

NEW YORK CHAPTER, THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
20 West 40th Street, New York, New York 10018 - 212-656-1866

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T-SQUARES AND TRIANGLES

SLIDE-SHOW COMPETITION -- The Institute urges the development of a slide show produced for specific communities. The show should clearly delineate the objectionable aspects of the environment with an emphasis indicating possible solutions. Manhattan should prove an ideal setting for a dramatic presentation. First prizes are pairs of round-trip first-class tickets from Portland, Oregon, to Honolulu.

POST-CONVENTION TRAVEL -- An architectural tour of the Far East is being offered through the Minnesota Society of Architects. Visit the major landmarks in Japan, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Taiwan. Write to the Schilling Travel Agency, 722 Second Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402 for further information.

NO FREE SKETCHES -- The Institute proposed to strengthen its statement on competitive bidding by a change in the Standards of Professional Practice. This will be voted on at the 1968 Convention. The present Standard reads: "architect shall not enter into com-

petitive bidding against another architect on the basis of compensation. He shall not use donation or misleading information on cost as a device for obtaining a competitive advantage." The proposed new Standard would read: "An architect shall not enter into competition against another architect on the basis of compensation, donations, free sketches, free or contingent services, or misleading information.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES PROGRESS

The Equal Opportunities Committee (John Wilson, Chairman) reports progress through the excellent efforts of the committee members in raising funds for scholarship aid to underprivileged Negro and Puerto Rican students of architecture in New York.

More than 100 Chapter Members contributed for this program in 1967. This represents only 8 per cent of the Chapter membership, a percentage of participation far too low for such a worthy cause. The New York Society of Architects and the Queens Chapter of AIA made welcome contributions. Contributions were received from engineers, contractors, builders and from special funds.

The drive has begun for 1968, and Meyer Katzman already has obtained \$1000 from the Samuel Rubin Foundation. You are urged to make contributions (tax deductible) towards this Chapter effort -- at your earliest convenience.

ARCHITECTS AND THE LAW

As part of our continuing education, the Crowell Collier Institute, Inc. will conduct two special one-day seminars on Law for Architects in March and April at the Institute's international headquarters at 866 Third Avenue, New York City.

George M. White, AIA, architect, lawyer and engineer, will conduct the one-day briefing seminars which are designed to help architects understand the legal aspects of construction, liability problems, contract agreements, etc.

Mr. White has practised as a registered consulting engineer and registered architect in Ohio since 1948. He

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OFFICERS OF NEIGHBORING CHAPTERS OF AIA

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CHAPTER SUPPORTS WAA SCHOLARSHIP BALL

The Starlight Roof of the Waldorf Astoria will serve as the setting for a gala celebration to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Women's Architectural Auxiliary of the NYCAIA. Highlight of the year, the event will be a precedent-setting Scholarship Ball to be held on Wednesday evening, May 8th. A formal supper is planned with dancing to Peter Duchin's music. Preceding the Ball, the WAA will salute the NYCAIA's 100th Anniversary with a champagne reception at the new Ford Foundation Building, 320 East 43rd Street, from 7:30-9 p.m. Only Ball-ticketholders will be admitted to the reception. Please make early reservations. Space will be at a premium since the Ball will be the only Formal Gala Event of the year for NYCAIA and WAA. Ivan Chermayeff, AIA prize-winning graphic designer, is creating the Ball invitations. To insure your reservation and listing in the Souvenir Program, please send your check to the WAA Scholarship Ball, 190 East 72nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10021, before February 26th.

Mrs. Saul Edelbaum (Hedda Hendrix) and Mrs. R. Jackson Smith (Yumi) are Co-Chairmen of the Scholarship Ball. Assisting as Vice-Chairmen are the Mesdames Alonzo W. Clark, III, (Betty), John M. Dixon, (Carol), B. Sumner Gruzen (Ethel), Robert A. Jacobs (Margot), Morris Ketchum, Jr., (Isabella), Alan Schwartzman (Ruth), Daniel Schwartzman (Dorothy), H. Donald Sills (Ruth), David F.M. Todd (Sue), Max O. Urbahn (Allyn) and Mrs. P. Whitney Webb (Marjorie).

Proceeds of the Ball will increase the WAA Scholarship Fund which assists students at the leading architectural schools in the City, and will establish a scholarship endowment fund to extend this much-needed program.

Leading members of the real estate, construction and building industries will be invited to attend. A souvenir program is planned under the direction of Mrs. P. Whitney Webb and Mrs. Daniel Schwartzman.

Heading the list of NYCAIA Members and Fellows supporting the Scholarship Ball is President William B. Tabler, FAIA, who will be the Honorary Chairman. A Men's Committee, to assist the ladies, is headed by Max O. Urbahn, FAIA. Serving with Mr. Urbahn are: Messrs. Minor Bishop, E. Allen Dennison, David L. Eggers, Earnest M. Fuller, Charles E. Hughes, Alexander Kouzmanoff, Charles B. McReynolds, Walther Prokosch, Richard Roth, Jr., George J. Schwarz, Roger G. Spross, Edgar Tafel and David F.M. Todd.

ATTRACTIVE SMALL SUITES - Carpeted, A/C. In townhouse renovated for office use only; partly occupied by Architect/Owner Bruce Graham AIA 138 E. 92, N.Y.C. 427-2900.

NYCAIA MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

○ Percival Goodman, FAIA; Victor Lundy, FAIA, and William B. Tabler, FAIA, are included in the jury for the Bard Awards Program 1968. Privately commissioned projects will be judged for "excellence in architecture and urban design in New York City." Entry slips are due prior to February 14, 1968, at 6 West 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10036.

○ Nathan R. Ginsburg, in a letter published by the NY Times, Jan. 8, 1968, urges planning of the Civic Center.

○ The Housing and Development Administration obtained approval of the Board of Estimate for "Water-side," the East River development by Lewis Davis and Samuel Brody of the firm of Davis, Brody and Associates.

○ Robert W. Cutler, FAIA, President of the New York Building Congress, will introduce Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), who will address the spring luncheon-meeting on March 5, 1968, in the Waldorf-Astoria Ballroom.

○ Charles B. Thomsen will discuss "Computer Modeling on Campus Design," at a 3-day Conference on Campus Planning, at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri (63130), in April 1968. Architects interested in this Continuing Education Program should write to Professor Oswald at the University.

○ Nathan Walker, Legal Counsel to NYCAIA, and Theodore K. Rohdenberg, Columbia University, have co-authored a new book "Legal Pitfalls in Architecture, Engineering, and Building Construction." (McGraw-Hill). Watch for review in OCULUS.

○ A letter from G.E. Kidder Smith, FAIA, was published in the NY Times urging that parking privileges granted to diplomats, handicapped persons, etc., should be allowed only on side streets. If roving tow-away trucks, assigned only to avenues, pounced on offenders, especially those slippery out-of-staters, we could then speed the flow of traffic enormously. Drolly enough, it wouldn't cost a cent. Or does the Transportation Administrator speak to the Traffic Commissioner?"

○ George Nemeny, FAIA, has a particularly glamorous distinction since an award-winning house designed by him was the setting for the motion picture, "For Love of Ivy," starring Sidney Poitier and Abby Lincoln.

○ Walther Prokosch was named by Engineering News-Record among those "men who made marks in 1967" for his role as coordinator of design for the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport's linear "non-terminal."

○ Sherman Schneider has been elected a Vice President of Charles Luckman Associates. He is executive-architect of the new Madison Square Garden and the re-development of Pennsylvania Station.

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BOOK REVIEW

BY JUSTIN HENSHELL, MEMBER OF
NEW YORK CHAPTER AIA AND OF CSI

PRINCIPLES OF SPECIFICATION WRITING
by Harold Rosen, Reinhold, 1967, \$16.50

Too many specifications seem to be produced on the principle that they should be 1) heavy enough to prevent the drawings from blowing away and 2) provide the Architect with a protective screen of legal verbiage. Beset on one side by the surge of technology and on the other by increasing tort liability, today's practicing Architect can no longer afford the luxury of poorly written specifications of this sort. Harold Rosen's book is therefore a timely reappraisal of the underlying principles that govern the production of modern specifications.

Experienced specifiers will find these principles quite basic. The author promulgates no new philosophy nor advances any theories that are not well known and generally accepted today (although many may challenge his stand on the controversial "scope" paragraph). What Mr. Rosen has set down in the first eight chapters is a synthesis of the principles espoused by Sleeper, Goldsmith, Edwards, Gale and Retz. He has written this in the articulate style familiar to readers of his column in Progressive Architecture.

Beginning with the role of the specifications and their relationship to the drawings, the reader is conducted through the organization of the sections and the techniques of writing a technical section. The balance of the book is devoted to a text book approach on How to Write a Specification.

The need for some sort of formal training of specification writers was never more evident than it is today. Most of the present practitioners are anachronisms who learned their trade on the job. The usual method was to give the novice an old specification to mark up. It was assumed that somewhere along the line he would acquire the necessary principles along with a mastery of format and language. A cursory review of many specifications produced today would indicate that this method has not been successful.

One of the drawbacks of establishing courses in specification writing was lack of an organized curriculum. Mr. Rosen's book should go a long way toward satisfying this requirement. The author has used his book as a basis for his course on specifications at Pratt and it has proven successful for a CSI-NYU seminar series. This latter course was a refresher to instruct practitioners in the use of the CSI Format and the new A.I.A. General Conditions which are dealt with at some length in the book.

This book should find wide acceptance as a text book which will enable the apprentice to concentrate on the basic principles behind specifications and thus originate his own specifications without going through the tortuous method of learning by copying from others.

DIRECTORY REVIEW

1967 Directory of Behavior and Environmental Design. Second edition. Research and Design Institute (REDE) P.O. Box 307, Providence, R.I., 124 pp, 5½ x 10½ inches, \$2.00.

The Directory lists names and, in many cases, the published works of persons concerned with "the integrated field of environmental design and human behavior."

Thirty headings run from "Anthropology" to "Zoology", including "Design", "Planning", "Computer Science", "Ecology", "Law", and "Medicine".

Many of the books and articles listed would be useful to architects, particularly, perhaps, to architects engaged in hospital planning. Other titles offer a less technical but definite appeal, e.g., "Beer, Wine and Mutual Gratification in the Gerontopolis" (forthcoming Robert Kastenbaum, from the Columbia Univ. Press), "The Questions Architects Ask" (R. Gutman, London, Eng. The transactions of the Bartlett Society) or "Brennan's Law of Shopping Behavior" (Terence R. Lee, Psychological Reports, 1962, 11, 662).

The introduction notes that the compilers "recognize that important contributors are missing as...the boundaries are as yet unclear." From an architect's viewpoint (there is no heading for architecture) this remark seems to belong in the Department of Understatement.

Among the 72 names under "Design" only a handful are widely known to the architectural profession-at-large, e.g. Benjamin H. Evans, J.M. Fitch, R.L. Geddes, Percival Goodman, L. Halprin, R.S. Neutra, Paul D. Spreiregen. Twenty-nine names under "Planning" include Kevin Lynch, Spreiregen (again) and Christopher Tunnard, among several others whose works are master's theses or "forthcoming".

All of the experts named above are indeed rightly included, but what about some other giants in the field, say Charles Abrams, Edmund N. Bacon, Doxiades, and Victor Gruen, as a start?

E. C.

UPTOWN MOVE DOWNTOWN? (continued from page 1)

Grand Central Station. The chief executives, who choose their office sites, living in Westchester or suburban Connecticut, will choose a midtown location unless it is easy to travel downtown. Others, who plan to move their central offices to New York, should be offered agreeable living quarters near their offices.

At the end of the meeting, the audience asked to follow the program, and Mr. Buford invited the Chapter to meet Downtown with him.

E. C.

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

(cont'd. from page 3)

- Ray E. Cumrine (President of NY Chapter CSI), Marvin K. Geasler and Arthur D. Greenfield have become partners in the newly organized firm of Handren Sharp & Associates.
- William Milo Barnum is the principal administrator and chief designer of the new firm, William Milo Barnum Associates. His father, Phelps Barnum, will continue his active role as partner.
- Marcel Breuer, FAIA; Philip Johnson, FAIA, and Paul M. Rudolph, FAIA, have been named honorary members of the College of Architects of Peru.
- Giovanni Pasanella is included in the jury of the 1968 Library Buildings Awards Program. Jurors will select winners for First Honor Awards to be announced during Library Week, April 21-27, 1968.
- Der Scutt's apartment was the subject of a colorful double-page spread by Barbara Plumb in a recent edition of the NY Times Sunday Magazine.

ARCHITECTS AND THE LAW

(cont'd. from page 2)

is president and a director and trustee of a number of real estate development organizations and a former lecturer in physics and in architecture at Western Reserve University. Mr. White is also a member of The American Institute of Architects' Committee on Documents Review and Chairman of the AIA Committee on Insurance.

Bob Durham commented on this seminar as follows, "I am pleased to commend the effort which is being made to increase the competence of practising architects through continued education. The very nature of architectural practice has been influenced by the increasing emphasis upon the architect's liability to others. An increase in the number of individual architects who have training in the law will serve to benefit the profession, the client, and society through better guidance of the construction process. Architects with knowledge of the law can help modify and improve the present legal thicket in which the profession and the industry find themselves."

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Brochures, Reports, Presentations.



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NYCAIA COMING EVENTS

- Technical Committee, NYCAIA, Lecture, Thursday, February 29, 1968, 5:15 p.m., Assembly Room, 20 West 40th Street, New York City. E.G. Rothenstein, President of Aspad, Inc., will speak on Systems Building as it is practised in Europe and how the ideas can be applied in the United States. His statistics and charts indicate that using the European experience as a basis we can save up to 15 per cent in the cost of construction.
- Colleges and Universities Subcommittee of the School Committee — "DESIGN SEMINAR" — Monday, March 4, 1968, 5:15 p.m., Union Carbide Auditorium, 270 Park Avenue.

COMING EVENTS—GENERAL INTERESTS

- Illustrated Lecture. "H.H. Richardson, Victorian Architect" — Henry-Russell Hitchcock will address friends of The Victorian Society in America, and The Society of Architectural Historians. All welcome to this free lecture. Thursday, February 8, at 8:15 p.m., at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Fifth Avenue (81st Street entrance).
- Exhibition — "The New Regional Plan." This exhibition promises to "present a functional and esthetic rationale for planning the world's greatest activity center — Midtown Manhattan." Architectural League, 41 East 65th Street, February 21 — March 15.
- Seminar — "The New Regional Plan." The exhibition and the new plan will be discussed by Roi Y. Okamoto Urban Design Consultant. Feb. 27, 1968, 8:30 p.m., Architectural League, 41 East 65th Street.
- Seminar — "Government in Construction and Operation of Nursing Homes." Joint Committee on Nursing Homes. Hotel Commodore. Feb. 27, 1968. 9 a.m.-Noon. Admission is free — pre-registration is required. Write to Joint Committee on Nursing Homes CSS, 105 East 22nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10010.

CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

Corporate

Murray Charnin	Jaquelin Taylor Robertson
Michael Forstl	Abe Silverman
Oscar Paul Maeuser	Joseph L. Tonetti, Jr.
Augusto Anselmo Morpurgo	Jacob Weisberg
Joseph Pokorny, Jr.	

Professional Associate

Bertram A. Sherman

Associate

Samuel Mark Schutz

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

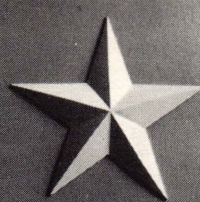
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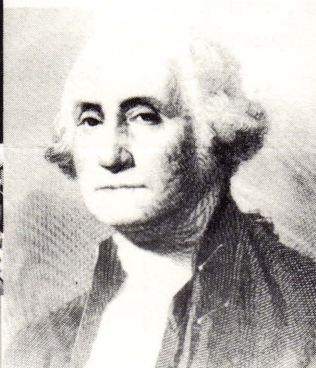
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