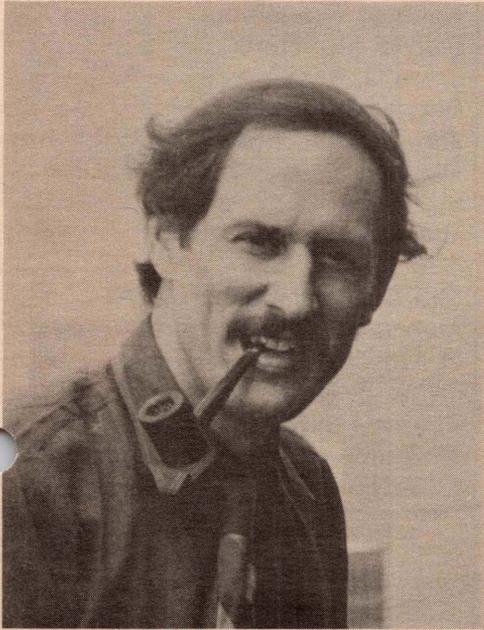


President's Statement



It is being said with increasing frequency that the Architectural profession is in a state of crisis. I feel that this is particularly true in the New York area.

These forbodings are not unlike the familiar lamentations concerning the imminent financial and creative bankruptcy of the New York theater. Despite repeated predictions to the contrary, it mercifully remains with us season after season.

The current crisis in the profession, however, is not illusory. Present estimates of the reduction of architectural employment in the City during the last two years run as high as forty percent. There is, however, little up-to-date information to support or refute this alarming statistic.

At the Chapter we persist on a course directed toward enlightened self-interest, and yet we seem to have surprisingly little self knowledge. We all sense that fundamental changes will be effecting the profession in the immediate future but have made little attempt to predict what these changes will be, or to assess in which way they may already have begun.

During the regular meetings of the Executive Committee over the summer this concern with change has emerged as a priority issue for the coming year. It is therefore being proposed that the Chapter embark on a comprehensive information-gathering project in order to prepare a "state of the profession" report to the membership.

This inventory should include growth patterns of different types and sizes of firms and joint ventures; analysis of the types and sources of available commissions—public vs. private, geographical location, local, national and international; the growth of public agencies as client and as competitor; a comparison of the cost to the taxpayer of work by private consultants as opposed to in-house civil servants; and finally new areas of architectural services.

This admittedly ambitious project will require the cooperation of appropriate committees and the support of all sustaining firms and individual members.

More immediate activities at the Chapter will include participation in the mayoralty campaign. In the next few weeks the Executive Committee and others will be meeting with the individual candidates to focus attention on issues of particular interest to architects. It is hoped that a subsequent general Chapter meeting can be scheduled in the Fall with all candidates present for an open discussion of these issues.

Finally, the return to the metaphor, of the theater: the British critic Kenneth Tynan describes the theater as at its best when it is "the conscience of a society." I feel that if the mission of the AIA is to be nothing else it must be the conscience of the profession, particularly as it serves the public interest.

Therefore, to further increase the voice of the profession in the public arena, we should constantly look for ways in which the architects can exercise their skills more broadly outside the immediate client-consultant relationship. We must participate in the urban design process at the highest level, by running for public office, by serving on building committees and by becoming increasingly active in the increasingly influential community planning boards.

T. M. Prentice, Jr.

Executive Committee Actions

June 20, 1973

This was the first meeting of the new committee.

- Assigned commission chairmen.
- Appointed Sam Brody chairman of the Ethics Committee.
- Reappointed Kurt Karmin the Chapter's representative on the NYSAA Board.
- Heard Bert Bassuk and Isaiah Ehrlich describe efforts to continue the City College evening program.
- Heard Nesbitt Garmendia, Chairman of the Office Practice Committee, and Ralph Steinglass, Chairman of its Personnel Practices subcommittee, discuss the latter's work. Resolved to inform the Institute that its new Personnel Practices Manual is being critically reviewed here and that the Chapter intends to recommend changes to make it more employee oriented.

July 11, 1973

- Appointed committee chairmen.
- Discussed how to establish closer relationship between committees and the Executive Committee.
- Resolved to write to the Comptroller on behalf of The Architects Technical Assistance Center (TATAC) recommending his approval of a Model Cities grant.
- Resolved to recommend to the Institute that a task force on the status of women in architecture be formed.

August 8, 1973

- Nominated the following for State Association offices: president-elect: Roger F. Hallenbeck of Saratoga Springs; vice presidents: Lawrence Litchfield, Richard Roth, Jr., and Bruce Hartwigen of the Westchester Chapter; secretary: Michael Doran of Rochester; treasurer: Albert Efron of Staten Island.
- Recommended that a number of changes be effected in the operation of the State Association.
- Discussed at length the architectural recession in New York. (See article by President Prentice this issue.)

- Resolved to write the Governor and Chairman Ronan that a thorough study of bringing Long Island Railroad trains into Grand Central should be made before any decision to build a new terminal on Third Avenue.

Welcome To New Members

The NYC/AIA welcomes the following members:

Corporate

Donald R. Blair
Paul P. Chorney
Stephen M. Feldman
Martin Frauwirth
Guillermo H. Lois
David M. Ziskind
Martin J. Marcus
William Babjak
James L. Garretson
Alvin Kargan
Arthur May
Frederick Preiss
Orest M. Prypkhan
James E. Terrell
John A. Varacchi
Wingkwai Chan
Louis C. Buscemi
Charles K. Hoyt
Eugene Jaffe
Joseph Lichtenstein
Victor A. Losco
Paul R. Loughin, Jr.
Martin Munter
Daniel Rodriguez
Secundino Fernandez
Paul Heyer
Andrzej Gorczynski
John W. Galston
Todd Lee

Associate

Gary William Lewis
John J. Boogaerts
Gregory C. Gallina
Suraj Dikshit

Candidates For Membership

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

Corporate

Armand P. Avakian
Randolph Rudisill Croxton
William B. Hess
Oscar Newman
Kenneth Ricci
Samuel M. Schutz
Jorge O. Sosa
Charles Silverman
John Harbit Winkler
Hanford Yang

Associate

Satish Kumar Babbar (AIA)
Mohamed Saleem Khatri
R. Guy McGinnis (AIA)
James E. Miller
Patrick I. Nwamu
Rolando Jose Antonio Pintado (AIA)
Louis F. Reuter, IV (AIA)

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
T. M. Prentice, Jr., President
Herbert B. Oppenheimer, 1st Vice President
Samuel M. Brody, Vice President
Alexander Kouzmanoff, Vice President
Kurt Karmin, Secretary
James B. Baker, Treasurer
Louis P. Giacalone, Director
Anna M. Halpin, Director
J. Arvid Klein, Director
Bernard Rothzeit, Director
Walter A. Rutes, Director
LeRoy E. Tuckett, Director

Oculus Committee
David Paul Helpern, Editor and Chairman
Bonnell Irvine
Norman F. Jacklin
Carl Meinhardt
William B. North
Martin Pitt
Martha Pope
Margaret Esme Simon
Linda Yang

Research Material Available At The Chapter

A Building Technology Library is now being developed as part of the Chapter's reference library on the third floor of 20 West 40th Street.

Contents of this portion of the library will be screened by the Building Technology Committee and in general limited to objectively basic reference material determined to be useful to practicing architects. It is likely especially to benefit smaller offices for which the expense of acquiring such items is disproportionate compared to the occasional need.

Present contents of the library will be announced in a memo to be issued shortly to all members, and new acquisitions will thereafter be announced periodically in *Oculus* or by special memo.

One ingredient of the Building Technology Library will be the Keyword System as used by "Industrialization Forum" magazine. Information retrieval will be possible through keyword cards and abstract or reference cards. The system should be operable by early October.

Mayoral Campaign: The Chapter Is Involved

There will be two phases of Chapter involvement in the mayoral campaign: informal meetings with the candidates, and a general meeting on October 2 in cooperation with other organizations, to which the candidates will be invited. The Political Affairs Committee, Michael Maas, Chairman, is coordinating these plans.

The October 2 meeting, open to all Chapter members and guests, will be held at Pace University's Schimmel Auditorium, in the new building next to the Brooklyn Bridge approach. The cooperating organizations are: The New York and Brooklyn Chapters of AIA, and the metropolitan chapters of AIP, ASLA, ASCE, and NAHRO (National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials). The format has not been planned in detail, but there will be a further announcement to the membership. George Dudley, Chairman of the New York State Council on Architecture will be the moderator.

Meanwhile, meetings are being arranged with each candidate, to which members of the Executive Committee and others will come prepared to present the Chapter's view on issues of concern to architects: the planning offices, including the Urban Design Group; planning issues; the depressed state of the architectural economy; architects' difficulties in doing business with the City; and other matters.

Papers establishing Chapter positions will be presented to the candidates. They are being worked on by members of Dan Toan's Urban Planning Committee and by committees in Walter Rutes' Commission on Building and Site Design. The Public Agencies Committee's report of last spring to the City Charter Commission will be included. It is expected that this material will be distributed to the Chapter membership.

GL

Chapter Positions On Public Issues During The Summer

This summer the Chapter has taken positions on the following issues:

The West Front of the Capitol: T. M. Prentice's letter to the editor of the *New York Times* appeared in the editorial section reiterating the importance of restoring the West Front and deferring any new construction. Restoration was un-animously upheld by the Senate.

Madison Avenue Mall: Letters were sent to the members of the Board of Estimate urging that the three-month trial of the Mall be passed. Mr. Prentice appeared at the Board of Estimate hearing to voice the Chapter's stand on the passing of the Madison Mall, which was subsequently defeated.

Landmarks: The Chapter's Historic Buildings Committee supported or opposed the designation of several buildings as landmarks (see article in this issue).

GL

Historic Buildings Committee Active In Landmark Designation

The recent designation of the Cast Iron Historic District stands as a significant accomplishment of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. The area embraced extends from Canal Street to West Houston, and from West Broadway to Crosby Street.

The Chapter may take credit for its contribution, as channeled through its Historic Buildings Committee, chaired by Denis Kuhn.

Legislation still pending at the City Council will broaden landmark law to include interiors rather than only facades, and will permit hearings to be held as may be scheduled by the Landmark Commission. At present hearings may be held only at three year intervals. The Historic Buildings Committee has strongly supported these revisions.

Still not established is a more viable procedure for coordinating work relating to landmark buildings with the requirements of the Building Code. By their nature landmarks predate current codes, and often require special study and review to provide for public safety without destroying historic architectural features. The proposed authorization of landmark designation for interiors will augment the problem.

Observance of the spirit rather than the letter of the code may be the only solution. The Committee has made recommendations for procedures to expedite such review and discussions with city officials, and will continue their efforts in the months ahead.

The work of the Committee includes the presentation of NYC/AIA views at LPC hearings, such as the recent series held at City Hall. Proposed landmarks supported were townhouses and apartments on East 82nd Street between Fifth and Madison Avenues; the Rice Mansion, 346 W. 89th St.; Lyceum Theatre, 148-57 W.

45th St., an outstanding example of French Beaux-Arts Style of Architecture; Steinway "Factory Village" group—29 houses along 20th Avenue and around the corner on 41st St., "row" houses with stone trim (Queens); Flatbush Town Hall (Brooklyn); the houses at 346 and 390 Van Druzer Street (Richmond); 52nd Police Precinct House, 3016

Webster Ave. (Bronx). Opposed was 1008 Fifth Avenue, opposite the Metropolitan Museum.

A portfolio of Chapter members' work related to historic buildings is being assembled. Those interested in having their projects represented should call Denis Kuhn (245-4207).
WBN



351-355 Canal St., corner Wooster, built 1871/2. Architect: W. H. Gaylor.
Photo courtesy of The Friends of Cast Iron Architecture. Photographer: Ed Gillon.

Priscilla Dalmas To Speak At WAA Semi-Annual Meeting

The Semi-Annual Meeting and luncheon of the Women's Architectural Auxiliary will be held Wednesday, October 10, at the National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Park South.

Featured speaker will be Mrs. Priscilla Dalmas, architect, painter and lecturer. Mrs. Dalmas will speak on watercolors and is expected to exhibit some of her works. Member of the American Watercolor Society, National Arts Club of New York, and Kennebec Valley Art Association, she has exhibited in numerous shows and received many awards.

The luncheon will begin at noon with cocktails. Tickets for the event are \$7.50; reservations may be made by contacting Mrs. Thomas Galvin, WAA President, through the Chapter.

Husbands of WAA members are welcome, as well as guests.

Application Available For 1974 Mayor's Panel Of Architects

Applications for the Mayor's Panel of Architects for 1974 will be issued daily, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 to 4:00 p.m., from October 1, 1973 to October 19, 1973.

Application blanks are obtainable by the applicant in person or by his representative in Room 1400, Department of Public Works, Municipal Building, Centre and Chambers Street, New York City 10007. They will be mailed on request provided that the request to the above address is accompanied by a stamped self-addressed 9½-inch envelope for each application requested.

All applications—with accompanying photographs where required—must be mailed or delivered to the Department of Public Works, at the above address, not later than October 19, 1973.

Applications will be examined by an Architectural Jury whose recommendations for the 1974 Panel will then be made to Mayor John V. Lindsay.

Jurors are appointed by the presidents of the following associations:

New York Chapter, AIA
Brooklyn Chapter, AIA
Bronx Chapter, AIA
Queens Chapter, AIA
Staten Island Chapter, AIA
New York Society of Architects
The Fine Arts Federation of New York
The Municipal Art Society of New York.

Health Facilities Competition For Designers Under 35

The National Institute of Architectural Education (NIAE), with the support of the Chapter's Hospitals and Health Committee, is issuing an Architectural Design Competition for a "Neighborhood Health Care Center."

This Competition, called the Hirons Prize, offers \$1500 first prize and \$500 second prize and is open to all persons in the architectural field who are under 35 years of age on January 1, 1974, and who are *not* enrolled in a full-time architectural academic program.

Written under joint NIAE/AIA auspices, the program—although for a hypothetical building—offers the young architectural professional an opportunity to probe a basic and important contemporary design problem which is of interest to many public and private agencies throughout the country.

The Competition may be done anytime between November 1, 1973 and April 1, 1974.

Entrants will be judged by a joint NIAE/AIA Jury, in May, 1974, and the winning solutions will be published nationally.

Information may be obtained by writing to NIAE, 20 W. 40th St., N.Y., N.Y. 10018, Attn: Byron Bell, Chairman, Committee on Scholarships and Awards.

Second Avenue Subway Station Contracts

A number of Chapter firms have been offered the opportunity to design stations for the new Second Avenue subway, an architectural breakthrough for New York. Some serious questions have, however, been raised concerning the nature of the contract being offered.

The Chapter's Public Agencies Committee, through a letter on April 25, 1973, from Robert Gatje to Chairman Ronan of MTA, pointed out several questionable characteristics of the proposed contract, including what the Committee considered to be an unreasonably restricted method of computing overhead, as well as a control on profit, determined after post audit, which could reduce the fee as computed on a time basis to a level below the already onerous City multiplier of 2.2 times direct labor cost.

Subsequently, George Dudley, Chairman of the State Council on Architecture, held meetings at which the point of view of the Chapter and the State Association was brought to the attention of agencies involved in the subway work. Among those attending the meetings, in addition to Chapter representatives (not involved in direct negotiations), have been Milton Musicus, Municipal Service Administrator, and representatives of the Transit Authority and the State Office of Audit and Control.

It has been the stated intent of Chairman Ronan that the finest possible design must be secured for the proposed subway. T.M. Prentice, Jr., Chapter President, wrote to Mr. Ronan on August 23 summarizing the Chapter's view of how the contract as offered can prevent achievement of this aim for design excellence. Prentice pointed out that the imposition of a "profit" percentage, requiring a complete audit of the consultant's books, introduces a new factor into architectural contracts. He reiterated the points made in April by Gatje and raised others. Prentice said, "In general it is felt that these contracts have their origin in those let for very large scale engineering projects and do not therefore lend themselves to the very special and complex problems of design for the more subjective requirements of human environment."

GL

State Proposes Dues Increase; Chapter Recommends Changes

The N.Y. State Association of Architects Board of Directors has informed component chapters that it proposes an increase of annual dues from \$25 to \$32 effective Jan. 1, 1974, with later adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index. This would be a by-law change to be voted upon at the October Convention. The reasons given for the increase were larger office space and increased operating costs.

Tim Prentice has written to the Board saying the Executive Committee is on record as disapproving an increase in dues based on lack of sufficient information. With the same letter was a list of six recommended changes to the NYSAA to increase its effectiveness. They were essentially 1) Redefine its goals placing emphasis on implementing broad public and professional legislation, and liaison with state agencies; 2) Expand lobbying to effect all environmental issues, supporting consultant Martin Schaum's proposals, and adopting some of the techniques used by the Minnesota Society of Architects; 3) Cease publication of the "Empire State Architect" and publish an improved newsletter bi-monthly; 4) Locate NYSAA headquarters in Albany rather than in New York; 5) Restructure the convention so any member may attend the business and ceremonial portion in one day; 6) Re-evaluate the committees structure to avoid duplication of local and national work.

The suggestions were prepared by an appointed ad-hoc committee with Kurt Karmin, who is the Chapter's representative to the State Association Board of Directors, as chairman.
KK