

OCCULLUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER / THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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OVER 650 ATTEND METROPOLITAN PREVIEW

This photograph shows some of the chapter members, students, and their guests in the Metropolitan Museum's Blumenthal Patio on May 4. The special preview of "The Rise of An American Architecture", co-sponsored by the Chapter, the Museum, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, was accompanied by a lively party in the magnificent setting of the Blumenthal Patio, its balconies, and the upper anteroom. The formal proceedings included presentation of a \$10,000 contribution from the Women's Architectural Auxiliary toward the Chapter's scholarship program, and the awarding of the Chapter's Medal of Honor to Louis I. Kahn, FAIA, who received an enthusiastic ovation. Kahn's son-in-law and his Renaissance Sine Nomine group sang informally, and a musical ensemble provided more contemporary music during the evening.

The exhibit itself was designed by Chapter member James Polshek, with Arnold Saks as graphic designer. It continues through October 4 and is clearly a major success.

TODD STRESSES THE PUBLIC INTEREST & NEW HEADQUARTERS IN PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Outgoing President David Todd in his 1969/70 annual report has concentrated his remarks on the Chapter's and Institute's responsibility to the public. In the opening paragraph he states "Last year's Chicago Convention set the tone for the year. The Executive Committee adopted a policy which recognized a shift in our purposes. If the Executive Committee at times strained the boundaries of appropriate leadership, it would conversely have run the risk of ignoring, or

worse, paying lip service to, the spirit of what happened at Chicago." Later in the report he also says "what we do, rather than what we say, will as always, define our understanding of the meaning [the public interest]." "This chapter is alive and flourishing — but depressed as we all are, about the condition of mankind and the State of the Nation." Todd discusses specifically the issue of the Moratorium and the privately conducted poll regarding the Executive Committee's invitation to join "as individuals" in Bryant Park October 15.

Todd also added "On a note of hope, I want to recommend as our most pressing need the creation of a new headquarters. If we are going to deal with the kind of questions that have been raised here and are being raised all around us, we need something more than the third floor of 20 West 40th Street. We need a place where people can come together because they want to. We need the League back with us. We need an Architectural Center — like Boston's — not just for the New York Chapter, but for every chapter in the area, for continuing education, for cram schools, where Pratt, Columbia, Cooper Union and City College will know that something is happening, where the public is not only welcomed, but goes."

FUND RAISING GAINS MOMENTUM

This spring the Chapter made available to its members and friends a well-organized vehicle for combating urban decay. Your contributions to the Chapter's fund for minority scholarships will go far toward filling the need for black architects. Ada Louise Huxtable, in writing on Sunday, May 3, about the exhibit "The Black Man and His Architecture",

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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
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Kurt Karmin, Editor and Chairman	John B. Schwartzman
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS

- Recorded the endorsement of individual Chapter members of the nomination of Robert J. Nash of Washington, D.C., for Vice President of the AIA.
- Approved the nomination of Thomas Galvin for Vice-President of the NYSAA.
- Approved the reappointment of Ralph Pomerance as Chapter representative to the Advisory Committee of the Board of Higher Education (Note: Subject to his acceptance).
- Approved the award of the Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship grants in aid, 1970, of \$3,250.00 each to Sanford Hirshen and Jane Ellen Hough.
- Approved the award of the LeBrun Traveling Fellowship, 1970, in the sum of \$3,000. to Richard T. Hardaway of Waban, Massachusetts.
- Authorized the retention of Raymond Cudahy as Public Relations Counsel through June 30, 1970.
- Approved the Plastering Institute of Greater New York 1970 Undergraduate Scholarship award of \$1,000. to Frank J. Gianneli, Nazareth High School, who will attend Pratt Institute.
- Approved the Plastering Institute of Greater New York 1970 Graduate Fellowship award of \$1,000. to Scott J. Ross, for graduate work in Urban Design at Harvard.
- Heard report from Richard Sonder, Chairman, Hospitals & Health Committee, on the question of publication by the American Hospital Association of a list of hospital architects.
- Authorized the Chapter's joining JUMP (Joint Urban Manpower Program), a MA-5, government — fund technical training program.

NYCAIA FOUNDATION INC. ACTIONS

- Approved an Equal Opportunities Committee undergraduate award of \$500. to Harold V. Massop, Pratt Institute School of Architecture.
- Approved the award of \$1,000. to Edward O. Nilsson, Cooper Union.
- Approved the award of \$500. to the team of Neville Blair and James Tanner, Pratt Institute School of Architecture.

"Oculus" will return in September. Have a good summer.

FUND RAISING GAINS (Continued from page 1)

described this need as a professional crisis, and she stressed the necessity for architects and planners who operate from inner city knowledge.

There will be 18 young blacks and Puerto Rican graduates of the Chapter-ARCH Training and Scholarship Program in college next September — 11 in their first year — and we are committed to cover their tuition and living expenses, in the neighborhood of \$4,000 each per year. Other architectural students will ask for financial assistance through the Equal Opportunities Committee's Awards Program, in existence since 1963. The Chapter's goal is \$45,000, and the Ford Foundation is going to match what the Chapter raises. Contributions, tax deductible, should be made out to the New York Chapter, A.I.A. Foundation, Inc.

This profession has a responsibility in the urban crisis because our end purpose is the quality of the environment. The Chapter's fund-raising effort, through which we as individuals can act collectively, is central to this purpose.

THE CHAPTER AND THE MASTER PLAN

The war, inflation, the stock market, pollution, the housing crisis have pushed New York's Master Plan into the background. We still have a professional responsibility to review it and offer constructive criticism. Last fall the first volume, "Critical Issues," was released. Now the Richmond and Queens sections are available. We have a Master Plan Committee of distinguished members and yet the Chapter has not responded to the important "Critical Issues" or consulted with any of its standing committees. It seems only natural to delegate review to the Urban Design, Traffic and Transportation, Parks and Recreation, Housing, Natural Environment, Hospitals and Health and other committees.

Planning Commissioner Beverly Moss Spatt raised questions in her "Dissenting Report" which should be answered. Is a ten-year plan enough? Does the National Center concept and suggested increased densities in the Central Business District make sense with an already overcrowded transportation system? Should incentive zoning and increased residential densities be supported? Is there an intelligent plan for cars and trucks in Manhattan? Are proposed housing unit increases anywhere near enough? Is there too little attention given to physical planning?

These overall planning concepts released in November, 1969, deserve study by the Chapter now.

Kurt Karmin

ARCHITECTS' WORKSHOP — YOU CAN HELP

Several members of the Chapter are organizing a workshop to provide architectural consultation to community groups. Projects needing these services are being catalogued, and the need for architects willing to contribute time and interest is great. If you can help, please call Chapter Headquarters, 565-1866.



New York Chapter's Earth Day Exhibit, Union Square

The Earth Day exhibit constructed for the Chapter on April 22 attracted thousands of those who crowded 14th Street and Union Square. Over 1,200 persons signed their names in support of the AIA National Priorities Resolution, and others paused to study blow-ups of the Institutes's "Why-Why Not?" environmental advertisements. Some relaxed on wood benches placed inside the exhibit area and touched the plants to see if they were real (they were). The exhibit was designed by Chapter member Marvin Mills and contributed by the H. L. Lazar Construction Co; C. Kind & Co., Florists, lent the greenery. The exhibit was staffed throughout the day by Chapter members Barry Goldsmith, John Grifalconi (Chairman of the Natural Environment Committee), George Kennedy, Larry Levine, James McCormack, Mills, James Morgan, Raymond Sancho, Gerard Van Baarsel, and Anthony Vercesi.

BOSTON: FIVE HOURS BY TRAIN

Boston, June 21-25. The National Convention. "The Architect in a Dynamic Society." McGraw-Hill party at the new City Hall. A key note address by Senator Edmund D. Muskie of Maine. The Purves Memorial Lecture. A proposed major revision of ethical standards; the report submitted by this Chapter's Committee on Ethical Standards has received national attention. A party on an island in Boston Harbor. A proposed dues increase. An assessment of the AIA's program Professional Responsibility to Society. A new category for Allied Professional Associates to permit planners, engineers, landscape architects and other professionals to become Institute members. The Chapter's own Max O. Urbahn, FAIA, up for election as First Vice President (who automatically becomes President the following year). A chance to see the new Boston Architectural Center and hopefully get ideas for a similar center in New York City. Let's go to Boston in June.

MRS. HUXTABLE WINS PULITZER PRIZE

It was a great pleasure to see that Ada Louise Huxtable, architectural critic for the "New York Times," has been awarded a Pulitzer Prize in the field of Criticism; the first time a prize has ever been given in that category. Last year the Chapter nominated Mrs. Huxtable for the Institute's Medal for Architectural Criticism, which she received at the 1969 Convention. Her ability to verbalize the horrors and delights of our environment is somewhat awesome, and we are proud of what we like to think of as a close association.

THE CITY SITUATION

The Chapter membership has expressed a great deal of interest as to what has happened since the report of the Public Agencies Committee was submitted to the Mayor's Urban Design Council (reported in the Feb. "Oculus").

Daniel Schwartzman reports that a draft of the contract for architectural-engineering services now being considered by the City will be reviewed very shortly with Milton Musicus, recently appointed to head the Municipal Services Administration, which has overall responsibility for construction programs for several City agencies.

Chairmen of key Chapter committees have met with the Public Agencies Committee to discuss the proposed contract form and have found there are many aspects of it which are not equitable to the Architect/Engineer. Although two or three major elements have been introduced into the draft which are improvements on previous policies, there are still many provisions that require serious discussion and revision.

In the present state of affairs, the Chapter recommends that if any of its members undertake work with any of the City agencies, they do so with their eyes wide open to the inequities in the present contract form, as well as in the draft copy of the proposed contract form if it is not finally revised. This also applies to "letters of intent," which are not valid until the subject contracts for services are signed by the Mayor and Comptroller; and if for any reason they are not signed, the architect is left without protection of his rights.

A survey on architects' experiences on City projects undertaken by the Fees and Contracts Committee, chaired by Robert Gatje, has found an appalling record of serious financial losses by architects in City agency work. The worst of all is the Parks Department, and unless major fee increases are provided, and contract inequities are eliminated, it is unlikely that the Chapter can do anything but issue the gravest of warnings against doing work with this Department.

It is unfortunate that at a time like this, when so much needs to be done in the City, we must take this position. We think it would be unfair to the membership, however, if we were to report otherwise. There is a brighter side of the picture, however, in the expressions at top levels of City government, of good faith and interest in the best possible professional service for the City, which we must pursue and encourage.

TODD WRITES TO BUILDING COUNCIL ON CONSTRUCTION WORKER VIOLENCE

In a letter to Peter J. Brennan, President of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York, David Todd said "we, like you, have no obligation to avoid violence no matter what the motivation force."

A copy of the letter and a covering letter were sent to President Nixon.



Architects march down Fifth Ave. May 8th protesting violence at home and abroad.

SKETCHES

Slide show winner: "Midtown Blight? An Audio-Visual Presentation for the People of New York City" was second runner-up in the AIA Chapter Slide Show Competition. The show was produced by two Cornell students Elias Vassiliades and Scott Sebastian, under the direction of Rolf Ohlhausen of the Urban Design Committee.

Prizewinners: Student Edward Nilsson of Cooper Union has been awarded the \$1,000 Lescaze first prize. Melville Blair and James Tanner of Pratt will share the \$500. second prize. The money was contributed by friends of the late William Lescaze. Mrs. Lescaze presented the awards at the Pre-Convention Luncheon, May 21.

Three entries each were submitted by the Schools of Architecture of Pratt, Cooper Union and Columbia. (Dean Spring of CUNY declined the offer to participate). The winners were selected by a jury consisting of Giorgio Cavaglieri, David Glasser and Bonnell Irvine.

Conference: The Middle Atlantic Regional Conference, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, held its annual meeting May 6, 7, and 8 at the Waldorf-Astoria. Chapter members David Todd, Simon Breines, Joel D. Kaufman, and Jaquelin Robertson served on Panel Workshops.

LE BRUN TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP NAMED

Richard T. Hardaway of Waban, Mass., is the recipient of the Chapter's \$3,000 Le Brun Traveling Fellowship awarded to an architect or draftsman under the age of 30 for the study of architecture outside the U. S. Chosen from among 11 submissions, Mr. Hardaway's solution for a design problem of a prefabricated demountable unit for community needs is a unique system of triangular units which assemble into square volumes with a minimum of elements. The Jury, of which Edward F. Knowles was chairman, believes that Mr. Hardaway's design could make a significant contribution to the development of prefabrication techniques.

BRUNNER SCHOLARSHIPS NAMED

Bernard Rothzeit, Chairman of the Chapter's Brunner Scholarship Committee, announces that the Committee has awarded grants-in-aid of \$3,250 each to Jane Ellen Hough, an Associate member, and Sanford Hirshen. Miss Hough will prepare a document for publication on mental health and mental retardation facilities in Scandinavia. Hirshen will report and

analyze the experience of programming and designing a neighborhood health center in the context of a developing black community.

BOOKS RECEIVED

"The Rise of an American Architecture" by Henry Russell Hitchcock, Albert Fein, Winston Weisman and Vincent Scully, edited by Edgar Kaufman, Jr., published by Praeger in association with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 241 pages \$10. A new look at 19th century American Architecture and urban form. Written in conjunction with current exhibit at the Metropolitan.

"Small Urban Spaces: The Philosophy, Design, Sociology, and Politics of Vest Pocket Parks and Other Small Urban Open Spaces." Edited by Whitney North Seymour, Jr., New York University Press, N.Y. 1969, 198 pp. 6-3/4 x 9 in. illus, \$6.50. An official publication of the Parks Assoc. of NYC. A collection of essays. Lady Allen of Hurtwood, Simon Breines, Jane Jacobs, Lewis Mumford and Robert L. Zion are among the 16 contributors. Over 60 illustrations.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Philip Ives received an Honor Award from the Guild for Religious Architecture for the design of the Chapel of St. Jude, Christ Church, Georgetown, D.C.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **June 21-26** — AIA National Convention, Boston, Mass. Sheraton Hotel.
- **Sat. Aug. 15** — Architects Planners Environment Committee, Long Island Sound. More details to be announced.

CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

CORPORATE

Todd Cunningham Bogatay	Percival Harris
John Bowstead	Martin Rudolph Nystrom
Peter Casini	David Rib
Russell C. Childs	Werner Franz Schultze
Gerald Gurland	Bartholomew Voorsanger
	Martin Allen Zelnik

Professional Associate

Peter H. Semrad

Associate

Gail Jean Hipp Cooke	Paul C. Nicola
Ralph Victor Girona	John Richard Picone
Benito Sia Lao	Donald Eliot Sclare

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The NYCAIA welcomes the following members:

Corporate

Richard Aronson	John F. Matzelle, Jr.
Norman Chan	Donald R. Peirce
Joseph L. Colt	Raymond P. Tuccio
	Kellogg Wong

Associate

Edwin J. Aviles	Anthony G. Pickios
Philip Martines	George T. Rossi
Robert E. Meadows	Liisa H. K. Sclare