

THE
OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



Civilian Protection

"It Can't Happen Here"

Architectural Education

School Medal Awards in 1941

Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel Building Competition

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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Civilian Protection

The 1941 convention of The Institute adopted the following resolution:

Coordination of Civil Protection Agencies.

Whereas, It is the duty of the architectural profession to organize itself in collaboration with other technicians so that its talents may be of immediate use to civil and military authorities in the present emergency, and

Whereas, It is in the public interest that the profession devote its training and experience to coordinating the ramifications of planning and in applying its vision to reduce the waste and disruption that follow war, and

Whereas, The architectural profession cannot do its greatest service if unprepared for leadership, therefore be it

Resolved, That The President of The American Institute of Architects be requested to appoint a National Chairman for Civilian Protection with power to coordinate existing agencies of the profession and to set up a nationwide organization for immediate service to the country.

The Institute thus takes its place officially in the ranks of those state governors, mayors of the great cities, and the official and civil groups who are preparing the ground for the precautions of today which may become the essential safeguards of tomorrow and the heritage of our community life in the future.

As a first step toward cooperation, The President of The Institute addressed a communication to the Director of the Office of Civilian Defense, Honorable Fiorello H. La Guardia.

Evidence that the architects understand their opportunity has come spontaneously from many sides, the most recent to be presented in THE OCTAGON being the splendid example of accomplishment by a chapter of The Institute, recorded in Mr. Peaslee's article on the work of the Committee on Air Raid

Protection of the Washington, D. C. Chapter, which begins on page 5 of this number.

This national program for civil protection, which is eminently the business of the architectural profession, is now launched. Prompt and active cooperation is expected from all groups and individuals who may be called upon to serve.

R. H. SHREVE.

Letter to Director LaGuardia

June 25, 1941.

HON. FIORELLO H. LA GUARDIA, *Director*,
Office of Civilian Defense,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

At the Annual Convention of The American Institute of Architects recently held, the architects of the United States, as represented by their delegates in attendance at the Convention, stated their recognition of the duty of the architectural profession to organize for work with other technicians in support of the civil and military authorities in the present emergency and directed me as President of The Institute to appoint a National Chairman for Civilian Protection. This man will be authorized to coordinate the existing agencies of the profession in a nationwide organization available for immediate service. The development of this program of the architectural profession is immediately related to the national work which you are directing for the Federal Government in which the architects desire and are prepared to work with you.

The American Institute of Architects is a nationwide organization; its membership through more than seventy local chapters and through affiliated State Associations in a majority of the states can be identified with those chiefs of Civilian Defense whom you are to appoint throughout the United States. The Institute has already

taken steps to bring its organization program to the attention of Franklin D'Olier, whom you have appointed as Chief for the Second Corps Area, and will similarly bring its activities to the attention of Dean Landis for the First Corps Area and Mr. Kelly for the Sixth Corps Area. It is our hope that we may arrange with you for an organized method by which The Institute may work with chiefs in other corps areas as they are appointed. To this end there are enclosed notes on the following points which we hope you will feel may be placed in the hands of the Defense directors who are working with you throughout the country.

1. A statement of the field of work in which the architects can be of special value in organizing and carrying on the work of Civilian Defense. (This page)
2. A list of the Officers and Directors of The Institute who with the membership at large, and with the architects of the affiliated State Associations, are prepared to work with you.

3. A copy of the resolution under the authority of which I am writing you in this matter.

You may find it desirable to suggest that representatives of The Institute confer with you in connection with The Institute's intention to appoint a nationwide committee for organization and direction of the architects' activities and this is to say to you that we shall be glad to confer with you as to the organization of this committee if in so doing we can be of service to you in your work as Director.

While the Administrative Office of The Institute is in Washington, and it is from that office that the work of The Institute is directed, my own professional office is in New York and, if you wish, I shall be glad to meet you at your convenience to discuss this matter with you in greater detail.

Sincerely yours,

R. H. SHREVE, *President.*

A Statement—Accompanying Letter to Director LaGuardia

THE FIELD OF WORK IN WHICH THE ARCHITECTS CAN BE OF SPECIAL VALUE
IN ORGANIZING AND CARRYING ON THE WORK OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE.

The American Institute of Architects is setting up a national committee for the organization of the architectural profession in collaboration with other technicians to work with governmental and military authorities in preparation for Civilian Protection. Through training and experience the architect is qualified to consider the problems of Civilian Protection with particular emphasis on the relation of Defense measures to the future development of communities. The architects are therefore planning methods for the proper distribution of adequate housing, protection, and other constructions, for the reduction of hazards due to fire and congestion, for the safeguarding of old and new buildings, for developing special types of buildings for emergency and post-emergency use,

and for so disposing these elements of civilian construction as to bring them into proper relation with other elements of the community which should be retained or developed. The Institute is prepared to bring these functions of the architect into cooperation with the work of other technical professions. It is also preparing methods for defining particular community areas where hazards due to proximity of military objectives, danger from fire or disaster, or the development of other threatening conditions appear most acute.

The national organization of the architects will have the accomplishment of these purposes as its objective working in cooperation with Government organizations for Civilian Protection.

Reply from Director LaGuardia

OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE
Washington, D. C.

August 6, 1941

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

Dear Mr. Shreve:

I recognize the necessity for study and planning by architects on the subject of civilian protection and I was pleased and interested to note the steps taken by your

Institute in developing the matter.

I agree with you that it would be well to have representatives of your Institute confer with a member of my office in regard to the organization of your committee and suggest that the matter be taken up with Brigadier General L. D. Gasser.

Sincerely yours,

(s) F. H. LA GUARDIA,
U. S. Director Civilian Defense.

"It Can't Happen Here" . . . But Suppose It Does?

BEING THE SUBSTANCE OF REPORTS OF THE WASHINGTON,
D. C. CHAPTER, A.I.A., AIR RAID PROTECTION COMMITTEE

FOR the first time in our history, we are at the threshold of a national emergency in which not only normal processes of living are subject to change without notice, but the lives of civilians, as well, may be in jeopardy. We find ourselves discussing blackouts and fire wardens and home defense brigades and air raids and ARP—air raid protection—not as news from abroad, but as something of vital concern to us here and now.

There will be those who argue "It can't happen here" (as other wishful ones have maintained, even to their bitter ends) but, for the sake of argument, let us suppose that some day a far-flown plane drops something more substantial than leaflets in the neighborhood of one of our seaports, or of some inland industrial city. What do you think would happen then, Mr. Architect, as far as you and your office are concerned? Your first thought, we will assume, would be to be of service. Very possibly, you have already volunteered to serve as an air warden or fire fighter, or as a member at large of your mayor's committee. You—with technical training and experiences—along with all sorts of non-technical volunteers sit on a roof or hold a hose! Are you going to wrap your talents in a napkin for the duration, or are you going to prepare yourself to render the greatest possible service—service that your profession is best qualified to give—when it is most needed?

To be specific—if one *token* bomb is dropped on a building in your city or in any other city in your general region, what is the natural step to be taken by anyone who owns a building—home, office, store or factory? Of course he may call on the local ARP Chairman, an "organizer" who has been quoted frequently in the daily press: he may telephone some "practical" firm which has announced ARP specialization over-night: he may call on an engineer because he has heard that engineers are playing a lead part in current preparations—but the *natural* procedure would be to seek the advice of the architect who designed his building—especially if he were advised that the architects collectively had anticipated his present needs and were prepared to meet them.

That this assumption is not altogether without basis is indicated by the following letter from an architect who is prominent in a city not ordinarily thought of as offering a specially desirable target:

"A client of ours . . . for whom we designed an office building . . . has asked us to make a study of how the building can be evacuated, safely and quickly, to a bomb-proof shelter; how same should be constructed, ventilated, serviced, etc. If you have available such information and would be good enough to furnish us with the same, it would be most helpful in the study of our particular problem."

Now we have passed from supposition to realism. Here is a bona fide case. Suppose it were to come to your office. Suppose a tenth of your former clients came to you in a half-panic and asked your advice. Are you prepared to render the same quality of professional service that you rendered in the first instance, based on sound working knowledge of your materials and methods of construction, under these new conditions governing their use, and of the effects of new forces requiring wholly new factors of safety? Do you realize that, although the doctor may be able to bury his mistakes, the architect may be held accessory to wholesale slaughter if he hands out the wrong prescription?

This is not merely a sweeping generality. There are numerous painful reports from Spain and England reciting tragic faults of design and construction,—single exits blocked and constructions which bombs disobligingly hit in unexpected places. Last week, five hundred Chinese died when a ventilating system failed to function. You may feel that it couldn't happen here, but, almost simultaneously, a proposal was advanced to obtain subways for rapid transit by playing on the fear of raids and by touting these subways as adequate air raid shelters . . . in *Washington*, of all places, where soil conditions are receptive to bombs to a depth of perhaps fifty feet or more: precipitating terrific concussions from confined explosive forces. To the time of this writing, not an authoritative voice has been heard protesting this proposal which, if followed through, might result in appalling loss of life.

What does this all lead to? . . . to the conclu-

sion that, if the architects want to play a vital part in this crisis—not merely to do their two bits—they must equip themselves, in advance of need, to serve—and, not merely to serve, but to keep their organizations going, to maintain the families dependent upon their practices by the one phase of practice that even an ill-wind might blow.

They will not accomplish this end by registering as individuals, citing facility in handling a car or hobbies of collecting this or that: nor by sending for some pamphlet they've heard about: nor by flitting lightly from one committee to another. This is not the time for unrelated individual efforts. There are not enough pamphlets to go around—and one contradicts another, as new methods of attack meet new methods of defense. What was current yesterday is obsolete today. A current bibliography of descriptive titles only, lists 2000 items filling some 350 pages. Volume 2 is in preparation, Volume 3 in contemplation. All of which bears heavily on a current Indianapolis News item that the Public Library now has a book in which "you can find all the information you need on air raid precautions".

These conclusions have been reached by an active, earnest nucleus in the Washington, D. C. Chapter of The American Institute of Architects. The men in this nucleus are mostly young men who can see apparitions as well as visions, while their elders are still dreaming dreams of business as usual. They realized that they have started late, long after other chapter groups have been announced but they were somewhat appalled to find 'the lyf so short, the ARP so long to lerne.' They found many members of The Institute making notable contributions to general organization of effort, but when it came down to what Roger K. Brasstacks, architect, might

advise the proprietor of the Louzee Emporium to do to protect his employees and customers, the early starters had little help to give, and the answers were very hard to find. So the Washington group has addressed itself to the task of general preparation for definite problems . . . and it now tells its story in the hope that other groups may share the work and the findings.

The first step undertaken to avoid duplication of effort and to advance results was to explore governmental and foreign channels. This led to the discovery of a wide range of interests, national and local (a few are listed below) with which contacts have been established and fruitful sources of information tapped. By borrowing from these sources, and by purchase and clipping, an unusually good reference library has been built up: and better still, the presence of Michael Rosenauer, Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, with first hand experience and a willingness to help, has been of greatest value in sifting out procedures which have been tried elsewhere and found wanting.

Having available for reference, hundreds of writings on the subject of ARP work, members of the committee have undertaken to read selectively, and to digest, those items which seemed most pertinent and timely—a work preliminary to evaluation yet to be provided for.

In the organization of its program, the Chapter Committee is holding a series of Round Table discussions on various specific problems. One has dealt with the adaptation of parking garages for shelters, with exploration of costs and of the possibility of working out subsidy bases to stimulate this type of dual purpose structure. Major undertakings of this type are pending, in San Francisco and other cities. Another is the problem of the department store, with several plans of such buildings contributed by local stores and pooled for clinical discussion. Current is a study of housing projects. These and others—residential, institutional, commercial and industrial buildings—are being worked over by one group as though they were office jobs: while another group is studying the peculiar requirements and possibilities of evacuation camps—the types of shelters required: their adaptability for educational and recreational purposes: and the applicability of British, French, CCC, Forest Service, National and State Parks, Soil Conservation Service, and NYA find-

NOTE—Office of Civilian Defense (Mayor La Guardia) with its Board for Civilian Protection (Advisory)—War, Navy, Justice, Federal Security Agency, Council of State Governments, American Municipal Association, Conference of Mayors, etc., and its Technical Division; The National Technological Civil Protective Committee representative of the professions, (Bulletin, "Protective Construction"); FWA Committee on Protective Construction (for protection of Federal buildings, records, employees); Federal Fire Council; Committee on Conservation of Cultural Resources (concerned with museum and library interests); National Research Council Committee (working with the Corps of Engineers, USA); The National Defense Research Committee and other national groups, as well as the local District of Columbia Defense Council with seven sub-committees, and the DC-WPA Group (producers of a Bibliography index and Shelter models).

ings. One New Jersey city is already in the headlines as having plans well under way for the evacuation of nearly half of its citizens to a Boy Scout camp.

These are specific problems to whet the interest, but there is much spade-work to be done by American architects before they will be satisfied to accept ex-cathedra rulings as to right and wrong procedures. They want to know more about the behavior of construction materials and methods when subjected to new conditions of bombing and conflagration; about the "splintering" of concrete; the feasibility of brick masonry; about protection from glass, and wholly new factors of vacuum, suction and concussion; and about special measures required in connection with new work, stabilization of existing structures, rehabilitation and demolition. The Technical Secretary of The Institute, as a member of the Chapter, is cooperating in organizing this phase of preparation and in reorganizing Factors of Safety.

Another phase of study is concerned with general factors which bear on all types of ARP technical problems—ranging from data on demand and need, on integration of planning, to subsoil conditions and birds-eye camouflage. Certainly we must study dual use possibilities, to justify the expenditures involved, and must investigate what may happen to building services and utilities. And will the architects take what is handed to them about blackouts—with their demoralizing influence and their futility against incendiary flares—or will they satisfy themselves about the feasibility of the "lights on" alternative.

Working through the Washington Building Congress, the architects have helped to reshape the Washington Building Code. Now they are faced with the need of wholly new factors in building for which the code makes no provision. Shall codes be set aside in such emergencies, increasing future complications: or shall they be reshaped to meet the new need without letting down the bars? Planning and zoning laws will need reconsideration: and if leg-

islation is enacted here, as abroad, requiring protection of tenants and employees, the architects should have the situation in hand before they find themselves at the receiving end. Again, these are not dim and distant possibilities—if hundred-dollar fines and thirty day jail sentences provided by current ordinances are any index.

The Institute at its recent convention adopted a resolution authorizing its President to appoint a national chairman to coordinate existing agencies (of the profession, presumably) and to set up a nationwide organization of the profession. This resolution was predicated upon the duty of the profession to make its talents of use in the emergency, devoting its training and experience to coordination and leadership. This type of service comparatively few architects have been, or will be, able to render. With the rank and file of the profession, emergencies of war, depression and recession offer limited outlets. Too often, even under normal conditions, the architect fails to achieve the leadership which the convention resolution presupposes. Certainly under these new conditions, of a life and death emergency, leadership is not going to be on any other basis than qualification and capacity. Furthermore, unless the architect prepares himself to deal with new techniques, he may find himself, professionally, in a private emergency of his own, trying to adapt himself to some non-technical job, if any.

We all hope that such emergencies may not develop this side of the Atlantic . . . but the demand for technical services may well develop even if the actual need does not become acute. Whether for professional practice or public service, the study of techniques and special constructions is the crux of the architect's potential contribution in time of emergency, and the saddle on which he may ride a crisis.

HORACE W. PEASLEE, *Chairman,*
ARP Committee,
Washington, D. C. Chapter, A.I.A.

Architectural Education

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS CONTRIBUTED BY R. CLIPSTON STURGIS, F.A.I.A., PAST PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE, 1913-15, WHO HOPES IT MAY AROUSE ENOUGH INTEREST TO CALL FORTH OTHER POINTS OF VIEW.

WITH the constantly increasing complexity of the architectural profession, one wonders how and in what way can an architectural school best train its men to practice. It seems to me worth while to follow Professor Egbert's* lead and look to our own architectural history for information as to the qualities which have made certain men outstanding exponents of the profession.

One begins with Richardson and McKim, two of the earliest men to have a *Beaux Arts* training. One first notes that neither of these men showed, either in their early or later work, the slightest sign of *Beaux Arts* influence. Richardson's early work, the campanile with the angels at the corners, was very characteristic of the artist, and foreshadowed his later Romanesque trend. Richardson had in his office a group of talented young men, Shepley, Andrews, Coolidge, Warren, Longfellow, and others. With the inspiration of Richardson, who rarely sat at a drawing board himself, these men produced Richardson's work, and each of them thought that he himself was the designer and should have that credit. When Richardson prematurely died, all these young men tried unsuccessfully to do, on their own, what they had done under Richardson. Of the whole group, Shepley alone, in the west porch of Trinity, showed himself able to equal, and even excel, the master. So Richardson, an *Ecole* student, started his own Romanesque which, being a style unfitted to modern needs and modern construction, died.

McKim began his career as a designer with attempts for something picturesque and rather bizarre—certainly far removed from the teaching of the *Ecole*. The Casino at Newport was an example of this. Chance called him to Portsmouth and there the beautiful colonial interpretation of Georgian so fascinated him that never again did he attempt his Newport Casino. He became a devotee of Georgian, and then of the Italian Renaissance from which it sprung. The only touch of the *Ecole* to be seen in his work is the Public Library at Boston, based on a French model and having the

very serious blemish of an exterior which, to preserve the design, blanks and contradicts what is behind it. This alone is *Ecole*. His other outstanding monuments, such as the Morgan Library, are based on tradition, yet modern, and definitely the individual work of the man.

Both Richardson and McKim trained a large number of men who became distinguished in the profession, not because of their school training but because of the influence of the offices in which they were really students or, you might say, paid apprentices. Going across to the coast in 1914-15, when Fenner, a partner of McKim, Meade & White, was Secretary of The American Institute of Architects, the leading local architects had always one or more among them who reminded Fenner that they were trained in that great office.

It may be worthwhile to see the composition of this office as a possible explanation of its great influence on the next generation of architects. McKim, *Ecole* trained, was no great draughtsman but a student and critic of the very first rank. Mead was definitely a business manager, and, as far as I know, never designed anything, but had taste and good judgment and knowledge of construction. White, like McKim, was *Ecole*, and a designer first and foremost, and his own draughtsman as well. Beside these three there were many others who became members of the firm, Richardson, Kendall, Fenner, and others. Richardson and Kendall, able and individual designers exercised a great influence on the draughtsmen under them. Fenner, like Mead, was a practical man, the value of whose work in any architectural firm can never be too strongly emphasized. One doubts if Hastings would ever have had a chance to make a name for himself unless he had had the practical able executive Carère to make his designs take form, and Carère was an engineer rather than an architect.

At this point it is well to review the changes that took place in an architect's office in the early 80's. Up to that time an educated gentleman like Edward Cabot might take up architecture as a charming and fascinating occupation. After practical experience with the very able master masons and car-

* See March, 1941, OCTAGON.

penters of that day, not to mention the plasterers and painters, he came to know a good deal about building. His drawings and specifications were simple explanations of what he wanted to achieve, and his master-builders would see to such details as were missing and put the whole into practical form. No one knew or was in a position to judge whether or not plan and construction represented an economical solution of a definite problem. In domestic work that was not of great importance. The architect was attempting to meet the wishes of an individual who knew more or less what he wanted. It was quite a different matter when it came to a problem such as a hospital, a library, or a public building, and these were often architectural monuments, an epitome of the "Orders" rather than a reasonable solution of the problem. Yet even in those days there were such successful solutions as the Boston Athenaeum, a really modern library, and the Boston Theatre which was as well fitted to its use as any modern theatre. These men, therefore, had something which was of great value and yet was not the product of a school of architecture.

So much for our immediate predecessors. Now to contemporaries; with that generation began a complete change in office practice and the gradual establishment of the contract documents which are now accepted as ordinary routine. In the 80's one may safely say there were no such forms to guide (a) the drawing up of the contracts and specifications, (b) the protection of owner and contractor, (c) the control over additions to the contract, (d) the duties and obligations of the architect. With the gradual establishment of business methods in an architect's office, there came the need for men to administer this side of architectural service. One asks "Are these men architects—Mead, Carère, Fenner, Jaques?" No one would deny that they are architects. The question then comes as to what training they need for this particular branch of architecture.

The *Ecole* has been mentioned with Richardson and McKim as examples. One may turn now to the men who had no school but learned architecture in the shop, as it were, in short, the apprentice system. Bertram Goodhue was perhaps the most brilliant and versatile designer this country produced, ranging from the very individual Gothic of St. Thomas's to the Spanish Renaissance beauty of San Diego, and finally to the modern conception of the State Capitol

of Nebraska. No school can teach this—but on the other hand, no office can teach it either. My own training was a real apprenticeship—two years in a London office. It is pertinent to inquire what I got in return for my two hundred guineas: just one thing, rapid and accurate draughtsmanship with the one aim of making the working drawings so clear that no mechanic could mistake their meaning, and no time spent on making pretty drawings. This was a valuable lesson and one which could with advantage be made an essential course in a school.

It is then difficult to say offhand which of the two, the school or the office, is the best training for the architect; or still more to the point, what training in the school is essential. For that at once raises the question, "what kind of an architect—a designer, or a practical builder and business manager?" Both are necessary to successful practice, both are architects and because of this dual aspect of architectural services, it is that the question so often is raised as to what individual was responsible for such and such a building. Perhaps the answer is that more than one man contributed to a successful solution of a problem.

Take a definite example—the dormitory groups at Princeton by Frank Miles Day. We hear a good deal today of "functional" architecture, as if that were something just discovered. It is the distinguishing mark of all good architecture and always has been. In short, functional architecture at its complete best fulfills three requirements; the building (1) meets the needs of a special purpose; (2) is planned to meet these needs in the most economical way; (3) is so designed as to do all this in a beautiful manner. Now the Princeton dormitories do all three. For years, Day had studied the dormitory problem to find the economical unit, constantly testing in practice the cost per student unit, and taking a two bedroom and study had arrived at a cubic contents and a cost. Incidentally he had determined the cost for several other types of accommodation. Here Frank Day contributed to number one and number two of the requirements, but the third, the beauty of the solution was due to Klauder. One finds the same results at Cornell, Wellesley, and elsewhere. It is hardly fair to give Day all the credit, yet he was the organizer or head. It is like the old question of whether Barry or Pugin was the "architect" of the

Houses of Parliament. The point here is that the school might teach what Day exemplified here—economy in plan and construction.

Look for a contrast at a similar dormitory problem—the Harkness group at Yale. Day's work preceded this, his figures were accessible (about \$1800.00 per student for a group with common room and dining room) but were evidently not considered. This group was planned with little or no regard for No. 1, none whatever of No. 2, and all the emphasis placed on No. 3—yet the group is no more beautiful than Day's Princeton work and cost about four times as much (\$7,000 to \$8,000 per student). The figures I quote are from memory, but are at least approximately correct and are used only as an illustration of what functional architecture should be.

It will be seen then that the office of an architect in the 20th century is a complicated coordination of many activities. My own opinion is that the designer ought to have at least a bowing acquaintance with building construction, with engineering, civil, structural and domestic, and be familiar with the fundamental principles of economy in planning, chiefly no waste or unnecessary space. Beyond that the chief designer must depend on others, each an expert in his own field, to carry out his work. So much then for the chief who is a designer, but in many cases the head of an office is not a designer at all. In some cases the head of a great office has been what one might call a salesman, whose whole time was put on getting work for the office to execute. In such a case his office does not differ in essentials from the builder or the engineer who has a force of able architectural draughtsmen and undertakes the full service generally entrusted to a trained architect. The very word "trained" raises this whole question of the school and what it should give to the student who wishes to practice architecture.

One may attempt to outline some of the things which every architect should know, in the hope that it may at least serve as a guide for a school curriculum. The order is not to be taken as a measure of importance.

- (1) History of the Arts, of some use even to the business manager of an office.
- (2) Office Technique—not only good and accurate drawings, but office accounts.

- (3) Building materials, their use and their limitations, the old and the new. Where each is applicable.
- (4) The building trades and the position of the architect in relation to owner, contractor, sub-contractors.

Under these four headings, one may note: Under (1) Design, the actual cost of making a good solution, a beautiful one, is often nothing. It may be merely the spacing of voids and solids, or the judicious use of ornament which may represent perhaps a half of one per cent of the cost. The student should learn that beauty is not a costly and needless expense.

Under (2), office technique, he should learn not only to make drawings which really serve their purpose, tell the mechanic what to do, but are also a studied solution of economy in plan. If, for e. g., an eight foot corridor is ample for safety in a school, one of ten feet is a needless expense. There are many ways of spanning twenty feet with a fireproof floor. Study and compare them under given conditions of material available. Figure the comparative cost of a six room house of wood and the same with a brick, or other fire proof, exterior, and cost of upkeep. In following this line of study, we get into (3) and (4).

For the schools, the broad question still remains: How can a course for all fit a student to fulfill all the requirements of an architect's office, and the answer would seem to be that students should be required to have some of all these studies, but be free to concentrate on the artistic or the practical side. When all is said and done, the fact remains that the real training comes with actual work later, and for that reason if for no other a school graduate should have some years in a well established office, before he ventures to practice, and, even then, he should associate with him men who can supplement his own special abilities. In some ways my own experience leads me to believe that after a good academic training in school and college, the office is the best place to start, and this might well be supplemented by school work in the evening. This would hardly be popular with our great and growing schools of architecture. The other way to attain this might be feasible, work regularly in an office during school vacations.

A Book on Camouflage

EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE R. I. B. A.

I see that there is a vast amount of activity in the United States in the matter of defense and that architects are playing their part in it. There has been one particular aspect of it that has happened to have special interest for architects in this country and that is *Camouflage*. Really efficient camouflage is not merely a matter for guns, transport, troupes and so on. In view of air warfare it is at least as important for buildings.

As usual in this country the authorities were slow to understand it. The business of camouflaging buildings of national importance in the war effort was not wisely handled in spite of all the advice that we were able to give them. We could speak with authority on the subject because we had many members who had had great practical experience in camouflage in the last war.

There was a general impression in high quarters that camouflage of buildings was just a matter of turning a lot of people loose on them with brushes and pots of paint and it has taken a lot of effort to convince them (and we haven't quite convinced them yet) that properly conceived camouflage begins even before the building exists

and that from first to last it is primarily a job for the architect. The selection of the site and its surroundings, the actual form of the building or buildings and their relation to one another, and the materials of which they are constructed, are the elements of the problem on which the architect should be the chief expert from the very start. Unless that is understood all that is subsequently done is just making the best or the least bad of a bad job.

A Colonel in our Royal Engineers, Lt. Col. C. H. R. Chesney, D.S.O., who was one of our principal camouflage experts in France in the last war has just written a brilliant book on the subject. Its theme is quite simply that the architect is from first to last the man to deal with camouflage. The title is "The Art of Camouflage" and it is published by Robert Hale Ltd. of 102 Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1. It has been very well reviewed in British periodicals.

* * * * *

(s) IAN MACALISTER,
Secretary.

66 Portland Place, London W 1

The R. I. B. A. Appeal for American Publications

MR. Edward Carter, Librarian of the Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place, London W.1, has addressed a communication to Secretary Ingham, under date of April 25, which reads in part as follows:

"I am writing to ask your advice and help in a matter of considerable urgency and difficulty relating to the interchange of information and publications between the United States and Great Britain.

"Owing to the restrictions, which are now very strictly applied on the export of money from Britain, and because the R.I.B.A. has hardly adequate money to spend on the purchase of British publications, we are finding great difficulty in obtaining American publications relating to building and planning just at the moment when more than ever the closest possible collaboration is needed on the outstanding problems of defense building and problems of reconstruction.

* * * * *

"My purpose now is to discover some means by which we can organize an interchange of publications on a

larger scale or, as an alternative, to study the possibility of starting a publications fund in the U.S.A. by which, through the generosity of our American colleagues, we may be enabled to have the more important publications purchased for us in the U.S.A. and sent as gifts to England."

* * * * *

This appeal from the British architects has received the attention of President Shreve and Secretary Ingham, both of whom are of the opinion that this request for cooperation from the R.I.B.A. should have the sympathetic and serious consideration of The Institute.

The matter has been referred to Philip L. Goodwin, 32 East 57th Street, New York City, Chairman of The Institute's Committee on Foreign Relations, who is making a study of the problem and endeavoring to find a way to comply with this urgent request of our British colleagues.

The Booth Traveling Fellowship

The Booth Traveling Fellowship Competition ("A Community House in a Medium Size City") in the College of Architecture and Design at the University of Michigan was awarded on May

6 to Arthur Witt Brewer of Owosso, Michigan.

Mr. Brewer graduated in June, 1940, and during the past year has taken advanced work at the Cranbrook Academy of Art.

Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel Building Competition

AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE ON ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITIONS

THE New York City Tunnel Authority authorized on Monday, July 21st, the announcement of a competition for the selection of a design for the exterior of the Mid-River Ventilation Building for the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel, New York City.

This bold announcement represents the culmination of months of effort on the part of a group of civic minded citizens, in conjunction with the Fine Arts Federation of New York, and of the Committee on Architectural Competitions, A.I.A., with the sympathetic cooperation of the Tunnel Authority.

The importance of this Competition cannot be over-emphasized because from its location and its size it will be a most prominent feature in the greatest harbor in this country, or in the world, perhaps. While it will not vie with the Statue of Liberty itself, it is so important that it ceases to be merely a utilitarian structure, a mere ventilation building, and becomes a monument. It serves a useful purpose to be sure, but it must be monumental, with a grand silhouette, otherwise it will be an eyesore and a constant reproach to the City and to the Nation.

This tunnel itself represents a distinct contribution of the same group of patriotic men who made the successful fight to preserve the charm of Battery Park as a water gate to the City, and prevented the erection of a bridge which would have made the Park a mere bridge approach.

This tunnel has its Manhattan approach some blocks north of Battery Park, and goes under the Park, and its North ventilation Building will be lost among the high office buildings around it. The same condition exists on the Brooklyn side, but the Mid-River Building, the subject of this competition, rises from the water of the harbor, adjacent to, but not directly connected with, Governor's Island. It is contained within a square of 125 feet and is about 120 feet high, with a surrounding base or fender structure 35 feet wide; it is directly over, and its foundations form part of the tunnel structure. Its interior consists of ventilating stacks and fresh air inlets which have already been designed and will shortly be under contract.

This competition is unique in that it is for the exterior only, and its purpose is to offer the Tunnel Authority a choice of designs from the best architectural talent the City can produce. There are three substantial prizes, \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$750, respectively, and it is the intention of the Tunnel Authority to adopt the design placed first unless in their opinion there is reason to do otherwise; this being the usual restriction in those cases in which final decision cannot be delegated. The working drawings will be made in the office of the Tunnel Authority, but the author of the winning design will have opportunity to follow personally the development of his design, for which he will receive a mutually agreed upon compensation in addition to his prize award.

The jury is composed of the following:

Paul P. Cret, Architect
 Eric Gugler, Architect
 George McAneny, Layman
 James H. Dugen, New York City Tunnel Authority.
 Robert Kornacher, New York City Tunnel Authority.

The competition is in one stage and limited to registered architects now on, or who have previously been on, the panel of qualified architects approved by the Mayor of the City of New York, whose applications have been made in writing to the Professional Advisors, Egerton Swartwout and John A. Thompson, 101 Park Avenue, New York City, on or before August 1, 1941, and who are considered qualified by the Tunnel Authority and by the Professional Advisors.

The Tunnel Authority especially invited seven architectural firms to enter the competition and will pay each of them a small honorarium.

*All programs will be issued August 2nd, 1941.

ERIC GUGLER, *Chairman,*

The Committee on Architectural Competitions.

* This was a limited competition.

Virginia Chapter Charters Student Sections

THE Virginia Chapter has been seeking a closer relationship between The Institute and the students of the architectural schools for many years. Satisfactory contacts, even between individual members of the Chapter and the students, is more difficult in Virginia than in some areas because of the fact that neither school is located in a large city. The idea that the ideals of the A.I.A. should be kept before the students, not only by the faculties of the schools but also by means of actual membership in The Institute gradually emerged as the accepted solution of the problem of closer relationship.

Since student membership in The Institute is not provided for by The Institute by-laws, it was decided to establish Student Sections of the Chapter. This has the disadvantage that the many students who leave the region of the Chapter on graduation from the schools lose their contact with the Chapter and there is no machinery for them to be transferred to another Chapter. The Virginia Chapter is still hopeful that some means may be found to overcome this difficulty.

The Architectural Club at Virginia Polytechnic Institute became a Student Section of the Virginia Chapter during the session of 1939-1940, by the simple means of the individual members of the student group becoming Student Associates of the Chapter. The Chapter by-laws were changed at that time reducing the dues of the Student Associates and placing all such dues in a special fund for Chapter activities at the school from which the dues were paid. Under the leadership of a special committee, of which the past-president of the Chapter, Pendleton Clark was chairman, further changes have been made in the by-laws, a working agreement has been worked out, and a formal charter has been adopted. During the past year the Architectural Association of the University of Virginia became a Student Section of the Virginia Chapter.

At the annual meeting of the Chapter which was held in Richmond on May 30, 1941, charters were presented to each of these Student Sections by the retiring president of the Virginia Chapter, Louis P. Smithey.

Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship Awarded

It was announced by Harvey Stevenson, President of the New York Chapter, that the 1941 Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship of the Chapter has been awarded to Hobart B. Upjohn, F.A.I.A.

The Brunner Scholarship carries a stipend of \$1,200 to be used for "advanced study in some special field of architectural investigation to be

selected by the candidate."

Mr. Upjohn, a grandson of Richard Upjohn, one of the founders and the first President of The Institute, will write a history of The Institute from the date of its founding in 1857 up to the year 1900.

Honorable mention in the Brunner Scholarship competition went to Mrs. Lois Worley of St. Louis.

Rules of the Board—Interpreting Standards of Practice

The Board of Directors, under authority of *chapter xiii, article 1, section 3, paragraph (c)* of the by-laws of The Institute, from time to time makes interpretations of the Standards of Practice, each of which thereby becomes a Rule of The Board supplementing the Standards of Practice.

Each such rule is published with the Standards and once in THE OCTAGON for the guidance of the members. (Specific interpretations of Part I, Section 8, numbered 1 to 5, were published in the December, 1940, issue of THE OCTAGON.)

The following interpretation was made by The Board at its meeting on May 1, 1941.

Specific Interpretation of Part I, Section 8, paragraph (i).

SP 6. It shall be deemed to be a deviation from *paragraph (i) of section 8 of Part I* of the Standards of Practice and an act not to the best interest of The Institute and the profession of architecture if the member

(a) permits a photograph of himself to be used in any advertisement of a manufacturer or purveyor of building materials or building services. (B-5-41)

The School Medal Awards for 1941

THE School Medal of The Institute, established in 1914, is awarded each year to a student in each of the recognized architectural schools, who is qualified by his scholarly standing and character and who has had not less than three years of residence and work in any of the recognized schools.

The award is made under the direction of the Committee on Awards and Scholarships after the student has been proposed by the faculty to The Secretary of The Institute.

A copy of Henry Adams' book, "Mont St. Michel and Chartres" is presented to the winner of the Medal, and a second copy of the book is usually awarded to the runner-up. Many of the schools present the Medal and the books with appropriate ceremony at commencement time, and in many instances, the local chapters of The Institute participate.

Some chapters, in cities where the recognized schools are located, collaborate with the dean of the architectural department in presenting the awards at chapter dinners or other appropriate exercises.

The recipients of the School Medal Awards for 1941, and their schools, are as follows:

Ackoff, Russell Lincoln.....University of Pennsylvania
 Albers, George J.....University of Cincinnati
 Berger, Sanford Lionel.....University of California
 Binckley, Frank Willis.....University of Oklahoma
 Bonebrake, John Corwin.....Western Reserve University
 Borchers, Perry E., Jr.....Ohio State University

Chambers, Robson C.....Univ. of South. California
 Clarkson, Harvey Perrier...New York University
 Coy, Paul H.....University of Texas
 Cutler, John Padgitt.....Massachusetts Institute of
 Technology
 Dietz, Robert Henry.....University of Washington
 Fritsch, Peter.....University of Minnesota
 Garrett, David Lyman.....Pennsylvania State College
 Galt, Wendell West.....Harvard University
 Gropp, Benedict.....Yale University
 Hill, Frank H.....Virginia Polytechnic Institute
 Honn, Donald H.....University of Illinois
 Jackman, Barbara Mary...Carnegie Institute of
 Technology
 Johnson, Leland Robert...University of Kansas
 Lacy, Joe Frank, Jr.....Alabama Polytechnic Institute
 Lips, Paul Gifford.....Syracuse University
 Longstreth, Thaddeus.....Princeton University
 McCoy, Robert S.....Cornell University
 *Newman, Donald H.....Columbia University
 Nolan, Robert Alexander...University of Notre Dame
 Reinke, Leonard H., Jr....Illinois, Institute of
 Technology
 Roessler, Clarence A.....University of Michigan
 Rowson, Russell James...Rensselaer Polytechnic
 Institute
 Schoenwald, Paul Richard..Washington University
 Shaver, John Alden.....Kansas State College
 Shepard, Walter Dorman...Tulane University
 Smith, Albert Louis.....University of Florida
 Van Bureu, Hiram H.....Georgia School of Technology
 Wheeler, Selby McMillen...Oklahoma Agricultural and
 Mechanical College
 *Wise, Gordon J.....Columbia University

* *Ex Aequo.*

American Academy in Rome

WINNERS OF CASH PRIZES IN ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

The American Academy in Rome announces the outcome of its prize competitions in architecture and landscape architecture. A cash prize of \$1,000 was awarded in each subject.

The winner in architecture is Donald L. Grieb of Milwaukee, Wis., a graduate of the University of Illinois.

There were eight final competitors chosen through a preliminary competition from 65 entrants. The final problem, which ran for five weeks, was "A Primary Training School for U. S. Army Air Corps Pilots."

Honorable Mentions were given to John C. Bone-

brake of Shaker Heights, Ohio, a senior at the Cleveland School of Architecture of Western Reserve University; and to John W. Cole of Syracuse, New York, a senior at Syracuse University.

Mentions went to Joseph P. Ceruti of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, a graduate of Cleveland School of Architecture of Western Reserve University; and Milo D. Folley, graduate of Syracuse University, and holder of a Master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

The prize in landscape architecture was awarded to Albert Russell Tryon of Harrisburg, Pa., a graduate of Pennsylvania State College.

University of Pennsylvania Offers New Courses

NEW courses in architecture, industrial design, and music, shaped to meet the special needs of students under prevailing conditions and affording new educational opportunities in these fields, will be offered by the School of Fine Arts of the University of Pennsylvania at the beginning of the next semester in September.

Moved by a demand from prospective students who wish to combine the acquisition of a liberal arts education with the study of architecture in less time than has heretofore been possible at Pennsylvania, the School of Fine Arts, taking advantage of an opportunity afforded by the recent liberalization of requirements in the College of the University, will offer a six-year combination course in place of the present seven-year course.

The new course will provide for studies of business subjects which architects are finding increasingly desirable and which some authorities in the field have recently said will be essential to the service which architects in private practice must be prepared to render in the future.

Leading to the degree of bachelor of arts at the

end of the fourth year and the professional degree of bachelor of architecture at the end of the sixth year the course will combine technical training with the cultural offerings of the college, and offer in addition a broad choice of electives, some of which may be taken in economics, commercial law, industry, sociology, psychology, or other subjects in the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce.

Students completing this course will be eligible for the University's one-year graduate course in architecture, including advanced studies in design and an elective offering of research in certain phases of city and regional planning, which leads to the degree of master of architecture.

The six-year combination course will be offered in addition to the University's standard five-year course in architecture, which leads to the degree of bachelor of architecture only, and the regular four-year course for qualified graduates of liberal arts colleges.

The course in industrial design will be given in collaboration with the Philadelphia Museum School of Industrial Art.

Corporate Members Elected, Effective July 12, 1941

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Name</i>
ARKANSAS.....	William Samuel Allen Edward F. Brueggeman Guy Winfield Swaim	SAINT LOUIS.....	George Harkness, III
BROOKLYN.....	Irving Adelson	SOUTH TEXAS.....	Harvin Cooper Moore
GEORGIA.....	Lorin Doyle Raines	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.....	Sonke Engelhart Sonnichsen
GRAND RAPIDS.....	Adrian Thomas Benjamin	TOLEDO.....	Reeve Kelsey Biggers
IOWA.....	William N. Nielsen	VIRGINIA.....	Richard Feild Taylor
NEW JERSEY.....	Wilbur Carl Johanson	WASHINGTON STATE.....	George Wesley Groves
NEW YORK.....	Hunter McDonnell *Louis S. Weeks Robert Charles Weinberg	WESTCHESTER.....	Francis W. Pennington
NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA.....	*J. Howard Hicks		
OKLAHOMA.....	George Washington Aderhold Donald Alan Hamilton		
OREGON.....	John Davis Annand Clarence Herbert Wick		

* Readmission.

Readmitted as Members Emeritus,
Effective January 1, 1941

CINCINNATI.....	Joseph G. Steinkamp
COLORADO.....	Fred E. Mountjoy
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.....	Alfred W. Rea

The Department of Technical Services—Notes

BY THEODORE I. COE, TECHNICAL SECRETARY

The Coordination of Dimensions of Building Materials, Equipment and Construction.

In the August 1939 issue of THE OCTAGON reference was made to the organization, under the sponsorship of The Institute and The Producers' Council, of American Standards Association Project A-62, for the Coordination of Dimensions of Building Materials, Equipment and Construction.

On the Sectional Committee conducting the project, which is composed of fifty-three members and twenty-three alternates representing groups interested in the various branches of the construction industry, The Institute is represented by five members.

Six working Study Committees have been formed to devote particular attention to; Masonry Made of Structural Clay Products, Wood Doors and Windows, Masonry Made of Concrete and Cast-Stone, Metal Windows, Natural Stone and Structural Wood, and additional study committees will be formed as the work is extended to other types of material and to building equipment.

The first objective of Committee A-62 is to develop a practical basis for coordination and, finally, to recommend its application through the adoption of specific sizes and dimensions consistent with this basis and found to be generally acceptable.

The definition of coordination which guides the work of the Committee is, "Coordination is Harmony in the Relation of Size for Inter-fitting Parts", and since it is not practicable, nor desirable, to standardize the finished building it is believed the objective of the Project will be achieved by, "The Standardization of Parts Without Standardizing the Building."

Prior to the initiating of this project some branches of material and supply had made progress in the standardization of sizes and by reducing varieties of stock materials to a practical minimum, but this represents only a partial answer to the problem of coordination which is embraced within the scope and objective of this Committee's activities.

As building costs continue to advance the necessity for the adoption of every reasonable economy, particularly in the field of low-cost housing, becomes

more vital to the continuance of the volume of construction necessary to insure the economic welfare of the construction industry.

The comprehensive development of the coordination of dimensional standards for building materials and equipment and its adoption by the industry would serve to reduce manufacturing and distribution costs, eliminate cutting and fitting in erection and installation and simplify the work of the architect in the preparation of structural assembly details.

A Brochure, of 65 pages, issued by the Executive Committee of ASA Project A-62, contains information concerning the organization, scope, purpose and advantages of the project with detailed layouts illustrating the application of the coordination of dimensions to the plan and elevation of a housing project, with numerous examples of the detail of application to various forms of construction, wood or metal windows, wood doors, height coordination, joist and slab floor construction, etc.

This Brochure has been priced at \$1.00 a copy, but members of The Institute who so desire, and who refer to their membership in The Institute, may secure a copy without cost by addressing their request to M. W. Adams, Secretary, ASA Committee A-62, 110 Arlington Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

Research on Building Materials and Structures.

In addition to the Reports of the National Bureau of Standards previously mentioned, the following have been made available and may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

BMS64—Solar Heating of Various Surfaces. 10¢

BMS67—Structural Properties of "Mu-Steel" Prefabricated Sheet-Steel Construction for Walls, Partitions, Floors and Roofs. Price 15¢.

BMS68—Performance Test of Floor Coverings for Use in Low-Cost Housing: Part 3. 15¢.

BMS70—Asphalt-Prepared Roll Roofings and Shingles. Price 15¢.

BMS71—Fire Tests of Wood- and Metal-Framed Partitions. Price 20¢.

BMS72—Structural Properties of "Precision-Built, Jr." Prefabricated Wood Frame Wall Construction (Homesote Co.) 10¢.

BMS73—Indentation Characteristics of Floor Coverings. Price 10¢.

Theatre Acoustic Recommendations.

The May 31, 1941 number of the TECHNICAL BULLETIN, issued by the Research Council of The

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Taft Building, Hollywood, California, describes and illustrates principles of design and finish which have been found effective and are recommended to insure satisfactory acoustical results in motion picture auditoriums.

Through the courtesy of the Council copies may be obtained by members of The Institute by addressing a request to the Council at the above address.

The Producers' Council, Inc.

At the recent Annual Meeting of The Producers' Council the following officers and directors were elected:

F. J. Plimpton, President; G. C. Denebrink, First Vice-President; F. V. Wilson, Jr., Second Vice-President; R. T. Tree, Treasurer; F. A. Sansom, Secretary.

Directors—E. L. Patton, H. F. Wardwell, G. C.

Hay, I. W. Clark, W. J. Kohler, Jr., C. W. Stuart, I. N. Tate, F. P. Byington, E. L. Saberson, Douglas Whitlock.

As part Presidents, F. W. Morse, J. C. Bebb, R. G. Creviston and A. B. Tibbets are also members of The Board of Directors.

R. H. Shreve, President of the A.I.A., is an *ex-officio* member of the Advisory Board.

With the Chapters

NEWS NOTES FROM CHAPTER SECRETARIES

Baltimore.

At the May meeting of the Chapter in Baltimore the appointment of a Committee of Mentors under the chairmanship of William L. Stone was announced. The function of the committee is to assist the younger members of the Chapter who may have unfamiliar problems to solve.

At the June meeting Chapter president Friz announced that two members of the Chapter had recently been honored by being selected to fill important positions, viz., Frederick A. Fletcher as Regional Director of the Middle Atlantic District, A.I.A., and Lucien E. D. Gaudreau as chairman of the Architects Volunteer Committee of the Maryland Council of Defense.

CARROLL R. WILLIAMS, JR., *Secretary*

Columbus.

The first of the summer meetings of the architects of Central Ohio was a joint session of the Columbus Chapter and the Columbus Section of the Architects

Society of Ohio, presided over by John Quincy Adams, Chapter President, in the large lounge of the students' club house at the new Ohio State University golf course. The session was attended by local architects and members of their office staffs, together with their wives—some sixty-five persons altogether.

The entire meeting was recreational in its nature; bridge and golf in the afternoon being followed by a dinner in the evening, with a minimum of speech making. Professor Charles St. John Chubb, of the Department of Architecture, explained the place of the new golf course in the educational and recreational program of the University.

A certain professional atmosphere was given to the session, however, by the presence of a portion of the exhibit of architectural delineations by Otto R. Eggers, which had been transferred from the corridors of the Department of Architecture in Brown Hall, to the lounge of the golf house for the occasion.

RALPH C. KEMPTON, *Secretary*.

Iowa.

At the special Chapter meeting recently held at Ames, the following resolution was adopted:

Whereas, The Iowa Chapter A.I.A. has just received a number of applications for membership in The Institute and the Chapter, and

Whereas, The Chapter would like to increase its membership and thereby unify the profession in the State of Iowa, and

Whereas, The Chapter would like to sponsor activities which are of real value to members of the Chapter and the profession in general so that members of the Chapter would come to Chapter meetings and become active in Chapter affairs, therefore

Be It Resolved, That the Iowa Chapter sponsor two competitions which will bring out both positive and negative ideas for Chapter activities. The prizes for the best ideas submitted shall be 1 year subscriptions to *Fortune* and to *Esquire*. The Executive Committee shall prepare such rules and regulations as are deemed necessary or desirable for regulating the competition.

The following members were appointed as judges of the competition:

John Normile, Chairman, J. Woolson Brooks, Vernon F. Tinsley.

LEONARD WOLF, *Secretary*

New Jersey.

The 40th Annual Meeting of the New Jersey Chapter, A.I.A., the 24th Annual Meeting of the New Jersey Society of Architects and the 4th Annual joint Convention of the two bodies were held on Saturday, June 14. Ordinarily held in Newark, a change of venue had been requested by the Monmouth County Chapter of the Society and the affair was held at Asbury Park. The Monmouth County boys did a swell job of entertaining.

A lengthy executive meeting was held in the morning and the regular meeting in the afternoon at which time business was disposed of and esthetic points discussed. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President, Paul Drake; First Vice President, C. Godfrey Poggi; Second Vice President, Marcel Villanueva; Treasurer, Gilbert C. Higby; Secretary, Clement W. Fairweather.

At the close of the session the Secretary stole away and, donning the latest in swimming wear, found his way to the water's edge. He asked the life guard how the water was. "Cold and rough," was the reply. It was.

A fine banquet was enjoyed in the evening, about 116 members and their 'gals' being present. The food and entertainment were *super*, and the Entertainment Committee earned the hearty thanks of the members for their fine work.

C. W. FAIRWEATHER, *Secretary*

Northwestern Pennsylvania.

The annual summer outing of the Chapter was held at the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Bell at North East on July 19. We again entertained the Pittsburgh Chapter, as we did last year. Fishing, boating, games and good food were enjoyed by all.

It was decided to make a gavel out of the old wood from Perry's Flagship Niagara (war of 1812), to be presented to the State Association at its next Convention.

The Secretary was authorized to send letters to seventeen representatives in the State Legislature urging support of a bill now pending in Harrisburg. That bill would make the preparation of drawings and specifications by registered architects or engineers a pre-requisite to the issuance of building permits.

J. HOWARD HICKS, *Secretary*

Philadelphia.

The annual meeting of the Philadelphia Chapter, held at the Roxborough County Club, was well attended in spite of the wet weather, which eliminated the golf and tennis originally planned. President Martin presided and tentative plans for an exhibition to be held in the Fall were discussed and the suggestion made that the exhibition could travel to other localities in the state after the Philadelphia showing was over.

Roy F. Larson, recently elevated to Fellowship, gave an interesting and delightful description of his trip to California where he attended the Convention in Yosemite Valley.

The following officers were elected for the coming year. President, Sydney E. Martin; Vice Presidents, John F. Harbeson and Robert R. McGoodwin; Secretary, Richard W. Mecaskey; Treasurer, George A. Robbins; Recorder, Harry G. Stewart.

RICHARD W. MECASKEY, *Secretary*

Southern California.

The Southern California Chapter is quite proud of the fact that in addition to six delegates, there were some twenty other members from this Chapter present at the Convention at Yosemite. Among the latter was Robert Morrison, who visited the Yosemite fifty years ago when there were no souvenirs and no Ahwahnee Hotel. No other Chapter was represented by any such proportion of its membership.

The Associated General Contractors throughout the country have tried to establish better working arrangements with the A.I.A. Locally, we have been asked to approve 13 points of procedure. These items have been studied and approved by the Executive Committee, and while not compulsory, they indicate what is good and accepted procedure.

DONALD BEACH KIRBY, *Secretary*

Washington State.

The Chapter was well represented at the recent Institute Convention in the Yosemite and Los Angeles by President Bain, Secretary Jacobsen, Vic Jones, Harlan Thomas (our nominee for Regional Director) and Floyd Naramore.

As an aftermath to the Convention, we were honored with visits from several prominent eastern participants who came around by way of Seattle on their return to their homes. These were entertained by President Bain, Secretary Jacobsen, and others in the Chapter. These visitors included: Secretary Ingham of The Institute with Mrs. Ingham; William Stanley Parker, a former Secretary and Vice President of The Institute and now Chairman of the A.I.A. Committee on Contract Documents and President of the Boston City Planning Commission; Rudolph Weaver, well known to many of us as a former member of the Washington State Chapter, now head of the Architecture Department of the University of Florida and Regional Director, South Atlantic District, A.I.A.; Allen H. Neal of Pittsburgh with Mrs. Neal and Roy F. Larson of Philadelphia. We were pleased to have visits also from James Follin, President of the Producers Council,

Thomas S. Holden and H. J. Payne of the Architectural Record and Kenneth Reid, Editor of Pencil Points.

West Virginia.

On Monday evening, June 23, a meeting of the Chapter Officers was held in the office of C. E. Silling, President. A profitable evening was spent in discussing Chapter affairs and in mapping out a program of action for the coming Fall months. It was decided, however, that due to the seasonal lull in interest at this time of the year when "off hours" are spent in out-of-door recreation and vacations, that all activity would be suspended until September. We were all greatly encouraged by the initiative and signs of real leadership displayed by our new regional director, Mr. Frederic A. Fletcher, who has so far in his short tenure of office, given us plenty to think about. We have read with keen interest Mr. Fletcher's introductory letter and subsequent Bulletins and we find in them much "Food for thought". We are all enthusiastic in our desire to cooperate 100% with Mr. Fletcher and to follow his leadership, for he has inspired in us the feeling that it will take us in the right direction.

"The West Virginia Engineer", monthly publication of The West Virginia Society of Professional Engineers has been so kind as to devote a page in each issue to the activities of Architectural organizations such as the West Virginia Society of Architects, State Board, and A.I.A. We notice in the current issue that the West Virginia Society of Architects, recently formed, will hold its second meeting in July. The report states that the various committees named at the first meeting last March 20th have been hard at work drafting proposed by-laws and performing the various other functions for which they were appointed and will be ready shortly to present their reports to the Society. This is certainly the best of news and we are eagerly looking forward to this second meeting, for the period of time elapsed since the first meeting is long, and we were beginning to wonder.

FRANCIS GEORGE DAVIDSON, *Secretary*

