

A Meeting with Paul O'Dwyer

A new avenue of communication with city government opened up the morning of March 13 when Paul O'Dwyer, President of the City Council, welcomed four Chapter representatives (see photo) to his handsome office at the east end of City Hall.

Mr. O'Dwyer has for years been a strong force in City affairs, as needs no elaboration here. In his present position, including his four votes on the Board of Estimate (the Mayor and Comptroller also have four; the borough presidents each have two, he will have great influence in matters of concern to architects.

The meeting, which lasted an hour, dealt almost entirely with the very serious decline in work in the private architectural sector: a preliminary review of the Chapter's survey of architectural activity in 1973 as compared with 1969 (the figures will be released shortly) has revealed a drastic falling off in the construction value of new projects. Mr. O'Dwyer concentrated on the implications of what the figures meant in terms of recession in the building industry, and of construction employment and offered to assist the Chapter in giving these facts the widest possible publicity. He expressed deep concern as to the effect on efforts to increase minority participation in construction.



L. to R.: George Lewis, Executive Director, NYC/AIA; Michael Maas, Chairman, NYC/AIA Political Affairs Committee; Herbert Oppenheimer, 1st Vice President, NYC/AIA; T.M. Prentice, Jr., President, NYC/AIA; and Paul O'Dwyer, President, City Council. Photographer: Ambrose Cucinotta.

The question of architectural work being done in-house by public agencies such as DPW, in direct competition with private architects, was also discussed in detail. The Chapter representatives contended that an authoritative audit should be made of the real cost to the taxpayer of typical projects done in-house as compared with work done by private consultants. Mr. O'Dwyer offered to support Chapter efforts to have the Comptroller provide such an audit.

The meeting was one of a series being arranged by the Political Affairs Committee, Michael Maas, Chairman. Thanks are owed to Ms. Heddi Piel, consultant to Mr. O'Dwyer.
GL

Women In Architecture

It is easier to treat a disorder once the symptoms have been isolated. Part of Resolution 2, passed at the AIA national convention last May, provided for a study on the current status of women in the profession. The ultimate goal of the Resolution is to "integrate women into all aspects of the profession" and to encourage more women to enter.

To this end, the Subcommittee on Women in Architecture was formed under the aegis of the National Personnel Practices Committee. The Subcommittee, chaired by Judith Edelman, has developed a questionnaire which will be mailed this spring to "a comprehensive list of women and a sampling of men". It has been designed to compliment the 1973 survey of the profession and will form the basis for evaluating the status of women in architecture.

A preliminary report of the Subcommittee's findings will be made at this May's national convention. Then, after a computer analysis, a program of action will be formulated to implement all aspects of Resolution 2.
MES

Stewardson Fellow Named

Juan Morales, winner of the 1974 Stewardson Travelling Fellowship, will make an extensive tour of Greece and Europe.

Mr. Morales, 28, has worked with the Real Great Society in the field of advocacy planning and is presently in his final year at the City College School of Architecture

Executive Committee Actions

March 13, 1974

- Supported full funding for the rehabilitation of Central Park.
- Supported landmark designation of the Renwick-designed buildings on Fourth Avenue in the Grace Church complex.
- Supported the Planning Commission's proposal to rezone East 86th Street.
- Recommended, at the request of the Employer-Employee Committee, that the Institute endorse the "Guidelines to Professional Employment," a publication which has the support of many professional organizations.
- Endorsed the new magazine *Oppositions* published by the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies.

Welcome to New Members

The NYC/AIA welcomes the following members:

Corporate

John P. Barie
John H. Gewalt
Gerald I. Goldstein
Damiano G. Maruca
Michael S. Bissell
Michael J. Koenen
Gaetano F. Pagnotta
Edward Z. Jacobson
Frank A. Czop
Albert R. Grossman
Oliver E. Cutajar
Hildegard Bergeim

Associate

Merry M. Schenck
Anthony Mandolfo
John Arhangelsky
Narasinha K. Shenai

Candidates for Membership

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

Corporate

Roger E. Breton
Peter Capone
Leonard Colchamiro
Richard C. Heidelberger
A. Arnold Krigel
Arnold Lezdkalns
Clarence Pete, Jr.
Max Reiter

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
Daniel V. Rodriguez
Margaret Esme Simon
Linda Yang

Remember — We're One Half of the State Association

This isn't a defense of the State Association. It's a call to action. Why pay \$32 a year for dues? What are they doing for us? Why should it exist at all? Before we condemn, let's not forget that the New York Chapter represents fifty percent of the Association's membership — roughly 1500 of 3000. We have the power to make it what we want. Our upstate colleagues want change too. They're sharper than one might think and have really just been waiting for our lead.

So, what is happening? In September the New York Chapter made some proposals to the NYSAA Board of Directors. Essentially they were: 1) concentrate on legislation and state agency liaison, 2) improve communications, 3) revise the convention, 4) move the headquarters to Albany. A special committee of the four vice presidents was formed, and since then they have met with eight of the twelve Chapter executive committees. Initial reports show the other chapters concur, even with the shift to Albany. A meeting with the NYC/AIA is scheduled for April.

Many chapter members are quite involved in the NYSAA — Larry Litchfield, Mike Maas, Richard Roth, Jr., Patricia Wilson, Alan Schwartzman, Anna Halpin, Arthur Rosenblatt, Jeffrey Aronin, Nesbitt Garmendia, just to name a few. To get on committees, call Dickson McKenna at 697-8866. Work is particularly needed for legislation involving land use, housing, preservation, energy conservation, statute of limitations, and campaign contributions. So write letters to the officers, become a Minuteman, get involved. At this time, at least, it seems best to get in there hard with the NYSAA rather than gamble on being able to lobby on our own.

Kurt Karmin

WAA Throws A Party; 700 Guests And Eyewitness News Were There Was

The photo below shows Gil Noble of the ABC-TV Eyewitness News Team interviewing Philip Johnson, FAIA, and Richard Foster, Master Planners for New York University and Guests of Honor at the WAA's 15th Anniversary Party, held at NYU's Bobst Library last January 30.

This was one of the few calm moments at the event, which was enjoyed by 700 guests — including such luminaries as National AIA President Archibald Rogers, FAIA, and Mrs. Rogers; NYU Pres. James Hester; Planning Commissioner John Zuccotti, bringing the Mayor's congratulations; Congressman Ed Koch; and New York State Dormitory Authority Exec. Dir. William Sharkey and his wife.



Photographer: Al Katz

At the March meeting of the WAA's Board of Directors, Mrs. David Helpert, chairman of the benefit, announced that the Scholarship Fund will show a "nice profit" for all the hard work. Funds were raised by ticket sales, straight contributions, advertisements in the souvenir program, and a month-long special offer by the Charrette Corp., the drafting room materials supplier, of 10 per cent of so-designated sales.

The Scholarship Committee will make its recommendations to the WAA membership at the Auxiliary's annual meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, May 8, at the World of Birds of the Bronx Zoo.

The Wyckoff House, Brooklyn What Is a Reasonable Fee For Restoration Work?

The Pieter Claesen Wyckoff House was started in 1652 and is probably the oldest wood frame structure in the United States.

We salute the Wyckoff family, now 3,000 strong, who officially transferred the old Dutch Colonial farmhouse to the City in January 1969. Their years of negotiation have been aimed at restoration on the original site, setting within a suitable park, and availability to the public. The new City administration, including Beverly Moss Spatt, AIP, Chairman of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, is expected to complete final implementation of these goals.

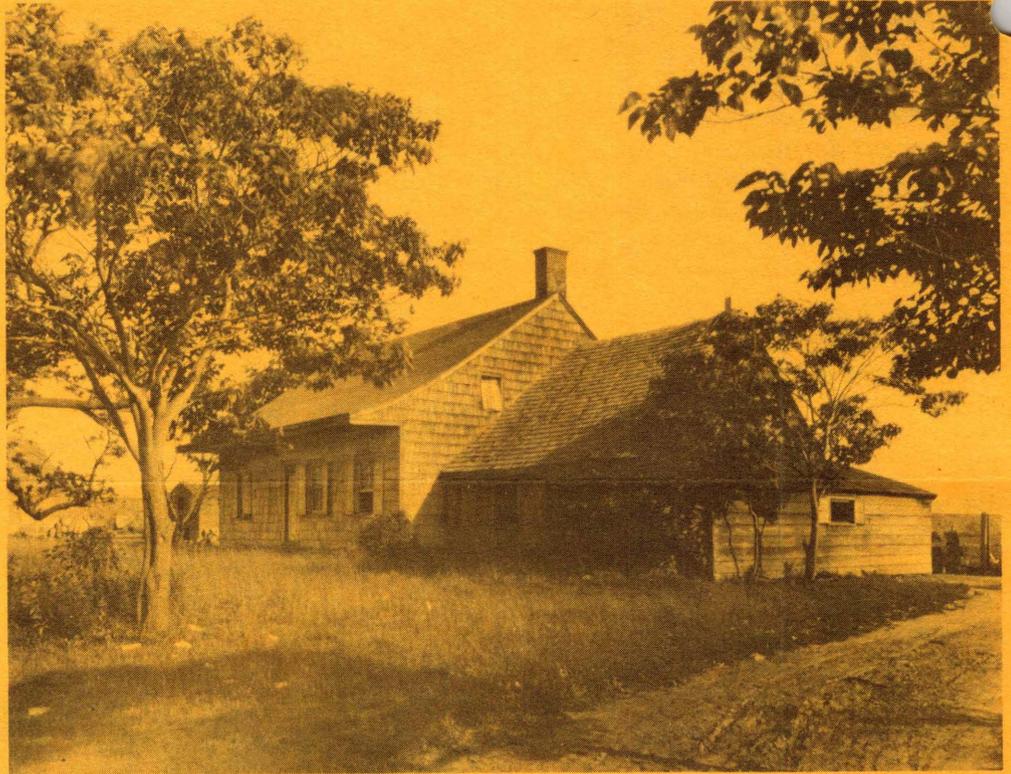
Oppenheimer, Brady and Associates have completed a research and feasibility study of the old landmark and expect to contract for the remaining restoration services shortly.

When asked about their fee, Herbert B. Oppenheimer, NYC/AIA 1st Vice President, stated, "In landmark restoration work, I really feel lucky when we break even it requires so much preparation before design can begin. It also requires intensive supervision."

Further discussion — with Giorgio Cavagliari, FAIA — brought out that a minimum fee of 15% of construction costs up to \$500,000 is necessary to cover full service.

Asked about the 15% fee, Harmon H. Goldstone, FAIA, former Chairman, Landmarks Preservation Commission commented, "I thoroughly concur with the reasonableness of this position."

BI



Then



Now

Grace to the Church Houses?

Grace Church was designed by James Renwick, Jr. in 1843. It is located at Broadway and 10th Street and is an official New York City Landmark.

Clergy House and Huntington House are older church-owned Federal Style houses whose facades were renovated by Renwick in 1880, using the same lacy Gothic Revival motif as Grace Church. The intention was to form a stylistic grouping among the buildings. The church and spire are a fine compliment to the more modest houses. The houses are not official City Landmarks.

About 10 years ago, in order to continue the existence of his congregation in a community with a fragmented and declining church population, Dr. Benjamin Minifie, Rector of Grace Church, looked to the church school as the great strength and hope to maintain the congregation. New facilities were needed to keep the school functioning, particularly a gymnasium and community meeting rooms to serve as a neighborhood center. The two houses, unused and deteriorating, seemed the likely place to look for an economic solution.

Architects Moore & Hutchins, now Hutchins Evans & Lefferts, were called in and recommended demolition of the houses for new construction. Because of some congregation opposition another firm, Oppenheimer & Brady, was called in to study possibilities for renovation. A scheme to save and remodel the gothic houses was developed and would have cost about \$900,000 at that time.

A disastrous fund raising campaign for this scheme caused the church to go back to the original demolition plan in 1972. Since negotiations began with the builder, E.W. Howell Company, and an announcement of plans was made, a great flurry of intense community activity opposing demolition has materialized.

- The Joint Emergency Committee to Save the Grace Church Houses, coordinated by Selma Rattner, urged the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the two houses as official City Landmarks.

- James Marston Fitch, Professor of Architecture at Columbia University, presented a preservation plan calling for the retention of the first 15 feet of the present buildings and the construction of architect Hutchin's wing containing the gymnasium and multipurpose room behind it. An estimate for this plan suggested it would cost \$27,000 less than new construction. Though later revised upward, this figure differs from the church's own estimate that the renovation plan would cost \$300,000 more than the present \$865,000 estimate for new construction.

- The Executive Committee, acting for the Chapter, voted for the designation of Grace Church Houses as official City Landmarks.

- Some preservation funds have been both received and promised from the J.M. Kaplan Fund and also the State Department of Parks and Recreation.

Nevertheless, the Architects of Record, who have the confidence of the owner, must be considered closest to the careful balance between design, program and budget necessary to effect the most suitable approach for the immediately concerned.

The question of designating the houses as landmarks was considered at a public hearing before the Landmarks Preservation Commission at City Hall, Friday, March 22, but no decision was made.

And that is the state of affairs at the moment.

NJ

Special District Proposed For Yorkville/East 86th Street

The City Planning Commission has proposed a special district which would generally extend along 86th Street from First Avenue to an irregular line west of Lexington Avenue. The broad goals of this amendment would include the following purposes:

- To preserve and strengthen the unique commercial and residential character and quality of East 86th Street and the surrounding Yorkville area.
- To preserve and enhance street life by mandating local retail uses at street level and encouraging other commercial uses at related levels.
- To improve pedestrian circulation by mandating the provision of Lexington Avenue arcades and access and egress to subway stations within building lots of new development.
- To promote the most desirable use of land in this area and thus to conserve the value of land and buildings and thereby protect the City's tax revenues.

The current zoning for the area is C4-7, which allows high density commercial uses such as office buildings and department stores. The area adjacent to the present and planned subway, stops would be rezoned to C4-6, a lower density. The remaining area would essentially be changed to C2-8, a classification generally suitable for local retail uses.

Another objective of the District is to preserve the strong building line on East 86th Street. Future commercial frontage on 86th Street would be limited to 50 feet adjacent to the Avenues and 25 feet elsewhere. Department stores would be limited to 100,000 square feet per establishment.

The NYC/AIA Zoning Committee has devoted a major portion of four meetings to considering this District.

On the recommendation of Committee Chairman Charles Hughes, the Chapter's Executive Committee sent a letter to John Zuccotti, chairman of the NYC Planning Commission in support of the Special District.

Frank R. Angelino, Chairman of Community Board #8, has presented its stand in favor of the amendment.

Three representatives of the "opposition" explained their position, complete with exhibits. They feel, in brief, that the denial of bonuses, restrictions on commercial uses, fragmentation of zoning districts, and store frontage limitations would discourage the developer and turn him to other parts of the city.

They also stated that the "natural redevelopment" of the 86th Street area is for flexible mixed use. This use, combining retail, office and residential, is now possible under C4-7 zoning. The 100,000-square-foot limitation on department stores is considered unrealistic.

They also hold that these restrictions will reduce land value and thereby erode tax revenues.

BI

Full Evening Program At City College Seen As More Of A Possibility

A chance for young people to earn architectural degrees at evening school while holding down jobs is the goal of a dedicated Chapter committee, of which Bert Bassuk is the chairman.

This group's efforts has already resulted in the establishment of some evening courses at City College, but at present there is not a comprehensive evening curriculum. As Dean Bernard Spring explains it, the present series of evening course offerings at City should be transformed into a complete degree-granting program.

For this to happen, the New York architectural profession — employers and employees alike — must express itself as to the need. The City University must be assured that there will be adequate registration in the program.

Bassuk's committee is preparing a notice which will be sent to Chapter offices requesting that all those who support the concept of an evening program so inform the Chapter. A strong response will bring results.
GL