

55% Drop in Architectural Work: Results of Survey

1973 Approximate Construction Cost of Contracts Signed		1969 Approximate Construction Cost of Contracts Signed		1969 Contracts Adjusted to 1973 Construction Costs*
Housing	\$ 490,406,000	Housing	\$ 411,886,000	\$ 574,580,970
Commercial	282,417,495	Commercial	784,460,900	1,094,322,955
Health Facility	55,347,672	Health Facility	91,923,300	128,233,003
Educ. Facility	125,069,592	Educ. Facility	336,265,104	469,089,820
Interiors	30,712,000	Interiors	39,081,000	54,517,995
Other	116,471,000	Other	101,680,000	141,843,600
	\$1,100,423,759		\$1,765,296,304	\$2,462,588,343

*Turner Const. Co. Cost Index indicates that building costs in 1973 were 39.5% higher than 1969.

How reliable is this survey of Chapter firms? Very. Over half the 179 firms with two or more architectural personnel responded (one-person responses were few); this is a solid statistical base.

What are we going to do with the figures? with the fact that, in 1973, architectural commissions were off 55% from 1969? The implications for future construction activity in the New York area are obvious. We shall expend every effort to bring the facts to the attention of public officials, the industry and the public. As a profession we are not numerically strong, but the construction industry as a whole has enormous influence.

In May, Chapter representatives will meet at City Hall with Deputy Mayors Cavanaugh and Gribitz as well as with Ms. Barbara Reach, Assistant to the Mayor. It is expected that this will be the first of a continuing series of meetings with representatives of the Mayor at which architects' relations with the City, including the question of in-house architectural work by City agencies will be examined.

On April 30, Paul O'Dwyer, President of the City Council, following up on a meeting he had in March with a group from the Chapter (see the April *Oculus*), invited representatives from labor, industry and the Chapter to begin formulating the problems and to attempt to come up with plans to deal with the impending crisis, in the construction industry.

The survey of Chapter firms was organized by the Office Practice Committee, Nesbitt Garmendia, Chairman.
GL

Executive Committee Actions

April 10, 1974

- Appointed Messrs. Oppenheimer, Baker, Tuckett and Lewis to study the Chapter's relations with ARCH and TATAC.
- Heard Mr. Prentice report on the status of the Grace Church buildings on 4th Avenue.
- Heard Ms. Halpin report on the Institute's committee on conversion to the metric system.
- Continued a discussion of work done in-house by City agencies. This issue will be on the agenda for an upcoming meeting with Deputy Mayors Cavanaugh and Gribetz.
- Approved the Educational Facilities Committee's proposal to conduct an awards program for the creative use of space for education.
- Approved the Hospitals and Health Committee's request for funds to publish a directory of health facilities and a construction cost guide.
- Resolved in response to a letter from Frank Munzer, former chairman of the Technical Education Committee, to present a Chapter award annually to an outstanding graduate of the Voorhees Campus of NYC Community College (the committee had provided guidelines for the curriculum there).

Welcome to New Members

The NYC/AIA welcomes the following members:

Corporate

Ralph Albanese
Michael P. Kolk
Rory Yi-Shen Liu
Michael L. Pribyl
Slobodan Saramandic
Paul Segal
Roberto Velasco
Peter E. Weisman
Carolina Y.S. Woo
Helmut W. Scholze

Candidates for Membership

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

Corporate

Rustum H. Bastuni
Thomas Joseph Belanyi
Donald Louis Currie
Panayotis Eric DeVaris
David Lawrence Hirsch
Frank LaRosa
Gabor J. Mertl
Nancy Ai-Tseng Miao
Joseph Royal Mygatt
Edward C. Spooner
Gert Deiter Thorn
Laurence Scott Walsh

Professional Associate

Tara Dharan Lamont

Associate

Victor Bassegy Attah (AIA)
Lenora Fay Garfinkel
Donald Joseph McSherry
Romuald W. Romanowski

Residential Design Exhibition: Winners Since 1961

Projects that have won the Chapter's residential design awards since 1961 will be shown at the Manhattan Savings Bank, 45th Street and Vanderbilt Ave., May 13-31.

Jim Morgan, chairman of the Small Office Committee and Senior Editor of *Architecture Plus*, finds this collection to be a most interesting and significant survey.

Richard Metzner of the Small Office Committee organized the exhibit.

New York Chapter

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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 V. Rodriguez
Margaret Esme Simon
Linda Yang

Letters To The Editor

Re: "Beame's 'In-House' Work Policy Is Debatable"
(March *Oculus*)

Two very telling examples of City "In-House design are the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Drive on the East Side and portions of the West Side Highway.

I do not feel that it is necessary to go into the details of these two pieces of construction which even if they were more durable fail to function as highways. I cannot think of any other projects where the city did the actual design where the results were outstandingly good.

Julian Roth

Re: "Program Proposed to Increase Architect's Impact on NYC Schools" (January *Oculus*)

... Your attention is now called to the *AIA Journal*, March 1974, page 6; *Post Offices off the Assembly Line* — "the structures will be 'procured and built' by 'contractors without involvement of on-site architects."

To all this I will continue to say — let us get out of the sociopolitical arenas and concern ourselves with the many problems involved in the practice of Architecture. Perhaps some of the commissions for professional services now being awarded to Engineers and others may revert to Architects. For the past few years we have been on a collision course toward self-destruction — I believe it is now too late to stop it.

E. James Gambaro, FAIA

Awards Program To Honor Client For Ingenuity

This fall the Educational Facilities Committee will initiate an awards program for the "creative use of space for education". The Program will be unusual for the NYC/AIA, because it will recognize the client instead of the architecture. It was developed in response to the decline in commissioning of educational facilities.

Janko Rasic, chairman of the awards program, emphasizes, "We're looking for an imaginative educational program which has developed from an inventive use of physical facilities. We're not out to prove that one job is architecturally better than the next one. It is a recognition, not a competition. The award recognition is really for the client, because he is the one who has had to show ingenuity in recognizing that such a solution is possible."

The program will honor sponsors (educators, community groups and private persons) for "their foresight, courage, and determination" in initiating and promoting imaginative educational programs in new or renovated structures, or in "found" space. Submissions will be accepted in the following categories: formal education (primary, secondary, and higher education); early 'childhood' programs.

Submissions will be invited from Chapter members as personal work or sponsors. Prior to an official jury consideration, all submissions will be reviewed by selected members of the Educational Facilities Committee.

The awards jury includes Ellen Perry Berkeley, senior editor of *Architecture Plus*; Hugh Hardy; Allen Green of the Educational Facilities Laboratory; and Richard Stein, FAIA. A fifth juror hasn't been selected yet.

Official announcement of the program and the submission requirements will appear in *Oculus*.

MP

New Fellows

We are happy to report that the Institute has advanced the following Chapter members to fellowship: Armand Bartos, Herbert Beckhard, Araldo Cossutta, Juliam Neski, James S. Rossant, Stanley Salzman, Hamilton P. Smith, Rolland D. Thompson, Danforth W. Toan and Helge Westermann.

\$1,500 Awards for Community Improvement Projects

Ideas to preserve, enhance, or cultivate the urban and rural environments of New York State may be worth \$1,500 each under a competition sponsored by the newly created Preservation League of New York State with support from the New York State Council on the Arts.

The League will be concerned with the environmental heritage of the State: its structures, neighborhoods, and vistas.

Called "unique New York", the competition program invites proposals on fostering community amenities, interpreting and promoting the values of neighborhoods and town centers, halting environmental decay and otherwise enhancing aspects of the environment.

Submissions are due before June 15th. Such projects may relate to zoning, community facilities and activities, performing and visual arts, education, publications and studies — in short, anything and everything — that affects community aesthetics and living.

For further information, contact Kathleen Reardon at Unique New York, Room 501, 250 West 57th Street, New York, N.Y. 10019, or call 586-2116.

New York State's Innovative Council on Architecture

New York State's Council on Architecture, whose sizeable staff is based at 810 Seventh Avenue, is the first council for architectural excellence — and the first for public awareness of architecture.

The Council is now in its sixth year as a specialized management, consultant and advisory body. George A Dudley, member of the NYC/AIA, is its chairman.

The Council has been charged with four specific goals:

1. "To encourage excellence in architectural design in all public buildings and other structures constructed by the state or under the supervision of any state agency or authority;"
2. "To stimulate interest in architectural excellence in public and private construction throughout the state;"
3. "To encourage the inclusion in public buildings and other structures of works of fine art;" and
4. "Upon determining a building is of special historic or architectural character and worthy of preservation . . . to grant aid to any local government for expenditures."

In each of these areas, there have been notable accomplishments and ambitious proposals, some of which will be briefly described in this article.

George Dudley points out that New York State has over 40 building agencies, all of whom follow differing practices. In October of 1973, The Council brought out a manual entitled "Guidelines for Cost Base Compensation for Architectural and Engineering Services." This was a step toward a cost-plus basis for compensation, proposed as an alternative to the percentage of cost basis, which is not always equitable. The manual was developed with the help of professionals and representatives of State authorities and agencies.

Earlier, in 1971, after Gov. Rockefeller directed all State agencies responsible for planning, design and construction to adopt the CSI specifications format, he also requested that all agencies work with the Council in effecting the transition and to report their implementation plans to the Council as well.

Another Council publication, this one useful for architects seeking public clients, is the "Inventory of New York State Agencies" responsible for design, planning and construction. It covers operating methods and procedures of ten major agencies and lists personnel.

The Council also receives grants, The National Endowment for the Arts has twice provided grants — matched by New York State funds — to continue a five-year program for "the development of community awareness of architecture and the quality of the man-made environment."

The Council's "Community Workbook", edited by Stephen Kliment, appears regularly. Its looseleaf format permits series mailing, mostly to urban renewal leaders, community development groups, mayors and other related decision makers.

In the realm of the possible, the Council is currently seeking funds for a series of four films it has proposed. They will be "about the places which Americans call home, what they are and have been and what they are becoming. The answers go beyond architecture, beyond the buildings and the blue prints, to the forces that shape them."

The Council has begun working informally with several of the State building agencies to encourage the inclusion of works of art in State facilities, and has already served on the Fine Arts Committee of the Harlem State Office Building and assisted with the art programs for the Binghamton and Smithtown State Office Buildings.

It hopes to secure State legislation mandating a percentage of the cost of construction for art. The typical and average 1% is considered too inflexible, often inadequate, sometimes inappropriate when budget, locality, function and environmental impact are considered.

Finally, there is no state-wide historical preservation program and so there is much confusion from the general overlapping of responsibilities in this area. Mr. Dudley has proposed an Inter-agency Committee to study the possibilities of State assistance for preservation projects.

Any further questions about the Council or requests for literature can be made to Ms. Barbara Jo Schnepf, who holds down the fort while George Dudley travels throughout the State.

BI

Overflow Crowd Opens "Women in Architecture" Exhibit

"Women in Architecture" is the title and focus of the exhibit which opened April 30th at Chapter Headquarters. Sponsored by the NYC/AIA and developed by the Equal Opportunities Committee chaired by Rosaria Piomelli, the exhibition will continue through May 28, weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

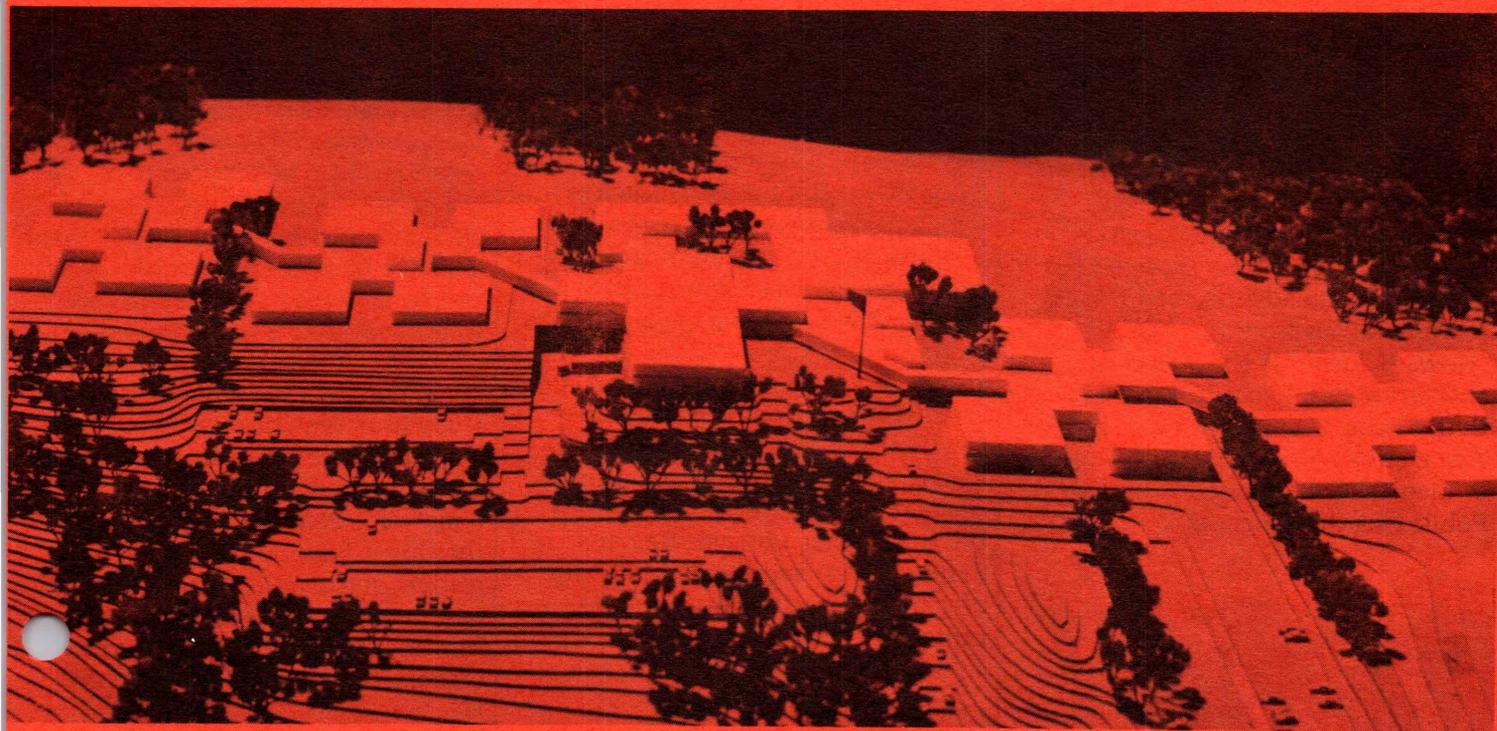
More than 50 women architects are exhibiting drawings and photographs of their work. All are AIA members or employees of NYC/AIA member firms — and have had direct responsibility for the work shown.

The exhibit illustrates the contribution of the women who practice architecture in the New York area. Its significance stems from the facts that women comprise only 3% of American architects and that few become principals or partners in architectural firms, although many carry important project responsibilities.

An interesting comment on American women in architecture is that a large number of the exhibitors were born and educated in foreign countries.



Adelphi Student Center: Aviva Goldstein, Project Designer, Warner, Burns, Toan & Lunde, Architects.



Broome Developmental Center (substantially complete): Nancy A. Miao, Partner, Twitchell & Miao, Architects.

Health Facilities Research Announces First Report

The first project undertaken by Health Facilities Research, a report on ambulatory care facilities, is scheduled for publication this summer.

The HFR developed from an idea first promoted by the Hospitals and Health Committee of the NYC/AIA in 1966. It has been in operation since the fall of 1973 as a self-administered project of the Educational Facilities Laboratory at 477 Madison Avenue.

Present intentions are to keep in-house operation at a modest level and to use HFR as a stimulator and coordinator of studies by others. Major collaborators are envisioned to be primarily academic and research organizations rather than architectural firms.

The first report to appear, entitled "Ambulatory Care Facility in a Changing Health Care System," focuses on the background of ambulatory care services and facilities planning; alternative services models and facility concepts; and performance standards for ambulatory care facilities. The report is intended as a working tool for architects, physicians and administrators developing ambulatory care programs.

Operating with modest start-up grants from The Commonwealth Fund, the EFL, and the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation, HFR is guided by an advisory board with representatives from the AIA (Howard Juster, Richard Sonder, Richard Miller, Leon Barton and Otto Fuchs), American Hospital Association, American Association of Medical Colleges, and American Public Health Association.

HFR hopes to increase its financial support and aims for status as a free-standing organization functioning as part of a consortium of similar groups doing related facility research in the areas of health, education, housing, recreation and transportation.

The staff is headed by Jerome Pollack as executive director. Mr. Pollack came to HFR from a post as Associate Dean for Health Care Planning at Harvard Medical School. He helped found the Harvard Community Health Care Plan in Boston and formerly taught at Columbia's School of Public Health.

MP

A Matter Of Choice

The Regional Plan Association, a voluntary, Manhattan-based civic organization supported by foundation grants, corporate subscriptions and individual memberships, is the oldest continuing metropolitan planning organization in the nation.

Started in 1922 by the Russell Sage Foundation, the Association researches and advances programs to improve the environmental, economic and social conditions of the New York Urban Region. RPA believes in public participation in planning and operates on the principle that when people are informed about needs and possible solutions, major changes in public policy are possible.

Two RPA proposals that became New York City policy are the establishment of Gateway National Urban Recreation Area (including parts of the Rockaways, Jamaica Bay and Staten Island) and the development of Jamaica, Queens, as a regional center.

These proposals grew from the "Second Regional Plan", the Association's major work in recent years. The background work for this Plan took more than a decade beginning with the New York Metropolitan Regional Study, prepared for RPA by the Harvard University Graduate School of Public Administration, followed by staff studies including "The Race for Open Space" (1960), "Spread City" (1962), and a series of background volumes and Plan drafts.

In 1963 the Association organized the Region's first TV/citizen response program. It tested public reaction to the prospects for the Region if then-current trends continued. This process is now expanded and known to most of us as the major ongoing and most intensive public education project yet attempted by RPA, the recent and popular "Choices for '76."

Last year, a series of regional town meetings were coordinated with fifteen one-hour films on alternative choices in regional policies for housing, poverty, environment, transportation, cities and government. These films were shown repeatedly on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays in prime-time television slots on all of the region's area TV stations. Ballots were widely distributed and responses were processed by the Gallup organization. The purpose of all this was to inform people about basic choices facing their region, give them a way to be heard on specific issues, and publish their conclusions about where they ought to be headed.

Other current research includes a study of pedestrian movement in the Manhattan central business district, a journey-to-work study relating to minority group travel patterns for the City's Transportation Administration, and a study of future energy requirements in the region prepared for Resources for the Future, a private organization based in Washington.

NJ

Portrait of the Urban Planner As A Writer

Now, eminently readable book by NYC/AIA member Jonathan Barnett entitled *Urban Design As Public Policy* has just been published.

In an interview with *Oculus*, Mr. Barnett explained how the book was originally conceived as a kind of one-man's-record of planning here during the Lindsay years. (And the Foreword is by the former Mayor.) However, in the two years since its inception, the manuscript was expanded and reworked, making it relevant, not only for professionals, but for concerned laymen in other urban areas too. Thus the book is subtitled: *Practical Methods for Improving Cities*.

Barnett's candor is exemplified in the beginning, in his discussion of private real estate developers ("they want to make money . . ."). And he proceeds from there to discuss, in an equally direct style, topics which include the effects of zoning codes on whole areas as well as on individual buildings, the consequences of highways and rapid transit systems, the urban center as a competitor with outlying districts, the role of historic buildings, and the nuances of communication between designers and community planning participants.

As the former Director of Urban Design for the NYC Planning Department, Barnett was in a good position to observe and record what transpired. And as a guide for others, this book will be hard pressed for a rival, simply because of his skill as a writer.

Now an architectural professor at CCNY and Director of its Graduate Program in Urban Design (" . . . explaining things all the time with no fancy words. . ."), Mr. Barnett credits his teaching experiences as contributing to his ability to present complex issues in a clear style. However, he traces his interest in combining architecture and writing to a senior paper he did while at Yale. This led to a summer job with the *Architectural Record*, which was followed still later by a position as associate editor there.

Mr. Barnett was aided in his goal of making this a "truly useful" book by several former *Record* associates, including Graphics Designer Jan V. White and Editor Jeanne M. Davern. The numerous photos and drawings were carefully located close by the relevant text, general marginal notes were used to facilitate locating specific information, and the format is a comfortable 9" x 6" size, thus making it easy to hold and read. (For those less interested in its contents, the book's striking silver cover should be suitable for any style of coffee table.)

This work is an Architectural Record Publication by McGraw-Hill and is priced at \$15.

LY

Toward Metrication

Anna Halpin, who heads the NYC/AIA Commission on Internal Affairs, has been named the national AIA's alternate representative to the council formed to coordinate the nation's change to the metric system.

Metrication is inevitable, but its estimated time of arrival is unknown. Even now, it appears that the bill before the 93rd Congress supporting conversion to the metric system will be tabled.

Despite the hesitation of Congress, preparations for readying industry and the public have begun. The American National Standards Institute has formed the American National Metric Council to coordinate the change. The Council is made up of representatives of the private sectors most affected by the conversion: primary materials, industrial products, consumer goods, education/industrial training, and construction. Virginian Leslie Simmons, who heads the national AIA Committee for Office Practice, will be the AIA representative to ANMC. Ms. Halpin will be the alternate.

Ms. Halpin will also chair the newly created AIA Task Force on Metric Conversion, which will provide construction industry leadership in determining priorities both for and in standardizing metrication. The task force will report to the President's Metric Conversion Board on how best to effect the change. This board will be the ultimate source for recommendations on conversion.

When legislation does come, it is likely to include these stipulations: the metric system will be predominant but not exclusive; there will be a voluntary 10-year conversion period; and no federal funds will be available to effect the change.

MES

"A Buyer's Market"?!

Some architects have come to the conclusion that like it or not, the design/build concept might become the way of the future. And while the contractual arrangements may vary in each case, they all add up to the same thing: an assurance to the client of a *guaranteed* final total price, with the responsibility square in the wallet of the architect and builder.

Among the more recent examples of this approach are the Dormitory Authority's controversial design/build competitions, which, for the moment at least, account for only a small fraction of their building budget.

Any firm wishing to enter may do so. But since the competitions so far have not been overly publicized, few were actually aware of them at the time of possible application.

On April 2, the Chapter's Fees and Contracts Committee held an open meeting at which State representatives of the Competition Program were present to discuss the two current projects: Rockefeller University Housing (already under construction) and the addition to and renovation of St. John's Hospital, Smithtown, L.I. (still in a delayed final qualifying stage).

All present agreed that William Sharkey, Executive Director of the Dormitory Authority, was informative beyond their expectations . . . one of his most revealing statements being the observation that "it's a buyer's market".

Just how does the design/build competition work?

The first step is the Prequalification Submission. This is a lengthy questionnaire (there is no interview) to be filled out by the architect and builder (whose monetary arrangement with each other is apparently of minor interest to the client). The answers on this form are to provide proof that the architect is capable of doing the type of project involved. The detailed financial probe presumably established the credentials of the builder.

These submissions are then evaluated by the Authority and the competition is narrowed to six "Qualifying Teams". These teams must then post bonds promising that first, having agreed to enter, they will stay on to complete the competition, and second, if selected as winner, they will guarantee the project's being built for the Authority's stipulated sum.

It should be noted that this total sum includes all costs for both architectural services and construction costs and the proportionate components are up to the teams' members themselves.

The six teams then receive the entire program, which in the Smithtown project consisted of 1100 pages of text along with pertinent drawings, circulation studies, etc. These drawings, having been prepared for the client beforehand by outside architectural consultants, are considered proof that the job can be done for the stated sum.

In the classic style of winner-take-all, the five losers may expect to receive for their efforts an "honorarium" in the Smithtown project this had been set at \$5,000 but was later raised). The winning team goes on to build the job for not one penny over the guaranteed cost.

Several questions immediately come to mind. One is: to what degree must all the entrants develop their drawings to prove (to themselves, at least) that their submissions can be built for the price they are obligated to guarantee? It is undoubtedly an understatement to say that the hours required are potentially staggering.

In the Smithtown competition, the six qualifying teams *all* withdrew within a week of being selected. (Each insisted it had done so independently of the others.) And as *Oculus* goes to press, it was learned that of the three additional teams chosen, one more withdrew so belatedly that it will lose its posted bond.

The Chapter's Fees and Contracts Committee hopes to pursue the competition matter further. To date, not a word of guidance has come from the NYC/AIA's parent organization, which insists that since these are "not true competitions in the AIA definition", it need not venture an opinion on the subject.

In any event, the competitions have served to highlight the design/build concept (with its guarantees to the client) as a possible way of life for the future. The feeling of many architects and builders was neatly summarized by a member of the Fees and Contracts Committee who said, "These days, how can anyone guarantee any price for even four hours?"
LY