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Competition for Awards in Architecture, 1958-1960

by EUGENE A. DELMAR and ANDREW H. MACINTIRE

"A society is known by the accomplishment which it rewards. As claimants of leadership in the environmental arts, The American Institute of Architects must proclaim its ideals and purposes by actions as well as by words. Few actions speak as convincingly as the awarding of honors to those who embody its ideals or outstandingly serve the purposes for which The Institute was founded. By honoring high achievement it honors itself and proclaims its objectives. In the establishment of awards and the selection of recipients, The Institute must always serve purposes which reveal its dedication to the public welfare. In so doing, however, the Board of Directors must respect the limits of its own competence as a witness. The stretching of its judgement into fields remote from the training and experience of its members is quickly recognized by the public as self-serving publicity. The preservation of its own status, therefore, demands care that it limit its rewards to the recognition of achievement in only those arts, sciences and skills in which its judgement is recognized as competent and worthy of proclamation."

The Potomac Valley Chapter of Maryland of The American Institute of Architects will judge submissions for its Competition for Awards in Architecture 1958-1960, on May 10, 1960. In setting forth the program for the competition the foregoing policy statement of The American Institute of Architects has been used as an axiom and deemed indispensable as a standard.

Architecture, as the supreme art, cannot exist except in direct relation to society—the inevitable expression and reflection of society. There are no better means to reflect the technology and cultural advances of a civilization than by the creative works of Architecture fully embodying the progress of the human race. This implies, and justly so, that architects and their architecture must be of an ad-

vanced and creative nature. This premise alone distinguishes the outstanding architect and provides the incentive which is so greatly needed for true works of art. Tempered with the proper educational background, the not too common ability to analyze, and the sacrifice of self-restraint, the incentive is now fully empowered to produce at the hands of the creator.

The use of new technology, new forms and products, by nature alone denotes experimentation. But, as the physician experiments with antibiotics and vaccines, the eventual culmination is found to be both rewarding and successful. This does not imply that whimsical ventures are in order, for many architectural works give the alarming impression that the architect has nurtured a forced and ridiculous approach to a very ordinary problem. The round building which would have been much more satisfying being rectangular, the repetitive solar screen hiding the true nature of the structure, the use of exposed masonry units in the hands of the unskilled, the badly detailed and out of proportion curtain wall, these are the elements that rest solely on the value of novelty and stunt the growth of true expression. The vitality and the strong statement of fact in the physical appearance of his structure is the architect's best means of communicating to the public and even more so in a competition.

The competence of an architect to judge another architect's work is and has been a sub-

ject of much discussion. However, if all that has been written here is accepted, who, but the men who have made their marks in Architecture, who have been given the honors of their society and who practice the law of progress, can be better qualified to judge. For these principles, the following men have been selected to judge the Potomac Valley Chapter Competition for Awards.

Morris Ketchum, Jr. FAIA of New York City, Graduate of Columbia University in 1928 and the Fontainebleau School of Fine Arts, Paris. Founded the firm of Ketchum, Gina and Sharp in 1934. Noted for design of schools and commercial buildings, among which are: the "Fanzo School" in Flushing, N.Y., Alexander's Department Store, R. H. Macy Store, both in New York, the United States Embassy in Morocco, the New York State Office Building in Albany, and entire city plan in Arizona. Mr. Ketchum is a member of the Rye, N.Y., planning commission, a member of the New York Building Congress, and President of the New York Architectural League. He has taught at Yale University, New York University, Cooper Union and Pratt Institute.

Percival Goodman FAIA of New York City, Graduate of Beaux Arts Institute of Design, Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts, Paris, Fontainebleau School of Fine Arts in Paris. He was the United States Paris Prize winner in 1925 and founded the firm of Percival Goodman in 1936. His principle works include the hospital for Welfare Island, N.Y., the Rothchild residence in Pikesville, Md., the Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in Baltimore, Temple Beth El in Springfield, Mass., and Providence, R.I., and Temple Beth Shalom in Miami Beach. Mr. Goodman is Consulting Architect for the United Synagogue of Jewish Theological Seminary, a member of the Beaux Arts Institute of Design, a member of the Municipal Arts Soci-

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NOTE

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS
EXTENDED TO MAY 9, 1960

All eligible architects are urged
to make a submission.

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OF MARYLAND
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NEXT REGULAR MEETING

12 Noon, May 4, 1960

Brook Farm Restaurant

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Awards Dinner — June 7, 1960

Competition for Awards

(continued from page one)

ety, and a visiting critic to the New York University. He is a professor of design at Columbia University and has written many books and articles on Architecture.

Alexander Cochran AIA of Baltimore. Educated at the Gilman School 1931, Princeton University, A.B., 1935, Yale School of Architecture 1937, and Harvard School of Design, B.Arch., 1939. Mr. Cochran received the National American Institute of Architects honor award in 1951 for the Cochran house. He founded the firm of Alexander Cochran in 1945, now known as Cochran, Stephenson and Wing. His principle works include the Cochran House, the Rouse Office Building, the Flagg House Courts housing project, Hanover Shopping Center, Johns Hopkins medical dormitory, all in Baltimore. He is a member of the Citizens Planning and Housing Association and has taught at Goucher College, Johns Hopkins, Harvard and McCoy College.

Welcome New Members

Secretary Ted Cromar reports the following new members, some of whom have been introduced to the membership at recent meetings. Accepted for corporate membership are Harold Clarke, Robert Coble, James Hilleary, and Maurice J. Patlen. George Speer, a corporate member, has transferred from the Washington Metropolitan Chapter and Robert Dillon and Joseph Wilkes are corporate transfers from the Florida chapter. Aron Miller and Jack Gruss have joined us as associate members.

Welcome aboard, gentlemen.

CULTURAL CENTER PROPOSAL

Montgomery County Councilman Stanley B. Frosh recently made a strong plea to the Montgomery County Council for an appropriation of \$25,000 to be used as planning money for a Montgomery County Municipal Center.

He urged consideration of cultural as well as commercial development in the county.

Chapter President Ben Elliott has responded to the proposal on behalf of the chapter (see companion story in this issue).

Because of the cultural and architectural importance of this proposal, we herewith submit that portion of the minutes of the Montgomery County Council Executive Session of March 29 dealing with Councilman Frosh's recommendation:

"Councilman Frosh presented his recommendations concerning a proposed Montgomery County Municipal Center as follows:

"It is recommended that the Montgomery County Council include in its 1960-61 budget the sum of \$25,000 to be used as planning money for a Montgomery County Municipal Center. This Municipal Center would consist of the following:

"1. A civic auditorium sufficiently large to accommodate approximately 3,000 persons. The auditorium would include a stage of sufficient size so that operas, concerts and dramatics productions might be easily accommodated. Consideration should be given to an auditorium that can be converted into a ballroom, a gymnasium, or a convention hall.

"2. The main municipal building should also have separate rooms to accommodate musical recitals, theatre in the round, dance performances, musical and art instruction rooms, and an art gallery. Our Board of Education has projected long-range plans for the County auditorium, and may find a municipal auditorium usable for high school graduations and other school functions.

"3. The main municipal building should include facilities for food dispensing, either in terms of a restaurant or concession area.

"4. Athletic facilities within the building may be included.

"5. The grounds for the Municipal Center should include enough land to accommodate a sports center. A municipal swimming pool, convertible into an ice skating rink, baseball-football field and other athletic interests should be accommodated. This could include horse-shoes, tennis, etc.

"6. Sufficient parking should be provided for those in attendance for the art center, the auditorium or participants in the sports center.

"7. The Municipal Center should be located in park lands given to the County by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Such park lands are either now avail-

able to the Planning Commission or can be acquired. The County should lease this Municipal Center to the Montgomery County Revenue Authority for operation on the same basis as the Revenue Authority now operates municipal golf courses and the like. Such a project, if it includes facilities for which a fee will be charged, may be financially self-liquidating.

"8. The Municipal Center should have, either for its entirety or for the arts and cultural center alone, a board of trustees. This board of trustees might very well be the present Board of Trustees of Montgomery County Art Centers, Inc.

"It is suggested that no country or civilization, since the beginning of time, has endured where its entire emphasis has been on commerce. Only those nations that have recognized the importance of cultural development have survived the ages. Montgomery County has begun to see the ravages of commerce for commerce's sake and should recognize that a Municipal Center is a necessity if land and other real values are to be preserved.

"The planning money is to be used to conceptualize the Municipal Center. The County Manager, the Park Commissioner, the Revenue Authority, and the Montgomery County Art Center should be asked to coordinate their activities and report to the Council no later than September 1, 1960, on their recommendations for such a center. Thereafter, perhaps an architectural contest might be held in the County to capitalize on the best thinking and the interest developed in this program in order to select the best design for the Center. The planning money might be used for architectural work, and it would be hoped that by the time of the next Budget submission, the project would be ready for capitalization.

"The Council then discussed Councilman Frosh's proposal with Mrs. Shirley Barshay, Executive Vice President of Montgomery County Arts Center, Inc.; Mr. Frank Rubini, Assistant Director of Parks, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission; Mr. J. Ingram Medley, Chairman, Montgomery County Revenue Authority; and Mr. William B. McKinney, Executive Director, Montgomery County Revenue Authority.

"The consensus of the discussion was that a study should be made by a committee of the new Recreation Board of the economic feasibility of the construction of such a center, the scope of activities to be carried on, and the responsibility for management.

"At the conclusion of the discussion, Councilman Frosh summarized his views on the proposal and requested that the County Council include money in the 1960-61 Budget for planning of this type of facility, and a committee of interested groups study the proposal and report back to the Council.

Chapter Ready To Consult On Cultural Center

Chapter president Ben Elliott has offered the services of the Potomac Valley Chapter AIA to Montgomery County Councilman Stanley Frosh and the Council to help formulate a program to promote the cultural center proposal of Councilman Frosh.

In a recent letter to Frosh following the publication of the minutes of the Council's Executive Session of March 29, Elliott stated:

"The Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects is happy to offer assistance in the writing of a program for the proposed cultural center. Many of the members of the chapter have visited cultural centers in other cities throughout the country and could, no doubt, be of tremendous assistance in determining what particular facilities are most needed."

"After the idea has been more completely conceived and the site selected," Elliott wrote, "this chapter would also be very pleased to assist the County Council in setting up an architectural competition in accordance with the American Institute of Architects rules and

ethics."

In congratulating Frosh on his proposal on behalf of the architects of the county, Elliott pointed out that the establishment of a cultural center in the county is long overdue, as the cultural environment has been mostly due to the inadequacy of facilities within the area.

"We, the architects in this community," Elliott continued, "have been aware of a strong cultural hunger on the part of the citizens. This is best illustrated by the growing interest in the community concerts, the programs of the Montgomery County Art Center and the tremendous success with which the performing cultural arts have been received in the Washington area in the last ten years."

Pointing out that the chapter has had one of its members advising the Montgomery County Art Center with regard to a cultural center that they had hoped to either establish or sponsor, Elliott suggested that a committee of the chapter could be immediately appointed and would stand ready to meet with the County Council to further discuss the proposal.

Pre-Convention Hawaii Trek

by RONALD S. SENSEMAN

The pre-Convention trip of architects to the outer islands and to Honolulu was as one would suspect—a huge success. The weather in the Fiftieth State certainly deserves talking about. We had on our trip to the outer islands, ten architects and their wives, including Past President, George Bain Cummings, and representatives from most of the eastern part of the United States. The outer islands included a trip to Kauai, the northernmost of the eight islands, where we viewed the startling canyons second only to the Grand Canyon. In this area also we find the wettest spot on earth, where it rains 500 to 600 inches per year. The Coco Palms Hotel on this island was most unusual in its completely native setting. This is the island on which many movies have been filmed, including the film "South Pacific." The outer islands give a more general view of the life of the people as they existed previous to the entrance of the missionaries, and are most interesting and educational.

The Island of Hawaii, the southernmost island where Captain Cooke met his demise also was most interesting in that this island is where the most recent volcanic action has taken place and one can drive right into the crater and also see the crater still smoking from its recent action. One of the most interesting phenomena of these islands is that weather is manufactured. You can actually observe the cloud build-up and the forming and dissipation of storms all in a comparatively short area. You will find on this island also a desert not too far from an area which has heavy rain and is

nearly a jungle. Also, off the coast of Kona, where I did a little fishing, is the largest blue marlin fishing port in the world; however, we were unsuccessful in our efforts to catch a blue marlin. We stayed here at the King Kamehameha Hotel which is new and modern, yet quite native in design, and again this island has a lot of feeling of the old world, whereas Oahu, on which Honolulu is located, is more modern. In fact the architecture is outstanding.

On our arrival back in Honolulu we were met by five more couples of architects, making us thirty on the island. We stayed at the Hawaiian Village, which is an exceptionally fine hotel area, complete in every respect—440 rooms, etc. We entertained the local architects and enjoyed seeing some of the A.I.A. members who I met a year ago on our "World Trek". We also enjoyed the Hawaiian music everywhere we went. We had the privilege of attending a luau, which of course everyone visiting the islands would enjoy. There were many other features, such as surf riding at Waikiki, the consumption of fresh pine apple, the enjoyment of beautiful flowers, and not to overlook the waving of grass skirts. The Easter Sunrise Service in the Punch Bowl, where our friend Ernie Pyle was laid to rest, was most spectacular and will long be remembered.

The pleasant association of all of these members of the American Institute of Architects and the new friends made is certainly a real thrill and one that will not soon be forgotten.

HERE and ELSEWHERE

Awards Dinner Set

A gala Awards Dinner and congenial social evening at Indian Spring Country Club on Tuesday, June 7 is promised by Dinner Chairman Dennis Madden.

Prize-winning submissions in the chapter's Second Biennial Awards Competition will be on display and a good representation of the Washington area architectural fraternity is expected.

Members will soon receive a flyer with detailed announcements concerning the dinner plus a ticket application form.

Due to the guarantee which the chapter must give the club prior to the dinner, Chairman Madden urges that all dinner reservations and tickets be acquired prior to June 1. No reservations will be taken after this date.

Ladies are invited and dress will be informal. There will be a cocktail hour commencing at 6 P.M. which will be included in the price of admission. Dinner will be served at 7 P.M. Tickets are available from Dennis W. Madden, 3510 Rhode Island Avenue. Drop your check in the mail today. The price of the tickets is \$8.00 per person.

Convention Delegates Laud San Francisco

Convention delegates back from the American Institute of Architects Convention in San Francisco were genuinely impressed and overwhelmed by the intense feeling of community pride with which the entire citizenry of San Francisco is imbued, according to chapter president Ben Elliott.

Ben, who chaired our delegation of Ted Englehardt, Jack Cohen, E. B. Morris, Sr., and Ron Senseman, reports that one senses this feeling of community pride everywhere about him as evidenced by the condition and repair of the buildings, the lovely parks and the spirit and morale of the residents.

One of the impressive ceremonies, according to Ben, was the introduction of fellows of the Institute at San Francisco's City Hall. Each newly elected fellow was introduced by San Francisco's Mayor as he descended the grand staircase, fully spotlighted, with flourishes, pomp and ceremony.

Well-noted in a tour of the city were the many attractive schools which according to reports are budgeted for nearly twice as much as in other sections of the country.

To wrap up a complete sight-seeing tour, Ben tells us that he, Ron Senseman and Van Schwab, president of the Baltimore Chapter, took a helicopter ride for a breathtaking view of the entire Bay area.

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