



# O C U L U S

NEW YORK CHAPTER, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, 115 EAST 40th STREET, NEW YORK 16, NEW YORK  
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## ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

The annual luncheon meeting of the Chapter will be held on Wednesday, June 6th. The results of the voting for officers and elective committees for 1951-52 will be announced, and a report will be rendered by the President on the activities of the current committees during the year 1950-51.

Corporate and Associate Members will shortly receive letter ballots containing the names of the nominees for officers of the Chapter and for elective committees, as selected by the Nominating Committee.

The deadline for submission of independent nominations is May 23rd. According to Article 9, Section 1 (d) of the By-laws, "... independent nominations for any or all of the elective offices or committees may be submitted to the Secretary of the Chapter by ten or more assigned members of the Chapter in good standing whose signatures must be appended to such lists."

## FOR A BETTER CITY

At last! The City Planning Commission has made public the report on the proposed new zoning resolution for the city prepared by Harrison, Ballard and Allen. (Copy of the HB&A Report is available for reference at the Chapter Office). It is not yet the law. Everyone of us who is interested in a better city must help carry the ball for adoption of the new resolution.

Every corporate member of the Chapter will have received a copy of "A Review of the Proposals for Rezoning New York City." This report is an Arnold W. Brunner Fund project. It was prepared by Bruno Funaro, in association with Geoffrey Baker, under the direction of the 1949-50 Committee on Civic Design, headed by Geoffrey Platt.

This simplified analysis of a complicated resolution points out how the city can be benefitted in four ways: 1) protect the character of a district, 2) insure open air and light for streets and windows, 3) reduce congestion, 4) promote orderly and economic growth.

The Chapter, in sponsoring the Funaro report, endorses the general principles of the proposed new zoning resolution. It recognizes that there are a number of details which will require further discussion before specific provisions are ready for adoption.

Associate members of the Chapter, desiring a copy of the Funaro report, may secure one by applying to the Chapter office.

## CIVIL DEFENSE BULLETINS No. 1 and 2

Revised Bulletins No. 1 and 2, prepared by the Sub-Committee on Civil Defense of the AIA National Defense Committee, have been distributed to every corporate member of The Institute.

These bulletins have been produced under the direction of the Chapter's President, Harry M. Prince, who is Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Civil Defense.

## COORDINATION OF CIVIL AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

In its fourth report, your Advisory Committee on Civil Defense recommends planned coordination of expenditures for both civil and national defense, so that the objectives of both programs can be reached with a minimum investment of critical materials, man-power, time and money. They point out that such coordination is urgently needed in order to prevent delay in realizing an effective civil defense program.

While Federal, State and City Administrators agree in the urgency of this need, as yet no definite allocations of man-power or materials have been made to the civil defense program. Little has been done to plan national defense facilities so that they could, at no extra expense, also serve the needs of civil defense. While strategic new industrial plants have, in general, been located outside target areas, no apparent effort has been made to coordinate these with new housing or community facilities so as to achieve population dispersal at the same time. Dual purpose communal shelters have been discouraged, and, while the construction, by private enterprise, of shelters in new or existing buildings is officially encouraged, no legal action has been taken to make them mandatory.

Government Agencies are, however, making rapid progress in establishing standards for shelter construction and for other phases of emergency protection. What is needed is a coordinated program of public and private building, for civil and national defense, in their three interdependent components: industrial plants, housing, community facilities. These three components are as important to consider in the completion of existing facilities as in the creation of new satellite communities.

The Committee recommends that the A.I.A. Committee on National Defense in Washington urge all government bodies concerned to take full advantage of the profession's abilities for bold planning and coordinated action, that priorities and allocations of materials and man-power be made for the construction of shelters according to approved standards and that planning for national defense be coordinated with the needs of civil defense in the location and design of industrial plants, housing and community facilities.

The report has been approved by the Executive Committee of the New York Chapter, the Architects' Council of New York and has been forwarded to Washington.

## A FEATHER IN OUR CAP

The Institute has adopted Report No. 1 of the Chapter's Committee on Civil Defense to be used as a guide on the role of the architect in civil defense.

Credit goes to Morris Ketchum, Jr., Chairman, and the members of his Committee on Civil Defense.

This report was the first in a series of four already produced by this Committee, each one of which has attracted wide attention among the public and members of the profession.

*HAIL FELLOWS!*

Elevation to Fellowship in the A.I.A. is one of the highest honors which the professional society can confer. This month, in Chicago, thirty-nine men are being so honored. The New York Chapter is proud to announce that nine of its members have been elected to fellowship because of outstanding service to the profession as follows:

**Welles Bosworth**—for achievement in design and for public service. He is best known for his group of buildings for M.I.T. in Cambridge, The American Telephone Co. building at 195 Broadway, and his work on the restoration of the palaces and gardens of Versailles and Fontainebleau and the Cathedral of Reims, France. He is now living in retirement in France.

**Henry Stern Churchill**—for public service. His most notable contribution to the development of architecture in the U. S. has been his clear thinking in city planning, especially in relation to housing. A distinguished authority in this field, he has lectured at universities and to professional and civic groups. He is author of "The City Is the People" and numerous magazine articles and technical studies, all focusing on the need for positive aesthetic qualities in architecture.

**Walter H. Kilham, Jr.**—for achievement in design. The Firestone Library at Princeton University, in which he harmonized a large modern building with the scale and Gothic detail of an established campus, has exerted a tremendous influence on library design. Active in municipal affairs in New York City, he has worked for a new zoning law, and in 1944 made a community survey published by the Board of Education, analyzing the problems to be considered in planning school buildings. He has served on important national and local A.I.A. committees, and was president of the N. Y. Chapter in 1949-50.

**William Lescaze**—for achievement in design, education and public service. He has crusaded for contemporary architecture in his writings and lectures, and through the example of his own outstanding design work. The Philadelphia Savings Fund Society Building, the first air conditioned skyscraper, done in association with George Howe in 1932, is widely acclaimed as one of the best office buildings in the country. Another first was his use of glass brick in residences in 1933. Active in housing and planning affairs, he has served on numerous municipal and national committees. In 1949 Governor Dewey appointed him Commissioner of the New York State Building Code Commission which is preparing a uniform state wide building code.

**William Platt**—for achievement in design. He was one of the first to utilize modern building materials in the development of a distinguished commercial building, the Corning Building in N. Y. C., in which the use of glass is eminently appropriate and extremely well handled, having a monumental quality without being heavy. The son of a distinguished architect, the late Charles A. Platt, he has inherited the good taste of his father, carrying on in his tradition, while at the same time producing designs of originality and freshness.

**L. Andrew Reinhard**—for achievement in design and education. A former member of the National Commission of Fine Arts, he has lectured at leading architectural schools and has contributed articles to numerous professional publications. He did the original sketches for Rockefeller Center which his firm, Reinhard and Hofmeister, carried to completion over an eight year period. The firm received the 1937 Diplome de Grand Prix in Paris for their contribution to Rockefeller Center and for other commercial and industrial designs including Chase Branch Banks, Chrysler International show room, numerous offices, show rooms and other projects.

**Lorimer Rich**—for achievement in design and for public service. As winner of several important national architectural competitions, including the one for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington, he has consistently endeavored to have important government commissions awarded on the basis of competition. Because of interest in this field he is serving as Chairman of the A.I.A. Committee on Competitions. As vice-chairman of the Institute on the National Capitol, he has actively participated in the effort to keep the east facade of the Capitol intact, thus preserving the original work of Thornton, Latrobe and Bulfinch.

**Roland A. Wank**—for achievement in design. Under his leadership as Head Architect, the Tennessee Valley Authority erected dams and related structures that rank among the finest examples of architectural and engineering accomplishment in the world. His work went far beyond that which is generally termed architecture. As a planning expert and one of the principal technicians employed by the Authority, he played an important part in the overall development of the entire project. He is currently in charge of work for the New Jersey Turnpike Authority including economic and site planning, design of all building structures and architectural design of engineering structures. He has written numerous articles for professional and lay periodicals, and has lectured extensively at leading architectural schools.

**Lawrence Grant White**—for achievement in design. Son of a distinguished architect, the late Stanford White, he has done outstanding work not only in architectural design but in allied fields—as evidenced in his translation of Dante's Divine Comedy into English blank verse. He has carried on the best traditions of McKim, Mead and White, of which he is now senior partner. His work is notable for its basic soundness of scale and attention to detail. He has recently been honored with the presidency of the National Academy of Design.

*HONORARY ASSOCIATE*

At the annual luncheon on June 6th, the name of a candidate recommended by the Honorary Associate Subcommittee of the Awards Committee and approved by the Executive Committee will be presented for a vote by Chapter members.

*FEEES*

The A.I.A. Committee on Fees is vigorously protesting the proposed reduction in fees to architects on PHA housing projects. Conferences are in progress between PHA officials, The Institute, and representatives of NAHO and the engineering professions.

More on this later.

*ARCHITECTS NOT ONLY READ AND WRITE —  
THEY SING, TOO!*

The vocal ability of some members of the Chapter was proved at the 82nd Anniversary Dinner, where the Chapter's AIAires did more than their part to make the occasion a gala one. The AIAires, lest you forget, are Ronald Allwork, Raymond Burns, Mortimer Freehof, R. Jackson Smith, and Oscar Vaughan. The hit song of their repertoire was the parody on "I Learned About Women from Her", composed by Mortimer Freehof. In answer to many requests, we are publishing the lyrics in this issue.

On questions about architecture  
We are accustomed to dwell  
But there may be some conjecture  
On our august personnel:  
Out of their habits and foibles  
Works of great genius may stem.  
The things we reveal  
May not have much appeal  
But we'll learn about buildings from them.

Harold Sleeper indulges in traffic  
With lectures and teaching and books,  
Most of his standards are graphic,  
Fellows he'll convoy like Cook's.  
His extra-curricular functions  
Have worn all his leisure time slim,  
Though all this production  
Has side-tracked construction  
We learn about buildings from him.

Matthew Del Gaudio's passion  
Is unification of might.  
He wanted to make it the fashion  
To merge all the chapters in sight.  
Next we present Clarence Litchfield,  
Who sets up the contracts and fees.  
If we followed his bent  
We'd charge fifty percent.  
We can learn about buildings from these.

A.I.A.'s always advising,  
Though dividends it might pay,  
That we should shun advertising  
But one of our men found a way.  
None of his clients who witnessed  
A whiskey glass filled to the brim  
To which he was linked, shun  
The man of distinction  
We learn about buildings from him.

Philip C. Johnson arouses  
Debate on a topic profound,  
Should folks who live in glass houses  
Try to throw ashlar around?

Bill Ballard commutes down to Norfolk,  
Where he's been slumming pro tem.  
The talent he's loaning  
Puts ozone in zoning.  
We learn about buildings from them.

The Atlantic Pact's clauses are heavy,  
With weighty provisions they're stacked,  
But not to Julian Levi  
He has his own private pact:  
He's painted the earth's scenic landscapes  
Around its circumference rim;  
His wordly gyrations  
Unite all the nations  
We learn about buildings from him.

Multiple dwellings in city  
And state have begun to evince  
Proof that the Mitchell Committee  
Is guided by Harry M. Prince.  
Instead of steel, concrete and lumber  
For safety to life and to limb,  
Lest fires molest us  
He'd build with asbestos  
We learn about buildings from him.

When a man has arrived at the limit  
Of honors by architects earned  
Does further activity dim it?  
Not where Ralph Walker's concerned.  
He's strong for improvement in teachers  
And says their perception is dim.  
He tags an apprentice  
As non compos mentis.  
We learn about buildings from him.

Otto Eggers and Daniel Paul Higgins  
By functions are deeply impressed.  
You'll find at most cornerstone diggin's  
Dan in his tattersal vest.  
Skidmore & Owings & Merrill  
Turn glass to a structural gem;  
And we try to chantwell  
For Boss-Lady Cantwell.  
We learn about buildings from them.

When the building department's objected  
To stairways, garages and such,  
Then Harris Murdock's expected  
To keep us from getting in dutch.  
When clients request variations  
His rulings are proper and prim.  
Even fair sex-appeal  
Now and then wrecks appeal.  
We learn of buildings from him.

Time and your patience prohibit  
Specifications on Small,  
Eleanor Pepper's exhibit,  
Or Arnaud from Avery Hall:  
Williams and Holden and Schwartzman,  
And more of the crème de là crème.  
Like chairman Frank Keally:  
We think that we really  
Can learn about buildings from them.

**LEGISLATION**

A bill introduced in the State Legislature by Assemblyman Alfred Lama on behalf of the Joint Legislative Committee on Housing and Multiple Dwellings, of which Harry M. Prince, President of this Chapter, is technical consultant, and recently signed by the Governor, amends the Multiple Dwelling Law in relation to the enclosure of stairs in new non-fireproof multiple dwellings.

One of the changes requires that in non-fireproof multiple dwellings over three stories in height to be erected after September 1, 1951, each exit from an apartment must lead through a fireproof public hall and then to a fireproof enclosed stair, fire stair, or fire tower. Another section of the bill permits four families, rather than the present two, on each floor of buildings less than three stories in height to enter a fireproof enclosed stairway without the intervention of a public hall. A third provision eliminates the necessity of providing windows in public halls of non-fireproof multiple dwellings, allowing ventilation by mechanical means.

The bill as a whole is thought to constitute an outstanding advance in the protection of the public against fire hazards, as well as being conducive to more economical planning.

Copy of this and other amendments to the Multiple Dwelling Law is available for reference in the Chapter Office.

Copy of the bill may be secured by writing to the Print Room, The Capitol, Albany 1, N. Y.

**HONORS**

The Institute announced in April that at the annual convention in Chicago Honorary Memberships would be given to Edwin Sharp Burdell, Director of Cooper Union in New York; to Lewis Mumford, author and critic; and to W. Englebert Reynolds, Commissioner of Public Buildings; and that Honorary Corresponding Memberships were to be bestowed on eight foreign architects.

In addition to his position at Cooper Union, Burdell holds the chairmanship of the Commission on Architectural Education and Registration of the A.I.A. Since his graduation from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology he has been primarily concerned with education in various forms and places, but is also a member of many philanthropic groups and of a number of organizations devoted to the arts and sciences. He has been director of Cooper Union since 1938.

Mumford, perhaps best known to the members of our profession through his essays on architectural topics appearing from time to time in *The New Yorker*, is the author of many books on architecture and planning and on the arts and humanities in general. He has also had a distinguished career as an educator and has had applied experience as a planner when serving as consultant for the Northwest Regional Council and City and County Park Board of Honolulu in 1938.

It was also announced that a Citation for Craftsmanship, this year taking the place of the Craftsmanship Medal customarily awarded to an individual, would be given to Steuben Glass, this award, the highest in the power of the A.I.A. to bestow, thus going to a corporation for the first time.

The Steuben Glass works were founded in 1903, but achieved no great success or distinction until thirty years later, when Arthur Amory Houghton, Jr., a descendant of the founder of the Corning Glass Works, organized a new company under the old name. Having available a practically flawless crystal recently developed by Corning, Houghton, with John Monteith Gates, a member of this Chapter, and Sidney Waugh, the sculptor, proceeded to study all aspects of the new medium, as well as the history of glassmaking in general, and at the outset established a precedent for simple, forthright design which would evoke fully the special brilliance of pure crystal glass. Pieces of the resulting work may now be seen in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Manship, Matisse, Dali, and O'Keefe are among the artists who have designed engravings used on Steuben Glass.

**BUILDING CONTROLS SUMMARIES**

It was announced in the April OCULUS, that the summaries of new building controls, which had appeared in five issues, would be discontinued, for lack of space, unless members urged their continuance.

Since the response received during the past month did not seem to warrant a continuation of these summaries, the Editors of OCULUS have discontinued this feature with this issue.

Copies of the releases of the NPA, Federal Reserve Board, U. S. Department of Commerce and other agencies on which these summaries are based are available for reference in the Chapter Office.

**AN ORCHID TO THE EDITORS**

President Prince suggested that we forget our modesty and publish in this issue the appreciation of the Executive Committee and other members for what they consider an admirable attempt to keep the members up-to-date, through the summaries, on the almost daily changes occurring in building controls. Most of the credit goes to Harmon Goldstone, who patiently and faithfully waded through pages and pages of directives to boil them down for ready reference.

**CANDIDATES**

According to the By-Laws of the Chapter, name 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**

John Hugh Clark

*Sponsors:* Brother Cajetan Baumann and John C. B. Moore

Arthur Malsin

*Sponsors:* Dean Leopold Arnaud and William H. Hayes

Don Paul Reiman

*Sponsors:* Dean Leopold Arnaud and William H. Hayes