

THE
OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



Planning for Civilian Defense

Priorities and Architectural Practice

The Edward Langley Scholarships for 1942

Missouri Adopts Architects' Registration Law

Department of Technical Services—With the Chapters

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THE OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects

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Planning For Civilian Defense

BY HARVEY STEVENSON, PRESIDENT, NEW YORK CHAPTER, A. I. A.

A LONG time before the War, the Royal Institute of British Architects, apparently more aware of dangers confronting the country than were many of the public officials, prepared studies and made recommendations for air raid protection, for the proper use of the various technical skills to the best advantage in the services of the country, and in particular to recommend establishing a central technical committee to advise the government on the immediate questions of defense, with emphasis on measures that would not be detrimental to proper reconstruction, proper housing and proper city planning after the emergency. Unfortunately, this advice, like the old comedian's joke, was put over and lay there.

It lay there long after the emergency actually began. For, first the government began in frantic haste to award large contracts to a few big contractors who were left to employ architects, designers and other technicians or not as they wished. This putting of the cart before the horse, as now admitted by the Home Office, resulted in bad planning, great delays and gross extravagance. Our own government began by imitating this procedure to the letter.

Not until October 1940 was a proper Ministry of Works and Buildings finally created under Lord Reith, which realized the fundamental values of the architects' recommendations and began belatedly a program of using existing offices for the designs of shelters, hostels, hospitals and some War Department and Army buildings. Naturally, action became realistic as bombs fell and buildings crum-

bled before their eyes. Suddenly there was a shortage of trained technicians.

Due to ignoring another original recommendation of the R.I.B.A. regarding listing of available practitioners and recommendations for preference ratings to technically trained men, a situation had already arisen in which over 2,000 of the trained younger architects were inducted into the military service or had volunteered simply because they saw no hope of utilizing their skills to better advantage. At the same time, by an unfortunate anomaly, most of the older practitioners, particularly in the less dangerous areas, were completely out of work due to the cessation of all private building.

This stopping of private work soon resulted in an unfortunate condition, which the Ministry is now taking steps to obviate. First it affected public morale. The government was suspected of withholding facts from the people, and there was a tendency to create fear in districts where the menace of attack was not immediate. Secondly, the stopping of work in progress and the neglect of necessary repairs was causing deterioration of valuable plants on the one hand, and lowering of living conditions with resultant dangers to health and morals on the other. It soon became obvious that post-war reconstruction would exhaust stocks of materials which were no longer being produced in the usual way, and would end by forcing lower standards of construction and living and of course far higher prices. Worst of all there would come a complete disintegration of the building industry in all its ramifications. This great industry would be

unprepared to function at the time when the greatest demand was sure to be placed upon it.

To correct all these dangers, we understand that now the British government is encouraging and even allowing priorities to desirable private, municipal and semi-public construction and reconditioning. Most important of all, it is undertaking long-range planning of the broadest scope. This of course is immensely facilitated by the brutal ground work of having many areas such as in Plymouth, for example, almost completely destroyed. They have determined that the slum conditions existing before the war will not be allowed to occur again. Furthermore, and this is the most necessary and most difficult part of it, they are attempting to safeguard this by restrictions against haphazard development while the planning is going on. They feel, as we should feel already, that an emergency must not be allowed to breed conditions as bad as or worse than they were before.

Except for the ever-lessening security of distance, our situation is distressingly similar. Many of us have been struggling for a year or more to get any sort of government understanding of the place of technical experts and the necessity of using them in time. Nevertheless, in spite of discouragements, we feel that it is essential for the technicians to go ahead as far as they can in making their studies and plans with or without the blessing of the authorities.

The Committee of the New York Chapter on Civilian Protection has followed this course of action. Studies have been made of danger zones in the Metropolitan area, such as the Navy Yard, the Hell Gate Bridge and other obvious centers of attack; the larger slum areas, such as, in particular, the lower east side, which were most nearly affected by propinquity to danger spots; the question of non-fireproof row houses and the situation in fireproof office buildings, to show just what the people in them could best do in the event of an immediate and unforeseen attack. They have studied also the questions of camouflage, a vital subject which had been almost completely ignored by the Army ever since the last war. Here especially is a field in which designers can be of the greatest service.

They have advocated (1) the creation and support of technical advisory panels in each administrative area to advise the public on construction problems affected by defense; and (2) the instituting of a program of demolition of the many deserted non-fireproof buildings in the city. This would provide survey work for unemployed technicians and would facilitate reconstruction planning, as well, of course, as reducing the emergency fire hazard.

Two of the immediate recommendations made to the Mayor by the New York Chapter seem particularly important:

- (1) The first defense menace is fire. Therefore a program of demolition of the many deserted non-fireproof buildings in this city should be started at once. This will facilitate reconstruction planning and provide survey work for unemployed technicians.
- (2) Technical advisory panels should be created and supported in each administrative area to advise the public on construction problems affected by defense.

It would be ingenuous in the extreme to assume that all creative artists could be moulded at once into a united front for their mutual good, but I believe that the trend of the times demands the most intense efforts in that direction. It does not seem to make sense that those who create the machinery for a product should have one set of principles, those who design the plant another, those who try to provide, if anyone does, for the physical needs of the workers a third, and so on. Until such time as it is realized that all those people who use vision and imagination in a creative effort, making better things for human use, can join together to protect and strengthen their creative ideals, they will never attain a position commensurate with their efforts. They may continue to design the car, but they will not drive it where they want to go.

In summary, then, policies must be planned, projects must be planned, and the work must be planned, all with the full utilization and advantages of all the technical skills available.

Priorities and Architectural Practice

THE announcement by the Supply Priorities and Allocation Board of a "new policy" affecting both public and private construction projects has aroused not only interest but great concern in the technical design groups and the building industry. This is particularly true among architects and engineers who have depended on their private practice, and not on government work, for their professional commissions.

The Officers of The Institute have been aware of this trend, and are actively in touch with officials having to do with OPM or SPAB rulings. The President has written direct to Mr. Donald M. Nelson, Director of Priorities of the Office of Production Management, to secure more complete information, and it is expected that a representative of his office will confer with The Board of Directors of The Institute who are to meet in Washington before the end of October. In the interim The Institute is pressing inquiry as to the extent and character of the controls which will be put into effect and the method

of their application and is conferring with national organizations who are in a position to collaborate in establishing the best possible conditions for professional practice in this critical period.

The members and chapter officers of The Institute are urged to bring these matters and resulting conditions to the attention of their regional directors who will thereby be enabled more adequately to serve members' interests at home as well as at the meeting of The Board.

A more complete statement will be made as soon as that can be done effectively. It is hoped that this will be of a helpful character,—but Institute members will recognize that the defense effort has precedence over non-defense needs, and that each of us must be prepared to make necessary adjustments in non-essential activities,—as well as to ask the government to do so. On both sides there is unavoidable necessity for fundamental changes.

R. H. SHREVE, *President*

Missouri Adopts Architects' Registration Law

THROUGH the combined efforts of the Missouri Association of Architects and the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers, the 61st General Assembly of the State of Missouri passed an Act creating the Missouri Board of Registration for Architects and Professional Engineers.

Since 1899 the Missouri architects have been endeavoring to obtain a registration law.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Harry Satterlee Bill, A.I.A., President of the Missouri Association of Architects, we publish the following account:

"The first draft of a Registration Act was presented to the 1899 session of the Missouri Legislature and some attempt has been made at most of the biennial sessions since that time. Only once or twice did the bills get out of committee.

"The early bills were primarily for the registration of architects only, but later bills included and were backed by both architects and engineers.

"The Missouri Association was formed in January, 1940, and in the fall of that year joined with the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers in

the formation of a special legislative committee.

"This committee employed an attorney to rewrite the bill in a form acceptable to the Legislature, and to oversee its presentation to the proper committees by a sympathetic Senator and Representative.

"The Act was signed by the Governor and became law on October 10, 1941.

"We believe that the Act embodies the essentials of a model law, and if it is not all that we might have desired, amendments can come after the rugged individualists of the profession and the public have had time to accustom themselves to regulation.

"We brought two convictions out of our campaign, namely: that a single bill, backed by both the architectural and engineering professions, will accomplish quicker and better results than two almost necessarily antagonistic or overlapping acts; that the employment of a specialist in legislation (call him attorney, lobbyist, or what you like) is cheaper and more efficient than relying on the well meaning but often misdirected efforts of amateurs, ignorant, alike, of legislative procedure and tradition."

The Edward Langley Scholarships for 1942

THE American Institute of Architects from January 1 to March 1, 1942, will receive proposals of candidates for Edward Langley Scholarships for the year 1942.

Awards will be announced in June, 1942.

Awards may be made to residents of the United States or Canada.

These scholarships are awarded annually for advanced work in architecture, for study, travel, or research, as the holder of the scholarship elects. Awards to undergraduates are precluded, but awards may be made to architectural draftsmen who desire to do undergraduate work or take special courses in architectural schools. An award in a succeeding year to a holder of a scholarship is not precluded.

Competitive examinations will not be used as a method of selection.

The scholarships are open to all persons engaged in the profession of architecture. To facilitate making the awards, such persons are grouped as follows:

Group 1.

- (a) Architects in active practice
- (b) Architectural draftsmen employed by architects, whether the draftsmen are engaged in drafting, writing specifications, supervising or acting as executives, and whether or not they are college graduates.

Group 2.

- (a) Teachers in schools of architecture
- (b) Students about to graduate from such schools
- (c) Graduate students of such schools who are engaged in post-graduate work either in college or in travel.

The awards will be made and the grants determined by the Committee on Awards and Scholarships of The Institute. In making awards, all candidates from both groups will be considered as a single group by the committee, and scholarships will be awarded to those who, in the judgment of the committee, are best qualified therefor by reason of char-

acter, ability, purpose, and need, regardless of place of residence or whether they are Group 1 or Group 2 candidates. The amount of grant with each scholarship will be determined in accordance with the need and purpose of the candidate and the funds that are available. Only a very limited number of awards can be made in any year, so, to avoid unnecessary disappointment, a candidate should not be proposed unless his qualifications are outstanding and it is evident the profession will be benefited by an award to him.

How To Propose Candidates.

Proposers of Group 1 Candidates. Any architect in the United States or Canada may propose any other architect or architectural draftsman residing in the same country as a candidate for an award in GROUP 1.

Proposers of Group 2 Candidates. The faculty or head of any architectural school in the United States or Canada whose standing is satisfactory to the committee, may propose any teacher in such school, any student about to be graduated from the school, or any graduate student engaged in post-graduate work in the school or in travel, as a candidate for an award in GROUP 2.

Form of Proposal. Every proposal of a candidate of either group shall be made *in duplicate* on A.I.A. Form S70, which may be obtained from The American Institute of Architects, 1741 New York Avenue, Washington, D. C.

Filing Proposals. All information and data required shall be filled in on the proposal form, and both the original and duplicate proposal shall be sent to The Secretary, The American Institute of Architects, at the address given herein, *so as to reach there not later than March 1, 1942.* Proposals received after that date cannot be considered.

A proposed candidate may be requested to submit examples of his work and to appear before a representative of the committee.

Are Architects Slipping?

"Architects are slipping." "The profession is held in low esteem by the public." "The prestige of architects has suffered immensely." "The public has not much use for architects because it thinks that they are just fellows who draw pretty pictures of buildings."

Some of these statements are true and some are not true, but enough of them are true to make perfectly reasonable the demand by architects everywhere that we must *do something about it, and do it now.*

Let us bring it right home to the average architect. Are you willing personally to do something about it, now? The trouble with most of us is that we think that The Institute or the Chapter should do something about it, but are not willing to give our time and our services; many don't see what they can do, especially under the present war conditions, when the public is little interested in architects because the government is doing most all of the building.

The standing of the profession does not rest alone on the quality of our professional services, nor on the number of jobs we can get. I believe that architects are entirely right in saying, "what we need most now, and must have, is 'Public Information.'" Unfortunately, however, most of the commonly used means of public information are not now as effective as they were before nine-tenths of the thinking of the American people was occupied by war and defense. It is harder to get people to listen to radio talks about architects and architecture; the papers are not as willing as formerly to

carry articles by architects or about architects unless the articles have a war significance.

But although these and other usual means of getting our message over to the public are not as easy as they were, we must not neglect them as conditions permit their use. The opportunity for the most effective kind of public information is yet open to us—wide open. Let us ask ourselves: How well known are we personally in our community; what do people think of us as citizens; as men interested in civic and social work in our city or town? Do our neighbors consider us just nice fellows who don't count very much, and who most of our neighbors and people in our town have never heard of anyhow?

It seems to me that at this time when many of us are out of a job, or soon will be, at this time when our communities and our nation are in need of the personal support of every citizen—at this time, when we have the time, and have every incentive as well—this is the time to do Red Cross work, to take a hand in good government, in clean politics, in social betterment, slum clearance, in church work, in education. I believe that right now, if we want our profession to have its indispensable place through the uncertain days that are coming—if we want our profession to have its place when peace comes again—and if we want individually to take our part when there is so much dire need—we have got to make use of every opportunity to gain and to hold the respect and the confidence of the public by public service.

WILLIAM ORR LUDLOW

Member Committee on Public Information

Results of the Fine Arts Essay Competition

The Editors of the *Atlantic Monthly* have been gratified by the response to the Fine Arts Essay Competition sponsored jointly by the magazine and The American Institute of Architects. Three hundred and sixty-seven manuscripts were received, many of high distinction. It was only after careful consideration that the judges, Francis Henry Taylor, Director of the Metropolitan Museum of New York; William Emerson, Professor Emeritus, School

of Architecture, Mass. Inst. of Technology, and Edward Weeks, Editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*, finally awarded the first prize to John A. Kouwenhoven of Old Bennington, Vermont, whose paper, "Arts in America," appeared in the August *Atlantic*. The second prize was awarded to George Boas of Johns Hopkins University for his paper, "Art in Education," and Honorable Mention to Mildred Whitcomb of Chicago, Illinois.

Author's Correction

The April 1941 number of *THE OCTAGON* contains, starting on page 11, an "Announcement of Desirable Amendments of Arbitration Provisions of General Conditions of the Contract".

William Stanley Parker, The Institute's Consultant on Contract Procedure, requests that the following correction to that announcement be made:

The Announcement of Desirable Amendments of Arbitration Provisions of General Conditions of the Contract as printed in the April 1941 issue of *THE OCTAGON* stated that "Information received from

the American Arbitration Association makes it clear" that certain changes were needed. The Arbitration Association cooperated fully and effectively in developing the form of the amendments, but the information as to the court decisions that made some amendments desirable was first received from Mr. William Arthur Payne of Charles T. Wills Inc. of New York. The editor desires to make the record correct in this regard and to express appreciation for Mr. Payne's initiative and his further cooperation in developing the amendments.

R. I. B. A. Book Fund

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS
66 Portland Place, London W.1

19th September, 1941

R. H. Shreve, Esq., President,
The American Institute of Architects.

Dear Mr. Shreve,

Mr. Carter, the R.I.B.A. Librarian, has reported to the Royal Institute War Executive Committee that The American Institute of Architects has most generously responded to a request that he made earlier this year for the A.I.A.'s co-operation in supplying the R.I.B.A. with some of the many important American technical publications which we now find it so difficult to obtain through the normal channels.

Mr. Carter has heard, as I expect you know, from Mr. Philip Goodwin, Chairman of your Foreign Relations Committee, that the A.I.A. has granted \$100 and

whatever is necessary for expenses to purchase and send books to England.

The Royal Institute is beholden to the A.I.A. in so many ways that we find it hard to thank you adequately for this additional kindness which, in so far as it helps us here to maintain and improve the quality of our work, will, we hope, prove to be a service of inestimable value for civilization.

The work of the profession in England now is great and varied, and its importance, at one time shamefully neglected, is increasingly recognized and the tasks we have in front of us are enough to call into play the fullest resources of our knowledge and imagination, and such assistance as we receive from our colleagues in America is invaluable.

Please convey to your Council a proper expression of our gratitude and good will.

Yours sincerely,

(s) IAN MACALISTER,
Secretary, R.I.B.A.

American Academy in Rome Competitions

Under present international conditions the American Academy in Rome cannot send its Fellows to Rome for study and travel and therefore no fellowships will be awarded next spring. In order to carry on the policy of aiding and stimulating American art, however, the trustees have decided to offer competitive cash prizes in the several fine arts. In each of the arts of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, a competition will be held for a first prize of \$1,000 and second, third and fourth prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$25 respectively. In addition, a

prize of \$25 will be awarded to each one of the preliminary competitors who is chosen by the jury to enter the final competition.

The regular procedure for the annual fellowship competitions will be followed as far as practicable. The competitions are open to unmarried male citizens of the United States under thirty-one years of age. Full particulars and application forms may be obtained on request from Roscoe Guernsey, Executive Secretary of the American Academy in Rome, 101 Park Ave., New York City.

The Department of Technical Services—Notes

BY THEODORE IRVING COE, TECHNICAL SECRETARY

Architectural Services for HOLC Defense Remodeling.

According to an announcement recently made by the Home Owners Loan Corporation architectural services will play an important part in the present conversion program, under the Defense Housing Coordinator's office, through which it is hoped to furnish thousands of additional housing units for defense workers and their families.

This program will be carried out on a localized basis through the Homes Registration offices established by the Division of Defense Housing Coordination, approximately 175 of which have already been set up in most of the important defense centers.

Under arrangements recently announced the HOLC will cooperate with the Homes Registration Division in the Coordinator's office to provide fee architects who will give advice to home owners willing to convert available space into rooms and apartments, and \$100,000 has been advanced by The President from his emergency fund for the employment of architects, in addition to those now cooperating with the work of HOLC.

This program presents an opportunity to the owners of residential property to obtain, without cost, the preliminary technical assistance necessary to determine the possibility of making additional rentable space available and the cost of the changes involved.

If the project requires detailed plans, working drawings and supervision—supervision being urged by the Homes Registration Office on all major jobs—the architect will continue the project at a reasonable fee to be paid by the home owner.

While the architects now cooperating with HOLC will be called upon as they are needed, other architects are afforded an opportunity to cooperate with the owners of available property in the development of plans to meet the requirements established for this program.

As the conversion activities contemplated will be confined to defense areas, and are a definite part of the Defense Housing Program, it will be possible to secure priority ratings in all cases where one or more habitable units are added to an existing structure.

The American Society of Architectural Hardware Consultants.

In establishing the American Society of Architectural Hardware Consultants its founders announced the following definition, statement of the objectives of the Society, and requirements for membership:

"An Architectural Hardware Consultant is a person devoting his entire business time to the preparation of specifications, estimating, detailing and servicing Architectural Builders Hardware in all its branches.

"We believe that the calling of the Architectural Hardware Consultant is one necessitating, in strict sense, integrity, dependability, and the highest standard of knowledge and patient understanding of the problems of building construction. The American Society of Architectural Hardware Consultants was founded to establish a 'Standard of Knowledge of the relationship between Architecture, Hardware and Building Construction' which it is hoped will be recognized by all Architects, Engineers and Industry.

"The Society purposes to act as a liaison between the Hardware Industry (manufacturers and distributors) and organizations such as The American Institute of Architects, United States Bureau of Standards and the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

"Membership in the Society is restricted to those having not less than five years of experience in this field, after which they are permitted to take a rigid examination which, if passed, is satisfactory proof of their knowledge. Charter membership is restricted to those having not less than ten years of satisfactory experience."

Simplified Practice Recommendations.

A revision of the original 1930 edition of the Simplified Practice Recommendation R106-41, Hospital Plumbing Fixtures, became effective July 1.

The Recommendation covers a simplified schedule of types and sizes of plumbing fixtures for hospital use and includes references to grading rules, nomenclature, and definitions for porcelain ware,

vitreous china plumbing fixtures, sanitary cast-iron enameled ware and earthen ware.

Until a printed issue is available free mimeographed copies of this revision may be obtained from the Division of Simplified Practice, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

The Producers' Council, Inc.

The Elkay Manufacturing Company of Chicago, Illinois, has recently been elected to membership in The Council. Louis Katz, President, will serve as Official Representative in The Council, with Robert C. Harris, Secretary, as Alternate.

Corporate Members Elected

Effective August 9, 1941	
<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Name</i>
ARKANSAS.....	*Tom Harding (Senior)
CENTRAL TEXAS.....	David Clyde Baer
CINCINNATI.....	Paul Grandison Hill Robert Brainerd Schildknecht
COLORADO.....	George Chase Emery
COLUMBUS.....	Raymond D. Goller
DETROIT.....	Edmund Jay Whiting
EASTERN OHIO.....	Laurence Joseph Motter Arsene August Rousseau
FLORIDA SOUTH.....	Bayard Conway Lukens
NEW YORK.....	*Albert Charles Schweizer
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.....	Irvin William Goldstine
PHILADELPHIA.....	William Laurens Van Alen
ST. LOUIS.....	Leonard Georg Haeger
SOUTH TEXAS.....	William Addison McElroy

Effective September 12, 1941	
<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Name</i>
ALABAMA.....	*Matthews H. Tardy
ARKANSAS.....	*Frank J. Ginocchio Tom Harding, Jr.
BOSTON.....	Frank Trevor Hogg Christopher M. Kehoe, Philip Horton Smith Thos. George Tiffany
DETROIT.....	George Frederick Diehl
INDIANA.....	Oswald Albert Tislow
NEW YORK.....	Meade Bolton John T. Briggs, John Hamilton Coulter, Howard B. Dearstynne, Philip Ives, Sidney L. Straus Albert Kneedler Wilson

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.....	John Ekin Dinwiddie Peter Louis Sala
SOUTH TEXAS.....	Irving Robert Klein
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.....	*Charles August Hunter
SPOKANE.....	Hugh Richardson
TOLEDO.....	*William M. Fernald
VIRGINIA.....	Albert Lewis Haskins, Jr.
WASHINGTON, D. C.....	Michael Rosenauer

Effective October 11, 1941	
<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Name</i>
BALTIMORE.....	Frederick Louis William Moehle Charles Michael Schroter
BOSTON.....	Marcel Breuer Nathaniel Saltonstall
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA.....	John Joseph Lynch Earl Bristol Stimpson
COLUMBUS.....	Charles W. Cloud
CONNECTICUT.....	Arthur Deimel
INDIANA.....	Harold V. Maurer
MAINE.....	John Calvin Stevens, 2nd
MONTANA.....	Herman F. Brandenburger
NEW YORK.....	G. E. Kidder Smith
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	Harold Edward Woodward
WASHINGTON, D. C.....	Reginald Roderic Isaacs Harry Elwood Ormston John Jamieson White, Jr.

(*) Re-Admission.

Necrology

As reported to The Institute from March 1 to October 15, 1941.

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James Ford Clapp
Edward F. Flanders
William Mitchell Kendall
J. A. Tompkins, II
Harry W. Wachter

Herbert A. Angell
Eli Benedict
Clifford S. Bernard
Alfred L. Darrow
John Wm. Donohue
Harold Wade Doty

Members
Wm. A. Foster
Horatio B. Hackett
Frederick A. Henderick
Frank A. Hudson
Arthur C. Jackson
Albert Stearns Kendall

Wm. H. MacMurray
Harold C. McLaughlin
Richard S. Requa
Harlen E. Shimmin
Fred L. Smith
Albert R. Van Dyck

With the Chapters

NEWS NOTES FROM CHAPTER SECRETARIES

Arizona.

After summer vacation the Arizona Chapter met in Phoenix, September 13. President Richard A. Morse named the committees and outlined an interesting program for the coming year.

The last meeting, held in June, was reviewed. At that time Regional Director Gordon B. Kaufmann visited the Chapter, the first time an officer of The Institute has extended us the courtesy.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tucson. Institute members might be interested to know that the Arizona Chapter, composed of men principally from Tucson and Phoenix, alternates its meetings each month. Half of those in attendance at the September meeting drove one hundred twenty miles from Tucson, returning after the dinner session. A number of the men had come earlier in the day and devoted much time to committee meetings and visiting the work of Phoenix members.

FREDERICK WALLIS WHITTLESEY

Buffalo.

The fall season was ushered in with one of the most enthusiastic meetings experienced by the Chapter in some time. The 1941 NYSAA Convention is to be held in Syracuse on October 16, 17, and 18, and this meeting was held jointly with the Western New York Society of Architects to formulate Buffalo's plans for presentation at the Convention. We were ably informed of the events to greet us at the Convention by Thomas Lyon White, President of the Syracuse Society of Architects and Merton E. Granger of Syracuse, a director of the NYSAA. Thirty-five were present at the meeting.

Attending the Convention will be many headliners of the architectural profession, all greatly experienced and well able to deal out pertinent current information. To mention a few, we will have Richmond H. Shreve, Fred G. Frost, Sr., Lorimer Rich, Harvey Stevenson, Lemuel C. Dillenbach, William Lescaze and Wm. F. R. Ballard. Speakers included discussing related fields of endeavor will be F. H. Zurmuhlen, President of the N. Y. State Society of Professional Engineers; Thomas Holden, President, F. W. Dodge Corporation; A. J. Brase,

Head of the Structural Bureau, Portland Cement Association; David Bellows, director N.Y.S. Labor Department, and Thomas Grace, State Director of the F.H.A.

The attending architects will be present at a preview of the 10th National Ceramics Exhibition, to be held in the Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts.

The Buffalo Chapter expects to have thirteen members attend the Convention and has appointed as delegates: Charles I. Thiele, Paul Harbach and Karl G. Schmill. The alternates are George Dick Smith, Jr., Louis Greenstein and David Crane.

GEORGE DICK SMITH, JR., *Secretary*

Brooklyn.

The Brooklyn Chapter held its regular monthly meeting Monday, September 29, at their usual meeting place, 446 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y., and this being the first meeting after the vacation season, was well attended with an interesting agenda before the Chapter.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Emerson Goble, affiliated with the OPM in their study of "Priorities and what they mean to Building."

The subject of the State Convention scheduled for October 16-17 and 18 was enthusiastically discussed and the President appointed five Delegates to attend, in addition to several others participating.

The Chapter is presenting, through Adolph Mertin, their Director to the Convention, the subject: "The effect of Federal, State and Municipal Bureaus," with key speaker, Mr. Matthew W. Del Gaudio, as Chairman.

The members received with appreciation the contents of the Brochure A.S.A.—A 62 and the majority desired a copy of same which has since been received.

ADOLPH MERTIN, *Secretary*

Central Pennsylvania.

The September meeting of the Chapter was held in the Harrisburger Hotel. This was the best attended meeting since our last annual meeting in January. Members were present from State College, York and Harrisburg.

A membership drive was announced and it is hoped to equal at least our last year's increase of 26%. Three new applications were acted upon favorably by the Executive Committee with several more anticipated for the October meeting.

The action of the State Industrial Board in accepting plans prepared by others than registered architects or engineers was thoroughly discussed and it was decided to have William L. Murray attend the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Association of Architects, to present the matter to them since it vitally concerns every practicing architect in the State.

Illegal practice was discussed and it was decided to wait no longer for a decision relative to the Lancaster case. The Chapter Committee on such matters was empowered to obtain legal advice to start prosecution on the several cases already under advisement.

Messrs. Millard, Kast and R. Dempwolf were appointed on the committee for the "Preservation of Historic Buildings."

J. Burn Helme, a member of the jury of award for the sculpture competition on the York Post Office, discussed the winning designs and illustrated his discussion with photographs.

The next regular meeting will be held in October at State College at which time the Chapter will have as their dinner guests Juniors and Seniors of the College. We are looking forward to having Frederic A. Fletcher, Regional Director, present.

JOSEPH L. STEELE, *Secretary*

Grand Rapids.

Local chapter members, with the Western Michigan members of the State Society of Architects, were hosts to a distinguished group of guests at the Pantlind Hotel, September 23. The occasion was a joint meeting of the directors and officers of the State Society with the Grand Rapids Chapter and the regional members of the Society.

John Baker, chapter president, presided at the meeting at which two important subjects were discussed—priorities and unification. Because of the importance of the latter issue invitations to the meeting were accepted by C. Julian Oberwarth, Regional Director of the Great Lakes District, and Leigh Hunt, chairman of The Institute's Committee on Unification. Other important guests

were Clair Ditchy, chairman of The Institute's Committee on By-laws; Talmage C. Hughes, chairman of The Institute's Committee on Public Information, and Professor Emil Lorch, member of The Institute's Committee on Registration.

Following the open meeting, the members of the Detroit and Grand Rapids chapters held separate meetings, followed by a tour of "table-top" exhibits arranged by the Producer's Council Club of Michigan under the leadership of their president, E. D. Ainslie, of Detroit.

A dinner climaxed the day's events, some seventy architects and members of the Producers' Council attending.

PAUL FLANAGAN, *Secretary*

New Jersey.

The opening 1941-'42 meeting of the New Jersey Chapter and the New Jersey Society of Architects was held on September 11 at the Newark Athletic Club.

There was no formal program, but there was plenty of routine business. A vote was taken and the following names were ordered sent to Governor Edison for his consideration in making four appointments to the State Board of Architects: Messrs. C. V. R. Bogert, William Newmann, Neil J. Convery, Howard A. Stout, Paul W. Drake, Seymour Williams, Ernest Fougner, C. Godfrey Poggi, Joseph N. Hettel, Marcel Villaneuva, and Harry T. Stephens. These are all good men. We expect the Governor is in a quandary.

Paul W. Drake read a letter from the Regional Director asking what we think about the Chapter Associate Membership Class. Our sentiments seemed to be that we don't need that class, but other Chapters may—so who shall say them nay?

The Secretary made a belated report of the Yosemite Convention, warning the members that under a by-law revision, effected thereat, they can now be dropped from membership not only for non-payment of dues, but also if they commit a felony. The boys shook their heads in dismay.

Sad were the farewell rites as Art Holmes left in the middle of the meeting to go to Washington to take up new duties. We wish him all good luck and hope to see him often.

A communication relating to the part New Jersey Architects can take in defense measures was referred to Chairman Harry Maslow for study.

The Entertainment Committee announced that the price of the dinner will be a buck and a half from now on. Some of us squawked.

CLEMENT W. FAIRWEATHER, *Secretary*

Pittsburgh.

After a summer of inactivity, the Pittsburgh Chapter started off the Fall Season by "treking" to Mentor Headlands on Lake Erie on Sept. 12, to be the guests of the Cleveland Chapter at a Clam Bake. An annual affair, this one was delightful and our hosts provided hospitality plus. Afternoon sports, trips to the bar and a dinner long to be remembered were the high lights.

On September 23 the monthly meeting was held with a full program of business and entertainment with cocktails and dinner at the Pittsburgh Architectural Club.

Endorsement was voted of a petition, being presented to City Council by the Building Industry's Council, to have appointed a Building Code Board of Appeals to act on controversial matters and rulings of the Bureau of Building Inspection.

Relations with the Architectural Club were discussed and the members were urged to support the club publication, *The Charette*, by contributing articles. This magazine is being sent to secretaries of every Chapter of The Institute and to The Board of Directors.

Robert W. Schmertz announced completion of a schedule of lectures to be given by Chapter Members to students of architecture at Carnegie Institute of Technology.

After several other items of business the meeting adjourned to view a showing of kodachrome slides of the Convention Trip to California by Charles Ingham and Allan Neal.

ALLAN H. NEAL, *Secretary*

Washington State.

Seattle architects are busy with housing projects. All of the architects mentioned are A. I. A. members, with one exception. Six projects which are current in this territory are noted as follows:

Yesler Hill Low Rent Project was designed by architects William Aitken, William J. Bain, J. Lister Holmes, John T. Jacobsen, and George

Wellington Stoddard. 700 Units were in the first project, and 200 in the addition. The project is well under way, with the first units to be completed in November. The site is unusual, being on a hill almost in the center of the city of Seattle, in an old slum area.

Sandpoint Naval Station Defense Houses were designed by architects B. Marcus Priteca and John Graham. This comprises 150 units on a site laid out for 200 units, the additional 50 to be built at some later date. The 150 units were finished and occupied in May, 1941, and built for the use of navy enlisted married personnel at Sandpoint Naval Air Station.

Bremerton Defense Housing Project was designed by architects Perry B. Johanson, Floyd Naramore, and Clyde Grainger. The West Park group of 840 units was begun in the middle of December, 1940, and completed in July of this year. The East Park group of 560 units is intended for Bremerton Navy Yard workers, civilian workers and enlisted men as well. The site is rural, with the units laid out in an informal plan.

Sears Tract Defense Housing was designed by architects A. M. Young and S. H. Richardson. 500 Units will be built here, also a community house. This group was begun early in September, 1941, and the first 250 units are to be done in 90 days. This is a Lanham Act Project, intended for workers in the defense industries. Project will cover 50 or 60 acres, and comprise 231 buildings.

Black Diamond Low Rent Housing Project, designed by architect Earl Morrison, is a group of 50 units to be under construction by the end of October, 1941. This will be low-cost housing for the low-income group, a total of 44 buildings.

West Seattle Defense Housing Project is being designed by architects J. Lister Holmes and Victor N. Jones. This will be 700 units, half of them two-story. Construction is to begin about the middle of October of this year. Project is intended to house defense workers at that end of Seattle, and is laid out on 116 acres of land on the top of West Seattle Hill. This will serve the shipyards and Boeing plants.

JOHN T. JACOBSEN, *Secretary*

Virginia and Washington, D. C. Chapters Hold Joint Meeting

The Virginia and Washington, D. C. chapters started up their post-summer activities with a joint meeting held in Washington on Friday, October 3.

On the previous day the Virginia members, accompanied by a large student representation from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and the University of Virginia, arrived in town for a slant at the more recent architectural masterworks. Bob Beresford and Bob Weppner led the visitors through the *Colyum and Cornish* jungle without a loss, although one lad from down Roanoke way was reported to have been kicked by an equestrian statue. But they did see the new Washington National Airport, Smith, Werner and Billings' Alexandria housing project and the latest Joe Abel Cliff Dwelling.

That evening at the student dinner Dr. Tom Locraft of Catholic University was the chief remark maker, speeches not being permitted. Dr. Tom, incidentally, and Dr. Milton Grigg were co-chairmen of arrangements committee.

Came the luncheon and joint meeting at the Mayflower at one o'clock Friday. The Virginia Chapter was the guest of the Washington Chapter. Very little business was transacted but everyone felt that the get-together was pleasant and interesting.

Professor Cowgill, president of the Virginia Chapter, and Arthur B. Holmes of the New Jersey Chapter said a few words and John Nolen, Director of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, spoke on the proposed highway to connect Washington and Richmond.

The last session of the conference was held at five o'clock on the roof of the Washington Hotel: Virginia Chapter host to the Washington Chapter. Your reporter left the affair about eight o'clock at which time there seemed to be much unfinished business to be imbibed and (New Jersey Chapter Secretary please note) Arthur Holmes hadn't even exhausted the Pat-and-Mike section of his repertoire.

JULIAN BERLA, *Secretary, Wash., D. C., Chapter*

New Book

The American Public Library Building.

By Joseph L. Wheeler, Librarian, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Md. and Alfred Morton Githens, A.I.A. *Charles Scribner's Sons, New York—\$4.00.*

This book is the fruit of pertinent experience, plus seven years' careful study of plans, photographs, and ideas from public libraries, especially those erected since 1920. Parts I and II cover general background and organization of a project, statistical bases for estimating size and cost. Part III, Chapters 12-22, is devoted to the individual departments of public libraries, large and small. Part IV is a unique analysis and commentary on 157 post-war buildings, with text and outline plans on opposite pages, the plans shown at uniform scale. Village and branch libraries and remodeling are included. The final section of the 42 chapters treats of building construction, heating and lighting, stacks, shelving, fur-

niture and equipment.

The book emphasizes library service and organization, rather than exterior design, as influencing the building plan, and is rich in details and examples. There are more than five hundred diagrams and illustrations in its pages. Hundreds of librarians have cooperated in this project, undertaken under the auspices of The American Institute of Architects, with a grant from the Carnegie Corporation. The Corporation has subsidized the cost of manufacture so that the book can be sold at a low price.

This volume will be of lasting value to public and college librarians and library school students; architects interested in creating a building which will function properly, and all those interested in the public library as a prime factor in urban and village social and cultural development.

(From the Prospectus)

