We support your program for the creation of more low rent apartments; and urge revision of the Housing Authority Standards to improve design and reduce the cost per unit. We suggest the following steps to provide more and better low rent housing.

1. Renew efforts to pass State low-rent housing propositions which failed in November.
2. Adopt a policy of experiment in design. While maintaining the same densities a variety of interesting combinations are possible mixing high and low rise units or developing all low rise using greater land coverage.
3. Investigate the possibility of including in this program some single room occupancy dwellings for those areas where they are needed most.



**3 Enlist the aid of private enterprise in the creation of 50,000 low rent apartments, particularly for the elderly through the new rent supplement provisions of the Federal Housing and Urban Development Act.—Position paper.**

We support this program. Since it was written Congress has taken away funds for rent supplements. We urge your all out effort to obtain public and congressional support to get the rent-supplement program going.

**4 Boost middle income apartment construction to a rate of 15,000 annually in order to stop the flight of middle-income New Yorkers from the city.—Position paper.**

We support this proposal with particular enthusiasm for your promise to speed up processing of project applications. The dangers of this program were documented jointly by architects and engineers in a paper called "Potential Dangers in the Mitchell-Lama Program to Architects and Engineers". In addition to your personal supervision and the establishment of project coordinators we recommend the following:

1. Establish new goals which include sociological, technological, economic and aesthetic improvement.
2. Provide systematic review procedures, consistent design standards and reasonable decision making.
3. Clarify the roles of the "Builder-Sponsor" and the Architect's.
4. Create an AIA approved contract for architects and a system of payment during design and project development phase.
5. Increase architect's fees to at least match those provided by the Public Housing Administration.
6. Remove the arbitrary \$30 per room rent cost figure and create a flexible cost limit based on yearly inflation and number of units.

**5 Direct the Department of Relocation to make contact with every family about to be relocated and encourage the use of the new Rent Certificate Program to help provide decent housing for persons forced to move.—Position paper.**

We support the use of the Federal Housing Act and a new city rent supplement program. While recognizing the Department of Relocations' efforts, the insensitive displacement of families has been one of the biggest draw-backs to urban renewal, which must be remedied by the following:

1. Recognize that the rights of families to continue living in their present locations should be subordinate in urban renewal to more important planning considerations, such as long range land use objectives, without prejudice to the rights of cohesive communities which already contain the basic elements of physical livability and attractiveness not to be uprooted against their will.
2. When possible give first choice occupancy to persons previously residing in the area.
3. Improve methods of rehabilitation without moving persons out of apartments.

**6 Make proper enforcement strong and effective by creating a new Department of Housing Maintenance and equipping it with the power to wipe out slum landlords.—Position paper.**

We doubt that creating a new agency where an old one has failed will solve the problem. The Building Department operates with confusion, delay, indecision, and obstruction. We urge instead that the Building Department be completely overhauled and modernized and that housing maintenance be handled within the new structure. We applaud the efforts of the new Commissioner of Buildings, Charles G. Moerdler in revitalizing one of the most important arms of the city administration.



**7 Improve and rehabilitate slum areas, coordinating the Housing and Anti-Poverty Programs, accepting for the city the role of house-keeper to bring slum apartments up to standard until new building programs are completed.—Position paper.**

We support the use of local offices, expansion of the Emergency Repair Fund and revision of City Loan Program. Rehabilitation accomplished with city loans or by the Housing Authority has been pathetically low. We urge that the following action be taken.

1. Staff local offices in urban renewal areas with Building and Fire Department inspectors, rehabilitation advisors, and financial specialists who will give follow-thru aid to owners to rehabilitate their properties.
2. Give active publicity to a revised city loan program and plans for the neighborhood. Insure those rehabilitating that their building will not be torn down by future renewal programs.
3. Apply historical preservation laws where possible.
4. Use local contractors and labor for city sponsored rehabilitation. Develop training programs in conjunction with unions and anti-poverty groups for local youths.
5. Use quickly the new renewal program for repair under the 1965 Federal Housing and Urban Development Act.
6. Encourage private organizations to invest in large scale rehabilitation, such as that being done by U.S. Gypsum.
7. Attempt to revise rules which do not apply to New York in the FHA 221 d (3) rehabilitation loan program.

**8 Actively support the achievement of good design in New York by establishing a Design Experiment Laboratory and an Experimental Fund.—Position paper.**

**“I will do everything I can, as Mayor, to use the best talent for each and every project with which the city is concerned. I will insist on competitions in design. I will seek to rehabilitate the processes of site selection and design review so that a meaningful dialogue between the city and its architects is the result”.—Speech to A.I.A.**

The New York Chapter is prepared to cooperate, assist and support your efforts to bring greatness to New York. In addition to the design experiment laboratory, use of leading architects to advise the City Planning Commission on Urban Renewal, and greater freedom of design in its building programs we recommend:

1. Creation of a “Board of Design Review” (A.I.A. Resolution September 29, 1965) composed of the seven Architects and Planner members of the agencies listed as follows:
  1. Architect member of the City Planning Commission
  2. Planner member of the City Planning Commission
  3. Architect/Planner member of the Housing Redevelopment Board
  4. Architect member of the New York City Housing Authority
  5. Architect member of the Board of Education
  6. Architect member of the Board of Higher Education
  7. Architect Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Works.
 or a similar group within a new development agency structure.

Their function shall be as follows.

advise the Mayor on building projects  
 review designs and plans  
 coordinate activities of city agencies  
 assist in development of a master plan  
 review the fee structures and selection practices  
 generally develop studies and review all proposals affecting the appearance of the City.



2. In direct selection of Architects and use of competitions we urge an impartial use of a revised Mayor's list of Architects and use of both open and closed competition. We think it desirable to have a percentage of the architects for public building chosen by a committee of architects, and that the A.I.A. give approval for architects selected to hold public agency positions in the manner that the Bar Association approves lawyers for judgeships.

**9 Further the goal of an Open City by strengthening the role which the Deputy Commissioner plays in developing housing policies.—*Position paper.***

Our Chapter supports an Open City policy. We feel that total community planning, elimination of large economic blocks, mixed low-middle and high rent housing and provision for the inclusion of facilities for social, recreational and religious life will greatly aid this program.

**10 "I propose: exploration of waterfront properties; a pilot project in the Harlem River Valley to demonstrate what talent and imagination can do to transform a dreary wasteland into a Garden of Productivity. Nothing has been more dramatic than the plight of Staten Island, whose hills and valleys are being indiscriminately scarred by the most wasteful profiteering."—*Speech to A.I.A.***

We hope you will pursue the intelligent development of our waterfronts and undeveloped areas, particularly the following.

1. Proceed with crash program for developing a comprehensive plan for Staten Island as proposed by this Chapter and the Staten Island Chapter.
2. Implement lower Manhattan waterfront plan as recently proposed by the City Planning Commission.

---

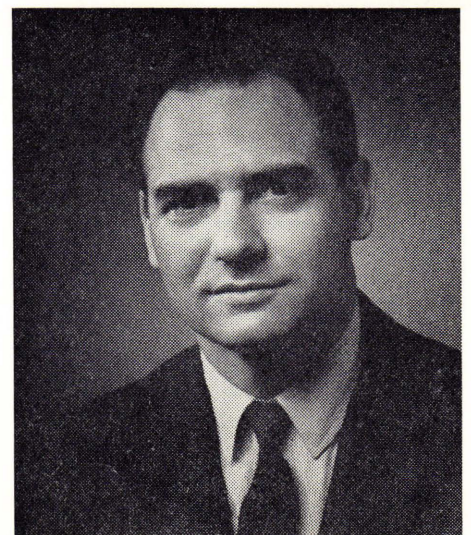
### PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORTS MOVE AHEAD

Beginning this month, the Chapter's public relations will be handled by Andrew Weil of Warren Weil Public Relations, 405 Park Avenue. His appointment was the result of the Executive Committee's keen interest in strengthening public/professional/city agency/government relationships.

Established in 1955, Mr. Weil's firm represents several well-known architectural and engineering firms as well as financial public relations and government relations assignments for corporate clients, and economic development for a foreign government.

Mr. Weil has been guest speaker on public relations for the profession at national conventions and seminars, at the Yale School of Architecture, and the New Jersey Society of Architects. Part of his program this year will be to institute and direct a series of seminars on public relations procedures for architectural offices.

Together with his associate Morton Stone, Mr. Weil will work closely with the Public Affairs Committee under Chairman Lathrop Douglas and with the Chapter's Executive Director.



ANDREW WEIL



## WILLETS POINT REVIEWED

In another letter to Mayor Lindsay over the signatures of Chapter President Max O. Urbahn and Committee Chairman Sumner Gruzen, the Chapter stated its position on the proposed Willets Point Park addition.

"The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, through its Urban Design Committee, has reviewed the proposals for the Willets Point addition to Flushing Meadow Park and concurs most emphatically with your views and those of Park Commissioner Hoving as stated at the City Planning Commission hearing of November 24, 1965.

"While recognizing the commendable purpose and praise-worthy motives of the City Planning Commission to eliminate a terrible scar from our cityscape and at the same time provide additional park facilities to a city in dire need of them, we wish to note the formal dissent of Commissioners Guggenheimer and Goldstone in the 1963 decision of the Commission.

"Our study of the area indicates that Willets Point is highly unsuitable for a park or recreation development: it is strangled by cords of concrete highways and parking lots, inaccessible and remote from residential areas; it indeed lacks any unique or distinguished physical feature. The one great potential—that of a wildlife sanctuary—has long since been eradicated. With little or no benefit to be derived from its use as a park, the area is more than aptly suited to the manufacturing activities which are economically beneficial to the City. "Therefore, the New York Chapter, The American Institute of Architects urges the discontinuance of park use of this parcel of land and its demapping as a park."

The letter was based on an extensive report prepared by the Urban Design Park Sub-Committee under its chairman Raphael H. Courland.

## SHADES OF A CIVIC CENTER

Ghosts of an uncertain past reappeared in the last week of December at a Site Selection Board hearing on the proposed location of the new Family Court building in New York's aging civic center. Opposed to the Court's location in the "Phase II" area which extends from Worth to Canal Streets, the New York Chapter urged that the action be tabled in order to allow the incoming Lindsay administration an opportunity to review and decide on a project which it would be charged to execute.

Speaking for the New York Chapter, Mr. Norval White, a member of the Chapter's governing Executive Committee, reminded the Board of the AIA recommendations developed two years ago and calling for:

- "1. The general expansion in scope of the Civic Center plan to relate it to contiguous areas of the City.
2. For study of the possibility of an open design competition for 'Phase II', north of Worth Street.
3. For the planning of this second phase in three dimensional terms before any further buildings were authorized, not merely the present casual indications that something to do with a civic center will exist in some form at some time on these northerly blocks."

"Because a civic center exists does not mean that *all* civic buildings are placed on it," Mr. White added, particularly when the major activities in those civic buildings "functionally relate to other particular areas of the city." Referring to the suggestions advanced in the course of a previous hearing that the Family Court building should be situated in Harlem where the bulk of its cases come from, Mr. White stated that the location, "whether in the civic center, in

Harlem or in another appropriate place, should not be decided at this time (Dec. 27) but only in relation to the intentions and personnel of the new administration. We therefore urge you to table this action," he concluded.

Voting in favor of the proposed location of the Court building in the Civic Center, City Planning Commission Chairman Ballard stated that the selection of the site was based on the recognition of the Family Court "as an integral and equal part of the reorganized judicial system, relating it in close physical proximity to the other three main components." Such a proximity would be advantageous and convenient, he declared, for the administrative staff and members of the legal profession and others involved with the courts, including their administrative staffs.

The bulk of Chairman Ballard's statement was however directed to the suggestion made at a prior hearing that the Court be located in Harlem, close to the majority of the people it serves as well as to upgrade the depressed area. Although in sympathy with this "much-to-be-desired end", Chairman Ballard stated the Court has city-wide as well as Manhattan-oriented administrative functions which are best located in the Civic Center. He suggested that some functions of the Court, such as probation services, reporting centers, could be decentralized into the communities they are to serve "where the privacy and dignity of the people can be protected."

Citing the "deplorable" and "grossly inadequate" quarters presently used by the Family Court, Chairman Ballard concluded that "rather than losing the further time that would be needed if a new Board were to take up this problem from the beginning. . . . I have urged that action be taken now."

### SEVERUD - PERRONE - FISCHER STURM - CONLIN - BANDEL

*Consulting Engineers*

Reports - Buildings - Airports  
Special Structures  
Structural Design - Supervision

### OLKO ENGINEERING

*Consultants - Designers*

Structural and Civil Engineering  
500 FIFTH AVE. NYC BR 9-2822



## THE RETURN OF THE SHADOW

During the last few years, the New York Chapter has tended to side with, if not wholeheartedly support, the determined resistance of organized Greenwich Village residents against intrusions which, in their eyes, would alter the fabric of this unique area of the city. Jealously protective of the status quo, the Villagers under the banner of pugnacious Local Planning Board No. 2, and through such able spokesmen as Jane Jacobs, Edward Koch, and Ruth Wittenberg, have reenacted time and again the legend of David and Goliath, fighting off the persistent efforts of the city to implement its renewal programs and other projects slated for the area. When Robert Moses tried to push his boulevard through Washington Square, and later, when Newbold Morris sought to transform the park into an ill-conceived and inert beaux-arts decoration, New York Chapter members such as Edgar Tafel, Robert C. Weinberg, Harold Edelman among others actively participated in the stubborn resistance, now a part of the living legend of Greenwich Village (OCULUS, November 1964).

This happy cooperation between the architectural community and that of the Village was not in evidence at a public hearing of the City Planning Commission last month when the New York Chapter AIA appeared before the Commission in support of NYU's efforts to build a library building on Washington Square's southeastern periphery and across from the Loeb Student center on West Broadway. The design of the 12-story building by Philip Johnson and Richard Foster is predicated upon a series of zoning changes and waivers, the first of which would be the demapping of West Broadway from its present 120-foot right-of-way to its original 75-foot width.

Speaking for the proposed change, the New York Chapter contended that the demapping was "an appropriate removal of a misguided change" in a package of events that had included the proposed extension of Fifth Avenue through Washington Square, where, widened to

120 feet, West Broadway would continue as Fifth Avenue South. "When the commendable move was made, with our support, to remove traffic completely from Washington Square," Chapter Executive Director Thomsen stated, "West Broadway should have automatically reverted to its original dimension."

In supporting the narrowing of West Broadway, the Chapter emphasized that it was not supporting or passing on the architectural merits of the proposed library but more pertinently recognized the urban design merit of containing the open park space "in the manner of great English and French squares with the maintenance of cornice heights existing on the east and west park façades." This would be possible only with the original 75-foot-street dimension: "In New York, where buildings are generally built without regard for one another and the qualities of good urban design are seldom seen, we have a chance for a sophisticated example of quality."

More in self-righteousness than deep conviction and emboldened perhaps by past successes, Greenwich Villagers have been seeking to block the project of the new Goliath symbolized now by NYU's president, James Hester. Ironically, if not inconsistently, they sought at the Planning Commission hearing to retain the vestige of Mr. Moses' effort to create a thoroughfare through Washington Square. The library, it was contended, would block the view of the apartment complex south of the park, while casting an ugly shadow across it.

## MEMBERSHIP

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

#### Corporate

John M. Bailey, Jr.  
Donald Colombo  
Michael B. Gordon  
Ernest F. Hoeldtke  
J. Karl Justin  
Mildred F. Schmertz  
Charles W. Stanton  
Bernard Prainito

Allen E. Thaler  
Reginald H. Cude  
Albert P. Hinckley, Jr.  
Sanuder Shaevitz  
Arthur McNamara  
Arthur Silver  
Arthur Lutzker

#### CANDIDATES

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

#### Corporate

Harry Bates  
John Tudor Roberts  
Joseph Lowy  
Frithjof Olsen  
King Chin

John Edward Crocco  
Joseph Kleiman  
Richard P. Rosenthal  
Norman Rosenfeld

#### Associate

Sami G. Khoury

## JOB OPENINGS FOR ARCHITECTS:

DESIGNERS/PROJECT ARCHITECTS/  
JOB CAPTAINS/DRAFTSMEN/  
PLAN DESK CLERKS

**MANY FEE NEGOTIABLE,  
SOME FEE PAID**

All jobs in leading architectural  
and design offices in NYC

**RUTH HIRSCH PL 2-7640**

**CAREER BUILDERS AGENCY**

515 Madison Avenue

## 1966 BARD AWARD PROGRAM

The fourth annual Bard Awards Program for Excellence in Architecture and Urban Design, co-sponsored by the J. M. Kaplan Fund Inc., and the Bard Award Trust Fund of The City Club of New York, has been announced.

This year's subject will be privately-sponsored buildings of all classifications completed since January 1, 1964, within the five bor-

oughs of New York City. Entries may be submitted by the owners, architects, or admirers, and must be received at the City Club of New York, 6 West 48th Street, before February 18. They will be judged on February 28 by Chapter members Ulrich Franzen, John MacL. Johansen, Albert Mayer, Paul M. Rudolph, and representatives of the sponsors.





## HOUSE PARTY

A house on East 36th Street, number 131 to be exact, was all aglow with lights and gay with 82 members of the WAA and their guests on the evening of December 14th. Eleanor Allwork was in charge of arrangements for the occasion in honor of Isabella Ketchum, a founder member and AIA's first lady. Most successfully, the scholarship fund benefited to the tune of \$216.-72, all bills paid.

Great interest was shown in the historic premises bought in the early part of the century by William Adams Delano and remodelled in accordance with his love of Paris. The house remains little changed today, from the boulevard numbers outside to the sweeping circular staircase, the sculptured marble mantles, and the tall, tall ceilings; it speaks eloquently of a way of life. One disappointing note—no one could be found to play the magnificent grand piano set up end-to-end. (Musical members, come forward! It isn't too soon to line up talent for our convention time.)

The party was kept moving by by dashing, red-suspended bartenders—the Messrs. Ketchum, Allwork, Bartos, Jacobs, Lawford, Schwartzman, Thorson, Urbahn, and Wilson—who were in their glory.

An amusing interlude was a building competition in dominoes. About 15 architects participated with startling results. The award was unanimously given to Francis Keally for his collapsable house, by Hildegard Sleeper and her ad hoc committee consisting of Jean Davern, Margot Henkel, Douglas Haskell and Morris Ketchum.

The WAA is much indebted to Minor Bishop for making all this possible and to Alexander McIlvaine, the present owner, with whom he is associated. The property was inherited from Mr. Delano, and mementos have been preserved. The antique desk in their office would be a source of pride to any architect.

*Hildegard Sleeper*

## ARCHITECTURAL SCHOLARSHIPS

It will be a proud moment for the members of the Women's Architectural Auxiliary of the American Institute of Architects on Thursday, Feb. 24th (at the Anniversary Dance aboard the M.S. Europa) when \$8,000 is presented to the Deans of Architecture of Columbia, Pratt Institute, Cooper Union, and New York City College. This money, which has been raised by the WAA, is a result of their efforts in planning the Doric Cotillion and tour of Newport, R. I., the tour of Lincoln Center, and the pleasant cocktail party given by the members at historic Delano House

in New York City, with husbands serving as bartenders. The money goes directly for architectural scholarships.

The occasion will be the Anniversary Dance, aboard the M.S. Europa, and sponsored by the American Institute of Architects, with special table or more planned for WAA members and their husbands. The ship will be M.S. Europa and the price (\$22.50 per person) includes cocktails, a seven course meal, and dancing. You will be notified soon — it sounds like fun . . . let's all go!

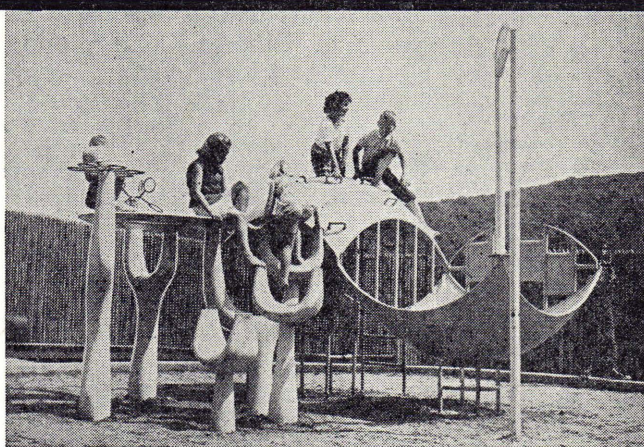
*Elizabeth S. Thompson*

## COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 14	Workshop Meetings on Proposed New York City Building Code Dining Room, Monday, 4:00-6:00 P.M.
FEBRUARY 15	Hospitals & Health Seminar Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:15 P.M.
FEBRUARY 18	Workshop Meetings on Proposed New York City Building Code Dining Room, Friday, 4:00-6:00 P.M.
FEBRUARY 24	Anniversary Dinner Dance Steamship M/S Europa, Thursday, 6:25 P.M.
MARCH 9	Technical Committee Lecture National Design Center, 415 E. 53rd Street Wednesday, 5:30 P.M.
MARCH 22	Technical Committee Lecture Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:30 P.M.
APRIL 19	Hospitals & Health Seminar Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:15 P.M.
APRIL 26	Technical Committee Lecture Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:30 P.M.
MAY 11	AIA Pre-Convention Luncheon Dining Room, Wednesday, 12:30 P.M.
MAY 24	Technical Committee Lecture Dining Room, Tuesday, 12:30 P.M.
MAY 25	Membership Cocktail Party Dining Room, Wednesday, 5:00-8:00 P.M.
JUNE 1	Annual Luncheon Dining Room, Wednesday, 12:30 P.M.
JUNE 26 - JULY 1	AIA Convention Denver-Hilton Hotel



**SAFE  
SPACE SAVING  
SELF  
INSTRUCTIVE  
PLAYGROUNDS**



Imaginative playscapes provide safe, stimulating fun for children from 18 months to 13 years. No supervision necessary. The children move, the equipment does not! Write for catalog.

**PCA**  
PLAYGROUND CORP. OF AMERICA

Exclusive Agents New York City  
**furniture associates**  
division of lighting associates, inc.  
351 east 61st street, new york 21/pl 1-0575