

# OCULUS



NEW YORK CHAPTER/THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

NOVEMBER, 1966

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Mrs. P. Whitney Webb left; Commissioner Thomas P. Hoving center; Mrs. Max O. Urbahn right.

## HOVING SPEAKS AT WAA

The semi-annual Meeting and Luncheon of the WAA was held on Wednesday, October 5th, at the Yale Club. The guest of honor and speaker was Thomas P. Hoving, Commissioner of the Department of Parks of the City of New York. Mr. Hoving was in excellent form with his witty remarks concerning beauty and architecture in New York City. He stressed the importance of open competitions, and stated that it was only in this way that the city could progress to better architecture, better parks, and general beautification.

There will be a series of informal lectures that include: "Travel" with Mrs. Ann B. Arnold, Director of the Vacation House Exchange, Inc. on December 6; a talk on Interior Design on January 10th; and Landscape Architecture on February 7th. Mrs. Ladislav L. Rado is in charge of the series.

## SAVE OR DESTROY!

Amidst the clash of the wreckers' ball, the shattering tear of the jackhammer and the rubbing effect of the bulldozer, New York City's legislative element enacted the Landmarks Preservation Law on April 19, 1965. The law's purpose is clear: To protect those architectural entities, sites and districts which create the charm, character, and appearance of New York City. Under the present directive, the City established a Landmarks Preservation Commission composed of a professional staff of architects, city planners, and realtors who cooperate with the owners of its landmarks in preserving

*continued on page 4*

## MAX O. URBahn NOMINATED FOR REGIONAL DIRECTOR — AIA

The American Institute of Architects divides the nation into 17 geographic regions, each region is headed by a Regional Director. The Institute By-Laws state specifically that one region shall comprise the territory of the State of New York. A new regional director will be elected this year to begin his three year term of office. Ballots will be mailed to all members on about November 15, 1966. *Oculus* is pleased to publish the following letter:

**TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE NEW YORK  
CHAPTER AIA:**

*Through the years, the New York Region of the American Institute of Architects has been represented by a long and distinguished list of able directors including Donald Q. Faragher, FAIA, whose term expires in May, 1967. It is vitally important to every member of the New York Region, A.I.A., including the membership of our own Chapter, that his successor have great ability and distinction as qualifications to fill this office.*

*Along with Bronx, Central New York, Puerto Rico and Staten Island Chapters, our Chapter has nominated Max O. Urbahn, FAIA, for Director of the New York Region for 1967-1970.*

*This action, in which we take great pride, was motivated by the deep conviction that Mr. Urbahn has every qualification for this office, which is so vitally important to all of the architects of this State.*

*Max Urbahn, throughout his years of A.I.A. service at Chapter and Institute level, has demonstrated a remarkable ability to reason effectively and graciously with government leaders, businessmen, and his fellow architects. He combines this gift with dedication to the profession and a willingness to devote time and personal resources to these endeavors. The reforms he has championed have invariably been for the benefit of the entire profession.*

*These abilities would be invaluable to the architectural profession, both at Albany, with the State Government, and at Washington on our National Board of Directors. We urge that you vote for Max O. Urbahn for Director of the New York Region, AIA.*

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,  
NEW YORK CHAPTER, A.I.A.**

NEW YORK CHAPTER, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
115 East 40th Street, New York, N. Y. 10016 — 212 - MU 9-7969

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## ARCHITECTS' BOOK-LIFT

The People-to-People Programs under the Honorary Chairmanship of President Lyndon B. Johnson and of Chairman of the Board of Trustees, former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, initiated in 1958 a committee of Engineers and Scientists to study the possibility of sending journals of American engineering societies to students, professors, and engineers of underdeveloped countries. Since that time, many major United States corporations (Sperry Gyroscope Company, duPont Company, Westinghouse Corporation, and Pratt and Whitney among others) and engineering societies and organizations have sent material.

The Engineers and Scientists Committee has requested material on architectural subjects from the NYCAIA. All members are urged to send back issues of architectural journals; technical manuals from the various allied organizations and research institutes such as the American Iron and Steel Institute, Construction Specifications Institute, Producers Council, American Institute of Steel Construction, Prestressed Concrete Institute, and others; copies of reports made by major manufacturers of architectural building products, including manufacturers' data. The *Oculus* believes that architects, the architectural press, and architectural organizations would be making a substantial contribution toward international good-will by sending such architectural printed material to this program. Send material to Educational Matter, 1335 Jericho Turnpike, New Hyde Park, Long Island, New York.

## BRUNNER AWARD \$6000

NYCAIA has announced that applications for the annual competition for the \$6000 Brunner Scholarship grant may be obtained at the Chapter's headquarters until January First. Lawrence Litchfield, AIA, Chairman of the Brunner Scholarship Committee said that the 1967 award calls for proposals to be submitted by January 15. Announcement of the awards will be made on Thursday, June First.

## NYSAA ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 66-67: RAISES DUES AT ANNUAL MEETING

New president of the 2700 member New York State Association of Architects is Fay A. Evans, Jr. who succeeds Millard F. Whiteside. Mr. Evans, a partner in the firm of Evans & Davis, was elected at the annual meeting of the Association held at Whiteface Inn on Lake Placid in October. Also elected were Roger G. Spross, who is associated with the New York City architectural firm of Smith, Haines, Lundberg & Waehler as first vice-president and president-designate; Seymour A. Goldstone who is partner in Goldstone & Goldstone as second vice-president; Darrel D. Rippe-tau, senior partner in the Syracuse firm of Sargent, Webster, Crenshaw & Foley; Guy H. Baldwin of the Buffalo firm of Lyman, Duane & Associates as secretary; and New York City architect H. I. Feldman as treasurer.

There were approximately 89 delegates represented, many with their wives. Eighteen of the delegates from NYCAIA attended the business session held on Saturday morning where resolutions were voted on. NYCAIA submitted a resolution calling for study into the practicability of licensing general contractors in the state. NYSAA is to continue its program of evaluating its function and of how best to serve its membership. The New York Chapter delegation initially voted against the proposed raise in dues for corporate members. Discussion revealed that NYSAA required additional funds for administration and that their major efforts could be curtailed if the dues were not raised. The NYSAIA delegation altered its vote, and the motion was passed unanimously.

## SPECULATIVE DESIGN QUERY

An inquiry about the propriety of giving speculative design services received by the Chapter Office last Spring has resulted in referral to the Office Practice Committee of the Chapter. Mr. William Scheick, Executive Director of the national AIA, was asked by that Committee for an interpretation of AIA Standards.

A letter from Mr. Scheick confirmed the position of the The Chapter's Office Practice Committee (Chairman, Charles K. Hirzel). Mr. Scheick wrote as follows: "The authors of the revision to the Standards were fully aware of the fact that the time has come when many architectural projects are undertaken on an entrepreneurial basis, or otherwise, requiring a number of architectural drawings and related services which are necessary to develop financing for the project. . . . The architect must have an understanding in writing with his client that he will be the architect for the job if it goes ahead. This eliminates the possibility of 'free sketches' by several architects competing for a commission, a practice which remains unethical."

## "DON'T SHOOT TILL YOU SEE THE WHITES OF THEIR EYES"

During the week of September 20, a group of 90 indefatigable British architects, members of the A.A. (Architectural Association of London) descended on New York.

The visitors' committee arranged and guided them through a heavy schedule of visits and receptions.

The enthusiastic Britons walked, ran, swam (remember Wednesday, September 21) through tours which included: Lincoln Center, the Bible Society, the International Institute of Education, the United Nations Plaza Apartments, the Seagrams Building, the C.B.S. Building, the Chase Manhattan Building, the Maritime Union, the N.Y.U. Apartments, the Whitney Museum, and a walking tour by Henry Hope Reed, Jr.

The visit terminated with a delightful day in Connecticut: First to New Haven; then to a remarkable house by John Johansen, in Southport; and the pièce de resistance, a visit at dusk to Philip Johnson's New Canaan house and Art Gallery, with the fountains playing. This was followed by a cocktail party given by Messrs. Johansen and Johnson.

The British demonstrated their appreciation by inviting their hosts to a reception at the English Speaking Union at which the N. Y. Chapter was presented with an inscribed copy of "London Perceived."

The Architectural Association looks forward to greeting N. Y. Chapter members visiting London.

WILLIAM SHOPSIN, *Chairman*  
VISITORS COMMITTEE

## SATURDAY SEMINARS FOR AMBITIOUS ARCHITECTS

Bolt Beranek and Newman Inc. are offering a series of five one-day Saturday seminars in technology. Lectures include *Acoustics* by Robert B. Newman who is Vice President of Bolt Beranek and Newman Inc. and Associate Professor of Architecture at Massachusetts Institute of Technology; *Mechanical Systems* by Jack B. Chaddock who is Chairman of the Mechanical Engineering Department of Duke University and Everett P. Palmater, Consulting Engineer from Syracuse, New York; *Lighting* by William M. C. Lam, Consultant in Cambridge, Massachusetts; *Structures* by Neal B. Mitchell, Jr. who is a professor in the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University; and *Computers* by Richard H. Bolt who is Director of the Information Technology Division at BBN and Theodore H. Myer who is a Consultant for BBN. Seminars will be held at the New York office of BBN located at 101 Park Avenue on the Saturdays of November 19, December 17, January 21, February 18, and March 18. Enrollment is limited to 40. For further information contact William J. Cavanaugh, Course Director or John B. Bennett, Administrative Director, both of Bolt Beranek and Newman Inc., 50 Moulton Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The NYCAIA extends its warmest welcome to the following new members:

### Corporate

Richard B. Dempsey  
John M. Garber  
James G. McCulloh

## CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

### Corporate

Martha Worth Carder  
Wing Chung Chin  
Frederick Chomowicz  
Earl B. Combs  
Stan Crawford  
Leslie J. Cronk  
Irving Earl Drescher  
Benjamin Gaudy  
Richard Seth Hayden  
Eugene H. Killway  
Georges Knafo  
Henri A. LeGendre

Arthur Frederick Lowy  
Michael Lynn  
William Robert Sachs  
George Harvey Thiele  
Jeffrey Joel Wittenstein  
Walter B. Zborowski

### Professional Associate

Raymond C. Vondrak

### Associate

Richard Henri Lentze  
Saul Silverman  
Richard A. Swartz

## NYCAIA COMING EVENTS

### NOVEMBER

■ Hospital Field Trip will be taken to Greenwich Hospital in Greenwich, Connecticut on Saturday, November 19 at 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Skidmore, Owings & Merrill who designed the hospital will give a tour. Telephone your reservations to the NYCAIA office at MU 9-7969.

■ Technical Lecture will be conducted by Reino Aarnio, Chairman of the Technical Committee, on the subject entitled "What Makes Finnish Architecture Tick?" The lecture will be held in the Architectural League dining room on Tuesday, November 15 at 5:15 p.m.

■ School Committee will present the first in a series of slide presentations on the two award winning schools: I.S. 201 and P.S. 45. The showing will take place at the Architectural League dining room Tuesday, November 22 at 5:15 p.m.

## 1967 NAIE FELLOWSHIPS AT \$11,250

The National Institute for Architectural Education announces five fellowships totalling \$11,250 in prize money. These include: the Lloyd Warren Fellowship, 54th Paris prize; \$5000 for study and travel abroad; the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company Special Competition for "A Nursing Home"; First prize at \$1200, second prize at \$750, and third prize at \$500 and two prizes of \$100 each to six regions. Thesis Award: \$2500 Paris Prize Traveling Fellowship for six months travel for a thesis executed in the current school year for a Master or Baccalaureate Degree in Architecture. Also the Architectural Record Prize: \$100 to the best written work submitted with a thesis (as noted above) or for a thesis executed in the current school year. For further information and details write the N.A.I.E. at 115 East 40th Street, New York, N. Y. 10016.

their authentic character. The executive members of the Commission consist of Alan Burnham, Executive Director; Geoffrey Platt, Chairman; and Stanley B. Tankel, Vice Chairman.

The Commission does not concern itself with transactions in which landmark buildings are subject to sale among private owner and purchaser. If a purchaser does not want to preserve his acquired landmark, the new law requires a period of less than one year in which the Commission and interested citizens can seek means to save it. If no alternatives are found during this period, the former owner or the new purchaser can dispose of the building in any manner he desires.

By law, the Commission is not permitted to impose on owners any activity whether in construction, maintenance, or repair, except for that part of the building that is visible from the public street. There is no control over the interior or maintenance of a building other than that already required by the Buildings Department. When renovation of a landmark is contemplated, the Commission will review building plans in order to ascertain whether there is any alteration to the exterior. If so, the Commission will insure that the character of exterior is maintained. Owners of landmarks must submit information to the Commission at the same time that they file their plans with the Building Department. It should be noted that the Buildings Department will not issue a Building Permit without having received a "Certificate of Appropriateness" from the Commission.

Concerning the designation of City landmarks, Michael W. Gold, Executive Assistant to Alan Burnham, stated that "less than two months remain in which New York City landmarks can be officially designated." Furthermore, he said that "designation is continuing process; however, in order for selected landmarks to become officially designated, public hearings must be held on all proposed buildings." On January 1, 1967, public hearings will cease. A three year moratorium will commence before hearings resume and, more importantly, before landmarks can be designated officially. The Commission is now accepting recommendations for landmarks. It has scheduled a full series of public hearings until January.

During the forthcoming moratorium, the Commission will continue to investigate suggested landmarks and historic districts so as to establish a calendar for the resumption of public hearings.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission will be working in close coordination with the Housing and Redevelopment Board in the development of urban renewal areas. This newly instituted policy by Commissioner Nathan of the HRB will permit the Landmarks Commission to work on urban renewal areas in terms of the planning type and extent of rehabilitation necessary, and the establishment of historical standards. In addition, discussion groups will highlight the history and significant events associated with architectural landmarks and districts in New York City.

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