

OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER / THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY

In response to an inquiry from The Urban Design Council of the City of New York, the Chapter has submitted its views on the principal impediments to a healthy relationship between the architectural profession and City public agencies. In a letter to Charles Reiss, Executive Director of the Council, President David Todd gave reasons why many of our most competent architects do not have a keen interest in participating in City projects. "We are all aware of the difficulties that the City faces in conducting its own business and are sympathetic to problems of budget, administrative complexities, and conflicting interests of community groups as well as the difficulty of establishing needs within the administrative agencies themselves." Todd further emphasized interest that the Mayor has in the importance of quality civic design. But he went on to say, "However, this same attitude does not necessarily extend down the line. Historically, the City agencies (Public Works, Parks, Board of Education) have no autonomy in the preparation and execution of contracts for design services. The Budget Director's office and the Controller's office are heavily involved in all such matters. While the Budget Director's office can be effectively controlled by the Mayor's own policy, at least in the upper echelons, the Controller's office is quite another matter."

Todd also submitted to Reiss a copy of the report to the Executive Committee prepared by Daniel Schwartzman, Chairman of the Public Agencies Committee, entitled "Structure of New York City Contracts for Professional Design Services". Schwartzman made these recommendations to improve the climate under which an architect must work in order to create quality civic design:

(1) Prepare a new form of contract for professional services, in consultation with representatives of all professional disciplines involved, to provide a consistent form of agreement for all NYC agencies, with minor amendments to suit specific agency requirements and projects of different types.

(2) Use a realistic budget to determine the fee for basic services, with provisions for updating the construction cost budget and fee calculation at the time working drawings are authorized to proceed and again when working drawings are completed.

(3) Establish 2.5 times direct personnel expense as the basis of compensation for additional services, and as the basis for services rendered on projects of indeterminate scope.

(4) Establish a reasonable gross hourly rate for principals' time when employed on specific technical work in connection with one project, and eliminate the present restriction that the total amount of compensation for principals' time be limited to 25% of the total fee for a particular phase of service.

(5) Eliminate the practice of post audit of architects' financial records in agreements based upon stipulated lump sum fees.

(6) Provide inter-agency staff liaison to undertake and secure approvals which do not specifically involve the architect's own talent or expertise.

(7) Review the basic fee schedules to bring them into alignment with comparable work in other public agencies in major cities throughout the country.

Schwartzman completed his report by stating that "We believe that if the above steps are taken, a situation would exist which would encourage architects of superior caliber and talent to better serve the City of New York".

SYMPOSIUM: ARCHITECT AND THE COMMUNITY

A symposium, "The Architect and the Community as His Client", will be held Tues., Feb. 24th, at 8:30 p.m. in the Great Hall of Cooper Union, 8th St. and Fourth Ave. The program is under the direction of W. A. Rutes, Chairman of the Urban Design Committee, and David Helpert, a Committee member. Speakers will include I.M. Pei; Harold K. Bell, Director of the Urban Action and Experimentation Program at Columbia; Herman Wrice, President of the Young Great Society, Philadelphia; Frederick P. Rose, Rose Associates, contractors; and Max Bond, architect, former Director of ARCH.

Based on the premise that no subject is more vital than the development of housing and urban design responsive to life styles and desires of the community, the symposium will explore the process of community participation in design and the growing interest by community organizations in becoming sponsors of large-scale architectural and planning projects.

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

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS: JAN. 7

- Accepted the report of the Special Committee on Ethics and agreed to present their recommendations to the Institute at the Grassroots East meeting Jan. 9-10.
- Heard a report from former Chapter Director Arthur Rosenblatt regarding the possibility of joint sponsorship by the Chapter and the Metropolitan Museum of the exhibit "Rise of an American Architecture" for the Metropolitan Centennial, opening in May 1970. Agreed to co-sponsor the exhibit and appointed First Vice-President Giorgio Cavaglieri for liaison.
- Recorded the nominations for Nominating Committee made at the Chapter meeting on January 6, and added A. Corwin Frost. (Also clarified that Samuel Kurtz, who had been nominated from the floor, was eligible.)
- Instructed President Todd to inform Albert A. Walsh, new Administrator of HDA, of the Chapter's continuing concern regarding the housing situation in New York City, and of our support for Samuel Ratensky and others in HDA who have done much to further Chapter policies on housing in New York City.
- Instructed President Todd to inform the incoming Chairman of the New York City Housing Authority (as yet not officially designated) of a similar concern for work undertaken in his agency, with the recommendation that an appointment be made to office of Director of Design.
- Heard a detailed report from George Lewis, Director of Professional Affairs, regarding the NYCAIA-ARCH Training and Scholarship Program and the goals of the Chapter fund-raising campaign now being conducted by the Equal Opportunities Committee.
- Authorized Public Affairs Advisory Committee to proceed with a specific program to publicize the NYCAIA-ARCH Training and Scholarship Program.

OLD CODE LINGERS ON

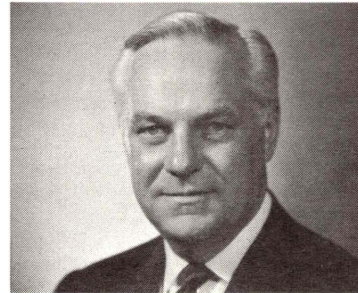
As of December 7, 1969, all buildings and alterations to buildings must be filed under the new Code — except...that alterations costing less than 30% of the value of the building may still be filed under the Old Code. Sub-article 103.0 describes these provisions.

JAN. 6 MEETING: GRIBETZ ON HOUSING

At the Chapter's luncheon meeting Jan. 6th, guest speaker Judah Gribetz, former Northeast Regional Administrator of HUD, spoke on Housing Problems of the 1970's. Mr. Gribetz suggested four major program areas: (1) Housing allowances or other income assistance for housing; he referred to an article by William Slayton, new Executive Vice President of the AIA, who recommended that "housing assistance could go directly to the family [which would enable it] to operate in the private market place, selecting housing to its liking at a location of its choice." (2) Programs to encourage improved housing operations such as management training, better code enforcement, and greater participation in ownership and control of their housing by low-income groups; (3) Greater industrialization of housing production, and (4) A more active role by government in controlling the availability and cost of land (for example, land banking).

At the same meeting Margot A. Henkel, Director of Administration and Finance, was voted an Honorary Associate Member and given a standing ovation. The award will be presented at the Annual Meeting in June.

The Chapter's Annual Residential Design Awards were presented by President Todd to Gwathmey & Henderson, Edelman & Salzman and to representatives of their clients. Jury remarks were read by Residential Design Committee Chairman William B. Gleckman.



Max O. Urbahn

URBAHN OFFICIALLY NOMINATED

Max O. Urbahn, FAIA, has been nominated for the office of First Vice-President of the A.I.A. by the New York Chapter, the Brooklyn Chapter, the Colorado Chapter, and the New York State Association of Architects. The First Vice-President automatically becomes president of the Institute the following year. Recommendation by at least three chapters is required. Other nominations are expected.

NYCAIA President David Todd, in a letter to all chapter presidents, stated "His [Urbahn's] qualifications for the office have been clearly demonstrated by his distinguished career in architecture in which he has attained wide recognition; by his dedication to professional causes, and by his outstanding record of service to the Institute. We are particularly supporting Max because of his concern with many of the most pressing social issues that face the profession today, and because he acts upon these concerns in a direct and positive way."

U. N. CENTER SUPPORTED, WITH RESERVATIONS

President David Todd presented the Chapter's stand on the proposed United Nations Center at a City Planning Commission hearing December 19, 1969. Roche-Dinkeloo are the architects for the Center.

Todd said, "We support the proposal on the grounds of public purpose but with strong recommendations that the assumptions on which the program of requirements have been based, together with the proposed financing, be thoroughly reviewed by your Commission before coming to a decision." He questions the financing arrangements tying the project to the Waterside housing project, as well as the density, bulk, and the visual impact. He also said the Chapter's approval was conditioned upon the assumption that the space for rental in the lower, public levels be prescribed for U.N.-oriented purposes in perpetuity, and that a direct connection on the proposed Second Avenue subway be included.

GRASSROOTS MEETING IN WASHINGTON

Chapter presidents and representatives from the eastern third of the country met in Washington Jan. 9th and 10th for review and discussion of current AIA affairs. This is an annual event occurring between conventions, an occasion both for hearing what others are doing and for reporting to others what is going on at the grass roots. The Institute will be sending out material about the meeting, but two matters on the agenda are of particular interest in New York.

Concerning the development of revised Ethical Standards, the Institute's Committee presented a new version for discussion, and it was not greeted with complete enthusiasm. New York Chapter President Todd called attention to the Chapter's recommendations prepared by the Special Committee under Herbert Oppenheimer, and this attracted great interest; all available copies were quickly snapped up, and copies have since been mailed to all chapter and component presidents.

The nearest thing to a true grass roots, where representatives from the hinterlands could report their activities and opinions, occurred at an evening workshop on Professional Responsibility to Society. An Institute Task Force by that name, led by George Rockrise of San Francisco, has developed a general program including national scholarships for minority students, community design centers (CDCs) to be established by chapters with members volunteering their time, and accreditation of six primarily black architectural schools. Hugh Zimmers, a Philadelphia architect instrumental in establishing that Chapter's Workshop and now acting as a consultant to the Institute, led a discussion of the value of CDCs. Attention was then focussed on the New York Chapter—ARCH Training and Scholarship Program and the Equal Opportunities Scholarships for which the fund raising toward a total sum of \$45,000 is now progressing. These New York programs, supported in part by the Ford Foundation, are leading the way for

what the Institute will be developing nationally. David Todd and George Lewis stressed the importance of remedial training in academic subjects — i.e., well-rounded college preparation — as a must in any effective scholarship program if the best potential talent is to be reached in the inner cities.

BUSINESS MANAGERS GROUP FORMED

Controllers and business managers from some 20 firms have participated in the formation of a new group. Organized under the auspices of a subcommittee of the Office Practice Committee and headed by Corwin Frost, it is expected to study the business aspects of architectural practice in detail. At its second meeting Jan. 13th interim officers were elected: Chairman, Donald Honigstock, Frost Associates; Co-Chairman, Richard Goldman, Brodsky, Hopf & Adler; Secretary, William Bailey, SOM; Treasurer, Robert Hagelin, I.M. Pei & Partners. Information and ideas developed will be made available to Chapter members.

SKETCHES

AIA—CEC Public Affairs Conference — Feb. 17–18 — to be held in Washington, D.C., at the Mayflower Hotel. Addresses will be made by officials in the Administration and Congress to an expected 650 architects and engineers. Speakers include Daniel P. Moynihan, Majority Whip Hale Boggs (D-La.), Minority Whip Leslie C. Arends (R-Ill.), and Senator Jacob K. Javits. There will be opportunities to meet senators and congressmen. Information and registration may be obtained from a joint AIA—CEC Public Affairs Conference Center, 1735 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20006. \$35.

The Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship 1970 sponsored by the Architectural League has a deadline of Mar. 31, 1970, for submissions of proposed projects having to do with architecture or related subjects. The grant is for amounts up to \$3,000 depending on the project. Application blanks can be obtained by writing Chairman, Brunner Scholarships Committee, The Architectural League of New York, 41 E. 65th St., N.Y. 10021.

Grants: The National Endowments for the Arts invites proposals for grants in the field of Environmental Design. Two types are offered: individual grants up to \$5,000, and group grants up to \$10,000. Proposals are due by Mar. 6, 1970. Write The National Endowments for the Arts, Architecture and Design Programs, 1800 F Street, N.W., Room 1349, Wash., D.C. 20506.

John S. Margolies, former Assistant Editor of "Architectural Record", has been retained by the American Federation of Arts as a "resident thinker".

BOOKS RECEIVED

"Light, Color and Environment", by Faber Birren, published by Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 131 pages, \$19.95. Mr. Birren explores the significance of light and the biological and psychological effects and reactions to color, particularly for difficult architectural spaces.

A MEMBER WRITES ON REGISTRATION EXAMS

The procedure by which the Architecture Unit of the State Education Department acts to examine, review, and judge the qualifications of candidates for the license of Registered Architect, State of New York, warrants necessary examination:

1) Upcoming examination dates are not available prior to the receipt of past examination scores or actual tickets of admission to the upcoming examination. 2) Albany's receipt of a candidate's application and fee is not acknowledged. 3) Written requests for upcoming examination dates, verification of the receipt and processing of one's application, as well as other correspondence, are apparently ignored. 4) Scores achieved in the examination are returned to candidates a month before the upcoming examination. 5) Three weeks prior to the examination date is the first time this writer was informed that he must appear for an interview. The notice was received the evening before the morning of the scheduled interview. At the interview, the candidate receives the dates and outline for the upcoming examination. As the examination process is constantly changing, the earliest possible distribution of this information is especially valuable and necessary to the candidate. 6) Although stated at the interview, acceptance of one's qualifications at that time does not guarantee admission to the examination. A candidate I know, approved at the interview, found through his own initiative that he was not to be admitted due to an administrative oversight. 7) A candidate is never sure of his admission until he receives his ticket, approximately one week prior to the examination. Some tickets never arrive in time. 8) Although another candidate I know filed his application in accordance with the Architecture Unit's guidelines, he was informed that he would not be admitted because the Unit did not have the time to process it due to the large number of applications filed.

Definitive action regarding the architectural registration process on the part of the architectural profession, advanced by the AIA, is in order.

Joel D. Kaufman

Mr. Kaufman, an "Oculus" committee member, is writing as an individual.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Bertram L. Bassuk, Chairman of the Technology Committee, is teaching a course on Architecture and Building Technology: An Analysis of the Function of the Architect in Environmental Management at NYU School of Continuing Education. 12 sessions beginning February 3. \$85.

The Institute of International Education, in cooperation with the University of Manchester, England, will offer a five-week course in urban and social planning. Open to graduate students and professionals. University of Manchester. For further information contact Mrs. S.M. Hamill, IIE, 809 United Nations Plaza, New York 10017. 867-0400, ext. 229.

A VISIT TO AN ARCHITECT'S OFFICE

Mrs. Ida Webster, Chairman of the Speakers Bureau, found out that the reason the Board of Education has ignored offers to provide architects to talk about the profession to juniors and seniors was that the students just don't enjoy listening to speakers, architects or otherwise. The head of vocational guidance did tell Mrs. Webster that visits to engineering offices had been proving quite successful and that he was therefore receptive to having similar visits to architectural firms. Visits are being arranged for the Easter vacation. If your firm would like to participate in this vital program please write to the Speakers Bureau at Chapter Headquarters.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Ralph Walker, First Chancellor of the College of Fellows, A.I.A., was named Member Emeritus at a black-tie dinner held recently in the Rainbow Room at Rockefeller Plaza.

Frederick J. Woodbridge, FAIA, former NYCAIA president, is one of six judges in the 1969 Spectrums Awards Competition sponsored by the New York Paint, Varnish & Lacquer Association.

Stephen A. Kliment has been selected to receive the Harry B. Rutkins Memorial Award for outstanding work for the Chapter. The Award will be presented at the June Annual Meeting.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Mon. Feb. 2** — New York: Rezone, Panel Discussion & Exhibit, Panelists: Jonathan Barnett, Dir. Urban Design Group, CPC; Richard P. Rosenthal, Frederick P. Rose & Colin F. Rowe, Prof. Urban Design, Cornell University, Chapter Headquarters, 5:30 P.M.
- **Tues. Feb. 17** — Hospitals & Health Lecture Chapter Headquarters, 5:15 P.M.
- **Thurs. Feb. 19** — Technology Lecture Chapter Headquarters, 5:15 P.M.
- **Tues. Feb. 24** — Urban Design Symposium "The Architect and the Community," Cooper Union Great Hall, 8:30 P.M.
- **Tues. Mar. 3** — School & College Architecture Committee Symposium, Speakers: Jonathan King & Frank Matzke, Chapter Headquarters, 5:30 P.M.
- **Wed. Mar. 11** — LeBrun Travelling Fellowship deadline for submissions.

CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

CORPORATE

Robert M. Golder
Maurice L. Medcalfe

James Anthony Nash
Martin D. Raab

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The NYCAIA welcomes the following members:

CORPORATE

John Edward Haley

Betty J. Ritter
E. L. Kennedy