



# OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, 115 EAST 40 STREET, NEW YORK 16, NEW YORK  
HARRY M. PRINCE, PRESIDENT; GEOFFRY N. LAWFORD, VICE-PRESIDENT; RALPH POMERANCE, TREASURER;  
ALONZO W. CLARK, SECRETARY; ALICE G. CANTWELL, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY; EDWARD EVERETT POST, EDITOR.  
Chapter Office NEW Tel. No. MU 9-7969

VOL. XI, NO. 9, SUMMER 1950

## EMERGENCY COORDINATION

A joint effort to coordinate the services of technical people engaged in large-scale construction design is being made by The American Institute of Architects and other planning and engineering societies. This step parallels the formation of effective but temporary inter-professional committees to define professional responsibilities under the war housing program in 1940, and the veterans hospital program after the war.

The objective is to allow all qualified technical individuals having specialized professional abilities to be of maximum service to the government in this emergency and also to collaborate effectively in the most efficient way while providing such services. A foundation for stronger and more lasting working relationships among the design professions should also result.

Other organizations represented include the American Society of Landscape Architects, The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Institute of Planners, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers, and the American Institute of Decorators. The American Institute of Electrical Engineers has also been invited to participate.

## EDUCATION AND REGISTRATION SURVEY

The 1950 Survey of the Architectural Profession conducted by the Institute's specially appointed Commission will send out early in September a questionnaire to all AIA members and all other registered architects. This will be the major contribution requested by the members of the profession and will provide to the Commission basic information and opinions regarding education, professional practice and registration.

The questionnaire has been very carefully designed for brevity, clarity and ease of answering. It is essential to the value of the data that all architects respond promptly. The questionnaire will be anonymous, with a numbered key to the confidential master mailing list to be available to only three members of the Commission for checking certain items, if necessary. This factual material will be essential background for the most complete analysis of the profession ever undertaken and will provide valuable guidance to educators, registration boards and the Institute.

## THEATER CONSTRUCTION

The Executive Committee has approved the general objectives of the Quinn Bills introduced in the City Council covering modernization of the code requirements for the construction of theaters.

It also recommended that the benefits of this legislation should be made available to existing structures and that in so doing the Commissioner of Housing and Buildings or the Superintendent be given some latitude for variations that will maintain the spirit of the law, with the usual right to appeal to the Board.

## EMPLOYMENT OF "OUTSIDE" EXPERTS

Opposition to statements by the Citizens' Housing and Planning Council which decried the employment of private architects and real estate firms by a public agency was expressed recently by the Chapter's Executive Committee.

In a letter to Mayor O'Dwyer it was pointed out that New York City has the largest, most competent, and most responsible group of technicians on planning, real estate appraisal and building construction of any municipality in the world; that these firms have already gained their experience and skill in fields immeasurably wider than those open to staff members of a city bureau; and that architects in private practice are not a drain on the City's budget but, on the contrary, support the City's finances in taxes and contribute to its prestige.

## LOWER DUES FOR NEW MEMBERS

At the annual meeting of the Chapter a revised schedule of Chapter dues for newly elected corporate members was adopted. Dues for Corporate Members elected after that date will be at the rate of \$15.00 for the first calendar year or part thereof. For the second year dues will be \$22.50, and for the third and succeeding years, the full Chapter dues of \$30.00. This change will help to overcome the objections of prospects for Corporate Membership, especially the younger registered Architects, to the recent increases in chapter and national dues. The combined dues for the first year will be only \$20.00; for the second year only \$32.50.

The Chapter's increasingly important activities require an increased membership. This is a challenge to every member! Each one of us should be able to bring in at least one new member, especially now that the initial dues are lower. The new schedule should, of course, be called to the attention of all prospects for Corporate Membership.

## CIVILIAN DEFENSE

Due to the current crisis in Korea and the world situation in general, the Chapter has announced that it will set up a Committee on Civilian Defense. In a letter to Mayor William O'Dwyer and New York City Director of Civil Defense, Arthur Wallander, Chapter President Prince told of the resolution passed by the Chapter's executive board offering the committee's aid and assistance to the New York City Director of Civil Defense in the consummation of such plans and unifying protective measures related to structural protection.

Mr. Prince, who during the last war was a member of the War Emergency Board of the City of New York and served as the architect member of the United States Commission to England with Mr. Wallander to study Civilian Protection Services and later was designated Chief Civilian Protection Advisor to the United States Office of Civilian Defense, is in a position to offer invaluable assistance to the Chapter's committee.

**HOUSING AND REGIONAL PLANNING COURSE**

Attention is called to the course at the New School for Social Research, 66 West 12th Street, sponsored by the Citizens' Housing and Planning Council of New York, Inc., starting September 27th. A group of distinguished speakers, including three members of the A.I.A., will discuss housing and regional planning. Details can be obtained from the school.

**DISCOUNTS**

The New York Chapter will allow the following discounts to members and to the public on AIA documents purchased in quantity: 500 copies—5%; 1,000 copies 10%; 1500 copies—15%; 2,000 copies 20%. Two weeks should be allowed for delivery.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

More than 85 members attended the 81st Annual Business Luncheon of the Chapter on June 7, 1950.

The Secretary, Mr. M. Milton Glass, reported a total membership of 863, explaining that in June 1949 we started with a total membership of 809. This figure was made up of 689 Corporate Members, 99 Associates, 17 Student Associates and 4 Honorary Associate Members.

During the year a gain was made of 42 Corporate Members, 28 Associates, and 22 Student Associates, also one Honorary Associate Member. Allowing for losses by death, transfer, and resignation, our net increase in all classes since the last annual meeting is 54 members. Eight members were elected to Membership Emeritus. Alonzo Clark and his Membership Committee pointed to the encouraging influx of younger men who are joining and taking active part in Chapter affairs. The Committee also emphasized that personal or telephone invitations to apply for membership were more effective than written invitations, and that introducing prospects at Chapter meetings helped to increase the membership.

All present stood in silent tribute while Mr. Glass read the names of the nine members who died during the year.

The resignation of Miss Dorothea Waters, reported in the May issue of OCULUS, was read, and Mrs. Alice G. Cantwell, the new Executive Secretary of the New York Chapter, was introduced. Mrs. Cantwell, a graduate of Cornell University, was formerly an instructor in Journalism in New York University, served as a Captain in the WAC, and recently completed two years of civilian service at GHQ, Tokyo, Japan.

William Potter, Treasurer, in his report on the Chapter's finances for 1949, stated that the General Funds of the Chapter gave us an operating surplus for the year of \$581.85, with a total operating surplus on Dec. 31, 1949, of \$1224.13. The Chapter Register Funds, which are separate from the General Funds, had a balance on Dec. 31, 1949, of \$1155.38. The report is for the calendar year 1949 and an audited final statement is available for inspection at the Chapter Office.

Mr. Potter took the opportunity of thanking the Executive Secretary, Miss Waters, Mrs. Wood, and Mrs. Barker for keeping the Chapter books up to date and so capably handling the many details of this department.

The slate of Officers for the coming year was read by Mr. Gordon Lorimer, Acting Chairman of the Nominating Committee, after which Milton Glass, William Beck and Maurice Sornik counted the ballots.

Mr. Glass, Chairman of the Tellers, reported a total of 160 votes cast, and the following were duly declared elected:

OFFICERS: <i>President</i>	Harry M. Prince
<i>Vice President</i>	Geoffrey N. Lawford
<i>Secretary</i>	Alonzo W. Clark
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ralph Pomerance

*New Members of the Executive Committee:*

Francis Keally  
Perry Coke Smith

*Continuing members:*

Robert A. Jacobs  
Morris Ketchum, Jr.  
Geoffrey Platt  
Daniel Schwartzman

*Professional Practice Committee:*

Clarence B. Litchfield, *Chairman*  
Daniel Schwartzman  
Benjamin L. Smith

*Jury for Medal of Honor:*

Leopold Arnaud  
Robert S. Hutchins  
Theodor C. Muller  
Julian H. Whittlesey

*Committee on Nominations:*

John C. B. Moore, *Chairman*  
Frederick G. Frost, Jr.  
Ben John Small

*Committee on Fellows (to 1953)*

William Gehron  
Leonard Schultze

With the business of nominations completed, Walter Kilham, Jr., proceeded with the President's Report, to sum up the activities of the Chapter during the year, touching briefly on the work of each Committee and outlining the responsibilities and opportunities that lie ahead.

Mr. Kilham named three important fields which require improvement: the Chapter Office, the membership, and our collective strength. The Chapter has voted funds for the physical improvement of the Chapter Office. The membership, spearheaded by an active Committee, has achieved a tremendous growth. As to the third, at the last business meeting the Chapter accepted the By-Laws of the new Architects' Council of Greater New York. This culminated eight years of work and it is hoped that the new Council will prove an effective instrument in the united action of the profession in the Metropolitan area in negotiating with public officials on matters of common interest.

In public affairs Mr. Kilham felt we have met with some success. For the first time we have been called into conferences with the City Planning Commission for advice and discussion on public matters. A foothold has been gained which, it is hoped, will permit greater and more effective participation in public affairs in the future.

To that same end he recommended use of the Brunner Fund in a project of public interest rather than in the limited education of a scholar whose work too often is rolled up and put on the shelf. The Chapter's publication on the work of the New York City Housing Authority was cited as an example. Greater recognition of the profession in public service will also be achieved through such scholarly studies as the New Rezoning Proposal, the East Midtown Report, development of the approach to the United Nations area, and similar projects of civic interest.

Concluding his address, Mr. Kilham said that negotiations have been started with the Metropolitan Museum for a collaborative exhibition to show the development and growth of American Architecture to its present position of leadership. This exhibition will stimulate a national pride and lead to a greater understanding of the profession of architecture by the public.

*FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT*

Those of us who have held public office become immune to flattery and praise in the realization that the symbol of office is more important than the man. When, however, one's colleagues choose a man for high office, then indeed one accepts the honor with an intense feeling of humility and inadequacy. It is in that spirit that I accept the duties of the presidency to which I have just been elected.

In assuming this office, I should like to assure you of my determination to fulfill the tasks facing us to the extent of my limited abilities and with the realization that we are passing through the most momentous period in the history of our profession. The test facing us is our understanding of any new situation that may arise and the necessity of thinking in terms of new concepts which are constantly being presented to us. In the tradition of those who have preceded me, I can only promise to do my best. I know I have your support. I know I can count on every one here to accept appointments to committees seeking to attain these objectives, for by so doing, I am positive we can all help guide the Chapter in the accomplishment of the tasks entrusted to us in these years of indecision.

With your help, your assistance, and your cooperation, I am equally certain that, jointly and collectively, we shall not only meet this challenge, but we shall, in addition, serve as a progressive and vital force in the architectural and cultural development of our City.

Thank you very much.

HARRY M. PRINCE

*COMMITTEE REPORTS*

Following are summaries of the various annual reports submitted by Committee chairmen:

*ACTIVITIES*

BEN JOHN SMALL, *Chairman*

During the past year the Activities Committee arranged for 13 Technical Committee meetings, 3 evenings devoted to Architectural Criticism and Aesthetics, a cocktail party for new members, a series of 5 lectures for draftsmen, and a number of other gatherings bring the total to 34.

*ARCHITECTURAL CRITICISM AND AESTHETICS*

DANIEL SCHWARTZMAN, *Chairman*

During the year, the programs following three luncheon meetings were devoted to criticism and aesthetics.

The Fresh Meadows Housing Development was discussed by Perry Coke Smith.

Various types of public buildings being erected in the city and throughout the country were evaluated by Hugh Ferriss.

The Small House was discussed by William Breger.

The Committee feels that the Chapter members can benefit by further such discussions, clarifying the vocabulary of the terms used in architectural criticism.

*AWARDS*

ELDRIDGE SNYDER, *Chairman*

Mr. Paul Windels was elected an Honorary Associate of the Chapter.

The Subcommittee on the Fifth Avenue Association acted with vigor and discernment in collaboration with the Fifth Avenue Association in selecting this year's awards made public in April. The Committee has also made many recommendations to the Association which should improve the Fifth district.

The Subcommittee on City Planning and on Apartment House medal did not make awards this year.

*BRUNNER SCHOLARSHIP*

ALBERT G. CLAY, *Chairman*

Two scholarships have been awarded this year.

The Housing Committee of the Chapter received an award permitting the publication of its findings under title of "The Significance of the Work of the New York City Housing Authority," a valuable addition to the bibliography on housing.

Mr. Bruno Funaro is recipient of a Scholarship for Collaborative Research on Zoning, particularly on such laws as relate to the height and bulk of buildings with certain specific objectives. The first part of Mr. Funaro's study has been presented to the Chapter in a written report and in person.

*CIVIC DESIGN*

GEOFFREY PLATT, *Chairman*

This Committee in the early part of the year formulated a five-part program which is outlined below, together with a brief notice of progress in each case.

1. To assist and forward in every possible way the re-zoning studies being carried out by Harrison, Ballard, and Allen for the City Planning Commission: On the recommendation of the Committee a Brunner Scholarship was awarded to Bruno Funaro for the purpose of making research and conducting opinion surveys among Chapter members on the Harrison, Ballard, and Allen proposals for Bulk Control. Funaro started his work in January, and from indications of his progress to date it is thought that the activity will prove of value to the profession and to the public at large.

2. To promote the adoption of this Committee's plan for East Mid-Town Manhattan: Early in the year it was decided to concentrate on Capitol Street and the surrounding super-blocks. In December, the announcement of the building plans of the Carnegie Endowment revealed the fact that the site for that institution's new structure lay in the middle of Capitol Street as proposed. Later on, this Committee learned that the City Planning Commission had under consideration a proposal to declare that part of New York covered by the East Mid-Town plan an area for re-development and re-planning. A hearing was held April 25, and the proposal was subsequently voted. This action was naturally disturbing to the Carnegie Endowment, which arranged a meeting in May for further discussion of the question. No final conclusions have been reached, but a detailed account of proceedings throughout the winter may be inspected at the Chapter office.

3. To study and propose some feasible measures for the relief of traffic congestion: The Committee was unable to present any suggestions for the solution of this tortured problem.

4. To keep a watchful eye on the activities of the City Planning Commission, to attend their meetings, and to make clear the position of this Chapter on all pertinent issues: Representatives of the Committee opposed a suggestion that the City Planning Commission be permitted to pass on specific proposals for parking garages, but spoke in favor of the proposed garage and park at 65th-66th Streets and 2nd-3rd Avenues. Delay was urged on the amended Master Plan for slum clearance and re-development.

5. To cooperate with other public institutions in securing the appointment of a suitable chairman for the City Planning Commission, as well as an adequate staff and funds: The Committee was ineffectual in its attempt to advise the Mayor on the selection of a chairman, but notes with pleasure the strong positive action taken by the new appointee since his assumption of office and the greatly enlarged budget which he has been able to secure.

**CODES**

JAMES B. NEWMAN, *Chairman*

The Code Committee has reviewed over 100 proposed new local laws introduced at this session of the City Council. None have been of too vital concern except proposed revisions in the laws effecting special occupancy structures. These latter, some twenty in number, concern theater construction. The Code Committee and the Executive Committee have generally approved these proposed changes except in certain details which have been transmitted to Mr. Quinn, Chairman of the Committee of the City Council.

Proposed Revisions in Means of Egress, sponsored by our Committee, are not yet ready for introduction, but will be shortly.

Work on the New York State Code is getting under way. Organization appears complete, with good technical assistance.

**CONTRACTS AND FEES COMMITTEE**

CLARENCE B. LITCHFIELD, *Chairman*

Accomplishment in this field of activity is slow. Work in progress—1) A proposed contract between architects

and consulting engineers; 2) A study of State contracts and fees; 3) A study of New York City contracts and fees.

**CONSULTANTS**

SCHNALL & KRUG, *Associates*

As in past years, the Public Relations Consultants have concentrated on the production and dissemination of day-to-day information concerning the New York Chapter, its committees and members. All the information released to the press was aimed at informing the public of the role of the architect and of the achievements of the Chapter and its members in the interests of the public.

It is becoming apparent, in the response of the press in New York, that the long range job of making the press aware of the Chapter's standing in the city and their willingness to be heard on matters relating to architecture, is taking hold. We believe that the deliberate and consistent efforts in conveying information to reporters and editors have been appreciated. Although in each case these efforts were not productive of newspaper and magazine clippings, the journalists with whom the Consultants have dealt, as well as their papers, have evinced an increased interest in architectural developments. In addition, they have come to look to the A.I.A., in particular the New York Chapter, as the source for authoritative information in that field.

Due to the increased activity of the Chapter office, it is felt that the public as well, to a greater extent than heretofore, is recognizing the New York Chapter as the source for information and guidance. It is hoped that this is, in small part at least, due to the public's reading and hearing about the efforts of the Institute.

To succeed in this public relations program for the profession, continuous efforts must be made to inform the public. This can only be accomplished through the media of the printed word, the airwaves and the latest medium, the television screen.

For the coming year it is hoped that each committee will plan as part of their program at least one public service project. The public relations value to the Chapter may be one reason for undertaking this, but the value of such projects to the public should be reason enough to spur each committee to action.

**EDITORIAL**

EDWARD EVERETT POST, *Chairman*

The Editorial Committee has set as a prime object the promoting of public relations by helping the membership toward more complete awareness of the manifold activities of the Chapter, and toward a more intelligent and vocal dissemination of information about the Chapter and the profession.

In the interest of readability, stimulation and convenience for filing, as well as for more complete and timely coverage, the format of the OCULUS was changed and modernized into its present form. Reporting of the Chapter's meetings and other activities has been more adequate and more timely, due in considerable measure to excellent cooperation from the various committees, especially the Technical Committee, which has furnished its own reports.

Editorially, much stress has been placed on the ethics of the profession and how high ethical standards accrue to the benefit of the individual architect. Closely allied have been numerous articles on fees and contracts, and related documents, written from both professional and legal points of views.

With respect to aesthetics considerable space has been given not only to the Chapter's meetings on various phases of this subject but also, in an attempt to arouse discussion and arrive at a list of outstanding buildings, a questionnaire was sent out which has already produced many amusing and interesting answers.

Throughout the year this Committee has had the closest cooperation from the Chapter's Public Relations Counsel, and has received not only excellent advice on the type of material that is now newsworthy but also valuable contributions of material to be published, such as the guide on Publicity Releases which was included as part of the October OCULUS.

In connection with the Chapter's campaign for new members, monthly supplements prepared by the Membership Committee have also been sent out with the OCULUS, and this campaign was further emphasized in the April issue which devoted considerable space to analyzing the benefits of National and Chapter membership.

In retrospect, although there has been a considerable volume of factual and editorial material published, much of the latter deliberately provocative, there has been a disappointingly small reaction on the part of individual members. It is hoped that in the future, ways and means can be found to get more architects to contribute so that OCULUS can become an effective instrument of the membership as a whole.

### EDUCATION

KENNETH K. STOWELL, *Chairman*

The major activity of this Committee was in the interest of men seeking registration. A series of five meetings was devoted to talk and discussions on subjects necessary for registration. The meetings were well attended and rendered a significant educational service.

With a view to improving examinations for registration, a letter of recommendations and suggestions was sent to the New York Board of Examiners for Architects. The State Board of Regents has submitted examinations with requests of criticism and suggestions and your Committee is now considering its recommendation and will report to the Regents.

The excellent and comprehensive exhibit of Architectural Design Procedure prepared by O'Connor and Kilham was a means of further assisting the drafting schools to raise their standards. Other examples and exhibits are being prepared for distribution to these schools.

No attempt has been made to evaluate comparatively the local drafting schools even though the Chapter is frequently asked for advice by prospective students.

At the invitation of the State Education Department, members of the Committee visited the Brooklyn Technical High School which teaches architectural drafting. The serious efforts to train draftsmen were commended and suggestions were made for possible improvements stressing the meaning rather than the technique of drafting.

Discussions and recommendations on the Mentor System are being held in abeyance pending the results of a national survey being conducted by the Institute, although the Committee has had informal discussions with graduating students at Columbia.

### EXHIBITIONS

ELEANOR PEPPER, *Chairman*

The Board of Education requested the N. Y. Chapter to prepare an exhibit on architecture that would be suitable for high school age children and that could be shipped around to the 54 high schools in the City.

An exhibit made up of drawings and models was prepared with the view to giving these students some of the ideas behind the philosophy of modern planning and to show them how such planning affected their daily lives.

The four aspects of planning that were touched upon in the exhibit were: planning of the small community made up for the most part of single family houses; planning of a city project, of apartment houses, shopping center and other facilities; planning of an industrial center with all the proper transportation facilities; planning of an office building and commercial center.

The exhibit was made possible through the collaboration of the Brunner Committee who made funds available and selected Olindo Grossi as The Brunner Scholar to design and prepare the exhibit.

The Brunner Committee and the Exhibition Committee cooperated to review the progress studies and to advise Mr. Grossi in the preparation of drawings and models.

Mr. Beck of the Board of Education has informed us that the exhibition has proved successful beyond their expectations, and that requests have come from schools in many other cities to have the exhibits sent there.

The New York Public Library has asked that a small travelling exhibit be prepared for several of their branches. We shall make an effort to start on this project in the Fall.

The biggest news though is of the possibility of putting on a large exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in about two years.

Mr. Kilham has most kindly been using his influence and negotiating with the Museum authorities, and reports their interest in the matter. This exhibition will be rather extensive in its scope and will take much time and effort. But with the facilities and funds of the Museum and the enthusiastic support of Chapter members a most interesting and stimulating exhibition should result.

### FELLOWS

PHILIP L. GOODWIN, *Chairman*

Of members of this Chapter recommended by this and last year's committee for Fellowship in the A.I.A. the following were elected during the course of the year:

LEOPOLD ARNAUD

FREDERIC R. KING

HUGH FERRIS

PERRY COKE SMITH

TALBOT F. HAMLIN

HARVEY STEVENSON

FREDERICK J. WOODBRIDGE

### HOUSING

FREDERICK G. FROST, JR., *Chairman*

This Committee has concentrated its effort on one subject — Rental Housing under FHA—608. Copies of this report are available at the Chapter Office.

In preparation for the report a survey was made of walk-up and elevator 608's in Queens, Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Westchester. Projects were inspected. Plans were examined. FHA regulations and procedures were studied.

The resulting report represents the judgment of this Committee upon the work of the FHA under Section 608 in the New York metropolitan area. It offers constructive criticism in the hope of preventing repetition of deficiencies in the current housing programs, which include Subsidized Public Housing under PHA, Military Housing under the Wherry Act, and Cooperative Housing under FHA.

#### JURY OF MEDAL OF HONOR

WALTER H. KILHAM, JR., *Chairman ex-officio*

The Jury unanimously awarded the Medal of Honor to Ralph T. Walker, President of the Institute.

#### LEBRUN SCHOLARSHIP

ROBERT CARSON, *Chairman*

Mr. Ralph E. Meyers of Kansas City, Missouri, was the recipient of this year's award for his solution of a "Railroad Station for Suburban Residential Town". Mr. David George Brooks, of Houston, Texas received Honorable Mention. Thirty-one solutions were submitted to the Committee from all parts of the country. This nationwide participation resulted in much favorable publicity in the metropolitan and national press.

#### LEGISLATION

RICHARD ROTH, *Chairman*

The work of this Committee has been the consideration of all legislation affecting the practice of architecture, with particular emphasis on items proposed for New York State. Previous to and during the work on actual bills considered, introduced, and acted upon by the State Assembly and Senate, a careful perusal of *The City Record* and the New York Building Congress *Legislation Service* was made. An interchange of information flowed continuously not only between this committee and the State Association, but also between this and similar committees of other metropolitan professional groups.

The past session of the State Legislature was comparatively active on matters relevant to our field. This Committee reviewed and acted upon 17 preliminary drafts of bills, 24 Senate introductory bills, and 41 Assembly introductory bills. Of these 82 items, 27 were endorsed, the defeat of 35 recommended, and no action taken on the remaining 20. 23 letters in the name of the Committee on Legislation of the New York Chapter were forwarded to the State Legislation Committee to the Governor on such bills as were in his hands for signature or veto.

Of the many bills considered, and on which letters were sent to the Legislature and to the Governor, only 10 became law. Of these, this Committee had urged, by letter or telegram, the Governor's approval in 6 cases. The other 4 bills concerned the city of Buffalo and required no comment.

This Committee hopes that it can have reintroduced next year those bills which it had endorsed but which, for one reason or another, the State Legislature and the Governor did not see fit to enact into law.

#### PROFESSIONAL FORUM

MAXFIELD F. VOGEL, *Chairman*

The Professional Forum Committee's outstanding activity for the year consisted of conducting a questionnaire, a meeting, and submitting a resolution to the membership, on Owner-Architect Forms of Agreement. The questionnaire was well received by the membership and the response was gratifying. A dramatic report of the answers was presented and a resolution which our Committee submitted was approved by our membership and also by the National Convention.

#### PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

GEOFFREY PLATT, *Chairman*

Two cases involving alleged unprofessional conduct came before this Committee during the past year.

In the first, a member of this Chapter charged a member of the Westchester Chapter with unprofessional practice in that he had supplanted him on an alteration job for a school. The Committee heard the plaintiff's story in detail and submitted a report to the Executive Committee without specific recommendation, the defendant's case not being available for hearing. On instructions from the Executive Committee, all papers in the matter were forwarded to the President of the Westchester Chapter, who has requested information from the school board commissioning the alteration.

In the other case, a layman drew this Committee's attention to the circumstances of his dealings with a certain architect, who, the layman asserted, was suing him for payment for preparation of sketches for a house which the layman had never authorized or even contemplated. The Committee heard the architect in detail and interviewed the layman, reaching the conclusion that there was a substantial basis for the latter's charges. The whole matter was reported to the Executive Committee, whose decision it was to transmit the necessary papers to Washington, charging the architect with unprofessional conduct.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS

HAROLD R. SLEEPER, *Chairman*

The Public Relations activities of the Chapter are having a definite influence on the activities of other Chapters and Associates. The Chairman has spoken at meetings of the Connecticut Chapter, the Detroit Chapter and the Province of Quebec Association of Architects on the subject, and an article in regard to our activities, with a special emphasis on Public Relations, has been published in the A.I.A. Journal.

Although no definite measure of success in bettering Public Relations is possible, the fact that the Chapter Office has been receiving more and more requests for information from the public is some indication that we are becoming known.

It is recommended that further steps be taken to create a demand for architects to talk, and to develop good talkers among our members; that the pamphlet "You Need An Architect" be republished and widely distributed; and that a way be found to publish the pamphlet "So You Want to be an Architect."

**SMALL HOUSE COMMITTEE**

JOHN HANCOCK CALLENDER, *Chairman*

The principal part of the Committee's work was devoted to the problems of that large part of the public which needs architectural services but is not in a position to employ the full services of an architect. After considerable study, the Small House Consulting Service was proposed as the best solution to this problem. This scheme will make it possible for the public to consult an architect on any problem pertaining to building, buying or altering a house. The Executive Committee approved the proposal and a notice was placed in the OCULUS describing the new service and inviting any Chapter members who wished to participate to notify the Committee. About twenty-five have done so thus far. A loose-leaf book containing samples of the work of the participating architects is being assembled. This book will be kept in the Chapter office and will be shown to those visitors who have small house problems, to assist them in selecting an architect. A leaflet has been prepared by the Committee in collaboration with the Chapter's public relations counsel and is now ready for printing. The leaflet describes the normal full services of an architect in connection with small house work and will have a separate insert describing the Consulting Service. By this separation it was felt that the main leaflet would have far wider possibilities for use than if it were tied to the description of the Consulting Service. As soon as the leaflet is printed, public announcement of the new service will be made.

The second subject considered by the Committee was the relation of the Architect to the speculative builder. It was generally agreed that the Committee should encourage builders to employ the best architects they can get and pay fees sufficient to permit the architects to give serious study to the builders' projects. Discussions were held as to the best ways and means of doing this and as to the proper basis for fees for this type of service. The possibility of an annual award by the Chapter for the best speculative development in the metropolitan area was discussed but no action was taken. At the Committee's request the Chapter protested to the National Association of Home Builders for the latter organization's failure to publicize the names of the architects of the prize-winning developments in the Association's national competition.

**SPEAKERS**

RONALD ALLWORK, *Chairman*

In October of 1949 a questionnaire was sent to all Chapter members requesting information regarding their availability for public speaking assignments, and other pertinent data. Fifty-four replies were received.

At about the same time, a letter was addressed to a number of civic and other associations in the New York area advising of the availability of Architects for speaking assignments. Five replies were received.

This committee had only a few requests for speakers during its term in office in spite of the steps taken to publicize the availability of Chapter members for such assignments.

In light of this experience, it is our belief that the Public Relations Committee should take active steps toward establishing, through arrangements with a radio or television broadcasting company, a series of 15-minute programs that would develop the type of publicity so essential to our professional well-being.

**TECHNICAL**

WILLIAM BALLARD, *Chairman*

Thirteen events were run off in a successful year's program. The meetings drawing the largest attendance were the presentation by Fred N. Severud on Concrete Construction; Julian E. Garnsey on Color; Messrs. Perry and Dowswell on Preliminary Estimates; Alfred L. Jaros on Ceiling Panels for Heating and Cooling; and the field trip arranged by Harry Dowswell to the United Nations Building.

As an indication for future activities of Chapter Technical Committees, it appears that luncheon meetings are the most popular for gathering Chapter Members together as they were well attended this year. They were helped by a strict schedule, limiting the meetings to exactly one hour. Chairman Ballard reports the work of the Committee was divided among three Sub-Committees headed respectively by Mr. Herbert Wheeler for programming; Mr. Harry Dowswell for field trips; Mr. Burton Holmes for technical reports and publications. All of the Committee Members and particularly the Chairman of the Subcommittees participated in the work wholeheartedly.

**UNIFICATION**

MATTHEW W. DEL GAUDIO, *Chairman*

During the past year, a Joint Committee on Unification of all Chapters and Societies in the Metropolitan area has drafted a proposed constitution and by-laws. The New York Chapter has approved this proposed constitution and by-laws, as have the other societies and chapters. Since this phase of the work is now completed, it is expected that the operation of the Architects' Council of New York City will result in a more complete unification of the profession. The various chapters and societies have agreed that the Unification Committees should continue their meetings, making such additions to the constitution and by-laws as may be required without changing the scope or meaning thereof.

**VISITING ARCHITECTS**

ALFRED E. POOR, *Chairman*

Mr. August Perret of France, Sir Patrick Abercrombie of England, and a delegation of Dutch Architects were among those who were received and honored by our Committee on Visiting Architects during the past year.

In addition, the Committee commenced preparation of a list of "Best Buildings" in the United States, both historical and contemporary. All the Chapters of the A.I.A. have been asked for recommendations and it is hoped, with this list as a guide, visiting architects may plan an architectural tour of the United States with some degree of intelligence. Because of its importance, the Committee recommends this work be continued for the following year.

**YEAR BOOK AND REGISTER**

RICHARD B. SNOW, *Chairman*

The 1949-50 edition of the Year Book and Register was completed and distributed in March. 1,500 copies were printed. The expenses of \$1,380.45 have exceeded receipts by \$75.57 but it is expected that this cash deficit will be wiped out by sales of the stock on hand. Because of the expense involved, the Committee suggests that consideration be given to the publication of the Register biennially, with a supplement covering changes in officers, committees and membership issued in the alternate years.

*Issued Sept. 11th*

**V. A. INSPECTORS**

The Veterans Administration is faced with the necessity of securing the services of professional Construction Compliance Inspectors on a *fee basis* for new construction on which the Veterans Administration is guaranteeing loans for veteran purchasers under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, as amended. Inquires should be directed to the attention of the Chief Appraiser, Loan Guaranty Division, Veterans Administration, 252 Seventh Avenue, New York, N. Y.

**CITY PLANNING JOBS**

The City Planning Commission is engaged in a nationwide search for the best planning talent available to fill approximately forty planning positions.

It is looking for top talent. The only considerations will be ability, well-above average aptitude for planning, and a sincere desire for public service. The appeal is directed particularly to young professionals interested in a life-time career in a job which is termed "the greatest planning challenge in the country."

The increased budget for this Department provides for the following new planning positions: City Planning Director, Principal City Planner, Associate City Planners, Assistant City Planner, Civil Engineers, Civil Engineering Draftsmen, Research Assistants, Architects, an Economist, a Director of Research, and a Senior Statistician. In time, Civil Service examinations will be given for these positions.

It is hoped also to provide for internships for students with specialized planning education but little experience, in order to take advantage of budding talent and at the same time afford opportunity to selected planning graduates to obtain valuable experience. Applications from alert graduates as well as from experienced planning technicians and experts are therefore welcomed.

Applicants should write Jerry Finkelstein, Chairman of the City Planning Commission, including a complete resumé of their qualifications.

**CHAPTER EXHIBIT ACCLAIMED**

The following letter was sent from Edwin Ziefeld, Teachers College, Columbia University, to Dr. Frederic Ernst, Associate Superintendent of the Board of Education:

"This is to thank you for your generosity in making available to the Eastern Arts Association the models on architecture and town planning prepared by the American Institute of Architects for use in the high schools of New York City. These were viewed with very deep interest by many of the art educators attending the Eastern Arts Association convention. The models themselves were one of the finest exhibits which we have ever had, and I speak for all the members of the Association when I express thanks and appreciation."

**FHA — 608**

"Rental Housing under FHA—608," a highly significant report by the Committee on Housing, was published on June 29. Each member may secure a copy by calling at the Chapter Office or by sending 10¢ to cover cost of mailing. Additional copies are available at \$1. each.

This report embodies many specific criticisms of the housing produced under Section 608 of the Federal Housing Act, especially with respect to the routine nature of its planning and its general mediocrity throughout. Recommendations for improving standards for future government insured housing programs are included.

**ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBIT**

The Village Art Center, for many years a leader in art exhibits in Greenwich Village, announces that it will present next fall its first exhibit on architecture, under the direction of Chapter Member Edgar Tafel. The contents of the exhibition, open to any architect who lives or works in the Village or its environs, will be determined wholly by the exhibitors, subject only to limitations of space. The individual architect may submit his work as he would like to have it shown; presentation may be from preliminary sketches to finished working drawings, with models or photographs; of dream projects or finished buildings. The work may be of any nature, residential, commercial or institutional.

The Center, long noted for many exhibits on painting, sculpture, and photography, plans to make this first exhibition a thorough going success with the cooperation of Village architects. For information, write to Mr. Edgar Tafel, Village Art Center, % Roko Gallery, 51 Greenwich Avenue, New York 11, N. Y.

**CANDIDATES**

According to the By-Laws of the Chapter, names of candidates for membership shall be submitted to all members before consideration by the Committee on Admissions. Information received regarding the qualifications of the following candidates will be considered confidential:

*Corporate Membership:*

Vladimir Bobovitch

Sponsors: Vito Battista & Herbert N. Cohn

Herbert L. Bogen

Sponsors: Jedd S. Reisner & Max O. Urbahn

O. Kline Fulmer

Sponsors: Henry S. Churchill & Ralph G. Gulley

William Fletcher Holmes

Sponsors: John P. Jansson & Edward F. Sibbert

William Fontaine Jones

Sponsors: Leopold Arnaud & Philip L. Goodwin

Edwin Robert Kramer

Sponsors: John H. Callender & Serge Petroff

Edward A. Lehmann

Sponsors: Henry Hofmeister & L. Andrew Reinhard

Abraham D. Levitt

Sponsors: M. Milton Glass & Joseph Kiell

Albert Daniel Levy

Sponsors: Alton L. Craft & Frederick P. Platt

Henry Dickson McKenna

Sponsors: Max Abramovitz & Edwin M. Forbes

Herbert D. Phillips (former Associate)

Sponsors: Morris Lapidus & Herbert L. Lippmann

Horace Robert Poeter

Sponsors: George C. Rudolph & W. Roderick Wheeler

John Nathaniel Styffe

Sponsors: John J. Jansson & Edward F. Sibbert

Robert Murray Wagner

Sponsors: John Ogden Merrill & Louis Skidmore

*Associate Membership:*

William Wilson Atkin

Sponsors: Thomas H. Creighton & John H. Callender

Thomas Minoru Kawai

Sponsors: Louis Hecht & Angelo P. Lucia

William B. Moore

Sponsors: Arthur S. Douglass, Jr. & Yusuf Meer

Bertram A. Sherman

Sponsors: Vincent Caruso & John P. Jansson

Joan Farmer Suppes

Sponsors: Robert I. Carson & Charles F. Mink