

## Unionization

Employer-employee relations are undergoing a change. Pressure for this change is being generated in no small measure by the observable movement toward the unionization of architectural professional employees. In San Francisco five architectural offices held NLRB supervised elections last September 15th. Four firms rejected and one accepted unionization. Rejecting unionization were the professional employees of the firms of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, Fisher-Friedman Associates, Howard Friedman and Associates and Wurster, Bernardi & Emmons. The employees of Hertzka & Knowles accepted the Organization of Architectural Employees as their representative in collective bargaining with management. Two additional NLRB-ordered elections were to have been held shortly after the September 15th elections.

In the Bay Area the efforts of the OAE, Organization of Architectural Employees was stalled for some time, the regional office of the NLRB having refused to certify the new union. Jurisdiction was only recently assumed, apparently because of the effect of a labor dispute on interstate economy.

In New York, however, while the impetus toward unionization was slower in surfacing, the office of Herman Jessor was successfully organized last spring. The professional and technical staff voted last June, in an NLRB observed election, to accept the Architectural & Engineering Guild Local 66, American Federation of Technical Engineers, AFL-CIO as their representative in collective bargaining with management. A one-year contract was subsequently negotiated and agreed to last August. The resulting contract, while not substantially altering salaries, did establish certain work rules and fringe benefits that had been lacking. More importantly, the professional and technical employees of the firm of Herman Jessor represent the first successful unionization effort resulting in a contract which virtually guarantees the continued representation in collective bargaining by the A & E Guild.

Recently an NLRB ordered election was held in the office of Georgio Cavaglieri. Unionization was rejected. Additional NLRB ordered elections can be expected in several other offices.

In response to this increased effort of professional employees toward unionization in architectural firms the AIA Board has approved a "white paper" on personnel practices in the profession. Two alternatives present themselves: Either the profession concerns itself with full and proper employer-employee relations or

witness polarization on the part of those professional employees that feel collective bargaining is the only way to achieve what they believe are proper employment conditions. Whether such polarization will benefit the profession is hard to say, but in view of President Hastings' commitment to an AIA representing the full spectrum of the profession, one can hopefully look forward to sound personnel practices and equitable compensation policies as a matter of mutual interest.

JAK

## New Format

With this issue Oculus has changed to a new format.

The new **Oculus** format is the first Chapter exposure to the uniform system of graphics developed by the firm of Arnold Saks, Inc. for all Chapter material. A Graphics Committee was formed last summer at the insistence of 1st Vice-President Polshek who felt the NYC/AIA must represent in its own affairs the highest standards of design. The Committee reviewed the problem, interviewed graphics designers and recommended to the Executive Committee the retaining the firm of Arnold Saks, Inc. to develop a complete graphic system. Clarity and variation within a disciplined graphic format was stressed.



## Executive Committee Actions

### November 11, 1971

- Approved the budgets for Committees.
- Heard David Ginsberg, Chairman of the Hospitals and Health Committee, describe current activities; approved his request that a Guide to Health Facilities, prepared by the Committee, be published.
- Arvid Klein, Editor and Chairman of **Oculus**, presented the new format which had been designed by the firm of Arnold Saks, Inc., the Chapter's new graphic consultant. He also described plans for guest columnists and urged Commission chairmen to keep **Oculus** editors informed.
- There was continued discussion of plans for Chapter Headquarters.
- It was decided to continue scheduling the Annual Meeting and induction of new officers in June even though AIA Conventions are now to take place in May.
- Jonathan Barnett, Chairman of the Awards Committee, was appointed the Chapter's representative on the Jury for the Medal of Honor in City Planning.
- Lawrence Litchfield was appointed to be unofficial liaison with the Architects' Council.
- It was announced that Max Urbahn, who will become Institute President in early December, will hold a press conference on December 7 at 4:30 at Chapter Headquarters.
- There was preliminary discussion of possible Chapter sponsorship of a major exhibition of industrialized housing.

### November 17, 1971

- Heard reports on Committee activities.
- Accepted Elliot Willensky's resignation as Chairman of the Public Relations Committee and appointed him as the Chapter's Public Relations Counsel to prepare a program.

## Medal of Honor in City Planning awarded to Geoffrey Platt

The Medal of Honor in City Planning was awarded to Geoffrey Platt for his outstanding contribution in helping to bring the Landmarks Preservation Commission into being and for his able work as its first Chairman. Organizations participating in this citation are the Metropolitan Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the New York Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and the Brooklyn and the New York Chapters of the AIA. The award was presented at the annual Fall Reception, held at the New York Yacht Club, November 19.

Harmon Goldstone, present Chairman of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, commented as follows on Mr. Platt's contribution to the work of the Commission:

"The secret lies in his balance and his fairness. He realized from the outset that preservation of our architectural heritage requires more than antiquarian expertise and single-minded zeal. The forces for destruction—physical deterioration, opportunity for greater gain, obsolescent uses, population shifts, political indifference, public inertia—also had all to be squarely faced. Allies had to be won and supporters found in the enemy camps. Equitable solutions had to be created to meet just claims. A viable solution had to be worked out in each different case. It is because of this fairness and this balance that Geoffrey Platt succeeded where others have failed. To quote his own favorite expression: "In the saving of old buildings, the Landmarks Preservation Law is a tool—not a weapon."

## Yacht Club Party Oversubscribed

The response to the announcement of the Chapter's Fall Reception was so unexpectedly great that many requests had to be returned. The New York Yacht Club had set an absolute limit of 250 people. Previous Fall Receptions had attracted no more than 170; for this event there were requests for over 340 reservations; while this evidence of increased interest is to be welcomed, it is quite unfortunate that so many had to be turned away.

## "The Architect and New York State"

This was the theme of the State Association Convention at Monticello October 18-21. It will be reported fully in the *Empire State Architect*. Thomas F. Galvin was Chairman of the effective conference.

Chapter members attending found the presentations by representatives of State agencies to be particularly interesting. George Dudley, Chairman of the Council on Architecture, presided, and it was evident that the Council is accomplishing a great deal in coordinating and expediting the processes involved in the many State construction programs.

Presentations were made by Donald Hasbrouck of the Dormitory Authority; John G. Broughton, representing the State Education Department; Abraham Levitt of UDC; Charles J. Urstadt, Commissioner of the Division of Housing & Community Renewal; Albert Brevetti of the Office of General Services; David Solomon of the Department of Health; and A. Gordon Lorimer of the Port Authority.

Round tables were organized for informal discussion.

GL



## Financial Management by Computers

The Computers in Architecture Committee is reviewing a report and a proposal by National AIA for a program of financial management, utilizing computer technology, for architectural firms, according to its Chairman, Alan Goldsamt. The report and proposal, to be announced shortly, will present to the profession a computer program for accounting application geared to and for use by small and medium size firms, as well as large ones. The program is specifically geared to the needs of architects rather than the adaptation for architectural use of a standard business accounting program.

According to advance notice, the computer program and operating manual will be available for sale to members. After purchase, the National AIA would advise the member firm as to how the program is to be implemented.

In addition, the Computers in Architecture Committee is preparing to survey architectural firms in New York City to determine the extent of their computer usage. It is hoped that the survey will suggest a work program defining areas of computer use interest, ie. accounting, zoning, graphics, programming, etc. and will pinpoint areas where the profession is not interested in the development of computer applications.

It is hoped that this initial step will indicate that enough firms are interested in computer use and will lead to the eventual development of a computer center for the profession, which is the committee's long range goal.

JDK

## Student Affairs Committee

"Why should I be interested in the AIA?" is a too familiar question for Jerry Maltz, Chairman of the NYC AIA Student Affairs Committee. Communicating with architectural students is not always easy, but fortunately for the Chapter, Jerry believes it is almost always worth the effort. Aside from the advantages of maintaining a youthful view of architecture, he believes it is important for practicing architects to maintain a dialogue, however shaky, with students. This is important not only for the sake of the profession's future, but where the AIA is concerned, for the life of the organization itself. These young people are in fact the future practicing professionals.

The prime goal of his Committee is "to stimulate communication among students in New York City architectural schools and between students and the profession itself". In his endeavor to know the best way of achieving this, he has turned to the students themselves and has come upon some interesting revelations. For example with regard to his Committee's planned lecture series, he found that while the students were quite desirous of a "lecturer" (they supplied him with numerous names), they completely rejected the traditional role of "being lectured at". Instead they sought an active, open dialogue in which they could participate directly with the "lecturer".

Committee members are expected to maintain continuing contact with the school they chose. They have set about making themselves known to both students and faculty. Since each school has a distinct personality with student bodies differing greatly in character from one another, there is no prescribed route Committee members may follow. When queried by *Oculus* as to the general attitude of the students, Chairman Maltz stated that they were not always im-

passioned about AIA affairs. This apathy is directed largely at the professional "Establishment" in general as represented by the AIA. They profess interest in architecture and its relationship to the "Community" but apparently are unaware of efforts by the AIA in precisely these lines.

Thus, it is the Committee's sincere hope that their efforts will foster a sense of mutual understanding and shared problems on behalf of student and practicing professional alike.

LY

## December Release for Planning Critique

Release of the Chapter's "Observations on the Plan for New York City" is planned to coincide with the City Planning Commission's annual review of the capital budget. Donald Elliott, Planning Commissioner, was given an advance draft as a matter of courtesy. He pointed out a few factual errors and expressed disappointment that the review gave the Commission little credit for innovations such as incentive zoning.

Elliot Willensky, Chairman of the Public Relations Committee, has made some revisions to the text. The final version of the critique will be mailed to members at the same time it is released to the public.

KK



## Historic Buildings Committee

The Chapter's Historic Buildings Committee is working with the Municipal Arts Society to develop legislation in the hopes of strengthening New York City's Landmarks Preservation Commission. According to William Shopsin, Chairman of the Historic Buildings Committee, this can be accomplished by making three major changes to the existing law, which dates from 1965.

First of the proposed changes is to give the Landmarks Preservation Commission the right of Public Disclosure. Under the present law, the Commission can make suggestions to other City Agencies, but cannot make public its own recommendations.

The second proposed change is to extend the Commission's coverage to include Landscaped Areas and Monumental Public Interiors. New York City's parks, for example, are not zoned, and the Parks Department is a law unto itself. Monumental Interiors within such buildings as Grand Central Station, the Plaza Hotel, the New York Public Library, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art are not protected by a Landmarks designation. One little-known fact is that, partly through the efforts of the Historic Buildings Committee, the Metropolitan Museum has agreed to preserve the Grand Staircase and not to replace it with escalators, as originally intended.

The third change would be to improve the operating capability of the Commission. This would include an increase in the size of its staff to process the many questions before the

Commission, and provide for public hearings on a yearly basis instead of the present three-year intervals.

The Historic Buildings Committee is continuing to work with UDC and other agencies to demonstrate the applicability of last July's Amendment to the Multiple Dwellings Law which allows Artists' Housing in industrial buildings. The original reason the Committee, in cooperation with other citizen groups, developed the amendment was to preserve the cast iron buildings in the Soho district. A new target area for applying the amendment is the Fulton-Ferry Street section of Brooklyn.

Other projects being worked on by the Historic Buildings Committee include the preparation of a white

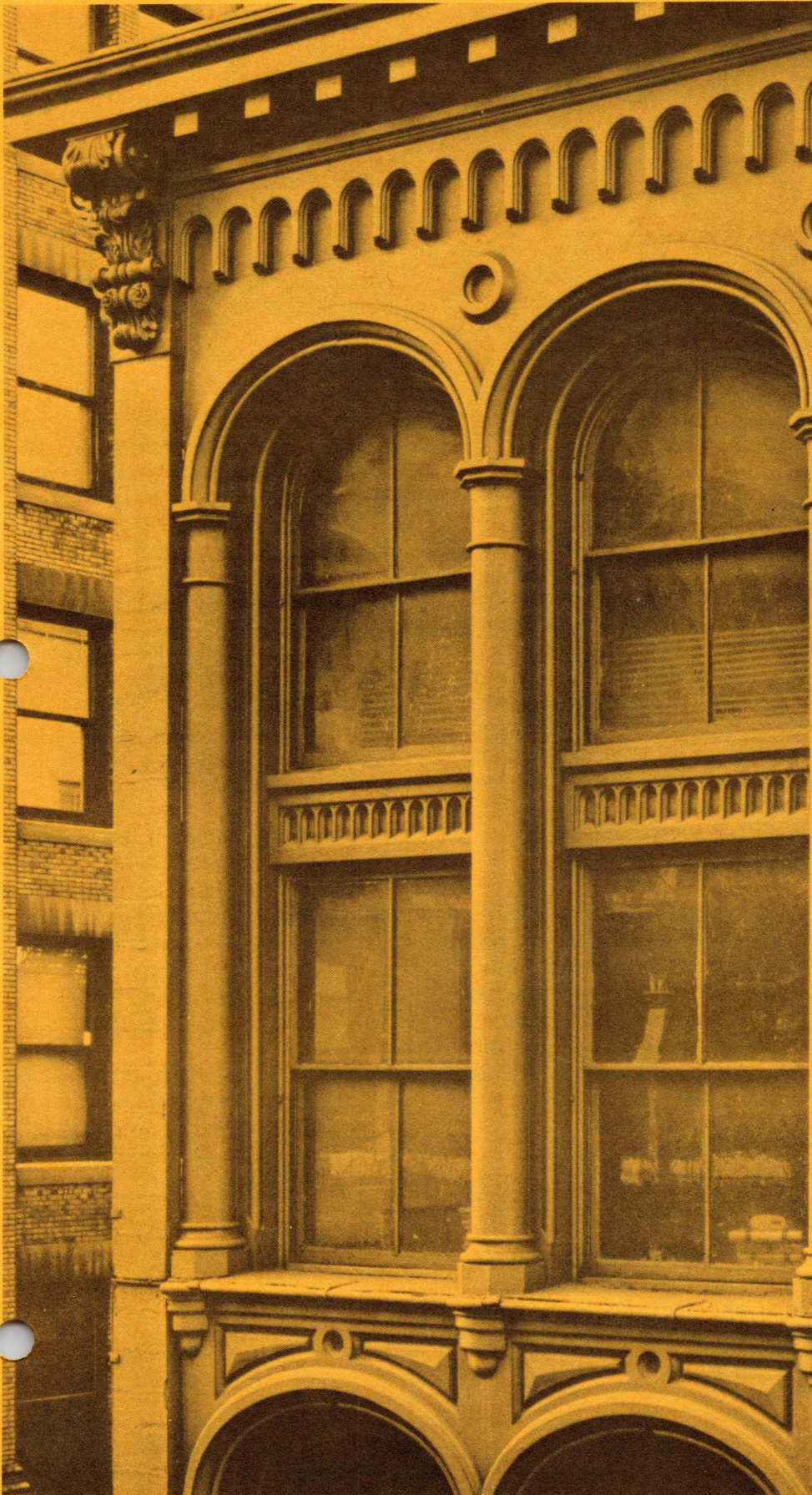


Empire Stores, Brooklyn



The Monumental Interior—  
Waiting Room, Grand Central Station

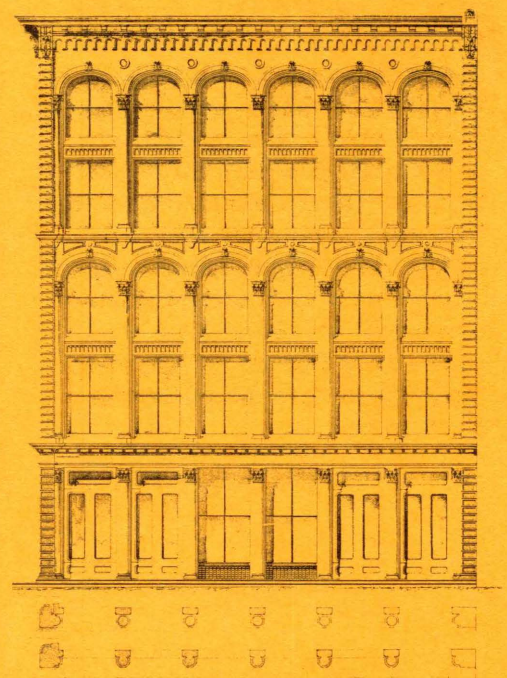




paper on Landmarks policy in advance of the next mayoral campaign; creation of special graphics and criteria for control of signs for Historic Areas; and development of one further itinerary, this time of "Modern" New York City buildings, for the Municipal Art Society's "Discover New York" guided tour series.

The Guggenheim Museum has just brought out a permanent, taped tour of its building, which it, too, developed with the Historic Buildings Committee. Two distinctive features of this "acousti-guide" tour include excerpts of an address by Frank Lloyd Wright at Columbia University and selections of correspondence with the Museum dating back to the initial receipt of the Commission.

*JPH*



Above: Cast Iron by Kellum & Son, Architects, 1860

Left: Cast Iron by Kellum & Son, Architects, 1860



## Commission of Public Affairs

The Public Affairs Commission headed by Tim Prentice includes six committees. Among them is the Public Service Fund group which is concerned with raising \$300,000 over a five year period to support the Chapter's minority scholarship programs. As reported last month, additional volunteers are needed. Contact Chairman, David Glasser.

The Visitor's Committee has been active helping architects and related professionals find their way around the City. Recent visits by groups from Russia and the Netherlands were most noticeable but Chairman William Hamby reports that his Committee receives many contacts a year. Most of these are from professionals from foreign countries and are seeking information. City and State agencies have been helpful in arranging tours and presentations. Groups from France, Argentina and Germany are expected this year.

The Political Affairs Committee consists of eight members appointed by the Executive Committee under the chairmanship of Leon Brand. The Committee develops positions on political issues of interest to the Chapter. These are presented to the Executive Committee for consideration. The Chapter's recent statements in opposition to the Transportation Bond Issue and in favor of the Community Development Article were formulated by this Committee.

Chairman Brand indicates that the Committee is planning to initiate a program that will help Chapter officers become known to elected officials so that Chapter views can be communicated more effectively on a continuous basis rather than as reactions to given situations.

The Exhibits Committee chaired by Hugh Hardy hopes to expand its activities so as to reach out to the public rather than to confine itself to arranging exhibitions at the Chapter Headquarters. Ideas for exhibits in public places concerning subjects such as housing are now being pursued.

Noise and aesthetic (visual) pollution problems will be the subject of study by the Natural Environment Committee in the coming weeks. Chairman Marvin Mills reports that Fred Riedel arranged a meeting at the end of November that included a scientist, an acoustic specialist and a politician to consider the adverse effects of noise in the environment and what can be done about it. The aesthetic pollution the Committee is concerned about includes gross commercial advertising and dirt (manmade).

A major program including a public meeting and an exhibit at the Corning Glass building on the conservation of energy is planned for April. Ideas on what architects can do to conserve energy and thereby reduce pollution in the environment will be presented. The Committee is seeking contributions of material from Chapter members that illustrate methods of energy conservation. Contact Committee Chairman Mills.

Brochures prepared by Committee members Richard Stein and Bruce Graham on buildings and energy and alternate sources of power will be published soon.

JD

## WAA Now Looking for Buildings for Next Spring's Scholarship Tour

Do you have any ideas for a spectacular setting that the Women's Architectural Auxiliary could use for its annual fund-raising behind-the-scenes tour next May?

Above all, the building—or series of buildings must be of significant architectural interest to attract both the profession, industry and the public, according to Mrs. Saul Edelbaum, WAA Scholarship Chairman.

Close to 1,000 people attend the Auxiliary's annual event. Past locations have included the Juilliard School at Lincoln Center, the City University of New York Graduate Center, and the Ford Foundation Building.

The tour is both the highlight of the WAA's calendar and its major source of income. The funds are in turn distributed to the architectural departments of City College, Columbia, Cooper Union and Pratt Institute and to the Chapter's scholarship programs.

Because of the nature of the function, the building(s) must be newly completed, preferably institutional, not generally open to the public, available for late afternoon and the evening, located in Manhattan, conducive to touring—and include a facility for a cocktail reception.

If you know of such a building or setting, perhaps one you have designed, please drop a note to Mrs. Edelbaum, 190 East 72d Street, New York City 10021.



## **Fees and Contracts: Pre-Fabricated Systems**

Curtis R. Fremond, Chairman of the Fees and Contracts Committee indicates that its Sub-Committee on Pre-Fabricated Systems, under the direction of Olivier de Messieres is working towards providing the Chapter with an "analysis of the problems posed regarding fees and contracts by the new pre-fabricated systems entering the housing and other repetitive building fields."

While last years work did not produce a definitive document, it did provide a direction and base of understanding of what is generally a very complex subject. It is hoped that this years work will present a document for use by Chapter members.

Areas identified for further research this year include:

- Definition of scope of work, responsibility and liability incurred by architects working with pre-fabricated systems.
- Certification of construction systems. The nature of the new technology calls for a dual design task: Off-site and on-site design of components and of assemblies. The areas of responsibility and liability of these two tasks compel the architect to exercise great care as he acts as the coordinator of systems designed by others. However, indications are that government agencies and laboratories may take some of the responsibility as he accepts factory-made, testible components.

- Coordination with National AIA to provide a strategy of certification of systems. The National AIA, according to a recent news release, has "registered its strong support for the concept of a National Institute of Building Sciences before the House Subcommittee on Housing" to respond to "the need for the establishment of a single national coordinating agency in the building science field." "The National Institute of Building Sciences . . . would be authorized to encourage formation of consistent national building standards to lead to the improvement of present local codes. . . . It also would develop 'rationally conceived criteria upon which to test and evaluate new building materials and techniques.'"

- Collection of experiences by others, as well as experimentation, to provide a base on which to attempt to define a fee structure.

*JDK*

## **Membership Drive to Place More Emphasis on Associates**

Presently 201 of the Chapter's 1703 members are associate members. In 1961, there were fewer members, 1265, but 282 of these were associates. This year the Membership Committee is working towards increasing the number in the associate category, believing that the Chapter cannot overlook such a large important segment of the profession. In three broad categories, these might be described as college graduates in the period between graduation and registration, those seeking examination based on office experience, and professionals with no plans for licensing, but serving in responsible positions in government agencies or architectural offices. The Chapter's policy is that membership should represent the entire profession.

A membership reception is planned for January and all sustaining firms and government agencies will be asked to submit names of both registered and non-registered personnel.

Recently 290 letters individually typed and signed by President Frost have been sent to newly licensed architects in the metropolitan area inviting them to join the Chapter. The letter stresses the Chapter's services to its members and to New York City and goals which can only be accomplished by acting as a group.

*KK*



## **NYC/AIA Co-Sponsor for "Man and His Shelter" Conference November 13th**

The NYC/AIA and the New York Chapters of the American Institute of Interior Designers and the National Society of Interior Designers held an all day conference for architectural and interior design students at the New School for Social Research on Saturday, November 13th. The topic was "Man & His Shelter: Priorities and Solutions". There were 12 speakers and a moderator representing a variety of interests such as Don Stull, an advocacy planning architect from Boston and Congressman James Scheuer. Discussion was mostly about how we can design for the user and not just the paying client. The students, mostly in interior design, may have been a bit in awe of the animated discussion held among the professionals, but they could not help but become aware of some of our problems. Jerry Maltz acted as coordinator for the Chapter.

KK

## **Candidates for Membership**

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

### *Corporate*

Stuart Earl Cohen  
Lawrence Stephen Gordon  
Alec Jagoda  
John Francis O'Brien  
Robert A.M. Stern  
George Wright  
Sidney Feirtag  
Frances Halsband  
Frederick A. Lee  
Herbert Siegel  
Sarelle Toback Weisberg

### *Associate*

Borwar T. Dunbar  
Nandoo Shridhar Khanolkar

## **Welcome to New Members**

The NYC/AIA welcomes the following members:

### *Corporate*

Walter Arbesfeld  
Roger Stover  
Jonathan P. Butler  
Anthony J. DiMarinisi  
Anthony G. Pickios  
Ramon Rego  
Herbert August  
Geoffrey T. Egginton  
Witold W. Kolbuszowski  
Martin I. Pitt

### *Professional Associate*

Robert K. Moore

### *Associate*

Timothy F. Kirby

## **Erratum**

The article on the Hospital and Health Committee in the October issue attributed grants received by the AIA's National Task Force for a feasibility study for a Health Facilities Research Center to the Ford Foundation and the Commonwealth Fund. Equal grants of \$16,500 each were actually received from the Educational Facilities Laboratory and the Commonwealth Fund.

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