

OCCULLUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER / THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

APRIL, 1969

VOLUME 42, NUMBER 8



Photo taken at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Rolland D. Thompson at a pre-ball cocktail supper party for the working committees on March 12: Left to right seated: Mrs. Alan Schwartzman, Mrs. John S. Burrows, Mrs. Richard Roth, Jr., Richard Roth, Jr., Mrs. R. Jackson Smith, Mrs. Rolland D. Thompson, Mrs. John M. Dixon. Standing: Mrs. Saul Edelbaum, R. Jackson Smith, Earnest M. Fuller, Lathrop Douglass, Rolland D. Thompson, Mrs. Morris Ketchum, Ronald Allwork.

NYCAIA AND WAA CRYSTAL SCHOLARSHIP BALL TO BE HELD MAY 7 AT WALDORF

Mrs. and Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller, who is to receive the AIA Award of Merit, and Mayor & Mrs. John V. Lindsay head the list of Honorary Patrons for the formal Crystal Scholarship Ball under the joint sponsorship of the NYCAIA and the Women's Architectural Auxiliary. The affair will be held at the Waldorf-Astoria on Wednesday evening, May 7th. The funds raised will augment the WAA Scholarship program, now in its 11th year. A Champagne Reception will precede the Ball in the Gold Room and will be followed by supper and dancing to Ben Cutler's Orchestra in the Starlight roof. A special combo will play for those who prefer to swing a bit. The decor will highlight a myriad of "crystal chandeliers" with table settings to compliment the theme.

National AIA officers and their wives who are also serving as Honorary Patrons are George A. Kasabaum/FAIA, Pres., Robert L. Durham/FAIA, Past Pres. and Rex Allen/FAIA Pres.-Elect. Honorary Chairmen are Mrs. Rolland D. Thompson, President WAA and Lathrop Douglass/FAIA, President New York Chapter. Honorary Vice Chairman, Mrs. Margot A. Henkel.

Mrs. R. Jackson Smith (Yumi) and Earnest M. Fuller are Co-Chairmen for the Crystal Ball. Serving with

them as Vice-Chairmen are the following AIA and WAA members: Ronald Allwork, Mrs. John S. Burrows (Marion), Mrs. John M. Dixon (Carol), Mrs. Saul Edelbaum (Hedda), Mr. & Mrs. Morris Ketchum (Isabella), Mr. & Mrs. Richard Roth, Jr. (Alene), Mrs. Jeanette S. Schlanger, George J. Schwarz, Mrs. Alan Schwartzman (Ruth), R. Jackson Smith, William B. Tabler, Rolland D. Thompson and Max O. Urbahn.

A Souvenir Program with testimonials and advertisements from building, construction and architectural suppliers will help to swell the WAA Scholarship funds, which are distributed to deserving young architectural students. Approximately \$75,000. has been granted in the past to City College of N. Y., Columbia University, Cooper Union, Pratt Institute and the Equal Opportunities Committee of the AIA.

You are urged to send in your reservations immediately, if you have not yet done so. A Table for 10 at \$400. makes you a Sponsor, 2 tickets at \$80. lists you as a Donor and single tickets may be purchased at \$40. each. Call 565-1866 for your reservation. REMEMBER your contribution is tax deductible within the limits set by law. This is the only major social event of the season for both WAA and AIA. Don't miss a wonderful evening for a good cause.

NEW YORK CHAPTER, THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
20 West 40th Street, New York, New York 10018 - 212-565-1866

George S. Lewis Director, Professional Affairs
Margot A. Henkel Director, Administration & Finance

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Lathrop Douglass, FAIA, President	Arthur Rosenblatt
David F. M. Todd, FAIA, 1st Vice President	Giorgio Cavaglieri, FAIA
William J. Conklin, Vice President	Samuel M. Kurtz
Herbert B. Oppenheimer, Vice President	Leon Brand
Saul Edelbaum, Secretary	Edgar Tafel
Richard Roth, Sr., FAIA, Treasurer	Thomas F. Galvin

OCULUS COMMITTEE

Elisabeth Coit	Editor - Kurt Karmin
John Doran	John B. Schwartzman
	Alan M. Shapiro

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Barry Jackson was the "name" on the Names page of the Feb.'69 issue of "Architectural & Engineering News."

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS: MAR. 12TH

- Appointed George Lewis to act as liaison with N. Y. Board of Trade on their urban environment program.
- Authorized a new series of goals for the Chapter as recommended by President Douglass.
- Adopted resolution to be presented at public hearing March 25th in support of Alternate Route 4 for Section I of Richmond Parkway in Staten Island.
- Discussed report of special committee that has been meeting informally with members of the City Planning Commission on the issue of special zoning districts, especially in relation to the Lincoln Center area and the pending suit against the Board of Standards and Appeals.
- Agreed to scheduling a series of Chapter meetings devoted to important issues which involve the profession with the public.
- Heard Andrew Blackman's proposals for the use of the chapter's exhibit space; discussed exhibit policy in terms of topics rather than the work of individuals.
- Discussed scope and implementation of public relations program for the Chapter.
- Heard report by Thomas Galvin on possible long-range procedures for acquiring permanent HQ for the Chapter.
- Heard report by President Douglass on progress in Albany of the Gioffre Bill to permit professional corporate practice of architecture and engineering.

WILLIAM LESCAZE

Mrs. William Lescaze, in announcing the death of her husband, requested that donations in lieu of flowers should be made to the N. Y. Chapter's Education Scholarship Fund. \$1,160. is the total at present. The Fund provides help to architectural students unable to pay for their own education.

SKETCHES

New Publication: The Committee on Housing and Urban Development of the Community Service Society has prepared a factual digest of "Housing Programs in New York State and City." The booklet defines housing programs for low- and middle-income families, programs that enable low-income families to live in middle-income projects, and housing rehabilitation projects using State and local funds. The digest lists the State and City agencies and the financing involved in each program. Individual copies, costing 50c, may be obtained from COHUD, CSS, 105 East 22 St., N. Y. 10010.

The New Building Code of the City of New York is now available in book form from the Office of The City Record, 2213 Municipal Building, New York, N. Y. 10007. The price per copy is \$7.50 over the counter, \$8.00 by ordinary mail, and \$8.50 by insured mail. Checks and money orders should be drawn to the order of "Director of The City Record." All checks in excess of \$20. must be certified. Responsibility for copies sent by mail will be assumed only for those sent by insured mail.

Chester Rapkin, Director of the Institute of Urban Environment at the Columbia School of Architecture has been appointed a member of the NYC Planning Commission.

Landmarks: An organization known as "The Cultural Council Foundation, Inc.," has established a "Landmarks Preservation Fund." The purpose of the fund is to render financial support on behalf of the following general objectives: a) Emergency purchase or lease of landmark properties threatened with destruction. b) Loans for the purpose of purchasing and restoration of landmarks. c) Loans for the purpose of covering the cost of architectural services required in the restoration and/or alteration of landmarks.

The Landmarks Preservation Fund will accept private contributions, which, for the information of those interested, should be in the form of checks payable to the "Cultural Council Foundation, Inc., - for the Landmark Preservation Fund," mailed to the Landmarks Preservation Commission at 305 Broadway, N. Y. 10007.

Arthur L. Symes, 34 year old architect, is the new Executive Director of ARCH (Architects Renewal Committee in Harlem) now 4 years old with a staff of 15. Symes, a Howard University Graduate, replaces Max Bond who has started his own practice in Harlem. Bond followed C. Richard Hatch, the founder, who left in 1966. ARCH is supported principally by the Ford Foundation. It is now located at 116th St. near Eighth Avenue. Among its many programs ARCH recently issued a 51 page plan for the West Harlem Community Organization to oppose Columbia University's proposal for a gym in Morning-side Park.

Correction: Fred F. Montoya, Stewardson Travelling Fellowship winner is a member of the office of Katz, Waisman, Weber, Strauss, Blumenkranz, Bernhard.

A NEW LOOK AT CHAPTER GOALS

The Executive Committee on Mar. 12th approved the following immediate programs submitted by President Douglass:

1. Review and coordination of all Committee programs by the Director of Professional Affairs.
2. Canvass of the Chapter members to determine particular areas of interest and what can be done to achieve results.
3. Investigation of reasons for the apathy of some members as to the affairs of the Chapter and establishment of new, controversial, or other types of programs that will bring together at least several times a year large and representative groups of the membership.
4. Establishment and execution of a series of programs to be directed toward improving communications and understanding with such significant groups as the public, the government, the business community, young professionals, and architectural students.
5. Issuance of publications such as the often discussed "Approaches to New York" and the already published "State of the City" as a public service to focus attention on the urban problems of New York.
6. Issuance periodically of "position papers" stating the Chapter's stand (where such can be clearly determined) on important public issues relevant to the Profession.
7. Collaboration with N. Y. Board of Trade to share in and strengthen that organization's already impressive urban environment program.
8. Consideration of a limited number of community oriented programs, and a search for adequate financial backing for these programs from Foundations and/or other appropriate sources.
9. Periodic exhibits of architecture, city planning, sculpture, arts and crafts, at the Headquarters.
10. Establishment in detail of the practical financial and physical parameters within which the Chapter can seek permanent Headquarters and the physical aspects that would make it an attractive place to congregate.

ARCHITECT - NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

A sell-out crowd at the Museum of Modern Art Feb. 25th heard scientist Barry Commoner tell us in the clearest terms how man is in the process of making this planet uninhabitable. He said that most of the dangers have been obscured and that we must learn to depend more on nature rather than concentrate on seeking a totally man-made environment. Nathaniel Owings said we were avoiding reality, that 30,000 architects had very little power and that our only saving grace is the belief in the philosophy of aesthetics. Ian Nairn came over from England to tell us there is no distinguishing between man made and natural environment. All is nature. Architects must establish a style of living by examples large and small. Moderator William Whyte did say a great deal can be accomplished by professional groups such as the Hudson River Valley Commission. Walter Rutes did a bang-up job in coordinating the program with Arthur Drexler of the Museum of Modern Art.

LANDMARKS EXHIBIT & TOUR

The Historic Buildings Committee of the NYCAIA and the Municipal Art Society of New York have scheduled the reopening of the exhibit "New Life for Landmarks." Chairman Bill Shopsin and his Committee have made some major additions to the exhibit, which was first presented at the Pepsi Cola Building in January, 1965. The official opening and open house will be Saturday, April 12th from 1-5 p.m. at The Public Theatre (formerly The Astor Library). A walking tour of both landmark and new buildings in the Cooper Square area is included. In addition to the photographic material, the models of Ulrich Franzen's new Cooper Union Building and Morris Ketchum & Associates' Intermediate School #29 (on the site of the Squadron A Eighth Regiment Armory) will be shown. The walking tour will follow the plans of the Urban Design Group of the City Planning Commission for a "Landmarks Promenade" commissioned by the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Frazer Dougherty, designer of the previous exhibit, is assisting in the installation at The Public Theatre. Giorgio Cavaglieri's plans of the building will be part of the exhibit. He will also give a lecture and conduct tours.

KEEPING TRACK OF URBAN RENEWAL

The Urban Renewal Committee has embarked on a program of research, to prepare a roster of urban renewal activities in New York. Included will be: (1) Projects which have been considered or proposed verbally, but on which no planning or architectural action has been taken. (2) Projects which are in the planning stages. (3) Projects which are in architectural stages. (4) Projects which are under construction. (5) Projects which have been built. 1960 has been used as a cut-off date for projects constructed; i.e. all projects completed after January 1, 1960, will be included in the compendium.

Chairman Norval White reports the Committee finds it amazing that there is no such catalogue of activities and actions for Metropolitan New York. The City Planning Commission and the Housing and Development Administration have many component parts of information, but in no place is there an aggregate listing of public and private urban renewal projects.

For the purposes of this analysis, urban renewal is defined as any project on virgin or cleared land which comprises more than a single building; unless, of course, a single building is of such major proportions that it becomes a sub-urbanization in itself; i.e. the New Police Headquarters, which includes a two acre plaza and traffic separation by means of a new underpass. The study will consist of a map, keyed and color coded, to indicate the location (exactly) of all projects in question, and which category or categories they fall into. In addition, there will be a series of cards keyed to each site on the map, which will indicate the name of the project, its exact location, acreage, number of dwelling units, number of square feet of construction, architect, and a brief description of its status. The roster should be useful for position papers, Mayoralty Campaigns, etc.

GRASSROOTS SEMINAR

Lathrop Douglass, David Todd and Margot Henkel attended the recent "Grassroots" seminar of The Institute in Washington. This annual session is to acquaint chapter presidents throughout the country with the problems, programs and achievements of the national organization and to encourage discussion. As Lathrop Douglass says, "This is the second Grassroots I have attended, and I came away even more enthusiastic than I did from last year's session. I doubt whether any other professional organization has such a large amount of altruism mixed with its self-interest. It's too bad the whole Chapter could not have attended."

Among the many subjects presented by the directors and staff in Washington and discussed by the delegates were the future of the profession in the light of today's rapidly changing pressures; the need for leadership; education at all levels, including the role of the technician; equal opportunities; shortage of trained personnel; public relations, including TV spots and short films covering community interests and conservation; need for influencing legislation; 3-party suits and the increasing problems of adequate liability insurance; computers and cost control; involvement in community problems; influencing the urban environment; and the increasing role of government as a client; etc., etc.

N. Y. STATE COUNCIL ON ARCHITECTURE

In 1966 a law was amended. It was described as "An Act to amend the executive law, in relation to the creation of a council on architecture within the executive department to encourage excellence in architecture and the preservation of public buildings of historic or architectural importance, and making appropriations therefor." How did this come about? In the Act the Legislature stated they found that the policies of many State agencies tended to discourage high architectural quality by "delays in processing of plans, bureaucratic resistance to innovation, fee levels inadequate to attract architects of outstanding quality, and the widespread belief among architects that agencies have little interest in good design."

The Council consists of five members, citizens of recognized standing in architecture and allied fields appointed by the Governor, three of whom must be registered architects. Architect George A. Dudley, who also heads the N. Y. State Pure Waters Authority was sworn in as Chairman in 1967. Other members are Burnham Kelly, Dean of the College of Architecture at Cornell, NYCAIA members George Nelson and G. E. Kidder Smith, and layman William J. Strawbridge, Jr., from Westchester County.

John P. Jansson, formerly a partner in the firm of Morris Ketchum, Jr. & Associates, has been appointed Executive Director. Office headquarters are at 545 Madison Avenue in New York. The Council's program is too broad to be stated in "OCULUS" but we hope to keep you informed of its activities. The information should be of particular interest to those involved with any of the 44 or so State agencies.

ALBANY REVIEWS CORPORATE PRACTICE

Senate No. 486-A, the Gioffre Bill applies to several professions, requires registration of all officers and stockholders in a corporation practicing architecture, and mandates liability insurance. This bill protects the public and the integrity of the architectural profession. NYCAIA and 1968 NYSAA Convention Resolutions ENDORSED THE GIOFFRE BILL.

Assembly No. 537, the Mason Bill has been strongly OPPOSED by the Chapter and has been defeated in Albany previously. It permits out-of-state corporations to practice architecture and engineering in New York without registration and other protective safeguards. NYCAIA OPPOSES THE MASON BILL.

Write your Congressmen: Support the Gioffre Bill; Oppose the Mason Bill.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Fri. Apr. 4** — Broadcast of Mar. 19 "Architectural Design & the Urban Campus" seminar 8:30-9:55 WNYC-A.M.
- **Tues. Apr. 8** — WAA Tea & Talent, Chapter Headquarters, 3-5:30 P. M.
- **Sat. Apr. 12** — Landmarks Exhibit & Tour at the Public Theatre, formerly the Astor Library, 425 Lafayette St., NYC, from 1-5 P. M.
- **Sat. Apr. 12** — N. Y. District Chapter American Institute of Interior Designers Symposium "Man and His Universe — Too Late for the Quick Fix," Jack Lowery, Moderator. Hotel Pierre, Fifth Avenue & 61 St., 9 A. M.
- **Tues. Apr. 15** — Technical Evening Lecture, "Aerodynamic Testing of Scale Model Architecture" by Prof. George Marshall Palmer, Chapter Headquarters, 5:15 P. M.
- **Tues. Apr. 22** — Hospital & Health discussion meeting "The Effect of the New Building Code on Hospital Design," Speaker, Frederick G. Frost, FAIA, Chapter Headquarters, 5:30 P. M.
- **Wed. May 7** — NYCAIA-WAA Second Annual Crystal Ball, Waldorf-Astoria, 8 P. M.

CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

Corporate

Bruce L. Allen	Jaime Arturo Marquez
Theodore A. Amberg	Frederick A. Rehkopf
Raymond C. Giedraitis	C. Ray Smith
	Forrest Wilson

Associate

Nagui Mitry Barsoum	John Joseph Wynne
---------------------	-------------------

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The NYCAIA welcomes the following new members:

Corporate

Carl Berger	Philip F. Moyer
William N. Breger	David J. Paul
Stanley S. Brittman	Raymond C. Sancho
Lawrence H. Mason	Saul Silverman
	Charles M. Smith Jr.