

# OCCUPY

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## SYMPOSIUM: THE ARCHITECT AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Appropriately following the Chapter's Environment Awards Exhibit which concentrates on the best of our man-made environment, the Chapter and the Museum of Modern Art are jointly sponsoring a symposium on architects' expanding role in protecting the natural environment. The program to be held Tuesday evening, Feb. 25th at 8:30 P.M. at the Museum of Modern Art auditorium has been planned by Arthur Drexler, Director of the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design and Walter A. Rutes, Chairman of the NYCAIA's Committee on Natural Environment. The four gentlemen whose photographs appear above will speak about and describe this increasingly urgent subject.

William H. Whyte, Moderator, is the author of "The Last Landscape" and "The Exploding Metropolis." Recently he produced "Cluster Development" the result of work with Laurance S. Rockefeller and the American Conservation Association. Ian Nairn contributed to "The Exploding Metropolis" and is currently an editor of the "Architectural Review." Mr. Nairn is probably best known for his excellent recent book "The American Landscape, A Critical View," the result of a 10,000 mile trip through the U.S. Nathaniel A. Owings, FAIA, is a partner in the firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, his base in the San Francisco Office. Mr. Owings is a member of the Advisory Board to the Secretary of the Interior on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments. Dr. Barry Commoner is a scientist. He is a founder of the St. Louis Committee on Environmental Alteration and has recently written a book "Science and Survival." The cost is a reasonable \$2. \$1 for students. Send your check to Margot Henkel.

## UP THE REVOLUTION!

On Thursday, Feb. 6th, at 7:30 P.M., the Student Chapter Committee will present a special panel discussion at the AIA headquarters, "AIA Is Irrelevant." The panelists will be Percival Goodman, Professor at the School of Architecture at Columbia University, Professor Mario Salvadori, Chairman of the Division of Architectural Technology at Columbia and Peter Szego and Al Feigenberg, students at the Columbia School of Architecture. The purpose is to let the members of the Chapter know what is happening to student and faculty attitudes, ideas, ideals and current thoughts. The committee feels the extent of the non-communication between the members and students and even between chapter members and chapter members was made evident by two recent events in which the NYCAIA was involved. The first of which was the meeting at which the Chapter voted to recommend the removal of the 1969 AIA Convention from Chicago as a protest against the tactics of the Chicago police. It was felt many of the members present did not know what all the fuss was about. One student intimated that if the motion was voted down the AIA would have definitely proven its irrelevance.

The next confrontation was at a meeting discussing the restructuring of Columbia's School of Architecture; attended by faculty, students and Chapter members. The opinion was that all present spent a very interesting evening talking completely past each other. This meeting, it is hoped, will clarify what is happening at Columbia and present the views of both students and faculty on why it is happening and what they expect to be accomplished. The Student Chapter Committee strongly urges that all members who wish to stay in touch with the twentieth century attend.

NEW YORK CHAPTER, THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
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Margot A. Henkel ..... Executive Secretary-Treasurer

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Jan. 8th

- Agreed to retain the presently unoccupied 4th floor space at HQ.
- Accepted without additions the nominations for the Nominating Comm. as made at Chapter meeting 1/7.
- Recommended that at least one architect be appointed in connection with the two vacancies on the City Planning Commission and made the specific recommendation of Julian Whittlesey for one of the vacancies. The City Planning Commission at present has no architect members.
- Declined endorsement of Committee of 9 covering new procedures for Mayor's Panel of Architects.
- Appointed a special Committee to discuss with the Mayor the overlapping jurisdictions of the City Departments concerned with architectural design.
- Agreed to join others in sponsoring Hudson River Commission Seminar on Residential Design.
- Discussed the exceptionally effective programs & organization of the Philadelphia Chapter, AIA.
- Listened to report by the President on current progress on current procedure to permit corporate practice of NY architects & engineers under suitably professional conditions.
- Approved members for Special Committee on Investment Building.
- Agreed to support immediate implementation of development of Annadale-Huguenot area of Staten Island as recommended by the Raymond-May report.
- Listened to progress report by the Contracts Committee on a City-wide architectural contract.
- Authorized obtaining legal opinion on implications of Governor's veto of Statute of Limitations bill.
- Discussed new joint scholarship program & procedure of NYCAIA & WAA.
- Agreed to drop all advertising from "Oculus".
- Discussed qualifications for successor to H. D. McKenna & future role of public relations in the Chapter.
- Instructed By-Laws Committee to draft new Rules of the Board in accordance with new By-Laws.
- Discussed current negotiation procedure with Public Works Department in connection with raising fees.
- Declined sponsorship of Fallout Shelter courses.

### SKETCHES

**Dec. 13th Christmas Party:** The Jefferson Market Regional Branch of the N. Y. Public Library looks great. Giorgio Cavaglieri, FAIA, who did the restoration presented an AIA award plaque to "Old Jeff." Among the guests present were Mrs. Philip Wittenberg, Chairman of the Committee for a Library in the Jefferson Courthouse and Mr. Frederick A. Davidson, Jr., Deputy and Acting Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works. It was kind of fun having a party in a public library.

**Jan. 7th Luncheon:** The private dining room of the Lancaster Hotel was barely large enough. Henry Whitney and Roger Spross led a sit-down strike and demanded more tables. Lathrop Douglass, backed by Margot Henkel said "why didn't you let us know you were coming?" Arthur Drexler, Director of Architecture and Design at the Museum of Art was elected as an Honorary Associate Member of the Chapter. After introductory remarks by Jack Coble, the 1968 Residential Design Awards were presented to Richard Meier, Gwathmey & Henderson, and Joe J. Jordon. 13 names were placed in nomination for the Nominating Committee, and those present watched with admiration the film "The Gateway Arch of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, St. Louis, Missouri."

**Correction:** Commissioner John T. O'Neill, Department of Buildings was kind enough to point out an error in our December article on the new Code. Sections of the old Code may not be combined with Sections of the new Code during the one year period after December 6th, 1968.

**Aesthetics in Hospital Planning** was the subject of a Dec. 17th Lecture by the Hospitals & Health Committee. Chairman Richard Miller contended that architecture is less likely to be found today in formal monuments than it is in building types that are functional and socially significant. Speaker Abraham Geller described health facilities as among the more difficult building types from which to create good architecture. He felt that the fact that good architecture can contribute to the healing of patients is rarely appreciated by health officials who usually restrict their concern to the more technical aspects of building.

**Harlem:** What does Harlem think about the new State Office Building on 125th St.? What does it think about the State Urban Development Corporation and the Hudson River Valley Commission's involvement in the Piers Area (125th to 135th Streets)? What alternative is there to the Columbia Gym? What about Model Cities? For one view point read the "Harlem News" published by the Architects' Renewal Committee in Harlem, 221 West 116th St., 666-9130, J. Max Bond, Jr., Publisher. Those interested in getting a copy of "New York Advocate" mentioned last month, call 749-7500.

**The AIA Guide** is available to members at 12 copies for \$54.84, which is 40% off list price. Send orders and checks to The Macmillan Company, Special Sales, 866 Third Ave., N.Y. 10022. 12 copies is the minimum order.

## CHAPTER TAKES STAND ON ATOMIC SITES

Urging a comprehensive national planning study of the siting of atomic power plants, the following policy statement by W. A. Rutes, Chairman of the Committee on Natural Environment, was issued by the Executive Committee to President-Elect Richard Nixon; Senators Jacob Javits, Charles Goodell and Edward Kennedy; and Governor Nelson Rockefeller.

"The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects wishes to make known its position with respect to the planning and location of atomic power plants.

Proposals have been announced for the future construction of atomic power plants at Welfare Island in New York City, Cockonoe Island in Westport, Connecticut and Fort Slocum on Long Island Sound. These sites are closer to urban areas than was heretofore considered safe due to possible radiation hazards and thermal pollution of waterways, and there is evidence that they will conflict with future parks, recreation and other land uses being planned by the adjacent communities.

For the above reasons the planning and location of these plants, as well as others throughout the country, requires the most careful study. We, therefore, favor a thorough study of safety precautions, a national survey of suitable sites and development of an overall plan for their location. We support the proposal introduced by Senator Edward F. Kennedy directing the Federal Power Commission to make such required studies and surveys, and to submit recommendations and a master plan prior to further construction.

The services of our profession are available to aid in any way necessary and we urge other professional organizations, including those in engineering and urban planning, to endorse similar positions in this matter."

## A GOOD BEGINNING

On Jan. 16th City Planning Commissioner Donald Elliott presented awards to the winners at the first annual NYCAIA Environmental Awards Exhibit which will continue through Feb. 7th at the Fiberglass Center 717 Fifth Ave. We hope this exhibit can be given wider public viewing and expanded in the future. Special thanks are due to Safway Steel Products, Duratest Inc., Kiegl Brothers, and Compo Photocolor for their contributions. We apologize for not mentioning last month that Pomerance & Breines were among the winners for their joint venture with M. Paul Friedberg on the Riis Park project.

## NEW DOCUMENTS

The Institute is initiating a new service involving the automatic mailing to subscribing members of all new Institute documents as soon as each is issued. The cost will be \$5 per year for the service, but the AIA will not start the service until a total of \$1,000 in commitments has been received. If interested, please write directly to the Institute in Washington.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

With the Chapter's endorsement *Joseph B. Klein* has been reappointed Commissioner, Board of Standards and Appeals.

*Samuel M. Kurtz* has been appointed Chairman of the AIA Production Office Procedures Committee. *Barry Jackson* will act as a Contributing Member to the AIA Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education.

*Charles E. Thomsen* was named a Contributing Member of the AIA Committee on Design.

*Hobart D. Betts* has won an award for the Wolf house to be built in Springs, L.I., N.Y., in the 16th Annual "Progressive Architecture" Design Awards. *Henry Cobb* and *Lewis Davis* were on the judging panel.

*Andrew Blackman* was one of the speakers at the New York Designers Lighting Forum for Residential Techniques held on January 21st at Lightolier, Inc.

*J. Gordon Carr* and *John Crews Rainey* have been named to the Awards Committee for Contract '69's Design Awards Program, the interior design industries New York Coliseum September exhibit. The deadline for entries is July 1st. For information contact Design Awards Program, Contract '69, National Exposition Co., 14 W. 40 Street, N.Y. 10018.

*David Specter* has a feature article in the January issue of "Architectural Record" called "Some Characteristics of Successful Urban Spaces." It represents excerpts of a study for the Architectural League's Brunner Scholarship.

*Caleb Hornbostel*, *Arnold A. Arbeit*, *Joseph J. Roberto*, *Baldur Peter*, *Sidney L. Katz*, FAIA, *Harvey P. Clarkson* were elected as officers of the National Institute for Architectural Education in 1969; and *Giorgio Cavaglieri* FAIA, *M. Milton Glass*, *Gillet Lefferts, Jr.*, *Herbert Oppenheimer*, *Eleanor Pepper*, *Hugh N. Romney*, *Daniel Schwartzman*, FAIA, *J. Kellum Smith, Jr.*, and *John J. Stonehill* comprise the current Board of Trustees. The N.I.A.E. is a non-profit national organization whose main objective is to encourage and promote architectural education among students and draftsmen under 30.

Last month we neglected to mention that *Raymond Irrera Associates* were also winners in the 1968 Queens Chamber of Commerce Awards for the Corona Branch Library.

The New Jersey Manufacturers Association publication gave its 9th Annual "New Good Neighbor" award for 1968 to *Francis J. Goldberg* for his design of the United Auto Workers Headquarters building at Cranford, N.J.

*Thomas F. Galvin* spoke to the Buswick Housing Committee at Pratt Institute on Dec. 18th. His subject: "Air Space as an Existing Resource." He has also been appointed a Contributing Member of the AIA Housing Committee.

Professor *A. S. Dadras*, Chairman of the Dept. of Architecture, N.Y. Institute of Technology, will lecture on a tour to Finland, Sweden, Germany, England and Scotland July 31st to Aug. 21st, Martin Travel Bureau, Inc., LA 4-0400.

## BOOK REVIEW

**Matrix of Man** by Sybil Moholy-Nagy  
Frederic A. Praeger Publisher, \$15.00

The author presents a kalaidoscopic inquiry into the origins of urban forms which she equates with the development of design imagination. She follows the application of these formal ideas through history, grouping city development according to its most distinctive physical pattern: geomorphic, concentric, linear and clustered. This method of studying the development of urban form, despite its relevance, tends to become rather repetitive, as the patterns overlap and are not historically successive.

Fundamental to this study is the author's belief that "Although towns are inanimate they assume the characteristics of their creators," creators who were faced with options and who were able to influence specific decisions in the formal characteristics and life style of the environment. These, she claims most emphatically, were creative acts of men resting not on material progress or a series of mechanical choices (here follows a complete denouncement of the "post architectural scientific system maker") but upon historical options selected by the decision makers of a specific town set in a specific landscape and always with a deep knowledge of urban well being.

The author decries our present concern for the "urban crisis" and our reliance on scientific man "who fancies himself his own beginning." Instead, she insistently develops the thesis that all the great form/space/organization systems were developed ever so slowly over history and that we too must become fully aware of and responsive to the magnificent precedents which are our heritage and from which we must slowly construct and reconstruct our urban landscape.

So fly away "Urban systems," high technology—plug in metabolic city. Realize, she says that "external organization is the tangible symbol of man's need for tradition: We share with all past community builders certain basic approaches...based on the interaction of climate, land, race, tradition, economics and resulting in conceptually related plans and buildings."

In spite of a sympathy for the writer's passionate point of view, this reviewer cannot help but think that the lady doth protest too much. We are not any longer in an age of gradual change where traditional solutions to urban form are of much use to us. The speed of personal movement and communication, the rapid growth of population, and the very different demands we now place upon our environment require wholly new solutions which can, I believe, rely upon our past experience only to a very limited extent. But, naturally, I would agree that we cannot approach this new world "blind," that we must come fully armed and sensitized by the great spatial and environmental lessons of history: to this extent, this very beautiful and profusely illustrated book is a fine addition to the designer's arsenal.

*Joseph Wasserman*

## CONTINUING OUR EDUCATION

The Institute is initiating a member program on Continuing Professional Education. It will be held on Saturdays simultaneously in New York and three other cities. The dates and subjects for New York are: Mar. 1st—"The Architect and the Law," June 7th—"Specifications: Development and Production," Sept. 6th—"Project Finances and Loan Development," Dec. 6th—"Architectural Programming." The NYSAA will co-sponsor the program. The cost will be \$25 for each session including lunch. This appears to be a very worthwhile program which, as the years go on, can lead to a greater professional value to the membership. You are urged to participate. Instructors and locations will be announced.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Tues. Feb. 4** — Hospitals & Health Lecture on Planning Innovations in Recently Built Swiss Hospitals at Chapter Headquarters, Third Floor at 5:15 P.M.
- **Thurs. Feb. 6** — Student Chapter Symposium "AIA Is Irrelevant!" at Chapter Headquarters, 7:30 P.M.
- **Thurs. Feb. 13** — NYCAIA Student Chapter Committee, Architectural School Liaison Committee & Pratt Architectural Club Symposium "Experiment at Pratt." Chapter Headquarters, 6:30 P.M.
- **Tues. Feb. 25** — The Architect and the Natural Environment Symposium at the Museum of Modern Art Auditorium, 11 West 53 Street, 8:30 P.M.
- **Wed. Mar. 5** — Exhibit opening 6:00-8:00 P.M. David Porter's one man show, Homage to the Box: Models For Mega — sculptures; reliefs, constructions, collage. Through Wed. Apr. 30th at Chapter Headquarters.

### CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

Information received by the Secretary of NYCAIA regarding the qualifications of candidates for membership will be considered confidential.

#### Corporate

Francisco Thomas d'Aquino	Peter Anthony Piven
Martin J. Hyman	Terry G. Twitchell
Carmelo D. Marullo	Rocco M. Verderosa
Andrew Graeme Whitelaw	

#### Professional Associate

Harold Einhorn

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The NYCAIA welcomes the following new members:

#### Corporate

Vincent O. W. Chan	Roy Allen Euker	Leonard P. Perfido
David P. C. Chang	Clark P. Halstead, Jr.	Richard J. Preziose
Paul Di Natale	Roy Paul Harlow	Sandu Z. Rapp
David Eng	Nobuo Kusumi	Henry K. Wong
	David Margolf	

#### Professional Associate

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