

OCULUS



NEW YORK CHAPTER/THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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NEW COMMISSIONER OF BUILDINGS IMPLEMENTS THE ONE-STOP SERVICE

NYCAIA welcomes the appointment of John T. O'Neill, a professional engineer as the newly-appointed Commissioner of Buildings for the City of New York.

A system of one-stop service has been inaugurated in the borough offices of the Building Department to facilitate the filing of applications for permits for building construction or alteration and to facilitate the issuance of certificates of occupancy.

One-Stop Service is designed to furnish service to the construction industry, and all of the constituent professions that constitute its backbone, with respect to plans approval, the granting of building permits and the issuance of certificates of occupancy. Instead of having to travel to the offices of various government agencies in order to obtain the major approvals and permits mentioned above, applicants may now (after filing plans at the Department of Buildings' Plan Desk in the regular manner) be processed through the Related Agencies Division in the Department of Buildings Borough Office any morning, Monday-Friday.

One-Stop Service will center around the Related Agencies Divisions which will be located in each of the five Borough Offices of the Department of Buildings. Briefly, the Related Agencies Divisions gather together in each of the five Borough Offices personnel of the Department of Health, Highways, Air Pollution Control, Public Works, Real Property Assessment and some non-uniformed personnel of the Fire Department. These individuals retain their status as employees of their respective Commissioners. However, they will operate out of the Building Department Borough Offices under the immediate supervision of the Borough Superintendents, and the general supervision of the Director of One-Stop Service. They continue to make inspections and tests, and to issue clearances and approvals to the Department of Buildings, but are centrally available to all applicants for permits and certificates of occupancy at the Borough Offices.

The purpose of this Division is the coordination of administrative procedures; it is intended to eliminate the necessity for applicants to travel from department to department at dispersed locations throughout the five boroughs; it will markedly decrease the time-consuming communications and transmittal of documents back and forth between the Buildings Department and the related Departments. The Related Agencies Divisions make it possible, for representatives of all departments to act as a "team."

You may contact any Borough Office for detailed information.

NYC LEADS MODEL CITIES PROGRAM

One of the most complex, unusual innovative — and promising — arrangements in the field of urban redevelopment and design, the Model Cities Program, is off to a daring start in New York City.

NYCAIA hosted a seminar on the Model Cities Program on December 18th. It was chaired by Norval C. White, AIA, who was joined by Albert A. Walsh, Chairman, N.Y.C. Housing Authority; Mr. Albert Funai, Urban Planning Advisor, HUD; Mrs. Eugenia Flatow, Assistant Administrator, New York City Housing and Development Administration; and Mr. Barry Jackson, Architect and Urban Design Consultant on Central-East Harlem area.

One major innovative aspect of the program was revealed in the announcement by Chairman Walsh of the appointment of Gruzen & Partners, formerly Kelly & Gruzen, to act as coordinating architects for the entire project. The unusual scope of Gruzen & Partners' role can be gleaned from the fact that the Housing Authority has delegated to them the authority to supervise the quality control of the work of some 16 Housing Authority-commissioned architects.

8200 dwelling units will be involved in this low-rise, low- and middle-income project.

B. Sumner Gruzen, FAIA, has named Norval White, as partner-in-charge of this project. Mr. White is Chairman of the Urban Renewal Committee and also President of the Architects Renewal Committee in Harlem (ARCH). He will be assisted by four other partners: Jordan L. Gruzen, (Chairman, NYCAIA Housing Committee), for general architectural design; George G. Shimamoto, and William D. Wilson, (Executive Committee member NYCAIA), for housing design and economics; and Richard P. Rosenthal, (Member of the Urban Renewal Committee of NYCAIA), for laws, codes and zoning.

The Architects commissioned by the New York City Housing Authority for the Model Cities Program are listed below:

BEDFORD-STUYVESANT AREA

— BROOKLYN

Gustave W. Iser

Knappe & Johnson

Seymour Joseph

E. N. Turano

Martyn & I. Donald Weston

MOTT HAVEN AREA — BRONX

H. I. Feldman

David Kraus

Ralph E. Leff

Fred Liebmann

John A. Pruyn

Jonas Vizbaras

EAST NEW YORK AREA —

BROOKLYN

Ames Associates

Jerrald L. Karlan

MILBANK-FRAWLEY CIRCLE

AREA — HARLEM

Fisher/Jackson Associates

Simeon Heller &

George J. Meltzer

Gruzen & Partners

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Margot A. HenkelExecutive Secretary

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Richard Roth, Sr., Treas.	Samuel M. Kurtz

OCULUS COMMITTEE

John B. Schwartzman	Acting Chairman
Elisabeth Coit	Forrest Wilson

EARLY OCULUS — CIRCA 1938

OCULUS first appeared in 1938 with no name. A quick little competition (complete with jury) chose the name OCULUS which is the architectural term for a circular opening admitting light through the top of a dome (as seen in the Pantheon in Rome). Symbolically, OCULUS sheds light on the activities of interest to the Chapter.

The first issue of OCULUS reports on a Joint Committee of Architectural Societies in the Metropolitan Area. This effort to consolidate the various societies is still under consideration. Most architects believe that a unified voice for the professions would be desirable especially in relations with the City Administration. Thirty years later, some progress is being made along these lines: the Brooklyn Society of Architects (Non AIA) has now merged with the Brooklyn Chapter AIA through the efforts of Don Weston, Past President of that Chapter; meetings are planned with other societies and chapters to explore ways and means to establish a metropolitan chapter. Simon Breines, FAIA, is Chairman of our Metropolitan Chapter Study Committee. HDMcK

T-SQUARES AND TRIANGLES

ARCHITECTS ARE URGED TO ALERT CLIENTS TO THE NEEDS OF THE HANDICAPPED — Mr. Richard Roth recently has written his clients to inform them of the needs of persons confined to wheelchairs. The Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association is active in the campaign and has recently increased the activities of its Architectural Barriers Committee. The aim of this committee is to create an awareness in the community to the relatively minor and inexpensive features that need be incorporated into a planned structure to make it usable by the disabled. The committee has already undertaken a program of personal meetings with architectural firms to spur this means of utilizing the ever expanding handicapped job market. Further information can be obtained from Donald H. Broderick, Architectural Barriers Coordinator, Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association, 432 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016.

BECOME A CERTIFIED FALLOUT SHELTER ANALYST—Tuition is free at a 15-week course in the subject. Learn protective construction and environmental engineering. Courses begin in the latter part of January. For information and registration contact Professor Francis X. McElvey (212-549-7400), Manhattan College, Department of Civil Engineering, Bronx, New York 10471.

SPACE IN A LANDMARK—Private individuals are starting to rehabilitate one of the City's unique Landmarks. The building is located southeast of Washing Square and near it. This Landmark building has well-lighted floors of 8,300 square feet each.

Architects & other professionals who want to help this effort and who need floors of this size for professional or office purposes, may contact the Landmarks Preservation Commission, 305 Broadway (Telephone 566-7577) for information.

1968 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY — This document will be mailed to the membership during January 1968, and contains a complete listing of the membership. The Chapter is indebted to Elisabeth Coit FAIA for her contribution of proof-reading.

MEET YOUR CONGRESSMAN

A two-day conference sponsored jointly by The American Institute of Architects and Consulting Engineers Council of the United States will be held January 30-31, 1968, at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C.

An estimated 500 architects and engineers in private practice are expected to attend the two-day "Meet Your Congressman" conference sponsored by the national organizations representing the two key design professions.

Topics of primary concern on the January 30 agenda will be discussion of the General Accounting Office's report on Government procurement policies for professional services. GAO has recommended to Congress that competitive negotiation be adopted in retaining architect-engineer services. The professions believe such action would be costly and inefficient to the Federal Government, and will focus their attention on advising Congress of the serious ramifications interent in such procedure. Also on the program of briefing for architects and engineers will be these topics: "Behind the Scenes on Capitol Hill," "Congressional Interest in Systems and Value Engineering Legislation," "The Architect-Engineer's Role in Rebuilding America," and "Building Codes, Licensing, Regional Planning and Technical Assistance." Additional discussions will deal with new Federal programs involving A-E services, intergovernmental cooperation and labor legislation.

Among those invited to participate as speakers are Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.); Sen. Edmund Muskie (D-Me.); and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Robert C. Weaver.

The evening of January 30 will be open to state engineering and architectural groups for private dinners with congressional delegations. Throughout January 31 the architects and engineers will visit Capitol Hill offices, attend committee hearings, talk to staff personnel, and call on Federal agencies.

Please notify the Chapter Office if you plan to attend this most important conference.

ASA HEARTS BELONG TO DADDIES

All aged men as well as women, in the non-sectarian residence operated by the Little Sisters of the Poor, received gifts from members of Architectural Secretaries Association. This was the first Christmas project of the new ASA Chapter. More than 132 gifts were distributed to all residents. Miss Janet Udall has resigned as President, to be succeeded by Jeanette Jedrison.

STATEN ISLAND PLANS FOR GROWTH

No other city the size and density of New York has so large a reservoir of natural resources and under-used development potential so close to the urban core. Staten Island's population numbers only 285,000. Parts of the Island are extremely rustic, with woods, streams, lakes, and natural forest preserves. Some spots seem only a step from Colonial times and most Islanders have strong local identification.

Recently, Staten Island has been undergoing important changes. The Verrazano - Narrows Bridge is the symbol of that change, so successful that a second tier will be constructed years ahead of schedule. Residential construction has quickened and improved facilities are being developed.

Many contemplated Island improvements, such as the large regional shopping center in the heartlands area, new pier and sewage treatment facilities, and a major medical center as well as improved industrial, highway and transit facilities, all point to increased development and amenities. The prime focus of much of this activity is South Richmond. A pioneering new community proposed for the Annadale-Huguenot area, a general aviation airfield, and major beach improvements are among the projects in various stages of planning for South Richmond.

George Raymond of the firm of Raymond & May will show slides of various plans proposed for the Annadale-Huguenot area, at the Nominating Lunch on January 25, 1968. His presentation of several handsome solutions should be of great interest to those who attend this important meeting.

PROPOSED NEW BUILDING CODE FOR NEW YORK CITY

If you have a specialization, please apply the new Code to a project and see how it will affect your practice! Tabulate, section by section, the provisions which are unduly restrictive, costly, confusing, impossible to comply with, etc., and state why this is so. Then forward your comments to your Building Code Committee. They will see that your complaints are considered by the authorities revising the Proposed Code.

The Building Code Committee wishes to know how the Code will affect various special practices such as Rehabilitation and Modernization, One-and Two-Family homes, Low Rise Apartments, Alterations, Taxpayers, etc.

This is vitally important to your practice, as you will have to work with this Code. Do this now. It appears that there will be no Building Code Commission to listen to future complaints.

The Code is available in the June 27, 1967, issue of the City Record as Local Law Intro #436. A limited number of copies are available in the Chapter Headquarters. Send your comments in writing as soon as possible to: B. F. Nowell, Jr., Chairman, Building Code Committee, 51 East 42nd Street, New York, N. Y. 10017.

ATTRACTIVE SMALL SUITES — Carpeted, A/C, Conference Room. In townhouse renovated for office use only. Bruce Campbell Graham, 138 E. 92nd St., N.Y.C., 427-2900.

PRATT TO DEVELOP SUFFOLK PLAN

Olindo Grossi, FAIA, Dean of School of Architecture at Pratt Institute, describes a recent project of his students as follows: "The Town of Brookhaven, in Suffolk County, is so situated on Long Island that it will be the next major area for population development eastward from New York. Spectacular and potentially chaotic growth of our suburban areas in the next decades is the concern of architects, planners, builders, residents and community leaders. The resulting problems of expansion, congestion, and inconvenience created by the sudden impact of hundreds of thousands of people are staggering and require thoughtful research and solution.

To provide some means of control to this growth, the School of Architecture at Pratt Institute has received a study grant (\$10,000) from the Suffolk County administration to develop a physical planning approach for this large section of central Suffolk County. The conclusions of the study will serve as a guideline for impending population growth. Major concerns include the arrest of undesigned sprawl, the organization of efficient land uses and services, the saving of open space, and a more handsome environment for community amenities.

It is expected there will be one half-million new inhabitants in the study area of 100 sq. miles within 20 years. We learn that 100,000 jobs, including 30,000 in industry, will have to be provided. It therefore appears that a new city or a clustering of communities with alternate variations will be recommended in a series of studies for this very sparsely populated section of the metropolitan area.

Low, medium, and high density housing will be proposed to create a variety of living environments for the prospective buyer and for the esthetic interest to be derived from such a variety of building types. Clustered structures for housing, education and recreation will be recommended to secure maximum natural open areas. Road systems, transportation hubs, and the influence of a bridge to the mainland are part of the study. Effort will be made to limit a daily need of long distance automotive travel by improved methods of mass transportation facilities.

A fresh analysis of these major problems incumbent in the search for the vision of tomorrow is particularly attractive to students who are being trained to a good extent in the visual or design qualities of environment. Indistinguishable square miles of suburban repetition will hopefully be replaced by esthetic patterns and experiences.

The senior class of 72 students in Architecture are working on this project under the guidance of the faculty which includes Frederick Bentel, William Conklin, Joseph DeChiara, Olindo Grossi, Dean McClure, David Leavitt, and Stanley Salzman. Consultants in the fields of building, transportation, and planning are also participating.

County Executive Lee Dennison through concern and foresight of these problems requested that a planning study for this rapidly urbanizing area be initiated so that the local towns may have a model for their future growth.

The School's recent publication, "Cluster Design—a look at Brookhaven", has drawn additional attention of the builders who have considered delaying some of their projects pending release of this new Study in the Spring of 1968." Read OCULUS for news of publication of this Study.

NYCAIA MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

• **Raymond Irrera** and **Guerino Salerni** were on the Selection Board of the recent Queens Chamber of Commerce 1967 Building Awards Program. **William B. Tabler, FAIA**, and **M. Milton Glass**, Chairman of the Board of Standards and Appeals, were among the judges assisting in the selection of buildings for which bronze plaques were awarded to the owners of the buildings designed by the following: **Fordyce, Hamby & Kennerly; Sharp and Handren; Samuel Paul & Seymour Jarmul; Frederick Saphier; Paul Wood; Office of Alfred Easton Poor; and Henry Loheac.**

• **De Young & Moskowitz & Harry M. Prince & Associates** were inadvertently not mentioned in our recent reporting of community colleges for the Board of Higher Education. They are the architects for the Bronx Community College of which **Aaron Cohen** is the Architect Planner.

• **Charles Luckman, FAIA**, was appointed by President Johnson to serve as key advisor to the U.S. Delegation of the United Nations Economic and Social Council which held its 43rd Session in Geneva, Switzerland.

• **William F. R. Ballard, FAIA**, and **David F. M. Todd** were, in a way, in the news when the **New York Times** published a full account, with photographs, of their Polo Grounds development (N.Y.C. Housing Authority). Unfortunately, the **Times** failed to mention the architects.

• **Emerson L. Goble**, Managing Editor since 1941 and Editor-in-Chief since 1958, has retired from that position. He is succeeded by **Walter F. Wagner, Jr.**, who has been Executive Editor since 1965.

• **Albert Mayer, FAIA**, author of "THE URGENT FUTURE" (reviewed in **OCULUS**, November 1967), recently was the principal speaker at the annual meetings of the New England Chapter and the Iowa Chapter, AIA. A four-page article on the book, by **Lewis Mumford** (Hon. Member of NYCAIA), appears in the December Issue of the **Architectural Record**.

• **C. Gates Beckwith**, Chairman of the Awards Committee of the Concrete Industry Board, announced its 1967 Award to the Boardwalk Restaurant at Jones Beach State Park by **Skidmore, Owings & Merrill**. An Award of Merit was also conferred on Payson House, a 36-story apartment structure on York Avenue between 70th and 71st, by the newly reorganized firm of **Frost Associates** whose partners are **Frederick G. Frost, FAIA, A. Corwin Frost, P. Whitney Webb**, and **Owen L. Delevante**.

• **Percival Goodman, FAIA; Paul Grotz; Philip Johnson, FAIA; Jan C. Rowan**, and **Edward Durell Stone, FAIA**, are members of an emergency fund-raising committee to preserve the original structure by **Frank Lloyd Wright**, at the Imperial Hotel. Tokyo, Japan.

CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

Information received by the Secretary of NYCAIA regarding the qualifications of candidates for membership will be considered confidential.

Corporate

Howard L. Bonington
Edmund H. H. Caddy, Jr.
Joseph R. Fogliani

Jacquelin T. Robertson
Abraham Silverman
Gordon L. Wildermuth

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The NYCAIA welcomes the following new members:

Corporate

Paul Grotz
Charles Gwathmey
Varouj Z. Hairabedian
Perry A. Hall
Theodore R. Hammond

George Hanchard
Richard Henderson
Ronald H. Schmidt
Francis C. Wickham

Associate

Joseph V. Bower
John J. Koster, Jr.

Enoch Lipson
Alden T. Mann, IV

NYCAIA COMING EVENTS

- Hospitals and Health Discussion Group Seminar will be held at 20 W. 40 St. in the Conference Rm., Tuesday, January 23, 1968; 5:15 P.M.
- Urban Renewal Committee — **THE DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN PLAN** — Illustrated History and Development — **Richard Buford, William Conklin and Anthony Peters** will speak. Thursday, January 18, 1968 20 West 40th Street, auditorium, 2nd Floor, at 5:30 p.m.
- Nominating Luncheon will be held at Overseas Press 54 W. 40 St., Thursday, January 25 at 12:30 P.M. **George Raymond, Planner**, will show slides of plans for the **Annadale-Huguenot** project.
- Illuminating Engineering Society has invited architects to a dinner-meeting on Thursday, January 25, 1968, "COLOR IN LIGHTING TO MAKE IT GLAMOROUS AS WELL AS FUNCTIONAL." Hotel Taft. \$7.50. 6:15 P.M. Contact: **Howard Oldenburg**, telephone 422-4800.

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