

OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



OCTOBER 1964



**URBAN OPEN SPACES NO. 1—EAST HARLEM PLAZA,
JEFFERSON HOUSES, N.Y.C.**

This article is the first of a planned series coinciding with the "Open Space Program" of the Chapter's Urban Design Committee under Chairman Walker O. Cain. URBAN OPEN SPACES will seek to establish a forum for the active participation and positive contribution of Chapter members in a major endeavor of this Chapter. OCULUS will gratefully acknowledge articles, photographs and letters containing suggestions from the membership for publication purposes and for the use of the Urban Design Committee in its current program.

The only project in New York City to receive recognition in the recent Public Housing Administration Honor Award Program for Design Excellence was the East Harlem Plaza designed by Albert Mayer, FAIA, under local management sponsorship for the low-rent Jefferson Houses. It was one of three

entries for which the "Special Mention Category" was created. Submitted by sources close to a jury member, they were ineligible for awards. However, their design, it was felt, had a stimulating originality which would further the objectives sought in this award program.

The Jury commented: "This central area was replanned to serve better the needs of the development's occupants. It has facilities appealing to various age groups and is a unifying element for the development under both day and night conditions. What might have become barren is an attractive, useful and pleasant place. It is a visual amenity for the surrounding buildings and a focus for the project as well as the entire neighborhood. The plantings separating the activity area from the buildings and the use of water are noteworthy." *CONTINUED ON PAGE 2*

STUDY URGED FOR LOWER MANHATTAN EXPRESSWAY

Mayor Wagner was strongly urged by the New York Chapter, A.I.A. to consider most seriously the Regional Plan Association's recommendation that the Lower Manhattan Expressway be located below grade.

In a letter to the Mayor, William D. Wilson, Chapter president, said: "We believe there is still time to give this thoughtful suggestion the study it deserves.

"New York is rich with examples of urban rehabilitation which followed the removal of elevated structures; and she is blight-ridden with instances of what happens when purely engineering solutions demand their erection."

Mr. Wilson indicated that the Chapter was heartened by Robert Moses' offer to sponsor a middle income housing development with the expressway plan "because this represents significant progress towards the type of coordinated area planning so lacking in New York. Perhaps the expressway cannot wait for the Master Plan," he said, "but it can and should wait for a definitive study and statement bearing on the overall goals for the downtown area," he said.

President Wilson and Chapter members Todd, Breines and Cain met with Director Peter Reidy of the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority and were briefed on present plans for the expressway. The Executive Committee is currently preparing a statement of the Chapter's position to be read when the matter is brought up for a public hearing.

The proposed Lower Manhattan Expressway would connect the Holland Tunnel and the West Side Highway with the Williamsburg and Manhattan Bridges.

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NEW YORK CHAPTER

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OPEN SPACES—Cont'd from page 1

In recent years, much of the attack leveled at urban renewal and housing programs have forced architects and planners to re-evaluate many of the concepts popularized by the champions of the modern movement such as Le Corbusier, Mumford and Clarence Stein. Thus the idea of the superblock, the unit of a Radiant City, as a sure cure of urban ills because it separated vehicular traffic from pedestrians, provided sheltered green open spaces and quasi-suburban privacy, was seriously questioned when placed in the context of mass relocation, disruption of a neighborhood's life, etc.

This re-evaluation is evidenced in our urban renewal schemes. A recent survey of the Citizen's Housing and Planning Council conceded that the Housing Authority was no longer consistently putting up large-scale developments. The City's West Side Urban Renewal program has not one superblock in its 30 block area. A new "vest-pocket" concept has emerged where the deteriorated portions of a city block are *rehabilitated*, or then replaced by "moderate" size project in relatively small sites.

The challenge to the superblock has come from thoughtful commentators such as Jane Jacob in *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* and from architects faced with the monotonous, unvaried repetition of salmon colored blocks. Other architects have sought to remedy these inherent disadvantages. Giorgio Cav-

aglieri, in a recent public letter, pressed for an attempt to harmonize the volumes of new developments with the older five- and six-story buildings in the old sections of town. Architects such as Charles Goodman in *Life for Dead Spaces*, Pomerance and Breines in their pedestrian mall proposal for mid-town Manhattan, Kelly and Gruzen in their Litho City scheme have sought thoughtful and provocative ways to provide continuity to a city fabric otherwise interrupted by the island-like inward orientation characteristic to superblocks.

New developments unsoftened by the patina of age are further hampered by a lack of variety in the pattern of human activity. Barren open spaces with fenced-in grass areas, asphalt parking fields, instead of the useful focal points indispensable to the social and recreational life of a neighborhood, have failed to live up to the promise held in the Radburn plan by Henry Wright and Clarence Stein. East Harlem Plaza is a step in the right direction.

Charles Thomsen

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION WEEK PROCLAIMED BY MAYOR WAGNER

Mayor Wagner proclaimed "American Landmarks Preservation Week in New York City" for September 28 through October 4th. In brief ceremonies in his office at City Hall on September 23rd, he presented the proclamation to Geoffrey Platt, Chairman of the City's Landmarks Preservation Commission, and James Grote Van Derpool, its executive director. President William D. Wilson represented the Chapter at the ceremony attended by city officials and civic leaders long concerned with preservation in New York, including William F. R. Ballard, Chairman, and Harmon Goldstone, a member of the City Planning Commission, Frederick Woodbridge of the Fine Arts Federation, Whitney North Seymour of the Municipal Art Society, Morris Ketchum, Vice-president of the American Institute of Architects, and Ronald Allwork, President of the Architectural League.

SUPPORT THE LANDMARK PRESERVATION
LEGISLATION — WRITE TODAY TO
YOUR COUNCILMAN

NEWS BRIEFS

Chapter member Lloyd Morgan, FAIA, best known as the architect of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, has received a special citation from the Pratt Institute as an outstanding alumnus who has contributed significantly to Architecture.

October 30, 1964 is the deadline for the receipt of nominations from the constituent organizations of the N.Y.S.A.A. for the 1964 Sidney L. Strauss Memorial Award of the N. Y. Society of Architects. The award is conferred annually upon an architect or any other persons for outstanding service in behalf of the architectural profession within the previous five years.

The American Iron and Steel Institute has announced its second "Design in Steel Award Program 1964-65" to give architects, engineers and designers recognition for their imaginative use of steel. Esthetic appearance as well as engineering will be the criteria for two awards to be offered in each of eight categories from entries post-marked not later than midnight, December 15, 1964 for products and structures completed after January 1, 1962. For further information, contact the American Iron and Steel Institute 150 East 42nd Street, New York 10017.

The N. Y. Herald Tribune of August 21 featured a story "Needed: A Technique for Apartment Living" based on an interview with Chapter member Elizabeth Coit, F.A.I.A., and a survey she made to guide the design of high rise apartment buildings.

In an earlier project, Miss Coit, Ida B. Webster and Nehama M. Courland cooperated in the development of a bulletin for the Department of Commerce entitled: *Careers for Women in Architecture*

John H. MacFadyen, formerly with Harrison and Abramowitz, and past Executive Director of the N. Y. State Council on the Arts, has recently joined the firm of Vollmer Associates, Engineers and Landscape Architects.

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N.Y.C. Board of Education Contracts

The Chapter has been requested by the N.Y.C. Board of Education to consider the use by the Board of the term "prime professional" in its contracts for school alterations and improvements. "Prime professional" would cover *either* architect or professional engineer, based on who would be administering the contract.

Vice President Todd reported that N.Y. State law recognized only the titles *architect* and *professional engineer*, and therefore the term *prime professional* would have no validity. It was also pointed out that the term was open to misinterpretation as well.

The Executive Committee indicated that one of the following alternatives would be more desirable:

1. Separate contract forms for architect and professional engineer.
2. A blank space on the contract to be filled in appropriately.
3. Both titles printed on the contract with one required to be crossed off.

New Chapter Committees

At an Executive Committee meeting held last month, the Ad Hoc Committee on Fair Practice under the chairmanship of Arthur C. Holden was made a permanent committee of the Chapter. One suggestion for a new name was the "Committee on Equal Opportunities."

Last April, the effort of the Committee to insure equal opportunities for Negroes and other members of minority groups, was praised by Mayor Robert Wagner (OCULUS — May 1964).

In another action, the Executive Committee granted committee status to OCULUS and appointed Charles E. Thomsen Chairman and Editor.

Brunner Grant to the Building Code Committee

The Ad-Hoc Committee on the New Building Code has been awarded a special grant of \$5,000 through the Chapter's Brunner Scholarship program for research, review and study of the proposed new Building

Code currently being written by the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute (OCULUS — March 1964).

Under the chairmanship of G. Harmon Gurney, and including Herman Cole, H. I. Feldman, William Lescaze, Burton Nowell, Jr., Emil Szendy, William Tabler, Charles Thomsen and Basil Yurchenco, the Committee consults with, assists and advises the B.P.I. in its capacity as member of the Industry Advisory Committee.

Currently under review by the Building Code Committee is the first draft of Article A-6 (*Means of Egress*) written by the firm of Frederick G. Frost, Jr. in consultation with Howard P. Vermilya.

Conference Scheduled by Hospital Committee

The Hospitals and Health Committee is planning a conference on Medical Schools and Teaching Hospitals. Tentatively scheduled for March 17 through March 20, funds have been allocated by the Executive Committee for the Chapter's share of the proceedings.

IMPROVING NEW YORK

LANDMARK PRESERVATION LEGISLATION FOR N. Y. C.

Under new legislation drafted up by the city Corporation Counsel, the Administrative Code will have a new Chapter 8-A: "Preservation of Landmarks and Historic Districts". An immediate consequence of this legislation will be the establishment of the Landmark Preservation Commission, a toothless lion existing until now at the Mayor's pleasure, as a permanent arm of the City government. It further authorizes the Landmark Commission to issue, after public hearings, a list of designated landmarks and historic districts.

The proposed measure *must* be approved by the Board of Estimate and the City Council. The New York Chapter, A.I.A., has pledged its full and unqualified support to one of the City's most enlightened and most urgently needed piece of legislation. *Chapter President Wilson requests and urges all 1,400 chapter members to write to their councilmen, urging the adoption.*

of this new local law without further delay.

Under the new legislation, the Landmark Preservation Commission will also have the power to obtain injunctions to prevent violations. Unauthorized alteration of a designated landmark is a misdemeanor. The Commission may also recommend to the Mayor the granting of property-tax exemptions to owners of landmarks which do not provide a reasonable income. The Commission could also recommend that the City acquire interest in threatened landmarks to help save them. Under the proposed draft:

1. Landmark districts may not exceed 400 feet from a designated landmark which must be at least 30 years old.
2. The Board of Estimate acting with the City Planning Commission may modify or reject, within 90 days, proposed designations submitted to them by the Landmark Commission.
3. Plans filed with the Commission must comply with its conditions under which a permit would be granted to "reconstruct, alter, or demolish" any structure in an officially designated landmark or historic district.
4. A permit for interior alteration work must be issued by the Commission within 30 days after application was filed. The application is then forwarded to the Department of Buildings for processing.
5. The Commission is required to hold a public hearing on every request for a "Certificate of Appropriateness" to determine the grounds under which the proposed work could be carried out even though it may affect an exterior architectural feature.

Charles Thomsen

CITY GUIDE BOOK PROJECT

The Publications Committee is undertaking the project of arranging for the preparation and publication of an architectural guide book of New York for the 1967 A.I.A. Convention here. Members who wish to suggest possible authors for the guide book, or who have material to contribute, are requested to communicate with the Chairman, Publications Committee.

THE NEW YORK ZONING LAW—No. 1

EDITED BY SOLOMON SHEER

Deputy Director of the New York City Board of Standards and Appeals, Solomon Sheer has had a lifelong career in the construction industry as a general contractor and engineer. His daily duties keep him in close contact with the Zoning Law, its interpretation and application. Member of Local Planning Board No. 6, he is Assistant Adjunct Professor of Planning at N.Y.U.

In 1916, on the basis of public need, the nation's first comprehensive zoning law was established in this City. Since then, through various amendments, the law changed until the present zoning resolution was adopted. The broad intent of all zoning laws including this one is stated in the preamble of the new Zoning Resolution. This general statement however is much too broad to separate and differentiate the intent of this law from that of other zoning laws. Therefore a more specific intent or title is given in Section 11-01 which can be briefly summed up as the law that governs permissible *use, bulk, and shape* of land and buildings based on the police power of the state. The new zoning law became effective on December 15, 1961. However, a transitional period was established for a gradual compliance with the new rules and regulations extending in some cases to December 15, 1964. The text of the Resolution complemented by 126 map plates separately and jointly are the Law known as "Resolution of the Board of Estimate." Divided into 7 articles, the text is numbered in accordance with the Dewey Decimal System from 11.00 to 78.00:

ARTICLE I	10.00
CHAPTER I	11.00
SECTION I	11.10
SUB SECTION	11.11

To systematize use, bulk and secondary controls, the five boroughs of this City were plotted on a map and divided into three general categories: Residence, Commercial and

Manufacturing districts. The uses that do or can conceivably exist were divided into 18 *Use Groups*. The three general categories, however, are subdivided into many districts:

Category	Districts	Actual No. of districts
Residential	R1-R10	13
Commercial	C1-C 8	41
Manufacturing	M1-M3	12

Instead of the three types of districts stated earlier, there are actually 69. Upon closer examination of the Zoning Law, one may discover that there are probably closer to 200 combinations that may be considered as different districts.

At first glance, the Zoning Law may seem long, complicated, and difficult to work with. In the 260-page text however, much is repetitious. A lot of space has been devoted to charts. Thus what may seem a forbidding and complicated piece of legislation may actually be condensed and, with experience, quite manageable. One word of caution. English grammar, syntax and vocabulary have been codified and made an integral part of the Law in Chapter 2 of Article I, as to how words used in the text are to be understood.

This new zoning series of OCULUS will examine various aspects and eccentricities of the Resolution. Practical applications and zoning computations will be complemented by an analysis of new developments arising from proposed changes and amendments to the Zoning Law.

Chapter members are invited to submit zoning computations and photographs of projects on their drawing board for publication purposes. Of special interest will be their comments on special interpretations, reconsiderations and problems encountered in their projects.



Solomon Sheer

THE "STATE OF THE CITY"

The *State of the City* report issued by the Chapter has stirred local and national interest. *Suggested by the Public Affairs Committee*, it was prepared in collaboration with committees whose work lie within the scope of the report to review the city in terms of urban design, housing, schools, hospital and health facilities, and historical buildings.

Reaction to it has been excellent and considerable favorable exposure has been generated for the profession as well as the Chapter. Magazines and newspapers across the country have carried stories and editorials based on the report, with emphasis on the need for a master plan. The "State of the City" project is one of the more dramatic examples of what is being accomplished through the Chapter's continuing public affairs program.

The New York Times featured a story on the "State of the City" on page one and carried a review of the report by architectural critic Ada Louise Huxtable who described it as "thoughtful" and "professional" and said it "unites the largest and most influential group of the city's architects behind a firm call for a master plan." The Times also ran an editorial based on the report and carried a news item stating that the acting chairman of the City Planning Commission hailed the report.

The Herald Tribune used an 8-column headline for its story on the review. The Daily News, World-Telegram and Sun, Journal-American ran sizeable stories and the Telegram and Journal followed this with editorials. The New York Post also ran an editorial citing the report. Newsweek magazine carried an article on the "State of the City" and the September issue of Fortune magazine quoted from it liberally in its lead article "New York: A City Destroying Itself."

GIFTS AND GRATUITIES

OCULUS wishes to remind the membership that the City Code of Ethics and Section 1121 of the City Charter prohibit city employees from accepting gifts and gratuities. Violators are guilty of a misdemeanor.

U. S. PRESS HAILS CHAPTER'S "STATE OF THE CITY" REPORT

THE NEW YORK TIMES —

By Ada Louise Huxtable

The New York Chapter of the *American Institute of Architects* has discovered the umbrella. Which is an old Italian way of saying that the architects have perceived the obvious, or what every informed critical observer has known about the city all along.

The institute's report, "The State of the City," charts all of the ills of urban design that have made New York less than beautiful, amenable or convenient. What the architects are saying, politely, is that New York is a mess, an opinion with which the man in the street would scarcely disagree.

But the report says it in thoughtful, professional terms that focus attention on many continuing, serious problems of housing, school and hospital design, historic preservation, and the general quality of architecture in a city where building and growth have long since outstripped any efforts to deal with them in a positive or comprehensive way.

Even if it is no clarion call of discovery, it states the matter clearly and unites the largest and most influential group of the city's architects behind a firm call for a master plan.

In this, it reflects the personal campaign of the City Planning Commission's chairman, William F. R. Ballard, for a master plan since his appointment 10 months ago. It is a cry that has not been heard in the man-made wilderness of New York since the city commissioners laid its checkerboard of streets in 1811, because the city has never been in the hands of professional planners.

The Emperor's Clothes

A master plan is a paper plan, without the means to carry it out. Under the new city charter, New York's Planning Commission has less authority than before.

Fragmented responsibilities led to the recent tragi-comic game of political errors in which the Manhattan Borough President played put-and-take with the proposed Police Headquarters site against the Planning Commission's stated position, and the Brooklyn Borough President did the same with the location of a community college in direct refutation of planning board recommendations.

In saying that "New York City is not getting benefits commensurate with the money, energy and effort that are going into its development," New York's architects have recognized officially that the emperor is wearing no clothes. They are the most qualified group to do something about it.

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE —

Lack of coordination among city agencies and expensive piecemeal planning was blamed yesterday for New York's chaotic traffic, housing, school and hospital problems and for the continual loss of its historic landmarks.

The city chapter of the *American Institute of Architects* in a report entitled "The State of the City" said an "overall guideline, a master plan is urgently needed" to insure that the city get benefits commensurate with the money, energy and effort that are going into its development.

The main trouble with New York City planning, according to the report is that separate planning controls are given to separate agencies which "in some progressive cities" would be but portions of a "unified planning entity."

NEW YORK POST —

"We are forced to recognize that the public housing program here has seldom produced distinguished or even satisfactory architecture from human and environmental viewpoint. What is missing in public housing is generally missing in all our housing. There is little that gives it life, little to stir our pride."

This is one of the central conclusions of the *New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects*, which has spent a year studying "The State of the City." As other observers, including many laymen, have previously noted, the architects discern a state of "churning destruction and frantic rebuilding" here. The equally frantic and shoddy designs of many new buildings, they say, proliferate because:

"The major amount of building activity in New York is of speculative or investment nature. It is erected for the sole purpose of income or a quick profit..."

Too true. The question is, what to do about it?

The architects, lining up with City Planning Commission chairman Ballard, favor a "master plan" for the city's growth. Such long-range blueprints are by now a key feature of professional city planning.

In fact, the first steps toward a master plan for the city were taken under former Planning Commissioner Felt and they are lengthening into strides under Ballard, with the assistance of \$500,000 in city funds.

The support of the architects for a master plan constitutes important backing for the agency. Further, their recognition of the aesthetic limitations of many new buildings would indicate they propose to do something about the problem, since they have been the designers. One of their suggestions is that the city turn over the design of a new housing project to an outstanding architect as a kind of "pacemaker" project, free of a "too rigid design formula." Why not? An architectural Renaissance in New York has to start somewhere.

NEW YORK JOURNAL AMERICAN —

New York City's problems with traffic, housing, hospitals, schools, and loss of historical buildings were blamed today on the lack of a master plan.

This is the conclusion of the *New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects* in a report entitled "The State of the City."

The report is the first of its kind to be published by the organization which has 1,400 architects and planners among its members.

Geoffry (cx) N. Lawford, immediate past president of the chapter under whose administration the report was prepared said:

"New York City is growing under a series of independent uncoordinated controls that are producing expensive, piece-meal planning that denies the city any opportunity to develop a character based on creative ideas.

"As a result, the city is not getting benefits commensurate with the money, energy and effort that are going into its development.

The need for a master plan was stressed by both Mr. Lawford and William D. Wilson, newly elected president of the chapter.

Master Plan Urged

Mr. Wilson said:

"A master plan would be a controlling factor in land acquisition and site planning.

"Without the long-range guidance of a master plan, environmental and architectural progress in New York will be a matter of unrelated details."

NEW YORK WORLD TELEGRAM AND THE SUN —

Creation of a master plan for the future development of New York City and preservation of historic landmarks has been urged by the *New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects*.

The plan, described as necessary for the "environmental and architectural progress" of the city, was called for a report issued yesterday by the group entitled "The State of the City."

The group warned that the city must change its "past policy of neglect" lest it "strip itself of its architectural heritage." It noted that in Manhattan, there are no buildings remaining from the 17th Century and only eight from the 18th Century.

The organization's report was an appraisal of the city in regard to problems of urban design, housing, schools, hospital and health facilities and the preservation of historic buildings.

The chapter also noted there has been "little or no progress" in pedestrian and auto traffic problems and planning for open space.

NEW YORK REAL ESTATE WEEKLY —

New York City is growing under a series of independent, uncoordinated controls that are producing expensive, piecemeal planning that denies the city any opportunity to develop a character based on creative ideas. As a result, it is not getting benefits commensurate with the money, energy and effort that are going into its development.

In a report entitled "The State of the City," which was issued recently by the *New York Chapter of American Institute of Architects*, according to William D. Wilson, newly-elected president of the Chapter, it was found that the one common denominator in the appraisal is the need for a master plan. He added that it was the organization's aim to review the city's progress in environmental design and planning and to issue a "State of the City" report periodically.

Geoffry N. Lawford, immediate past president of the Chapter under whose administration the report was prepared states in the introduction that it points "out some of the difficulties in working toward a finer city... some signs of progress and some new avenues to explore in the continuing search for civic excellence."

NIAGARA FALLS GAZETTE —

Architects in New York City have called for a halt to the migration to the suburbs in a report that should have wide implications for the nation's urban population.

Criticizing the haphazard development of New York, the report calls for a master plan to promote orderly growth and make the city's living climate more hospitable.

After a year's penetrating study of conditions in the metropolis, the report by the New York City chapter of the *American Institute of Architects* make this salient point:

Niagara Falls, like hundreds of other American cities, has suffered the backlash of migration to the suburbs. But, in concert with other communities, it is taking steps, to develop a master plan to rebuild its downtown areas into a splendid center of commerce, of culture, of entertainment, of all that is best in the flowering of our civilization.

Such urban rebirth is vital if the city is to match suburbia's appeal.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

ASBURY PARK EVENING PRESS —

The *New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects* has some unpleasant things to say about New York City that should be taken to heart by the residents of many smaller communities. The architects' report claims that New York City is not reaping the benefits of the "money, effort, and energy" that are going into its development.

There is nothing strange in this verdict by the architects unless it be that they have been so long in publicizing their opinion. In a period of "frantic growth" such as most cities are presently enjoying it would be unusual if proper planning were not ignored and many architectural monstrosities built. One doesn't have to be a confirmed traditionalist to realize that many of today's buildings will seem grotesque a few decades hence, if they last that long.

The main objection emphasized in the report has to do with the unlivability of modern cities. New York City, say the report, and this may well be said of most modern cities, is being made less habitable for human habitation because of snarled traffic, air pollution, sterile housing projects, and "churning destruction and frantic rebuilding." It is natural for THE PRESS to find satisfaction in this estimate of the modern city since it repeats what this newspaper has said repeatedly.

Everyone is indebted to the New York architects who have brought this matter to public attention. Well-ordered traffic, clean air, homelike places in which to live, and a bit of beauty here and there are the ingredients of an ideal city. And neither the size of its buildings nor the vulgarity of their design can ever become a satisfactory substitute.

NEWARK EVENING NEWS —

NEW YORK (UPI)—The New York Chapter of the *American Institute of Architects* urged yesterday the creation of a master plan for the future development of New York and preservation of historic landmarks.

The plan, described as necessary for the "environmental and architectural progress" of the city, was called for in a report issued by the group.

The group warned that the city must change its "past policy of neglect," lest it "strip itself of its architectural heritage." The report noted that in Manhattan, there are no buildings remaining from the 17th century and only eight from the 18th century.

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS —

NEW YORK, July 13 (UPI)—The *New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects* yesterday urged the creation of a master plan for the future development of New York City and preservation of historic landmarks.

The plan, described as necessary for the "environmental and architectural progress" of the city, was called for in a report issued by the group entitled "the state of the city."

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL —

A criticism of the growth of New York City by the *New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects* is so thoughtful and perceptive that it deserves pondering by everyone anxious that the physical changes now convulsing many American cities shall represent genuine advance in civilization. The architects lament that New Yorkers are not reaping the benefits of "the money, effort and energy" that are going into development. That the architects are enunciating the obvious—cities should be primarily for people—is not the point, nor should their

criticism be dismissed as too late or ironic.

Providence has embarked on a redevelopment program that will eventually transform its downtown into one of the most progressive, hospitable and livable business areas in the northeast. This is being done according to carefully conceived plans. These forces of enlightenment are also at work in Boston and Philadelphia where renewal work is under design on principles that consider humans more important than, say, simply moving traffic. In Providence as in New York, the social influences of the new city should be such as to invite families and their children back to the city. To plan otherwise would be futile.

SCRANTON, PA. TIMES —

It is a genuine surprise to learn that New York City has been growing all these years without a master plan. The need for one is underscored in a recent report about the sprawling metropolis by the New York City Chapter of the *American Institute of Architects*.

Moving ahead as it has without over-all planning. New York has done fairly well, we think. The contrasts which are bound to result from independent development add an interesting dimension all their own to the skyscraper city.

What is surprising, however, is that New York lacks a master plan while cities such as ours have had one for years—so long in fact that the old one is being brought up to date. The city got into this aspect of community development through the City Planning Commission as a base for urban renewal.

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL —

The noted Italian engineer, Pier Luigi Nervi, once expressed the essence of New York City in these words: "unica, enorme, potente"—unique, enormous, mighty—"and it must be judged as a whole."

Examining Manhattan both as a whole and in its various parts, a group of architects, after a year's study, has strongly criticized the pattern of the city's development.

In a report issued by the *New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects*, it is argued that inexhaustible enterprise, enormous energy and great sums of money alone do not make a great city.

Because of haphazard planning, the report says, New York is not reaping the benefits of its development.

The quality of the city's architecture is called "inferior," because "the major amount of building activity in New York is of speculative or investment nature. It is erected for the sole purpose of income or a quick profit."

The architects suggest that Boston and Philadelphia are "progressive cities" which have made good use of enlightened design and the principles of preservation and, by contrast, New York looks provincial.

There is no point in dragging Akron into a comparison here. For one thing, Akron, admittedly many years behind, is just beginning its redevelopment.

What matters is that Akron avoid the mistakes which have made New York less than beautiful, amenable or convenient.

LORAIN, OHIO JOURNAL —

Because of haphazard planning, the city is not reaping the benefits of "the money, effort and energy" that are going into its development. So states an architectural report. The words have a familiar ring, but they do not, in this case, refer to Lorain.

The report pertains to the nation's largest city. New York, it appears, has the same planning problems, or lack-of-planning problems, as smaller communities.

The report, issued this week by the New York Chapter of the *American Institute of Architects* after a year of study by a group of the members, found the big city in urgent need of a master plan:

City officials here and elsewhere should find the report informative in a general way. Lorain, especially, could profit by orderly development, and might gain some ideas from the New York study on the objectives of a master plan.

WARREN, PA. OBSERVER —

By R. W. Apple Jr.

(c) New York Times News Service
NEW YORK—A group of New York architects, after spending a year studying the city in which they work, have decided that they don't like what they see.

They set forth their views in a 12-page report issued yesterday by the New York chapter of the *American Institute of Architects*. Although cast in measured language, the report strongly criticizes the pattern of the city's development.

Because of haphazard planning, the report says, New York is not reaping the benefits of "the money, effort and energy" that are going into its development. It calls for the adoption of a master plan that would foster orderly growth.

While citing areas of recent progress, the architects' study depicts a city made less and less hospitable to human habitation by snarled traffic, polluted air, sterile housing projects, and "churning destruction and frantic rebuilding."

The report, called "The State of the City," is the first of its kind ever issued by the organization. It appraises New York in terms of its urban design, housing, hospital and health facilities, school and historic buildings.

In each of these areas, the report makes a series of recommendations. The most far reaching are those dealing with housing, both public and private.

GALVESTON TEXAS NEWS —

Among the crosses New York City must bear is the prevalence of critics, foreign and domestic. Their intramural wing is unusually vocal.

The *New York chapter of the American Institute of Architects* says the city is being made less habitable by snarled traffic, polluted air, sterile housing projects and "churning destruction and frantic rebuilding."

The city must reverse the migration of middle-income families to the suburbs (that will be the day!) the architects conclude, and it needs a master plan to provide orderly growth.

Then a meeting of the Traffic and Construction Council produced more about the city's "awful traffic mess." It was proposed that mobile cranes, the best street blockers ever invented, be barred from New York construction projects. Recommended instead are European type climbing or "lift" cranes housed in elevator shafts.

New York must struggle with fiscal as well as environmental and crime problems. Mayor Wagner's office concedes he overestimated the city's general fund income for the fiscal year ended June 30 by \$68 million.

LONG ISLAND PRESS —

New York City is growing topsy-turvy because of an "urgent need" for a master plan, the *New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects* charged today.

The AIA's blast came in its first report on "The State of the City," made public today. The New York AIA is the largest chapter in the country.

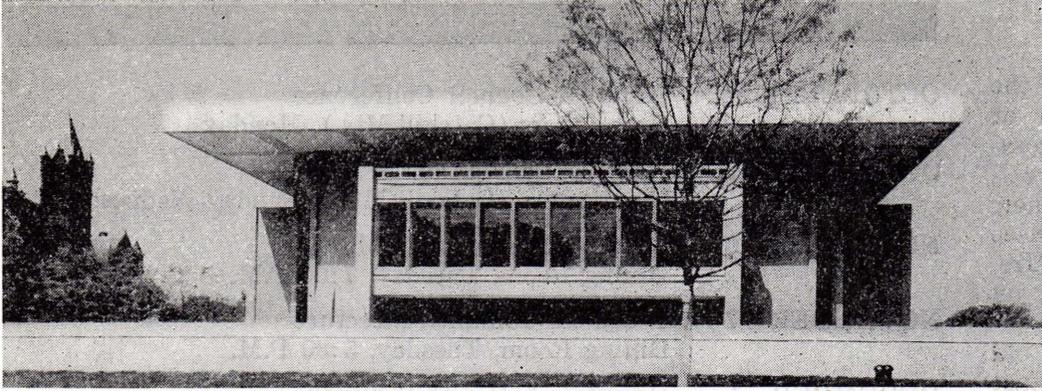


Photo by George Cserna

NEWS BRIEFS

SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM
S.I. NEWHOUSE CENTER,
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

This first unit in the University's Center, designed by Ieoh Ming Pei in association with King and King of Syracuse, N.Y., was dedicated last August by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

A sensitive and finely etched profile of Clarence Stein was featured in the *New York* magazine of the September 27 Herald Tribune. The article entitled "Radburn Revisited" is by Anthony Bailey.

The Appellate Division of the N. Y. State Supreme Court, in a decision rendered July 2, has decreed that the City Planning Commission could not be compelled to issue a report de-mapping the controversial Lower Manhattan Expressway.

A lawsuit brought by a Flushing realty company sought the issuance of such a report on the grounds that the Commission was purely an administrative agency subject to the direction of the Board of Estimate.

The Court upheld the Commission's contention that its mapping function was "legislative in character." Thus the Commission could not be judicially compelled to pass a given piece of mapping legislation much in the same manner that the U. S. Congress cannot be compelled by the Courts to issue a particular law.

Edward D. Stone, before receiving an award from the Building Stone Institute as "Architect of the Year" lashed out at the "deplorable" architecture of mid-century America and the "scorched earth policy you see all over the country." This thesis has been expounded by Stone in his most recent talks challenging the country "to prove that a democracy also can produce a beautiful heritage."

A series of two-week Fallout Shelter Analysis courses will be conducted at the Engineer School, Fort Belvoir, Virginia during 1964-

1965. The next scheduled two-week course will start on October 26 and will be repeated on November 30, January 11, 1965, February 8, March 22, April 12 and May 17. Certification as a Fallout Shelter Analyst will be presented upon successful completion of the tuition free course open to registered architects and architectural graduates. Mail applications to N. Y. State Civil Defense Commission, Public Security Building Campus, Albany, N. Y. 12226, Attention: Engineering and Public Works.

The Columbia University School of Architecture is conducting a series of evening courses open to architects and qualified students. *Structural Survey* conducted by Mario G. Salvadori and *Contemporary Construction* by Jan H. Pokorny are part of this Fall's program. Three other courses: *Contemporary Materials, Lighting, and Landscape Architecture*, are slated to start in early February. A tuition fee of \$102.00 for each course and a registration fee of \$15.00 will be charged. For information call: UN 5-4000, Ext. 445.

I. Daniel Weisberg has announced the removal of his office to 124 East 40th Street, New York.

Chapter member George G. Shimamoto, General Manager of Kelly and Gruzen, Architects, was presented with an Honorary Fellowship in the Architectural Institute of Japan. The presentation was made in behalf of Ryo Tanahashi, President of the Japanese Institute at the A.I.A. Convention in St. Louis.

The State University Construction Fund was commended by Chapter member Edgar Tafel in a talk delivered at the recent conference of the State University Faculty Association. Praising the Construction Fund organization for allowing its architects freedom of design and for freeing them from the tyranny of *identity* architecture, Tafel called for the establishment of a discretionary allowance in state educational building of 2% of each project's total cost for the incorporation of art work, for experimental areas, and for the architect's participation in interior furnishings.

MAYOR'S PANEL OF ARCHITECTS FOR 1965

Applications for Mayor Wagner's panel of architects for 1965 are issued and received Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, until October 27, 1964.

The application blanks may be obtained by the applicant at the Application Section of the Department of Personnel, 49 Thomas Street, New York, N. Y. 10013. They will be mailed on requests accompanied by a stamped self-addressed 9½ inch envelope.

Applications will be examined by an Architectural Jury appointed by the presidents of the Municipal Art Society, the Fine Arts Federation of New York, and the seven architectural organizations in New York City, including the N. Y. Chapter, A.I.A.

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N.Y.S.A.A. AWARD TO POMERANCE & BREINES

One of the "Client Awards" of the New York State Association of Architects Convention at Grossinger's Hotel, October 25, 1964 will be to Pomerance & Breines for their design of the Carver Houses Amphitheatre. The client is Mrs. Vincent Astor who will speak on the occasion.

Carver Houses is a 15-year old public housing project in East Harlem. The 3-block courtyard was landscaped in the usual lawn and shrub style of the time. The needs of tenants, particularly teen-agers and children, for active play space made the lawns a source of conflict with management in this congested area. Mrs. Astor made \$300,000 available to the Housing Authority and Pomerance & Breines were retained as architects with Paul Friedberg as landscape architects to design and build a new courtyard. The natural topography suggested an amphitheatre as the central element of the court. Quiet areas for adults and play area for children were provided.

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Corporate

Jerrald L. Karlan	Charles L. Biederman
Sidney L. Delson	David P. C. Chang
Hector R. Amezquita	Constantin Vichey

Associate

Wolfgang Quante	Jonathan Barnett
Saverino M. Napolitano	John D. Sneider
Kohel Ishikawa	

CANDIDATES

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

Corporate

James Barnes Baker	Harold J. Levy
Andrew S. Blackman	Martin Ulrich Michaelis
Donald Kenneth Busch	Oswald Nagler
Benedict Curatolo	Emilio Michael Pucillo
Bernard Gilbert Horvitz	Charles S. Telchin
Walter J. Johnson	Hother Bradford Thorn
Irving Harold Kaplan	

Associate

John Milnes Baker	Sponsors: Francis Day Rogers & Arthur S. Douglass, Jr.
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John Leighton Belle	Sponsors: Victor Gruen & Elliot Willensky
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Robert A. Chiusano	Sponsors: Kenneth H. Rippen & Benedetto Ferrara
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Demetrios Andrew Siderakis	Sponsors: Geoffry N. Lawford & Leo Kornblath
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COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| OCTOBER 26 | Regional Council Conference
Grossingers (Catskill Mts.), Monday |
| OCTOBER 25-28 | NYSAA Convention
Grossingers (Catskill Mts.), Sunday-Wednesday |
| NOVEMBER 10 | Chapter Fall Opening Meeting
Dining Room, Tuesday, 7:00 P.M. |
| NOVEMBER 17 | Technical Committee Lecture
Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:30 P.M. |
| DECEMBER 1 | Hospitals & Health Seminar
Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:15 P.M. |
| DECEMBER 15 | Technical Committee Lecture
Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:30 P.M. |
| JANUARY 13 | Prospective Members Cocktail Party
Dining Room, Wednesday, 5:00-8:00 P.M. |
| JANUARY 19 | Technical Committee Lecture
Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:30 P.M. |
| JANUARY 26 | Nominating Committee Luncheon
Dining Room, Tuesday, 12:30 P.M. |
| FEBRUARY 2 | Hospitals & Health Seminar
Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:15 P.M. |
| FEBRUARY 16 | Technical Committee Lecture
Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:30 P.M. |
| FEBRUARY 18 | Anniversary Dinner
(Place to be announced) |
| MARCH 16 | Technical Committee Lecture
Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:30 P.M. |
| APRIL 6 | Hospitals & Health Seminar
Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:15 P.M. |
| APRIL 20 | Technical Committee Lecture
Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:30 P.M. |
| APRIL 29 | A.I.A. Pre-Convention Luncheon
Dining Room, Thursday, 12:30 P.M. |
| MAY 12 | Prospective Members Cocktail Party
Dining Room, Wednesday, 5:00-8:00 P.M. |
| MAY 18 | Technical Committee Lecture
Dining Room, Tuesday, 12:30 P.M. |
| JUNE 1 | Hospitals & Health Seminar
Dining Room, Tuesday, 5:15 P.M. |
| JUNE 2 | Annual Luncheon
Dining Room, Wednesday, 12:30 P.M. |
| JUNE 14-18 | A.I.A. Convention
Sheridan-Park Hotel, Washington, D.C. |

Correction

The July-August 1964 OCULUS under the title "Definition of Direct Personnel Expense" referred to Document B-121. This should read: Document B-131.

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THE BIRTH OF A SCHOLARSHIP

Something new was added to the New York Chapter, American Institute of Architects in the Spring of 1958.

For sometime there had been attempts by the Chapter ladies to help the organization. At convention time, we had become aware of the fine jobs being done by other women in other states who aided their chapters in many ways. Morene Cutler (Mrs. Robert Ward) sparked the organization by calling on Betty Clark (Mrs. Alonzo W. III), Isabella Ketchum (Mrs. Morris, Jr.), Dorothy Scott (Mrs. Irving Leslie, A.I.A.) and Hildegard Sleeper (Mrs. Harold Reeve). A meeting of the minds ensued and WAA began to get off the ground. Mrs. Scott designed our handsome insignia and Mrs. Sleeper dreamed up a variation of her war time organization—proven successful in scattered and changing communities. Accordingly, every member selected an alternate, and we were in business. Our primary purpose was, and is to raise scholarship funds for deserving architectural students in need of help. We do this by a series of sponsored events. By trial and error we have found our Tours of Architects' Homes and the glittering annual Doric Debutante Cotillion at the Metropolitan Club to be the most popular to date.

But to become tax exempt we had to conform to a structural type recognized by the government. We regrouped accordingly and duly elected a president, two vice-presidents, a treasurer, and a secretary. Three new board members are elected each year, leaving two of the old board to carry on. Then we, of course, have our committees: Benefit, Historical, Membership (and how that has grown), Program, Public Relations, plus a Scholarship liaison who advises with the Chapter as to the effective disbursement of our funds.

On the sixth of May this year we are awarding \$8,000.00 to four local colleges which in addition to the \$12,000 previously raised, will

indicate to some extent the progress we have made. WAA also receives gifts, bequests, and grants to be used for educational, literary and philanthropic purposes.

Now in our sixth year we are functioning as a proper auxiliary promoting advancement of the profession, friendship and unity within the group, besides stimulating greater public interest in the architectural world, and giving a better understanding of its capacity to serve the community.

We are composed of the wives, widows, sisters, mothers and daughters of the New York Chapter, A.I.A. Perhaps some of you will be reading this. If so, do join. Phone MU 5-8400. Write, come, or just investigate. The stairs are steep, the work is light, meetings few, but there is always a welcome at our "Room at the Top" 115 East 40th Street, New York, New York 10016.

Hildegard Sleeper
Public Relations

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FASHION SHOW

"The Wondrous, Wily World of Wigs and Other Fashion Frippery" was the theme of the luncheon and fashion showing at the semi-annual meeting of the Women's Architectural Auxiliary held at the Junior League of New York on Wednesday, October 7.

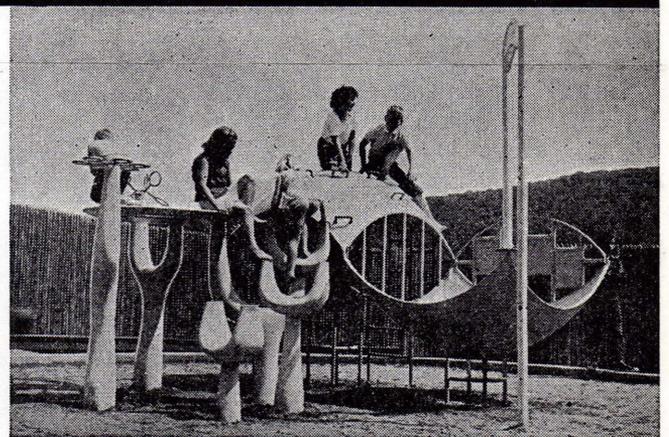
Prior to the luncheon and showing, Mrs. Ronald Allwork, president of the WAA, discussed the progress of the 1964-1965 membership drive and other aims of the year. Mrs. Robert Ward Cutler reported on the plans for the Doric Cotillion. The spring tour was discussed by Mrs. Max O. Urbahn. Mrs. Samuel Arlen presented the treasurer's report.

The fashion showing included wigs by Bob Kelly, many of which were copies of those worn in recent Broadway shows. Mr. John hats were worn and make-up for the models was created by the Make-Up Center, Ltd.

Models for the event included Mrs. John Burrows, Mrs. Max O. Urbahn, Mrs. Lathrop Douglass, Mrs. David Todd and Mrs. Peter Henry Juviler. Mrs. Robert Thorson commented.

Mrs. Robert Thorson

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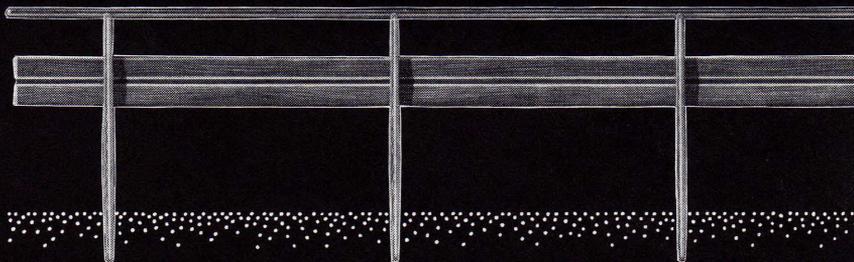
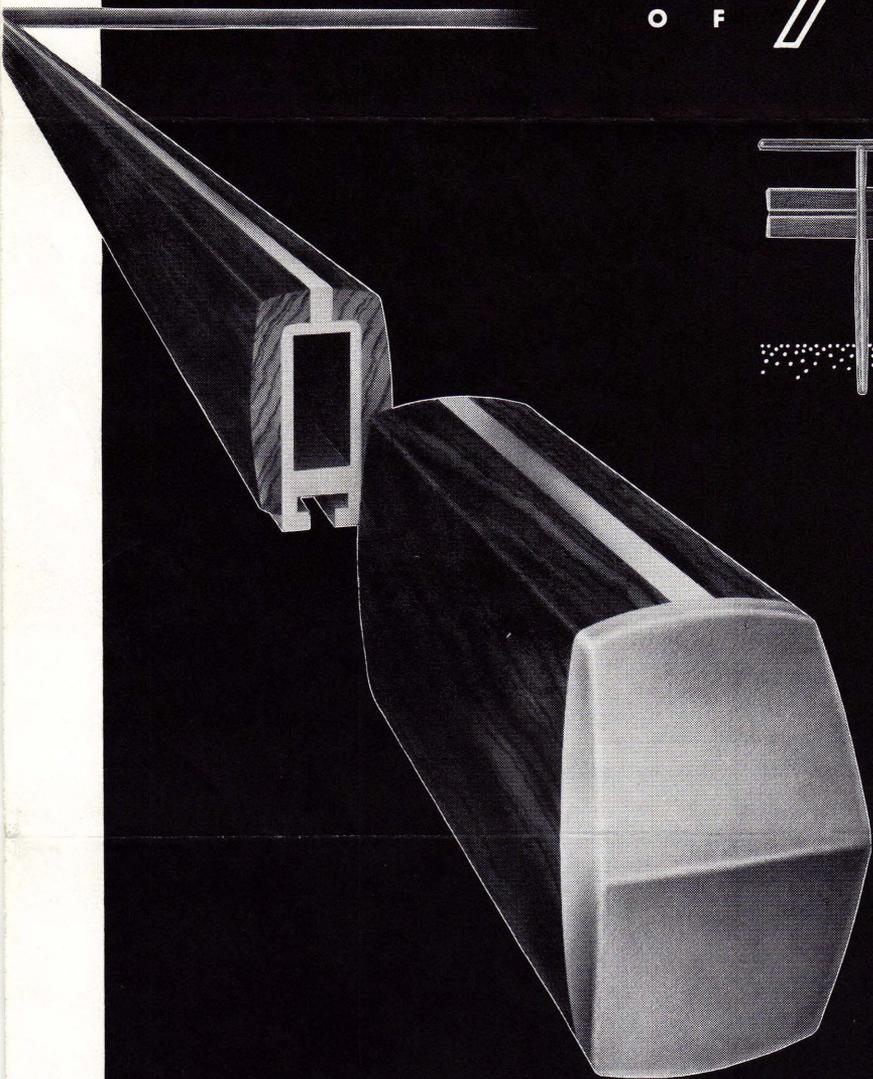
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