

OCULUS



NEW YORK CHAPTER / THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

SEPTEMBER, 1966



William B. Tabler, left, being congratulated by Max O. Urbahn upon the former's election as first vice president and president-elect of New York Chapter, AIA.

MAX O. URBAHN ELECTED PRESIDENT NEW YORK CHAPTER A.I.A.

Maximilian Otto Urbahn, FAIA, and William B. Tabler, FAIA were elected president and first vice president (president-elect) of the N. Y. Chapter, American Institute of Architects.

Other officers elected were Philip C. Johnson, FAIA, and Gillet Lefferts, Jr., AIA, as vice presidents; Owen L. Delevante, AIA, as secretary, and Lathrop Douglass, FAIA, as treasurer.

In addition to the election of officers, four Chapter award presentations were announced including: the Harry B. Rutkins Memorial Award; the Annual Award for Housing; the Andrew J. Thomas Award, and a special citation. Harry M. Prince, FAIA, principal of Harry M. Prince and Associates, New York, was presented the Rutkins Award for outstanding service to the architectural profession and the community. The New York architectural firm of Kelly & Gruzen received the Chapter's Housing Award for their design of the Chatham Tower Apartments, Chatham Square, New York City. Julian H. Whittlesey, FAIA, received the Chapter's Andrew J. Thomas Award for his pioneering work in the field of multiple dwellings. Whittlesey, together with many other accomplishments in the housing field, is Senior Partner of Whittlesey, Conklin and Rossant who designed the master plan for the New Town of Reston, Va. Mrs. Robert W. Cutler, chairman of the founder's committee of the Women's Architectural Auxiliary was presented with a special citation in recognition of her efforts to obtain scholarship aid for architectural students and to further public interest in architecture.

Other directors and committee chairmen elected were:

Director — Commission on Education

Arthur I. Rosenblatt, AIA

Director — Commission on Public Affairs

Stephen A. Kliment, AIA

Director — Commission on Urban Design

William J. Conklin, AIA

Committee on Fellows

B. Sumner Gruzen, FAIA

Julian H. Whittlesey, FAIA

Finance Committee

Charles S. Haines, II, AIA

Ralph Pomerance, AIA

J. Walter Severinghaus, FAIA

Theodore Hood, AIA

Bonnell Irvine, AIA

John P. Jansson, AIA

Jury for the Medal of Honor and Awards of Merit

Edward L. Barnes, FAIA

Marcel Breuer, FAIA

Charles H. Warner, Jr., AIA

Ethics Committee

Frederick G. Frost, Jr., FAIA

Arvin B. Shaw, III, AIA

Richard T. Foster, AIA

Robert S. Lundberg, AIA

Representative to the NYSAA

Giorgio Cavaglieri, FAIA

P. Whitney Webb, AIA, Alternate

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
NEW YORK CHAPTER

H. DICKSON McKENNA, Executive Director
MARGOT A. HENKEL, Executive Secretary

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WILLIAM D. TABLER	First Vice President
PHILIP C. JOHNSON	Vice President
GILLET LEFFERTS, JR.	Vice President
OWEN L. DELEVANTE	Secretary
LATHROP DOUGLASS	Treasurer

OCULUS COMMITTEE

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Gerald C. Lenaz	Marvin A. Flam
Harvey Kagan	Seymour D. Gurlitz
Sheldon Licht	



C: Fairbridge

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To The Members of the New York Chapter AIA:

Nominating Committees for the preceding two years have submitted, in their report, the recommendation that the New York Chapter obtain an Executive Director. It was the feeling of both these Committees that the recent growth of the Chapter and the growing complications of practice were such that there was need for the Chapter Headquarters to be in a position to respond more effectively to the various professional demands made upon it.

As the Chapter has grown (and its activities have multiplied) so, too, have the various responsibilities of the officers—so much so that a practicing architect might find himself willing to serve but unable to cope with the myriad demands on the President of the Chapter. As the situation has been, the President found the job to be so time consuming as to infringe seriously upon his practice.

Both the Nominating Committees expressed the belief that the Chapter would be able to attract the kind of President necessary to lead a dynamic group, if there were an Executive Director available.

The duty of the Executive Director is to assist the President and the members of the Executive Committee. It is his responsibility to provide effective liaison between the President and his Executive Committee and the various Commissions of the Chapter, between the Commissions and the Committees, and between the Committees and the members of the Chapter.

This liaison is parallel liaison with that of our Executive Secretary, Margot Henkel, under whose performance as an Executive Officer the Chapter has grown from 700 to a membership of approximately 1,500 members.

The job of the Executive Director is, in addition, to develop and foster the relations of the Chapter with outside organizations and to provide effective liaison with other civic, governmental and professional organizations interested in architecture and planning. With the advent of an interested and active City Administration, the role of the Executive Director becomes one of providing for an exchange of communications between the Chapter and various City Departments.

The position is filled with challenge—the challenge of providing professional communication

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Board of Editors of the *Oculus* will make every possible effort to report the news of the New York Chapter activities to the membership on a regular month-to-month schedule. The *Oculus* hopes to stimulate members into a more active participation in the Chapter by making them cognizant of what the Chapter is attempting to accomplish both at the national and local levels. The *Oculus* can be informative if the membership continually informs the Board of Editors of what they and their committees are doing. We urge all members to make suggestions for articles they believe will be of significance to the Chapter-at-Large. Contributions to the *Oculus* could include major studies by New York Chapter Committees, book reviews, poems, architectural history of New York City, comment, and criticism. Let us all work together to inform the architectural community through the *Oculus* of the vital role the Chapter has in New York.

between members and allied organizations, the challenge of coordinating the needs of the architect with the services of the Chapter, and the challenging of fostering and developing public interest in design.

The challenge is one which can only be met with the full cooperation of Officers, Commission Chairmen, Committee Chairmen, all members, and each and every member of the staff. The New York Chapter has grown and has demonstrated a strong potential which can produce an important and even greater significant professional instrument for the architect. I look forward to an active year in carrying out the responsibilities of developing and expanding the Chapter's work.

H. DICKSON McKENNA

CHAPTER LUNCHEON FOR JASON NATHAN, NEW CHAIRMAN OF HRB AND RENEWAL COMMISSIONER

Jason R. Nathan, Chairman of the City of New York Housing and Redevelopment Board and City Renewal Commissioner, will address the members of the New York Chapter AIA at a luncheon meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 1966 at 12:30 p.m. in the Dining Room of Chapter Headquarters.

Mr. Nathan is reported to be deeply interested in architectural design and, in his newly appointed position, is pledged to better housing, better education, and greater opportunity for all citizens of New York.

Nathan, now 37 years old, is a graduate of Syracuse University, and a Harvard Law School graduate and Felix Frankfurter Scholar, winning his LL.B. in 1957. Except for three years in the U.S. Air Force, Nathan has worked only in housing. His colleagues pay him the compliment of referring to him as a "professional's professional."

New York City's renewal problems are not new to him. In 1957 his internship began with the Department of Housing and Urban Development. By 1961 he was Chief of Operations for the Regional Office in this city and in 1962 he became Deputy Director. The following year he was promoted to Regional Director of Region II, the Federal Urban Renewal Administration, with offices in Philadelphia.

SCHOOL AWARDS

On May 26, at the Metropolitan Club, the School Committee of the New York Chapter presented certificates to the winners of the 1966 School Awards Program. Representing the Chapter were President Max O. Urbahn; Eugene E. Hult, Executive Director, Office of School Buildings, City of New York; Gordon L. Schenck, Chairman, School Committee; and Sanford Malter, Chairman of the School Awards Program for 1966. Special guest was the Hon. William C. Mattison, Commissioner, Department of Public Works, City of New York. Guest speaker was John N. Patterson, Planning Consultant to the Board of Education for Philadelphia, Pa. In the Private School category, First Honor Award went to architects Persich and Giacomelli for their R.C. Church of St. Pius X—Elementary School, and Honorable Mention went to Brown, Lawford and Forbes, Architects for the Buckley School in the City of New York. In the Public School Category First Honor Award was given to Curtis and Davis, Architects for their Arthur A. Schomburg Junior High School, and Honorable Mention went to Morris Ketchum Jr. and Associates, Architects for Public School 45.

HEADQUARTERS

During the Executive Committee Meeting of July 27 it was voted, following much consideration of what had been held over from the previous Executive Committee Meetings, that the New York Chapter would plan to relocate its Headquarters.

The subject of "Chapter Headquarters" has been under consideration by the Executive Committee for several years, ever since The Architectural League, which is our landlord, announced that it was no longer in a position to sustain itself under any present form of lease agreement.

Over the period of years the League has been obliged to pay increases in rent and taxes on the property at 115 East 40th Street. The increases are reported to have reached a point where it is no longer economically feasible for the League to operate as it has in the past. The League has made some attempts to maintain itself in the manner to which it is accustomed by accepting Cornell University as a tenant on the first floor.

Last year, NYCAIA was informed by the Architectural League that Cornell would leave the building and that the NYCAIA might have access to the exhibition space, Gallery A, which would be re-activated by the League.

The NYCAIA accepted this proposal and offered a \$10,000 annual increase in rent in an effort to meet the needs of the League.

This offer by NYCAIA was to be covered by means of assessment to the membership. At a special Chapter meeting, this assessment was voted down, partly on the basis that it was not sufficient to meet the needs of the Architectural League.

In May of 1966, the Architectural League suggested that NYCAIA and Cornell assume jointly the lease on the premises at 115 East 40th Street. Extensive studies were made by the Chapter to investigate the feasibility of this idea; and, subsequently, it was voted that the Chapter was in no position to assume the eight-year lease from the League, nor to enter into lease negotiations with another tenant.

NYCAIA for the past four years has been contributing to its Headquarters Fund, at the rate of \$5,000 a year which now brings the fund to approximately \$21,000. It is intended that this money be reserved for the purchase of a building which would be satisfactory for a Headquarters. This search is still going on. However, since the Chapter has informed the League that it intends to move by the 1st of October, several members of the Executive Committee are actively engaged in studying available suitable interim Headquarters.

Some years ago, a study by the Headquarters Committee, the population center for the membership was determined to be in an area bounded by Fifth Avenue, 57th Street, Second Avenue, and Grand Central Station.

SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED

The New York Chapter's Scholarship Committee has presented three types of scholarships for 1966. (1) The Equal Opportunities Award to High School Students for Architectural Study went to Mr. Cornelius Reed of Brooklyn Technical High School (\$1,000.00) and Mr. John Velasquez of Manhattan Vocational High School (\$500.00). (2) The Plastering Institute of Greater New York Scholarship was given to Mr. Willy Sclarsic of George W. Wingate High School in Brooklyn. Mr. Sclarsic stated that "Architecture incorporates the beauty and originality of arts with the logic and reasoning of technology." (3) The Equal Opportunities Awards to Undergraduate Students granted \$3,500.00 worth of scholarships to Negro, Puerto Rican, and other minority group students.

COURSES TAUGHT ON NYC

Too often architects criticize New York City without understanding the political and social ramifications that establish the pattern for "architectural ugliness in New York City." The Center for New York City Affairs of The New School for Social Research presents thirteen courses this Fall in all these important aspects of the urban fabric. Courses dealing with architecture include "Architecture and Design in New York City" taught by Peter Blake, Editor of *The Architectural Forum* and "Planning the Metropolis" taught by Charles Abrams and Percival Goodman, Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and author with his brother Paul of *Communitas*. Some of the other courses include "The Ins and Outs of New York Politics," "Case Studies in City Planning," "Housing Rehabilitation: Decent Homes in Shabby Structures?," "Some Issues the Public Schools Face," and "Cooperative Housing on the New York Scene."

CHECK LIST OF DRAFTING ROOM PRACTICE

The Office Practice Committee, under the Chairmanship of Charles K. Hirzel, notes much interest in their Check List of Drafting Room Practice which appeared in succeeding issues of ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING NEWS. There have been numerous requests for reprints which are available by writing to the Architectural & Engineering News and enclosing 50 cents per copy. This Check List, which was prepared by the Office Practice Committee under the direction of Philip J. Wilker, will soon be incorporated into a definitive publication by the Institute.

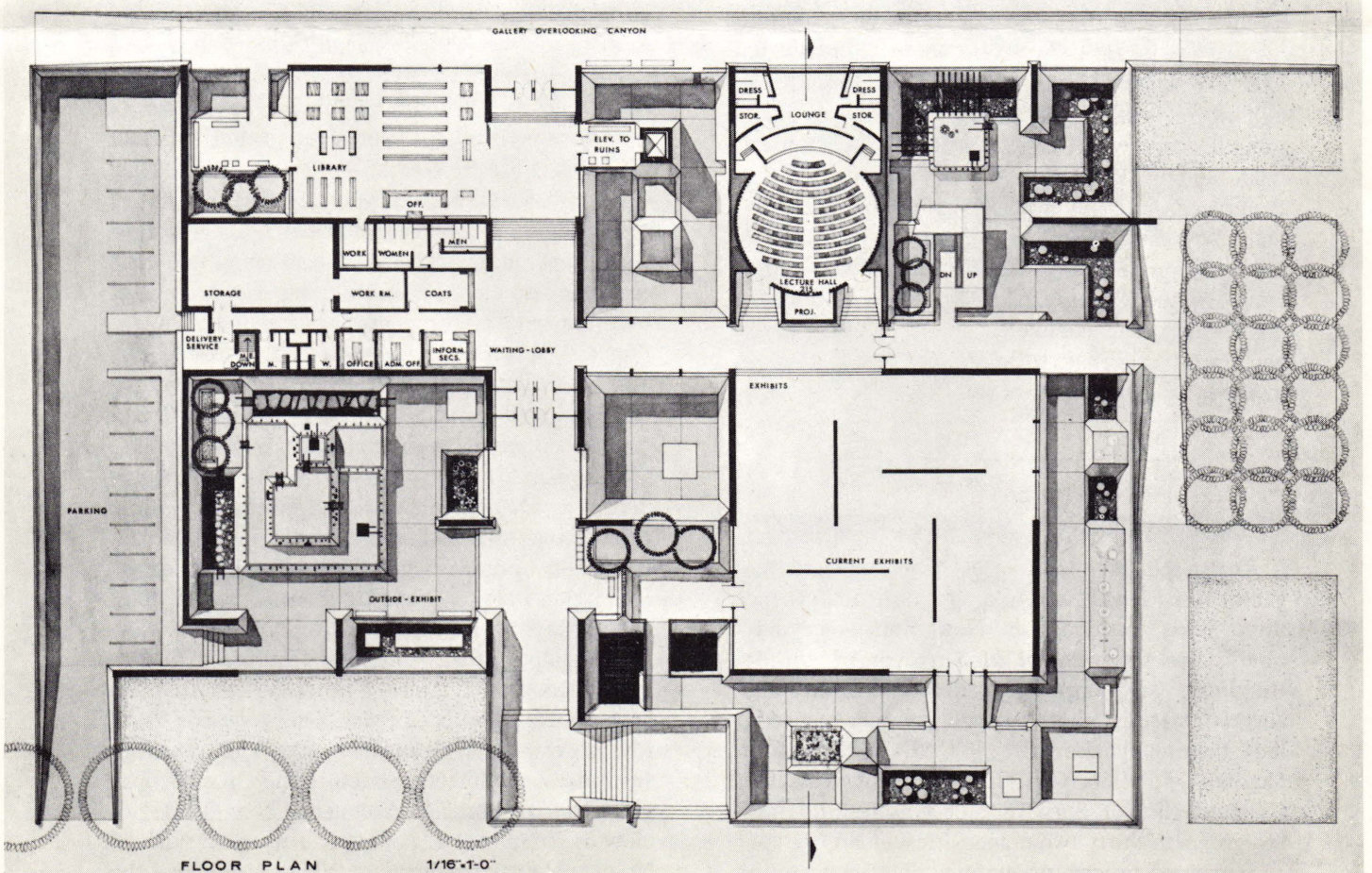
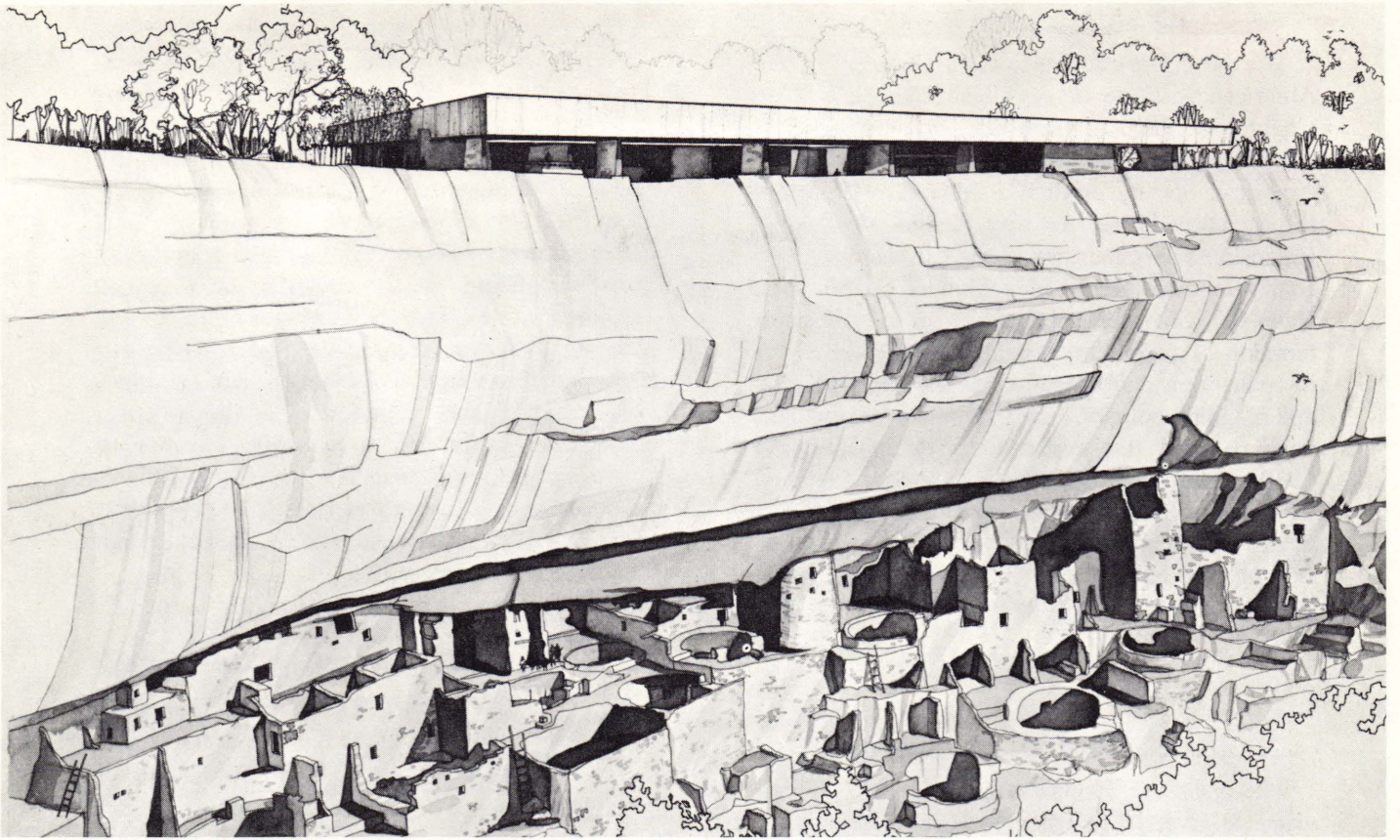
HULT TO SPEAK ON FIRE PROTECTION PLANNING OF NEW YORK SCHOOLS

Mr. Eugene Hult, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, and Construction Coordinator for the New York City Board of Education, who is well known to architects and engineers in this area for his work in supervising the expenditure of up to \$300,000,000 per year on school construction and upkeep, will speak on the Planned Prevention of Fire Disasters in Public Schools at a luncheon-meeting of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers. The meeting will be held at the Commuters' Cafe, 32 Courtlandt Street, New York City, beginning at 11:30 A.M. on October 11, 1966. From 11:30 to 12:00 there is a cocktail period, included in the \$5.50 cost of admission, and the lunch and program itself starts at noon. Architects are especially welcome. The program will involve a question-and-answer period and should prove interesting and timely. The Commuters' Cafe is easily reached by subway.

KNIGHT WINS LE BRUN

James F. Knight of Champaign, Illinois has won the \$3,000 LeBrun Travelling Fellowship Competition, which is awarded biennially. The program for 1966 was "A Library Museum For A Small City" that houses a collection of rare history and art books of local interest, and exhibits artifacts of local historical significance.

Knight chose to locate his library-museum above the Indian ruins of the cliff Palace of Mesa Verde. He states in his preface that "The floating roof of the library-museum is designed as a bold, simple statement following the stratification of the cliff, while at the same time covering the multi-level museum spaces which were inspired by the ruins." Mr. Knight was also recipient of the 1966 Lloyd Warren Fellowship—Paris Prize awarded by the National Institute of Architectural Education. Due to the highly unusual circumstances of Mr. Knight's winning both prizes, the New York Chapter and NIAE have granted him permission under special arrangements to use both awards to further his education abroad. The Alternate was Brent M. Smith of Carmichael, California. Commendations went to Richard Banks, Champaign, Illinois; Secundino Fernandex of New York, N. Y.; Michael Gelick, of Boston, Mass.; Jack W. McSorley of Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Miss Nancy W. Renform, of New Haven, Connecticut. The jury chose from 59 entries. Members of the LeBrun jury are: Chairman, Harvey P. Clarkson; Vice-Chairman, Henry M. Fournier; J. Bruno Basil; Michael G. Bobick; Arthur S. Douglass, Jr.; J. John Hakola; John B. Schwartzman, and Melvin H. Smith.



LE BRUN FELLOWSHIP: "LIBRARY MUSEUM FOR A SMALL CITY"

MEDAL OF HONOR FOR CITY PLANNING TO SAMUEL RATENSKY

The New York and Brooklyn Chapters of the American Institute of Architects, the New York Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and the Metropolitan Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers will present the Medal of Honor for City Planning to Samuel Ratensky, Vice Chairman of the City Housing and Redevelopment Board at a dinner this fall. Mr. Ratensky will receive the award for a "rare combination of judgment, insight, and idealism both in conception and execution of the city's housing and planning policies." Only four other individuals have received this award since its inception in 1939: Lawrence M. Orton of the City Planning Commission; the late George McAneny, a New York Civic leader; the late John D. Rockefeller, Jr.; and the late Edward M. Basset who drafted the city's first zoning regulations.

BRUNNER AWARD TO COMPUTER

This year the \$6,000 Arnold Brunner Award went to Lavette Cox Teague, Jr. of Birmingham, Alabama who is a graduate research assistant at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. Teague will attempt to develop an effective mathematical model to assist architects in studying the effects of their decisions on the interactions among building elements and building systems in their total environment. Teague's proposal was selected from among 100 entrants. In addition to the Brunner Award, Architect Simon Breines of Scarsdale, New York received a \$2,000 Grant-In-Aid for updating and preparing for publication a previous Brunner Award study on "Pedestrian Islanding" which was completed in 1944. The book will present alternatives to present transportation methods in central city areas.

UNSAFE BUILDINGS: SURVEYORS NEEDED

Registered architects who have at least ten years' experience in building construction and three years' residency in New York City may qualify for the position of Surveyor of Unsafe Buildings. City employees are not eligible. The surveyor's fee is \$50.00. If you are interested and have the time, please write NYCAIA Office before October 15, 1966. Over the period of years the Chapter's list of Surveyors of Unsafe Buildings has grown to thirty-two names. Present NYC Dept. of Personnel procedures permit filing names only once a year.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT

The Management Institute of the New York University School of Continuing Education is offering a series of 10 lectures entitled "Building and Construction" on Wednesdays at 6:15 to 8:00 p.m. from September 28 through November 30. The series is organized by Charles L. Goldenberg, Vice President of Brown, Harris, Stevens, Inc. Guest lecturers will also appear. The series deals with the building and the construction of private dwellings, office buildings, apartment houses, and specialty buildings. Among the topics to be discussed are financing, site selection, site clearance and legal problems, selection of contractors and bidding, marketing the project, and selection of managing agent. Write to the New York University Management Institute at 10 East Eighth Street, New York 10003 or telephone 777-2000 extension 008.

MAYOR'S PANEL OF ARCHITECTS FOR 1967

The City Civil Service Commission has established the following procedures for filing and receipt of applications for the Mayor's Panel of Architects.

Applications are issued and received daily, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, from October 5, 1966 through October 25, 1966. Application blanks are obtainable by the applicant in person, by his representative, at the Application Section of the Department of Personnel at 49 Thomas Street, New York, N. Y. 10013. They will be mailed on request provided that the request to the above section and address is accompanied by a stamped (5 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, Solomon Hoberman, Acting Personnel Director; Allan J. Graham, Secretary. Examining Service Division, Room 216, 55 Thomas Street, New York, N. Y. 10013, not later than October 25, 1966. Applications will be examined by an Architectural Jury appointed by the Presidents of the societies listed below, and recommendations will be made by them to Mayor John V. Lindsay for the 1967 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; and the Fine Arts Federation of New York.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

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

Corporate

Harry A. Anthony
Janos Bartok
Richard R. Bergmann
Thomas J. Chin-Bow
John K. Copelin
John J. Deans
James Edward De Long
Ena Marie Dubnoff
Fred M. Van Gaasbeek
Francis J. Goldberg
Stanley Charles Grant
Irwin M. Hoffman
Jerome Kerner
J. Arvid Kerner
John Burns Mooney
Robert Nadler
Charles Pomeroy Parker
Donald P. Ryder
Michael Schutzel
Sherwood A. Smith
Patricia Weston Swan
E. Clark Thompson
William H. Truex
John Wimmer

Professional Associate

James A. Holt

Associate

Robert M. Bottjer
Ronald T. Chirco
George Fragasso

CANDIDATES

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

Corporate

S. John Andruzzi
Herbert Charles Auerbach
Clemens J. Benvenga
Blythe S. Brewster
Allen Davis
Ira A. Goldfarb
Fortuno F. Jerace
Jay S. Klein
Samuel Levy
Einar Lindholm
James Gordon McCulloh
Theodore John Musho
David M. Pellish
Robert J. Piscioneri
Robert H. Schofield
Sidney M. Shelov
Walfredo Toscanini
Maria H. Twirbutt
Weston F. Weidner

Associate

Wing C. Chin
Fortunato B. Cohen
Saul Heifitz

COMING EVENTS — NYCAIA

<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>DATE and TIME</i>
SEPTEMBER, 1966		
Exhibition — Competition for a Kiosk in Central Park	Pine Room 115 East 40 St.	through Sept. 30
Special Luncheon, Address by J. Nathan, of HRB	115 East 40 St.	Tues., Sept. 20 at 12:30
NYSAA Pre-Convention Meeting	115 East 40 St.	Wed., Sept. 21 at 5:30
OCTOBER, 1966		
NYSAA Convention	Whiteface Inn, Lake Placid	Wed.-Sun., Oct. 5-8
NOVEMBER, 1966		
Medal of Honor for City Planning Dinner	Tavern on the Green	Wed., Nov. 9 at 6:30

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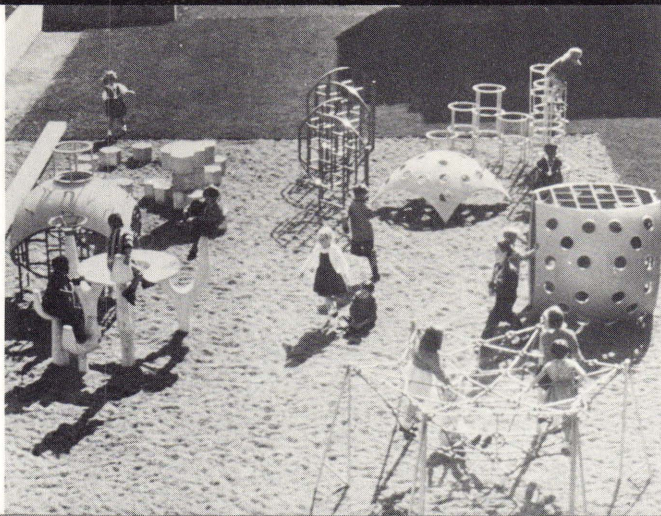
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