

AIA Holds Press Conference: What Is In The Future?

President of the Institute William Marshall, along with Louis deMoll (first Vice President) and William Slayton (Executive Director), held a press conference at the Chapter on Thursday, February 13. The Institute's main goals and concerns for the coming year was the basis of the meeting.

Mr. Marshall opened by stating that the obvious overriding concern of the future is the deteriorating state of the economy. The construction industry, the most hard hit, presently has 20% unemployment. This industry will be much more difficult to start up again—as opposed to the equally hurt auto industry, which can be at full tilt in a reasonably short period of time.

President Marshall announced that the AIA has met and will continue to meet with the labor unions and that a joint release has just been issued to the President of the United States and Congress in which several specific points were suggested for implementation by the Federal government. These are:

1. Releasing impounded funds for building and highway construction.
2. Reviving and strengthening the housing industry by encouraging long-term mortgage money.
3. Developing community grants in the form of revenue sharing to stimulate the economy.
4. Providing Government incentives to building owners to renovate their structures so that more construction work will occur and buildings will be updated with energy-saving improvements. Conserving energy will also fight the petrodollar drain.

The AIA is encouraging architects to diversify into such fields as interior design, energy conservation studies, and environmental impact statements.

Most questions that followed understandably were related to economy, unemployment, and public works programs.

DVR

Quest For Equity in Postal Service Contracts

Postal Service contracts for architectural services have been an area of significant investigation by the Fees and Contracts Committee, Roy Friedberg, Chairman. Concerns include broad contractual obligations such as making the architect responsible for OSHA regulations during construction and the low fee structure for services rendered.

Because of the vast amount of forthcoming work from the USPS (two billion dollars worth in the next five years, as heard by the membership during an open meeting held last August 14— see **Oculus**, Sept./74) contracts with the Postal Service assume additional importance.

To establish a dialogue between USPS and NYC/AIA, a meeting was held at Chapter headquarters on January 16. Harold Krueger, Manfred Norman, William Somerville and Fred Montoya represented the Postal Service. George Lewis, Carl Petrilli, Bourke Wiegel and Roy Friedberg represented the Chapter. The result of the meeting was an agreement to collect comprehensive comments from the membership on problem areas of Post Office Contracts and submit them to USPS for review.

A subcommittee has been formed, with Rafael Courland as chairman, to receive written constructive comments regarding particularly the negotiating stage, as well as any aspects of the pre-design or design and construction phase work related to contractual obligations or adequacy of fees.

Comments have been asked for as quickly as possible to allow adequate time for correlation and transmittal to USPS.

Responses will be indicated to the membership in a regular mailing.
NFJ

Executive Committee Actions

February 6, 1975

- Reviewed the Chapter's past position in supporting the Landmarks Commission's denial of certificates of appropriateness for two alternate designs of an office building to be built above Grand Central. The Executive Committee resolved to stand ready to support an appeal of the recent State Supreme Court decision overruling the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

- Noted that President Oppenheimer will write Governor Carey congratulating him on his positive support of UDC through his appointment of Richard Ravitch as Chairman and John G. Burnett as interim president and chief executive officer. Mr. Ravitch last June received the Chapter's Award of Merit, it's highest award given a non-architect. (See **Oculus' Annual Review**, Aug./74, p. 13.)

- Noted that an organization of Hispanic architects has been formally incorporated and wishes to work closely with the chapter. (See article this issue.)

Post Office Work: How To Apply

Following a mutually constructive meeting between representatives of the United States Postal Service and the Chapter, Harold Krueger, General Manager for Building Analysis and Design Division, Northeast Region of USPS, has suggested that architects be again reminded on how to apply for this work

Architects are selected from those who have filed standard Form 251, which is available from the office of Mr. Manfred Norman, Manager of Design & Construction, USPS, 90 Church Street, Room 1414, New York 10007; telephone 264-7777. The jobs run from relatively small renovations on up.

Welcome To New Members

The NYC/AIA welcomes the following members:

Corporate

Ari Bahat
David L. Maron
James E. Miller

Associate

Jacob Munn

Candidates For Membership

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

Corporate

Eli Attia
Alfred T. Menziuso
Lawrence H. Randolph
Robert J. Sangiamo
Marc B. Sweig
Gary B. Vowels

Professional Associate

Carl B. Kaiserman

GRASS AND STEEL II

For those that missed the first showing, there will be a second showing of "Grass and Steel" on Friday, March 21. The showing is sponsored by AIP and will be a lunch meeting at Chapter Headquarters, at 12:15 p.m.

"Grass and Steel" was conceived by Chapter member Barry Benepe and was made possible by a grant to the New York Chapter from the New York State Council on the Arts.

"Guidelines Architectural Letter"

Chapter member Russell Childs has called **Oculus'** attention to a newsletter he as a practitioner finds quite valuable. The "Guidelines Architectural Letter" has been published for three years, and Childs says it usually has choice insights into improved practice, particularly for small offices. "Their booklets on Production, Promotion, Office Management and their Working Drawing Check Lists make valuable manuals", he said.

The cost for individual subscription is \$30/year, but if 10 or more Chapter members subscribe, the rate would be \$12 each. Please call Martha Pope at the Chapter office (565-1866) if you are interested.

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
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A Hispanic Professional Society Formed

Last November, a new professional society was formed and incorporated in the State of New York. Known as S/SEPA, the Society of Spanish Engineers, Planners and Architects is a non-profit corporation composed mainly of such Hispanic professionals as architects, engineers, designers, and related graduate professionals and para-professionals.

The group really began coming together a year ago November and has grown in membership from six to the present 35 participants.

S/SEPA was formed

- to encourage greater minority participation and employment within the design professions;
- to encourage and assist education programs designed for minority involvement in architecture, engineering, interior design and other related creative fields;
- to provide a source of professional and technical skills within the architectural and engineering design fields for communities;
- to be available for comment and opinions on public issues regarding the welfare of minority groups in housing, medical facilities, schools, etc.

Some S/SEPA members are in private practice while others are employed by firms. All are professionals, both licensed and unlicensed. Two of the four officers, Lee Borrero, President, and Daniel V. Rodriguez, Secretary, are NYC/AIA members.

Ruben Delgado, Vice President, is also an architect, and Louis Sanchez, Treasurer, is an engineer.

Anyone interested in the Society should contact Ruben Delgado at 687-5858.

DVR

Architects In Industry: A New Committee

A hefty block of building construction in the United States—as well as overseas—is administered by architects in industry.

To quote the chairman of the new NYC/AIA Architects in Industry Committee, Robert T. Packard, "Of the many responsibilities of the corporate architect, number one may be to bring the highest possible design level to American industry. The selection of consultants is a key element toward this end". A recent AIA research study aimed at "Fortune 500" corporations indicates that 93% of these corporations turn to outside consultants for the design of building projects.

A national AIA Architects in Industry Committee has been under way for several years. The New York Chapter's group held its first meeting on November 18, 1974. This new Committee includes representatives from American Airlines, First National City, IBM, RCA, Singer and others. The door is open to new members.

The Architects in Industry Committee will hold an open meeting at the Chapter on March 11th at 5:30. Members representing three major corporations will report on the state of their construction operations. Comment on relations between the corporate architect and the private architect will be offered.

BI

Chapter Library Reference Material Available To Members

The Chapter office has a small but growing library. In addition to a hundred-odd books on technology and history, there is reference material which can be useful to practitioners. Included are:

- *NYC Zoning Resolutions*, updated
- *Building Laws of NYC*, loose leaf, updated; Gould Publication
- *New York Building Laws*, vols. 1 & 2, updated; N.Y. Society of Architects
- *NYC Fire Prevention Code*; N.Y. Society of Architects
- *BOCA (Building Officials & Code Administrators) Code*, 1970
- *Local Law No. 57 (Noise Control)*
- *Commerce Business Daily*
- OSHA material
- *Guidelines for Improving Practice: Architects & Engineers Professional Liability*, updated; Schinnerer
- *Dodge Digest of Building Costs & Specifications*
- *The Plan for New York City*
- Research material, including: *Industrialization Forum: Building Systems Construction Analysis Research*, updated; and others
- Current and back issues of the following magazines, indexed: *AIA Journal*, *Architecture Plus*, *Architectural Record*, *Progressive Architecture*, *Architectural Forum*, *Interiors*, *Engineering News Record*.
- Most AIA publications

These can be looked at in the Chapter office, but not taken out. Suggestions for further additions would be welcome; call Martha Pope at 565-1866.

Impassioned Jury Comes Home

An exhausted and emotional jury, in its closing moments of deliberation, awarded a remarkably high 10 (out of 48) entrants Certificates of Recognition in this year's NYC/AIA Residential Design Awards Program.

Raising the passions and the generosity of the distinguished jurors were, according to James D. Morgan, Professional Advisor to the jury, both the remarkably high level of design quality of all the entrants and the broad spectrum of experience and attitudes toward residential design represented by the jurors themselves. They were: Louis Sauer, Philadelphia architect; Laurie Maurer, Brooklyn architect-teacher; and C. Ray Smith, editor of *Interiors* magazine.

In fact, no one of the ten submissions finally selected received a unanimous vote from the jurors. In order to agree at all, two votes became the necessary tally for an entrant to merit an award and, in Jim Morgan's own words, "in a dazzling last minute display of speculation, philosophizing, and simple horse trading, the following selections were made":

Hobart Betts, vacation house in Westhampton, N.Y.

Wids DeLaCour, duplex apartment in Brooklyn

Gwathmey and Siegel, converted barn in Connecticut

Richard Meier, house in Michigan

Richard Metzner, house in Long Island (Project)

Christopher Owen, bridge house (Project)

Don Rieman, converted loft, SoHo

Paul Segal, co-operative apartment, Manhattan

Paul Segal, converted icehouse, up-state N.Y.

Stern and Hagmann, house in Washington, Connecticut

Look at the pictures on these pages and you find the esthetic range of selections of this jury rather astonishing. A tiny converted icehouse stands side by side with a formal, elegant glass house on Lake Michigan; an eclectic, perhaps 19th Century-inspired castle shares the limelight with a stately, pristine bridge-house. No one "school" of thought dominates, no particularly single source of form inspiration is pervasive. Only quality counts, whether the submissions were the "expected quasi-monumental works by well known members of the Chapter or the satisfying collection of smaller, lovingly recycled structures by less well known architects."

The jury advisor's report, authored by Jim Morgan, is recommended as reading to the membership.

The jury seemed to favor, if a preference can be pinpointed, remodelled spaces or those which reused the past, new dwellings which literally grew out of their environment.

At the close of deliberations, the jury seemed "impressed by the unconscious pluralism of its choices." C. Ray Smith chose his words carefully: "I'd call it an attempt to balance the monumental and the modest, to contract the formalistic with the environmentally quiet." Laurie Maurer put it briefly and bluntly, "It's what is, not necessarily what's good!"

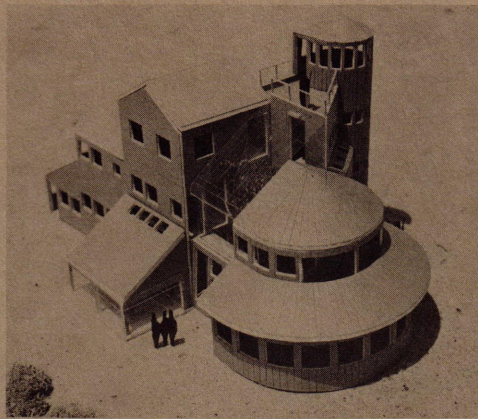
Norma Skurka will again review the Residential Design Awards in the *New York Times Sunday Magazine*, on March 23rd.
NFJ



Richard Meier



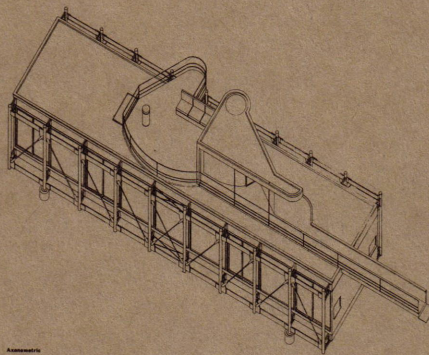
Hobart Betts



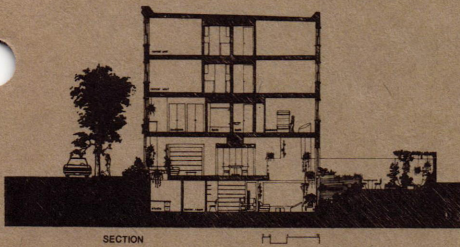
Richard Metzner



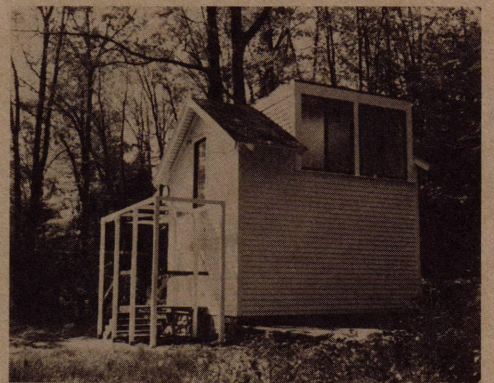
Paul Segal



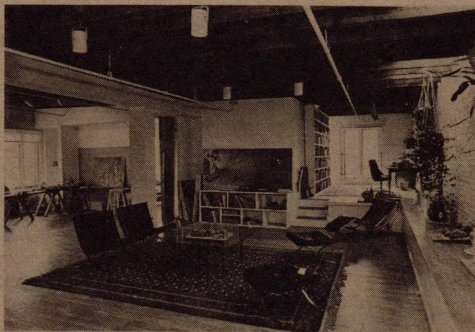
Christopher Owen



Wids DeLaCour



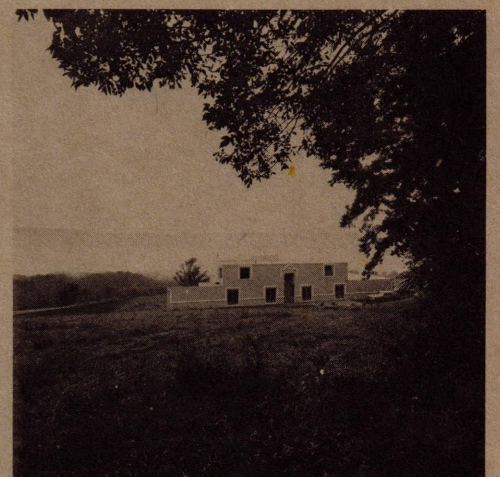
Paul Segal



Don Rieman



Gwathmey and Siegel



Stern and Hagmann

New York City's "Rehabilitation Program"

On February 10th, Alex Garvan, Deputy Commissioner of Rehabilitation and Finance and Neighborhood Preservation at HDA, was the special guest at a luncheon meeting of the Housing Committee, chaired by Joe Wasserman. The purpose was to informally discuss the Community Housing and Development Act as it effects programs here.

The Act is limited to Government Financing for rehabilitation of existing housing structures. Mr. Garvan indicated that Mayor Beame's target is to substantially increase rehabilitation from the 3,000 units approved last year to a proposed 7,500 units this year.

Well, there are a number of difficulties in being able to achieve such a goal. First, with the current stringent city budget, HDA staff responsible for processing loan applications will not be increased to handle the new load. Secondly, the City does not have proper project evaluation techniques and standards for rehabilitation work. Thirdly, there are no approved fee structures for this type of work.

Mr. Garvan discussed tentative ideas for dealing with these problems. Four categories of rehabilitation might be created, each with its own processing procedures, construction standards and fee structure. The proposed categories are (1) Simple Repair; (2) Moderate Rehabilitation, involving no plan changes but possibly including new roof, new electrical, heating and plumbing systems, etc.; (3) Extensive Rehabilitation, involving plan changes in addition to all the above, and (4) Conventional Complete Gut Renovation. Mr. Garvan indicated that, to get the most out of the program with the staff and monies available, the majority of approved applications would probably be in categories (2) and (3).

The proposed fee structures seemed low and unnecessarily complicated to some of those present at the meeting. It was explained that the HDA would do the supervision and that this would reduce fees. Suggestions were made to reconsider the question of who should do supervision, especially since rehab work can be very unpredictable once the actual construction begins. The fee schedule should also be simpler, more flexible and able to reflect specific job requirements.

Mr. Garvan indicated that the HDA would probably hire a consultant to develop the needed evaluation techniques and renovation standards. Such a study would take time, and it was later suggested that FHA Minimum Standards for renovation work could be considered interim guidelines and also a basis for the new standards.

Mr. Garvan indicated that it is not the City's intention to require professional assistance for an applicant to submit. However, application forms ask for a proposed scope of work and proposed room count. Since such proposals can only be done with a professional's assistance, many architects are forced to do work on a speculative basis, in the hope that the application will be approved.

Mr. Garvan seems quite willing to accept and consider all suggestions. The Housing Committee therefore appointed a subcommittee to make specific comments and suggestions to him.
CM

Women's Bank President To Speak at Brown Bag Lunch



The president-designate of the First Women's Bank, Madeline McWhinney, will be the third and final speaker of the Brown Bag Lunch Series sponsored by the WAA Scholarship Fund, on Wednesday, April 9th, at noon, at Chapter Headquarters.

Miss McWhinney was the first and ranking woman officer of the Federal Reserve Bank until she joined the First Women's Bank in January of 1974. When it opens - probably late this Spring - the bank will be the first commercial bank in the United States to be "truly nondiscriminatory in its hiring, promotion and credit policies", and it will make a special effort to serve women.

The road throughout its formation has been perilous, and its success an admirable display of brinkmanship. All this makes for good telling—the better for the lunch-hour gathering.

Both preceding Brown Bag Lunches have filled the Chapter's front room to capacity, so it's wise to "reserve" early. Admission is by a \$1.25 contribution to the WAA Scholarship Fund (actually, \$1.00 to the Fund, 25¢ for coffee and cookies), which is tax-deductible. Please mail your check to Mrs. David Paul Helpert, 99 Park Avenue, New York 10016. Bring your lunch. All WAA and Chapter members—and friends—are welcome.
IMA