

NEW YORK CHAPTER

MARGOT A. HENKEL *Executive Secretary*

115 EAST 40TH STREET  
NEW YORK 16 NEW YORK

FRANK G. LOPEZ *Editor*



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

# O C U L U S

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## COMING EVENTS

October 23, Tuesday	Dining Room -	12:30 P.M.	Prof. Werner Hebebrand Stadtbaumeister, Hamburg, Germany Joint Sponsorship of A.I.A. and Architectural League
October 24, Wednesday	Dining Room - to	5:15 P.M. 6:15 P.M.	Hospital Study Group "The X-ray Department"
November 7, Wednesday	Gallery A -	7:00 P.M.	Technical Committee Dinner "Chapter Members' Work Abroad"

## CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS NEED OUR COOPERATION!

The California Council of Architects has probably sent you circulars, etc., about the legislative battle it's engaged in. Briefly, the fight is over the practice of architecture by the established State Bureau. Hitherto, public work generally has been legally the job of the bureau. The California architects are trying to get the law amended to authorize employment of private architects and engineers. They are sure that, once State fiscal officials realize how much money private architects can save, the amount of privately designed public work will increase. The private architects of our sister state are waging an all-out fight to get a referendum passed at the November election, and this -- while they're receiving support from the engineers, from the Chamber of Commerce, contractor's associations, the farm bureau and even from labor -- is terribly expensive.

The principle involved and the precedent they expect to establish are extremely important all over the country; results are being watched in many state organizations. To help pay expenses California needs contributions in any amount, no matter how small. The New York Chapter cannot legally contribute, because to do so would entail serious penalties due to the nature of our A.I.A. charter. Consequently the Chapter's Executive Committee has had to withdraw its proposal to donate a substantial sum to California. Instead, you are all urged to make individual contributions; even if your check reaches them after Election Day it will help because the bills will still be coming in. Donations should preferably not be made as N.Y. Chapter members, but in your own names as architects. Send them to:

Architect's Committee for Proposition 10,  
California Council of Architects  
26 O'Farrell Street  
San Francisco 8, California

## NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

In response to demand, the State Association's 1956 Convention will again be held at the Lake Placid Club, Lake Placid, N.Y. Dates: Thursday to Saturday, October 25th through 27th. On Friday, October 26th at 2:00 P.M., the program will be devoted to the N.Y. Regional Conference, A.I.A. Registration is \$10.00 per member, \$5.00 per guest; checks should be payable to Charles R. Ellis, Treasurer. Reservations for rooms, available October 22nd, should be made immediately and sent with registration fee directly to the Lake Placid Club; all club facilities for recreation are included. Matthew W. Del Gaudio, Chairman of the Convention Committee, stresses the importance of Association business to be transacted. The architectural exhibition -- drawings, sketches, blueprints, specifications, models, photos, etc. -- of structures proposed, under construction or completed is also important. Your editor has recently attended a number of A.I.A. regional meetings and can report first hand that the quantity and quality of work shown in regional and local honor awards programs are substantially increasing. The same is true of attendance and discussions at meetings. New York, how are you going to do?

Exhibition entries may be shipped, express prepaid, to Carl W. Clark, Lake Placid Club, Lake Placid, N.Y., on or before October 24th; or they may be brought to the Club in person.

### CHAPTER MEMBERS' WORK ABROAD

The Technical Committee under the chairmanship of Ben John Small has scheduled a first meeting which promises great interest. This will be a dinner meeting on November 7th, at which Ben will introduce a number of Chapter members who are executing work abroad. Informative, colorful, illustrated short talks will follow, covering a wide range of architectural problems: technical, administrative, socio-economic, esthetic. This will be a report, "straight from the horse's mouth", on the increasing influence of American architects and architecture in other countries.

To repeat: 7:00 P.M., November 7, 1956, at The League; ladies welcome.

### HOSPITAL AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Hospital and Health Committee is organizing a series of seminars similar to last year's series. Following is a schedule of meetings to start at 5:15 and end at 6:30.

October	24	-	Architectural League	Dining Room
November	29	-	"	" Gallery
Decemner	18	-	"	" "
January	23	-	"	" "
February	27	-	"	" "
March	27	-	"	" "
April	25	-	"	" "
May	23	-	"	" "

Please mark these dates on your calendar. Detailed information for each meeting will be announced by separate notices.

### CHAPTER DINNER OCTOBER 17th

The opening Chapter event of the year, dinner at The League October 17th, was evidence of the incoming administration's determination to put life and interest into Chapter affairs. President Robert W. Cutler spent little time on business; he paid

## CHAPTER DINNER OCTOBER 17th (Cont'd.)

individual attention to the 60 new members, most of them present, and to representatives of our two Student affiliate organizations (Cooper Union and Columbia), and introduced Walter ("Doc") Kilham who showed color slides of his summer's trip to wildest Alaska. Billed as "The White Sheep of Denali", this was superb color photography not only of Mt. McKinley and mountain sheep, but also of caribou, moose, ground squirrels, birds and several Alaskan bears, including an exciting moment when Doc got between a huge female and her cubs. Between cocktails, meeting friends among the 133 in attendance, eating excellent broiled chicken, the interesting travelogue and -- important to the many commuters among us -- the early closing, it was a swell evening.

## CHAPTER ORGANIZATION 1956-1957

The results of last spring's election of officers and for other elective positions is to be seen both on the masthead of this issue and in the accompanying loose-leaf sheet. In addition the composition of the Executive Committee and a complete roster of chairmen and members of Chapter committees is included. This table-of-organization sheet is in loose-leaf form so you can file it easily and -- supposing your filing system works! -- find it quickly when you wish to refer to it.

## HONORS, COMMISSIONS AND COMPETITIONS

A number of honors have been received by, commissions awarded to, and competitions announced to members of the Chapter. The following lists the most significant of these, or at least those to which our attention has been called:

### National Institute of Arts and Letters; Brunner Prize

John Yeon of Portland, Oregon, was awarded the \$1,000. Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize in Architecture at the Joint Annual Ceremonial of the Institute and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Ralph Walker presented the award May 23, 1956. A human note: in contrast to last year's recipient, Gordon Bunshaft of the firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, winner Yeon has an office which, he says, "has never been larger than two draftsmen, and all the designing and most of the work I have done myself." It is gratifying that, in this busy profession, the small and the large office can both be so recognized; both are essential in our society and economic structure, and both merit such awards.

Henry-Russell Hitchcock, architectural historian and critic, received one of 17 Arts and Letters grants of \$1,000 each (in Literature). The Institute's Gold Medal for Sculpture was presented by Walter Hancock to Ivan Mestrovic.

### LeBrun Fellowship

Last spring sufficient favorable proxy votes -- 596 -- were received by the Executive Committee to change the LeBrun Deed of Gift. (This was reported at the annual meeting June 6, 1956.) The following resolution was declared passed and effective:

"WHEREAS, in accordance with the Deed of Gift executed by Pierre L. LeBrun to the New York Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, 3/4ths of all of the members of the Executive Committee of the New York Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, have voted to modify the special conditions of the administration of the said fund, as follows:

a) To increase the award for 1956 and bi-annually thereafter, permitted by said Deed of Gift as hitherto modified from \$2800.00 to \$3000.00, to be used by the recipient for six months travel.

b) To provide that on and after February 7, 1956 all expenses to administer said fund and all expenses incurred in connection with the LeBrun competition which is held bi-annually, shall be borne by the fund and,

"WHEREAS, the undersigned are the holders of unrevoked proxies executed by assigned members of said Chapter, whose names are set forth in Schedule A annexed hereto, entitling them to vote on behalf of such members, in connection with said modifications proposed by said Executive Committee,

"NOW, THEREFORE, the undersigned exercising the rights and privileges accorded to them by virtue of said proxies, do hereby vote in favor of the said proposed modifications."

#### Pratt Institute Trustee

Alfred H. Ryder, partner in the firm of Ryder, Struppman & Neumann, Architects, has been elected to the Board of Trustees of Pratt Institute. A Pratt graduate himself and a lifelong Brooklyn resident, Mr. Ryder is also consulting architect to the East New York Savings Bank, and holds several similar posts with national and local organizations as well as numerous civic posts.

#### New York City Zoning

Of great significance is the award by New York City of a contract to make studies, analyses and evaluations necessary for up-dating the City's Zoning Resolution and Maps. The contract has gone to Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith, who will serve as special consultants to the City Planning Commission and who have 14 months to complete their report. Cost is not to exceed \$150,000. Chairman Felt of the Commission in announcing the award, called revision of the City's archaic, complex zoning laws a "must". Joseph L. Hautman of the Voorhees firm is supervising the study, with Ralph Walker the senior partner in charge.

#### Huntington Hartford Gallery of Modern Art

The belligerent A & P heir has announced plans for the aforesaid gallery, to be built at No. 2 Columbus Circle. His famous full-page ad in the newspapers last year setting forth a militantly anti-abstractist art credo in unmistakable language will be remembered. Your editor remembers the day a few years ago when Mr. Hartford walked into his office and unannounced and said: "My name's Huntington Hartford. Don't suppose you know who I am. I inherited the A & P. I'd like the name of an architect who can build me a good theater on the West Coast. Up-to-date, mind you, but none of this modern stuff. Too much of that." It was laudable of him to want an architect. However the announcement we received of the new Columbus Circle gallery contained no architect's name. The rendering was called an "artist's conception." Ho-hum!

#### Enrico Fermi Memorial Competition

One of the most interesting competitions in years, this international program for the design of a building to be located in Chicago's Fort Dearborn Project is sponsored by the Chicago Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans and the Chicago Junior Association of Commerce and Industry. Architects, engineers, draftsmen and students in all

## Enrico Fermi Memorial Competition (Cont'd.)

countries are eligible; Professional Advisor is John O. Merrill, F.A.I.A. The jury consists of famous architects and physicists from this country, England and Italy; the objective is "to unite Art and Science in the design of a Memorial Pavilion," to quote the program; it is to honor the man who made the first controlled nuclear chain reaction. The program is remarkably free; there are no restrictions on extent, shape or volume except the size of the site. Prizes: top, \$5,000.00; seven other money prizes.

While announcements have already been mailed, the competition does not close until February 1, 1957. The program may be seen at A.I.A. Headquarters in the Architectural League, or information may be obtained from John O. Merrill, Professional Advisor, 100 W. Monroe Street, Chicago 3, Illinois.

## "School of Tomorrow" Essay Contest

Currently under way in the Senior high schools and colleges of this area is a 500-word essay contest. The idea was conceived by Fred Wiedersum of Valley Stream, L.I., member of the Brooklyn Chapter, A.I.A. The idea has a certain appeal. Who will actually pay off the school bonds that our communities' voting-age citizens are so liberally approving these days? Why, the kids who are now in school. Perhaps it's a good thing to let these, the ultimate school clients in every sense of the word, have their say to their architects!

## Centennial Postage Stamp

The competition for design of a centennial postage stamp, to be, we hope, issued in conjunction with next year's A.I.A. Centennial observance, has been announced. First prize: \$500.00; three prizes of \$100.00 each. Program is available at the A.I.A. Chapter Office. Closing date for entries: Nov. 9, 1956.

## ARCHITECT'S SIGNS

Low-cost (\$1.00 each in lots of 25; \$.90 in lots of 50) signs are available from Henry Kohler, A.I.A., 115 East 40th Street, New York 16, N.Y. These are similar to the standard porcelain - enamel signs in format and style, but are printed on heavy card protected by paraffin impregnation; "guaranteed" to last about a year.

## NEW BOOKS

Course in Beginning Watercolor  
by John B. Musacchia, Henri A. Fluchire and Melvin J. Grainger  
Reinhold Publishing Corporation

Illustrated

Tropical Architecture  
by Maxwell Fry and Jane Drew  
Reinhold Publishing Corporation

Illustrated

Commentary on newly developing architecture in humid tropical areas.

Modern Furnishing For The Home  
by William J. Hennessey. Associate Eliza Dorvin Hennessey  
Reinhold Publishing Corporation

Illustrated  
\$8.50

The second in a series, this comprehensive catalog shows over 580 available examples of good contemporary design.

NEW BOOKS (Continued)

Lettering for Advertising  
by Mortimer Leach  
Reinhold Publishing Corporation

Illustrated  
\$8.95

An aid to Students as well as the Professional Letterer and the Professional Graphic Artists, who does not specialize in lettering, will find the book indispensable.

Contemporary Design in Woodwork  
by S. H. Glenister  
Studio Crowell

Illustrated  
\$3.95  
96 Pages

A collection of examples of present day design.

Oscar Niemeyer: Works in Progress  
by Stamo Papadaki  
Reinhold Publishing Corporation

Illustrated  
\$10.00  
192 Pages

An up-to-date second volume on the work of Oscar Niemeyer, including buildings that have never appeared in any other publication.

Architects' Homes  
by Robert Wilker  
Reinhold Publishing Corporation

Illustrated  
\$10.00  
223 Pages

Architect's home, better than any other, reveals his conception of domestic culture.

CANDIDATES

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

Corporate Membership

Eduard Henri Bullerjahn  
Quarnig Dorian  
Carlos E. Gonzalez - Gomez

Associate Membership

Frank P. Fanelli

Sponsors: Bruno Funaro and Giorgio Cavaglieri