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ON THE COVER

Levitt House, Whitestone, New York
George Miller, Architect

The State Association does not hold itself responsible for the opinions expressed by contributors to the "Empire State Architect." Your comments are solicited.

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EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT 9
THE OLD... The Senior Citizens Housing Project, located at the foot of Cobbs Hill in Rochester, has already gained nationwide recognition. Some of the old frame buildings are shown in the background, now supplemented by FIRESAFE, modern, permanent construction featuring FLEXICORE roof slabs with ceilings exposed and painted.

One of the buildings is shown here under construction. The uncovered ends of the FLEXICORE roof slabs are visible showing the hollow cores. The architect for the project was C. Storrs Barrows and Associates, Rochester, and the contractor was Helendale Construction Co., Rochester. The FLEXICORE slabs were furnished by Anchor Concrete Products, Inc., Buffalo.

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... AND THE NEW! Several units of the now completed 60-unit project are shown here. Construction of the units, containing more than 40,000 sq. ft. of FLEXICORE, was ahead of schedule. Peter Monje of Helendale Construction said "everyone on the job was more than satisfied with the FLEXICORE, and some officials who inspected the project were very well pleased." Ease of construction and ease of maintenance of FLEXICORE has drawn wide praise.

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As we enter the new year, your officers and directors are planning a full program of activities.

There are many problems confronting us that must be met and solved. Among these are matters of legislation relating to the "tools" which we must employ in the practice of our profession. Housing, codes, labor laws, zoning, ethical standards, contracts, fees, specifications, registration law, and a multitude of other topics that require conscientious effort and concentration. We are favored with committee talent to do so.

To this end we have set up 24 committees composed of representatives from every constituent chapter and society, who will consider the respective matters coming before them.

Some of these committees have begun to function. Under the guidance of Matt Del Gaudio and Richard Roth, co-chairmen of the Legislative Committee, a meeting has already been held with the Architects Council of New York City to discuss legislation to be presented at the forthcoming session of the State Legislature.

The Scholarship Committee, under the leadership of George Cummings, held a meeting in our New York headquarters and set up an excellent program for administering the student assistance fund contributed by the New York State Concrete Masonry Association to the N.Y.S.A.A. at the last Convention.

In Syracuse, Carl Clark, chairman of the School Buildings and Planning Committee, developed with his committee some specific recommendations of value and interest to every architect of our Association.

The splendid work done to date by the By-Laws Committee under the direction of its former chairman, Martyn Weston, will be continued and intensified by the new chairman, Frederick Voss, and his excellent committee, who are now at work on this important matter.

I cannot begin to measure the services that have been rendered and are being rendered by Charles Ellis, chairman of our Publications Committee. He and the executive director, Joe Addonizio, have been exploring every possibility to make our official publication, The Empire State Architect, more attractive, readable and profitable.

Even at this early stage, 1st Vice-President and chairman John Briggs is working on the 1958 Convention, which will be held in Rochester, October 16th to 18th. The Board of Directors, at their meeting in New York on December 11th, voted to hold the 1959 Convention at the Lake Placid Club, October 8th to 10th. Plans are already in progress to return to this ever-popular resort area.

Our executive director has visited in the past six months about half of our fourteen constituent chapters and societies. I commend to your attention his "Progress Report" elsewhere in this issue.

The cooperation, assistance and active participation of every member of our Association will help us greatly to attain our objectives. I can pledge without qualification the complete support of every officer and director.

My best wishes to all for a very happy, healthful and prosperous New Year.

HARRY M. PRINCE, President
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DESK AT 441

Progress Report

Greetings, members and friends of N.Y.S.A.A. As they say on TV, thank you for letting me into your home, your office, close by your drafting board or wherever you may be reading this.

I want to make these columns, which will be a regular feature of all future EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT issues, a sort of chatty and informal progress report from the executive desk at 441 (Lexington Avenue in New York City — our headquarters office) to our 14 constituent chapters and societies and our 2,000 members.

First, I would like to thank the many architects who have responded to my previous invitation to visit our executive offices. And thanks too for the numerous letters of good wishes that have arrived at 441 from all parts of the State.

Since our last get-together some six weeks ago, I have had the pleasure and privilege of meeting many of you in person through my chapter and society visits. Everyone has been extremely cordial and friendly and eager to know, see and hear what your Executive Director looks like and what he is doing. I regret that space did not permit in the last issue of EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT the insertion of my photograph so that you may see for yourselves who is occupying the desk at 441. (I hope the engraver has touched up the photo at least a little, but I am afraid the gray hair still shows.)

My visits included three trips to Syracuse, one in the company of the President Harry Prince, as a guest at the A.I.A. Centennial Dinner admirably conducted by the Syracuse Society. On an earlier occasion it was stimulating to address the members of that vibrant and public relations-minded organization. In December I was a guest of the Central New York Chapter at its Hospital Buildings Forum — a very interesting session. I was amazed at the many constructive facets that were explored and discussed by the large audience of hospital administrators, consultants and architects in attendance. Such meetings as these contribute much to the fundamental concept of architects as community leaders.

Other visits by your Executive Director included a very interesting day and evening spent with officers and members of the Eastern New York Chapter in Albany which has a considerable number of both young and mature architects who astounded me with their solid and substantive ideas. I am growing profoundly impressed and happily proud of the high calibre of men and women who are engaged daily in the creative, imaginative and yet constructive profession of architecture, together with the breadth and depth of their scope and understanding of both professional and community problems.

Additional visits, official and social, have been made to the Brooklyn Society — a most heart-warming group of rugged individualists, an enjoyable evening spent with the Bronx architects and engineers at their annual dinner-dance, and more recently my attendance at the annual dinner and installation of officers and directors of the New York Society at the Hotel Commodore in New York City. Here, the popular "Hi" Feldman was installed as president by past State president Adolph Goldberg.

The executive desk at 441 is currently concerned with forthcoming legislative proposals that are being considered by the Legislative Committee. These include amendments to the Multiple Residence Law, the Multiple Dwelling Law, the Labor Law, the State Building Code, the Education Law, the perennial corporation engineering practice bill and many other legislative problems. Your Executive Director will be in attendance at every session of the Legislature when it convenes in Albany in January and you will be kept posted as to developments.

May I close this progress report from 441 by extending to you and yours my sincere wishes for a very happy, healthy and prosperous 1958. Let us go forward together in this new year in greater unity and strength for the advancement of the profession of architecture and the public interest.

[Signature]

Executive Director
The Lower East Side is one of the oldest sections in New York City. George Washington at one time lived on Cherry Street. Part of this street is on the corner of the Corlears Hook site, where the "Cooperative Village" is located. It was on the East Side that millions of immigrants lived after arriving in the United States. Early in the 1880s came the Irish, followed by waves of Germans, Italians, Austrians, Russians, Polish, Hungarians and Jews. The latter group were the last to arrive before the restrictive quotas were imposed. For many years the Lower East Side was the cultural and intellectual center of the city. Most of the houses in this section were built prior to 1900, but time and conditions change everything, and after many years the East Side generally deteriorated into one of the most infamous slum areas in the country.

Before slum clearance became a "cause" of national concern there were few people who believed that something could be done to improve and provide better housing for people of modest incomes. They believed that by working together and applying the principles of self help, people could provide themselves with good living accommodations.

The International Ladies Garment Workers Union Cooperative Village is the expansion of other housing cooperatives in the same area. There are in the immediate vicinity the Amalgamated Dwellings built in 1930 and the Hillman Houses completed in 1950. These two cooperatives in turn were the outgrowth of another large scale cooperative undertaking—the Amalgamated Houses in the Bronx, built in 1927.

The first idea of cooperative apartments in this area was as different in concept from the old tenant-landlord relationship as the buildings were from the tenements they replaced. The idea was that people could provide themselves with housing by combining their financial resources. Each stockholder would invest a proportionate part of the required equity in the cooperative, each would have an equal share in the development. Each member would have one vote in the affairs of the organization. There was no landlord, collectively the tenants would be their own. The vent, or carrying charges, to pay the expenses of the organization would be shared proportionally and kept as low as possible. If at the end of the year there was a surplus, it would be returned to the tenant-owners as a refund or rent rebate. If on the other hand the expenses exceeded income, it would be up to the tenant-members to increase the carrying charges. It was a simple idea and it proved successful.

The plans for the development called for the building of four apartment buildings, a central heating plant and a shopping center. In addition there would be gardens, play areas, and parking facilities. To calculate the cost of building such a project two years before construction was to start, took a great deal of minute planning. It was estimated that the cooperative would be built for approximately $19,500,000.

One of the most difficult problems of the entire development was clearing the site and relocation of 878 families who lived in the 110 tenement buildings.

Long before the contractors could start work, thousands of man hours were spent in designing and drawing the plans for the buildings. The results of the work is self-evident. The buildings have been acclaimed by many impartial people as being among the finest apartment buildings in the city. The architects responsible for the design of the development are the late George W. Springsteen and his associate, Herman J. Jessar. These same architects have to their credit several other cooperatives in the city. To them goes the credit for visualizing and planning the beauty of the Cooperative Village. The architects were capably assisted in the functional aspects of the design by Farkas and Barron, Structural Engineers and William Dusenenburg, Mechanical Engineer.

The land for development consists of 12.9 acres. The four apartment buildings occupy 2.21 acres or 17% of the site. Two of the buildings are 22 stories tall and the other two arc 21 stories. At the time of construction, these were the tallest reinforced concrete apartment structures in the United States. From the ground to the top of the water towers is 250 feet.

In addition to the apartment buildings the development includes a central power plant and a shopping center. The total area occupied by buildings is 25% of the site. The remaining 75% or approximately 10 acres are devoted to playgrounds, gardens and parking facilities.

The buildings contain 1672 apartments comprising 7307 rental rooms. 946 apartments have balconies and 36 have terraces and 118 of them have extra bathrooms.

Each building is divided into three sections. Each section is served by two high speed elevators using the "skip-stop method." There is also a double staircase in each section. The typical floor contains 74 rooms divided into 21 apartments.

The final project cost amounted to $19,961,000. This is $161,000 more than the original estimated cost. This 2% increase was largely attributed to increased costs of labor and material over the five year period.

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Arnold, Jr.
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Baldwin, Guy H.
204 Doncaster Rd., Kenmore 17, N. Y.

Baird, James Kenneth
12 Taber Rd., Utica, N. Y.

Baker, James
63 Whitwood Ave., New Rochelle, N. Y.

Baker, C. Dale
535 57th St., New York 22, N. Y.

Baas, Stuver
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Bagg, Eberhard R.
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Bauer, Paul
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Beardsley, Wallace
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Becker, Samuel V.
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425 EAST 79th STREET

H. I. Feldman, Architect

425 East 79th Street is the newest of numerous distinguished apartment houses in this area of New York City. As an investment building, it has been built to last, style-wise and construction-wise. Its appointments and equipment have been thoughtfully and tastefully chosen. Location-wise, "425" takes its place among many fine buildings that line this fashionable thoroughfare. With cross-town busses practically at the door, "425" is near everything except hustle, bustle and congestion. Shopping is good and schools are close by.

The fourteen story fireproof apartment building contains 190 apartments, fourteen apartments per floor on the lower floors and twelve apartments per floor on the upper floors. Indoor garage parking facilities for sixty cars is provided in the basement area. The roof is designed as a roof-top patio, landscaped and furnished for tenant enjoyment.

This building achieved a considerable record in that the building was completed in less than twelve months from inception of plans to Certificate of Occupancy. The structure is steel frame with wide span light weight aggregate concrete floor arches which produced flat ceilings. The exterior is faced with limestone color brick with a blue pearl granite base and entrance way.

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ORCHARD VILLAGE

Cole & Cappuccilli, Architects

The Orchard Village development, located near Syracuse, in the town of Camillus, New York, is designed for middle income families. The homes are in the $15,000 to $21,000 price range. A total of 500 home sites are planned.

The complete subdivision was studied with the engineers to give the people many advantages, such as:

A. Varied and winding roads over rolling terrain to give all homes a different landscape.

B. Roads were studied to have as few entrances as possible off the main highway.

C. Apple orchards and woods cover almost half of the tract and as few trees as possible are being removed.

Adjoining this area is the town park with its new swimming pool, shelter, and wooded picnic area. This subdivision also has its own sewage disposal plant which eventually will be deeded to the town.
A few years back, after the war was over and during the boom period that followed, the Legislators of New York State came to the point of doing something about the middle income family which was still unable to find enough housing of the kind to which its income and background entitled it.

In 1951, Senator MacNeil Mitchell and Assemblyman Alfred Lema collaborated on an act which became law in 1955 and is known as the Limited Profits Housing Company's Law. It is found in Article 12 of the Public Housing Laws of New York State.

Under its terms the State will loan up to 90% of the cost of a project which fits within its requirements, and in addition makes the project eligible to exemptions of up to 50% of all municipal taxes for the 50 years duration of the loan. The New York Division of Housing directs and supervises all phases of the work from acquisitions of land to construction costs, tenant selection, accounting, etc.

The Sponsor or Developer is permitted a profit not to exceed 6% of his capital investment and also retain necessary reserves, and the excess profits, if any by virtue of good management, must go to reduce the indebtedness.

Tenants' incomes regulate their eligibility to become tenants. In 50 years the Sponsor will own the project.

The illustration shows a general view of the Sanders Court Project, designed by Backus, Crane & Love, Architects, at Sanders Road and Delaware Avenue in Buffalo, New York. There are 112 duplex apartments of 2 bedrooms and 12 duplex apartments of 3 bedrooms. Each row has a front door court, as well as a back door court for service and parking.

136 EAST 55th STREET
Emery Roth & Sons, Architects

This new 14-story apartment and penthouse structure at 136 East 55th Street, New York, will feature the largest installation of porcelain enamel panels ever used in apartment building construction in the city. The building faces on East 55th Street and on Lexington Avenue. Both sides will be clad in porcelain panels for eight of the 14 stories, fabricated by Seaport Metal Inc. These porcelain enamel metal mullions and spandrels are a special rigid type of exterior steel panel, offering decorative as well as functional beauty. The entire unit is mounted on a structural steel grid, with frame reinforcements to facilitate speed and economy of installation. The paneling consists of 418 panels, each 8'/2" wide by 5'/2" high. They are mounted to produce individual prefabricated units, measuring 4'/6" wide by 5'/2" high. The individual mullions were custom designed in a "W" shape, and used in a vertical position on 8 stories of the exterior face of the 14-story building. Not only does this lend visual interest and character to the wall treatment, but also it gives scale to the building as a whole.

EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT
RESIDENCE OF
MR. & MRS. HYMAN MATLOW
SYRACUSE, N. Y.
GRANGER & GILLESPIE, Architects

Situated on a corner lot of unusual shape this residence was designed with angles to give an inviting approach with its circular drive and to fully utilize the area at the rear for gardens brought into the heart of the house with the recessed porch opening onto these areas.

Dramatic and central feature of this home is the spacious Entrance Hall with circular open stair of large scale, with windows giving view of garden as one enters.

Built for a family of four, Mr. and Mrs. Matlow and two sons at school, the first floor offers complete living for the parents with Bed Room, Dressing Room and Bath located for privacy.

Although Georgian in feeling and detail many modern features are incorporated. The exterior and roof are of heavy cedar shakes and Cornell Stone has been used for contrast with details of wrought iron. Leaded windows of Living and Dining Rooms are of thomopane. Library with its built-in television and valance lighting is in contrast to beautiful crystal chandeliers of Hall, Dining Room and Bed Room.

EASTMORE HOUSE
LEO STILLMAN, Architect

Eastmore House—the newest major apartment house completed in the redevelopment of New York’s east side, from an underdeveloped area into a fashionable residential colony. It is built on a plot of more than 21,000 square feet, occupying the entire westerly Second Avenue block front from 75th to 76th Street. The building rises 14 stories, straight up on the property line. Above this point it is usual to provide setbacks to comply with the New York City Zoning Law. This is a costly but generally a necessary method of building, in order to take maximum advantage of the land which in this area is expensive. After a great deal of study of the added building cost against land cost, it was decided to forgive the use of some of the permitted cube. Instead of setbacks, we just dropped off six apartments above the 14th floor. The remaining apartments were extended intact for two additional stories. This additional height, in the terminology of the New York City Zoning Ordinance, is called a “dormer”, and may extend above the legal height limit under certain conditions.

There are twenty apartments on each of the typical rooms, ranging in size from 2 to 1½ rooms. By dropping off six apartments, we were able to provide fourteen suites on the 15th and 16th floors practically identical in layout with the apartments directly below. This eliminated offset plumbing and heating lines and made it unnecessary to provide heavy girders for the support of masonry walls and columns at the offset level. It also eliminated the necessity of changing forms for the concrete work. The building is constructed of reinforced concrete, flat plate design.

The appeal of this city apartment building is its open outlook on all four exposures. This is made possible by its three street fronts and a fourth partially overlooking a school playground and partially a low school building.

To make room for Eastmore House with its 300 modern air-conditioned apartments and its 100-car garage, 88 small, old law, cold water flats had to be demolished. The facade is of a sandy hued brick set off with chocolate toned brick panels between the windows. The main entrance is trimmed with highly polished Canadian granite and a stainless steel marquee. The lobby walls are finished with rose Israeli marble brought here directly from Israel by the owner-builder, David Rose, who on a trip through the middle east recently, was greatly impressed by its rich color and fine veining. The lobby floor is finished with Venetian terrazzo. The building contains four high speed push-button controlled elevators. The elevators are equipped with the latest electronic safety features, including an electric eye, a passenger protection device against closing doors. The building elevators afford direct access to the 100-car garage in the basement.
"I do a better job at lower cost—with Copper"

J. L. Fitzpatrick switched to Anaconda copper tube for sanitary drainage lines—finds installation easier—gives builders and homeowners superior plumbing systems.

"We all know that copper plumbing is best and there's no mystery about the cost angle," said J. L. Fitzpatrick.

"It is simply a matter of copper tube and solder-joint fittings being so much easier and faster to install. Copper handles right . . . It's light and easy to cut. And where you have long runs, the 20-foot lengths of copper tube eliminate many joints. We also save the time and trouble of making threaded or caulked connections.

"And our men like to work with copper, not only because it's easier—but because they can turn out a neat, trim job they're proud of."

More and more plumbing contractors are standardizing on copper tube for drainage lines for the reasons given by Mr. Fitzpatrick. And in areas where plumbing codes were written years ago, contractors are asking for revisions to include copper tube as an approved material for sanitary drainage systems.

Builders and owners also benefit from all-copper plumbing in many ways. A 3" copper tube stack with fittings can be installed in standard 4'-wide partitions. Carpentry, lumber, and space are saved. Plumbing can be laid out to meet owners' wishes regarding location of fixtures and appliances. All-copper plumbing is a mark of quality—a sign of low maintenance and high resale values.

THE BUILDER'S HANDBOOK
INSTALLMENT 6
BY CARL F. SCHMIDT

There is no question the invention of the printing press had more influence upon architecture and building than any other tool or machine. Architectural books have been published as early as the last quarter of the fifteenth century, but it was not until the first half of the eighteenth century that the printing of architectural books became well established.

It became the fashion among professional architects, as well as among painters and scholars, to make the "tours" Italy and Greece became the favorite haunts of the architects, where they sketched, painted and made careful measured drawings of the plans, elevations and details of the classic ruins. The drawings of some of the architects were published in beautiful large volumes and these books soon were found on the shelves of prominent libraries and in the hands of professional architects.

We should realize that it was only the trained professional architects that could make use of these monumental folios. The carpenter and mason builders who built most of the smaller residences, shops and churches, did not know how to make use of the drawings of a classic temple from one of the folios and apply them to the buildings he was designing.

Some of the books were brought to the American colonies. We know that Thomas Major's "Ruins of Paestum" was in the possession of the Philadelphia Library in 1762, and Stuart's "Antiquities of Athens" was in its collection in 1770.

It astonishes us to read the list of architectural books in the library of Thomas Jefferson. Dr. Fiske Kimball lists some of the architectural books in Jefferson's collection as follows:

"Builders Dictionary" by Alberti, "Vitruvius" by Perraults, "Gardening" by Whatley, "Athens" by LeRoy, several books by Scamozzi, several editions of Palladio and books by Chambers, Clerisseau, Del'Orme, Desgodetz, Gibbs, Halfpenny, Kent, Langley, Milizia, Perrault, Piranesi, Rossi, Serlio, Wood, Dawkins, Ware, Stuart and Revett, and many others.

There were others besides Jefferson who were able to design splendid architectural works and were not trained architects. To name but a few, Andrew Hamilton, designed Independence Hall; Dr. John Kearsley was the architect of Christ's Church; and Dr. William Thornton, a Philadelphia physician, whose design for the United States Capitol building was outstanding.

In England, as well as in the American colonies, the master builders who designed most of the smaller buildings and residences, had no professional training except as derived from the apprenticeship they served and probably some additional years as assistants to master-masons and carpenters. Most of these men, lacking the formal training of professional architects, were not able to interpret the drawings, or make use of the archaeological restorations found in the books by Bartoli, Palladio, Kent, Gibbs or Colin Campbell. But sometime during the middle of the eighteenth century handbooks appeared especially prepared for the master craftsmen. They contained plans and elevations of houses and churches, as well as detailed drawings of entrances, cornices, doors, stairs and mantelpieces. From these simplified handbooks any trained craftsman could apply the various details to his work.

The craftsmen who received their training in England were familiar with the builders' handbooks and when they emigrated to the Colonies their handbooks came with them. Before the Revolutionary War many of the builders' handbooks had found their way to the American shore and the craftsmen had learned how to use them. These builders' handbooks certainly had a great influence on the architecture of the Colonies.

The most influential publisher of the Builders' handbooks in America after the Revolutionary War was Asher Benjamin of Greenfield and Boston, Massachusetts. He published his first book in 1797 and it was followed by four others. Many editions of his books were printed, some as late as 1851, and these books found their way into all parts of the country. Edward Shaw, who was equally as influential as Benjamin, published his book "Civil Architecture" in 1830 and it went through eleven editions.

It was not until 1826, in the fifth edition of "The American Builders' Companion" in which Benjamin first illustrated the Greek Orders. The first man to illustrate the Greek Orders in a builders' handbook in the United States was John Haviland in "The Builders' Assistant" in 1818.

Minard Lafever was particularly successful in transplanting the Classic Greek into the simple, refined moldings and ornaments decorating his residences. He published his first book in 1829, but it was his book, "The Beauties of Modern Architecture" published in 1835 which proved to be exceedingly popular and had considerable influence on the Greek Revival.

Although some of the plates and illustrations in the handbooks published by Benjamin, Shaw, Lafever and Hills were taken from Stuart and Revett's "Antiquities of Athens," the greater number of plates were taken from the builders' handbooks published by Peter Nicholson in London. His books were very popular in England and America during the first quarter of the nineteenth century and were extensively used. The American authors were especially dependent on Nicholson for their technical information on framing, vaulting and the construction of trusses.

Most of the plates are modifications of the classic Greek. They were so simplified that any carpenter could easily interpret them and apply the various details in the construction. Benjamin was very skillful in making simplified designs of pilasters, cornices, mantels and entrances which could be easily adapted by the builder. His design of a pilaster and treatment of door and window openings with flanking pilasters was a favorite feature throughout the country.

The custom of changing and rearranging details and the proportions of the orders was common long before the Revolutionary War. It was particularly true in New England and the Hudson River Valley. Benjamin realized that the stone proportions from the Classic Greek were too heavy to be constructed in wood. He therefore explained to his readers that an

(Continued on Page 46.)

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Over on a peninsula of land which projects far down into Keuka Lake stands a chapel and mausoleum erected by the Garrett family. The custodian proudly stated that every item of its construction materials had been selected for permanence and that this building would be standing for centuries. But the belt course at the water table was of Litholite and is already full of minute hair cracks.

During the unprecedented boom which is fast drawing to a close, various small companies have sprung up, bent on revolutionizing the mechanical and electrical appliances for buildings. Many have good ideas and have started out with favorable acceptance. Some have copied existing designs produced by well-established firms and have gained attention by selling at deeply cut prices. When the real squeeze comes, many of these firms are destined to fold.

Especial care must be exercised in permitting products of such firms to be placed in a structure. The owner will quickly forget the savings which these new products might have permitted if, in a couple of years, his building is cursed with orphaned equipment. We will need every word of commendation from our former clients when we enter the heavy weather ahead. That we saved a client a few dollars by accepting products of firms who later on failed will not be remembered, nor will it influence a prospective client favorably.

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BROOKLYN CHAPTER
- The 500th meeting of the Chapter and the local celebration of the A.I.A. Centennial was a Dinner-Dance held at the Hotel Granada.

A set of the 1957 A.I.A. Honor Awards Exhibit photo reproductions is being displayed throughout this area of the state.

In addition to the previous published list, the following appointments have been made:

N.Y.S.A.A. Legislative Committee—Abraham Farber.

ARCHITECTURAL COUNCIL
Audit & Finance
Joseph Mathieu
By Laws
City Legislative
Michael Giffa
City Planning & Zoning
Charles M. Spindler
Legislative (State)
Abraham Farber
Publicity (Editorial)
Joseph Krendel
Public Works & Public Housing
Civil Defense
Allen E. Blaustein

The Board of the Fine Arts Federation of New York elected E. J. Gambaro, F.A.I.A., chairman of the Committee on Nominations to Art Commissions—Congratulations, Jimmy!

CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER
- Edwin B. Bruce was host for the December meeting held at the University Club in Syracuse, December 7th. The program was under the expert guidance of George Bain Cummings and his committee on Hospitals and Health and was very worthwhile in bringing us up-to-date on a rapidly progressing subject.

Featured at the meeting was the annual exhibit of work of Chapter members.

Robert B. Sherman announces the opening of his office for the practice of Architecture in Newark, N. Y.

Secretary, Carl Kaebler announces that John W. Cole, Syracuse; John H. Deirlein, Watertown; and Robert John Hall, Rochester, have been admitted to Corporate Membership in the Central New York Chapter.

NEW YORK CHAPTER
- Robert C. Weinberg received the special Brunner Scholarship Award. A Joint Committee of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the New York Regional Chapter of the American Institute of Planners have been working on the problem of preparing a guide for communities who wish to find a means of improving their appearances by legislative control of design. Last April this joint committee studied a complete draft of this report. This draft is being considered at the Convention of the A.I.P. now being held in Chicago. Upon receipt of the A.I.P. comments the document will receive final review and editing with illustrations made possible by the Chapter's award of $500. of Brunner Funds to Mr. Weinberg. This report contains digests of all legislation throughout the world that has to do with control of design. The Regional Plan Association has undertaken to sponsor its publication.

The renowned architect and artist, Otto R. Eggers, marked a half century in his profession with an exhibition of his outstanding drawings and renderings. Nearly 150 pieces were shown at the Architectural League during the weeks of October 15 through October 26. Mr. Eggers, who in 1936 rode mile-back five thousand feet into the mountainous terrain behind the Italian Riviera to select marble for the interior columns of the National Gallery of Art, is a partner of the firm of Eggers and Higgins, an Academician of the National Academy of Design, and a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. Mr. Eggers' versatility in combinations of media was manifest in the wide variety of subjects in the exhibit, which covered the period from 1905 to the present.

Lathrop Douglass was a principal speaker at the recent Washington, D. C. Congress of the International Association of Chain Stores, as it is called in Europe, the Comité International des Enter-

(Continued on Page 44.)

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The Public Relations Committee made a year-long study of the need for and desirability of such a program. It then interviewed a number of public relations firms and selected an outstanding one, Edward Gottlieb & Associates Ltd., on a consulting basis.

Under the Committee's guidance the Gottlieb organization outlined a public relations program to benefit every member of the Chapter. A folder describing it was sent to all members.

A number of facets of human response to environmental conditions were presented by Dr. Darrell B. Harmon of Austin, Texas, at a dinner meeting of the Technical Committee. In his speech, which was supplemented by slides and audience-participation experiments, Dr. Harmon stressed that it was not for him as a physiologist to attempt to dictate the physical solutions of materials required to create a proper environment, but rather to bring to the architect a better understanding of physiological responses to use in planning for human habitation.

Dr. Harmon demonstrated that posture habits directly relate to earlier established light and work positions by slides showing spinal deformity of children exposed to old type classrooms with over-contrasted light conditions. He pointed out that the best concentration and results in the learning process are achieved in uniformly lighted rooms with the "visual distraction of the outdoors eliminated." The ideal, in his view, is a classroom with a high angle of skylighting in combinations with artificial light of wide spectrum characteristics. Dr. Harmon also demonstrated the reactions to color and contrast, and the relationship between sight and sound (response to sound is higher in a bright area). It was also noted that a minimum level of sound excitation must be present before human response is easy.

Development Housing: The National A.I.A. Committee on the Home Building Industry has requested that all architects of any experience in development housing communicate with the Department of Education and Research. Their intent is to submit to the National Association of Home Builders, as a reference for its members, as complete a list as possible of architects active in, or interested in entering the field of development home building. A second intent is to obtain from these architects the material required for a proposed AIA-NAHb-FHA film strip depicting the advantages to communities and developers of Architect collaboration in development home building.

The New York Chapter's House Consulting Committee under the Chairmanship of Giorgio Cavaglii, is concerned lest a roster of architects active in the field of development home building damage the possibilities of new names entering this field. While the Committee is aware of the fact that development building design requires architects of experience, they sug-
gest that it is frequently possible that some new imaginative suggestion may come even from young graduates if given the opportunity to study the problem. The Committee suggest that any roster of specialized architects would be satisfactory only if open to any AIA member who expresses the desire to be on it.

The House Consulting Committee endorses the idea of the film strip and suggests that the Chapter membership contribute 35mm color slides of photographs or renderings of home development projects together with statements pertaining to design considerations, extent of service provided and cost factors. Such information should be sent direct to Mrs. Gery Witt, Coordinator of AIA-NAHB-FHA Film Project, American Institute of Architects, 1735 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

On Friday, October 18th over 140 students representing the Student Chapters at Columbia, Pratt and Cooper Union attended a buffet dinner and lecture series at the Metropolitan Museum in commemoration of the Centennial Year of the A.I.A. The students heard short and provocative talks by James Fitch, Sibyl Moholy-Nagy, and Paul Zucker. George Adler of the Cooper Union Student Chapter summarizes the evening events as follows:

"The Centennial Commemoration lecture series and dinner extended in a resplendent fashion, a warm welcome to the strengthening of interests between the New York and Brooklyn Chapters of the A.I.A. and the members of the Student Chapters of Columbia, Pratt and Cooper Union.

"Commendations are in order to the two sponsoring chapters; to the individuals who arranged and coordinated this enjoyable event, and to the architects who demonstrated their interest in student affairs by joining the discussions at each table. Despite the fact that Asian flu was responsible for the lower than anticipated attendance, the evening was eminently successful.

"At the lectures, each of the speakers presented their opinions and observations with clarity and vitality such that the significance of each phase was received by an attentive audience. They, too, are to be praised for maintaining the live spirit of the evening.

"The real success of the evening was in how it illustrated to all the

(Continued on Page 47.)
order built of wood should be more slender than one built of stone. In his drawings of the Doric, Ionic and Corinthian columns the heights are ten, eleven and twelve diameters respectively instead of the conventional eight, nine and ten. He also reduced the height of the cornices and increased their projection.

Some of the carpenter-builders faithfully copied the designs from the handbooks to the most minute detail. It is not unusual as we go about the countryside to recognize the features on Greek Revival buildings that have been "lifted" from the handbooks. But there were also many carpenter-builders who used the handbooks as a basis to develop variations in the mouldings and architectural features, for entrances, stairs and mantels.

Sometimes we hear the statement that the decline of craftsmanship was due to the widespread use of the builders' handbooks. It is a debatable question as to whether they helped or hindered the progress of architecture in America. We know builders' handbooks were in use during the fifty years before the Revolutionary War as well as in the fifty years immediately after the War. When and where was there better residential architecture, than during those hundred years? We know of better reasons for the so-called decline of American architecture in the middle of the nineteenth century than the use of books. We know also that Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Hamilton, John Kearsley, Dr. William Thornton and Charles Bulfinch depended a great deal on books for their knowledge of architecture and there are no indications of any "decline of architecture" in their works.

Here are a list of the most popular of the builders' handbooks.


Benjamin, Asher, "Rudiments of Architecture," 1814.


Benjamin, Asher, "Practice of Architecture," 1833.


Campbell, Colin, "Vitruvius Britannicus," 1715.

"Chamber's Civil Architecture," London 1825.


Gibbs, James, "Rules for Drawing the Several Parts of Architecture," 1732.


Haviland, John and Bridport, Hugh, "The Builders' Assistant." Philadelphia 1818. (This was the first builders' handbook published in America to have Greek plates.)


Hoppus, " Palladio," 1755.

Kent, "Designs of Inigo Jones," 1723.

Lafever, Minard, "The Young Builders' General Instructor," 1829.


Langley, Batty, "Practical Geometry applied to Building, Surveying, Gardening," 1726.


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CONSTITUENTS (Continued)

interrelationship of schools and chapters: professionals and students. These interrelationships ask only to be unfolded and developed. Friday's gathering was but an introduction to the workability of these interrelationships. It is up to us now to take it from here.

The Chapter Anniversary Dinner Dance is once again scheduled to be held February 28, 1958, in the Metropolitan Club of New York. Note the date now.

With a view toward encouraging membership in professional societies, Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith has announced the firm's new policy, effective this past October 15th, of assuming the costs of membership in societies such as the American Institute of Architects, American Society of Landscape Architects and American Society of Civil Engineers.

"Ralph Walker — Architect." A limited edition of 1000 volumes, printed by the Aldus Printers, "Ralph Walker — Architect" is a frank and refreshing accumulation of notes and quotes, photographs and sketches, beautifully composed and edited by Frants Albert. With the hypothesis that "the Architec-
tural world desperately needs self-analysis," Mr. Walker takes exception to many of today's accepted creeds and standards. "Ralph Walker — Architect" is a provocative and stimulating treatise on the architectural profession.

SYRACUSE SOCIETY

The Syracuse Society of Architects observed the one hundredth birthday of the A.I.A. with a Centennial Banquet on Wednesday, November 6th, at Hotel Syracuse. Approximately 150 persons were present, including leaders of government and industry in the area.

A highlight of the affair was the presentation of a portrait of the late Arthur D. Gilman, A.I.A., a former Central New York architect to National A.I.A. Headquarters. In 1867 Mr. Gilman delivered the closing address at the first A.I.A. convention.

The main speaker of the evening was Hugh R. Pomeroy of White Plains, Director of the Westchester County Planning Department, who directed a strong challenge to the planning profession to coordinate and activate local planning within a regional plan. This plan, calling for the enthusiastic support of the citizenry, is vital to the salvation of this area from the present widespread blight.

The committee arranging the banquet under the direction of Society President Edwin B. Bruce, consisted of Robert T. Clark, Chairman; J. Anthony Cappucciilli, Russell A. King, James D. Curtin, Louis Skoler, Robert R. Majewski, Charles J. Doetler, Lester D. Young and Francis E. Hares.

WESTCHESTER CHAPTER

Mr. Joseph Addonizio, Executive Director of the New York State Association of Architects met the members and explained his duties and contemplated services to architects.

Harry McConnell requested that volunteers to serve on State Association Committees submit their names with their choice of committee to Norman Blair.

Edward Lueders discussed methods of engaging architects for public buildings. Mr. Addonizio suggested that the Chapter appoint a committee to investigate the procedure of awarding Architectural contracts for State work. President Blair appointed Lueders as Chairman of such a special committee.

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Design elements employed are simply exposed, structural elements, skillfully proportioned and a pleasing arrangement of materials and color.

The designer-architect is George Z. S. Gerencser, an associate of Norman A. Kearns, architect, of Welland. Contractor is Newman Brothers Ltd., St. Catharines. All concrete masonry units were supplied by Thorold Concrete Block Co. Ltd., a Canadian member of the New York State Concrete Masonry Association.
To Colonial Williamsburg, Va., come thousands of tourists to see the pageant of American history displayed in the new Exhibition Hall. Presenting this view of America's past and providing a smooth, resilient and durable floor surface in the hall is an Ironbound Continuous Strip Maple Floor.

Ironbound was chosen for this installation to withstand the wear from thousands of shuffling feet and to provide tourists with a comfortable floor on which to stand. These important durability and resiliency features, plus Ironbound's tight-grained smoothness and warm, natural beauty, made it the ideal floor for the Williamsburg Exhibition Hall.

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