

NEW YORK CHAPTER

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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THE YEAR'S WORK IN REVIEW

The summaries of committee and Chapter activities which follow have been prepared from more extended reports submitted to the President as the 1953-54 season draws to its close. Every member will realize that behind each of these brief paragraphs are uncounted hours of effort and thought devoted to the advancement of the Chapter and the Institute.

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY, Richard A. Kimball

The Secretary was charged with the routine correspondence of the Chapter, as well as with special letters which the Executive Committee voted to address in support of various projects and legislation. He also worked with the Membership and Admissions Committees in representing their work to the Executive Committee. The Secretary reports that 12 members have died during the past year; 31 Corporate and Associate and 19 Student Members have resigned, and 12 Corporate members have transferred to other Chapters. The Chapter has elected 30 new Corporate and Associate members and 23 Student Members. Two Corporate members have been admitted by transfer and 1 reinstated. The total membership now stands at 900.

ADMISSIONS, Alonzo Clark, Chairman

The Committee held seven meetings during the year at which 24 applicants for Corporate Membership and 7 applications for Associate Membership were interviewed. One applicant was found to be a member of the Institute, assigned to another Chapter. Applications approved: Corporate 23 Associate 7.

MEMBERSHIP, Henry Hofmeister, Chairman

Submitted a well documented report to the Executive Committee outlining methods which might be followed in expanding Chapter and National membership. The report stresses national solidarity and strength on a high professional plane.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER, Ronald Allwork

Since the beginning of the fiscal year, the Chapter's income from dues, document sales, Reserve Fund, interest and other sources amounted to \$26,945.08. During this period administrative and other expenses amounted to \$18,983.24, leaving a balance of \$7,961.84. The year end balance of 1953, consisting of \$4,366.56, makes a total balance of \$12,328.40.

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REPORT OF THE TREASURER (continued). . . .

In December 1953, the New York Chapter received an additional and final gift of \$55,068.30 in accordance with the terms of the Arnold W. Brunner bequest to bring the total balance of the Principal Fund to \$99,836.82. The Income Account shows a balance of \$2,594.80. The LeBrun Scholarship Principal Fund totaled \$31,339.83; Income Account \$6,609.97. The Chapter's Contingent Reserve Fund amounted to \$24,593.65. The Lavanburg Housing Fund balance amounted to \$1,857.59. Audit reports as of September 30, 1953 are on file at the Chapter office.

FINANCE, Max H. Foley, Chairman

The Committee held three meetings during the year in consultation with Franklin B. Kirkbride, financial consultant for the Chapter in regard to the investments for the Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship Fund, the LeBrun Scholarship Fund and the Chapter Reserve Fund. In May 1953 the market value of the portfolio was \$120,074.00 while in May 1954, it had risen to \$190,828.00. The increase is due to the receipt of \$55,513.00 for the Brunner Fund, and to market appreciation of the securities. Current income yield is 5%. The Committee also consulted with Ronald Allwork, Treasurer, on the yearly budget for the Chapter. Members may be surprised to realize that when current balances are added to the figures above, the Chapter's assets amount to over \$200,000.00.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSES, George Cooper Rudolph, Chairman

Formerly known as "The Small House Committee," the Committee held eight meetings during the year. A prominent speculative builder was a guest at one meeting where he explained the problems of his business. It was decided to prepare an exhibition of house design for development builders. Theodore Hood is Sub-Committee Chairman in charge of this exhibition. Another sub-committee, "The Small House Panel" under Mortimer Freehof is participating in the "Build Your Home Exposition" at the 34th Street Armory during the week May 28th -- June 3rd where a booth will be maintained.

FEES AND CONTRACTS, Francis Keally, Chairman

After two years of research, the Committee has unanimously arrived at what it considers the optimum solution to a percentage fee schedule for members of the Chapter. The new forms were presented to the Executive Committee on May 9th for its approval.

LEGISLATION, Samuel M. Kurtz, Chairman

Reviewed and commented on aspects of the State Code applicable to multiple dwellings. Opposed bills permitting corporate practice of engineering, sharply limiting employment of private architects on New York City public work, and imposing sales tax on services, none of which passed. Supported various multiple dwelling and other bills, most of which passed; sponsored jointly with the Codes committee a modification of the local code in the matter of exits, action on which is now pending. The Chairman served on the legislative and similar committees of various other organizations, in the interest of uniformity of action.

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PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE, Morris Ketchum, Jr., Chairman

Reports very few cases of a serious nature for 1953-1954. All were settled amicably to the satisfaction of all concerned. Has given a great deal of professional advice to both laymen and architects who have sought the committee's counsel.

HOUSING, John H. Callender, Chairman

Continued, under a grant from the Lavanburg Foundation, a study begun last year of the large section of Manhattan lying between Central Park and the Hudson River. Obtained services of Hans Blumenfeld in carrying out this almost completed study. Attention of the study has been focused on population movements and general accumulation and replacement of residential structures in the area, with a view to shedding light on future development of this and similar areas.

TECHNICAL, Bruno Funaro, Chairman

Sponsored a series of four luncheon meetings: two on Prestressed concrete, Climatology, Space Frame construction; three evening talks on Structural Engineering in collaboration with Columbia, Cooper and Pratt; sponsored two luncheon meetings in cooperation with the Producers Council; founded a group of seminars among Chapter members for the exchange of professional information on several building types and technical subjects; formed a panel of volunteers to answer request received by the Chapter by mail or phone for technical information.

CIVIL DEFENSE, Hippolyte Kamenka, Chairman

Noting widespread public and professional apathy on this subject even though weapons are becoming more devastating, the Committee continued activity to develop liaison between the Chapter and City, State and National organizations such as the Architects Council and the A.I.A. Headquarters in Washington.

EDUCATION, Otto J. Teegen, Chairman

Conducted an inquiry on the qualities of the young architectural graduates and how they measure up to the requirements of the present day architectural office. Sent out 675 Questionnaires to Corporate Members; received and analyzed 130, containing observations on 705 graduates. On May 5th conducted an open meeting attended by some 40 members to review the findings of this inquiry. The final record revealed a few misgivings on the part of employers regarding the abilities of these potential architects, but also established that architects have a great responsibility toward continuation of the apprentices' development.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS, Talbot Hamlin, F.A.I.A., Chairman

The Committee has regularized its relationship with the Municipal Art Society of New York which is carrying out the listing of worthy local historical buildings. At the suggestion of this committee, the Chapter has supported the Board of Estimate in providing funds for the restoration of City Hall; it has protested to Congress the demolition of the Patent Office, and to the Veteran's Administration the proposed destruction of "Boscobel" near Croton. Passed a resolution approving in principle the proposed rescue of the Mark Twain House by the Greenwich Village Chamber of Commerce. Enough funds were pledged to preserve the entrance doorway for a Mark Twain memorial room in the proposed library of New York University.

FELLOWS, John C. B. Moore, Chairman

The Committee met three times in September and October 1953 to consider carefully recommendations for Fellowship to be presented to the Executive Committee. On September 22, 1953, Executive Committee approved the nominations, which were forwarded to Washington to the Jury on Fellows.

PUBLICATIONS, Richard B. Snow, Chairman

Held monthly meetings. Brought out nine issues of OCULUS composed in approximately equal parts of official announcements, accounts of Chapter events and related professional news, book reviews, and amiable chit-chat.

PUBLIC RELATIONS, Harmon Goldstone, Chairman

Held nine regular monthly meetings and one special meeting. Carried through ten special projects, including work in connection with Willem Dudok's visit, a program to promote the use of the Architect's name whenever pictures of his work are published, the formation of a reference panel to handle inquiries originating outside the Chapter, study and recommendations in regard to architects and advertising, organization of the Public Relations Workshop scheduled for June 3rd, and several other significant projects. Advised various Chapter committees and activities on public relations; made much published material available to members, their clients, and to the public; provided information to various publications. Prepared a long range program for Chapter public relations.

YOUNGER ARCHITECTS, Roger Halle, Chairman

Completed and presented to the Executive Committee its comprehensive report on the causes and some possible remedies for the scarcity of younger members and their limited participation in New York architectural activities. Studied problems of registration, professional practice by younger architects and various aspects of the relationships of younger persons with the A.I.A. In each case the Committee made specific suggestions.

MEETINGS, Walter O. Cain, Chairman

The season opened with a Buffet Supper meeting October 22, 1953, attended by 141, at which the present Executive Committeemen and Committee Chairmen briefly outlined current activities and prospects in all departments. Dec. 8: Lunch meeting for Basil Spence, FRIBA; Feb. 19: "Steamboat Party" in collaboration with the Architectural League and the B.A.I.D.; March 4: Lunch meeting, discussion of By-Laws; March 30: Anniversary meeting, Metropolitan Museum; May 5: Dinner Meeting; discussion of Architectural Education; May 18: PreConvention meeting; June 2: Annual meeting, election of Officers.

BY-LAWS, Harry M. Prince, Chairman

The Committee has completed revision of the Chapter's By-Laws. The revision has been mainly one of modernization and recodification. Certain matters pertaining to the nomination of officers and recommendations for nomination for Fellowship did undergo substantive revision and were discussed by the membership at a Chapter meeting in March.

BRUNNER SCHOLARSHIP, L. Bancel LaFarge, Chairman

Evaluated twenty applications for the Scholarship which was unanimously awarded to Ralph E. Myers, A.S.A. of Kivett and Myers, Kansas City, Mo., for a project consisting of the editing of a series of 30 minute lectures in the form of colored slides with tape recording commentary, entitled "Architecture -- U.S.A." Professor Paul Zucker of Cooper Union, holder of the 1953 Scholarship, travelled extensively in Europe last summer, gathering source material for his book "Town and Square." A small grant made through Walter H. Kilham, Jr., to Phillip Mei Chu for making an Analysis of the Revised Draft of Proposed Zoning Regulations. Under the will of the late Arnold W. Brunner, the Chapter has received an additional bequest of \$55,513.00 for Scholarship purposes.

LEBRUN SCHOLARSHIP, Robert Carson, Chairman

Issued a problem "An Elementary School" to join in Columbia's bi-centennial program. 36 problems judged; award made to Brian John Crumlish, Urbana, Illinois, who will leave for Europe this summer. Exhibited drawings at the Architectural League week of May 17th.

CIVIC DESIGN, Esmond Shaw, Acting Chairman

Held five meetings under the chairmanship of Robert C. Weinberg. Two sub-committees were formed at the first meeting: Current Affairs, Theodore Hood, Chairman, reported on public construction, mapping and zoning changes, site organizations, etc.; Design Control, Robert C. Weinberg, Chairman, is a joint committee with the New York-Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Planners to study the legal control of design and aesthetics.

FIFTH AVENUE ASSOCIATION, Edgar I. Williams, Chairman

The Committee together with the Fifth Avenue Association's Committee on Architectural Awards reviewed and visited the new altered buildings and shop fronts to be considered for awards, making their selections on April 27th. The awards will be announced next autumn.

VISITING ARCHITECTS, Frederick J. Woodbridge, Chairman

Welcomed and assisted groups and individuals visiting New York, among them: School of Design, North Carolina State College; architectural delegation from Germany and Switzerland; Australian Building Industry Group; Willem Dudok, of Holland; Basil Spence of Scotland; Andreas T. Beck, of Switzerland, and others.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Hugh Ferriss, Chairman

20 meetings were held per schedule adopted last June. All meetings were attended by a quorum. All actions of the committee are recorded in the minutes which are on file in the Chapter office and are available to all members.

MEDAL OF HONOR, The President, ex-officio Chairman

The 1954 Medal of Honor was awarded to Harvey Wiley Corbett, F.A.I.A., and presented to him at the Anniversary Meeting at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on the evening of March 30th.

NOMINATIONS, Geoffrey Lawford, Chairman

Considered carefully the many factors and fine opportunities inherent in making nominations for Officers and Elective Committees. Was happy to offer for Chapter consideration the fine panel of candidates for which voting has been concluded and which remained unopposed.

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HAIL AND FAREWELL

To the nominees headed by Robert S. Hutchins who have expressed their willingness to take up the Chapter's burdens for the coming year go our thanks and hearty good wishes. They are men of wisdom and experience whose devotion to the Institute and the profession has been repeatedly demonstrated. Their election is predicted by a landslide.

To the outgoing administration, finishing with flying banners two years of brilliant accomplishment, our gratitude for holding high the concept of architecture as a profession, of the architect as a professional man, of the Chapter not only as an organization of hard workers but of companions, good companions. To Hugh Ferriss particular thanks for his patience, his imaginative leadership, his fund of good humor and good talk -- and for that wonderful party at the Museum!

AN ARCHITECT'S CHOICE

On view at Grand Central Moderns, 120 East 57th Street until June 8th is the exhibition, "An Architect's Choice." Allen and Edwin Kramer, A.I.A. have assembled a collection of modern paintings and sculpture, placed them in several residences and an office showroom of their design and had them photographed in these settings. The photographs have been hung with the actual painting or sculpture mounted alongside and in some instances with an alternate object of art as well.

The paintings represented are Byron Browne, Fred Conway, Victor Candell, Lamar Dodd, Howard Cook, Xavier Gonzalez, Hazard Durfee, George Morrison and Arthur Osver. Sculptures are by Milton Hebard, Nathaniel Kaz and Hugo Robus.

It is good to see for once an Architect's free selection of works of art to complement his design. The paintings generally have a mural character and they and the sculptures look well in their surroundings and give an elegance to the clean architecture.

FALL SHOWING

This fall the Chapter's Committee on Houses is planning to have an exhibition showing homes designed by architects for the speculative builder. Theodore Hood is in charge of arrangements. Further details will be announced later.

IN MEMORIAM

"It may be we shall touch the Happy Isles
And see the great Achilles whom we know"

Frederick A. Burdett	John Ebersch	St. Elmo Tower Pisa
Charles Butler	Daniel P. Higgins	William Van Alen
Rosario Candela	Robert D. Kohn	Harry L. Walker
Harvey Wiley Corbett	William Orr Ludlow	Herman Wick

PRE-CONVENTION LUNCHEON

At the pre-convention luncheon on May 18th the tellers announced that 32 delegates and several alternate delegates had been elected to represent the Chapter in the annual convention in Boston, where they will serve uninstructed. It was moved by Roger Halle, and carried, that our delegation bring to appropriate attention at the national level the problems and the relation to the Institute of younger architects, making the Chapter's recent studies available. Alonzo Clark offered a resolution which was carried, recommending that professional advisers and critics, through local Chapters, be made available to the accredited architectural schools desiring them. Harmon Goldstone proposed a resolution, on the basis of his study as Chairman of Public Relations, approving the revised text of paragraphs 12 and 13 of Standards of Professional Practice, A.I.A. Document No. 330, with the addition of a paragraph permitting the use of an architect's name and photograph in commercial advertising providing no direct endorsements or inappropriate statements are made. This was passed by a vote of 18 to 15.

Matthew Del Guadio reported in detail on the progress to date of the A.I.A. Committee on Organization and Lorimer Rich, Chairman of the A.I.A. Competitions Committee spoke on certain procedures in competitions which will come up for review at the National Convention.

SEMINARS

On March 31 the Technical Committee sent the membership a proposal for forming discussion groups on various building types. There has been a warm response, and Chairman Funaro has high-handedly, and very effectively, appointed a temporary chairman to get underway in each of four categories: Schools, Paul L. Wood; Stores and Shopping Centers, Richard A. Belcher; Hospitals, Alonzo Clark; Heating, Air Conditioning and Mechanical Equipment, Harold Sleeper. Each of these divisions has already a large and interested panel and the discussions will be fruitful. It goes without saying that the ranks are not closed and that the formation of other groups would be welcomed. One more accomplishment in a fine season under Mr. Funaro's vigorous and able direction.

TRAVELER FROM SCOTLAND

As Honorary Corresponding Member of the Royal Institute of British Architects, William A. Delano has received a letter from R.W.K.C. Rogerson, Scottish architect. Mr. Rogerson has been awarded the MacLaren Travelling Studentship, issued by the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland. Under the terms of this Studentship, he is to spend not less than four months abroad "to study, examine and report on some examples of Contemporary Architectural Design and Construction", and he hopes to do this in the United States. The funds of the award not being sufficient for the whole time, Mr. Rogerson hopes to work for two months in an office and spend the rest of the time touring the country, an excellent combination of activities. He is thirty-six years old, has had experience in school, house and commercial design, lectures in Glasgow on Construction and History and is Chief Assistant with a Glasgow firm.

Any member who could offer Mr. Rogerson employment for two months and thereby make possible his trip, is requested to communicate with the Chapter office.

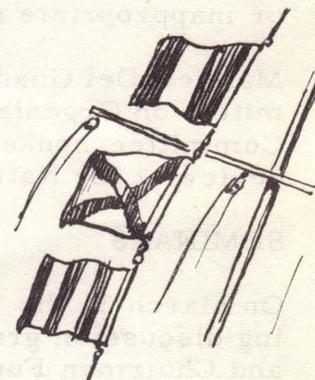
DOCTOR GEHRON

On June 14 Dennison University, Granville, Ohio, will confer on William Gehron, FAIA, the degree of Doctor of Fine Arts in appreciation of his distinguished standing in the profession and his fine work in developing the campus at Dennison. This happy association dates back to 1917 when Mr. Gehron was associated with Arnold W. Brunner. Congratulations -- ah, - Doctor!

GOOD BATTING

The tradition of pinch hitters in America is hallowed by such diverse figures as Molly Pitcher, General Phil Sheridan and Ty Cobb. To a long line of heroes and heroines must now be added the name of Margot Henkel, around whom the Chapter office currently revolves. Since Mrs. Short's return to her hearth some months ago, Mrs. Henkel has, with some good secretarial assistance, borne the full load of office work within the Chapter and the constant pressure from outside sources.

She has done an enormous amount of work -- done it with her traditional accuracy, with courtesy, resourcefulness, with foresight. Respectful but appreciable pressure on committee-men and Chapter officers has been applied, with good effect. All who have worked with Mrs. Henkel this latter half of the year will join in saying "Well Done!"



HOLIDAY

The New York Building Congress has scheduled its 31st Annual Outing for June 14, at the Westchester Country Club, Rye, N.Y.

GOOD FRIENDS OF 'OCULUS'

Miss Anne McLemore, of Horne and Shell, Inc., always types the final text of OCULUS and Miss Emma Carlson, who owns and operates the Carlson Press, prints it. They meet with good natured acceptance the emergency schedules which the vagaries of this editor have made routine, and their cooperation is appreciated.