

# OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER / THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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## GRASSROOTS CONFERENCE: AN AIA LOCAL-NATIONAL EXCHANGE

The Institute's Grassroots Conference in Washington Jan. 7-9, one of three regional meetings occurring at mid-point between national conventions, afforded local chapter presidents a chance to meet with the national leadership to exchange opinions on policies and programs. As a two-way discussion, it was far superior to the 1970 conference, when the local representatives were mostly on the listening end.

For instance, there was an insistent demand from the grass roots that the Institute take stronger steps toward more and better housing. Giorgio Cavaglieri and Darryl Rippeteau (AIA board members from New York State), argued effectively that the Institute must produce a positive program before the Detroit Convention in June. Among other subjects discussed were:

- Re-structuring the Institute. Vice President George White presented the report of the Task Force on Structure, which proposes a House of Regents to assume the policy-making functions of the present Board of Directors and national conventions. Regents would be elected on the basis of one for the first 300 members in a region, and one for each 500 thereafter. On this basis New York State would have 5 representatives as compared with a single director on the present Board. At national conventions the members of the House of Regents would become the delegates, but all corporate members present would retain the right to speak. This proposal was strongly supported, although there were differences over details.
- Human Resources Council (HRC). Vice President Robert Nash announced that there would be an HRC conference in Omaha on Feb. 27, to be attended by representatives of all AIA components. HRC was established in Sept. 1970 to implement the AIA Task Force on Professional Responsibility to Society Program; its role will be to raise funds in support of Task Force programs on both the local and national levels, and to inspire volunteers service support for Task Force programs at the local level.
- Institute Priorities. Chapter member Max Urbahn, First Vice President of the Institute and Chairman of the Planning Committee, presented strong proposals for reevaluating the emphasis of the Institute's committee work and budget allocations.

G. L.



Photo by E. La Mura

Congressman Ed Koch speaking at Chapter Luncheon.

## KOCH CITES CITY BUREAUCRACY AS MAJOR CAUSE FOR HOUSING FAILURES

In an address at the Chapter's Jan. 15th luncheon, Congressman Edward I. Koch of Manhattan stated that bureaucracy and the indifference of city officials were major obstacles to progress in planning, housing and the building of adequate prisons. Koch used three examples: forced relocation of 28 houses in Corona, Queens; the welfare hotel problem; and overcrowding in detention prisons such as the Tombs. Corona citizens had apparently asked Deputy Mayor Aurelio why the proposed three story school could not be six stories and they were told it would set back construction three years. Koch found this inexcusable. He has made personal visits to welfare hotels and found the city to be paying rents as high as \$400 a week for two rooms without cooking facilities. As a solution to this problem he recommended rehabilitation of abandoned buildings. Koch emphasized that he believed in our system of government but that we have to make it work.

During the same luncheon the members voted Mayor John V. Lindsay as an "Honorary Associate Member". The nomination was made by the Awards Committee, Minor Bishop, Chairman.

Twelve names were placed in nomination for the Committee on Nomination. Two more were added by the Executive Committee. Five of the fourteen will be selected by a mail ballot. The Committee will recommend names for Chapter officers and directors. Those nominated were Reino Aarnio, George D. Brown, FAIA, Lo-Yi Chan, Elisabeth Coit, FAIA, A. Corwin Frost, William B. Gleckman, Arthur C. Holden, FAIA, Herbert Oppenheimer, Abraham J. Rothenberg, Walter A. Rutes, Daniel Schwartzman,

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NEW YORK CHAPTER, THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
20 West 40th Street, New York, New York 10018 — 212-565-1866  
George S. Lewis . . . . . Executive Director

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Giorgio Cavaglieri, FAIA, President	David E. Glasser
Frederick G. Frost, Jr. FAIA, 1st Vice-Pres.	Lawrence Litchfield
Leon Brand, Vice President	T. Merrill Prentice, Jr.
Thomas Galvin, Vice President	Armand P. Bartos
Der Scutt, Secretary	Howard H. Juster
James B. Baker, Treasurer	James S. Rossant

#### OCULUS COMMITTEE

Kurt Karmin	John Doran, Editor and Chairman	Joel D. Kaufman
Linda Yang		Barry Stanley
Edward L. LaMura		John B. Schwartzman

J. Arvid Klein

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

##### Regular Meeting Jan. 6 and Special Meeting Jan. 14.

- A proposal submitted by Messrs. Glasser and Prentice for organizing fund raising for financial assistance to minority architectural students was adopted (details to be announced shortly).
- The current possibility of a New York Metropolitan Chapter, A.I.A. was discussed.
- A statement submitted by the Natural Environment Comm. in support of the City's proposed Air Pollution Code was approved with an added provision recommending that the Code be coordinated with the Building Code.
- A draft proposal was received (to be considered at the Feb. meeting), submitted by Messrs. Brand and Galvin for a political affairs committee envisioned as the "action arm" for NYCAIA to bring the weight of the organization to bear by enunciating policy in the public sector.
- Continued discussion of proposed new chapter headquarters and appointed Messrs. Frost and Baker to work with the Headquarters Committee, Simon Breines, Chairman, in pursuing this matter.

#### CHAPTER SUPPORTS PROPOSED GREENWICH STREET ZONING DISTRICT

Giorgio Cavaglieri, on behalf of the Executive Committee, appeared before the Board of Estimate on Jan. 14 in support of this proposal which would coordinate private office building construction with pedestrian walkways, transit connections and retail services. Builders would be allowed greater floor area if they join in providing public improvements. A major design element would be a north-south shopping spine on both sides of Greenwich Street; there would be two levels of stores, restaurants and other services, and shoppers could walk from the World Trade Center to the pedestrian level of Battery Park City via a series of connecting bridges over cross streets. Cavaglieri compared the proposal with the urban design of Grand Central and Rockefeller Center.

James Rossant had previously submitted a statement to the Planning Commission which approved the proposal on Jan. 6.

#### KOCH (Cont. from page 1)

FAIA, Richard Snibbe, FAIA, Edgar Tafel and David F.M. Todd, FAIA. Stanley Salzman, Chairman of the Residential Design Committee jury, presented six awards for the annual Residential Design Competition and showed slides of the winning projects. Honor awards went to Giovanni Pasanella and the NYS Urban Development Corporation for the Twin Parks West apartments in the Bronx; Stanley and Laurie Maurer for a brownstone renovation in Brooklyn; and William Gleckman and the Sole Purpose Corporation for a tenement renovation on West 78th Street. Awards of Merit were given to Gruzen & Partners and Local 365, United Automobile Workers for a 900 unit coop housing project in Brooklyn; Julian and Barbara Neski for the Cates beach house in Amagansett; and James Baker and Peter Blake for the Shafer house in Annandale-on-Hudson. 86 entries were submitted. The jury attempted to recognize projects which are solutions to urban housing problems rather than the many imitative and mannered beach houses they found.

The luncheon was held in the pleasant, airy Kaufmann Rooms designed by Alvar Aalto for the Institute of International Education. Even the food was good.

K. K.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Instead of lining office walls with book shelves bulging with building codes, reference standards, multiple dwelling laws, zoning resolutions, etc., which are obsolescent by the time they are printed and distributed, why not establish a city-wide central computer to which architectural and engineering personnel would have telephone or cathode tube receiver access? The data bank could be kept up to the minute and include peripheral material from the State Labor Law, Board of Standards & Appeals rulings, etc., and even departmental directives. It could also contain data on such superseded laws and codes as are often useful when doing alterations.

The development and installation costs could probably be facilitated through federal funding. The operating costs could be defrayed by means of an equitable subscription system in which the users share the costs with the municipality. The present primitive system could continue while the computer is being set up and tested out. There is no doubt that, after a brief transition period during which old dogs would be obliged to learn new tricks, the man-hours saved in offices and city departments would yield substantial cost savings. Furthermore, The Building Laws Central Computer, together with many other computer applications already creeping into our field, would enhance our ability to adapt to the approaching systems building era.

Then why delay? Let us proceed now to enlist the cooperation of the other architectural and engineering societies in New York City and exert our joint influence to bring the building professions into the 20th century through the establishment of the Building Laws Central Computer.

Harold J. Levy, AIA



## JOINT URBAN MANPOWER PROGRAM (JUMP)

The New York Chapter, A.I.A. has embarked upon a plan which will attempt to rectify the lag in minority training programs in the architectural field in New York City. Last year the Chapter aided in the formation and is now a charter member of the non-profit, recently incorporated JOINT URBAN MANPOWER PROGRAM, INC. (JUMP) which has received a grant from the Labor Dept.'s MA-6 funding program.

Frank Munzer and Maurice Wasserman, appointed by the Executive Committee, are the chapter representatives on the JUMP Board of Directors, whose goal is to train youth in technical support occupations such as drafting (in engineering, and now architecture) and to assist employers in meeting their needs for trained personnel. The administrative work and recruiting and screening of applicants from disadvantaged areas will be done in cooperation with Vocational Foundation, Inc., a non-profit placement agency.

For 6 months, the trainees will attend class for half of each working day while the other half is spent in supervised on-the-job training in the office of each trainee's employer. Similar to the programs already being used successfully by the engineering trainees, the architectural schooling will cover basic drafting techniques, theories and remedial work in math and reading. Following this 6-month training period, the architectural trainee will spend an additional 3 months in a continuation of supervised on-the-job training before they are to be considered "graduated" or the employer stops receiving financial aid.

Munzer, presently one of the 3 co-chairmen of JUMP's Board of Directors, stated that to date some 37 architectural and engineering firms have hired trainees from the program. Any firm interested in participating in future programs should contact him or his co-chairmen Arthur Nielson and Oliver Axtell at JUMP, 353 Park Ave. So., N.Y. 10010, or call Mrs. Ann Rudenstine at 889-1550.

L. Y.

## FUND DRIVE PLANNED

The Executive Committee has approved a plan submitted by Tim Prentice and David Glasser designed to raise funds to support and expand the Chapter's minority scholarship programs. The goal is \$300,000 over a 5-year period. 80% of this is expected to be received from sources outside the profession. A tentative breakdown of the proposed \$60,000 a year for five years is: \$12,000 from architects; \$3,000 from professional affiliates; \$8,000 from contractors, \$3,000 from sub-contractors; \$18,000 from manufacturers and \$6,000 from owner builders.

The proposal recommends that the Chapter's share be raised by assessment of the members. This method is felt to be more equitable than solicitation and will be clear evidence of the Chapter's commitment to the program. A general Chapter meeting will be announced shortly to discuss and vote on the plan.

## AIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ESTABLISHES HUMAN RESOURCES COUNCIL

The AIA Board of Directors, seeking an implementing arm for Task Force on Professional Responsibility programs, has established the Human Resources Council. Its primary role will be to raise funds and generally seek support for Task Force programs. Some of these programs being: Community Design/Development Centers (CDCs), AIA/Ford Scholarship Program and Minority Schools of Architecture.

Nathaniel Owings, FAIA and Institute Vice President Robert Nash were appointed co-chairmen of the Council's Executive Committee. The Council will be made up of representatives of all local chapters. Ideally, a close liaison will develop between the National Human Resources Council and the local representatives resulting in coordinated programs and fund raising. It is the stated intention of the NHRC that locally raised funds may be earmarked by their contributor for either local or national programs.

A meeting of the Council's Executive Committee and local representatives is being scheduled for February in Omaha, Nebraska. George Lewis, who is a member of the National Task Force on Professional Responsibility to Society, will be in attendance. It is hoped that specific details can be developed to fully define the role of the local chapter. The role of the New York Chapter is of critical interest because of the fact that we have had our own fund raising for Task Force and other programs. Hopefully a properly coordinated national and local effort will create greater interest and generate financial resources beyond the reach of individual local efforts. The forthcoming February meeting of the council will be of special interest for the Chapter.

A. K.

## THE ARCHITECTS' TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

The Center's activities have increased rapidly since it was formed last summer, and with the appointment of Josh Lawrence as Executive Director, a full-time administrative organization is now in operation. The Center has undertaken a total of 50 assignments with various community groups, 10 of which have been completed, and the remainder are now in process.

Day care centers, playgrounds, and many other projects are helped to get off the ground. General consultation, inspection of multiple dwellings, and court testimony are part of the Center's function.

Many architects have expressed a desire to contribute their time to the community groups of the City that are struggling to find their own voice and their own identity. The Center is holding a session at 5:30 on Thursday, Feb. 11, that will explain the work and the services needed, with respect to different schedules and skills. Experienced back-up is needed for those doing the legwork. The one indispensable qualification is being a good listener.

J. S.



## TURNKEY HOUSING: PROS & CONS

On Dec. 17th the Housing Committee heard four guest speakers describe their experiences with the Federally funded turnkey housing programs. They were Jackson Wright, Director of Housing Programs for the AIA; Paul Gale, President of Turnkey Proposals Inc.; Leonard Susci, V.P. of Construction for Progress Inc., and Max Schreiber, Director of Design of the NYC Housing Authority.

Jackson Wright pointed out that the 3-year-old program was supposed to reduce costs 10 to 15%, save 1 to 2 years, provide more housing and offer "diversification of design". An AIA survey of architects found their reactions to it to be overwhelmingly negative. Existing programs have failed to produce quality housing since the emphasis is wholly on saving time and money. Costs are high because of administrative procedures while the financial interests of developers encourages substandard design. Architects who will work for minimal fees are sought out.

Paul Gale, whose Long Island firm is developing turnkey housing, said that local community political pressure forces the developer into using poor sites, a compromise from the outset. He said architects often work for speculation at the early stages and later for 50 to 75% of the standard FHA fee. Gale cautioned against "over design" which can result in high costs forcing abandonment of projects.

Leonard Susci's firm did the first turnkey housing in the City. He listed 3 goals: fair return, good housing, and good architecture, but pointed out that they were often mutually exclusive. Shelter housing is more important than "good architecture", he contended. He explained that he understands architecture to mean only architectural form and aesthetic elements—unessentials which cannot be considered under severe cost limitations.

Max Schreiber observed that since separate contracts must be issued for N.Y. State public housing, the turnkey process saves the Housing Authority from having to act as a general contractor. The developer takes care of supervision and presents the Authority with a complete package. He also added that since competitive bids are not required in turnkey construction, the use of systems building becomes a possibility.

K. K.

## STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS BILL INTRODUCED

A bill has been introduced in the legislature to limit the time for commencing actions arising out of alleged deficiencies in construction, supervising, or design of structures. The bill establishes eight years from the completion of construction as the limit for beginning legal actions. It covers surveyors, landscape architects, engineers and contractors as well as architects.

The NYCAIA strongly supports this bill and urges all members to contact their assemblymen and State Senators and ask them to vote for it. (S-781,A-1004)

## POLLUTION AND POWER DILEMMA CHALLENGED BY CHAPTER TASK FORCE

What can the architect, planner and citizen do to help solve the problems of air and water pollution associated with the use of electrical energy? The February 25th meeting of the AIA Natural Environment Committee will feature the report of a special committee *Task Force on Power and Pollution*. Controversial subjects such as alternative sources of energy and power plant locations will be discussed, in addition to methods of reducing waste and consumption of electricity. Keynote speaker will be scientist Glenn Paulson of Rockefeller University who will focus on the value of the design professions in this field.

Franklin L. Alexander, who heads the task force, will be joined in the presentation by several key committee members who have authored task force statements. Building design and new energy systems will be contrasted with the vital regional need for programs to eliminate all types of pollution caused by power production. Recently Natural Environment Committee Member Herbert L. Lippman and Chairman John W. Grifalconi representing the NYCAIA at several public hearings, called for a new set of government priorities to place restoration of environmental quality above the need to satisfy the spiraling demands for electrical power.

The February 25th meeting will start at 6 P.M. at Chapter headquarters. Refreshments will be available prior to the program at 5:30 P.M.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Sat. Feb. 6**—Field Trip to Clinical Services Building, Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn. 9:30 A.M. to 12 noon. Meet at Doctors' Dining Room, Cornish Bldg., 1st floor lobby.
- **Tues. Feb. 9**—Technology Lecture on "Masterspec Automated Specifications System by John H. Schruben, President PSAE. Second Floor Auditorium, 20 West 40 Street, 2:30 P.M. in the *afternoon*.
- **Tues. Feb. 16**—Technology/Environmental Committee Lecture on Total Energy at 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

Janith Davids                      Ralph Arthur Heisel  
William Rogers Hegeman      Joseph Robert Nagy  
Heino Tammerk

### ASSOCIATE

Les Dennis Beilinson              Garold Richard Nyberg

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The NYCAIA welcomes the following members:

### CORPORATE

J. B. Egerhazy

### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE

Walter E. Patton