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Editor's Note

We promised that in this issue a new column by one "Archy" pronounced "Arky," as in architect, would begin. We have received a communication from this individual that his name is "Archy," as in diminutive medieval Gothic doorway (Archy says this is redundant), and that he is modeled after a certain nationally known cockroach. Are you confused?

In the April issue we will have the complete roster of the membership of the Wisconsin Architects Association and standing and special committees.

COVER COMMENT

Shown is the entrance to the Finney branch of the Milwaukee Public Library. The design for this structure won an Award of Merit in the 1953 biennial competition of the Wisconsin Architects Association. Grassold and Johnson, Milwaukee, are the architects.

The jury commented particularly the informal reading terrace and the entrance to it as providing a "real attraction to younger readers."

AIA June Convention Program Announced by President Ditchy

"Designing for the Community" will be the theme of the 87th annual convention of the American Institute of Architects, it has been announced by AIA President Clair W. Ditchy. The Convention will meet in Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 20-24, with headquarters at the Hotel Radisson.

Keynote address will be made on Tuesday morning, June 21, by Albert M. Cole, Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, and the convention theme will be developed further that day — at lunch with James W. Follin, Commissioner of the Urban Renewal Administration as speaker — and at an afternoon seminar "Rebuilding the City." Moderator Richard W. E. Poznan, AIA, Executive Director of the Milwaukee Housing Authority, will be joined on the panel by leading architect-planners who will discuss pertinent phases of the architect's role in development and redevelopment projects.

Later in the week another seminar, keyed to the overall theme, on "Architecture of Community Expansion," will be led by Norman J. Schlossman, FAIA, of the Chicago firm of Loebl, Schlossman and Bennett. Schlossman is a former first vice-president of the Institute.

It is of interest to note that the convention city was among the first in the country to get the green light from the Housing and Home Finance Agency for its urban renewal plan. The program presented by Minneapolis was approved in February.

Other convention seminars are scheduled on Chapter and Regional Affairs and on Office Practice. The latter will include discussions on cost estimating and modular measures.

Entertainment and education will be combined on the Cold Spring Cannonball Trip arranged by the Host Committee and the Cold Spring Granite Company for the opening day of the convention, Monday, June 20. Architects and their wives are to be transported on a special train through scenic lake country to Cold Spring, Minnesota, where they will be guests of the granite company. Highlights of the trip will be the visit to a granite quarry and a tour of the facilities of the Pfister. After many years at the Plankinton some of us had to learn the tricks of the locale all over again. Those who stayed away should be sent back to grinding Chinese ink sticks again. A sad commentary on our membership when the Prexy had to send out scouts to round up enough members for a quorum in order to vote on some of the vital issues presented at the business meeting.

Trouble developed when some of the scouts got lost in the hotel. But they returned in time.

Yet, it is always the absentee who complains loudest about what was done or, "Why isn't the organization more alive?" And they missed some fine seminars, which went along on a precise schedule. We'll always remember Walter Kilham's remark that, "Frank Lloyd Wright is made of starch while we are made of common clay." Kilham's many references to Raymond Hood, with whom he had worked a number of years, leads us to hope that he will put Hood's life between book covers. When we went in school, Hood was one of our bright white knights who would lead us out of the Beaux Arts straightjacket. It was good to hear about him again.

There was a new wrinkle in handling the exhibits this year and it appeared to work well. Up to now all exhibiting space had been handled by the Producers' Council but this time it was sold by the Convention Committee. As a result there were many new booths and they all received good coverage, if we can trust our man Foche. He followed Frank Lloyd Wright on the latter's tour and was exhausted. Our dis-
"Safe Place" Statute
Change Urged at Annual Meeting

This article is a verbatim account of an address prepared by Wisconsin Architects Association Legal Counsel Gerald J. Rice for the Association's annual meeting.

Prior to the adoption of the provisions of the Safe Place Statute relating to architects, their liability for injuries resulting from an unsafe condition in a building was quite narrow and limited. A person injured during construction of the building could probably sue an architect if his negligence could be directly traced as the cause of the injury. The owner could be sued also if the architect could be proved to be the agent of the owner, but not if the architect was found to be an independent contractor. Once a building was completed and the owner took full possession, a person injured in the building could hold only the owner for negligence in maintaining the building in an unsafe condition. If held liable, the owner might then have a cause of action against the architect for breach of contract or for negligence. In any event, the architect's liability would most likely be limited by statutes of limitation for not more than 6 years after the alleged breach of contract.

With the adoption of the safe place statute, most lawyers agree that the owner is made absolutely liable regardless of whether the architect is an agent or independent contractor, and the architect is absolutely liable jointly and severally with the owner. Since the liability of the architect is made a direct liability by the statute, it continues as long as the unsafe condition exists and cannot be limited as in the case of liability deriving from the contract relationship between the owner and architect.

The Statute reads as follows:

101.06 EMPLOYER'S DUTY TO FURNISH SAFE EMPLOYMENT AND PLACE.

Every employer shall furnish employment which shall be safe for the employees therein and shall furnish a place of employment which shall be safe for employees therein and for frequenters thereof and shall furnish and use safety devices and safeguards, and shall adopt and use methods and processes reasonably adequate to render such employment and places of employment safe, and shall do every other thing reasonably necessary to protect the life, health, safety, and welfare of such employees and frequenters. Every employer and every owner

Architects Honor Vonier, Miss Donohue of WTMJ-TV

An award to Beulah Donohue and Sprague Vonier of WTMJ-TV. The Milwaukee Journal station, was made at the annual convention by the Wisconsin Architects Association.

Origin of the awards was the ten month television series "Television Builds a House" on the "Woman's World" program. Miss Donahue is the program's hostess and Vonier its director.

The awards cited Miss Donahue for the "merit" of the series and her "excellent presentation" which "delineated the value of the architect's function in the design of a low-cost residence." The award further noted the program had "achieved high audience interest and broadened understanding of the ideals and value of the architectural profession."

Vonier's award was for the "high technical quality of his direction" of the series and for his "inspiration and excellent layman's knowledge of architecture" which "aided in bringing a new appreciation of the values and quality inherent in good architectural design to the home audience."

The citations to Miss Donahue and Vonier were made by Julius S. Sandstedt and Maynard W. Meyer, President and Public Relations Chairman respectively of the Wisconsin Architects Association.

The television series, believed to be different from any other put on by any chapter of the American Institute of Architects began March 26, 1954 and ended February 4, 1955. It received recognition in several Institute publications and is expected to be the subject of feature and news articles in national architectural publications.

The series was based upon the real life story of Milwaukee architect Don L. Grieb and his clients, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Johnson and their two children, as they constructed a moderately priced residence on Milwaukee's north side.

The series fell into a pattern in which the architect and his clients would discuss the problems of the home’s design and construction. These programs then were followed by a series of panels on which members of the Wisconsin Architects Association discussed the general applications of the specific decisions made by the owner and architect, all with an eye to educating the public as to the value and function of the architect in residence design.

(Continued on Page 9)
Young Architects' Education Must Continue in Offices

CHAPTER 2


We all know there are far more subjects an architect should have than there is ever time to teach in even five years. We know that, basically, the student goes to school to develop his design ability as being the main subject that is most difficult to develop in an office alone. We further hope he will pick up certain fundamentals of science to help him in the technical aspects of his work. There is the somewhat fading hope, that through the studies of humanities, he will also acquire a feeling of his broader responsibilities as a useful citizen.

This leaves to the office, as it used to be in the apprenticeship days, the responsibility for his practical training, or better, the student will realize that in his first five years after school he still has a lot of practical experience to gain — a subject not covered in school. There is the somewhat fading hope, that through the studies of humanities, he will also acquire a feeling of his broader responsibilities as a useful citizen.

This leaves to the office, as it used to be in the apprenticeship days, the responsibility for his practical training, or better, the student will realize that in his first five years after school he still has a lot of practical experience to gain — a subject not covered in school. Following up the work of the A.I.A. Survey Commission on Education I expect we will hear a lot more of this in the next few years.

A year or two ago a conference on "Architecture and the University" was held at Princeton, attended by noted architects and educators, brought together by the new director of the School of Architecture, Mr. Robert McLaughlin. Recently I was given a copy of the proceedings and, being happy in finding that I am in accord with some of their findings, I will try to pass them along to you, mixed in, I am afraid, with some interpolations of my own.

Of the architect’s responsibilities, I liked what Mr. Peressutti said at this conference, "If a doctor is not technically trained, he can kill a man, perhaps even two or three; and if an architect is not morally trained, I think he can kill not only one man but a whole society. We do have to teach all these subjects in a school of architecture since they are the tools of a profession, but in the moral field I think we have to give a student the sense of responsibility towards society first of all and towards himself as an artist. I think that these two responsibilities have to be established as the basis of architectural education; all others seem to be subordinate because every student may find himself in his later life in a location where technical conditions will be different from those he learned about in school, either because of progress in a rapidly changing world or because of lack of materials, he must be able to handle new conditions with the same understanding responsibility . . . life changes his means but not his moral aims."

Concerning methods I know that some of us find that certain students today come into the office feeling they have learned a way that gives the right answers — research, analysis, logic — turn the crank and the result can’t be wrong. But when you ask them if they really think they have an idea, is it a plan — it falls to pieces. They have taken the easy way. Creativeness, intuition — still play a large part in architecture — perhaps that is what distinguishes it from some other phases of human activity.

Another commented on the so called "bridge complex" wherein the student thinks the building has to start as an interesting structure. I know that not long ago I asked one of the young people, or let us say the young man, in the office to work out a scheme with clerestory or monitor lighting. Shortly after, he came back with his eyes shining — "I've got that 'Space frame' worked out for you," he said. Luckily I had been to a lecture at the Architectural League on the subject and so didn't give myself away.

There is another aspect I would like to speak of — this is the client. With the exception of the great architect who I was happy to see in the Milwaukee Journal, no longer talks of leaving your great state for greener and less highly assessed (Continued on Page 6)
Kilham . . . (Cont'd)
pastures, there are few of us who do not realize that the truly successful job depends as much on the client as on the architect. As we architects grow in stature to take our place in our civilization, so must our client, if we are to have the opportunities to do our best.

Back in 1785 Jefferson wrote to Madison "I am an enthusiast on the subject of the arts. But it is an enthusiasm of which I am not ashamed, as its object is to improve the taste of my countrymen, to increase their appreciation, to reconcile to them the respect of the world, and to procure them its praise."

At the time of the founding of our country there was realization of the job to be done. Today, in the programs of our architectural schools we see a far broader realization of the job of the architect. Realizing the service he has to render they study not only the solution of the problem presented in the program but the formulation of the program itself — based on a study of contemporary communities and society.

However the universities still have the big job to do. Architects are a minor percentage of the student body — they leaven the mass to a very small degree. The student body, however, will represent the future client, not only for their private work, but as citizens in their responsibilities for public work. If they knew what to expect of the architect, if they realized what they as citizens are entitled to in the design of their physical environment, more architects would have the opportunity to make the best contribution and many more would rise to meet the challenge. It is discouraging then to read in a famous a report as Harvard's "General Education in a Free Society" that while they recognize the value of certain of the arts, they go on to say, "We do not, of course, deny the value of the dance, architecture, and the rest of the arts, but..." not much hope for the future there. The great things of this world are accomplished when something with an idea behind it is shared by enough people to see that it is carried through.

On the other hand, it is encouraging that some universities are calling on their architectural faculty to design their new buildings and some stimulating results have been achieved.

(To be concluded in the next issue)

Archy . . . (Cont'd)
tinguished colleague from Spring Green must have carried a spare gas tank because he covered every exhibit and had a question ready for each of them. His curiosity put many of the younger fry to shame.

The success of Mr. Wright's dinner talk was well covered by the State papers, but they couldn't convey the charge he sent through the hall when he entered, flanked by Bill Kaeser and Proxy Sandstedt. The standing ovation was something new at a State Convention.

Appraised almost as loudly was the decision by the Board of Directors that future conventions will be rotated amongst the "metropolitan centers" of Milwaukee, Madison and Green Bay. Even the exhibitors cheered. They do like to travel about our lovely State. Do you blame 'em?

The hardest working committee was Walt Memmler, lining up votes for the Architect-Engineer Practice Code. His Committee had worked hard in getting it hammered into shape so that it would be acceptable to both groups, but the Architects proved the hardest nut to crack. Walter hammered the Architects almost single handedly, and though for a while it looked lost, the final vote was overwhelmingly in favor of it. Wrinkles will be ironed out later but it was a beginning. The report was the "Great Debate" of the 1955 convention.

Now, aren't you absentees sorry to have missed the fun?

Convention . . . (Cont'd)
through the company's plant, featuring the story of granite production and fabrication in complete continuity from the rough blocks to the finished products.

The President's Reception will be held at the Prudential Insurance Company's new Minneapolis office building, designed by Magney, Tusler and Setter, which is to be officially opened during the convention week. Special guests at the reception will be Prudential's President Carroll Shanks and other top company officials.

The Gold Medal, highest honor given by the Institute for distinguished service to the profession, will be awarded at the annual banquet on Thursday, June 23. Additional awards, to be given at an awards luncheon, include the Fine Arts Medal, the Craftsmanship Medal and the Edward C. Kemper Award.

Other regular convention features are the Annual Exhibition of outstanding American architecture and the display of new building products and equipment.

The Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth chapters are the convention hosts and chairman G. Clair Armstrong of Minneapolis and his host committee are arranging a number of other special events, including architectural tours, an evening of entertainment, and a special ladies program.

During the days prior to the convention, there will be meetings of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, the Producers Council, the National Architectural Accrediting Board and the AIA Board of Directors.

An eleven day post-convention trip that will take in such vacation spots as Glacier and Jasper National Parks, Banff and Lake Louise, is being planned by the U. S. Travel Agency. The tour will start from Minneapolis on Saturday, June 25, the morning after the convention wind-up.

It is estimated that more than 1600 architects and guests will attend the convention.

AIA Scandinavian Tour Schedule Announced

An American Institute of Architects sponsored tour of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark has been announced.

Architects going on the tour will leave New York via chartered Scandinavian Airlines plane May 29 and return June 15. Cost of the tour, including transatlantic transportation, meals and lodging, will be $750.00.

A tightly packed program has been planned for the group, highlighted by the cooperation of Scandinavian architects, who will act as guides and hosts. Additional information can be obtained from World Travel Plan Corporation, 125 East 50th Street, New York 22, New York.
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The Finney branch library is located at the intersection of two major bus routes. The building acts as the cultural hub for four schools located in a one mile radius. To enhance the casual atmosphere of the reading area, the building was opened to the street on the north and to a private outdoor reading terrace on the south.
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Safe Place . . . (Cont’d)

If a building planned by an architect contains a violation of the state building code, it is presumed to be unsafe because it fails to meet the standard of safety established by the code. If such violation proves to be the proximate cause of an injury to a person lawfully in the building and covered by the statute, both the owner and the architect are liable for the damages resulting from the injury.

Wisconsin’s Safe Place Statute seems to be unique in that no other state has exactly the same statute. Furthermore, there have been no Wisconsin cases testing its constitutionality, or construing its application, as to architects.

In some states, it is held that the liability of an architect to third persons who are injured by his negligence ceases upon acceptance by the owner of a building upon completion. Apparently those decisions would not now apply in Wisconsin under the Safe Place Statute, and the architect continues liable.

The continuing liability of the architect under the Safe Place Statute would not be a matter of concern if it were not discriminatory and if the architect could protect himself with adequate insurance at reasonable premiums.

It will be noted that while the architect is included in the safe-place statute, neither the engineer, who can and frequently designs industrial plants or buildings, nor the contractor who actually constructs buildings, is named in the statute. When a building is completed, the engineer or the contractor have no continuing liability to third persons as has the architect. So far, no reasonable argument has been discovered to support such discrimination.

With respect to protection, an owner can readily obtain the standard public liability policy at a low premium, because there are so many owners who buy such policies thus spreading the risk. Furthermore, the owner has to insure only the one building involved, while an architect, to properly protect himself, would have to have insurance covering every building he ever planned, retroactive to the first building. Thus far no insurance company has been willing to write a policy to afford protection against the risk of an architect under the present safe-place statute.

Under the circumstances, there would seem to be no relief other than a change in the law. To remove the architect from continuing liability under the law, would rectify an unfair discrimination and would not reduce public protection. The owner would remain in the same position he has always been in under the the common law as well as under the safe place statute, without any disadvantage to him, since the same insurance protection is available to him.

Concrete Products Group Elects 1956 Leaders

To expedite matters, Senator Harry Franke, of Milwaukee, has agreed to introduce a bill to effect the desired change, at the request of the Wisconsin Architects Association. It may be expected that the engineers and the contractors association will support the measure actively in their own interest. With such support, the bill should pass and a worrisome situation be corrected.

It is my recommendation that the Wisconsin Architects Association forthwith adopt the following proposed resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED: That Senator Harry Franke of Milwaukee be respectfully requested to introduce a bill in the Wisconsin Legislature to amend the Safe Place Statute (Sec. 101.06, Stats.) by striking the reference therein to architects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers and the General Contractors Association of Wisconsin be solicited for their support of such bill to amend the Safe Place Statute.

In conclusion, in the event the amending bill should fail to pass at this session of the legislature, you may be assured that efforts will be redoubled to obtain adequate insurance to cover the liability involved.

(Editor’s Note: The resolution suggested by Rice was adopted at the annual meeting, the appropriate bill introduced and, at the time of this issue has been approved by the State Senate Judiciary Committee.)
Here's How New Social Security Law Applies to You as an Architect

K. A. Albrecht
District Manager
Milwaukee Social Security Office

Something new has been added. Self-employed architects will have coverage under the social security program for the first time beginning with the year 1955. Other newly covered groups include the self-employed professional engineers, accountants, funeral directors and farm operators. This article will attempt to briefly outline your obligations and your rights as a member of a newly covered group.

A question often raised is "What must I do right now?" Actually, no immediate action is required. Self-employed people file the social security return just once a year, along with their final federal income tax return. Therefore, you will not file until the beginning of 1956, when your 1955 return is due. Before that time you should obtain your social security account number. This may be secured by contacting your local social security office, or you may obtain an application for the number from any post office. If you have ever had a social security number before, use that original number. It is important to list your correct social security number and the nature of your business on the tax return to assure that you will receive the proper credit. If your net income is under $400.00 for a year, no social security tax is due. The maximum income taxable for this purpose is $4200.00 per year and the current tax rate is 3%.

Each year in which you have at least $400.00 of net earnings, you receive credit toward an insured status under social security. To qualify for monthly payments when you retire at age 65 or later, or for survivors benefits, you must have been in covered work for a certain length of time.

In general terms, a person is required to work about one-half of his normal working life span. This period is usually measured by starting with the year 1951 and closing with the date of attainment of age 65 or the date of death if that is earlier. If you have covered earnings during one-half of that time, you will be insured. Any covered earnings that a person had before 1951 or after age 65 may be used to meet that requirement if necessary.

Because of the many people coming under this program for the first time in 1955, a special modification has been included. This provides that if a person works steadily starting with 1955, he will be deemed to be insured, even though he may not meet the usual requirement. This provision is temporary because by the end of 1958, the steady worker will have sufficient coverage to meet the usual requirement.

There is a minimum time period. The individual must have at least 1½ years of covered work to qualify for any type of benefit. Once a person has accumulated ten years of work, he is permanently insured, which assures some type of benefit even though he never works under social security after that.

Social security is a family program in that benefits are not limited to the insured individual alone, but to certain other members of the family as well. In a retirement case, for example, payments would be made to:

- You as a retired worker
- Your WIFE age 65 or over
- Your CHILDREN under age 18
- Your WIFE regardless of age if there are children under 18
- Your DEPENDENT HUSBAND if you are a woman breadwinner.

Equally important as the retirement payments are those benefits for your family at your death. This should be of particular significance to the younger family people in their financial planning. Monthly benefits would be paid to your:

- WIDOW 65 or older
- WIDOW regardless of age if there are children under age 18
- CHILDREN under age 18
- DEPENDENT WIDOWER at age 65
- DEPENDENT PARENTS at 65 if no widow or children survive.

There is also a lump sum death benefit paid to your widow or widower or to the person who paid your funeral expenses.

Social security benefits are intended to be a partial and relative replacement of income lost to a family because of the retirement or death of the breadwinner. The payments are based in each individual case upon the earnings record of the insured worker. To arrive at the benefit amount, the individual's Average Monthly Wage is computed from his reported earnings and this average is the basis of payment. By the middle of 1956, the first time most self-employed architects will be insured, the Average Monthly Wage may be as high as $350.00. This is based on net earnings of $4200.00 per year. The retired person's income is computed as being 55% of the first $1100.00 of the average and 20% of the balance. This will result in a payment of from $30.00, the minimum, to $108.50 per month. Family payments may range as high as $200.00 per month. The table on page 11 illustrates benefit amounts in different situations.

To be eligible at age 65 or later, a person need not be completely retired. A beneficiary may be paid for each month of the year if his earnings during the year are not more than $1200.00. Earnings from any source must be counted, whether or not the work is covered by social security. However, income from property, investments, pensions, and insurance does not count.

A person who earns over $1200.00 per year would not necessarily lose the entire year's payments. Each $80.00 amount beyond $1200.00, would cause loss of one month's payment.

After a person becomes age 72, benefits are payable in full regardless of earnings. From that time on, he may earn any amount without limit.

It is hoped that this article has served to acquaint the self-employed architect with some of the main features of the social security program. No attempt has been made to explain the law in its entirety nor to go into full detail. For more information, write, phone, or visit any social security office and ask for the free booklet, "Your Social Security." If you have any personal question or problem, feel free to contact your social security office at any time. If you do not know the address of your nearest office, ask the post office, or look in the telephone book under "U.S. GOVERNMENT, DEPT. OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, & WELFARE."
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