

Conflict Of Interest Ruling By Board Of Ethics

Since "ignorance of the law" is not an excuse for having broken it, Chapter members who serve on Community Planning Boards would be well advised to acquaint themselves with the New York Board of Ethics Opinion No. 228 and its supplement No. 229.

The Opinion had been requested to determine the "propriety of engaging in business dealings with the City" by the chairman of a Planning Board who was about to receive a consultants contract.

The Board of Ethics, in a lengthy statement, determined that "... members of the Community Boards should not engage in any business dealing with the city on matters which fall within their official jurisdictions...", and that to do so was "... bound to result in conflicts between the private interests of the appointees and their official duties..." on their Boards.

Because Opinion No. 228 appeared just as the summer began, it is possible that those professionals affected (architects may not be the only ones) may not even know of its existence, and now run the risk of penalty.

The feeling at Chapter headquarters is that the Opinion is too broad and anyone on a Community Planning Board may be taking a chance if they also have business dealings with the city.

In a letter to Percy Sutton's office, Chapter President Thomas Galvin pointed out that this might result in a long range loss to the city and expressed the hope that the ruling might be "... modified to reflect a more realistic approach which would permit continued participation by architects...".

As **Oculus** goes to press, President Galvin, along with Executive Director George Lewis and Chapter Counsel Frank E. Karelson III, are planning to meet with the Borough President's office to discuss further the subtle implications and far reaching effects of this Opinion.

LY

Historic Buildings Committee Compiling Portfolio Of Members' Work

HELP the Chapter help the public resuscitate valuable older structures! Members who have done any work with historic buildings should contact the Historic Building Committee whose members are now compiling a portfolio to be made available to clients in need of an architect for such work.

The ring binder will be kept at headquarters where the committee will maintain and periodically update it. For further information contact Chairman Denis Kuhn at 245-4207.

LY

Election Special Next Issue

A special election guide to the position of your State and Federal legislator on critical NYC/AIA issues will be published in the next issue of **Oculus**. The November issue will go to press in time for distribution prior to election day, Tuesday the 7th.

Your legislator's position, and his opponent's will be determined based on the results of a questionnaire forwarded to 150 area candidates by the Political Affairs Committee. The questionnaire asks each candidate to commit him or herself on a variety of issues reflecting Chapter concern.

These issues include: Wickes law repeal (multiple contracts), support of the South Richmond Development Corporation, support of third party statute of limitations for architects, engineers and contractors, opposition to the limitation of the power of UDC.

Look for this issue and make a point of checking your candidates position, it may effect your vote.

JAK

The Peoples' Right To The Water's Edge York Avenue Institutions

The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, the Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, and Rockefeller University, called the "York Avenue Institutions," no longer having an adequate physical plant, have initiated an expansion program. The architects for the project are Skidmore Owings & Merrill. The area for development is the approximate rectangle bounded by 62nd and 71st streets, and York Avenue and East River Drive.

An Ad Hoc Committee for the York Avenue Institutions, under the chairmanship of Alexander Kouzmanoff, was formed in response to a request from Local Planning Board No. 8 that the Chapter examine the proposals of the institutions, and make a recommendation to the board in time for a hearing before the City Planning Commission on September 20th.

The recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee, and the statement of the Executive Committee actually presented at the City Planning Commission hearing, strongly opposing the proposed project, and urging its rejection by the Commission, is well founded.

In order to expand without acquiring and demolishing residences, or encroaching on the neighborhood to the west of York Avenue, the Institutions acquired the air-rights over East River Drive between 62nd and 71st streets from the City.

In exchange for the air-rights, the developers are providing a public park/promenade facility at the street level, along the water's edge, to be built and maintained by the developing institutions.

Unfortunately, the promenade, as presently proposed, is a dismal failure, and would be an absolute liability to the community rather than an asset. It is designed with a high, 200 foot, unbroken, view-blocking wall on the land side, with access points only at the ends, like emergency doors at the end of a half mile long corridor, to connect the facility with the street. This guarantees maximum security to the institutions at the expense of the security and usefulness of the promenade.

The community is simply prevented from effectively using the facility and this is the central issue.

What happens on this site will become a major precedent for similar waterfront development ventures in the future and what is at stake is the people's right to the water's edge.

No one opposes the legitimate expansion needs of the York Avenue Institutions, nor the concept of utilizing air-rights as a tool to solve New York City's scarcity-of-land-for-required-development problem. But in this case a tid-bit has been offered instead of a quid pro quo, and the institutions are proceeding in disregard of the rights of people in the community. The waterfront must be open to the public, and there must be access.

NFJ

NYSAA/AIA Board Of Directors Meeting And Matters Of Concern To NYC/AIA

Regional Director Darrel Rippeteau reported at the September 16th NYSAA/AIA Board of Directors Meeting on the Institute's newly formed travelling Urban Design Teams which give public charrettes on developments being planned anywhere in the U.S. Such a team could possibly be called into NYC for a public study of South Richmond. It would help the project and be excellent public relations for the AIA.

It was decided to abandon a state wide scholarship program. Opinion was that it could be handled better at the local level. The New York Chapter was cited by Rippeteau as having the most outstanding program in the country.

Ronald Allwork reported that even though the new exam has been approved by the NCARB the NYS Board of Education has not yet decided to adopt it. A recent meeting of the Board of Examiners was held in which opinion was split but Chairman Richard Stein tends to oppose adoption. Allwork, an NCARB as well as a Board member favors it.

Tom Galvin, as V.P., Pres-Elect, gave an annual report to the NYS Board of Regents on September 12th. He explained the AIA's national policy and welcomed legislation for public corporations such as UDC, SUCF and the Dormitory Authority. He recommended single contracts for construction, waiver of building department plan examination (except for zoning and egress), speed up of public agency contract signing, AIA contract documents for use with state agencies, and adoption of a third party statute of limitations. Galvin was asked why architects seemed to be so weak in the construction phase of their contract. He said he would give a detailed response to that question.

KK/JAK

Chapter Nominates Frost, Johnson For Regional Directors

Frederick G. Frost, Jr., FAIA, and Jeh V. Johnson will be the NYC/AIA nominees for two and three year terms respectively as Regional Directors of the AIA. Nominations were made at the August meeting of the Executive Committee.

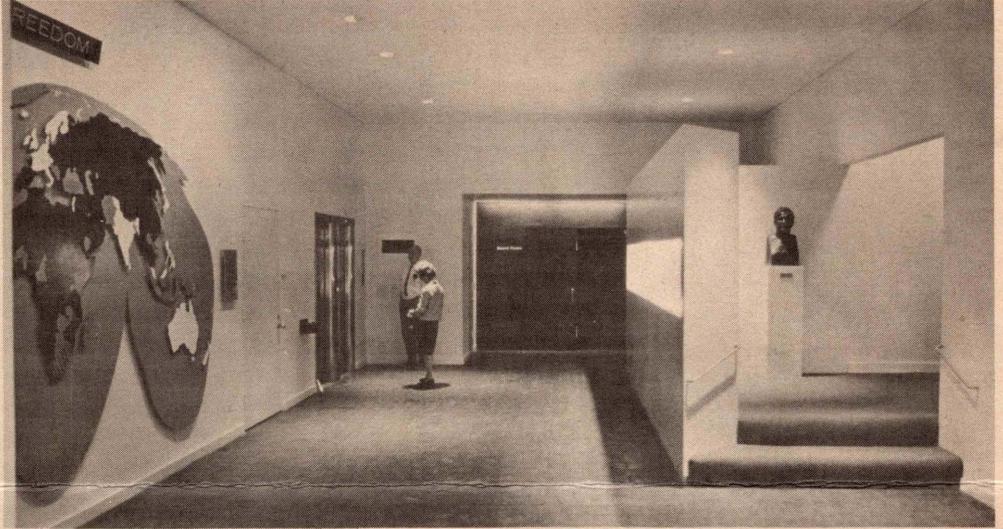
This action is in response to the decision to enlarge the AIA Board of Directors voted during May's national convention. Expansion of the Board reflects a proportional adjustment in regional representation. By virtue of the reapportionment, the New York Region is entitled to two new directors, in addition to Darrell D. Rippeteau, FAIA, of Watertown, whose term expires in 1973.

Election will be by the N.Y. Regional Council during the NYSAA convention in October. The Council represents the component chapters of the N.Y. Region and is composed of one Representative from each Chapter, normally its president—or recent past president—and the director of the N.Y. Region.

Fritz Frost, in addition to being past president of the NYC/AIA, has served nationally on the Institute's Resolution Committee and now is on its Personnel Practices Committee.

Johnson, recently chairman of the AIA's Housing Committee, has his office in Poughkeepsie, which, as part of the southern half of Dutchess County, is included in the N.Y. Chapter's territory.
DPH

Handsome New Lobby For Headquarters Building



The new lobby for Freedom House, the Chapter's home, is now complete. Designed by Julian Neski, it has brown quarry tile floors, white walls, suspended ceiling with recessed lighting fixtures, plus a display case and directory.

Designed, according to Neski, "to provide a dignified lobby appropriate to the tenants of the building", this is the first phase of the renovation of Chapter headquarters.

The next phase—refurbishing the Third and Fourth Floors—has been reduced in scope for lack of funds. Now planned, and only for the Third Floor Lobby area, are new carpeting, painting, reception desk, and security protection for the offices.
DPH

Recent Chapter Publications Available

Three recent Chapter publications are available at headquarters.

Methods of Compensation, prepared by the Fees and Contracts Committee complements the Institute's Statement of Architect's Services. It is coordinated with the standard documents of the AIA for Owner Architect Agreements and describes the more common and acceptable methods of compensation for architect's services. \$3.00 including tax & mailing.

Directory of Health Facilities 1972, was developed by David Ginsberg's Hospitals and Health Committee. Its 50 pages include more than 60 health facilities in the Northeastern United States and Canada selected by the committee. \$1.00 including tax & mailing.

1972 Guide to Significant Schools in the New York City Area: Higher Education was developed by the School and College Architecture Committee. Over 20 schools were selected for their success in interpreting the program or unusual architectural features, and not necessarily for the outstanding quality of their architecture. \$1.00 including tax & mailing.

Executive Committee Actions

September 13, 1972

- Authorized the Treasurer to either borrow against the Headquarters Fund or to expend funds from it in order to meet the needs of working capital for the next two months.
- Appointed Richard Stein to represent the Chapter at Public Service Commission hearings on the problem of electric energy supply.
- Noted that Norval White had accepted the position of an advisor to the Board of Education for filling the position of Director of Design and Construction.
- Noted that Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton wrote S. Stanley Kreutzer, Counsel to the Board of Ethics, asking reconsideration of the Board's opinion indicating that citizens could not serve on community boards if they were engaged in business dealings with the city. See article this issue.
- Heard Frank Munzer, past chairman of the Technical Education Committee, describe the successful JUMP program, now in its sixth cycle.
- Approved a statement drafted by a special committee under Alexander Kouzmanoff to be presented at the City Planning Commission September 20 opposing the plan of the York Avenue Institutions for expansion over FDR Drive because of insufficient public access to the waterfront. See article this issue.
- Heard T.M. Prentice, Jr., report on scaled-down plans for renovating Chapter headquarters.
- Heard Robert Gatje, Chairman of the Public Agencies Committee, report on a meeting with Milton Musicus and 2d Deputy Comptroller Perrini at which proposed arbitration of disputes was refused.

Candidates for Membership

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

Corporate

Judy Graf Klein

Associate

Richard Weinstein

Publications Available At Headquarters For Members Use

The following publications are available for use at the Chapter offices by Chapter members:

- New York City Building Code, complete and up-to-date;
 - New York City Zoning Ordinance, also complete and up-to-date;
 - Masterspec;
- and a variety of architectural books and magazines.

Committees Still Need Members

Committee work is the life blood of the Chapter. It is through the committee that your interests are expressed. This may take many forms and, perhaps, the contents of this issue of *Oculus* is a good measure of the variety.

The following committees still need members: Glance through them and see if they touch an area of your interest. Call George Lewis for details. 565-1866.

Exhibits

Natural Environment

Office Practice

Membership

Continuing Education (of architects)

Environmental Education (of public and school children)

Technical Education (of architectural technicians)

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

Executive Committee

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