

MARYLAND ASKED TO CONSIDER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

By Andrew H. MacIntire, Chairman, Special Study Committee

DR. WILSON H. ELKINS, President of the University of Maryland, has received Ted Englehardt, President of Potomac Valley Chapter, with its Special Study Committee, and attentively heard our data-supported plea calling for the State's first school of architecture to be established at College Park.

It has been my privilege to chairman the committee, carrying forward the several years intensive work of the Chapter's Education Committee on the same project under V. T. H. Bien.

We assembled all possible information and waited on President Elkins at this time because of a presently considered expansion of the School of Fine Arts. The Committee pointed out that schools of architecture, administratively, are placed under schools and colleges of fine arts as well as of engineering. Tabulation of these placements in the 64 accredited architectural schools (only 19 of them in the South) is being made but there is no doubt that placement in the school of fine arts can be and is a successful formula. Other pertient facts were presented as will follow within the limits of this page's space.

The architectural profession has increased five fold since 1900 but proportionately is behind the volume of construction undertaken to accommodate population growth. There are 175 architectural offices in Maryland with a total personnel of approximately 1,000 persons. Turnover, replacement, expansion and new offices could certainly absorb, at the present time, 75 to 100 qualified men each year, which figure will increase as the profession grows.

Records based on a four year tabulation show an average of 50 students per year go to some 22 colleges and universities outside the state in schools of architecture. Making a course in architecture available to Maryland students would certainly attract a large enrollment. Support of the school by professional societies has played a so successful part in the establishment of schools in other states that the Committee assured the educator of its complete interest and support. The support of all Maryland architects has been asked.

The Free State is one of the very few states in the nation which does not have a school of architecture within its boundaries. Architecture, the "Mother of the Arts", should be offered to Maryland students as an opportunity and to supply Maryland personnel to forward the profession.

It is hoped that the opportunity is at hand, or will soon be at hand, to consider the establishment of a school of regional importance with an architecturally strong person at its head. It is also hoped that the school eventually will become autonomous, and that it may extend its influence in training those concerned with building man's environment, while educating professional architects.

The help of our national and regional education committee and consultants, who have advised in other similar state situations, was offered to the University in counseling during the establishment of a school and throughout its life.

For the first time interest seems to be established in the creation of a school of architecture and we asked President Elkins to look to our Chapter to furnish information and help in its creation. The data so far assembled was gathered from conference and material furnished by Walter A. Taylor, Director of Education and Research of the A. I. A.

The Committee is also grateful to its member, George H. Schoneberger, Jr., who helped us prepare the data. When he attended the University of Maryland Mr. Schoneberger was chairman of a committee for the establishment of a school of architecture. He is now an Associate Instructor, School of Architecture, Catholic University and Associate Member, A. I. A. POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER OF MARYLAND AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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POTOMAC VALLEY ARCHITECT

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MEETINGS

First Monday of Every Month at 12 o'clock noon NEXT MEETING Monday, February 3 Stone House Inn, Silver Spring

LETTERS

PRASSAS CONGRATULATED

The Editors

Potomac Valley Architect

Glentlemen:

My congratulations to your lively publication and to Mr. Milton J. Prassas for an excellent article in your January 6 issue entitled, "Architecture-Profession or Business." The article accurately states many of our current professional problems. I will only add that for the larger office the architect principals are not necessarily lost in the administrative maze. It is possible to add high echelon personnel which will assume the major share of administrative responsibility, thus leaving the architects in the firm with more freedom to act directly in behalf of their clients than is usually true in the smaller office where the principal must be a jack-of-all-trades.

Philip Will, Jr., 2nd Vice-President, American Institute of Architects.

SPECIFICATION SCHOOL

TWO SESSIONS of the highly valuable and successful free Specifications School being conducted by the Constructions Specifications Institute at the National Housing Center, 1625 L. St., N. W., remain to be held. One will meet February 18 with panel members hoping to include discussions on roofing and to take up carpentry and millwork. March 18 is the date of the last meeting with flooring and wall covering scheduled to get a good kicking around. Joe Dennison, Andy MacIntire and Luther Flouten are among the Potomac Valley members and associate members who are full of raves about the great job C. S. I. men are doing in helping us write better specifications.

Potomac Valley Strongly Second Washington Chapter's 240 Solution

THE CHAPTER'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE is now on record as actively supporting what Potomac Valley believes to be the only sensible proposal that has been made for bringing Route 240 into the District.

This is the plan determinedly recommended by the Washington Chapter to the District Commissioners. It calls for using a route within the District following the Potomac along the right-of-way acquired for the four-lane George Washington Memorial Parkway to a point near Cabin John where the highway would conect with the west leg of 240. Here the A. I. A.'s proposal would require a speeding up of the construction of 240's west leg and of the Cabin John bridge across the river.

Chapter members are familiar with the traffic, private property owner and other advantages of the solution. President Ted Englehardt has announced we will vigorously support it at all Maryland hearings and meetings.



"You know who keeps his nose to the ol' drawing board."

By kind permission of the Evening Star and the Register and Tribune Syndicate.

REAR ADMIRAL HARTWIG MADE HIT

CIVIL DEFENSE DIRECTOR of Montgomery County, Rear Admiral G. Roy Hartwig, the timely speaker at our packed January meeting, quickly got attention with his talk about the problem of Mother Skunk with her two boys named In and Out. "When Out was in, then In was out; when In was in, then Out was out," said the Admiral. So one day when Out was in and In was out, Mother Skunk told Out to get his brother in, which Out so promptly did she asked how he found him so quickly. "Well, mom," explained Out, "You see, In stinks." FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, and by its request, the Chapter's School Committee, with a similar committee from the Washington Chapter has provided a professional, practical, economical, detailed and documented report to guide Montgomery County's school building program. Seeking no publicity, the combined group of expert architectural advisors is submitting its carefully prepared and printed material only to the school officials. The Board will then determine what sections may be released in the public interest.



Right at it, Almost Every Day and Many Nights, is this the Chapter's Special School Committee. From Left: Paul H. Kea, Dana B. Johannes and Ronald S. Senseman.

SCHOOL COSTS

THE A. I. A. MEMO'S report of the packet of factual information on school costs as prepared by the American Association of School Administrators and the National School Public Relations Association is of particular interest as Prince Georges and Montgomery County School Boards consider the 1958 and largest of any year's requests for school building programs. The portfolio "How Much Should A Good School Cost?" contains 14 pertinent reprints and pamphlets countering misleading and unfair articles on the subject published recently in the Readers Digest and Ladies Home Journal.

NEWS OF CHAPTER MEMBERS

LEN SLAGLE, after designing and modeling "the latest word" for a bus shelter, is enjoying the same type of criticism which often amused Frank Lloyd Wright.

THE OFFICE PRACTICES COMMITTEE met January 16 with Vice President Chuck Soulé and Chairman Milt Prassas. It decided copies of the latest draft of the three A. I. A. — Owner-Agreement forms should go to all members for their comments and suggestions. Committee members present and voting this action were: Tim Quinlan, Len Slagle, Eric Andberg and Jack Cohen.

APOLOGIES to James E. Miller, living at 1909 Rookwood Rd. (named for Rookwood Potteries). Our latest roster, along with too many printed records, annoyingly again has this member's home on "Rockwood Rd.", there being no such address.

JACK COHEN has reported on the help wanted by the A. I. A.'s Committee on the Home Building Industry in producing a film strip for wide distribution. JACK SULLIVAN designed the Bank of Bethesda's strikingly modern drive-in banking facility on which construction is to begin at once on the corner of Woodmont and St. Elmo Avenues.

HEARD AT EDDIE MORRIS' DINNER

As expected and hoped, Eddie regaled our members and wives from his unlimited batch of earthy stories. But one young guest frowned and made disparaging remarks, at last coming out with the comment, "Don't you know any stories that aren't suggestive?" "Oh, yes," replied the always-dependable-with-a-rapier Eddie. "I've got quite a few. But I don't know you well enough to share a lilywhite story with you,"

After the dinner the ladies sought out Mrs. Gertrude Allison Brewster, owner of the Olney Inn, with compliments for her superb cuisine. "Why, thank you, said the president of the Washington Restaurant Association, to whom taking a live terrapin in her own capable, bare hands and turning it into out-of-this-word-soup is no problem. "And may I say how young-looking all of your architect husbands are."

"I'll tell you why that is," explained Mrs. Paul H. Kea. "You see, little children have so much fun setting up blocks, then knocking them down again. Well, architects in working on one building project after another, in a way, do that all of their lives."

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