the Wisconsin Architect

HONOR AWARDS

MARCH 1959
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Chapter Notes

- **THE 1959 ANNUAL CONVENTION** of the Wisconsin Chapter, AIA, was as excellent as the months of painstaking planning by the Convention Committee promised it would be. Because this issue of the WISCONSIN ARCHITECT was printed too soon after the convention to include details, information about the annual meeting, speakers, social activities and exhibits will be covered in a later issue.

- **NATHANIEL SAMPLE, AIA,** was elected unanimously to serve as architect member on the Board of Directors of the Madison Redevelopment Committee. Sample’s election took place at the January meeting of the Madison Division. The Committee plans, under the leadership of Senator Horace Wilkie, to incorporate in order to raise $75,000 to carry out the planning, reports and exhibition of their goal, “Design for Tomorrow.” The by-laws of the proposed corporation will provide for one architect member on the Board of Directors.

- **ALLEN J. STRANG, AIA,** was invited by the Northern Illinois Chapter of the AIA and the Association of Building Contractors to participate in their First Annual Construction Industry Seminar held February 19 and 20 at Rockford, Illinois. The Seminar accentuated the vital requirements of building project coordination, bringing together architects and contractors for two days of intensive discussion of related problems.

- **A TELEVISION INTERVIEW** of the winners in the Wisconsin Chapter’s 1959 Honor Awards program was held on the “Mid-day” WTMJ-TV show February 26. Interviewed were AIA members Edgar Berners, Joseph Flad, Clinton Mochon and Herbert Grassold. A story and pictures of the award winning entries appear on pages 8 through 12.

- **RICHARD W. E. PERRIN, AIA,** has been named to the National Committee on Preservation of Historic Buildings to serve until 1962. He will represent the North Central States Region.

- **THE JENKINS-KEOGH BILL** which would give architects a tax break was described in detail in the January WISCONSIN ARCHITECT. The Bill was introduced again on January 7, 1959. In the same form as when it passed the House of Representatives but died in the Senate Finance committee upon adjournment last summer, the name of the Bill has been changed to the Keogh-Simpson Bill. If enacted, it would permit self-employed individuals current income tax deductions for limited amounts invested in certain types of retirement plans. Architects wishing to further the progress of this bill may write their Congressmen referring to the bill as the Keogh-Simpson Bill and H.R. 10.

- **FRITZ VON GROSSMANN, AIA,** has accepted the appointment of Committee Correspondent of the North Central States Region for the AIA Committee on Professional Practice. For the remainder of this term von Grossmann will assist the Committee in its study of the Advantages and Disadvantages of Corporate Practice.

- **THE FEBRUARY MADISON DIVISION MEETING** welcomed State registration board members Edgar Berners, Ralph Kloppeenburg and Mark Purcell and State Architect, Roger Kirchoff. The Board discussed questions by division members relating to the composition of the Board, the examination, examination procedures, reciprocity and the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. Edgar Berners also showed his color slides taken throughout Europe last year.

- **ROBERT TORKELSON, AIA,** received recognition for his work in designing the altar and pulpits for the National Lutheran Evangelism Conference held recently in Madison. The Rev. Bruce Holter, Sun Prairie, presented to Torkelson the book, “The Changing Church Architecture.”

(Continued on Page 6)
AIA-CSI Technical Committee Progress

Following are excerpts from the January report of the AIA-CSI Technical Committee, Herbert Bradley, Chairman. Also on the Committee are Roger McMullin, Lester Seubert, Alfred Kluge, and Roswell Graves.

Architects have recognized the need for new and improved specification practices to meet the requirements of modern construction with its multiplicity of building products and equipment.

In 1948 a small group of Washington, D.C. architects and engineers, specializing in construction specifications decided not only that something should be done to improve these specifications, but that improvements could be effected through the cooperative effort of all segments of the construction industry. The CSI was formed and incorporated as a non-stock, non-profit Maryland corporation.

In the national publication of the CSI, the “Goal of the CSI” was stated:

“EFFECT closest association and cooperation with the best architectural and engineering talent in the construction industry in the major effort to improve construction specifications.

COOPERATE with architects, engineers, research organizations, government authorities, contractors, equipment and material manufacturers, and professional specification writers, all of whom realize the vital necessity for developing concise, clear-cut, down-to-earth specifications as a protection for the interests of all parties concerned.

WORK toward reduction of the multitude of specification formats and the adoption of more uniform and consistent methods of specifying, saving time and money thereby.

DISSEMINATE information concerning specifications, developments, and improvements in construction practices.

PROVIDE a pool of the best specification data available in the construction field for the mutual benefit of all.

ENABLE each member of CSI to contribute his personal knowledge and experience toward improving the welfare of the construction industry.

CONSIDER specification problems in their proper perspective, with relation to the project as a whole.

ASSIST in providing adequately trained professional specification writers through the adoption of proper curriculums in professional schools.

One of the basic purposes of CSI is to provide in readily accessible form, background technical information used in the preparation of construction specifications.

Technical committees of CSI Chapters are studying separate specifications. Eventually every possible section will be studied. The objectives of the Technical Research Program are to review each trade section of the specifications as follows:

1. Detailed analysis of the scope of the work to be bid by each subcontractor, and what does not apply to his particular trade.
2. Study and review recognized standards and make suggestions for additional standards.
3. Report any current jurisdictional labor disputes and revise such reports upon resolution of such disputes.
4. Glossary of words applicable to that trade.
5. Report on any new techniques and methods that are either in operation now or in course of development within the trade.
6. A suggested Specification Outline for that particular trade section.

Before a committee’s recommendations are submitted to the membership, they are approved by general contracting organizations, the sub-contracting group involved, and the labor unions having jurisdiction.

The research goal is not to provide a standard specification, but to see each item in proper classification, so all members will have an outline in the preparation of specifications that may be followed with assurance that specification and bid will be complete and represent efficiency on the job and economy to Owners.

Wisconsin now has the “Wisconsin Chapter” comprising the Milwaukee area and the “Central Wisconsin Chapter” in Madison. Each function independently but joint meetings are held. Technical committee assignments are carried out independently, but the results are approved by both chapters before adoption and publication.

A great amount of time and effort has been expended by members of the two State CSI Chapters. The latest CSI roster lists the total number of AIA members Madison 20, Milwaukee 9—less than ten percent of the CSI membership. Actions speak louder than words, so instead of bemoaning the need for better specifications or even agreeing that CSI is performing a service that has been needed for a long time, and which the AIA alone was unable to provide, it would seem logical for architects to join the CSI and actively engage in promoting and developing improved specifications.

The Wisconsin Chapter Technical Committee in Milwaukee is developing a detailed outline for the Sections “Earthwork,” “Concrete” and “Insulation,” and whenever one of those Sections is completed and approved by the membership, it will be published.

At a November Technical Committee meeting Mr. Joe Weiler, member of the AIA-AGC Committee which developed the 1956 Standard Specification Outline, reviewed it and the Index. The committee urged delay in reprinting the present outline and requested sufficient time to develop a revised one.

It is intended the Index for all sections and the outlines for the mechanical trades will be printed, reviewed with the CSI Wisconsin Chapter, and presented to Mr. Weiler for submission to the AGC Executive Committee before requesting their acceptance at the March Annual Convention of the Wisconsin Chapter, AIA.
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Chapter Notes (Continued from P. 3)

• THE WOMEN’S ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE of the Milwaukee Division was incorporated and approved By-Laws at its January meeting. Attorney Gerald J. Rice assisted Mrs. Charles (Alex) Haeuser, Mrs. Jack R. (Beanie) Kloppenburg, and Mrs. Maynard W. (Dede) Meyer in drafting the By-Laws. The new legal status of this 100 member organization now permits an eleven-member Board of Directors which will be responsible for the election of the officers of the corporation.

• GREGORY G. LEFEVRE, AIA, addressed a meeting of the Heating and Piping Contractors Association on February 23 at the Schroeder Hotel. His subject was, “Troubles and Tribulations of an Architect’s Office.”

• ARTHUR O. REDDEMAN, AIA, spoke on better relations between architects and plumbers at the 64th Annual Convention of the Wisconsin Association of Plumbing Contractors, February 4.

• CLINTON MOCHON, AIA, and MATTHIAS GOEBEL spoke on the architectural profession at a Kiwanis Career Day program at Don Bosco High School March 6.

• THE HUMAN SPACE in Architecture exhibit of the Milwaukee Division of the Wisconsin Chapter, AIA, and the Milwaukee Art Center is developing form rapidly, reports Reimar Frank, exhibit committee chairman. The show will open April 9 in Milwaukee’s Memorial Center.

Visitors to the exhibit will move from the entrance into a space frame where they actually will “feel space.” Next, they will walk through a small section of the exhibit devoted to the historical development of various concepts of architectural space.

“The idea here is to enclose them in historical space,” Frank explains.

A large photographic panel of the Barcelona pavilion will provide “a stepping stone from the historical to the contemporary part of the exhibit.” Photographs of about 10 contemporary buildings will make up the remaining—and largest—portion of the show.

The entire exhibit will be mounted on free standing panels which are being designed especially for portability. The exhibition committee hopes that all, or parts, of the show will be erected in other cities in the state after the exhibit closes in Milwaukee on May 19.

Frank’s committee plans a minimum of written material in the exhibit itself. Instead of explanatory descriptions on the panels, a catalog is being prepared to give a “lecture” on the show. The catalog, according to Frank, will describe in detail the buildings shown and will explain why each architect chose to express space the way that he did.

One of the country’s leading architectural critics is expected to lecture to exhibit-goers the opening night. Talks by other authorities have been scheduled for succeeding Thursday nights, with two exceptions. On April 30, movies by Charles Eames will be shown. The lecture hall will not be available any other night.

• A WISCONSIN ARCHITECT magazine article criticizing members of the Wisconsin chapter, AIA, for their failure to provide adequate design services for houses costing less than $30,000 has resulted in 98 persons signing up for a $2,400 state-wide architectural competition.

The article in the WISCONSIN ARCHITECT was written by Frederick J. Schweitzer, Milwaukee, chairman of the Wisconsin Chapter, AIA, Home Building Industry committee. It later was reprinted by The Milwaukee Journal.

Because of Schweitzer’s criticism, the Milwaukee Gas Light Co. decided to sponsor the competition for design of a residence to fit the needs of a family of five—a 38 year old advertising executive, his wife and three children. Rules also specify that it “incorporate every modern gas consuming appliance for modern comfort and convenience.”

The deadline for completed entries is March 31. Judging will be on April 4. Winning entries will be displayed in the Milwaukee home show, April 11-19.

The winning design will receive a $1,000 award; second place, $500; third, $250. There will be three first mention awards of $100 each and four second mention awards of $50 each. A $150 award will be given for the best “gas idea” used.
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The 1959 Honor Award committee commented that the Wauwatosa Civic Center plan was extremely flexible and responsive to immediate needs and potential for future expansion. The separate functions as memorial hall, municipal center, and civic center were clearly differentiated and designed in such a way as to contribute to the overall design. The architect provided a human environment that was free, inviting, and flexible, yet functional.

Giftland, Wisconsin Dells, presented a formal and inviting shopping center that dramatized merchandise by creating an atmosphere that good design is one of the media for attracting customers.

West Side Elementary School, with its warm, attractive, and stimulating classrooms, and its scale of these rooms, suggested the world in which children lived. The interior treatment of classrooms gives them informality and a pleasant work separation.

St. Vincent Hospital, Green Bay, was planned so as to make it possible to coordinate the new and old sections of the building into one huge organic unit. The exterior treatment of the various sections is attractive, but lacks the unity which would make it a First Honor Award design.

Squard Company building, Glendale, self is set beyond a pond which has the purpose of a reflecting basin and reservoir for fire protection. The jury commended this design balance because it shows that the efficient, modern factory can also be a graceful neighbor to unrelated buildings. The growing number of “industrial parks” will find this a prototype and a persuasive argument for better design. Architects can present for present, better and a perfect environment.

St. Vincent Hospital, Green Bay, added to the list of buildings that were extremely because it was not only effective in immediate needs but also for possible future expansion as well. The separate functions such as memorial hall, separate parking, and the growing number of “industrial parks” will find this a prototype and a persuasive argument for better design. Architects can present for present, better and a perfect environment.
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Green Bay

ST. VINCENT HOSPITAL
GREEN BAY

Grassold-Johnson and Associates, Milwaukee

SQUARE D COMPANY
GLendale
The Milwaukee Gas Light Company has announced an A.I.A. approved competition for the design of an "All-Gas Home of Easy Living" for architects registered in the State of Wisconsin and their associates.

May we remind those who have registered for this competition of the March 31 deadline for submission of entries.

Some of the entries, including winning designs, will be exhibited at the Milwaukee Home Show April 11 through 19.
Architect-BUILDER Team in Action

The Milwaukee Division's home building committee's sessions with representatives of the Metropolitan Builders Association of Greater Milwaukee have led to an architect-builder "team" house being placed on the market—but in a somewhat unexpected manner.

After attending several meetings in which barriers to architect-builder co-operation presumably were torn down, A. A. Tannenbaum, A.I.A., suddenly realized that despite all the amity the builders still were not going to architects for house designs.

"I felt that each group perhaps was waiting for the other to make the first move," Tannenbaum recalled.

He then decided that if he could convince a builder to try one "Teamwork" house, the results might be sufficient to spur other builders into approaching architects for help.

"It seems to me that builders in Milwaukee are to a great extent followers," he commented. "They have to see some results, then they all rush to jump on the bandwagon. If just one architect designed house would start to sell, I think other builders would scurry to find architects to do their houses.

"In my opinion, this would be good for the architects, the builders, and especially for the families that are buying houses."

He felt a good starting place might be Federal Home Builders, Inc., since he had had business dealings with its president, Burton J. Miller, in the past. The reception which he received from Miller and his associates when he explained his ideas more than met his expectations.

They started construction on the house almost immediately even though the home "was more contemporary, larger and more expensive" than the ones they had been building.

Tannenbaum himself has somewhat mixed feelings about the house, a three bedroom, two bathroom, 1,430 square foot model. While he admits that it won't win any design competitions, he believes it contains a number of elements which make it a better designed house than those which Federal had been offering to the home buying public.

"I think you have to be satisfied to go a step at a time," he commented. "If I drew up plans strictly according to my ideas of what a house today should be, there's a good chance a builder would think it too radical to build. And if he went ahead anyhow and the public thought it too radical, that would mean the end of architect designed homes as far as that builder was concerned. Furthermore, he'd spread the word of his experience and architect-builder co-operation might be set back years."

Tannenbaum thinks the house moves away from typical builder houses most sharply in the handling of the living room. This room runs
across one end of the house, with the front entrance located between it and a family room. The arrangement keeps traffic in the living room at an absolute minimum.

Throughout, Tannenbaum and Miller have tried to keep the house flexible.

"We've attempted to anticipate all the objections which could be raised to the house and prepare an answer for each one," the architect said.

In the same vein, Miller's firm is prepared to make any of these changes without hiking the price.

Despite the fact that the house was opened during what is generally considered to be the "off season" for home buying, Tannenbaum reported strong buyer interest in it.

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For Your Reading...

Editor's note: This is another in the series of reviews written exclusively for the Wisconsin Architect which are published as new books of interest to architects are released.

"Adventure in Architecture" (Longmans, $8.50) is a detailed account of the planning and initial construction work on a new St. John's monastery at Collegeville, Minn., for which Marcel Breuer is the architect. The book was written by Whitney S. Stoddard, professor of the history of art at Williams College.

Beginning with a description of the studies and decisions made by the Benedictine Community in seeking a solution to the question of housing retired Fathers and Brothers, it continues through the development of an expanding program, selection of Breuer, design and construction of a monastic wing, and plans for a new church. The latter presumably now is under construction. When completed, the entire monastery complex will have 19 or more buildings.

Prof. Stoddard is enthusiastic about the project—but not quite as much so as the individual who composed the book jacket blurb. In his words, the book is "the most exciting architectural story since the building of the great medieval churches in Europe..." It is hardly this, but it is an excellent "play by play" of the interrelationships set up between client and architect on a large, involved project.

Unfortunately, the book suffers from having been written by a third person. The problem is well presented and the solution is explained in detail, but the inner, creative processes of the architect are neglected. And it is these processes which would seem to be the most interesting part of the story. Perhaps even Breuer himself could not completely explain how he moved from the questions to the answers, however.

Wisconsin architects who may be little concerned with the over-all story of an "Adventure in Architecture," nevertheless may find nuggets of gold in the 127 page volume. For example, there is a good description and illustration of a church window having varying densities of white only. There also is a description of granite facing bricks produced near the abbey.

Furthermore, Collegeville is within comparatively easy driving distance of any Wisconsin city. There thus is an opportunity to ground oneself on the problem and then see at first hand how one of modern architecture's recognized masters has solved it.

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Pictured above are the new officers of the Madison Division, Wisconsin Chapter, AIA. Elected by unanimous voice vote at the January 27 meeting they are: Nathaniel W. Sample, Division Director; Franklin D. Mabbett, President; Robert P. Torkelson, Vice President; Harold R. Ames, Secretary-Treasurer.

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Welcome Aboard

The Wisconsin Chapter, AIA, welcomes the following who recently have been accepted or advanced in membership:

HELMUT AJANGO, an Associate member, is a designer with the firm of Waterman, Fuge, and Associates, Fort Atkinson. He was born in Estonia on November 30, 1931. Ajango received his AB Degree from Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio, in 1953 and his Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Illinois in 1958. He has been an assistant instructor of architectural drawing at Wittenberg College and was a member of the United States Army from 1954 to 1956. His hobbies include photography and architectural models.

LARRY M. JOHNSON, a Junior Associate, has been a draftsman with Emil F. Klingler, Eau Claire, since May 1, 1958. He was born on May 5, 1936 at Black River Falls, Wisconsin, and attended Dunwoody Industrial Institute in Minnesota. Johnson's hobby is stamp collecting.

FREDERIC NUGENT, a Junior Associate, has been a draftsman with Klund and Associates, Madison, since 1957. He was born June 15, 1929 in Freeport, Illinois, received his B.A. Degree from Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts in 1951, and his Bachelor of Architecture from Columbia University in 1955.

THOMAS E. BLOOD, a Junior Associate, has been a draftsman with Frank C. Shattuck Associates, Inc. since November, 1958. He was a junior acoustical consultant with the Bolt, Baranek and Newman company, Cambridge, Massachusetts from 1956 to 1958. Blood was born in Chicago on January 27, 1935 and received his Bachelor of Architecture from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1958. His hobbies are sailing, skiing, and photography.

HARRY E. PATTERSON, a Junior Associate, has been a designer with Eschweiler and Eschweiler, Milwaukee, since September, 1958, where he also worked as a draftsman in the summer of 1957. Patterson was born November 27, 1930 in Greenville, Mississippi, received a B. S. Degree from Lawrence College, Appleton in 1953, and his Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Texas, Austin, in 1958. He was a member of the United States Army from 1953 to 1955. Skiing, painting, fishing, photography, and golf are his hobbies.

CORONATIONS to these Wisconsin architects registered within the past year:

- David Cedarquist
- Royden D. Ginnow
- Paul H. Graven
- Donald Gutzmann
- James R. Hallbeck
- Norman Kenney
- Don Knoblauch
- James Knopke
- Marie Langenberg
- Edmund T. Mazur, Jr.
- Leslie M. McCullum
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