

Oculus

Chapter Votes Support of Westway

By an 8-3 majority the Executive Committee has voted Chapter support of Westway. The statement is included in this mailing, together with a dissenting opinion by President Stein and Judith Edelman, and another by John Belle. Robert Stern was absent.

The decision was reached following two Chapter meetings - the first one attended by Lowell Bridwill and Victor Marrero - and two lengthy Executive Committee meetings, at one of which First Deputy Mayor Zuccotti advocated support (it was the only time he had appeared before any group on this subject).

There has been a sharp difference of opinion within the Chapter ever since it supported an interstate-funded highway in '74. Most notably, just prior to the Executive Committee action, the Urban Planning and Energy and Environment Committees had almost unanimously recommended that Westway be opposed. □

George Lewis

Chapter Meeting on Ethics Set for Jan.13

The AIA's proposed new "Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct" will be debated at a Chapter meeting Thurs., Jan.13 at 5:40 (cash bar at 5:00). This meeting is also called to receive nominations for election to the Committee on Nominations.

The organization and wording of the proposed Code were considerably influenced by detailed recommendations sent to the Institute's Ethics Task Force - of which Robert Gatje is a member - by a special Chapter committee consisting of Judith Edelman, chairwoman, Samuel Brody, William A. Hall, Arvid Klein, Richard Stein, Ralph Steinglass, David Todd and George Lewis.

The most controversial issues are these:

- The architect as a contractor. The present Standards pro-

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View of Dec.7'76 Chapter meeting on Westway. Proponents and Opponents of Westway voiced their opinion. Seated at table (with beard) is Richard Stein, Chapter President. To his left Robert Gatje, last years President and to his right, in audience, Peter Samton, 1st Vice President. Picture by Denis Glen Kuhn.

Calendar

Thurs., Jan. 13 '77
Chapter Headquarters

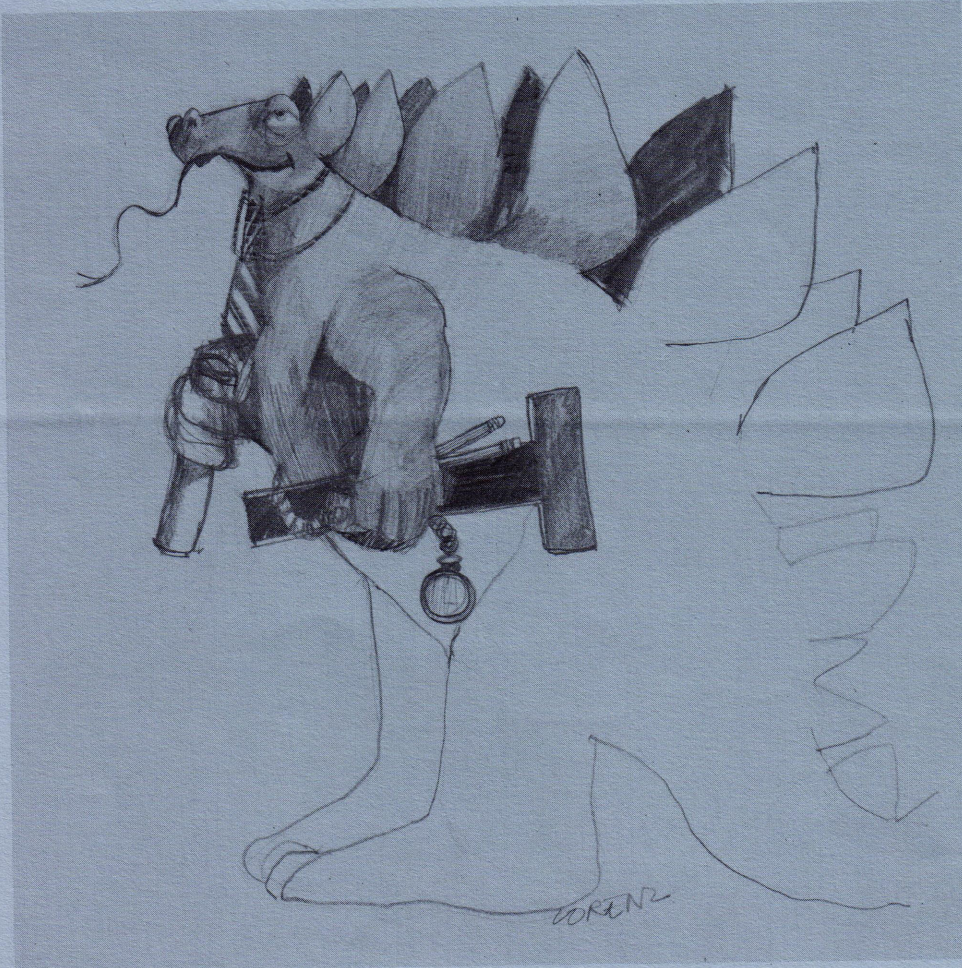
- The AIA's proposed new "Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct" will be debated at 5:40 (cash bar at 5:00). This meeting is also called to receive nominations for election to the Committee on Nominations. □

Fri., Jan. 21 '77
Chapter Headquarters

- The Forum on Architecture, Planning and Society will have a 6:00 meeting on Housing and Socialist Countries. Speakers will be Alexander Moderov, Soviet Architect, to speak on Housing in the Soviet Union; and Dr. Mario Salvadori will speak on Housing in Romania. □

Wed. Feb. 2 '77
The Museum of Modern Art

- Philip Johnson will be present at a special showing of CBS's "Camera Three" interviews which give an understanding of his basic philosophy of architecture. Reception starts at 5:00, showing at 6:00. Obtain free tickets at Chapter Headquarters. □



Architectsaurus: an endangered species

NYSAA/AIA Minutemen Wanted

Lazlo Papp, Co chairman of the State AIA Political Affairs Committee has sent out the first Minuteman bulletin in preparation for the coming '77 State Legislative Session. The legislation of most concern to architects will be a possible restructuring of State construction agencies into one agency; energy conservation in buildings by code and by re-design; methods of selecting architects and engineers; re-introduction of the Attorney General's proposed historic preservation law; and the possible adoption of a BOCA type building code.

Kurt Karmin is coordinating the Chapter's Minuteman activities. Among his goals this year are increasing the number of Chapter Minutemen participating and arranging get togethers between Minutemen and their legislators. Karmin says the response last year by Senator and Assemblymen to Minutemen letters was one of warmth and enthusiasm. Politicians like to hear from us and want to know what we think about pending legislation. Volunteer Minuteman applications are available at Chapter Headquarters or by a call to Kurt Karmin at 989-9720 □

Kurt Karmin

*Cartoon is by Albert Lorenz
Assistant Professor at Pratt
Institute.*

Unemployment the People Behind the Statistics

In May '76 OCULUS published results of a Chapter survey that revealed - to no one's surprise - that during the years '69 to '75 there had been an alarming drop in the total number of employees in New York's architectural offices. The firms responding indicated a 36.4% decline. OCULUS suggested that the percentage was probably higher - nearer 60 to 75%. Whatever the actual figure, there are unquestionably a great many people who formerly worked in the profession in New York, who no longer do. We wondered what had happened to them and talked to a few.

R.S. spent almost 20 years with the same firm in New York. After several months of unemployment (and near panic), he was taken on by a Midwestern firm. Although he is employed and enjoys the work, he does not like the city he had to move to, and is subletting his Manhattan apartment in the hope that he can return.

J.W. held a top level position - at one point supervising 40 plus people - with the same firm for over 12 years. She was suddenly let go, and has no desire to jump right back in with anyone. She would like to form a group to finance, plan, and re-hab housing in the City and is occupying her time by taking courses in real estate.

W.P. spent several years overseas. He returned to New York coincident with the present economic recession. He is working in New Jersey along with several other expatriate New Yorkers, which is odd since conditions in New Jersey are presumably as severe. He misses the excitement of work-



We accompanied one of our colleagues mentioned in this article to her unemployment center. It was crowded. After taking the picture above we were accosted by angry applicants and ordered by the center's supervisor to stop taking pictures in his public place. Picture by Denis Glen Kuhn.

ing in "The Big Apple," and says, "In New Jersey, you just don't bump into I.M. Pei or Paul Rudolph on the elevator."

L.B. has, in the year that he has been unemployed, picked up one free lance job: consulting with a new Middle Eastern country's university on its new architectural program. Nothing else. Right now he just looks and looks.

The list of alternate occupations that New York architects have gone into are lengthy: sales representative, teacher, contractor, photographer, graphic artist and even cook at Burger King. All of these people are individuals who are either still in architecture - although perhaps not in New York - or want to return.

There are some people who are not all sure about returning. G.A. is 25 and has been out of school for about a year and a half. A native New Yorker, he returned here, after graduation from a West Coast Univer-

sity, and was employed in the profession for 3 months. He now works as a carpenter in Greenwich Village and says that he prefers it. "Maybe not being able to get a job was the best thing that could have happened to me."

J.O. worked in architectural offices for over 2 years after graduation. Her search for a job proving futile, she has entered Columbia to get a M.B.A., and has serious doubts as to whether she will ever return to architecture. She feels that the schools do not do enough in the area of job placement for architectural grads, and that the profession has yet to organize itself for lobbying at the governmental level. She mentioned the alarming number of young architects who are working for no pay and feels that this is a trend which could lead to architecture once again becoming an elitist profession. □

Kenneth T. Lydon

**From Pillar To Post
by Kenneth Ricci**

An allegorical rendition of the current condition of the world's second oldest profession.

First Phase:

The Novices' Dilemma

"Shall I enter the maze?"
Asks the novice,
Armed with diploma and quill.
Opportunity vs. uncertainty.
The pocketbook vs. the will.
Over the entry -
invisibly etched - they
Imagine as they draw near:
"Abandon all hope,
Unless otherwise noted,
Ye who enter here."
And, as they enter,
Their mother's cry
Falls insistent on deaf ears
"Your annual adjusted
Gross income
Will be nonexistent
For years."

Academe has fondly
Embraced them.
Tuition it gladly extracted.
Once launched in their
Field of endeavor,
However,
Unemployment appears
Quite protracted.

There's no going back
The grad schools are jammed
As B. arches humbly strive
To postpone their fate
In this perilous strait
Like in the days of
Old Viet Nam.

On sculptor! On painter!
On Ms! and on Mr!
If you can't find a job
Join the Peace Corps or Vista.
But whatever you do
and wherever you do it
Remember your dear old
Profession.
Try never to eschew it.

And in all of your
Perambulations
Heed the ancient appeal:
Verify, oh ye of little faith,
Existing conditions
In the field.

Second Phase:

The Practitioner's Lament

The maze is redundant
Its paths replete
With disciplines flowing
Abundant:
Planner or Partner
Scholar or Scribe,
Bureaucrat, Draftsman or Builder.
In status diffuse
With credentials abstruse
They find Faia, Aia, & Friba.

But the way now is tortured
The perspective perplex
All indices point
To depression.
Yet in depths most drastic
Hope springs elastic
In the world's second
Oldest profession
(After all, each maze must
Have two means of egress).

From the practical view
It's too late to start over.
From the ideal
It's too soon to quit.
As has been said
Of the best laid plans,
Revise and resubmit.

Third Phase:

Exit of the Elders

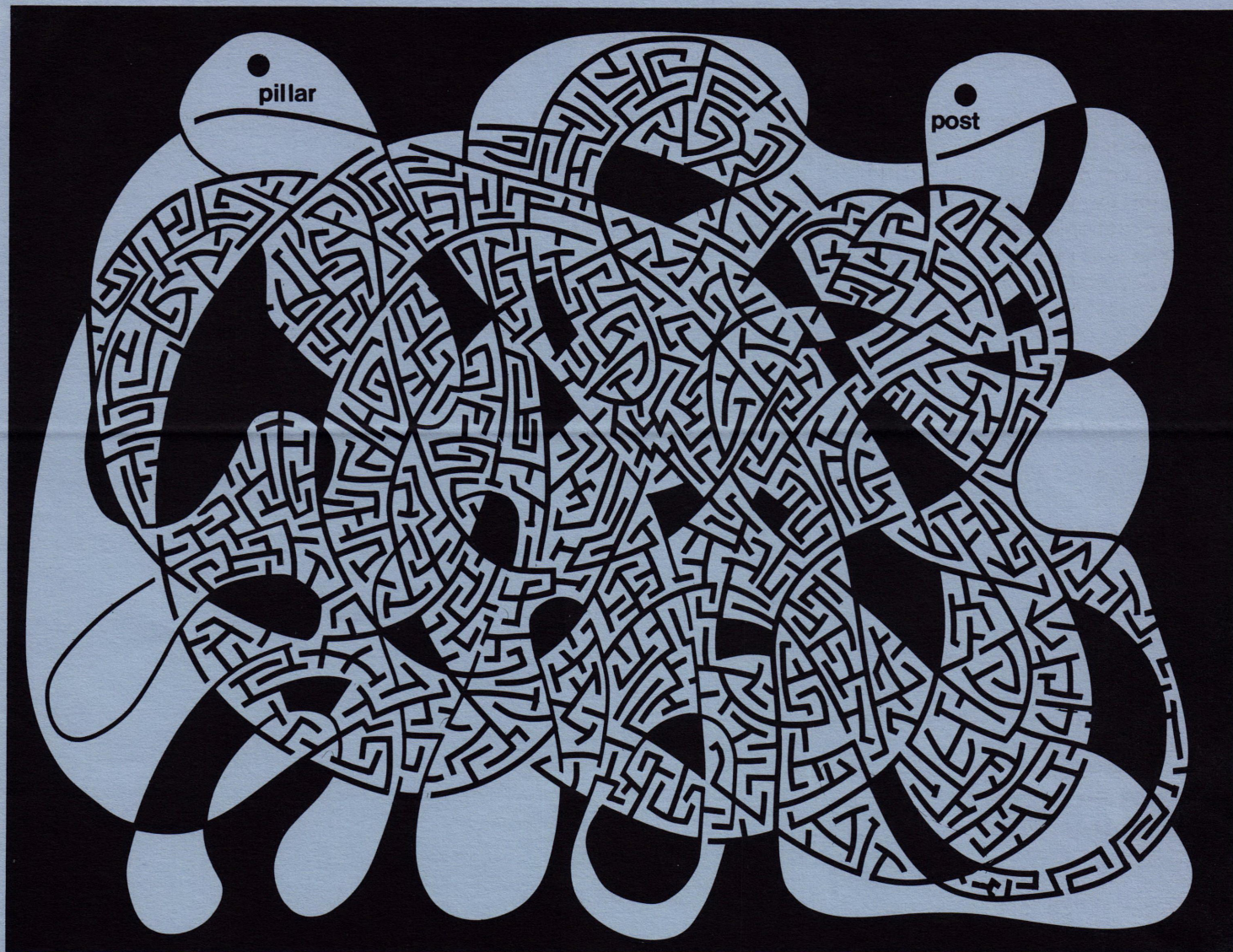
Those at the end of the maze.
Know that the days of wine
And roses are over.
No more clover.
Mose's largesse,
Rocky's noblesse,
and Lindsay's finesse:
All finito.

The tasks were immense
But the pleasures were larger.
The path was complex
But rewarding
Now at the end
It's a struggle to fend.

To exit with grace,
Not with grimace.

On this profession each
As they pass
Shall be asked in the end
How they voted.
The verdict:
Approved, as noted. □

*Kenneth Ricci is a member of
the New York Chapter.*



Drawing of maze is by Rolf Myller a member of the New York Chapter. Rolf's mazes are contained in two books available in New York bookstores. Try and draw your way through the maze from Pillar to Post. As in the world's second oldest profession there is more than one way.

The urban renewal program underway in Bologna, Italy was the topic of discussion at a meeting held at the Chapter on Fri., Dec. 10 '76 sponsored by The Forum on Architecture, Planning and Society. The Society is a group that intends to cover areas related to architecture, planning and society in broader and deeper social terms. The Chairman of the meeting was Chapter member Columbia University Professor, James M. Fitch and the guest speakers were Thomas Agnotti, Ph.D (visiting Assistant Professor Hunter College Department of Urban Affairs) and Bruce Dale, M.Arch. (Urban Design Associates).

Both speakers lived and worked in Italy for several years and decided to study the rehabilitation and renewal program of Bologna as a research project. The results of their study appear in an article entitled "Bologna, Italy: Urban Socialism in Western Europe" (May/June '76 issue of SOCIAL POLICY).

The Master Plan for Bologna's central city renewal population 85,000, is being accomplished through historic preservation. This method was chosen after a major planning study was undertaken. The only new buildings constructed were designed as replicas of the original houses. They contain 360 new living units. Tenants living in the buildings to be rehabilitated are relocated in temporary homes called "parking areas" which are set in close proximity to the areas being restored. Then tenants are returned to modernized interiors in their original neighborhoods at a rental no higher than 12% of the family's income. Bologna's program for urban renewal will

not result in destroyed established neighborhoods with lower income residents being forced to relocate to other areas due to higher rentals after renewal.

Funds for the program were obtained from the national government. Bologna is communist controlled and Italy's current financial problems have caused the renovation to be curbed. Bologna's famous social services such as excellent, extensive and FREE bus transportation are also now going to feel the financial crunch. □

Mary Jane Clark

Bologna's urban renewal program was the first presentation of the Forum on Architecture, Planning and Society. Future meetings are now in the planning stage and anyone interested in participating in this planning process can contact Chapter member Isaiah Ehrlich at 654-8449.

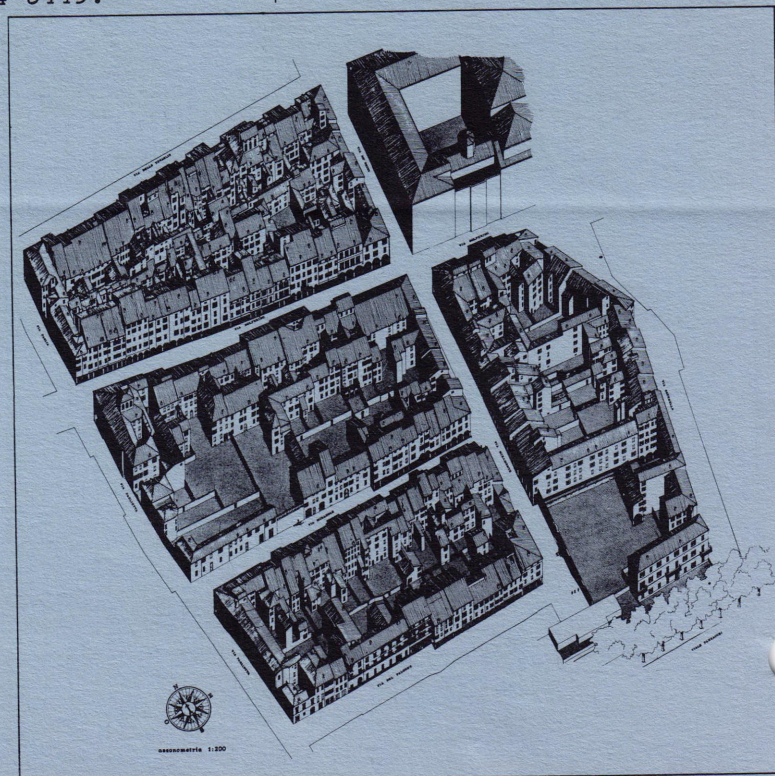
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*Axonometric
view after
restoration
Bologna, Italy*



Chapter Meeting on Ethics Set for Jan.13

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hibit the architect acting as a contractor except as a participating owner of a project. The proposed Code would permit contracting on one's own designs, as well as serving a client in other conflict-of-interest situations, provided that the architect "makes a timely and full disclosure of a possible conflict of interest," and the client agrees that the relationship should go ahead. The Chapter committee's recommended wording was more comprehensive: "Members shall be free to participate in any activity in conjunction with their role as architects, including participation in contracting and design/build enterprises..." provided that there is full disclosure and that considerations of personal financial gain do not influence their professional judgement.

●Advertising. Paid advertising would continue to be

prohibited, but at the same time a provision would read "Members should inform the public, as its right to know, of the availability of architectural services." The proposed language deals in more detail than previously with brochure distribution ("to identifiable potential clients"), listings in not-for-profit publications ("individuals only, without professional identification"), etc.

●Free architectural design sketches. The prohibition would be continued, the Chapter committee's recommendation was, "Members may indicate to those who are interested in engaging their services the manner in which they would proceed; they shall not, however, offer or provide architectural services, including architectural designs, excepting when no other architect is involved and there is an agreement regarding compensa-

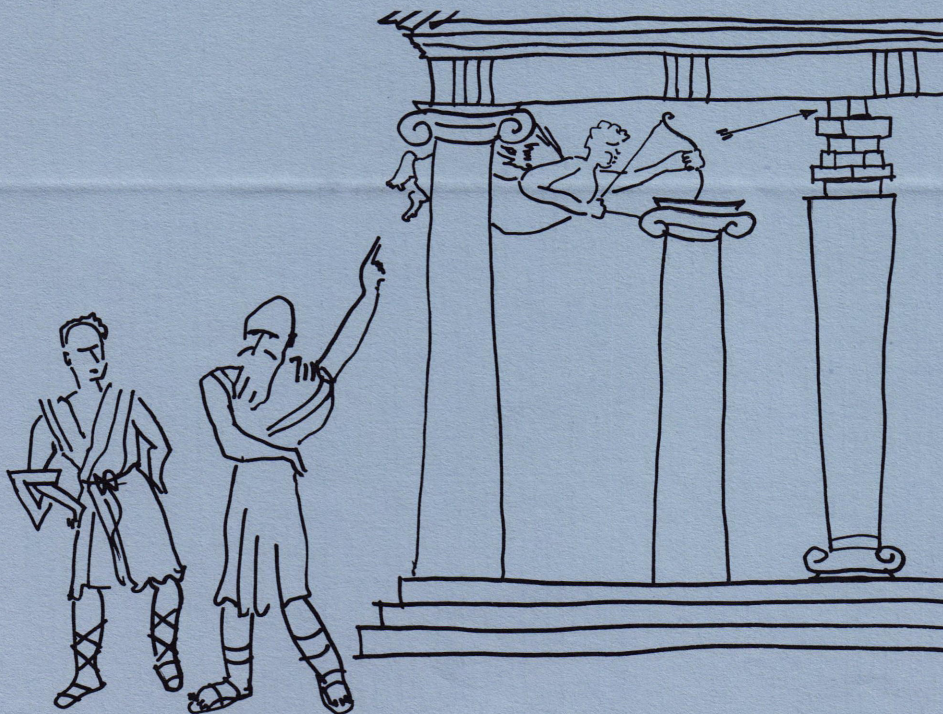
tion, and excepting through participation in organized design competitions..."

●Commission agents. These would be permitted under certain specified conditions, such as that he or she represent only one firm for the particular project.

●Employer-employee relations. A clause would read, "Members should provide their associates and employees with suitable working environments, compensate them fairly, and facilitate their professional development." The inclusion of this is a triumph for the Chapter's former Employer/Employee Relations Committee and for the Chapter's efforts at the last two AIA conventions to include such wording in the Standards.

●The Chapter's opinion of the proposed Code will be developed at the Jan.13 meeting and reported to the Institute at the Grassroots East meeting Jan.24-26 (there are three Grassroots meetings around the country, attended mostly by chapter officers and executives). The AIA convention at San Diego June 6-9 will vote on the final draft.□

George Lewis



"But all I did was to give him a free sketch."

Cartoon is by Chapter member Giorgio Cavaglieri

Tim Prentice

A Personal Trip from Architecture



Architects, through the centuries, have shown themselves to be talented in many of the arts. Tim Prentice, a former president of the Chapter, and a principal in the firm of Prentice & Chan, Ohlhausen, is no exception. Exercising his talent as a sculptor, Tim is at present completing the fabrication of a monumentally scaled hanging sculpture for A.T.&T.'s Long Lines corporate headquarters in Bedminster, New Jersey. John Carl Warnecke is the architect.

Tim is not a sculptor in the traditional sense; he doesn't chisel or mold his material. His sculpture, which he has been developing almost as long as he has been an architect, is in the constructivist tradition. It is kinetic and very closely related to Alexander Calder's and George Rickey's. He was the third sculptor to be considered for the A.T.&T. project. Calder was too expensive. George Rickey, is 78, and felt he could not handle the deadlines involved. All this worked in favor of Tim who has had only one sculpture exhibit, at the Institute for

Architecture and Urban Studies.

Prentice started out working for Edward Durell Stone when in '63 and '64, a musical interlude interrupted his architectural career. A State Department Cultural Exchange Grant sent Tim and his wife on a folk-singing tour through the Far East. They performed for large audiences in Laos, India, Cambodia, and Vietnam, among other countries, and were reviewed in the NEW YORKER magazine. Prentice whose father was an architect, started his practice in '65, after returning from his singing tour when he received a commission for a house in Cornwall, Connecticut.

In '66, he became partners with Lo-Yi Chan. Their office designed noteworthy UDC projects in the Bronx Twin Parks renewal area and the Sports Park and the tramway stations for the new Roosevelt Island development. Their firm has done the award winning Middletown State Hospital Administration Building, and the recent addition to the Henry Street Settlement House.

Right now Prentice finds sculpture to be his more compelling muse. While he is involved with architecture to the extent that he teaches third year design at Columbia University, most of Tim's time is devoted to his sculptural work. This is a decision that is unrelated to the present economic situation; it's a personal trip.

An acquaintance, upon being told by Tim that he was changing his focus of attention said, "How dare you live out your fantasies!" But for Prentice, sculpture has more personal rewards. Tim, who always loved to build things, especially enjoys the direct involvement with the created object he now has. He also enjoys the freedom from bureaucratic entanglement, so common to much architecture. There is no way an architect can experience the thrill that Tim feels when an object that he has worked on with his own hands hangs for the first time. □

Article and pictures of Tim with some of his sculpture by Lawrence Levine