

# OCCULLUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER / THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

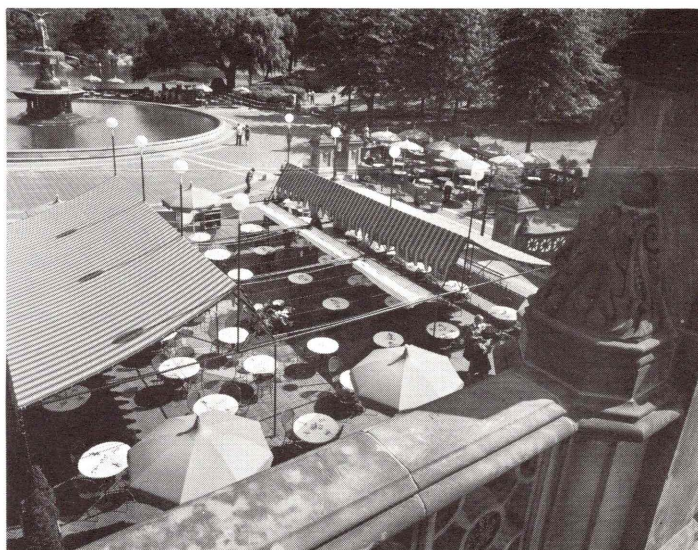
JANUARY, 1969

VOLUME 42, NUMBER 5



Street Lighting, N. Y. U. Houses

I. M. Pei & Partners



Pavilion and Kiosk, Central Park

J. R. Lamantia

## FIRST NYCAIA ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS EXHIBIT OPENS JAN. 16th AT FIBERGLAS CENTER

Stephen Kliment who wrote the Captions and Introduction for the Exhibit says New Yorkers may have been in a sorry environment for so long they have switched off their visual antennas. The City has become a physical and visual obstacle race. H. Dickson McKenna is credited with the idea of an Annual Awards Program to seek out the good around us, recognize it and stimulate citizens to build on this foundation. Last May the Chapter invited neighborhood groups and private citizens, as well as our own members, to submit examples of well-designed objects and examples of good environment itself, created over the past 10 years. The Awards Committee acted as sponsor and judges. With funds and exhibition space graciously provided by the Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation the public will have the opportunity to see what architects consider to be appealing design in parks, neighborhoods, graphics, street furniture, restored buildings, street lighting, landscaping, and freestanding objects such as kiosks, and playground equipment. They will see that only by conscious design of the smallest objects to the largest spaces will we have a satisfying total environment in which to enjoy all the activities of our daily lives. This important exhibit will open with a

champagne reception at 5:15 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 16th at the Fiberglas Center, 717 Fifth Avenue. It was prepared by the Exhibits Committee, Andrew Blackman, Chairman. 36 photographs with accompanying descriptions will show works of winning architects Richard Dattner, Myron Goldfinger, Joseph and Mary Merz, I. M. Pei & Partners, J. R. Lamantia, Kahn & Jacobs; landscape architects M. Paul Friedberg and Associates, Zion & Breen; the graphics firm of Walker Kacik Design Associates; and groups the Park Slope North Improvement Corp., and Citizens for a Quieter City, Inc.

The Program is the responsibility of the Commission on Public Affairs, Edgar Tafel, Chairman. Herbert Oppenheimer was the 1967-68 Awards Committee Chairman. Der Scutt is this year's Chairman. Myron Goldfinger is Co-Chairman of the Environment Awards Program. Committee members are Paul Damaz, George A. Diamond, Stephen A. Kliment, K. J. Kossak, Warren L. Schiffman, G. E. Kidder Smith, and Jack Shapiro. Muriel Wiener Davis acted as Special Assistant. The Exhibit will continue through Feb. 7th. Chapter members are invited to the opening.

NEW YORK CHAPTER, THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
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### PLANNING FOR THE REGION

The Second Regional Plan — for a territory of 19 million people inhabiting some 12,000 square miles, governed by three states and 1,000 municipal offices — was presented to over 2,000 participants at the Regional Plan Association's 23rd Annual Conference on the morning of November 19, 1968.

The "Draft for Discussion", studied and reported on by some 60 round table workshop sessions that afternoon, was introduced by McKim Norton, President of the Regional Plan Association, and commented on by Morris D. Crawford, Jr., Chairman, Committee on the Second Regional Plan and Chairman of the Board, The Bowery Savings Bank. It was illustrated with slides shown by the RPA staff. Among the subjects considered were (a) the chasm between black and white, rich and poor; (b) uncontrolled development despoiling the countryside; (c) public indifference to sound design of localities and of buildings; (d) the mounting mass of wastes smothering the environment.

The lunch, with an impressive array on the dais of representatives of tri-state organizations, was chaired by Max Abramovitz, FAIA, Chairman, Regional Plan Association. Honor awards were presented to Messrs. Walter D. Binger and Luther A. Gulick for their long-lasting and effective concern with the New York region.

Dr. James M. Hester, President, New York University, spoke of the advantages provided by a university planted in the heart of the inner city, both to the city and to the university. Among them, he stressed the humanistic vision on urban problems provided by a broad general education which a university offers, in addition to the leadership of students trained in social science and law.

Results of the afternoon discussion will be documented by the RPA and will further the final edition of the Second Regional Plan.

He spoke about the wide range of opportunities for service and the urban awareness given to students living in a city, and pointed out that some could not afford to go to universities away from their homes.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS: DECEMBER

- Appointed Simon Breines and Danforth Toan as delegates to the Fine Arts Federation to serve until December 31, 1971.
- Reappointed Edwin B. Forbes as representative to serve on the Board of Directors of the Concrete Industry Board.
- Made plans to present citation of Award of Merit to Nelson Rockefeller at the May WAA Ball.

### SKETCHES

**Two new papers:** For some strong, well informed opinions on our City's housing and planning, read the "New York Advocate." Publisher and Editorial Director, C. Richard Hatch. Another new one, with an unusual format, is "AS", published three times yearly by the Association of Student Chapters/AIA. For a free copy, write to Myron Tassin, 705 Laurel St., Baton Rouge, La.

**Cities on TV:** "Cosmopolis", an ABC special on the future of cities will be shown Monday, January 13th, at 10 p.m. It has film on Tokyo, London, Paris, Rome, Stockholm, Helsinki, New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and others.

**The American Society of Real Estate Counselors** has a directory of members expert in the field of real estate economics. 155 E. Superior St., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

**"Guide" now available:** The excellent "AIA Guide to New York City", prepared by Norval White and Elliot Willensky and published by the Macmillan Company, can be purchased at bookstores for \$6.95.

**Hospital Committee tour:** For the first time in the 12 years that the Committee has been conducting such tours 50 architects toured the New Bellevue Hospital which is still under construction. In recognition of the cold the General Contractor, Castagna & Son served a breakfast of hot coffee and pastries. At the conclusion, through the cooperation of Dr. Weinstein, the Administrator of Bellevue, the committee hosted a delicious hot lunch in the Nurses Residence cafeteria. The tour was opened with a briefing by Simon Breines, Joseph Blumenkranz, and Dr. Jacob Feld all members of the Associated Architects and Engineers of the project; Pomerance & Breines, Katz, Waisman, Weber, Strauss, Joseph Blumenkranz and Feld & Timoney.

**Chapter luncheon** on Tues. Jan. 7 will include presentation of the 6th Annual Residential Design Awards, a showing of the film "Gateway Arch" on the late Eero Saarinen's Jefferson National Extension Memorial in St. Louis. Nomination of the Committee on Nominations and voting on 1968 Chapter Honorary Members. \$5.25.

BROWNSTONE — 138 E. 92 St. (427-2900)  
Recently renovated. Architect/owner will sell entire or share use with allied professional.

## MAJOR ENVIRONMENT FORUM IN FEBRUARY

Walter Rutes, Chairman of the Natural Environment Committee, reports good progress in organizing the symposium, "The Architect's Role in Protecting the Natural Environment", to be held Tuesday, Feb. 25th, at 8:30 p.m., at the Museum of Modern Art. Tentative speakers include William H. Whyte (moderator), Ian Nairn, Barry Commoner, and Nathaniel Owings. A Cabinet-level representative of the New Administration has also been invited.

## IS THE HOUSING AUTHORITY BIG ENOUGH?

In 1967 when the Mayor combined housing and planning into one Housing and Development Administration, the New York City Housing Authority was an exception. It was different; big, independent and a landlord.

Some facts provided by the Authority: The Housing Authority is a public corporation established in 1934 under State law to build and operate low rent public housing in New York City. It is administered by a Board of 3 Members appointed by the Mayor. The Chairman is lawyer Albert A. Walsh, a Lindsay appointee. Ira S. Robbins is Vice-Chairman and Simeon Golar is the 3d member. As of June 30, 1968, it operates 153,400 apartments. 1100 are partially occupied. 3,800 are under construction. 6,700 are pending construction. It receives about 100,000 applications a year and builds an average of 5,500 units a year. It has its own police force, community centers, elementary schools, branch libraries and health clinics.

We can be depressed with some of the ugly buildings but it is good housing to people without money. There are 125,000 families on the waiting list which is not surprising when there are 800,000 living units in N.Y.C. officially categorized as substandard. The Authority is trying to erase its bad design image (at the top at least) but there are other dissatisfactions. The problem is money of course. Each year fewer units get built. The good design trend and demands for smaller, less formidable projects increases the cost. The start to finish time is still ridiculously long. But New York needs housing badly. We want it well designed and related to all activities of city life. A large bureaucracy is hell, but until someone creates a really good private or publicly-aided housing program, we need a well financed, firmly supported Housing Authority of which we can all be proud.

## THANK YOU MRS. NELSON

On Jan. 1st Mrs. Lyda Nelson retires as Executive Secretary of the Architects' Emergency Committee. She began with the Committee in 1930 when it was formed by the Architectural Societies in the Region of N. Y. at the height of the depression. For 38 years she has helped to give financial aid, find employment for architectural draftsmen and coordinate useful work programs to give architects jobs. Those of us who were assisted by Mrs. Nelson will remember her warmly for the very personal attention she gave. We wish you a happy retirement.

## STUDENTS AND THE AIA — A CHALLENGE

Chairman David Glasser of the Student Chapter Committee reports that there is little or no interest among students of the City's architectural schools in AIA activities. He notes that students are generally cynical about the Institute's effectiveness. There is a relatively inactive student chapter at Pratt and none at the other schools. The committee is attempting to correct the situation by establishing a Chapter "presence" on each campus in order to develop interest in Institute affairs so that viable student Chapters can be organized.

Four symposia on the subject of students' revolutions are planned. The first co-sponsored by the Cornell N. Y. Program in Urban Design was held November 21st. Eight panelists including Alexander Kouzmanoff and David Geiger of the Columbia University faculty, Jonathan Barnett of the Urban Design Group, Lewis Davis and Alan Schwartzman, and three upper classmen from Columbia led a discussion on the restructuring of the Columbia School of Architecture. An audience of approximately 150 engaged in lively exchanges about such subjects as curricula structure and teaching methodology. Some 25 NYCAIA members attended. It is hoped that more Chapter members will attend.

## NATIONAL SLIDE SHOW COMPETITION

An architect without a camera? An architect who does not photograph people, places, and things? Never happen! An excellent opportunity affords all Chapter members to organize a slide show for possible national recognition at the 1970 Convention. Entries must be produced between January 1 and December 31, 1969. Mel E. Gooch is Chairman of the 1970 competition. From the 1968 competition, Mr. Gooch has made several recommendations to improve the quality of the slide shows: they should be reasonable in length, concise in dialogue, and represent a visual point-of-view. Also, the slide shows should not be over produced with unusual technical presentations using twin screens, packaged projects, etc. Subject matter must be concerned with the issues of the day such as the slums, street patterns, street furniture, transportation, billboards, city and townscapes as they affect community development. A slide show offers NYCAIA members a direct challenge to present to the public their visual understanding of what they see around them. For further information write to the Institute's Information Services in Washington, D. C.

Copies of the winning AIA Chapter Slide Shows including "California: Three Images," produced by the California Council; "Billboards Limited," produced by the Houston Chapter; and "Whither Tacoma?" produced by the Southwest Washington Chapter are now available on a preview basis from the Institute. Requests should be made to the Library at the Institute and must be accompanied by a payment of \$1.00 per show for the postage and handling charges. Each show runs approximately 15-25 minutes in length.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

**MAX O. URBACHN**, FAIA, received a Special Award for Jr. High School 144 from the Concrete Industry Board. Also appointed advisor to 1969 AIA Honor Awards Jury, and will head a 9 man board to select an architect to design AIA's new Headquarters building in Washington, D. C.

**BERTRAM BASSUK** has an article "The Computer and Emerging Techniques" in this month's "Empire State Architect."

At the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce's seventh annual awards luncheon **BROWN GUENTHER BATTAGLIA & GALVIN** received an award for the St. Patrick's Convent and **BELFATTO & PAVARINI** an award for P.S. 13.

**SAMUEL RATENSKY** has been reappointed Commissioner of Planning, Design and Research for the Housing & Development Administration

1968 HUD Awards for Design Excellence went to **KRAMER, KRAMER & GORDON** for the Bluebeard's Hill Apartments in St. Thomas; **POMERANCE & BREINES** for the Mount Sinai Hospital Staff Residence, N.Y.C.; **VICTOR GRUEN ASSOCIATES** for the Park Slope North Rehabilitation, N.Y.C.. **CHARLES THOMSEN** was on the Design Awards Program Task Force.

1968 Queens Chamber of Commerce Awards winners: **EGGERS & HIGGINS** for the Benjamin Cardozo High School; **POMERANCE & BREINES** for the Lexington School for the Deaf; **GEORGE G. MILLER & REUBEN MILLER** for the Dorado House Condominium; **SAMUEL PAUL & SEYMOUR JARMUL** for the Birchwood Park at Water's Edge Apartments; **BRODSKY, HOPF & ADLER** for the TWA Flight Training Facility at Kennedy.

The "New York Times" neglected to identify **TIBBETTS-ABBETT-McCARTHY-STRATTON** as architects for the extension to the Pan-American building at Kennedy, and **EMORY ROTH & SONS** for the Uris office building on lower Manhattan, and **POMERANCE & BREINES** for the Delacorte East River Fountain on Welfare Island. Whenever this happens, write to the "Times" editor.

## Brochures, Reports, Presentations.



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## HOSPITAL PLANNING COURSE

The first Chapter and Columbia University jointly sponsored Basic Course in Hospital Planning begins Jan. 29th with 50 students. For the benefit of those rejected, and others, the course will be repeated in the Fall. Direct inquiries to Harold Baumgarten, Jr., Programs Director, Suite 305, 21 Audubon Avenue, N.Y. 10032. Additional information will follow.

## OTHER COURSES AVAILABLE

The National Society of Professional Engineers is offering 2 Fallout Shelter Analysis courses starting Jan. 28th and 30th and Protective Construction starting Jan. 30th. Prof. Francis X. McKelvey, Manhattan College Dept. of Civil Engineering, Bronx 10471 is the Director.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Tues. Jan. 7** – Nominating Luncheon, Lancaster Hotel, 22 East 38 Street, 12:30 P.M.
- **Thurs. Jan. 16** – Environment Award Exhibit, Owens-Corning Fiberglass Corp., 717 Fifth Ave., 5:15 P.M.
- **Thurs., Jan. 16** – "Crisis At Pratt" Student Chapter Symposium at Cooper Union, 5:30-8:30 P.M.
- **Tues. Jan. 21** – Technical Lecture at Chapter Headquarters, 5:15 P.M.
- **Tues. Feb. 4** – Hospitals & Health Lecture at Chapter Headquarters, 5:30 P.M.
- **Tues. Feb. 25** – "Role of Architects in the Protection of Natural Environment" at Museum of Modern Art, 8:30 P.M.

## CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

### Corporate

Carl Hubert Berger	Philip Franklin Moyer
Michael Gismondi	Raymond Charles Sancho
	James Michael Vella

### Associate

Vincent Joseph Colangelo	Martin Goodman
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## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The NYCAIA welcomes the following new members:

### Corporate

Kenneth Carruthers	Alfred J. Szczepanski
Charles T. Egli (Readmission)	Arthur A. Unger
William A. Sheraden	Gerard E. van Baarsel
	Simon B. Zelnik

### Associate

Jane E. Hough	Ralston W. Newsam, II
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