

# OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER / THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

JANUARY, 1971

VOLUME 44, NUMBER 5



Photo by Tommy Weber

AIA President Hastings address press.

## NATIONAL OFFICERS VISIT CHAPTER HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE

Robert F. Hastings, FAIA, Institute President, Max Urbahn, FAIA, 1st V. P.-President Elect, and William Slayton, Executive Vice President, visited with the Executive Committee and held a press conference at Chapter Headquarters on Dec. 7th.

At the conference Hastings described the AIA programs for 1971. Characterizing the solutions to the problems of progressive decay of the natural and man made environments as a series of "hard choices," Hastings said the 1971 programs are addressed to helping develop better public understanding of them which could help society formulate its positions on the issues. During the coming year the Institute plans to:

- \*Continue the advertising campaign that began two years ago to create a stronger public awareness of the nation's environment and a resultant demand for its improvement.

- \*Develop national policy positions on housing, cities, natural resources, and human resources; then stimulate national debate to impel recognition of the need for basic change.

- \*Put price tags on the hard choices by investigating ways to make rebuilding of the cities financially sound.

- \*Expand its efforts to collaborate in decision making that affects the environment: by helping shape legislation at national, state, and local levels, and through closer liaison with HUD, HEW, GSA, other governmental clients, other design professions and the construction industry.

(Continued on page 2, col. 2)

## JANUARY 15 LUNCHEON TO BE AT AALTO'S KAUFMANN ROOMS, ED KOCH SPEAKER, NOM- INATIONS COMMITTEE NAMES TO BE RE- CEIVED.

The Chapter's January 15th Luncheon meeting has a lot going for it. The Institute of International Education at 809 United Nations Plaza has graciously permitted us to dine in the Reception Hall of the Edgar J. Kaufmann Conference Rooms designed in 1964 by Finnish architect Alvar Aalto. Ada Louise Huxtable has described the space as "the most beautiful and distinguished interior that New York has seen in years". For many it will be a first look at Aalto's elegant use of curved wood forms for which he is so famous.

Provided legislative duties are not too pressing, we can also expect an address by Edward I. Koch, recently re-elected Congressman from the 17th District in Manhattan. President Cavaglieri has asked Mr. Koch to speak on how the AIA can be helpful in achieving vital legislation in fields such as housing and metropolitan transportation.

Number one on the business agenda will be the taking of names from the floor in nomination for the Committee on Nominations. The by-laws provide that the Executive Committee may add names if they wish and then Corporate members will vote by mail for five nominees. The five elected members have the important task of recommending candidates for the First Vice President/President Elect, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, three Directors, three members of the Jury for the Medal of Honor and Award of Merit, two members each for the Ethics Committee, the Committee on Fellows, and the Finance Committee. At least 37 days prior to the Annual Meeting the Committee's choices must be made known to the Chapter. Thirty days prior to the Annual Meeting independent nominations may be made for any of the offices by 10 or more Corporate members. Then all names are sent out for ballot vote.

OCULUS has been critical in the past of nominations made at a luncheon meeting where many members may not be able to attend. If you cannot attend, we suggest you contact someone who can and ask him to submit the name of your choice. Cocktails at 12 Noon (cash bar). Lunch at 12:30. Tickets are \$5.00.

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NEW YORK CHAPTER, THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
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George S. Lewis . . . . . Executive Director

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Giorgio Cavaglieri, FAIA, President	David E. Glasser
Frederick G. Frost, Jr. FAIA, 1st Vice-Pres.	Lawrence Litchfield
Leon Brand, Vice President	T. Merrill Prentice, Jr.
Thomas Galvin, Vice President	Armand P. Bartos
Der Scutt, Secretary	Howard H. Juster
Samuel M. Kurtz, Treasurer	James S. Rossant

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<b>OCULUS COMMITTEE</b>	John Doran, Editor and Chairman
Kurt Karmin	Joel Kaufman
Linda Yang	Barry Stanley
Edward L. LaMura	John B. Schwartzman

J. Arvid Klein

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Dec. 9, 1970**

- Noted, among new corporate members, that the application of George M. Raymond has been approved by special action of the Institute Board.
- Appointed David E. Glasser to represent the Chapter on the Board of the NYSAA.
- Appointed Edward L. Friedman to represent the Chapter on the Concrete Industry Board.
- Heard a report by Simon Breines, Chairman of the Headquarters Committee, on progress in seeking a permanent chapter headquarters.
- Appointed Nathan Jerry Maltz Chairman of the Student Affairs Committee to succeed Alan Lapidus.
- Heard a report by David E. Glasser and T. Merrill Prentice, Jr., proposing organization of fund raising for minority scholarships for the coming year.

**KURTZ RESIGNING AS TREASURER**

Samuel M. Kurtz, FAIA, is retiring from the firm of Kiff, Voss and Franklin (formerly York & Sawyer) in order to move to North Miami Beach, Florida. His resignation as Treasurer of the Chapter becomes effective Jan. 1, 1971.

Mr. Kurtz has been a NYCAIA Corporate member since 1944 and has served on many committees including the Executive Committee. In 1964 he received the Chapter's second Harry B. Rutkins Award. For five years he served as editor of the New York State Association of Architects' "Empire State Architect", and in 1968 received a NYSAA Special Citation. On the National level he was chairman of the Institute's Production Office Procedures Committee and in 1970 was elected to the College of Fellows. Locally he has been President of the New York Society of Architects and a member of the American Hospital Association. In Florida he hopes to work part time as a hospital consultant and also continue work with the American Arbitration Association. We can only give Mr. Kurtz our thanks for his services and wish him well in his life in Florida.

The Executive Committee has appointed James B. Baker as the new Treasurer. Mr. Baker is a partner in the firm of James Baker and Peter Blake. He has served on the Chapter's Housing, Fees, and Historical Buildings committees.

**PRESS CONFERENCE** (Cont. from page 1)

\*Take a step toward changing the ground rules that are barriers to better environment by creating a codes and regulations center to promote changes in restrictive building codes.

\*Continue to assist the Community Design/Development Centers (CDCs) that are providing professional services in about 50 cities to people who cannot afford to pay for the services needed to improve their physical surroundings. This year the AIA will initiate a broad study of constraints to building for the poor, analyzing the bureaucracies, financing, construction and design aspects that together impede the vast construction program needed.

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

To our members:

Two events which recently occurred within our city directly affect our professional activities and deserve considerable attention.

1. On Dec. 15th Mayor Lindsay appointed Mr. Milton Musicus Director of Construction and Chairman of a Committee, composed of the Budget Director and the City Comptroller, whose main purpose is to unify concepts, contracts, and procedures for all building projects of New York City with the main goal of accelerating considerably their design, execution, and completion.

As Architects, we strongly support Mr. Musicus in his endeavor: we are glad of this centralized authority and we are convinced that many of the recommendations we have made at various times will help him secure his goals. Among these are the clearer definitions of building programs in relation to their budgets, the reduction of the so-called reviews by City Agencies to simple program compliance, the speedier and realistic compensation for work done, and finally the hope for unification of construction contracts under one general contractor.

2. The second item is the recent beginning of operation of the newly formed District School Boards with great power and influence over construction programs as well as over selection of Architects. Our members are strongly invited, on this as on all other matters, to maintain the strictest adherence to our Ethical Standards. They must avoid any pressure socially or otherwise which could influence the Local Board Members in their decisions. The Board members are actually operating under the City Code of Ethics and they must be expected to judge architects' qualifications and suitability to their particular problem on the basis of strict merit.

How we react to this double challenge is of great importance for the image we are presenting to the community we serve. We intend to be proud of it.

Giorgio Cavaglieri



Photo courtesy of the New York Historical Society, New York City

View of Canal Street, 1904

### CHAPTER CONDUCTS TOUR OF CAST IRON DISTRICT

The Historic Buildings Committee chaired by William Shopsin recently conducted a walking tour of the area surrounded by Houston and Canal Streets, Broadway and West Broadway known as the SOHO District. The photo above is a contemporary view of the neighborhood.

The tour organized by Bernard Horvitz to focus attention on the need for preservation and rehabilitation in the area was attended by 60 people.

### SPEAKERS NEEDED

The Speakers Bureau invites members with special expertise or knowledge to submit their names and credentials for its list of speakers. The bureau has continuing requests from public groups for members to discuss Architecture as a profession, the impact of the profession on the city and various other pertinent subjects. The Bureau selects appropriate Chapter Members from its list of speakers to appear before these groups.

Please send material to Ida B. Webster, Chairman.

### PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS SOUGHT

The Headquarters Committee chaired by Simon Breines has been actively investigating possibilities for a new Headquarters. The Willkie Memorial Building has recently been put on the market adding impetus to the search. The intention is to locate a permanent headquarters that can become a true N. Y. Architectural Center.

### MASTERSPEC

The Office Practice and Technology Committees are jointly sponsoring a presentation by John H. Schruben, President of PSAE, who will describe the Masterspec system to Chapter members on Feb. 9th at 2:30 at Chapter headquarters. A panel discussion will follow.

### CALL FOR ENVIRONMENT PLANNING

On Dec. 18 the Temporary NYS Commission on Environmental Impact of Major Public Utilities was presented with a strong case for a new set of priorities. NYCAIA Natural Environment Committee Chairman John W. Grifalconi spoke to the Commission at a special hearing in NYC about the need to place utility plans within a larger comprehensive planning framework for environmental quality. He also called for a follow-up of the NYCAIA position taken this autumn which included development of alternative sources of power and requirements for environmental impact studies for all major projects.

### PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

In response to a mounting concern, President Cavaglieri, early in December, established a Committee on Professional Liability Insurance. The new committee, previously a part of the Office Practice Committee, is being chaired by Mr. Charles Hughes. According to Mr. Hughes, the Committee will be small and those members interested in participating are invited to contact him. The first meeting will be held shortly.

The direction that the committee will take appears to be two-fold: liability insurance costs are rising, yet the insurance carrier appears to be losing money; in response to this spiral, alternate insurance methods will be discussed. Also, as most practitioners carry what may be considered excessive liability insurance, sensible insurance limits dependent upon office size and scope of work will be formulated.

### BENEFITS OF INCORPORATION REVIEWED

The Architectural Business Managers Committee, a part of the Office Practice Committee, invited Mr. Philip Rotgin and Mr. Maurice Dobrinin to their last meeting to discuss the incorporation of architectural firms. An outline of the primary benefits of incorporation for the typical architectural firm was discussed: perhaps some tax savings, but incorporation allows greatly increased retirement and other personnel benefits for the principals of the firm. These benefits are in the area of pension-profit sharing (with resulting Federal and State tax saving,) group life insurance and medical plans. In addition, there is the benefit of limiting the professional liability by restricting such liability to one partner and the assets of the corporation. As an important side benefit, it was noted that operating as a corporation is a better, smoother way of doing business than as a partnership, and the enforced discipline required by conducting business as a corporation was often the most outstanding advantage of incorporation.

Members will be made aware of the committee's discussions and decisions by the distribution of their reports and, in particular, an annual report to be distributed by the Architectural Business Managers Committee.



Natural Environment Committee Symposium  
left to right: Albert Jensen, Howard Paster, John Grifalconi, Gerard Van Baarsel.

### CONTROL AGENCY RECOMMENDED FOR LONG ISLAND SOUND

On Dec. 16th the Natural Environment Committee sponsored a well prepared, well balanced program called "Saving Long Island Sound—A Test Case for Environment." One speaker was a biologist, Albert C. Jensen, Assistant Director, Division of Marine & Coastal Resources for the New York State Environment Conservation Department. The other was a lawyer, Howard C. Paster, Special Assistant to Congressman Lester L. Wolff of Long Island on Legislation and Environmental Matters.

As a scientist Mr. Jensen told the audience about pollution affecting the Sound. In his opinion the most dangerous and unpredictable environmental change may be caused by the dumping of heated water from existing and proposed electrical power plants into the Sound. He said the amount was 6 million gallons per minute, equal to the flow over the American side of Niagara Falls. At this rate the temperature of the sound will rise 1½ degrees in 20 years, a lethal amount for many shell and fin fish.

Mr. Paster felt that there must be pollution control either through a bi-state Long Island Sound Authority or by the Federal Government, specifically the Department of the Interior. He favored Federal control. According to Mr. Paster pollution of the sound is a National problem, as it is one of America's greatest natural resources. Reference was also made to the fact that New York City is the Sound's greatest polluter and yet the City's proposed Master Plan offers no solutions.

John Grifalconi is Chairman of the Natural Environment Committee. Gerard van Baarsel arranged the program and introduced the speakers. Surprisingly most of the audience were from Long Island environmental groups. They welcomed support from architects in their battle to protect the Sound. The Committee's next program will be on Feb. 25th. Its subject will be "ALTERNATE SOURCES OF POWER".

### STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Chairman Alan Lapidus of the Student Affairs Committee reports that his committee will attempt to improve communication among the students of the City's architectural schools. He notes that the committee could also serve as a liaison within the Chapter to put students pursuing particular problems in actual situations in touch with Chapter committees concerned with such areas as Housing, City Planning etc.

Meetings between City officials and students designed to give the students an opportunity to learn city decision making processes are planned. The Committee is considering the creation of a newsletter or some other means of cross communication among the schools so students within the City can find out what is happening at the other schools. Lapidus comments that "schools hundreds or thousands of miles apart are more conversant with what's happening on each other's campuses than students at Columbia, Pratt, C.C.N.Y. and Cooper". The Student Affairs Committee hopes to remedy the situation.

### LETTERS

The OCULUS Committee welcomes letters from the membership concerning issues of general Chapter interest.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Fri. Jan. 15**—Meeting to Nominate the Committee on Nominations at IIE, 809 United Nations Plaza 12 noon.
- **Tues. Jan. 19**—"Unique Application of Architectural and Structural Concrete at Newark Airport" by Eugene J. Fasullo, Chief Structural Engineer, PONY, Chapter Headquarters, 5:15 P.M.
- **Thurs. Jan. 28**—Field Trip to Modular Components Inc., Bronx. Busses leaving Chapter Headquarters at 12:00 noon. Reservations necessary, on a first come, first served basis. Sponsored by Technology & Housing Committees.
- **Sat. Feb. 6**—Hospitals & Health Field Trip to Maimonides Hospital, Brooklyn, N.Y.

### CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

#### CORPORATE

Charles Herbert Boxenbaum	Peter Matthew Gottschalk
Mauro John Cappitella	Philip Emmanuel Little
Arthur Merrill Cohen	Bryant Putnam Gould
Howard Norman Cohen	Milton Lewis Howard
Albert Schunkewitz	Maurice Reinholt Salo
	Robert Michael Kliment

#### ASSOCIATE

Jerzy E. Glowczewski

#### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The NYCAIA welcomes the following members:

#### CORPORATE

James R. Doman	George M. Raymond
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