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OCTOBER 1946
VOL. 14 NO. 10
THE WISCONSIN ARCHITECT

Official Publication
The State Association of Wisconsin Architects

Wisconsin Chapter, The American Institute of Architects

Producers' Council Club of Wisconsin

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152 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin
Daly 5103

Published Monthly
Subscription, $1.00 per year
Address all communications for publication to Editor
152 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin

CHURCHILL, WIDELY-KNOWN TOWN-PLANNER TO BE BANQUET SPEAKER

The State Association of Wisconsin Architects is very fortunate in securing for its principal speaker at the Fourteenth Annual Convention, Henry S. Churchill, a member of The American Institute of Architects, and widely-known Town-Planner of New York City.

The subject of his address at the banquet on Friday, October 25, at 7 p.m. in the Sky Room of the Plankinton House, will be "Urban Redevelopment—A Challenge."

Mr. Churchill is Co-Chairman of the Committee on City Planning and Zoning of the Citizens Housing Council of New York, and a member of the Committee on the Hygiene of Housing of the American Public Health Association.

His interest in the broader ramifications of housing led him to a group of civic-minded architects, and together with them he helped to establish and direct the Housing Study Guild. Since then, Mr. Churchill has directed his efforts towards large-scale developments in housing such as the Queensbridge project in New York City, for which he was assistant chief architect. He has acted in a consultant capacity for both the Housing Authority of the State of New York, and is a member of the Architects’ Advisory Committee of the Federal Public Housing Authority.

Mr. Churchill is a graduate of Cornell University and in 1916 received his M.A. degree in Architecture. Shortly after, he began his practice in New York City where he applied his talents to the great metropolis’ stores and apartment buildings.

Besides lecturing for Columbia, MIT and Harvard, he has a number of technical studies on housing and planning to his credit. His book, "The City Is The People" ranks as a text book among town-planners.

Because of the great number of veteran apprentices in the offices of the architects, members of the State association should find the talk, "Apprenticeship of Veterans of World War II," by William F. Rasche, Director of the Milwaukee Vocational School, of especial interest.

Also of great interest to the members will be the luncheon address on Saturday by Loring H. Provine, Head of the School of Architecture, University of Illinois, his subject to be "Are the Architectural Colleges Aiding the Architectural Profession." His talk will be immediately followed by a forum for discussion on the pros and cons of the subject. The forum, for membership participation, will be conducted by a graduate of Illinois, Roger C. Kirchhoff who has visited most of the ranking architectural schools gathering extensive data on their curricula.

Paul Gerhardt, Jr., Chicago, Regional Director of the Illinois-Wisconsin District, A.I.A., will be a guest at the banquet.

As in former years, the Producers’ Council Club of Wisconsin, of which Robert D. Diedrich is president, will take over the entire mezzanine for exhibits, one of the interesting features of the Convention.

STATE ASSOCIATION DISTRICTS ELECT OFFICERS

Members of the various Districts of the State Association of Wisconsin Architects held their annual meetings in September and early October, electing their respective officers for 1946-47 as follows:

District 1 & 2: Emiel F. Klingler, Eau Claire, President; Albert F. Larson, Eau Claire, Secretary.
District 3: Maurey Lee Allen, Appleton, President; Gordon J. Feldhausen, Green Bay, Secretary.
District 4: Gage M. Taylor, Stevens Point, President; Joseph J. Weiler, Madison, Secretary.
District 5: Perc Brandt, Manitowoc, President; Sylvester Schmitt, Two Rivers, Secretary.
District 6: William V. Kaeser, Madison, President; Roy K. Jacoby, Milwaukee, Secretary.
District 7: Mark P. Pfaller, Milwaukee, President; Joseph P. Jacoby, Milwaukee, Secretary.
District 8: Al J. Seitz, Racine, President; Robert S. Chase, Janesville, Secretary.

TYLER S. ROGERS, PRESIDENT PRODUCERS’ COUNCIL, INC.

Tyler S. Rogers of Toledo, O., was elected president of the Producers’ Council, national organization of building product manufacturers, at the annual convention in New York, Sept. 26.

Mr. Rogers, who is assistant to the executive vice president of the Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp., was also president of the Council for the past year and had served for three years on the board of directors. In addition, he had been chairman of the organization’s Technical Committee.

Prior to moving to Toledo in 1939, the Council’s new president was vice president of Taylor, Rogers, and Bliss, Inc., marketing consultants in New York City, and then became managing editor of the American Architect and Architecture.

He is author of a book entitled "Plan Your House to Suit Yourself," and of various magazine articles in the field of construction.

Mr. Rogers is a graduate of Massachusetts State College and did graduate work at the Harvard University School of Landscape Architecture and City Planning.

Andrew L. Harris has been appointed executive secretary of the Producers’ Council.
COMMITTEE MEMBERS NAMED FOR WISCONSIN CHAPTER

The following names comprise the personnel of the various committees appointed by the Wisconsin Chapter of The American Institute of Architects to serve for the 1946-1947 season:


PUBLIC INFORMATION: Leigh Hunt, Chairman; Robert Chaise, Theodore L. Eschweiler, Clarence O. Jahn, Paul E. Nystrom, William C. Schneider, Alois Seitz and Lewis A. Siberz.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: John J. Brust, Chairman; Herbert J. Grassold, Co-Chairman; Frank F. Dreishagen, John P. Jacobi, Elmer A. Johnson, Mark F. Pfatter, Walter G. Memmler and A. L. Seidenschwartz.


RELATIONS WITH CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY: Fred A. Luber, Chairman; Edgar H. Berners, Gerrit J. deGelleke, Theodore L. Eschweiler, Francis S. Gurda, Edwin O. Kuenzli and Fitzhugh Scott, Sr.

EXHIBITION COMMITTEE: Fitzhugh Scott, Jr., Chairman; Ralph H. Kloppenburg, Edward J. Law, Elliot B. Mason, Urban F. Peacock, Noel Ross Safford, F. R. VonGrossmann and Anthony Wuchterl.

PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE: Ralph H. Kloppenburg, Chairman; Edgar H. Berners, Gerrit J. deGelleke, Theodore L. Eschweiler, Leigh Hunt, Edward J. Law and Fitzhugh Scott, Sr.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: John Brust, Chairman; Carl L. Ames, Leigh Hunt, John P. Jacobi, Urban F. Peacock and George Spinti, III.


BUILDING CODE COMMITTEE: Fred A. Luber, Chairman; Alexander C. Eschweiler, Jr., Leon M. Gurda, John Messmer and Fitzhugh Scott, Sr.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WISCONSIN CHAPTER, A.I.A.

At the noon luncheon meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Chapter, A.I.A., held at the Plankinton Hotel, Tuesday, October 8, 1946, those present were: Ralph Kloppenburg, Guy F. Wiley, T. L. Eschweiler, Francis S. Gurda, John Brust and F. A. Luber. Those absent were: Elmer A. Johnson and A. L. Seidenschwartz.

President Kloppenburg presided.

John Brust, Chairman of the Program Committee, reported on the schedule of programs for the coming year and requested the Board to tentatively approve the plan of his committee. Mr. Brust stated that the 7th District of the State Association of Wisconsin Architects had also appointed a program committee and that the personnel of that committee was the same as that for the Chapter. He indicated that consideration has been given to alternating the Chapter and 7th District evening monthly meetings, and this plan was tentatively approved on the basis that the Chapter would have monthly meetings, with alternate noon luncheon meetings and evening meetings. The evening meetings would then occur every second month and these would alternate with the evening meetings of the 7th District. In this way one important evening meeting would be scheduled for each month.

Mr. Brust outlined a number of programs which would probably be of interest to the members and he was directed to proceed accordingly. It was agreed that:

(1) The October meeting would be a noon luncheon meeting and will consist of a business meeting and a discussion of matters of vital interest to the members.

(2) The November meeting will be a noon luncheon meeting, and if possible, Paul Gerhardt, District Director of the A. I. A., will be invited as a guest speaker. The secretary was requested to contact Mr. Gerhardt and make the necessary arrangements with him.

(3) The December meeting will be an evening meeting and it was suggested that we attempt to obtain Eliel Saarinen to present his version of the proposed War Memorial. The secretary was requested to contact Mr. Saarinen and, if possible, make the necessary arrangements for his appearance.

The programs for the subsequent meetings have not as yet been developed, but many suggestions were offered, and it is apparent that there are many speakers and subjects available which would be of material interest to the membership.
Mr. Kloppenburg indicated that arrangements should be made at an early date to have the Junior Associate members properly admitted to the Chapter provided with certificates of membership and to have them attend the monthly meetings.

The secretary announced that the certificates of membership for the Junior Associate members will be prepared and made available in the near future.

Edgar Berners, President of the State Association of Wisconsin Architects, was present at the meeting to discuss generally the subject of unification.

Mr. Berners commented on the above subject that in his opinion it would be well to take in the Junior Associate members and to make it a point for the older members of the Chapter to spend some time with these boys at the meetings and impress them with the various advantage of A. I. A. membership to them.

Upon motion made by T. L. Eschweiler, seconded by Mr. Gurda, and unanimously carried, Mr. Walter Memmler was elected to represent the Wisconsin Chapter, A. I. A., on the Advisory Council to the Mayor, and the secretary was directed to notify the Advisory Council accordingly.

A new brochure, received from the Stark Brick Company, relating to modular masonry was presented by the secretary. This was briefly discussed and ordered placed on file.

A letter, received from Paul Gerhardt, Jr., A. I. A. Director of the Illinois-Wisconsin district, dated September 18, 1946, was presented in which Mr. Gerhardt suggests that he be permitted to visit one of our chapter meetings in the near future and before the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Institute which will occur the early part of December. Mr. Gerhardt will be invited to attend the noon luncheon meeting of the membership to be held in November, and the secretary was directed to advise Mr. Gerhardt accordingly.

The secretary was directed to proceed with the publication of the roster and to include with the roster a list of affiliations and appointments made by the Chapter to various civic and institute groups.

The next meetings of the Chapter membership will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 1946.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

F. A. Luber, Secretary-Treasurer

Richard Harold Shreve, Fellow, and former president of the American Institute of Architects, passed on at his home at Hastings-on-Hudson, N. Y., September 10, at the age of 69.

Mr. Shreve, who was born at Cornwallis, Canada, came to this country in 1885 and became a naturalized citizen in 1906. He was a graduate of Cornell University. He headed the architectural firm of Shreve, Lamb & Harmon in New York City, and among his prominent works are the Empire State Building, Bankers Trust Co., and Standard Oil Co. Building, all of which are in New York City. He was chairman of the board of design and chief architect for Parkchester, Metropolitan Life Insurance Housing Project.
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THE ORIGINS OF THE OFFICE OF WORKS

The Librarian of the Ministry of Works, Mr. B. Agard Evans, has lent us a rare document entitled "Treasury Instructions for the Regulation and Conduct of the Office of Works" by which the Office of Works, as merged recently in the Ministry of Works, was set up in 1815.

Reprint from Journal of The Royal Institute of Architects

The ideas which guided the founders of the Office of Works appear to have been eminently sound in their outlook on the proper employment of architects. They started with the assumptions that the professional skill of the architect is of value and that he should be adequately rewarded—a point of view which has become somewhat dimmed in the official mind with the passage of time.

The document is addressed to "the Surveyor General of His Majesty's Works and Public Buildings, and all others whom these Presents may concern." It begins: "Know Ye, that in pursuance of the Directions and Provisions of an Act passed in the 54th Year of His present Majesty's Reign, entitled, 'An Act for the better Regulation of the Conduct of the Business of the Office of Works, and the Expenditure thereof,' We, the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, have prepared the following Code of Instructions for the Conduct of the whole Business of the Office of Works, and for the Regulation and Control of the whole Expenditure thereof in all its Branches and Departments."

Article I transfers from the Commissioners of Woods to the Commissioner of Works the "Maintenance, Alterations, and Repairs of His Majesty's Lodges and other Buildings, in the several Parks and Forests" and refers in passing to His Majesty's palaces and other public buildings which had hitherto been under the control of the Surveyor General. It is interesting to note that the duties included the maintenance of "all such Fences as shall consist of Stone or Brick Walls, or of Iron Railing," the care of all other fences remaining with the Commissioners of Woods.

Article II sets out the modest establishment which, it will be noted, included three architects only; the following is the list:—

The Surveyor General
The Assistant Surveyor General and Cashier
One Chief Examining Clerk
One Drawing and Measuring Clerk
Two Assistant Examining and Measuring Clerks
Two Copying Clerks
Office Keeper
Messenger
Three Attached Architects
Five Clerks of the Works
So many Labourers in Trust as may be absolutely necessary for the due and proper Conduct of the Business
Inspector of Engines
Turncock, Windsor
Turncock, Kensington
Plumber for Pipes and Conduits at Hampton Court

It appears from Article III that the older Departments of State had succeeded in putting up a fairly effective fight against this newly created upstart department, because Article III indicates, in very carefully phrased official language, that: "With respect to the Public Works or Buildings belonging to any of the Department of the Public Revenue, the Expenditure of the Building, Alteration, or Reparation whereof have been defrayed out of the Public Revenues under the Management of such Department, and which are adverted to in the said Act of the last Session of Parliament, it has appeared to us that a general Transfer of the Superintendence of all such Public Works and Buildings to the Surveyor General of the Office of Works at the present Moment might be productive of serious Inconvenience and Embarrassment in the Conduct of the Business of his said Office." However, the Treasury, as usual, reserved to itself the last word by adding: "and in the mean Time, whenever it shall appear to the Commissioners of the Treasury for the Time being, that it may be for the Benefit of His Majesty's Service that any of these particular Works should be placed under the Superintendence of the Surveyor General of the Office of Works, or that the Plans, Designs, and Estimates of the same should be referred to the said Surveyor General for his Consideration on Communication with the Assistant Surveyor and the Attached Architects, and for his Report thereon, or that the Accounts for the Expenditure thereof should previously to the Payment be referred to the said Surveyor General for..."
Examination in his Office, a special Instruction will in every such Case be issued to the said Surveyor General."

Article IV administers a slight rap at the extravagant and irregular habits of the Regency Court, and indeed elsewhere in the document there are indications that His Majesty's Treasury looked with disfavour on such irregularities as alterations, redecorations and repairs to the lodgings of the favourites of the royal princes: it appears that this had frequently in the past been at the expense of the taxpayer. Article IV therefore begins gaily with: "Under the Provisions of the Act passed in the 22nd Year of His present Majesty's Reign, for enabling His Majesty to discharge the Debt contracted upon his Civil List Revenues, and for preventing the same from being in Arrear in future," and goes on to say "It has appeared to us that it would be desirable that all Works of this Description should be brought under one and the same System of Check and Control without any regard to the amount of the Expenditure."

The Office was to be held at "the usual Place in Scotland Yard," at which the various members of the staff were expected to give "daily and regular Attendance" between the hours of 10 o'clock in the morning and 4 o'clock in the afternoon (Sundays excepted). Truly they were more civilised in their office habits than we are to-day. However the Treasury was careful to allow for the possibility of overtime and added "the said Clerks and other Persons aforesaid are punctually to attend, and until a later Hour in the Afternoon, in case, from any Pressure of Business in the Office, the Surveyor General may find it necessary to require such prolonged Attendance."

That the work of the Surveyor General's Office had, in the past, not always been entirely satisfactory, is evidenced by the finely worded exhortation to the Surveyor General contained in Article VIII, which is: "The Surveyor General is to make frequent Inspection of all Works carried on under his Direction, and to see that all the Persons concerned in the same diligently attend to the Execution of their respective Duties, and by a faithful and zealous Discharge of his own, prevent all wasteful Expenditure of the Public Money, directing all his Endeavours to establish such a System of Management and Economy throughout every Branch of the Office of Works as shall appear best calculated to promote the Good of His Majesty's Service."

Recruitment to the Department was to be in the charge of a small appointments board consisting of practically the whole of the senior staff. No person was to be appointed unless he had "previously undergone a strict and satisfactory Examination by the Assistant Surveyor and Attached Architects, in the Presence of the Surveyor General, who shall immediately report to the Commissioners of the Treasury for the Time being, the Result of such Examination, and shall at the same Time transmit a Certificate signed by the Assistant Surveyor and the Attached Architects of the professional Qualifications of the Person so proposed, and of his Fitness (in their Opinions) to discharge the

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Article XII makes the important provision that no member of the staff was to receive any other remuneration "for the Whole of his Official Labour and Attendance" than his fixed annual salary except on the occasion of any special service which the Treasury might sanction. Salaries were to be paid on the "four usual Quarterly Days of Payment in each Year" and were to include "all Allowances for stationery." The succeeding Article states that no member of the staff was to have lodging at the Government expense except the Labourers in Trust and the Office Keeper. The remuneration of the architects is so interesting that Article XIV, which deals with it, is here given in full: "The Architects attached to the Office of Works are not to receive any Emolument beyond their fixed Salaries for any Duties performed by them in relation to the Business of the said Office (excepting as herein-after is mentioned), nor to be allowed to charge any Commission upon the Amount of the Expenditure for such Works, placed under their Superintendence by the Surveyor General, as may consist only of Repairs or Alterations of any existing Buildings, or only of trivial or unimportant Additions thereto; But upon all Buildings entirely new and upon all such important and material Additions to any existing Buildings, as in the Judgement of the Commissioners of the Treasury for the Time being may partake so much of the Character of an entire new Building as to justify the Allowance of a Commission, the said Attached Architects are to be allowed a Commission of 3 per Cent, upon the Amount of the actual Expenditure." Thus it will be seen that the architects were remunerated by a fixed salary, plus 3 per cent. commission on all major new buildings, which appears a very equitable and sensible arrangement.

Article XV deals with that bugbear of the Civil Service, namely travelling and subsistence allowances. Compared with present-day standards in this respect the allowances appear to have been very generous, bearing in mind the relative values of money between then and now. Indeed quite contrary to the present Treasury outlook, it was clearly indicated that His Majesty's servants were expected to travel in a manner befitting their position; the senior officers were positively required to travel by a "Chase and pair of horses" and not to travel by the public stage coach. Somehow one cannot quite see the Treasury of to-day requiring senior officers to travel by taxi as being more worthy of the dignity of His Majesty's service than travelling by bus. The Surveyor General, Assistant Surveyor and Attached Architects were allowed in addition to the expense of a chaise the sum of fifteen shillings a day for their personal expenses. This is relatively far greater than the present maximum allowance. It was however provided that if two officers travelled together then the cost of only one chaise should be allowed for both.

As would be expected in a Treasury document, the Articles dealing with buildings and building accounts are very full and take great care of the public purse. After retaining the returns which are to be made by the Surveyor General and by his other officers, the document goes on to guard against improper expenditure in such words that it is fairly obvious that various past abuses were being remedied; for instance Article XVII says: "No Alterations or Repairs are to be done to any of His Majesty's Palaces or Buildings in the Course of a Year, but such for which Estimates shall have been prepared upon the previous Return of a General Survey, excepting only such as, upon any Representation of the Surveyor General, shall be sanctioned by the Special Authority of the Commissioners of the Treasury for the Time being, and also excepting in Cases of Accidents happening to any Building from Fire, Storms, or any other unforeseen Casualties, and also excepting when any trifling Repairs or Alterations may be required to be immediately and promptly executed for the necessary Comfort, Convenience, or Accommodation of His Majesty, Her Majesty, or His Royal Highness the Prince Regent." Article XXI takes the matter further by saying that "No Repairs of any Sort..."
or Description to be allowed in any Apartments, Houses...
which shall be occupied by any Persons whomsoever, either by Royal Authority, by Warrant from the express Authority of the Surveyor General."

The duties of the architects were set out in Article XXII. The system appears to have been a very sound one, and it is interesting to note that the Treasury recognised the value of the "Architectural Taste or the Judgement and Skill" of architects as being of some value; also the architects were given the very fullest charge of their own buildings. Clerks of Works and other staff members of the Office of Works being placed under their full control for the execution of a building project. The article says: "The Architects attached to the Office of Works are appointed principally for the Purpose of affording, by their superior professional Abilities, such Assistance as may occasionally be required of them in making Drawings, Plans, Designs, and Elevations for any Public Buildings which shall be executed under the Directions of the Surveyor General of His Majesty’s Works; any new Buildings therefore, or any extraordinary Additions to, or Alteration or Repairs of any existing Buildings wherein, from the Nature or Extent of them, or from their Liability to affect the Solidity or Security of the Building, particular Architectural Taste or the Judgement and Skill of the Attached Architect may, in the Opinion of the Commissioners of the Treasury, or the Surveyor General for the Time being, be requisite or desirable, shall be referred by the Surveyor General to the Attached Architect in whose particular District it may be, with Directions to prepare the necessary Plans, Designs, Elevations, and Estimates, and to state the probable Time within which the Work may be completed. All which Plans, Designs, Elevations, and Estimates, together with every Information necessary for the Elucidation thereof, are to be submitted by the Surveyor General to the Commissioners of the Treasury for the Time being, for their Sanction and Approval. As soon as these Plans, Designs, Elevations, and Estimates shall have received such Sanction and Approval, the Sur-
veyor General will direct the necessary Specifications and working Drawings for carrying the Work into Execution, to be laid before him by the said Attached Architect, and proceed without Loss of Time to enter into Contracts with proper Persons for executing the different Parts of the Building, which Contracts are to be made agreeably to the Regulations herein-after specified; and the Attached Architect to whom the Work may be entrusted will have the General Superintendence and Direction of the same till completed, and be responsible for the Goodness of the Materials and Workmanship employed, and that the whole is executed agreeably to his Plans and Designs. The Surveyor General in every such Case to place the Clerk of the Works and Labourer in Trust for the District within which such Work may be, under the Directions of the Attached Architect, provided the same can be done without materially interfering with the other official Duties of those Officers."

(Concluded in November)

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