

Oculus

Richard G. Stein Kicks Off Season

At a meeting with members of the Executive Committee and Committee Chairpersons on Oct. 5 '76 Richard Stein, Chapter President presented his plans for this '76-'77 year.

The organization of chapter committees under six separate Commissions headed by appointed Commissioners has been eliminated. Individual members of the Executive Committee will serve as Liaison with groups of chapter committees.

The groups have been organized for administrative purposes and not in an attempt to stratify and pigeon hole professional activities.

The President noted the continuing crisis in New York's architectural employment; stressed the urgency for a massive program of neighborhood and community revitalization as the focus of New York's construction strategy and urged each committee to investigate the opportunities in its area.

The means: Infill building rehabilitation, historic building preservation, conversions, open space use.

continued page 3, column 1

NYSAA/AIA

Elects Officers and Maintains Budget Level



Caucus at NYSAA/AIA Annual Business Meeting
From l. to r. Peter Samton, Arthur Seckler, Charles Hughes, Richard Stein and Leonard Weinberg.

The New York State Association of Architects/AIA Annual Business Meeting was held in New York City on Oct. 14. The candidate for President-Elect selected by the Association's Committee on Nominations announced that he would not serve unless the Association budget was increased to cover costs of established Association programs.

The increase in the budget above the \$102,000 mark reached this year was re-

garded as unthinkable by most New York Chapter delegates. Roughly \$64,000 was received this year from the \$38 dues paid by each Association member. The balance was largely made up by a special \$10 assessment per member.

The institution of Supplemental Firm Dues was proposed to resolve budgetary problems.

A floor fight ensued during

continued page 6, column 2

November Calendar

- Through November 12
Chapter Headquarters

Exhibit of NYSAA/AIA 1976 Award Winners

- Tuesday, November 9, 8:00 p.m.
Great Hall, Cooper Union

How Architect/Developer/Community Work Together to Revive Downtown

A symposium on a new approach to the role of design in city building sponsored by NYC/AIA, the Architectural League, the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies, and Cooper Union. The speakers will be Edmund N. Bacon, Romaldo Giurgola, Richard Meier, and I. Rocke Ransen.

- November 18 through December 31, Mondays through Fridays
Chapter Headquarters

"New York's Stepchildren, An Exhibition of Unloved Works of Art on Public Buildings, Looking for New Homes"

An innovative provision of the new City Charter is the establishment of a "lapidarium" under the jurisdiction of the Art Commission to salvage works of art from discarded City structures for possible reuse. A purpose of this show is to alert the architectural profession that this new authority exists, and that there is to be an inventory of salvaged municipal art - mostly architectural embellishments, available for incorporation in designs for new buildings, parks and renovations. Organized by the Art Commission of the City of New York. Photographs by Candia Ogle and Gabriel Seymour. The exhibition is made possible by the New York Community Trust.

- Thursday, November 18, 5:40 p.m. (cash bar 5:00 p.m.)
Chapter Headquarters

Chapter meeting on Westway, see notice enclosed.

- Friday, December 3
Ford Foundation

An All Day Symposium on the UN HABITAT Conference on Human Settlements, its Results and Future Impact

Mr. Enrique Penalosa, Secretary General for the Conference held in June in Vancouver, will chair. This Symposium is organized by the Columbia Architectural and Planning Alumni Association in coordination with NYC/AIA and the Metropolitan Chapter of AIP. Call John Boogaerts, 532-1240 for information

Candidates for Membership

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

CORPORATE

Richard A. Fisher
Donald A. Jewell, Jr.
Kamalakar D. Pendse
David Van Buren

ASSOCIATE

Joseph Micali
Mitchel T. Wolfe

Welcome New Members

The NYC/AIA Welcomes the following member:

CORPORATE

Ronald Schappaugh

New York Chapter
The American Institute of Architects
20 West 40th Street
New York, New York 10018
212/730-1221
George S. Lewis, Executive Director

Executive Committee 1976/77

Richard G. Stein, President
Peter Samton, 1st Vice President
Judith Edelman, Vice President
Eason H. Leonard, Vice President
Stephen A. Kliment, Secretary
Anna M. Halpin, Treasurer
John Belle, Director
George Dudley, Director
Roy Friedberg, Director
Gillet Lefferts, Director
Donald Ryder, Director
Robert A.M. Stern, Director

Oculus Committee

Denis Glen Kuhn, Editor/Chairman
Albert Barash
Stephen N. Carter
Mary Jane Clark
Bonnell Irvine
Lawrence Levine
Kenneth T. Lydon
Kenneth Ricci
William C. Shopsin

Robert A.M. Stern
Executive Committee Liaison
Stephen A. Kliment
Secretary, NYC/AIA
Cathanne Piesla
Chapter Staff Member

76-77 List of Chapter Appointive Committees, Executive Committee Liaison and Chairmen

Richard G. Stein
kicks off Season
continued from page 1

The expected results: Speed, construction and design jobs, upgraded city, use of infrastructure, energy savings.

The reports will be incorporated in a definitive presentation by next summer to help formulate the many planning decisions which must be made if New York City is to find its way out of the present dilemma.

Chapter committees have been formed. If you didn't fill out the form mailed out early in the summer, then you wouldn't be assigned to a committee.

It's not too late to review the list of committees and call the Chapter to be sure of an assignment.

RS/DGK

Chapter Members on Community Planning Boards

Chapter members who are also members of Community Planning Boards should inform the Chapter office. An effort will be made in the future to coordinate Chapter positions on civic affairs with Board members.

Ad Hoc Studies
Emerging Role of the Architect
Special Competitions

Political Affairs

Standards of
Ethical Practice Revisions

Energy and Environment
Historic Buildings
Technology
Urban Planning/Community
Development and Zoning

Architects in Government
Architects in Industry
Governmental Facilities
Overseas Practice
Public Agencies

Codes-Building, Energy, Zoning
Correction Facilities
Health Facilities
Office Practice/Employer-Employee
Relations, Fees and Contracts

Brunner Scholarship
Educational Facilities
LeBrun Fellowship
Membership
Small Office

Architectural Students
Continuing Education
Environmental Education
Equal Opportunity/Minorities, Women
Scholarship Aid
Housing

Exhibits
OCULUS
Special Meetings
Stewardson Fellowship

Richard G. Stein
Lo Yi Chan
to be appointed
to be appointed

Peter Samton

Judith Edelman

John L. Belle
Diane Serber
Richard Ferrara
Manfred H. Riedel
Norbert N. Turkel

George A. Dudley
Richard Rosenthal
P. Eric DeVaris
William A. Hall
Richard Roth, Jr.
Martin D. Raab

Roy Friedberg
Stephen B. Jacobs
Lawrence Litchfield
Joseph Shein
Alan Schwartzman

Gillet Lefferts
Der Scutt
Lawrence Lieberfeld
David E. Glasser
Edward S. Connell
Abe Rothenberg

Donald P. Ryder
Bernard Rothzeit
Bernard Spring
Nathan J. Maltz
to be appointed
Carl Meinhardt
Joseph Wasserman/
Richard Blinder

Robert A.M. Stern
to be appointed
Denis Glen Kuhn
to be appointed
Ralph Steinglass

Executive Committee Actions

in October

=to develop a position on the Westway, the controversial 6 lane highway slated to replace the dilapidated West Side Highway. A small group (to include Urban Planning Committee chairman Norbert Turkel) will study the Environmental Impact Statement and talk to members of the official city-state planning group. Aim: to define unanswered land planning and transportation issues. The group will then report to a chapter-wide meeting, to help in hammering out a chapter position.

=to recommend Giorgio Cavaglieri, Abraham Geller and Rolf Ohlhausen for membership on the City Art Commission. Names are submitted to the Fine Arts Federation Nominating Committee, which submits names to the Mayor, who in turn appoints the architect member.

=to continue to oppose supplemental dues as proposed by the NYSAA/AIA.

=to commend Treasurer Anna Halpin, George Lewis and his staff for coming in with a surplus on the chapter's 1975/76 operations.



President Stein nominating William Rose for NYSAA/AIA President-Elect. Seated on platform from l. to r. is Albert Efron, Bruce Hartwigsen, Helene Conroy, Abraham Levitt and Werner Feibes.

continued from page 1

the morning business meeting to keep the nominating proceedings open until another candidate could be found. Richard Stein asked for an adjournment to continue the search during the lunch break.

The New York and Westchester chapters got it together and nominated William Rose of the Westchester Chapter as President-Elect. His name was placed before the meeting by Richard Stein at the start of the afternoon session.

The matter of Supplemental Firm Dues was presented by the presiding President Bruce Hartwigsen. The New York

Chapter did not support the dues and asked for further review of the matter. The Westchester Chapter supported the dues in principle. The Brooklyn Chapter made a motion to table the discussion.

Bruce Hartwigsen commenting on the motion to table said "I'm not clear on this but let's vote on it" asked for a show of hands and the matter of a Supplemental Dues was tabled.

Albert Efron was installed as the new President and William Rose was voted in as President-Elect. Both pledged to work for the Association regardless of the budget.

DGK

Villard Houses Supported



The New York Chapter represented by Denis Glen Kuhn spoke in favor of the Villard House/Palace Hotel project by Emery Roth and Sons, Architects, at the Oct. 21 '76 Board of Estimate hearing. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the special legislation and permit for the Harry Helmsley organization to proceed.

Chapter member Jim Morgan, Chairman, Villard Houses Taskforce, Community Planning Board 5 spoke eloquently against the scheme.

The Chapter statement at the hearing culminated a more than two year involvement with the project. In those two years important interior spaces have been saved, and a unique preservation plan, set into law, has been established.

DGK

Gas, Oil and Preservation

On Sept. 28 '76 President Ford signed into law a bill which authorized the appropriation of funds dealing with preservation.

This law among other things, creates a new Historic Preservation Fund financed by offshore oil and gas receipts and authorizes \$24.4 million in fiscal '77, \$100 million annually for '78 and '79 and \$150 million annually for '80 and '81. It establishes a 29 member Federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and it authorizes

Federal matching grants providing up to 70% of the cost of state-wide planning for historic preservation.

What this really means to New York is not known since this law only sets in motion a series of steps which will determine the process by which funds are appropriated.

If you like preservation you're going to love offshore drilling.

Richard Ferrara, Chairman
Historic Buildings Committee



Drawing is a fanciful view of Clinton Hill by Albert Lorenz. Mr. Lorenz is a graduate of the School of Architecture at Pratt where he presently is an assistant professor. He holds a M.Arch from Columbia.

Spaced Gallery by an Architect for Architects

SPACED Gallery of Architecture is offering a springboard for the many faces and facets of the architect. We thank Judith York Newman for this unique, one of a kind, venture at 165 West 72 Street. Walk up one flight and see what the "other architect" is about. A recent visit to architect Newman's gallery found the following architects represented:

JAMES ROSSANT, FAIA

The Rossant show at SPACED closed at the end of May but twenty or so of his witty and imaginative ink drawings are to be seen in the permanent collection. Small pieces but they fly high.

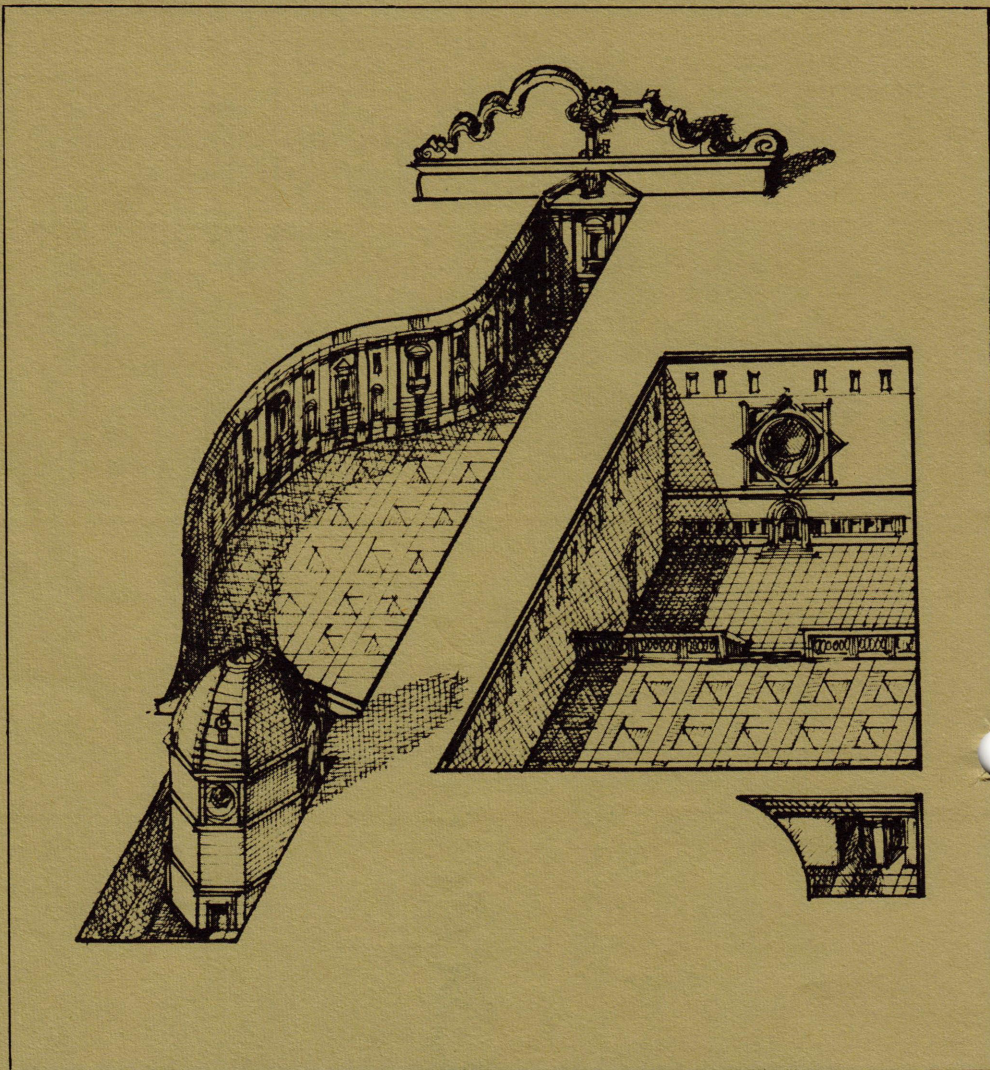
VICTOR LAZZARO, AIA

We caught the last week of Lazzaro's wonderful eruptions. His show starts off with ATLANTIS, ink on paper and a yard wide. This is a gem of never never. That last jaw dropping moment before the rot takes over and the urban tangle returns to silence. A great pen at work.

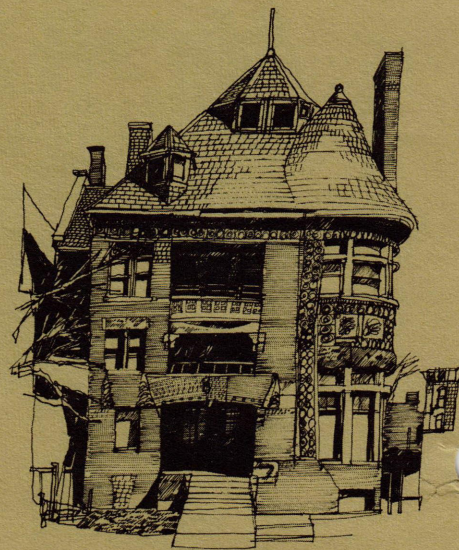
ROLF MYLLER, AIA

As we go to press, the curtain is going up on the Myller moment of merriment, mazes, toys and a thought or two regarding a better life through erotica. Author Myller's book *Fantasex* will be on hand with a hilarious program and design outline that only an architect could bring to lovemaking. Prints from the section on positions will be shown. They are direct but tasty and a good review for those of us who may be a bit rusty.

BI



Top drawing is by James Rossant, the other by Victor Lazzaro. A drawing by Rolf Myller will appear in the next issue of OCULUS. Drawings can be seen at SPACED Gallery.



Guest Column

J51: The Siren-Song by Beverly Moss Spatt, Ph.D., AIP

Guest Column introduces one of the new features of OCULUS. We will welcome suitable written contributions from outside the Chapter membership and particularly from within the Chapter committee structure. We will publish, when appropriate, letters to the editor and drawings and cartoons submitted by Chapter members.

Beverly Moss Spatt is the Chairman of the City of New York Landmarks Preservation Commission. She is a former member of the City Planning Commission and holds a Ph.D., Planning, from the Graduate School of Arts and Science of New York University.

To architects, planners, preservationists and particularly to government J51 has become the panacea for New York City's housing problems and the opportunity for renewed and active employment. However, the factors which may force J51 beyond the bounds of soundness into the realm of expediency must be articulated at an early stage in this program.

The siren-song of J51 is familiar to all of us. Applicants point out that land will be worth more and will be restored to a productive or more productive use, that taxes will eventually rise both on the increased value of the land and on the increased productivity of the proposed improvement on the land and that needed housing will be provided for thousands of families. The temptation is increased even more by the sophisticated who cite the number of jobs which will be generated and, in turn, the amounts of money directed toward secondary and tertiary beneficiaries.

In a time of major public deficit it is small wonder that the temptation succeeds so regularly despite the absence of a clear knowledge of the goals and objectives and necessary guidelines.

The seductive arguments for J51 are the same arguments made in the late 1960s and early 1970s for Mitchell-Lama housing and incentive zoning. Inherently, there is nothing conceptually wrong with the three programs and it is neither easy nor desirable to argue against them. The idea of seemingly gaining otherwise unobtainable housing or office space in return for tax abatement and tax exemption and zoning bonuses seems a rational use of public policy. Yet within these very factors lay the corrosion of the previous programs followed by damage of city credit, destruction of indigenous neighborhoods, overburdening of infrastructure, construction of inappropriate subsidized housing units for often non-existent high income families, oversupply of office space and massive deterioration of architectural opportunities.

These pitfalls lie very much in the path of the J51 program. The incentives make the program so attractive that inappropriate conversions which violate planning and urban development principles can readily be anticipated. Yet, residences should not be constructed where there are no essential services to support them. Speculative housing should not force out New York's urgently needed small industries and unskilled jobs. Conversions from commercial to residential use at luxury rents do nothing to satisfy our basic housing needs. This is neither preservation nor conservation.

The perversion of the Mitchell-Lama program and its ultimate demise clearly illustrate what can happen to a good program when speculation and manipulation are tolerated and encouraged. While we must take care not to condemn the significant new ideas embodied in the principles and opportunities of J51, we must - at the same time - exercise similar care to understand the public consequences of this policy.

Students Come; Chapter Members Don't

Over 150 first year architectural students from Pratt, Cooper Union, CCNY, Columbia, NY Institute of Technology, and NYCCC Voorhees attended the reception at chapter headquarters on Tues., Sept. 28. Many expressed interest in organizing a student chapter at their respective schools.

Bruce Forbes, new Regional Director of ASC/AIA from Syracuse, flew in expressly to meet the students at this reception. Special mention should be given to George Konz for his work on invitations and lively punch-making, to Petr Stand for his slide show, and most importantly to Sarelle T. Weisberg, who organized the last three seasons singlehandedly on this non-committee related Chapter activity.

Splendid support for this reception was given by the chapter staff, particularly from Cathanne Piesla and George Lewis, enabling the committee to host this student function. In spite of poor chapter member attendance the working committee was gratified that the student response was worth the effort.

AB

Life Begins at Seventy-Five



photo by Carl Byoir and Assoc.

The Cooper-Hewitt Museum, The Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Design, has opened in New York City at the newly recycled Andrew Carnegie Mansion.

The Cooper-Hewitt Museum has always been a design resource center for all aspects of decorative arts and design. The permanent collection consists of a library and picture archive of over 1.5 million items; over 30,000 drawings; prints; a textile collection; wallpapers; woodwork; furniture; metalwork and jewelry. The Museum is now expanding to provide educational programs (including lectures, workshops, seminars, study tours and performances) and exhibitions in their effort to help people SEE design, show WHY things look the way they do, HOW they are designed and HOW they affect our lives.

Rather than opening with an exhibit from the Museum's vast permanent collection, the opening exhibition en-

titled "MAN TRANSFORMS/Aspects of Design" is the result of ten leading international architects and designers (including R. Buckminster Fuller and Richard Meier) collaborating (under direction of Hans Hollein) to present 24 displays concerned with objects and situations encountered in daily living to create an awareness of the importance of design. The exhibition is FUN and includes exhibits on designs of bread, hammers, doors, cloth, bird-cages (the only display which draws from the Museum's permanent collection), handles, knobs, etc. The exhibit even has a three dimensional word game played by visitors in a modular space grid.

The restoration of the Carrere and Hastings landmark was done by Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Architects.

The Cooper-Hewitt Museum, located at 9 East 91 Street, is open Tuesday thru Sunday, The present exhibit ends Feb. 7 '77.

MJC