Renovation and addition by Rafael Vinoly Architects to a former high school, now the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. See article inside on prototypical schools. Photo by Stan Ries.
COMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Tuesday, February 7. The Committee for Architecture in Education is sponsoring a seminar on the NYC Board of Education's Prototype School Program. The discussion will be moderated by Ben Graves, Hon. AIA, vice president of the Academy for Educational Development, and director, Educational Facilities Laboratories Division. Rose Diamond, Ken Karpel and Traksh Nair of the NYC Board of Education will explain what they hope to achieve in time and cost savings with prototypes. James Garretson AIA of Perkins & Will, and Peter Samton FAIA of Gruzen Samton Steinglass will discuss their work on primary schools for 600 and 900 students. Ezra Ehrenkrantz FAIA of the Ehrenkrantz Group & Eckstut will talk about their prototype for 1200 primary school students and Richard Dattner FAIA of Richard Dattner Architect will present his firm’s work on intermediate schools for 1200 and 1800 students. 5:30 pm. The Urban Center.

Tuesday, February 21. The Religious Architecture Committee is presenting the first of a series of lectures called “Sacred Architecture: Places for Worship.” (See also page 13.) Norman Jaffe AIA, Gunnar Birkerts FAIA, and E. Fay Jones FAIA will present slides of their work and lecture on the specific qualities that help make some places of worship more sacred than others. Mr. Jaffe will present slides of his most recent project, Gates of the Grove in East Hampton, for which he has received IFFRAA’s 1988 Award of Merit, NYSAIA/AIA 1988 Honor Award, and LI/AIA 1988 Merit Award. Gunnar Birkerts, who has designed religious buildings in the U.S. and Europe, has been described by Norman Jaffe as the “master of the unexpected, one of the few architects left who still designs in the Saarinen tradition, and whose designs are radical, improvisatory, adroit and facile.” Mr. Jones’s designs have been published in Architecture and are of interest for their lightness of form, clarity of structure, and sacred quality. 6 pm. The Urban Center. For reservations: 838-9670. The series will continue on March 21, April 18, and May 23.

Thursday, February 23. The Chapter, ADPSR, and the Architectural League are cosponsoring a lecture and slide presentation by Vzacheslav Glazychev, VP USSR Union of Architects, on contemporary architecture in the Soviet Union. Mr. Glazychev is an erudite and interesting speaker on current soviet architecture (lecture in English). 6 pm. The Urban Center.
PROTOTYPE SCHOOLS

Are prototype schools a “design trend?” The attention being given the approach in New York City may well be the start of a national trend as districts with increasing enrollments look to prototype schools as a way of saving time and money. It is a trend which has occurred before, sometimes under different names.
Prototype School Program:
New York City Board of Education Background

by NYC:BOE

A need was identified to develop a Citywide plan to relieve the severe overcrowding in CSD #6, Manhattan (Washington Heights, Inwood), CSD #10, Bronx (North of 180th Street, West of Bronx River Parkway); CSD #24 Queens (Elmhurst, Corona), and CSD #17 Brooklyn (Prospect Park, Crown Heights).

Existing city process for planning, site acquisition, programming, design, and construction for a new school required an 8-10 year time frame; with each of the following sequential steps:

| Site selection | 3 years |
| Programming    | 1 year  |
| Design         | 2-3 years |
| Construction   | 2-3 years |
| **Total**      | **8-10 years** |

Mayor's Task Force formed to streamline intra-city agency site acquisition process. By July 1, 1987, 20 new school sites were identified. To date, seven have received certification, 12 are awaiting certification, and one has completed Uniform Land Use Review Process (ULURP).

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) agrees to Board of Education's request to fund design simultaneously with site acquisition.

Concept of prototype developed by the Division of School Buildings for the design of a school for a given capacity, which could be adapted to a variety of sites. RFPs for consultant selection written for the following:

- 600 student primary school expandable to 900 students
- 1200 student primary school
- 1200 student intermediate school expandable to 1800 capacity.

Four architectural firms selected as follows:

- Perkins and Will
  P600/900 capacity, CSD #10, Bronx
  Sites: Washington Avenue-P600
  La Fontaine-P600
  Walton Avenue-P900

- Gruzen Samton Steinglass
  P600/900 capacity, CSD #6, Manhattan
  Sites: Amsterdam/160th-P600
  Broadway/204th-P600
  Sherman Creek-P900

- The Ehrenkrantz Group and Eckstut
  P1200/1800 capacity
  Sites: Poyer/Barnwell, CSD #24, Queens
  Webster Avenue, CSD #10, Bronx
  Loring Place, CSD #10, Bronx

- Richard Dattner Architect
  P1200/1800 capacity
  Sites: Parkside/Nostrand Avenues, CSD #17 Brooklyn
  Hillyer/Ireland, CSD #24, Queens
  Jumel Place, CSD #6, Manhattan
Prototype Schools:  
A Design Trend?

by Ben E. Graves

Are prototype schools a “design trend?”

The attention being given the approach in New York City may well be the start of a national trend as districts with increasing enrollments look to prototype schools as a way of saving time and money. It is a trend which has occurred before, sometimes under different names.

More than 25 years ago, for instance, there was a “stock plan” approach for the State of New York. Architects were assigned schools to design such as an elementary school for 750 pupils on an urban site, a high school for 1,500 students on a rural site, and a high school for 2,500 students on a 50-acre suburban site. To my knowledge no schools were constructed in New York State from these stock plans.

In the early 1960s the Educational Facilities Laboratories (EFL) was instrumental in the development of variation on the theme of prototype schools. The program, which started in California, was called the School Construction Systems Development (SCSD) project and received worldwide attention. Ezra Ehrenkrantz FAIA, a leading exponent and developer of SCSD and one of the architects in the current New York program described the concept: “The basis of this approach was organizing to meet a given set of requirements, and to find the best way to meet each of the performance requirements of buildings with respect to space, acoustics, thermal conditions, luminous environment, and so forth. We developed a system of performance, and not a system of hardware. This meant new products could be developed by different manufacturers (i.e., roof, ceiling/lighting, partitioning, floor, structure, casework, HVAC) and be put on the market to compete with those which were successful in the original SCSD bids. These products have now entered the mainstream, and are part of the general practice.” This quote is from an interview in the April 1969 issue of Nation’s School. The SCSD influence is apparent in the Ehrenkrantz design solution for his prototypical school.

Some architects embraced the SCSD approach and philosophy. Others had concern for anything termed “systems,” which they felt could reduce their freedom. Ehrenkrantz maintained that SCSD actually added to the level of choice of an architect and that SCSD components “...have entered the mainstream of architectural practice, whether the architects are pro system or against it.”

Richard Dattner FAIA, one of the architects involved in the current prototype school project for New York, reminds us in the introduction to his pre-schematic report, that there are numerous historic precedents to the problem of standardizing construction “…covering the spectrum from the most rigid repetitive systems to prototypes allowing for a great deal of variation. The inflexible standard is demonstrated by the thousands of barracks built by the Army during two World Wars in locations...”
Prototype Schools

Model of Loring Place, Bronx, by The
Ehrenkrantz Group and Eckstut.

all over the United States. While reflecting some regional diversity to account for climate, thousands of versions of each prototype were replicated across the landscape.

Gruzen Samton Steinglass, in their introductory submission, also address precedents "...Prepackaged structural and mechanical systems, as exemplified by Habitat, Operation Breakthrough or even the SCDR school systems have all failed in their early promise...We propose to be more modest and thereby allow for the easier introduction and incorporation of innovations, whether technical, pedagogic or political."

The current New York program is concerned with reducing time—design, approvals, construction—and cost, while maintaining quality and appropriateness to the educational program. Four nationally-recognized architects were selected and each given a program and up to four sites with the charge to design a prototype school that could be adapted to the restrictions of each site.

A Value Engineering Study was conducted by the New York City Office of Management and Budget. The primary object of the VE study was to analyze the program of requirements and to make recommendations to achieve the most cost-effective project. Ensuring the adaptability of the designs to various sites was a secondary objective. Another concern was to suggest ways to minimize the time-frame for the design and construction of the new schools.

There are a number of other considerations that pertain to the subject of prototypical school buildings.

- Will better environments for learning result?
- Recognizing the realities of the New York construction industry, will real savings result from prototype design?
- Will time be saved by prototype design if the numerous independent reviews now required are not changed?
- How does the prototype effort relate to the recently created New York School Construction Authority?
- With site restrictions, does program suffer as space is compromised to fit the "system?"
- Does the tendency to design blocks of space open the possibility of forcing program to fit a module?
- Does the prototypical approach restrict design creativity resulting in "cookie cutter" schools?
- Can prototypical designs respond to different community concerns and characteristics?

In conclusion, it is significant that two of the architects began their presentations to the Value Engineering team with remarks about their design philosophies and their concern for the statement any building makes to the community in which it is located. One architect indicated he was deeply influenced by a particularly well-designed fire station adjacent to one of his sites. Another architect identified the importance of relating to a community college campus. This concern is reflected in remarks by architect C. William Brubaker (Perkins & Will) in the 1968 book *The Schoolhouse in the City*: "In sharp contrast to the suburban school, which stands alone, unaffected by its neighbors, the urban school does not stand alone and is strongly influenced by neighboring buildings that help create the urban environment. This fact suggests that the city school should be planned with other urban facilities, and should be closely related to streets, parks, community social and cultural facilities, as well as commercial and government facilities."

No matter what the approach, we would be selling the design professionals short if we assume they would permit the process to overshadow what they are trained to do—design appropriate environments for the users, in this case urban children seeking an education.
Exhibitions

Frederick Kiesler, a retrospective at the Whitney Museum of American Art through April 16, highlights the work of this architect educated in the Secessionist milieu of turn of the century Vienna. Included in the exhibition are drawings, sculptures, architectural plans and models, furniture, and paintings by the Romanian-born architect, who for more than 30 years was engaged in exploring his theory of continuity through the design and planning of the never realized Endless House. A full-scale reconstruction of Kiesler’s famous L + T installation system for gallery exhibitions, and the Surrealist room he designed for Peggy Guggenheim’s Art of This Century gallery, as well as a video reconstruction of the utopian City in Space, a de Stijl environment for the 1925 Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes in Paris, are included in the exhibition.

The Architectural League is presenting Jože Plečnik: Architect, 1872-1957, the first retrospective of the Slavic architect’s work at the Urban Center Galleries through February 25. Included are examples of his designs in decorative arts and furniture as well as his architecture and urban design.

Plečnik’s architectural career began at the turn of the century in Vienna where he was a student and employee of Otto Wagner. His built work, primarily in Vienna, Prague, and his home city of Ljubljana in Yugoslavia, is distinguished by a rigorous and highly personal design ethic. Plečnik felt that architecture must transmit a social and moral message that could be directly understood by the public. To this end, he employed both classical and regional design elements, their union assuring a link between this message and the users of his buildings.
The Whitney Museum of American Art has unveiled a third proposal by Michael Graves FAIA for the expansion of the Museum’s building on Madison Avenue. The new proposal is more abstract and less Gravesian than the earlier ones. Moreover it doesn’t try so hard to be part of the Breuer building (see Oculi, April 1987). The previous cylindrical hinge that connected the proposed expansion to the Breuer building has been removed allowing the distinctive Breuer stairway to remain visible and the new addition to keep its distance. Whereas the rooftop addition of the new proposal has been reduced to a more appropriate and less overpowering size, the new design of the addition plus the existing building, contain a total of 184,410 gross square feet, a little more than the 183,660 square feet total of the prior design. The basic space allocations also remain essentially the same.

The new proposal will come up for approval by the Landmarks Preservation Commission in the spring.
Ellerbe Becket, with design principals Peter Pran AIA, Carlos Zapata, and B. Wayne Fishback, won the international architecture competition for the $80 million Schibsted-Ditten Newspapers Headquarters in Oslo, Norway. The project was also cited by Progressive Architecture for a Design Award last month. Christopher T. Cowan AIA, Charles Ayes AIA, Peter G. Bachmann AIA, have been named associates of Conklin Rossant Architects. Peter Gisolfi Associates of Hastings-on-Hudson are overseeing the restoration of the University Club at Fifth Avenue and 54 Street. Designed by McKim, Mead & White (1897-99) in the Italian Renaissance palazzo tradition, the building was designated a New York City Landmark in 1967. The engineering firm of Atkinson Koven Feinberg has recently been formed to provide mechanical, electrical, sanitary and control systems consulting engineering services for the design of new and renovated buildings. Andrew Alpern AIA was a member of the jury chaired by Seymour B. Durst, which selected the 16 New Yorkers who are being posthumously honored in "The Creators of New York," a photographic exhibition sponsored by the Real Estate Board of New York. It can be seen in the Pan Am Building Promenade through February. William S. Wheeler has been made an associate of Butler Rogers Basket. Two Chapter members, Warren Temple Smith AIA and Jennifer Deanne Fier AIA, won first prize in the Affordable Housing Competition sponsored by Connecticut architects and planners to design housing for a model site in Greenwich (announced in Oculus, September 1988, pg. 7). Selected from 50 entries, the jury called the Fier-Smith entry "a great example of high density housing without crowding the space" and "the most architecturally distinguished." Glen Garrison AIA, Chairman of the AIA National Committee on Design in 1988, served as a member of the AIA Institute Honors Jury for 1989 Awards. He is with the firm of Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates. Howard B. Stussman has been named editor-in-chief of Engineering News Record (ENR). He succeeds Art Fox in that position. Abraham Geller FAIA, architect of Cinema 1 and 2 on Third Avenue above 56 Street, which opened in 1962, has overseen a $3 million renovation of the two theaters and the addition of a third small facility called Cinema Third Avenue. The latter is tucked into the Cinema 1 and 2 premises. The First Edition Restaurant in Bayside, New York, designed by M. J. Macaluso & Associates, was awarded the first prize bronze plaque for design excellence by the Queens Chamber of Commerce Building Awards. The Building Congress is seeking architects to serve on a new Building Code Review Committee. Contact: Harold I. Thropp 212-982-1410. From Street to Skyscraper," the working title of an exhibition on the architectural history of lower Manhattan, is being planned by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and the South Street Seaport to open in April 1990. The exhibition is to be accompanied by a guide to lower Manhattan buildings, lectures, walking tours, and programs for school children. Richard A. Fox and Fredric M. Bell AIA have been named partners of WBTL. The Eggers Group were the designers of the Lanvin Boutique at 872 Madison Avenue in collaboration with the Paris-based architecture firm Agence d'Architecture Agasse-Beauvais. Edgar Tafel FAIA has been made a member of the Taliesin Council of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation. Bonsignore Brignati & Mazzotta Architects have announced the following additions to their staff. Leena Kipp and John Fleming as senior associates; Maurice Restrepo and Dan Jacoby AIA as associates; and Christine Graziano as vice president of the BBM Services Corporation. Two office buildings designed by Herbert Beckhard Frank Richlan & Associates have been completed on a 26-acre site in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. They are the first of five 62,000 square foot office buildings for the Sylvan Corporate Center. The Rambusch Company has completed its renovation of the side chapel in Saint Bartholomew's Church. The refurbishing included the stained glass windows, mosaic floors in the sanctuary, limestone capitals, the gilded wood beams and ceilings. The office of Peter W. Charapko Architect has begun construction on an expansion of the West End Collegiate Church in Manhattan built in 1891 from the designs of architect R.W. Gibson. Jeffrey L. Raven, associate member of the AIA, represented the U.S. at the US-USSR Emergency Leaders Summit: Commission on Urban Development and Administration in Philadelphia in December. Architects Michael McDonough AIA, Ross Anderson, Frederic Schwartz AIA and Frederick Biehle, a recent architecture fellow at the American Academy in Rome, are among the designers, architects, artists, and photographers whose work is included in a collection of "Grand Windows" displayed throughout Grand Central Terminal through February 28. The Terminal — its spirit, its iconography, and its architecture" is the show's theme. Eric Dinhoesch, Associate Professor of Architecture at MIT, is leading an exclusive Soviet-American Architecture Conference in Russia, April 16-30. The focus will be on "Architecture in the USSR: Discovering..."
Competition, calls for exterior, interior, or specialty construction incorporating PC Glass Block products as a central design element in residential or commercial applications. Architects, interior designers, and architecture students are eligible. April 28, 1989 is the deadline for entries. For more information: 800-992-5769 ... The Architecture, Planning and Design Program of the NYS Council on the Arts has announced the third year in its “Sponsored Projects” category. Grants of up to $10,000 will be available for architects, designers, and scholars to realize specific projects, which advance the field and contribute to the public's understanding of the design environment. The program is particularly interested in innovative ideas being explored outside of traditional practice. Projects may relate to any of the program's funding categories, and to any of the eleven disciplines it covers including architecture, architectural history, landscape architecture, urban and rural planning, urban design, historic preservation, graphic design, industrial design, interior design, and architectural documentation. Preference will be given to residents of New York State and/or projects that clearly and directly benefit New York State residents. Applicants must be sponsored by a non-profit organization. The Architecture program staff will assist individuals in identifying an appropriate group, but this must be decided before submitting an application. March 1, 1989 is the deadline for applications. For further information: 212-614-2962.

2.
its Common Sources and Regional Varieties.” Visits to Moscow, Leningrad, and the Central Asian region of the Soviet Union is on the agenda. The deadline for registration is February 15, 1989. For more information: 800-541-1345 ... “Architectural Artisanry: Preservation in Design” is the title of a symposium to be held at Southeastern Massachusetts University in North Dartmouth, March 17-18. It “will address the professional, economic, and educational needs of artists, artisans, and draftspersons who work in the fields of architecture, historic preservation, contemporary construction, and public art.” For registration information: 508-999-8046 ... Oculus regrets the death at 84 of Isamu Noguchi, whose interest in the relationship between sculpture and architecture is exemplified by his work in this country and abroad. His 1968 “Red Cube” in front of the Marine Midland Bank at 140 Broadway is a modern New York City landmark.

1. Ellerbe Becket prize-winning design for Schibsted-Ditten Newspapers Headquarters in Oslo, Norway.
2. Renovated chapel of Saint Bartholomew’s Church.

Competitions
February 10, 1989 is the deadline for entries in the 25th Bard Awards for Excellence in Architecture and Urban Design. Sponsored by the City Club of New York, they are intended to be “awards for projects with architectural distinction, a public purpose and a conscience.” Projects executed anywhere in the five boroughs and completed after January 1, 1987, are eligible. Entries should be received by 4 pm, February 10, at the City Club of New York, 33 West 42 Street, NYC 10036. Lee Harris Pomeroy FAIA and John Ellis AIA are Bard Awards co-chairmen ... A National Peace Garden is the subject of an open, one-stage design competition sponsored by a California-based private citizens’ organization and funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. The site is a four-acre area on Hains Point, the southern tip of East Potomac Park along the Potomac River and two and a half miles south of the National Mall area of the capital. The competition is open to artists, architects, landscape architects, who are citizens or bona fide permanent residents of the U.S. May 26, 1989 is the closing date for registration. Designs will be due on August 25. For more information and registration forms: Paul D. Spreiregen FAIA, Professional Advisor, Peace Garden Design Competition, P.O. Box 27558, Washington, DC 20038-7558 ... Architectural Record has announced its second annual In the Public Interest Awards program aimed at encouraging and recognizing excellence in the design and planning of public architecture. This year Record’s editors have selected Recreational Buildings as the type of entries solicited from architects, private developers, government agencies, private/public development consortiums, and community design centers for building projects completed during the past three years. May 1, 1989 is the deadline for postmarking entries. Winning entries will be featured in the November 1989 Issue of Architectural Record. For more information: Paul Sachner at 212-512-3088 ... PC Glass Block, Pittsburgh Corning’s second Annual Architectural Awards

Request for Proposals
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District, is requesting proposals for a $5 to $10 million project to design and construct 100 new family housing units at Fort Drum, New York. Anyone interested in the project (#DACA 65-89-R-0007) should contact: District Engineer, Norfolk District, Corps of Engineers, Attention Contracts Branch, 803 Front Street, Norfolk, VA 23510-1096. Proposals must be completed and submitted by February 21, 1989.
NYC/AIA Architects
Renovate the World

NYC/AIA member firms represented over 20% of the December 1988 issue of Commercial Renovation magazine listing of "The 1988 Premier Renovation Architects." Of fifty firms listed (with at least one interior design firm), the following were singled out (ranking):

Gensler and Associates/Architects (1)
Ellerbe Becket (2)
Swanke Hayden Connell Architects (4)
Beyer Blinder Belle (8)
Walker Group/CNI (10)
Bonsignore, Brignati & Mazzotta, P.C. (14)
STV/Michael Lynn & Associates (16)
HLW (Haines Lundberg Waehler) (22)
Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum (HOK) (27)
Brennan Beer Gorman/Architects (37)

In addition, William A. Hall Partnership was recognized as one of eight firms expected to exceed $2 million in billings in 1989.

Also, thirty Chapter sustaining member firms were listed in the Crain's top architecture firms by billings in New York in their year-end "top Business Lists" issue.

Committees

Over 640 members have signed up for appointments to the Chapter's Committees this year — but there is still time for you to join them and make a difference. If you have lost (or otherwise ignored) the committee preference sheet, check the list below of Committees and their Chairs, then call the Chapter office to become an active member.

Architects in Development: Fereshich Bekhrad
Architects in Education: Carl Hauser AIA
Architecture Dialogue: Edward Mills AIA

Architecture for Education: Frederic Bell AIA
Art & Architecture: Robert Landsman AIA
Associates: François de Menil
Communications in the Built Environment: Leslie Blum AIA
Computer Applications: Tomas Hernandez
Corporate Architects: Judith Solomon AIA
Design Awards Programs: Michael Goldberg AIA & Jackie Welsh AIA
Exhibits: L. Bradford Perkins AIA
Historic Buildings: Johnathan Butler AIA
Housing: John Ellis AIA
Interiors: Theodore Hammer AIA
Professional Affiliates: (no chair)
Professional Practice: Jack Suben, AIA; Wallace Berger AIA; & Ira Grandberg AIA
Public Architects: Jerry Maltz AIA
Public Relations: (no chair)
Public Sector Contracts: Michael Resnner AIA
Religious Architecture: William E. Gati AIA
Visitors: Peter Heerens AIA
Zoning: Michael Parley AIA

Internal Revenue Code
Section 89

In 1986, Congress passed the Tax Reform Act which added Section 89 to the Internal Revenue Code. This Section will affect every employer (regardless of size) who provides a Life, Accident, Health, or other statutory employee welfare benefit plan. Compliance with the requirements of Section 89 becomes mandatory for plan years beginning after December 31, 1988.

The intent of Section 89 is to encourage employers to offer the same or comparable coverage to all employees (in essence, prohibiting the discrimination of benefits in favor of highly compensated employees) and ensure that employees are able to receive benefits from the plan. A secondary intent is to raise revenues through additional tax income, via penalties for non-compliance.

Section 89 imposes both "qualification testing" and "nondiscrimination testing" requirements on each employer for all employer provided benefit plans, and there are severe tax penalties for a firm's failure to comply with these requirements. Compliance with Section 89 is strictly the responsibility of each employer.

This information represents the tenets of Section 89 in very simple terms. Because of the complexity of the law, including the absence of final IRS regulations and interpretations, you may wish to contact your tax advisor for guidance in making the required good faith effort to be in compliance with this law.

Stephen Suggs
Joins Chapter Staff

We welcome Stephen Suggs as the Chapter's new Bookkeeper. Steve joined us in late December and is the person you should talk to directly on invoicing and dues matters.

Steve joins us from the Lamb's Manhattan Church of the Nazarene where he was Business Administrator. His extensive background in not-for-profit institution finances, as well as a BFA from Auburn, will well serve the Chapter.

Stephen lives in Weehawken, New Jersey, with his wife Joyce and their daughter Molly.

Corrections

Our apologies to Jean Carlton Parker AIA whose last name was inadvertently omitted from Oculus's announcement of her being made a new partner of Buttrick White & Burtis (December issue, pg. 8).

Apologies also to Richard Dattner FAIA, whose Fellowship was not acknowledged in the January issue.
James P. Cramer Appointed Executive Vice-President of AIA

The Board of Directors confirmed the appointment of James P. Cramer, Hon. AIA, to the senior staff position of the Institute at its December meeting. Cramer, President of the American Architectural Foundation and Deputy EVP of the Institute, succeeds Louis L. Marines who recently announced his resignation.

As President of the Foundation, Jim has guided the development of the Institute's public outreach efforts and held direct responsibility for the Octagon Museum and historic house. As Deputy EVP he has served as publisher of Architecture magazine and provided general assistance to the Executive Vice President in the management of AIA operations. He has served on the adjunct faculties of the University of Minnesota Graduate School, Harvard University, the University of Maryland, and the University of Wisconsin; as an architectural advisor to several Fortune 500 companies; and as a consultant on the design and education programs of the Mott Foundation. Cramer is a former executive vice president of the Minnesota Society of Architects and has served on the AIA Board of Directors as chairman of the Council of Architectural Component Executives (CACE). He pursued his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Northern State College, The College of St. Thomas, and the University of Minnesota; and post-graduate studies at the Wharton School of Business of the University of Pennsylvania.

Cramer is a Certified Association Executive (CAE), and an active member of the American Society of Association Executives, the Magazine Publishers Association, and the Greenway Civic Association. Jim and his wife Corinne reside in McLean, Virginia with sons Ryan and Austin.

More on Asbestos

by David Castro-Bianco AIA

Last August some 500 local architectural and engineering firms received a letter from the Department of General Services, under the signature of the Deputy Commissioner, Rudolph Rinaldi, stating that the City of New York wanted to simplify its procedures and accelerate the process of construction. One of the obstacles to this simplification was the multiplicity of consultants that are necessary to remove asbestos in city-owned buildings, the letter stated. Therefore the Department of General Services was looking for firms that would agree to assume the responsibility for asbestos abatement incidental to larger projects. Those firms would be placed on a "preferred" list and would be called upon for major projects, which might require asbestos removal incidental to the scope of the design work.

When brought to the attention of the Executive Committee of the Chapter, the letter naturally caused concern, not because of the asbestos issue, which the Committee felt was a decision that each firm must make on its own, but because the creation of a "preferred" list effectively negated the uniform consultant selection procedures, which architects and engineers had worked out with the Mayor's Office of Construction after years of negotiation. In response to Chapter President Marty Raab's letter expressing the Executive Committee's "strenuous opposition" to the new policy, Mr. Rinaldi wrote that his earlier letter had been misunderstood and offered to meet with a small group to air our differences. President Raab, Vice President Castro-Bianco and the Chairman of the Public Contracts Committee Michael Ressner met with Mr. Rinaldi on December 5, 1988. The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that his intent was to determine whether design consultants would be willing to perform, as part of their traditional coordinating role, asbestos abatement design incidental to larger projects. The ultimate goal of DGS is to simplify its procedures in this area by having one consultant, rather than two, execute the design of asbestos abatement. He reassured us that "certainly, a design consultant's comprehensive qualifications are more important than just their willingness to undertake asbestos abatement work; however, on some routine projects, given a choice of architects of equivalent capability, it may be in the City's best interest to select an architect that will serve all our needs."

The issue of the creation of a "preferred" list may be moot, however; of 500 firms that received Mr. Rinaldi's original letter only 33 responded, 29 of them affirmatively. The 29 firms who responded affirmatively were "overwhelmingly" engineering firms. Architects, showing either great wisdom or great restraint—or perhaps both—expressed their opposition to DGS's new policy by their silence.

Sacred Architecture:
Places for Worship

by William E. Gati AIA

Sacred architecture is the built environment used for the purpose of worship. Light, fire, water, and solid mass are often used in harmonious contrast to delineate the main focus of our attention to the act of supplication. The arrangement and the function allow, and the composition and design create the act of worship. The commonality is ritual and sequence, highlighted with natural or artificial lighting, appropriate coloration to set the mood, and form to emphasize the importance of the space. Other considerations include art, fixtures, materials, textures, and other embellishments that add to an other-worldly quality.

This is not an architecture of iconography but is one in which the entire building becomes a symbol for our beliefs and for the experiences and services which will occur inside. A place of worship is not sacred because of its architecture, but only for what its architecture helps communicate to people in communion with God and the space.
Dear Editor:

Your Names and News section in your December issue refers to my trip to the USSR in October. A few facts must be added, however, to complete the story. I travelled as part of a delegation that included Sidney P. Gilbert FAIA, Mary Goldsmith AIA and Kenneth Smith. The trip was made at the invitation of the USSR Union of Architects as a part of a continuing relationship between Soviet architects and ADPSR (Architects Designers Planner for Social Responsibility.) This relationship is based on an agreement signed last year at the Chapter headquarters during a visit of four Soviet architects, among them Yuri Pavlovich Platonov, President of the Union. In the agreement, ADPSR and the Soviets established programs for the exchange of students, faculty and practitioners; a joint construction project and a joint travelling exhibition. Implementation of these programs is already under way.

We hope that the New York Chapter will continue its support of ADPSR and its effort to bring together US and Soviet design professionals.

Tician Papachristou FAIA

Dear Editor:

An interesting follow-up to your piece, in the December 1988 Oculus, "Chapter Firms Build New York" might be "Chapter Firms Builds New York Schools."

Of the 41 schools mentioned in “The Parent's Guide to New York Grade Schools (A Calm, Rational Report)” in 7 Days (vol. 1, No. 27), our firm did Master planning, renovations or recent additions to 6* (15%), of all the independent schools listed—an impressive statistic for our medium-size practice.

- P.S. 3. Planning Study for renovation
- Birch Wathen. Planning Options for relocation
- Village Community School. Modernization and Expansion Study
- The Hewitt School. Expansion and Modernization Project
- Calhoun New Early Childhood building
- Friends Seminary. New Special program wing, Cafeteria, Science Labs. Master Plan Study

Robin Guenther, Partner
Norman Rosenfeld AIA Architects

Dear Editor:

Just a personal note of praise for the December issue of Oculus. I was particularly taken with the cover photo and the subsequent “snow scenes,” and in the spirit of your first paragraph on page three, I wish that each issue could contain a few photographs showing the admirable qualities of the city’s public spaces. We can use monthly reminders of our successes, both past and present.

We’ve all enjoyed the Library restoration (and its cafe terraces). Likewise, the lighting of Rockefeller Center enhances one of the best architectural spaces of this century. It brings Hugh Ferris’ renderings to the real world. (Perhaps Stan Ries could give us a night shot?)

Most of us perceive architecture as pedestrians. The Library lions loom larger in use of the building than they do in an architect’s elevation. Likewise, a finely wrought iron railing at a brownstone door, the detail in a wall or path in Central Park, the ambience of a brick tavern building juxtaposed with a brick-glassed office tower, all of the details of our buildings and the interplay with their surroundings are the delight and the strength of the city.

I hope we can see more in each issue.

Many thanks.

James H. Heyle AIA
CONTINUING EVENTS

NYC/AIA EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION

TUESDAY 7
NYC/AIA Seminar
The Committee for Architecture in Education is sponsoring a seminar on NYC Board of Education’s Prototype School Program (see Coming Chapter Events). 5:30 pm. The Urban Center. 838-9670.

LANDMARK HEARING
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission public hearing to consider landmark designation for the Scribner’s Building interior, Lundy’s restaurant, Gotham Hotel (now Peninsula Hotel), among others. Beginning at 9:30 am. Board of Estimate Chambers at City Hall. 553-1113.

WEDNESDAY 8
SEMINAR
Designing Brick to Work. 11:30 am. Glen-Gery Brickwork Design Center, 211 E. 49 St. 319-5577.

TUESDAY 14
NYC/AIA PANEL
Collaboration in the Beaux Arts Tradition, sponsored by the Art and Architecture Committee. (see coming Chapter events). 6:30 pm. The Urban Center. 838-9670.

MONDAY 20
CONFERENCE (FEB. 20-24)
"Staying Small Successfully," an executive roundtable for CEOs who want to keep their design firms small, sponsored by PSMJ. Beaver Creek, Colorado, Elisa Dam: 817-965-0056 or 800-537-PSMJ.

TUESDAY 21
NYC/AIA LECTURE
The Religious Architecture Committee is sponsoring the first of a series of lectures with Norman Jaffe AIA, Gunnar Birkerts FAIA, and E. Fay Jones FAIA (see Coming Chapter Events). 5:30 pm. The Urban Center. For reservations: 838-9670.

THURSDAY 23
LECTURE
NYC/AIA, ADPSR, and the Architectural League are sponsoring a lecture and slide presentation by Vzacheslav Glazchev, V.P. USSR Union of Architects, on contemporary architecture in the Soviet Union. 6 pm. The Urban Center.

MONDAY 27
CONFERENCE (FEB. 27-28)

SATURDAY 4 MARCH
A.R.E. CLASSES
Review classes begin for Building Design Section of Architects Registration Exam. Institute of Design & Construction. 718-855-3662.

WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH
LECTURE
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.
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Tishman Construction Corp.
Turner Construction Company
Waldner's - The Office Showcase
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