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COMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Tuesday, March 7. The Associates Committee is sponsoring a discussion on Gordon Matta-Clark. Trained as an architect, son of the surrealist Matta, Matta-Clark was at the center of the avant-garde at the end of the '60s and into the '70s. Art Historian Robert Pincus-Witten will be moderator of the evening. 6 pm. The Urban Center. 838-9670.

Tuesday, March 14. The Art and Architecture and the Architects in Education Committees are co-sponsoring a panel discussion on Educating Artists and Architects for Collaboration with panelists Elisabeth Egbert, artist; Melvin H. Pekarsky, artist/professor; and Tim Prentice FAIA, architect/sculptor. Donald Cromley AIA, chairman of Pratt Institute's undergraduate architecture department, will be moderator. 6:15 pm. The Urban Center.

Tuesday, March 21. The Religious Architecture Committee is presenting the second lecture in its series on "Sacred Architecture: Places for Worship." Percival Goodman FAIA and Edgar Tafel FAIA will present slides and panels of their work and lecture on the specific architectural attributes that give some places of worship a certain sacred quality. 6 pm. The Urban Center. For reservations: 838-9670. The series will continue on April 18 and May 23.

Tuesday, March 28. The Professional Affiliates Committee have organized a Chapter-wide program on “Getting in Print in New York and How to Get More Work from It.” Those of you who rail because some newspaper or magazine has (a) covered only the most seemingly inconsequential part of your project, (b) mauled your building, or (c) ignored your story idea, will take great interest in this program. Panel members are six star editors and reporters from the New York media, whose beats vary from real estate to preservation to lifestyle. They will tell how they decide what makes a good story for their readers, how they develop their articles, and how they want facts delivered to them. Public relations specialists Joan Capelin and Renee Sacks will moderate and discuss such topics as how to use an article to get more business for your firm. Call Chapter headquarters for details at 838-9670.

Tuesday, March 21 is Architects Lobby Day in Albany. The Chapter is providing bus service, which will leave the Urban Center at 7 am. To reserve a seat: 838-9670.

Tuesday, March 28. The Chapter is co-sponsoring with the Italian Marble Center a seminar on “Stone for Building Exteriors: Designing, Specifying and Installing.” 5:30-7:30 pm. The Urban Center. 838-9670.

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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.
In 1985 The Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Public Development Corporation issued requests for proposals for the sale and development of the Columbus Circle Coliseum site. Proceeds were earmarked for mass transit improvements. The RFP called for both financial and design components, but stated forthrightly on page one: "The sponsor intends to sell the site to the applicant whose proposal most successfully meets the sponsor's goals, particularly the goal of realizing the highest financial return from the sale." 1982 revisions to midtown zoning had raised the allowable floor ratio (FAR) for the site to a base of 15, with optional 20% bonuses, which could bring the allowable maximum FAR to 18. The Columbus Circle RFP mandated that all competitors include the use of the 3 FAR bonus in their proposals.

Totally absent was any consideration as to the kind of project which would contribute most to the present and future life of the city. The City Planning department played a minimal role confined to pedestrian and subway circulation; there was no study of whether in urban design terms a building of mandated maximum FAR on this unusually large site was desirable.

Fourteen proposals were submitted on May 1, 1985, and Boston Properties/Salomon Inc. were designated as developers on July 11th of that year. Their architect was The Office of Moshe Safdie. Mr. Safdie's scheme was an exuberant asymmetrical arrangement of towers rising out of the mandated base defining Columbus Circle.

Unanimously approved the City Planning Commission in December 1986, public organizations remained vociferously opposed. Although issues such as bulk (the 20% mandated bonus), height (925'), the resulting increase in shadows on Central Park, and ill-considered site circulation were raised as pertinent, any assessment of the opposition must include widespread objections to the Safdie design.

Soon after the Board of Estimate approved the proposal in February 1987, a coalition of organizations filed suit. Early in December of that year Salomon Inc. dropped out of the project. Three days later the State Trial Court barred the sale of the property because of the mandated zoning bonus provision.

Boston Properties entered into a series of discrete negotiations with representatives of the coalition to determine if mutually acceptable criteria could be established which would make it feasible to continue. As a result of these and other discussions, Boston Properties decided to continue with the project. They retained the services of David Childs, FAIA, of Skidmore Owings and Merrill (SOM) to design a new building without the bonus, and more responsive to public criticism.

**Description of Present Proposal**

NYC/AIA commends Boston Properties for their good faith in realizing that the earlier proposal was floundering and responding seriously to specific criticism. The mandated bonus has been removed, thereby reducing the project...
FAR from 18 to 15; the reduction in bulk has resulted in a concomitant reduction in height, from 925' to 850'; and further, commercial square footage has been reduced while retail and residential square footages have been increased. The redesign retains 640 parking spaces, considerably more than currently permitted.

This redesign means that the base must unite all components into what can be legally defined as a single building in which no residential units can be positioned below the highest level of office space. These constraints act as major determinants in the design.

Evaluations of the Present Proposal

The SOM proposal is sensitive to virtually all the urban design issues of context, scale, and street wall enclosure; and provides a fitting termination to vistas. The designers deal successfully with the environment, showing concern for traffic, shadow pattern, and light and air, both in the immediate environment and within the building complex itself. In an urban context a number of factors have contributed to the significance of the redesign. Perhaps the single most important change has been the fact that massing and vocabulary have become distinctly New York. The complex appears comfortably in context and in scale with the surrounding buildings. The building elements are suitably differentiated with distinct expression of base, middle, break points, shafts, and building crowns, all of which relate well to both newer buildings on 57th Street and older buildings along Central Park West. The suggested materials are warm in color and sympathetic with neighboring buildings; there are no large expanses of glass.

The architects have taken full advantage of the Large Scale Development provisions of the Zoning Resolution to distribute bulk in a manner creating less shadow by placing the taller elements as far to the West as possible, permitting the 85' high building base to dominate the immediate environment of the Circle and the major North/South vistas on Broadway and Eighth Avenue. The building wall around the Circle is extended as far as possible, fully enveloping the existing subway kiosk, to help define the presently amorphous, unresolved space.

SOM has proposed the redesign of the Circle so that it both functions as, and looks like, the major focus in the Manhattan cityscape that it was always meant to be. We strongly recommend that the City implement this major public proposal for traffic rationalization and urban beautification.

In the immediate environment of the building, traffic circulation itself has been handled in a felicitous manner. All truck loading bays are located within the building mass at the western edge of the site with a complete one-way circulation loop entered from 58th Street and exiting at 60th Street. All exiting traffic is routed West away from the city center and any involvement with Columbus Circle. A similar vehicular path is created in a one-way entrance from 58th Street which bisects the site and provides a spacious drop-off area in a grade level
courtyard serving both residential and office lobbies. Again, exiting traffic is routed West away from Columbus Circle.

Entrances, both pedestrian and vehicular, are highly visible, grandly scaled events which will gracefully draw people into the complex. The major pedestrian entrance, which terminates the 59th Street vista axis, is a monumental archway surmounted by a low Jeffersonian rotunda. The entrance can be identified at ground level for the full length of Central Park South.

The new proposal retains the extraordinary internal shopping gallery of the earlier proposal. It runs parallel to Columbus Circle, contains four levels, and promises to be the most exciting retail space in the City. The arcade is interrupted near its center to permit office, retail and residential tenants to cross between the gallery, residential lobbies, and escalators leading to the office cores on the level above. This merging of paths will create an extraordinarily lively confluence under the great rotunda. There will be abundant natural light, dramatic space, and pleasurable diversion — all very fitting for the public character of this important building.

It is too early to comment on the architectural treatment. Suffice it to say that the indication of detail, with a wide variety of punched masonry wall surfaces, intensified with larger areas of glass at appropriate juncture points, seems entirely satisfactory — rich but unforced in character, and with suggestions for a broad palette of colors that get lighter and warmer in tone as the building rises.

A significant deficit in the present proposal is the lack of appealing internal connections to the subway and financial provisions to help pay for the reconstruction of the adjacent Columbus Circle station. We would hope that the Board of Estimate is able to restructure the deal to apportion part of the proceeds specifically for improvement of the 59th Street Station. A station which will be much more prominent as a result of this development.

Planning Commentary

The City retained able consultants who developed specific urban design guidelines for all entrants in the original Architect/Developer competition. The guidelines were presented to local Community Boards for review and comment. Apparently the guidelines were too abstract to evoke much lay reaction at this stage. However, upon being presented with an actual design, a vociferous reaction developed. There is a catch-22 in this process: as the development proposal goes through EIS and Community Review process, changes in design and even program may be considered and negotiated between the various parties. This may subject the developer to charges that the design has changed so substantially that the whole selection process should be invalidated and recommenced. Obviously this may put a considerable damper on any developer's enthusiasm to embrace changes, which might be construed as invalidating their selection. In order for the post-selection process to be effective, negotiated changes must be accommodated within the original selection process.

The Columbus Circle Coliseum RFP was prepared by the part of the City Government concerned with economic development. The lesson here is that the City, in disposing of its own land, must adhere to a higher standard than that of private developers. It should consider above all else what kind of project would be in New York's best long-term interest. Decisions of this kind should be based on policies which ought to be developed by the City Planning Department, and that is not now the case.

Conclusion

This project is enormously important as it serves as a hinge block, acting as the northern terminus of the city's West Side core commercial development, and as the gateway to Central Park and the city's prime West Side residential neighborhoods. This building must speak eloquently and fluently to both constituencies. We believe that the present proposal does just that, and urge you to approve the project.

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We resume our recapitulation of *Oculus*'s first half century (see November and December 1988) with the sixties—a decade in which the AIA was not immune from student confrontations, a decade that marked the Chapter's celebration of its centennial.

**April 1965:** Under the heading "Chapter Housing Seminar: Fantasy and Reality," Chapter vice president David FM. Todd is quoted as saying "Public housing in New York will not overcome its dismaying sameness, antiseptic qualities and cookie-cutter molds unless bold steps are taken to produce great projects through planning experiments and pilot programs."

**August-September 1965:** "WE ARE PROUD...THAT WE NUMBER IN OUR RANKS THE PRESIDENT OF AIA, THE TREASURER OF AIA...LET NO ONE FORGET THAT THESE MEN Moulded AND WERE Moulded BY THE NEW YORK CHAPTER." The two were Morris Ketchum, Jr. FAIA, President; Daniel Schwartzman FAIA, Treasurer.

**November 1965:** The Chapter's 1965 Award of Merit recognized David Rockefeller for "demonstrating what private citizens can do to give beauty, life and new hope to their cities...."

**December 1965:** "...One of Mayor Wagner's last official acts was the signing of an Executive Order directing that a maximum of one percent and a minimum of one-half percent of the construction cost for the city's new public building be allocated to the arts...." climaxed "a seven month collaborative effort by representatives and officials of at least five city agencies and 12 civic groups and professional organizations, including the New York Chapter AIA...."

**January 1966:** "...In a letter to the *New York Times*, Chapter President Max Urbahn continued to press for a moratorium on the sale of city-owned land in Staten Island and a one-year crash program to develop a comprehensive master plan by a Staten Island "‘Task Force’...especially created for this purpose...."

**March 1967:** "The New York Chapter, The American Institute of Architects, the oldest and largest in the U.S., celebrated its 100th Anniversary on Tuesday, March 7th at the N.Y. State Theater, Lincoln Center...."

**October 1967:** "...nobody has built less for greatness than contemporary America. What is worth building holy places for if not religion. We don't even have buccaneer robber barons—like Commodore Vanderbilt who built Grand Central Station—who will build something for the future. I want great spaces again." This statement by Philip Johnson FAIA was made at "the recent International Congress on Religion, Architecture and the Visual Arts...."

**November 1967:** "After a visit to a sprawling city, Gertrude Stein was asked how she liked it there. Her response: 'There? There is no there, there.' This appeared under a heading, "AS OTHERS SEE US.""

**January 1968:** "One of the most complex, unusual, innovative—and promising—arrangements in the field of urban redevelopment and design, the Model Cities Program, is off to a daring start in New York City. NYC/AIA hosted a seminar on the Model Cities Program...One major innovative aspect of the program was revealed in the announcement...of the appointment of Gruzen & Partners, formerly Kelly & Gruzen to act as coordinating architects for the entire project. The unusual scope of Gruzen & Partners' role can be gleaned from the fact that the Housing Authority has delegated to them the authority to supervise the quality control of the work of some 16 Housing Authority-commissioned architects. 8200 dwelling units will be involved in this low-rise low- and middle-income project...." Also in this issue: "...The first *Oculus* (October 1938) reports on a Joint Committee of Architectural Societies in the Metropolitan Area. This effort to consolidate the various societies is still under consideration. Most architects believe that a unified voice for the professions would be desirable especially in relations with the City Administration...."

**April 1968:** "Part of a program of the Chapter is to interest school children in the profession of Architecture. Recently eight students from Haaren High School visited the office of...Gruzen & Partners...The boys, all from neighborhoods where there is a dire need of improved conditions, asked questions about a career in architecture. They were advised that the future is full of challenge. Community participation is the keynote of the future planning of neighborhoods."

**June 1968:** "The Awards Committee is preparing an awards program to recognize environmental design—that which is all around us in such items as parks, spaces between buildings, graphics, landscaping, street furniture, sound, the air we breathe as well as objects or devices, which influence us in the urban scene...." Also in this issue: "One Architect, Richard Dattner, co-ordinated the efforts of 13 others working with 50 students...to produce a 65 foot long study for more than 200 blocks of riverfront along the twelve miles of Manhattan bordering on the Hudson River...."
November 1968: "Donald H. Elliott, Chairman of the City Planning Commission recently stated: 'We are not in the business of designing individual buildings, but we are definitely in the business of designing cities.' Hopefully for New York imaginative urban design is no longer an unrealized dream. The Urban Design Group is the key to the City Planning Commission's efforts and is one of the first design-oriented planning teams in the U.S...."

February 1969: "...following the Chapter's Environment Awards Exhibit...the Chapter and the Museum of Modern Art are jointly sponsoring a symposium on architects' expanding role in protecting the natural environment...."

March 1969: "...George Lewis AIA was appointed...to the new post of Director, Professional Affairs..." Also in this issue: "On Feb. 6th the Student Affairs Committee, David Glasser, Chairman, sponsored a discussion, 'AIA is Irrelevant!' with Columbia Professor Mario Salvadori, Percival Goodman, and students Peter Szego and Al Feigenberg...Emotion may not show in print, but it was there." A few of the excerpts that follow suffice to show that the AIA was not immune from the student confrontations of the 60s: "...Feigenberg: Architects design for other architects, give prizes for 45' angles. High rise buildings designed by accountants. As long as society is sick, the profession is irrelevant...Szego: Fact that profession cannot create low cost housing proves it is irrelevant. Dale [student]: New housing act was printed statistics showing that the AIA was not immune from the student confrontations of the 60s; "...Feigenberg: Architects design for other architects, give prizes for 45' angles. High rise buildings designed by accountants. As long as society is sick, the profession is irrelevant...Szego: Fact that profession cannot create low cost housing proves it is irrelevant. Dale [student]: New housing act was estimated 30,000 units are generated in no small measure by the observable movement toward the unionization of architectural professional employees...."

April 1969: "A sell-out crowd at the Museum of Modern Art Feb. 25 heard scientist Barry Commoner tell us in the clearest terms how man is in the process of making this planet uninhabitable...." Apparently not clear enough.

May 1969: "The Landmarks Preservation Commission held hearings...on Certificate of Appropriateness applications for (1) an office building above the roof of Grand Central, and (2) an office building on its site....The Chapter has expressed opposition to any new buildings on this site since the possibility was first made public in fall, 1967...."

June 1969: "This past school year the Architects' Renewal Committee in Harlem (ARCH) and the Chapter, through the Equal Opportunities Committee, have cosponsored a unique and successful program to introduce a group of black and Puerto Rican young people to architecture...."

September 1969: "The Master Plan for [Battery Park City] was approved by the Planning Commission on August 20..."

May 1970: "The April 5th New York Times printed statistics showing that the amount of private apartment construction in 1970 will be lowest in 15 years. Subsidized and public housing aren't doing much better. A fall report classified 800,000 units as substandard—one third of all NYC housing. An estimated 30,000 units are being lost each year. A crisis does exist...What can we do? We can make noise! Intelligent noise!..."

October 1970: "Chapter members Elisabeth Colt FAIA, and Roger D. Glasgow AIA, were appointed to the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

March 1971: Under the heading "CHAPTER CALLS FOR AIR QUALITY CODE," reports Oculus, "New York City may yet have the nation's toughest air pollution code if a currently proposed law is enacted...."

April 1971: "Political donations by architectural firms whose principals are members of the NYC/AIA have been barred in what is believed to be the first instance of a professional society adopting self-imposed controls on such contributions...."

May 1971: "Metropolitan Chapter Being Considered...."

June 1971: "Some Members Oppose Executive Committee on Political Contributions...."

September 1971: "Since 1930, five New Yorkers have been President of the AIA and now, once again, we have the honor.... Max O. Urbahn...will officially take office later this year...."

October 1971: "Chapter is host to Russian Architects on First Part of U.S. Tour...."

December 1971: "Employer-employee relations are undergoing a change. Pressure for this change is being generated in no small measure by the observable movement toward the unionization of architectural professional employees...."

January 1972: "The Madison Avenue Mall, 42nd to 57th Streets, has been approved by Community Board No. 5 by a 13-7 vote, and at this meeting the Mayor's go-ahead is expected...We are firmly convinced of the basic validity of this proposal...."

June 1972: "Landmarks Preservation Commission's Constitutionality Challenged...." Cont'd. p. 14
Bill Neuhaus AIA chairman of the Houston Chapter's "On the Boards" design awards jury, held the 1989 program at the New York Chapter headquarters. James Garrison AIA, of James Stewart Polshek & Partners, Raphael Vinoly AIA, of Rafael Vinoly Architects, and Theresa Thomas of Philadelphia served as jurors. The program was organized into three categories—architect, student, and open—and offered a "best of show" award of travel and registration expenses to the Aspen Design Conference donated by Herman Miller . . . Michael Maas FAIA retired on December 31 as Senior Managing Partner of Haines Lundberg Waehler. He will remain with the firm as a senior consultant. . . . The team of Lincoln Property Company-Gruzen Samton Steinglass has been chosen as the developer/architect in a competition sponsored by the Stamford Urban Redevelopment Commission for the design of an $87 million mixed-use project to be constructed in downtown Stamford, CT. . . . Robert Marino AIA, chairman of the NYC/AIA Housing Committee Local Law 58 Task Force, appeared on a local cable television show, "Tenant Talk," in February. He represented the Chapter's viewpoint on difficulties with Local Law 58 . . . Charles Gwathmey FAIA will present the keynote address at the opening breakfast of Lighting World International on May 10 . . . Richard Meier & Partners have been selected to design the new headquarters building for Canal+ in Paris to house three television studios, production facilities, and administrative offices. . . . Also at Richard Meier & Partners, Robert F. Gatje, Thomas Phifer, and Donald E. Barker have joined the firm. . . . Cooper, Robertson & Partners have announced the appointment of Donald Clinton AIA as a Senior Associate. . . . Construction has begun on two projects by Perkins Geddis Eastman: extensive renovations of a former hotel in the Chelsea Historic District to provide housing for 47 homeless elderly which will be known as the Frederic Fleming House, and extensive renovations of an 1880s Harlem structure to provide housing for 56 homeless adults to be known as the Jericho Residence. . . . Stephen Achilles and K. Jeffries Sydness have been named partners of John Burgee Architects, and R. David Harrison and Donald W. Porter are new associates of the firm. . . . The Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture at Columbus is hosting a symposium, American Architecture and the German Connection, April 7-8. For more information: 212-854-7374. . . . Hugh Hardy FAIA is to be among the speakers at the Ninth Monterey Design Conference sponsored by California Council AIA. It will take place at the Asilomar Lodge in Monterey, California, April 7-9. . . . Boston architect Jean Paul Carthian FAIA, who led the effort to save Grand Central Station, has been named recipient of the 1989 Edward C. Kemper Award, The American Institute of Architects' highest service award. . . . Richard Gluckman FAIA announced that David Mayner has been made an associate of Richard Gluckman Architects. . . . Among the programs to be part of a conference, Envisioning the Future: IFEz89, at IDCNY May 9-11, will be International Cooperation in Design, a case study of the working relationship between Butler/Rogers/Basket and Eric Lieure Architecture Intérieurs of France; and Success Stories, case studies of outstanding projects that involved teamwork between designers and facility managers. Ted Hammer AIA of HLW, will be a participant in the latter. . . . "Morningside and Fort Greene: Neighborhood Parks" is the title of a lecture to be given by Joseph Bresnan AIA and Adrienne Bresnan AIA on June 4 at the Museum of the City of New York. It is part of a series on "The Changing Shape of New York" accompanying the exhibition Calvert Vaux, Architect and Planner. . . . Stanley Salzman FAIA has been named the recipient of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) Distinguished Professor Award. . . . The following promotions have been announced at Haines Lundberg Waehler: Thomas DeMonse, Holdan A. DeRosset, and Norberte Misthopoulos have been appointed Senior Associates; Vivian Chavez, Julian Fraser, Peter Seidel, and Yu-Heng Shang have been named Associates; Mary Jane Beatty and Dominic J. Cardinale have been promoted to Senior Staff Specialists; and Harendra N. Jani, Samir H. Saltif, and Robert W. Sovinski are new Staff Specialists. . . . The Fisher Residence in East Hampton designed by Robert A.M. Stern Architects with Armand LaGardeur as project architect, has received a Merit Award in the American
Wood Council's 1988 Wood Design Award Program. A weekend house designed by architects Bentley La Rosa Salasky in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, received an Honor Award. ... The following NYC/AIA members and member firms are participating in Design USA, an exhibit on housing sponsored by the United States Information Agency (see Oculus, January 1989, pg. 11): Austin Braverman Patterson; John Milnes Baker; Walter David Brown; Cooper, Robertson & Partners; Davis Brody & Associates; Fox & Fowle Architects; Michel Franck & Associates, Inc.; Peter Gisolfi Associates; Gruzen Samton Steinglass; Norman Jaffe; Johansen & Bhavnani Architects; Lee Harris Pomeroy Associates; Levenson Meltzer Neuringer Architects & Planners; Lewis and Gould Architects; M.J. Macaluso & Associates; William O'Neill RA, Architect; Ed Ozols; Pasanella & Klein; James Stewart Polshek and Partners; Geraldine Pontius; Thoresen and Linard, Architecture and Planning; and Wechsler-Grassmenziuso. ... Gustafson/Ryan Communications—a joint venture of Ryan Associates and the Gustafson Group—is providing public relations and marketing communications services to the design community, and others. ... At an awards ceremony in Boston, Leslie Blum AIA received a Federal Design Achievement Award for the design and development of the Sign Standards Manual for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. ... The Hudson-Shatz Painting Company has announced its search for an exterior wall suitable for the winning entry in its Annual Mural Design Contest. The contest is designed to encourage New York City high school students in their artistic and creative efforts. The winning entry will be professionally reproduced on the aforementioned wall. If anyone knows of an appropriate wall in any Borough call Wendy Hamilton, Hudson-Shatz, 212-757-6363. ... Oculus regrets the death of John F. Hennessy at 60. Chairman and chief executive of Syska & Hennessy Inc., he supervised the engineering of Lincoln Center, the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, among other landmark buildings.

Exhibitions

Robert Mills: Designs for Democracy at the Octagon Museum in Washington through April 2, features work by the designer of the Washington Monument, the U.S. Treasury and many other federal buildings. A protege of Thomas Jefferson and apprenticed in the office of Benjamin Latrobe, Mills once warned American architects to “study your country’s tastes and requirements, and make classic ground here for your art.” The exhibition, says James P. Cramer, AIA Foundation president, “...demonstrates architecture at its best as an instrument for the public good.”

The Language of Wood at the American Craft Museum through April 23, “celebrates the multifarious applications of wood in Finnish art and culture.” Curated by Finnish architect Juhani Pallasmaa, former director of the Museum of Finnish Architecture, with Finnish sculptor Kain Tapper and Simo Heikkila, leading member of the Finnish design community, the exhibition includes furniture and other crafted works as well as photographs of Finnish architecture. The latter juxtaposes architecture by such turn-of-the-century figures as Herman Gesellius and Armas Lindgren with modern works by Alvar Aalto, Kaija and Heikka Siren.

Calvert Vaux, Architect and Planner, which opens at the Museum of the City of New York on April 11, will focus on the ways the English-born architect’s work reflected and affected key aspects of 19th and 20th-century American life. The exhibition will range from the villa-style architecture Vaux designed—first with Andrew Jackson Downing and later on his own—and integrated with its surrounding picturesque Hudson Valley landscape, to Central Park, Prospect Park, and other green spaces in New York City, which he created with Frederick Law Olmsted.
NYC/AIA Presidential Decade

by Lenore M. Lucey AIA

The NYC/AIA Presidential Decade was established in 1987 by A Eugene Kohn FAIA. At that time, as Chapter President, Gene sought to tap the vast reservoir of knowledge available from the Chapter's leadership. The Presidential Decade, a committee of the ten most recent Past-Presidents, was developed as a way to return to the Chapter the expertise of those who have served the membership.

The Decade, meeting over the past year and one half, has established itself as an invaluable resource for the President and the Executive Director. Decade members have served on special ad hoc task forces on significant Chapter positions and policy; and have established the Presidential Forum, a series of informal meetings with our colleagues in the profession, which seeks to discuss ways in which we can all work together more effectively.

The first Presidential Forum, held in the Spring of 1988, brought the heads of New York's six largest Construction/Construction Management firms together with the Executive Committee, the Presidential Decade, and the Convention Steering Committee. This dialogue, held in the Kohn Pedersen Fox-designed executive offices of Mutual Of New York, was a direct challenge to the participants to improve the working relationship between the architect and construction manager in order to better serve the client. Representatives of NYC/AIA and CAGNY (Construction Association of Greater New York) are planning a series of seminars on working together to improve the construction process.

In the winter of 1989 the second and third in the series reach fruition. In February, George Klein, of Park Tower Realty, was the first developer to meet with the Decade and its guests. Mr. Klein, the recipient of a Chapter Special Citation in June 1988, lead a candid conversation on the development process and the relationship between the developer and the architect. Our consultants will be the focus of the third Forum. A panel of structural and mechanical engineers, lead by Irwin Cantor and Marvin Mass, promises a spirited discussion of the problems and potential of the architect-consultant relationship.

Future Presidential Forums will focus on the press, the real estate community, the NYC building process, NYC agencies, interior design, and public facilities development. In 1989 the Decade will open membership to include all previous Presidents of the Chapter. By enlarging the committee, it is our hope to expand the utilization of the body of knowledge and expertise, which the Chapter has built over the years.

Convention De-Briefing

Members of the Chapter's Convention Steering Committee have submitted final reports to the Chapter for inclusion in a required "de-briefing" for the Institute. Each Host Chapter presents a report on its activities, which becomes part of the information supplied to subsequent Host Chapters. Our report, on the singularly largest and most successful convention the AIA has ever held, may also hold the record for depth of detail and delay in presentation. Wrapping up the details after hosting close to 16,000 architects, students, guests, and allied professionals last May was truly a Herculean effort.

Contributing to the difficulty was the fact that the Chapter incurred a significant debt in fulfilling its Host Chapter assignments. NYC/AIA owes the Institute approximately $90,000 due to shortfalls in revenue. Prominent causes of the revenue shortfall were the fact that less than 35% of the Chapter Membership actually attended and paid the registration fee; and that the ticket price for the Gotham Gala was below actual cost. We have finally negotiated an extended payment plan with AIA. However, we are now faced with approximately $30,000 of non-budgeted debt to repay each year for the next three years. Committee Chairs have been apprised of the situation, and you will soon be hearing about fundraising initiatives.

Members can help us meet our commitment to the Institute through the timely payment of all invoicing. Prompt responses to invoicing for individual dues, sustaining member firm dues, documents accounts, and others, not only contributes to a positive monthly cash flow, it also enables us to earn modest additional interest income which can be used to pare the debt. In particular, those of you who have not yet responded to the invoicing for outstanding Convention Assessment are urgently requested to finalize those payments.

Admission fees for open meetings, tours, and fundraising events are among the items being considered by a Financial Needs Task Force appointed by President Raab. Needless to say, individual or firm contributions are always acceptable. —LML

Grassroots '89

The Institute's annual convention of Chapter Presidents, Presidents-Elect, and Executives took place again in January in Washington, D.C. An intense three and a half day round of seminars, panel discussions, round tables, and breakfast, lunch, and dinner meetings, GRASSROOTS is designed to give component leaders the skills they need during their terms of service.

Martin D. Raab FAIA, Denis Glen Kuhn AIA, and I attended for the Chapter. Other NYC/AIA members participating were: Michael Maas FAIA, NY Regional Director on the AIA Board; Laurie Mutchnik Maurer FAIA, Chair of the Affordable Housing Task Force; Douglas Korves AIA, NYSSA Vice President for Legislative Affairs; Paul Segal FAIA, seminar facilitator; Laura Horstman AIA, Vice Chair of the national Corporate Architects Committee; and Regina Kelly, staff administrator.

GRASSROOTS '89 featured speakers were Amy Freeman Lee, Ph. D., and...
Gunther Klaus, Ph. D., President, Institute for Advanced Planning. Dr. Lee, an artist, critic, and Board Member of the Texas Society of Architects, challenged us with a warm, witty, and wide-ranging discussion of architecture. "Architects are dancing on the edge of mystery" she said, and while not the "mother" of all the arts, architecture was the most complex. "Architects have to know everything, and that is very difficult... it is probably why you fail so often." Dr. Lee urged us to make a better world, by making it "more humane, more loving."

Gunther Klaus faced a daunting prospect in the last session of GRASSROOTS: 500 architects pretty much thinking only about beginning their journey home. He began by eliciting from the audience the names of famous leaders. After compiling the list, which included Ghandi, Churchill, Kennedy, Hitler, and Caesar, he discussed the common traits of those proposed: almost all had a military background, all were male, all were dead, and most had died by violent means. "Think about that," he said, "are you really telling me that is what you want to be as a leader?" Dr. Klaus went on to use his own list of well known leaders to demolish several myths about leadership and followed with the three traits that make a leader:

- a clear vision of where to go,
- able to make it clear what makes it worthwhile for the followers, and
- can get you where you want to go.

In applying his rules for an audience of architects he noted that each and every person in the firm should have the same clear vision of where the firm is going. That everyone should have a stake in the success of that vision. And that it is acknowledged that you are the person who can and will make the firm's vision attainable. Dr. Klaus also distinguished between leaders and bosses. "A leader is a person who people want to follow, a boss is someone they follow because they had no other choice at the time."

He noted that the Berlin Wall is the only wall in history built to keep people in. Every other wall has been built to keep people out. "What does that tell you? It tells you that their rulers are bosses, not leaders. If you want your firm to succeed you must be a leader, not a boss." LML

David F.M. Todd FAIA
Named Landmarks Chair

Former Chapter President David Fenton Mitchie Todd FAIA was named in January to New York City's top landmarks position. Mayor Edward I. Koch appointed David, currently serving as a commissioner, as Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, succeeding Gene A. Norman who resigned in December to head the Harlem International Trade Center.

David, a member of the Commission since 1984, has also served this past year on the Historic City Committee, whose report on the Landmarks Commission was issued in February. He served as President of NYC/AIA in 1969-70, and has served on various Chapter and State Association Committees. David became a Fellow in 1969, and has served as Chair of the AIA Jury of Fellows, the Housing Committee, and the Resolutions Committee. He has been a member of the AIA Housing Policy Task Force and the Documents Committee, as well as several other committees in a career that spans over four decades. He has a long standing interest in housing, and has practiced as a principal of his own firm since 1957 when he became a partner of Ballard, Todd and Snibbe, (formerly Harrison, Ballard and Allen), where he had been employed since 1946. By 1967 the firm had evolved to David Todd and Associates, and in 1987 became David Todd Architect, as David became an Emeritus Member of the AIA.

The Chapter looks forward to working with David Todd as he charts a new course for this most important City commission. Our congratulations and best wishes to David, and his wife Suzanne, on this exciting new assignment. — LML

Membership Renewal Deadline

The Institute asks us to remind you that March 31st is the cut-off date for payment of membership dues. Members who have not paid by the end of the month are considered in default and will be suspended. Your prompt payment of dues is imperative at this time. In particular, if you are planning to attend the Convention, May 5-8, in St. Louis and have not paid your dues, you will not be eligible for the member registration, may not be eligible to serve as a delegate, and may miss valuable mailings.

If your dues invoice is still awaiting processing, please take a few minutes now to complete it and sign the check. And... if your Chapter and State dues are also awaiting payment, now is the time to complete them as well. Non-payment of local and regional dues may also cause your membership to be suspended.

Twenty Largest Firms

Based on paid sustaining member firm dues as of Jan. 31.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Firm Name</th>
<th>Membership Dues as of Jan. 31</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skidmore Owings &amp; Merrill</td>
<td>232</td>
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<tr>
<td>I.M. Pei &amp; Partners</td>
<td>164</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kohn Pederson Fox Associates</td>
<td>141</td>
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<td>HLW</td>
<td>106</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swanke Hayden Connell Architects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beyer Blinder Belle</td>
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<td>Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer</td>
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<tr>
<td>William N. Bodouva Architect</td>
<td>63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emery Roth &amp; Sons</td>
<td>61</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Burgee Architects PC</td>
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<td>Taylor Clark Architects, Inc.</td>
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<td>James Stewart Polshek and Partners</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Ehrenkrantz Group &amp; Eckstut</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward Larrabee Barnes/ John M.Y. Lee PC.</td>
<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fox &amp; Fowle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philip Birnbaum &amp; Associates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perkins Geddis Eastman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Butler Rogers Basket</td>
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<tr>
<td>William B. Tabler Architects</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brennan Beer Gorman/ Architects</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AIA National Convention in St. Louis

Nearly two centuries ago, St. Louis became America's jumping-off point—the point at which Americans heading for parts unknown to seek their manifest destinies on a frontier they knew absolutely nothing about—except that it held the promise of the future.

In May 1989, at the AIA National Convention and Design Exposition, St. Louis becomes the jumping-off point again—only now the new frontier we're embarking toward is the next century.

The AIA is interested in the future of American architecture and for that reason is inviting every newly-registered architect in the nation to attend this AIA Convention without any convention-registration charge hoping they will learn at this convention that AIA membership and the convention itself can be of tremendous benefit to them throughout their professional lives.

The AIA is interested in the here and now, too, and will prove it with hands-on, real-world seminars on everything from low-cost CADD to desktop publishing, from project management to firm management, from strategic planning to beating the competition. And it is all free to every architect who registers for this convention.

It’s vitally important that all AIA members have a chance to experience the convention, because nothing else conveys the sense of purpose, and unity, and fellowship that is the very reason for being of the American Institute of Architects and certainly the reason for belonging to it.

Fellowship Nomination

The Chapter's Committee on Fellows is meeting to select the Chapter's nominees for consideration by the National Jury on Fellows. Our committee will meet to identify individuals exhibiting "outstanding achievement" in one or two of the following areas as set forth by the Institute: Design, Science of Construction, Literature, Education, Service to the Profession, Public Service, Historic Preservation, Research, Urban Design, Government or Industry, or Architectural Practice.

The committee will present its list of nominees at the June executive committee meeting. Once the executive committee approves the nominees selected, the summer months are spent working with the nominees to prepare binders that must be submitted, by an October 1 deadline, to the National AIA.

If you know of a Chapter member who warrants consideration, please send a letter and a brief resume to the Chapter's Committee on Fellows right away.

Architects in Education

by Carl Hauser AIA

The New York Chapter has established an Architects in Education Committee with its primary goal to create a dialogue with the five schools of architecture in the City and its practicing professionals.

There is widespread interest in the education of architects with the control of registration and licensing through the State Board of Architecture, and AIA's charge to identify the unique needs and interests of architects employed in academic institutions.

The Chapter has a strong commitment to the future of the profession, and it is our belief that this Committee can strengthen all of our concerns. Many existing Chapter committees have education sub-committees dealing with their specific areas of interest; this offers a unique opportunity to collaborate in those shared areas of interest.

Dutch designers will visit New York and Chicago

by Peter Heerens AIA, BNA

A group of about 50 Dutch designers (architects, interior designers, urban planners, landscape architects, and consulting engineers) will visit New York and Chicago early in May. In New York they will visit NYC/AIA headquarters and the Department of City Planning, where they will receive an introduction to urban design in New York City. Also on the agenda will be a tour through Rockefeller Center, visits to several new projects including the World Financial Center Battery Park City and the South Street Seaport, a walking tour through Central Park with a visit to the Central Park Zoo. In Chicago they will visit O'Hare Airport and the “Loop.”

The visiting Dutch designers work in the so-called Federatie “O”, founded in 1974 by the Royal Institute of Dutch Architects (BNA), Dutch Society of Interior Designers (BNI), Dutch Institute of Urban Planners (BN5), Dutch Society of Landscape Architects (BNT), and the Dutch Society of Consulting Engineers (ONRE), to work together to create a Dutch urban environment of the highest quality. The “O” in Federatie “O” stands for Ontwerp, Omgeving & Onmoeting, which translates as Design, Environment & Professional Exchange.

The Dutch designers are interested in meeting American colleagues to exchange views and experiences, and would like to establish a permanent exchange between Dutch and American designers.

For further information please contact me at 300 East 59th Street, Box 605, NYC 10022. 212-371-6681.
Lobby Day

It is time again to remind you of the importance of your attendance at Architects Lobby Day in Albany. We ask that you give one day each year to increase the visibility of the architecture community with our legislators. Even if you have written or visited your local representative this year your attendance is needed. We cannot emphasize how impressive it is to the legislators and their staffs to see great numbers of architects in the hall and in their offices. If NYSA's legislative programs are to be effective, we need your participation. So please mark your calendar now!

March 21, 1989
Architects Lobby Day in Albany

The Chapter will be providing bus service, leaving HQ at 7 am and returning in the early evening. No prior experience necessary! Just make your bus reservation and we will do the rest. Remember, its your profession that is at stake in Albany: statute of limitations, licensing, and liability. Plan now to join us on Lobby Day.

Plywood Siding Alert

A Chapter member informs us that the American Plywood Association has changed its recommended protection techniques for plywood siding. The revised guidelines, which call for protecting the plywood with a coating that provides ultra-violet protection (such as paint or solid color stain), are quite a change from the originally advertised “no-maintenance” natural finish of certain plywood products. Face veneer of unprotected plywood siding, particularly Western Red Cedar, is susceptible to rapid deterioration when installed on sun-exposed facades (American Plywood Association, “Weathering and Erosion of Plywood,” August 10, 1978). You may wish to review any project in which you specified naturally finished plywood siding with your specifier and insurance carrier.

Letters

Dear Editor:

As one whose experience spanned those times, I’ve been reading the Oculus "Recapitulation 1938-1988" with pleasure in the Chapter’s accomplishments and sadness in its failures. Of particular interest to me was the December 1961 entry “Chapter Proposes a Midtown Pedestrian Mall.” It happens that I was personally involved in that notable effort and thought that the Oculus might be interested in a first-hand account.

The original Chapter proposal for a vehicular street between 5th and 6th Avenues was made just after the turn of the century when the 42nd Street Library was built on the site of the former reservoir. It was an appropriate time to suggest that the 900-foot block between the two avenues be intersected by a new street running north to Central Park. I remember hearing the project described by Harvey Corbett and Ralph Walker. There was a published report illustrated by Hugh Ferris showing a row of tall, romantic towers connected by “skyways.” The difficulties in assembling a right-of-way and the advent of World War I put this project on the shelf.

In November 1961, my firm Pomerance and Breines offered an up-dated version of the earlier Chapter concept. But, instead of adding another vehicular street to Manhattan, we proposed a pedestrian way. A pedestrian way was feasible whereas a full-fledged street in the 1960’s no longer was. We had enthusiastic response from institutions and property owners. The Museum of Modern Art indicated an interest in having its garden related to the strollway and the Donnell Library explored the possibility of an adjoining, outdoor reading place.

The Chapter formally endorsed the Pomerance and Breines proposal and it was made public at a press conference in our former headquarters at the Architectural League.

The proposed strollway, popularly known as 5 1/2 Way, was also endorsed by Mayor Wagner and his planning commissioner James Felt. In effect, 5 1/2 Way would have extended Rockefeller Plaza north and south. But, apparently, without a Bob Moses a project like this gets lost in the City’s beaurocracy. Ironically, a small segment of the strollway was actually realized in the mid-block pedestrian passage from 42nd to 43rd street under the City University of New York Building. Imagine what it would have meant to mid-town Manhattan to have had such a public space all the way up to Central Park.

Simon Breines FAIA

Dear Editor:

I am seeking information about a door knocker that I own. It was on the front door of a mansion on or near Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. The mansion was demolished between 1935-1947. I believe it was the residence of one of the Vanderbilts, but am not positive. It is a renaissance style solid bronze door knocker in the shape of a cupid with fig leaf. [Note: full specifications of the writer's request are available for review at the chapter.]

Any information that you can supply would be greatly appreciated. I wish to thank you in advance for your anticipated helpfulness in this matter.

Richard Brill
9926 Walker House Road, Apt. 3
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879
Fiftieth Anniversary,
1938-1988 Continued

Cont'd from p. 7

December 1972: "...George Lewis, speaking for the official Chapter position supported the establishment of a 'Special Parks District' in Tudor City, thereby opposing the building of a huge apartment tower there...."

April 1973: "The Architect and the Energy Crisis: Architecture as an Energy User...a public-oriented exhibit...at the Owens-Corning Fiberglas Exhibition Center...was organized by the Natural Environment Committee...."

September 1973: "The recent designation of the Cast Iron Historic District stands as a significant accomplishment of the Landmarks Preservation Commission...The Chapter may take credit for its contribution, as channeled through its Historic Buildings Committee, chaired by Denis Kuhn...."

January 1974: "Major amendments to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Law were passed by the City Council on November 27th. Under the changes the Landmarks Commission will now have the power to hold public hearings at any time on proposed new landmarks and historic districts. Previously the Commission had been permitted to have six months of designation hearings at three-year intervals. Also, the amended law will now authorize the Commission to designate interior landmarks 'customarily open or accessible to the public.'...."

February 1975: "Battery Park City: A Slumbering Giant Awakens...."

March 1975: "Architects in Industry: A New Committee...."

January 1976: "Ad Hoc Committee On Status of Profession Makes First Report....Plans for follow-up activities to be begun within the next four to six weeks include: The development of a unified and coordinated Chapter position on all aspects of building...The formulation of a continuing set of coordinated Chapter activities designed to help our profession re-establish itself on an effective and respected basis.....For example, we should: Work with all architects and architectural groups in our area...Reinvestigate ethics standards concerned with direct participation in building...."

May 1976: "Chapter's 1976 Economic Survey Indicates 36.4% Drop in Total Personnel of Chapter Offices...."

November 1976: "The New York Chapter represented by Denis Glen Kuhn spoke in favor of the Villard House/Palace Hotel project by Emery Roth and Sons, Architects, at the Oct. 21 Board of Estimate hearing...."

January 1977: "Chapter Votes in Support of Westway...."

February 1977: "Anguish over our city's problems should not obscure a project that will greatly enhance this region's life: the Gateway National Recreation Area. This is a national park right at our own harbor, for which plans are rapidly proceeding....The park has been approved by Congress — the Chapter lobbied strongly for it through the AIA in Washington...."

April 1977: "Residential Plaza Guidelines Supported...."

May 1977: "Professional Liability Insurance Discussed at Office Practice Committee Meeting...."

December 1977: "...the Chapter may join with the Municipal Art Society and certain other organizations to take space in the north wing of the Villard Houses...."

February 1978: "Philip Johnson to Receive AIA Gold Medal...."

March 1978: "Landmarks Commission Ruling On Grand Central Station Goes Before U.S. Supreme Court....An adverse decision could undermine the Landmarks Law to which the Chapter is very strongly committed."

December 1978: "Brendan Gill Talks about His Latest Book - Summer Places, the Guggenheim and the Beauborg, and Foresees the Possibility of Lower Manhattan Becoming an Intellectuals Disneyland...."

January 1979: "I.M. Pei to Receive AIA Gold Medal...."

April 1979: "Chapter Economic Survey Shows Continued Upturn and Optimism Sustained into '79...."

January 1980: Andrew MacNair, who with this issue, took over the editorship of Oculus begins an Editor's Note with these words: "Considering the position that architects face today with a future of cutbacks and shortages, it becomes more critical than ever that the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects muster up its forces for not only a program of survival but also proliferation...." The issue also includes two columns by Jaquelin Robertson explaining Oculus's "new look" and "new editorial format; an "Update" on "Mayor Koch's 18 month Times Square Action Plan...to improve the physical condition of Times Square...." an article by Bill Slopsin on "The Urban Center," with the subhead "Our Headquarters: A History...." to be continued
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

EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION

WEDNESDAY 1

EXHIBITION

THURSDAY 2

LECTURE
Professor Jay Kappraff, NJ Institute of Technology, on “Mathematical Constraints on Man-made and Natural Design” in Pratt's visiting lecture series. 6 pm. Higgins Hall, St. James Place & Lafayette Ave., Brooklyn. 718-636-3405.

WEDNESDAY 15

EXHIBITION

THURSDAY 4

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

THURSDAY 16

EXHIBITION

LECTURE

WEDNESDAY 8

SEMINAR
Movement Joints in Brickwork. 11:30 am. Glen-Gery Design Center, 211 East 49th Street, 319-5577.

URBAN GENEALOGY
First of 4 Wednesday classes on How to Conduct Architectural Research with Anthony Robins, Director of Survey, NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission. 6-7:30 pm. The Urban Center. To register: Theresa Coxfield 935-3960.

THURSDAY 21

ARCHITECTS LOBBY DAY
In Albany. Buses leaving the Urban Center at 7 am. 838-9670.

NYC/AIA LECTURE
“Sacred Architecture: Places for Worship.” 6 pm. The Urban Center. (See Coming Chapter Events.)

WEDNESDAY 22

SEMINAR
Brick Veneer over Metal Studs. 11:30 am. Glen-Gery Design Center, 211 East 49th Street, 319-5577.

THURSDAY 28

SEMINAR
“Stone for Building Exteriors: Designing, Specifying and Installing.” 5:30-7:30 pm. The Urban Center. 838-9670. (See Coming Chapter Events.)

NYC/AIA PROGRAM
Chapter-wide program on “Getting In Print in New York and How to Get More Work from It” sponsored by the Professional Affiliates Committee. 838-9670. (See Coming Chapter Events.)

THURSDAY 30

LECTURE
Franz Schulze, Professor of Art at Lake Forest College, will discuss “Signs of an Old Century: Eleven years from the Millennium,” in Whitney Museum's series. 8 pm. The Asia Society, 725 Park Ave. Tickets available at the Whitney's Sales Desk. 570-3633.

SATURDAY 4

NYC/AIA PANEL
A discussion on Gordon Matta-Clark sponsored by the Associates Committee. 6 pm. The Urban Center. (See Coming Chapter Events.)

TUESDAY 7

NYC/AIA PANEL
“Art/Artist in Architectural Education.” 6:15 pm. The Urban Center. (See Coming Chapter Events.)
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