

OCCUPYISM

NEW YORK CHAPTER / THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

MARCH 1970

VOLUME 43, NUMBER 7

A LETTER ON THE CHAPTER AND VIETNAM

The position taken by some Executive Committee members of the Chapter in support of last fall's Vietnam Moratorium in Bryant Park has touched off an active debate. The fact that hundreds of normally apathetic members of the Chapter have gotten involved in the issue, as evidenced by the poll, is a most welcome development.

In its broad meaning, the debate suggests that most architects are concerned with public affairs but that many of them have reservations about professional organizations getting into such matters. In narrower terms, the difference hinges on whether or not members of the Executive Committee should have used official means to express their personal opinions. But either way, this strong show of interest on the part of the membership is a sign of Chapter health and vitality. It indicates that, although individuals may differ about points of procedure, there is virtual unanimity on the central problem.

The central problem of today, for the architect as well as the average man, is that the Vietnam war is dividing the American people and diverting our resources and skills from our own urgent problems. Had the question been put to the Chapter membership in terms of the need for stopping the war immediately, instead of the procedural point about the Bryant Park letter, the response would have been overwhelmingly in support of the former.

The A.I.A. at the Chicago Convention took the road of concern and involvement in the problems of our time. It recognized that the Vietnam war has reversed our priorities. The N.Y. Chapter has officially backed the national stand. In implementing the Institute's objectives, it is important that the Chapter leadership observe parliamentary procedures. But it is even more important that they acted to lead us in the right direction.

Percival Goodman, Wallace B. Berger, William D. Wilson, FAIA, John Louis Wilson, Joseph Blumenkranz, FAIA, David L. Ginsberg, Richard Sonder, Clifford E. Wolfe, Carl E. Pancaldo, Simon Breines, FAIA, Isaiah Ehrlich, Armand Burgun, William J. Modin, John B. Mooney, Richard Miller, Marcus H. Caines, Rolland D. Thompson, Paul Silver, Murray Sput, Norval C. White, Isadore Rosenfield, FAIA, Richard G. Stein, FAIA, Joseph Shein, Melvin Leshowitz, Stephen Kagel, Max Kandel, Rudolph Horowitz, Ralph Pomerance.

CHAPTER CO-SPONSORS METROPOLITAN EXHIBIT

The New York Chapter, AIA, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the National Trust for Historic Preservation will sponsor an exhibition called "The Rise of an American Architecture" covering the period from 1815 to 1915. The exhibit will officially open May 5, 1970.

The Chapter will be honored with a Preview Reception for members and their guests at the Museum on Monday, May 4th. Louis Kahn, FAIA, will be presented with the Chapter's Medal of Honor in the Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium. Also, the WAA will present a contribution toward the Chapter's goal of \$45,000 for its scholarship programs for minority students. Full arrangements will be announced later.

ARCHITECT-COMMUNITY AS CLIENT SYMPOSIUM - FEBRUARY 24

A panel consisting of Harold K. Bell, Frederick P. Rose, Herman Wrice, and John Doar (substituting for I.M. Pei, who was ill), attempted to discuss the relationship between architect and community amid frequent outbursts from some of the 300 in the audience at Cooper Union February 24.

Wrice, President of the Young Great Society of Philadelphia, noted that architects working for private firms or public agencies were not responsive to community desires. After hiring and dismissing architects who insisted on doing their own thing despite community wishes, his group now has architects and planners on its payroll. Bell, director of the Urban Action and Experimentation Program at Columbia, and President of Module Communities, Inc., said that most professionals, both black and white, require retraining to learn to work with communities. Rose, President of Rose Associates, developers, was prevented from speaking by audience protests against his firm's alleged destruction of old neighborhoods to build luxury apartment and office buildings. Rose left the stage. Doar (formerly Deputy Attorney General and President of the Board of Ed), President of the Bedford Stuyvesant Development and Services Corp., described Pei's work with local groups in Bed-Sty on a project to change three streets in the area from automobile movement and storage to areas for recreation and pedestrian circulation. The greatest obstacle was getting approvals from the

(Continued on page 2, column 2)

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

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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: FEB. 11

- Authorized development under the direction of Martin Growald of a program in which Chapter members can volunteer their time to work on community projects, 7A proceedings, etc.
- Approved a proposal for a conference to be co-sponsored with other organizations on federal housing policy in relation to New York City.
- Approved the Chapter's sponsorship of the conference of the American Society of Planning Officials April 4-9.
- Approved a proposal of the Public Affairs Advisory Committee that the Chapter retain Raymond Cudahy, public relations consultant, to circulate a newsletter about Chapter activities to the radio and TV media. It was emphasized that the newsletter was to contain material of general public interest such as the urban environment, and that it was not to be a vehicle for carrying news about individual firms.
- Authorized the Housing Committee to cooperate with the State Division of Housing in developing innovative construction systems.
- Disapproved a request by the Hospitals & Health Committee that the Chapter support The American Hospital Association in developing a list of hospital architects.
- Authorized the Elementary & Secondary Education Committee to support a forthcoming conference for the purpose of acquainting local school personnel with a Philadelphia program which has introduced environmental awareness into the public school curriculum.

N.I.A.E. MINORITY AWARD

The National Institute for Architectural Education has awarded \$800 to Wallace Caradine, Jr., of Fayetteville, Arkansas. The NIAE, formerly the Beaux Arts Institute of Design, was formed in 1916 by Paris-trained New York architects. They established a fund from which \$10,000 is awarded annually in scholarships and prizes, including the well-known Paris Prize.

The NIAE is currently re-examining its role in relation to architectural education.

Drawings by recipients of NIAE travelling fellowships are currently on exhibit on the floor above Chapter Headquarters.

ARCHITECT and COMMUNITY (Continued)

various city agencies. Black contractors were used. The results, he concluded, showed how change could be brought about.

Moderator Bond, principal of an architectural firm, invited those who had led the protest against Mr. Rose to state their case. After describing threatened evictions and charging that the Planning Commission was involved in a "plot" to increase the allowable building density throughout Manhattan in order to enrich developers, the spokeswoman insisted that disruptive tactics were necessary to achieve action; she said that attendance at meetings and petition signing were found to be ineffective.

During the question period, Wrice said that the only way the community could guide its own development is by controlling the architects. Bond commented that communities must organize themselves in order to be in a position to *demand* control of their own development. Doar said that for the last 30 years the theory of low-cost housing design was "the clean room" concept. Merely providing a safe, sanitary living unit without regard to who builds it, who makes a profit from it, or what form it takes does not solve the housing problem, however. Until black children can see black men making decisions about their own community, no progress can be made toward the solution of urban problems. But, said Arthur Symes, Director of ARCH, of the 29,000 architects in the U.S., only 233 are black. He asked why the AIA was getting involved all of a sudden. Of the few architects present, no one volunteered to answer him. George Chaikin, recent architectural graduate, said that although the structure of the meeting invited disruption, such meetings take a tremendous step forward, but it will take a leap forward for architects to realize that *everything* they do ultimately affects the community.

The meeting was arranged by Walter A. Rutes, Chairman of the Chapter's Urban Design Committee, and David Helpen, Committee member.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 7A PROGRAM

Fellow member Roy A. Euker has this to say about the 7A program: It's about time the architects of our city got moving and into the streets to help with the job of rehabilitating slum dwellings. The State 7A Program is doing the job and needs your help. Your job will be to inspect tenement buildings that are in need of repair. You will report your findings on standard forms provided by Bernard Hanft, Attorney for the Program. You will not be required to inspect all apartments in a building; only one quarter, or about 4 to 5. It takes approximately two hours to inspect the building and fill out the forms, and this work can be done after working hours. Your report will be among papers filed in court. The court then issues an order appointing an administrator to collect the rents in place of the landlord. The administrator then uses the rent money to make the needed repairs to the building.

This program is working, but we need your help. Architectural inspectors need not be registered. Call Roy A. Euker, AIA, 242-0834.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Earnest Fuller, Chairman of the Membership Committee, reports that in December the Committee began a program for contacting potential new members. A list of 135 architectural offices was prepared, and contact was made by a Committee member to a firm principal to try to achieve the following: (1) Determine who in the office are potential members. (2) Ask the firm principal to bring to the attention of potential members the advantages of AIA membership. (3) Ask the principal to report back and to send the Committee a list of those who might be interested in membership.

A considerable list of potential candidates has been obtained. A master list will be formed with the names of all newly registered architects who live or work in the Chapter's territory. The Membership Reception on April 16 will be the climax of the drive. The Membership Committee hopes that Chapter members will continue to interest those eligible members of their staffs in AIA membership.

Special emphasis is being placed on increasing the number of associates, particularly those who expect to qualify for corporate membership and are presently in the period between graduation and registration. There has been a decrease in associates from 306 in 1963 to 165. Some think that this is because of the scale of dues. The general associate's dues reach \$52 in the third year. The professional associate's dues are the same as corporate members. In 1965, however, the last year of lower dues rates, there were fewer new associates (22) than in 1967 (25), after the dues were increased. The subject of associateships deserves further examination.

No special effort has been placed on increasing student associateships because there are no student chapters in the local architectural schools. At the recent Grassroots meetings in Washington, the leadership of the Association of Student Chapters asked that graduates of architectural schools become eligible for corporate membership. Discussion of this proposal made it plain that the students were concerned about being left in limbo between school and registration. It was felt the adoption of a broader policy of student and recent graduate involvement and interaction with each chapter would be the most appropriate course to follow.

ZONING: ITS EFFECT ON THE CITY

An exhibit of a zoning proposal prepared by four graduate students from Cornell and a discussion of zoning in general was sponsored by the NYCAIA Exhibits Committee Feb. 2nd, at the Chapter Headquarters. Panelists Jonathan Barnett of the Urban Design Group, Colin Rowe of the Cornell faculty, Frederick Rose of Rose Associates (developers), and Richard Rosenthal of Gruzen and Partners discussed the impact of zoning on New York City.

Barnett observed that the Zoning Resolution actually directs the form of the City. The 1916 Resolution relied primarily on the sky exposure plane concept while the 1961 Resolution added floor area ratio controls, floor area bonuses and other incentives. The

effects of the '61 Resolution are just being realized. The special zoning districts created for the theatre area and Lincoln Center are responses to specific problems. According to Barnett, the question of how much additional building should be permitted in return for amenity is a difficult problem; the Planning Commission believes that: "it's not how dense you make it, but rather how you make it dense," that determines the success or failure of specific developments.

Professor Rowe directed his remarks to the Cornell proposal. He noted that much of the attractiveness of the scheme resulted from its contrast to the surrounding development. If the proposal were applied generally, this contrast would be lost.

Mr. Rose contended that there is no private apartment construction underway in New York City because of the present zoning law. Developers accepted the '61 Resolution because former City Planning Commission Chairman James Felt promised changes would be made if the provisions proved unworkable. Rose feels the Planning Commission has been extremely rigid in application of the Resolution. "Zoning must survive the test of economics" in order to be beneficial to the community, he said.

Mr. Rosenthal disputed the claim that the zoning law was wholly responsible for the lack of private apartment construction in New York City, but he agreed that the present Resolution with its multiple exceptions and variations was too complicated to be fully workable.

The project was completed by Cornell graduate students J. Dobson, Stephen Quick, Roswell Sanford and T. Williams.

CAUTION: AIR RIGHTS MAY BE HAZARDOUS

William Cruce of the Scientists' Committee for Public Information, speaking at the Chapter's first natural environment workshop on January 29th, asked architects to call for a moratorium on new airspace projects over highways. Mr. Cruce, a postgraduate in neurology at the Rockefeller University, claimed that measurements made by the National Air Pollution Control Administration stated that tests at the George Washington Bridge Apartments indicated a carbon monoxide average of 14 ppm (parts per million) on a 24-hour basis, more CO than a busy midtown street, and somewhat equivalent of smoking a pack of cigarettes per day.

Jonathan Barnett, Director of the Urban Design Group, NYC Planning Commission, co-speaker for the evening, said that he was glad to see scientists take an active interest in the environment but felt that it was an overall problem and should be approached as a design problem to eliminate all pollution rather than to single out individual parts. When asked for examples of steps which could diminish pollution, he cited total energy for large-scale projects, but admitted this was perhaps a shift of many smaller pollutants to one larger.

The program was sponsored by the Chapter's Natural Environment Committee, John W. Grifalconi, Chairman. Gerard van Baarsel was Chairman of the first workshop.

1970 COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Lathrop Douglass, Philip C. Johnson, Alan Schwartzman, Max O. Urbahn, and Norval C. White have been elected to the 1970 Committee on Nominations. 508 ballots were cast, indicating considerable interest. The committee is preparing recommendations for elective Chapter offices and committees.

MORE COMMENTS ON REGISTRATION EXAM

Mr. Kaufman's article in the February issue of the "Oculus" stirs many memories of THE SYSTEM that we all went through. His experiences, I believe, are no different than those encountered innumerable times by literally thousands of candidates applying for entrance the THE EXAM. Unfortunately, the amount of indignation wanes with the news of successful completion and issuance of the license to practice. Does one feel: this is what we all went through, so all new candidates must also? How many of us thought that we would take some action but with registration in hand quickly forgot? I include myself, but with Joel's chronical of frustration I am stirred to have my voice heard. I think that the "Oculus" as the communication arm of our Chapter could continue to question the members to ascertain whether "Mr. Kaufman, is writing as an individual," or is in fact expressing an opinion that is shared by many.

A call to action by the Chapter to overcome one of the all too many bureaucratic systems that plague our profession, appears in order.

Edward Locke LaMura, AIA

Note: "Oculus" welcomes more responses from the members.

SKETCHES

Afternoon symposium: The Office Practice Committee, Herbert Riemer, Chairman, is sponsoring a symposium called "Professional Liability Loss Prevention". Mr. J. Sprigg Duvall of Victor O. Schinnerer & Co. will speak on available methods, means and restrictions for providing maximum potential loss provisions within professional liability coverage. Tues., April 7, 1970, 2 P.M., Chapter Headquarters.

Reminder — In case you didn't notice in the last issue, there is an excellent opportunity to encourage talented NYC High School Juniors and Seniors to study architecture, by participating in the "Visit to an Architect's Office" program sponsored by the Chapter's Speakers Bureau. Contact Mrs. Ida Webster, Chairman.

The February "Architectural Record" has an article on the Chapter—ARCH training and scholarship program on page 41.

Research Projects: The AIA National Committee on Research for Architecture is interested in research projects by individual architects or firms to be discussed at the seventh annual research conference to be held in October in Cincinnati, Ohio. Outlines should be submitted to Richard E. Ritz, c/o Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, 1100 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204, along with name, business address and telephone; firm name or affiliation, title, and AIA Chapter affiliation.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

John H. MacFadyen has been chosen staff president of the Associated Council of the Arts.

In the AIA's first national Community and Junior College Design Awards Program, *Hamby, Kennerly & Slomanson* received an Award of Merit for the Union College, Cranford, N.J. campus master plan. *Morris Ketchum, Jr. & Associates* received an Award of Merit for the Dining Hall at the State University of New York Agricultural and Technical College, Morrisville. *Robert S. Hutchins, FAIA*, was Chairman of the Jury.

George A. Dudley has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the AIA Urban Design and Development Corporation (UDDC).

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Tues. Mar. 17** — Hospitals & Health Discussion meeting Jane Hough & Hussein Shahrim slide lecture on Mental Health and Retardation in Scandinavia. Chapter Headquarters, 5:15 P.M.
- **Thurs. Mar. 19** — Technology Lecture, Chapter Headquarters 5:15 P.M.
- **Sat. Mar. 28** — Hospital & Health Field Trip — Long Island Jewish Medical Center 9:30 a.m. sharp.
- **Tues. Mar. 31** — Environmental Workshop II "The Role of Architects and Consultants," Stewart L. Udall, invited.

CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

Corporate

Richard Aronson	Denis Glen Kuhn
Frank G. Battipede	Walter G. Leicht
Bertrand B. Bishop	Enoch Lipson
Norman Chan	Marvin Herman Meltzer
George Gianakopoulos	Doris B. Nathan
Isabella Gillon	Eugene M. Sewell
Richard N. Wingerson (Readmission)	

Professional Associate

Arthur May

Associate

Malcolm P. Furman	Theophilus A. Okin
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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The NYCAIA welcomes the following members:

Corporate

John K. Abrahamsen	Steven W. Miller
Jonathan Barnett	Nelson T. Nordquist
William T. Chafee	Raymond F. Pavia
David E. Chapman	Jose A. Robaina
Alexander Grinnell	Herman M. Roberts
Ralph G. Gulley (Readmission)	Jeffrey M. Rosenblum
William L. Hall	Allen C. Roth
Robert E. Jensen	Capril Serabian
Robert G. Larsen	Frank Visconi

Professional Associate

Harold Einhorn (Readmission)	Eugene Meyers (Readmission)
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Associate

Raymond J. Amico	Harry J. Quintana
Joel Ives	Jaime L. Suarez

George J. Tamaro