

# A M E R I C A N I N S T I T U T E O F A R C H I T E C T S

# 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.

MARGOT A. HENKEL • *Executive Secretary*

L. BANCEL LAFARGE, *President*

ROBERT CARSON, *Vice President*

GILLET LEFFERTS, JR., *Secretary*

MICHAEL M. HARRIS, *Treasurer*



PETER S. VAN BLOEM, *Editor*

VOL. XXX, NO. 10

SPECIAL SUMMER ISSUE, 1959

The New York Chapter Office will be closed for four weeks during the summer, from Monday, July 20th to Monday, August 17th. All telephone calls and the selling of A. I. A. documents will be handled during this period by:

**OFFICE SERVICES UNLIMITED**

104 East 40th Street, Room 106

New York 16, N. Y.

Telephone: OX 7-4990

or MU 9-7969

### ELECTIONS

At the Annual Meeting of the N. Y. Chapter on June 3rd the following members were elected by 250 valid ballots to serve as officers of the Chapter for the following year:

President

L. BANCEL LA FARGE

Vice President

ROBERT CARSON

Secretary

GILLET LEFFERTS, JR.

Treasurer

MICHAEL M. HARRIS

Executive Committee

LATHROP DOUGLASS

(1962)

CHARLES S. HAINES, II

(1962)

Representative to the New York State Association of Architects

OLINDO GROSSI

Alternate

JOSEPH B. KLEIN

Jury for the Medal of Honor and Awards of Merit

(1961)

I. M. PEI

FRANCIS KEALLY

THORNE SHERWOOD

Committee on Professional Practice

LEWIS G. ADAMS

EDWIN M. FORBES

ELDREDGE SNYDER

Committee on Fellows

FREDERICK G. FROST, Jr.

(1962)

FREDERICK J.

WOODBIDGE

(1962)

### NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS CONVENTION

The President and Officers of the Chapter strongly urge all members to attend the Convention of the New York State Association of Architects to make a substantial representation. It will be held at Whiteface Inn on Lake Placid, Whiteface, N. Y., October 8-10, 1959.

### NEW YORK REGIONAL COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

The Regional Conference of the New York Area will be held simultaneously with the Convention of the New York State Association of Architects. The Conference will be held on October 7th, 1959, 10:00 a.m., Whiteface Inn on Lake Placid, Whiteface, N. Y. and Chapter members are privileged to attend.

### SURVEYOR OF UNSAFE BUILDINGS

All those interested in serving as a Surveyor of Unsafe Buildings for 1959 please advise the Chapter Office by mail before October 1, 1959, giving your correct address and telephone number. It is required that one have ten years experience in building construction and that one has lived in New York City for the last three years. The Surveyor's fee is \$50.00.

The Dining Room of The Architectural League of New York, 115 East 40th Street will be closed from August 7 to September 8, 1959.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

To all members of the New York Chapter, American Institute of Architects.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee the 1959 Year Book for the New York Republican State Committee was found to contain space with the names and addresses of several architectural firms who are members of our Chapter.

The Executive Committee and the Professional Practice Committee feel that this practice should not continue. It could be construed as advertising. We are therefore asking all members who make contributions to any publication of this nature to be particularly diligent in always accompanying the contribution with a letter stating emphatically that their name is not to appear in print in the publication.

It should also be called to your attention that the use of bold type, or box inserts, in the telephone directory are also considered a form of advertising and should therefore not be employed by Chapter members.

L. Bancel LaFarge,  
President.

## DID YOU KNOW?

We have re-elected L. Bancel LaFarge, partner in LaFarge, Knox & Murphy, to a second term as president, along with Robert Carson, partner in Carson & Lundin, as vice president; Gillet Lefferts, Jr., associate in Moore & Hutchins, as secretary; and Michael M. Harris, associate partner of Harrison & Abramovitz, as treasurer.

The Chapter elected Lathrop Douglass, head of the firm of that name, and Charles S. Haines, partner in Voorhees Walker Smith Smith & Haines as new members of its executive committee.

And did you know that as chief of monuments in the Fine Arts & Archives Section, SHAEF and later OMAGUS, at the end of World War II, Mr. LaFarge helped locate and save hundreds of thousands of European works of art so that they could be restored to their original owners. The United States, France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Czechoslovakia decorated him for these services.

Among examples of his firm's work are the B. O. A. C. space at the International Arrival Building, Idlewild; the school and convent of St. William the Abbot at Seaford, L. I.; the Caneel Bay Plantation resort at St. John, Virgin Islands; and a house nearing completion in France for the Honorable Robert Coe, former United States ambassador to Denmark.

A past president of the Liturgical Arts Society and of the Municipal Arts Society of New York, Mr. LaFarge is a member of a family long associated with the arts. He is a grandson of the mural painter John LaFarge, son of the painter Bancel LaFarge and nephew of C. Grant LaFarge, who was president of the New York Chapter of the A. I. A. in 1911-12.

Mr. LaFarge and his wife make their home at Mount Carmel, Connecticut.

*Congratulations are due to our Editor who took unto himself a bride on July 18th. "We shall expect a Women's Column in future issues."*

## FROM THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER  
Albany

June 4, 1959

Dear Bancel:

Oren Root has given me the certificate of Honorary Associate Membership which you presented to him for me at yesterday's Annual Luncheon. I hope you will convey to your colleagues my deep appreciation of this honor. I only regret that it was not possible for me to be present to receive it in person.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

N. A. Rockefeller (Signed)

## ARNOLD W. BRUNNER SCHOLARSHIP

The New York Chapter, American Institute of Architects, is accepting applications for the 1959 Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship at this time. The grant is for an amount up to \$3,000 for advanced study in a specialized field of architectural investigation and is awarded annually by the Chapter. Candidates are required to be American Citizens with advanced professional backgrounds and currently active in architecture or related fields and should file applications now. Closing date for all applications is November 15th, 1959. Full information may be procured from the Chapter Office at 115 East 40th Street, New York 16, N. Y. (Murray Hill 9-7969). Stanhope Ficke is Chairman of the Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship Committee.

## NOMINATIONS FOR STRAUSS AWARD

New York Society of Architects request nominations for the 1959 Sidney L. Strauss Memorial Award. This is presented annually for outstanding services within the previous five years for the benefit of the architectural profession.

A nomination may only be submitted by a constituent organization of the New York State Association of Architects, such as the New York Chapter, A. I. A.

Requests for further information concerning the award should be directed to Mrs. Margot Henkel at Chapter Headquarters.

Name and qualifications of nominee must be delivered to the Committee not later than August 20, 1959, in a sealed envelope, addressed as follows: Sidney L. Strauss Memorial Award Committee, c/o New York Chapter, A. I. A., 115 East 40th Street, New York 17, New York—and marked on the lower left-hand corner of envelope: "Nomination for Award."

## AUXILIARY

Plans for a Car Caravan three day tour of upstate New York have been announced by the Women's Architectural Auxiliary of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

The Founder's Committee of the auxiliary has arranged a schedule which includes departing from Manhattan on Friday, July 31st and motoring to Columbia County.

## HOW'S YOUR CREDIT?

The same problem—every year—outstanding dues! And we do mean “outstanding.” It is not too often that financial difficulties are the reason, but it is all too often that certain “forgetfuls” conveniently, for them, put off that day of reckoning.

Dues account for most of our income so the 10% of our members who owe \$2043.75 are hurting us greatly. Please send your dues in now.

## INSTITUTE ELECTIONS

We are happy to announce the re-election of the following officers of the Institute: President John Noble Richards, 1st Vice President Philip Will, Jr., 2nd Vice President Henry L. Wright and Treasurer Raymond S. Kastendieck. We welcome Secretary J. Roy Carroll, Jr. who was also elected.

## DESIGN CENTER FILE

Professionals in the decorative and building trades will have an opportunity to display photographs of their work for the first time in the new visual photographic files of the Design Center in New York. In this first central clearing house of its kind in the world, the new Design Center visual file will show photographic samples of work by interior decorators and designers, industrial designers, architects, builders, craftsmen, artists and sculptors. These will be on view for the general public and members of the manufacturing trades at the Center, 415 East 53rd Street, New York City, Mondays through Saturdays and Wednesday evenings.

Accredited members of the above professions can arrange for showing of six to forty photographs a year in the Design Center's visual file.

## KEEPING RELATIONS PUBLIC

The Chapter's suggestions on changes in the new zoning proposal, the architect's use of sculpture and painting in major buildings, the work of an architectural firm with developers and the U. S. architectural exhibit to be staged in Moscow this summer have been made the basis of publicity by the Chapter's public relations counsel in recent weeks.

Chapter activities have also been used as a major way of generating further interest in architects and architecture among the residents of this area. The Herald Tribune and the World-Telegram & Sun both reported the election of eight Chapter members as fellows of the Institute. The Times gave good space to the annual meeting and the awards made at it, and the Herald Tribune, the Times and the World-Telegram & Sun carried news of the re-election of Mr. LaFarge as president and of the other officers.

Our public relations counsel recently arranged for the appearance of Mr. G. Harmon Gurney, chairman of the Civic Design Committee, on the half-hour television program, “Right Now!” over CBS, and our stand on zoning was reported in a long story in the World-Telegram & Sun.

Contributions to keep the public relations program rolling are still coming in. The latest has just arrived from Marcia Mead, a member of the Chapter since 1918, and now living in 4553 1/4 St. Charles Place, Los Angeles 19, California.

*Please note that application forms for the A.I.A. ARCHITECT IN TRAINING PROGRAM are now available at the Chapter office. Committee Chairman Russell Colean requests each Architectural firm to urge their candidates to apply for enrollment.*

## OWNERSHIP OF DOCUMENTS

During May 1959, an article in the World-Telegram and Sun, entitled “Architect Loses Suit on Re-Use of Plans,” reviewed a recent case where an architect was paid for drawings and specifications for a private house, and where subsequently additional houses were built from the drawings and specifications by other persons without the consent of or the payment of an additional fee to the architect.

The architect, the plaintiff in an action to recover additional fees, was denied redress on the grounds that lacking protection by copyright registration, the “publishing” of the drawings and specifications by filing them with the Building Department put the documents within the public domain. The architect's case was further vitiated by the fact that there is an apparently well established rule of law in New York that unless provided otherwise by contract, drawings and specifications become the property of the client.

In the case (*Tumey v. Little*, N. Y. Law Journal, April 10, 1959), the architect was apparently unable to show how the documents got from his client to the persons who re-used them, and he was apparently without specific agreement with his client that the documents were “instruments of service” (Paragraph 10 of the A. I. A. Document: “Ownership of Documents”) and his property.

The difficulties inherent with a copyright registration including the time element and possibilities of breaking the validity of the registration by making changes in the original design, virtually preclude practical protection for the architect by that means. However, re-use of the documents, after “publication” by filing with the Building Department would presume that, lacking the architect's permission, and thus his seal, it would be necessary for another architect or engineer to sign and seal the application and documents for purposes of obtaining a building permit, and ultimately a Certificate of Occupancy. It would seem that protection for the architect would be provided here, through the requirement of the State Education Law that an Architect or Engineer must have personally supervised the preparation of the documents bearing his seal.

Had the architect used the Standard A. I. A. forms, which include paragraph 10, “Ownership of Documents,” presumably he would have had a more valid case.

The importance of inclusion of paragraph 10, “Ownership of Documents” of the Standard A. I. A. Documents, or its equivalent, in Architect-Owner Agreements, is emphasized by this case. The Owner should be made aware of the “Instrument of Service” concept of drawings and specifications, and it should be clearly understood that although he may be given copies of the documents, they are not his to give or sell to others for re-use.

*Fees & Contracts Committee,  
N. Y. Chapter, A. I. A.*

## MAYOR'S PANEL

The City Civil Service Commission has established new procedures for the filing and receipt of applications for the Mayor's Panel of Architects, as follows:

Applications will be issued and received from 9:00 a.m., October 7, 1959 to 4 p.m., October 27, 1959.

Application blanks are obtainable by the applicant in person or by his representative at the Application Section of the Department of Personnel at 96 Duane Street, New York 7, New York. They will be mailed on request provided that the request to the above section and address is accompanied by a stamped (4 cents) self-addressed 9½-inch envelope for each application requested.

All applications with accompanying photographs, where required, must be mailed or delivered to the Department of Personnel, Examining Service Division, Room 210, 299 Broadway, New York 7, New York not later than October 27, 1959.

Applications will be examined by an Architectural Jury appointed by the Presidents of the following societies and recommendations will be made by them to Mayor Robert F. Wagner for his 1960 Panel of Architects:

New York Chapter, The American Institute of Architects

Brooklyn Chapter, The American Institute of Architects

Bronx Chapter, The American Institute of Architects

Queens Chapter, The American Institute of Architects

Staten Island Chapter, The American Institute of Architects

New York Society of Architects

Brooklyn Society of Architects

The Municipal Art Society of New York

Fine Arts Federation of New York

## NEW MEMBERS

The New York Chapter extends its warmest welcome to the following new members:

### Corporate Members

EUGENE BARYLA

IRVIN J. BERGER

PAUL K. Y. CHEN

SAUL ELLENBOGEN

JOHN WEED FRANKLIN

STUART FURMAN

HENRY SANDIG

WILLIAM FRANCIS SIGAL

ANGUS L. CRAIG — Transferred from the Westchester Chapter to the New York Chapter.

### Associate Members

MARCUS H. CAINES

NEHAMA MERLE COURLAND

HEIKKI A. LEESMENT

CHARLES MARRA

PAUL WALDRON REILLY

*The following letter was read at the Annual Luncheon concerning the award of Honorary Associate Membership to Governor Rockefeller.*

## LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR TO MR. LA FARGE

"Will you convey my most cordial greetings to everyone present at the annual luncheon of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects?"

"This is a welcome occasion for me to express my renewed appreciation of the very great honor you conferred upon me by electing me to Honorary Associate Membership.

"Having had occasion within the last year to travel extensively all over the Empire State, I have had the opportunity to see for myself the results of a great many of the creations of the New York Chapter. It gave me cause for pride in the wonderful progress that we have made in this vital art. Our state today abounds in beautiful buildings of the most modern functional design. There can be no doubt that the credit for this belongs to the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

"Thanks to you we are developing here an architecture that is American in spirit and in outlook, an architecture both public and private which is really of the Twentieth Century. This makes me, more than ever happy to be an associate member.

"My best wishes for a congenial luncheon meeting."

Sincerely,

Signed: Nelson A. Rockefeller

## TELEPHONE LISTINGS

We call your attention to the "From the President" article on Page 2. Specifically, display type in the "yellow pages" or "red book" and so forth or even bold type are counter to the Institute's mandatory rules concerning advertising and credits. Publishers of these books can not be held to control this practice so that each Chapter member must be held responsible for guarding his own reputation. Please, let's not have to use disciplinary action.

## CANDIDATES

Information on the following candidates for membership will be considered confidential by the Admissions Committee.

### Corporate Members

MICHAEL DOUTHETT DESKEY

CURTIS R. FREMOND

ARTHUR G. PALETTA

FRED L. SOMMER

HENRY NICHOLS COBB

### Associate Member

SIMON CHARLES KREGAR

SALVATORE SCUTARO

#### Sponsors

{ George J. Vassilev

{ William Lukas

{ Leopold Arnaud

{ Harvey P. Clarkson