

# OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER / THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

JUNE, 1969

VOLUME 42, NUMBER 10

## TO ADVOCATE OR NOT TO ADVOCATE

Barry Jackson led a group of about 40 in a discussion of advocacy planning on May 15th at the Chapter Headquarters. Jackson described some of his experiences in the field, he noted that many of the people in the communities believe that planners who accept fees are not advocates. It is also felt that only black architects and planners can successfully advocate for black people. The planner must be personally well known to the group to be served. He didn't believe large firms could achieve this.

Jackson was asked if it were possible for a white architect or planner to contribute in this area. Jackson replied that it was possible if he learned to speak the language of the people and gain their confidence. George Lewis asked who represents the community? It varied from place to place Jackson answered. In Harlem the Local Planning Board was completely unrepresentative of the majority of the community while in Greenwich Village it was. Kurt Karmin cited the Milbank-Frawley area where as an apparent result of community participation nothing was actually done. Jackson said that the community feels that it is better to have nothing than to have something they don't want.

Many students are much interested in working in communities as advocates, Jackson noted, but the law requires that they work in offices to qualify for licensing. Those who do work exclusively in the community usually find that they are not qualified to help significantly. Jackson said that the quality most needed in an Architect if he is to be a good advocate is political skill. Edgar Tafel asked if there were any examples of projects actually built with community participation? Harry Quintana, a Yale student, replied that the process was the important thing rather than the product. Jackson said the lack of results was the fault of the Government rather than either the advocate or the community. It was suggested that AIA members be taxed to support full-time advocates. Jonas Vizbaras suggested that large successful firms undertake advocate projects at a loss. Walter Thabit said a revolution in the relationship of Architects to clients was necessary. Tafel said he disagreed. He pointed out that Columbia, Md. was being built without community participation. Thabit said this had nothing to do with urban problems. Harold Levy said community political power is essential.

## ARCH — CHAPTER TRAINING PROGRAM

This past school year the Architects' Renewal Committee in Harlem (ARCH) and the Chapter, through the Equal Opportunities Committee, have co-sponsored a unique and successful program to introduce a group of black and Puerto Rican young people to architecture. It is known as Architecture in the Neighborhoods, and its staff includes Arthur Symes, Director, and Rae Banks, psychologist. Marcus Caines is the Chapter's representative. The program has been funded by the Ford Foundation, with support from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the New York Foundation, and the Equal Opportunities Committee.

The staff recruited candidates (several of them drop-outs) and instructors for a summer session: architecture at Cooper Union and academic subjects at I. S. 201; the Riverside Research Institute contributed weekly lectures in engineering and computer technology. Then, in September the program settled into high gear. At a special meeting of interested firms at the Chapter, the 13 students still aboard were offered jobs by architectural offices and public agencies, not as office boys, but to work on boards. At the same time, the program's staff, seeing that an unexpected number of students were developing into college material, dropped plans for architectural training three evenings a week and substituted remedial academic courses. Thus a program evolved which is reliably reported to be unlike any other, in which students are employed for technical work with minimal preliminary training.

It has worked! Right now, of the seven remaining students (a high percentage), five have been accepted by the University of Michigan and one by the University of Kansas. The employers of those still in the program are Davis Brody, Ira Kessler, Lord and Den Hartog, Gruzen and Partners, Skidmore Owings and Merrill, the HDA, and ARCH. All are enthusiastic about the program; they are delighted with their people, and they want to assist their progress through college. Other participating employers have been Petroff & Jones, Clark Thompson, Caudill Rowlett Scott, Haines Lundberg & Waehler, and Pomerance & Breines. Every one in this project would like to see an expanded program next year. Moreover, there are now plans for similar programs in other cities based on the N.Y. experience.

NEW YORK CHAPTER, THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
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 George S. Lewis ..... Director, Professional Affairs  
 Margot A. Henkel ..... Director, Administration & Finance

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Lathrop Douglass, FAIA, President	Arthur Rosenblatt
David F. M. Todd, FAIA, 1st Vice President	Giorgio Cavaglieri, FAIA
William J. Conklin, Vice President	Samuel M. Kurtz
Herbert B. Oppenheimer, Vice President	Leon Brand
Saul Edelbaum, Secretary	Edgar Tafel
Richard Roth, Sr., FAIA, Treasurer	Thomas F. Galvin

## OCULUS COMMITTEE

Elisabeth Coit	Editor — Kurt Karmin
John Doran	John B. Schwartzman
	Barry Stanley

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS: MAY 14TH

- Approved Equal Opportunities scholarship appropriations from NYCAIA Foundation of \$200 to R. Robinson, \$1,000 to Miss S. S. Wong of Newtown H. H., \$500 to R. J. Strickland of Stuyvesant H. S.
- Reported receipt of \$1,710 donations from friends of late Willima Lescaze, FAIA.
- Allocated funds to "The New People" & Natural Environment exhibits.
- Discussed raise in NYSAA dues from \$15 to \$35 proposed by NYSAA for adoption at their convention in OCT.
- Heard Pres. Douglass report that professional corp. practice (Gioffre) Bill backed by NYCAIA, NYSAA and Engineering Societies passed Senate but was returned to Committee by Assembly; also the Statute of Limitations backed by Chapter had same fate. No action possible on either until next year.
- Approved Fees Committee's proposals for completing a new Fee Schedule.
- Approved Brunner Award of \$6,000 to W. H. Kilham, Jr.
- Approved Plastering Institute Awards of \$1,000 to M. Faigenblat of Pratt Institute and \$1,000 to R. J. Strickland of Stuyvesant High School
- Approved, subject to final review and checking, new "Rules of the Executive Committee."
- Discussed advantages of membership in NY Bd. of Trade in view of that organization's extensive Urban Environment and Equal Opportunities programs.
- Discussed a Multi-Family Housing Award; a position paper on the Architect in our Society; official policies on H. Q. exhibits; litigation between City Planning Commission & Bd. Standards & Appeals; and a projected symposium on Commercial Bldg. Design for next year.

## SPEAKERS WANTED

Speakers Bureau Chairman Aaron Cohen reports his committee is updating its list of available speakers. If you have expertise in a particular field of architecture or feel qualified in general to give talks to public groups, send your name and background to Mr. Cohen. If well done, personal appearances can be good public relations for the profession, chapter and yourself. The Committee is also asking all members to assist in developing a list of organizations which may want information on available speakers.

## THE ARCHITECT AND SYSTEMS BUILDING

On May 13 Dr. Riccardo Meregalia, of Impresa Generale de Construzioni, spoke and showed moving pictures on industrialized systems building and its potential application in this country. Those present could see GM entering the building business with a modern factory, huge equipment operated by relatively unskilled labor, turning out a wide variety of high-quality panels complete with conduit, plumbing, etc. for high-rise housing -- this at the rate of 670 man-hours per dwelling unit, compared with 1400 in the U. S. Site acquisition and preparation accounts for 60% of the total cost; materials 30%, labor 10%. To produce 700 unit/yr. requires 110 men at the factory, 200 at the site. Dr. Meregalia felt that the architect is necessary for good design and that architects who become familiar with the system can do better design within it than they doing through conventional construction methods.

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS—HOW IT WORKS

By this time, interested members will have submitted forms indicating what committee they would like to be on. As was said on the form, active participation by members who have the interest, special knowledge and time is urgently desired. The forms will be carefully considered by committee chairman, chapter officers and staff during the first part of the summer. Since the number of volunteers and openings will rarely match, efforts will be made to discuss alternate possibilities with those who are not immediately assigned. Members can assist in this process by getting in touch with committee chairmen or chapter headquarters.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

*Stephen A. Kliment*, after eight excellent years as editor of "Architectural & Engineering News," has joined the firm of Caudill Rowlett Scott to be in charge of research and information.

On April 17, *Albert Mayer*, FAIA, was named "Man of the Year" for Creative Planning to Improve the Quality and Enjoyment of Urban Living. The award was given by the N. Y. Metropolitan Chapter of the National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials.

## SKETCHES

"The New People in Architecture" is an exhibit of architectural designs which will open at Chapter headquarters with a reception Tuesday, June 10, at 5:30 and run for two weeks. It is being organized by a group of Black and Puerto Rican students and recent graduates, who say, "Hopefully, the exhibit will signal a future of planning and architecture that responds directly to the people it is for." Most of the projects to be shown concern the Black and Puerto Rican community and how to create an environment that reflects their unique cultural and social needs.

OCULUS is taking a vacation. Have a good summer. We'll be back in September.



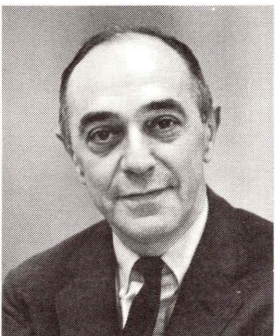
**SAMUEL M. BRODY**

Messrs. Davis and Brody have been advanced to Fellowship in partnership since their accomplishments stem from their combined efforts. Recent commissions are: U.S. Pavilion, Expo '70, Japan; Riverbend Houses, NYC; L.I. University Humanities -Social Science Bldg.; Westyard Distribution Center, NYC; Estee Lauder Plant Offices, Melville, N.Y.



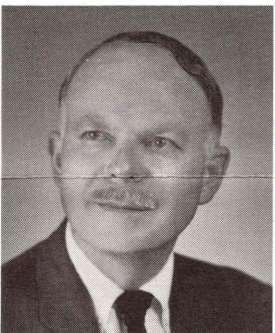
**LEWIS DAVIS**

Mr. Davis has contributed to the President's Task Force on homes for aged; the Mayor's Architects Advisory Committee to HDA, NYC; the National Commission on Urban Problems. Mr. Brody has served on many NY Chapter Committees; has been Juror for the Municipal Arts Society. Both partners teach at Cooper Union, and hold numerous Design Awards.



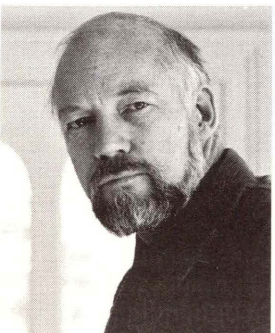
**MICHAEL M. HARRIS**

Mr. Harris, of Harrison and Abramovitz, has been partner in charge of the U.S. Rubber Additions; the Marine National Bank, Milwaukee; Columbus Center, Ohio, and other commissions. Special consultant to the Inst. of International Education, he places foreign students in the Fine Arts Program.



**W. M. DUDLEY HUNT JR.**

Mr. Hunt is publisher of the AIA Journal and also Consulting Editor to McGraw-Hill for its architectural program. He has taught and lectured at various universities, and has been a consultant to many prominent organizations of the building industry. His publications include seven books plus several hundred articles.



**JOHN M. JOHANSEN**

Mr. Johansen's work is widely known through professional & lay magazines and frequent exhibitions. He has taught and lectured in the U.S. and abroad. Awards include those from the AIA and Architectural Societies. The Royal Institute of Architects, Dublin, presented Mr. Johansen with its Gold Medal Nomination.

THE NEW YORK CHAPTER, THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS IS PROUD TO PRESENT NINE OF ITS DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO FELLOWSHIP IN THE INSTITUTE. WE EXTEND TO THEM OUR CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS.



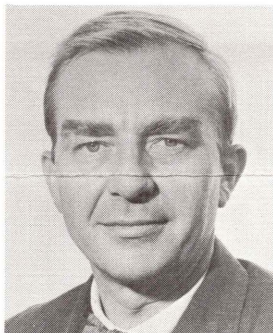
**GUSTAVE R. KEANE**

Mr. Keane, partner in the firm of Eggers and Higgins, has contributed to several National Task Forces, reporting on architectural practice, developing cost accounting standards, and profit planning. Past Director of the Building Research Institute, his work includes Analyses of Concrete and Health Care Costs.



**JAN HIRD POKORNY**

Mr. Pokorny is teacher, author, and practicing architect. His honors include an AIA Award of Merit and the prize for the Housing and Office Building Competition, Prague, 1939. He is at present engaged in two joint venture design and master plan teams for a State University at Stony Brook and for Lehman College, NY City U.



**RICHARD W. SNIBBE**

Mr. Snibbe heads his office and also is associated with others for designing and planning large educational complexes for NY State and City. He held a NY Chapter Brunner Award with Samuel Ratensky. He conceived and headed the First Conference on aesthetic responsibility that led to the Nat. Comm. on Aesthetics.



**RICHARD G. STEIN**

Mr. Stein, principal of his firm Richard G. Stein and Asso., includes schools, recreation facilities, housing, and treatment centers in his practice. His awards range from NYC (Steel & Iron Inst.) to Sardinia (Memorial Competition). He teaches at Cooper Union and is Vice-Chairman of NYS architectural examiners.



From left to right: Mr. Earnest M. Fuller, Mrs. Jackson Smith, co-chairmen AIA and WAA; Mr. Darrel Rippeteau, NYSAA, President; Mrs. Rolland Thompson, President, WAA; Mr. Rex Allen, President, AIA, Mr. & Mrs. Max O. Urbahn, Regional Director, Mrs. Margot A. Henkel and Mr. Lathrop Douglass, President, NYCAIA.

Pictured above are members of the receiving line at the NYCAIA-WAA Crystal Ball held May 7th at the Waldorf-Astoria. During the dinner Governor Rockefeller was presented the Chapter's 1968 Award of Merit and made an honorary member of the Institute.

The WAA's new Board of Directors for 1969/1970 are Mrs. Saul Edelbaum, President; Mrs. R. Jackson Smith, 1st Vice President; Mrs. Theodore Musho, 2d Vice President; Mrs. John G. Foti, Member-at-large; Miss Winifred Allwork, Treasurer; Mrs. Ralph E. Leff, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Richard Roth, Jr., Corresponding Secretary. Ex-Officio Advisors to Executive Board Past Presidents: Mrs. Morris Ketchum, Jr., Mrs. Daniel Schwartzman, Mrs. Maximillian O. Urbahn.

### NYCAIA AWARDS FOR 1969

Author Drexler, Director of Architecture at the Museum of Modern Art will become an Honorary Member of the Chapter for his contributions to a better public understanding of architecture through his writings, his exhibits, and his lectures.

Paul Rudolph, FAIA, will receive the Chapter Medal of Honor for his original contributions to all facets of architectural design.

Willima S. Paley, Chairman of the Board of CBS, will receive the Award of Merit for the creation of Paley Park and for his chairmanship of the Mayor's Task Force on Urban Design.

Donald H. Elliott, Chairman of the New York City Planning Commission, will be presented a Special Award for the establishment of the Urban Design Group and for his implementation of plans for bettering New York City's visual face.

Regional Plann Association, Inc. will receive a Special Award for its presentation of the Second Regional Plan for New York for its long enduring formulation of plans for the future which began in the Twenties with the presentation of the First Regional Plan for New York.

Elisabeth Coit, FAIA, will become the 1969 recipient of the Andrew J. Thomas Award for Pioneer in Architecture. Miss Coit receives this accolation for her lifetime dedication to improving the environment of low-income families through better quality housing design and for her truly literary talents as both writer and poetess.

Gillet Lefferts, Jr., AIA, Partner in the firm of Moore and Hutchins, will receive the Harry B. Rutkins Memorial Award for his devotion to architecture and to Chapter affairs through administrative skill, common sense, and good humor.

### FEDERAL EMPLOYEE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The U. S. Government, through Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration, announces an Employee Exchange Program. Any architect-engineer firm located in the New York Metropolitan area interested in exchanging one or more of their employees with an equivalent government employee for a term of six to twelve months, is requested to contact: Chief, Design & Construction Division, Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, N. Y. 10007, for further particulars. The personnel shall be non-key staff members with similar architectural or engineering qualifications and backgrounds. Both GSA and the participating A/E firm will continue to pay their employees in accordance with their current salaries and benefits. The purpose of the program is to a better understanding of common problems in planning, design and construction.

### MEETING WHERE IT COUNTS

The Architectural School Liaison Committee plans to hold next year's meetings at the various architectural schools in an attempt to bring the AIA to the students. Chairman Barry Jackson says the plan is to have architects who practice in various ways meet with students and describe their work and experiences.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed. June 4 — Annual Luncheon at Delmonico's Hotel Park Avenue at 59 Street at 12:30 P.M., Colonnades Room, Cocktails Petit Salon, \$8.50 per person.

Sat. June 7 — Professional Development Program "Specifications." Holiday Inn, 57 Street 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Information is obtainable at the N. Y. State Association of Architects.

June 10-24 — The New People in Architecture; a number of Black and Puerto Rican young people exhibit of their architectural designs at Chapter Headquarters.

June 22-26 — AIA Convention, Chicago, Illinois

Oct. 20-23 — NYSAA Convention at Nevele in Ellenville.

### CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

#### Corporate

Cyril Bruce Beveridge  
Frederick Ira Goldberg  
Edward Carleton Hambrecht  
Steven Peter Papadatos

Saverio Anthony Quaranta  
Jan Reynolds  
Patricia A. Wilson  
Wilbur Leonard Woods

#### Associate

Vernal V. Hosang

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The NYCAIA welcomes the following new members:

#### Corporate

Raymond C. Giedraitis  
David Paul Helpern  
Herman Morris Karson  
Ronald Kolbe  
Harry J. M. Lutters

Fred F. Montoya  
Victor S. Muller  
Rocco M. Verderosa  
Graeme A. Whitelaw  
John Daniel Wragg