

# OCCULLUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER / THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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Kenneth Kaefer, left, and Aaron Nicholas at Gruzen & Partners

Photo courtesy of David Hirsch

## SPECIAL CHAPTER PREVIEW AT METROPOLITAN MAY 4

### LOUIS KAHN TO BE HONORED

Chapter members, students, and guests are invited to a private preview of "The Rise of An American Architecture", the architectural portion of the Metropolitan Museum's Centennial celebration, on Monday, May 4, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The Chapter is co-sponsor of the exhibit with the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is the first major study of the extraordinary growth of American architecture in the nineteenth century. Edgar Kaufmann, Jr., has directed the exhibit and edited a book of the same name. Arthur Rosenblatt, AIA, Administrator for Architecture and Planning at the Museum, has been liaison with the Chapter. James S. Polshek, AIA, is the architect for the exhibit which consists of photographs divided into commercial structures, small residences, and parks.

Louis Kahn, FAIA, who will receive the Chapter's Medal of Honor, our highest award, has agreed to speak at the award presentation in the Great Hall. Also, the WAA will give the Chapter a check toward the campaign to raise funds for minority scholarships.

The charge has been kept as low as possible: \$5.00 for members and non-student guests; \$2.50 for students. There will be cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Dress: Informal.

## NYCAIA-ARCH TRAINEES: "STARS!"

Aaron Nicholas, photographed at his board at Gruzen & Partners, is one of the NYCAIA-ARCH trainees working in offices of Chapter members. He and 10 to 15 of his fellow trainees are headed for architectural schools next fall, if the Chapter's \$45,000 campaign for scholarship funds is successful. The students from the first year of the program did remarkably well during their first semester of architectural school: Of the six (one at Kansas, five at Michigan), three are pulling A's. Not surprisingly, these high grades are in their architectural courses. "They're knocking them down like bowling pins — they're just stars!" said Arthur Symes, Director of the Program, with obvious pride. Symes had just returned from a visit to Michigan and had talked about the students' progress and problems with Michigan teachers and officials. Yes, there have been problems, but Michigan's help is "enlightening", Symes said; if there is not a vehicle available to solve a problem, they do not hesitate to create one.

Now it is up to us. The NYCAIA-ARCH Training and Scholarship Program is not a response to the national AIA National Priorities Resolution; it was a forerunner. It developed as a community response to its own needs. Hopefully, these young black and Puerto Rican trainee/students, chosen for their potential as architects, and given massive doses of academic remediation, will become professionals who can respond to the needs of the communities. The role of the skilled person able to interpret for his community cannot be underrated. It is stressed, overtly or tacitly, at every meeting, acknowledged by professionals and laymen, black, Puerto Rican, and white.

So here it is, ready and working, one in-progress part of our profession's responsibility to society. What is needed is *money*.

The Chapter has set a \$45,000 goal for minority scholarships for the academic year 1970-71, and a major foundation intends to grant considerable support. A scholarship program on this scale is expensive.

Much has been said and written this year about the Chapter's role in the profession, in politics, in the community. For many this is just rhetoric, but the Training and Scholarship Program administered by

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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

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS: MAR. 11**

- Nominated Jan Pokorny and Richard Snibbe to be on the Fine Arts Federation Nominating Committee.
- Appointed Jeh Johnson to serve on the NYSAA Resolutions Committee.
- Authorized David Todd to appoint a Visiting Committee to the CCNY School of Architecture. (David Glasser, Alan Schwartzman, Michael Dobbins of the Planning Department, and David Todd will form the Committee.)
- Heard a report from Frank Munzer of the Technical Education Committee on possibilities for establishing a Labor Department-funded on-the-job training program within the Chapter.
- Approved an exhibit called "The Black Man and his Architecture", scheduled to open April 20. Paul Willen and Peter Samton appeared to describe the exhibit.
- Approved participation of the Chapter in the Environmental Teach-In on April 22.
- Heard a report on the need for coming to grips with the question of a permanent headquarters.

**CHICKEN IN A PLASTIC BOX**

On Feb 24 a group calling itself "Aggression Art" presented Chapter Headquarters with a live chicken in a plastic box in protest against a Feb. 13 front page article in the "Times" which led off with the statement that the A.I.A. was involved in a study of the possibility "of redesigning court rooms so that defendants who might disrupt trials could be kept behind soundproof plastic shields except when testifying".

The fact is that since 1968 a joint Bar Association—AIA Task Force has been conducting a thorough study of all aspects of court facilities, from traffic to federal. After the "Times" article appeared, Walter H. Sobel, FAIA, a Chicago architect who is Co-Chairman of the Task Force, wrote to the Editor pointing out that concern with disruptive tactics in the court room was not only incidental to the study — but that the staff's thinking was not in favor of devices associated with force and aggression. George Lewis called Mr. Sobel's letter to the attention of the Managing Editor, A. M. Rosenthal, and there has been further correspondence concerning the article's emphasis on plastic booths.

**NYCAIA—ARCH TRAINEES (Continued)**

ARCH is very real: It is professional responsibility made visible. It needs your help now in order to remain visible. The alternative of abandoning these talented and motivated young people is unthinkable.

You will be contacted personally very shortly. How about really being on top of things and making out your check to the NYCAIA Foundation, Inc., now — your own personal check and one from your office as well. And spread the word: We have something really great going—remember those stars!

**SYSTEMS FOR EDUCATION BUILDINGS**

Alan Green of Educational Facilities Laboratories and Frank Matzke, FAIA, of the State University Construction Fund were guest speakers at a March 3d symposium sponsored by the School and College Architecture Committee. Mr. Green said that a systems approach, which is a process, combined with building systems, which is the assembly of components, offered the greatest savings in time and cost. He described and presented slides on the School Construction Systems Development (SCSD) originated in California and recently expanded to include pre-cast concrete multi-story buildings. Mr. Matzke discussed the Fund's Fast Track Program, a method of overlapping phases in which construction may begin before all the program details are developed. The process saves time and therefore money. It is commonly used for office buildings and shopping centers, but the approach is new for public buildings. Committee Chairman A. Corwin Frost presented and Robert Schofield introduced the speakers.

**WAA RECEPTION IN APRIL**

The WAA President's reception is being held Wednesday afternoon, April 8th at the home of Mrs. Saul Edelbaum. The event falls during the week of the national conference of the American Society of Planning Officials (ASPO). Mrs. Donald H. Elliott, Mrs. Ira S. Robbins, Mrs. Albert A. Walsh, Mrs. Robert C. Weaver, wives of chairmen of the leading agencies in the housing and planning field, as well as delegates' wives will be special guests. Prospective members are welcome. Slides and a projector will be presented to Mr. Rolland D. Thompson, Chairman of the Equal Opportunities Committee.

**MORATORIUM REACTIONS CONTINUE**

The Letter on the Chapter and Vietnam signed by 27 members of the Chapter, in the March issue, is quite refuted by Mr. Garmendia's poll of 1381 corporate members and his lucid comments accompanying your publication of the results.

The signatories above would do well to be reminded that the returns said: 1. (253 to 75) that the Executive Committee acted improperly; 2. (182 to 162) that the Chapter should not take any position on such political matters; and 3. (186 to 52) that where such a position was desired, the opinion of the members should be sought.

*Eustis Dearborn*

## CAVAGLIERI WRITES ON OUR URBAN INTERESTS

At a recent meeting sponsored by the NYCAIA, a statement was publicly made questioning the motivation of the interest expressed by the Chapter and by the National Organization, particularly in recent months, on urban problems and, particularly, on housing for the under-privileged.

It was pointed out that the number of black architects is only slightly over 1% of the total number of qualified professionals while the very large sums expected to be invested by national and local governments in the ghetto areas will represent a large source of available architectural commissions. The statement concluded that the urban interest of the architects and their organizations is probably self-serving. Such a statement seems to me damaging, poorly informed and uncalled for.

It is damaging because it excites in the minds of the young ones the impression that the architects are the tools of a selfish establishment who sees architectural work only as a means of profit. It denies the enthusiasm for a visually attractive and socially satisfying environment which many dedicated men have considered the scope of their life work. It fails to acknowledge that the interest in urban affairs — perhaps more visible after the Chicago Convention and the Statement on National Priorities — is, in fact, an old tradition of many of our colleagues and goes back, in the New York area, to the work of Clarence Stein, Henry Wright and Henry Churchill in old, "New Deal" times.

It proves lack of confidence in the representative system of government of our city groups and, therefore, of our national groups, which — encouraging the peaceful rotation of offices and responsibilities — permits different trends and emphasis of collective actions.

If, during many years of concern for urban affairs, results may not have been as visible as perhaps they are today, it cannot be overlooked that any civic group shows more or less strength or action according to the activity, intent and enthusiasm of its temporary leaders. In our organization all have given to its problems a tremendous amount of non-compensated, voluntary time. If the national AIA leadership has recently been a little more prominent in the headlines in favor of liberal causes than it may have been in years past, this may very well be due to years of past work by many people, work rewarded by the membership with election to positions of responsibility.

*Giorgio Cavaglieri, FAIA*

## CHAPTER SUPPORTS GATEWAY PROPOSAL

In a letter to the Department of the Interior, President David Todd conveyed the Chapter's strong support of the proposed Gateway National Recreation Area. The statement was prepared by the Committee on Parks and Recreation, Jay Fleishman, Chairman.

## "EARTH DAY" APRIL 22

"Earth Day", is the outgrowth of the Environmental Teach-In taking place April 22 in schools and colleges. Working through the Environmental Action Coalition and the Parks Department, the Chapter plans to help with overall design for the Union Square program, organize and staff an exhibit booth showing the effects of environmental pollution and some remedies, and provide speakers both for television specials and coverage in Union Square. Television networks will be asked to show the AIA public service spot on "Pollution". The Exhibits Committee is working with the Natural Environment Committee on this project, but more help is needed. If you can participate or help staff the proposed exhibit (which will be open from 12 noon to 12 midnight) for even an hour, please call Chapter Headquarters, 565-1866.

## "THE BLACK MAN AND HIS ARCHITECTURE"

Exhibits Committee Co-Chairman Paul Willen and Peter Samton announce that on April 20 at 5:30 p.m. an exhibit entitled "The Black Man and His Architecture" will open at Chapter headquarters. The exhibit will show work by the following: Henri A. LeGendre; Ifill, Johnson & Hanchard; Pedro F. Lopez; GBG Associates; Leroy Tuckett Associates; Castroblanco, Piscioneri & Feder; Gindele & Johnson; Bond, Johnson, Ryder & Associates; James Doman, Jr.; Harley M. Jones, and ARCH. Slides that illustrate architectural projects ranging from individual houses to complex community plans have been blown up to form the exhibit. At the April 20 opening, a carousel will show additional projects. Exhibits Committee members Raymond Gomez and Edward Lucus have organized the show which will run for a month.

## HOSPITALS & HEALTH EDUCATION EXPANDS

In the Spring of 1969 the NYCAIA Hospitals & Health Committee with the Columbia University School of Public Health and Hospital Administration started a "Basic Course in Hospital Planning," which proved so popular it was repeated this Fall. Approximately 70 persons attended. Collaborating again, on Feb. 19th the two groups began a 16-week graduate-level course, for 25 carefully selected students, the Roger D. MacPherson Seminar on Hospital Planning. Represented in the group are Federal, State, regional and municipal agencies having jurisdiction over hospital planning.

## NEW NYCAIA FEE SCHEDULE AVAILABLE

The new Schedule of Compensation is available and can be purchased at Chapter Headquarters for \$2.50 including tax and mailing charges. It was prepared by the Fees and Contracts Committee, Robert F. Gatje, Chairman.

Last Fall the Institute produced a standard "Statement of Professional Services" for nationwide use. The Chapter's Schedule is meant to complement the brochure with what the Institute believes are best left to local option.

## BREINES PROPOSES ARCHITECTURAL CENTER

The architectural profession in the New York area can afford an appropriate architectural center. Other cities have them. The Boston Architectural Center (BAC) is an excellent prototype and has been realized in a city of less than a million population. New York City, with ten times the population, can do no less!

The BAC has ample exhibition space accessible to the public. It has offices for the Boston Chapter, AIA, as well as related architectural and arts organizations, drafting rooms and classrooms for architecture and planning students. It has become a natural arena for the trying out of new design and educational ideas and for give-and-take between the generations. It's full of vitality!

A New York Architectural Center might improve on Boston by including a library and reading room, film projection facilities, a dining room and a bar. Those who haven't seen the Boston Architectural Center will have the opportunity to visit it and appreciate its significance during the 1970 AIA Convention.

A common reaction to the idea of a New York Architectural Center is that land and building costs in this City are simply too high. Conventional efforts to rent or buy appropriate space usually confirms this pessimistic attitude. But more imaginative and bold approaches are called for. Landmark buildings are a possibility. Philanthropists or foundations interested in saving a landmark might be induced to allow the Chapter to occupy and run it.

But the best opportunity, in my opinion, is for the Center to be included in a new office or residential building in mid-town. Once such a building has been planned or built, it's too late. The critical time is at the concept. Chapter members whose clients build such structures should be encouraged to be on the *qui vive* for an opportunity to develop space off a side street as in the case of the Yale Club. Or perhaps the Planning Department would co-operate in helping us achieve a particularly fresh idea as they have done to encourage new theatres, for example.

Money is not the key; courage is, and optimism. The BAC was financed partly by a generous mortgage from a bank used to such building loans, partly with foundation help, and even with some government assistance because of the education facilities. Be sure to see the Boston Architectural Center for yourself during the Convention.

*Simon Breines, FAIA*

## SKETCHES

**Plan for New York City:** The Chapter, through an agreement with the Planning Department, will have 10 copies of each volume of the Master Plan to be loaned out to members who are contributing to the Chapter's study of the Plan. Those interested in buying copies; Vol. 1, Critical Issues, is \$10.00; Vols. 2 through 6 are \$12.50 each. Write The MIT Press, 50 Ames Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02142.

**One-day conference** — "Delays & Disputes in Building Construction" sponsored by the American Arbitra-

tion Association. Friday, April 10th, New York Hilton. Call (212) 582-6620.

## BLESSING EXHIBIT

Drawings by Charles Blessing, Brunner Scholarship winner in 1965, are on exhibit at Chapter Headquarters. They illustrate his project, "Graphic Essays in the Search for Urban Form".

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Fri. Apr. 3-9** — American Society of Planning Officials (ASPO) Conference at New York Hilton.
- **Tues. Apr. 7** — Office Practice Committee Symposium on Professional Liability Loss Prevention. Speaker: J. Sprigg Duvall of Victor O. Schinnerer & Co. 2 P.M. at Chapter Headquarters.
- **Wed. Apr. 8** — WAA President's Reception 3-5 P.M.
- **Thurs. Apr. 9** — Technology Lecture, Chapter Headquarters 5:15 P.M.
- **Sat. Apr. 11-17** — ACI Convention, New York Hilton Hotel, for info. call 313-531-2600 or write Box 4754, Detroit, Michigan 48219.
- **Mon. Apr. 20** — The Black Man and his Architecture Exhibit, Chapter Headquarters 5:30 P.M.
- **Sat. Apr. 18** — Hospitals & Health Field Trip to Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, Virginia and Greater Baltimore Medical Center, Washington, D.C. Leave LaGuardia Airport 8:30 a.m.
- **Tues. May 5** — Citizens Housing & Planning Council Annual Luncheon. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Speaker. Public Service Award to Ira S. Robbins. Hotel Commodore, 12:15 P.M. \$25.00.
- **Wed. Apr. 22** — Hospitals & Health Discussion Meeting Speaker: Max Pike on "Planning the Hospital Pharmacy." Chapter Headquarters 5:15 P.M.
- **Mon. May 4** — "Rise of an American Architecture" Metropolitan Museum, 5:30-8:30 P.M.
- **Wed. May 6-8** — Middle Atlantic Regional Conference (MARC) of National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) on "A Search for Unity Continues." For information call 254-8900.

## CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

### Corporate

Joseph Lee Colt  
Enzo De Pol  
Gordon Gayda  
John F. Matzelle, Jr.

Michael Allen Mosher  
Donald Ripley Peirce  
Harold Sussman  
Dennis Thomas Yaklofsky

### Professional Associate

Edward Frank

### Associate

Edwin Joseph Aviles

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The NYCAIA welcomes the following members:

### Corporate

John J. Carlos (Readmission)  
Jon Eric Ericson  
Robert Mars Golder  
Michael Maas  
(Readmission)

Maurice D. Medcalfe  
(Readmission)  
James Anthony Nash  
John I. Pearce, Jr.  
Martin D. Raab

### Professional Associate

Arthur May

### Associate

Malcolm P. Furman