February 1955

the Wisconsin Architect

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A swiftly moving convention program greeted members of the Wisconsin Architects Association as they came to Milwaukee for the group's Sixth Annual Convention. The Annual Meeting opened proceedings in the Green River of the Pfister Hotel. From here the spotlight shifted to the many activities and busy exhibition booths prepared by materials suppliers.

Well-attended panel discussions on contractors' problems, legal and business aspects of the architectural profession, esthetics and the effect of environment on design followed one another in rapid-fire order.

Convention planners, concerned because the Annual Banquet at previous conventions seemed to make Saturday morning sessions anticlimactic and since the appearance of Frank Lloyd Wright at this year's Banquet had caused a great deal of interest, planned what developed into a certain attraction for Saturday morning conventioners. The largest turn-outs at any of the conferences occurred on Saturday morning indicating the worth of previous planning in scheduling Walter H. Kilham, Jr., F.A.I.A. and Mrs. Sibyl Moholy-Nagy to the convention that day.

The Annual Meeting was opened by President Sandstedt who recounted the advances made during what he called a rather significant year. Outlining the busy Board of Directors' schedule which included one meeting a month, twice the number required by the By-Laws, Sandstedt listed the following "forward moves". (1) The achievement of a better public understanding of the value and functions of architects, (2) the improvement of discipline and internal administration and strength of the Association, (3) the improvement of the architect's position before the law, (4) clarification of relations with engineers and contractors, (5) review of the Fee Schedule, (6) improvement of relations with The Institute, and (7) the contribution in a larger fashion to the society in which we live.

He commented briefly on the Concrete Masonry Homes Competition, the Biennial Honor Awards Competition, and the School Buildings Exhibit in Madison.

Sandstedt noted the excellent cooperation received in response to an office-to-office solicitation to obtain funds to meet a current operating deficit. He called upon the Meeting to consider the creation of a reserve and administrative fund. He cited as evidence of the need for this fund the necessity for setting up a reserve to operate the

(Continued on Page 11)

Unregistered "Architect" Fined for Practice

Successful prosecution on three counts of violation of the Wisconsin Registration Act resulted in fines amounting to $500 and probation for William C. Baker, Janesville, Wisconsin, who was charged with practicing Architecture and Professional Engineering without having been properly registered.

Complaints filed by the Wisconsin State Industrial Commission and the Registration Board of Architects and Professional Engineers were prosecuted by the Rock County District Attorney. Judge Ralph F. Gunn imposed a fine of $200 and costs on each of two counts charging that Baker had practiced Architecture and Professional Engineering without being duly registered as an Architect or a Professional Engineer and that he had offered his services to the public by means of newspaper advertising without registering in either profession.

A third count resulting in a $100 fine charged in addition, without being duly registered, Baker by means of calling cards and stationery, used in connection with his name titles and descriptions tending to convey to the public the impression that he was an Architect and a Professional Engineer and would furnish architectural and professional engineering services.

Judge Gunn issued a stay of execution of a prison term and placed Baker on probation for three years on a further count in which Baker was charged by the Industrial Commission with having forged or caused to be forged an approval stamp of the Industrial Commission on a set of building plans.
Flads, Meyer and Grassold-Johnson Win Competition


Announcement of the awards was made February 6th. The distinguished jury which met January 28th included Carl Koch of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Architecture; John W. Root of the Chicago Architectural firm of Holabird, Root & Burgee; and Harold Spitznagel of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Forty-four mounts were submitted by Wisconsin members of the American Institute of Architects. The jury’s deliberations took the entire day.

Over-riding the requirements of the competition the jury awarded two first Honor Awards for Distinguished Accomplishment in Architecture to the Flad firm. The program had called for only one such Award.

The Flad’s designs for the Arrow Park plant of the Parker Pen Company in Janesville and for the Midleton State Graded School in Midleton, Wisconsin, received the top two Awards.

Awards of Merit in Architecture went to the Meyer firm for the Jewish Community Center in Milwaukee and a Concrete Block residence in Mequon, Wisconsin.

Grassold-Johnson’s Award of Merit in Architecture was for the Finnney Branch of the Milwaukee Public Library.

Pictorial features on the Award Winners and other entries to the competition will appear in future issues of The Wisconsin Architect. The first of this series appears on pages 6 and 7.

The Exhibitions and Honor Awards Committee, which conducted the competition, is making plans for the exhibition of the entries throughout the state.

Membership Elects Directors for 1955

Five new directors were elected by mail ballot to the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Architects Association, and six former members re-elected.

Elected as Directors-at-Large were Arthur O. Reddemann, Herbert J. Grassold and Alvin E. Grellinger of Milwaukee; Emil F. Klingler and Mark Purcell of Madison.

The Division Directors elected were Julius S. Sandstedt and Maurice Allen representing the Northeastern Division; Fritz von Grossmann and Roger M. Herbst from the Milwaukee Division, and Joseph J. Weiler and William V. Kaeser from the Madison Division.

17 WAA Members Earn Registration

The Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Architects Association has announced that seventeen members of the Wisconsin Architects Association obtained certificates of registration in 1954 to practice architecture in the state of Wisconsin.

The following Corporate members obtained registration: James P. Sampson, Madison.

The following Associate members obtained registration: Robert C. Klocksin, Kenneth F. Riebe of Milwaukee; George W. Gunn, Jr., Eugene Loucht and G. A. D. Schuetta, Robert L. Rowland, Roy E. Unsin, Green Bay; Harold R. Ames, Madison; William F. Weeks, Jr., Sheboygan.

The following Jr. Associate members obtained registration: Lawrence Bray, Sheboygan; Arland D. Gould, Madison; Murray L. P. Kinnich, Eugene G. Jurenec, Paul Klumb, Jr., Howard A. Lorenz, Howard Wedegartner, Milwaukee.

Board of Directors Elected, Discusses Fees and Committees

At its organization meeting immediately after the convention the Wisconsin Architects Association Board of Directors re-elected all the incumbent officers. Julius S. Sandstedt of Oshkosh was re-elected President, Arthur O. Reddemann and Fritz von Grossmann both of Milwaukee were re-elected Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer respectively.

A special committee whose members will be announced at a later date was appointed to study the advisability of a revision of the architects’ fee schedule in the state of Wisconsin and another committee appointed to make recommendations for standing and special committees.

1955 Membership Jumps Sharply

Membership Chairman, Allen Strang, reported at the annual meeting a gross increase of 15% and a net increase of 11% in the membership of the Wisconsin Architects Association since the 1954 convention.

He listed the names of the following Corporate members of the Association who had died during the preceding year. They were: Donald L. Kliese, Rubens F. Clas, Ferdinand J. Brimeyer, and Joseph M. Brielmaier.

(Continued on Page 11)
A great man came to Wisconsin in February to speak to Wisconsin architects.

Benign, gracious, and by turns prophetic and chiding, Frank Lloyd Wright addressed the Wisconsin Architects Convention at the Pfister Hotel, February 11.

Appearing before a capacity audience, Wright spoke confidently of the future of American architecture. Describing himself as a "distinguished amateur" who had never joined the architectural profession, Wright classified architecture as "the greatest of all arts."

"The architect survives," Wright said, "only if he does not classify himself as a business. He must not strive for quantity instead of quality."

With his customary view to years ahead, Wright said the "future of American architecture lies in the high schools of our time". He referred to the many letters he received from high school students saying that there apparently was a growing feeling for Architecture among the many youngsters who write him from school for material for theses.

"We need a capacity for vision," he said. "Architecture needs this young blood."

Wright described "Organic Architecture" as truly American architecture. "It was born here and could only have grown here," he said.

Although generally not caustic, Wright revealed a flash of his well-known fire as he expressed his dis-
Rose Calls Foundation "Vigorous, Effective"

Citing the Wisconsin Architects Foundation as a "vigorous and effective instrument in the education of architects for Wisconsin", Francis J. Rose, Foundation President, reported to the Wisconsin Architects Association annual meeting on the organization's second year of operation.

Rose described the Foundation's first venture in awarding scholarships and told of the excellent cooperation which the Foundation received from the deans of schools of architecture in the middle west. Grants ranging from $100 to $300 were made to thirteen students in 1954.

"Last year we distributed $2,100," Rose said, "and it looks like we will be able to do the same this year. Citing the auditor's report which listed more than $6500 in liquid assets, Rose said "We are managing to save as well as spend and we feel that is a healthy condition. The Foundation has no expenses other than for stationery, stamps and printing." Rose pointed out that reports of Foundation activities have been carried in the Wisconsin Architect at no expense to the Foundation.

Describing the decision to limit the first scholarships to seniors, Rose said that the Foundation relied heavily on the recommendations of the deans of the several schools of architecture submitting names. He stated it was deemed more advisable to accept these recommendations than for the Foundation to screen the candidates. With respect to awarding scholarships primarily to seniors Rose said, "With the limited funds available the scholarships would be most useful when given to assist graduating seniors who need the help to mount the last hurdle before graduating and entering the profession".

With respect to applications for assistance made by high school students or freshmen and sophomores Rose said, "The members of the Foundation realized that assistance granted at that stage would invite a continuation of assistance throughout the years that the tuition student was in school. While the Wisconsin Architects Foundation is strong and vigorous at this time, it still does not have the resources to grant four or five year scholarships. Any individual architect or businessman outside of the profession, who wishes to establish a five year scholarship, could very well use the Wisconsin Architects Foundation to award the scholarship in his name and handle the payments on the scholarships. We hope that there will be such five year scholarships made available to the Foundation in the future, to accommodate under-graduate students or high school graduates whose abilities warrant such help."

In regard to the manner of raising funds Rose explained, "The members of the Foundation have discussed at length the advisability of going beyond the membership of our profession to solicit funds. It has been our considered opinion to this date, that it would be better for the profession first to prove its interest in the Foundation before we appeal to people outside the profession. "Your support," Rose continued, "evidenced by substantial sustaining contributions and the memorial gifts sent in from time to time, has been most gratifying to those of us serving on the Foundation. Many sustaining contributions received were in the amount of $50.00 or $100.00 instead of the $10.00 suggested, and one of our fellow architects contributed a $1,000.00 Savings and Loan certificate. All of these gifts were made without conditions, to be expended as the Foundation found advisable."

Architects and AGC Exchange Views

In polite but firm tones representatives of the Associated General Contractors and the Wisconsin Architects Association advised each other of suggestions each had for the improvement of the other's operations.

The Architect-AGC Workshop which led off the Wisconsin Architects Association annual convention was spear-headed by a panel consisting of T. L. Cottam of the Hunzinger Construction Company, J. Harry Green, Manager of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America, George A. Benish, Manager of the Milwaukee Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America, and architects Julius S. Sandstedt, Oshkosh, Arthur O. Reddemann, Milwaukee, and Herbert W. Bradley, Milwaukee specification writer.

Probably due to the contractors' natural desire as guests to be polite and the architects not to be outdone as good hosts, the early portions of the work-shop contained many round-about suggestions on the part of each group. Later on, however, as it became apparent to representatives of both organizations that a sincere desire for a mutual exchange of opinion for the furtherance of good construction practice was present, comments became more specific and pointed.

Contractor representatives condemned the excessive use of bid alternates as occasionally a device utilized to obtain new and lower bids or to control in advance the contractor who was to get the job. Contractors also criticized the looking by architects of adequate time to prepare bids and the ignoring by architects of days following holidays and similar "poor times" in which to schedule bid opening dates.

T. L. Cottam urged higher limits for public liability and property damage insurance for the entire construction industry.

Joseph Weiler asked the panel what could be done to speed up a job which is behind schedule and particularly what can be done about getting contractors to finish the "odds and ends at the end of a job". Green's ready reply brought amused chuckles as he cracked back, "Cut out special contracts and let your bids with one contractor who will have sole responsibility".

Preserving the atmosphere of cooperation and good will at a recessed meeting of the Association later the same day, the Architects agreed to support an effort by the AGC to create a bid opening date clearing house.

Texas Firm Seeks Draftsman

Atlee B. & Robert M. Ayres, Architects and Engineers Building, 342 West Woodlawn at San Pedro Avenue, San Antonio, Texas, have stated their desire to secure a young draftsman with "good school training as well as technical experience", who is "possibly thirty to thirty-five years of age talented in doing work in contemporary style".

Inquiries should be directed to the Ayres firm.
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For:  the Arrow Park Plant, Parker Pen Company,  
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CHAPTER I


The other day I was looking over my father’s book about the architects of Boston in those bygone days when the architect was a rugged individualist who took care of himself. One incident told of a certain Gridley J. F. Bryant. He had one of the largest and most lucrative practices of his day, “a fact”, according to my father, “which did not save him from passing his declining years in the Home for Aged Men which he himself designed.”

All this sort of thing came to an end on December 31, 1954, when architects, together with undertakers and clergymen, were included in the social security program and welcomed to the bosom of the socialized state.

Fortunately for us, this socialized state is more a point of view than a rigid form of government, a point of view for which, as with many of them, one reaches the inevitable conclusion that architectural education is a fascinating but nevertheless insolvable problem. This is fortunate, as like perfection, it gives us something we can keep on striving for.

While practically all schools made the change there were almost as many approaches to the new philosophy as there were schools. After reviewing the curricula of a good many of them, one reaches the inescapable conclusion that architectural education is a fascinating but nevertheless insolvable problem. This is fortunate, as like perfection, it gives us something we can keep on striving for. In the interim, education or at least the general curriculum continues to improve. One result of the emphasis on integration has been the betterment of all the related courses, whereas in the old days most of the emphasis was on the design course as such to neglect the other aspects of architectural education.

Let us look for a moment at the architectural practice the student may be getting into. Although I came from New York I imagine you all feel as I do, to paraphrase an old saying "the average architect leads a life of quiet desperation". We all know or think we know what we would like to do, but rarely do we seem to have the time or opportunity to do it. We mark each day, not by what we accomplish, but by what we have failed to do by the time we must call it a day.

It is for this reason I look back with so much admiration to the office of Raymond Hood where I started my career in New York. Along with everything else going along at a great rate he found time to keep models and studies in progress on the improvement of the city. One model in particular showed the possibilities of tearing down sections of New York and rebuilding it with widely spaced towers with parks around them. There was nothing new about this. Corbusier was making his living writing books about it even then. What was significant to me was that Raymond Hood managed to carry out these ideas in some way or other in his regular work. It is for that reason you all probably remember the American Radiator Building as a tower, instead of a standard loft building such as those further along the block.

Similarly, the Daily News Building, the first job on which I worked, was some how talked up from a six story printing press to a thirty-seven story tower with light all around including a bit of open space clear to the ground where the owner was persuaded to give up using some five thousand square feet of land. They came to realize that it built a better building at less cost and with higher rentals, ideas that would satisfy any owner, but we in the office also knew that...
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Convention... (Cont'd)

Association during possible lean years ahead and to continue present programs which profit individual members directly. As an example he noted a recent favorable interpretation of State statutes by the Industrial Commission. Mr. von Grossmann in his report as Secretary-Treasurer noted an increase in flow of information from the Association office and called the additional activity merely "a start of what we're going to have". He, too, called for some method by which the Association would have additional funds available for present and future operations.

Von Grossmann proposed a plan under which each office would pay to the Association $30.00 for each employer-principal member, $20.00 for each firm member who shared in the profits, and $10.00 for each non-clerical employee.

Herbert Grassold spoke strongly in favor of the creation of a reserve and administrative fund urging investigation of the possibility of a "mill tax" on building permits to be paid to the Association by member firms. He said he was thinking in terms of creating a sinking fund which ultimately might reach $100,000 in ten years. "As long as I can remember we have always been broke. We never have any money. I think it can be done."

The Meeting directed the Board of Directors to apply to the Institute for consideration of Milwaukee as the Convention city for the 1960 Convention of the A.I.A.

The Fees Committee represented by Mr. von Grossmann reported on its activities and it was determined that the matter should be considered further and action taken at a possible special meeting of the Association during the summer of 1955.

At two recess sessions the membership approved the proposed Code of Interprofessional Practice for Architects and Professional Engineers recommended after year-long study by a joint committee of representatives of both organizations. The membership also pledged its support to the Association of General Contractors' proposal to work out details of a bid-opening clearing house with the appropriate contractors' committee.

A motion to revise the present "Safe Place statute" by striking its reference to architects was approved.

Accounts of the individual activities which followed the Annual Meeting will be found in separate stories in this and succeeding issues of the Wisconsin Architect.

A capacity crowd enthusiastically received Frank Lloyd Wright at the Annual Banquet and the heavy attendance at suppliers' booths indicated extreme interest in these exhibits.

Membership... (Cont'd)

He urged the Association's members to take an active individual part in the acquiring of new members by urging employees to join the Association and take part in its activities. He also recommended members interest other architects who are not presently members in joining the Association. "Only in this fashion," he said, "can we build an organization which will continue to be of increasing value to each of us as individual architects."

Wright... (Cont'd)

human Architecture is," he said, "the more true it is."

"The urbanism of the Middle Ages," Wright said, "is neither permissible nor desirable today. New powers and facilities are making cities hideous places in which to live. We have the possibility of greater light and beauty before us."

"Stick to the love of the thing you are doing, then we will have an Architecture," Wright concluded. He then expressed his thanks for the invitation to speak and, noting the smiles on the faces of his audience, said benevolently, "It shows you don't take what I've said seriously at all."

The resounding ovation which greeted his address must have shown Wright that his remarks were indeed taken seriously and the smiles were those of interest and attention.

Earlier in the day Wright spent considerable time viewing the exhibits of the materials suppliers. He went from booth to booth and the justly famous Wright charm was much in evidence as he chatted with representatives of various building materials firms and acquaintances and friends in the architectural profession. His every move was carefully watched, and although there were many architects present who disagree with Wright's methods and philosophy, the cautious and respectful wave of silence which preceded and followed him acknowledged an awareness that he represented dramatic stature and impact upon the architectural profession. "Agree with him or disagree with him, but you cannot ignore him," a bystander was heard to say.

Kilham... (Cont'd)

the real estate interests had been cheated out of another building with blank lot line walls, windows fore and aft, cornices overhanging the street, in the interests of another tower in the future city. To the boy out of school, as I was then, this made a tremendous difference and made me realize that architecture could be a lot more than just solving the economics and planning problems set before you.

Sometimes, of course, you have to put your cards on the table and it is not so easy. I remember later on in Radio City where I was lucky enough to spend the early years of the depression, Raymond Hood thought something should be done to relieve the piled up masses of office space. To him, the man in the street ought to get something back. He suggested that with all these stories walls baking in the sun, stirring the streets below, may be the sound of a little running water, the splash of a fountain might be enough to take the curse off the asphalt jungle.

Dedicated, practical, prosaic men ran the enterprise and as usual they came down on him like a ton of bricks. After about twenty minutes of sputtering they ended up saying "a fountain-running water? Why — do you know what this means; this means recirculating 30,000 gallons of water a day."

"And how much," said Raymond Hood in a tired voice, "does it cost to recirculate 30,000 gallons of water a day?" They scratched and figured and finally came up with the answer — $8.30 a day. The fountain went in.

(To be continued in next issue)
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