

NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
ONE FIFTEEN EAST FORTIETH STREET, NEW YORK 16, NEW YORK



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# OCULUS

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## COMING EVENTS

Because of their high cost special mailings of notices of each Chapter activity are being discontinued. Commencing with this issue, the **ONLY NOTICE OF COMING EVENTS** will appear on the first page of the OCULUS. Reservation slips will be mailed with the OCULUS and must be in the Chapter office three days before the event scheduled. If this is not done, either you lose your seat or the Chapter loses money on its guarantee to the League. Won't you please cooperate and make your reservations early?

TUESDAY, Jan. 8th. 12:30 LUNCHEON - Arthur Holden will present to LEWIS MUMFORD his Certificate of Honorary Membership. WALTER KILHAM and EDGAR WILLIAMS will also be on hand to discuss the 1952 Convention Exhibits - their nature - present plans - and the best means for acquainting the public with the project. Mr. Herwitz, who was originally scheduled to speak on this date has been rescheduled for February 5th.

TUESDAY, Jan. 22nd. 12:30 LUNCHEON - Edwin Forbes has been successful in obtaining JOHN J. HOGAN, Regional Structural Engineer for the Portland Cement Association, to talk about PRE-STRESSED CONCRETE.

TUESDAY, Jan. 29th. 6:30 DINNER - AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE AT THE CROSSROADS - James M. Fitch, architectural editor of HOUSE BEAUTIFUL magazine, sees this as Problem No. 1 and he will tell us why at a dinner meeting under the auspices of the Committee on Education. If you've heard Jim Fitch - or if you haven't - know that his charming, witty, studious incisive mind will shed both heat and light. His experiences as author, editor of architectural magazines, on the staff of F.H.A., T.V.A., and the Tennessee State Planning Commission and as instructor at the Columbia School of Architecture equip him to deal with all sides and overtones of the subject.

TUESDAY, Feb. 5th. 12:30 LUNCHEON - OREN C. HERWITZ will speak on this date instead of January 8th as originally planned. His subject: ARCHITECTURAL CONTRACTS WITH NEW YORK CITY.

## WORTHY CAUSE

Members wishing to subscribe to the United Hospital Fund are urged to send their contributions (deductible for Income Tax purposes) to George S. Holder-ness, c/o Eggers & Higgins, who is assisting the cause by a special appeal to architects.

## NPA CONTROLS

The New York Building Congress held a special meeting last month to discuss shortcomings in the regulations for construction controls set up by the National Production Authority. It was pointed out that "the regulations, as applied to the construction industry, conserve little critical material and at the same time are crippling a great industry. In the past year employment in the construction crafts of Greater New York is down 50% and is steadily decreasing." It was noted that the wording of NPA regulations is often confusing; that there are protracted delays in disseminating information and in processing applications; that there is constant change in the basic methods of control; and that the controls are frequently unrealistic in conception.

A resolution urging the NPA to make the following changes in procedure was forwarded to the Director of the Office of Defense Mobilization and the Administrator of the N.P.A.: (1) To consult with representatives of the construction industry before promulgating regulations and amendments; (2) to amend its regulations so that building which has commenced may be completed; (3) further to amend its regulations so that, although actual construction has not commenced, substantial financial and legal commitments are recognized in defining the commencement of construction; (4) to establish a firm policy that amendments of regulations shall not affect construction started under regulations in effect prior to amendments; (5) to grant allotments for an entire construction project thus permitting orderly economical progress to completion, impossible under the quarterly allotment plan; and (6) to investigate thoroughly possibilities of increasing the available amount of critical materials to be used in construction.

At an A.I.A. Executive Committee meeting in Washington early this month, Manley Fleischmann, NPA Administrator, promised allocations of controlled building materials on a project rather than a quarterly basis, insuring that buildings whose construction is begun can be completed. It is evident that the Defense authorities are responding to requests for changes in controls, and it is expected that further corrective action will soon be taken.

## BRUNNER SCHOLARSHIPS

The President of the New York Chapter is happy to announce the grant of two 1952 Brunner Scholarships: to Mr. Huson Taylor Jackson, of New York, for his project "A Survey of Important Architectural and City Planning Works in the New York Region", and to Mr. Addison Erdman, of the New York firm of Butler, Kohn and Erdman, for his projected volume "An Investigation of Modern Hospital Planning and Architecture throughout the United States and Canada". These selections were made after exhaustive evaluation of twelve applications emanating from all sections of the country.

Mr. Jackson plans to compile for eventual publication an authoritative and carefully selected list of existing architectural and city planning monuments which have contributed to the growth of Greater New York from its origin to the present. To begin this large task, he will first prepare a much shorter list for publication as a guidebook for visitors to the 1952 A.I.A. Convention to be held in New York next June.

Mr. Erdman's new book is to supplement and bring up to date the mass of knowledge concerning hospital planning which has accumulated since the publication of his volume "Hospital Planning" in 1946.

## BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Gillroy has notified the Chapter of current rulings:

Balconies extending beyond building line are not permitted under Sec. C26-219.0 Administrative Code. Ornamental balustrades may project 20 inches.

Conversion to Multiple Dwellings: Yards and courts required by Sec. 172 M.D.L. must be provided in dwellings converted under Sec. 264 M.D.L.

Bulkheads and cellar stairs in 3-story Old Law Tenements - Sec. 233, 218 and 242 M.D.L. - When the number of apartments is increased, stairs must be extended to roof through a bulkhead; inside cellar stairs are prohibited. Boiler Room Enclosures - Sec. 65 M.D.L. - Not required where the boiler is existing and is converted from coal to oil.

Conversion to Multiple Dwellings of 1 or 2 Family Dwellings with 8" walls on first and second stories and bearing partitions, built after 1938 - Sec. 9 M.D.L. and Sec. 8.4.2.5, 8.4.9.1, 8.7.1.1 Building Code - If erected before October 15, 1942, they can be converted under Sec. 9.9 M.D.L. If erected later, they may not be converted unless they comply with present M.D.L.

Replacement of Gasoline Signs - New signs cannot exceed area of existing signs according to B.S.A. Resolution 1375-38.

Show Windows for Existing Stores - Sec. 7-A of Zoning Resolution shall not be construed as permitting installation of show windows more than 25 ft. from the corner in existing portion of building "heretofore" occupied for business.

Two-way ribbed construction in conjunction with flat slabs: Acceptable under Sec. C26-476.0 Adm. Code. Slab thickness between ribs determined by Sec. C26-476.0. Minimum bar spacing shall comply with 2-way ribbed construction and with flat slab requirements for respective portions of the floor. Combination of constructions to comply with requirements for flat slab systems.

## SIGN COMPETITION

Because of the limited number of entries in the Sign Competition, the closing date has been extended to January 25th. The competition was conceived for the purpose of establishing a standard architect's sign to go on buildings under construction. The color, shape and format should combine to make a trademark for A.I.A. members. Drawings should not exceed 24". Come on, men, let's see what you can do!

## INCREASE IN DUES

Because of increased costs, especially the cost of our participation in the Architects' Council, it has been necessary to increase the Chapter dues as follows: Corporate Members from \$30 to \$35; Associates from \$12.50 to \$15; 2nd year Corporates from \$22.50 to \$25; and 1st year Corporates from \$15 to \$20. This action was approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting on December 11th.

## BUDGET AND BY-LAWS

The proposed changes in the By-Laws were approved along with the budget for a period of nine months. The fiscal year having been changed to run from October to October, dues for 1952 will be rendered upon a nine-month basis after which bills for dues will be sent on a yearly basis on the first of October of each year.

INVITATION FROM THE ARMY

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Among several vacancies in the district office announced by the New York District Engineer, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, are the following, with descriptions of the principal duties in Army phraseology:

Architect - Investigation, development, design relative to construction of installations, in connection with modifications, alterations, additions and new construction.

Architect - Study, design determinations of architectural engineering requirements and architectural features of structures.

EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECTS

Architects of 1952 will be pleased with the revamping of the EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT, official publication of the New York State Association. Richard Roth has announced that the six bi-monthly issues will each be allocated to a different type of project, in the following sequence: housing, banks and shopping centers, schools and colleges, hospitals, annual convention and roster, factories and defense work.

Why is this being done? It is to benefit society members

- . .By publicizing the work of which they are proud; it does not interfere, however, with publication of the same building in other journals.
- . .By obtaining a maximum amount of advertising income for the association from builders, manufacturers and other interested parties.
- . .By coordinating the various groups of architects of the entire State, not those in just a particular region.

Architects are therefore urged to submit any projects for publication to Julian L. Kahle, Esq., EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT, 21 Clarendon Place, Buffalo 9, N.Y.

CANDIDATES

Information regarding the qualifications of the following candidates for membership will be considered confidential by the Admissions Committee:

Corporate Membership

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|---------------------|---|
| Herbert Epstein     | Sponsors: Edgar Albright and Michael J. Mongiello |
| Roy S. Johnson      | Sponsors: John H. Callender and Edward D. Stone   |
| Joseph Lau          | Sponsors: Frederick C. Genz and Henry Hofmeister  |
| Bertrand J. Marlier | Sponsors: Otto R. Eggers and R. Jackson Smith     |

Associate Membership

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Lester G. Abramson    | Sponsors: Alonzo W. Clark and Joseph L. Hautman |
| Salvatore C. Valastro | Sponsors: St. Elmo Tower Piza and Huson Jackson |

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