OCULUS
an eye on new york architecture

The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects
Volume 49, Number 2, October 1987

An Oculus Celebration—beginning the 50th year.
INVITED COMPETITION

All members of the chapter are invited to enter a competition to select a name for this leaflet of information. This competition has not had formal approval by the board of the AIA, nor has it a professional advisor. Each contestant may submit as many names as he can think of. A competent jury will judge the entries, and the winner will receive a handsome combination T-square and sword cane or some other suitable trophy.

MEMBERSHIP

In connection with the first meeting of the chapter for the year, the committee wishes to call the attention of all members to the need for building up the Associate Membership in the chapter and to the reasons therefor. This class of membership is intended primarily for draftsmen who are not practicing architects and whose present or former employers can vouch for their characters and their sincere interest in the profession. Associate members have all the privileges of Corporate Membership except membership in the institute, the right to hold office and to vote on institute matters. They may serve on chapter committees, form committees of their own, attend all meetings, and vote on all chapter matters.

The Membership Committee urges all members who are employers to encourage their assistants to associate themselves with the chapter. To do so much to combat the current trend in the unionization of draftsmen as to make it unnecessary in AIA offices. With an active associate membership of draftsmen, the New York chapter can provide a forum where subjects connected with the employee-employer relationship can be discussed and action taken to correct conditions which are of advantage to neither group. Unions, which are the probable alternative to a program of this sort will see the benefit of interests on either side.

"This invitation to architectural assistants is extended with the full realization of their vital importance in the profession and as an effort to make the New York Chapter truly representative of its profession as a whole."

MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR

The committee on Meetings and Public Information has arranged the program for the year which will be in advance with the hope that these meetings will be definitely attended by all chapter members.

November 30

"Cities in architects' offices" December 17

"The Public School Problem" January 24

"The Public" February 21

"Evening of Entertainment" March 21

Invited not donated

April 25

"The 1939 World's Fair" It is hoped that some of the foreign architects will give us their impressions.

LEBRUN REPORT

The committee on the LéBrun scholar

ship has just received the report of Harvey P. Clarkson who was awarded the scholarship last year and sailed for six months in Europe on June 24.

The report covers the first part of Mr. Clarkson's trip which up to the end of September had taken him to London, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Bergen, Oslo, Gotenburg, Budapest, Stockholm, Turku and Helsinki. He reports also to visit southern Sweden, Germany, Belgium and France.

In spite of the amount of ground he has covered, Mr. Clarkson has had time to make thirty pencil sketches, six watercolors, and take six hundred photographs, many of which illustrate his report.

CIVIC DESIGN

Gerald A. Holmes, chairman of the committee on Civic Design has informed us that through the good offices of Walter K. Harrison the chapter has received a gift of one thousand dollars from Mr. Nelson Rockefeller. This gift is for the use of the Committee on Civic Design in cooperation with the Architects' Emergency Committee to make studies and surveys which will be of use to the City and the Chapter.

NEW DEPARTURE

From Thursday, Oct. 17 to Saturday, Oct. 19 inclusive, at the Hotel Pennsylvania, the Joint Committee of Architectural Societies in the Metropolitan Area will act as hosts to a convention of all registered architects of New York State, held under the auspices of the New York State Association of Architects.

Arthur Loomis Harmon, President of the chapter, evolved the idea of such a convention last summer and turned it over to the Committee on Meetings and Public Information for further development. Representatives of the other Societies sat with the Committee during the summer and this group was later appointed a Committee on Convention Arrangements by President James W. Kidney of the New York State Association.

In making the announcement of the convention last week Mr. Benefit, the Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, said: "There are many difficulties besetting our profession today which can only be remedied by concerted action and now, for the first time, every architect in the State, regardless of affiliation with local societies, will have a voice in the discussion of existing or pending legislation affecting the practice of architecture and the recommendations to be made at Albany as a result of these discussions will have the weight of a united and determined body behind them. Few too long architects have suffered from individual and collective timidity and a type of professional aloofness mistakenly called dignity. It is high time that the architects of this State emerged from their false fronts and took collective action in the interest of the public of which they are a part."

The tentative program for the convention is as follows:

Thursday, Oct. 17, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Registration, 1 p.m. - Luncheon at the Hotel Pennsylvania to be followed with an organization meeting. There will be a welcome by Arthur Loomis Harmon who will introduce Mr. James W. Kidney who will preside. Mr. Kidney will address the meeting on the general purpose of the convention and what it is hoped will be accomplished. Rich-
AN OCULUS CELEBRATION

The History of Oculus

In October of 1988 Oculus will have completed 50 years of publication. October 87, therefore, begins its 50th year.

To celebrate that achievement, the current editors have asked previous editors and others to tell the story of their years of involvement with the publication — what they found on taking over, what they aimed to achieve with the publication, who their principal contributors were, their fees, their improvements in graphic design, and similar untold tales.

What is revealed is more than the story of this tenacious publication. More broadly, the editors reveal a capsule history of New York architecture through the past 50 years — its concerns and challenges — as well as the attempts of the Chapter to spread the news of New York architecture as a public outreach.

It should be noted that the numbering of the current Volume as 49 (rather than 50, which quick arithmetic might lead us to expect) is due to the sparse publication during the war years 1942-43. In 1944, when publication resumed, the volume number should have been 7, but was numbered 6 because so few issues had been produced. In other words, we will not have completed the 50th Volume of Oculus in September 1988, only the 56th year since publication originally began. Still, that seems enough to celebrate.

The Beginning

Oculus began as a single-page “leaflet of information” of Chapter news on October 20, 1938. That first issue had no name, only a masthead of six question marks. Beneath it, all members of the Chapter were invited to enter a competition to select a name. “This competition,” the opening notice read, “has not had formal approval by the AIA nor has it a professional advisor. Each contestant may submit as many names as he can think of. A competent jury will judge the entries, and the winner will receive a handsome combination of information” of Chapter news on Oculus.

“The list of entries in our unauthorized competition to select a name was most gratifying. Some forty entries were submitted, some coming from the West Coast. The jury chose ‘Oculus’ after much debate as to whether there still remain any architects who have the classical education to appreciate it.

“The oculus is the circular opening admitting light through the top of a dome (as in the Pantheon in Rome). The name was chosen as symbolizing the function of this leaflet in shedding light on the activities of the Chapter. It’s slight similarity to ‘Octagon’ was considered an asset.”

We do not know who proposed the name, who was on the jury, or any details of the competition, as a subsequent editor also wrote in Oculus 15 years ago.

The Editors

The Editors with their dates of tenure, as garnered from the Chapter’s file of remaining Oculus copies, have been the following:

Ward W. Fenner (Oct 38-Dec 39)
Albert G. Clay (Jan 40-Jul 42)
Unidentified (1942-48)
Mortimer E. Freehof (Jan 48-Jul 49)
Edward Everett Post (Oct 49-Jan 51)
Harmon H. Goldstone (Oct 51-Jun 52)
Richard B. Snow (Aug 52-Jun 55)
Geoffrey N. Lawford (Oct 55-Jun 56)
Frank G. Lopez (Oct 56-Summer 57)
Gillet Lefferts, Jr. (Oct 57-Summer 58)
Peter van Bloem (Oct 58-Jan 60)
Paul John Grayson (Oct 61-??)
Philip M. Chu (??-Jan 63)
Charles E. Thomsen (Dec 64-Summer 66)
John Schwartzman (Sep 66-Jun 68)
Kurt Karmin (Sep 68-Jun 70)
John Doran (Sep 70-Jun 71)
J. Arvid Klein (Sep 71-Summer 73)
J. Arvid Klein (Sep 71-Summer 73)
David Paul Helpern (Sep 73-Aug 75)
Kurt Karmin (Sep 68-Jun 70)
John Doran (Sep 70-Jun 71)
J. Arvid Klein (Sep 71-Summer 73)
David Paul Helpern (Sep 73-Aug 75)
Norman F. Jacklin (Oct 75-Oct 76)
Denis Glen Kuhn (Nov 76-Sep 79)
Andrew MacNair (Jan 80-Jun 81)
C. Ray Smith (Sep 81-Present)

The comments of past editors who have so far responded constitute the first part of the short history below. We have learned that editors Fenner, Freehof, Lawford, and Bloem are deceased. We wait for other responses to publish in succeeding issues throughout this semi-centennial year.

The editors invite your contribution to this series of remembrances — comments by past Chapter presidents involved, by the graphic designers who contributed their imagery. These and, of course, anecdotes, further history, corrections, and comments will be published in forthcoming issues in this celebration of the 50th year of the publication of Oculus.

CRS
The History of Oculus

Harmon H. Goldstone
1951-1952

NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS ONE FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK

OULUS

Volume XIII, No. 9, June 1952

COMING EVENT: 84th CONVENTION · JUNE 24-27

The History of Oculus

Your dates of October 1951 to June 1952 are technically correct for my knowledge. The History of Oculus, Volume XIII, No. 9, June 1952, listing new committees and new members. The idea was to get this information into the hands of the Chapter members before activities started up in the fall. The special series of issues (December 1950-April 1951) were devoted to federal regulations governing non-military building during the Korean War, as described below.

Though I do not happen to have at hand any copies of issues prior to my editorship, my memory of them (after 37 years!) is that they were mostly filled with personal chit-chat about members of the Chapter. Our hope, instead, was to achieve something useful for the Chapter members. The Korean War and the ensuing flood of federal regulations governing non-military building activities came along at just this moment. By November 1950, the number of orders, regulations, interpretations, amendments, directions, corrections, restrictions, allocations, and exemptions that were arriving daily from a dozen different Washington agencies had assumed the proportion of an inundation.

Starting with the October 1950, Everett Post asked me to prepare a monthly summary of this material, which we tried to make as complete, accurate, and intelligible as possible. Whether it was useful would be hard to say; it was certainly stupefyingly dull.

The graphic design of Oculus which we had inherited, was ideally suited to this sort of editorial copy. A layout of two columns in 8-point type and with minimal margins permitted a maximum number of words per page. As I recall, the typical issue consisted of four or eight pages, printed both sides. The emotional impact of such a layout was quite similar to that of the Manhattan telephone directory.

By April of 1951, it was decided not to print any more summaries of federal regulations. In their euphoric reaction, the Editorial Board threw out the entire former format. It was replaced by an 8½" x 11" layout printed by offset in gray ink from standard pica typewriter copy. (The right-hand margins in those days were, of course, "unjustified"). The only concession to elegance was a 3" deep masthead in solid "blue-print blue" right across the first page. This rather giddy innovation (imagine, color!) was so popular that I believe it was maintained for two or three subsequent years.

Certainly, no one connected with Oculus ever thought of any sort of payment, and "fees" were just not discussed (at least not publicly) in what was then considered a gentleman's profession.

The monthly summaries of governmental regulations can now be charitably looked back upon as one of the relatively minor horrors of war. The radical change in format and introduction of color were big steps forward. But any change in content, any hint of "criticism" was still far in the future. Even among the commercial magazines, for one architect to criticize the work of another was something that was just not done. Lewis Mumford's articles were largely concerned with city planning questions. Ada Louise Huxtable had yet to be born!
I believe that

As I recall, we held a competition what it is today, and its purpose was

students for a "masthead." Gerry

feature articles and no calendar of

established graphic artist. The format

Chapter headquarters was also

located.

1957-1958

I served as editor of Oculus exactly 30 years ago, 1957-1958. At that time there was an Oculus Committee, which met over lunch at the Architectural League Building on East 41st Street, where the AIA Chapter headquarters was also located.

As I recall, we held a competition among architectural and graphic students for a "masthead." Gerry Geerlings was a member of the Committee, who in addition to being an architect, was in his own right an established graphic artist. The format and size was not that different from what it is today, and its purpose was generally the same — to disseminate news of the Chapter among its members. There were fewer, if any, feature articles and no calendar of events.

I believe that Oculus is an important contribution of and for the Chapter membership, and I trust it will have a flourishing history for an additional thirty years — plus.

Oculus, Volume XIX, No. 1, October 1957

The regular monthly publication of the Chapter newsletter was the principal task of the Publication Committee, of which I was a member between September 1960 and August 1963, and its chairman during the two latter years.

The political climate of the city at the time was in reaction to more than a decade of post-World War II urban renewal projects (Moses style), which resulted in losses of numerous residential neighborhoods and the destruction of many historically and architecturally significant buildings. Architects in New York were forced to step off their time-honored "professional" pedestals and join citizens of other concerned groups in active public protest. Perhaps it was the destruction of the old Penn Station that signaled the end of this era. While the battle to save the station was lost, the war against mindless destruction had begun. During this period, a Landmarks Preservation Commission was created with the appointment of Chapter member Geoffrey Platt as its first chairman. Chapter member Harmon Goldstone became the first practicing architect to be appointed to the City Planning Commission. In general, closer cooperation gradually developed between the Chapter and the various city agencies.

Oculus, July-August 1962

During those years, Oculus attempted to keep members informed of Chapter and committee activities, coming events, the Chapter's position on current issues, books of special interest, and ideas on the general topic of "improving New York." Oculus also provided opportunities for members and guest columnists to "sound-off" on issues relating to the profession and to the community it serves.

With the help of the Chapter's Historical Buildings Committee, a new series entitled "New York Landmarks" was started, consisting of sketches and brief histories of some of the finer old structures that make up our city's heritage. During this period also, a beginning was made in the monthly printing of a directory of sponsors, whose contributions had helped the cost of publishing the newsletter.

In retrospect, I feel very fortunate in having been involved in putting out Oculus with a committee whose members were eager and dedicated, and who gave freely of their time and effort. In particular, I should especially give credit to the three professional journalists among us — John Dixon, Ogden Tanner, and Jan White—who provided many worthwhile ideas and the professional know-how to carry them out.
The History of Oculus

Kurt Karmin
1968-1970

I was editor for 3 or 4 years, about 1968 to 1972. I made a lot of changes. Graphics was one of the most important. I had a graphic designer friend redo it.

At that time, social issues were crucial. Energy, public housing, the Vietnam War, the atom bomb, the relevance of the AIA, the natural environment. I think I had something to do with making Oculus a forum for differences.

They were great times. We approached them with passion. We were rebellious.

J. Arvid Klein
1971-1973

I was chairman of the Oculus Committee from 1971 to 1973, having been a member of the Committee two years prior. Being barely literate (we were architects after all), I don't think we aspired to the title “Editor.”

They were halcyon days. Jim Polshek was about to be installed as Chapter president, but he stepped down in response to his appointment as Dean of Columbia's School of Architecture. He formed an ad hoc Graphics Committee of three, of which I was one, charged with bringing a graphic designer on board to provide the Chapter with a comprehensive design. The prime target, however, was Oculus.

The existing format was labored and stiff, without much spark or excitement. It probably had a more vital origin, but that's where we found it in 1970. Its composition was justified right and bottom, which made production very time consuming. It required a series of compositions to get it right. The painful production process and stultifying graphics made it a dreary affair. The writing may have been great, but the process and appearance ground the life out of it.

Arnold Saks gave us an exciting new format. It was crisp and bold with a palette of six colors that the issue cycled through (the 1970s were big on that — you have to forgive us). It was easy to compose with a rag right and bottom format requiring a minimum of time and no professional help. I enjoyed the process and the instant gratification — you could see your handiwork in days, not years.

We attempted to do more, shorter articles in telegraph style. When it worked it was terrific, although our record was spotty. We had a good committee: Linda Yang, who has gone on to some fame as a writer, Denis Kuhn, and David Paul Helpern who, I believe, succeeded me as chairman.

As chairman I usually wrote at least one article. One is particularly vivid: Unionization of the Profession (they were, after all, halcyon days). I interviewed Herman Jesser, whose office had been unionized. He was completing Co-op City, which was union sponsored, so he was a logical target. His office was quite sad as there was clearly little communication between staff and management. All sides were very bitter. I thought I had written a reasonably factual article with little or no bias. I received one of my most scathing “Letters to the Editor” from the President of the local involved. I printed it; it made good copy.

I have a sense that the Saks format tailed off in effectiveness. It's probably inevitable. I was present at this initiation, and the enthusiasm carried it forward. I think it was best during its first two years.

The present format was a welcome change and you have brought to Oculus a level of professionalism beyond our wildest dreams. It is truly a magnificent product month after month. The question is: How will it be sustained?

continued next month
by Lenore M. Lucey

With the increasing prosecution of illegal practitioners and the advent of the corporate buy-out, questions on how architects offer and perform architectural services have become more frequent. While the technicalities of the licensing law and individual situations are well beyond the scope of a single column, or the Chapter's expertise, there are a few general guidelines that we can offer.

Architect and Architecture

Only a person licensed, or otherwise authorized under the law, may practice architecture or use the title Architect.

In addition to traditional sole-practitioner and various partnership forms of the practice of Architecture, one is also permitted to form Professional Service Corporations (P.C.s) with other professionals licensed in the professions of architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, and land surveying. However, New York State licensed design professionals are prohibited by state law from establishing other forms of business corporations for the practice of their professions.

No individual may be a director or officer of a professional service corporation unless he or she is authorized by law to practice in this state a profession which such corporation is authorized to practice and is either a shareholder of such corporation or is engaged in the practice of his or her profession in such corporation. Shares in the corporation may only be issued to individuals authorized to practice in this state a profession which the corporation is authorized to practice.

There is one exception to the constraint on practicing as a corporation. If your corporation was in existence prior to April 12, 1929, and has an architect as its chief executive officer, you may be permitted to continue as an established Corporation. In reviewing credits for projects the Inc. or P.C. designation may be of assistance to you and your clients in distinguishing licensed architects from design firms.

A licensed architect, employed by a business corporation may perform architectural services only for the use of that entity. Working as an employee for AIA Widget Corporation, producing facilities for their own occupancy or investment purposes would be acceptable under the law.

If a fictional design corporation, "DeeZine Inc." employs an architect to produce, stamp, and file documents for a facility for a client, then the corporation would be in violation of the law, as it is not authorized to render such services. However, the documents so stamped by the licensed employee, might conform with the requirements of the law and be in a condition for acceptance by a building department for consideration for receipt of a building permit.

Even if the principal of such a firm is a licensed architect, there might still be a conflict with the law as such a corporation, if not in existence prior to April 12, 1929, is not organized as a professional service corporation, the only form of incorporation permitted to render such architectural services.

Section 29.3(a)(3) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education states: "Unprofessional conduct shall also include . . . certifying by affixing the licensee's seal to work not performed by the licensee or under the licensee's supervision, or to which the licensee has not given his or her written professional evaluation."

If "DeeZine Inc." prepared the documents and then had them signed and sealed in compliance with Section 29.3(a)(3), "DeeZine Inc." might still be in violation of the law even though the documents were now sealed by a licensee and might be eligible for a building permit.

An architect, from any jurisdiction, may not practice architecture in New York unless licensed by, or registered with, the State. If you are licensed and have let your registration lapse, you cannot stamp and seal, or file drawings with a building department. If you are licensed in another state, or are a legally qualified architect from another country, you must either obtain a license from New York or a limited permit to practice in this state.

Architectural

Current New York State Law does not specifically address the use of the modifier Architectural. However, when it is used in conjunction with a title such as "designer," and a person advertises themselves as such, then this is frequently seen as an attempt to mislead the public, implying that such a person is authorized to practice architecture in this state.

"Architecture," however, may be used only to describe the lawful practice of the profession by a licensed person. Terms such as "interior architecture" may be used only by licensed architects in the practice of their profession.

The above should not be taken as legal advice, and we strongly urge consulting a lawyer concerning all aspects of the specific circumstances before entering into any legal agreements. The New York State Board for Architecture can assist in determining legal forms of practice and correct terminology. They can be reached at: 518-474-3930, during normal business hours.

Incidents of illegal practice can be reported to the Chapter, to the New York State Association, or directly to the Office of Professional Discipline, 163 West 125th Street, New York, New York, 10027. The confidentiality of complainants is maintained.

On this subject also see the New York State Attorney General's press release on page 13.
Send Oculus Calendar information to:
New York Chapter/AIA, 457 Madison Avenue, N.Y. 10022.
Oculus welcomes information for the calendar pertaining to public events about architecture and the other design professions. It is due in writing by the 1st of the month for the following issue. Because of the time lag between information received and printed, final details of events are likely to change. It is recommended that events be checked with sponsoring institutions before attending.

EXHIBITION

ARCHITECTURAL FILMS
Daily showing of Michael Blackwood’s films: Beyond Utopia, 12:2, 1 and 4 pm; Richard Meier. 1 pm; Arata Isozuki, 5 pm (11 am Saturdays). IBM Gallery of Science and Art. 407-6209.

MONDAY 5
AMERICA BY DESIGN
“The Workplace” — second in the 5-part national public television series about architecture and design hosted by Spiro Kostof. TV Channel 13.11 pm.
MONDAY 19

**AMERICA BY DESIGN**

"The Street"—third in the 5-part national public television series hosted by Spiro Kostof. TV Channel 13, 11 pm.

**EXHIBITION**


**TUESDAY 20**

**NYC/AIA RECEPTION**

In honor of four Soviet architects on U.S. tour; hosted by Architects, Designers, and Planners for Social Responsibility (ADPSR). 5:30 pm, Chapter offices.

**ARCHITECTURE & PHOTOGRAPHY**

Panel discussion sponsored by the Architectural League on the publication (by the League and MIT Press) of Architecture Transformed: A History of the Photography of Buildings from 1839 to the Present by Cervin Robinson and Joel Herschman. 6:30 pm, Guggenheim Museum. Reservations required. 980-3767.

**WEDNESDAY 21**

**SNUG HARBOR EXHIBITION**


**THURSDAY 22**

**THE CITY TRANSFORMED**

Beaux-Arts New York: The City 1890-1915. Lecture by Barry S. Lewis in 92nd Street Y series, 6-7:30 pm. at the Central Synagogue Community House, 128 E. 55 St. 996-1100.

**FRIDAY 30**

**EXHIBITION OPENS ON SAT. OCT. 31**


**LIBRARY EXHIBITION OPENS ON SAT. OCT. 31**

Coming Chapter Events

by Cathanne Piesla

Vertical Architecture, on the process of designing the World Trade Center, will continue on exhibition through mid-October.

An exhibition of 35 drawings of the Russian constructivist architect Alexander Rodchenko, 1914-1925, will open on October 20. Arranged with the help of the Rodchenko family and the A.V. Shechuev Museum of Moscow, it is the first show of this kind to receive approval from the Russian government to leave the country. The evening will begin with a discussion. Panelists will include: John Boulit, Department of Slavic Languages at the University of Texas, Austin; Kenneth Frampton, Chairman of the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation at Columbia University; Antonina Manina, A.V. Shechuev Architectural Museum; and Vieri Quilici, Department of Architecture of the University of Rome "La Sapienza." This is quite a coup for the Chapter and will be the kick-off of a year of Russian exhibitions. Watch future issues for more information.

The ADPSR (Architects, Designers, and Planners for Social Responsibility) will host four Soviet Architects on a two-week tour of the United States. A reception in honor of the visitors will be held at NYC/AIA offices on Tuesday, October 13, at 5:30 p.m.

Computer Images of Architecture, an exhibition sponsored by the Chapter's Computer Applications Committee, and funded in part by Glen-Gery Brick, will be on display at the Parsons Exhibition Center, 2 West 13 Street, from October 1 through 28. Over 40 participants, including architects, engineers, computer artists, and animators will present works showing the creative and productive uses of computers to design and represent architects. Exhibit hours: Mon-Sat 9-6, Wed. 9-9.

Names and News

by Lenore M. Lacey

Those of you who can be in two places at once will have a great time in October ... both the New York State Association of Architects Convention and Designers Saturday are being held the same weekend.

NYSSA's annual event is being held in Syracuse from Friday, October 9 through Sunday, the 12th. State Honor Awards, educational programs on practice and compensation issues, and more ... You should have received the announcement by now, if you have not, call NYSSA at 518-449-3334 for information and registration forms.

Designers Saturday, the annual trooping of the showroom floors, promises to be even bigger and better this year with dynamite events both in Manhattan and out at IDCNY ... Don't miss NYC/AIA President Gene Kohn, and Convention Steering Committee Member Richard S. Hayden who will be speaking on marketing techniques on October 8. ... Also, make sure to visit all the participating showrooms ... and leave your business card at each one! ... It's about time that architects got the credit they deserve for specifying all that furniture and the attendant furnishings ... For more information call IDCNY at 718-937-7474.

No Comment

Suzanne Stephens was selected as the 1987 recipient of the Chapter's Arnold W. Brunner Grant, which will enable her to continue work on a book entitled "Criticalizing American Architecture 1850-1980." Members of this year's Brunner jury were Steven K. Peterson, William Ellis, Percival Goodman, Peter Kastl, Nancy Miao, Ed Mills, William Pedersen, and Lee Harris Pomeroy . . . Richard Meier & Partners have won an international competition to design the new City Hall in The Hague, Netherlands . . . . Bill N. Lacy, president of The Cooper Union since 1980, has resigned effective December 31, 1987. His resignation, says Lacy, has to do with "significantly increasing outside professional responsibilities." The Cooper Union's Board of Trustees is conducting a national search for a new president . . . Robert B. Marquis was elected to the four-person executive committee of the AIA College of Fellows at the National Convention in Orlando . . . Don Henderson, Associate with Butler Rogers Baskett, has been named president-elect of the Metropolitan New York Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute. He will assume the presidency next May . . . . Mitchell/Giurgola Architects have announced that John M. Kurtz, Randy Leach, Mark J. Markiewicz, and Dart Saegeser have been named partners of the firm, and James R. Braddock, Margaret W. DeBolt, and Susan Stando have been appointed associates . . . For the Landmarks Preservation Foundation Plaque Program, Tiffany & Co. is designing and producing bronze plaques that will be used to identify the city's 781 designated landmarks . . . . This summer the New York Public Library celebrated the restoration and reopening of the Yorkville Branch Library at 222 East 79 Street for which Gwathmey Siegel & Associates developed the restoration plans. The 84-year-old building, designed by James Brown Lord, was declared a landmark by the Landmarks Commission in 1987 . . . . Fox & Fowle Architects have designed a new facility for Brooklyn's Mesivta Yeshiva Rabbi Chaim Berlin in Flatbush. The building is to be called the Ben Zion
Eliyahu Fruchthandler Center for Torah Scholarship... Also at Fox & Fowle Architects, Kevin P. Lichten and John R. Menz have been appointed senior associates and Ethelind Coblin has been named an associate... Richard Hayden and Eugene Kohn, will be featured speakers during a morning program on how to market design services, October 8 during the IDCNY Fall Market (Oct. 7-10). Also during the Market, New York Architects, an international traveling exhibition sponsored by the Italian furniture importer Gullans International/Biefeplast will have its debut... Haines Lundberg Waehler have announced the promotion of Jay Fleishman to director of architectural design... At the American Institute of Architects Design Conference, "The Eden of the Bozart" to be held in Natchez (Oct. 17-19), leading architects will join Southern writers, artists, musicians, folklorists, and educators in exploring the "Southern experience." Sponsored by the AIA Committee on Design, the national conference will examine the subtheme "Sense of Place: Source of Inspiration" to illustrate how culture and experience can influence the creative process and architectural design... Marjorie Hoog has joined Beckhard Richland & Associates as an associate, and Nathan Fintel has been appointed manager of construction.... The New York Landmarks Conservancy has issued the 1987 edition of The Restoration Directory: A Listing of Services in the New York City Area... Henry Smith-Miller and Laurie Hawkinson have been commissioned "to design the rehabilitation of a new home" for Philadelphia's Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania... Thomas Hall Beeby, dean of the Yale School of Architecture, and a principal in the Chicago firm of Hammond, Beeby & Babka, is supervising the "redevelopment" of 745 Fifth Avenue (until recently FAO Schwarz's flagship store) as a "first-class addition to Fifth Avenue's carriage trade district." Designed by Ely Jacques Kahn and built during the Depression, the building will be renovated as it might have been built had the Depression not interfered... The New York Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects has appointed Barbara Eber-Schmid executive director to serve as "administrator, organizer, and problem-solver."... The Grad Partnership is the architect of a $1.25 million interior reconstruction of a Georgian Revival Mansion in Far Hills, New Jersey; it will serve as a museum devoted to the history of golf. The mansion was designed by John Russell Pope early in this century... Oculus regrets the death of Richard Roth, Sr., board chairman of Emery Roth & Sons, at the age of 82 on June 9... During the Congress of the International Union of Architects in Brighton, England, in July, design professionals from 29 countries founded a new peace organization to be known as Architects Designers Planners for the Prevention of Nuclear War. The group held its first convocation, approved a charter, and elected its first executive committee, of which the co-chairmen are Tician Papachristou, president of the U.S. Architects Designers Planners for Social Responsibility, and Yuri Platonov, newly elected president of the USSR Union of Architects. The Brighton meeting featured a speech by Dr. Stephen Farrow, committee member of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War... The annual Art Commission Awards for Excellence in Design were presented by Mayor Koch last spring to nine projects, three of which were designed by Chapter members: An industrial incubator building at East New York Industrial Park, Brooklyn, by Robert E. Meadows, Architects, a project of PDC with assistance from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration. The new Clarendon Branch Library in Brooklyn designed by Perkins Geddis Eastman Architects, a project of the Department of General Services and the Brooklyn Public Library. And the reconstruction and restoration of Morningside Park, Phase I, between West 110th and 114th Streets, Manhattan, designed by Quennell Rothschild Associates Landscape Architects and Bond Ryder James Architects, a project of the Department of Parks and Recreation... Robert Jensen has been named guest curator of "a landmark architecture exhibition" at the American Craft Museum. Architectural Art: Affirming the Design Relationship will open at the museum in May 1988, in conjunction with the AIA National Convention in New York... The Williams Group, headed by Terrance R. Williams, has been retained as planning consultants by the Flushing Meadow Corona Park Corporation.
John V. Lindsay Challenges Architects

"Whatever Happened to Urban Design?" was the question posed by former New York City Mayor John V. Lindsay in an address at the Chapter. His address heralded the opening of "Architects in Public Agencies," an exhibition that was on view this summer at the Urban Center.

"In 1966, making urban design a high administrative priority was in itself something of a radical act," Lindsay said. "Community participation, far more sophisticated development regulations, top policy roles for designers in government, all were new ideas that for the most part are now, thankfully, accepted, even taken for granted.

"What do we learn from this?" he asked. "We learn that high quality planning and design can only happen, first, if talented designers, architects, and planners are attracted into the lists and given key roles; second, it can happen only if the very top political leadership is so minded, is involved, backs its team, and remains accessible to them.

"By the same token," Lindsay continued, "if there are second rate people, if the subject of urban design is on the back burner (or off the stove altogether), or if the top political leadership is guided solely by political considerations and development pressures, that community is heading for deep trouble."

Mayor Lindsay went on to comment on the underlying urban problems affecting the cities of our nation, including the growing urban underclass, the disparities of income and social opportunity, abandoned buildings, the growing homeless population, urban street gangs, and the withdrawal of business from the city center. He stated his concern that business, in withdrawing from contact with the urban underclass, has a lot of older cities balancing on a knife edge, and was thereby producing problems for his audience.

He said, "The withdrawal of business from central cities has set off a tremendous boom in suburban areas ... where there has been for the most part bad planning ... The design of these new areas is not being managed with anything near the sophistication that traditional city centers now put into growth management — to state the problem as gently as possible ... Research is needed into how to create a desirable environment out of such large quantities of surface parking and such large distances between important buildings ... Without this ... we are doomed to the possibility and probability of embarking on another binge of building nothing but unrelated junk ... I think we have proved in the cities that good design pays off in higher real estate values and better public acceptance of new development.

"I remain less optimistic about what may happen to the older cities, unless this country decides to address these root problems ... And that's a tough one ... I believe that only a change in course can correct the situation.

"There has to be a better climate, a climate that will attract better people into the public business and that will treat government with respect, not with contempt ... In short, we'd better start caring again." Mr. Lindsay's comments went to the heart of the Chapter's Public Architects Committee's purpose in presenting the exhibit.

The Committee feels there should be a concerted effort to make design quality a more public issue, that a better informed public can evaluate the level of quality that is being achieved in our public environment. Thus pressure can be brought to bear on those in a position to create a change in design priorities in the City. An informed public can make decision-makers more accountable, the Committee maintains.

Conscription 88 Tours

by Conrad Curtis

With inside views of New York masterpieces, works in progress, and the offices that produce them, the Chapter's tour program for the 1988 Convention is designed to give over half of the anticipated 12,14,000 Convention attendees an unprecedented look at the architecture of the city.

Under the direction of John Belle, partner at Beyer Blinder Belle, and Robin Lynn, president of Robin Lynn Associates, 40 volunteers have produced a program of over 80 tours for the architecture professional, including the anatomization of Battery Park City conducted by designers of the project; on-site building profiles of familiar and awaited structures with their associated luminaries; a look at the Statue of Liberty under the tutelage of those closest to the restoration project; issue-oriented movable seminars including midtown public spaces and museums and air rights; fish and architecture at South Street Seaport for the early-to-rise and the hearty-of-nose; also parks by bus and on foot, waterfronts by road and water, and overviews of the boroughs with resident experts.

According to Lynn, "Each daily afternoon program will focus on one area of the city, the better to feed into the evening's major social event: Sunday afternoon tours of eastern midtown and the Queens area for proximity to the Dodge Party at IDCNY on Sunday night; tours downtown to spill into the Wintergarden for the Host Chapter Party Monday; and so on."

For seekers of diversion, the weightier professional tours are balanced by morning tours (officially for spouses so the professionals will keep their attention dutifully on business at hand), which include "Backstage on Broadway: Breakfast with a Critic" or lunch at the Waldorf, as well as evening programs to "Les Miserables" and "Phantom of the Opera" on Broadway and to dinner with dancing during a cruise of the bay.
We want to give out-of-towners an attractive, frenetic, and endlessly interesting experience of the city as we who live here know it: eminently livable albeit because it is impossible to comprehend with finality. And we want to give resident architects a chance for truly out-of-the-ordinary access to sites and experts that even those who live here will find attractive.

The majority of tours is clustered by location and subject matter, and many clusters will commence as short and lively lectures before individual groups set off on specialized investigations. The Battery Park City clusters, for example, will begin with a lecture by associated designers at the Merrill Lynch auditorium before participants depart for one of several tours, which include the commercial, residential, and open-space components of the project. For those who cannot get away from the Convention Center to take in an afternoon tour, a prominent New York City historian will conduct a series of four "Armchair Tours of the City"—45-minute lectures on the city that looms to the north, east, and south of the Javits Center.

"Credit must really go to the volunteers who have worked long extra hours through the dog days of July and August, and to Robin for her extraordinary organizational skills and continually original program suggestions," continues Belle. "It will be a program that the Chapter and the city can really be proud of—a program that should crown the largest AIA Convention in the history of the organization. It is entirely fitting that the city that spawned the American Institute of Architects some 130 years ago should now open its doors to welcome to the membership that traces its history to these streets and in appreciation of the excellence of the achievement of the profession throughout the country."

Mr. Abrams said that Douglas R. Bennett, of Rochester, is a high school graduate who started designing homes while working part-time for a mechanical draftsman. He established his own firm in January, 1981.

Both individuals entered into their agreement without any admission of wrongdoing.

Attorney General Abrams said: "The reason for licensing architects is that members of the public are entitled to the assurance that they are dealing with competent, trained professionals who can guarantee them a structurally safe home. Licensed professionals are versed in state construction codes and fire laws and must design to these specifications."

The Attorney General said that the respondents in the two cases announced today were named in a complaint filed by members of the American Institute of Architects with the New York State Education Department's Office of Professional Discipline. After investigating, Mr. Abrams said, the Education Department referred the matter to his office for legal action.

Mr. Abrams said that this action is part of an ongoing criminal and civil investigation into the area of unlicensed architects.

The Attorney General expressed his thanks to the Education Department's Office of Professional Discipline for their assistance on this matter. Mr. Abrams added that consumers who wish to check to see if an architect is licensed may call the Education Department's hotline—1-800-342-3729.

This matter has been handled for the Attorney General by Assistant Attorney General Vincent M. Barone under the supervision of Eugene Welch, Chief of the Rochester Regional Office.
Rodchenko Exhibition

Exhibition committee chair Bart Voorsanger recently interviewed curator Alessandra Latour about the forthcoming exhibition of material by the Russian Constructivist Alexander Rodchenko, which will be on exhibition in the Members Gallery from October 20 through December 11. Excerpts of their discussion follow:

Bart Voorsanger: Alessandra, what prompted this extraordinary idea of bringing the Rodchenko exhibition to New York.

Alessandra Latour: The intention of the exhibition program has always been to provide a cultural exchange and to stimulate a debate in architecture and urbanism. To present the Rodchenko work not only means to re-introduce Constructivism, but also to deal with a culture that has always been extremely rich in ideas and experimentation. And I find it particularly stimulating now.

BV: Will this be a unique viewing of the drawings in America? And what type of drawing is coming?

AL: The Rodchenko exhibition will consist of 38 architectural drawings, coming mostly from the collection of his family; some are from the Shchusev Architectural Museum in Moscow. Rodchenko worked in many fields, but the architectural drawings are particularly interesting to us because of the range of ideas and experiments he was able to achieve. And these drawings are very beautiful.

BV: Will you tell us about the process of getting the exhibition here?

AL: We sent a letter to the family for an agreement to the show, and the answer was positive. Both Alexander Lavrentjev and Varvara Rodchenko were glad to have an exhibition in our gallery, so I made arrangements to go over there. And that was an unforgettable experience. They were extremely nice to me and to be in Rodchenko's studio was particularly moving. To work with them has been a pleasure. Also the Schusev Architectural Museum was very helpful in realizing the exhibition. They assisted me in every way. The museum will ship the materials from Moscow to New York. It has participated actively in the entire organization.

BV: For such an ambitious program there has been an unusual level of interest. What kind of support do you anticipate?

AL: I hope people will recognize the importance of this cultural exchange. The support comes from the New York State Council on the Arts, which has helped our exhibition program from the beginning. I hope we will also get support from professionals and some other organizations.

BV: At the opening of the exhibition on October 20 there will also be a symposium. Who will the participants be?

AL: There will be John Bowlt, from the Department of Slavic Languages at the University of Texas at Austin; Kenneth Frampton from the GSAPP, Columbia University; Antonina Manina from the Shchusev Architectural Museum in Moscow; and Vieri Quilici from the Faculty of Architecture, University of Rome "La Sapienza".

BV: This is obviously leading to other exchanges. Are there future programs that you can anticipate?

AL: The Rodchenko show is the first of three exhibitions we are going to present in the near future. The second will be student work, in particular the thesis work, at the Moscow Institute of Architecture; it is going to be presented in March 1988. The third show will be the work of I. Leonidov, in particular drawings related to the city, since the city is the theme for next year. This will be organized in connection with the AIA National Convention planned for the middle of May, and again will be in collaboration with Andrej Leonidov and the Shchusev Architectural Museum.

BV: We in the Chapter thank you for your strong commitment to this series of exhibitions. We look forward to this unique series of cultural exchanges with great anticipation.

AL: And I would like to thank you, the Chapter, and all the people who have supported the program and actively participated.
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