

AIA Convention: Ethical Standards Debated Employee Resolution Defeated

A new Standards of Ethical Practice permitting advertising, contracting, free sketches and commission agents, and making the Standards applicable abroad, was submitted by the AIA Board for action by the Convention. The requirement of the old Standards that competitions be AIA-approved had been deleted by the Board a few days earlier.

At a 3-hour chapter meeting held on April 20 strong opposition was expressed to advertising, free sketches and commission agents; the architect as contractor was viewed more favorably, and application of the Standards abroad had support both pro and con. More importantly, it was seen that most of the items were so interrelated and so lacking in the moral force of the standards we have now that much more thinking needed to be done. It was the firm, if not angry, sense of the meeting that the Board's proposal had been submitted too hastily and with scant background information.

As the delegates gathered in Philadelphia it quickly became apparent that our views were widely shared and the proposal was not going to come to a vote. There was, however, a debate of high quality. Jerome Cooper of Atlanta presented eloquently well reasoned arguments in opposition. He warned that school boards would require free sketches which would amount to competitions without fees; real estate people and others would seek opportunities to

exact finders' fees; and architects would be completely in the marketplace, where as a profession we should have guidelines for professional conduct. He described the proposal as a scenario for survival of the richest, not the fittest, and he warned that the AIA should not be stampeded by the distant thunder of possible anti-trust action.

Jack Hartray of Chicago presented a witty ("I'm *for* bribery: it's the only way we can get a turnover on the Chicago City Council!") but cogent case in favor. Reminding the delegates that free sketches "are worth exactly what you pay for them," he said that since any intelligent client knows this, there was no need for a moral prohibition. On advertising, he pointed to firms which now hire expensive photographers to get space in magazines for their photogenic work. He said that developers tend to trust architects who take a financial risk.

Robert Gatje reported the New York Chapter's dissatisfaction with the document and with the way the AIA Board produced and presented it. "We are prepared for evolutionary change, but not for the destruction of professionalism," he said, and their was very strong applause.

After those three speakers there was nothing much to be added. The convention referred the draft back to the Board with directions to restudy it, to distribute a revised draft at Grass-

roots and at the chapter level, and to submit a final proposal to the 1977 convention.

The resolutions submitted by this chapter all passed with one dismaying exception: our call for the Institute to study the whole question of employer-employee relations was decisively defeated. This writer can only venture as explanation that New York's continued interest in this subject made little impression on a room full of employers preoccupied with the economy and not disposed to encourage the Institute to expend funds for new staff studies.

GL

License Renewal Fee Hiked to \$40

The Legislature has raised fees for all professions — all, that is, except lawyers, who do not pay any State Education Dept. fee. President Gatje, noting that there appears to be no justification for the more than 150% increase, and that the only professionals properly represented in Albany are the lawyers, wrote to Governor Carey and leaders of the Legislature that "we would appreciate some words of explanation so as to answer the expected outcry from the members of our Chapter."

Seminar on Contemporary School Facilities

An exceptionally interesting seminar organized by the Educational Facilities Committee was held on April 29 at the McGraw-Hill Auditorium. The discussion centered on how suburban school districts are adapting to declining student populations. Alan Green of EFL, a co-sponsor of the meeting, moderated. Some random notes:

The Superintendent of Schools of Syosset, Edward J. Murphy, described the difficulties in persuading residents that two schools should be closed because what had been 9200 pupils was now 7200: the average voter says "cut expenses but close *their* school." Extensive hearings and carefully prepared statistics were a must. Paul Abramson, President of the school board of Mamaroneck, with students at 6000 down from 6400, described high taxes as causing people without children to move away while families with move in. He urged inclusion of other uses — doctors' offices, small shops — in school buildings to increase income and cut vandalism.

Alan Streusand of Wilton, Conn., a town of 34 square miles with 1- and 2-acre zoning, said the cost of education was 75% of the town budget while about half the population lives there less than three years: the old residents care for the town's future, the others want to cut costs. He said there was considerable resentment at the high salaries paid to teachers with tenure and a light schedule.

Of more direct interest to architects was the experience of William Downing, Ithaca architect, who bought a 120,000 s.f. abandoned 3-story school and converted it to ground floor shopping, offices around a central court where the auditorium had been, apartments with 12' ceilings and a penthouse for himself. The project turned around a declining inner-city situation and cost \$6 per square foot.

GL

Architects! Steal This Cookbook!

Chapter members interested in cooking have a treat in store if they'll pick up a copy of *First You Steal Two Eggs*, by Hedda Hendrix Edelbaum.

Arrangements have been made with the book distributor to have 1/3 of the \$6.95 purchase price of the book go to the NYC/AIA Minority Scholarship Fund. In ordering from Media/America, 1715 37th Street N.W., Wash., D.C. 20007, you should inform them about this.

Architecturally organized and graphically inviting, Hedda's home grown verse introduces each group of recipes:

You can scramble, coddle, bake, or fry them, You can poach, paint, or color-dye them. Perfectly formed to amuse or beguile, Here are 14 ways to crack eggs with style.

Almost each recipe is preceded by a musing paragraph, presenting the dish and the person whom Hedda tracked down as the original source of the particular recipe. Many recipes have a more lengthy story and the names of many dishes should win a literary if not a culinary award...

The Dough That Bought Tickets At Carnegie Hall

Double Whammy Ambrosia
Chicken Licken
A Ruse With A Mousse
NFJ

New York Chapter
The American Institute of Architects
20 West 40th Street
New York, New York 10018
212/730-1221
George S. Lewis, Executive Director

Executive Committee 1975/76
Robert F. Gatje, President
Richard G. Stein, 1st Vice President
Judith Edelman, Vice President
Peter Samton, Vice President
Manfred Riedel, Secretary
Anna M. Halpin, Treasurer
A. Corwin Frost, Director
Charles E. Hughes, Director
Gillet Lefferts, Director
Michael Maas, Director
Nathan Jerry Maltz, Director
Donald P. Ryder, Director

Oculus Committee
Norman F. Jacklin, Editor and Chairman
Albert Barash
Stephen N. Carter
Mary Jane Clark
Bonnell Irvine
Monroe S. Nadel
Daniel V. Rodriguez
Ralph Steinglass

Executive Committee Actions May 7, 1976

- Heard a report on the AIA convention (see article this issue).
- Discussed the draft of a personnel practices manual which was prepared by the Employer/Employee Relations Committee.
- Noted the recently enacted increase of architectural license renewal fee (2 years) from \$15 to \$40.
- Discussed problems arising from instances of architectural school faculty members competing with firms for commissions.

Welcome to New Members

The NYC/AIA welcomes the following members:

Corporate

Paul Broches

Associate

Pervaiz N. Arabi
John P. Hesslein
Stephen N. Carter
Vivian A. Doncovio
William J. Rowe
Thomas J. Condit

Candidates for Membership

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

Corporate

Guadelupe DiDonno
David Feldman
Michael A. Geyer
Louis F. Reuter, IV
Ronald Schappaugh
Phyllis Sperling

Associate

Joan L. Capelin
Clare Simon