

OCCUPY US

NEW YORK CHAPTER / THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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SEPT. 9TH MEETING — ALL DISCUSSION

A general Chapter meeting was held Sept. 9th to discuss the "\$15 million resolution," the proposed changes to the Ethical Standards, and the proposed increase in the New York State Association of Architects dues. President David Todd observed that the meeting was informal and would not involve voting on any of the issues discussed.

Todd reviewed the happenings at the national convention pointing out that half of the resolutions considered were related in some way to the main idea of the students' \$15 million proposal. Todd noted that the proposal called for the Institute's Task Force on Equal Opportunity (with the addition of some students) to "meet as required with the expressed purpose of establishing programs and administrative structure for operating and disbursing funds in line with the \$15 million goal."

In response to a question as to whether the NYCAIA would take part in raising the \$15 million, Todd said it was not yet known what kinds of programs the Task Force would establish. Commitments of time, effort and services might be requested. Todd said that the Chapter is pledged to match funds with the Ford Foundation to support the NYCAIA-ARCH "Architecture in the Neighborhoods" program. The Chapter's contribution is currently coming from regular income. Todd stated that other programs of complementary scope are being formed; they will be announced to Chapter members when they are developed.

Regarding the proposed changes in the Ethical Standards, the main idea Todd said, was to recognize the architect's responsibility to the public beyond his immediate client. The issue of an architect engaging in building construction provided his client is informed of his involvement is being considered. A Chapter committee chaired by Herbert Oppenheimer is reviewing the proposed changes. A special Chapter meeting will be held in December to consider the committee's findings.

The proposed NYSAA dues increase was discussed next. Albert Melniker, President-Elect of NYSAA, read a statement describing the Association's activities particularly in the legislative field. In response to a question as to why the increase was so large (from \$15 to \$35, or 120%), Roger Spross replied that the figure was based on a projection of the cost of oper-

ating programs for the next 3 to 4 years divided by the number of members.

Leonid Pacholuk said as far as he knows the NYSAA had accomplished little, and he objected to the fact that sufficient data on the NYSAA and its finances had not been provided for the meeting. Spross said specific information on the dues increase was available in the "Empire State Architect." Todd reminded those present that the increase would be a prime topic of the pre-convention meeting on Oct. 2nd.

MAYORAL CANDIDATES INVITED TO RESPOND TO CHAPTER QUESTIONS ON OCT. 29.

President David F.M. Todd has appointed a special committee consisting of Sidney Katz, FAIA, Leon Brand, and Herbert Mandel to prepare pertinent questions to ask the three major candidates for Mayor of New York. Independent candidate John V. Lindsay, Democratic candidate Mario Procaccino, and Republican candidate John J. Marchi have all been asked to respond by appearing on Wednesday evening Oct. 29th, or by sending a representative, or by answering in writing. Tentatively the meeting will be held at 5:30 at Chapter Headquarters. We are involved in politics!

HUMAN ARCHITECTURE NYSAA THEME

This year's New York State Association of Architects Convention will be held at the Nevele Hotel in Ellenville, N.Y. on Oct. 20-23rd. Its theme is "Human Architecture, Awareness of Environment." Bernard Spring, Dean of the School of Architecture at City College of New York, will be the speaker Monday evening the 20th. There'll be a Beaux Arts Ball Tuesday night. Dr. Anthony Adinolfi of the State University Construction Fund will lead a panel on Wednesday with Alan Schwartzman, Howard H. Juster and Stephan A. Kliment, all NYCAIA members. In the afternoon Frederick S. Webster, FAIA, will conduct a seminar with architects William J. Conklin, Lewis Davis, Ulrich Franzen, and Dr. Jonathan A. Freedman, Sociology Professor; M. Paul Friedberg, ASLA; and Bernard Kaplan, Psychology Professor. Key speaker on the 22d will be Charles J. Urstadt, Commissioner N.Y. State Division of Housing & Community Renewal. A variety of seminars and business sessions will be held including the proposal of a dues increase. We hope the Chapter will be well represented.

NEW YORK CHAPTER, THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS: OCT. 10.

- Appointed 31 delegates to the New York State Association of Architects Convention Oct. 20.
- Agreed to invite Mayoralty candidates to Chapter meeting in October for comments on planning policies.
- Unanimously voted to recognize and support the Urban Planning Studio of the Real Great Society, and East Harlem community design center. Authorized a contribution of \$1,000 and a liaison committee to determine ways in which the Chapter can be of further help.
- Agreed to co-sponsor a conference of the International Study and Research Institute to be held in October on questions of urban planning.
- Reviewed the special Chapter meeting on Sept. 9. It was agreed that no explicit action would be taken on the NYSAA proposed dues increase until the pre-convention luncheon Oct. 2nd.
- Referred the program established by last year's Urban Renewal Committee, regarding a cataloging of urban renewal projects in the metropolitan area, to the Housing Committee, with the suggestion that consideration be given to a separately funded research study program.
- On Grand Central, agreed that the Chapter and Institute would join together in a common position should litigation threaten the validity of the Landmarks Law.
- Instructed the President to reflect concern over the cutback in building programs, as recently announced by the Administration in Washington. Such concern to emphasize cutbacks in housing and other programs directly affecting community and family life.
- Heard report by President on recent correspondence with Under-secretary Van Dusen of HUD regarding Mayor Lindsay's testimony before Congress on the need for recognition of New York City's unique financial problems in the Federal low rent housing program.

"MOST REWARDING"

This kind of enthusiastic support came from employers of the first year Architecture in the Neighborhood students at a Chapter meeting, Sept. 15th. 21 young men are in the second year program.

SKETCHES

Brighton Beach results: Samuel Ratensky of the NYC Housing and Development Administration has provided the Chapter with copies of the "Record of Submissions and Awards, Competition for Middle-Income Housing at Brighton Beach, Brooklyn 1968." Photographs of models and perspectives of all 88 entries, along with the program and jury comments have been put into a neat little book. They are on sale at 20 W. 40 St. for \$1.50. Proceeds of the sale will go to NYCAIA Foundation, Inc., Equal Opportunities Scholarship Fund. First Prize, by the way, was awarded to Jerry A. Wells and Alfred H. Koetter of Ithaca, N.Y.

Brunner Award 1970: Bernard Rothzeit Chairman of the Brunner Scholarship Committee announces that applications for the \$6,500. grant be obtained at Chapter headquarters until Jan. 1st. Proposals must be submitted by Jan. 15th. Announcement of the awards will be made on June 1, 1970. Each candidate may propose a scope of study in some field of architecture, or a subject may be proposed by the Chapter and developed by the candidate. The study, which normally takes one year, concludes with a submission to the Chapter.

Stewardson Fellowship: The Chapter is now accepting applications for its ninth Annual Stewardson Fellowship; a \$2,000 grant made possible through a bequest to the Chapter by James Stewardson, an architect and citizen of England who spent most of his professional career in New York. The Fellowship is awarded to "a worthy architectural draftsman" who has not previously held a travelling fellowship. Deadline for submission of applications is December 1st. Both men and women are eligible. Candidates must be between the ages of 30 and 50 years. They must have been continuously employed—not as a principal—for at least one year immediately prior to the application in an architectural office in the territory of the New York Chapter. The successful candidate will be requested to submit an oral or written illustrated report at the conclusion of the travel. Application forms can be obtained from the Chapter office.

The Architectural Education Committee sponsored a dinner meeting September 11th which brought together the Deans and Chairman of the Architectural Divisions of Columbia, Cooper Union, Pratt and City University. Committee chairman John Hejduk and George Lewis discussed areas and methods of cooperation between the Chapter and the Architectural Schools.

A Diamond for Brooklyn: The Brooklyn Chapter is celebrating its diamond anniversary with an Anniversary Dinner Dance at the International Hotel at Kennedy International Airport on Sunday night November 23, 1969. NYCAIA members are invited. Information may be obtained from Harry A. Yarish, Chairman, 166 Montague St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201. TR 5-2217.

AIA MEMO #404. The first Barrier Free Architecture Workshop will be in Philadelphia Oct. 7-8. Mail application to Philadelphia Chapter/AIA, Architects Building, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103.

WHAT'S THE REAL GREAT SOCIETY?

The East Harlem Real Great Society Urban Planning Studio, located at 1673 Madison Avenue, is a group of professionals working in and with their community to provide the people with the free architecture and planning resources necessary for them to take part in the physical development of their area. The East Harlem Real Great Society started in 1965 participating in a planning studio administered by the Columbia University School of Architecture. But in order to be completely community oriented, the Urban Planning Studio was created in July 1968. According to its staff, "the people of East Harlem are the Studio's only clients."

The RGS/UPS provides East Harlem with basically the same advocate service that the Architects Renewal Committee in Harlem (ARCH) is providing for the west side. Both organizations have career training programs for local youth. The difference between the training programs of ARCH and the RGS/UPS, according to Harry Quintana, director of the Studio, is that while ARCH seeks to place youths, it trains into the New York architectural community, the studio seeks to keep its graduates working as advocates for the East Harlem Community.

Staff members, students of Columbia University participating in its 'experiment in architectural education,' and trainees of the RGS/UPS have produced, at the request of local block associations, designs for five vest pocket parks which are currently under construction by young people in a program funded by the Ford Foundation. Schematic design plans have been developed for the Afro-Latin Unity Council Headquarters. Two adjacent old-law tenements on 110th Street were redesigned as a single multi-use building to contain the RGS Headquarters and twelve rehabilitated apartments. Construction based on working drawings and specifications executed by the studio is expected to commence shortly. The efforts of the RGS/UPS in the East Harlem Triangle Community Facilities Block produced a feasibility study and schematic design of a multi-use facility that it feels reflects the needs of the community.

Other RGS/UPS projects: a study for the preliminary planning and development of the Aguila Hellsgate area; technical assistance for the preliminary planning of the Barrio Nuevo area; an alternate proposal for the Urban Renewal Plan for the East River Urban Renewal Area as a result of local community opposition to the present planning; a comprehensive study for use by the P.S. 107 committees as well as the entire community, detailing how modern educational techniques have changed the physical relationships of the school and the community.

The Studio does not want to function as the intermediary between the agency and the community. It wants the community to experience the rewards and discouragements of the planning process. To be employed by the planning agency would be to perpetuate what the Studio considers to be the present unsatisfactory relationship existing between the agency's community planner and the planned-for-community.

To be accepted by the community the Studio realizes the need to be recognized as educated professionals. Mr. Quintana, received his undergraduate degree from Howard University, earned a Master of Architecture at Yale University and is presently completing studies for a doctoral degree in Public Administration - Housing and Urban Renewal at NYU. The majority of the RGS/UPS technical staff have earned undergraduate degrees in architecture or planning and have completed or are completing graduate studies in architecture or planning. They also use environmental specialists as consultants.

The RGS/UPS believes it is unique in that it is working towards the termination of its own existence. When the East Harlem community has established the necessary relationship with the local planning agency and can direct its own process of architecture and planning, the need for architecture and planning advocates, such as the Real Great Society Urban Planning Studio, will cease to exist.

"NEEDED: A NEW POLITICS FOR HOUSING"

The Citizens Housing and Planning Council plans an all-day conference on Thursday, October 23, at the New York Hilton, entitled "Needed: A New Politics for Housing". The Chapter is a cooperating organization.

Speakers and films will explore the major components in the present housing impasse and the directions in which a national constituency must move. The schedule:

9:30-10 a.m.: Registration

10-11: Session A; Film "Help, Help, Help for the Sick, Sick Building"; Speaker Frank S. Kristof, Housing Program Officer, Urban Development Corp.; Session B: "Computers and Concrete - Can Construction Really Be Industrialized?"; Speaker Alfonso A. DiMeo of the City's HDA.

11-12: Session A: Film "Impasse in the Community Kitchen: Which Cook is Chef?"; Speaker H. Ralph Taylor, Mid City Developers, Inc. (and a former assistant secretary at HUD); Session B: Film: "Trespassers in the Greener Fields: Housing in the Suburbs?"; Speaker Edward Logue of UDC.

Luncheon: Mayoral candidates John Lindsay, John Marchi, and Mario Procaccino speak out on housing.

2:30-4:30: Anthony Downs of the Real Estate Research Corp. and author of "Who are the Urban Poor?", and Robert C. Wood, Director of the Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies (and a former HUD undersecretary) will discuss "How can New Yorkers Assert an Effective Demand for Action by Federal, State and Local Governments to Meet the Housing Crisis of 1969?"

The registration fee of \$12.50 includes luncheon. Please make your check out to Citizens Housing and Planning Council and mail it to CHPC, 20 West 40th Street, New York, 10018.

Note: President David Todd has written President Nixon expressing the Chapter's concern over construction cutbacks effect on housing programs.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

"The typical New York playground (which is typical of 99 percent of all the playgrounds in the United States) could not be a more hostile environment for children's play if it had been designed for the express purpose of preventing play," writes *Richard Dattner* in "Design for Play," published recently by Van Nostrand Reinhold Company. Dattner designed Adventure Playground in Central Park, which was an award winner in last year's NYCAIA Environmental Awards Program. In his book he provides design criteria based on the needs of all those who are involved with playgrounds and uses illustrations and case histories of the best playgrounds of the U.S. and Europe. Cost is \$12.50.

Percival Goodman, FAIA, who participated in last February's "AIA Is Irrelevant" discussion asked a similar question at the St. Louis National Conference on Religious Architecture last May and reported in the July issue of "Faith & Forms". After the listing current ills such as diseases in Vietnam, huge defense spending, poverty in the U.S., housing problems, pollution and the power of modern industry he asks "Is this the monster our religions have spawned? If it is, do I not have a duty to say both art and religion are irrelevant?"

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Metropolitan New York Chapter, Construction Specifications Institute will offer a 16-session Materials Seminar from October 16 to February 23 geared to the design professions. The course will meet in midtown and will be led by CSI members aided by authorities in the respective topics covered. Registration is limited. Fee: \$175. For further information, call Philip Dworkin (526-4649) or Norman Krutchkow (686-8770).

OCULUS INVITES YOU TO SOUND-OFF!

"OCULUS" is a newsletter and exists primarily to communicate news to the members, but it is not meant to be a public relations medium for Chapter officers. That's why the editor is a Corporate Chapter member and not the Director of Professional Affairs. We are now inviting you to write in and express yourself on any issue from urban planning, housing, fees, office practice to Institute and NYCAIA policies. What is your opinion on the \$15,000,000. student proposal for instance? Your limit is 600 words. Send it to "Oculus" Editor at Headquarters. The "Oculus" Committee will decide which to publish. Sound-off!

BOOKS RECEIVED

"The Lighting of Buildings," by R.G. Hopkinson and J.D. Kay, published by Frederick A. Praeger, 318 pages, \$10. British textbook with considerable information on utilization of natural light.

"The Landscape We See," by Garrett Eckbo, published by McGraw-Hill, 223 pages, \$16. A plea for rational environmental planning.

HEALTH FACILITIES TASK FORCE

The NYCAIA Task Force on Health Facilities has obtained National AIA status in order to promote research through the collection and dissemination of information on the planning and design of health facilities. The Laboratory is to be a private organization serving as a resource to all organizations in the health facilities field. The immediate goal is to obtain support from other professional groups so as to enlist the financial aid of one or more private foundations in funding and organizing the Laboratory. If the Laboratory is established, the AIA and the other professional groups will act only in an advisory capacity and only if requested by the sponsoring foundation(s). Members — all NYCAIA — are Howard H. Juster, Chairman; Leon S. Barton, Jr.; Otto Fuchs; Richard A. Miller; and Richard Sonder.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Wed. Oct. 1** — WAA Semi-Annual Luncheon, Princeton Club, 15 W. 43 Street, 12 noon. Speakers: Honorable George A. Dudley, Chairman, N.Y.S. Council on Architecture and David F.M. Todd, FAIA, President, NYCAIA. Chapter members welcome. \$8.
- **Thurs. Oct. 2** — NYSAA Pre-Convention Luncheon, 12:30, at Chapter Headquarters. Buffet Luncheon.
- **Mon.-Thurs. Oct. 20-23** — NYSAA Convention at Nevele Country Club, Ellenville, N.Y. (Catskills)
- **Thurs., Oct. 23** — CHPC Fall Conference, New York Hilton. Subject: "Needed: A New Politics for Housing".
- **Wed. Oct. 29** — Mayorality candidates response to Chapter questions at 5:30 P.M. Chapter Headquarters.

CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

Corporate

Nancy Copley	Robert H. Levine
Gary M. Grossberg	John Charles Schiff
Roger Katan	John J. Stonehill

Associate

Hanania Gavrieli	James W. McCormack
	Maria A. Radoslovich

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The NYCAIA welcomes the following new members:

Corporate

Cyril B. Beveridge	Frederick I. Goldberg
	Wilbur L. Woods

Professional Associate

Arthur S. Miller

Associate

Franklin L. Alexander	Adel M. Farah
Alexander Coley, Jr.	Harold J. Rosen
James W. Dixon	Morton S. Stone
	Andreas M. Vernadakis