

NEW YORK CHAPTER

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

OCULUS

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COMING EVENTS

February 19, Tuesday	Technical Committee Gallery A - 12:30	Is "Mechanical Coordination a Drafting Room Nightmare?"
February 23, Saturday	U.S. Sub Treasury Building - 12:30	Centennial Dedication Ceremony Luncheon
February 27, Wednesday	Hospital and Health Gallery A - 5:15 to 6:30	Admitting Procedures, Emer- gency, and Related Problems
March 8, Friday	Metropolitan Club 9:00 to 1:00 A.M.	Ninetieth Anniversary Supper and Dance
April 25, Thursday	Oscar's O. Delmonico 7:30 P.M.	Centennial Observance Ceremony Dinner

90th ANNIVERSARY SUPPER-DANCE

In 1890, when the Metropolitan Club was completed far uptown at 1 East 60th Street, the A.I.A., New York Chapter, was already voting age. In succeeding decades, both these New York institutions have waxed great, and next March 8, at 9:00 P.M., the two great institutions will meet. Your committee, remembering last year, recommends that you make plans and reservations for this gala evening early; last year's birthday dance was a complete sellout weeks in advance; the late deadline for reservations this year is Friday, March 1. Dress will be formal; tables for ten may be reserved complete. Music begins at nine and continues until 1:00 A.M.; supper will be served at midnight. Tickets are \$9.50 per person.

REGISTRATION EXAMINATION: Design Drawings

The January traveling exhibit of designs for a Community Health Center and for a Church and Parish House was sponsored by the Chapter's Education Committee. The two problems had been the 12-hour design subjects for the 1956 January and June RA Examinations. Annually the exhibit travels from Columbia to the League to Pratt and then continues through several upstate cities. The State Education Department supplies the exhibition and the Architectural League always donates the Pine Room to the Chapter for this popular exhibit . . . nervously popular with current RA candidates and relievedly popular with recent licensees.

MEETING NOTES

Regular Meeting. The Chapter meeting on January 17, 1957, although streamlined to the point of straight "functional" talk, was interesting and concise. President Robert W. Cutler announced "Architects' Week," Feb. 17-23rd. The meeting elected Charles McKim Norton the 1957 Honorary Associate of the New York Chapter, after Mr. Philip Ives, the Awards Committee Chairman, delivered a resume of the candidate's accomplishments. Nominations, some familiar, some less familiar, to serve on the Nominating Committee then followed.

Brunner Scholarship. The big news has been released: Samuel Ratensky and Richard W. Snibbe were awarded the 1957 Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship in the amount of \$2400 to develop their joint project "Critical Analysis of Large-Scale Urban Housing in the U.S.A. and in European Countries." The committee, wishing to encourage the completion of this work in one year, also granted two additional scholarships of \$1200 to these two men.

Mr. Ratensky has worked as director of the Planning Division of the Housing Authority and for a while with L. Bancel LaFarge. Before the War he worked in Washington on the Public Housing Authority. Earlier he worked and studied in Taliesin and the University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Snibbe has studied and taught at many schools, Annapolis, Harvard, Brooklyn Polytech, Cooper Union and Columbia. He was associated with Edward D. Stone and Chief Designer for Kelly and Gruzen. His book, "Small Commercial Buildings," was published by Reinhold in 1956.

It is interesting to note that 1956 Award recipient, Caleb Hornbostel, has received a second grant of \$2400 to further his work, "A Materials Handbook for the Architect", towards publication.

Technical Committee. The February 19th luncheon meeting at the Architectural League, will feature Albert W. Butt, Jr., who will explain his problems in working as an architect for the engineering firm of Siska and Hennessey. The meeting is to discuss "Is Mechanical Coordination a Drafting Room Nightmare?" It is hoped that members will come armed with questions. From this discussion may come a publication, an office standard or a check list that will help architects with integrate mechanical facilities into their work.

Hospitals and Health. The fourth in the series of talks (Jan. 23rd) dealt with Psychiatry and Mental Health - subjects we all could stand to know more about. Dr. Harvey Tomkins, Director of Psychology at St. Vincents in New York and Dr. Mabel Ross, Mental Health Consultant of the United States Public Health Service, were the guests. The Booth Memorial Hospital in Flushing, the newest voluntary general hospital in New York City, was the site of the latest field trip. Chairman Isaiah Ehrlich is to be congratulated, along with his committee, for arranging these stimulating and useful trips and lectures. We reinforce the committee's suggestion that you reserve February 27, March 27, April 25 and May 23 for future activities.

House Consulting. Chairman Giorgio Cavaglieri reports two radio appearances for his committee, this past January 10th and 17th - those all-too-rare occasions for the Architect to explain how he can help the prospective home owner. Alma Dettinger, whose program on WQXR at 2:30 P.M. allows her to "meet people", directed a discussion with Mrs. Webster and Messrs. Freehof, Graham, Bartlett, Hirzel, Bielich and Cavaglieri. Questions and answers covered everything from why you need an Architect to details on partial service. The program was tape-recorded; we hope to hear it again at a Chapter meeting.

THE FOUNDERS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

On Monday, February 23, 1857, while New York City was preoccupied with the scandalous "Bond Street Murder", Richard Upjohn and 12 colleagues met in the Trinity Building at 111 Broadway and founded The American Institute of Architects. These men, mostly born and trained in Europe, influenced the profession of architecture in the United States from within as well as promoting its growth and recognition from without by the design of their notable buildings.

Richard Upjohn (1802-1878) trained as a cabinet maker in England, became a master craftsman at the age of 21. He came to New Bedford, Mass. in 1829 and opened his own office as architect after seeing drawings for the Boston Customs House and exclaiming, "If that is Architecture, I am an Architect!" He came to New York in 1841 as architect for Trinity Church. As first president of the A.I.A. Upjohn established our standards of professional ethics. Among the original 13 founders at least four were trained in Upjohn's office: his son, Richard Mitchell Upjohn; J. C. Wells; Charles Babcock, who later became professor of architecture at Cornell; and Leopold Eidlitz.

Richard Mitchell Upjohn (1828-1903) entered his father's office in 1846 and became a full partner in 1853 following two years of study in Europe. In 1885 he designed the State Capitol in Hartford, Conn., which has one of the largest masonry domes of our time.

The founders of the A.I.A. were cultured men of many interests. Richard M. Upjohn founded the Long Island Historical Society; J. Wrey Mould (1825-1886) was a musician and linguist. Educated at Kings College, London, Mould received his architectural training in the office of Owen Jones. Coming to New York in 1853 to design All Soul's Church, in 1857 he was appointed Assistant Architect-in-Chief of New York Parks; he constructed the terraces and bridges throughout Central Park.

Leopold Eidlitz (1823-1908) was born in Prague, Bohemia and trained in Vienna. Following his marriage to an architect's daughter he came to the U.S. in 1848 and sired an architect son. A gothic practitioner, Eidlitz collaborated with H.H. Richardson and Y. L. Olmsted on the redesign of the State Capitol in Albany. His descendants founded the N.Y. construction firm of Marc Eidlitz (now Vermilya Brown). Leopold Eidlitz called American architecture of the last century "the art of covering one thing with another thing to imitate a third thing which, if genuine, would not be desirable."

Richard Morris Hunt (1827-1895), born in Brattleboro, Vermont, entered the Beaux-Arts at the age of 19 and remained in Paris for nine years. In 1855 he opened his own studio in New York following work on the Capitol in Washington under Thomas V. Walter. Hunt was responsible for the first elevator office building (Tribune Building 1873) and has given our city the main portion of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the base of the Statue of Liberty. He championed better education for architects and trained many in his own office. As first Secretary and third President of the Institute, Hunt aided in developing better methods and procedures of professional practice.

John Welch (1824-1894), born and trained in Scotland and England, came to the U.S. in 1859. The others present in Upjohn's office that 23rd day of February, 1857 were H. W. Cleveland, Henry Dudley, Edward Gardner, Frederick A. Petersen and J. W. Priest. Less is known about these five. We would welcome data about them.



"OCULUS" NEW YORK CHAPTER, A.I.A.

IN EIGHTEEN FIFTY-SEVEN:

New York City officially included only Manhattan Island; population, 700,000; the five counties now called Greater New York were just passing the million mark, during a decade in which the population almost doubled. New York State population was 3,700,000. There were thirty-one states in the Union - California, admitted in 1850, being the latest; total population, just under 30,000,000. The national center of population was near Chillicothe, Ohio, 365 miles east of its present position.

James Buchanan became the 15th President; John A. King was the 22nd New York Governor; Fernando Wood was the city's 73rd Mayor. New York vested police powers in a police commissioner for the first time, relieving the Mayor of them.

The half-cent was abolished as a coin.

Cyrus W. Field began the first Atlantic Cable.

5,000 banks and railroads were bankrupted in a financial panic.

In Utah, Mormon settlers destroyed a wagon train of would-be emigrants, necessitating suppression of a "rebellion" by the U.S. Army. In India, native troop rebellions culminated in the Siege of Lucknow and capitulation and massacre of the garrison.

The British and French destroyed the Chinese fleet.

Nagasaki, Japan was opened to foreign trade.

Albert, husband of Victoria, became Prince Consort of Britain.

In the United States, the Dred Scott decision was handed down by the Supreme Court, John Brown was readying his raid on Harpers Ferry and portents of War between the States were on the wind.

In New York, on February 23, there took place the first meeting of the 13 charter members of the New York Society of Architects, renamed one month later The American Institute of Architects. This momentous event received not one single word of comment in the journals of the day.

THE NEW YORK CHAPTER AND THE CENTENNIAL YEAR

One hundred years later, the population of New York City has increased 800%, New York State 400%, the United States 600%, the A.I.A. almost 100,000%.

To commemorate the Centennial New York's Mayor Wagner has proclaimed the week of February 17-23 "Architect's Week". On February 23rd a bronze plaque is to be placed on the building now at 111 Broadway. It will be unveiled by the President of the Institute, Leon Chatelain, Jr., F.A.I.A. at a ceremony at 2:30 P.M. Prior to the unveiling, a Commemorative Tablet Luncheon will be held at 12:30 P.M. at the U.S. Sub-treasury Building. A feature of the luncheon will be presentation of special albums of the A.I.A. Centennial stamp to distinguished guests; the stamp will be placed on public sale here the same day.

There will be a Centennial Dinner at Oscar's O. DeLmonico Restaurant in downtown New York on April 25th, 1957. An elaborate program has been planned including an address by August Heckscher, editor of the Herald Tribune. Later in the year New York architects will participate in the Centennial Convention in Washington, D.C. Included in the Centennial events for the fall will be three lectures to be given by Prof. Sibyl Moholy-Nagy, Prof. James Fitch and Dr. Paul Zucker at the Metropolitan Museum Auditorium; sponsors are the Schools of Architecture of Columbia University and Pratt Institute, and the Department of Architecture and the Museum of The Cooper Union.

MEETING NOTES (Continued)

Membership Committee. Chairman David L. Eggers has announced that the Committee is concentrating this year on architects working for architects. These valuable men can help the A.I.A. and the profession greatly with their backing. The Committee is contacting several of the larger offices, asking them to sponsor certain candidates in this category and inviting them to a special membership supper party and discussion. The Committee continues to urge the membership to search for prospective candidates in their offices.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Centennial Awards. The Institute has announced two awards to be presented during the Centennial Convention next May. The Institute Gold Medal is to be awarded to Louis Skidmore, F.A.I.A., senior partner of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, in recognition of his leadership and his outstanding contributions to the profession. The Special Centennial Medal designed by Sidney Waugh in commemoration of our 100th anniversary, is being awarded to Ralph T. Walker for his most significant contributions to humanity and to the planning of human environment. The sincere congratulations of the entire Chapter go to these men.

R. S. Reynolds Memorial Award. A most unusual architectural award has been established by the Reynolds Metals Company. Given annually, the award is open to all architects throughout the world and carries a prize of \$25,000. for what a jury will select as a "most significant contribution to the use of aluminum, aesthetically or structurally, in the building field." Structures of all classifications will be eligible.

The jury, chosen by the American Institute of Architects, will consist of George Bain Commings, Percival Goodman, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Edgar I. Williams and, representing architects of foreign countries, Willem Dudok of Holland. George S. Koyl is professional adviser for the competition.

Entries for this year's award, for work completed in 1956, must be in the hands of the jury no later than March 25, 1957. The award will be made in Washington in May during the Centennial convention of the Institute.

Details of descriptive material required by the jury for consideration may be obtained by writing to the national office of the American Institute of Architects, 1735 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

Centennial Stickers. Elsewhere in this issue the Centennial Year Sticker appears; it is available at a low price in various sizes for use on stationery, etc. Consult the Chapter Office; orders will be filled by the Octagon only when submitted by the Chapters.

Correction: Richard Roth was erroneously listed in the Membership Directory as "Richard Roth, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, 425 Park Avenue, New York 22, New York."

The correct address is as follows: Richard Roth, 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22, New York.

IMPORTANT LEGISLATION

Again a bill - Senate Int. 536, Print 537 - to permit corporations to practice engineering has been introduced in the Legislature; this time, its sponsors appear confident of its passage. In view of the danger that this would ultimately seriously affect the architectural profession and the livelihood of all of us has led the New York Chapter and the State Association to register opposition to incorporating any type of professional service, on the grounds that it is not in the public interest. If you agree, write or wire Senator Earl W. Brydges, Chairman, Senate Committee on Public Education, Senate Chambers, Albany, N.Y.; or your local assemblyman.

HOMES FOR BETTER LIVING COMPETITION

House and Home Magazine announces that the deadline for this competition has been extended to March 1, and that entry blanks can be obtained from the magazine. The competition winners will be announced during the Centennial Convention, will be exhibited in Washington, D.C. and will be widely publicized over television. The competition is co-sponsored by A.I.A., "House and Home", "Better Homes and Gardens", and the National Broadcasting Co.

NEW BOOKS

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|---|--|
| Aluminum in Modern Architecture Volume I
by John Peter
Reynolds | Japanese Temples and Tea-Houses
by Werner Blaser
F. W. Dodge Corporation |
| Aluminum in Modern Architecture Volume II
by Paul Weidlinger
Reynolds | Toward New Towns for America
by Clarence S. Stein
Reinhold \$10.00 |

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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| Victor Joseph DeMasi | Harry Taylor Gherardi |
| Robert William Hegardt | Louis Resnick |

Associate Membership

- | | |
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| Ernest Bonnamy | Sponsors: Jeffrey Ellis Aronin and Robert Allan Jacobs |
| Robert Mathias Bujac | Sponsors: Roy W. Banwell and W. Pope Barney |
| Henry Thomas Coleman
Davis | Sponsors: Miguel Ferrer and Osvaldo L. Toro |
| Edward F. Egan | Sponsors: Jeffrey Ellis Aronin and Ely J. Kahn |
| Sheldon Fox | Sponsors: Ely J. Kahn and Jeffrey Ellis Aronin |
| Reva D. Ferrucci | Sponsors: Jeffrey Ellis Aronin and James B. Newman |
| Sydney Hart Moore | Sponsors: Frederick G. Frost, Jr. and Carl J. Carlson |
| Oleg E. Borisov-Morozov | Sponsors: Arthur S. Douglass, Jr. and George J. Sole |
| Daniel Remeta | Sponsors: Robert L. Bien and Donald Ripley Peirce |
| James Slavin | Sponsors: Jeffrey Ellis Aronin and Robert Allan Jacobs |
| Theodore Smith-Miller | Sponsors: Jeffrey Ellis Aronin and John Nelson Linn |
| Bruce S. Koerner | Sponsors: Kenneth Young and Charles E. Hughes |
| Allan Labie | Sponsors: William S. Brown and Robert W. Cutler |
| Thomas Barron Gourlay | Sponsors: Harvey Stevenson and Jonathan F. Butler |