

NEW YORK CHAPTER



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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OCULUS

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COMING EVENTS

- May 19 at 12:30 p.m. Lunch at the Architectural League, to be followed by a business meeting on the proposed NEW FEES SCHEDULE.
- May 26 at 12:30 p.m. PRE-CONVENTION luncheon and meeting
- June 3 at 12:30 p.m. ANNUAL LUNCHEON

WILLIAM ADAMS DELANO

At the forthcoming national convention at Seattle, the A.I.A. will present its Gold Medal to William Adams Delano. His many friends will be happy that this recognition is to be given to a career rich in professional and civic achievements.

After graduation from Yale in 1895, Mr. Delano received his diploma at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris in 1903. Returning to this country, he became a member of the firm of Delano and Aldrich and embarked upon a long and successful career in the design of private residences, clubs, schools and public buildings.

Among the works of this office for which Mr. Delano was especially responsible are the American Embassy in Paris, the Knickerbocker, Brook and Colony Clubs, the Third Church of Christ, Scientist, the Willard Straight residence, now the Audubon Society headquarters, and the George F. Baker residence in New York City. A long series of country houses such as that of James A. Burden on Long Island were designed and built in the period ending about 1930.

Although a number of architects were engaged in this type of work during this era, the houses of Delano and Aldrich have a special distinction. Generally conceived in the Georgian and Federal styles, they are serious original essays in design. Nowhere is there to be seen a conscious effort at styling or an attempt at the picturesque. In refinement and simplicity of detail, the style was advanced to a new plane. It is doubtful if a finer group of similar buildings exists anywhere and it seems unlikely that the opportunity to duplicate them will again arise.

Concurrent with his career as a designer, Mr. Delano has always been active in professional affairs. Serving as Professor of Design at Columbia, 1903-10, as a member of the National Committee of Fine Arts, 1924-28, National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Board of Design, New York World's Fair, Art Commission, New York City, and National Academy of Design, Mr. Delano is a Fellow of the A.I.A. and served as president of the New York Chapter, A.I.A. in 1928-30. He is an Officer of the Legion of Honor of France and in 1940 received the Gold Medal of the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

LUNCHEON GUESTS

Last month two distinguished transients lunched informally in the Pine Room with Chapter members. On April 10th, Siegfried Gideon, historian and critic, was introduced by Hugh Ferriss to a gathering of twenty.

Mr. Gideon made it clear that the opportunities and horizons of the youth of the profession are close to his heart and thought. It may not be too rough a paraphrase of Mr. Gideon's remarks to say that every great idea in the arts needs three generations for its realization, and the generation coming up may be the definitive one for what's stirring now in architecture. That's why he's pitching for them.

On April 24th, Richard Neutra, in New York to judge the Carrier Corporation competition, was invited by Morris Ketchum, Jr., surrogate for President Ferriss, to talk shop with a small and friendly group of Chapter members. Mr. Neutra talked shop with great good humor and interest. He thinks advances in mechanical equipment will lead to remarkable changes in the appearance of buildings without necessarily sacrificing regional characteristics. He tossed out the amusing suggestion of a gigantic industrial merger between the Air-conditioners and the Plate Glass Barons, leaving the Sash Manufacturers to shift for themselves.

Discussion centered around the perennial question of more architectural influence on the total volume of the world's building. Educate and capture the imagination of the public seems to be one perennial answer. A degree of moderation, of friendly give-and-take in the profession's self-criticism and a constructive approach in published discussion were suggested by Douglas Haskell as important in the profession's public relations.

A GREETING FROM BRITAIN

Sir Hugh Casson, FRIBA, pausing in a fast-paced visit to Canada and the United States, was welcomed by President Ferriss, introduced by Harvey Wiley Corbett, FRIBA, and applauded by a large luncheon gathering on May 1st. Sir Hugh is charged with coordinating the decorations for the coming Coronation proceedings in the Borough of Westminster, a large, varied and important part of the City of London.

He has a budget of fifty thousand pounds (British budgets also are invariably inadequate, it seems), and a program which involves a procession, a solemn religious ceremony and a gay city-wide celebration something like New Year's Eve on Times Square. London, Sir Hugh tells us, is really a collection of villages, each with its own character and its own pride. This individuality will be respected in the variety and independence of the decorations; one district, one architect.

Sir Hugh developed in detail the administrative and technical difficulties encountered in making London gay and beautiful, but we'll have to wait for the newsreels to see what the decorations really look like. They apparently involve flagpoles, but these must not interfere with the gas mains, floral crowns, but these must not be wilted by the gas lights, and extensive illumination, even if it is difficult in London to find out where the electricity leaves off and the gas begins.

CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS INSTITUTE

C. S. I. is a national organization whose more than 700 members are engaged in preparing specifications for the construction and allied industries. Its New York Chapter, organized three years ago by Joseph A. McGinniss, holds monthly meetings for professional discussion and the exchange of information.

At the Annual Dinner to be held Wednesday, June 10th at 6:30 p.m. at the Architectural League, Robert W. McLaughlin, Jr. of Princeton University and Bruno Funaro of Columbia will discuss "Specification Education". Thomas H. Creighton will act as moderator, and a report on the state of specification training in 188 accredited schools of architecture and engineering will be presented. Members of the New York Chapter, A.I.A., and their wives are invited to attend this informal dinner. Tickets \$6.00 each may be obtained by calling MU 4-7758 or writing to Joseph A. McGinniss, President, C. S. I., 101 Park Ave., N. Y. 17.

AMENDMENTS TO BUILDING CODE

The Architects Council has provided the Chapter Office with the full text of amendments to the New York City Administrative Code briefly noted below.

- C26-903.0 Emergency opening of elevator doors. Keys releasing door interlocks to be provided outside only at first landing and bottom landing, if that provides only access to pit.
- C26-1075.0 Makes existing elevators comply with safety precautions regarding starting after power failure.
- C26-172.0 Section requiring special permit for structural welding, is **REPEALED**. Hereafter, general building permit will include welding. Rigid inspection procedures and reports are maintained.
- C26-211.0 Amended to redefine qualifications for certification of welders, and raise fee for certificate to five dollars, annual fee to two dollars.
- C26-123.1 Defines "public museum", (the structure must be owned by the city and operated by a non-profit, educational institution) and C26-720.0, giving special requirements and exemptions for auditoriums in school structures, is amended to include public museums.

LIGHTING SEMINAR

The Chapter met with the Residence Lighting Forum on the evening of April 23rd at the G.E. Auditorium to examine, with some specialized help, the question of lighting the home. Richard Kelly acted as moderator for a panel which included Thomas Smith Kelly and Harry McNary, lighting engineers, Louis Kahn and Henry Hebbeln, architects.

Five phases of the problem were covered in the discussion. To mention two or three of them: The panel gave up on the question of the different lighting intensities in a room partly naturally and partly daylighted, the experts deploring and the architects accepting them, sounded a note of caution about using a large luminous ceiling with large glass wall areas because of the danger of unpleasant reflections, and recommended extensive outdoor lighting to make large glass exposures interesting from the inside by night as well as by day. Mr. Kahn concluded the evening with some detailed and interesting comments on his work on civic design for Philadelphia.

CUTTING THE COSTS OF SCHOOLS

On April 14th an outstanding panel of educators and architects assembled at a dinner meeting to instruct the diners on how to reduce school building costs. Members of the panel were Dr. Walter Cocking, Editor of The School Executive, Mr. George Pigott, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, New York City, Mr. Archibald Shaw, Superintendent of Schools, Scarsdale, New York and architects B. Sumner Gruzen, Robert Hutchins, Walter Kilham, Jr., and J. Stanley Sharp.

Moderator Geoffrey Platt put the question and the panel went to work with all the will in the world (and some needling from the floor) on a variety of related topics: the need for establishing the educational program before the building design, getting the architect and the problem together early, educating the public on what the architect can do for them, community use of school plants, large sites, the architect and the New York City Board of Education, in sum, every lively topic except building cost reduction. There was, in fact, a recommendation from the floor to get more money rather than cut costs and Douglas Haskell, to show that the money is there, cited the nation's annual bills for cosmetics, tobacco, liquor, TV, etc. These statistics are customarily heard from the nation's pulpits in unfavorable comparison with the sums available for foreign missions but they are equally effective when cited in connection with school budgets -- and equally immutable.

PRESTRESSED CONCRETE

Architects are invited to attend a talk by L. Coff, consulting engineer, on May 27th at the Engineers' Building, 33 West 39 Street, 8:15 p.m. Mr. Coff will address the Municipal Engineers on the subject, "A Realistic Approach to Prestressed Concrete in the Light of American and European Bidding and Construction Conditions". This paper is based on 4 months' study of the subject in Europe.

CONVENTION KEYNOTERS

Pietro Belluschi, F.A.I.A., Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and William M. Allen, President of Boeing Airplane Company, will be the two keynote speakers at the 85th convention of the American Institute of Architects, which meets in Seattle, Washington, June 15-19.

Seattle resident Allen will open the business sessions Tuesday, speaking on the first part of the theme, "A New Country." Mr. Belluschi's subject, "A New Architecture," will close the week's program on Friday.

CANDIDATES

Information regarding the qualifications of the following candidate for membership will be considered confidential by the Asmissions Committee:

Associate Membership

Harry C. Buschman

Sponsors: Albert Halse and Alexander McIntyre