

# OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER / THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

APRIL, 1971

VOLUME 44, NUMBER 8

## POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS BANNED

Political donations by architectural firms whose principals are members of the NYCAIA have been barred in what is believed to be the first instance of a professional society adopting self-imposed controls on such contributions. At the same time, members of the Chapter have been requested to limit personal political contributions to a maximum total of \$500 annually for all candidates of any one party within a state. The new regulations were approved unanimously by the Chapter's Executive Committee and are now in effect.

In explaining the Chapter's action, President Cavaglieri noted that sky-rocketing campaign expenditures have become a matter of increasing public concern and debate and that new controls and guidelines were required in the context of sound professional practice. Architects are often targets of the "collection systems" evolved by political organizations to finance campaigns of ever-increasing duration and cost. The new controls will help shield the Chapter's members from immoderate solicitations, while preserving their right to support preferred candidates and causes.

Members exceeding the \$500 requested limit will be required to file a detailed report on contributions which will be published annually. A member attesting that his contributions do not exceed \$500 will not be required to specify his donations.

The Chapter will endeavor to secure legislation prohibiting architectural firms from making a political contribution in New York State, just as corporations and labor unions are barred from making political contributions under federal law.

In addition, the NYCAIA will endeavor to have the NYSAA and the Institute adopt similar or supportive procedures.

## KATZ RETIRES FROM PRATT NEW DIRECTOR SOUGHT

Sidney L. Katz FAIA has announced his retirement as Dean of the School of Architecture at Pratt Institute effective June 30, 1971. Katz will have completed 25 years of service to Pratt.

A "Search Committee for a Permanent Director" chaired by Warren W. Gran has been formed.

## ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND APPROVED AT SPECIAL MEETING

On March 8 in the gloomy second floor auditorium at 20 W. 40th St., 55 corporate members debated for one hour on a proposed assessment for a Public Service Fund Program. By a vote of 42 to 11, enough according to the By-laws, the Chapter will assess each of its 1300 corporate members \$50, payable at \$10 a year for five years and each of its approximately 400 sustaining firm members \$15 per technical personnel or \$3 per year for five years, thereby ensuring approximately \$75,000 of a \$300,000 goal for minority scholarships.

President Giorgio Cavaglieri and originators of the program David Glasser and Tim Prentice explained at the beginning of the special meeting that a fundraising committee will be established to seek \$225,000 from the members of the construction community. These will include professional consultants, contractors, sub-contractors, manufacturers, and owner-builders. The approach will be on a man-to-man basis.

Cavaglieri said 40 students were receiving aid from the Chapter now: 27 are in the Equal Opportunities Awards Program for which the individual stipend averages \$500; 13 are in the Chapter-ARCH Training & Scholarship Program, which involves total financial support. There were no new trainees started this year for lack of funds. He felt that we are committed to see that those students receiving aid receive it until they graduate.

Those present who opposed the program asked why scholarship support shouldn't come from the federal government or colleges and thought that mandatory assessment of all members was undemocratic. Glasser answered that until federal or school funds were available, the architectural profession must assume the responsibility. He felt that the present method of contributions was unfair in that the programs are Chapter programs and should be supported by everyone.

Quite a few members voted for the assessment but wanted strict accounting of how the money was being spent. Some questioned the ethics of asking for help from others in the industry. John Wilson felt the ARCH program was unstable and needed watching.

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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 . . . . . Executive Director

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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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
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Kurt Karmin	John Doran, Editor and Chairman	Joel D. Kaufman
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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS  
Feb. 24, 1971**

- Appointed James Baker, Thomas Galvin and David Glasser to meet with representatives of The Architects' Technical Assistance Center (TATAC) to develop a procedure for a closer working relationship between the Chapter and the Center.
- Heard Herbert Epstein, President of NYSAA, report on the status of the Statute of Limitations bill in the Legislature and appeal for a closer relationship between the NYSAA and the Chapter.
- Adopted the recommendations of the Ethics Committee concerning political contributions (see article page 1).

**March 10, 1971**

- Authorized David Glasser and T.M. Prentice, Jr., to proceed with organizing the fund-raising campaign which will accompany the assessment for the minority scholarship program which was passed at the special chapter meeting March 8 (see article page 1).
- Authorized Leon Brand, Chairman of the Ethics Committee, to work with a public relations consultant, Don Atran, to publicize the Chapter's recommendations concerning political contributions.
- Appointed a Political Affairs Committee.
- Advanced The Architects' Technical Assistance Center (TATAC) \$3,000 payable at \$500 per month on condition that the Center repay the Chapter upon receipt of other funds.
- Instructed the Office Practice Committee to study the Mayor's proposed extension of the Unincorporated Business Tax to include self-employed professionals.

**5TH AVENUE SPECIAL ZONING DISTRICT**

At the Board of Estimate hearing March 11, Harry Cobb, representing the Institute, and George Lewis spoke in favor of the proposal. Few others testified on either side, but Mrs. Beverly Spatt succeeded in persuading the Board to defer action on the proposal for two weeks.

**ASSESSMENTS** (Cont. from page 1)

One member asked if the loans shouldn't be repayable after graduation.

Most spoke for the program as presented. Arthur Holden told a story about a church fund in the Civil War which unexpectedly grew to be the Red Cross, suggesting we might be doing something greater than we know. David Glasser called the scholarship programs the best of all our programs and said that if we fail in our obligation, it would mean a great loss of respect for the Chapter.

A final speaker said we are providing one third of all scholarship assistance being given by the A.I.A. and that other chapters are looking to us for leadership, something to be proud of.

After the resolution was passed, Cavaglieri assured everyone that the comments made would be given careful consideration. *K.K.*

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:**

There are situations where the profession cannot remain indifferent. I am referring to the program of the Metropolitan Museum of Art where the Lehman wing as one of its objectives has been accepted without serious opposition.

The blunders to date: the fountains which add nothing to the aesthetic quality of the facade, the tiresome steps which have simply been amplified—suggest that a further accomplishment of the Museum plan becomes questionable when one realizes that there are other alternatives.

The Villard Houses at 50th Street and Madison Avenue seem doomed to be wrecked. If the profession would be aggressive in their salvation, it might also realize that a considerable number of citizens are aware of the danger to a distinguished city treasure. It could readily enshrine the Lehman Collection. Details of ownership are legal obstacles and have no bearing on the virtue of the goal.

*Ely Jaques Kahn, FE*

*Editor's Note: This letter was received before the news of the Archdiocese purchasing the north wing.*

After reading the latest issue of "Oculus" Vol. 44, No. 7, it seems to me that perhaps we have not in fact been increasing our air pollution over the past 20 years. Your picture on page 5 "New York City Pollution" obviously was taken before Chrysler Building East or Socony Mobil Building were erected; probably at least twenty years ago.

Don't you think that in all honesty your readers deserve a date on a picture this old?

*Frederic A. Davidson, Jr. P.E.*

*Editor's Note: Mr. Davidson is correct about the age of the photo, it was taken in 1950. Natural Environment Committee Chairman, John Grifalconi reports, however, that air pollution in the city has doubled since then.*

## OMAHA MEETING ON AIA PUBLIC SERVICE

The AIA program of public service gathered momentum late February in Omaha when 100 members of the Human Resources Council representing chapters across the country met to develop strategy. HRC was created by the AIA Board to mobilize resources in support of programs generated by the AIA Task Force on Professional Responsibility to Society. Nathaniel Owings, who proposed the concept of HRC, and Robert Nash, Institute Vice President and its first black officer, are co-chairmen.

The Task Force was formed following the 1969 Chicago convention when the Institute passed resolutions dealing with national priorities and the AIA's social responsibilities. George Lewis, a member of the Task Force, represented the Chapter at Omaha.

Task Force programs fall under three headings, and these were the agenda of the conference:

- *Community Development Centers (CDCs)*, which have developed into viable planning mechanisms for community self-development. Over 60 now exist. CDCs vary one from another (in New York, ARCH and The Architects' Technical Assistance Center have differing objectives), but to the poor, they represent a means of initiating and directing the development of their own neighborhoods.

CDCs provided the most material for discussion because there was a lot to report from individual localities and because there was great pressure for funding. OEO funds for demonstration projects have largely been cut off. Taylor Culver, and Robert Alexander, a Los Angeles architect, are developing a strong interest within Congress to pass legislation backing CDCs with operational funds.

- *Educational Programs*, including scholarship programs, accreditation of certain predominantly black schools, on-the-job training (OJT), and technical training. The national AIA/Ford Scholarship Program budgeted approximately \$100,000 in 1971 to continue 21 first-year students and begin a second group of 20-40 in September. The Chapter's program was discussed (see below). Three schools in the Council of Black Architectural Schools (COBAS) have been granted accreditation: Hampton, Southern and Tuskegee.

- *Constraints to Building*. This program will attempt to expose the constraints—both implicit and explicit—to quality and quantity building for our environment. Leo Daly and MacDonald Beckett, members of the HRC Executive Committee, are organizing a study utilizing existing material such as the Douglass and Kaiser reports but oriented toward high quality housing for every individual, regardless of income, as a necessity for the future environment. As for political action to put this into effect, the name Ralph Nader was frequently mentioned.

Because the NYCAIA has led the way in much of the

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above, the Omaha meeting afforded a chance to coordinate our efforts with what HRC is planning nationally. For instance, the HRC Executive Committee was greatly impressed and surprised to hear that the Chapter has a 1970-71 on-going minority scholarship program involving 40 students and a \$52,000 budget (including \$20,000 of foundation funds).

It was apparent that a potential conflict between a national fund-raising campaign and the Chapter's current plans, including an assessment of members and firms, needed to be cleared up. Let it be reported here that there is a fund-raising campaign being led by Owings, who has asked certain very large firms to contribute to a national HRC fund. Many questions were asked in Omaha about how this fund will be used—will it be available to individual chapters or CDCs? Owings explained that the fund would not be large enough for HRC to engage in general grant giving, that it would be used for spot purposes: i.e., when \$100,000 would obtain a high-multiple matching fund from outside sources, or when a chapter or CDC needed funds, possibly as a loan, to ensure a vital program.

The principal net effect of the Omaha conference was that programs of professional responsibility to society, and the necessary funds, must be generated at the local level, as we are doing here in New York. The HRC Executive Committee and the Task Force will continue efforts to obtain federal legislation and funds, and to provide a framework of guidelines for action within the three programs listed above. G.L.

## MONASCH EARTH DAY SPEAKER

National American Institute of Planners President Walter J. Monasch will address a special Earth Day Week symposium on April 22 sponsored by this Chapter's Natural Environment Committee and the New York Metropolitan Chapter, AIP. New opportunities for responsible action by design professionals will be presented by Monasch and a distinguished panel including Adolf Ciborowski, Deputy Director of the U.N.'s R&D Center for Housing, Building and Planning; M. Paul Friedberg, ASLA; Jeh V. Johnson, AIA; and Mario Salvadori, ASCE, ASME, educator.

This unusual program will be held at 8:00 p.m. on April 22 at the Carnegie Endowment Building, 345 E. 46th St., with a cash bar opening at 7:30 p.m.

## SPACE AVAILABLE IN A LANDMARK

Private individuals are working to rehabilitate one of the City's most significant buildings. Located near Washington Square it has well-lighted floors with 7,300 sq. ft. of net useable space.

People, who want to help this effort and who need floors of this size for professional or office purposes, may contact the Landmarks Preservation Commission, 305 Broadway (566-7577) for information about the project.

## BILL IN LEGISLATURE ON MITCHELL-LAMA SEED MONEY

The Chapter's Housing Committee, Seymour Jarmul, Chairman, has originated action to rectify a situation where the architect of a Mitchell-Lama project is frequently, in effect, the entrepreneur and financier. Most sponsors now expect the architect to provide all or a large part of the outlay for producing a set of approved preliminary drawings. Beyond that, the architect often must finance costs of completing working drawings and specifications prior to the mortgage closing.

Committee members George Brown, Samuel Ratensky and Charles Vogelstein developed a proposed procedure which has now been introduced in the Assembly by Mr. Lama as Bill No. 4312. This bill would create state and municipal revolving funds for preliminary and final planning, out of which the supervising agency would be authorized to pay planning costs and enter into contracts with architects, engineers, lawyers and consultants.

At this writing the bill has not yet been introduced in the Senate. Architects who want to follow its progress and urge its passage should keep in touch with the NYSAA.

## URBAN DESIGN GROUP

Since its creation in 1967, the Urban Design Group of the City Planning Commission has taken an important part in the task of directing and coordinating the pattern of growth in New York City. Among its most complex and often controversial works has been its part in preparing amendments to the City's Zoning Resolution. These amendments include the Theater and Lincoln Square Districts and the recent Greenwich Street District drawn up by the Office of Lower Manhattan Development and the Fifth Avenue District drawn up by the Office of Midtown Planning and Development.

Jonathan Barnett, AIA, head of the Urban Design Group, is now requesting information from NYCAIA members in order to develop a file based on "users experience" of this Resolution. Thus architects may provide the seeds for possible future changes, supplementing the Commission's own studies.

The Planning Department tries to keep the relevant A.I.A. Committees informed about new proposals and the A.I.A. has been involved in their preparation. In addition, proposed text changes can be found in the "Calendar of the City Planning Commission", a pamphlet issued prior to every public hearing at City Hall. It is available by subscription at \$5 per year, or individually, by writing the Commission Secretary at 2 Lafayette Street. Owners of the "Zoning Resolution and Maps" are encouraged to subscribe to the updated replacement pages available at \$10 per year.

At present the Group is involved in anticipating land use changes resulting from the new subway lines. They hope to effect the building of appropriate amenities into the areas surrounding the stations.

L. Y.

## GUIDE TO SIGNIFICANT SCHOOLS

In response to repeated requests received by the Chapter regarding educational facilities in the New York City area, the School & College Architecture Committee is preparing a Guide to Significant Schools to be published this spring.

A committee consisting of Ulrich Franzen, FAIA, Alan C. Green, Dr. Cyril Sargent, and Ronald W. Haase selected 19 entries for inclusion in the Guide based on the following criteria: Innovative educational program, noteworthy architectural interpretation of the educational program, lasting contribution to architecture for education. L. Y.

## DRAFTING ROOM CHECK LISTS

The Office Practice Committee has reissued the Check Lists of Drafting Room Practices. The check lists as originally published in *Architectural and Engineering News* are available at Chapter headquarters for a charge of fifty cents. JDK

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Monday, April 5**—USITT-sponsored "The Street as a Theatrical Environment", at The Performing Garage, 33 Wooster St., 7:30 p.m.
- **Thurs., April 15-May 6**—Exhibit of Residential Design Award Winners, 1961-71. Cash bar opening April 15.
- **Sat., April 17**—United Urban Community-sponsored all-day Forum "Interdisciplinary Approach to Urban Problems", 345 E. 47th St.; \$3 fee; begin 9:30 a.m. for more info call John Haugh, 460-6231
- **Thurs., April 22**—Nat. Env. Symposium "Environment & Professional Responsibility: What is the Task Ahead for Architects, Engineers, Planners & Landscape Architects", 345 E. 46th St., 8:00 p.m.
- **Wed., May 5-Thursday, May 6**—"The Re-erection of Abu Simbel", film showing at Chapter headquarters, 5:30 p.m. Cash bar.

## CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

### CORPORATE

Kenneth Dawson Coles

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The NYCAIA welcomes the following members:

### CORPORATE

John Belle  
Bertram Blumberg  
Roger L. Carlsen  
W. Richard Duer

Arnold Feinsilber  
Howard Grant  
Arthur L. Matthews  
James A. Murphy

Arthur Rubinstein

### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE

Edward Frank

Rolf Karl

### ASSOCIATE

Les D. Beilinson  
Jerzy E. Glowiszewski

Garold R. Nyberg  
Alan Turner