

Election Issue

Architects Politically Shunned?

We thought this was Election Time. So, Michael Maas, the Chapter Commissioner on Public Affairs, and Albert Efron of the Staten Island Chapter, spent quite a bit of time formulating a survey questionnaire for the gubernatorial candidates in the coming election. The questionnaire dealt with issues vital to the architectural professional community, including landmark preservation, land use policy, and statute of limitations for design professions (architects and engineers).

Candidates were also invited to attend interviews. To date, the only candidate response has been from the Hugh Carey camp in the person of his Campaign Manager, Gerald Cummins. One can only surmise from this that the other candidate does not consider the architectural profession either strong — or worthy — enough to receive a courteous response.

Mr. Cummins felt that, although no landmark preservation or state historical preservation agency has been structured, Mr. Carey would be most receptive to a proposal from the design professions for the formulation of such an agency. Mr. Carey also agrees with the architects' position regarding a time limit on alleged design deficiencies and would support legislation creating a statute of limitations related to the completion of projects.

Mr. Cummins also felt that the State should have some land-use policy role in order to assure that the development of land and rehabilitation of existing communities is done according to sound planning principles. (Note, however, that the Voting Analysis Chart reprinted in this **Oculus** shows Congressman Carey was absent when this Institute-favored issue was brought up for a vote in the House.)

As for the present Governor, Malcolm Wilson, Mr. Maas wrote him some time ago to explain that total project value presently on the boards is down 50% compared with three years ago. One suggestion made to the Governor was to release now projects which have been deferred because of a lack of construction funds for design, so that they will be available for bidding as soon as funding does become available. Experience has shown that about 12 to 18 months could be saved and future hardship be lessened as well.

Mr. T. N. Hurd, secretary to Governor Wilson, answered Mr. Maas' letter. "State law does not permit contracting for architectural, engineering or other services unless appropriations have been provided for that purpose," he wrote. "In recent budgetary actions, the legislature has tended to resist efforts to provide generalized appropriations for preparation of plans." Mr. Hurd closed, however, by saying that the State will do everything within its authority to help the situation.

Why and how has the architectural profession's position deteriorated to the point that it does not merit a better response from politicians? Is it that we are not a powerful enough voting block — or lobbying block? Certainly as planners, environmentalists, and "free thinkers", we are entitled to recognition.

Other notes: Michael Maas and Kurt Karmin are planning a legislative brochure for the NYSAA/AIA Political Affairs Committee. Professional help has been retained in producing this document, which will be available in January. The brochure will serve as a public relations tool for the Association in reaching elected and appointed State officials.

If you have any ideas on activities involving architects and public affairs or legislation that we should oppose or support, call Michael Maas at 481-3804.

DVR

As **Oculus** goes to press, we have received word that T.N. Hurd, Secretary to Governor Malcolm Wilson, has accepted to meet with the Chapter's and State's Political Affairs Committee's representatives.

Unfortunately, the results of this meeting will be available too late for our readers. Should Gov. Wilson win the election, we will publish a report on the meeting in the December **Oculus**.

Executive Committee Actions

October 2, 1974

- Resolved that it be recommended to the Institute that David Pellish be considered for Director of the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS).
- Noted that the Chapter had urged Planning Commission Chairman Zuccotti to hold an open hearing on the request of the Milsteins for increased FAR at Lincoln Square.
- Discussed with Ralph Steinglass, chairman of Employer/Employee Relations Committee, a proposed questionnaire on personnel practices.
- Heard George Lewis report on his testimony at the Sept. 23 Planning Commission hearing in support of the Special Clinton District and the Plaza Bonus Amendment.
- Committee Chairmen then joined the Executive Committee and there was a general discussion of Chapter affairs.

Technology Committee Plans Exhibit

The Chapter is contemplating an exhibit devoted to building systems that have been originated and developed by architects or engineers.

The exhibit will be limited to total building concepts using innovative approaches and/or the latest technology.

All professionals interested in participating in the exhibit should write to the Technology Committee at the Chapter by January 1, 1975, giving brief descriptions of their systems.

Welcome to New Members

The NYC/AIA welcomes the following members:

Corporate

Leonard Colchamiro
Richard Zegler (Readmission)
Rustum H. Bastuni
Thomas Lee
George C. Weiner
Vincent Grasso
David L. Hirsch
Laurence S. Walsh
Susanne Strohbach
Gabor J. Merti

Professional Associate

John J. Koster (Readmission)

Associate

Sheikh P. Waheed
Romuald Romanowski
Daniel F. Brown (AIA)

Candidates for Membership

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

Corporate

David L. Maron
Joseph N. Wills, Jr.
Ari Bahat

Associate

Richard A. Carlson (AIA)
Jacob Munn (AIA)
Mary Jane Clark
Mihai I. Colban

Health Facilities Directory Now Available

The NYC/AIA Hospitals and Health Facilities Committee in conjunction with the Health and Hospitals Planning Council of Southern New York, Inc. has published the 1974 edition of the *Directory of Health Facilities*. The Directory lists close to 100 recent health projects generally within a one-hour flying radius of New York.

Significant features of each project are noted and cross-indexed, making the Directory useful to anyone looking for examples of current practice in health facility design.

The Architecture for Health Subcommittee is now urging other Chapters to follow the NYC/AIA example by preparing their own health facility listings.

The Directory was largely the work of Saul Ellenbogen, liaison between NYC/AIA and HHPCSNY. It is available from the NYC/AIA for \$2.00 per copy.

MP

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High City Officials, Building Industry Leaders Meet With Federal Officials

City Council President Paul O'Dwyer and Deputy Mayor James Cavanaugh led a delegation of city officials and construction leaders to Washington on October 9th to meet with the New York City Congressional Delegation, Arthur F. Burns, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank, and Alan Greenspan, the President's Economic Advisor.

Those that accompanied O'Dwyer and Cavanaugh were: Chapter President Herbert Oppenheimer; Roger Starr, Administrator of HDA; John Carroll, Municipal Services Administrator; Abraham Goodman, Deputy Economic Development Administrator; Tony Vaccarrello, Mayoral Assistant; Thomas J. Cuite, Majority Leader of the City Council; John Mahoney, International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Edward Cleary, Building and Construction Trades Council; Lewis Rudin, real-estate developer and builder; Richard Lewisohn, former City Finance Administrator and consultant to the Council President; Mark Markosie, Mayor's Deputy Press Secretary; and Linda Fisher, Council President's Press Secretary.

The delegation met to discuss the crisis in the building industry and to urge the Government to assist the industry and the City. Greenspan and Burns agreed to study the possibility of extending the emergency mortgage program to include multi-family housing and of releasing the presently impounded funds for construction of waste-treatment plants.

Second Avenue Subway Land Use District Legislation Urged at CPC Hearing

A broad coalition of Community Planning Board leaders, private developers, politicians, and design professionals strongly urged passage of the proposed Special Transit Land Use District legislation, developed primarily for the 2nd Avenue Subway, at a City Planning Commission public hearing on October 17th.

Supporting statements were submitted by Carvel Moore of Planning Board No. 6, Gene Dempsey of Planning Board No. 11, Francis Angelino of Planning Board No. 8, private developers Howard Zipser and Edwin Glickman, Councilman Carter Burden, Boris Pushkarev of the Regional Plan Association, and Congressman Ed Koch who stated that approval is needed to "bring New York City into the 20th century of subway planning design". (See Congressman Koch's voting record in the "Congressional Punch List" that appears in this **Oculus**.)

The NYC/AIA "enthusiastically supports the legislation", according to Peter Samton who spoke for the Chapter. He also noted that the legislation offers "new opportunities for urban interface."

If blessed by the CPC, the legislation will be heard at a public hearing before the Board of Estimate in early November. Its success at this meeting would be critical, since interim legislation expires at the end of this year.

An excellent report has just been released by the Municipal Arts Society and the City Planning Commission called "Humanizing Subway Entrances".

Raquel Ramati, CPC's Project Director for the Second Avenue Subway Design Group, in the course of several meetings with the NYC/AIA Urban Design Committee stressed the unique aspects of the legislation, especially compared with other special land use districts. For example, the recently discovered pitfalls of "incentive zoning" are avoided by using zoning laws to carve public easements for subway stations out of privately owned property without giving Floor Area Ratio bonuses to developers.

Throughout the Special District, potential easements are clearly mapped. Developers are required to provide easements and in return are permitted a 10% increase in building coverage on their site, along with a reduction of on-site parking requirements. The public benefits by getting stations that are part of plazas or arcades, with such amenities as trees, natural light, and shops, not to mention elbow room and walking space.

Architects interested in obtaining a copy of "Humanizing Subway Entrances" or in attending the Board of Estimate Public Hearing in November should contact the City Planning Commission (566-0522).
RS

AIA Publishes Voting Analysis Of the 93rd Congress

In an effort to help architects evaluate the performance of their congressional representatives, the National AIA prepared a "Congressional Punch List" that has received surprisingly little distribution.

Included in the analysis is a sample of key votes for House and Senate members on issues of importance to the architectural profession. Votes were selected for this chart based on National AIA policy positions. You are encouraged to study the voting records of your Congressmen before Election Day, November 5th.

The number at the top of the column in the chart shown refers to the following 10 issues before the House of Representatives. This list is interesting in and of itself, to remind us what the Institute considers is critical.

1. Architect-engineer selection: A "no" vote supported the Institute's position favoring government selection of architects and engineers on the basis of competence and qualifications at a fair and reasonable negotiated fee.

2. Open Congressional meetings: A "yes" vote supported the Institute's position favoring open committee meetings except where national security or personal privacy is involved, or where the committee decided by majority vote to close its doors.

3. West Front of the U.S. Capitol: A "yes" vote supported the Institute's position favoring restoration.

4. Highway Trust Fund flexibility: A "yes" vote supported the Institute's position favoring balanced federal assistance to all forms of public transportation.

5. Section 701 planning funds: A "yes" vote supported the Institute's position to increase funds in the HUD Appropriations bill for Section 701 community comprehensive planning grants from \$25 million to \$100 million.

6. National Institute of Building Sciences: A "yes" vote supported the Institute's position favoring establishment of NIBS.

7. Pension reform: A "no" vote supported the Institute's position against reducing from \$7500 to \$6000 the maximum amount a self-employed person could contribute to his own retirement fund each year.

8. Metric conversion: A "yes" vote supported the Institute's position favoring planned conversion to the metric system.

9. Land use planning: A "yes" vote supported the Institute's position favoring State land use planning.

10. West Front restoration and Capitol Grounds master plan: A "yes" vote supported the Institute's position on appropriating \$20.9 million for the concurrent restoration of the West Front of the U.S. Capitol Building and the preparation of a master plan for the Capitol Grounds.

(continued next page)

N.Y. Cong.

District	Representative	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Otis G. Pike (D)	—	+	+	+	—	+	+	+	+	+
2.	James R. Grover, Jr. (R)	+	+	+	A	—	—	+	—	—	+
3.	Angelo D. Roncallo (R)	*	+	+	+	—	—	+	A	—	+
4.	Norman F. Lent (R)	+	+	+	+	—	—	+	+	—	+
5.	John W. Wydler (R)	+	+	—	+	—	+	+	+	—	—
6.	Lester L. Wolff (D)	—	+	—	+	+	—	+	+	+	+
7.	Joseph P. Addabbo (D)	—	+	A	+	+	A	—	—	+	+
8.	Benjamin Rosenthal (D)	—	+	—	+	+	A	—	—	+	+
9.	James J. Delaney (D)	+	+	—	+	+	+	+	—	+	—
10.	Mario Biaggi (D)	+	A	A	A	+	—	+	—	+	—
■ 11.	Frank J. Brasco (D)	+	+	—	+	+	A	A	—	+	A
12.	Shirley Chisholm (D)	—	A	+	+	+	+	—	—	+	A
■ 13.	Bertram L. Podell (D)	A	+	A	A	+	+	+	—	+	A
■ 14.	John J. Rooney (D)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
■ 15.	Hugh L. Carey (D)	+	+	A	+	+	+	A	A	A	A
16.	Elizabeth Holtzman (D)	*	+	A	+	+	+	—	—	+	+
17.	John M. Murphy (D)	A	+	—	+	A	A	+	—	+	—
18.	Edward I. Koch (D)	+	A	+	+	+	+	—	—	+	+
19.	Charles Rangel (D)	—	+	—	+	+	+	—	—	+	+
20.	Bella S. Abzug (D)	—	+	+	+	+	+	—	—	+	+
21.	Herman Badillo (D)	—	A	A	+	A	A	—	—	+	+
22.	Jonathan Bingham (D)	—	+	+	+	+	+	—	—	+	+
23.	Peter Peyser (R)	+	+	+	+	+	A	+	—	—	+
■ 24.	Ogden Reid (D)	+	+	+	+	A	A	+	A	A	A
25.	Hamilton Fish, Jr. (R)	—	+	+	+	+	—	+	—	A	+

KEY TO UNDERSTANDING THE VOTES:

- + Supported AIA position |
- Did not support AIA position |
- A Absent during vote |
- * Not serving in Congress at that time |
- P Present but not voting |
- Not campaigning for re-election to this seat |

Voting Analysis

John Boogaerts: Another Political Architect Runs an Uphill Campaign

(Continued from preceding page)

As for the Senate, the AIA "Congressional Punch List" compiled this record for Republican Jacob Javits, who is up for re-election; Sen. Javits supported the AIA position on architect-engineer selection, Highway Trust Fund flexibility, national land use planning, pension reform, housing and community development, and campaign financing reform. He voted against the AIA position on open Congressional meetings.

Conservative Senator James L. Buckley, who is *not* up for re-election at this time, voting on the same issues, went against the AIA position on open Congressional meetings, national land use planning, and campaign financing reform. On the other four issues, he favored the AIA position.

AIA



Florence and (Congressional Candidate) John Boogaerts greet voters outside his Third Avenue campaign headquarters. John uses portable sandwich boards rather than posters and bumper stickers because of a "deep concern for the quality of life in this city . . . the visual aspects as well as the physical". The boards attract attention, John says, but "when I go, they go".

A Chapter member is out walking the streets in pursuit of the 18th C.D. seat now held by Ed Koch. John Boogaerts (say: Bogart) is on leave from his job as principal urban planner at HDA because Roy Goodman and the Republican Party felt he could win. Elliot Richardson, in an open letter of support, comments that "this race is regarded by many politicians as quixotic. . . . But John Boogaerts is an extraordinary candidate, and these are extraordinary times".

Curious as to why John — or anyone — would run in a district that is 2 to 1 against him in voter registration, I tagged along one grey October Saturday on a typical tour of the neighborhoods.

Questions most frequently asked, John says, are about abortion and Gay Rights, but the main thrust of his campaign is "to improve the quality of urban life by getting a fair share of our federal tax dollars".

A "community activist and urban populist", the 40-year-old candidate either leads or works within such organizations as Community Planning Board No. 8, the PTA of P.S. 6, the Carnegie Hill Neighbors, and the Columbia Architects Alumni Association (as its president). A major accomplishment was achieving the 86th Street/Yorkville special zoning district (See **Oculus' Annual Review**, Aug/74, page 7).

This first-hand fighting in the trenches convinced John that a good neighborhood exists only when there is good housing, good schools and good public transportation. In all these areas, he points out how New York City has not received adequate funds, partly because of what John identifies as an anti-urban bias in Congress (all the more surprising since 70% of the population is now urban) and

partly because our representatives have not been sufficiently tenacious in pursuing available money.

He is emphatic that, even in a period of inflation, Government could still easily fund construction programs and states that "revenue sharing must be used to build better neighborhoods by re-use of thousands of structurally sound vacant buildings".

Until people see public transportation as a "gut political issue", John feels we will be stuck with what we have. His prime example of a short-changed public physical service is the Lexington Avenue Subway, lifeline of his district, which he feels could have been turned into a model of up-graded public transit if it had only received the funding that went instead for the less critical Second Avenue line.

Architects are criticized for not being politically active and for not having political clout. John in part excuses this because architects are "separate, diverse and independent" — and we suffer for it. He is running an underfinanced campaign; his chances of winning are greatest only if (as Gallup has projected) voter turnout is low; and the incumbent is an honest, ethical, "well-meaning" politician.

Elliot Richardson again: "It is fair to point out that John's battles . . . are conducted with a relentlessness no one could confuse with charm. John's percentages of wins versus losses testifies to the worth of that zeal".

I found John Boogaerts very likeable, which the above lines might not lead you to expect; people respond to his easy manner and dedication. Without making a political endorsement, I wish him well.

DPH

Chapter Budget At Five-Year Low

The operating budget for the Chapter in 1971-72 was \$189,000. For this year the budget will be \$165,000. Actually this year's budget is the smallest in five years, a victim of a dwindling dues base.

The budget is further hurt, on a relative basis, by inflation and increasing costs.

Dues provide the primary source of the Chapter's operating capital. Sustaining Member-Firm dues, which provide the majority of the income, are calculated on a number-of-employees basis. Not only is their employee population dwindling, but also the rate per employee was set at a fixed rate three years ago. (Institute dues, however, are based on a percentage of a firm's FICA costs.)

As the budget situation worsens, Chapter services will have to be somewhat curtailed. The budget is primarily expended on staff salaries and operating expenses including committee activities costs. Staff has already been reduced by one person last year and, recently, by the same. The current treasurer, Richard Roth, Jr., has initiated a budget review process on a three-month basis to keep track of costs.

The irony of the situation is that Chapter activities have greatly increased in the last five years and now, at a time when the membership may have more time for services, the budget is being cut.

In a related development, the Executive Committee is considering proposing a Bylaws change so that the Chapter Treasurer's term of office would coincide with the fiscal year. (The fiscal year runs October 1 through September 30; new officers usually assume their responsibilities in June.) The time of the preparation of the yearly statement appears to be a more logical point at which to have any change in office occur. As it is, it is necessary to overlap terms to properly familiarize the new Treasurer with the fiscal workings of the Chapter.

CM

Support Grows For Rights Amendment To Ethical Practice Standards

Spearheaded by the NYC/AIA Committee on Employer/Employee Relations, a clearer, more concise amendment to the Standards of Ethical Practice is gaining support both locally and nationally.

Picking up where it left off at last year's National Convention, the Committee, which is chaired by Ralph Steinglass, has both consolidated and stream-lined Resolution No. 9. It has also received the support of the NYC/AIA Executive Committee, New York's two Regional Directors, and the Institute's Personnel Practices Committee.

New York Regional Directors Frederick Frost, Jr. and Herbert Epstein, both FAIA, are prepared to fully endorse the amendment at the December meeting of the Institute's Board of Directors, where it will be introduced by Professional Affairs Commissioner Herbert Duncan.

At the Personnel Practices Committee meeting in Washington on October 4th, Executive Director Slayton was quoted as saying that "the Institute would enthusiastically endorse the resolution" as now worded. The proposed amendment, inserted as Item No. 8 under the revised heading of "Obligations to the Client, Employer or Employee", reads as follows:

"An architect shall recognize the professional contribution of his employees, share in the responsibility for their professional development, and provide them with fair salaries, working conditions and benefits."

In a covering letter, the Personnel Practices Committee states that passage of this amendment is fundamental to implementing the mandate established several years ago in the Institute's White Paper on Personnel Practice.

Another important goal set by the Committee on Employer/Employee Relations this year is the completion of a revised personnel practices manual. The Committee will soon be sending member firms a survey on employment practices designed to determine realistic criteria for evaluating salaries, working conditions and benefits.

RS