

Oculus

Chapter Opposes New Orleans As Site for '81 AIA Convention

The Chapter's Executive Committee at its Mar.7 meeting voted to urge the AIA Board to review its Dec.'78 decision to schedule the '81 convention in New Orleans. Apparently the Board had made its decision even though a resolution had been passed at the '78 Dallas convention strongly opposing consideration of convention sites in states which have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment.

Although convention resolutions do not in themselves establish Institute policy - that is determined by the Board - there has been outspoken criticism from many sources of the Board's action in ignoring the sense of the membership expressed at the '78 convention.

The Board is meeting in San Francisco Mar.19-21, and the New York State directors, Anna Halpin and William Rose, will attempt to persuade the Board to schedule the '81 convention elsewhere.□

Chapter Economic Survey Shows Continued Upturn and Optimism Sustained into '79

A 23% increase in New York architectural office personnel since 1975 is indicated by this year's annual survey. Chapter firms were asked to report their total numbers of people - all types, principals, architectural personnel, secretaries, accountants etc. - at the end of the years 1975 through 1978. Those who responded reported as follows:

1975	909			
1976	938	up 3.1%		
1977	1,078	up 15.7%		
1978	1,183	23.2%	over	1975

We do not know the actual total of personnel in all chapter firms, but the above figures appear to represent a response of over 50%.

As for what to expect in 1979, those firms which were willing to guess reported 969 personnel in 1978 and estimated 1106 for the end of 1979, a 12.4% increase, or 35.6% over 1975.

How the situation compares with 1969, regarded from previous surveys as the peak year, is difficult to say because each year - the Chapter has surveyed annually beginning with 1973 - the response represents a varying set of firms. For instance, previous surveys showed 1976

to be the worst year, down 42% from 1969. If we interpolate the present survey's figures, 1978 would be indicated as 27% below 1969.□

George Lewis

WAA Donates Funds To Chapter

The Womens Architectural Auxiliary/WAA has voted to terminate its fund-raising activities and its tax-exempt status, and it has turned over to the Chapter Foundation its remaining funds, approximately \$4,000. The funds are to be used "for purposes related to architectural education in accredited architectural schools located in New York City."

A long article should be written about the WAA and the very large scholarship moneys it has raised over many years for the schools and for the Chapter, but let it be said here that this new WAA Fund, as it will be known, is a very significant addition to our resources.□

Miscellany

●Doris Nathan has been appointed the Chapter's representative on the Gateway Citizen's Committee, succeeding Bert Blumberg.

●Milton Glass, chairman of a special committee to review plans for expansion of St. Vincent's Hospital, spoke at a recent Landmarks Commission hearing in favor of approval of a revised design.

●Charles Hughes has written the Mayor urging that the Art Commission's 2-person staff not be cut from the proposed austerity budget.

●Jeremiah Walsh, Director of the Mayor's Office of Construction, and his deputy, Arthur Wrubel, met on Mar.14 with the Public Agencies Committee, William A. Hall, chairman.

●Meetings of representatives of the five AIA borough chapters are being held to explore the possibility of a single AIA city-wide organization.

●Charles Hughes recommended at a Feb.5 CPC hearing on Community Development Funds that CD funds be provided for the Landmarks Commission for additional staff to speed its Survey and Designation Program and for a Facade Improvement Program. □

The March Issue of Oculus was Cancelled

Due to scheduling problems and in an attempt to save some printing costs, the Mar.'79 issue of Oculus was cancelled and its material incorporated into this issue.□

9 Chapter Members To be AIA Fellows

The following Chapter members have been elected by the AIA to be Fellows of the Institute:

John Beyer
Richard Blinder
Martin Cohen
John Q. Hejduk
Richard Miller
Giovanni Pasanella
Lee H. Pomeroy
Jaquelin Robertson
Bernard Rothzeid

Members of Nominating Committee Elected

The following members have been elected to the Nominating Committee of the Chapter. The Committee will select candidates for Officers and Directors of the Executive Committee as well as members of the Ethics, Finance and Fellows Committees and the Jury for the Medal of Honor and Award of Merit.

Giorgio Cavaglieri
Kurt Karmin
Nancy Miao
Doris Nathan
Peter Samton

Candidates selected by the Committee will be elected at the next Annual Meeting in June.□

Continuing Education Courses at CUNY Establish A Successful Program

The successful collaboration between City College School of Architecture, Bernard Spring, Dean, and the Chapter in organizing courses in continuing education is shown by the following summary of enrollment for early Spring as reported by Prof. Gordon Gebert City College's Director of Administration.

●Environmental Psychology and the Design Profession	10
●Developing Technology in Producing Architectural Documents	22
●The Architect and the Law	12
●The Architect and Development	13
	<u>57</u>

At least three additional courses are planned to begin in mid-April.

These and previous courses have been made possible through efforts of the Chapter's Continuing Education Committee, Ronald Woodward, chairman, and his predecessor, Richard Spronz, under which the program was initiated, and City College, represented by Prof. Gebert.□

Chapter Welcomes New Members

Members

Michael Kwartler
Angelo Napolitano

Students

Judith Fagin
Irving Fuertes
John Kallis
Pravit Pongsema
Claus Rademacher
John L. Sebastian

The Committee for the Preservation of Architectural Records Plans an Ambitious Program for '79

The Committee for the Preservation of Architectural Records serves as the only national clearinghouse of information on all aspects of architectural records. These documents are a neglected part of our nation's heritage. In many cases, they are the only records of a now destroyed building. The records themselves are disappearing at an alarming rate, moldering away or simply being discarded. The Committee fosters the creation of local groups interested in locating, preserving and recording architectural records.

A national Catalog of American Architectural Records is being compiled by the Committee. Additions to this catalog are eagerly sought.

The Committee has received a grant for 1979 from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of Research Grants.

In 1979 the Committee will publish a book listing architects in practice in New York City before 1900. Compiled from diverse primary sources, much of the information will be available for the first time in this comprehensive study.

Also in 1979, a Guide to American Architectural Firms in business continuously since before World War I will be published in conjunction with the AIA Foundation.

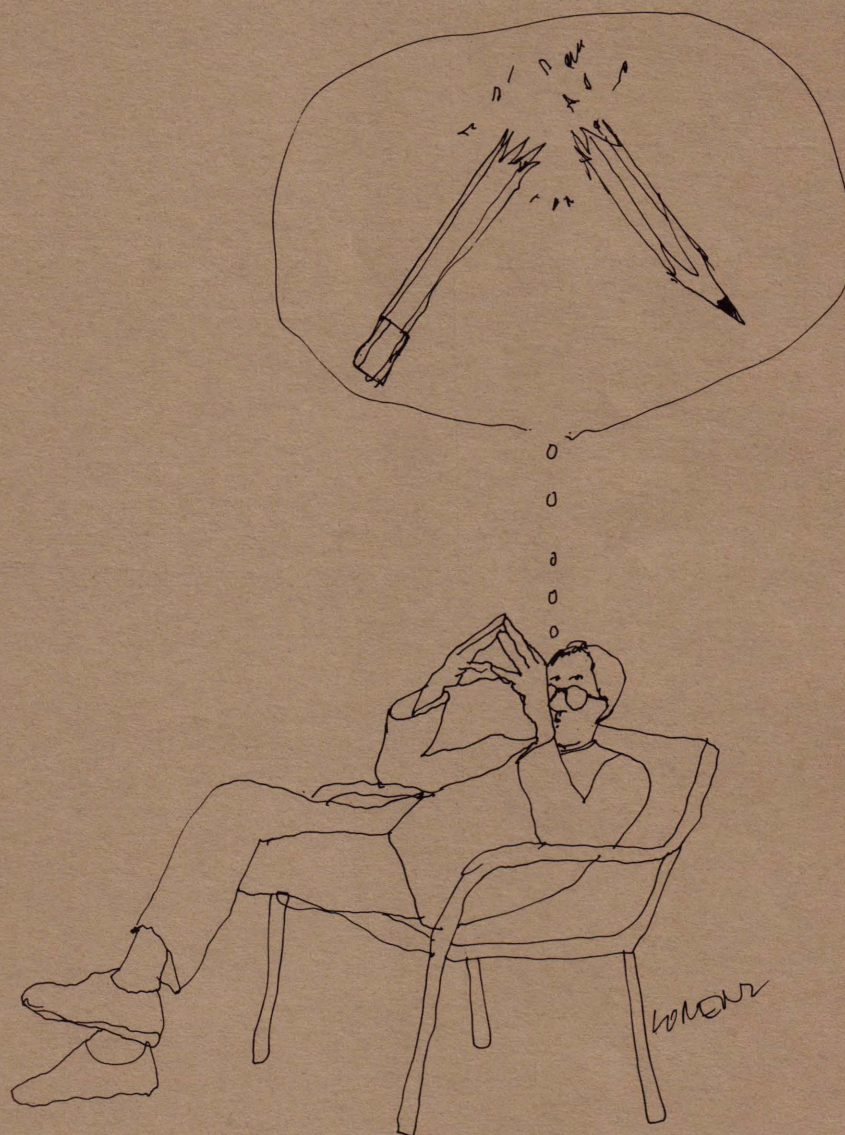
Past NEH funding enabled the Committee to publish *Architectural Research Materials in New York City: A Guide to Resources in All Five*

Boroughs. This Guide contains a section on the use of Building Department Records and Property Records as well as listings for 91 collections.

If you wish to learn more about the Committee or join its work, please contact Catha Grace Rambush, Executive Director, COPAR, 15 Gramercy Park South, NY 10003, tel. 533-0711. □

Codes Committee Requests Information from Chapter Members

The newly formed Codes Committee is requesting all members and professionals who have had or are having problems or differences in regard to interpretations of the Building Code or Administrative Orders to submit them to the committee for review and possible resolution. In addition, include any suggestions for expediting, simplifying or improving building department procedures. Contact Max Vogel at MU5-0285. □



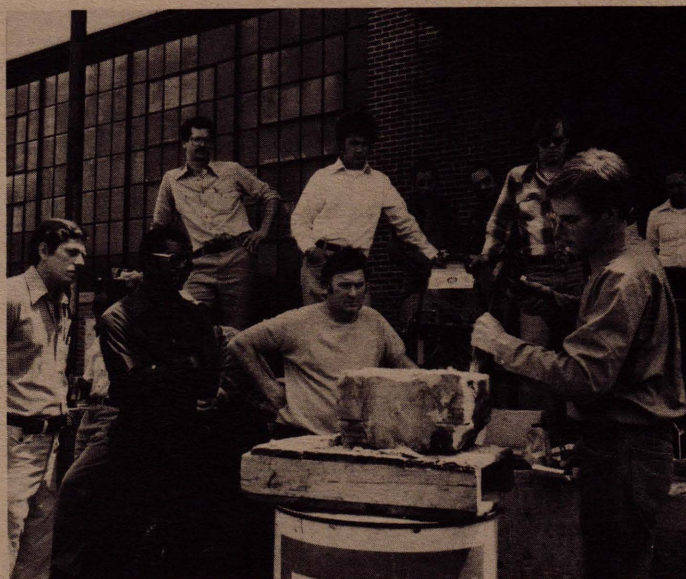
Gee! I wonder if some of Corbu's creative ideas were also snapped by reality?
Drawing by Albert Lorenz.

RESTORE:

An Answer to the Headless Hand



RESTORE workshop session with Bobby Meyer of Brisk Waterproofing demonstrating steam cleaning technique.



Richard Goldsborough a RESTORE graduate demonstrating stone dressing techniques at a RESTORE workshop session.

The movement of the construction industry over the last 75 years has been toward the elimination of labor, particularly thinking labor. The building industry of today with its uniformity and large number of components assigns to the craftsman only a secondary role in the production process. As a result the mechanic/craftsman has been reduced to a "headless hand" almost wholly deprived of responsibility and respect.

The phenomenon of the "headless hand" has become all too commonplace in restoration projects often with costly and disastrous consequences. Therefore, in order that contractors better serve as equal and productive members of a restoration team, they must upgrade and update skills.

The craftsman wishing to specialize in architectural conservation work has had few possibilities for acquiring the necessary skills, aside from a small number of archi-

tectural restoration and conservation programs at the university level. Union apprenticeship and journeyman upgrade programs do not teach conservation technology or skills.

RESTORE is the first program in the nation created with the express purpose of upgrading the restoration skills and preservation technology of the contractors and mechanics.

The principal objective of the RESTORE program is to disseminate practical and theoretical information about the new and old technology and the materials and procedures involved in the preservation maintenance process to those who are involved at the practical application level.

RESTORE is a nine-month program sponsored by the Municipal Art Society in conjunction with Local No.66, the Cleaners, Painters and Caulkers of the International Union of Bricklayers and

Allied Craftsmen; the Building Waterproofers Association, the International Masonry Apprenticeship Trust BAC, MCAA, and the Mechanics Institute. There are 52 hours of classroom lectures and 30 hours of workshop demonstration sessions.

The RESTORE/RESTORATION SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM offers to the craftsman the following curriculum:

- the history of architectural and building technology
- a review of historic building materials and techniques
- analysis of the forces of deterioration which threaten materials and buildings
- the modern conservation techniques and materials, including their shortfalls and dangers
- the problems and difficulties of conservation
- the possible effects of conservation work
- the future maintenance.

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RESTORE workshop session held at Loudino Stone Co. Bill Loudino, a RESTORE student, is showing how a stone ballustrade is produced in the shop.

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Officials of Local No.66, the Cleaners, Painters and Caulkers of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen, have been very supportive of the RESTORE program. They quickly recognized that RESTORE offered their members a leg-up on the competition. Through the Local's education fund they sponsored three students the first year of the program (1978-79) and five students this year.

Student reaction to the program has been particularly gratifying. The reason for their enthusiasm is not difficult to understand. As Lea Henrichs, a RESTORE graduate and General Superintendent for the Grenadier Corporation stated, "the growth in the rehabilitation and retrieval of existing buildings offers increased employment opportunities and, more importantly, employment on a higher plane."

A.K. Munro, President of Munro Waterproofing and a RESTORE graduate, has long been an enthusiastic advocate of practical but structured education programs for people in the masonry trades. "I read everything on masonry cleaning and repair I can get hold of. It's still not enough, and in the industry as a whole very little is known about the technical developments of the last 15 years. As the volume of rehabilitation and restoration grows and more firms enter the field, this ignorance will result in more and more buildings being butchered. We want to do the job correctly, we have skilled workers who can do good work if properly trained; what we need is information. RESTORE goes a long way toward meeting that need."□

*Jan C.K. Anderson
Director RESTORE*

Volunteer Architects Sought

The Volunteer Urban Consulting Group is a nonprofit organization that offers business and management assistance to so socially and economically disadvantaged business men and women as well as administrators of nonprofit health, social service, arts, housing and educational organizations located in the Greater New York area.

VUCG was founded in 1969 by the Harvard Business School Club of Greater New York. The group combines the skills and expertise of a small highly trained staff with hundreds of professional and business volunteers.

This nonprofit organization's needs for volunteer architects have grown increasingly over the past year. You soon will be receiving a memorandum from the Volunteer Urban Consulting Group explaining in greater detail about their program. In the meantime, if you are interested call the staff of VUCG at 212-687-7420.

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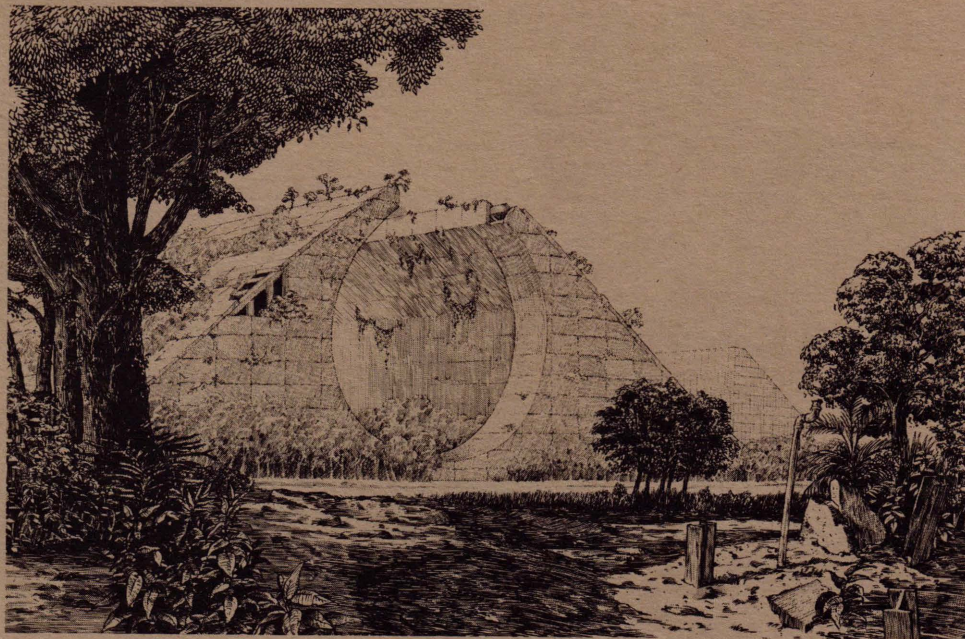
Cathanne Piesla
Chapter Staff Member

SPACED Gallery to Open Show Of David Macaulay Drawings

On 6 Apr.'79 the SPACED Gallery of Architecture will open a show of David Macaulay's work. The show will run until May 12'79 at the Gallery located at 165 West 72 Street. The theme of the exhibit is: an archeological and historical documentation of an event of tremendous significance.

In 1985 a catastrophe caused in part by a calamitous and precipitous reduction in the postal rates for third and fourth class mail, and augmented by the clustering of air pollution particles, buried the entire North American continent with debris mounting to varying heights. For 1500 years following this unprecedented event, the lost civilization remained undisturbed. Our story begins when Howard Carson attempts a cross-country marathon over the lost continent. Almost immediately the pack of runners left him behind. Howard, out of breath, at the edge of an excavation site loses his footing and falls into a hole. As his senses return, Howard finds himself confronted with a door. Through the debris he perceives a sacred eye, a sacred seal ("Do Not Disturb"), an indomitable plant, a number "26," and finally on the floor in front of the door, a tray with sacrificial meal. With his extensive knowledge gleaned from artist reconstructions viewed in his library of National Geographic magazines, Howard knew he had fallen upon a sacred tomb. This was to be the momentous discovery of the tomb from the infamous motel know as TOOT'N'C'MON.

The exhibition consists of an exquisite portfolio of pen and



Temples of Bigapple by David Macaulay.

ink drawings, several hand colored by the artist. It includes 20 of the most precious treasures, in intimate detail, 25 drawings depicting the discovery itself, and 4 drawings based on themes from the Motel of the Mysteries showing quality reproductions which are available for purchase.

The above libretto of the Macaulay opera, which will premiere at the SPACED, and run until 12 May'79 has the customary stamp of originality and personality found at the gallery.

Started in '76 by architect Judith Newman as an extension of her office, the gallery has exhibited among others the diverse works of Tony Garnier, Sir John Soane and Paolo Soleri, Piranesi, Tom Dubicanio, Haines Lundberg Waehler, Charles Garnier, James Rossant and Hans H. Luttgen.

An exhibition of Paul Rudolph drawings will follow the

Macaulay show from 15 June to 28 July '79.

The gallery is open from noon to 5 p.m. from Tues. to Sat. □

Denis Glen Kuhn