

# OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



JANUARY 1963

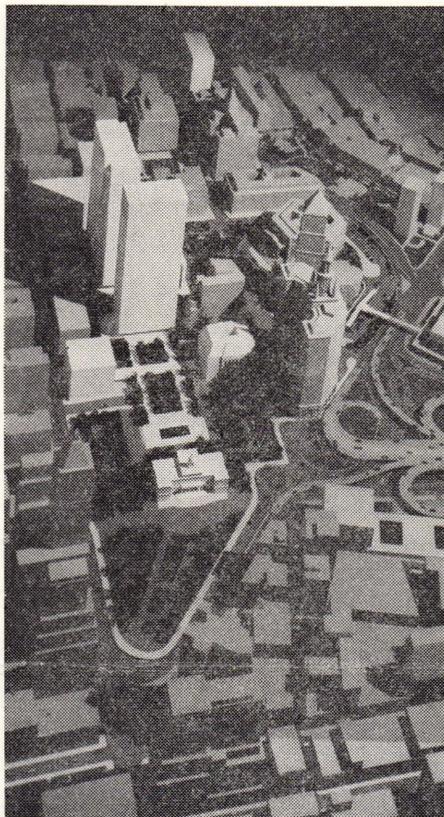
## CHAPTER BACKS "MAGNIFICENT" CIVIC CENTER PLAN

Realization of the proposed New York Civic Center plan, recently made public "will be the greatest physical improvement to the city within living memory," the Chapter told Mayor Wagner last month.

In a telegram, President Frederick Woodbridge urged that "the recommendations of your Civic Center Committee be approved without delay, and that every effort be made to assure the realization of this magnificent, practical, and imaginative plan."

The plan, shown in model photo (right), was prepared by three Chapter members, Architects Max Abramovitz, Simon Breines, and Robert Cutler, with Traffic Engineers Day & Zimmerman. It includes two new towering office buildings for the city (at north end of mall), the federal government (behind that), and a smaller executive office building (at left). These structures plus City Hall (bottom) and the Surrogate's Court would overlook the new park, created by demolishing the old County Court House, closing several cross streets, and installing underground parking and subway connections. The plan is estimated to cost only \$13.7 million more than the \$150 million already approved.

Woodbridge stated that one point demands immediate attention and the firmest action: the recommendation that present plans for the Federal Office Building and Customs Court be revised to shift the office building west and the Customs Court north. This revision will make an "incalculable difference" in the overall plan, he said. Woodbridge pointed out that President Kennedy recently placed great stress on imaginative planning and good architecture, and added: "It would be a great misfortune if the one serious flaw in a great plan was due to lack of understanding and cooperation on the part of a Federal government agency."



Model view of proposed Civic Center, looking north; City Hall at bottom, Brooklyn Bridge ramps at right.

The Chapter offered the Mayor "its complete support and any assistance within its power toward the accomplishment of the recommendations of your Committee."

"We congratulate you on this magnificent program," the telegram stated. "Let us see that the most is made of it."

## THE ANNUAL MEETING: NEW OFFICERS, NEW AWARDS

By F. Marshall Smith

At noon on January 3, a record turnout of members attended the Chapter's annual meeting at the Architectural League. The meeting had been delayed from June, 1962 in compliance with the request from the Institute that the change-over of officers and chairmen coincide with the National Committee change-over at the beginning of the calendar year.

After opening the meeting, President Woodbridge called for a reading of the ballot and additional votes from the floor before closing the polls. The President then paid tribute to the late Harry B. Rutkins and asked the Secretary to read the resolution establishing the Harry B. Rutkins Award. Mrs. Rutkins acknowledged with thanks and made the award to the first recipient, David F. M. Todd, for his accomplishments on behalf of the Chapter as Chairman of the Fees & Contracts Committee. Dickson McKenna, Chairman of the Awards Committee, presented other new citations to the following:

*Citizens Committee for Preservation of Tompkins Square Park*

Recipient: *Vivian Nemhauser*

*Skidmore, Owings & Merrill—Subway Entrance, Nassau and Cedar Sts.—(Chase Manhattan Bank)*

Represented by *Robert W. Cutler*

*Clarke & Rapuano—Public Gardens; U.N. Headquarters*

Represented by *Richard C. Murdock*

*Mayer, Whittlesey & Glass—Interior Courtyard, New School for Social Research*

Represented by *Julian H. Whittlesey*

*Continued on p. 2*

# OCULUS

VOL. 35, NO. 4

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
NEW YORK CHAPTER

MARGOT A. HENKEL, Executive Secretary  
115 East 40th Street  
New York 16, N. Y.  
MUrray Hill 9-7969

FREDERICK J. WOODBRIDGE ..... President  
DAVID L. EGGERS ..... Vice President  
C. GATES BECKWITH ..... Secretary  
ALBERT H. SWANKE ..... Treasurer

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OGDEN TANNER ..... Vice Chairman and Editor  
JAN WHITE ..... Associate Editor  
JOHN DIXON ..... Associate Editor

THE ANNUAL MEETING Continued from p. 1

*Ludwig Mies van der Rohe—Open Plaza, Seagram Building*

No representation. Citation mailed.

*Olmstead Associates, Brookline, Mass.—design and landscape architecture of paving and parking area, Metropolitan Museum of Art*

No representation. Citation mailed.

*Salute to Seasons Fund, Inc.—leadership in stimulating citizens toward a constant program to beautify the city, (flower and tree planting and flood-lighting)*

Represented by Mrs. Albert D. Lasker

Retiring President Woodbridge, in his accustomed vigorous, good-humored style, delivered a "Hail and Farewell" address. Without attempting to review the many accomplishments of his extended administration, he emphasized one great Chapter gain: "For whatever cause—and much credit goes to the previous administrations of Bancel LaFarge and Bob Cutler—the New York Chapter has achieved a position with respect to the government of the City of New York which is stronger than at any time I can remember in the past. Not only is the opinion of the Chapter respected, it is often asked, and its help and advice requested by numerous City agencies. It is easier for the Chapter Officers to gain access to the Mayor, the Chairman of the City Planning Commission, and other department heads. This is an accomplishment which must

not be jeopardized. The atmosphere of cooperation must be preserved and enhanced."

To close the meeting, Chairman of Tellers Robert Beder reported the results of the election. With 480 valid votes, the following were elected to serve the Chapter in 1963:

*President:* ..... Geoffrey Noel Lawford  
*Vice President:* ..... Lathrop Douglass  
*Secretary:* ..... Charles Gates Beckwith  
*Treasurer:* ..... Albert H. Swanke

*Executive Committee:*  
Bro. C. J. B. Baumann  
Emanuel N. Turano

*Committee on Fellows:*  
A. Gordon Lorimer  
Daniel Schwartzman

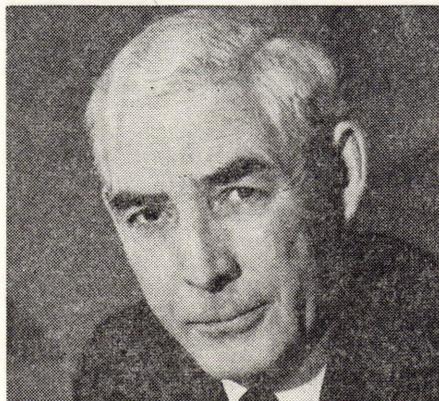
*Jury for the Medal of Honor and Awards of Merit:*

Frederick J. Woodbridge  
Richard Boring Snow  
Richard W. Snibbe

*Committee on Professional Practice:*  
Geoffrey Platt  
Aaron Nathan Kiff  
John Gray Faron

*Representative to the New York State Association of Architects:*  
F. Marshall Smith  
George D. Brown, Jr., Alternate

President Woodbridge introduced the newly elected officers and thanked the outgoing members of the Executive Committee, then turned the gavel over to new President Lawford, who closed the meeting with a short address.



Geoffrey Noel Lawford FAIA, new Chapter president, was born on Dec. 25, 1903 in England, attended high school in Santa Barbara,

Calif., and received his Bachelor of Architecture from Cornell in 1929. Since its founding in 1946, he has been a partner in the New York City firm of Brown, Lawford & Forbes, 224 East 46th St. Recent work of the firm includes new buildings on the Wesleyan University campus, and current reconstruction and additions to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Cloisters.

Mr. Lawford recently completed a two-year term as chairman of the New York State Board of Examiners of Architects, and was formerly director of the New York State Association of Architects. He is a member of the Architectural League, and an associate member of the National Academy of Design. In 1950 he served as vice president of the New York Chapter, and from 1956-58 as a member of the Chapter's executive committee.

OCULUS joins the Chapter in warmest congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Lawford for the year ahead.

## CITY CLUB SPONSORS NEW CIVIC ARCHITECTURE AWARDS

New York's pioneer civic group, The City Club of New York, is engaged in a campaign to improve the quality of civic architecture. As part of this campaign, it has announced a competition among architects. The awards will be named for Albert S. Bard, 95-year-old trustee of the club, who for more than 60 years has fought for a more beautiful city. The competition was organized by a sub-committee of the club's Municipal Affairs Committee under the chairmanship of Leon Brand, AIA, of Frederick G. Frost Jr. and Associates.

In a circular sent to all members of the AIA in the New York area and to all New York City public agencies, it was announced that submissions must be made by February 25. The judging will take place on March 4 and 5, and the awards will be made at a luncheon on April 22.

In addition to one or more First Honor Awards for Excellence in Civic Architecture, the jury will

bestow Awards of Merit in Civic Architecture on as many entries as it deems deserving. An appropriate plaque will be presented for installation at buildings which receive the First Honor Award.

Architects interested in entering the competition or encouraging similar competitions in other cities may obtain copies of the announcement circular by writing to The City Club of New York, 6 West 48 Street, New York 36, N. Y.

### F. G. FROST TO WORK ON NEW N. Y. CODE

Frederick G. Frost Jr. & Associates has been selected as consulting architect to the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn for its current project of writing a new Building Code for New York City. The Building Code, last revised in 1937, is in process of being completely re-written over a three-year period at a cost of \$700,000.

Mr. Frost is a former member of the Executive Committee of the New York Chapter, and his firm has designed a wide variety of buildings in and around New York, including private and public housing, voluntary hospitals, public schools, industrial buildings, supermarkets, and residences.

Other consultants engaged for the project are Meyer, Strong and Jones, mechanical engineers, and Praeger - Kavanagh - Waterbury, structural engineers.

### STRAUSS MEMORIAL AWARD

For the first time in the history of the Sidney L. Strauss Memorial Award, the Committee has seen fit this year to make two awards, designating Richard Roth, AIA, in recognition of his past outstanding services for the benefit of the architectural profession, and The Hon. Everett McKinley Dirksen, U. S. Senator from Illinois, for his efforts in behalf of all self-employed professionals, as evidenced by the passing of House Resolution No. 10, Self-Employed Retirement Legislation.

Presentation of the Awards took place at the Annual Dinner of the New York Society of Architects, held December 19 at the Americana Hotel in midtown Manhattan.

### \$5000 AWARD

From the Estate of the late  
Arnold W. Brunner  
President  
of the New York Chapter  
The American Institute of  
Architects 1909-1910

#### FOR AN IDEA

For the best proposal for a special study that will contribute most effectively to the practice, teaching, or knowledge of Architecture

For Applications Write to the  
Brunner Scholarship Committee  
New York Chapter, A.I.A.  
115 East 40th Street  
New York 16, N. Y.

Closing Date for Applications  
Extended to January 31, 1963

### PUBLICITY OPPORTUNITIES

*Photo Dealer* magazine will run a story prepared by the Chapter's public affairs counsel on store modernization, but needs photos to illustrate it. All materials used will be credited. If you have designed or remodeled a photo store, pictures will be welcome. Also, there is a need for photos and/or diagrams illustrating gridiron, inclined, and free-flow floor plans. Send materials to Jack Bernstein Associates, 37 West 57th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

### 96th DINNER DANCE

Thursday, Feb. 21  
Plaza Hotel, 5th Ave. & 59th St.  
Reception 7:30 P.M.  
Dinner-dance 8:30 P.M.

Join your friends and associates for the Chapter's major social event of the year. The cost has been maintained at \$15 per person with drinks on an individual basis. Special rate of \$10 for all members (and their guests) assigned to the Chapter during 1962, and for all those under the age of 40. Black tie. Individual reservations or reservations for tables of 10 may be made through the Chapter office (MU 9-7969).

### "QUEST FOR QUALITY" IS 1963 CONVENTION THEME

"The Quest for Quality in Architecture" will be the theme of the Institute's 1963 Convention, to be held May 5-9 in Miami.

The main session on Wednesday morning, May 8, will explore, among other topics, the criteria for defining quality and the reasons why these criteria are ever-changing.

The second session, on Thursday morning, will be concerned with "What and Who Influences Quality?" Examined will be the role of government, education, professional press, public taste, and other influences.

The final session, on Thursday afternoon, will take up "The Attainment of Quality," with discussion of such subjects as collaborative vs. individual approach, and native ability vs. acquired knowledge.

Burnham Kelly, Dean of the College of Architecture at Cornell University, will serve as moderator for the entire program. The roster of speakers, to be announced later, includes distinguished architects and noted experts in other related fields.



### WOMEN'S ARCHITECTURAL AUXILIARY

Our Fourth Annual Debutante Cotillion is now a glittering memory. Eight beautiful girls were presented this year at the Metropolitan Club on December 26. This is an increase over last year. They descended the grand staircase in the traditional manner and were presented to the distinguished guests. Mr. and Mrs. John Noble Richards flew in from Toledo, Ohio for the occasion, which pleased their many friends greatly.

The Executive Board of the W.A.A. is now considering a Spring luncheon and fashion show to spark the A.I.A. Convention in Miami and to raise additional scholarship funds.

Volunteers for this committee are requested to call Mrs. Max O. Urbahn at PLaza 8-3198.

*Hildegard (Mrs. Harold R.) Sleeper*

## COMING EVENTS

- JANUARY 30 Hospital and Health Lecture  
Gallery A, Wed., 5:15 P.M.
- FEBRUARY 7 Chapter-wide Hospital & Health Committee Dinner  
Meeting; Biltmore Hotel, 43rd Street,  
Thurs., 6:30 P.M.  
Speaker: Dr. Jack C. Haldeman, Assistant Surgeon  
General, Chief, Division of Hospital and Medical  
Facilities, Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare
- FEBRUARY 21 Anniversary Dinner  
Thurs., Terrace Room, Plaza Hotel  
5th Avenue & 59th Street
- FEBRUARY 26 Technical Committee Lecture  
Gallery A, Tues., 5:30 P.M.  
Topic: "Fire Safety"
- MARCH 6 Hospital & Health Lecture  
Dining Room, Wed., 5:15 P.M.
- MARCH 12 Technical Committee Lecture  
Gallery A, Tues., 5:30 P.M.  
Topic: "Site Techniques"
- MAY 5-9 A.I.A. CONVENTION  
Miami, Florida (Hotel Americana)

## OCULUS DIRECTORY

OCULUS is grateful to the following contributors who helped sustain the costs of this issue.

**HERBERT HELMUS**

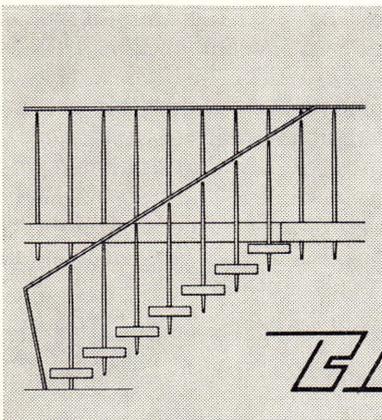
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## PLASTERERS' SCHOLARSHIP

The Chapter announces the fifth annual scholarship award of the Plastering Institute of Greater New York, Inc. A scholarship of \$1000 will be awarded to a male or female candidate for graduation at a New York City high school who plans to study at an accredited college with a view toward a career in architecture. Character, scholastic record and financial need will be the bases for the award. Application should be made through the school principal or through any member of the New York Chapter, and should include the candidate's scholastic records, character recommendations, a letter of recommendation from an instructor familiar with the student's work, and a statement outlining the candidate's reason for having chosen architecture as a program of study.

Applications shall be mailed no later than February 15th, to the Education and Scholarship Committee, New York Chapter, AIA, 115 East 40th St., New York 16, N. Y. The award will be announced on or before May 4, 1963.

## MEMBERSHIP

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

**Corporate**

Philip A. Dworkin	George Joseph Mann
Miguel Angel Franco	George J. Masumian
Martin B. Ginsburg	(Transferred from
Charles C. Holt	Queens Chapter)
Carlos F. Lavandero	Joseph G. Merz
Sanford Malter	Richard Roth, Jr.

**Associate**

Stanley M. Boruchow	Donald A. H. Rummery
Jose F. De La Torre Gonzales	Robert Sanders

## CANDIDATES

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

**Corporate**

John Milton Arms	Albert Pfeiffer, Jr.
Neil Robert Berzak	Arthur Isaac Rosenblatt
Ralph Lawrence Gionta	Peter Samton
William Golub	Der Scutt
Barry S. Jackson	Danforth Wallace Toan
Norman Coleman Jaffe	

**Associate**

Douglas Nicholas Blauvelt	Sponsors: Michael M. Harris and David R. Dibner
Robert Hayden Schofield	Sponsors: George M. Schofield and Michael M. Harris
John Joseph Wynne	Sponsors: Ernest Akam and William E. Baltz