OCULUS an eye on new york architecture

The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

Volume 51, Number 3, November 1988



NYSSA Award winner Heron Tower by Kohn, Pedersen, Fox.

OCULUS

COMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Volume 51, Number 3, November 1988

Oculus

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The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Executive Committee or Staff of the NYC/AIA.

For more information on professional and public memberships please call the Chapter, at 212-838-9670.

On Tuesday, November 8, the

Chapter's **Architect-In-Training** course, "Turning Design into Buildings," opens with an introduction by Randolph Croxton AIA and Alan Schwartzman FAIA. This and all following sessions will be held at the Urban Center, 6-8 pm.

On **Tuesday, November 15,** Terrance R. Williams FAIA will discuss *Public Agencies: their purposes and interrelationships.* City Planning Commission, Zoning Resolution, Board of Standards & Appeals, Landmarks Preservation Commission.

On **Tuesday, November 22,** Paul Segal FAIA will discuss *Design and Technical Production*.

On **Tuesday, November 29,** John Winkler AIA will talk about *Players and Roles on a Project; The Owner, Architect, Consultants, Contractor, Construction Manager.*

On **Tuesday, December 6,** Denis Glen Kuhn will discuss *Building Code and the Approval Process.*

On **Tuesday, December 13**, the final session will be devoted to *Construction Phase Services*, and *Summation* by Gerald Hallissy AIA and Randolph R. Croxton FAIA.

On **Wednesday, November 9,** the Corporate Architects Committee invites Chapter Members to join them on a tour of the new Central Park Zoo. R.S.V.P. to Chapter Headquarters. 838-9670.

On Tuesday, November 15, NYC/AIA's Housing Committee is sponsoring an open meeting entitled Update on Local Law 58, 6 pm. at the Urban Center. Almost everyone has had direct involvement in the sweeping new handicapped adaptability regulations, which New York City enacted on September 1, 1987 under the title of "Local Law 58." Although the law applies to almost all buildings, it has had a particularly significant impact on housing. Numerous architects have contacted the Housing Committee about this issue requesting clarifications and describing difficulties in complying with aspects of the law.

Members of the AIA have been meeting for several months with the Building Department, representatives of the disabled community, and the Real Estate Board of New York to clarify ambiguities and to resolve some of the more problematic issues. Housing Committee chairman John Ellis AIA will report on the progress that has been made and encourage a sharing of lessons for ways to deal constructively with this new law. Robert Marino AIA, chairman of the Subcommittee for Local Law 58, will provide an update on meetings with the city and with the disabled community. Others will report on representative experiences.

Questionnaires about members' experience with Local Law 58 were included with the October *Oculus*. If you have not yet returned your questionnaire, please return it now to Chapter headquarters.

THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF OCULUS 1938-1988 A RECAPITULATION

by Marian Page

To riffle back through 50 years of Oculus is to realize that almost nothing of importance to architects in the City of New York and beyond was neglected. The Chapter had its ups and downs. There were recessions and wars. There were good and bad times for architects. But there is much in this backward glance to make one realize how true it is that the more things change the more they stay the same. The following excerpts provide but a brief glimpse of the many things that appeared in those Oculuses. Regrettably they can't convey the full sense of the times nor the personalities and leanings of its many architect editors that one gleans from a perusal of the whole collection. Nevertheless we hope it captures some of the humor, poetry, and dedication to the city and the profession of architecture that are disclosed there.

October 20, 1938: In this first issue before Oculus was named, we note that a gift of \$1,000 from Mr. Nelson Rockefeller was to be used "to make studies and surveys which will be of use to the City and the Chapter." Also in this first issue is a list of forthcoming meetings, which give us an idea of Chapter preoccupations at the time. Among the subjects were "Unions in architects' offices," "Educate the Public," "The Public School Problem," and "The 1939 World's Fair."

January, 1939: A Chapter meeting is reported at which there is a discussion about the appointment of architects for public work. Points made include: "That government architecture, whether Federal, State, or Municipal, should be the finest that a country can obtain. That no committee, group, or bureau can, as a group, create superior work, the conception and extention of which rests solely upon the creative impulse of the human spirit. That any continuous development of a profession must depend upon new ideas and new blood to carry it on to high achievement. That in our case free and open competition is the American way."

February 1940: Reports that Chapter member Arthur C. Holden was the author of "Housing Comes Home to Congress" in the *Atlantic Monthly*, in

Vol. 1 ?	; ; ; ;	? No. 1
THE NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS		
INVITED COMPETITION	MEETINGS	NEW DEPARTURE
All members of the chapter are invited to enter a competition to whice a name for this leafler of information. This competition has not had formal ap- proval by the ALA, nor has it a pro- tensional advice. Each construct may submit as many names as he can this of. A competent jury will judge the en- tries, and the winner will receive a handsome combusion. Tapater and resolution of some other suitable traphy.	FOR THE YEAR The contribution and entripy and Pather Information have entripy the second second second second entripy with the base that the entripy with defaulty merced by all chapter methods. "The Pather Scheet President" Image 34.	From Thursday Oct. 27 to Saurday Oct. 29 induring at the Hole Penneyf- vania, the Joint Committee of Archi- textural Societies in the Meropolian Area will act as hosts to a convention of all registered architects of New York State, held under the suppices of the New York State Association of Archi- texts. Ardvar Loomis Harmon, President of the Gapter, resident the idea of such a convention just summer and turned it turned its turned its
MEMBERSHIP In connection with the first meeting of	"Educate the Public" February 21. "Evening of Enterminement"	over to the Committee on Meetings and Public Information for further develop-
the chapter for the year, the committee wishes to call the strength of all mem- bers to the need for building up the As- sociate Membership in the Chapter and to the reasons therefor. "This class of membership is intended erimative for draftsmen who are nor	"Evening of Exercicioneur" Mach. 21. Sobject net chance April 25. "The 1939 Works's Fair." It is hopped fast more of the foreign architects will give us their im- peraisan.	ment. Representatives of the other So- cieties sat with the Coomittee during the summer and this group was later appointed a Committee on Convention Arrangements by President James W. Kideney of the New York State Asso- ciation. In making the announcement of the
practising architects and whose present or former employers can vouch for their characters and their sincere interest in the profession. Associate members have	LEBRUN REPORT The committee on the LeBrun scholar- ship has just received the report of	convention last week Mr. Bessell, the Chairman of the Committee on Ar- rangements, said: "There are many dif-
all the privileges of Corporate Member- ship except membership in the Insti- tute, the right to hold office and to vote on Institute matters. They may serve	Harver P. Clarkson who was awarded the scholarship last spring and sailed for six months in Europe on June 24. The report covers the fore war of Mr.	ficulties 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 affilia- tion with local socrites, will have a voice
on Chapter committees, form commit- tees of their own, attend all meetings, and vote on all chapter matters. "The Membership Committee urges all members who are employers to en- courage their associate	Clarkson's trip which up to the end of September had taken him to London, Giargow, Edinburgh, Bergen, Oslo, Goteborg, Baditena, Stockholm, Turku and Helsinki. He expects also to visit southern Sweden, Germany, Belgiam	in the discussion of existing or pending legislation affecting the practice of archi- tecture and the recommendations to be made at Albany as a result of these dis- cussions will have the weight of a united and determined body behind them. For
themselves with the Chapter, not so much to combat the current trend in the unionization of definitene as to make it unnecessary in A.I.A. offices. With an active associate membership of draftumen, the New York Chapter can	and France. In spite of the amount of ground he has covered, Mr. Clarkson has had time to make thirty pencil sketches, six waser- colors, and take six hundred photo- graph, many of which illustrate his re- port.	too long architects have suffered from individual and collective timidity and a type of professional alcofness mistakenly called dignity. It is high time that the architects of this State emerged from their failes fronts and took collective ac-
provide a forum where subjects con- nected with the employer-employee re- lationship can be discussed and action taken to correct conditions which are	CIVIC DESIGN	tion in the interest of the public of which they are a part." The tentative program for the con-
of advanage to active add the ULL as the which act the probable alternative to a program of this sort will fail to acros the best interests of other. This invitation to architectural astistants is carrended with the foll realization and in a affort to make be ferriors and in an affort to make the New York Chapter truth progressrative of its profession as a whole."	Gerald A. Holmer, chairman of the committee on Civic Dergin has in- formed us that through the good officer of Wallace K. Hurrison the Chapter has received a gift of one thousand dollar from Mr. Neison Rockreffer. This gift is for the use of the Commit- ree on Givic Dergin in cooperation with the Architect' Emergency Committee on make studies and surveys which will be of use to the City and the Chapter.	vention is as follows: Thursday, Oct. 27, 9 a.M. to 6 p.ss. Registration. 1 p.ssLauchons as the host organization in this There will be as explosition in this There will be a welcome by Arthur Loomis Harmon who will introduct Mr. Isanes W. Kidency who will preided. Mr. Kidency purpose of the convention and what it is hoped will be accompliable. Kide.

Oculus, Volume I, No. 1, October 1938

which he is quoted as saying "Housing as a national issue stems from the crusading spirit of the persistent New Yorkers who have been leading in housing legislation." And, says *Oculus*, "In speaking of the timeliness of this article, the *Atlantic* reminds its readers that in the summer of 1939 Congress refused to increase the authorized loans for housing to be distributed through the Federal Government, but that requests for new and perhaps increased subsidies will almost certainly be presented for action in 1940."

February 1941: We learn that the Chapter office is "attempting to make a complete collection of portraits of our past Presidents, to be formed into a Panel of Presidents and displayed upon the walls of the Chapter office." Where are they now?

March 1941: The Chapter's Civic Design Committee commissioned James C. Mackenzie, President of the Fine Arts Federation, "to study the treatment of the entire area of Battery Park." This, reports *Oculus*, is the second project sponsored by the Committee, the fund for which was started by Nelson Rockefeller's gift of \$1,000.

February 1942: A reader writes Oculus: "The intoxication of the Modernist influence is evidently wearing off. In the beginning of the year 1942, A.D., we find announcements in the Sunday and Daily chronicles that the Small House Committee of the New York Chapter A.I.A. has given Certificates of Merit for excellence in the plan and design of three small houses. In the designs premiated, there is not a lally column, nor an unsightly vizor in sight. All three structures are also devoid of the usual, or equally good factory windows approved by the Architect, which can usually be depended upon to roast Hell out of the occupants. As a matter of fact, the three structures all look like comfortable homes to be occupied by sane persons, under the old crocheted motto, 'God Bless Our Home,' instead of the sign, 'This way to the Cocktail Lounge.' Congratulations to the Committee!" Signed "H.G."

May 1943: Oculus quotes one Chapter member, who is promoting attendance at AIA meetings, as saying "The individual is helpless by himself in the face of world changes. It is only by cooperation, concerted and disinterested thinking and unified action that any impression can be made on the course of events. There is no better way of accomplishing these ends than by joining a professional society and taking an active, serious, unselfish and persevering part in its activities."

February 1944: "....As long as the profession of architecture is practiced...the question of adequate fees will be with us...."

March 1948: Reporting the Museum of Modern Art's symposium, "What is Happening to Modern Architecture": ".... Philip C. Johnson introduced Lewis Mumford, who acted as moderator." Alfred H. Barr, Jr. "described the development of the International Style stemming from Europe, and discussed its influence in the United States." Henry-Russell Hitchcock "stated that this style can be considered synonymous with modern architecture, and that its development into expressive forms is still in the process of evolution. He compared Michelangelo with Frank

Fiftieth Anniversary, 1938-1988

Llovd Wright in that both were designing for the future, rather than for the present." Walter Gropius "spoke of the influence of the machine on architecture.... Christopher Tunnard held that architecture should not be derived from materials alone and...Frederick Gutheim....said that the modern concept should be based upon contemporary life and not upon the past.... Marcel Breuer placed humanism first and all considerations of style and esthetics as incidental corollaries.... Peter Blake's idea was that the industrial revolution in architecture has not yet materialized and is being delayed by the stylists. Eero Saarinen's opinion was that there is too much talk of style. He felt that appearance should be simply a reflection of the designer's thinking."

August-September 1948: Announces an exhibition, which presents the work of Chapter members, the "prime purpose" of which "is to show members' work to the public in such a manner as to bring home the fact that it is the architect who makes homes liveable, commercial buildings more healthful and efficient, and people's lives more pleasant in the varied spaces which house all types of human existence."

September 1948: The Chapter's Civic Design Committee's program for the redevelopment of the East Midtown Area is presented to Robert F. Wagner, Sr., Chairman of the City Planning Commission, urging its consideration at this time because the recent passage by Congress of the \$65 million loan "which assures the building of the United Nations headquarters and is bound to have a profound influence on the City." Among the AIA's provisions: "Widening Second Avenue as an express thoroughfare, with central parked strip and several underpasses, at the same time that the Second Avenue subway is built. Eventual extension of the proposed First Avenue truck tunnel from 41st Street to a point north of the Queensboro Bridge... in order to give Beekman and Sutton Place residents the same protection afforded the United Nations...." along with other good ideas of which only a few came to pass.

October 1949: Here and intermittently throughout its history, *Oculus* makes a plea for committees and individuals to contribute as much material as possible so that *Oculus* can achieve its objective of "supplying the membership with information as to the activities of the Chapter and their fellow members."

February 1950: Chapter President Walter H. Kilham, Jr. "called a meeting of local organizations to discuss the question of a long range plan for the protection of the city's open squares and historic landmarks to a greater extent than is now provided for by zoning ordinances...."

May 1950: Chapter President Kilham, reports *Oculus*, "issued a statement urging the people of New York to support proposed amendments to the city's Zoning Resolution which would limit the height of structures bordering on public parks. This question had arisen in connection with the contemplated demolition of the old houses on the





Oculus, Volume XV, No. 6, March 1954

western half of the block known as Washington Square North and their replacement by modern apartments...."

March 1952: Readers of *Oculus* are warned "It's time you walked past Lever House, at Park Avenue and 53rd Street. Many times during the coming season you'll be called on to answer the 'Oh — you're an architect: what do you think of...' type of question regarding this distinguished building and you might as well start formulating your answer now."

May 1952: A historic note: "In October 1867, the first AIA convention gathered at Union Square in a building now occupied by Ohrbach's Department Store, E.J. Gambaro informs us that above the modern store front, the sheet-metal and stone facing of this building remains undisturbed. Originally it was classified as an office building, but it was remodelled into a store in 1874 by Joseph Sands and James Renwick, Jr. (Renwick was 3rd president of the New York AIA and also architect for Grace Church and St. Patrick's Cathedral.) While the national convention met here, New York members had their headquarters at 45 East 17th Street in the Everitt House. Sentimental delegates to the 1952 convention at the Waldorf might like to look once again at these early meeting places."

March 1953: Reports that one "of the most picturesque campaigns of an architectural nature during the past year or so... the effort to have the New York City building code amended to permit the construction of theatres within office or residential buildings. If auditoriums

might be placed below grade or above the ground floor, valuable space would be created for rental.... At present the entire property must be carried at a loss during dark periods, to be made up in increased rent when the house is lighted. For this reason, legitimate theatre property has not been a popular form of investment, no such construction having been undertaken since 1928 when the Ethel Barrymore was opened.... Elv Jacques Kahn and Robert A. Jacobs have prepared sketches for a theoretical playhouse within an office building as it might be built under the amended code....'

January 1954: Carries a pessimistic note about the fame of architects: "Without question the most publicized name in American architecture is Frank Lloyd Wright. Yet such is public apathy and ignorance in regard to architecture that even this outstanding figure failed to be identified on two recent TV quiz programs. The panel of experts on "Twenty Questions"—who rarely miss — did not even succeed in narrowing the field to architecture...."

February 1954: The Chapter's Historical Buildings Committee "hopes to develop and recommend an effective program for documenting and photographing all historically significant New York buildings, as not all can be saved from the steel ball and the bulldozer..."

March 1954: In an item stating that "information regarding the qualifications of the following candidates for membership will be considered confidential by the Admissions Committee," appears the name of Philip Cortelyou Johnson for Corporate Membership. His sponsors: Wallace K. Harrison and Louis Skidmore.

December 1954: "The November Architectural Forum carries an open letter to the Chairman of New York Central and the President of the New Haven Railroad signed by more than 200 leading architects and designers urging that in the event that Grand Central is demolished, the great Concourse somehow be preserved. It now appears that Mr. Zeckendorf in addition to Grand Central has designs on Pennsylvania as well. Will someone, while there is yet time, put in a word for the Seventh Avenue Colonnade and the Baths of Caracalla?"

February 1955: "On January 31st the Committee on Houses opened a one-week showing of Houses designed by Architects for the speculative builder. Theodore Hood was in charge of this exhibition which featured the work of 17 of our members...."

March 1955: The Chapter's 86th Anniversary Meeting "will be observed successively in the Museum of Modern Art, The Whitney Museum of American Art and The University Club. . . . "Holding "its Anniversary Meetings in famous New York buildings and cultural centers," comments the writer, "may become a popular tradition."

April 1955: Carries a report of the 86th Anniversary Meeting at which Russell Lynes, the speaker of the evening "gave



Oculus, Volume XVI, No. 6, March 1955

a thoroughly engaging and witty talk on the ups and downs of taste in architecture in the past and where we stand at present." The same issue reports that in "the March 19 issue of the New Yorker, Lewis Mumford began a series of articles, "The Roaring Traffic Boom," in which he "looks upon the proposals to demolish the two great New York terminals, replacing them with giant skyscrapers, and finds them full of danger."

June 1955: A meeting sponsored jointly by the Chapter's Civic Design Committee, the Architectural League, and the Municipal Art Society, confronted the "necessity for proper architectural planning and respect for buildings of historic value" which, says the reporter, "was approached from different angles. William Demarest of William White & Sons "was concerned chiefly that new buildings provide the greatest economic returns on the assumption that this has produced the spectacular New York we see from the harbor." Charles Agle, architect and planning consultant, "felt that the city was becoming dehumanized and treeless, that basic new planning controls had to be introduced." Public Works Commissioner Zurmuhlen "opposed any overall control that he felt would lead to an aesthetic dictatorship since New York's diversity was a part of its growth." Goodhue Livingston of the City Planning Commission "proposed a consolidated transport authority for the New York Region as a first step toward the correction of its self-strangulation." Professor Christopher Tunnard "cited the new Supreme Court decision cont'd p. 14

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Stapleton Park, Staten Island by Jerome L. Gruskin AIA



Towers on the Park by Bond Ryder James Architects

3. The case histories of the ten varied projects vividly illustrate the full gamut of problems that make New York the most difficult city in the U.S. in which to build. Problems ranged from inadequate soil investigation to transportation problems, to negotiating agreements with the wrong union, to gerbils in the crawl space. One project had almost all these problems and then some. However, at least as important as the problems were how some capable developers took these problems in their stride and produced a good product on time and within the budget.

The survey produced a wealth of unique cost data, including comparisons between the ten projects in over a hundred categories. It revealed significant cost differences resulting from minor differences in code requirements, structural systems, and site conditions, among other things. And because three of the projects were modulars, the survey provides a preliminary basis for evaluating the promise of this type of construction. The study also suggests the extent to which problems of both cost and quality are

simply the result of unnecessary human error.

At a detail level, the study could be faulted for not adjusting all costs to constant dollars time-wise. This was not done because the projects were generally contemporaneous (most started in a single 18-month period). Constant dollars would have altered some cost comparisons, but would not have changed the conclusions.

The primary usefulness of the work is as a guide to developers, architects, and others in doing a better job on the next project. Specific recommendations for creating better, more cost-effective housing are included in the final chapter.

Our housing background helped us structure the survey to yield conclusions that we believe are useful and relevant to housing professionals and policy makers. At the same time, the research was for us a unique opportunity to refine our knowledge of cost effective design further than is possible in the normal course of architectural practice.

by John Ellis AIA

Our firm recently was privileged to carry out a study of cost effectiveness in New York Partnership affordable housing projects. For us, the study was an eye-opener. For some it will be instructive; for others it is already controversial.

"The Partnership Cost Study" is a comparative analysis of several different types of Partnership projects. It was carried out by John Ellis & Associates over ten months under a contract with the Partnership, and with substantial input from Kathy Wylde, Executive Vice President. The Partnership is currently the leading sponsor of middle income housing in New York, having spawned 24 projects comprising 2800 affordable housing units. The study evaluates ten recently completed examples of these, identifying how and why some projects were more ssuccessful than others.

The results are significant in at least three respects:

1. The study provides for the first time a true reflection of cost effectiveness. It does this by focusing on the total cost of usuable living space; i.e., development cost per net square foot. Housing cost usually is measured by construction cost per square foot; however, construction cost is only one part of the total development cost. Likewise, gross area does not reflect how much space is actually usable; the amount varies from almost 95% to less than 70% of what was built. Typical cost figures therefore distort comparisons of housing cost effectiveness. This analysis balances the scales.

2. The study dramatically reveals the cost-effectivess of light-weight low-rise housing compared to other types. Specifically, usable space may cost over twice as much in a high-rise as it does in three-story two-family housing. Put another way, the same money required to build 40 high-rise dwelling units could build 80 to 100 equal size units of low-rise housing. This is a much greater cost difference than most housing professionals are aware of. The potential housing policy aspects of this are intriguing, to say the least.

NAMES AND NEWS

Corporate Headquarters for the United States Trust Company by Fox & Fowle Architects

David M. Childs FAIA is chairman of AIA's 1989 Honor Awards jury. Other New York representatives on the jury are Brendan Gill and Jaquelin T. Robertson FAIA.... Adele Chatfield-Taylor, current director of the design arts program of the National Endowment for the Arts, has been appointed president of the American Academy in Rome, beginning December 1

.... Malcolm Holzman FAIA is to be the keynote speaker at the Vermont Granite Symposium to be held in Stowe and Barre November 30-December 3. The purpose of the symposium is to celebrate the renaissance of the granite industry.... A. Eugene Kohn FAIA, RIBA spoke on "Trends in Architecture" at a reception for architectural clients of Glen-Gerv Brick Corporation in September.... Construction recently began on the new Corporate Headquarters for the United States Trust Company at 114 West 47 Street designed by Fox & Fowle Architects .. Chapter members Der Scutt AIA, Sheldon Wander FAIA, and Reginald **D. Hough** AIA are among those serving on the 1988 Concrete Industry Board Annual Awards Committee.... Following its decision to remain at its present location within Rockefeller Center, NBC has selected Haines Lundberg Waehler as master planners of the renovation of its facilities. Leevi Kill will be partner-in-charge.... Graeme Whitelaw AIA has joined the Ehrenkrantz Group & Eckstut as managing principal Beyer Blinder Belle are the architects for the second phase of the Brooklyn Army Terminal's redevelopment to create an additional million square feet of industrial space. "In this second phase," says Frederick Bland AIA, partner in charge of the project, "we will continue to capitalize on the imposing, stark qualities of industrial construction materials used in the early 20th century."... Robert B. Marquis FAIA spoke at the University of Colorado, Boulder in October. His topic was "Architecture — A Humanist Art/An Idea Whose Time Has Come Again." ... A 1988 summer workshop in Russia jointly sponsored by Columbia's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and the Moscow Institute of Architecture, combined study and travel.

The study period — which brought Russian and American students together - was led by two faculty members from the Moscow Institute and two-Klaus Herdeg and Alessandra Latour — from Columbia Emery Roth & Sons has named six new associates. They are Scott Aagre, Frank M. Fortino, Soon Woo Kwon AIA, John J. Leotta, Victor Tesler, and Raymond C. Wobbe AIA. The New York-based firm also announced the establishment of an office in Budapest, Hungary Mitchell/Giurgola Architects have been selected to be the prime architect of the new Revelle Sciences building, University of California, San Diego. The firm has also been selected by Alfred Technology Resources, Inc. to design the two incubators for the Ceramics Corridor project in Corning and Alfred, New York.... Michael J. McGowan AIA has joined Douglas Korves Architects as an Associate.... Carmi Bee AIA and Alan Feigenberg, professors at the City College/CUNY School of Architecture, spent three weeks in Cuba last summer leading a group of nine students on a work-study program.... Gruzen Samton Steinglass have announced the promotion of 13 employees. They are Raymond Gunther RA, CSI, Scott Keller AIA, George Luaces AIA, and Gerard Vasisko AIA to associate partners; Endurina Alvarez RA. Jasper Cornett AIA, and Nicholas Lombardo to senior associates; Geoff Doban, John Eilhardt, Ivan Ilyashov RA, Lorraine Maxwell, Susan Millhouse, and Robert Skallerup AIA to associates.... Edgar Tafel FAIA was honored in October when three houses designed by him were open during an architectural tour focusing on "Frank Lloyd Wright and Associates" in Racine, Wisconsin.... Swanke Hayden **Connell Architects** have named Stephen P. King AIA as a Principal of the firm.... Mayers & Schiff Associates were responsible for a \$3 million renovation and conversion of the McMillin Academic Theatre at Columbia University into a functionally and aesthetically modern space now called the Kathryn Bache Miller Theatre (see NYSAA/AIA Awards). ...



Competitions

An international competition for Affordable Elderly Housing in the southern California community of Colton "challenges the international architectural and design community with the opportunity to design and execute 100 dwelling units of senior housing in an historic setting." December 20 is the first stage deadline. For more information: Brian S. Oulman, 714-370-5052.... A Riverboat Center on the Mississippi River in New Orleans is the subject of the 1988-89 AIAS Winter Competition sponsored by the National Roofing Contractors Association. February 17, 1989 is the deadline for submissions. For registration forms: AIAS Headquarters, 1735 New York Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20006.

Call for Proposals

The Department of Studio Arts at the University of Minnesota is seeking proposals for two to four projects to be presented at a national conference on "Art, Architecture, and Engineering: A Blueprint for Change," to be held in Minneapolis, April 13-14, 1989. The theme of the conference is the possiblity for collaboration between visual arts, engineering, architecture, and landscape architecure in the design of public works projects. Projects should be teamdesigned and visually express the concerns of at least two professions. They can be built or unbuilt and those accepted will receive a \$1,000 honorarium. December 15, 1988 is the deadline. For more information: Department of Studio Arts, University of Minnesota, 612-625-8096.

NYC/AIA OCULUS

NYSAA CONVENTION

Chapter Members Take 14 out of 17 NYSAA/AIA Awards



by Lenore M. Lucey AIA

New York Chapter member firms received most of the Design Awards during the Friday evening banquet at the annual New York State Association of Architects Convention, September 23-25, hosted by the Long Island Chapter. Other events included appearances by Robert Caro, author of "The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York"; Francis W. Gencorelli AIA, on the Architect as Developer; Nassau County Executive Tom Gulotta, and AIA President Ted P. Pappas FAIA. The State's Matthew W. Del Gaudio Award, recognizing "outstanding and valuable service to the profession through a leadership role in the state association," was presented this year to Chapter Members Douglas Korves AIA and Randolph R. Croxton AIA for their unstinting dedication to the NYSAA legislative program.

The NYSAA Board of Directors met at a breakfast business session for elections of State officers and Regional Director. The election results found Chapter members Douglas Korves AIA elected as Vice President, Legislative Affairs, and Michael Maas FAIA, elected New York's Regional Director. Other State officers will be Myron Starks AIA, President; Lee Bearsch AIA, President-elect; Ronald Goodstein AIA, Vice President Communications; and Richard Kruter AIA, Secretary Treasurer. Doug will lead the Legislative Task Force, whose members are Randolph R. Croxton AIA, Lee Bearsch AIA, and Martin Schaum, Esq., the State's lobbyist. Michael Maas FAIA fills the Region's second Directorship, and will serve a three-year term along with L. William Chapin II AIA (Rochester), who begins his second year.

NYSAA has announced that the next convention will be September 22-24, 1989 at The Sagamore Hotel, Bolton's Landing, New York. The Sagamore is a grand old resort hotel which has recently been magnificently restored. Plan now for a family vacation in upstate New York early next fall. The concept of a State convention is being actively (some say heatedly) discussed by NYSAA. If you have an opinion, comment, suggestion, or complaint, please send a letter to NYC/AIA, and we will forward it to the Convention Task Force.

by Marian Page





Of the 17 winning designs singled out for the 1988 New York State Association of Architects/AIA Design Awards, 14 were designed by NY Chapter members. Selected from 114 entries, this year's awards were "open to any structure in the State of New York built or renovated within the last five years." Fifteen were selected for excellence in design (of which 13 were by NYC/AIA members) and two for special citation (one of which was by a Chapter member).

In the winning category, the NYC/AIA designs were: Heron Tower (cover) at 70 E. 55 Street by Kohn Pedersen Fox, which was cited by the jury as adding "much interest to the New York scene while remaining part of it." North Castle Horse Farm in Westchester County by Beyer Blinder Belle, of which the jury commented, "the building seems to be as if it always existed." Also by Beyer Blinder Belle, the condominium development combining a new 11-story building at the corner of Greenwich and Chambers Streets with the renovation of three adjacent loft buildings, considered by the jury to be an "inventive



interpretation of an existing building type — the cast-iron building." The Limited (1) on Madison Avenue by the same architects is a reconstruction and addition to the neoclassic Louis Sherry ice cream parlor by McKim, Mead & White constructed in 1928. It was praised by the jury for "the addition of the two-story rooftop greenhouse," which "crowns the street corner and makes this intersection memorable." R.M. Kliment & Frances Halsband's design for a studio house (5) on the grounds of an existing shingle and stone house in Woodstock, New York, was cited for its "careful blend of the right materials, proper scaling of facade components, and the use of prevalent architectural shapes," which "combine to make this building extremely contextual." The North River Water Pollution Control Plant by C. Theodore Long AIA for Associated Engineers was called by the jury a "powerful design, functional and dramatic," which "calls attention to the importance of pollution control." A residential apartment (6) created within a 1,000 square foot top-floor loft space by William







McDonough AIA, was cited for its "glass walls with square window division," which "separate the functional spaces of the apartment but allow daylight to penetrate throughout." The Carnegie Hall restoration and renovation (2) by James Stewart Polshek, said the jury, showed "an incredibly sensitive respect for 'place'." The Kathryn Bache Miller Theater (4) at Columbia University transformed by Mayers & Schiff Associates from a drab lecture hall, aesthetically and functionally inappropriate for artistic presentations. into what the jury called a "new and versatile theater with good backstage and all support spaces... efficiently planned within an existing space." Of the Museum of Modern Art expansion and renovation (7) by Cesar Pelli & Associates, the jury commented. "How wonderful it is to be able to recognize MOMA as we've always known it! The addition and tower are complementary, not in any way demeaning to the original now historic building, while the garden, always a gem, can now be better appreciated by visitors as they ride the escalators in the new glass hall." The



Ambulatory Surgery Center for New Rochelle Hospital Medical Center (3) by Rogers, Burgun, Shahine & Deschler, said the jury "fulfills its design objective by imparting a smaller, more human scale and enhanced degree of detail to the existing hospital surgical wing it serves." The interior design by Robert A.M. Stern Architects for a shingle style house (8) in East Hampton designed in 1924 by Roger Bullard, said the jury, "has been adapted to the needs of the 1980s in a manner that is appropriate and cohesive with this period piece of East Hampton architecture." The Dianne B. Boutique (9) designed by Voorsanger & Mills Associates Architects in a landmark cast iron structure in Soho, was cited by the jury as setting a "new standard in shop design by a subtle and unusual use of materials and details, integral to the design as a whole." Post Expressions, a subsidiary of First Editions Composite (10) in New York, also designed by Voorsanger & Mills, was called a "simple plan," by the jury, which "gains interest through the use of refined details, colors and materials, which are

1987 Peter Aaron ESTC 0 Photo 10

used to explain the interface between people and machines."

The Chapter member who won a citation was William McDonough AIA for Triangle Artists' Workshop 1987, one of three experimental architectural projects sponsored by Peter Palumbo at the 1987 Triangle Artists Workshop in Pine Plains, New York. "The design is neat," commented the jury, "but we also wanted to honor with a citation this experimental collaboration between architects and artists."

The jurors' for this year's NYSAA Awards were: Maria A. Bentel FAIA, Chair; Sarah Harkness FAIA: Robert Steinmetz AIA; and Larry Mitnick RA.



Scholarships Awarded

Over \$21,000 was awarded in September to recipients of the Chapter's Eleanor Allwork Women's Architectural Auxiliary Scholarship. "Allwork" was endowed by a \$250,000 bequest of **Ronald A. Allwork** in memory of his wife who was very active in the Women's Architectural Auxiliary.

New York City residents enrolled in the nine New York State accredited architectural schools are eligible to submit applications. The Chapter sends five applications to each of the metropolitan area schools: City, Columbia, Cooper, NYIT, and Pratt. The four upstate schools: Buffalo, Cornell, RPI, and Syracuse receive one each. The schools select students to receive the basic grants while the supplemental award is a juried competition, judged by the Chapter's Scholarship Committee. All applicants are encouraged to submit a portfolio to be considered for the supplemental award. Members of this year's committee were John Hagmann AIA, Chair, Isaiah Ehrlich AIA, Jeh Johnson AIA, Barbara Neski FAIA, and Herbert Oppenheimer FAIA.

Twenty-six students were awarded basic grants of \$700 each: Paolo Antonini, William Bouchey, Juliann Cannilla, Victor M. Colom, Peter D. Cook, Eric Foss, Francis Frick, Mario Alonzo Gooden, Erica Hinrichs, Donald Keppler, Patrick Lee, Gino Longo, Elizabeth Marmol, Benedict Melendez, Linda Owach, Carey Press, Helen Pocina, Philip Rosenzweig, Lawrence Sass, Steven Seccon, Eugenia Sergentakis, Homa Shojaie, Gerard Sullivan, Rebecca Uss, and Miguel Rivera of Columbia University who was the jury's selection to receive the \$1500 supplemental grant.

The Brunner Committee recently announced this year's call for submission for the **Arnold W. Brunner Grant.** (You received a Call for Entries Poster with your October *Oculus* mailing.) Applications will be received through November 25 for this prestigious \$12,000 award, and the recipient will be announced in February 1989. Recent 'Brunner' recipients include **Suzanne** **Stephens** for a book on architectural criticism in America; **Thomas Schumacher** for a book on Giuseppe Terragni and the culture of Modern Italian architecture; and **Miriam Gusevich's** work on Kitsch in architecture.

The Chapter is also pleased to announce that Daralice D. Boles will chair the Haskell Award for Student Architectural Journalism committee. Established in 1983 by Mrs. Helen Haskell, this award is a national competition juried by architects and journalists. The call for entries will be released in January to schools throughout the country and an award will be made in spring 1989. Daralice D. Boles, one of the first recipients of the award, is currently an editor at Progressive Architecture magazine, and a frequent contributor to the New York Times on architectural issues

1988 Elections

Remember to VOTE on Election Day. The democratic system only works when you do, so stop on your way to the office and cast a ballot.

In local elections we would remind you of the following candidates who are up for re-election and who have been outstanding supporters of architects for many years:

Senate:

Emanuel R. Gold (D-L, Queens) John J. Marchi (R, Richmond) Frank Padavan (R, Queens, Nassau)

Assembly:

Edward Abramson (D, Queens) Samuel Colman (D, Rockland) Alexander B. (Pete) Grannis (D-L, New York) Sheldon Silver (D, New York) Robert A. Straniere (R-C, Staten Island)

Following the elections and the start of the new legislative session we will advise you of NYSAA's 1989 legislative program.

Member Services

Bulletin Board

This file replaces the old headquarters bulletin board, and provides assistance in space and equipment searches. Space - the Chapter maintains this file for those of you looking for space, and who want to rent out excess space. If you want to lease out part of your office send the information, typewritten on a single sheet of paper and dated, to the attention of the Bulletin Board at the Chapter. If you are looking for space, come in and browse through the file. Equipment - same story for equipment. Send in your listing, or come in and browse if you are searching for a specific item of office equipment.

Profile

This is the Institute's all encompassing directory of members and member firms. Profile also contains listings of Emeritus and Fellows, AIA officers, past and present, and historical, and biographical data. A reference copy is available for your use at the Chapter, or you may purchase your own copy. Profile is of invaluable assistance if you are seeking an associate or joint venture partner out of the neighborhood, or just want to check up on a competitor. The Chapter's copy is frequently used by potential individual and corporate clients, marketers of services to architects, and job-seekers.

AIA Publications

Pennsvlvania Avenue: America's Main Street, featuring photographs by Washington photographer Carol M. Highsmith and text by journalist Ted Landphair, has just been published by The American Institute of Architects Press... The A.I.A. Guide to Long Island Architecture has been announced by the Long Island Chapter/ AIA and the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities for publication in 1989. A special pre-publication price (\$3 off the \$12.95 cover price) is being offered by the Long Island Chapter/AIA.

A Professional Opinion

Warning: Membership Lapse

Those members who have yet to complete payment of the convention assessment recently received a letter from Chapter President Martin D. Raab.

The Chapter is in urgent need of funds to meet its convention commitments. We would appreciate prompt payment.

You are reminded that convention assessments are due whether or not you attended the convention and are necessary to the Chapter's financial well being.

Non-payment of the assessment can result in membership lapse.

Encourage your colleagues, employers, member friends... to bring themselves up-to-date.

About our Sponsors

A-J Contracting Co. Inc., is one of the oldest companies in the Metropolitan area specializing in the interior construction of office space, retail environments, and renovations. Since its founding in 1917, the company has been widely regarded as a leader in the field. This reputation is based on its proven ability to provide high quality workmanship and service within the constraints of existing schedules and established budgets. Its commitment to its clients includes not only a dedication to quality but an equal commitment to the fiduciary responsibilities of the Asset Management team. As a result, more than 80 percent of A.J. Contracting's work is developed through referrals from clients and their architects.

by James P. Stuckey

A Growing anti-development trend is emerging across the nation. From Boston to San Francisco, citizens who see development as a powerful threat to their quality of life are voicing their opposition and slow-growth sentiments through the media, the legislature and organized protest groups.

In recent years the trend has grown dramatically. A 1986 survey by Population/Environmental Balance, Inc. discovered 128 communities and large cities that have placed limits on residential, commercial or industrial development. Almost half of these have joined the list since 1980, and 28 in 1986 alone.

Public opposition is mounting out of a concern for the long-term, harmful effects of unchecked development practices. Rapid, random growth overburdens our public utilities and aging infrastructure, as well as congests traffic, worsens air and environmental quality and increases noise pollution. Around the country, other manifestations of anti-development are as varied as the communities in which they are found.

However, categorically restricting physical growth is not the answer. While we must be sensitive to the concerns of the public, we must also realize the grave consequences of over-regulation. In San Francisco, for example, Proposition M of 1986 and other voter referanda have established ceilings for new construction that will effectively slow its growth rate by about 75 percent and, in the long run, threaten the city's economic diversity.

Closer to home, project-specific opposition rising from New York City's established neighborhoods can impede necessary development in less advantaged areas of the city. These blighted communities are starving for good, sensible residential, office, recreational and industrial development that will bring opportunities for economic advancement.

We cannot forget the fundamental rewards of economic development —the new jobs and tax revenues created, the infrastructure improvements built into well planned development projects and the fiscal stability offered by economic diversity. A balance must be sought between the positive effects of growth initiatives and the strong agendas of preservationists and environmental interests.

Government and the development and business communities must provide the sensible and confident leadership that will result in responsible physical growth. Foremost, projects must be planned more effectively, harmonizing public planning goals with the realities of the marketplace. By undertaking in-depth, predevelopment analyses such as the fish samplings, soil borings and aquatic reef studies currently underway in the Hudson and East Rivers-projects can be weighed in terms of problems and opportunities. After studying the effects of a proposed development on traffic and other environmental and community concerns. mitigation efforts can be planned or a development can be modified.

James P. Stuckey is President of The Public Development Corporation (PDC), New York City's agent for commercial and industrial real estate development. PDC's efforts are aimed at strengthening commerce and industry, creating jobs for city residents, and generating tax revenues essential to New York's continued vitality. PDC works throughout the City's five Boroughts – in its sixteen industrial parks, in every major commercial district, and along its vast waterfront.

Reprinted by permission from PDC's newsletter "Public DEVELOPMENTS", Volume 2, September 1988.

Upbeat Licensing Update

Chapter Licensing Policy

by Lenore M. Lucey AIA

Proposed legislation from Interior Designers for Licensing/New York (IDLNY), which would have allowed interior designers to practice architecture without meeting the same rigorous standard that architects are held to, was successfully stopped in the Senate due to the lobbying efforts of the Chapter, the State Association, and the thousands of letters sent by concerned Chapter members and friends. The Assembly, however, voted 97 to 45 for the bill, with 6 members designated absent or excused. The positive Assembly vote, at 5 a.m., does not mean that each of those members are present and in support of the legislation. Any member of the legislature who signed in any time during the day is represented by an automatic "yes" in any vote. A "no" vote has to be cast by physically present members who are opposed to the legislation, and needless to say, pretty dedicated. This was an unusually high proportion of negative votes according to sources in the legislature.

New legislation will undoubtedly be introduced by IDLNY in the next session. We will continue to oppose any additional licensing which would dilute the State's mandate to protect the public's health, welfare, and safety, and will continue to keep you informed through *Oculus* and legislative alerts.

by Lenore M. Lucey AIA

We would remind you again that the New York Chapter/AIA has strongly supported the ability of interior designers to become licensed under the existing law.

Under State Education law governing architects, designers who have appropriate education and experience in the employ of a licensed professional, can apply to take the Architectural Registration Examination (A.R.E.). What does this mean to you? If you are a principal of a firm it means full professional recognition for your designers; the ability to offer equity in the firm, should you so choose; and the satisfaction of your employees in knowing that they are fully a part of the team. If you are an architect employee in a firm, corporation, or in the public sector, it means that many of your friends and associates might now become licensed and potential partners in future endeavors.

It is important to note that you may have to bring this opportunity to the attention of your design staff or the designers you know. Many designers are not aware that they can qualify and may not know how to go about it, what specific office policies are, or what support materials are available. You can make it clear that if they are practicing architecture, they should have the appropriate legal recognition, and that they do not have to fear the examination.

As principals, you can afford the same support to your staff interior design graduates as you offer to your architecture graduates in the licensing process. By suggesting this opportunity to your staff, and providing them with your support and guidance, you stand to be substantially rewarded through a minimal effort. By bringing your designers "into the fold" you can reap the benefits of a more satisfied professional as well as a more cohesive work environment.

As an architect employee, you may need to make this opportunity known to the designers with whom you work. You may want to share your experiences with them, offer to assist them in preparing their credentials for filing with the State, and advise on available study materials.

It would be irresponsible of me not to put in a pitch for AIA membership at this point. Interior designers employed in architecture firms and pursuing licensing under the A.R.E., may qualify for Associate Membership. In addition to the full range of member benefits, the Chapter has inaugurated an Associates Committee, with an ambitious program of events for the year. NYC/AIA also has a very active Interiors Committee, which is invaluable for those professionals specializing in interiors, or those wanting to learn more about this area of the profession. (Designers in private practice have always been welcomed in NYC/AIA's Professional Affiliate membership category.)

Flipping the coin, we also urge all of you whose practices involve interior design to make that clear in your literature. You may also wish to conisder joining the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID). In order to join ASID as a full professional member you must take the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) examination. NCIDQ administers a one and one-half day examination consisting of a full day interior design project and a three and one-half hour multiple choice written portion.

In addition to access to numerous design competitions sponsored by suppliers, which are only open to ASID members, and additional job prospects, ASID membership provides architects with an opportunity to participate in the interior design community's decision making process. Many architects already hold this dual membership; you may want to consider it also.

For information:

A.R.E. (NYS Board): 1-800-342-3792. ASID membership: 212-685-3480. NCIDQ exam applications: 212-473-1188. NYC/AIA membership: 212-838-9670.

Vision 2000: Update

by Lenore M. Lucey AIA

Toxic substances have been a topic of increasing concern for the profession, especially in light of architects inability to obtain liability insurance and/or indemnification. Many of you who work for the City, or who have expressed an interest in being added to the Citv's consultant selection list, have received a letter from the Department of General Services stating a new policy for consultant selection that is asbestos abatement sensitive. The City is requesting that all interested architects state their willingness to do asbestos abatement work prior to being assigned to a consultant selection list. Those willing to accept the inclusion of asbestos abatement, in advance of any knowledge of the scope of the project, would be placed on a "preferential" selection list, and would still be subject to the City's policy to not hold the consultant harmless from the consequences of the design.

The Chapter has taken direct action on this change to the newly implemented consultant selection procedures. Following is the text of the Chapter's position as stated in a letter to Rudolph Rinaldi, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of General Services sent by Chapter President Martin D. Raab FAIA. We will report in December on the results of the meeting.

"We are in receipt of several copies of your letter to various architects regarding new Department of General Services policies for architect selection and feel we must respond in the strongest terms. NYC/AIA has worked with the City, its consultants, and its various departments for many years to develop appropriate qualifications based consultant selection procedures for City work, which have been recently implemented. The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects regrets your newly taken position on architect selection which effectively negates much of what we have both worked for. Requiring each architect to determine, in advance, that they will be willing to undertake asbestos removal responsibility for any City project for which they might ever be considered is verging on holding City work hostage and only adds to the negative environment the City has created in its consultant relations.

"Asbestos removal is a sensitive and complicated aspect of many renovation projects and, as you know, architectural firms cannot obtain insurance coverage for such work. Despite this, many firms, after having been selected for a project, determine that they are willing to undertake the scope of work without insurance. This is a significant decision for a firm, and as such should be based on the specific project for which they have been selected and the terms of that contract.

"Your requirement that firms must decide now if they will be willing to undertake asbestos work, with the promise that in making a decision to do so they will find themselves receiving more favorable selection consideration on City projects, is patently discriminatory and violates all canons so carefully developed in the City's Consultant Selection procedures. It will deprive the City of the professional services of any qualified firm that is unable to accept such a blanket risk.

"We take strenuous opposition to this new requirement, and urge you to seriously reconsider its implementation. Qualifications based selection, with the full parameters of a project scope delineated, should be the basis for the City's consultant selection process that benefits both the City and the profession.

"I would like the opportunity to discuss this further, and would appreciate your call so that we might schedule a meeting."

A copy of the letter was also sent to Deputy Mayor Robert Esnard.

by Marian Page

Architects have a special obligation to the future because their "prophecies are embodied in stone," said Pulitzer Prize-winning author, historian, and educator Dr. Daniel Boorstin, keynote speaker at the AIA's first Vision 2000 conference, The Challenge of Change. The architect, said Dr. Boorstin, "must predict the future. He must consciously build receptacles for new functions." He also cited the importance of preservation to architecture "to help us provide ties to our past."

Addressing the challenge of creating livable cities, Dr. Anthony Downs, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said that "social values of democracies evolve over time," shifting emphasis from self-reliance to selfgratification, as evidenced by drug use by millions of Americans. "Our fragmented local government system" has permitted "a spatial hierarchy of neighborhoods by socio-economic status" that has segregated middle- and upper-income groups from poor and minority groups. Dr. Downs called traffic congestion "an inescapable result of the population's pursuit of three cherished goals: low-density housing, a wide choice of where to live and work, and driving private cars for all trips." He challenged architects to design aesthetically pleasing forms of higher-density living in both residential and commercial areas.

The U.S. can no longer compete with Japan, noted Dr. Amitai Etzioni, one of the country's leading social thinkers, largely because Americans — in their pursuit of pleasure and consumption are less productive than their competitors. "Many problems won't yield to the approach of individuality," he said. "We need a generation that believes in sharing responsibility for life's duties."

Dr. Pat Choate, called by *Newsweek* "the intellectual godfather of the competitiveness issue," criticized America for its 1940s view of the world, including its focus on free trade vs. protectionism, an irrelevant issue today. "If we're rigid and unwilling to give up our moral arrogance, we are guaranteed to be dominated by foreign firms," he said.

Fiftieth Anniversary, 1938-1988

cont'd from p. 5

recognizing the right of a community to zone for aesthetic protection. By combining a respect for past construction with a concern for adjacent construction, he said the look of our cities would improve."

December 1955: "How to Build a Better-Looking New York," the subject of a series of programs at Cooper Union, took up such topics as "City Planning for 2000 A.D.," "The Legal and Real Estate Problem," "The Forgotten Pedestrian," "The Relation of Big Buildings to Each Other," "Historical Building, Landmarks and Monuments," "The Master Plan and Zoning."

May 1956: "Two distinguished architects" lectured in New York during the past month, reports Oculus. Richard J. Neutra, who "addressed a throng of over 600 architects and students.... discussed the influence of architecture on the biological, psychological and physical make-up of a human being and how architecture can stimulate one's each and every action...." Pier Luigi Nervi, the second visitor, addressed a "large lecture hall full of student and practicing architects and engineers" while showing slides of his work. Of the latter, reports Oculus, "Although his structure's economy was the thing that permitted them to be built, Mr. Nervi's sensitiveness to form, to space, to texture is apparent in every piece of his work. Even delivering his talk in Italian...Mr. Nervi impressed his audience with his great simplicity and modesty...."



Oculus, Volume XVII, No. 3, December 1955

December 1956: "As 1956 draws to a close, the American Institute of Architects concludes its lst 100 years. Founded in New York City by 13 architects back in 1857 the Institute has now grown to 122 chapters and 10 State organizations serving the whole of the U.S. and its possessions."

January 1957: A "Historical Sketch on Founding of the American Institute of Architects 1857-1957" concludes with the announcement that a bronze Commemorative plaque designed by McKim, Mead & White was to be installed on the building at 111 Broadway, which replaced Trinity Building designed by Richard Upjohn in 1851, and site of the first meeting of the American Institute of Architects.

February 1957: Brief biographies of the 13 founders of the AIA are included along with some highlights of New York City in 1857, which "officially included only Manhattan Island; population, 700,000....There were thirty-one states in the Union....the half-cent was abolished as a coin....Nagasaki, Japan was opened to foreign trade....One hundred years later, the population of New York City has increased 800%, New York State 400%, the United States 600%, the A.I.A. almost 100,000%."

March 1957: Oculus wonders if Chicago's Robie House can be saved. Also in this issue an Editors Note says "This publication, The Oculus, has a limited scope. Its point of view is strictly professional; its audience is the Chapter membership. It is not 'newsy' because it appears — thank God! — only once a month whereas news sensations wither overnight. It is not a company 'house organ' since it does not promote a commercial policy emanating from some brass hats. All it can hope to do is record and inform its small readership of pertinent events and opinions within and without the Chapter's confines...."

February 1958: "The sidewalks of New York now total more than 6000 miles — twice the distance from New York to San Francisco. Mapped streets absorb over 27 percent of the City's gross land area. Manhattan has the highest percentage (almost 40 percent) of its



Oculus, Volume XIX, No. 4, January 1957

normally developed area in these streets...New York City maintains 34,246 acres of park lands including over 9,000 acres of boating, bathing and fishing facilities. This park acreage represents more than 10% of the total area of New York City and is well above the average park area of other cities throughout the country...These facts on our City were recently uncovered by studies by the Department of City Planning and the Park Department."

March 1958: "The New York Chapter, Architectural League and New York Society of Architects are jointly sponsoring an exhibition of the work of Negro Architects to be held at the Architectural League...."

May 1958: "This past month the Federal Government has rejected all bids for the purchase of Ellis Island. As a result the New York Chapter of the A.I.A. urged that the Island should be retained as either a Federal or Municipal property for the use of 'New York, its citizens and all Americans'...."

to be continued

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OCULUS NYC/AIA NOV88

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.

CONTINUING EVENTS

EXHIBITION

Coop Himmelblau. Models and drawings by the Austrian architectural firm. Max Protetch, 560 Broadway. 966-5454. Closes Nov. 5.

EXHIBITION

Emerging European Architects. Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. 100 Level, Avery Hall. 280-3414. Closes Dec. 9.

EXHIBITION

Architecture on Paper: A Decade of Acquisitions includes about 100 architectural drawings, books, and prints acquired by the Metropolitan Museum of Art during the past 10 years. Metropolitan Museum. 879-5500. Closes Jan. 8.

EXHIBITION

Erich Mendelsohn: 1887-1953. Cooper-Hewitt Museum. 860-6868. Closes Jan. 8.

WEDNESDAY 2

CONSTRUCTION SEMINARS

Unit Price Estimating; Square Foot Cost Estimating; and Avoiding & Resolving Construction Claims (Nov. 2-3). Westchester Marriott Hotel, Tarrytown, NY. 617-585-7880.

LECTURE

Judith Rohrer on "Regionalism and Modernism in Gaudi's Barcelona." Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. 6:30 pm. Wood Auditorium, Avery Hall. 280-3414.

SATURDAY 5

NYC/AIA ARCHITCTURAL HERITAGE BALL. In celebration of Heritage, Preservation, Scholarship. 7:30 pm. The Grand Ballroom, Plaza Hotel.

MONDAY 7

SHAPE OF THE CITY Carl Pucci & Ben Benedict of Bumptoid discuss the challenges and problems of their work, in series moderated by Paul Goldberger. 92nd Street Y. 427-6000.

TUESDAY 8

ARCHITECTS-IN-TRAINING First of NYC/AIA's course for interns with Randolph Croxton and Alan Schwartzman introducing the series. 6-8 pm. The Urban Center. 838-9670.

WEDNESDAY 9

LECTURE

Jan Henriksson, Prof. of Architecture, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, on "Peter Celsing: Swedish Architect." 6:30 pm. Columbia GSAPP, Wood Auditorium, Avery Hall. 280-3414.

THURSDAY 10

EXHIBITION

Gaetano Pesce. Max Protetch, 560 Broadway. 966-5454. Closes Jan. 7.

CONSTRUCTION CLAIMS

International Construction Claims and the Law (Nov. 10-11). Continuing Education Center, Rutgers, Clifton Ave., New Brunswick, NJ. To register: 201-932-4454.

FRIDAY 11

IALD AWARDS DINNER

The International Association of Lighting Designers 6th annual lighting design awards dinner. Willard Inter-Continental Hotel, Washington, DC. 206-1281.

MONDAY 14

CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

1988 Focus on Asbestos: The Multi-Conference Event (Nov. 14-18). Sponsored by Hall-Kimbrell Environmental Services in conjunction with Environmental Search, Inc. Cervantes Convention Center, St. Louis. For more information: 800-445-0682.

TUESDAY 15

NYC/AIA OPEN MEETING Update on Local Law 58, sponsored by the Housing Committee (see Coming Chapter Events). 6 pm, The Urban Center. 838-9670.

ARCHITECTS IN TRAINING Second of NYC/ALA's course for interns with Terrance Williams discussing Public Agencies. 6-8 pm. The Urban Center. 838-9670.

WEDNESDAY 16

NIBS CONFERENCE

Annual conference of the National Institute of Building Sciences. Washington, DC. For information: Dean Phelus 202-347-5710.

CIB AWARDS DINNER

Terrace on the Park, Flushing Meadows. For more information: Ernest Trolio 302-6650.

LECTURE

Marcel Smets, prof. of Urban Planning, Leuven Univ., Belgium, on "The Belgian Reconstruction after World War I: An Analogous Interpretation of Local Architectural History." 6:30 pm. Columbia GSAPP, Wood Auditorium, Avery Hall 280-3414.

FRIDAY 18

ARCHI AWARDS BANQUET Long Island Chapter/AIA. For more information: 516-294-0971.

TUESDAY 22

ARCHITECTS-IN-TRAINING Third of NYC/AIA's course for interns with Paul Segal on Design and Technical Production. 6-8 pm. The Urban Center. 838-9670.

MONDAY 28

PYRAMID

Premiere of the PBS special about Ancient Egypt based on architect-author David Macaulay's award-winning book. AIA is among the funders. Channel 13. To check time: 560-3000 between 10 am and 3 pm.

TUESDAY 29

ARCHITECTS-IN-TRAINING Fourth of NYC/AIA's course for interns with John Winkler discussing Players and Roles on a Project; the Owner, Architect, Consultants, Contractor, Construction Manager. The Urban Center. 838-9670.

WEDNESDAY 30

VERMONT GRANITE SYMPOSIUM

Sponsored by the University of Vermont & Barre Granite Association, Nov. 30-Dec. 3. Keynote address by Malcolm Holzman. 802-276-3120.

LECTURE

Fay Jones, architect, Fayetteville, Arkansas, on "Principles of Organic Architecture." 6:30 pm, Columbia GSAPP, Wood Auditorium, Avery Hall. 280-3414. The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects is grateful to the following for their sponsorship of OCULUS A-J Contracting Co., Inc. **Carnegie Fabrics** Domestic Marble & Stone Facilities Resources Inc. Furniture Consultants, Inc. **GE** Lighting Herbert Construction Company International Contract Furnishings Inc. Maharam/Vertical Surfaces Metalform, Inc. Morse/Diesel Inc. National Reprographics O & Y (U.S. Development Corp., L.P.) Park Tower Realty Corp. Thomas C. Baer, Inc. Tishman Construction Corp. Tobron Office Furniture Corporation Torcon **Turner** Construction Company Waldner's - The Office Showcase Wilsonart

Wolf-Gordon Inc.