

# O C U L U S

N E W Y O R K C H A P T E R  
115 EAST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

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GILLET LEFFERTS, JR., *Editor*

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## COMING EVENTS

December 4, Wednesday

Technical Committee Dinner  
6:30 P.M. - Dining Room

Speaker: Mr. John Yellott,  
Executive Director for  
Applied Solar Energy

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chapter Anniversary Dinner Dance is once again scheduled to be held in the Metropolitan Club of New York. Note the date now - February 28, 1958.

Applications for the Mayor's Panel of Architects for 1958 have recently been mailed to all Architects in this area. If you have not received your copy, you may obtain an application at the office of the City of New York, Department of Personnel, 96 Duane Street, New York 7, N.Y. This application should be filed not later than November 22, 1957. (See Special Report, loose leaf insert).

With a view toward encouraging membership in professional societies, Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith has announced the firm's new policy, effective this past October 15th, of assuming for its staff the costs of membership in societies such as the American Institute of Architects, American Society of Landscape Architects and American Society of Civil Engineers.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM

A campaign of \$20,000 to launch a public relations program for the Chapter has been under way for the past month. Response has been enthusiastic and many contributions have been received, but the goal has not yet been reached.

The Public Relations Committee made a year-long study of the need for and desirability of such a program. It then interviewed a number of public relations firms and selected an outstanding one, Edward Gottlieb & Associates Ltd., on a consulting basis.

Under the Committee's guidance the Gottlieb organization outlined a public relations program to benefit every member of the Chapter. A folder describing it was sent to all members.

The broadest possible support is needed for the public relations program. If for one reason or another you have not sent your contribution to the Chapter office, by all means do so today! Just as you gain from other Chapter activities, so you will from this newest one.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

Robert C. Weinberg receives special Brunner Scholarship Award. A Joint Committee of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the New York Regional Chapter of the American Institute of Planners have been working on the problem of preparing a guide for Communities who wish to find a means of approving their appearances by legislative control of design. Last April this joint committee studied a complete draft of this report. This draft is being considered at the Convention of the A.I.P. now being held in Chicago. Upon receipt of the A.I.P. comments the document will receive final review and editing with illustrations made possible by the Chapter's award of \$500. of Brunner Funds to Mr. Weinberg. This report contains digests of all legislation throughout the world that has to do with control of design. The Regional Plan Association has undertaken to sponsor its publication.

The renowned artist and architect, Otto R. Eggers, marked a half century in his profession with an exhibition of his outstanding drawings and renderings. Nearly 150 pieces were shown at the Architectural League during the weeks of October 15 thru October 26. Mr. Eggers, who in 1936 rode muleback five thousand feet into the mountainous terrain behind the Italian Riviera to select marble for the interior columns of the National Gallery of Art, is a partner of the firm of Eggers and Higgins, an Academician of the National Academy of Design, and a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. Mr. Eggers' versatility in combinations of media was manifest in the wide variety of subjects in the exhibit, which covered the period from 1905 to the present.

Each year the Chapter elects to Honorary Associate Membership an individual who has rendered the profession of architecture signal and valuable service, but who is not eligible for membership in the New York Chapter or other Chapters of the Institute. (See Special insert) The Chapter's Awards Committee under the chairmanship of Philip Ives, invites the membership to submit to the Committee names for Honorary Associate Membership. Such membership will be announced at the Chapter's Annual Meeting next June.

Lathrop Douglass was a principal speaker at the recent Washington, D.C. Congress of the International Association of Chain Stores, or as it is called in Europe, the Comité International des Enterprises a Succursales. His subject was "Shopping Centers Around the World". Fourteen countries were represented at the Congress.

## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE DINNER MEETING

A number of facets of human response to environmental conditions were presented by Dr. Darrell B. Harmon of Austin, Texas, at a dinner meeting of the Technical Committee on Wednesday, October 9th. In his speech, which was supplemented by slides and audience participation experiments, Dr. Harmon stressed that it was not for him as a physiologist to attempt to dictate the physical solutions or materials required to create a proper environment, but rather to bring to the architect a better understanding of physiological responses to use in planning for human habitation.

Dr. Harmon demonstrated that posture habits directly relate to earlier established light and work positions by slides showing spinal deformity of children exposed to old type classrooms with over-contrasted light conditions. He pointed out that the best concentration and results in the learning process are achieved in uniformly lighted rooms with the "visual distraction of the outdoors eliminated." The ideal, in his view, is a classroom with a high angle of skylighting in combinations with artificial light of wide spectrum characteristics. Dr. Harmon also demonstrated the reactions to color and contrast, and the relationship between sight and sound (response to sound is higher in a bright area). It was also noted that a minimal level of sound excitation must be present before human response is easy.

## The American Institute of Architects - Membership - and the New York Chapter

Did you know that there are three types of membership in the AIA and three additional classifications within the New York Chapter?

Did you know that a Corporate member may not resign from the Chapter to which he has been assigned and still retain membership in the Institute?

These are but some of the many facts about AIA membership that the majority of our members may not know. One reason we are apparently reluctant to propose membership to our associates and employees is that many of us don't know or don't remember what the qualifications are. What is worse, many of us don't know what kinds of memberships we have.

The majority of New York Chapter members being Registered Architects and United States Citizens are eligible to be Corporate members. A Corporate member is assigned by The American Institute of Architects to the Chapter of his choice in the territory in which he either resides or practices. Dues are \$85 annually, of which \$35 is payable to the Chapter within the fiscal year beginning October 1. Suspension of membership will result from non-payment of dues within the fiscal year. Suspended members may not use the initials AIA. The Institute and Chapter rosters carry suspended members for an additional year, with resulting accumulation of dues in arrears prior to final termination of membership. Reinstatement will be considered only after these accumulated dues in arrears are paid up.

The New York Chapter has a total of 831 assigned Corporate members. There are two special classifications: Life Membership, in the Institute only, and Membership Emeritus. Life Membership is bestowed upon those paying the Institute \$500. A Life Member pays no annual dues to the Institute but is still required to pay annual Chapter dues. Membership Emeritus relieves members from payment of these annual dues both to the Institute and to the Chapter. Members are eligible for Emeritus status if over 70 years of age with 15 consecutive years of membership in the Institute or if 65 and no longer practicing architecture. There are 43 Emeritus members in the New York Chapter.

The Executive Committee of the New York Chapter may elect to admit as an Unassigned Member one who is a Corporate member of another Chapter and in good standing therein. An Unassigned Member shall have all the rights of Chapter membership except that he shall not hold office nor be eligible to vote on Chapter matters. He shall pay a \$5 admissions fee and \$10 annual dues to the Chapter.

Some of our members, not eligible to become Corporate members, elect to join the Chapter as Associates. Members in this category are associates of the Chapter only and have no Institute standing.

Associate Members are admitted by the Executive Committee. Associateship is open to those not licensed to practice architecture but who are working as draftsmen in an architectural office. Associates shall apply for Corporate membership within three years from the date they begin the practice of architecture as a principal. Associates have privileges of committee participation and voting on matters not concerning the affairs or business of the Institute. They may not hold office. There is no admission fee. Dues of \$15 are paid annually to the Chapter. There are presently 203 Associate members.

As all organizations depend upon youth for their future growth so too does the New York Chapter in the form of Student Associate membership. Open to any student in the Schools of Architecture at Columbia University and Cooper Union, Student Associates may serve on committees as observers. A Student Associate may not hold office or vote.

Each year the New York Chapter may elect to Honorary Associate membership a person of esteemed character who has rendered the profession of architecture signal and valuable service but who is not eligible for Chapter membership. An Honorary Associate pays no admission fee or dues. He may attend any meetings of the Chapter but may not vote, hold office or serve on any committees except as an adviser.

Did you know that the New York Chapter has a total of 1198 members and is the largest Chapter in the Institute?

## SPECIAL REPORT

### Education - Its Buildings - and Metropolitan New York

With an expected 45% increase in private educational building and 56% increase in public school building over the next ten years, with the school tax rate increasing four fold since 1945 and enrollment an average of 260%, Education and School Construction take on a special significance to us as individuals and as heads of families. How this need will affect metropolitan New York and how the City is planning to meet this need becomes of special importance to us as architects.

Dr. William S. Carlson, President of the State University of New York, has said that the welfare of the whole state is served through any expansion of the education level. Mayor Wagner, in his campaign for re-election, has pledged improvement in the quality of the city's schools. He has been quick to point out that over 110 new school buildings have been completed in the past 3 1/2 years of his administration. As part of this expansion, the New York City Board of Education recently approved a record capital budget of 106 million dollars for 1958. The program includes 65 building projects, 26 to be built in 1958, 29 for advanced planning plus 2 for site acquisition.

It was as recently as the years 1951 to 1953, when John R. Riley of the N.Y.C. Housing Authority served as education coordinator of construction, that the Board of Education underwent a complete overhaul and the Bureau of Construction was introduced to 20th Century concepts and methods. John Riley separated the design and engineering departments into two distinct divisions and installed Michael Radoslovich as Chief Architect and William H. Correale as Chief Engineer. Under these men a new and inspired Bureau of Construction overhauled antiquated theories and methods and started the present program of utilizing outside private Architects and Engineers. In 1956 twenty-one of the thirty-three New York City school building projects were handled by these associated architects. The remaining 12 projects were handled by the Bureau of Construction which maintains a payroll of approximately 200 Architects, Engineers and Draftsmen. During the past four years the Bureau of Construction has worked with 60 different private architectural firms, 90% from Metropolitan New York. Of these 50% have received contracts for more than one project.

A New York City School project starts with the Board of Education. First its need and budget must be established. The program is then presented to the City Planning Commission and Board of Estimate for their review. An analysis of costs is tabulated each year. Costs, as of last year, ran from \$1.50 to \$1.80 per cubic foot. Following public hearings and approval by the Budget Director the project is included in the next ensuing Capital Budget. The actual site is selected from within the general area recommended by the Board of Education and approved by the City Planning Commission. This site selection in a metropolitan area presents particular problems of tenant relocations thru condemnation proceedings and problems of size. Less than 1/2 of the existing sites have open areas. It is only after a specific budget allocation has been determined for each project and a site selected that the Associate Architect is brought in. The Associate is provided with a survey, standard details and specifications, plus a complete set of contract documents of a previous city school project for reference purposes. Freedom of design is encouraged and many interesting and challenging design concepts have resulted. Recently the Bureau of Construction has been including in the budget an allowance of from \$7500 to \$12000 per school project for integrated art work in the form of murals and sculpture.

The New York City School Building program will be required to maintain its accelerated construction pace in the ensuing years. The New York Board of Regents has recently announced a plan to accommodate an additional 60,000 students in 10 new colleges throughout the State over the next 15 years. N.Y.C. voters will be asked on November 5th to approve a 250 million dollar bond issue for expansion of the State University of New York. This expansion at the higher education level is necessitated by an expected doubling of High School graduates between now and 1970. New York City and the architectural profession must be prepared to meet this challenge.

## COMPETITIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The LeBrun Traveling Fellowship will be awarded this year. Open to U.S. citizens, unmarried, between the ages of 23 through 30 years, the award of \$3000. is to be used for at least six months travel in Europe. Programs for the design competition will be available in February.

The final date for submitting applications for this year's Brunner Scholarship is November 15.

**Rome Prize Fellowships:** Applications for a limited number of fellowships will be received at the office of the American Academy in Rome, 101 Park Avenue, New York 17, N.Y. until December 31, 1957. The fellowships are awarded in architecture, landscape architecture, painting, sculpture, history of art, classical studies, and musical composition. The awards are based on evidence of ability and achievement, and while open to all citizens of the United States without an age limit, the Academy aims to select young persons of outstanding promise. The successful candidates will receive \$1,250. a year, round-trip transportation between New York and Rome, studio space, residence at the Academy, and an additional travel allowance.

**Fulbright Scholarships:** Graduate study or research in architecture is offered in Australia, Austria, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, and the United Kingdom. Town and country planning study is available in both Australia and Chile. Candidates for Japan must know the language, and in non-English speaking European countries, at least some knowledge of the language must be demonstrated. Specific information about the requirements of the awards may be obtained from the Institute of International Education, One East 67th Street, New York 21, N.Y.

## REPORTS ON CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

**Development Housing:** The National A.I.A. Committee on the Home Building Industry has requested that all architects of any experience in development housing communicate with the Department of Education and Research. Their intent is to submit to the National Association of Home Builders, as a reference for its members, as complete a list as possible of architects active in, or interested in entering the field of development home building. A second intent is to obtain from these architects the material required for a proposed AIA-NAHB-FHA film strip depicting the advantages to communities and developers of Architect collaboration in development home building.

The New York Chapter's House Consulting Committee under the Chairmanship of Giorgio Cavaglieri, is concerned lest a roster of architects active in the field of development home building damage the possibilities of new names entering this field. While the Committee is aware of the fact that development building design requires architects of experience, they suggest that it is frequently possible that some new imaginative suggestion may come even from young graduates if given the opportunity to study the problem. The Committee suggest that any roster of specialized architects would be satisfactory only if open to any AIA member who expresses the desire to be on it

The House Consulting Committee endorses the idea of the film strip and suggests that the Chapter membership contribute 35 mm color slides of photographs or renderings of home development projects together with statements pertaining to design considerations, extent of service provided and cost factors. Such information should be sent direct to Mrs. Gery Witt, Coordinator of AIA-NAHB-FHA Film Project, American Institute of Architects, 1735 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

## STUDENT CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

On Friday, October 18th over 140 students representing the Student Chapters at Columbia, Pratt and Cooper Union attended a buffet dinner and lecture series at the Metropolitan Museum in commemoration of the Centennial Year of the A.I.A. The students heard short and provocative talks by James Fitch, Sibyl Moholy-Nagy, and Paul Zucker. George Adler of the Cooper Union Student Chapter summarizes the evening events as follows:

"The Centennial Commemoration lecture series and dinner extended in a resplendid fashion, a warm welcome to the strengthening of interests between the New York and Brooklyn Chapters of the A.I.A. and the members of the Student Chapters of Columbia, Pratt and Cooper Union.

Commendations are in order to the two sponsoring chapters; to the individuals who arranged and coordinated this enjoyable event, and to the architects who demonstrated their interest in student affairs by joining the discussions at each table. Despite the fact that Asian flu was responsible for the lower than anticipated attendance, the evening was eminently successful.

At the lectures, each of the speakers presented their opinions and observations with clarity and vitality such that the significance of each phrase was received by an attentive audience. They, too, are to be praised for maintaining the live spirit of the evening.

The real success of the evening was in how it illustrated to all the interrelationship of schools and chapters; professionals and students. These interrelationships ask only to be unfolded and developed. Friday's gathering was but an introduction to the workability of these interrelationships. It is up to us now to take it from here."

### NEW BOOKS

"Ralph Walker - Architect". A limited edition of 1000 volumes, printed by the Aldus Printers, "Ralph Walker - Architect" is a frank and refreshing accumulation of notes and quotes, photographs and sketches, beautifully composed and edited by Frants Albert. With the hypothesis that "the Architectural world desperately needs self-analysis", Mr. Walker takes exception to many of today's accepted credos and standards. "Ralph Walker - Architect" is a provocative and stimulating treatise on the architectural profession.

### ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Admissions Committee	-	Robert Jackson Smith
Education Committee	-	Leoh Ming Pei
Jury for the Mayor's Panel of Architects	-	A. Gordon Lorimer, Chairman; John C. B. Moore; Ralph Pomerance; Irving Seelig, Alternate.

### CANDIDATES

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

#### Corporate Membership

Angel Aviles	Orlando Llenza
Paul Hall Baren	Herman Neumann
Virgilio Monsanto - Diaz	Leo S. Wou
Hector Llenza	William Borsum North
H. Bourke Weigel	John Armand Sidoli

#### Associate Membership

Vito Vincent Ciaravino      Sponsors: Ralph G. Gulley and John B. Dodd