ARCHITECTURE new jersey

AMERICAN INSTITUTE
OF
ARCHITECTS
AUG 26 1969
LIBRARY

It has become clear in both moral and economic terms that our nation can no longer afford or pretend to intervene in the political and military affairs of nations throughout the world, maintain a military and weapons establishment of unlimited size, explore the moon and, at the same time, rebuild our decaying cities, provide an adequate supply of housing, and finance domestic programs needed to solve pressing social problems.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARCHITECTS OF AMERICA THAT:

One. We call upon the President and the Congress to assume responsibility for a comprehensive reexamination and reordering of our national priorities, recognizing that we have neither unlimited wealth nor wisdom, and that we cannot sensibly hope to instruct other nations in the paths they should follow when we are increasingly unable to demonstrate that we know how to maintain a viable society at home.

Two. We call upon our leaders, at all levels of government, to recognize that an efficient and humane environment is basic to the maintenance of a harmonious and prosperous society and that the skills to produce it are well within our grasp. At the same time, we wish to remind our representatives that neither hope, time, nor technology will solve the problems that presently make urban life a dirty, difficult and dangerous experience. Only a wholehearted commitment of will and money will enable us to apply the skills needed to erase the shame of urban America.

Approved and adopted by The American Institute of Architects at its annual convention in Chicago, Illinois, June 26th, 1969.

The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006

4
1969

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Official Publication of
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A Region of The American Institute of Architects
120 Halsted Street, East Orange, N. J. 07018

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3,600 copies are distributed to every registered Architect in New Jersey, consulting engineers, people in related fields and others whose fields of interest include Architecture, such as leaders in business, commerce, industry, banking, education and religion.

Views and opinions expressed in **ARCHITECTURE new jersey** are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the New Jersey Society of Architects.

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ARCHITECTURE
new jersey

Volume 3, No. 4 **July/August, 1969**

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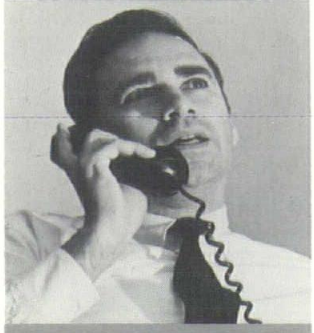
COVER: Reprint of ad which appeared in the New York Times July 8, 1969

As I See It



DAVID R. DIBNER, AIA

"Life has no meaning except in terms of responsibility."
Reinhold Niebuhr

OUR COMMON CONCERN

During a recent radio program celebrating Architects' Week, I was asked the question, "What can we all do to improve our cities?" This started me thinking. While architects have received most of the recent publicity about creating and maintaining our environment, really everyone has a share, or even more, an obligation to preserve his surroundings.

Each one of us inherited an environment. The air we breathe, the water we drink, the land we tread — almost everything that invades and stimulates our senses, — is a gift and a trust. Our mission, in effect, is to guard and nourish these surroundings for future generations. Now we must take a thoughtful inventory of our care of this trust.

The air around us becomes frighteningly more foul. As our space age advances, we pump more unbreathable ingredients into our atmosphere. More auto exhausts, more factory stacks, more insecticides, more radiation. All these add more corrosives to our lungs. Occasional atmospheric inversions dramatically demonstrate through increased death tolls the lethal doses of poisons pumped into our air. Our progress certainly affects the atmosphere adversely. Environmental retardation!

Similarly our water is polluted. Take a plane flight over almost any part of our country. Note the color of the lakes and rivers. Raw sewage, many colored wastes from chemical factories, effluants from processing plants:

All these kill marine life and add their soil to our streams. Lakes lose their natural beauty with the intrusions of "lake front" developments and "lake side" resorts.

Too, the land is despoiled. Thoughtless political planning still dominates our cities. Potential new slums take form as fast as the old ones disappear. Virgin areas are robbed of their natural beauty by developers squeezing out their last dollar profit and creating areas of dreadful uniformity and potential hazard such as land slides. Park lands are given out to private interests and scenic countrysides are intruded with highways and power lines. Then there's garbage, litter and plain neglect.

Luckily, this is not the full story. There are sure signs of positive action to reverse these deteriorating trends. To our credit, let's list some of them.

A major concern of governmental bodies is the control of air pollution. Mandatory requirements for the review of all fuel burning equipment prior to installation, laws limiting the emission of smoke and pollutants with penalties for violators, automobile exhaust limitations and radiation controls: All these are strong measures designed to prevent further contamination. Still too little and very late.

Congress and the legislatures of many states have become increasingly concerned with the protection of our water sources. Much publicity has been given to the pollution of the Potomac and the Hudson. Bans on DDT and other insecticides are decreasing the harmful results of man's scientific progress. The destructive tide is beginning to turn.

Now, politicians give credence to city planning as a broad approach to the solution of social, economic and physical problems. Persons concerned with environment build new towns, conceived in their totality. The Planned Unit Development law in New Jersey should be the forerunner of better communities now strangled by old zoning laws. All these are good signs toward better future planning.

All in all however our report card is not good. We continue to abuse our mission of preserving and improving our environment. As a result our children's children will suffer.

What can we do? The answer is simple: Awareness and active concern. The trust is sacred; it touches the eternal.

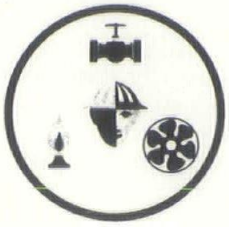
Would You Believe Separate Contracts Are More Economical Than Single Contracts?

Probably not. And a year ago, you would have had a lot of company. Now, all of a sudden, opinions are changing.

The reason is that a new comparison study of bids taken both ways on 35 public jobs over the past 12 months shows a 7 per cent savings in favor of separate contracts. Total dollar savings to the taxpayer came to nearly $1,500,000!

Big deal? Yes indeed, when you recall that advocates of the state law passed in June 1968 requiring dual bids on public work claimed that single contracts would save the taxpayers 25 per cent of the funds spent on public construction. As it turned out, their estimate was off by 32 per cent!

If you'd like a summary of this study, based entirely on dual bids recorded by F. W. Dodge, drop us a card or call OR 5-6300. It's an eye opener!



THE MECHANICAL CONTRACTING INDUSTRY COUNCIL
OF NEW JERSEY, 134 Evergreen Place, East Orange

Amackassin and the Performance Gap

Amackassin Memorial Building, Blairstown, N.J.
A dual-purpose residential and instructional building at Amackassin, a school stressing the development of functional readiness. The building is heated by radiant glass wall panels, cooled by through-the-wall units.

At birth man is filled with potential, but sadly lacking in performance. It takes time, hard work, and sometimes the dedication of teachers such as those at Amackassin to close the gap.

Mechanical objects are just the opposite. At the start, they perform at full potential. But time and hard work rapidly take their toll. And performance tailspins.

Perhaps it was the awareness of performance gaps which dictated the selection of a heating system for the Amackassin Memorial Building by the owner, Mrs. Johnnie S. Taylor.

The heating system is electric. There are no moving parts, no products of combustion. Time and hard work will have virtually no effect on performance.

Since no gap will form, the building will maintain comfort and heating economy at design level even as the years go by.

For more information on how electric heat can help maintain the client-pleasing potentials of your designs—including details of our special low total electric rate—just call our nearest office. Ask for the Division Sales Manager.

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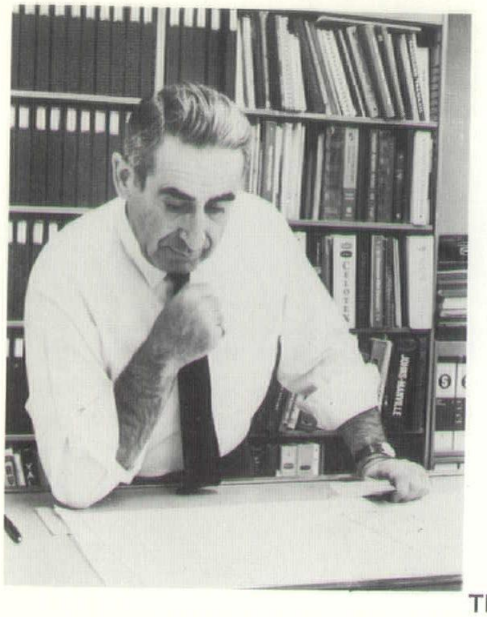


President's Page

PLANNING BOARDS

The practice of Architecture has become more involved and much more complicated over the past many years, caused not only by the added complexities of buildings, but by reason of governmental agencies established for the purpose of regulation and control. One such agency, at the community level, which Architects must contend with, is the local Planning Board.

Generally, Planning Boards are composed of six to ten members, selected from the community population by the administrative officials, and sometimes, we fear, with not too much regard for proper qualifications. Be that as it may, the Board is appointed and sits in judgement upon all matter of Planning under the provisions of the enabling statutes and as defined by the Local Ordinances. It is before these Boards that an Architect, his client and the client's attorney must appear to present argument to justify the granting of an approval for a project.

We hold no brief against Planning Boards and the reasons for their existence, nor would we ever argue for their elimination. Where such bodies are staffed by competent, knowledgeable members, operating under established regulations and guidelines and completely impersonal in their deliberations, the results to the community have been most beneficial. Better planning does produce better buildings. The visitor could only be impressed by physical appearance of such a Town, engendered by the aesthetic appeal of its architecture.

Our argument with Planning Boards is predicated upon the complete lack of consistency among communities as to the basic regulations, procedures, requirements and even the extent of jurisdiction exercised by many Boards. There is such a complete lack of uniformity that the Architect, before he could prepare the necessary documents for an actual hearing, must practically take a comprehensive study course to determine exactly what is required of him. A compilation of extraneous requirements, culled from the printed Ordinances of various towns, would be absolutely astounding to those who have not been exposed to the vagaries of Planning Boards.

Recognizing that certain communities have their particular problems and therefore might require special regulation, nevertheless we plead for the need of basic uniformity. A uniformity of requirement and intent, which if not state-wide, at least might extend through the county or over a given area. The results would definitely be advantageous to all communities and in turn might lessen the number of ulcer-afflicted Architects who must abide by these regulations.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Helen Schneider,
Executive Director

I would like to share with you some of the "happenings" of our National Convention in Chicago, June 22-28, held in conjunction with the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

A highlight of the 5-day conference was approval of the establishment of a program with architectural students to endeavor to raise $15 million in the next year to apply to social and design programs aimed at improving and rebuilding distressed areas of the nation's cities.

Taylor Culver, president of the 17,000-member Association of Student Chapters of The AIA issued the plea for such a program at a meeting between students and AIA officers on the eve of the convention. Culver, a black student attending Howard University (an East Orange boy, by the way) explained that architects could reach this goal through direct financial contributions, donated time, money secured from foundations or the government. The AIA Board of Directors will work out the method by which the money will be raised.

Taylor explained that the figure arrived at was the approximate dollar figure if 15,000 architects donated four hours of work a week, or two weeks a year.

Architectural students from all parts of the country actively participated in convention activities, and a working dialogue between practitioners and students was a key result.

George Kassabaum, the out-going president, made an impassioned plea to architects to step up help for America's troubled cities and imperiled environment. He asked architects to take more public stands on the complicated problems of housing, use of air, water and land.

The Convention also reviewed progress in the establishment of the Chicago-based AIA-sponsored Production Systems for Architects & Engineers which will provide automated master specifications and make them available to all professionals.

The Task Force on Equal Opportunities, established in response to Urban League's Whitney Young at the AIA Convention last year, reported progress. Through programs established by the Task Force, more members of minority groups are being brought into the architectural profession and into more active participation. Efforts are also underway to improve the quality of education and the professional opportunities for disadvantaged minorities. Community Design Centers are being set up in key cities with guidelines established by the Task Force. These CDC's are the answer to a need whose importance is now generally accepted—the demand for greater participation by racial minorities and the urban poor in shaping their environment. Initiation of planning programs and real citizen involvement in the renewal process require technical know-how, and this is the role of the CDC's.

Another highlight of the convention was a review of the proposed changes in the Standards of Professional Practice which would dramatically change the practice of architecture as we know it today. The revisions cover such key points as contracting, contingency fees, conflict of interest, etc. The final document will be submitted to the membership for vote at the June 1970 convention in Boston.

We had a most impressive ceremony for the Investiture of Fellows at Rockefeller Memorial Chapel with two architects from New Jersey being so honored — Jules Gregory, FAIA of Lambertville and Charles Agle, FAIA, of Princeton.

It wasn't all work and no play. The social highlight was the reenactment of the opening of the Chicago Auditorium Theatre in 1879 followed by the Great Train Shed party in Chicago's Grand Central Terminal. You'd have to have been there to believe it! Four thousand architects, wives and friends marching from the Auditorium Theater down Wabash Avenue behind a 40-man pipes and drum band of the 48th Highlander Regiment of Canada, flown in from Ontario for the occasion, to Grand Central Station. Lights of all kinds from flashing strobes to golden glows swirled all evening. Three orchestras played, ten bars dispensed drinks in two vast waiting rooms, as well as the Train Shed, while caterers provided $12,000 worth of sandwiches, miniature hot dogs, hamburgers and coffee.

There were meetings and more meetings, seminars and more seminars, tours and more tours. But it was all wonderful, beautifully planned and most exciting.

A National Convention is a great experience, a wonderful opportunity to meet people from all parts of the country, to make new friends, to exchange ideas, to compare notes, to stimulate and be stimulated, with new concepts, new procedures and new goals. I wouldn't have missed it for the world!

Professional Standards Need Revision

By Paula Gilliland

The "package dealer" in New Jersey and the nation is putting a squeeze on Architects who are members of The American Institute of Architects (AIA).

Under the Institute's present standards of professional practice, their members may not be affiliated with "package dealers" —dealers who are primarily contractors or persons in the construction business, who combine the planning of a building with the construction into a single contract or "package".

"Unless the Institute revises its standards, major corporations might at some time in the future take over the entire architectural profession in this country and the private practitioner will eventually be phased out and become a thing of the past", said Harold Glucksman, AIA, President of the New Jersey Society of Architects.

Right Direction

Glucksman added that he believed the AIA is currently moving in the right direction and is giving strong consideration to revising their standards.

A "package dealer" is a contractor who both designs and constructs a building. He either has or hires non-AIA member architects to do the designing for him, thus squeezing out design opportunities for the 700 New Jersey architects who are members of the Institute. Altogether, there are 1,050 architects in the State.

If the Institute revises its standards, Gluckman believes the AIA-member architect could become the coordinator of a design-construction team which would incorporate the over-all concept of a project under the leadership of the architect.

"The role of the architect would then take on a much broader scope", he said.

Ramifications

Glucksman said the current "package dealers" are causing unfair competitive problems for AIA-member architects in private practice.

"We aren't pleased with these companies who produce the package product", he said. "In my opinion, the owner is not given sufficient latitude for the esthetic expression of a building, as we believe that the package dealer corporations are more interested in financial profit than in good design." He added that he realized that a "package dealer", of necessity, works under a very, very "tight" situation and is governed completely by economic considerations.

Main Controversy

Alfred Busselle of Princeton, First Vice-President of the New Jersey Society of Architects, said the main controversy lies in the fact the "package dealer" believes he can do everything more to the client's advantage than the architect can.

"The architect claims that the interests of the owner are not properly protected largely because any savings a contractor can make by cutting corners and using inferior materials is a 100 percent gain financially to the package dealer", said Busselle.

"Also", he said, "if an estimate is made by a package dealer and he later found the estimate was too low, he is in a position to downgrade materials and workmanship so that he will not take a loss on it."

Busselle said there was no reason why the contractor should take a loss, but unfortunately the owner often doesn't know what he was supposed to get in the beginning, nor what he does get in the end.

Completely Honest

Busselle noted it is not universally true that a "package dealer" does not give the client a fair deal.

"There are those who are completely honest and produce a building that is perfectly acceptable", he said. "They can very often also produce a building faster than an architect because the package dealer doesn't have to go through the design and bidding process an architect usually uses."

Busselle said the AIA ruling causes a "very difficult" situation for those state and national AIA-member architects who are perfectly reputable and would be willing to work for reputable package dealers.

"The role of the architect is changing nowadays", he explained. "There's more emphasis on large-scale planning".

Re-Examine Role

He said the architects would have to re-examine their role in planning and be ready to put together a new type of organization that would transcend the smaller role architects have played in the past.

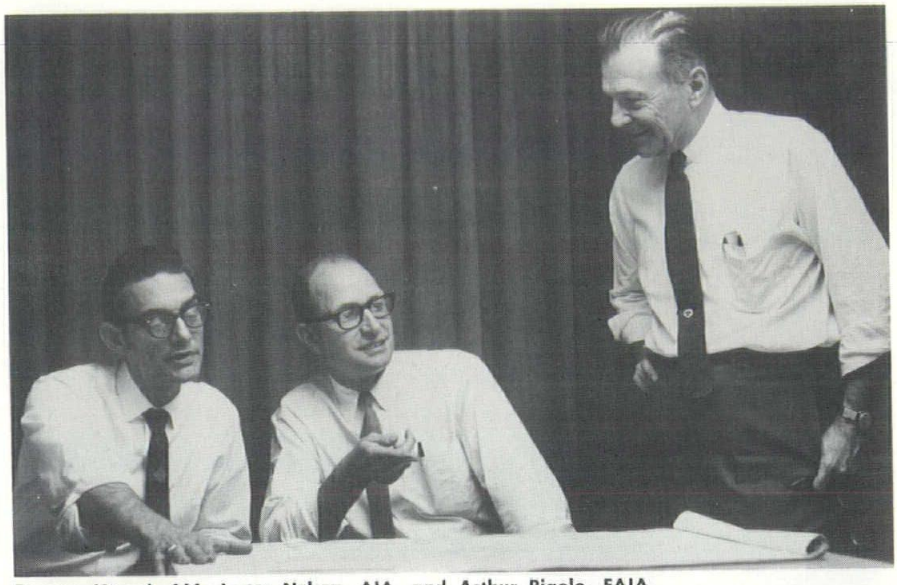
"Generally speaking, the whole world is in a state of change", he said. "This is only one area in which change is needed. We must be willing to put together a team of planners, engineers, designers and so on who can meet the building needs of our changing society".

ARTHUR RIGOLO ARCHITECT

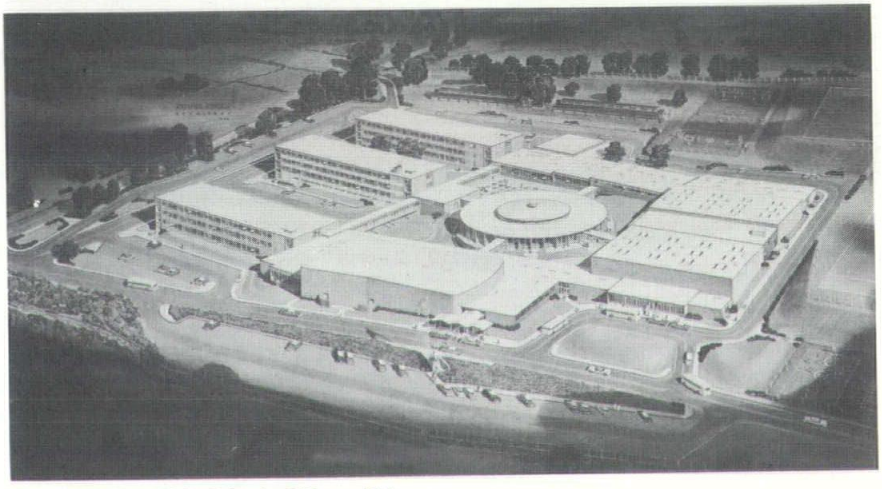
Grove St. at Rt. 46, Clifton, N.J.

Arthur Rigolo explains the philosophy of the firm in personal terms: "We are in the practice of architecture, which renders a professional service to individuals and to society as a whole, present and future. We try to give to each client the best design he can afford within the budget provided. We think that the biggest problem faced by an architect is to infuse into each design a timeless quality while at the same time relying upon materials and techniques available today."

Accepting the challenges imposed by a low budget, the firm sees this limitation as "a poor excuse for a poor job." Rigolo clarifies: "There are some large and expensive buildings whose design could have been improved by simplification and by more modesty and honesty in the use of materials."

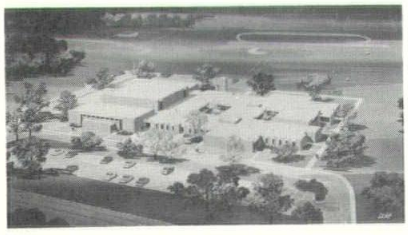


Eugene Meroni, AIA, Lester Nelsen, AIA, and Arthur Rigolo, FAIA.



Clifton Senior High School, Clifton, N.J.

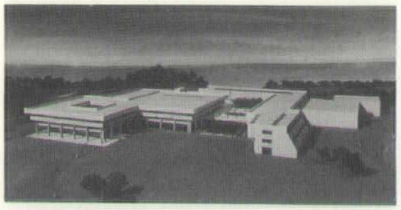
Crossroads Junior High School
South Brunswick Township
Monmouth Junction, N. J.



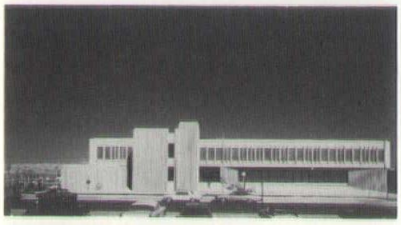
Harry Sprague Memorial Library, Montclair State College, Montclair, N.J.

FRANK GRAD &SONS

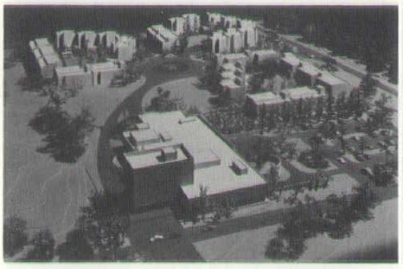
11 Commerce Street, Newark, N. J.



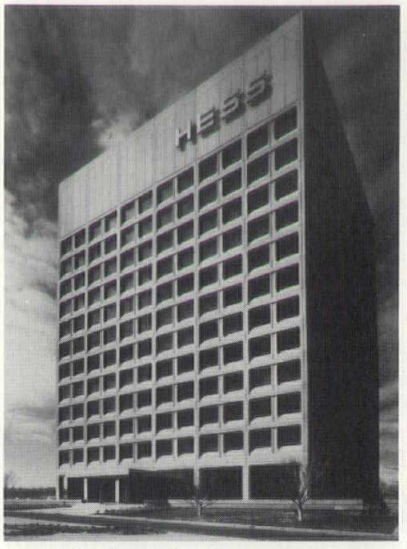
Bergen Community College
Paramus, N. J.



Peoples Trust Company
Hackensack, N. J.



Rutgers University: Livingston Campus
Piscataway, N. J.



Hess Oil Chemical Corp.
Woodbridge, N. J.

Eastern Airlines
Woodbridge, N. J.

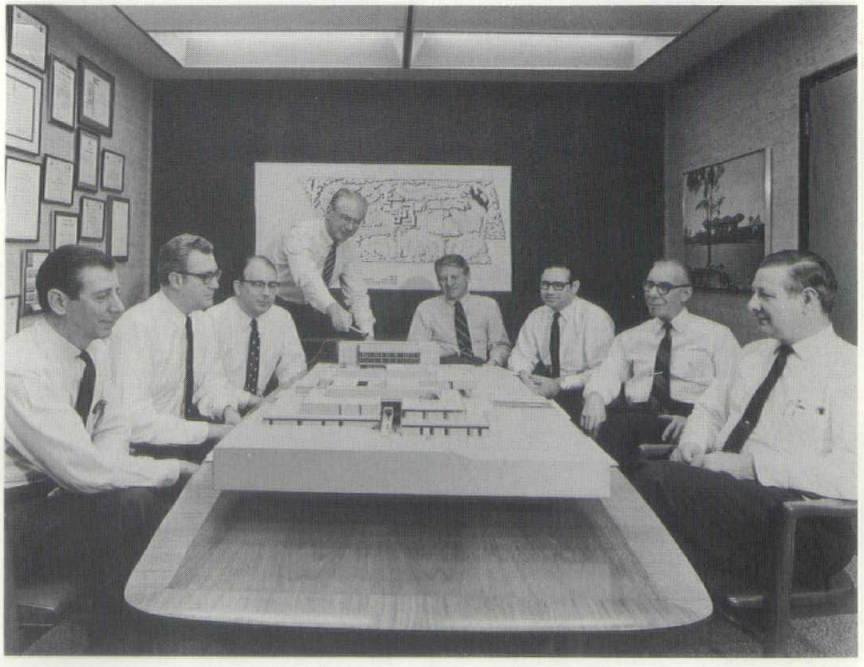
The James Forrestal Building
Washington, D. C.

The approach to the challenge of architecture of Frank Grad & Sons is a creative and practical response to the changing climate of the twentieth century.

Established in 1907 by Frank Grad, the practice grew into a partnership of eight in 1966. Then in 1969, the firm appointed two senior associates and seven associates to further expand their services.

As an integrated design team, the Grad firm functions by combining complementary professional talents. To reshape man's environment, they confront economic and political realities with experience and vision.

Involved in major projects for government, industry and education in this country and overseas, the firm has continued to develop new dimensions of service using contemporary methods of research and application. They explore the world of the possible.



(left to right):
Paul E. Falkenstein, Kenneth D. Wheeler, Harry B. Mahler, Bernard J. Grad, Howard Grad, David R. Dibner, Arthur R. Miele, and Frank W. Orleans.

Joins Colleagues on State Board

Gruzen's colleagues on the Board are Adolph R. Scrimenti, FAIA, President; Vincent J. Cerrata, AIA, Vice President John J. Trich, AIA; Herman C. Litwack, AIA, a Board member and Secretary-Director.

The State Board of Architects is responsible for licensing architects and maintaining professional standards in New Jersey.

At ceremony in Trenton, Benjamin M. Gruzen, AIA, takes oath of office in presence of Walter McHale, Chief Administrative Officer, Division of Professional Boards, Department of Law & Public Safety, and Attorney General Arthur J. Sills.

Benjamin M. Gruzen, AIA, PE, FCSI, a member of the N. J. Society of Architects, Newark Chapter, has been appointed by Governor Richard Hughes to the State Board of Architects. Mr. Gruzen, one of three possible appointees submitted to the Governor, was sworn in July 7th at ceremonies held in Trenton. He succeeds Richard J. Chorlton, AIA, of Princeton.

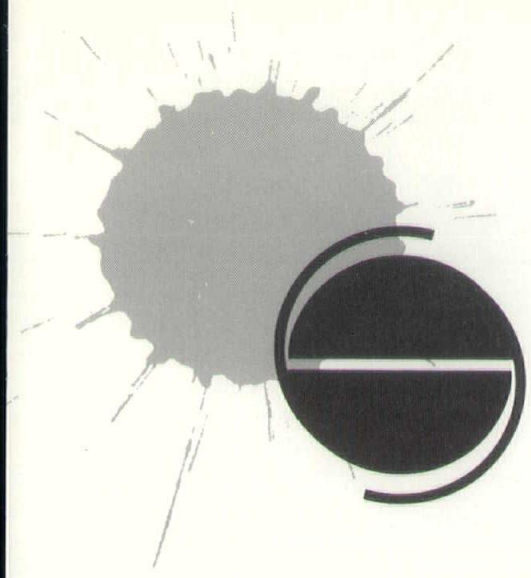
Gruzen, educated at Boston University, MIT, and a graduate of Cooper Union, was first licensed in New York State in July 1948 and in New Jersey in April 1949. Active in professional affairs for many years, he was President of the Newark Chapter, NJSA and Treasurer of NJSA, as well as having served on several National committees of AIA. He is also an active member of the Construction Specifications Institute, was awarded a bronze plaque of appreciation in 1964 and was made a Fellow CSI in 1967.

New Fellows

Two New Jersey architects were awarded medals at the National Convention in Chicago in June, signifying their distinction as Fellows of The American Intitute of Architects.

AIA President George Kassabaum, FAIA, with Jules Gregory, FAIA

. . . with Charles Agle, FAIA



Design Happening

1969 CONVENTION

The 69th Annual Convention of the New Jersey Society of Architects is scheduled for October 2, 3, 4, at the Chalfonte Haddon Hall in Atlantic City.

A busy committee, under the direction of Kenneth D. Wheeler, AIA, is lining up plans for three days of continuing education for the architectural practitioner, without overlooking the importance of the social aspects of this annual event.

The theme of the convention is "Design Happening". Seminars dealing with design in depth will feature three leading out-of-state architects known for their design ability who will discuss their design philosophy and approach to a particular problem: Vincent G. Kling, FAIA, of Philadelphia; Edward F. Knowles, AIA, and Abraham W. Geller, AIA, both of New York. Their presentation will be based on:

The Challenge — as given to them by their client.

The Approach to the Challenge — the creative and intuitive process, the alternatives which were weighed and discarded.

The Response to the Challenge — the final result.

New Jersey practitioners will "respond," followed by a question and answer period.

ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBITION

Another highlight of the convention is the exhibit of the work of New Jersey architects—the only opportunity during the year when one can view the work and accomplishments of New Jersey practitioners. The exhibition is judged by a jury of three leading out-of-state architects in two classes, the completed projects and those in the preliminary stage. Awards to go to those which are considered to be architecturally significant. These buildings are then published in ARCHITECTURE NEW JERSEY and made a part of our Travelling Exhibit for the next year.

EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS

No convention would be a truly educational experience without our product exhibits. New Jersey architects will have an opportunity to view the most diversified collection of new building materials and services we have ever assembled. Fifty-nine exhibitors will add considerably to our convention with their educational, attractive and interesting displays. In what better way can one become familiar with so many new and different products and their uses in so short a time and in so pleasant an environment! This is the time to get your questions answered; to get a clear-cut explanation from an expert. Turn to the next two pages for a listing of the companies exhibiting.

A GRACEFUL CLOSE

The Princeton Ballet, performing for us at the Banquet on Saturday night, will bring the 3-day conference to a graceful close.

We invite you to attend — architects and non-architects — members and non-members. You're all welcome!

EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS WILL BE A CONVENTION HIGHLIGHT. THESE CO

ABBEY HART CO.
Booth 24

ALCAN ALUMINUM CORP.
FLEXALUM DIVISION
Booth 3

AL-COR PACKAGE
ENVIRONMENTS, INC.
Booth 52

AMERICAN OLEAN TILE CO.
Booth 6

AMERICAN
SAINT GOBAIN CORP.
Booth 2

ANDERSEN CORPORATION
Booth 54

BELDEN STARK BRICK CORP.
Booth 16

BERGEN BLUESTONE CO., INC.
Booth 1

WALTER A. BRAUN CO., INC.
Booth 13

BREWER ASSOCIATES
Booth 18

BUDD BUILT-IN VACUUM
CLEANERS
Booth 51

COMBUSTION EQUIPMENT
OF N. J., INC.
Booth 23

CONGOLEUM INDUSTRIES, INC.
Booth 33

DEVOE PAINT DIVISION
CELANESE COATINGS CO.
Booth 48

DEVOE LIGHTING CORP.
Booth 53

ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPANIES
OF NEW JERSEY
Booth 30

HERBERT L. FARKAS CO.
Booth 31

FAY ASSOCIATES, INC.
Booth 61

FORMICA CORP.
Booth 28

GENERAL ANILINE & FILM
Booth 47

GEORGIA PACIFIC
CORP.
Booth 62

GLEN-GERY CORP.
Booth 27

HEMMINGER CO.
Booth 46

HEYWOOD-WAKEFIELD CO.
Booth 26

HOMASOTE COMPANY
Booth 66

HUFFMAN & BOYLE CO., INC.
COMMERCIAL CONTRACT DIV.
Booths 59, 60

JACOBSON & CO., INC.
Booth 63

JOHNS-MANVILLE
Booth 15

NIES CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO STOP IN AND VISIT AT THEIR BOOTHS.

R. S. KNAPP CO., INC.
Booth 37

KOROK DIVISION
THE ENAMEL PRODUCTS CO.
Booth 32

LEES CARPETS
Booth 11

THE LEVEL LINE, INC.
Booths 55, 56, 57

LIBBEY-OWENS-FORD CO.
Booth 65

FRED G. MACKENZIE CO., INC.
Booth 7

MILLER & CHITTY COMPANY
Booth 64

MODERNFOLD DOORS, INC.
Booth 34

MOLDCAST MFG. CO.
Booths 8, 9

MOORE EQUIPMENT &
ENGINEERING COMPANY
Booth 35

MURPHY BED &
KITCHEN CO., INC.
Booth 19

NESBITT (ITT Environmental
Products Div.)
Booth 10

NEW JERSEY BELL
TELEPHONE CO.
Booths 40, 41

NEW JERSEY BUREAU FOR
LATHING & PLASTERING
Booth 45

N. J. GAS ASSOCIATION
Booth 36

OIL HEAT COUNCIL OF N. J.
Booth 42

PELLA PRODUCTS OF
NORTHERN N. J.
DIV. OF LUX HOMES, INC.
Booths 21, 22

BEN A. PERRICONE AND
ASSOCIATES
Booth 58

PLEXTONE CORPORATION
OF AMERICA
Booth 43

PPG INDUSTRIES, INC.
Booth 14

HARRY RICH AFFILIATES
Booth 38

STAIR-PAK PRODUCTS CO.
Booth 12

STYRO SALES CO.
DOW CHEMICAL CO.
Booth 29

TERRAZZO & MOSAIC
CONTRACTORS ASSN.
Booth 17

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS INC.
Booths 4, 5

UNITED FILIGREE CORP. &
PREFABRICATED
CONCRETE, INC.
Booth 49

UNITED GLAZED
PRODUCTS INC.
Booth 39

UNITED STATES
PLYWOOD CORP.
Booth 50

W. D. VIRTUE CO.
Booth 44

WILKINSON & SON, INC.
Booth 20

GRANCO STEEL PRODUCTS CO.
(Div. of Granite City Steel Co.)
Booth 25

Practise of Architecture in MEXICO

Charles C. Porter, A.I.A.

A few months ago I was privileged (after three days stranded in Kennedy Airport) to be part of a Mexican Architecture and Interior Design Seminar-Tour planned and conducted by Thurman H. Hewitt of San Francisco, Mexico City and San Miguel Allende.

From the moment of our first arrival in Mexico City when we found ourselves, by pure accident, sharing a taxicab with a young Mexican Architect, we were impressed by the deference and respect with which the profession is held. The cab driver was honored to have two Arquitectos as passengers and as time went on, we were made further aware of this feeling as we noted placques on a wide variety of buildings from residences to skyscrapers with the Architect's name prominently displayed.

During our visit we were fortunate to make the acquaintance of Arquitecto Guillermo Orvananos y Maza and in subsequent correspondence we endeavored to compare the practise of Architecture in Mexico and the United States and hopefully to find some inkling of the difference in attitude of the layman towards the profession in the two countries.

In questioning Guillermo, I set up certain main headings and list below the comparative approaches of both countries.

EDUCATION AND LICENSING:

(Using New Jersey as an example)

United States

(1) Five years or more at an accredited college leading to a Bachelor of Architecture Degree as a minimum.

(2) Three years experience in the Office of a Licensed Architect.

(3) At this time the candidate is eligible to take the State Board of Architects examination for Licensing.

(4) In New Jersey, 13 years experience in a licensed Architects Office may be substituted for the Bachelor of Arts Degree.

(5) The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) has the same requirements as to education as above and can issue a Certificate to those that qualify which may be used in requesting reciprocal registration in other States of the Union.

Mexico

(1) After three years of Secondary School, three years more at College is necessary to obtain a Bachelor of Architecture Degree.

(2) Five years more at the University earns the title of Architect after presentation of a Thesis before a jury of five Architects. This title licenses the Architect to practise.

(3) The student can work in the office of a licensed Architect, if he wants, while he is going to the University, but it is not necessary or required for licensing.

(4) The title of Architect is good in all the states of the Mexican Republic. His license has to be renewed every year by the Office of Professionalists to be able to have the permits for the buildings he will do that year, and the Architect can work in every one of the States without requesting any type of separate license.

ETHICS OF THE PROFESSION:

United States

(1) The American Institute of Architects have established Standards of Professional Practise. These rules have no legal implications and violation can only result in reprimand or loss of membership in the Institute. No loss of license to practise is involved unless state laws governing are violated. Ethics are gradually creeping into State Law and this may increase in the future.

(2) The Standards of Professional Practise cover many things but principally they state:

(a) An Architect shall not engage in building contracting. (He can build a building which he owns or occupies.)

(b) An Architect shall not use paid advertising.

(c) An Architect shall not have financial or personal interests which might tend to compromise his obligation to his client.

(d) An Architect shall not accept any compensation for his professional services from anyone other than his client or employer.

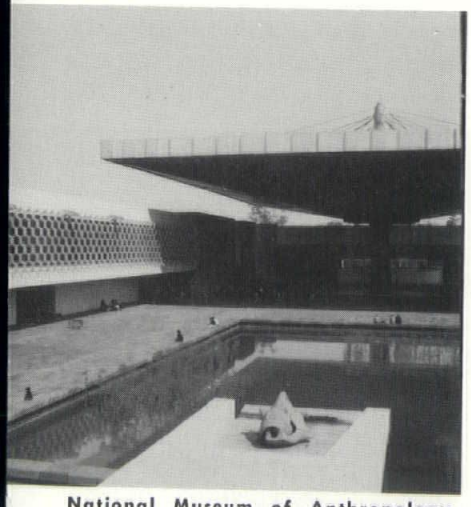
Mexico

(1) The Sociedad Arquitectos Mexicanos have Standards of Professional Practise similar to ours but different in the following important respects:

(a) The Architect can and does engage in building contracting for a client.

(b) The Architect can use any kind of paid advertising.

(c) The Architect can accept (and they all do) compensation for his professional services, other than that received from his client or employer.



National Museum of Anthropology, Mexico City. Arquitectos: Pedro Ramirez Vazquez, Rafael Mijares, A., Jorge Campuzano, F.

PRACTISE OF ARCHITECTURE:

United States

(1) Compensation for the Architect:

(a) Most jobs are done on a percentage basis. Minimum rates are indicated on A.I.A. Fee Schedules for various classes of work. Other methods are on an Hourly Rate or Multiple of Direct Personnel expense. There is no control over these fees and fee cutting can and does take place to the detriment of the service supplied.

(2) Building:

(a) As an Architect cannot engage in building contracting (and remain in good standing with the A.I.A.) most work is done on a single General Contract between an Owner and a Builder. It is still ethical for an Architect to administer a job with a series of separate contracts between Owner and Subcontractor covering all trades, in which case the Architects fee is increased to compensate for the extra work.

Mexico

(1) Compensation for the Architect:

(a) The Architect has a Contract with the Owner for Architectural Services, usually on a sliding scale percentage basis under the heading of Administration.

(2) Building

(a) The Owner and Architect sign a General Contract and the Architect is then free to obtain prices and Subcontract for the various phases of the work. The General Contractor is eliminated. The Architect also contracts with Consulting Engineers and they, in turn, contract with Subcontractors of various trades involved.

INSURANCE:

United States

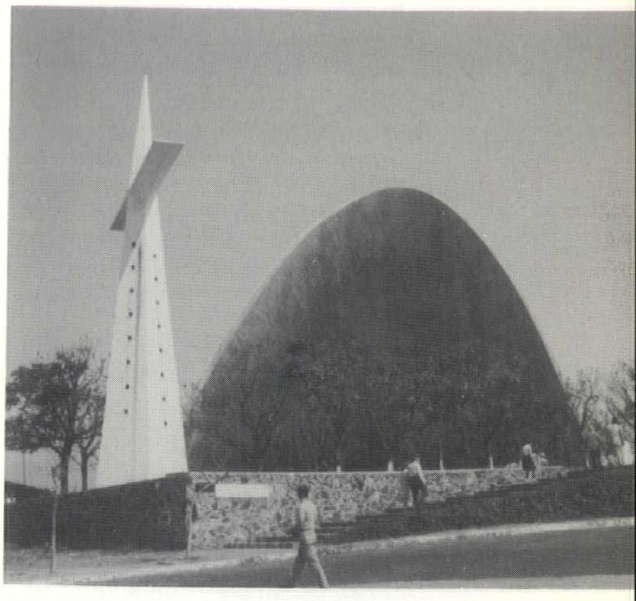
(1) Architects find it essential to carry "Professional Liability Insurance" to cover themselves against Errors, Omissions or Negligent Acts. These policies are written by only one company in the U.S.A. at considerable loss to them each year. It is very expensive but with a ten year Statute of Limitations here in New Jersey, for example, we are liable for jobs as far back as 1959.

(2) General Contractors, Subcontractors and Owners all must carry a wide variety of Insurance.

Mexico

(1) "Professional Liability Insurance" has not as yet become a factor. The Architect acting as General Contractor is more concerned with the type of Insurance necessary to protect him in his Contractor capacity.

(2) Subcontractors are responsible for their employees and materials delivered to the building for the Contractors use and carry the necessary insurance.



Open-air church near Cuernavaca. An example of Arquitecto Felix Candela's thin shell concrete domes.

UNIONS:

United States

Trade Unions are strong and while small jobs can be done non-union, jobs of any size or importance must use Union help in all trades.

Mexico

Unions are known as "syndicates". There are two: one belongs to the Government, through the Department of Labor, and the other is directed and conducted by the Sociedad de Arquitectos Mexicanos. The first group operates through the State Labor Department and consists of independent companies, Contractors, Subcontractors and Workers who pay quotas for pro-

tection in case of strike, accident, sickness, etc. The Mexican Society of Architects, observing some abuses by the leaders in the first group, established their own syndicate in which all those firms normally working with Architects who engage in General Contracting or Subcontracting are affiliated, obeying exactly the same laws and règulations of the State Labor Department.

At the Mexican Society of Architects in the Office of Contractors, where all contracts between Architect and Contractors are signed, there is a color coded card index according to trades. These cards list all Subcontractors belonging to the Society Syndicate. Architects receive these cards monthly for their files and use them as a source of reliable syndicate Subcontractors.

BUILDING CODES AND OTHER CONTRACTING AGENCIES:

United States

(1) Bureaus of Engineering and Safety have jurisdiction over many buildings. They have been primarily concerned with manufacturing establishments as concerns all structural design, ventilation, fire protection, toilet facilities and safety in general. Their scope will gradually increase to cover many more building types.

(2) Municipalities require Building Permits and have Building Codes that are gradually becoming standardized. It is hoped that they will be "Performance type codes" which will make it possible to have new materials and techniques accepted.

(3) National Electric and Fire Codes have jurisdiction. Electric power will not be supplied to any job unless Underwriters Approval has been obtained as to all electrical wiring and devices.

Mexico

(1) They have "The Regulations for Construction" code which is changed and issued yearly and is based on a Mexican Governmental Constitutional requirement.

(2) Each job requires a governmental permit from a local office that follows the work during construction to see that it conforms to the code.

(3) National Electric and Fire Codes and power requirements are similar to the U.S.A.

As the Architect in Mexico is generally acting as the General Contractor he is responsible for the building until its completion and gives the Owner a year's guarantee.

The General Public can institute law suits in connection with neglect, but never in the case of Acts of Nature. For example, in a bad Earthquake three years ago, an Office Building was badly damaged and had to be immediately evacuated. The Architect cannot be sued because his design drawings were approved by the Government before it was built and the Tenants cannot sue the Owner. The building was insured and the Owner and Tenants can only look to the Insurance Company for damages.

In Mexico, Law Suits are avoided if possible; they are complicated and time consuming and a transaction is preferable. As they say "It is better to have a Bad Transaction than a Good Fight."

Yes, the Mexicans do respect their Architects. It is partly due to the slower pace which allows the people to take the time to appreciate their Architecture which is built for the enjoyment of all classes.

The Architectural work is exciting to all as the Mexican Architect is able to experiment freely in design due to less stringent building codes, cheaper labor; all of which permit of imaginative solutions.

However, I do believe that the most important difference is that the Architect in Mexico not only designs structures but contracts for their construction. They are the main creative force behind all building and are so recognized by the general public.

In these days of turmoil where small offices are advised to merge, services comparable to those offered by package builders must be offered by the Architect and the shadow of conglomerates and big business hovers over our profession, we might look "South of the Border" for some guidance as we consider among other things the proposed changes to our Ethical Standards as set forth in the recent Chicago National Convention.

Studying Urban Blight On the Adult Level

Photo courtesy The Star-Ledger

(left to right) Stanley W. Wollock, Director of Adult Education at Midland Park High School; Mrs. Helen Schneider, Executive Director, NJSA; Mrs. Eleanore Petterson, AIA, Chairman of the Committee on Adult Education in Architecture; and C. Harrison Hill, AIA.

By Paula Gilliland

If the problems of urban blight can be presented clearly to adults throughout New Jersey and the nation, then perhaps those problems might some day be solved.

That's the philosophy of the Adult Education Committee of the New Jersey Society of Architects which for two years has been drawing up plans for an adult education course in Architectural Esthetics.

This fall their months of hard work will be rewarded as a course entitled "Architecture for Community Needs" will get under way at the Midland Park Adult School in Midland Park.

The course, which is being offered for only $30, will be held from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. on ten Monday evenings.

According to the chairman of the Adult Education Committee, Eleanore Pettersen, AIA, of Saddle River, the program is a pilot program for the state — and the nation.

"The American Institute of Architects is very interested in this sort of program," she said. "They've been working very hard on programs designed to get rid of urban blight."

Working closely with Miss Pettersen have been other committee members and Stanley Wollock, director of the Midland Park Adult School. The committee members are J. Robert Gilchrist, AIA, of Bergenfield; C. Harrison Hill, Jr., AIA, of Princeton; Leonard Levine, AIA, of Passaic; Dean Van der Clute, AIA, of Cranford, and Mrs. Helen Schneider, executive director of the New Jersey Society of Architects.

The initiator of the association with the Midland Park Adult School was Arthur Rigolo, FAIA, of Clifton who met Wollock while serving as a member of a curriculum development committee of the New Jersey Art Education Association.

According to Wollock, the adult school draws participants from 37 communities in Passaic, Bergen, Essex, Morris, Hudson and Sussex counties.

If the course is a success in Midland Park — and the committee is sure it will be — then NJSA hopes to help plan similar programs for adult schools throughout the state. It is expected that ultimately the American Institute of Architects will try to plan adult education programs in architectural awareness on a national level.

According to Miss Pettersen, "Architecture for Community Needs" is being provided as a public service to stimulate interest in the future of our community environment.

The Midland Park Adult School brochure lists the course as:

"A series of public service seminars. Decision makers and other concerned citizens are invited to participate in a series of seminars dedicated to the future of our community environment.

"Ten outstanding New Jersey architects will address their expertise to the subjects of home, church, school, municipal and health institutions, business and industry, long-range community planning, and landscape design.

"Under the auspices of the New Jersey Society of Architects, AIA, this opportunity is made available for you to become aware of the contribution that architecture can provide for all of us."

Miss Pettersen, who has been a practicing Architect for more than 20 years, is program coordinator of the course. She is a graduate of Cooper Union School of Architecture and served an apprenticeship with Frank Lloyd Wright.

The Establishment

VISTA Architects in Trenton

Thomas R. Flagg

CAPITAL CHAPTER PROGRAM

Program Chairman Bob Yeager had promised plenty of action and action there was. What started out as a long-awaited confrontation between the Establishment Architects (see typical examples above) and four representatives of the NOW generation posing as VISTA architects, quickly escalated into a fight for the water hole with occasional confusion as to which side was supposed to be the Indians. When the smoke had cleared it was generally felt that the four had presented their case in an unusually gentlemanly and coherent manner and that the questions from the floor (Establishment) betrayed an emotional involvement supposedly lacking in the post 30 set. But first a word or two of background.

Four recent Princeton graduates, having majored in Architecture, decided to take a year off from continuing their studies and found themselves working as Volunteers In Service To America in Trenton. They have been providing the black community with a variety of architectural and promotional services absolutely free, an architectural clinic so to speak. They live and work in the ghetto which enables them to experience first hand the problems of their "clients" and to become completely involved in the needs of the community. This emotional attachment has fostered an attitude entirely different from that of the average architect. For example, they are more interested in the design process being shared with any interested members of the community than in the esthetic aspects of the final building. The architect should become a technical consultant only. These people have their own ideas as to exactly what their physical environment should be, this being deeply rooted in their living patterns, tastes, and economic and social values. They simply do not have the resources or the know-how to accomplish their goals themselves. The four VISTA architects have been "providing them with some coherent specifics that they can begin to talk about."

Would establishment type architectural students have passed up the opportunity of presenting their work in the most favorable light to a sizable gathering of possible employers? While slides of their projects were being shown on one screen accompanied by an almost oblivious commentary (several slides were backwards or unreadable), on an adjacent screen one was continually distracted by film clips ranging from random sequences of the city of Trenton as seen through a rather dirty windshield to episodes of Charlie Chaplin and bacchanalian orgies. Again, it's the process that counts. How can one show a slide depicting emotional involvement in the architectural sense? Certainly their projects don't look any different than those of any other recent graduates.

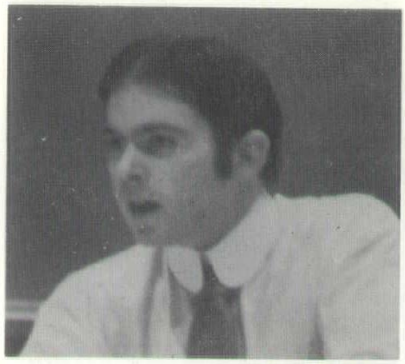
The four have their individual say on the opposite page. The comments from the floor often disputed the VISTA architects' claims of being different in their attitude and sense of involvement. One man stated, "Other architects get involved in other ways in their community without actually going and living in the ghetto. We all serve in our own way . . . Don't take the attitude that your way is the only way." Dean Geddes agreed with the four, "I believe that the core of what you're saying, which is that architecture is a service and that it must be seen that way, is a very profound moral for which in the long run we will be indebted to you and your colleagues in VISTA throughout the country." President Harold Glucksman added, "One of the goals of the American Institute of Architects . . . is to establish a better communication between architects and student architects. We have come to a realization that we must listen to what you are doing, we must listen to how you are thinking."

How qualified is the white man to design for the black man?

"Our policy is broadly based: we feel that just about any community group has a valid claim on our services. We've had some clients that we've been reluctant to work for because we've found that they're not working for the same goals that we would like to see people work for."

"You have to believe in Model Cities and believe in the Planning Commissions before you can talk to them."

"If I had to I'd advertise. Sure, I could call on (sociologist). I don't see it's the method once the problem has been established."



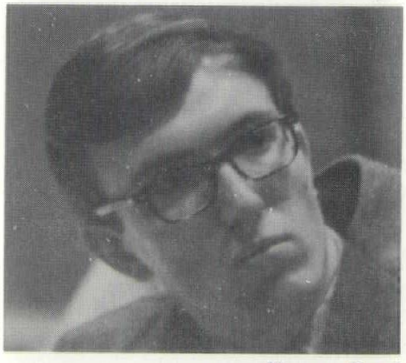
Gus Escher

"How qualified is the white man to design for the black man? We find that . . . it depends on the black community. They vary tremendously. We tried to find some black architects to come with us but were unable to. There are not many of them and the few that there are, are in high demand and, of course, have better salaries and better things to do than to work in Trenton."

"We find that the really relevant thing is not so much the quality of the product but the quality of the process. Often the fact that its done by a black architect and that the money remains in the black community and that the black people participate in the process is often more important really than the building that comes out of the entire process."

Doug Kelbaugh

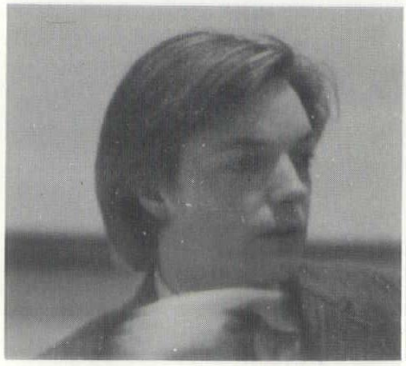
"For the hard core poverty areas there is no possibility for them to create their environment and that's when architecture has traditionally stepped in and created an environment that has nothing to do at all with their world outlook. I think it's incredible for an architect to think he's capable of doing this. The country's full of low-income housing that's extremely artsy to the architects and intellectually enjoyable but is an absolutely disastrous environment for people to live in and doesn't function at all!"



Doug Graf

"The architect must recognize the political nature of each building he does and the implications of that. You're not acting in a vacuum; you're not handing out sculpture. What I think is necessary is responsiveness to political goals and directions and things that have happened."

"One thing we have seen in Trenton by living there . . . is the reality of the problem, the degree to which the people have been forced into the situation . . . where the people of the community really have very little access to the decision making on things that affect their lives in terms of housing and recreation centers."



Bill Logan

Recognized Architectural Talent

But where will they get their training?

Winners of the Sixth Annual J. Parker Edwards Memorial Architectural Design Competition for high school students were announced during ARCHITECT'S WEEK in June.

The four top award winners in the design of a Community Ice Skating Rink were Edgar Beach of Summit High School, Gregory Waugh of Westfield H.S., Chris Krupp of Summit H.S. and Alan Schneider of Fair Lawn H.S.

The jury of architects judging the competition headed by Barrett Allen Ginsberg, AIA, felt that Edgar Beach's entry showed excellent imagination and presentation, caught the spirit of the program, made excellent use of the site and was extremely well done and thought out for a High School student.

"All the competition drawings were exceptionally fine this year," noted Harold D. Glucksman, president of NJSA. "I'm only sorry that the four top award winners and the ten who received honorable mention will have to leave New Jersey to attend an architectural school. There is only one school of architecture in the state now and that is in Princeton," said Glucksman. "It has a very limited New Jersey enrollment."

"The situation gets worse every year," he said. "If the New Jersey high school students are accepted out-of-state, they generally make social and business contacts there and never return to New Jersey to work."

Glucksman noted that the trend is for out-of-state schools to discontinue accepting out-of-state-students. "This gives the potential New Jersey architectural student nowhere to go," he said. "The only solution is the establishment of a New Jersey School of Architecture."

Scholarship Awards

Scholarships totalling $6,850 were awarded to sixteen architectural students during ARCHITECTS' WEEK in June.

Established in 1959, the New Jersey Society of Architects Scholarship Foundation has distributed nearly $40,000 to promising New Jersey students who are attending architectural schools throughout the United States. Awards are made through a Board of Governors headed by Herman C. Litwack, Chairman, and Charles C. Porter, Secretary.

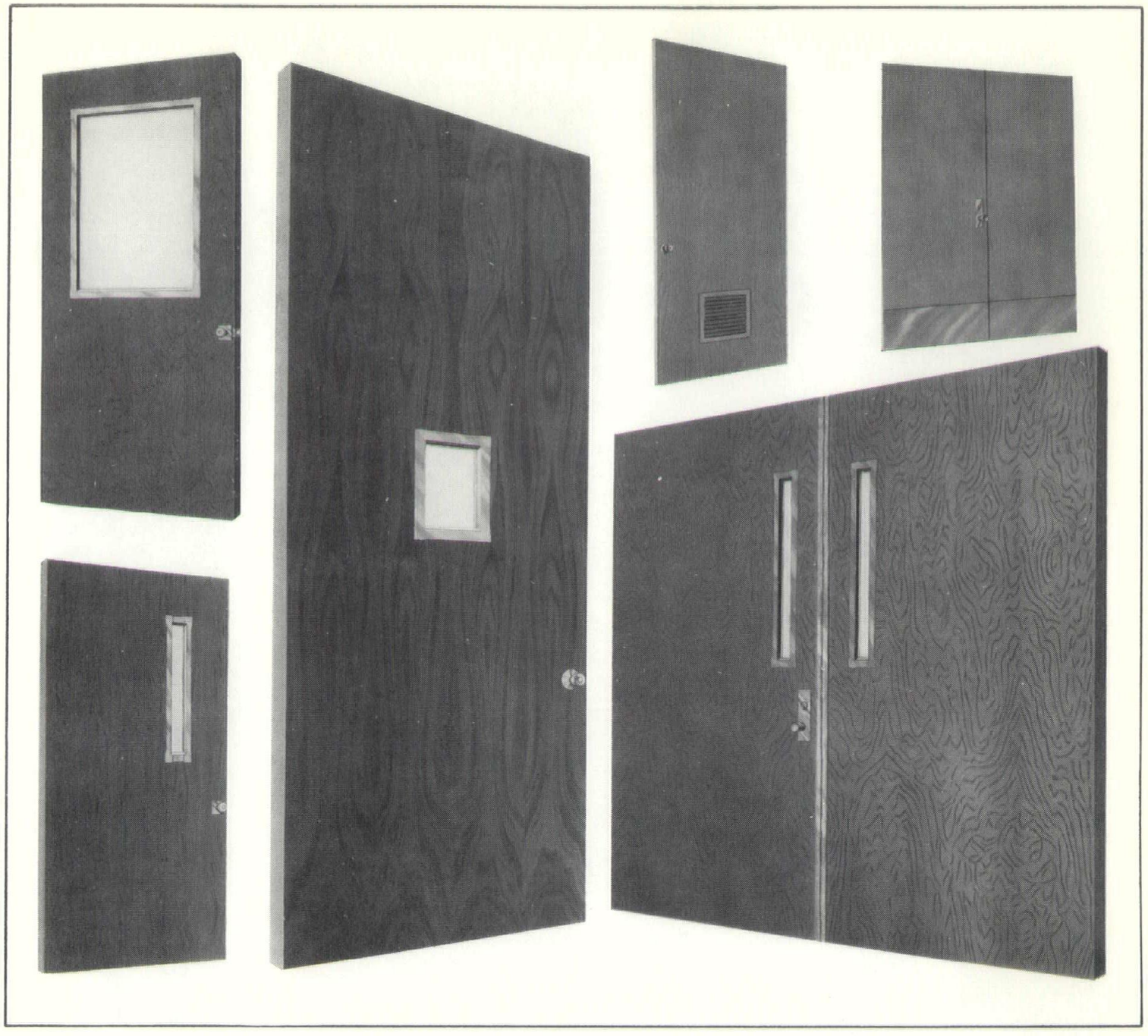
Funds for the program are derived from the budget of NJSA and contributions from individuals and groups in the construction industry. Students are eligible for awards if they show that there is a need for financial assistance to continue their education, have a talent for achievement in architecture, a satisfactory scholastic record, and if their parents are legal residents of New Jersey.

Thomas P. Mailander of New Milford was awarded the J. Raymond Knopf Memorial Scholarship and Gregory S. Peniston of Montclair, the Fay and Fischetti Scholarship. The New Jersey State Concrete Products Association Scholarships were awarded to David Ranglack of Mountainside and M. Stephen Zdepski of Pompton Plains.

The Newark Chapter Producers' Council awarded its scholarship to Martin G. Santini of West Trenton and the Leonard G. and Mary Feinen Scholarship went to Robert A. Stults of Short Hills. Frank A. Valente of Morris Plains was awarded the Suburban Society of Architects Scholarship and Andrew A. Vazzano of Newark received the Frank Grad Memorial Scholarship. The Lawrence C. Licht Scholarship was awarded to Peter J. Wood of Ridgefield.

The Joseph L. Muscarelle Foundation Scholarships were awarded to Richard E. Rogers of Bridgeton and Alex M. Garbini of Penns Grove. Fay Associates Scholarship was awarded to Paul L. Barlo of Hillside. The Newark Chapter, NJSA Scholarship was awarded to Ronald P. Bertone of Atlantic Highlands; and the Architect Gustave J. Pfost Memorial Scholarship, donated by Jesse Schwartz and Gabriel Senes, Consulting Structural Engineers, was awarded to Ernest F. Cirangle of Paterson.

The Harry J. H. Ruhle Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Robert E. Davidson of Cedar Grove. The Frederick B. Chadwick Scholarship was awarded to Lawrence A. Goldblatt of New Brunswick.



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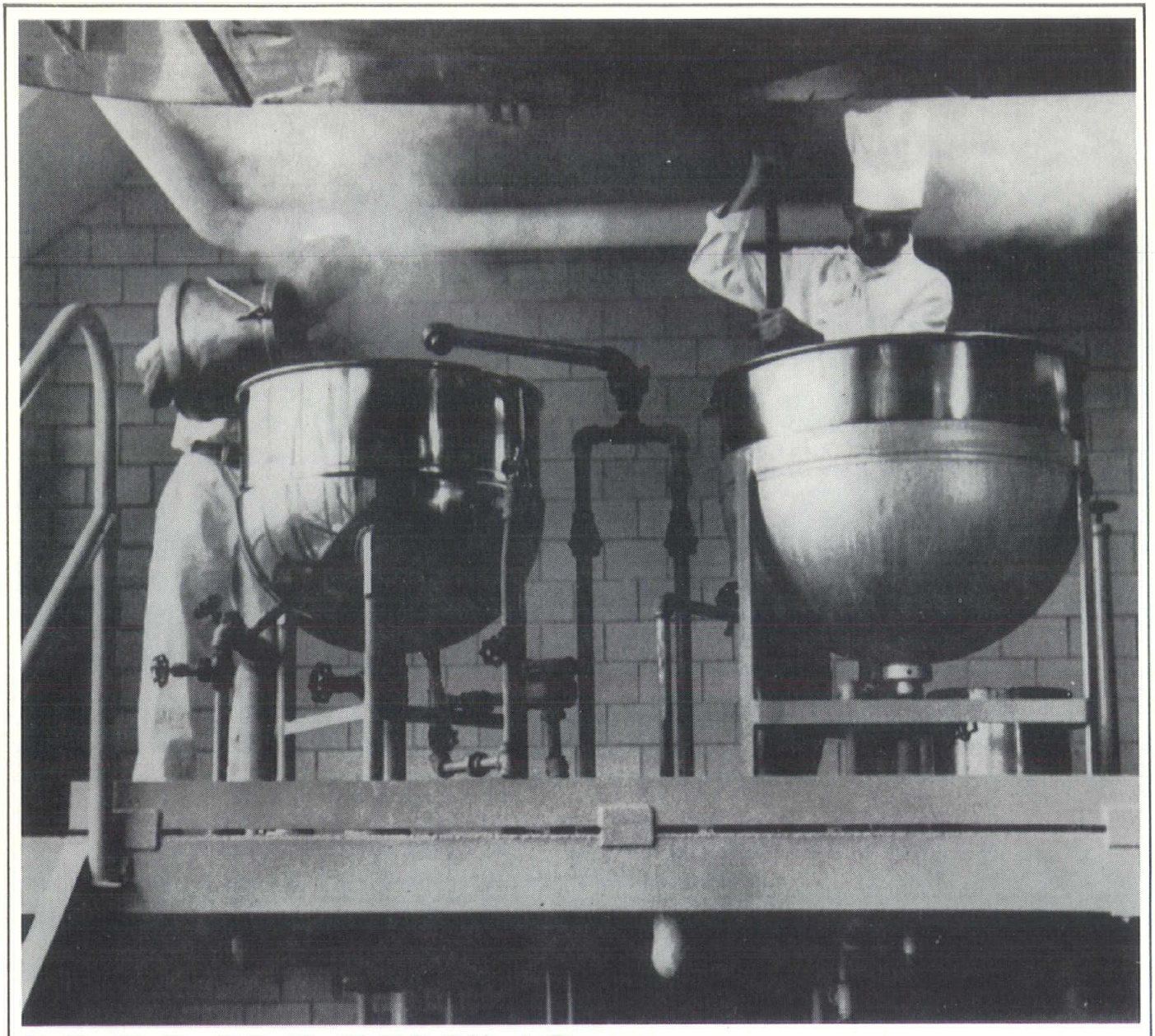

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For information contact:

HEAT AND COLD INSULATION INDUSTRY FUND OF NEW JERSEY
520 Westfield Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208 (201) 353-5441

Heat & Cold Insulation Industry Fund of New Jersey

Shore Chapter Awards

The Shore Chapter of the New Jersey Society of Architects initiated a program in which individual persons or groups were honored for their contributions in the field of fine arts.

This year's awards of recognition were presented at a reception during New Jersey Architects Week in June at the Navesink Country Club.

Those honored were D. Louis Tonti, Executive Director of the Garden State Parkway for his efforts in establishing the Garden State Arts Center; John Bolduc, outgoing Executive Vice President of the Red Bank Chamber of Commerce, for his involvement in the proposed park at the termination of Broad Street, Red Bank; Franklin Fisher, music educator and bandmaster for work as chairman of the Cultural Affairs Committee of Dover Township, developing a growing program of cultural events, and the Monmouth Museum, of which Charles B. Harding is president, for establishing a facility for the exhibition and teaching of fine arts.

Shore Chapter President Jerome Morley Larson with Citation Recipients D. Louis Tonti and Franklin Fischer.

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CITED FOR DESIGN Two of the buildings cited by the co-sponsored Annual Awards program of the N.J. Ready-Mixed Concrete Assn. and the N.J. Chapter, American Concrete Institute for 1969 for those completed structures in the State of New Jersey which represents the best in conception, originality, and applicability of structural concrete, both in design and construction.

Fair Oaks Hospital, Summit, N. J. Architects: Convery & Cueman, Summit, N. J.

Pulverizing Machinery Co., Division of Slick Industrial Corp., Summit, N. J. Architects: Kuhn & Drake, AIA, Summit, N. J.

Addenda

Charles C. Porter, AIA, was honored by the Madison Chamber of Commerce at its annual dinner dance in June for "his outstanding contributions in up-grading and beautifying the Borough of Madison and for his efforts in planning for future growth".

Architect **Ronald Thomas Ryan** announced the opening of his office at 18 Tennis Place, Nutley.

George F. Axt, AIA, announced the establishment of a practice in Consulting, Planning and evaluating at 442 Valley View Road, Englewood.

Barrett Allen Ginsberg, AIA, announced the opening of new and enlarged facilities offering total architectural services at 578 Livingston Avenue, North Brunswick.

George Y. Kay, AIA, was elected to the Presidency of the New Jersey Chapter of Construction Specifications Institute, a non-profit technical organization which fosters and promotes writing and preparing of up-to-date specifications for the construction industry.

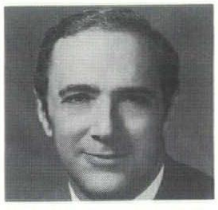
"Choose Your Partner" was the title of an article written by **David R. Dibner,** AIA, for the AIA Journal March, 1969 issue (complimentary reprint available on request). Since then he has been commissioned to write a book on the subject by McGraw Hill.

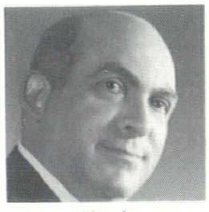
Bernard Hersh, AIA, President of Architects League of Northern N.J. received the Vegliante Award from that Chapter for his exploration, experimentation, research and setting up of a meaningful program to guide, or join in leading the way to community betterment.

Sidney Schenker, AIA, announced that his son, **L. Michael Schenker,** AIA, has joined him in partnership and are now known as Schenker & Schenker, with offices at 35 Church St., Paterson.

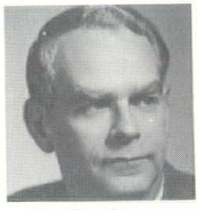
S. John Iwatsu was elected to the Board of Directors of the N.J. Federation of Planning Officials; **Hans Sander** to the Advisory Council, Central Area. Both will serve on a panel, "Attractive Communities — How Achieved?" on November 20th during the convention of the N. J. League of Municipalities in Atlantic City.

Porter


Kay


Hersh

Iwatsu


Sander

Letter to the Editor:

As a young, relatively new architectural firm in our state, we are becoming increasingly aware of the greater demands placed upon the architect to perform his professional duties. This was clearly and emphatically presented at our recent "Seminar on Services and Fees". We are also aware that the demands of increased salaries and other overhead costs are making the practice of architecture financially unprofitable and abusing for those who try to maintain a high professional level. The architect, although high on the list of prestige and responsibility is much too low on the scale of financial recompense. The young men in our offices, (the future architects in our state) have every right to feel discouraged with the relatively poor outlook for their future. They are at a low salary level compared with newly graduated lawyers, who are now being offered up to $15,000 per annum, low when compared to plumbers, bricklayers, and carpenters.

How can we honestly try to encourage new blood in our profession, and at the same time do so little to help make the future appealing? The time is long past due, for us to look squarely at the *real* problem confronting us. It is not increased services . . . not industrialization . . . not the package builder . . . and not the computer. It is the *FEE*. For example, if we are to strive to produce good schools, we must receive fair compensation for the services and skills needed. Six percent is *not* adequate compensation. Our Fee Schedule is higher, and yet to ask for the fee that is recommended is to eliminate the possibility of the commission.

It is my very firm conviction, that the greatest single service the N. J. Society of Architects, AIA, the local chapters, and *ARCHITECTURE NEW JERSEY* could perform for the entire profession is to seek "across the board" compliance with the Recommended Fee Schedule, and to educate the public not only to accept it, but to expect it. If successful, this would allow us to spend more time on our projects, offer more competent services, be less liable for errors, provide more incentive for students and aspirants, and in general, help lift most of the architecture in New Jersey up from its present level of mediocrity.

Gerard J. Valk, AIA
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