

Chapter Issues Position on West Side Highway

A position paper on the West Side Highway below 42nd Street, representing considerable work on the part of members of the Urban Planning Committee under the direction of Henry Whitney, was approved by the Executive Committee on September 4. Copies are available at the Chapter office. The statement can be summarized as follows:

A new highway could have extraordinary benefits for the City, but as yet there has been no overall planning study to define those benefits. It is not possible to opt for one of the five alignments offered by the West Side Highway Project without positive information as to what would be done with the added acreage which either of the two interstate-funded alignments would afford.

The Chapter position recommended that there be an interstate highway, largely underground, but that it must be designed and aligned in reference to a corridor development plan, yet to be prepared, showing desired patterns of land use and traffic in adjoining areas.

The preparation of such a development plan need not delay the design of the highway since definitive design work can proceed on the large section between the Battery and Holland Tunnels as well as on other aspects. (This is an important point; we are not asking for a "back-to-the-drawing-boards" delay.)

The development plan should be prepared by the City Planning Commission with funding from federal highway sources which should be requested by the Governor and Mayor. It should include land use and real estate analysis, urban design studies, waterfront improvement, traffic and transportation, economic and fiscal studies and zoning studies.

The paper was submitted at the public hearing on September 12 and has been widely circulated. We are making an intensive effort to persuade other organizations that a comprehensive development plan is vital to any decision as to what type of highway should be built.
GL

Chapter President Subject of Profile In *New York Post*

Herbert Oppenheimer, NYC/AIA president, was the subject of a personal and professional "Daily Closeup", appearing in the Wednesday, Sept. 18, *New York Post*.

Interviewed by Roberta Brandes Gratz for an article entitled "Beauty and the City", Mr. Oppenheimer laid out the concerns of the New York architectural community, from the "whole quality of life" through the gamut of specific causes for which the Chapter has been crusading.

Comptroller Looks Goldin To Chapter

On September 5, Chapter representatives met with City Comptroller Harrison J. Goldin and his staff to present their case for awarding more City architectural work to private architectural firms. (See the letter of T.M. Prentice, Jr. in the June *Oculus*.)

Attending the meeting were Herbert Oppenheimer, Robert Gatje, Martin Raab and George Lewis, representing the Chapter, and C. Richard Walters representing Consulting Engineers.

After hearing a strongly worded request that the Comptroller's office undertake a study of the comparative cost of architectural work: city agency versus private enterprise, Mr. Goldin indicated his determination to seek an equitable distribution of all City architectural work. He expressed his desire to keep both private architectural enterprise in town and New York City as a world architectural center. He spoke eloquently of the architectural profession as a vital city resource.

Attention also focused on paying architects promptly for their professional services. Subsequent meetings were agreed upon to develop ways to speed processing of payment requisitions.

The tone of the meeting was good, the Comptroller was receptive to the Chapter view, and a sense of progress was felt by our representation.
NFJ

Executive Committee Actions

September 4, 1974

- Resolved to support the effort to institute a full evening program at the City College School of Architecture which would enable economically deprived students to pursue a degree while earning income during the day.
- Raised questions concerning a draft form of contract related to cost-based compensation which is being considered by the Institute's Document Board.
- Approved a position paper on the West Side Highway Project which recommends an interstate-funded solution, provided that a decision as to its alignment be conditional upon preparation of an over-all land use plan. No such plan has as yet been prepared. (See article this issue.)
- Resolved to present testimony in opposition to an application to the Board of Standards and Appeals for a variance to permit a building of 21.6 FAR. (See article this issue.)

Welcome to New Members

The NYC/AIA welcomes the following members:

Corporate

Virginia S. Lyon
Joseph R. Mygatt
Leland Taliaferro
Stephen Leep (Readmission)
Donald A. Bailey
Martin S. Cantor
Ira Grandberg
Richard Heidelberger
Jack L. Kesten

Associate

Susan K. Niculescu
Joseph Roher
Lenora F. Garfinkel

Candidates for Membership

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

Corporate

James E. Miller
Frederick Yerou

Associate

Ronald F. Middlebrook
Jerome Stern

New WAA Members

The Women's Architectural Auxiliary of the NYC/AIA - whose membership is open to all women committed to helping young people to obtain an architectural education and specifically to wives of members of the NYC/AIA and to women members of the Chapter - is happy to announce the following new members:

Mrs. Thomas J. Colston
Mrs. Edward Coplon
Mrs. Randolph Croxton
Mrs. Geoffrey Lawford
Mrs. Theodore Musho (readmission)
Mrs. Herbert Oppenheimer
Mrs. Charles Silverman

Summer Workshops Exciting To High School Students

For two students of architecture from CCNY, several students from various New York City high schools, and two Board of Education guidance counselors, the month of July offered a rare educational experience.

The enthusiastic group, organized by CCNY students Petr Stand and Barry Erenberg, spent Wednesdays and Saturdays in July discussing and observing New York City architecture in an attempt to discover what it is and how and why it came to be. The extremely informal atmosphere allowed the high school students to express opinions and ask questions in a manner which is sadly absent in most New York City schools.

Several of the students had previously attended the Saturday Seminars sponsored by the Student Affairs Committee last spring.

New York Chapter

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Executive Committee

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Alexander Kouzmanoff, Vice President
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Linda Yang

NYC/AIA Members Contribute to NYSAA/AIA Convention

Three NYC/AIA members are among five panelists for the seminars on "Business Development for the Architect" and "Technology and the Architect" which will be held on the second day of the New York State Association of Architects convention. The three-day annual convention will be held October 17-19 at the Hotel Commodore in New York City.

Chapter member Clark P. Halstead, Jr. of Landauer Associates, real estate consultants, is one of three panelists to discuss such aspects of business development as selling the architect's services to the client, the design/build concept and the architect as developer.

Richard G. Stein, FAIA, and Ezra D. Ehrenkrantz are panelists for the technology seminar, which will examine both current methodology (and how its use can support better, faster and more economical service to the client) and creation of a "new esthetic" out of the architect's concern with conserving energy via technology.

Rosaria Piomelli and Lenore Lucey are designing, for showing at the NYSAA/AIA convention, an expanded edition of the trail-blazing exhibition, "Women in Architecture", sponsored last spring by NYC/AIA under the leadership of Ms. Piomelli, chairperson of the Chapter's Equal Opportunities Committee, and Internal Affairs Commissioner Anna Halpin.

It is the first time in 27 years that NYSAA/AIA has held its annual convention in New York City, and the first time ever that all registered architects in New York state and all architectural employees have been invited, and that registration has been free. It is hoped that principals will encourage their professional and technical employees to attend and benefit from the seminars and exhibits, including the products exhibit (which is a sellout).

The program also includes an "Evening with Eames," an address by Henry Diamond, director of the Rockefeller Commission on "Critical Choices for Americans", and a progress report from NYC/AIA member Judith Edelman, chairperson of the National AIA Subcommittee on Women in Architecture.
Jeanne M. Davern

Progress Continues Toward AIA Retirement Program

Richard Dickens, chairman of the Office Practice Committee and an ad hoc member of the National Retirement Task Force Committee, reports that good progress is being made toward an AIA-sponsored program.

Last Spring, the AIA consultant, Towers, Perrin, Forster and Crosby, conducted a national survey among sustaining firms to determine retirement plan feasibility. Out of 6,000 questionnaires, 1,300 were returned, with a few surprises in their answers.

- 90% of the total responding were firms with fewer than 10 professionals.
- Only about 2½% of respondents participate in the present AIA retirement program. Reasons for this lack of participation were the existence of another plan, lack of information, and cost factors.

- Over 65% of respondents had no formal retirement plans, but 80% of this group indicated potential interest.
- Nearly 75% of the same group preferred employer contributions of up to 10% of payroll.

- Over 75% favored employee contributions of a voluntary nature. Present employee contributions are from after-tax earnings. This is an area for legislative effort by the Congress to be pursued by our legislative committee.

- There was evidence of wide discontent among those who now have a retirement plan.

These findings encouraged the Retirement Task Force Committee, and subsequently the AIA Directors who appropriated funds for the balance of the study.

The consultant was requested to proceed to design a program, work out the details, get IRS approval, etc., tailoring this plan to such particular needs as portability and 100% vesting of rights to funds within a decade. The plan would also provide for flexibility, so that both partnerships and corporations as well as single proprietorships and their employees can be accommodated.

This work is to be completed by December in time for submission to the Board at its year-end meeting. Once the Board accepts the plan, trustees will be chosen to oversee the operation of the entire program. Indications are for an ongoing program to begin a year from now.
DVR

Ripnen's Latest Book On Interiors Published

Architects interested in doing office interiors work will want to know about Chapter member Kenneth Ripnen's latest book, *Office Space Administration* (McGraw-Hill, \$14.95). Functional efficiency and flexibility are themes within the book. Topics covered include open office layouts, modular wall systems, sound conditioning, furnishing, colors, maintenance.

The Tweed: The Next Episode

Because "the city has not taken any formal position to date", according to the Municipal Services Administration, on September 9th, Thomas F. Roche, Assistant to the Mayor, met with NYC/AIA President Herbert Oppenheimer on the thorny matter of saving the 102-year-old Tweed Court House from being replaced by a new annex to City Hall.

Also on hand were Ulrich Franzen, president of the Architectural League; Patricia C. Jones, secretary of the Save the Tweed Committee; Denis Glen Kuhn, NYC/AIA Historic Buildings Committee; George Lewis, NYC/AIA Executive Director; and T. Merrill Prentice, Jr., our past president.

Mr. Oppenheimer offered the advice and guidance of the New York Chapter to the City. It was further suggested that a Civic Center Architectural Commission be formed to consider the needs and best direction for the entire City Hall area.

Feelings are running strongly on the issue, resulting in some pithy comments:

"Honest graft is to be preferred to pseudo-historical hypocrisy. Next to that Early Howard Johnson vision, the Tweed Courthouse looks like a rose". Ada Louise Huxtable, *New York Times*.

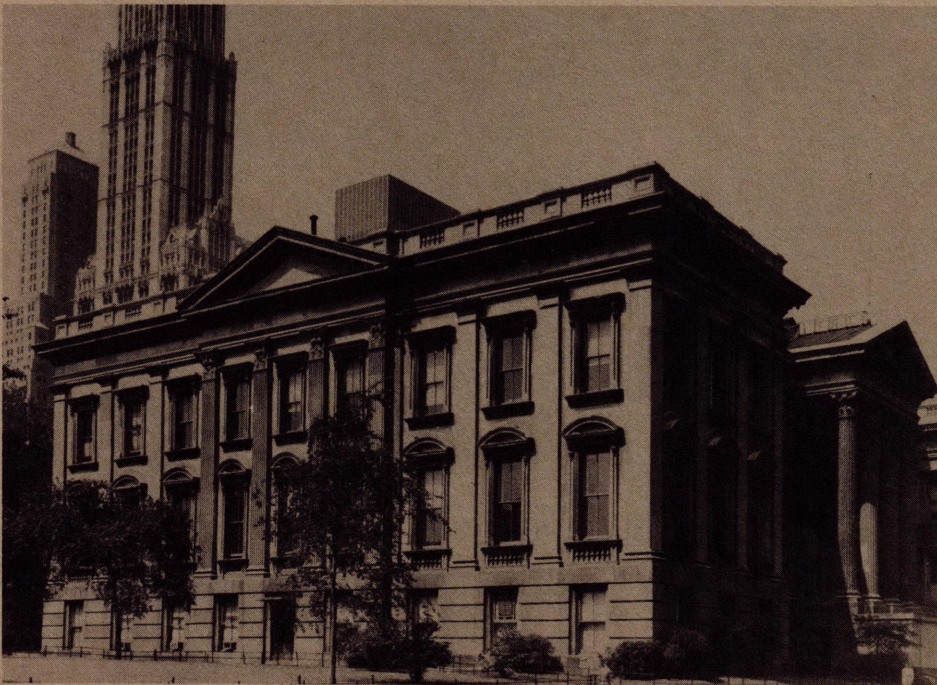
"Its builder may have been a crook, but if that were the criterion for keeping buildings everywhere there wouldn't be a single ancient building left in Greece or Rome." (Paul O'Dwyer, Co-Chairman, The Committee To Save the Tweed)

"... it is obvious that its replacement will hardly be of the stature that the Tweed building possesses." (Edwin L. Weisel, Jr., Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Administrator)

"... one of the gigantic steals in the city's history." (*WPA Guide*.)

"The scale is impeccable. . . (Adolf K. Placzek, Avery Librarian, Columbia University)

"... the finest public building in the Anglo-Italian Classical (style) in the country." (Henry Hope Reed, architectural historian)
BI



Worth Saving?

21.6 FAR Application At Lincoln Square

The Board of Standards and Appeals continued a hearing on September 19 on the application of Paul and Seymour Milstein to waive city zoning restrictions to permit erection of a mixed-use 43-story building of 21.6 FAR on Broadway between 62nd and 63rd Streets. The base FAR in the Lincoln Square Special District is 12, with a maximum possible 14.4 if amenities approved by the Planning Commission are provided.

The Executive Committee had resolved on September 4 that the Chapter should testify in opposition to the application. At the hearing, Herbert Oppenheimer testified it was his opinion that there was no inherent economic hardship in the fact that Broadway cut the lot at an angle. He also offered the opinion that the Lincoln Square Special District's requirement of a base 85'-high built out to the building line would not prohibit the planning of dwelling units in the base.

Oppenheimer's statement was coordinated with testimony by Edward Costikyan, who had been retained as legal consultant by several organizations for the purpose of opposing the application.

The hearing lasted nearly all day, with lengthy testimony on both sides. At the end, Chairman and Chapter member Joseph B. Klein directed the Milsteins to make a formal application to the City Planning Commission, and he recessed the hearing until October 24.

GL

City Museum Opens Only for WAA and Friends; Presentation of Funds Planned

Usually closed to the public on Mondays, the Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Avenue and 103rd Street, will be open exclusively to the WAA and its friends (read: the NYC/AIA) from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., Monday, October 7.

This is a rare chance to enjoy at a leisurely pace, unjostled, the collections of this private museum and to view "Cityrama", the popular 20-minute multi-media show on Our Town.

Technically, the October 7 event is the Women's Architectural Auxiliary's semi-annual meeting. There will be a brief ceremony in the superb Silver Gallery when WAA President Isabella Ketchum will distribute Scholarship Fund checks to the guests of honor, deans from the four architectural schools that receive WAA support: Columbia, City College, Cooper Union and Pratt Institute. A special grant has been made this year to City University's evening program in architecture.

"Tea", catered by Robert Day Dean, will be served in among the decorative arts collection.

There is no admission charge to the museum, but there is a \$5.00 charge for the tea. Mrs. Jan Hird Pokorny is chairman of the event, and any reservations can be made through her by calling 355-4326, evenings.

IMA

WAA Begins Fall With a New President

Isabella Ketchum, one of the founders of the Women's Architectural Auxiliary, has assumed the responsibilities of the WAA Presidency, taking over from Margaret Galvin, who has resigned.

Wife of past Institute President Morris Ketchum, Jr., FAIA, Mrs. Ketchum will continue as the WAA's Scholarship Chairman. In her 16 active years in the Auxiliary, she has helped to increase membership to almost 200 women and to raise scholarship funds totaling over \$150,000.

Mrs. Ketchum is a noted interior decorator and principal in the firm of Stone and Ketchum.

IMA

Student Affairs Committee Hosts Annual Party

The Student Affairs Committee, once again chaired by Sarelle T. Weisberg, invited first-year local architectural students to Chapter Headquarters on the evening of September 19.

Over 100 students, representing all the architectural, planning and technology schools in the New York area attended—as did a satisfyingly large Chapter contingency.

In addition to young people from City high schools, there were students from Ohio State, the University of Idaho, and the Architectural Association of London.

It was encouraging to see so many young people interested in the built environment attending an AIA function.

RPA



Alexander Kouzmanoff talks with visiting students.

Evening Program With a Heart Needs Your Help

Last year we wrote of the problems of a new program at City College for evening architectural students. Today, due to financial cutbacks throughout our economy, especially felt in educational circles, the program is running out of steam.

The NYC/AIA Ad-Hoc Committee for the City College Evening Program, headed up by Bert Bassuk, is trying to round up support within the Chapter, especially written endorsements by concerned professionals, to be submitted by Dean Bernard Spring to the College.

The need for the full-degree evening program is compelling. It is a known—though undocumented—fact that a large number of architectural technical employees in the city are not graduates of accredited architectural schools. In many cases the cost of education has been a major deterrent to their obtaining the necessary education. The opportunity to earn a degree in the evening, while maintaining an income-producing job, would attract many of these people.

We speak of aid to the disadvantaged in the architectural profession. Can there be a better example than a positive expression of support for this program at this time? The Chapter will issue an endorsement statement to all member firms. Signing this statement will be an important part of a significant effort by an AIA Chapter with a conscience.

RS

U.S. Government Publishes Pay Scale Figures and Employment Outlook

Fast on the heels of the National AIA's "Survey of the Profession", issued this summer, come two sets of statistics from the United States Department of Commerce sure to fascinate all architects.

The only comfort in the government's statistics may be that they state officially what has been known all along: skill, sex and age determine pay and employment prospects, in architecture as in other occupations.

If you have a moment and have kept your copy of the August 1974 *Memo*, it's interesting to compare the Institute's 1974 figures with the ones provided by the 1969 Census. Also revealing are the salary figures given for AIA members compared with those of the profession in general. Despite adjustments for inflation, it would appear that AIA members make out better. Reasons for this are pleasant to speculate.

According to the 1970 Census, analyzed at long last in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' August, 1974 *Monthly Labor Review*, the best paid male American workers are in the medical and legal professions. For women, engineering and craft occupations - with very few female workers - offer the best salaries.

Male architects rank 38th on the scale, based on 1969 median earnings; female architects rank 55th on the list of selected occupations of women. According to the government, women comprise 3.7% of the architectural occupation. Profiles for men and women architects are:

	Men	Women
Median Annual Earnings	13,188	6,995
Median Age	40.7	38.8
Median school years completed	17.0	17.0
% completing at least 4 yrs. high school	95.1	94.0
% completing at least 4 yrs. college	74.4	73.5
% employed the full year	82.6	68.7

The same figures for male medical and osteopathic physicians, the highest paid category, run \$25,000+; 44.3; 17+; 99.7; 97.3; 74.5. Statistics for sales engineers, the highest paid occupation for women, read \$13,181; 45.3; 16.0; 95.2; 49.7; 86.0. Women are a scant 0.7% of this occupation.

Throughout the several pages of charts that accompany the BLS study, the fact emerges that men earned more than women in every occupation except public kindergarten teachers. In another BLS study, which appeared in the Summer 1974 *Occupational Outlook Quarterly*, the BLS estimates there were 37,000 architects employed in 1972, and that there are on the average 3,300 annual openings. The comment in the "Employment Trends and Prospects" column reads:

"Favorable employment opportunities. Most rapid increases in employment in new areas such as urban redevelopment and environmental design and planning projects. Number of job openings in established architectural firms and opportunities for starting a private practice should grow more slowly."

IMA