



NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
115 EAST 40th STREET  
SPRING EDITION, 1947

### MEDAL OF HONOR

The New York Chapter made the anniversary dinner on February 25th the occasion to present its highest award, the Medal of Honor, to Robert Barnard O'Connor. Dean Arnaud read the accompanying citation:

"Robert Barnard O'Connor, Architect; born on Long Island, educated at Trinity College and at the School of Architecture of Princeton University; and for many years a partner in the firm of Morris and O'Connor and now of O'Connor and Kilham; designer of many distinguished structures, among which may be singled out the Union League Club of New York, the Westchester County Office Building and the Avery Memorial Museum of Hartford, Connecticut.

You have given untiringly of your time and counsel, and despite an active and exacting practice, you have twice served on the Executive Committee of this Chapter, you have been its Secretary, and you have filled its Presidential chair in 1943 and 1944.

During World War II you served with distinction, first as Chief Architect and later adding the duties of Chief Engineer of the Second Zone Construction Quartermaster's Office.

This Chapter, which you have served so well, recognizes in you an example of a skillful practitioner of irreproachable integrity, a cultured gentleman and a devoted professional.

We honor ourselves in presenting to you the Medal of Honor of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for 1946."

Perry Coke Smith,  
President

Leopold Arnaud  
Eric Kebbon  
Walter Kilham, Jr.  
Kenneth Reid

Jury of Award

As Mr. O'Connor received the medal from Mr. Smith whole hearted applause and enthusiastic comments confirmed Chapter approval of the jury's tribute.

### COMMITTEE WORK

#### Activities

Kenneth K. Stowell is acting as moderator at the March 25th dinner meeting at which deans and department heads of five leading eastern architectural schools will delve into the subject of How Architecture Is Taught Today.

Discussion will be informal, based on questions submitted by members in advance or brought up from the floor. Leopold Arnaud of Columbia, George Koyle of the University of Pennsylvania, Everett Meeks of Yale and Professors Olindo Grossi of Pratt Institute and Jean Labatut of Princeton will cope with such topics as

"To what extent does current architectural training equip the student for actual architectural practice?"

"What in your opinion is the greatest improvement in educational practice in the last twenty five years?"

#### Civic Design

Since the decision of the United Nations to make New York City the world capitol the Civic Design Committee has devoted itself to vigorous work on plans and recommendations for rezoning the area adjacent to the site, in order to provide a suitable setting as well as to control the growth and possible exploitation of the section.

As early as December 28th Frederick J. Woodbridge made a statement to the public through the press emphasizing the committee's stand and urging that immediate consideration be given by the City Planning Commission to problems of traffic control, width of streets, limitation of the height of buildings and of residential settlement in the area.

Since the first of the year representatives of the Civic Design committee have attended all hearings of the City Planning Commission and have followed its proceedings closely. On March fifth the committee submitted a joint resolution with the Citizens Housing Council and the Citizens Union supporting the City Planning Commission's amendment to the existing zoning resolution relating to the

area, but proposing the adoption of a far more drastic rezoning plan. This would permit the establishment of a new type of zone, temporarily restricting construction in a designated area, until a comprehensive general plan is adopted.

The Civic Design Committee meanwhile is proceeding to prepare an idea in graphic form for the development of the area which it will submit to the city authorities in the near future.

#### Legislative

The Legislative Committee has functioned and has reviewed practically all legislative matters of interest to the Chapter; particular study was made of all state legislation where changes in the Multiple Dwelling law were introduced and all were analyzed to determine the effect on building.

A complete report was submitted to the Executive Committee recommending that the Chapter go on record as disapproving the "pet" Civil Service Bill which would prevent the private practitioner from rendering services to the state or city. This measure failed of passage.

The committee recommended to the Executive Committee that it register disapproval of legislation introduced with respect to changing the non-political set-up of the New York City Housing Authority. This action was taken. The bill however was passed though in a modified form somewhat limiting the broad powers sought by the city.

Sidney Strauss further reports that at the last moment a bill relaxing the Education laws which regulate the practice of architecture was forced through. Should such a law become effective the doors would be wide open for anyone having a license in another state to come into New York State, be given an oral examination and his license. Opposition can be registered by writing or wiring Governor Dewey at once.

#### Public Relations

The New York Chapter will be represented at the Metropolitan Home Show at the Grand Central Palace during the week of April 19—26 by an ex-

hibit showing the function of the architect in rental housing and conversion projects.

An exhibition of the best in contemporary store architecture will be the Chapter presentation at the Store Modernization Show at the Grand Central Palace in July.

A full report of the progress and plans for possible expansion of the Halloran Hospital project was given at the January 21st meeting of the Chapter by Albert G. Clay, chairman of the Public Relations Committee and received unanimous approval. While the plans for standard units designed to facilitate wheelchair living are still in the preliminary stage, pending the completion of the test house adjacent to the paraplegic wards at Halloran Hospital, news of the project has reached the whole North American continent and Europe. Dr. Howard Rusk's feature article on the work of the New York Chapter, which appeared February 2nd in the New York Times, and the excellent account in the February issue of Progressive Architecture, brought in a flood of inquiries and requests for plans from all over the country from hospitals, individuals, communities, architects and veterans' organizations. Nearly one hundred sets of preliminary blueprints have been sent out and many more names are on the list for the final drawings to be issued this spring.

The American Red Cross exhibited the scale models of the project in the Madison Avenue windows of the International Business Machines Corporation during the first three weeks in March as a major part of their drive for funds.

### Technical

The indefatigable Technical Committee carries on with weekly luncheon and dinner meetings with capacity attendance at the noon sessions as usual. Transcripts of these meetings have been well received, judging from the number of favorable comments and letters received and another set will soon be on your desk.

Harold Sleeper announces that the April 16th meeting will be a dinner held jointly with the Producers Council. Gordon Lorimer will report on progress in modular construction.

### NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 1947 Convention of the Institute will take place in Grand Rapids, Michigan on April 29, 30 and May 1 at the Pantlind Hotel which will serve as Headquarters. It will be preceded by five seminars on April 26 and 27 with panel discussions on Schools, Hospitals and Urban Planning.

The March issue of the AIA Bulletin will contain full details of the matters to be taken up at the Convention. Meanwhile you will receive notification shortly of the New York Chapter's annual pre-convention business meeting at which instructions to delegates will be issued. It is important that you read the Bulletin carefully before attending this meeting so that you will be fully informed on the main issues.

### CANDIDATES

The names of the following candidates have been presented for membership in the Institute:

1. George David Brown, Jr.  
Sponsors:  
Henry S. Churchill  
William F. R. Ballard
2. Peter Copeland  
Sponsors:  
Simon Breines  
Sidney L. Katz
3. Bruno Funaro  
Sponsors:  
Leopold Arnaud  
Talbot Hamlin
4. William A. Dowling  
Sponsors:  
Clement V. Tillion  
George F. Axt
5. Leroy A. Perry  
Sponsors:  
William Shary  
Sylvester Murphy
6. Benjamin Schlanger  
Sponsors:  
Julian C. Levi  
Kenneth Stowell
7. Thorne Sherwood  
Sponsors:  
Willis Mills  
Lester W. Smith
8. Max Otto Urbahn  
Sponsors:  
Lewis A. Coffin  
Jedd S. Reisner
9. Elroy Webber  
Sponsors:  
Simon Breines  
John D. W. Churchill

### Associate Membership:

10. Robert John Cika  
Sponsors:  
Antonin Raymond  
Sampson Levy
11. William E. Kohn  
Sponsors:  
Simon Breines  
Ralph Pomerance
12. Jurgen Edward Luders  
Sponsors:  
Sidney M. Shelov  
Gordon Bunshaft
13. Edmond A. Pachner  
Sponsors:  
J. Stanley Sharp  
Morris Ketchum, Jr.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

#### MEETS SOON

Last June the Chapter chose Harvey Stevenson, Chairman, John Moore and Edgar Williams as the committee in charge of this year's elections. This group will meet soon and will welcome recommendations from members. Please send in your suggestions as soon as possible in order to expedite the work of the committee.

### SPECIAL ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS

Thomas Creighton, editor of Progressive Architecture, has been invited to give his talk on Architectural Journalism at the March meeting of the Tennessee Chapter in Memphis and during April at meetings of the Connecticut, Kansas City, Minnesota and Virginia Chapters. Mr. Creighton's discussion of the function of the architectural magazine in the field of criticism was one of the high spots of the symposium conducted at the November dinner meeting of the New York Chapter.

Eleanor Pepper addressed the Woman's club at Great Neck, Long Island on Architecture as a Career for Women, illustrating her talk with photographs of the job she considers the most exciting assignment of her life—the redesign of the buildings at Hunter College and at Lake Success for the use of the United Nations.

The Chapter office gratefully acknowledges two additions to its bookshelf by members; Addison Erdman and Charles Butler contributed a copy of their book Hospital Planning and George Boehm sent his latest publication, The Building Code of the City of Mount Vernon.

### IS IT SO MUCH TO ASK?

Reservations for ALL dinner and luncheon meetings must be tabulated and reported by the Chapter office to the League at least twenty four hours in advance so that the chef knows how many meals he will be required to provide.

If you keep the possibility of your attendance a secret until the last minute two situations arise—both of them unfortunate.

1. There may not be enough dinner to go around. This happens when twenty or more members telephone for reservations on the day of the meeting.

2. The Chapter office, in trying to allow for last minute attendance, gives too large a guarantee and loses money on the deal. The deficiency must be made up out of the Chapter's main source of income—your dues.