

Impressions Of A State Convention

by Kurt Karmin

The soap wrappers said "Kutsher's, The Finest in Sports and Gracious Living". The sports I'm told were fair, except the horses were gone. The living might better be described as garish. It wasn't a place in which design professionals could be proud to meet. It was long too. Three working days if you stayed for the business session. The delegates voted to raise the dues \$25 to \$32. Exhibitors complained that nobody looked at their booths.

But some good things happened. Roger Hallenbeck of the SUCF was elected First V.P.—President Elect. Don Stevens of Albany was elected Regional Director. The Manufacturers/Architects seminar was testy, ending with both agreeing we need each other. The AWA/NYSAA Women in the Profession seminar produced a mound of statistics, fascinating anecdotes, and the impression of determined women who suffer from lack of numerical strength. Tom Galvin, Manhattan Assemblyman Olivieri, and consultant Martin Schaum told with some sophistication, why and how to be a Political Architect. Edgar Tafel gave his audience a very personal look at Frank Lloyd Wright. Guest speaker State Senator Roy Goodman was inspiring in urging the preservation of usable housing, and almost embarrassing in his praise of architects. Awards were of high caliber, seeming even higher in the surroundings.

NIBS Bill Defeated In House

The bill that would have resulted in the formation of a National Institute for Building Sciences, was defeated in the House of Representatives on Oct. 15 by a vote of 258 to 105. The bill was quietly called to a vote at a regular Monday session, in the belief that—with a minimum of attention—it would have the least difficulty in passing. The result of the vote, and particularly the margin of the defeat, surprised and stunned the bill's many supporters.

It is not known what the lines of reasoning were among those voting against the bill who were thought to support it. A desire to reduce spending in general and a mistaken

Four of the six resolutions passed came from the Chapter. One on the suggested changes to the State Association. One asking legal advice on the proposed Second Avenue Subway, MTA-architectural contracts. Two on women in the profession, asking the State to ratify the National Women's resolution, and urging the Institute to begin a nationwide campaign directed towards parents encouraging interested daughters to become architects.

Kutsher's was a prior commitment. If Convention Chairman Richard Roth, Jr. has his way, next year will be different. Many other things may be different too. Seeds are there for a strong, useful state association.

fear that perhaps they would be losing another OSHA have been mentioned as possible explanations.

Whatever the reasoning, it is simply not clear how a bill with such widespread support from all the design professions and every aspect of the construction industry could be so clearly rejected in the House. Last year, when the bill was still attached to the Administration's Housing and Community Development Bill, it was approved by the senate with little difficulty.

The Senate has not yet voted on the bill this year. The reauthorization (#s-2103) proposed by Sen. Javits is currently still in committee (The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs chaired by Sen. John Sparkman of Alabama).

It is essential, if this proposal is not to die a quick death, that the failure in the House not be repeated in the Senate.

Those responsible for watching the bill's progress in Washington will have to indicate what support they need in order to succeed. Lobbying mechanisms will have to be developed that avoid last minute surprises and provide a means for obtaining last minute support if it is needed.

CM

Executive Committee Actions

- Kurt Karmin reported that a special committee was formed by the NYSAA/AIA to conduct inquiries on suggested changes by the New York Chapter.
- NYSAA Pre-Convention meeting: Chapter to recommend tabling of dues increase pending special committee report on suggested changes.
- Treasurer's report indicated a reduction of both income and expenditures for next year's preliminary budget.
- Jaquelin Robertson resigned from the Planning Commission. Chapter to recommend that vacancy be filled by another architect.
- A letter concerning the elaborate presentations being required by certain potential clients was referred to the Fees & Contracts Committee.
- Meeting of six Chapter representatives scheduled with Abraham Beame for October 17. Executive Committee meetings to be scheduled with Blumenthal and Marchi.
- Status of the Profession study to be made by committees beginning with Architectural Schools, Small Office, Public Agencies, Office Practice Committee.
- Second Avenue Subway—Counsel Karelsen to investigate legality of State Contract with architects.
- CCNY—Herb Oppenheimer reported on a special meeting with Provost Brenner urging continuancy of the City's only evening architectural program. Brenner appeared enthusiastic.
- Stewardson Traveling Fellowship to include U.S. and foreign travel.
- Approved Award Committee's recommendations for Institute awards.

Welcome to New Members

The NYC/AIA welcomes the following members:

Corporate

David H. Elwell
Jack L. Gordon
Oscar Newman
Roger N. Radford
Kennith Ricci
Jorge O. Sosa

Associate

Satish K. Babbar
Mohamed S. Khatri
R. Guy McGinnis
Louis F. Reuter, IV

Pokorny On Art Commission

Mayor Lindsay has appointed Jan Hird Pokorny to the New York City Art Commission to succeed Simon Breines.

The Agency's responsibility is to approve the design for all City buildings and all works of art on City property.

Candidates For Membership

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

Corporate

Michael S. Adams
Hildegard Bergeim
Oliver E. Cutajar
Gerald I. Goldstein
Antonio G. Martinez
Barbara Neski
Eric N. Singer
Brian E. Smith
Oscar D. Turner, Jr.
Thaddeus Miron Woziwodzki

Associate

Susan A. Weeks

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 Helpert, Editor and Chairman
Bonnell Irvine
Norman F. Jacklin
Carl Meinhardt
William B. North
Martin Pitt
Daniel Rodriguez
Margaret Esme Simon
Linda Yang

Brunner Topics Announced

The Brunner Award (up to \$10,000) will finance a study which contributes to the practice, teaching or knowledge of the science of architecture. Proposals are welcome in the following areas: mass transit; the interplay between architecture and planning; or any other subject which the applicant deems cogent.

Candidates must be U.S. citizens engaged in architecture or a related field and who have greater professional experience than can be gained in a 4-5 year architectural school program.

Applications forms, giving full details, are available now through December 31 at Chapter headquarters. Proposals will be due January 15, 1974 and the announcement of the winner will be made after June 1, 1974. Gerald Schiff is chairman for this year's Brunner Scholarship Committee.

MES

If Travel Is Your Bag . . .

The Le Brun Fellowship Committee has chosen the problem for the upcoming competition: to design a multi-service center for an urban environment. The winner will receive \$5,000 for travel and study abroad.

The competition is open to people between the ages of 23 and 30 who are U.S. citizens and who have worked for an architectural office for at least 18 months. A written nomination by a corporate member is required and due after December 1; thereafter a specific program will be sent to candidates. Design solutions will be due April 19, 1974.

Fliers giving additional details will be mailed to all members shortly.

MES

The Oldest Building On Roosevelt Island Is Saved



Photo courtesy of UDC

The Blackwell House, circa 1785, has been completely restored. It will begin life anew as an information center for its sponsor, the New York State Urban Development Corporation . . . another landmark credit for Giorgio Cavaglieri.

Candidates Given Chapter Position Papers

Chapter members received copies with the last **Oculus** of a five-part paper which has been submitted to the candidates for Mayor, Comptroller, and President of the City Council.

This paper came about through the efforts of several Chapter committees. Members of the Urban Planning Committee, including Danforth Toan, Chairman, Felicia Clark and Peter Samton, prepared material for the section on Urban Design & Planning. Janko Rasic, Chairman of the Educational Facili-

ties Committee; Lawrence Mason, Chairman of the Hospitals & Health Committee; and Arthur Seckler, Chairman of the Building Code Committee, also submitted papers.

Section V, "Architects' Difficulties as Consultants to the City", is the memorandum which was submitted to the City Charter Commission last January by the Public Agencies Committee, Robert Gatje, Chairman.

The material was consolidated and edited by George Lewis and approved by the Executive Committee at its October meeting.

WAA Sets \$150,000 Goal

At the same time that the Women's Architectural Auxiliary of the NYC/AIA announced that its 15th Anniversary Benefit will be held on January 30, 1974, the WAA also set its sights on the goal of \$150,000 raised since 1958 for architectural scholarships.

This statement was made jointly by Mrs. Morris Ketchum, Jr., WAA Scholarship Chairman, and Mrs. David Paul Helpern, Benefit Chairman, at the Auxiliary's semi-annual business meeting held in October.

Since its founding, the WAA has aided over 400 architectural students. It has also been a strong supporter of the Chapter's scholarship work, contributing \$24,500 since 1968 toward the NYC/AIA minority scholarship funds. The schools of architecture at CCNY, Columbia University, Cooper Union, and Pratt Institute have regularly received WAA scholarship assistance.

Mrs. Helpern has organized a large benefit committee from the 200-member Auxiliary. As in the past, the NYC/AIA will be co-sponsor of the event. Part of this year's benefit revenues will come from a printed souvenir program, which will list sponsors and accept advertisements from industries related to the architectural profession. Suggestions are most welcome. Further plans for the event will be announced in the next issue of **Oculus**.

If You Can't Beat Them. . . .

Tired of clients who make you feel like a 98 lb. weakling? Want to generate work for yourself with greater profit while free from the shackles of Philistines? Sounds great, doesn't it . . . and in translation it means: if you can't beat them, join them.

That is what's on the agenda of the Committee on Real Estate Development, formerly known as the Financing of Construction Committee.

The role of architect-developer is here to stay.

Under the Chairmanship of Clark P. Halstead, Jr., the renamed committee reflects the approach now sanctioned by the national AIA. Such activity by architects is no longer regarded as "unethical".

The predecessor committee began some years ago at the urging of Arthur C. Holden, FAIA. Its aim then was to acquaint architects with the existing complexities in the funding of construction projects, housing in particular. Mr. Holden thought that, armed with such understanding, architects would be in a unique position to effect much-needed reforms. His pamphlet, "The Building Industry, Congress and Money", was published by the committee. In it he suggested how the building industry, subject to the cyclical vicissitudes of the economy, might be stabilized to better meet the needs of society.

In the light of the AIA's new view of architect as developer, the committee now studies the financing aspect as part of a larger picture.

"Clinics" Series Announced By Technology Committee

The Technology Committee will sponsor a series of clinics pertaining to the most chronic problem areas of design and detailing—particularly those areas identified with recurring performance failures and increased professional liability. The objective will be to both identify and isolate specific problems and to propose ways of obtaining reliable technical information, according to J. Karl Justin, committee head.

Each clinic will be conducted as an open discussion between members of the audience and a panel of recognized specialists in the area being examined. Areas of design and detailing which will be discussed are: exterior masonry walls, concrete, windows and glazing, roofing and waterproofing and fireproofing.

The first of these clinics will take place on November 20, 1973 at 6:00 p.m. at Chapter Headquarters.
CM

Committee meetings are conducted as informal seminars, often with an architect-developer as guest. Mr. Halstead urges Chapter members with such experience to contact him to be invited to participate in these discussions. Periodically the committee holds meetings which are open to the Chapter with the guests functioning as speakers as well as seminar leaders.

So, if the word "developer" makes you flinch, you can console yourself with the thought that if the countryside must be raped, maybe it can be done with finesse. And everyone knows that architects have lots more finesse than ordinary run-of-the-mill type developers.
LY

How Bad Is The Recession?

We don't have completely up-to-date figures, but a Chapter staff analysis of sustaining firm dues reliably indicates that architectural activity within the Chapter membership was down 22% on Oct. 1, 1972 from the 1969 peak (there is an inconsequential degree of guesswork in the 1972 figure because of delinquent dues payments).

Chapter firms pay dues based on the number of architectural personnel in the firm—partners, associates, architectural technical employees—as of October 1 each year. The

accompanying tables express the trends.

The figures can be analysed in several ways, which **Oculus** will not attempt at this press deadline. It should be noted, however, that the percentages shown on the table are based on a constant which does not take into account the trend of the economy as a whole. If the economy generally has been on a rise, then the level of architectural activity indicated here could be interpreted as having declined relatively more than is apparent.

GL

	10/1/68	10/1/69	10/1/70	10/1/71	10/1/72*
Total Architectural Personnel in Chapter Offices	3,591 97%	3,636 100%	3,424 94%	3,124 86%	2,825 78%
Total Number of Chapter Sustaining Firms	405	432	368	363	294
Chapter Sustaining Firms by Size Categories					
1 persons	135	163	134	136	84**
2 - 3 persons	113	98	82	72	68
4 - 10 persons	91	106	87	90	84
11 - 20 persons	25	27	29	31	26
21 - 50 persons	28	24	21	19	21
51 & over	13	14	15	15	11

* Small amount of estimating in this column

** Possibly not accurate

Multifamily Housing Code Revision Proposed By NYC Urban Design Council

Architects concerned with New York City's zoning codes for multifamily housing how have a chance to voice their opinions, suggestions, and objections to a new zoning proposal (Housing Quality Program) currently being prepared by the Urban Design Council. The council hopes to present the proposed code to NYC/AIA as well as a number of other civic and professional groups in the next month. Alexander Cooper, executive director of the council, encourages architects to participate in the sessions and in the formulation of HQP before its official presentation to the City Planning Commission later this fall.

HQP would shift emphasis from the minimal standards which characterize the existing zoning code to a system of incentive zoning. Its major goals of overall housing quality and "harmony between pre-existing and post-development" conditions are incorporated within four "programs": neighborhood impact, recreation space, security and safety, and apartments. Each program consists of a series of operational criteria or "elements" which are quantifiable and against which a design can be scored. For progressively higher attainment of quality (score) the HQP would allow incremental increases in building density up to the maximum allowable. Minimal compliance is mandatory on 22 of the 37 quality elements to warranty against "mindless design".

Continued on Page 3

Executive Committee Actions

September 12, 1973

- The Foundation allocated \$9,599 in scholarship assistance, one-half of which will be paid by the Ford Foundation, to architectural students in the Chapter—ARCH program. Further funds will be allocated at the October meeting to the local architectural schools.
- Reviewed policy papers which will be submitted to mayoral candidates and distributed to the membership.
- Appointed a subcommittee to meet with representatives of the NYC Bicentennial Corp.
- Agreed that President Prentice appear at a 9/17 Community Board #8 hearing to offer support in principle to the proposed special 2nd Avenue below grade zoning.
- Approved the Brunner Committee's recommendation that Jerzy Clowczewski receive this year's \$10,000 award.
- Agreed to change the name of the Financing of Construction Committee to Committee on Real Estate Development.
- Committee chairmen met with the Committee at 5:30 and numerous topics were discussed, particularly the necessity to address the problem of declining activity in New York architectural offices.

Welcome To New Members

The NYC/AIA welcomes the following members:

Corporate

Franklin L. Alexander
Edward M. Coplon
Joan Kavochka
Cynthia N. Peterson
William J. Rosenfeld
Thomas M. Wells

Associate

James E. Miller
Roxanne Warren

New Reference Library At Chapter Headquarters

The Chapter has assembled a new reference library and housed it on the third floor of 20 West 40th Street. A self-service card catalogue has been set up alphabetically by author, and staff members are available for further assistance.

Library hours are from 9 to 5, Monday through Friday, except holidays, and ample space is available there for research.

Although the library is moderate in size, acquisitions are already being made, primarily in specialized areas. Of particular interest is the comprehensive collection on the recently enacted Occupational Safety and Health Act, and the federal, state, and city hospital codes. Further, there are copies of the New York City Building Code, the up-to-date City Zoning Ordinance, master plans for each of the five Boroughs, and the study concerning proposed revisions to the City Charter.

Also included are all of the current publications of the Educational Facilities Laboratory and the *Dodge Building Cost and Specification Digest*, which provides actual contract prices of new buildings with square foot and cubage costs. There is also material on building tech-

Candidates For Membership

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Corporate

Edward Z. Jacobson

Associate

Oliver W. Bullen (AIA)
Margaret E. Simon (AIA)

nology, real estate, detailed cost estimating, environmental planning, lighting, computers, and various areas of engineering.

Institute activities are well chronicled in AIA Journals dating back to 1940 and in all of the books and publications issued by the Institute.

Less specialized material is available as well—a wide range of architectural history and guide books and the current year's issues of magazines including: *Architectural News*, *Architectural Record*, *Architecture Plus*, *Engineering News Record*, *Forum*, and *Progressive Architecture*.

As a service to the community, which may also use the library, there is guidance material concerning careers in architecture as well as catalogues from each of the schools offering architectural programs.

Donations and suggestions for future acquisitions are welcome.

MES

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The American Institute of Architects
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Linda Yang

Multifamily Housing Code

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The Urban Design Council feels that HQP will be simpler to use than the existing Zoning Resolution of 1961 as each element can be easily illustrated and measured. The present burdens of "obscure abstraction and elite professionalism" would be lifted. Further, an "unalterable objective" of HQP is that "the cost of building housing not be increased" . . . and that "designing a project to achieve a high quality rating is no more expensive than designing a project to the standards of present zoning".

During a series of three workshops held on September 12th at New York University's Loeb Student Center, 250 interested architects, planners, developers, community board chairmen, and builders recommended revisions, which they hoped would make the code more comprehensible and manageable. Among the problem areas cited at the workshops were: the complexity of the proposal, code enforcement, absence of a concurrent revision to the building code, appropriateness of the apartment program, and cost implications.

Summing up his impressions of the comments made by architects so far, Cooper says that the profession seems sympathetic to the goals of HQP, but it needs to be convinced that the novel features are workable. The workshops produced serious comments and constructive criticism which will become the basis for revisions being considered.

The NYC/AIA Housing Committee was represented at the workshops and participated in a series of meetings on HQP with the Urban Design Council last spring. However, Harold Edelman, committee chairman, feels the small size of the committee makes it insufficiently representative of the Chapter to adequately reflect its interests. He

Russian Visitors

Twenty five Russians engaged in the teaching, history and theory of architecture were welcomed last month at the Century Club by 140 Chapter members and guests. Among them were Prof. Mikhail Heseinov, Peoples' Architect of the USSR and head of the Institute of Architecture and Art at Baku, Azerbaijan; A. V. Ikonnikov, Director of the Institute of Theory and History of Architecture at Moscow; and Dr. Leshava, Dean of the City Planning Faculty at the Moscow Institute of Architecture.

Since they had sent no word in advance as to who they were and what they wanted to do while here, and since their travel agency had not acted upon some really very good suggestions submitted by the Chapter office, improvisation was in order—and successful it was. Herman Jessor, Isaiah Ehrlich, Marcus Caines, Max Vogel and others arranged a dinner for some of the visitors and then organized an impromptu tour, including Co-op City.

Looking ahead, a reactivated Visitors Committee is needed. While we cannot respond to every request the Chapter receives from foreign architects on commercial tours, there are occasions when both visitors and our own members appreciate a special effort.

GL

recommends that the proposal should be reviewed by all architects involved with housing and that they should make serious attempts to express their views to the committee in time to influence HQP before it is published by the City Planning Commission.

MP

More On The Mayoral Campaign

The main thrust of our political involvement this year will be to assert the Chapter's views at the highest level of city government, reports Michael Maas, chairman of the Political Affairs Committee.

Until Election Day, the principal focus will be on the mayoral campaign. As described in the September *Oculus*, the Chapter has joined with seven other professional groups in extending an invitation to the principal candidates to appear at a meeting on October 2nd in Schimmel Auditorium, Pace University, and respond to questions submitted in advance, one by each society.

Our question, as drafted, requests the candidate's views regarding the City's present planning activities and his plans for implementation during the coming administration. A report on the candidates' answers will be distributed to Chapter members before the election.

Each candidate will also be invited to meet with the Executive Committee and other selected members of the Chapter to state his opinions on subjects ranging from proposed city contract revisions to consultation with the Chapter regarding appointments related to design and construction. It is hoped that these meetings will enable the Chapter to advise its members, before Election Day, of specific commitments from each candidate.

Also scheduled during the campaign are position papers setting forth the Chapter's views on a number of subjects. These will be submitted to the major news media with the hope that they may appear, for example, on the Op-Ed page of the *New York Times*.

WBN

Urbahn Associates Crushes Clark & Rapuano

A thrilling contest ended the ASL season this year with the Max O. Urbahn Associates' victory over Clark & Rapuano.

What is the ASL?

Why it's the Architectural Softball League, of course. (And if you've never heard of it . . . feel free to blame an inadvertent "blackout" here at **Oculus**.)

As reported by Dan Rodriguez, member of the victorious team, the "closely contested final series" ended September 5. Four extra innings added onto the 2nd game of the finals helped clinch the championship for the Urbahn men.

A definitive history of the ASL would be unclear, at best. But according to Lou Giacalone, it all began quite casually some eight years ago. (Giacalone, an outfielder, was unable to participate in the final game. An involved competitor, he broke an ankle the previous week.)

In any case, the ASL's structure did evolve and it is now comprised of over 12 teams which are in two divisions called "A" and "B". (Hey you guys, how's about something better than that?) In previous years, the players were only from offices large enough, or interested enough, to contribute entire teams. But this dastardly practice has ceased with the addition of the team called "the Stragglers", an assortment of players from miscellaneous architectural firms. (This group gave the Urbahn team its single division loss of the season.)

Each team plays approximately 10 games. At the end of the season there is a playoff for the division champion. These 2 winners then play each other in a 2 out of 3 series for the League trophy.

Runners-up in the division playoffs this year were teams from Harrison



& Abramovitz and I.M. Pei in Division "B" and the Miller Organization and Griswold, Heckel & Kelly Associates in Division "A".

When queried by **Oculus** as to a possible use for the baseball bats during the off season, Mr. Giacalone suggested they might be used to aid in expediting projects through various city agencies. This would have the additional advantage of yielding valuable practice time for many players.

Next year's League Chairman is Richard Hausler who may be contracted for additional information at 914-469-4887.

LY

Professional Survey

Chapter Members—and all their office staff—are asked to fill out and return the NYSAA/AIA Professional Survey received last summer. Extra copies are available from the Chapter (or Page 11 of the June Empire State Architect). September 1st deadline has been extended to November 1st.

The 1973 Brunner: Portrait Of Its Winner, A New Citizen

The Brunner Award program attracted 45 applications, with an "unusually high number" of great character and value, according to Lowell Brody, Chairman of the Selection Committee. *Oculus* Staffer Linda Yang interviewed the winner, whose chosen subject was "A new urban design technique that complements both natural environment and legislative measures in medium sized towns of New York State".

As used these days, the word "environment" too often is hollow or hackneyed. Not so when speaking with the recipient of the Chapter's \$10,000 Brunner Award, Jerzy E. Glowczewski.

A. W.W. II Polish fighter pilot, Mr. Glowczewski was a major figure in rebuilding Warsaw, his war-torn birthplace. By the mid 1950's he had experienced first hand the realities of a total planning of urban areas. His work was widely acclaimed and received several government awards.

In 1961 he came to the USA on a Ford Foundation Grant to study American planning practices. After several years with the University Design School at Raleigh, N.C., he left to become Chief Planner of the new city of Aswan in Egypt.

Living and working in the north African area, he became acutely aware of the ecological ramifications of a truly environmental approach which includes the conservation of energy. But his stay was cut short by the six-day Arab-Israeli war.

Unable to go home to the political situation in Poland, Glowczewski decided to return permanently to America with his wife and child. His arrival here coincided with the upheaval in the urban cores, whose burned-out hulks seemed to him reminiscent of post-war Poland. He believed that America might just be

ready for the broader approach to urban planning which he advocated: more than just the design of buildings, consideration of the human factors and the restoration (or preservation) of nature as well.

Three years ago, as an Associate Member of the NYC/AIA, he applied for the Brunner, only to be rejected since he was not yet an American citizen (one of the prerequisites). Once a citizen, he reapplied and has now been chosen for the Award.

Very definitely an optimist, Glowczewski is a realist as well. It was the key to his success as a key comm "new" empha be imp

Sensitive planning household is a widow of the Brunner. LY

Planning Commission Hearing: Gateway

On September 19 the Planning Commission heard testimony concerning the transfer of City park land to the federal government for inclusion in the Gateway National Recreation Area. The City was authorized to do this by the State Legislature last spring.

George Lewis reported to the Commission that the Chapter had used its influence to support Gateway in Congress and in the Legislature, and that it would continue to advocate full financial and administrative implementation of the project.

Student Affairs Committee To Work With "S.E.C."

One of the major activities of the Student Affairs Committee this year will be its work with the Student Education Committee, now well known as the *real* S.E.C. This group is an interdisciplinary liaison of students, faculty and professionals in the planning and design disciplines sponsored by a multitude of design-oriented organizations including the A.I.A.

Fearlessly, the S.E.C. will engage in a comprehensive urban design project for the southern tip of Manhattan. The project will include: a major transportation interchange for helicopters, ferry boats, subways, Coast Guard cutters, automobiles and people, regional recreation facilities; hotel accommodations and offices for the various city agencies.

All those New York area schools which offer courses in landscape architecture, planning, architecture or interior design are participating in the project. Teams will be organized to consist of four to eight students, a recorder, and an advisor. A resource pool of professionals and faculty will be available to the teams and a steering committee will coordinate the teams and resource pool.

Participation of anyone interested is encouraged and there will be a tour of the project site open to everyone Saturday, October 20, from 9:00 A.M. until 1 P.M. Additional tours, workshops, symposia, conferences, exhibitions and seminars related to the project are planned for the future and will be announced accordingly.

The committee believes ongoing interdisciplinary intercommunications will eventually achieve interdisciplinary understanding.
NFJ

Another Endangered Species: The Evening Architectural Student

New York's only program in a public school of architecture leading to the B. Arch. degree is in trouble.

The new program, established in February of 1972 at the City College School of Architecture and Environmental Studies is the result of determined efforts by a number of NYC/AIA members, notably Arnold Arbeit, Marcus Caines, Isaiah Ehrlich and Frederick Frost, with the full cooperation of Dean Bernard P. Spring.

The City College evening program is designed to be equal—in curriculum, faculty and quality of education—to the day session. A student may complete the degree requirements in less than seven years.

Yet now, sad to report, because of a severely curtailed budget, there is neither recruitment of new students nor advertising of the program. Only ten course sections are currently available. There is no assurance that this can be increased progressively to the minimum of 16 required for a degree. Students have also not had the necessary counseling, shop facilities, office staff and other services in the evening.

There appears to be a high potential demand for the opportunity to get professional architectural education in the evening hours. From the outset, the City College project was successful, without benefit of general advertising of its availability. It has attracted over 100 students who had no choice but to earn their degrees at night.

The CCNY School of Architecture has been steadily increasing to about 800 in the day session. Also noteworthy: the proportion of minority students enrolled at the School is larger than in most architectural schools throughout the State.

The NYC/AIA is responding to this crisis. An Ad Hoc Committee to

save the evening program at the City College School of Architecture, with Bertram L. Bassuk as Chairman, has been formed to make representations in behalf of the school to groups and powers to make budgetary policy that affect the school. In addition to planned action on political and other levels, grants to the City College Fund by private persons or organizations are being sought.

Help is also promised from the alumni federation of the NYU School of Architecture and Allied Arts, the only other architectural school ever to have given a B. Arch. degree completely in the evening (this program closed down during W.W. II).

Anyone interested in helping is asked to contact the Ad Hoc Committee through the Chapter. Letters from individual architects and firms supporting the School are very important and should be sent to the Committee.

DPH

"Many Construction Sites A Disgrace To The Industry"

So says the Mayor's Building and Construction Advisory Council.

Fritz Frost, the Chapter's representative on the Council, reports that in discussing this subject at its Sept. 11 meeting, there was comment that so much bad housekeeping could lead the public to believe that the industry lacks pride in its work and concern for public opinion.

Questions have been asked: Can the Chapter suggest ways to improve the situation? If we drew tighter specifications could we enforce them? Should regulations be developed for Buildings Dept. enforcement? The Council is opposed to the latter because the industry is already over-regulated.

Minority Scholarship Fund— A Reminder

Members are reminded that the National AIA Minority Scholarship Program fund drive is still under way. The pamphlet "A Chance to Build on Success", mailed to all members in March of this year, dramatically explains its need.

We architects have repeatedly expressed an interest and desire to help the minority groups. If we mean it, we should act on it.

In addition to soliciting individual members, the committee is directing its efforts toward architectural firms. The goal for New York State, according to Regional Chairman, Max Abramovitz, is \$55,000 over a three-year period. Although these are trying times for architects, and many are struggling to keep afloat, the disadvantaged minority groups attempting to enter architecture are nevertheless in need of financial help.

We ask that you give serious consideration to backing up this program and contribute to the best of your ability. All contributions are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to AIA Foundation. (AIA, 1735 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006).

Chapter Office.

Saul Edelbaum, Chapter Chairman

Committee:

Frederick Frost
John Burgee
Isaiah Ehrlich
Ralph Pomerance
Martin Raab
Alan Schwartzman
Der Scutt
Walter Severinghaus
Rolland Thompson
Robert Thorson
Werner Wandelmaier