

# CSA | AIA NEWS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Society of Architects

November, 1983

## Charrette Building Among NERC/AIA Design Award Winners

The Charrette Building in New Haven, designed by Olson Lewis Architects and Planners, Beverly Farms, Massachusetts, was among six projects awarded certificates for excellence in architecture by the New England Regional Council of the AIA.

The building is a single story, mid-nineteenth century carriage factory of masonry bearing wall construction. To emphasize the great interior space, all new elements in the space are floor supported, leaving the 19th century shell untouched.

Other winning entries included The Arbour Hospital, Jamaica Plain, MA, by Graham/Meus, Inc., Boston, MA; House on Nantucket for Mr. & Mrs. Paul Crowley by Huygens and DiMella, Inc., Boston, MA; Hawthorne Point Condominiums in Boston, designed by CBT and Casendino, Inc., Boston, MA; the Chinese Tea House restoration at the Marble House in Newport by Jeffrey L. Staats, AIA of Donal Simpson Associates, Newport, RI; and the Deutsch House on Beacon Hill designed by Graham Gund Associates, Boston, MA.



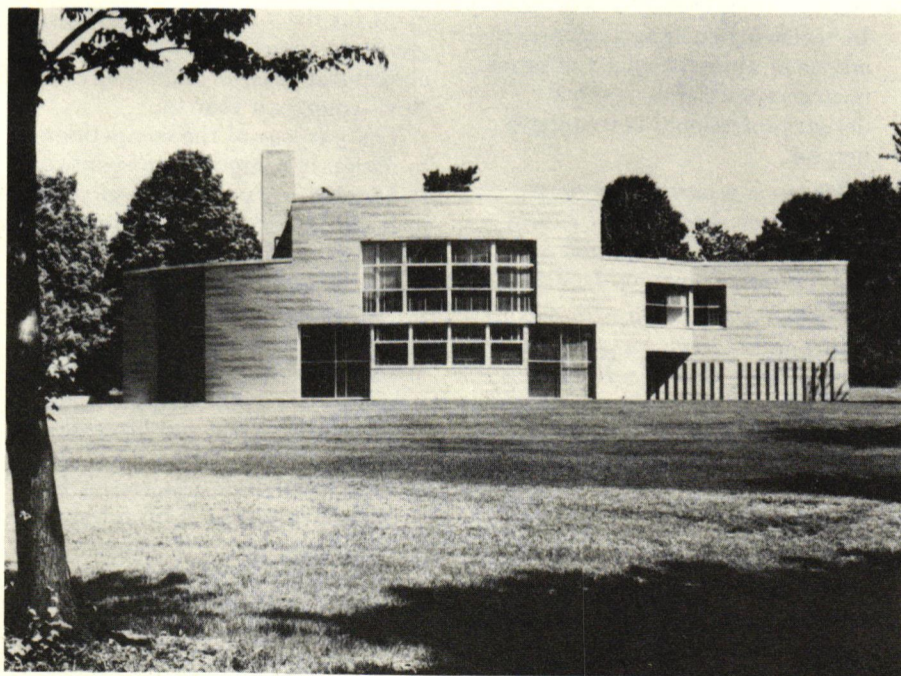
Charrette

Cervin Robinson, photographer

## Robert Venturi is 1983 Louis Sullivan Award Recipient

The 1983 Louis Sullivan Award for Architecture, sponsored by the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen, has been awarded to Philadelphia architect Robert Venturi, FAIA. An internationally known innovator in architectural design, Venturi was recognized by the Sullivan Award jury for his "rich and varied use of masonry materials" and his success in dealing with "ordinary buildings in a serious and sensitive way."

The Sullivan Award jury selects the winner on the basis of achievements in architecture over an extended period of time, rather than a specific building, and architects are invited to submit from three to five buildings they feel are representative of their work. The structures submitted by Venturi were: a Connecticut residence; an apartment building for the elderly and a corporate headquarters, both in Philadelphia; a fire station in Indiana; and an addition for a small Ohio college.



Connecticut Residence

Cervin Robinson, photographer

## CSA Project Report

by Peter Borgemeister

As 1983 draws to a close, I would like to take the opportunity to review the projects undertaken by CSA this year and report on some of our plans for the near future.

**COMMISSION ON CHAPTER AFFAIRS** — Ray Giolitto, Commissioner

**Associates and Young Professionals Committee;** this committee was formed last winter. Its activities are geared to helping people prepare for the examination and in generally helping architects with their careers.

**Connecticut Architecture Foundation;** a tax exempt organization not related organizationally to CSA, gave support to the following programs: 1. A speech by Donald Thacker, head of the Federal Art-In-Architecture program, as part of a joint meeting of the CSA and the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. 2. A lecture by Helmut Jahn sponsored by the Yale School of Architecture. 3. HABS exhibit now travelling throughout the state. CAF received a "mini grant" from the Commission on the Arts for partial support of the HABS exhibit. 4. Charles Gwathmey's presentation of his design concepts for the new Westport Library co-sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the CAF. 5. Films on architecture and architects shown by the New Canaan Public Library in Connection with the exhibit, *New Canaan Architects, 1953-1983*. CAF's support enabled the library to rent the films.

**Membership Certificates;** certificates for members, associate members and professional affiliates were designed by Nathan Garland and engraved by Lehman Brothers. Profits from the sales will be placed in the Walter F. Greene scholarship fund administered by CAF.

**CSA/AIA NEWS;** our newsletter was re-designed and printed in a four column format, and the page size was increased from 8½ x 11 to 11 x 15 for quicker reading.

**Insurance Options;** insurance available at money saving group rates

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## Design Professionals and the Written Word: A Basic Component of an Effective Loss Prevention Program

James C. Moore, a lawyer who specializes in defending design professionals, was a principal speaker during the recently completed tour of seminars conducted by Risk Analysis and Research Corporation on the subject of contract review and negotiation. In collaboration with William F. Norton, his partner on a DPIC regional seminar team, Moore stresses aspects of contract negotiation that deserve special attention in the following article, reprinted with permission from *Communique*, the newsletter of Design Professionals Insurance Company.

James C. Moore, Esq.  
William F. Norton, C.I.C.

In the demanding economic climate in which design professionals practice their professions, there are imperatives that constantly absorb energy and attention: the need to maintain a constant flow of new projects, the challenge of creating quality projects in the face of pressures to reduce cost, the sometimes thankless and seemingly endless task of maintaining peace among the many parties involved in a project, and the need to manage an office efficiently and economically, are but a few. It is, therefore, not surprising that written agreements and other documents which form a vital but sometimes unexciting part of any project in which a design professional is involved, are frequently given less attention than they deserve. Not only do written agreements have less urgency about them, but they seem at times to represent an obstacle to getting a project started. One is tempted to overcome that obstacle by ignoring it.

However, to those frequently involved in litigation against design professionals it is obvious that the written word is one of the most vital, if not the critical, element upon which such claims are decided. The impersonal world in which we all earn our livings tends too easily to forget good intentions expressed over a handshake. Seasoned judges, however, dismiss without hesitation claims against design professionals which have been excluded by or have no basis in a written agreement.

Failure to effectively use and to periodically review written agreements means that an engineer or an architect misses an opportunity to avoid litigation. In addition, if the dispute is to be decided in court, the absence of a written agreement or an adequate agreement means that an opportunity to demonstrate without question to the judge what the parties had intended is lost forever.

It should, therefore, be fundamental to the practice of engineering

or architecture that the following principles be observed:

1. Whenever possible, use written agreements to reflect your understanding of your obligations; do not proceed to embark upon any substantial amount of work until an agreement has been signed by both sides;
2. Whenever possible, use standard agreements and specifications preferably, using as a model, those prepared by the national professional societies;
3. Even a simple letter agreement is preferable to no agreement;
4. Whenever possible, the design professional should be the party who drafts the written instrument to be used by the other parties on the project;
5. If another party insists upon drafting the written instruments, review them carefully with respect to the nature and extent of any responsibility placed upon the design professional;
6. Standard written instruments should be periodically reviewed by members of your firm to determine whether or not changes are necessary, areas of risk are properly circumscribed and lessons learned are adequately reflected. In reviewing such agreements, the advice of an experienced attorney, insurance specialist or other design professional is frequently helpful.

*Mr. Moore is a partner in the law firm of Harter, Secrest and Emery in Rochester, New York, and is chairman of its litigation department.*

*Mr. Norton is president of Lucas & Dake Company, Inc., a general insurance agency based in Rochester, New York. He specializes in providing professional liability and other forms of insurance to design professionals. ■*

In our January issue — the 2nd part of this article will discuss specific areas of importance that should be considered when writing a contract.

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## Public Places Award Winners Announced

CSA, in conjunction with the Connecticut Chapter of the ASLA, recently announced the winners of our first annual Public Places Award for exemplary design of urban and community spaces in Connecticut.

Award certificates were presented to the City of Hartford Redevelopment Agency, Smith Edwards Architects, P.C. and Martin, Belair and Company, contractors, for the Congress Street Restoration Project in Hartford.

Culbro Land Resources, Johnson & Richter, Landscape architects, Building Systems Unlimited, Inc., Fabrap Architects, and The Tecton Partnership, architects, received an award for the Griffin Center, a 600-acre business community in Windsor.

In addition, the town of Windsor received a citation for progressive planning and zoning laws which have encouraged the preservation and conservation of open space and the natural environment.

The jury for the 1983 Public Places award program included: Charles Nafie, AIA, principal of the firm, Urbahn/Nafie Architects, Robert Gregan, ASLA, chief landscape architect, City of New Haven, David Mann, AIP, deputy director, department of planning, City of Hartford, Thomas Standish, president of the Hartford Development Corporation, Anthony Keller, former director, Connecticut Commission on the Arts.

## National Architectural Design Competition

The Minneapolis College of Art and Design and the National Endowment for the Arts, Design Arts Program are sponsoring a national architectural design competition: A New American House.

The purpose of the competition is to design housing for the significant and increasing percentage of people in the United States who now live as members of non-traditional households. Single parent families, persons living alone and households without children are examples, as are artists and other professionals who have the opportunity to use their home as principal professional workplace.

The competition program is for the design of urban infill housing on a site located in the Whittier Neighborhood of Minneapolis. The housing should address the need for small, energy efficient and cost saving housing units. The central design criteria is to create and integrate a studio/workspace into each housing unit as the place of principal professional activity for the residents.

The competition is open to architects, landscape architects, graphic and product designers, artists and students with a sponsoring faculty member. Registration material will be available on or about November 1, 1983, and the registration deadline is January 25, 1984.

For registration information, write harvey Sherman, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, 133 East 25th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404; or call 612/870-3228.

## News of CSA People

Alan Goldberg conceived, planned and designed the recent New Canaan Architects exhibit. In conjunction with the exhibit, Zane Yost, Landis Gores, Richard Bergmann and Willis N. Mills, Jr. gave commentaries of films that were secured by the New Canaan Public Library with support from CAF.

The Council of Fellows of the A.S.L.A. has announced the selection of the Connecticut Chapter President, Dean Johnson, to the Council of Fellows, an honor reserved for those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the profession. Dean will be formally inducted at the Annual Meeting in Indianapolis in November.

Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation has recently announced the appointment of Harold Roth to the Board of Trustees. He presently serves on the Board of Directors of CSA and has been a member of the Standards Committee of the New Haven Preservation Trust.

Bill Goromby, having been associated with Kane & White Architects, Farmington, for five years, has joined the staff of Zane Yost and Associates, Bridgeport, as project architect. Bill holds a Bachelors Degree in architecture from the University of Virginia and has worked with developers in the Hartford area on commercial and residential projects.

DuBose Associates, Inc. of Hartford, announced that Raymond H. Loomis, P.E., has joined the firm as Director of Structural Engineering.

Stein, Sapack & Ames and Stephen Whitaker, are pleased to announce the merger of their firms. Mr. Whitaker will join Robert Sapack and Greg Ames at 44 Savings Streets in Waterbury.

Quinn & Associates recently announced the formation of Quinn Associates Inc. with Richard W. Quinn, president, Daniel L. Weston, Vice President and Raymond A. Giolitto, Vice President.

R. Jackson Smith, President of Design Environments, Inc. of Stamford was recently inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, in recognition of his contributions to the sport of diving.

Michael P. Buckley reports that Halcyon has been selected as national consultant to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Action Grants. Halcyon was chosen from twenty nationally prominent firms, and will continue to serve the Urban Development Action Grant Program over the next three years.

Schwartz & Hofflich, a Certified Public Accounting firm, has acquired a newly-constructed 28,000 square foot office building located at 37 North Avenue in Norwalk, and will be moving in the near future. The building was designed by Arthur DeSalvo, Jr., AIA, of Norwalk.

J. Arthur Setaro, AIA, reports that the programs sponsored by the AISC and the Structural Steel Fabricators of New England have been useful for architects.

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