

Chapter's 1976 Economic Survey Indicates 36.4% Drop in Total Personnel of Chapter Offices

The table below is a consolidation of returns submitted by chapter offices in the NYC/AIA 1976 economic survey. So large a number of firms responded that the figures can be considered reliable. We asked for the total number of people, including non-architectural personnel, in offices as of December 31 in each year beginning with 1969.

We estimate the drop in number of architectural employees to be much greater. No exact figures are now available, but there are reliable indications that the number of architectural employees is off by 60 to 75%.

The New York situation is clearly far more severe than the state of the profession nationally. A national AIA survey on the same basis indicates a drop of 13.6% since June 30, 1974, although it is felt at the Institute that the true figure is closer to 20%. This is about one-half the New York drop.

Ironically, five of the ten 1976 National AIA Honor Awards, or 50%, were won by New York firms. New York's world and national preeminence is threatened.

The NYC/AIA surveys conducted last year and the year before asked

for a different kind of information: the amount of new work in offices. The 1974 survey showed a drop in new work during 1973 equal to 55% of 1969. The 1975 survey showed a further drop of 50% in 1974 from 1973, making a total of about 75% since 1969.

The survey is being circulated widely to the press, to individuals in government, and to the construction industry. In past years the chapter's surveys have attracted wide attention.

GL

The 1976 Survey:

- Figures show total office personnel — including non-architectural — of firms reporting.
- Only those reports covering all seven years are summarized here.
- Firms in 1969 size categories — 2-3, 4-10, etc. — are continued across the table in the same categories in order to show a profile of what happened in each year.

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
one man firms	9	12 + 33.33	16 + 77.78	21 +133.33	18 +100.00	27 +200.00	33 +266.67
2-3	28	37 + 32.14	41 + 46.43	43 + 53.57	47 + 67.86	51 + 82.14	37 + 32.14
4-10	171	190 + 11.11	190 + 11.11	189 + 10.53	202 + 18.13	199 + 16.37	160 - 6.43
11-20	293	268 - 8.53	241 - 17.75	221 - 24.57	215 - 26.62	197 - 32.76	158 - 46.08
21-50	574	537 - 6.45	461 - 19.69	389 - 32.23	349 - 39.20	309 - 46.17	249 - 56.62
51 and over	2180	2031 - 6.83	1855 - 14.91	1694 - 22.29	1504 - 31.01	1478 - 32.20	1433 - 34.27
TOTALS	3255	3075 - 5.53	2805 - 13.82	2557 - 21.44	2355 - 27.65	2261 - 30.54	2070 - 36.41

Village Voice Article On Discrimination Against Jewish Architects

The Executive Committee submits the following statement to the membership:

The March 22 issue of the *Village Voice* contained an article by Ellen Perry Berkeley that deals at length with the many-faceted problem of potential discrimination against Jewish architects and employees resulting from professional practice in Arab countries.

The Chapter is, was, and always will be opposed to discrimination "against any employee or applicant because of sex, race, creed or national origin." The words are from the AIA Standards of Ethical Practice but their force is so essential a part of the life and record of the New York Chapter as to make their repetition here almost redundant.

We are prepared to press charges if legitimate complaints are brought to our attention. We are also mindful of the difficulties involved in making complaints and proving discrimination. One cannot assume because we have received no formal complaints that there has been no local discrimination flowing from overseas work. Nevertheless, our membership is reminded that the Chapter and the Institute are concerned, sensitive and responsive to all aspects of this delicate matter and problems should be brought to our attention promptly.

Presidential Candidates and the AIA

For much too long we have all been painfully aware of the stranglehold on our profession by the economy's well known problems. The difficulties have been hacked over and over again at every social gathering and lunch meeting. We are all in the position now of being fed up with discussions, we need answers.

The profession is changing roles, that is quite clear; but in what direction? Several answers appear in Richard Stein's report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the status of the profession, a most enlightening piece of journalism.

It is apparent that a comprehensive, national policy towards the design professions and all related areas is necessary, and very soon. We're in the midst of a very critical presidential election year, since we hope the successful candidate's administration will formulate a direction that will eventually stabilize our slide. But what are the candidate's views, particularly regarding our profession and the related issues such as housing, construction, the economy, etc?

The national AIA has developed the 1976 presidential campaign position papers reflecting several of these issues and the Chapter has been endeavoring to interview the presidential candidates (or their representatives) seeking their stand on these position papers and other specific items injected by the Chapter.

According to Peter Samton, Chapter Vice President, as of this writing, two presidential camps have responded to the Chapter inquiries; Jimmy Carter (in the person of Howard Samuels) and Morris Udall. Howard Samuels indicated an interest in listening to the Chapter's ideas on some of the issues, especially those of housing.

Chapter members who feel that they might have a responsible contribution to the Chapter's program as outlined above, please call George Lewis at 730-1221.

DVR

Overseas Practice Panel Discussion

Eason Leonard, chairman of the Overseas Practice Committee, assembled a panel of architects, and engineers, lawyers and accountants for an open meeting April 13th. The audience was not much larger than the panel, which is puzzling if one assumes that New York architects are interested in new avenues of practice. Those not present missed an exceptionally lively and informative exchange.

A comprehensive summary is impossible because discussion ranged over many geographic areas and subjects in a short time. What follows here are random scribbled notes.

Stressed above all was the necessity to investigate the laws of the particular country and the condition of practice — local licensing, business and personal taxes, possible requirements for joint ventures, etc.

On organizing the work, an engineer here might do preliminary work, while one at the location might better do the contract documents; some engineers abroad do drawings equivalent to shop drawings. On communication in different languages, a nod and a smile during negotiations do not necessarily signify agreement; rather, "I understand what you said." In Russia, the logistics of transportation must be studied: materials may be diverted en route, scarce equipment may disappear; labor is paid on a quantity basis with no regard for quality. The high cost of translating specifications: difficult to find linguists

who understand construction. One case of the middle pages of a contract being changed by a client because only the final page was signed.

In one country the standard 6% architects' fee was reduced to 2% because an incoming minister felt architects were too rich. In Lagos, Nigeria, 300 to 400 ships in the harbor, cement not unloaded for 6 months.

Robert Gajte remarked that perhaps there was too much emphasis on horror stories — that there were good opportunities abroad for those with the resources to go after them. He said American architects are the best trained and most responsible in the world and are recognized as such.

In addition to Leonard, the panel consisted of Robert F. Coogan, Attorney, Michael Lacher, Attorney, Brownell Johnson of Arthur Anderson, Skender Ghilaga of Syska & Hennessy, Alan Schwartzman and Jordan Gruzen.
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Council Committee Hearing on Architects/Engineers Performing Inspections

The City Council Committee on Housing and Buildings held a hearing on March 17 concerning the proposed legislation requiring architects or engineers to perform construction inspection on large projects and making it optional for small projects. The Chapter submitted the following statement, prepared by the Public Agencies Committee, Martin Raab, chairman.

The New York Chapter/AIA has reviewed the proposed Amendments to the Administrative Code of the City of New York in relation to providing alternative inspection procedures to those performed by the Depart-

ment of Buildings and wholeheartedly supports the City's attempt to bring about the beneficial systemic change in the building industry through the introduction of the City's professional A/E's into the building inspection procedure.

We are well aware of our potential liabilities in this new procedure, but we believe it necessary to provide our support to this radical change in relationships within the New York building industry. Our support, though, is tempered by concern and we believe certain points should be seriously considered by the Council prior to approval in order to meet these concerns.

Accordingly, we submit for your consideration the following suggestions:

1. Paragraph P51-40-Form of Certification of Inspection Reports, Test Results, Code Compliance.

The present certificate indicates "that results reveal compliance with the requirements of all applicable codes and statutes." It is our understanding from discussions of this measure with Commissioner Walsh that the intent of the legislation is, in fact, to provide professional inspections to substitute for inspections now being carried on by the City's force. Since this, in fact, is the intent of the legislation we request that the words "requirements of all applicable codes and statutes" be deleted and the words "approved plans" be substituted. We believe this will clarify the intent of the law and remove us from the precipice of extensive litigation in which the general language of the proposed certificate promises to plunge us. Commissioner Walsh has indicated to us that he would support this change.

2. Paragraph P51-50-Penalty for False Certification.

We believe that the statement as to false information should be modified by adding the words "knowing it to be false." We believe that a professional swearing to a statement that "to the best of his knowledge, information and belief is true" should not be criminally penalized if the statement later is found false. This would be in keeping with the present requirements of the grant of authority for City inspectors under which these services are being presently performed, as set forth in Chapter 26, Section 642-5 of the Administrative Code which states "All officers or employees of the Department shall be free from liability for acts done by him in *good faith* in the performance of his duty." To set a much higher standard for professionals is unwarranted and beyond the intent of the law.

3. We lend our specific endorsement to the changes proposed by the New York Building Congress as regards the following matters:

a. The definition of "Major Project" to be changed to eliminate the rather low alteration cost levels now being proposed.

b. A change in the requirement that those performing inspections be "acceptable to the applicant of record" to "acceptable to the architect or engineer who prepared or supervised the preparation of the plans." This will maintain the level of professional involvement.

c. To change the reporting requirements presently indicating two to five day reporting cycles to an inclusive but less frequent submission of reports.

We believe that it will be necessary after the adoption of these Amendments to establish "Directives for Inspection" in all areas covered by the certifications. These directives must be similar to those existing for structural and mechanical inspections currently issued by the Department of Buildings. We would expect that appropriate standards would be promulgated by a joint committee of the Department and the professionals of the City. We believe that the Council should direct the Building Commissioner to establish these "Directives" so that questions as to the execution of the law be as limited as possible. We look forward to assisting in the establishment of these standards and recommend to you the prompt passage of this legislation subject only to their establishment.

WINNER OF STEWARDSON SCHOLARSHIP

The Chapter is happy to announce that George Ranalli is the recipient of the 1976 James Stewardson Traveling Scholarship. Mr. Ranalli received his Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1972 from Pratt Institute and his Masters degree from Harvard in 1973. He is presently employed at the firm of Warren Gran & Associates in Brooklyn, New York.

The scholarship was granted to Mr. Ranalli so that he could further pursue his interest in polychromy (constructional coloration), particularly in 19th Century English architecture. His travel plans include

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Executive Committee Actions April 7, 1976

- Noting a March 22 article in the *Village Voice* alleging discrimination against Jews by firms seeking Arab work, the Executive Committee reaffirmed the Chapter's and the Institute's firm opposition to discrimination of any kind. The statement appears in this issue.
- Heard Peter Samton report on a meeting with Howard Samuels, representing Jimmy Carter. AIA and Chapter position papers were discussed. Meetings with representatives of other candidates are planned. (See article this issue.)
- Discussed a draft personnel practices manual prepared by the Employer-Employee Relations Committee, which requested that a manual be recommended to chapter offices.
- Heard a report by Carl Stein on the March 4 seminar on the use of electric heat; representatives of Battery Park City and the Chapter debated the subject. The Executive Committee reaffirmed the Chapter's position against the use of electric heat.
- Heard a report on the March 25 seminar on the liquid metal fast breeder reactor. The Committee tentatively reaffirmed the Chapter's position against constructing a breeder reactor, but at this writing the position may be further challenged.
- Approved the concept of a competition sponsored by the Planning Commission and the Parks & Recreation Department for a playground in Flushing Meadow to be designed for the use of handicapped children.
- Heard Janko Rasic, representing members of the Education Facilities Committee, criticize the effectiveness of the AIA as a professional organization nationally and locally on a number of points. He asked that a

representative committee be formed to review chapter policies and establish continuity.

Welcome to New Members The NYC/AIA welcomes the following members:

Corporate

Timothy D. Wood
Madan P. Vazirani
Jan Degenshein

Associate

Beatrice West (readmission)

Candidates for Membership

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

Corporate

William Berg
William T. Meyer
Vincent J. Trocchia, Jr.
Ming H. Yang

Associate

Alfred Salsano (AIA)
Thomas J. Condit

STEWARTSON SCHOLARSHIP

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Great Britain, France, Italy and possibly Vienna and Germany.

Upon his return, Mr. Ranalli will submit a report to the Chapter summarizing the results of his venture.
MJC

Annual Meeting May 25 On Roosevelt Island: Chapter Awards to be Given

Each year a new location. Last year Cooper Union, this year the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Roosevelt Island, via tramway (it better be running!).

The meeting on Tuesday, May 25, will be brief, starting at 5:30 and followed by a reception on the Chapel terrace. A charge of \$7.00 per person will cover the bar and hors d'oeuvres. Those arriving earlier will be able to walk around the new town and inspect model apartments.

The Chapter's 1976 awards are as follows:

- Medal of Honor, John M. Johansen
- Award of Merit, Weidlinger Associates
- Honorary Membership, Paul Goldberger
- Special Citations to John Hejduk, Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development, and *Oppositions* magazine.

Richard G. Stein will assume the chapter presidency.

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