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SKYLINES



MARCH

1955

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SKYLINES

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Skylines

Volume Five, Number Three

March, 1955

The tempo of chapter and related activity picks up this month. At Kansas University on March 22 and 23 our chapter co-sponsors the Architects Conference on Building Types. To date reservations have not come up to expectations and members are urged to participate in this program so that it can be continued in future years. This year an attempt is being made to broaden the program. Details are on the following page.

Although we do not participate as a chapter, it is worthy to note the coming of the annual Greater Kansas City Home Show at the Municipal Auditorium March 27 thru April 2.

The ACTION group of Kansas City will present the "Institute on Community Development" at Kansas City University, March 30, as a prelude to the national conference of the American Institute of Planners to be held here March 31 thru April 2. Architects are invited to all sessions of these groups. Of particular interest at the KCU program will be the dinner session which will feature S. Herbert Hare, Charles B. Bennett of Periera & Luckman, Earl McGrath of KCU, City Manager L. Perry Cookingham and Philip E. Geissal. Reservations must be made for this session with the Citizens Regional Planning Council, 26th floor of the City Hall. The afternoon sessions will be held at Haag Hall.

The AIP sessions will be held at Hotel Muehlebach beginning Thursday Noon, March 31, with a talk by Richard Steiner of the Urban Renewal Administration. Further details on the conference can be secured from the City Plan Commission at City Hall.

Architects' Conference on Building Types Retail Stores and Shopping Centers

PROGRAM

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

- 11:00- 1:30** Registration—Union Building
- 1:30** First general session
Jayhawk Room
Chairman—George M. Beal, AIA—University of Kansas
Welcome by—Dean T. DeWitt Carr—University of Kansas
Keynote speaker—Mr. Victor Gruen, FAIA—Los Angeles, California
Subject—Overall Planning and Design—The Problem
- 3:00** Coffee Stop
- 3:30** Chairman—Wm. H. Simon, AIA—Kansas City, Missouri
Speaker—Kenneth C. Welch, AIA—Grand Rapids, Michigan
Subject—Neighborhood Characteristics—The Base of Operation
- 6:00** Dinner
Kansas Room—Union Building
Chairman—Oscar S. Ekdahl, AIA—Topeka, Kansas
Speaker—Marvin C. Holmes, Kansas City, Mo.
Subject—Merchandising Analysis—The Economic Problem

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

- 9:00** General Session—Jayhawk Room
Chairman—Roy E. Calvin, AIA—Wichita, Kansas
Speaker—Mr. Victor Gruen, FAIA—Los Angeles, California
Subject—Light, Color, Materials and Design—Details to Consider
- 10:00** Coffee Stop
- 10:15** Chairman—I. Lloyd Roark, AIA—Kansas City, Missouri
Speakers—Panel—All Participating
Subject—Open Discussion
- 12:00** Lunch—Kansas Room
Chairman—John Murphy, AIA—Kansas City, Missouri
Speaker—Kenneth C. Welch, AIA—Grand Rapids, Michigan
Summary—Highlights of the Conference—Tomorrow's Shopping Problems

All Sessions held in the Student Union Building, University of Kansas

KANSAS CITY CHAPTER AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS MEDAL AWARDS PROGRAM FOR BUILDINGS COMPLETED IN 1954

The following awards will be made:

"Certificate of Award" will be made to both Architect and Owner, of a building, recognized by the Medal Awards Committee as an outstanding example of design for the year 1954.

"The Special Award" makes it possible for submissions of special feature of design in connection with new and remodeled buildings or portions of buildings.

"Special Award" will be made to both Architect and Owner of a detail of a building that deserves recognition by the Medal Awards Committee as outstanding in connection with this feature for the year 1954.

The Committee plans to obtain a panel of architects, all of whom reside outside our Chapter boundaries to act as the jury for selection of work to receive awards.

Please act promptly and check the following:

1. Nominations must be submitted on 30" x 40" illustration board, with sufficient number of photographs to properly describe interior and exterior of building. Photographs may be supplemented by other descriptive material at the discretion of the Architect.
2. Name and location of building to be placed on front of board. Architect's name and address to be placed on back of board.
3. The building must have been substantially finished during 1954.
4. Deliver all submissions to the office of Shaughnessy & Bower, 3543 Broadway, Kansas City, Missouri, not later than 5:00 P.M., Saturday, April 9, 1955.

Awards will be made at the regular chapter meeting April 19, 1955.

THE MEDAL AWARDS COMMITTEE

Joseph B. Shaughnessy, Chairman
David Mackie, Member
Conrad J. Curtis, Member
Eugene F. Pryor, Member

TWO BILLS INTRODUCED in the current session of the Missouri legislature concern the architects and engineers of this state. **House Bill No. 347** provides that the chairman of the State Board of Registration be appointed by the governor from a list of not less than five nor more than seven nominees submitted jointly by the Board of Directors of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers and the board of Directors of the Missouri State Association of Registered Architects. It further provides that members of the separate divisions (architectural and engineering) be appointed from a list of three, four or five nominees made by the state associations. It also provides that the board be authorized to have an official publication by adopting the current publications of the two state associations. **House Bill No. 348** provides that applicants shall not be registered unless they are a member in good standing of a statewide association. This applies to applications filed after January 1, 1957. It further requires that **renewal** of registration each year be contingent upon membership in the state association.

NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN J. B. Shaughnessy flew to Washington March 14 for a meeting of the Joint AIA-ASCE committee and a reception following for officials of the government. A main item on the agenda was consideration of a national recommended fee schedule for consulting services.

THE HOME SHOW this year will feature apprenticeship contests in laying up masonry. Serving as a judge in these contests will be chapter member Ed Fuller, together with Carl Schlosser, masonry contractor; J. E. Dunn, Jr., general contractor, and Harley Desselle and Ernest Winders, Jr., bricklayers union officials. The show runs March 27 thru April 2, and contests will be held each evening and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Three hundred fifty dollars in cash will constitute prizes and judgment will be based on speed, accuracy and superior workmanship.

EVANS FOLGER AND ARTHUR E. PEARSON, JR., announce the opening of their architectural firm, Folger & Pearson, 1009 Baltimore Avenue, telephone GRand 8383.

PUBLIC RELATIONS coupled with public service was rendered recently by Architect Ernest O. Brostrom in behalf of the chapter, speaking on the preservation of historical buildings. He appeared in a short TV program and before the Heart of America Hobby Club, stating: "One of my hobbies is the recording of and the supporting of the preservation of historic buildings in our environments." It is suggested that architects mention buildings worthy of preservation to the Committee on the Preservation of Historic Structures, c/o Mr. Brostrom at 4302 Oak Street.

JOSEPH B. SHAUGHNESSY AND EDMUND L. BOWER announce the appointment of Frank Grimaldi to a partnership in their practice. The new firm name is Shaughnessy, Bower and Grimaldi. Offices are at 3543 Broadway.

A REPEAT WINNER of the Brunner Scholarship for 1955 is Ralph Myers, who will continue his work on the slide program "Architecture—U.S.A." This project is a sound and color slide presentation of the architecture of today. First showings will be at the national convention in Minneapolis the week of June 20. Myers recently took two weeks off for a trip to old Mexico.

ARCHITECT-ARTIST David Mackie spent many hours recently on the jury for the fifth Mid-America Annual, together with Bernard Frazier, Tulsa sculptor, and James B. Byrnes, director of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts center. Seventy-seven works for the Mid-America exhibition at the William Rockhill Nelson Gallery were selected from more than 500 entries.

REVISION OF THE KANSAS CITY BUILDING CODE

is being studied by the Committee on Architectural Practice, Raymond L. Voskamp, chairman. It is requested that all members of the chapter forward such suggestions as they may wish to have included in the modification of the code to Voskamp at 18 East 11th Street no later than April 1.

THE THEME of the 87th annual convention of the AIA has been announced as "Designing for the Community." Convention time is June 20-24. Convention city is Minneapolis and headquarters will be the Hotel Radisson. Pre-convention fun will be provided on a "Cannonball" trip to Cold Spring, Minnesota, the granite country.

EDWARD HOLMES WADDINGTON is a new junior associate member of the KC Chapter AIA. A native of Kansas City, he received his bachelor of architecture degree from Washington University, St. Louis in 1949. He worked in offices in St. Louis until May, 1954, when he established his own practice in Kansas City.





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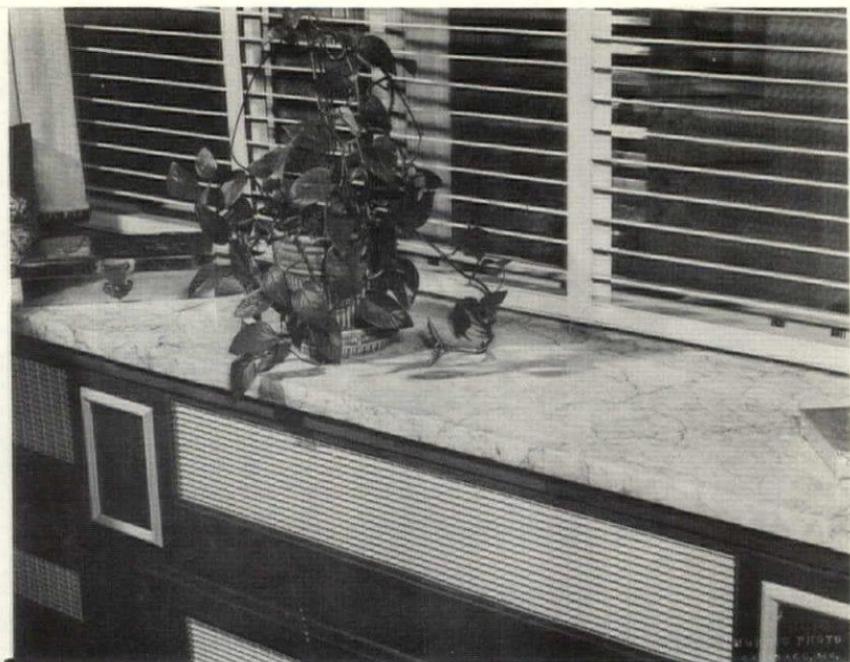
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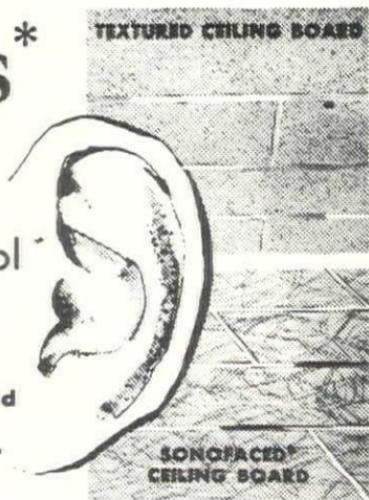
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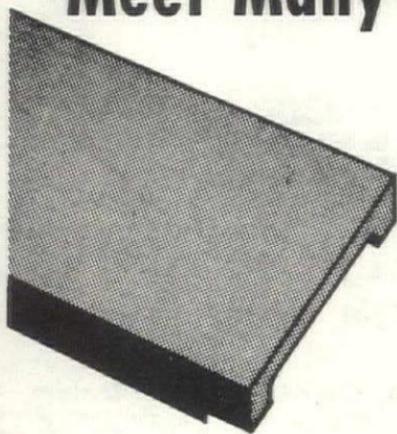


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Report

CENTRAL STATES REGIONAL COUNCIL

Meeting held at the Muehlebach Hotel, Kansas City, Mo., February 23, 1955.

This was the second meeting held by the Regional Council since its organization at the District Convention in Des Moines in 1953. The first meeting of this Council was held last fall in Wichita at the 1954 Regional Convention.

Our Regional Director, Mr. Frank McNett, presided at this meeting which was attended by at least one delegate from each Chapter in the region. Mr. McNett had a very full agenda of work to be taken care of, with the result that the meeting turned out to be a real work session for everyone.

The first order of business was nominations of men from our region to be presented for consideration as members of National Committees. Mr. McNett will present these names at the Spring meeting of the National Board of Directors. The names of members from our Chapter who were presented to fill vacancies on these committees were, Mr. Clarence Kivett for the Committee on Architecture and Government, Mr. Frank Slezak for the Committee on A.I.A.-A.C.C., Mr. Robert Baker for the committee on A.I.A.-P.C., Mr. Don Hollis for the committee on Office Practice, Mr. Ed Voskamp for the Committee on Collaboration with the Design Profession, and Mr. Dave Mackie for the Committee on Awards and Scholarships.

Some of the other items of business which were taken up by the Council, but which discussion and action taken are too lengthy to include herein were as follows:

Discussion on the new National Committee for the Centennial Celebration and its tie-in with the regions and individual Chapters. Mr. Frank Slezak Chairman of our Chapter Centennial Committee will be our representative on the Regional Centennial Committee.

Mr. McNett reported on the governmental actions being taken in regard to the Hill-Burton Program, especially along the lines of long term type hospital care, including old people's homes.

A discussion on the actions being taken by our Chapter in regard to the possibility of establishing an Architectural School at K.C.U. and a report by Mr. McNett on the reaction of the Octagon in regard to this matter.

Mr. McNett asked that firms who are being asked by the Octagon to submit job costs to go into the "Costs Data Summary" reports please participate in this program. Two of our local firms who have been in the past asked and have not answered any such requests were dropped from this list and they were replaced by two new firms.

Mr. McNett gave a brief report on the National Public Relations Committee actions. We are now entering the third year of our three year contract with Ketcham, Inc. He instructed any Chapter, or individual member, that wished for help or answer to any questions to contact Mr. John Root, in care of Ketcham, Inc. He also informed us that any time we wished to have one of the men from Ketcham, Inc. talk to our Chapter at a meeting they were available.

A discussion was held on the N.A.R.A. Background, organization and purposes of the N.A.R.A. were discussed to more fully inform our Regional Director. He, in turn, will take this information to the National Board Meeting.

A discussion was held on the American Architectural Directory which a publishing firm is trying to promote. It was decided that our Chapter would not endorse this, but leave it up to the discretion of the individual members to decide whether they wished to cooperate.

A St. Louis representative informed us that the next Regional Convention would be held on October 12 to 15 in St. Louis. He outlined what sounded like a very outstanding convention, which I am sure many of us will wish to attend.

It was felt by everyone attending this Regional Council Meeting that it was very worthwhile and will become more important in future years. It was hoped that all members will back the action of the Council as it can prove to be our best connection with the Octagon and the most efficient way of taking care of matters relating to our region.

architecture reflects life

By Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

Modern architecture is without decoration; modern life is without courtesy. Is there any connection between the two? When buildings appear without ornamentation, do human relations begin to lack good manners? Let us see.

Architecture is a reflection of a philosophy of life. The basic philosophy of the contemporary world is materialism, or the denial of the spirit. But if there is no world above that which can be seen, touched and scientifically analyzed, then there never can be ornamentation, for ornamentation is symbolism or the communication of the nonmaterial through the material.

Ornamentation implies another world beyond this. The UN Building and the new buildings which appear on Park avenue in New York, resemble illuminated cracker boxes or elongated shoes boxes on stilts. They are purely "functional" because the only function of a material civilization is business and the exchange of things of this world.

When civilization was permeated with a more happy philosophy; when the things that were seen were regarded as signs and outward expressions of the things that were not seen, architecture was enhanced with a thousand decorations; a pelican feeding her young from her own veins symbolized the sacrifice of Christ; the lion breathing new life into her dead cubs represented the Resurrection; the fox peeking his head around the corner was a warning against the wiles of Satan.

TONES SILENT

Our Lord on the occasion of His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem said that if men held their praise of Him, the very "stones would cry out"—which they did indeed in Gothic Cathedrals. Now the stones are silent for modern man believes there is no other world, no other destiny than that of the stone itself.

When faith in the spiritual is lost, architecture has nothing to express or symbolize. In like manner, when men lose the conviction that every one is endowed with an immortal soul and, therefore, is worth more than the universe, there is naturally a decline in respect for the human.

Man without a soul is a thing, and a thing is something to be used, not something to be revered. He becomes "functional" like a building or a monkey wrench or a wheel.

SUPREME DIGNITY

The courtesies, amenities, urbanity and gentility that one mortal ought to have for another are lost, once man is no longer seen as bearing within himself the Divine image.

The supreme dignity of the human person, which is the foundation of democracy, is also the foundation of courtesy; but when man is a tool, not a little less than the angels, human relations then become as devoid of courtesy as the UN Building of ornamentation: what decoration is to a building, courtesy is to life—a sign and symbol that there is more than is seen, and that behind every interchange of human relations is imperceptively woven a love that is the reflection of Love Divine.

The name of a friend pronounced with reverence and affection is like a stone in a cathedral crying out the glory of God. Gentleness and refinement can thrive only where there is a sense of the sacredness of personality.

'KINNED' PERSON

Even the word "kind" comes from the old English word "kin." The kind person was a

"kinned" person, one who shared the same blood and enjoyed the same fruits of redemption. Hence mankind was originally "menkinned"—all related as brothers because God was the common Father.

Courtesy is not a condescension of a superior to an inferior, or a patronizing interest in another's affairs. It is the homage of the heart to the sacredness of human worth.

It brings graciousness into conversation, as the tone of the voice, the gesture of the body, the response of the eye and the little grace notes of action, reveal that we are addressing some one with an immortal destiny and one for whom Christ died.

Courtesy is born of holiness as ornamentation is born of the sense of Holy. Let us just watch and see if, when ornamentation returns to architecture, that courtesy also returns to manners?

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Monthly Bulletin, Michigan Society of Architects

"Look to the Orient for New Home Ideas"

"The western mind in its restless drive to reach new horizons of the physical world would do well to learn a lesson in intensification from the Oriental mind on how to reach new horizons of the inner world. Both the West and the East seem badly in need of each other; each makes up what the other is lacking."

This from one of America's top half dozen Architects, Dr. Walter Gropius, retired dean of the Harvard School of Architecture, speaking in New York before the recent design awards dinner of Progressive Architecture magazine.

"Unless we can produce in our industrial society a more appealing and sociable pattern for the conduct of our daily affairs and express it by making our environment beautiful and coherent," he said, "countries which are beginning to come into the orbit of the machine age will do so forced by circumstances, not drawn by the convictions that it will make for happier living."

Among other guides and chidings for his profession were:

IMAGINATIVE HANDLING of space, which is the true medium of Architecture, signifies the artistic qualities of a designer.

A GUIDING PRINCIPAL in Architectural education, gleaned from his teachings from Japan, should be "develop an infallible technique and then place yourself at the mercy of inspiration."

ARCHITECTURAL STATESMANSHIP is a capability of emphasizing the unifying elements in the design of different individuals, of including rather than excluding, the contributions of others to find the common denominator of design.

AN ARCHITECT CANNOT disassociate himself from the struggles and aspirations of those who try to direct the future development of our towns and other cities into more promising channels, and he must put this responsibility above all his other obligations.

OF HIGHEST IMPORTANCE would be the working out and financing of practical experiments in modern community building to serve as model towns for our contemporary way of life. No such experiment exists, except as they exist by so-called "developers" who are content with providing mere housing.

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