

# OCULUS



NEW YORK CHAPTER/THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

JANUARY, 1967

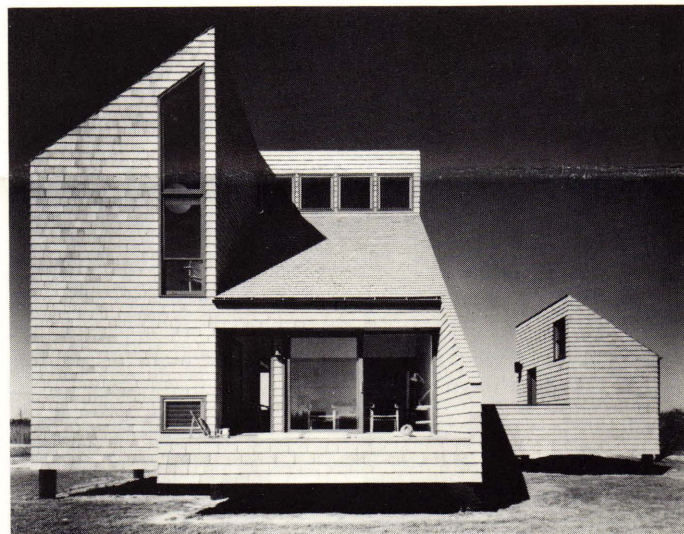
VOLUME 40, NUMBER 5

## HOPE FOR HOSPITALS

Against a background of almost daily newspaper headlines, the Hospital & Health Committee sat down on December 1st to a discussion with Health Services' Administrator Dr. Howard J. Brown. Though perhaps a little wistful that the virtues of the City Hospitals never seem to appear in print, Dr. Brown is not on the defensive. The City Hospitals are in trouble, perhaps in more serious trouble than sensation-hunting reporters are aware. There is not a municipal hospital system in the country that is not in serious trouble today. Terrible lacks in nurses, in technicians, in all kinds of facilities—these are only the outer signs of something that goes much deeper. Something seems to happen to any institution that caters exclusively to the poor. It tends to cut itself off from the mainstream of American life and to become a part of the poverty culture.

Dr. Brown sees no satisfactory answer short of ending economic segregation in our medical care systems. Medicare and Medicaid which are inflating medical costs will not end economic segregation. Although Dr. Brown offers no easy answers, he does have a program of neighborhood responsibility that he is pressing with vigor and hopefulness: (1) Voluntary hospitals must end the dumping of uninteresting cases on the city and now begin to take responsibility for the health needs of their communities. (2) Wherever possible, city hospitals will be located on the fringes rather than in the heart of ghetto areas. (3) The City will not scuttle its hospital system; however, where economic desegregation can be accomplished by turning over its hospitals to voluntary institutions, it will do so. (4) The City will conserve its limited capital resources so that when it builds, it will be able to equal the best in the field. Dr. Brown will not permit the construction of second-class facilities. (5) Emphasis will be placed on the construction of neighborhood based ambulatory care facilities. Working under grant funds, Basil Yurchenco has designed several ingenious prototypes that Dr. Brown hopes will soon be under construction.

In closing, Dr. Brown expressed gratitude for the guidance of Joseph Neufeld of the Hospital & Health Committee, whom he termed an architect-philosopher, and emphasized that the success of this program would rest in large measure on the creative imagination architects could bring to bear on these problems. **ROBERT HYDE JACOBS**, *Chairman of the Public Affairs Sub-Committee for the Hospital and Health Committee.*



## BETTS BEACH HOUSE BEST BET

The Fifth Annual House Competition was recently judged. The jury was composed of Messrs. Max O. Urbahn, FAIA, Chairman, Peter Blake, John Johansen, Jan Porkorny, and Herbert L. Smith, Jr. In the New House category, First Prize went to Hobart D. Betts's Beach House; Second Prize to Ulrich Franzen's Guest House; and Honorable Mention to Richard D. Kaplan and George Nemeny. In the Alteration Category, First Honorable Mention went to T. Merrill Prentice, Jr.; Second Honorable Mention to Hugh N. Jacobsen. There were no awards given in the categories of Groups of Houses and Garden Apartments. Formal presentation of award citations will be made at a NYCAIA meeting on January 24.

## VIVACIOUS VOLUNTEERS FOR CONVENTION CONVIVIALITIES

Plans for the National AIA Convention, May 14-18 1967, are under way, and the WAA needs volunteers. We welcome offers of assistance from any wife of a member of NYCAIA. The NYCAIA has asked us to serve in the Hospitality and Information areas by planning special events for the ladies attending the convention. These events are: a tour of the Pan Am Building, a WAA breakfast and forum, and a fashion show and brunch. Please indicate your willingness to aid us in any of these areas by writing to Mrs. P. Whitney Webb, President of WAA, 115 East 40th Street, New York, N. Y. 10016.



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## PRODUCT DIRECTORY FOR NYCAIA

More than 2000 NYCAIA members will receive with this issue sample pages of the new Directory of Manufacturers and Services for NYCAIA members. These pages include listings of architectural product manufacturers and services that are classified according to the new 16 Division Uniform System developed by the Institute and the CSI. Full page and sectional page advertising is also offered. With this Directory, the OCULUS hopes to contribute worthwhile information to NYCAIA members. Your *ACTIVE* support by suggesting to manufacturers that they be included in this listing will aid in increasing the importance of OCULUS as a service publication. Make every effort to assure these potential advertisers of the possibility of communicating with the NYCAIA. For further information have manufacturers and service organizations contact Mr. C. E. Herington, telephone 682-6320, our newly appointed Advertising Manager or your Editor at Chapter Headquarters.

## 1967 CONVENTION GUIDEBOOK

Guidebook to the architecture of New York City will be published in conjunction with the Institute National Convention in May and will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the NYCAIA. The 384-page guidebook will contain five sections and more than 500 photos and illustrations. It will feature many neighborhoods and attractions located in off-beat places. Each of the boroughs will be examined in its relationship to other boroughs and in terms of individual precincts. In addition, the City as a whole, including its geology, politics, population, and its relationship to other cities, will be treated in a separate section. Another section will deal with the City's support systems including streets, subways, parks, education and health. The guidebook will also provide illustrated walking tours through various New York areas with key maps. This guidebook is being made possible by a selected list of sponsor-advertisers representing manufacturers and associations in the building industry including Corning Glass works, Electric Heating Assn., Indiana Limestone Company, Inc., Johns-Mansville Corporation. Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation. Lupton Manufacturing Co., Pittsburgh Plate Glass

(continued on page 8)

## ARCHITECTS-AT-HOME

Plans are starting to get underway for the 1967 National Convention for which we are the host chapter May 14 to 19. Our major chapter event is the evening at Lincoln Center on May 17, the Royal Ballet, followed by champagne reception and supper dance.

One of the pleasantest features of the Convention is the hospitality offered individually by host members as Architects-at-Home. William C. Shopsin has agreed to serve as Chairman of the Committee for this important event assisted by Sheldon Fox. Additional members of his committee will be appointed soon. Because of the problems of transportation and the tremendous number of guests expected, the Convention Committee has decided to limit our hospitality to cocktail parties in Manhattan. These parties will be arranged in homes, apartments, offices, and clubs. Guests will be assigned by the At-Home Committee up to the capacity we are able to handle on a priority basis.

The committee thanks all those who responded to the recent questionnaire and will in due time reply individually to confirm the number to be accommodated for cocktails. All chapter members are encouraged to invite personal friends for these parties; but, to keep our records as simple as possible, personal invitations will not be included in the number of assigned guests.

In our invitation to visiting architects and wives, we shall explain the transportation problems and make it clear that the "At-Home" invitations are for cocktails and canapes only, 5:30 to 7:00, somewhere in Manhattan, and that dinner is *not* included.

Many living outside of Manhattan who have offered to entertain will be asked to arrange parties in offices, clubs or pubs in Manhattan or, if they prefer to entertain at home, to arrange their own parties with personal invitations.

Have you discussed with your partners the idea of giving a cocktail party in your office? Please let us know how many guests we may assign to your office. We must have offers to place twice the number that responded initially. Please advise the Chapter office. E. ALLEN DENNISON, *Chairman of the Convention Committee*.

## HELP REHABILITATE FLORENCE

NYCAIA members are strongly urged to send assistance to relieve the people of Florence, Italy, who are slowly recovering from recent devastating floods. The rehabilitation of the flood-damaged priceless art of Florence can be helped effectively by our members who know and love this city. Please contact the following groups with your contribution.

## HELP THE PEOPLE OF FLORENCE

375 Park Avenue, Room 1906A, NY 10022

## C.R.I.A.—COMMITTEE TO RESCUE ITALIAN ART

717 Fifth Avenue, Room 325, NY 10022



NYCAIA is hereby publishing for the first time a listing of its members in several categories: (1) those who are officers of related organizations, (2) those whose appointments are recommended by the Chapter, and (3) members in Government employ in City, State or Federal. Please notify the Chapter Office if you find the list incomplete.

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## AS OTHERS SEE US

"... I cannot say that I am in the slightest degree impressed by your bigness or your material resources as such. Size is not grandeur and territory does not make a nation. The great issue, about which hangs a true sublimity, and the terror of overhanging fate, is what are you going to do with all these things? ... You and your descendants have to ascertain whether this great mass will hold together under the forms of a republic and the despotic reality of universal suffrage; ... and as population thickens in your great cities, and the pressure of want is felt, the gaunt spectre of pauperism will stalk among you, and communism and socialism will claim to be heard. ... The one condition of success your whole safeguard, is the moral worth and intellectual clearness of the individual citizen." *From an address given by Thomas Huxley at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland in 1897.*

"It follows, therefore, that architects who have aimed at acquiring manual skills without scholarship have never been able to reach a position of authority to correspond to their pains, while those who rely upon theories and scholarship were obviously hunting the shadow, not the substance. But those who have a thorough knowledge of both, like men armed at all points, have the sooner attained their object and carried authority with them." *Vitruvius* quoted in Mr. Parkin's address, "Disorder in Our Cities," AIA Journal, Jan. 1964.

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## WINE, WOMEN AND THE WAA

On December 9, 1966, the WAA staged a most successful wine tasting party at the Marlborough-Gerson Gallery at 41 East 57th Street. Many architects and their wives were present to sample the famous wines of California. On exhibit were paintings and sculpture by such masters of modern art as Klee, Kokosha, Laurens, Lipchitz, Chagall, and Moore.

The Women's Architectural Auxiliary Scholarship Fund of the NYCAIA held an informal luncheon and lecture on Tuesday, January 10. The guest speaker, Mr. William Breger, Chairman of the Department of Architectural Design at Pratt Institute discussed Interior Design. We are also looking forward to hearing Mr. M. Paul Friedberg on February 7, who will talk about Landscape Architecture. Mr. Friedberg is widely recognized for his recent prize-winning designs, including Riis Plaza, in collaboration with Pomerance and Breines, Architects.

## NYCAIA MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Reynolds Metal Company and the Institute announced the creation of a new \$25,000 international award for community architecture. This award will be given for the first time in 1967 and thereafter in alternate years. The award will honor the architects responsible for a "new town" or other planned community anywhere in the world chosen as most outstanding by a jury named by the Institute. *Morris Ketchum, Jr.*, FAIA, is chairman of a jury composed of John Fisher-Smith of the San Francisco office of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and Archibald C. Rogers of the firm of Rogers, Taliaferro, Kostitsky & Lamb in Baltimore. The jury already has held a preliminary meeting to prepare a list of projects for consideration. The use of aluminum or any other particular material of construction will not be a factor in the new Reynolds award.

*George Nelson* of George Nelson Associates was re-elected to a three year term as a director of the Industrial Designers Society of America. The Society is a non-profit national organization with a membership of 600 professionals. Their objectives include the maintenance of high standards of design and professional integrity, the encouragement of sound design education, research, creative experiment, and cooperation with industry and government.

*Max O. Urbahn* was elected Director of the New York Region of the AIA.

*Emanuel N. Turano* is one of eight finalists for the competition to design the \$25 million Birmingham Alabama Civic Center. The second round of the competition will be judged this April. First prize will be the \$1,350,000 contract for the Center.

*G. E. Kidder Smith*, FAIA, has received a joint \$25,000 grant with the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts of Chicago from the National Council on the Arts. Mr. Smith and the Graham Foundation will prepare material for a book on exhibitions of American architecture and landscape design.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

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

### Corporate

Marvin Fine

### Professional Associate

Raymond C. Vondrak

### Associate

Richard H. Lentze

Arthur S. Miller

## CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

### Corporate

Miss Iris S. Alex

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Herbert Carl Millkey, Jr.

Dominick Lawrence Segrete

## COMING EVENTS

### JANUARY

■ CHAPTER MEETING. Chairman of the City Planning Commission Donald H. Elliott will address the Chapter at a regular meeting held to choose the Nominating Committee for 1967-68 NYCAIA officers. Citations will also be presented to the winners of the recent House Competition on January 24, 12:15 p.m. at 100 Park Avenue Restaurant (East 40th Street entrance). Luncheon will be \$5.00.

■ HOSPITAL SEMINAR. An address by Commissioner Joseph V. Terenzio on "New York City Hospital System" will be given at the NYCAIA Gallery at 5:15 p.m. on January 24.

■ PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE SEMINAR. An open discussion on "How the New AIA Documents Protect the Architect from Liability of Others" will be given by Daniel Schwartzman, FAIA, Treasurer of the Institute; Gus Keane, Chairman of the Institute's Committee on Cost of Architectural Services; and Nathan Walker, NYCAIA Legal Counsel. The talks will be conducted at the National Design Center, 415 East 53rd Street at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 26.

■ TECHNICAL SEMINAR. John H. Solomon, Associate with Emery Roth & Sons, will discuss the World Trade Center at the National Design Center on Tuesday, January 31.



## 1967 INSTITUTE COMMITTEES NAMED

NYCAIA members who have been named to Institute Committees for 1967 are listed as follows:

### COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY

1967 Convention

Max O. Urbahn

E. Allen Dennison

### COMMISSION ON EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Education

Robt. S. Hutchins, *Chairman*

Internship & Continuing

Education

Gillert Lefferts, Jr.

Licensing

Alan Schwartzman

Research for Architecture

Stephen A. Kliment

### COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Office Procedures

Samuel M. Kurtz

Insurance

John N. Linn

Building Regulations

Jeffrey Ellis Aronin

William B. Tabler

Task Force on Cost of

Gustave Keane, *Chairman*

Architectural Services

### COMMISSION ON ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Aesthetics

Edward L. Barnes

Collaborating Arts

Ronald Allwork

Paul F. Damaz

Housing

William J. Conklin

### COMMISSION ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Architecture for Commerce

Arnold W. Thompson

& Industry

W. J. Johnson

Religious Architecture

Lewis Davis

Percival Goodman

Government Liaison

Max O. Urbahn

International Relations

Frederick G. Frost, Jr.

Daniel Schwartzman

Public Relations

David H. Hughes

Future of the Profession

Robert W. Cutler

## \$6,000 IN HOSPITAL DESIGN FELLOWSHIPS

Two graduate fellowships in hospital design at \$3000 each are available annually for graduate hospital design or related research endeavors. The fellowship is jointly sponsored by the American Institute of Architects and the American Hospital Association. Applicants may apply for one of the following 1967-68 fellowship options: (1) Graduate study at any accredited school of architecture having a school of hospital administration and/or adequate hospital resources available in the area to supplement prescribed architectural courses in the graduate design of hospitals; (2) Independent proposal for graduate study, research, or design, all in the hospital field; (3) Traveling fellowship with in-residence research in selected hospitals in a predetermined area. The deadline for applications is February 1. Candidates who have received a baccalaureate degree in architecture may apply to the American Hospital Association, 840 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

## 1967 Convention Guidebook

(continued from page 2)

Company, United States Plywood Corp., and United States Steel Corp. The authors are Norval C. White, Eliot Wilensky, John Morris Dixon. The authors are seeking little-known information and photographs about the five boroughs of New York such as lampposts, the overlooked alley in Brooklyn, an obscure church, an intriguing street, and an unusual style of architecture. Write to Roger Feinstein, Secretary, The AIA Guide to New York City, 160 East 57th Street, New York, N. Y. 10022 or phone 212-421-2766.

## BOOK REVIEW

MULTISTORY HOUSING by Karl Wilhelm Schmitt.

Published by Frederick A. Praeger, 111 Fourth Avenue, New York 3, N. Y. 1966, 216 pp., illus. \$18.50.

The author, an editor of the journal *Bauwelt* (Berlin) believes that technical skill must be tempered with an "investigation into natural conditions by which the human being is governed. It is at this point that fundamental research on housing construction and town planning should commence, and not with the comparatively trivial question as to the cross-sectional area of a flue required for oil heating." He recommends that more experiments be made in multi-story housing design. Even though mistakes in planning are inherent in experimentation, he writes that architects will benefit from them, and will create better housing developments in the future.

Mr. Schmitt has assembled more illustrations than one cares to count. There is no index, even though more than 50 housing developments are noted under the list of chapter headings. Most of the projects are photographed from various angles and include enough site and unit plans for study and appraisal. The photographs are clear. Plans are crisp and, once the room designation numbers have been mastered, they are self-explanatory.

The first 73 pages contain remarks—sometimes pronouncements—on construction methods and environmental factors. The rest of the book is concerned with descriptions of housing developments.

The textural reference numbering of cuts are often confusing where they do exist. Page numbering is on the inner side of each sheet, further confusing the cut indications.

German and English comments are on the same page or facing pages, together with most of the appropriate illustrations. The English translation by E. Rockwell uses British architectural terminology such as "cladding," "boxroom," "cookers," etc. Occasionally the thought must be unwrapped from its swaddling clothes. For example, "The restorative mentality which made a Second World War possible asphyxiated the tender germs of a new building and housing culture so that after 1945, a new beginning had to be made even in technical terms." "Freedom is merely conceived within a so-called orderliness of bureaucratic regulations which remove the need for making decisions even from those that do not require such relief."

The book has value for architects and public bodies in the housing field who need a compilation of recent housing developments (some earlier ones are also included for comparison) from Finland to Colombia, South America. Examples in the United States include work by Walter Gropius; Mies van der Rohe; Paul Rudolph; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; and Hugh Stubbins. Architects will enjoy agreeing with or refuting the author's position on a variety of subjects; from sound transmission to conurbation, from slum clearance to balconies, and from site design to the dignity of man.