

OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER / THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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A CHALLENGE FOR ALL OF US – TO RAISE \$45,000 FOR MINORITY SCHOLARSHIPS

This year the New York Chapter is undertaking what is by far the largest fund-raising in its history. The purpose: architectural school scholarships and financial assistance for an estimated 20 graduates of the NYCAIA-ARCH Training Program, plus an additional estimated 15 to 20 students in the Equal Opportunities Committee's scholarship program (begun in 1963). The total budget for the above is \$75,540. The Ford Foundation is supporting the Chapter's efforts with a substantial grant.

The Chapter's goal is \$45,000, to which the Women's Auxiliary is promising to contribute from the proceeds of its successful Juilliard event on November 27 and from other events as well. Also, the Executive Committee on June 18, 1969, allocated \$5,000 from chapter general funds to this scholarship program. The remainder will be raised through contributions from individual members (the widest possible support!), chapter firms, and other sources. Otto Teegen, Treasurer of the Equal Opportunities Committee, and Richard Roth, Sr., will lead the campaign.

In the NYCAIA-ARCH Training Program, there are 18 young black and Puerto Rican students working full time on boards in chapter offices and city agencies plus attending classes in college-preparatory subjects three evenings a week. If you want to gauge the effectiveness of this program, talk to any of the employer firms listed in the November "Oculus" (five of whom also employed trainees last year): Both the trainees and the firms benefit. Last year the offices whose young people went on to Michigan (five) and Kansas (one) donated generously to their first-year college support. This coming year (academic year 1970-71), in addition to the six who will be entering second year, we expect that up to 15 trainees will be enrolled in architectural schools both in New York City and out of town.

In the earlier-established Equal Opportunities scholarship program, applications are sought from New York high school minority students, and these are reviewed by the Chapter's Scholarship Committee, Bonnell Irvine, Chairman. Last year 14 architectural school students received financial assistance, and this year it is hoped that 15 to 20 will benefit from larger grants.

Why concentrate our efforts and our funds on this program, some ask, when there is a very real need for

draftsmen who don't require college? The Technical Education Committee is looking into on-the-job technical training programs partially supported by federal funds. But at the present time less than 1% of all registered architects in this country are black and Puerto Rican. What is important now is that we have interested, talented, motivated young people ready for the next steps: college, a degree, registration. We need these young people as future leaders in the profession. They need our help now. Please send your check — personal, firm, foundation — or all three — to the NYCAIA Foundation, Inc., and make it generous. This is your chance to give them a chance.

URBAHN NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL OFFICE

The Chapter has nominated Max O. Urbahn for the office of First Vice-President of the AIA. Mr. Urbahn has been Regional Director for New York State since 1967 and before that President of the NYCAIA from 1965 to 1967.

LETTERS TO CONGRESSMEN ON HOUSING

On December 15 President Todd, authorized by the Executive Committee, wrote to the Senators and Representatives from this area as follows:

"The 1600 member New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects is deeply concerned with pending Housing legislation, most particularly with those portions relating to construction cost limits. The allowable per room construction cost has risen only 26% since 1949, while actual construction costs have risen 118%. In light of these figures, we believe the provisions in the House bill for increasing the public housing cost limits are extremely unrealistic.

"We therefore urge you to include Senator Goodell's amendment to the Senate bill which provides flexible limits based upon a price index which will reflect annual changes in construction costs. The Senate bill also includes a valuable provision for an additional 45% increase in high cost areas such as New York City.

"The New York Chapter is also concerned that the House provision that rentals and cooperative charges for dwelling units in Rent Supplement and Section 236 interest rate subsidy projects shall be based on 20% rather than 25% of the tenant's or members' income be accepted by the Conference Committee."

NEW YORK CHAPTER, THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
20 West 40th Street, New York, New York 10018 — 212-565-1866

George S. Lewis Director, Professional Affairs
Margot A. Henkel Director, Administration & Finance

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

David F. M. Todd, FAIA, President	Leon Brand
Giorgio Cavaglieri, FAIA, 1st Vice President	Edgar Tafel
Richard Roth, Sr., FAIA, Vice President	Thomas F. Galvin
Herbert B. Oppenheimer, Vice President	David R. Glasser
Saul Edelbaum, Secretary	Jeh V. Johnson
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OCULUS COMMITTEE

Kurt Karmin, Editor and Chairman	John B. Schwartzman
Elisabeth Coit	Barry Stanley
John Doran	Joel Kaufman

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS: DEC. 10

- Heard Paul B. Mott, Jr., Vice President and Secretary of the AIA-sponsored Urban Design and Development Corp., report on its activities, including administration of the Institute's new scholarship program, which will be influenced by experience gained from the NYCAIA-ARCH program.
- Reappointed Herbert Oppenheimer and Emanuel Turano for three-year terms as Chapter delegates to the Fine Arts Federation.
- Reappointed Nathan Walker to continue serving as Legal Counsel.
- Appointed Rolland Thompson to serve on the Concrete Industry Board.
- Accepted request of Dean Bernard Spring of the School of Architecture at City College to provide a panel of practicing architects to consult with the College on curriculum and related matters.
- Agreed to approach the new Comptroller shortly after the first of the year to review the history of Chapter negotiations with the City of New York to improve the climate of architectural practice.
- Heard report from the Housing and Legislative Committees regarding status of housing legislation in the joint Senate/House Committee. Authorized President Todd to write all members of Committee in support of more flexible rules regarding statutory limits on public housing costs for New York City, and also to modify income/rent ratios for rent subsidy qualifications.
- Agreed to support Milton Glass for continued Chairmanship of the Board of Standards and Appeals.
- Agreed to send representatives of Executive Committee, as well as Urban Design Committee, to meeting of Local Planning Board No. 6, scheduled for December 16, on the subject of United Nations Development Corp. proposals.
- Appointed special committee to study Chapter headquarters operation. Committee composed of the six Commission Chairmen on the Executive Committee.

MASTER PLAN ATTACKED DEC. 18th

Despite moderator S. J. Shulman's suggestion that the tone of the meeting be different from community gatherings, City Planning Commission Chairman Donald Elliott was repeatedly interrupted by hostile shouts from the audience during his presentation at the Joint Planning Conference sponsored by the NYCAIA, the NYMCAIP, and NAHRO on Dec. 18th at the National Maritime Union Auditorium.

Previously announced speakers Beverly Moss Spatt of the City Planning Commission; Dorn McGrath of George Washington University; Urban Planning Consultant William Lucas, and Elliott were joined by Sonny Carson, a "representative of the black people in Bedford Stuyvesant", in a discussion of the proposed Plan.

Copies of the Introduction and Summary of the Plan and of Mrs. Spatt's Dissenting Report were distributed at the meeting. Other handouts included appeals for help to stop evictions and an attack on the Plan prepared by the Urban Underground, TAR, and the Real Great Society. Elliott emphasized in this presentation that the first book of the Plan, "Critical Issues", was not a fixed, detailed physical plan. The zoning resolution which controls land use in every part of the City is the actual current detailed plan, he noted.

Each of the City's 62 planning districts will be discussed in separately bound volumes for each borough that should be useful "work books" for the community. Of the Critical Issues, the one that generated the most controversy was the proposal to encourage the development of the "National Center". Elliott contended that greater concentration of office functions in Manhattan was possible and desirable. It is necessary, he said, to make more jobs of better quality available to minority groups. Transit system improvement is basic to city development, he admitted, and the City was now committed to a billion dollar improvement program.

Regarding education, the Plan envisions "effective decentralization" as necessary to achieve quality.

Many of the problems facing the city are not in fact city problems, but rather are national in scope. Elliott cited welfare and housing as examples. He concluded with the observation that expenditures on the order of \$52 billion over 10 years would be necessary to begin to alleviate the problems.

Dorn McGrath complained that he could find no main theme in the Plan, but that the tone that emerged was one of "whistling in the dark". He characterized the Plan as "too soothing", "inconsistent", and "uncompelling". It could, however, have some impact at the neighborhood level, he said. Beverly Spatt opened the remarks by stating that the preparation of the Plan had taken three years, 300 people, and \$6 million, while her dissent was completed in three months by herself, and she had not yet received the printing bill.

Mrs. Spatt vigorously attacked the proposed emphasis on the development of the National Center, which

she said was not the result of professional planning work, but the intuitive conclusion of the Plan's authors. The National Center has no relation to the majority of the people of the city, and its development would deprive other areas of needed resources, she said, adding that the Plan exhibited a tragic lack of understanding of the city's problems and people.

Sonny Carson claimed that black people would reject any plan that did not originate in the black community. Most black people, he said, felt threatened by white society and were prepared to "resist". Most of the black people who did participate in the planning processes did not actually represent the community. Blacks and white radicals would follow Elliott around to meetings expressing their dissent, Carson said, and would stop the implementation of the Plan "in the streets".

J. D.

A REPORT ON THE ETHICS MEETING

A draft of completely new Ethical Standards, to replace the present Standards of Professional Practice, was presented at the AIA Convention last June with the expectation that each chapter would review it and make its own recommendations. A Special New York Chapter Committee, Herbert Oppenheimer, Chairman, was appointed, and it presented its recommendations at a Chapter meeting on December 11.

Explanatory notes given to those present criticized the Institute's revision as being too legalistic, confusing, and self-serving. The notes said the Special Committee's standards emphasized community and political activity and increased involvement with the construction industry and services connected with systems buildings. At the same time the Institute's use of the word "construction industry" was criticized as suggesting large construction firms and opposition to the public interest. Large portions of amplification and definitions were eliminated to avoid being a legislative document. The Committee felt that competition on the basis of fees should be condemned, and the recommended schedule of minimum fees was urged to be maintained as a guide.

The Special Committee's revision emphasized permitting architect's involvement with the construction industry even to the extent that an architect could act as contractor, provided that he "shall not have any significant financial or other interest that could be in conflict with the interest of his client or employer unless that interest has been fully disclosed and the client's or employer's approval of that interest has been recorded". It recommended permitting an architect to comment on another architect or a contractor provided that he did not "knowingly make false statement" and "maliciously injure" the professional work and reputation of others.

The Committee urges architects to "encourage the entire community to be concerned with and to participate in the improvement of its environment". Political contributions were considered community involvement, and any attempt to limit the amounts

were termed unrealistic.

John Burrows, speaking from the floor, provoked discussion with his questioning of whether such a generalized set of standards with phrases such as "He shall above all serve and promote the public interest" was enforceable. Committee members generally replied that the code was a matter of personal conscience but that circumstances exist in which all parts of it could be enforced by an organization of fellow professionals. Emphasis was placed on its being a moral code rather than a legal one such as the one used by lawyers. The meeting ended with expressions of admiration for an excellent proposal.

Comments and revisions from all chapters and regions will be discussed at the January 1970 Grassroots meeting, largely composed of chapter presidents. A final draft will be presented at the 1970 Convention in Boston.

Members of the special committee included, in addition to Oppenheimer, Frederick Woodbridge, Robert Cutler, Peter Hopf, Harold Edelman, Robert Hutchins, Daniel Schwartzman, Joseph Wasserman, and John Young.

THAT IMPORTANT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

At the January 6th luncheon meeting names will be taken from the floor in nomination for the Committee on Nominations. The Executive Committee may add names if they wish; then Corporate members vote by ballot for five nominees. The five elected have the responsibility of recommending candidates for First Vice-President/President-Elect (who automatically becomes President the following year), two Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, three Chapter Directors (two-year terms), three members of the Jury for the Medal of Honor and Award of Merit, two members of the Ethics Committee, two members of the Committee on Fellows, two members of the Finance Committee (all two-year terms). At least 37 days prior to the Annual Meeting, the Committee's choices must be made known to the Chapter. At least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting, independent nominations may be made for any of the offices by 10 or more corporate members. Then all names are sent out for a ballot vote.

"Oculus" feels the election process has some weaknesses and should be reviewed by the By-Laws Committee. These are a few changes discussed: 1) the regular meeting for nominating should not be a luncheon, which restricts attendance on the basis of time out of work and cost; 2) the minimum seven-day period for independent nominations is too short for adequate selection; 3) perhaps the President or President-elect should be automatically a member of the Nominations Committee. At present there is no guarantee that Committee members will be aware of those Chapter members who are most effective and active in Chapter affairs; 4) there might be a provision for write-ins or some means of direct nomination.

Regardless of whether the system is perfect or not, the importance of selecting an outstanding Committee on Nominations is obvious.

K. K.

HATS OFF TO WAA FOR JUILLIARD TOUR

Mrs. Saul Edelbaum, President of the Women's Architectural Auxiliary, reports with justifiable pride that this year's annual wine tasting event at the new Juilliard School was an outstanding success. The advance notice promised hospitality, wine, and a guided tour to 1,000 visitors. They all came. The party has so far netted \$6,000. for architectural scholarships, and Mrs. Edelbaum says that gift checks are still coming in.

Architects Pietro Belluschi and Helge Westermann were there to receive congratulations on the spot; Eduardo Cantalano was unfortunately unable to attend. Architectural students acted as bartenders and Juilliard School guides charmed guests with their friendly enthusiasm. "Twenty-one Brands" offered their gift of vintage wines. Mrs. Rolland Thompson was Chairman of the festival and Mrs. B. Sumner Gruzen was co-chairman. Mrs. Edelbaum adds that \$420. was also raised at the WAA Arts Boutique December 8th at Chapter Headquarters.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS REVISED

The Awards Committee has decided to discontinue the Environmental Awards Program on an invited, competitive basis. The Committee proposes instead to preselect projects that merit attention such as wall paintings, semi-mall and closed mall streets, flags and banners, cleaned buildings, subway graphics and sculpture, all of which contribute to a more habitable environment. Chapter members will be invited to submit their own projects or suggest real or imaginary ones.

EXHIBIT ON ZONING IN JANUARY

Co-Chairmen Peter Sampton and Paul Willen of the Exhibit Committee tell us an unusual exhibit on proposals for residential zoning reform will open about January 12th at Chapter Headquarters. It will be sponsored jointly by the City Planning Commission of the City of New York, and the National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C., completed under the auspices of the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies in New York City. The exhibit will run approximately one month.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

At the Long Island Association of Commerce & Industry's 9th Annual Awards Recognition Dinner-Dance held on Nov. 20th at Bethpage, L.I., Grand Awards were given to *Gordon Powers & Associates* for the Michelin National Headquarters at Lake Success, and *Richard Foster* for the Montauk Golf & Racquet Club. Merit Awards were given to *Paul L. Wood & Associates* for the Lindenhurst Central Office Building, N.Y. Telephone Company, and to *Copeland, Novak and Israel* for the Smith Haven Mall in Smithtown.

I.M. Pei has been cited by the Citizens Union "for contributions to the beauty of the city in projects he has designed here."

Richard G. Stein received a citation for outstanding professional achievement from Cooper Union.

BRIGHTON BEACH COMPETITION BROCHURE

A reminder that copies are available of the "Record of Submissions and Awards, Competition for Middle-Income Housing at Brighton Beach, Brooklyn 1968." Photographs of models and renderings of all 88 entries. On sale at the Chapter for \$1.50. Proceeds to Equal Opportunities Scholarship Fund.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Samuel Kurtz, Chapter Treasurer has prepared the following breakdown of NYCAIA income and expenses for the 12 month period ending September 30, 1969.

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Member Dues	48.50%	Administration	55.86%
Sustaining		Headquarters	31.0%
Member Dues	31.84%	Taxes & Insurance	6.5%
Document Sales	14.53%	Professional Fees	1.0%
Directory	.10%	Staff	61.5%
Guide to		Cost of Documents	8.68%
New York City	.06%	Dues to Organizations	.07%
Interest	1.45%	Contingent Reserve	1.60%
Reserve Fund	3.42%	Oculus	2.22%
Miscellaneous	.10%	Committees	9.92%
	100.00%	Public Affairs	.32%
		Headquarters Fund	20.45%
		Year End Balance	.90%
			100.00%

DATES TO REMEMBER

■ **Tues, Jan. 6** — Nominating Meeting Luncheon, Park 100 Restaurant. Talk by Judah Gribetz, former Commissioner of Department of Buildings and former Regional Administrator of HUD. 12:30 P.M.

■ **Jan. 8-10** — Grassroots Meeting at Institute.

■ **Thurs. Jan. 15** — LeBrun Traveling Fellowship program available. Deadline for submissions Mar. 11, 1970.

■ **Thurs. Jan. 15** — Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship Award deadline for submissions.

■ **Thurs. Jan. 15** — Technology Lecture on "Jet Age Technology and Its Impact on Space and Structure," by Dr. Lev Zetlin, FASCE. Chapter Headquarters, 5:15 P.M.

■ **Tues. Jan. 20** — Hospitals & Health Discussion Meeting on Planning and X-ray Facilities by Mr. Max C. Deffner, General Electric X-ray. Chapter Headquarters, 5:15 P.M.

CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

CORPORATE

William Theodore Chafee
Robert Earl Jensen

Steven W. Miller

ASSOCIATES

Raymond Julius Amico
Joel Ives

George Tamaro

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The NYCAIA welcomes the following members:

CORPORATE

Ruth B. Allen
Nancy Copley
Lawrence H. Horowitz

Peter Kampf
Charles A. Rullan, Jr.
John J. Stonehill

ASSOCIATE

Joachim O. Beckley
Lawrence Levine

Michael C. McNaney
Edward N. Telchin