

Oculus

NYSAA Becomes a Council of Chapters Instead of a Membership Organization; Milton Petrides Elected

A significant conversion of the New York State Association of Architects from a membership organization (all AIA Members required to belong) to a council of chapters was approved at the NYSAA convention in Rye last month. Hereafter members will find on their chapter dues bills a surcharge to cover the Chapter's share of NYSAA expenses. The organization will be run by a board appointed directly by the constituent chapters, and its activities will be confined to representing architects at the State agencies and the Legislature.

Keenly disappointing was the convention's failure to elect George Dudley president-elect. His absence from the scene (he was honoring a contract commitment overseas made last Spring) deterred delegates from voting for him. Intensive election-eering on his behalf proved more difficult than his wide State experience had led one to expect. All this led the writer to seek relaxation in the hotel's surprisingly hot and comfortable whirlpool bath in gift shop-bought paper trunks. Milton Petrides, of the Long Island Chapter, long active in the Association, was elected decisively, and we congratulate him.

Progress was made toward having the Institute in Washington

Chapter Holds Open House for First Year Architecture Students



The Chapter's Annual Open House for First Year Architecture Students on Oct. 4 was organized again by Sarelle T. Weisberg, Membership Chairman and Jerry Maltz Chairman of the combined Environmental Education and Student Affairs Committee, with assistance from the Chapter staff particularly Cathanne Piesla. This year over 100 students attended and unlike last year, many Chapter members, as well as faculty members from the various schools attended. The above picture was taken during the informal and opening remarks made by Chapter President Peter Samton. Photo by Denis Glen Kuhn. □

collect all AIA dues on one bill; the Chapter is holding up mailing its Oct. 1 bills until this is resolved. □

George Lewis

Ed Koch to Meet with Chapter After the Election

The tentative meeting scheduled for late Oct. with mayoral candidate Ed Koch (as announced in the Oct/77 OCULUS unfortunately was cancelled due to Mr. Koch's overcrowded calendar.

The Political Affairs Committee, Herbert Oppenheimer, Chairman, has been actively seeking this meeting and all signs indicating a victory for Mr. Koch, the Chapter requested another date to discuss Mr. Koch's views on the four position papers formulated by the Chapter (mailed with Oct/77 OCULUS), and mayoral appointments to be made to City Departments and Agencies. The appointments of most importance to the Chapter are to the Planning Commission, Department of Housing Preservation and Development, Department of General Services and Buildings Department.

Mr. Koch has responded positively to the Chapter's offer of assistance and to the meeting request. The date will be selected after the election. □

Mary Jane Clark

Exec.Comm.Persists on MoMA, Considers Move to Villard Houses And Marks Loss of Empire

The Executive Committee at its regular Oct. Meeting voted to persist in the Chapter's effort to bring about a happier solution to the West 53rd St. facade and other aspects of the MoMA proposed expansion. Even though the City Planning Commission called for more studies of the facade, the ExecComm felt this would not go far enough to meet the set of recommendations put together by the Chapter.

In other actions, the Committee--

- heard a report on the prospects of taking over space in the north wing of the Villard Houses (jointly with other design-oriented city societies) as the Chapter headquarters. The space is fine but the rent rather high. No decision was made.

- marked stoically the loss of part of the Chapter's empire due to a reorganization of territories. The upstate counties of Rockland, Sullivan, Putnam and the Southern halves of Ulster and Dutchess have been reassigned in part to the Westchester, in part to the Eastern New York Chapters. Salve atque vale!

- noted with satisfaction that the management of the New York Post, after persistent pressure from the Chapter, had agreed to receive a list of architectural issues in New York which the paper would plan to have its reporters and editors cover. The list of issues sent to the Post consists of 24 points, and ranges from Gateway and Westway to preservation/rehabilitation, neighborhood renewal, energy, and the work of city construction agencies. □

Stephen A. Kliment

Candidates for Membership

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

AIA Member

Sergie Waisman

AIA Associate

Prabhu P. Bakrania

New Members

The NYC/AIA Welcomes the following New Members:

AIA Member

Robert M. Parnes
William E. Pedersen, Jr.
Thomas F. Rochon

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 1977/78

Peter Samton, President
Charles E. Hughes, 1st Vice President
George A. Dudley, Vice President
Joseph Wasserman, Vice President
Stephen A. Kliment, Secretary
Anna M. Halpin, Treasurer
Jonathan Barnett, Director
Michael McCarthy, Director
Rosaria Piomelli, Director
John Belle, Director
Roy Friedberg, 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. Shopsisin

Stephen A. Kliment
Secretary, NYC/AIA
Cathanne Piesla
Chapter Staff Member

Stien Says Energy Crisis Forces Architects to Reexamine their Basic Approaches to Design

How should architects respond to the energy crisis? Many architects and laymen alike, assume that by merely adding insulation, solar collectors, and other energy saving devices to buildings an adequate response will be offered. Richard G. Stein, FAIA, author of the recently published Architecture and Energy (Anchor Press/Doubleday 1977), welcomes such measures. But he also sees the energy crisis as a fundamental architectural issue. "When we speak of an energy crisis we must also speak of an architectural crisis," he writes. "The two are interwoven."

On Oct. 18, the Committee on Energy and Environment sponsored an energy seminar at the Chapter Headquarters which featured Mr. Stein, past president of the Chapter. Incidentally, the book got started through the award of the Chapter's Brunner Scholarship to Stein in '72. He spoke about the background to his book and about its implications. Afterwards, he led an informal discussion with the audience of architects and engineers.

It is not a how-to-do-it book, Mr. Stein told the audience. Rather, it explores the integral relationship of energy with architecture: how the use of energy shapes buildings. It analyzes the gap between the design of buildings and their performance, which widened so greatly in the post-war period of abundant, cheap energy.

The bubble has burst; energy is scarce and increasingly expensive. Mr. Stein focused in his talk on the need for architects to reexamine their

basic approaches to design. "The concept of the building as a static, ideal object in space will yield to the idea that it is a part of a growing, changing, continuous process."

Mr. Stein is an optimist. He feels that the constraint of energy will nurture new architectural forms, more responsive aesthetics. And he feels that architects have a potentially crucial role to play in the "re-design" of our society which the energy crisis requires. Finally, lest energy efficiency become an end in itself, he reminded the audience that the fundamental purpose of design is not to save fuel, but to provide appropriate spaces for human activities. □

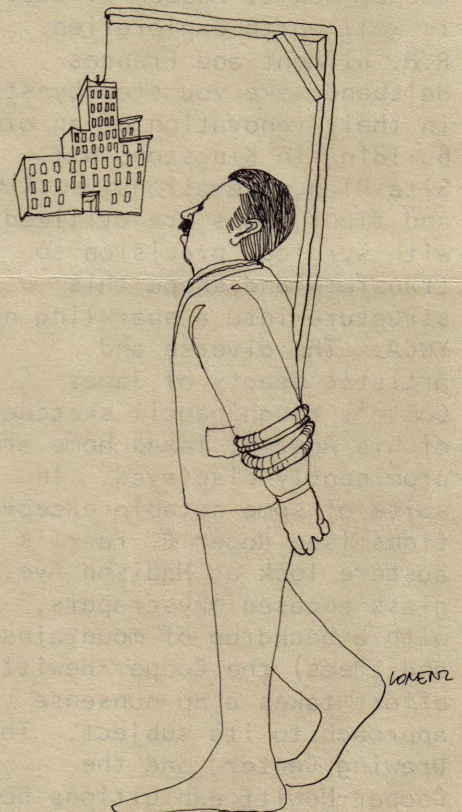
*William Stein
(no relation to Richard G.)*

*Self-motivation
for the Architect.*

Drawing by Albert Lorenz

City Charter Amendments Delete Mayor's Panel Of Architects

City Charter amendments effective June 1 '77 delete the Mayor's Panel of Architects, which had existed for many years as a list of architects eligible to do City work. Applications used to be accepted in October and were judged by a group drawn from professional organizations. The Panel had grown to include hundreds and had no real meaning in the City's selection of architects beyond the requirement that to be selected one be on it. □

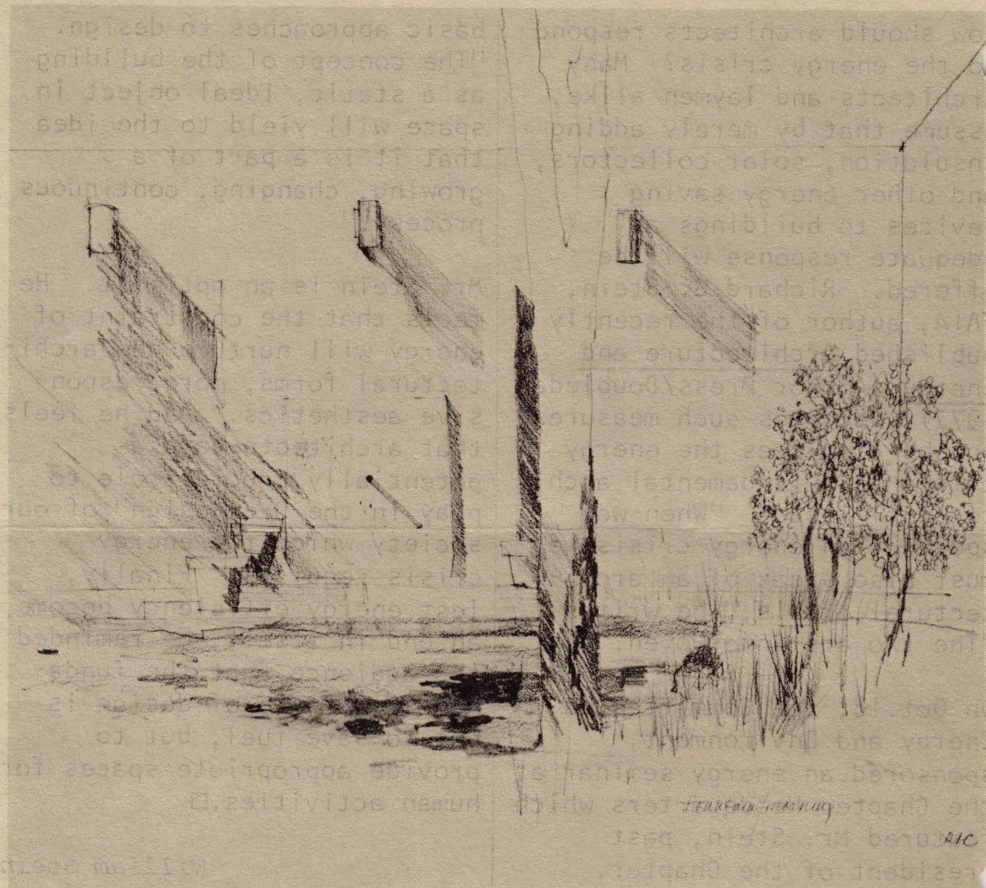


Architectural Drawings of Varying Techniques On Exhibit in Four Locations in the City

Architectural drawings are once again coming into their own. Currently, and in the next few weeks, this sorely neglected art form will be showcased in a number of galleries throughout the city.

The Drawing Center in SoHo currently offers a mixed bag of styles and concepts in Architectural drawings. Everything from the stark lyricism of Coy Howard's Hanson Residence, drawn with sketch pencil to the rich Disney-like fantasy of Robert Venturi's elevation study of the Scranton Mural project are featured. In most cases, the exhibits at the drawing Center are conceptual in nature. Practical application takes a back seat to beauty and free flowing imagination.

If your taste in architectural presentation demands a more scholarly approach, the Cooper-Hewitt Museum of Design is well worth exploration. R.M. Kliment and Frances Halsband take you step-by-step in their renovation of an old building in Kingston, N.Y. Site Plan, elevations, sections and floor plans are utilized with surgical precision to transform and shape this structure into a sparkling new YWCA. The diverse and artistic beauty of James Coote's rough pencil sketches of his Austin, Texas home are prominently displayed. In spite of some notable exceptions (see Roger C. Ferri's austere look at Madison Ave. glass encased skyscrapers, with a backdrop of mountains and trees) the Cooper-Hewitt effort takes a no nonsense approach to its subject. The Drawing Center, and the Cooper-Hewitt exhibitions both share the title, "Drawing



Sketch of Fountain, Coote Residence, Austin Texas by James Coote. Courtesy of the Cooper-Hewitt Museum of Design.

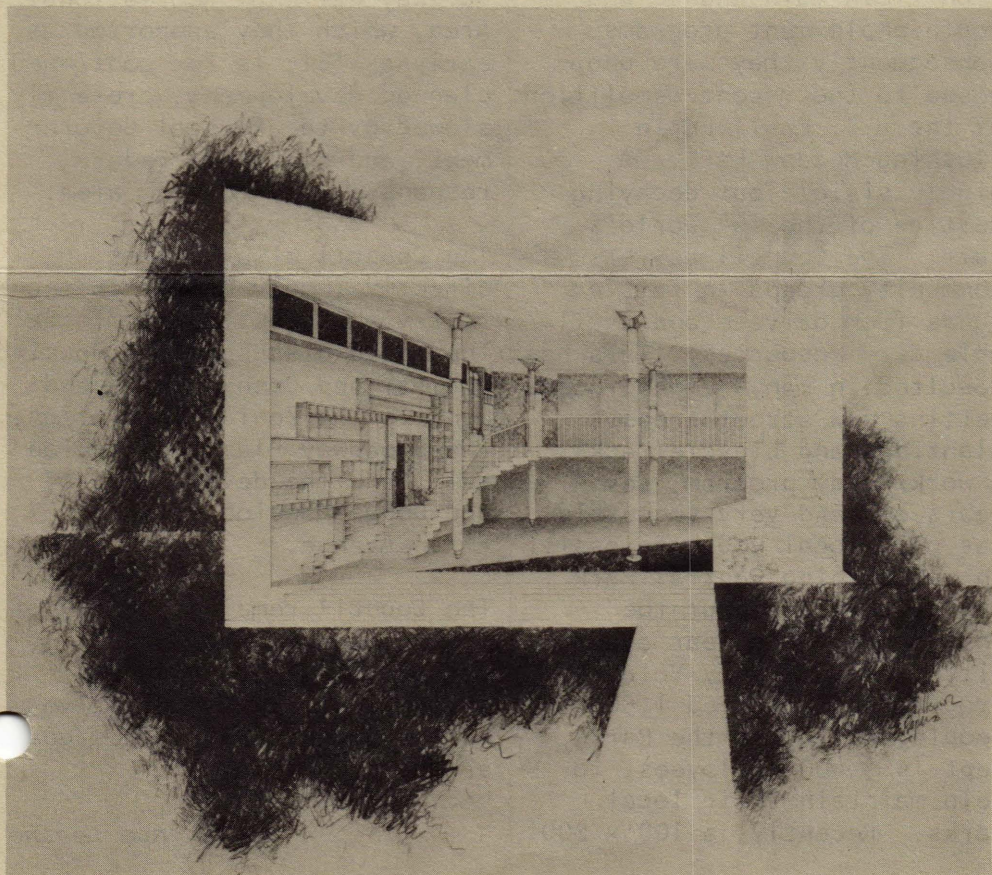
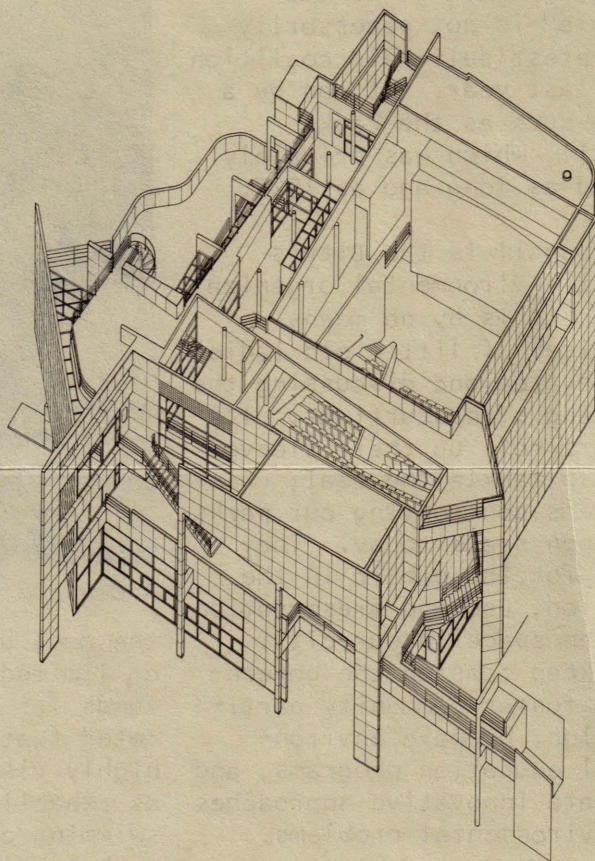
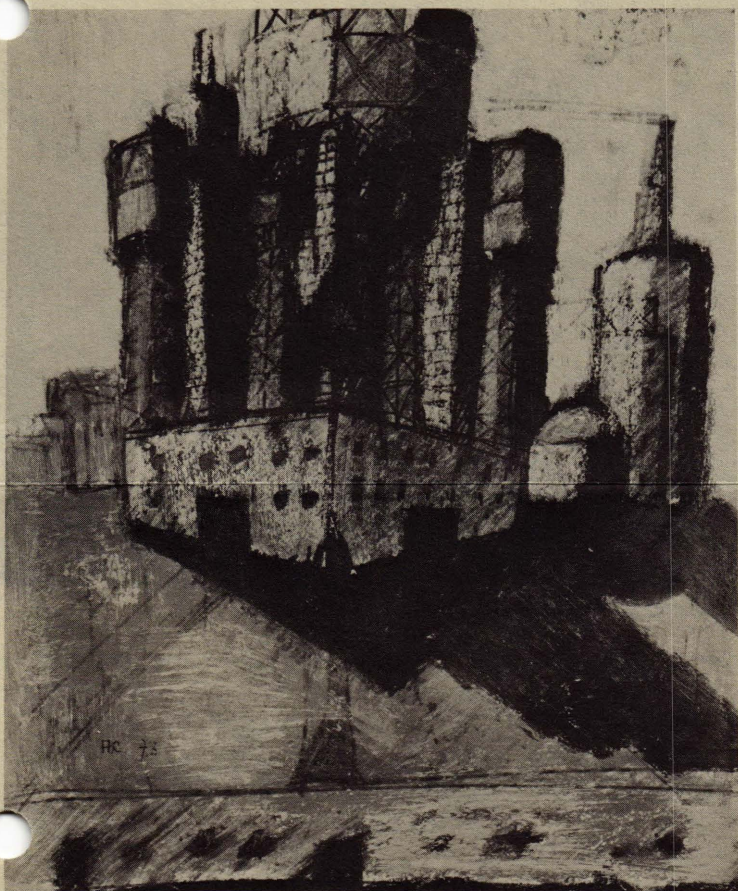
Toward a More Modern Architecture."

The Spaced Gallery on 165 W. 72nd St., recently offered a unique look at New York Architecture. This exhibition, "New York, Past, Present and Proposed" showcased the works of Arnold Prato, Victor Lazzaro and others to give one-and-all a look at the unique texture of our town's architecture. The Spaced currently offers an exhibition of the works of Hans H. Luttgen, noted German Architect.

Can architecture be considered art for its own sake? This question was posed to Pierre Apraxine, the guiding force behind "Architecture I" cur-

rently being presented at the Leo Castelli Gallery at 420 W. Broadway. In relation to this exhibit, Mr. Apraxine states quite clearly "its general objective is to illustrate the notion of architecture as a vital art form which derives its often contradictory meanings from the strictly private domain as well as from the larger sociocultural context." The exhibits vary tremendously. The precise ink line drawings of Richard Meier's Atheneum project contrasted with Aldo Rossi's brooding medieval-like subjects, most notably his "Il Castello" project, beautifully illustrate the range of ideas and artistic concepts that architecture can encompass. □

Darrel Biati



top left
Il Castello by Aldo Rossi.
 Courtesy of Leo Castelli Gallery

top right
The Atheneum in New Harmony
 Indiana by Richard Meier.
 Courtesy of Leo Castelli Gallery

Hanson Residence by Coy
 Howard. Courtesy of the
 Drawing Center. Photo by
 David Allison.

The Parks Council Digs in for a Better Urban Environment

A "with it," "now" group, bringing benefits to the "people" is not necessarily the latest self-help coalition born last year. It can be a group such as the Parks Council, which was privately formed as long ago as 1927.

The Council is the City's oldest environmental organization. It is by no means comprised of little old ladies sipping tea and discussing the planting of nasturtiums. Its members roll up their sleeves to help tackle the real, problems confronting our parks and open space today. They stand for the public in the creation, use and preservation of open space in our city. They keep tabs on the government, foster community participation, prepare environmental education programs, and initiate innovative approaches to environmental problems.

On the Council's Board of Directors, can be found architects Lo-Yi Chan and Norman Rosenfeld, critic Paul Goldberger, and several well known political figures, including Peter A.A. Berle, Richard Clurman, and Donald Elliott.

Jeannette Bamford, the Council's Executive Director, states that over the years the Council has been instrumental in preventing the encroachment of construction into parkland and in furthering the development of more imaginative playgrounds. The organization functions through its independent committees, such as, Design, Housekeeping, Waterfront and Urban Work Programs.

Recently, the Council played a role in helping to determine



A Central Park Work/Study Team.

the most useful distribution of limited State and City funds for parks. They advocated that less funding go to highly visible projects, such as rehabilitating WPA era swimming pools and more go to park horticultural and recreation field maintenance and to youth employment programs. Consequently they were unopposed to the recent demolition of the U.S. Pavilion in Flushing Meadow Park. A highly visible but decaying vestige of the '64 World's Fair. The Council assists community groups in raising funds from private and available city resources. This has resulted in many neighborhoods getting new street trees, plantings and bicycle racks. A work/study program, seven years old and very successful, has paid local youth to assist in maintaining Central Park while learning about the environment. One year old the city-wide Community Volunteer Program has enlisted 1,500 people, adding to the Parks Dept.'s 3,400 employees, to help maintain their local parks. Recently, a 100'x 200'

rubble strewn lot at Grand St. on the East River in Williamsburg, was cleared by volunteers. Rose bushes and trees were planted and benches provided.

The Council's stand on the Gateway National Recreational Area, which they supported as early as '61, is for continued planned development, presently slowed by the Federal Government, and continued Federal responsibility for the area.

The Council also becomes directly involved in architecture via its design committee. They have discussed the Housing Quality and Open Space Amendment to the Zoning Resolution, the Broadway Plaza Pedestrian Mall, and the development of the Dodge Mansion site on Fifth Avenue.

The Council remains an ally of the Chapter in our mutual concern for a better urban environment. New and active members dedicated to this goal are always welcomed. □

Lawrence Levine