

September - October 1957

IOWA ARCHITECT

Official Publication of

**Iowa Chapter
American Institute of Architects**

Vol. IV - No. 5



Des Moines Architect's Council Takes Action To Volunteer Services For City's Re-Development

A series of meetings among Des Moines architects has resulted in the re-establishment of the Des Moines Architect's Council with the avowed purpose of volunteering such services as it can to the program for re-developing the city of Des Moines.

The renewed activity on the part of the council coincides with the appointment of a new City Planner for the city of Des Moines, and the new planner is R. D. Fernbach, who is a member of the Michigan Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

The Council was re-organized after the architects had heard a presentation on the need for a coherent urban and redevelopment plan for the city. This was presented by Charles Cownie, Des Moines businessman who has been participating in a program aimed at interesting more persons in the need for civic redevelopment.

The Council elected an Executive Committee composed of Stan Ver Ploeg, Bill Wagner, Grant Voorhees, Clyde Lighter, and Jim Lynch. John Brooks was also to participate. Rich Goewy was named secretary of the group.

The Executive Committee of the council was to volunteer the services of

the council to the Central Business District Bureau of the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of giving such services as possible to the Chamber and to the newly appointed Des Moines City Planner.

A.I.A. Chapter officials have expressed approval of the program as a means by which architects are demonstrating their public interest by providing a service to the public.

Fernbach, in commenting to the Iowa Architect on the services being performed by the architects, said:

"The most heartening thing is that these people have come together under their own steam to work on this problem."

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- President.....James Walsh
- Vice President.....Wayne Lyon
- Secretary.....Paul Skiles
- Treasurer.....Lyle Howard

PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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- James Walsh
- Don McKeown
- Harold Bullington
- William Wagner
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"Iowa Architect" is published bi-monthly for Iowa Chapter, American Institute of Architects, and mailed without charge. Appearance of names and pictures of products or services in editorial or advertising copy does not constitute endorsement of either the A.I.A., or this chapter. Editor: James Lynch, 2425 Park Ave., Des Moines, Iowa

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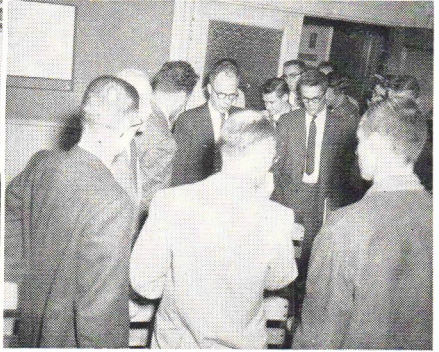
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Preservationists, Students Hear Chicago's Earl Reed



Earl Reed, a dynamic and interesting personality who is imbued with a desire that the historical architectural works of the past be preserved for study and as a part of our cultural heritage, talked twice September 27.

Reed is Chairman of the American Institute of Architecture Committee for the Preservation of Historical Buildings.

He spoke at a luncheon meeting before the Iowa Society for The Preservation of Historical Landmarks and presented a paper entitled: "Midwest Pioneer Architecture." This paper in part traced the historical development of architectural types along the Mississippi River and into Iowa, calling attention particularly to some of the landmarks which remain as symbols of particular periods of history. He said that central Iowa abounds in styles that are earning respect as historical pieces and he pleaded for the preservation of the outstanding examples.

He also mentioned the noted examples in Iowa which already have been called to the attention of the A.I.A. committee and he urged that more be done toward recording examples of early architecture with the A.I.A.

He had compliments for William Wagner, the Iowa Chapter chairman for preservation of historical buildings, but he said the whole job is much too large to be done by one man, and he urged that the Landmark Society join the architects in recording the existence of worthwhile aged buildings.

Among buildings which he said have already been recorded were the Osage Jail, Old Capitol at Iowa City, the Amana colonies, the Keokuk

the station, Terrace Hill in Des Moines. He noted the Redhead home which was recently dismantled, some other homes, and St. Matthews Chapel at Muscatine. He called attention also to the reconstruction at West Branch of the blacksmith shop as part of the Hoover Birthplace memorial.

He told the students at Ames that: "Because we are interested in present day architecture is no reason that we should abandon our interest in past architecture."

And, philosophically, he observed: "We can only be sure of change in this business; we cannot be sure of improvement."

The Historical Landmark Society agreed on a need for a membership drive and outlined plans for a meeting in May at the Hoover Birthplace at West Branch. Date for the meeting was to be selected later.

Officers chosen for the 1957-58 year were:

Charles B. Chappell, President, of Keokuk.

Mrs. Otha B. Wearin, Vice-President, of Hastings.

Mrs. Ronald B. Engelbeck, Secretary, of Des Moines.

William Wagner, Des Moines, was re-elected Treasurer.



PLAN TO ATTEND

Iowa AIA Convention
January 23, 24 and 25
Hotel Savery, Des Moines

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY

CONSIDER CRAFTSMANSHIP FOR ANNUAL AWARDS

AIA Chapter Members and Iowa's contractors are again to be asked to nominate candidates for the annual "Craftsmanship" awards which will be presented at the AIA 1958 Convention Banquet at Des Moines January 24.

The call for award nominations will go out soon and V.-P. Wayne Lyon, chairman of the Chapter Awards Committee, said the considerations will be made at the latest possible time before the Convention in order to assure that full thought be given to each person proposed for the award.

The Craftsmanship awards are among the most successful of the programs undertaken by the Iowa Chapter and provide the architects with an opportunity to publicly commend the men whose work is of an outstandingly high quality.

AIA Invited To Iowa School Boards' Meetings

All AIA members are invited to attend the sessions of the Iowa Association of School Boards which will hold its 1957 Convention at Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Des Moines, November 21 and 22.

Doug Robison of Davenport will represent architecture on a panel Thursday afternoon, November 21, for a discussion of "Building for Iowa's Children." This panel will be in Room C, and Dr. S. J. Knezevich of the University of Iowa, will be moderator.

The Iowa Chapter has purchased a display booth space for the Convention, but details of the display were not complete as this issue of the Iowa Architect went to press.

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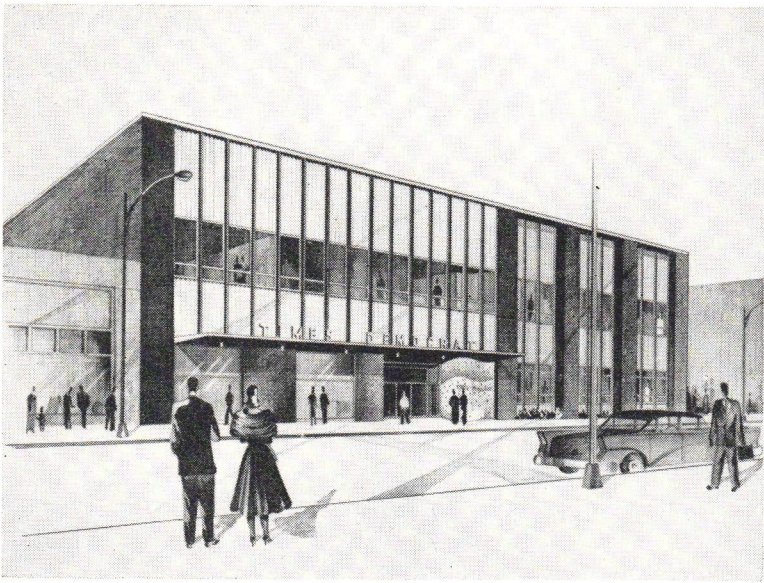
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By

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This is the designer's presentation of the new front of the Davenport Times Democrat building which makes use of colored anodized aluminum and glass to create a striking pattern.

Architects:

Parish and Richardson, Davenport

THIS I BELIEVE

By

E. H. WETHERELL

It is becoming more important that we comb over our specifications.

Misplace one word, or let a typographical error slip past, and the whole thing can become ambiguous or the meaning be changed. Or yesterday's practice can become archaic today. The contractor has only the plans and the specifications to guide him, and cannot read our minds. And he can make a mistake which will cost him or cost the owner. Neither of which we want.

It seems as though this year the ratio of jobs to suppliers, of market to product is becoming smaller. Perhaps it's a trend, perhaps it's only temporary, but competition is sharpening, and after all, the specification is the final word. Projects which a year or so ago aroused only local interest now seem to be crossing state lines and reaching far afield. And we are dealing more and more with those who don't know "our usual practice," and consequently may be less forgiving.

We should study and reread. Then give the best of our knowledge, the best of our experience, the best of our judgment and the best of our English. Then read and reread. This I believe to be the price of a competent specification, upon which the architect can depend, one which gives definite instruction to the contractor, and one which gives the owner the thing which he desires and to which he is entitled.

RECOGNIZE THE ADVERTISERS

The following firms this month are advertising in "The Iowa Architect":

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New Instructors Bring Varied Backgrounds to ISC

Two new instructors in architecture at Iowa State College bring backgrounds from Poland and the U. S.

Karol Kocimski and Thomas Killian are the new men and both have histories of instruction and practice.

Kocimski, Polish born and educated, was graduated Lwow Teck University in 1930 and practiced in Lwow and Warsaw from 1933 to 1939 when he became a member of the Polish armed forces. Captured by the Russians, he was a prisoner of war for two years before being released to Britain under an agreement reached between Churchill and Stalin. He then served in the British airforce until the end of the conflict, but maintained his interest in architecture during the entire period.

In 1944 he was vice president of the Polish Architectural Association in London. His practice history includes a period with H. B. Brown, Ltd., London, a Taliesin Fellowship in 1947, two years with B. H. Barrett & Co., London, three years with the town planning and housing division of the London county council, two years with Perkins & Will, Chicago during which time he was a member of a team which designed a \$20,000,000 shopping center (The Mayfair) at Milwaukee. He was professor of advanced design at the University of Illinois in 1956-57.

Killian was an instructor at Washington University, St. Louis, in 1954 and after duty in the armed services was with Harris-Armstrong at St. Louis. He will instruct freshman shades, shadows and perspective.

A young school teacher said to her best student, aged seven, "Tommy, if I lay one egg on the table and two on the chair, how many will I have altogether?"
"Personally," answered Tommy, "I don't think you can do it."

ISC Students Win \$1,000 Contest Award

Eugene A. Jahnke of Charles City and Keith E. Wilson of Monroe, Wis., shared in a \$1,000 award for a proposed design which was entered in a contest sponsored by the Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation.

Because of the win by the ISC students in architecture, the Lincoln Foundation has established two \$250 scholarships to be awarded without regard of financial need, but to be based upon scholastic attainment, imagination, ingenuity and ability. Choice is to be made by the faculty for the \$250 awards.

The two winners were graduated with the class of 1957.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO ARCHITECTS

The Institute of International Education, which is the preliminary selection agency for Fulbright Scholarships, is again hoping to receive applications from qualified students of architecture to study in other countries.

These countries have facilities for the study of architecture: Australia, Austria, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, and the United Kingdom. There are opportunities for town and country planning in Australia and Chile. Candidates for Japan must know the language.

More specific information about the program can be obtained from the Institute of International Education at 1 East 67th Street at Fifth Avenue New York 21, N. Y.

Loveless Names Amos Emery To Examiner's Board

Iowa Governor Herschel Loveless has announced the appointment of Amos Emery, widely known Des Moines architect, to succeed W. L. Perkins of Chariton. The appointment is for the remainder of Perkins' term which will expire June 30 of 1961.

Other members of the Board are J. Woolson Brooks, Des Moines, Gerald I. Griffith, Des Moines, Oswald Thorson, Waterloo, and William Parish, Davenport.

The board met during October and established an office in the Iowa Statehouse with Mrs. Susan K. Weresh as executive secretary. The board also chose Amos Emery as its secretary and retained J. W. Brooks as President and William Parish as Vice-President.

Written and oral examinations each were given to about ten candidates during October and two senior examinations were given. Names of the successful candidates are expected to be available for printing in the next issue of the Iowa Architect.

Miss Pelled Was Here

One of those Gremlins of the most insidious habits is Miss Pelled who appeared in a disguise in the July-August issue of the Iowa Architect. She appeared in the form of an incorrect first name—very cleverly placing the name Paul in place of the name Karl each time the Iowa Architect attempted to identify Karl Waggoner of Mason City, who has completed 12 years of service as a member of the Board of Architectural Examiners.

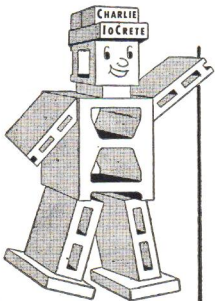
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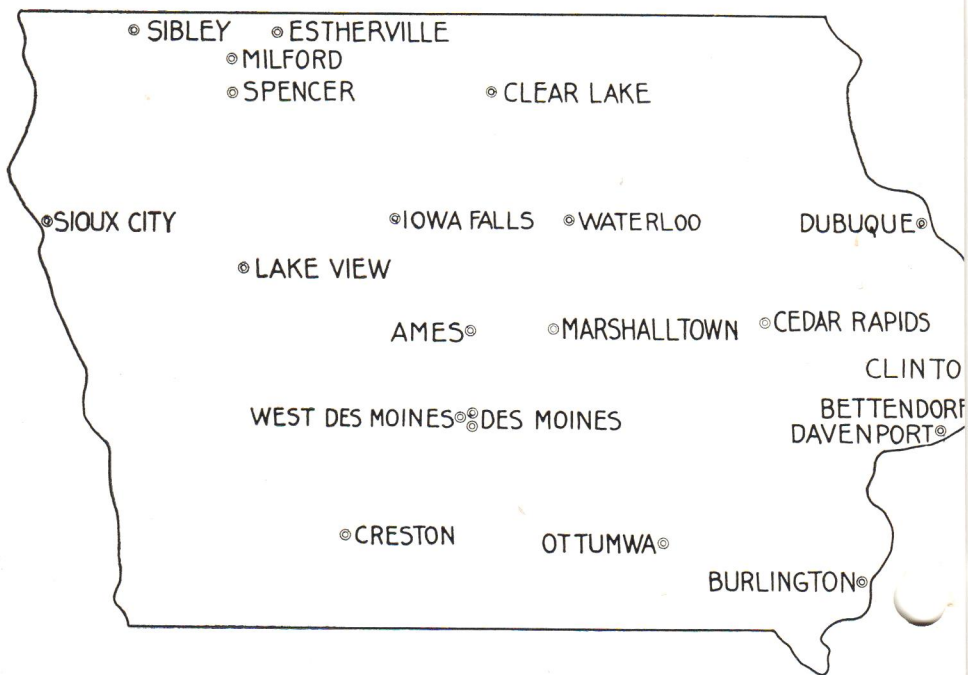
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