

THE
OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



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California Society of Architectural Draftsmen
The Role of The Architectural School
Structural Service Department—With The Chapters

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THE OCTAGON

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Art and John Doe

By NORWOOD MACGILVARY, Painter

Member of Faculty, Dept. of Fine Arts, Carnegie Institute of Technology.

A LITTLE group of us were going through the International Exhibition the other evening. In this group was a lawyer, a steel man, and three women. The men were college graduates, each successful in his own field, in the prime of activity, awake and aware of the world and its doings, and not indifferent to what is called its "cultural" interests. Two of the women were writers with sharp minds and sensitive natures, and one of them an amateur of music. Most of these people thought of themselves as responsive to the arts in general, including the visual arts of decoration, design and painting.

During our rounds they pelted me with curious and indignant questions because they considered me by virtue of my training and practice to be the expert of the party. Most of these were "why" questions rather than "how" questions. Why does the painter have to libel nature in his portrayal of it? Why does he put such silly or frightful people into his pictures? Why do these people have to be mouse-faced, rat-faced, sheep-faced, or simply idiot-faced? And why do they have to have the bodies of congenital cripples? I might have replied to these questions, as many a painter and critic has replied, "You poor simpleton, you had better keep quiet before you have uncovered all of your ignorance and lack of taste!" I did not so reply for a very good reason—I am not so sure of this answer myself.

As we were leaving the gallery the lawyer said, "I hadn't made up my mind before whether or not

I like painting. Now I have. If this exhibition represents the art of painting, I know I don't like painting." The others did not express themselves quite so positively, yet they did agree with him, as the diplomats say, in principle, though they were willing to make generous exceptions in favor of certain pictures. I myself felt discouraged—discouraged that my beloved art should have so little influence with my friends. To the best of my ability I had argued, explained and apologized, pointing out that the artist is not a camera, and does not want to be, nor is he a mere recorder or copyist, but rather an interpreter and creator. Summoning all the patter of my craft at my command I expiated on design, pattern, construction, fundamental as distinguished from superficial form, on the space-concept, on the abstract, on mood, vitality, and originality. I tried to stress the pre-occupations peculiar to an art of sight in so far as it differs from an art of hearing or of words.

No use. I was given a polite but incredulous hearing. I felt that I had not been convincing. The worst of it was that I had not wholly convinced myself of the deeper human values—of the human necessity of such an art. If this art of painting is not a necessity to the human spirit; if it is only a luxury, a sort of pick-me-up to a few jaded aesthetes, or is only a lively but unimportant subject for a debating society, it is a superfluity and an excrescence. Even the argument that the luxury for the few may somehow become the necessity for the many did not quite persuade. Yet I was un-

able to concede that this art is not a human necessity. All its history, its antiquity denies that concession. These questions then intrude: Is the fault ours—the public's? Is there some vital deficiency in the art itself, some exhaustion of its vitality after all these centuries that now presages an early end? Or is there some failing in its present practitioners, and some loss of faith in its high priests? Have they led us into some desert canyon from which there is no outlet, a canyon haunted by the spooks of bloodless ideas? Or is it only that we, the average people, are not able to follow these peerless trackers of the spirit over a difficult yet possible and even hopeful trail? Whatever the reason the fact remains that they are not being followed.

There is always a danger of over-simplification and generalization. It would be silly to lump all the pictures in the exhibition and then label the lump as this or that. After all there are several hundred individual artists from several separate countries represented. No matter how groups of these, or even the majority may be swayed by some wind of vocational opinion or philosophic fashion, there are still stiff individuals among them who do not bend to it so easily. But if there is such a wind, is it perhaps a parching wind that blights the painter, and sucks the sap out of his work leaving it a dry husk, fit for desert recluses and anchorites of art, but without nourishment for the average mortal? What is it that this art lacks in food-value for the common man? It does not seem to be subject matter, for this is varied enough to suit almost any taste. It is not true that the public always demands a sentimental or literary story in his picture, in spite of what the art-for-artists champions say. Nor does it always reject the tragic in favor of the pretty and pleasant. The power of tragedy is still manifest in the drama and in literature. It is not intelligibility either, because the cryptic work of such painters as Dali have a considerable public appeal—as great almost as that of the sweet and the obvious. Dali himself in fact has declared that one of the first tenets of surrealism is that it is not an art for the specialist only, that it does not presuppose any special training, or culture, or knowledge on the part of the beholder, but demands only that he be a sensitive and "intuitive" human being.

Contrast this with the prevailing notion that our present art is an exclusive art. How often do we hear it said of some prize picture, "The jury must have awarded this prize for technical reasons," inferring that such being the case, the non-technician is thereby absolved from all responsibility of accepting or of being influenced by it. I for one think there is merit in this reasoning. The very fact that these friends of mine thought it necessary to ask me to "explain" the pictures to them showed that they considered them to belong to the sphere of specialized knowledge rather than, like love or religion, to belong to human nature as such.

Perhaps our clue is here. Perhaps too many painters have been concerned too much with the technicalities and the mechanics of their trade—with problems of design, pattern, color, etc., and with those abstract elements which admittedly lie at the very foundation of painting, and should by all means receive the artist's profound attention, but which in themselves and for their own sake, like blood and bones divorced from the body, are not viable and capable of maintaining a separate existence. Men and women have useful skeletons of which under normal conditions they are fortunately scarcely aware, but in which anatomists and surgeons may well take a lively and understandable professional interest. Many sensitive persons shrink from any unnecessary exposure of the skeleton. In life it is only the freak who exhibits his in the sideshow. Perhaps our exhibitions have become too much like sideshows. These pictorial skeletons do not any longer have even the value of novelty which they had in the earlier days of the modern French movement. When the freak becomes the average he ceases to surprise or shock, and may simply become the bore whose only effect on us is to evoke a weary "ho hum!" As the anatomist and the surgeon of art the painter may very well concern himself with its bony framework, but he is not necessarily called on to drag it out continually before the public. First let him take a little pains to dress it up in some becoming flesh and skin, and if necessary let him add even a little makeup to salvage a sallow complexion. It will do the skeleton itself no slightest harm.

It is all very well to take heed of such fundamentals as the skeleton, but while doing so it is also necessary to sacrifice such things as shapely muscles,

healthy skin, or even the superficialities of adornment? The dullest woman knows better than that. Unless we happen to be cranks or are flat broke, do we in life discard all our gimcracks and reduce ourselves to the barest necessities? Yet many argue that art, who by rights ought to be a wealthy woman and well able to afford every device offered by nature to enhance the allurements of her charms, should starve herself to skin and bones, renounce her bathtub, and exhibit herself in filthy nakedness, or else clothe herself in a ragged gunny-sack. We must of course allow for an occasional and exceptional Mahatma Gandhi, the richness of whose spirit may be set off in opulent contrast to the meagerness of his bones and the poverty of his single loin cloth. But let the painter first be quite sure that he is a mahatma before he dispenses with the aid of every charm he can command.

But to get back to the International. What has been said is rather an expression of my own puzzlement, rather than an indictment of the International or any of its exhibits, whether merely anatomical or fully clothed with charm and radiant allurements. Of the latter there may be found examples. It is not my business to specify which these are. Since it is my belief that the hunger for art partakes more of the nature of love than of dialectics, I should be presumptuous to insist on arguing another into accepting my choice. No one

should ask another to pick his painting for him any more than a lover should ask a psychiatrist to pick for him his sweetie. Furthermore why should the lover care what other dame wins the dubious beauty-prize as long as he himself can pick his own beauty?

It is far better to be genuinely stirred, spiritually and humanly, by a picture which has been judged of little account by the all-knowing ones than to be merely indifferent and apathetic to one that has been acclaimed by the experts and awarded the First Prize. It is a deadly sin to pretend to be moved by something only because it has received the official kudos yet leaves us cold. Art can truly be judged by you, the individual, as far as you yourself are concerned, by only one measure. It is not a static but an energy measure. Do not ask what the art *is* or *ought* to be, for this is debatable and will inevitably lead to endless argument. Ask only what it *does*—not what it does to somebody *else*, for this again is only hearsay, but what it does to *you*. No matter how good a painting may be by any and all theoretical aesthetic standards if it does not do something special to you, Mr. John Doe, then it means about as much to you as a rumor of a love affair on Mars heard in a convention of psychologists.

(From *The Charette*, Pittsburgh
Architectural Club.)

The Historic American Buildings Survey

HOW TO OBTAIN DRAWINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND CATALOGUES

THE Committee on Preservation of Historic Buildings has been occupied during the past few months, as for the past few years, chiefly with the work of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Owing to the general retrenchment in relief undertakings the Survey has necessarily been functioning on a restricted scale, nevertheless projects have been in operation during the past year in California, Connecticut, Louisiana, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, employing a continuous average of 200 men on W.P.A. funds. These projects are being continued and may be increased by two pending projects in Pennsylvania and one in Brooklyn.

In the course of the year 246 structures have been measured, of which 137 have been drawn, in 2162 sheets, and 240 have been photographed in 900 negatives. The total number of sheets of drawings now filed at the Library of Congress is 17,371, representing the survey of 2154 subjects. With these there are 18,794 photographic negatives of 4595 subjects. As indicating the use being made of this material we may state that during the three months, July to October, 1021 blueprints of measured drawings and 979 photographs were delivered on orders from all sections of the country.

Undoubtedly the service is proving of value not only to architects, but is developing an intelligent

interest in our historic architecture among the public. A special impetus to this educational influence was given by the exhibition of photographs of early New England buildings, largely from the negatives of the Historic American Buildings Survey, which has been held this fall in the Metropolitan Museum, New York City.

Throughout the undertaking the coöperation between the headquarters of the Survey in the National Park Service and the District Officers, who are in almost all cases the chapter representatives on this Committee, has been as harmonious and whole hearted as could be desired. There can be no doubt of the sincere appreciation of the work of the Institute members on the part of the governmental officials who have come in contact with the Survey. To the present day the cost to the Federal government has been \$1,714,000, of which about 95% has gone for direct salaries to otherwise unemployed draftsmen.

A catalogue of the drawings and photographs of

the Survey has just been published. This may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for 50 cents. The agreement between the National Park Service, The Institute and the Library of Congress is incorporated as an appendix.

Copies of the records of the Survey can be made for the cost of printing, by addressing the Chief of the Division of Fine Arts, Library of Congress. Photographs (5" x 7") cost 15 cents apiece. On orders of more than \$2.00 there is a 15 cent fee for registered mail. Check or money order should be drawn in favor of the Librarian of Congress.

Blue line prints of the measured drawings cost 10 cents a sheet, plus postage and C.O.D. charges. As the Library of Congress is not yet equipped to do blue printing, this work is done by an approved commercial firm and sent C.O.D.

LEICESTER B. HOLLAND, *Chairman,*
Committee on Preservation of
Historic Buildings.

Fellowships - An Announcement

FELLOWSHIPS are awarded by The Institute only to those who have notably contributed to the advancement of the profession of architecture.

Nominations for this honor may be made by the governing body of any chapter or any state association member, or by a recommendation signed by five or more Fellows in the chapter or the state association member to which the nominee belongs, or by a recommendation by any ten or more corporate members. Every such nomination shall be made in writing and addressed to The Jury of Fellows.

Chapter III, article 1, section 1 of the By-laws reads as follows:

"A corporate member may be advanced to a fellowship if he is in good standing in The Institute at the time of his nomination for advancement and has been so for not less than ten consecutive years immediately prior to his nomination and if he has notably contributed to the advancement of the profession of architecture in design or in the science of construction or by literature or educational service or by service to

The Institute or any chapter or state association member, or by public service."

The Jury of Fellows announces that it will meet at least thirty days prior to the 1940 convention to consider the qualifications of those whose nominations it receives prior to September 1, 1939.

As the decisions of The Jury are based on evidence as submitted, it is important that the information given be complete.

Institute members can materially assist The Jury by expressing their opinions of the qualifications of those who are nominated for Fellowship.

The President of The Institute will ceremoniously present certificates to the newly elected Fellows at the 1940 convention.

THE JURY OF FELLOWS

Frank C. Baldwin
Paul A. Davis, III
Gerrit J. deGelleke
F. Ellis Jackson
Reginald D. Johnson
Ernest John Russell, *Chairman*

Institute Membership - A Frank Discussion

BY ARTHUR B. HOLMES, VICE-CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON STATE ORGANIZATION

SOME few years ago it was the writer's privilege to initiate a course of talks on Comparative Religions. In this, exponents of the leading religions of the world eloquently expounded the principles and beliefs of their own chosen faith. One thoroughly delightful speaker prefaced his remarks in somewhat the following manner:

"We often wonder whether the world is improving as a result of opportunities now afforded us which were denied to those who preceded us. This evening I, a Jewish rabbi, stand by invitation in a Christian church for the sole purpose of bringing to its members a frank and open statement of my belief. Never before has this opportunity been given me, never before has it been possible. Can anyone question for a minute that this is, in itself, evidence of betterment, or fail to welcome today's breadth of thought and vision which points the way to understanding and harmony between the religions of the world?"

Perhaps we can accept the good rabbi's viewpoint as analagous to the new thought which exists in the circles of architectural organization, the new thought which has guided the present leaders of The American Institute of Architects. But to understand the growth of policies which have guided and developed the attitude of The Institute a brief sketch of backgrounds may be permissible.

There have come down to us from the middle of the last century the names of a very few stalwarts in the architectural profession, men of training, ability and high ethical standing. Beyond this handful who else were designing buildings at that time? Probably very few who had the opportunity for advanced and specialized training. Most of the so-called architects were intelligent, progressive builders—practical fellows who may or may not have been an asset in their vocation but certainly lacking the truly professional viewpoint toward architecture, men with a creditable urge for construction but lacking training, vision and ethics. Between these and the giants of the profession was a wide, impassable gulf.

At that time, over eighty years ago, The American Institute of Architects was born, with a powerful urge to raise the standards of architecture. It grew

from humble beginnings and, as it expanded, it probably embraced in its membership the great majority of the genuinely professional architects as contrasted with the "carpenter designers" of the time. Its primary purpose was to foster the "profession" of architecture.

"Came the Dawn." First the ateliers, then the colleges began to turn out a great number of architects with the training, the viewpoint and the ethical background which entitled them to inclusion in the professional world of architecture. Years have passed. Today we have in the United States excellent architects whose name is legion. Evidence of this is found in the pages of any architectural magazine. Few of the names of firms and individuals whose work is there illustrated are familiar to us. Yet it is excellent work, done by members of the legion.

Probably seventy-five per cent or more of these men are qualified in every way for membership in the recognized representative organization of the architectural profession. Then why are so many of them still unable to write the letters "A.I.A." after their names? The Institute needs these men in order that it may more truly represent the profession and more fully serve both the profession and the public. There is a growing realization within the ranks of The Institute of the necessity for expansion. To this end it is searching for the truth.

Today the non-affiliated architects are standing in the temples of The Institute, on invitation, with the express purpose of stating their beliefs. The Institute is listening, earnestly, to those statements and its viewpoint is broadening as a result. Possibly to a greater degree than ever before The Institute is taking counsel with itself and saying, "How can we best protect and further the interests of the profession as a whole?" No one can read the reports of the Membership Committee and of the Committee on State Organization before the 1938 Convention at New Orleans and question this statement. Searching self-analysis was behind these reports, representing the serious and studied opinions of representative architects all over the country. The reports were accepted by the officers and directors as well as the convention in the same spirit. Self-analysis can be extremely painful, particularly when indulged in

openly in the presence of comparative strangers. It takes courage to admit, even in generalities, that one might, himself, be wrong in even the most minute degree. But such was the essence of these reports and they did not deal in generalities. The committees, with Institute approval, are still analyzing. These reports have been made public and their contents are available to all.

To achieve results those architects now outside The Institute must also analyze their own position and viewpoint. Surely criticism of their attitude is necessary in order to get the full picture of the problem. Why are so many qualified architects not enrolled in the roster of Institute membership? The following discussion, point by point, may prove a constructive aid in promoting this analysis.

1. Undoubtedly Many Men Crave Membership But Have Never Been Invited to Join and Feel That This Invitation Is Necessary.

While a personal invitation has undoubtedly spurred many to join it is not required. Every practicing architect is invited to apply for membership and to submit his credentials therefor. Application may be made to any chapter or directly to The Octagon in Washington. The applicant's qualifications are reviewed by the chapter embracing the district within which he practices and its recommendations carry considerable weight, but election is by The Institute. The individuals know The Institute but The Institute, unfortunately, may not know them. They must take the initiative; when this is done the heartiness of their welcome will please them.

2. Many Men Feel That the Dues Are Too High, Higher Than They Can Afford.

Possibly, and higher than they would be, probably, if the majority of the eligible architects of the nation enrolled for membership. The Institute's expenses are largely incurred in furthering the interests of every architect in the United States and only a small minority are paying the bills. The average cost of belonging to The Institute and one of its chapters today averages around twenty-five or thirty dollars a year,—about fifty cents a week. The cost of three gallons of gasoline—or four packs of cigarettes! Is this too much? We might wish it were less, possibly it will be eventually, but is it excessive for the benefits to be derived from its existence?

3. What Does The Institute Do For Us?

A big question with an answer which is too big for inclusion in full in this article. There are benefits resulting from its contact with the national government. Present recognition of the architect by government and public with regard to proper technical services rendered, to raising required standards of architectural performance and to developing proper professional standards for the remuneration of architects is the direct result of its efforts. The excellent "Standard Documents" which most of us use, whether we be Institute members or not, are a great contribution to the profession.

From the chapters is radiated further help in a great variety of ways, but the chapters do not stop to inquire whether all who benefit are members. These are but a few of the constructive activities of our architectural organization. Add to this the many responsibilities and the value of professional leadership which we accept without much thought and the benefits mount even higher. We must not overlook the less material side of membership. As a medium for broadening our friendships, providing professional contacts and extending our horizons if we but chose to make that slight additional effort to take advantage of it by attending chapter meetings, its value is far in excess of the cost.

4. Dissatisfaction Is Heard In Some Quarters of the Manner In Which The Institute Is Operated, Its Policies Are Criticised As Reactionary and "High Hat."

The Institute is just what those of its members who are willing to work want to make it. If critics of the administration are dissatisfied, let them join, work and build a more forward, progressive and helpful policy—if they are able. Those who are interested in participation in the affairs of our national organization are given every opportunity to work and eventually to help formulate policies if they but evince the interest and the ability. Creative criticism with the will to get behind and push can accomplish wonders, while destructive criticism is productive of nothing but bitterness and dissension. The Institute is looking for workers, both nationally and in the chapters. Those who are carrying the load with no financial recompense are overburdened because of the scarcity of willing assistance.

5. *There Is a Feeling That The Institute Is Not Doing Enough for the Architectural Practitioners of the Country Through Stimulation of Proper Legislation In the Several States.*

The Institute recognizes this omission but, with the chapters organized as they are without a clean-cut adherence to state boundaries, it has been enormously handicapped in attacking this phase of helpful endeavor. This is one of the main reasons the Committee on State Organization of The A.I.A. is now actively furthering the organization of new State Associations and doing what they can to make those which now exist more effective. These State Associations, membership in which is open to every registered architect, are the logical mediums for achieving recognition for the profession in the legislative halls of our state capitols.

The State Associations are cooperating in this work most wholeheartedly, each one is represented on the committee and they are on their way to increasing their power and usefulness through some national bond which will make each more effective through its union with the others. This is being accomplished without the least sacrifice of autonomy in the functioning of each within the boundaries of its own state. At present only five of these associations are affiliated with The Institute but The Institute, through its committee and through the newly-

created State Association Representative on its Directorate, draws no lines and shows no partiality between affiliates and non-affiliates. The association of The Institute and these state groups rounds out the machinery of organization within the architectural profession and the benefits to be derived from it are only beginning to be felt.

Let's take stock. Individual effort is ineffective in its attempt to further the interests of the profession; strong, well-directed organization must prevail if the profession is to correct the evils which attack it from both within and without. Probably many will not agree with me in all of the foregoing statements but I believe everyone will recognize an honest measure of sincerity in them. Truth generally lies somewhere between extremes of thought. Undoubtedly both The Institute and its critics need to revise their premises to some degree. Why not find the middle ground and all occupy it together, working for the good of the profession which, selfishly, means the good of every individual architect? A limited amount of introspection is good for all, but if we dwell too long on our failings we develop a thoroughly unhealthy outlook.

Let's stop looking backward at real or fancied grievances of the past and, together, build a future for The Institute and the profession which we can all proudly call our own.

Delano and Aldrich Scholarship

IT WAS announced in the November 1938 number of THE OCTAGON that the Delano and Aldrich Scholarship had been awarded to M. Guy Ardilouze of Paris. The Committee on Education welcomed him on behalf of The Institute and bespoke the cooperation of the members of The Institute in facilitating his plans for study in this country.

The committee has arranged for M. Ardilouze to criticize for a period of one month each in the schools of architecture at the Universities of Oregon and Washington.

M. Ardilouze will travel by Greyhound Bus. Chapters wishing to reach him *en route* should address him in care of the Greyhound Bus offices in cities included in the itinerary.

The partially completed itinerary is as follows:

Feb. 18 Philadelphia, Pa.	April 4 Santa Barbara, Cal.
22 Washington, D. C.	8-15 San Francisco, Cal.
25 Richmond, Va.	18 Eugene, Ore.
27 Charlottesville, Va.	Portland, Ore.
Williamsburg, Va.	Seattle, Wash.
Mar. 2 Charleston, S. C.	Salt Lake City, Utah
Savannah, Ga.	May Minneapolis, Minn.
8 New Orleans, La.	Chicago, Ill.
Baton Rouge, La.	Detroit, Mich.
15 San Antonio, Texas	Niagara Falls, N. Y.
20 Santa Fe, N. M.	June Ottawa, Can.
23 Taos, N. M.	Montreal, Can.
28 Canyon, Colo.	Quebec, Can.
Boulder Dam, Colo.	Boston, Mass.
30 Los Angeles, Cal.	

The California Society of Architectural Draftsmen

UNDER date of August 30, 1937, The Secretary of The Institute addressed all chapters by letter in part as follows: "At the last annual meeting of The Board of Directors of The American Institute of Architects there was extended discussion of the question of affiliating the younger men of the profession with the chapters of The Institute." The letter went on to discuss the formalities of Associate and Junior Associate memberships for younger architects and draftsmen.

In some localities the Associate and Junior Associate memberships may be the correct answer to the question. Other solutions may seem more suitable in others. In California steps have been taken which may solve the problem—at least there has been an endeavor to tie the draftsmen to the profession by a definite affiliated organization.

During the past few years the agitation in various parts of the country for unionization of architectural draftsmen has served to crystallize the growing sentiment of the profession within the State in favor of closer affiliation between draftsmen and architects. The realization that a closer relationship was desirable had long existed, as is proven by the fact that the constitution of the State Association of California Architects, written ten or eleven years ago, contained a provision permitting the affiliation of draftsmen's societies or architectural clubs with the State Association.

There was a corresponding feeling among the draftsmen that they, as a group, wished to be an integral part of the profession with cooperative rights and privileges rather than to organize themselves along trade-union lines. Various groups of draftsmen approached the officers of The Institute and the State Association requesting that they be granted some part in architectural organization work and be given the opportunity of utilizing their combined resources for the general benefit of the whole profession. This State Association responded enthusiastically to the request of these groups and at the convention of the State Association in 1937 at Santa Barbara, an amendment to the constitution was passed, making more explicit the terms of affiliation of a State-wide Draftsmen's Society which had been planned informally and was ready for formal organization.

Following the example and pattern set by the chapters of The Institute in fostering and organizing the State Association, the Association, in its turn, fostered the organization of the California Society of Architectural Draftsmen. The affiliation of this Society with the State Association is very similar to the affiliation of the State Association of California Architects with The American Institute of Architects.

In order to give some idea of the declared purposes and scope of the California Society of Architectural Draftsmen, the first three articles of their constitution* are quoted as follows:

Art. I: Name:

The name of this organization shall be 'The California Society of Architectural Draftsmen.'

Art. II: Object:

This Society is established to foster closer relationship between architects and architectural draftsmen; to advance the profession of architecture through unity; to cooperate with the State Association of California Architects in encouraging and promoting architectural education.

Art. III: Membership:

(a) All architectural draftsmen (who are employed or who are qualified and seeking employment as draftsmen in an architect's office) and non-practicing licensed architects are eligible to active membership in this Society.

(b) Active membership shall be determined by payment of annual dues.

(c) Respective districts may provide for associate members. Associate members shall have no vote in the active business of the Society."

At the present time the Draftsmen's Society is functioning in two "Sections" with a State-wide organization tying the "Northern" and "Southern" sections together. They are cooperating with the State Association and the chapters of The Institute to the best of their ability, and have taken charge

(* Note: The Executive Secretary of the California Society of Draftsmen has a limited number of copies of the Constitution on hand for those who are interested.)

of the employment bureau for draftsmen at the State Association offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Recommended conditions of work were mutually agreed upon with the State Association and are now placed before the architects of the State with the request that they be given serious consideration by all practicing architects in the operation of their offices.

In order to carry a greater influence from the profession into the architectural schools it has also been suggested that the chapters make it a part of their program to cooperate with universities in placing architectural students of the universities as ap-

prentices in architects' offices during their school vacations. Such a move would be welcomed both by students and by the faculties of the architectural schools and give to the students the benefit of contact and experience which would materially assist their understanding in architectural study.

It is the hope of those most closely associated with these moves, to bring architect and draftsmen into a closer cooperation, to make these contacts and affiliations serve as strong links in the chain of unification for the entire profession and provide training grounds for future members and workers in The American Institute of Architects.

Technical Public Works Committee

APPOINTMENT BY NATIONAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

IN ORDER to bring together Federal officials concerned with public works and citizens especially qualified to advise on the economics and timing of public construction activities, the National Resources Committee, North Interior Building, Washington, D. C., has just announced the appointment of a Technical Public Works Committee.

The chairman is Colonel Henry M. Waite. The representative of the architectural profession and of the Construction League of the United States is William Stanley Parker, F.A.I.A., of Boston.

Prominent representatives from other groups com-

pose the committee, with a total personnel of eleven.

The committee has been asked to assist the National Resources Committee in continuing its preparation of six-year programs of Federal public works, and in stimulating the preparation of such capital budget programs by states and cities. In addition, the new committee will undertake to determine the most effective utilization of state and local public works for stabilizing the construction industry and to analyze the plan of public construction activities in providing employment and increasing the national income.

James T. Grady Honored

JAMES T. GRADY, Publicist of The American Institute of Architects, was created a Fellow of the American Institute of the City of New York "for distinguished service in the interpretation of science", at the Medal and Fellowship Awards dinner of the American Institute of the City of New York, held at the Hotel Pierre in New York City on February 2, 1939.

The presentation address was made by Mr. John J. O'Neill, Science Editor of the *New York Herald Tribune*, who sketched Mr. Grady's life and accomplishments from his Harvard and Colum-

bia Law School days through his activities in the newspaper field, culminating in his being called to the School of Journalism at Columbia University to teach practical newspaper work.

The American Institute of the City of New York was organized in 1828, to promote science and industry and education in science, and its certificate of Fellowship cited Mr. Grady "for his pioneer work in promoting accuracy of science reporting which has resulted in a heightened confidence and appreciation of the work of scientists in the public mind".

The Role of The Architectural School

IN THE PREPARATION FOR THE PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE

The following address was delivered by Sherley W. Morgan, Director of the School of Architecture of Princeton University, and President of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, at the session devoted to "Education" at the Seventieth Convention of The American Institute of Architects held in New Orleans April 13-18, 1938. It is published here at the request of the Executive Committee of the Committee on Education of The American Institute of Architects.

ARCHITECTURAL schools are, today, almost unanimously accepted as the first agency in the preparation of a young man for the practice of architecture as a profession. This has not always been so, in this country or elsewhere. The apprentice system—"going into an office under a master"—was the accepted method of training in the U. S. A. until after the Civil War. Even up to 1915, draftsmen far exceeded school students in the competitions held by the Beaux-Arts Society in New York, to stimulate future architects' ability in design. Now the proportion has been so reversed that less than 10% come from offices.

In England and throughout the British Empire the same change has taken place. It is interesting to note that it began there a generation later than with us, that it was confessedly brought about through observing the success of our system, but that it has always included control by the profession through the Royal Institute of British Architects, which has accepted a responsibility and assumed a leadership that offer us much food for thought. In Great Britain and the Dominions, the professional association approves the schools, recognizes their examinations, and sets the standards of instruction.

The International Congress of Architects, meeting in Paris during the summer of 1937, did not question the desirability of beginning preparation for architectural practice in a School. It took that procedure for granted, and concerned itself with assuring the additional requirement of a period of practical training after the academic degree.

Our Chairman has explained the general program which the Committee on Education advocates for the future—first, a collegiate course in architecture, preferably five years in extent;—second, three years (minimum) of office experience under the guidance of a mentor;—and finally, the professional examination by the State Registration Board, which issues the legal certificate of fitness for practice. Through the National Council of Architectural Registration

Boards this recognition can become national in scope.

To provide the preliminary training, there are today over sixty architectural schools in the United States, enrolling something over three thousand students. This is not out of proportion to a total population of some one hundred thirty millions, under anything like normal conditions. If we assume an average working life of twenty-five to thirty years of independent practice, our five hundred annual graduates will provide only one architect for each nine thousand to ten thousand of population, and will not suffice to maintain the present strength of the profession. In fact a sudden return of only reasonable prosperity might well find our architects embarrassed by the lack of trained assistants.

However, it is true that some of our Schools are poorly located to offer a broadening experience to their students, some are poorly equipped, others are inadequately financed or unduly handicapped by unsympathetic control. There certainly seems to be no need for increasing their number, and strength would undoubtedly be gained if much of the present educational effort could be better distributed by concentration and some elimination, as was advocated by the American Medical Association for the medical schools and later accomplished.

Similar action is probably impractical for us, but anyone thinking of developing another School of Architecture should remember that at least half a million dollars should be provided—besides local pride and a few drafting tables. Only thirty-three of those now existing have been able to meet even the very broad standards of membership in the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. Our analysis shows that the average member school has a budget of over \$37,000 a year, an enrolment of ninety to one hundred students, and an average of one instructor for each eleven.

Here I must correct a very common misconception. Our Association is not a policing body attempting to hold its members to fixed require-

ments. We were founded merely to "promote the efficiency of architectural education in America". Years ago we gave up the attempt to establish "standard minima" for curricula. Membership today is based on the principle of specifying results rather than methods. A school must show reasonable physical, financial and educational stability, must have reasonable environmental advantages, but above all must have graduates whose work is commendable, and who have shown in their careers that they are capable of becoming, and being, Architects.

We encourage freedom, we welcome experiment and we do not claim to know the only road to success in developing future professionals. In fact about all that many members of the Association agree on, can be found in Voltaire's famous letter to Helvetius—"I totally disagree with everything that you say, but will defend to the death your right to say it".

In a rapidly changing world, the only certainty is uncertainty—the only sure prophecy is that the future will be different. What greater mistake can there be than to train a young man for a fixed function, and then have him find that society has eliminated that activity in its evolution, leaving him with nothing to do, and unable to adjust himself to a new occupation? So, do not blame a particular school if you find that it is not teaching a specific thing. Ask the more important question "Are its students learning to use their minds? Are they keen to get to the bottom of each problem? Have their imaginative powers been encouraged to expand? Can they meet life and their fellow-men?"

If the answer to these questions is "yes", the old-grad returning to Alma Mater, or the father ready to enter a son, need not be concerned too much about what the curriculum covers. Be sure that the school offers a happy, stimulating experience during which talents are encouraged to develop, and where opportunities for development call for increasing powers of research and analysis, as well as for definite knowledge. The school should teach *how* to think, not *what* to think. In professional education, the student should not learn skills or techniques (which may or may not have future vocational value) but should aim for bigger game. We are trying to develop future Architects, not present draftsmen.

The concept of the role of the school in the

process of developing an architect, has changed from that of the drill-master, to that of the counsellor and guide. My colleague, Professor Labatut, tells a story of an old professor whose pupils consistently distinguished themselves in after life. When asked for his secret he always denied all responsibility—"I have nothing to do with it" he would say. "Success in the Arts depends on two things. First, the student must have talent. That is the affair of his parents, and does not concern me. Second, he must work hard and take advantage of his opportunities. That depends on *him*—and also does not concern me."

This would seem to indicate that the teacher (or the School) counts for nothing. Yet the wisdom and enthusiasm, the direction, advice and guidance which he provided, and the stimulus of contact with him and his milieu, meant everything to the students who worked under him.

The best architectural Schools today are striving to give such values, and not to impose ideas, or make converts to any system, style or dogma. The question of "traditional" *vs.* "modern" no longer really exists on most campuses. The students know what they want to do, and we try to show them how to do it soundly. The resulting design must be a logical solution of all the factors of the problem. Its form depends on the individual's own ideas, and his personal powers of expression.

The temptation of the practitioner, in times of depression, to blame his troubles on his school training, may still be justified in some cases, but I do not think that today's graduates of most schools will have just cause to complain that they were "taught" (note the quotes) the wrong things. In fact modern educational theory doubts the possibility of "teaching" (in the limited sense of imparting exact knowledge) *anything* at the professional level. The student develops under stimulus—that is all, but the nature and direction of the stimuli are very important.

Since recent economic developments suggest that the sport of lambasting the schools will soon become popular again, may I make a humble request? Before you launch your Jeremiad, make sure that the conditions to which you object (once undoubtedly with perfect justice) still exist. The schools have not been asleep during the depression. Nearly all have taken careful stock and often made sweep-

ing changes. The interchange of ideas through our Association meetings and exhibitions has been stimulating. The student today should have no trouble in finding a school well suited to his personality and interests,—although I must admit that I don't know of any which will meet the specifications laid down by a graduate of the Ecole des Beaux Arts, who came to me some time ago with a startling proposal.

He wanted all courses abolished except Descriptive Geometry and Salesmanship! The former he advocated as training to think in three dimensions and hence to solve architectural problems. The latter was to teach the students how to land jobs.

I admitted being impressed by the magnificent simplicity of his curriculum, and feeling a real agreement with his first suggestion, but I saw grave practical problems before the second could be adopted. Where could the professor be found? Could any practicing architect who knew this secret be induced to give up his vast office, and become a mere teacher—particularly if his task would be to divulge his formula to others? Until such a man is available, the scheme cannot be put into effect.

This year our Association has completed a check of its members. No outside assistance could be obtained to finance personal inspections, so we had to rely on written statements. I am happy to report that an analysis of the returns shows that all but a few of our schools can meet our basic requirement that "they offer conditions reasonably conducive to successful training in architecture". There have been rumors of weakness which proved to be exaggerated. Our Executive Committee has felt it necessary to ask certain members to improve specific conditions. We hope to be able to help them in this direction through the strength of our united opinion.

The schools have had serious difficulties since 1930. Enrolments have dropped, salaries have been cut, much work has been done bravely under most disheartening conditions. We need the help and support of the profession—its steady interest and

backing. Cleveland shows us an example of an Institute chapter in close contact with a student-body and a School, and how vitalizing such an influence can be when wisely directed. But the real place where the profession must help its young recruits is during the unorganized period after graduation.

Particularly in the trying times of the last few years, the youngster just out of school has been faced with a well-nigh impossible problem. How can a job be found—any job, just so it pays his keep? His family have put him through college, and often cannot do more, even if he were not too proud to ask it. He is not an experienced draftsman—in fact in many ways is still a student, with more to learn than he has to contribute. Yet our system requires him to have three full years of active employment, and to learn by experience all the complicated processes of office procedure,—without forgetting his academic training—before presenting himself for examination. Too often lately, it has been a question of getting any job available, rather than obtaining complete experience as to how buildings are actually executed.

Under such conditions, is it any wonder that his enthusiasm begins to wane, his ideals to tarnish, his creative powers to grow rusty? The Examining Boards tell us that there is an alarming mortality in the examinations in Design. The same men who could have passed brilliantly while they were in school, fail after three years further training in the world.

This is the weakest link in the chain of preparation and the period where most needs to be done. If The Institute wishes to attract to its future membership a young generation capable of filling its ranks as they become depleted, it must take the lead in organizing the years of "internship", as the medical profession has done for its candidates. The architectural schools, as a whole, are able to play their part well, in a sound program of preparation for the practice of architecture.

Members Elected—Effective February 10, 1939

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Name</i>
Central New York	HARRY A. KING
Chicago	WILLIAM FERGUSON DEKNATEL
Northern California	IRVING F. MORROW

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Name</i>
South Texas	JOHN VINCENT GAINNEY KARL FRED KAMRATH FREDERICK JAMES MACKIE, JR.

Institute Representation on Civilian Conservation Council

THE President of The Institute has appointed Ernest John Russell, F. A. I. A., of St. Louis, to represent The Institute on the Civilian Conservation Council to cooperate with the director of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The Civilian Conservation Council, which includes representatives of many nationwide associations interested in forestation, parks, soil conservation, roadside development, wild life conservation, education, planning and construction, was organized

to cooperate with the director of the Civilian Conservation Corps to forward the usefulness of the Corps and its enrollees in developing the natural resources of the country.

It is believed by many of the organizations concerned that the permanency of the C. C. C. may be desirable, particularly if, through the Civilian Conservation Council, the benefit of the counsel of representative national leaders interested in its work and welfare can be made available.

M. I. T. Announces Scholarship

A SCHOLARSHIP of six hundred dollars is offered in the academic year 1939-40 for a special student in the fourth or the fifth year of the course in Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This will be awarded as the result of a competition in design under the direction of the Committee on Design of the School of

Architecture, to be held from May 6 to 15, 1939.

Competitors are allowed to prepare their drawings, wherever conditions conform to the requirements of the Committee, but these drawings must be sent to Cambridge for judgment.

For information apply to Dean William Emerson, 77 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, Mass., before April 10.

The Producers' Council, Inc.

THE following organizations have been elected to membership in The Producers' Council, Incorporated:

Henry Weis Manufacturing Company,
Elkhart, Indiana,
P. W. Kerr, Vice-President,
Official Representative.

Marsh Wall Products Company, Dover, Ohio,
V. R. Marsh, Vice-President and Manager,
Official Representative.

National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Ass'n.,
2201 New York Ave., Wash., D. C.
Ernest T. Trigg, President,
Official Representative.

Coordination of Dimensions of Building Materials, Equipment And Construction

THE Standards Council of the American Standards Association has authorized the initiation of the project A62, the scope of which will cover:

(a) The development of a basis for the coordination of dimensions of building materials and equipment, and the correlation of building plans and

details with such dimensions;

(b) Recommendation of sizes and dimensions as standards suitable for dimensional correlation.

At the invitation of the American Standards Association, The A. I. A. and The Producers' Council, Inc. have accepted joint sponsorship of this project.

Structural Service Department

BY THEODORE I. COE, TECHNICAL SECRETARY, STRUCTURAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Research on Building Materials and Structures.

Since the reference to the above research program in the January issue of THE OCTAGON, the following additional reports have been made available and may be obtained from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 10¢ each:

Report BMS10. Structural Properties of one of the "Keystone Beam Steel Floor" Constructions Sponsored by the H. H. Robertson Company.

Report BMS11. Structural Properties of the Current Fabrihome Corporation's "Fabrihome" Constructions for Walls and Partitions.

To the list of the agencies of the government interested in housing which cooperated in formulating this Research Program, as mentioned in the January issue of THE OCTAGON, should be added: Federal Housing Administration; Public Works Administration (Housing Division); Federal Home Loan Bank Board; Resettlement Administration, and the War Department.

P. W. A. (Housing Division) has since been succeeded by the United States Housing Authority, and the following agencies are also cooperating with the Program: Veterans Bureau; Public Health Service; Navy Department; Office of Indian Affairs of the Interior Department, and the Forest Products Laboratory, which is interested in a separate and distinct but complementary program of research that is proceeding concurrently.

The Program originally authorized for two years and extended for a further period of one year is scheduled by the current budget, as submitted to Congress, for completion by June 1940.

In view of the importance of the work and the need for continuing research in the field of building materials and methods of construction it is hoped that Congress will make it possible for this Research Program to continue beyond the date now set for its termination.

Compliance with Federal Specifications.

The Division of Codes and Specifications of the National Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce, has prepared four lists of manufacturers who

have indicated their willingness to certify to purchases, upon request, that commodities supplied by them on contracts based on Federal Specifications actually comply with the requirements and tests thereof and are so guaranteed by them.

These lists may be obtained, without cost, upon request to the Division of Codes and Specifications at the address mentioned above. They refer to the following:

1. Asphalt, Brick, Cement, Gypsum, Lime, Plaster, Refractories, Roofing, Cast Stone, Tile and Wallboard.
2. Metals and Metal Products.
3. Hardwood and Softwood Lumber and Timber.
4. Paints, Pigments, Varnishes and Products including Linseed Oil and Turpentine.

Wood-Use Booklets.

The following booklets on the subject of uses of various woods have been issued by the Forest Products Division, Department of Commerce, and may be obtained from the Government Printing Office at the prices indicated:

TPS No. 186 American Hardwood Flooring and Its Uses.....	10¢
TPS No. 141 American Cypress and Its Uses	5¢
TPS No. 167 American Douglas Fir Plywood and Its Uses.....	10¢
TPS No. 171 California Redwood and Its Uses	10¢
TPS No. 178 American Hardwoods and Their Uses	15¢
TPS No. 180 American Western Pines and Their Uses	10¢

Plastering Specification.

Copies of the Standard Specifications for Gypsum Plastering, including requirements for lathing and furring, as prepared under the sponsorship of The A. I. A. and the American Society for Testing Materials, and approved as an American Standard by the American Standards Association, Sept. 29, 1938, have been distributed to architects generally by the Gypsum Association.

Architects who have failed to receive copies should notify the Gypsum Association, 211 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois.

Public Information

BY WILLIAM ORR LUDLOW, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

Molasses and Vinegar (From a personal letter from a member of The Institute's Committee on Public Information to the Chairman.)

"There was a weekly column in one of our local papers that gave advice to prospective home builders. At first its attitude was, if not unfriendly, at least very uncomplimentary to architects. After two or three of our local architects had 'bawled out' the editor, I wrote him a very friendly letter in which I complimented him on his column and a book of plans he had edited, explained the value of the architect, enclosed a copy of our leaflet 'The Value of the Architect,' and suggested that he might be performing a service to home builders to publish it if he had space. As a result, he published the leaflet in its entirety with a very friendly comment, and ever since has been using its substance and spirit in his comments in his column."

George H. Spohn, Chairman of the Committee on Public Information of the Florida South Chapter, has this to say of group housing projects, which has more than local application:—

"In many cases the small houses comprising these groups are not homes. They possess little if any individuality. They are not studied carefully to fit individual families. They are just built from stereotyped plans and the families crammed into them. Such procedure, it is felt, will add little if anything to the aesthetic and practical development of a growing family. It is hoped that this type of work will become attractive to the better architects, who will imbue into these small dwellings a feeling of homeyness coupled with conveniences and permanence."

A Law Suit may enlighten the public about the function of the architect.

(Quoted from a personal letter from a well-known architect to the Chairman.)

"Last year I completed a duplex apartment house and was immediately made defendant in a suit for alleged infringement upon a patent. It has entailed a great deal of investigation to find that such apartments have been built in this country for many years. The interesting part is that we expect to have some of the principal architects from various

cities testify here in the Federal Court, and regardless of the outcome, I believe that it will make news that will be rather important to the profession."

Raymond Sizemore of the Alabama Chapter and Local Representative of The Institute's Committee on Public Information has made the following report to the president of the Chapter:—

"We may submit as accomplishments the following:

"A letter addressed and mailed to the editors of the state's largest newspapers, urging that the name of the architect be included with all presentations of his work.

"The assembling of news articles, released by the Committee on Public Information of The A. I. A. which are now ready for release to the press and a number of which are to be *turned over to our chapter members for re-writing to make them applicable to our local conditions.*

"The preparation of a list of subjects, which is ready to be distributed to chapter members, from which a series of news articles of local interest may be completed and released to the press.

"Further it is recommended that—

"The Suggested Work Program as released by the Committee on Public Information of The A. I. A., should be followed very closely.

"It is further recommended that the chapter provide funds necessary to purchase, frame and distribute a large number of the leaflets entitled 'The Value of the Architect.'

"With the foregoing annual report, please accept assurance of our continued interest in the work of this committee which, in our opinion, is of utmost importance to our chapter and profession."

The Institute's Committee on Public Information would particularly draw attention to the statement in the above report that news articles are to be *rewritten by chapter members to make them applicable to local conditions.* There is nothing that can be done that will more effectively spread what we want the public to know about architecture and the architect than this kind of local publicity by our chapters.

With the Chapters

NEWS NOTES FROM CHAPTER SECRETARIES

Arizona.

A high point in our activities was reached at our last meeting when Ralph Adams Cram was our guest and speaker. It has been the privilege of a few of us to hear him before, a privilege which increases in meaning as those opportunities arise. Since this is not his first winter among us we shall soon count him one of us. Mr. Cram speaks in a complimentary way of our local architectural work, both public buildings and houses, which is pleasing and encouraging.

This would indicate that contemporary building in Arizona is generally traditional though, we believe, progressive. There are other influences at work, however, for the "Leftists" already at work are quite apt to be encouraged and augmented by the presence of Frank Lloyd Wright who is again and permanently with us. Mr. Wright has his new school well under construction, and here half of every year he will continue his work. The Taliesin Fellowship will carry on in Wisconsin in the summer and in Arizona in the winter.

With two opposing schools of thought well started, we in Arizona are stimulated by the friendly visits and criticism of leaders like Ralph Adams Cram on the one hand and the work of Frank Lloyd Wright on the other, and are further encouraged by the strong developments in Southern California, our nearest neighbor. Very interesting developments in the near future are inevitable.

FREDERICK W. WHITTLESEY, *Secretary*

Brooklyn.

Thirty-five members were present at the January meeting of the chapter to hear the guest speaker, Mr. A. L. Powell, past president of the Illuminating Engineering Society, and Supervising Engineer for the General Electric Company. Mr. Powell delivered an illustrated lecture on "The Relation of Light to Architecture".

Announcement was made of the death of one of the chapter's illustrious members, William P. Bannister, F. A. I. A. Mr. Bannister was past president of the Brooklyn Chapter and for many years was secretary of the New York State Board of Examiners of Architects. Only a month previously,

the chapter had lost a valued member through the death of Lester B. Pope, who was head of the School of Architecture at Pratt Institute, in Brooklyn. These deaths left several vacancies on important committees, and the president made the following new appointments:

Committee on Fellowship, J. Monroe Hewlett, F. A. I. A.; Committee on Education, G. W. Trofast-Gillette; Committee on Historical Buildings, James Gambaro; Delegate to 1939 Convention, Stephen W. Dodge; Director to fill unexpired term of 1939, D. D. Streeter.

Joseph Mathieu, one of the three members of the jury that was called upon to select a list of seventy-five architects eligible for city work during 1939, gave an interesting resume of the findings of the jury.

HENRY V. MURPHY, *Secretary*

Buffalo.

The chapter held its annual meeting January 28, 1939 at the University Club. The following officers were elected:

Joseph E. Fronczak, President; Roswell E. Pfohl, Vice-President; Stanley C. Podd, Secretary-Treasurer, and Directors Paul H. Harbach, James W. Kideney and Lawrence H. Bley.

A discussion was held between Chester Wright, Director of the New York State Contractors Association, and Richmond H. Shreve, the Regional Director, on the subject of how contractors, labor and architects can coordinate their activities for mutual benefit from legislation and other activities.

Plans were made at this meeting for revitalizing the membership and activities of the Buffalo Chapter and committees were formed to effectuate these aims.

Dr. Walter Curt Behrendt gave a brief talk on the future of city planning in Buffalo.

STANLEY C. PODD, *Secretary*

Central Texas.

The February dinner-meeting of the Central Texas Chapter was held on February 13 at the University of Texas Union. Three Austin contractors had been invited to join with us in an

open-forum discussion of mutual building problems. Many points were brought out, giving both the architects and contractors a clearer insight into each other's difficulties, and how best to solve them.

Vice-president Hugo F. Kuehne, and the secretary gave reports on bills now pending before the Texas Legislature affecting architects in one way or another. One bill in particular, a proposal to set up a State building code for schools and hospitals, brought forth a series of resolutions by the chapter which will be presented to the parties drafting the bill.

As the Central Texas Chapter is headquartered in Austin, the capital city, a legislative committee composed of Messrs. Hugo F. Kuehne, Dan J. Driscoll, Arthur Fehr, and Clifford H. James was elected to keep in touch with the House and Senate and report to the other Texas chapters of The Institute as well as the Central Texas group, any proposed bills affecting architects.

CLIFFORD H. JAMES, *Secretary*

Cincinnati.

News flashes for January 1939:

Newly elected officers for the coming year are largely of the "beardless-boy" type, put into office, they are convinced, through the connivance of an old guard which suddenly decided that the BB's were due for a critical comeuppance. Those elected were—president, John W. Becker; vice-president, George Roth; secretary, H. Richard Elliston; treasurer, George Garties; director, Charles R. Strong.

The chapter is collaborating with other architectural organizations in this vicinity in organizing a Draftsmen's Registry, a bureau at which the names and qualifications of all local draftsmen will be card-indexed and filed for ready reference when the registrant needs employment or the architect an employee.

Strong sentiment has recently been revived among lay and professional groups in Cincinnati for a revival of the Architects Advisory Council, a relay of chapter members which formerly met once a week in the Building Commissioner's office and "graded" plans submitted for permits on a basis of skill in plan arrangement and aesthetic common decency.

JOHN W. BECKER, *Ex-secretary*

Connecticut.

The regular meeting of the chapter was held on February 8 at Meriden, Connecticut. As a variation from the usual procedure, the first order of business was a trip through the recently completed Bradley Home for the Aged. The meeting then adjourned to be reconvened for dinner at an inn near Wallingford, which advertises itself as "the only inn in Connecticut where Washington did *not* stop".

HAROLD D. HAUF, *Secretary*

Detroit.

The chapter held its regular monthly meeting at Cranbrook on January 18.

The meeting afforded members and guests an opportunity to view Mr. Saarinen's latest building, the new Cranbrook Institute of Science.

Chapter president Hyde introduced Dr. Hatt, who explained something about the new building, and welcomed chapter members to Cranbrook.

Following Dr. Hatt's talk, the picture "Today We Build", released by the F. H. A., was shown. It is an educational film which is intended to stimulate interest in better housing and shows large scale privately owned developments in Europe and America, bringing out that the United States now has the greatest potential home market in the history of the world.

Dr. Hatt next conducted the architects and guests through the Museum, pointing out the many interesting exhibits and explaining something about the collection and the work being done at the Institute. In the mineral collection, he stated that our member John C. Thornton had made some valuable contributions.

TALMAGE C. HUGHES, *Secretary*

Florida South.

The chapter celebrated its annual meeting with a dinner at Black Caesar's Forge, Dade County, Florida. The following officers were elected for 1939:

August Geiger, President; George H. Spohn, Vice-President; Marion I. Manley, Secretary-Treasurer; Vladimir E. Virrick, Director.

The chapter has for some time been reviewing the matter of lumber standards, seeking the best way to help establish better grade requirements for

the district. Through the cooperation of the Southern Pine Association, the building inspection departments, the F. H. A. and the local lending agencies, it is possible that a curb may be placed on some of the more spurious practices. Beside the usual grade substitutions we find cases of counterfeit grade-marks, which only an expert might detect.

MARION I. MANLEY, *Secretary*

Kentucky.

The February meeting of the chapter was devoted largely to the question of membership. The chapter is actively interested in increased membership, but decided high ethical standards should be required of prospective members.

In view of the extent of speculative building without the aid of architectural services; the extensive practice of free plan service offered by lumber companies; the designing and construction of factory buildings by some of the larger contracting firms; it was with a mingled feeling of surprise and pleasure that local architects read in the February 7, 1939 issue of the Louisville Builders Exchange *News-Letter* an excellent and pointed item stressing the importance and the necessity of the architect in the building picture. Feeling that such unsolicited publicity favoring the profession should be recognized, the Kentucky Chapter voted to send a letter of appreciation to Mr. J. C. Snyder, secretary of the Exchange.

Kentucky architects have been trying to strengthen their license laws. This item in the Exchange *News-Letter* brings to mind the fact that the Exchange, and to a large extent the sub-contractors and the material dealers, for whose benefit the Exchange exists, are largely dependent upon the architect. Is it not probable that such organizations might prove a medium for support of such legislation, if they were presented with the facts and asked for support?

BERGMAN S. LETZLER, *Secretary*

New York.

Correction should be made of the note in the January OCTAGON which stated that the jury that compiles the panel of architects for public work in New York City had this year been enlarged to nine members. The Jury is still composed of three members as heretofore, but they are themselves selected

by the representatives of nine cooperating architectural and art societies in the Metropolitan area instead of the former eight. Incidentally this effort to secure non-political appointment of qualified architects for public work has been staunchly upheld by Mayor La Guardia during the several years of the panel's existence, with a resultant spreading of city work among the architectural offices.

The competition now under way for the Smithsonian Gallery of Art in Washington has aroused no little excitement among members of the New York Chapter. There seems to be a distinct feeling that The American Institute of Architects should formulate without delay a practicable method of providing the best architectural services obtainable for public work and then take a definite stand in support of that method. It is difficult enough to produce fine architecture even with the best of tools. When those tools are being wielded by someone else than the designing architect, the results must inevitably be less successful than public interest demands. It is the duty of The Institute to work toward the best public architecture which the profession can produce.

ROBERT B. O'CONNOR, *Secretary*

Northern California.

The photographed work of northern California architects will be on display at the Golden Gate International Exposition through arrangements recently consummated. The direct handling and arrangement of the exhibit will be in charge of the San Francisco Architectural Club. The chapter will cooperate by furnishing the material which will be made up largely of the work shown in the exhibit held by the chapter last Fall in the San Francisco Museum of Art. The exhibit will continue through the entire period of the Exposition as one of the special attractions in the Homes and Garden Division.

At the annual meeting of the Chapter in January, the following were elected officers for the coming year:

James H. Mitchell, President; Wm. Wilson Wurster, Vice-President; John Davis Young, Secretary-Treasurer; and Directors: Warren C. Perry, Charles F. Masten, Chester H. Miller, Ernest E. Weihe.

JOHN DAVIS YOUNG, *Secretary*

North Louisiana.

Realizing that more good could be accomplished with a larger membership, the chapter made plans to invite into its membership, those few architects who, at present, are not members of The Institute. A concerted effort is being made to interest the non-members in Monroe, La., and Alexandria, La., these cities being in the territory assigned to the North Louisiana Chapter. Three local non-members will also be invited to join our chapter.

At the same meeting, three applications for membership were acted upon, and original applications are being forwarded to The Secretary.

SEYMOUR VAN OS, *Secretary*

Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia Chapter at its meeting on January 17, invited the senior class of the University of Pennsylvania Architectural School and a number of other younger architects and draftsmen in the city who are not members of the chapter. The attendance was most gratifying, consisting as it did of forty-five members of the chapter and fifty-one who were not members.

The purpose of this meeting as was set forth in the notice, was to give a very brief but competent discussion of what The Institute is, what it does for the practitioners and what it could do for the younger men preparing for practice. Brief, terse speeches were prepared and given on these subjects. John P. B. Sinkler gave the history of The Institute and its accomplishments. Edmund R. Purves, Regional Director of the Middle Atlantic District, discussed the work of The Board of Directors. William Pope Barney explained the mentor system. Chapter president Roy F. Larson explained what The Institute is trying to do with regard to public works. Chapter secretary Thomas Pym Cope and John F. Harbeson debated briefly the question of whether competitions should be used as a method for the selection of the architect for public works and explained the activity of The Institute during recent years in connection with this controversial subject.

The officers and the Executive Committee of the chapter feel that this meeting was a great success, not only as it resulted in the receipt of a number of applications for membership from persons whom the chapter has always hoped would become members, but also because it was felt that the meeting was

stimulating to all of those who were present.

The Philadelphia Chapter recommends to other chapters that they invite the students and younger practitioners in their neighborhood to chapter meetings at least once a year.

THOMAS PYM COPE, *Secretary*

Southern California.

The Honor Awards Program for 1938 was brought to a successful conclusion at a dinner meeting attended by two hundred eighteen members and guests at the Los Angeles Biltmore, February 14, 1939. Presentation by William H. Schuchardt of certificates to the owners and architects of some forty-three buildings went on the air over KNX, "The Voice of Hollywood". The exhibit of photographs of the honored buildings was effectively hung in the banquet room. This collection will be used as a travelling exhibit by the chapter.

The 1938 Program marks the resumption, after a lapse of several years, of the awards for non-residential architecture; the 1937 Program having been devoted to residential work only. The present intention of the chapter is to hold a program for each classification on alternate years.

The Legislative Committee has succeeded in placing before the California State Legislature three bills for the improvement of the laws regulating the practice of architecture. In cooperation with the other chapters and the State Association, we are actively opposing other bills detrimental to the profession which have been introduced.

After several months of preparation our Committee on Professional Betterment will shortly present to the chapter its recommendations for a sustained program of activity in the field of public relations. Details will be made available when the committee makes its final report to the chapter.

The chapter's book on "Residential Architecture in Southern California" is about to go to press. Edited by Paul Hunter and Walter Reichardt, it will contain works of many Southern California architects. A wide range of material has been selected and the book is expected to appeal to all those interested in residential architecture. Pre-publication price is \$3.00 per copy, and advance orders are now being taken. Address communications to the chapter office, 201 Architects Building, Los Angeles, Calif.

BEN H. O'CONNOR, *Secretary*

Utah.

The chapter held its monthly meeting at the Beau Brummel Cafe on February 6, 1939. The members voted to sponsor a small house plan service bureau as recommended by the committee which was selected a year ago to make a study of such a service. The committee in making their report at the meeting recommended that the service be patterned after the Memphis, Tennessee small house plan service.

Arthur L. Grout, who is teaching architecture at the University of Utah, conducted a tour of inspection with his class through some of the buildings now under construction by members of the chapter.

WILLIAM E. NELSON, *Secretary*

Wisconsin.

Several monthly meetings of the chapter were postponed to enable members to complete assignments of P. W. A. and other urgent work before the first of the year.

The executive committee during the interim, however, convened weekly to discuss and dispose of

many problems pertaining to or concerning the welfare of the architects in our community.

The February meeting resulted in a combined group meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter, the State Architectural Association and the Producers' Council Club of Milwaukee. This first meeting, under the auspices of the chapter, was the result of previous conferences which planned six group meetings, two to be sponsored by each of the member groups.

Chapter president Philipp opened the meeting by giving a general synopsis of the program and chairman Sutherland of the Activities Committee introduced John L. Hamilton, F. A. I. A., of Chicago, who presented the architect's viewpoint in a pleasing and constructive manner. Mr. Kachel took advantage of this occasion to present numerous criticisms of the architect as seen through the eyes of the general contractor. Mr. Cleary made the statement that close cooperation between lending institutions and the architect would probably result in mutual advantage.

ALEXANDER H. BAUER, *Secretary*

New Books

Some European Architectural Libraries.

By Talbot Hamlin, Librarian, The Avery Library, Columbia University. *Columbia University Press, New York. \$3.00.*

From the foreword. . . . "This study was planned primarily to aid in solving some of the problems facing the Avery Architectural Library of Columbia University, of which the author is Librarian. . . . It was therefore gladly accepted for publication in the series of Columbia University Studies in Library Service. . . ."

"Mr. Hamlin's study is significant to librarians everywhere not alone for the valuable information gathered at first hand by a competent observer, but by reason of the fact that it is written from the viewpoint of one who is a scholar and authority in his field rather than that of the technical librarian. . . ."

Among the many libraries visited and studied by Mr. Hamlin in preparing this work are the Library

of the Royal Institute of British Architects, London; the Library of the Courtauld Institute, London; the Soane Museum, London; the Library of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; the Library of the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris; and the Library of the Institut de France, Paris.

Standard Plumbing Details.

By Louis J. Day. *John Wiley & Sons, New York. \$6.00.*

This book consists entirely of scale drawings, included on 119 plates, 9½ inches by 11½ inches.

The author has correlated the data heretofore scattered through innumerable books, magazines, catalogues, circulars, etc., and most every condition likely to arise in a plumbing layout has been treated.

The difference in codes has been recognized and all plates are drawn to meet the more general codes in use, as well as the best engineering practice.

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