

OCULUS



NEW YORK CHAPTER / THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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INSTITUTE FUND DRIVE

To quote President Nes in his letter of October 1 to all members of the Institute, "... We seldom have the opportunity to make a contribution to our profession that is both substantial and lasting." He was referring, of course, to the current Octagon Headquarters Campaign Fund.

One of the most important aspects of this campaign is to assure the restoration of the Octagon House. The Octagon could be restored and used as an exhibit area, a meeting place for special functions, as well as an historical landmark. The Institute endeavors to raise \$900,000 of which \$300,000 is designated for restoration of the Octagon.

The New York Chapter has organized a special committee to assist the Institute in this fund-raising program. Among its members are I. M. Pei, who was one of the finalists in the competition for the new headquarters building; Arthur Holden, who has for years been concerned with the preservation of the Octagon and its garden; Philip Johnson, who has expressed a keen interest in both the restoration part of the fund drive and the challenge created by juxtaposing the Octagon with a new structure befitting the profession. Also serving on the Committee are Chapter President Max Urbahn, President-elect William Tabler, Executive Committee members Richard Roth, Sr., William Wilson, and Lewis Davis, as well as Brother Cajetan J. B. Baumann, Earl Lundin, Norval White, and David F. M. Todd who is serving as Institute representative for the New York Region.

Pledge cards have been distributed by the Committee members to those in the New York Chapter. The Institute was able to arrange this fund-raising campaign so that contributions are tax deductible and can be spread over a three year period.

The Committee members and those who have always followed events at the Octagon, are gratified that the Institute is retaining the firm of Mitchell & Giurgola, winners of the competition, to design a new building on adjacent property. The competition proved the absolute need to acquire additional land. Those at the Denver Convention gave the Institute's Board a clear mandate to acquire adjacent property and to proceed with the fund-raising campaign.



SAMUEL RATENSKY: MEDAL OF HONOR

On Wednesday, November 9, the Medal of Honor for City Planning was bestowed upon Samuel Ratensky at a dinner ceremony in the Tavern-on-the-Green. The Medal is sponsored jointly by the Metropolitan Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the NYCAIA, the New York Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and the Brooklyn Chapter of the AIA. Among the notables were the Master of Ceremonies Max O. Urbahn, President of the NYCAIA; Brother C. Austin Barry, President of the Metropolitan Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers; Mr. Bradford Greene, President of the New York Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects; Mr. Donald Weston, President of the Brooklyn Chapter, AIA; the Honorable Abucar Omar Scego, Governor of the Region of Mitiurtinia of the Somali Republic; Mr. William B. Tabler, First Vice-President and President-Elect of the NYCAIA; Mr. William F. R. Ballard, outgoing Chairman, City of New York Planning Commission; Mr. Jason R. Nathan, Chairman of the HRB; and Mr. Morris Ketchum, Jr., Past President of the Institute.

The following quotes are taken from Mr. Ratensky's acceptance speech.

"About forty years ago, as a young boy, I fell in love with the City of New York and I have had a great love affair with the City ever since. About twenty years ago, the affair was solemnized by a marriage—I suppose you would call

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REVISED NYCAIA ORGANIZATION

The insert in this issue of OCULUS contains a list of all current Chapter committees and their membership as well as a composite chart illustrating the basic organization of the Chapter and the commission-committee structure recently adopted by the Executive Committee.

Last year, the Chapter Organization Study Committee (Chairman—P. Whitney Webb) analyzed in detail the individual and collective roles of members of the Executive Committee. The Committee's final report emphasized that the duties of the President's office were so excessive that they had become time-consuming; an honor to which few practicing architects could devote adequate attention. The Organization Committee therefore recommended that the Executive Committee (four officers and six directors who serve as Commission Chairmen) be enlarged to include a First Vice-President and President Elect and another Vice-President. Furthermore, it recommended that the six directors of the Executive Committee who serve as chairmen of commissions be elected to the specific position they wish to hold. These recommendations were ratified by the membership at a meeting last April and implemented in the Annual Chapter election in June.

An important and integral element of the new commission-committee structure will be the assistant chairman to be appointed for each of the six commissions. It is expected that these assistant chairmen will increase the present liaison among the commissions and their respective committees, and, by working with the chairmen of the commissions and committees, will be responsible for developing recommendations regarding the following: creation, consolidation or elimination of committees; assignment of committees to commissions; designation of a committee's activities; and a comprehensive program for the commission-committee structure leading towards realization of whatever goals are established for the Chapter.

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BOY SCOUTS SCOUT ARCHITECTS

On Thursday, February 2, 1967, the 10th Annual Construction Lunch-O-Ree will be held at the Grand Ballroom of the Americana in order to raise funds for the Greater New York Councils of the Boy Scouts of America. Many members of the construction industry, engineers, and architects will all join in the good fun for a good purpose. Outstanding members of the entertainment world will help stimulate those attending. Among members of the NYCAIA who serve on the advisory committee are Robert W. Cutler, Robert A. Jacobs, Max O. Urbahn, Fred Voss, Roger Spross, Julian Roth, and Richard F. Eggers. Tickets are \$35.00 and tables \$350.00. Chairman of the Lunch-O-Ree is NYCAIA member Eugene E. Hult, Executive Director, Office of School Buildings, Board of Education, City of New York. Please contact anyone of the above, including your Editor, for information regarding tickets or contact Mr. G. Jay Heim, Assistant Director of Finance, Boy Scouts of America, 25 West 43rd Street, New York, N. Y. 10036.

NYCAIA MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Morris Ketchum, Jr., FAIA immediate Past President of the Institute received one of the highest cultural honors from the French Government—Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters. Mr. Ketchum received this singular honor for international leadership in the field of architecture, and is the first American architect to be so honored.

Warner, Burns, Toan & Lunde have received the Annual Award from the Concrete Industry Board for their Library-Footbridge-Dormitories at Hofstra University. Of the 35 entries, five received Awards of Merit from the Board's nine man jury under the chairmanship of Architect William M. Barnum. Four of these awards went to NYCAIA members: Macy's in Elmhurst, Queens designed by *S.O.M.*; NYU Village Towers at West Broadway and West Houston Streets in Manhattan designed by *I. M. Pei & Associates*; American Bible Society at Broadway and 61st Street in Manhattan designed by *S.O.M.*; and Metropolitan Opera House of Lincoln Center designed by *Harrison & Abramovitz*.

Architect *Caleb Hornbostel*, Dean *Esmond Shaw* of Cooper Union and author and lecturer *Mrs. Sibyl Moholy-Nagy*, presented three awards at the exhibition of works by NYSAA members now on display at the U.S. Plywood Exhibition Hall at 777 Third Avenue, N.Y.C. Awards went to Vollmer Associates, Architects, Robert L. Rotner, Partner in Charge for the Saratoga Performing Art Center, Saratoga, N.Y.; Architect Basil Yurchenco for the Central Nassau Medical Group, Hempstead, N.Y.; and Horace Ginsbern & Associates/Architects and Millman & Sturgis Associate Architects for the South Main and South Water Project, Providence, R.I.

Richard E. Zegler (NYCAIA member) of the Bronxville firm of Switzer & Zegler had his name omitted in an *New York Times* item showing his new library at Hastings-on-Hudson.

ROCKLAND COUNTY ARCHITECTS ROCK

At a recent meeting between Executive Director H. Dickson McKenna and Rockland County Society Officers Thomas Lehrecke, Marvin Flam and Seymour Gurlitz, the status of the Rockland unit as a Section of the New York Chapter was confirmed. The Section's by-laws and its relation to the parent chapter are presently being formulated.

Rockland County is one of the smallest upstate counties in New York. Triangular in shape, its boundaries are strongly defined by the Hudson River, the northern boundary of New Jersey and the Ramapo Mountains.

Its meteoric post-war growth is best reflected in the maturation of the Rockland County Society of Architects, recently voted defunct by its members and now emerging as a Section of the NYCAIA. In 1950, meetings of the Society would occur at members' homes, consisting of three to five men. As the numbers increased, membership being open to registered architects residing in the County, Society meetings graduated to dinner meetings attracting 10 to 15 members. During this period, County population increased from 90,000 to 180,000. During the past decade, a substantial percentage of those members active in the Society were also members of the NYCAIA.

COMPUTER COURSES

Education Committee of the New York Chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers is presenting two courses and seminars on computer technology. The two courses are An Introduction to Computer Technology and FORTRAN Programming. Each course will consist of 12 weekly lectures of two hours each given between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. Dr. Frank R. Berman, P.E., Computer Consultant of New York will conduct these courses. Fee is \$25. The first course will commence on succeeding Mondays starting January 9, 1967; the latter course will commence on succeeding Wednesdays starting January 11, 1967. There will be four evening seminars held from 6:00 to 9:30 (includes buffet dinner). Seminar I: Thursday, January 24. This will be a background lecture on computers. Seminar II: Thursday, February 23. This lecture will concern itself with present applications of computers. Seminar III: Thursday, March 23 will deal with the immediate future use of computers based upon trends and developments in the field. Seminar IV: Wednesday, April 19. This final lecture will discuss the impact of the computer upon the technical fields, the relationship of computer technology to the engineer, architect, technical education, etc. The question of the use of outside computer installations, ownership or rental, time-sharing, and other methods of computer use will be discussed. Fee is \$30.00. All seminars and courses will be held in the Carnegie Building, 345 East 46th Street, New York City. For further information call Dr. Frank R. Berman, Chairman, Education Committee, NYSSPE, 212 - YU 6-2515 or 516 - 421-3985 or write to Dr. Berman at Pan Am Building, Suite 303E, 200 Park Ave., N. Y. 10017.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Corporate

S. John Andruzzi
Herbert C. Auerbach
Clemens J. Benvenga
Blythe S. Brewster
Warren W. Calwil

Ira A. Goldfarb
Fortuno F. Jerace
Theodore J. Musho
Walfredo Toscanini
Weston F. Weidner

Associate

Saul Heifetz
David B. Shoesmith

CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

Corporate

Theodore Vincent Hinz
Robert Fifield Jackson
Louis Lionni
William A. Plyer

Associate

John Dale Hinkson
Leslie G. Szak
Martin Allen Zelnik

NYCAIA COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

■ Special Chapter Meeting concerning the assessment for the 1967 Convention will be held at Chapter Headquarters on Monday, December 12 at 5:30.

JANUARY

■ Nominating Committee will be chosen at a general NYCAIA meeting at Chapter Headquarters on Tuesday, January 24 at 12:30.

■ Hospital Seminar will take place at Chapter Headquarters on Tuesday, January 24 at 5:15.

■ Technical Lecture by Joseph H. Solomon, AIA, Associate in the firm of Emery Roth & Sons on the World Trade Center will be held at Chapter Headquarters on Tuesday, January 31 at 5:15.

SELECT ARCHITECTS' SEC'S

Architectural Secretaries Association offers secretaries of NYCAIA members the opportunity to broaden their knowledge of architecture and to improve their business skills. The ASA hopes to establish specialized training courses in secretarial schools similar to those taught as medical or legal secretaries. Furthermore, the ASA plans to organize an architectural secretaries' employment clearing house. The ASA holds its annual meeting during the AIA Convention and has Institute endorsement. All those NYCAIA members who wish their secretaries to take part in this endeavor, please contact Miss Salli Olowecki, Secretary to Edward L. Barnes, 410 East 62nd Street, New York, N. Y.

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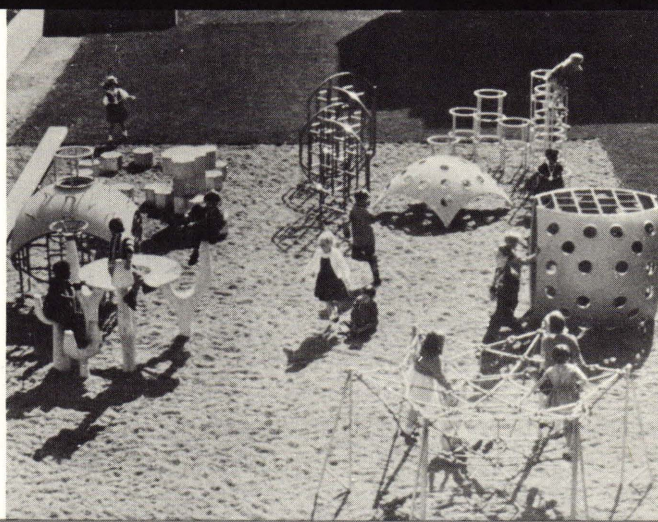
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ORGANIZATION — continued from page 2

The Executive Committee will encourage each appointive standing committee, working strictly within the commission-committee structure, to operate by using a committee "task force." This is expected to reduce the work load of committee members and to promote increased participation by individual members in Chapter activities. Chairmen will continue to staff their committees from the survey list of those who have indicated interest; those on the list who are not appointed will then constitute a voluntary task force for that committee. At the discretion of the chairman or as directed by the Executive Committee, any committee's activities can be expanded by requesting help from the task force. Depending on the activity, committee members could then serve as chairmen of ad hoc subcommittees comprised of task force members. A committee task force need not be static in number in that members of one can transfer to another if and when help is needed, an operation that will provide an opportunity for individuals to acquire experience in various Chapter activities towards subsequent appointment to committees.

The scope and diversity of the Chapter's operations and activities exceeds even that indicated by the chart since lack of space would not permit listing the numerous allied organizations with which the Chapter collaborates. Such collaboration is maintained through a variety of liaison arrangements with city and state organizations, local sectors of national organizations representing diverse components of the construction industry as well as construction departments of various city government agencies.

RATENSKY — continued from page 1

it a civil service . . . Social planning, we have learned the hard way, is an indispensable collaborator of physical planning, but is *not* a panacea, and the perfectability of man may well remain an abstract ideal . . . There is a new emphasis on preserving the valuable remnants of our physical heritage before they are all swept away. This, too, is a mark of maturity in the life of our City. Surely, we have buildings that should be preserved; yet, in preserving them, let us be true to the main thrust of the City's growth, which has never feared to discard what was no longer viable in an evolving pattern. Let's preserve them in a manner and in a context, and with a commitment, which will preserve their beauty, if they are beautiful, and make their lesson meaningful, if they are a part of our history . . . Part of the City's genius is that it has always been able to take in the people who replace the 'middle class,' giving them the footholds and the handholds and the opportunities to become, themselves, the 'saving middle class' of their day and time . . . I do not hold out the prospect of a slumless city, but only because we are continually raising our sights. Even in our lifetime we have seen the obliteration of vast areas of slums. That we are not wholly satisfied—and I am not—with the quality of their transformation, nor with the rate of their replacement, is a mark of our ever-expanding expectations as well as of the growing sophistication of our understanding of urban problems. We are, in fact, never going to have a slumless city because we shall never cease to be dissatisfied with the least of what we have, never cease to call them slum."