



**POTOMAC VALLEY
ARCHITECT**

POTOMAC VALLEY ARCHITECT

March/April • Volume 8, No. 11

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OF ARCHITECTS

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POTOMAC VALLEY ARCHITECT

EDITOR

James F. Hilleary, A.I.A., 427-7086

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Neil R. Greene, A.I.A.

MANAGING EDITOR

Joseph C. Dennison, RA 6-1005

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Amalie Dobres, 588-1125

ADVERTISING MANAGER

J. Leo Sugrue, WH 6-5814

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The articles in this magazine represent the personal opinions of the authors and/or the editor and should not be construed as representing the viewpoint of the Potomac Valley Chapter, A.I.A.

ON THE COVER

Graphic commemoration by Editor of the Chapter's Tenth Anniversary.

CHAPTER NEWS

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

DARCY P. DINIZ, AIA, announces the removal of his offices to 1400-20th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. Phone: 296-6188. JAMES F. HILLEARY, AIA, has moved to 200 Monroe Street, Rockville, Md. Phone: 427-7086.

EVENTS and EXHIBITIONS

CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS INSTITUTE

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, April 13th at Thomas Somerville Co. Meeting Room, 6th and Buchanan Sts., N.E.
Dinner and Cocktails: 5:30 P.M.—Reservations, please.
Subject: Division 15-Mechanical

CORCORAN GALLERY

through May 2nd
Norman Annis—Washington Artist Series
May 1-30
Retrospective Exhibition of Paintings and Sculpture by George L. K. Morris
May 1 through August 1
Childe Hassam—paintings

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

through April 18th
"Eyewitness to Space"—70 paintings and drawings by contemporary American artists; impressions of the NASA program.

PHILLIPS COLLECTION

through May 13th
Retrospective Exhibition of Paintings by Karl Knaths

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

April 22 - May 16
Medieval Frescoes from Yugoslavia
Natural History Museum

TEXTILE MUSEUM

through April 30th
Islamic Rugs and Textiles from Egypt

WASHINGTON GALLERY OF MODERN ART

through May 2nd
London: The New Scene—British paintings and sculpture by the new young group. 13 selections will be exhibited at the British Embassy.
May 7 - June 20
Piet Mondrian—Retrospective Exhibition

SEMINAR IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION EXPERIENCES

Saturday, April 17th - 9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.
Presented by Howard University and Construction Specifications Institute at Howard University, Auditorium; School of Engineering and Architecture, 2300 Sixth St., N.W.
Subject: Shotcrete, Precast and Prestressed Concrete
Panel of experts include: Robert Lebo, Shockey Prestressed Concrete Products; Douglass Bull, Nitterhouse Concrete Products; Carl Hansen, Structural Engineer; Merle Gillespie, Shotcrete Contractors—and others.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EUGENE A. DELMAR, AIA, was recently presented with the Distinguished Service Award from the Silver Spring Junior Chamber of Commerce for outstanding community service in the calendar year 1964.

BENJAMIN P. ELLIOTT, AIA, has been re-appointed by The American Institute of Architect to serve for another year as Corresponding Member of the National Committee on Religious Architecture. He will head two sub-committees involving financing and insuring of religious buildings.

RONALD S. SENSEMAN, AIA, has been appointed Chairman of the new Committee for a More Beautiful Montgomery County. Eugene A. Delmar, AIA, will serve as a member of the committee.

WILLIAM ROBERT WAKEHAM has been made an associate in the firm of Eugene A. Delmar, AIA.

Montgomery County, Maryland

COMMITTEE FOR A MORE BEAUTIFUL MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Established by
Montgomery County Council

Are you aware that your County has a built-in organization -- all ready to do battle in a "War on Community Ugliness"? This 30-Member Committee includes representatives from many of the professions, community-civic leaders and commercial and real estate groups. The Council-appointed Chairman for this group is Ronald Senseman, AIA. Anticipating that the County will lead the way, the following objectives requiring the cooperative assistance of all interested citizens, have been developed:

10-Point Program of Objectives

1. To urge County Government to begin a clean-up of County buildings; planting and landscaping to become an integral requirement, thus providing pleasant green spaces in all public areas. Parking lots should be planted and screened. County officials could do much to influence commercial leaders to follow suit.
2. Set in motion the necessary legislation to require that developers must replace bulldozed trees, etc., particularly in public rights-of-way.
3. Same as #2 -- for commercial developers, impressing them with need for planting and screening. What we don't need is a sea of macadam.
4. Would hope to influence School Boards to make allowance for and promote planting of trees and shrubs, particularly for rights-of-way and for screening purposes.
5. Appeal to architects doing private work to urge clients to include appropriate landscaping in their requirements; in public works, include planting as a part of the project.
6. A long, hard look at sign and billboard ordinances is planned. Would hope to impress owners of buildings with the advantages of having all signs aesthetically designed by architects. This campaign could extend to street signs and County signs.

A further effort here will be to urge County to clean up existing street signs, particularly in the commercial areas.

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10-Point Program of Objectives

1. To urge County Government to begin a clean-up of County buildings, planning and landscaping to become an integral part of the planning process, thus providing pleasant green spaces in all public areas. Planning for landscaping should be planned and executed. County officials could do much to influence commercial leaders to follow suit.
2. Set in motion the necessary legislation to require that developers must replace bulldozed trees, etc., particularly in public rights-of-way.
3. Same as #2 -- for commercial developers, imposing them with need for planting and screening. What we don't need is a lot of landscaping.
4. Would hope to influence School Boards to make allowance for and promote planting of trees and shrubs, particularly for rights-of-way and for screening purposes.
5. Urge all architects doing private work to urge clients to include appropriate landscaping in their requirements; in public works, the landscaping as a part of the project.
6. A long, hard look at signs and billboard structures in places. Would like to have signs come out of buildings with the advantage of having all signs aesthetically designed by architects. This campaign could extend to street signs and utility signs.
7. A further effort must be made to urge County Council to extend strict laws, particularly in the commercial areas.

Committee for a More Beautiful Montgomery County

- 2 -

7. Will propose a general Clean-up, Fix-up, Paint-up campaign, on a year-'round basis -- recruiting the young people (high school projects?) to help -- on a county-wide basis.
8. Have a long-range plan for promoting the under-grounding of all utilities.
9. A continuing program of great interest to all citizens is the vigilance, study and constructive action with respect to the transportation problem.
10. Finally -- a continuous publicity campaign on all of the foregoing.

This group solicits the assistance of all community and civic-minded citizens. These broad objectives, designed to provide an aesthetically beautiful environment for the entire County, cannot be realized without the active participation and cooperation of all residents of Montgomery County.

Contact: Mr. Richard Frederick
Clerk to the County Council
County Office Building
Rockville, Maryland

Phone: 279-1231

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mushroom

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Charles B. Soule, John F. Stann, James T. Thomen, John
M. Walton, Clifton B. White, and Keith Williams,
members of The American Institute of Architects, resi-
dent or practicing in Montgomery or Prince Georges
Counties in the State of Maryland, having duly complied
with the requirements of The Institute relating to form-
ing a chapter thereof, such chapter has been duly con-
stituted by The Board of Directors of The Institute,
under the name of*

Potomac Valley Chapter of Maryland The American Institute of Architects

*to exercise all the privileges granted to a chapter, under
the conditions prescribed in the By-laws of The Institute,
within the territory assigned by The Board of Directors of
The Institute.*

Gail W. Ditchy
President

George Beir Cummings
Secretary

April 2, 1955

A BIRTHDAY

Spring has a way of creeping up on architects. Comes March and the realization that the building season is at hand. Everyone wants to start building yesterday and chaos sets in. It was in this atmosphere that we of the Potomac Valley Architect almost let an event slip by unnoticed. We were well along in March/April format, involved editorially in the many events of planning and zoning currently absorbing the press, and idly wondering how we could sneak into all these matters of consequence an occasional blossom of Japanese Cherry just to remind you that it is Spring, when we were struck with the realization that our Chapter is ten years old this month.

The shift in editorial approach may still be obvious. That last minute change of cover, Chapter matters replacing zoning issues and a little post-midnight oil burning, and we are rolling to press with a little self-praise. If we are below par, like some of our national monthlies with the summer doldrums, bear with us. We are not ten years old every day. And again — It Is Spring.

—HILLEARY

Pre-publication time does not permit the opportunity to summarize the Chapter history, for, having been a very active decade both for the Chapter and the geographic area, the records are lengthy. A debt of gratitude is due to Edwin Bateman Morris, FAIA, for getting the Chapter's log off to such a careful and voluminous start.

Chapter growth has been considerable, quadrupling its charter membership, and its members have been very active in legislative, civic and social affairs, assisting in planning, zoning and aesthetic activities in the County.

The Chapter magazine, beginning as a bulletin in October 1956, and changing to its present format under the Editorship of Hal Esten in June 1961, is now in its fifth year. From its start it has been an outstanding publication, receiving recognition last year, under Editor Bob Riley, in the form of a national award for excellence from The American Institute of Architects.

Credit for Chapter growth and development, I feel, is largely due to the efforts of a dedicated succession of hardworking Presidents who have been generous with their time as well as guidance. We owe our thanks to:

Ronald S. Senseman, <i>Charter President</i>	1955-57
Ted Englehardt, <i>President</i>	1957-58
Charles B. Soule, <i>President</i>	1958-59
Benjamin P. Elliott, <i>President</i>	1959-60
Stanley H. Arthur, <i>President</i>	1960-61
Jack C. Cohen, <i>President</i>	1961-62
Theodore R. Cromar, Jr., <i>President</i>	1962-63
Dennis W. Madden, <i>President</i>	1964
John E. Moore, <i>Present President</i>	1965

In addition to our Presidents, we are indebted to the many committee chairmen who have worked so diligently over the years to carry the Chapter forward in its many facets.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Recognition and appreciation must be extended to the charter members for their foresight in forming a Chapter which has served our area well; the past Chapter Presidents and officers who have provided excellent leadership in our many endeavors; the Editors and staff of POTOMAC VALLEY ARCHITECT for their excellent chapter publication, and to all of our dedicated members who have unselfishly given countless time, effort and devotion to the many projects of our Chapter during the past ten years.

Ahead of us lies a new task in aiding in carrying out the beautification programs now advocated by our National Government. This is no simple task, but a tremendously complicated one. Preliminary steps have already been taken so that our Chapter will be able to work closer with our local governments in revising codes and zoning regulations and to take part in their beautification programs. There are many other complex problems to be solved in the immediate future and judging from past performance of our competent and devoted members, this herculean task will be accomplished.

—JOHN E. MOORE, AIA, *President*

WASHINGTON IN TRANSITION—NEIL R. GREENE WASHINGTON TO STAY HORIZONTAL with 54 year height limitation to remain in force. The National Capital Planning Commission voted unanimously to keep the 110 foot limit in spite of many who have desired reconsideration including Commissioner Tobriner and Clothiel Smith, the architect who had prepared the one year Skyline Study for selected height increases.

THE SKYLINE STUDY which is the harmonious control of penthouse junk is now being taken seriously by NCPC because of the limited concern given to height, design and appearance of penthouses over elevator shafts, stair towers, fire sprinkler tanks and other projections with which we are obliged to pierce the sky.

ATOMS-MORGUE AREA which NCPC killed last month is now being considered for low income housing including a portion of the Henderson's Castle on 16th Street. Further plans by NCPC include a nine story, 80 unit public housing unit for elderly as well as acquisition of 35 acres of additional property for the expansion of Georgetown University. The nearby 35 acre Archbold Estate is being considered.

PAUL THIRY, Seattle architect and NCPC member, criticized Redevelopment Land Agency policy of selling off small chunks of redevelopment area in Northwest Washington in place of a comprehensive plan for the parcels of land between H and K Streets. He stated "the whole justification of urban renewal is to replan and do something wonderful, not just a lot by lot exchange of real estate."

THE RLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS has appointed Thomas Appleby, past redevelopment administrator of New Haven, Connecticut, as the executive director of the urban renewal agencies top post. Downtown New Haven is one of the finest examples of urban renewal so perhaps we can be thankful that this thankless job will be taken by a man who gets things done.

PLANNING COMMISSION BIG DISSAPOINTMENT in the last few years seems to be its inability to initiate, legislate and crusade for imaginative workable schemes. Notable examples are in areas such as Adams-Morgan, Northwest and Northeast One Southwest waterfront, Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, Naval Gun Factory, National Training School, subways and embassy locations charged with planning in Washington. NCPC has neither been a leader nor pace setter. If we are to achieve a great society in this nation's capital and set an example for the rest of the nation why should not this commission have the finest planning talent available where it has the greatest planning responsibilities? Why should not the fantastic architectural opportunities in the capital demand planning and architectural excellence? Should not the precedent for it be here where the war on poverty and ugliness emanate? Should it be the citizens who must clamor for subways, a clean river and fewer freeways, or the Planning Commission demanding it! If its voice is too weak we should seek a new one.

POOLESVILLE ON THE POTOMAC looks like the next satellite city to get in orbit. Although in a location conflicting with "Wedges and Corridors" it does have the other standards of satellite towns that NCPC is trying to encourage. Developer Bernard N. Siegal who started acquiring land in 1943, plans to begin building the first phase of the new city immediately. The \$200 million development of the 3,175 acre tract in Montgomery County includes two miles of river frontage, 600 acres of regional park, housing for 1,200 families, golf courses, municipal center, library, churches, shopping centers, schools, a hospital, fire stations, industrial areas, several lakes and a 140 acre area for a motel-boatel. In a nearby County . . . **THE HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** do not quite understand what a remarkable city Columbia would be. They are opposing the development of this satellite city. Ignoring the trend of contemporary planning, while sprawl scathed the District, scuttled Prince George's County, scarred Montgomery and scratched at Howard they close the door with fear. James W. Rouse, developer of Columbia, wishes to provide a rational alternative to this wasteful clutter, something better than the other counties have seen. The growth of the Metropolitan area of Washington is inevitable and surely the landholders of Howard County will sell their acreage when the subdivision price is right . . . and probably move on to Gettysburg seeking further refuge. Without this kind of comprehensive plan Howard County will soon see roadside towers and arches dispensing food, signs pointing to Suburban Plazas, This or That Terrace selling Colonial splits.

CHAPTER NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

HOWARD M. DUNN, AIA, comes to us from the Florida South Chapter. He is associated with the firm of Cohen, Haft & Associates.

COL. G. C. JAKA has joined us from the Washington-Metropolitan Chapter. Col. Jaka has his offices at 1510 Constance Street, Silver Spring.

DONALD CARLOS MILLER was formerly a member of the Shreveport Chapter.

FREDERICK D. MILLER, AIA, is a new Corporate Member and is a junior partner in the Rockville office of Johnson & Boutin.

J. RICHARD OGDEN, AIA, a former member of the Baltimore Chapter, is an architect with the 2nd Army Headquarters at Fort Meade.

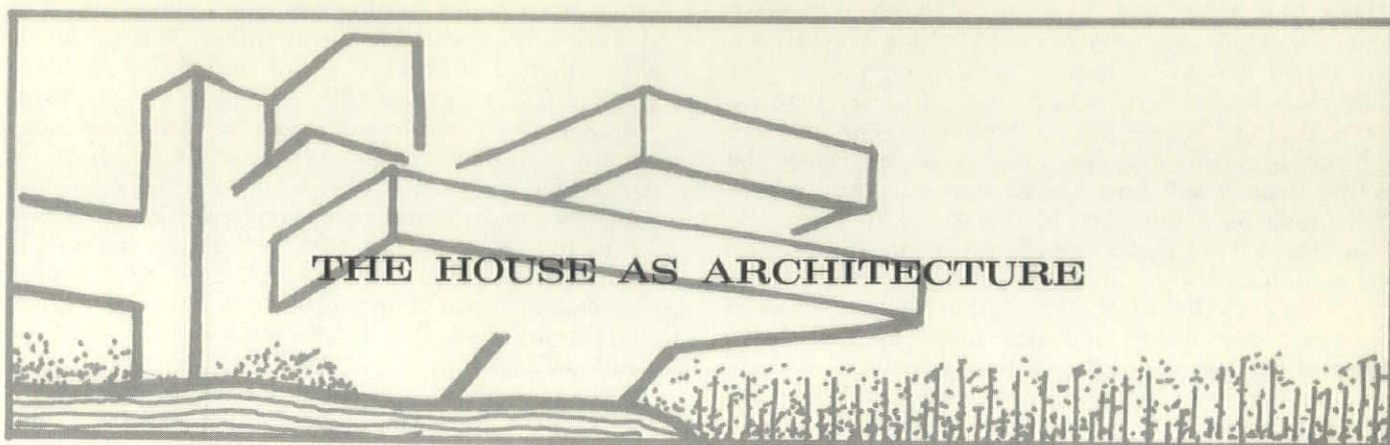
MICHAEL FRANCIS LEMAY, AIA, new Corporate Member, is with the office of Milton J. Prassas, AIA.

DAVID F. RINN, in the office of Edwin F. Ball, AIA, is a new Associate Member.

We welcome these new members to Potomac Valley Chapter and look forward to their active participation in Chapter affairs.

MEMBER EMERITUS

GEORGE A. SPEER, AIA, of Frederick, Maryland has recently been elected a Member Emeritus by The American Institute of Architects.



That no houses received awards in the Twelfth Annual Design Awards program sponsored by PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE is not particularly significant. There are years when one particular mode of expression is not prevalent or when the best being designed is not entered in the competition. What is significant, however, is that this year's jury, comprised of Serge Chermayeff, architect, educator and critic; Edgar Kaufmann, Jr., art and industrial design critic; Paul Hayden Kirk, architect; Gyo Obato, architect and Lev Zetlin, structural engineer, questioned the validity of the house as an architectural problem. If it is not an architectural problem, what is it? To invalidate the single family residence just because multi-housing and density zoning are presently more problematic amounts to a kind of architectural socialism. 'No social significance' was a comment. No social significance indeed! The population explosion has not yet made it necessary to outlaw the single family house nor the desire for them by many thousands of American families. As long as there is the demand and the land holds out, there will be a supply. Shall we make their design strictly a builder problem and wash our hands of this most personal of expressions?

Though there is some validity in the jury's general opinions, there are particular points with which I cannot agree. Mr. Chermayeff seems to feel that the house should be a humble background for people. Nice and appropriate if that is what is wanted. But what of those who do not desire a humble background? History books are full of architectural gems of more than modest pretension. The old saying "A man's house is his castle" is true, but each has his type preference and what one wants another can't tolerate. Modest or pretentious, they can all be grouped under a common heading: House—and they all need a designer. Or are we so restless to conquer new fields that we can ignore the problems of the old, problems too infrequently well-solved? Mr. Kirk commented that this year's crop of house entries were designed for some

unknown thing that doesn't relate to people or the way they use a house. How do they use a house? Is there a single method? I wouldn't consider using my house in the same way many of my friends do and I am sure the feeling is mutual. How can we criticize a floor plan when it is designed for an individual? The eccentricities may express the owner's wishes. I recall Philip Johnson's saying something to the effect that he had to cross his living room to empty the garbage, but didn't mind since it was such a pleasant walk. A personal point of view about a very personal house, yet it seems to suit him well!

Where I agree with another statement made by Mr. Chermayeff that the creation for high densities and close proximities without loss of humanity is more challenging, I do not hold with his view that there is no problem in creating a custom-built "private palace in a remote valley." To agree would be to deny the great problems overcome by some of our distinguished practitioners in creating many of their revered masterpieces. Time can diminish the memory of problems, but I am sure they were well aware of the problems involved when in the throes of initial design. Each custom house brings together a unique situation: a piece of land, the owner's program and the architect's ability. Wedding these in an acceptable manner can be problematic indeed.

If the jury was less than kind to the status of the individual house as architecture, Jan C. Rowan, the magazine Editor, was equally so to the young practitioner. In seeking a reason for the jury's dissatisfaction with the caliber of the houses entered in the Competition, he speculated that the real problem of the private house stemmed from the fact that most of the houses are done by the "budding — and therefore commissionless" young architect falling into the trap of treating the house as a major design project and overworking it. He continued by speculating that what many do is not to design a house at all, but a miniature version of some hypothetical building for

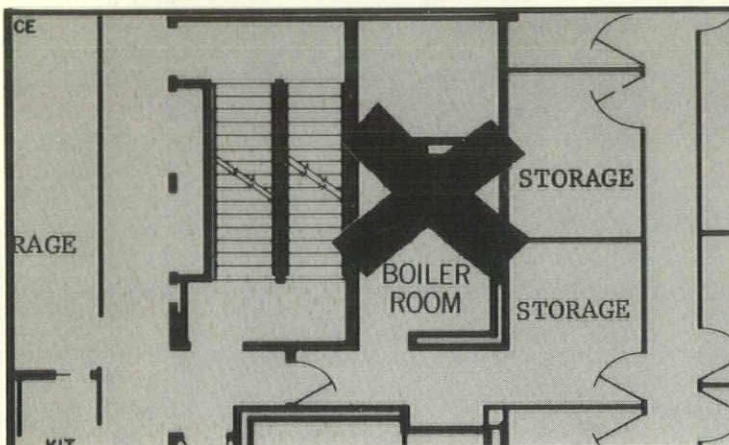
which they were not commissioned. Such venting of frustration, he adds, results in strained, over-complicated concoctions which can scarcely be called houses. There is a great deal of accuracy to his statement; however, I am one who feels that every commission we accept should be treated as a major project, for how else can we deliver to a client the very best we have to offer? Where the established practitioner can rely on a vocabulary developed over the years, the young man is still busy developing one. And where there may be a tendency in the young to overwork, I say thank God that some are taking the time to do so in a form quite abandoned by the majority of practitioners. Out of the emulation and exploration may one day spring our next major breakthrough. Most of the greats developed their vocabularies early in their careers while there was time and when the major projects in their offices were residences. And this vocabulary has recurred through all of their later work.

Only through imitation can we learn; only through experimentation can we grow. This year's crop may have displayed too much of the former and not enough of the latter, but this is not reason for questioning the architectural merit of the residence as a legitimate form. Don't turn your back on the house, please. It is too important to too many.

Perhaps the real failure is society's. It expects its architects to be exotically housed, as it expects its haberdashers to be well-groomed. And one sure way a young practitioner starting out can acquire his share of work is to make a bid for attention. This tactic has been admitted to by a few of our recent arrivals. Since many of the houses annually entered in P/A's Awards program are created by architects for themselves, they are apt to display a degree of exhibitionism either for the reasons previously expressed, or simply because many are non-conformists by preference and may prefer to live in a manner they would not necessarily inflict on their clients in the name of total artistic environment, something more important to the architectural profession than to any other branch of artistic creation.

Awards programs such as PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE'S do encourage exhibitionism, for in our recent past this quality did not go unrewarded. This I am sure encourages the type of submission received. I praise this year's jury for its honesty in rejecting the category on the basis of what was submitted. Perhaps after a few more such juries the profession will come to expect a high degree of insight and will begin to enter other than its exotic commissions with very happy results. It is worth holding the residential category if only to see the reaction.

—HILLEARY



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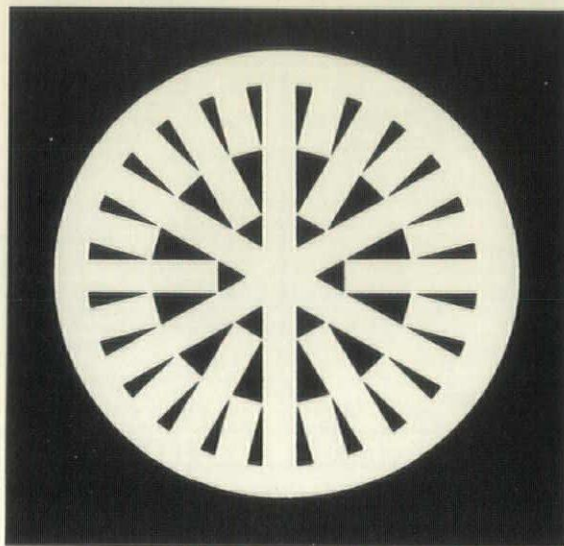
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XI PAN AMERICAN CONGRESS OF ARCHITECTS 1965 AIA CONVENTION ■ WASHINGTON, D.C. ■ JUNE 14-18

Cities in general and Washington, D.C. in particular are in for a wholesale scrutinizing comes late Spring, when the Nation's Capital will play host to a joint Convention of The American Institute of Architects and the Eleventh Pan American Congress of Architects, the latter meeting for the first time in Washington. The city will be over-run with architects, for in addition to the usual high attendance at the AIA Annual Convention, estimated at two thousand, we are expecting about a thousand more from ten Latin American countries which might even bring on a revival of the conga chain of the early forties. At least it might resemble one as the delegates move about the city.

Official headquarters for the joint Convention and Congress is the Sheraton-Park, where registration will get underway on June 13. The official seal of the conventions is reproduced above. Should you encounter it in the near future, it is not a new flag for an emerging nation as William Walton might have painted, even though around Connecticut Avenue comes June it might begin to look as though a new nation is forming within a city.

The Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, will serve as Honorary Chairman of the Organization Committee for the Congress, which will have as its unifying theme "Cities of the New World."

In accepting the appointment, Ambassador Stevenson said: "The nations of the Western Hemisphere share to a large extent similar problems of community

growth and development. Virtually all the cities of the New World are concerned with combating the forces of unprecedented growth, deterioration and ugliness which are threatening to make our urban areas unfit places for the pursuit of the good life. The XI Pan American Congress of Architects will focus attention on these problems and, in the spirit of international cooperation, will explore ways in which the physical environment of our cities and towns can enhance the lives of our citizens. I commend the purpose of this Congress, and I am pleased to lend my support to it."

The joint meeting will trace the urban development of the Western Hemisphere from its beginnings to the present and project it into the future.

A very distinguished group of professionals outstanding in a particular aspect of the total field of architecture will participate in the seminars and talks which should make for some very interesting reading in the early summer press. If you remember, the late Frank Lloyd Wright made things quite lively the last time that the Convention was held here, with his very candid appraisal of Washington architecture.

In addition to making its customary awards for excellence in the arts, there will be a rather full schedule of exhibits, tours, dinners, dances and luncheons, ending in a brilliant "Power House Ball" to be held, literally, in the abandoned Georgetown Power House; probably its last function before demolition and, if attendance is anywhere near expectation, post-ball demolition may not be necessary.

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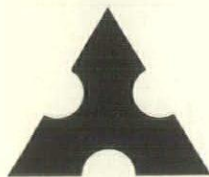
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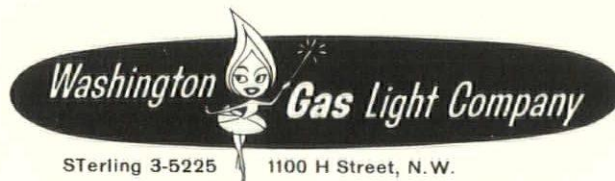
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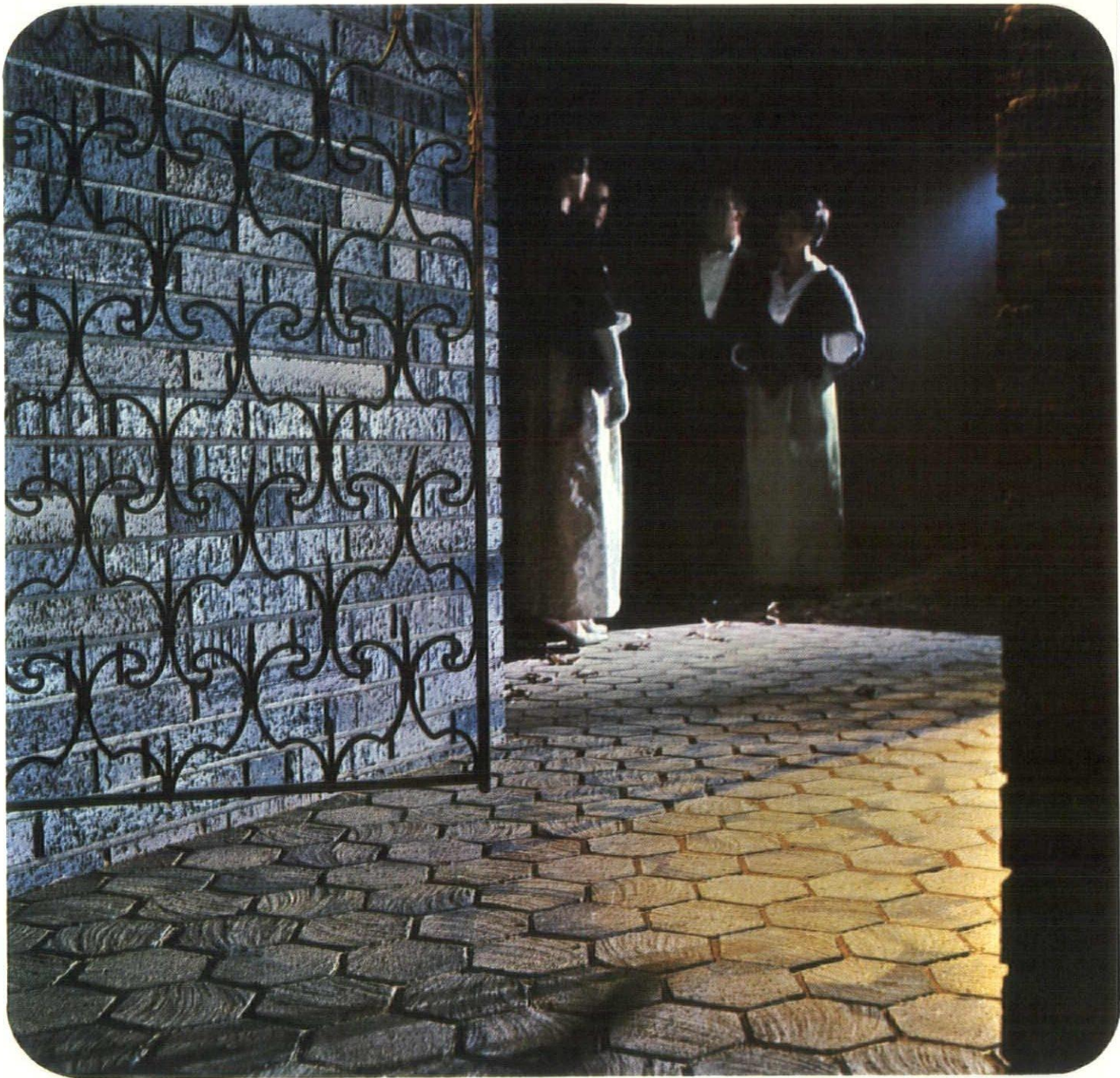
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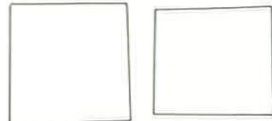
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