

# Oculus

## Institute Officials Visit Chapter, Meet Officers, and Hold Press Conference on Energy

Messrs. McGinty, Botsai and Slayton, accompanied by three members of the Institute PR staff, were in New York February 15 for a press reception. They also sat down with executive committee members and several past presidents. Of particular note were these points:

●**Energy.** The Institute continues to lobby for energy conservation in buildings; it is almost alone in this effort even though the built environment consumes at least one-third of the nation's energy. The AIA holds that, using conservative figures, fuel consumption in existing buildings could be reduced 30%, and energy-efficient design of new buildings could save 60%. This could save, by 1990, the equivalent of 12.5 million barrels of oil a day, or almost one-fifth of what total fuel consumption will be if the current rate of growth continues.

●**Influence with Government.** Mr. McGinty said he was not fully satisfied with the Institute's contacts to date with the Carter administration. Chapter representatives stressed the need for AIA pressure to turn Federal attention to the Northeast, especially the cities, as against the Sunbelt. McGinty



*A lighthearted moment at the meeting with Institute officers. AIA President John McGinty, Richard Stein and Peter Samton. Photo by Denis Glen Kuhn.*

asked that the Chapter prepare positions on this, which is going to be done with the assistance of certain Chapter committees.

●**AIA Research Corp.** The question was asked, Is this arm of the Institute in competition with AIA members? The answer was, perhaps occasionally, but this is far outweighed by the many firms which benefit from work subcontracted by the Corporation. Elmer Botsai described how his firm got work--and learned how to handle it--from the Corporation, work which he otherwise could not have obtained. A

related point by Giorgio Cavaglieri: architectural schools, using students, sometimes seek commissions in competition with architects.

●**Termination of AIA Memberships.** The Chapter is deeply concerned that members in economic difficulties are finding their AIA memberships terminated because of delinquent dues payments. McGinty stated that the Secretary of the Institute would give serious consideration to advice forwarded by a chapter concerning a member's situation. □

*George Lewis*

# Calendar

●*Wed., Mar. 9, 12:30 Chapter Headquarters*

*Meeting on J51.* Conversion of commercial properties into multiple dwellings through the J51 tax abatement program will be analyzed by Stephen Jacobs, AIA, who has completed several projects, Loren Otis and others. By Office Practice Committee.

●*Fri., Mar. 16, 5:30 p.m., Bijoux Theater, 111 Second Ave.*

(at 7th St.). *Films on Historic Preservation:* The Old Merchant's House & The Greenwich Village Historic District. These were produced by NYU and are to be viewed with the possibility of the Chapter producing a film. Sponsored by the Historic Buildings Committee (see article p.9).

●*Fri., Mar. 25, Health Facilities Field Trip*

to the New Children's Hospital, National Medical Center, Washington, D.C. For travel arrangements contact Penelope Jastrey, 889-4560 before March 14.

●*Thurs., Mar. 31, 5:30 (Cash bar 5:00), Chapter Headquarters*

*Solar Energy Case Study:* Presentation of the Sigler House, Bridgehampton, L.I. Air cooled collectors and "passive" architecture provide space heating and domestic hot water. Guests will be Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Sigler, owner, Mark Mathews, Architect and Tom Grayson, Solar Consultant. Sponsored by the Energy & Environment Committee.

*Other Events of Interest:*

*City College School of Architecture Lectures,* Graduate Center auditorium, 33 West 42 St., 6:00 to 7:30, reception following. *Mon., Mar. 7, Getting Out of Buildings:* Fire Safety Developments, Lars Lerup. *Tues., Mar. 22, Staying Inside Buildings:* Energy Conscious Design, Harrison Fraker.

*Columbia School of Architecture & Planning Lectures,* Schermerhorn Hall, Room 501, starting at 5:30. *Wed., Mar. 9, Outside In: Inside Out?* Colin Rowe. *Wed., Mar. 23, Everyday Masterpieces,* Thomas Killian and Francoise Bollack. *Wed., Mar. 30, The Rise of Post-Modern Architecture,* Charles Jencks.

*Exhibit, Avery Hall, 4th Fl., Mar. 1 through 29, St. Joseph's Village Competition:* Four Faculty Proposals by Romaldo Giurgola, Jan Pokorny, Michael Mostoller and Robert A.M. Stern.

*CSI Meeting, Energy Conservation and Solar Energy, Wed. Mar. 9, 5:45 p.m., McGraw-Hill Building, 6th Ave. at 49th St., Conf. Rm. 208.* John Cable of ERDA, Jack Lebduska of Ecosol, Ltd., Steve Veron, Northeastern Solar Energy Corp.

*Forum on Architecture, Planning & Society. Housing and Class in Cuba, Fri., Mar. 25, 5:30 p.m., Chapter Headquarters.* Tony Schuman, R.A., will give a report with slides; Max Bond will be chairman. Mr. Schuman will discuss how a housing program can begin to address broad social questions beyond the immediate need for providing shelter.

## Candidates for Membership

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

*Corporate*

Carl Woo Mark  
Robert M. Parnes  
Stephen D. Weinstein

## New Members

The NYC/AIA Welcomes the following members:

*Corporate*

Simon R. Thoresen  
David Van Buren

*Professional Associate*

C. Jay Ho

*Associate*

Joseph A. Micali  
Steven I. Steinberg  
Mitchel T. Wolfe

**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 1976/77**

Richard G. Stein, President  
Peter Samton, 1st Vice President  
Judith Edelman, Vice President  
Eason H. Leonard, Vice President  
Stephen A. Kliment, Secretary  
Anna M. Halpin, Treasurer  
John Belle, Director  
George Dudley, Director  
Roy Friedberg, Director  
Gillet Lefferts, Director  
Donald Ryder, Director  
Robert A.M. Stern, Director

**Oculus Committee**

Denis Glen Kuhn, Editor/Chairman  
Albert Barash  
Stephen N. Carter  
Mary Jane Clark  
Bonnell Irvine  
Lawrence Levine  
Kenneth T. Lydon  
Kenneth Ricci  
William C. Shopsin

Robert A.M. Stern  
Executive Committee Liaison  
Stephen A. Kliment  
Secretary, NYC/AIA  
Cathanne Piesla  
Chapter Staff Member

## The Profession and the Education

Last year member Jonathan Barnett scheduled a series of meetings at the Chapter on architectural education. Educators from all the New York City schools appeared. Attendance by Chapter members to the first 3 meetings was abysmal. The rest of the series was cancelled.

We like to think that this poor attendance was due to ineffective advance publicity instead of a lack of interest. Operating under the theory that "it's never too late" OCULUS decided to recontact each of the architectural schools in New York City. We hope not to just be informative but to open and stimulate a more lasting dialogue between the Chapter and the educational community.

The first in what we hope to be a series is on Pratt Institute. Later issues of OCULUS will feature Cooper Union, Columbia University, and CUNY. There are 2 relatively new schools of architecture within the immediate vicinity of the Chapter. These are the New York Institute of Technology and the New Jersey School of Architecture in what used to be the Newark College of Engineering. We will cover these schools as space and time permits and as their development further crystalizes. □

The limited space of OCULUS provides a wonderful opportunity to throw out some wild, unsubstantiated speculation about the profession and its education. The local, to say nothing of the national, effort in this area can hardly be covered in the space available but at least some ideas can be exchanged.

My proposition is simple, if somewhat melodramatic. It is that the profession and its education have come, as a result of concurrent crises, to a relationship that is historically unique.

Let me first go through some preamble. In direct definition of "profession" or "education" there is little help or clarification. The meanings are as one would expect. But if one looks to the root words "educere" and "profess" the meanings have more interpretive value and indeed overlap. To educere is to "bring out," to "develop from latent or potential existence." To profess is to "affirm belief in," to "claim knowledge in," to "practice." They tend to describe the totality of what we do either in the profession or in education. A union of purpose organized from different viewpoints.

This is said in order to countermand the popular view of seeing the professional and academic worlds almost as polar opposites. They are dialectic sets rather than opposites, and are concurrent rather than sequential. That is, learning and doing are interactive and mutually supportive. Learning is implosive, introspective, and deals with dreams and speculation. Practice is explosive, extraspective and deals with realization and manifestation. These are interdependent sets, not separate domains.

The unity of relationship of the medieval artisan and apprentice, divided by the 19th and 20th century interpretation of "education" and "profession," may be ready to be re-established at this time in a new interpretation of professional education at all levels of experience.

That division of areas was epitomized by the Ecole de Beaux Arts which determined how the profession should be at that time. The reverse was later established by the Bauhaus which was determined by the way the profession was changing. Since then there has been a tendency for each domain to go its own way and, probably as the consequence, to find itself in a current crisis.

The crisis in education is in purpose, goals, life role, cost, validity. The crisis in the profession is in credibility, image, integrity, competence, professionalism. These are not too dissimilar in character and from the view of many observers are indeed complementary. Both the professional and academic worlds must now search for basic integrity and future alternatives. The proposition here is that they would best do that together.

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## The Profession And the Education

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The meanings of education and the profession require restatement. It is a syntactical not a grammatical problem. Also, it is important to avoid the parochialism often associated with crisis and to take a broader focus for action.

In the search for alternatives, it is critical that we look in all directions simultaneously: Look backwards to clarify role definitions and to consider ethical revision. Look laterally to evaluate the promise and wanings of other disciplines and professions. Look forward to democratizing the profession, to technical innovation, and to ideological revision.

There is almost no limit to the number of directions to take, only in priorities to establish. Partial answers from set positions will be inadequate. But collective, cooperative endeavor and holistic approaches could make the current position truly unique.

Pratt School of Architecture, on a small scale, is preparing to face these challenges but there is little chance of significant progress unless the profession is equally committed to self-directed change.

That cry for cooperation ends this condensed version of a paper, but I hope it may generate a professional response both in OCULUS and in direct action. □

*Alan J. Forrest, ARIBA  
Director, School of  
Architecture, Pratt  
Institute, Brooklyn, NY*

## Pratt Institute School of Architecture: "A Stable Structure that Accommodates Change"

Those of us who are conditioned to find the Pratt Institute School of Architecture through the brick and brownstone portion of the Main Building are in for a shock. It's no longer there, tucked away, hidden on the second floor. It's in a somewhat prominent, off campus turn of the century structure called Higgins Hall which is really two connected brick buildings--one painted the other not--formerly owned by Adelphi University. That's not the only thing that has changed--some things are constant--much is different.

The School of Architecture still offers a 5 yr. B.Arch., a new Bachelor of Professional Studies in Construction Management and 3 graduate degrees: a 1 yr. M.Arch., a 2 yr. M.S. (Urban Design) and a 2 yr. M.S. (Planning). There are also 6 yr. combined programs known colloquially as "two-fers" which grant a B.Arch./M.S. (Urban Design) or the same Bachelor's degree with a M.S. (Planning). Counting undergraduate, graduate, daytime and evening programs there are approximately 1000 students enrolled in the school. Tuition and fees per yr. for an undergraduate student is \$3,684. There are approximately 600 full time students in the undergraduate program.

It's still a "subway school" with most of the students living in the city. Models have to still be protected and last minute touches to term papers still have to be done on the GG train.

In spring of '68 there was a general strike by the student body otherwise known as "the revolution." Revolutions swept many schools of architecture throughout the country in those years, but the one at Pratt seemed to strike first and last the longest. In '73 the present system of governance was initiated and Alan J. Forrest was appointed the Director of the School of Architecture.

One of the unique and different aspects of Pratt's School of Architecture is that it operates from a participatory democratic base. The primary policy formulation and implementation body is the 15 member School Council, composed of 5 elected faculty, 5 elected students and the 5 members of the Executive Committee. This last group is composed of the Director and 4 Chairpersons. The chairpersons' responsibilities are determined not from the usual academic subject classifications but from operational areas of administration: student affairs, faculty affairs, curriculum and resources. As Stanley Salzman put it "a stable structure that accommodates change."

Of the pre-revolution faculty 3 prominent Chapter members remain: Sidney Katz, Stanley Salzman and Sidney Shelov. Recent conversations with all three revealed an absolute and exciting enthusiasm for educating. Sidney Katz likened them to the 3 familiar revolutionary figures bandaged around the forehead pictured with musket, fife and drum.

With the location of the school in its own building the place seems to have a sense of focus. With modest renovations done

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## News of Chapter Committee Activities Reach ExecComm & Other ExecComm Highlights

After a long struggle to get reports of Chapter committee activities on the table at ExecComm meetings, it finally happened on Feb. 8. This page is not the place to record all the details (each committee is responsible for notifying OCULUS directly of items ready for publication); but the fact itself, bringing as it does to the ExecComm a direct flow of news from the committees' manifold efforts, is a big step forward.

●Agreed to form a committee that would meet with mayoral candidates to impress on them our views on issues of importance to architects.

●Regretted a common situation where firms were forced to forego compensation until the client's mortgage funds come through--often only after architectural services are 75% complete (the NY Association of Consulting Engineers will be contacted to see if joint action is in order).

●OK'd secession of the Chapter's territory upstate subject to approval of a practical plan and schedule for, perhaps, a new Mid-Hudson Chapter. □

*Stephen A. Kliment*

On Feb. 15, the ballots were counted under the supervision of the Chapter Secretary Stephen A. Kliment and the following were elected to the 5 person Chapter Nominating Committee.

Robert F. Gatje  
. Milton Glass  
Denis Glen Kuhn  
Frithjof M. Lunde  
Rolland D. Thompson

## Architects in Industry Committee Intends to Gain New Ground

This year's Architects in Industry Committee, chaired by Eric DeVaris, intends to capitalize on last year's successes and see if new ground can be gained as well. Last year's field trips, open to the Chapter membership, to firms with Committee members on their staffs were well received. This year we are working on tours to other well-designed facilities.

The Committee is also interested in building a list of corporations in the Greater New York area that have "in-house" staff with the names of individuals listed, whether or not they are architects. A questionnaire for this purpose has been prepared for mailing with this issue of OCULUS. We also intend to reach architectural and business students to acquaint them with the varied roles of the "in-house" architect. This might be done through invitations to our Seminars and even through an internship program with corporations with such a staff.

We also recognize we have a unique opportunity as Architect In Industry--as both architect *and* client--that might be utilized to develop basic design information, useful to the profession and to the business world. □

*Nesbitt Garmendia*  
Secretary  
Architects In Industry Comm.

## The Women's Architectural Auxiliary; Quiescent or Not?

The Women's Architectural Auxiliary, founded in '58 by a group of architects' wives to help young people obtain an architectural education has already assisted close to 450 architectural students through scholarship grants totaling \$150,000. Last fall the only funding was given in support of the CUNY School of Architecture which has been stung by incessant budget cuts. Equal amounts of \$1,000 was given to the day school and evening programs. In lively discussions with several of the key members of the Auxiliary including Isabella Ketchum founder and recent President, it was expressed that "times are tough" and fund raising activities have been severely curtailed. However, WAA does indicate that the organization and spirit are there, and the Auxiliary is available as the NYC/AIA needs it for special events.

Quiescent or not, WAA is a viable organization with some funds in reserve and it urges its 150 members to acknowledge their current dues notice and to continue their support.

It is important to recall that the equal opportunity scholarship projects of the NYC/AIA have been substantially assisted as the result of WAA events and contributions. □

*Albert Barash*

## Philip Johnson on CBS Camera Three Watch for Reruns!

What is charming, provocative, mildly addicting, comes in three parts, and takes place in a glass house? A conversation with Philip Johnson, of course! Originally shown late last year on CBS-TV's unique "Camera Three" program, Rosamond Bernier's three half-hour interviews condensed from five hours with the architect were given a special screening at the Museum of Modern Art on Feb. 2 with both Mr. Johnson and Mme. Bernier present.

Camera crews traveled to film several of Mr. Johnson's more recent buildings, particularly the IDS Center in Minneapolis and Pennzoil Place in Houston, with lesser attention given to the Museum of South Texas in Corpus Christi and the Fort Worth Water Garden. Pride of place, however, was naturally given to the Glass House, still, after twenty-five years, Johnson's best known work. Sprinkled throughout were salty opinions about such matters as the future of architecture, and about the three toughest design problems for the architect - chairs, stairs and city squares. The real appeal of the presentation was the extremely effective way the words and pictures were put together. Since the filming of the buildings was done after the interviews and the two were only brought together by the film editor, what we saw was essentially two approaches to the buildings, the words and the pictures, combining their separate strengths to give a richly enhanced treatment of the architecture. This was done particularly well in the case of the IDS Center with its great twelve-story glass-enclosed mall for pedestrian circulation and in the dramatic ring-road shots of the tense



Philip Johnson  
Photo by William Marlin

cloven mass of the Pennzoil building.

The project which produced the most skeptical response from the audience, however, was the model Johnson showed for the Rev. Robert Schuller's all-glass Crystal Cathedral. Just one freeway exit from Disneyland, the church will sit in a vast parking lot allowing the congregation to remain in its chariots while "attending" services. It is an enormous structure, larger than Chartres Cathedral, noted the architect, but smaller than the Merchandise Mart.

Mr. Johnson and Mme. Bernier are to be applauded, "Camera Three" is to be congratulated, and if CBS would just put this kind of program on prime time, the millenium would be here.

Watch for re-runs! □

John Reilly  
Ph.D. History  
Columbia University

## Book Review

*Norval White: The Architecture Book*, "an A-to-Z compendium of architects ancient and modern, and their works... of great buildings, public and private... of architectural history, terminology, technique and all related matters." Alfred A. Knopf, 1976, paperback \$8.95

An awfully amusing and absolutely absorbing book, brilliant but biased, conveniently condensed, didactic, encyclopedic, especially effective for finding facts, giving generous historic illustrations, it is judicious, knowledgeable, limited. Much material makes news. Norval opens original perspectives. Quite recondite references sometimes seem trivial, though usually, upon verification, worthwhile. White writes well, with x-centric youthful zeal. □

Harmon H. Goldstone

## "A Stable Structure That Accommodates Change"

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in the Pratt administration style of indigenous materials installed with dispatch the whole setting is rather pleasant. Higgins Hall contains a good size auditorium space presenting a rather theatrical opportunity for the display of student work. The work is quite diverse; not of one style. Still a "slice of life" school with each problem and solution considered on its own.

There are many innovative changes in the educational system. Design studios are organized in a vertical fashion. Each critic writes up the architectural problem or problems to be studied during the semester. The students then choose the critic or problems they want to study. Seniors get their choice first with the rest selected in descending order so that each group has students from various classes within the school.

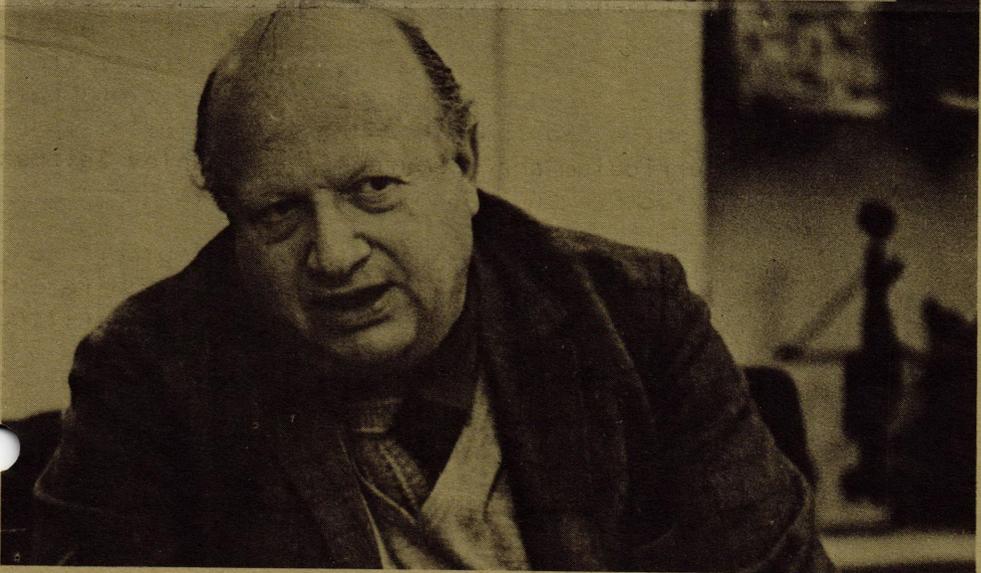
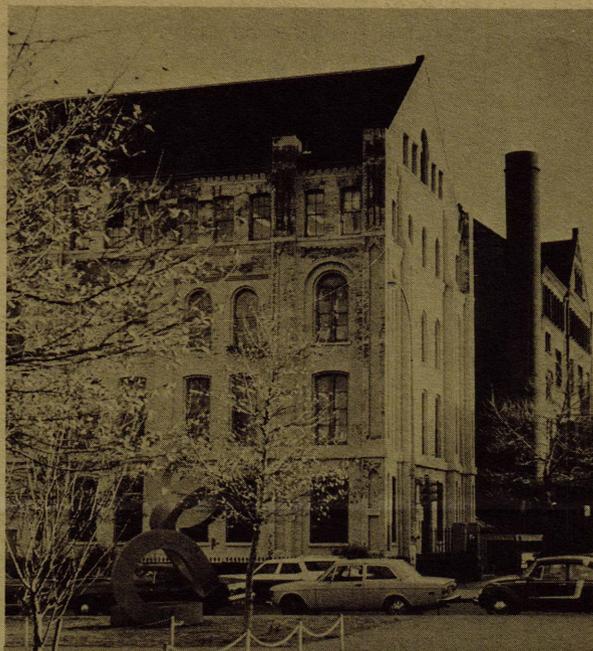
The NAAB visited all the schools of architecture in our city this past fall. Pratt received the highest possible rating indicating a solid program without major problems.

A fellow classmate of this writer, Albert Lorenz, who like myself is inherently skeptical, is on the full-time faculty of our alma mater, Pratt. He said that I would be "proud" of what I found on my recent visit after more than a 10 year absence and a period of significant change, and indeed I am. □

*Denis Glen Kuhn*

*Higgins Hall and  
Sidney Shelov photos  
by Denis Glen Kuhn*

*Sidney Katz photo  
at bottom by Robert  
Galbraith*



In response to a number of requests the other 3 winners of the playground for able-bodied and handicapped children competition co-sponsored by the Chapter are illustrated in this issue. Drawings of the other winning scheme designed by Paul Benowitz and Secundino Fernandez were shown in the Feb./77 issue of OCULUS with a brief article describing the competition. Drawings in the adjacent column from top to bottom are:

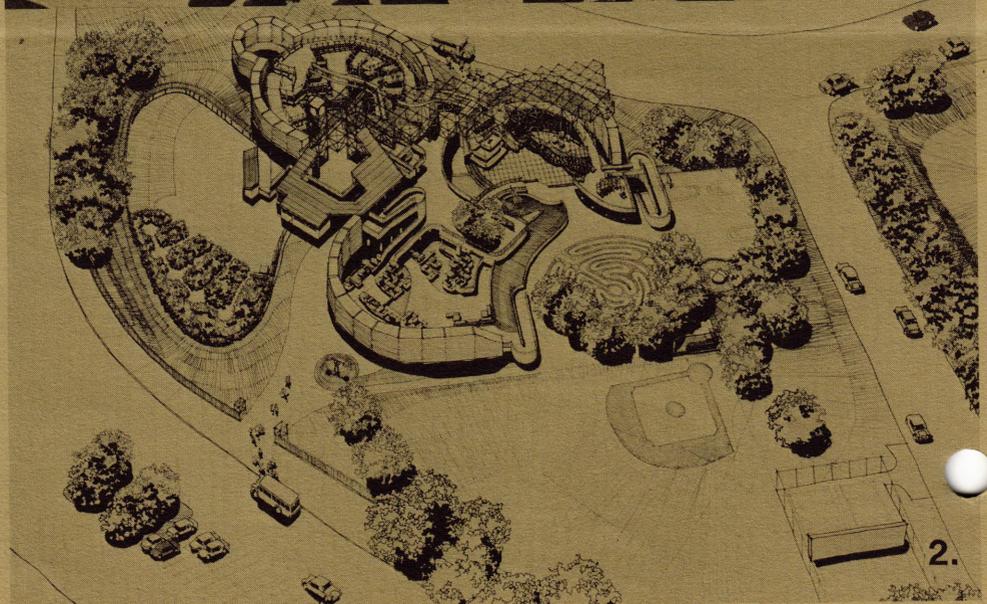
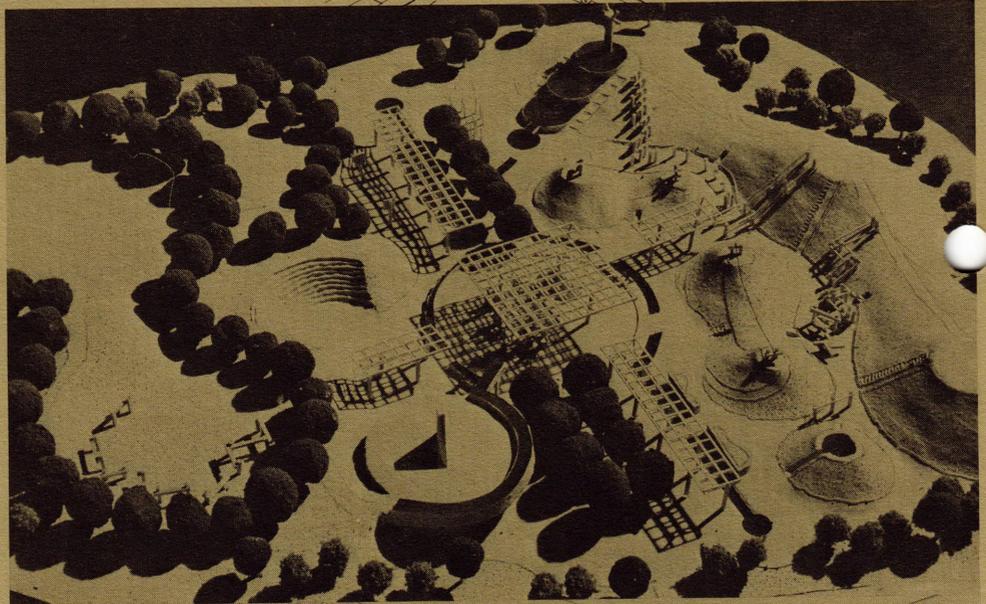
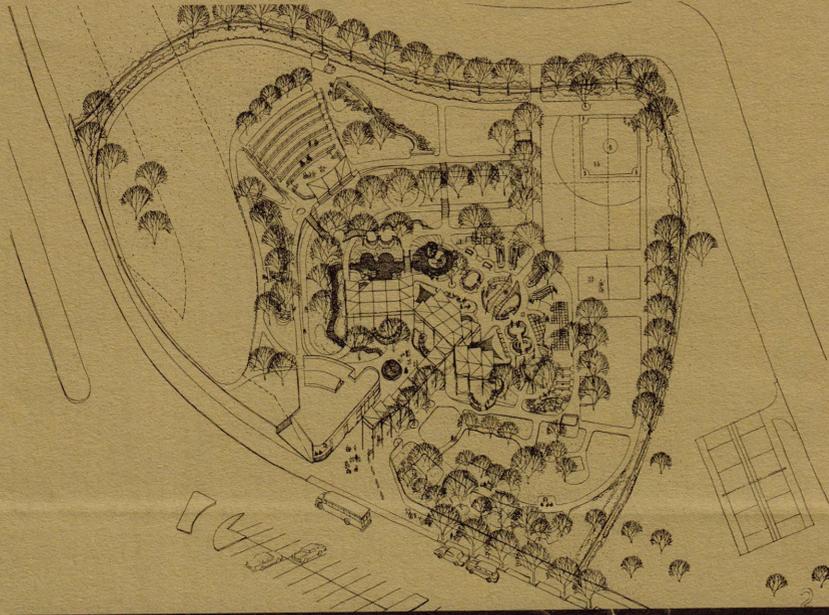
●Hisham N. Ashkouri and James Charnisky of Cambridge Mass. Features a modified 1880's style railroad handcar mounted on rails which can be driven through the park by the children.

●The Richard Dattner, Thomas Bittner and Joseph Smith of New York City solution includes sculptured earth mounds integrating the landscaped land with play facilities.

●The R.M. Toole of Saratoga Springs, N.Y. design provides walls of crushed automobiles surrounding different playground uses.

Regrettably the many innovative play facilities specially designed for the children and contained in each one of the winning solutions cannot be adequately shown in this format.

*Denis Glen Kuhn*



The Preservation League of New York State is a private, non-profit organization incorporated in March '74 and dedicated to the conservation and continued vitality of the state's rich historic environment.

The primary purpose of the Preservation League is to stimulate and encourage historic preservation activities throughout the state. The League

- serves as a united voice for preservation across the state
- acts as a statewide clearinghouse and coordinator to enable preservationists to share information on projects, educational programs and publications

- works as a catalyst, liaison, and advocate for historic preservation within local and state governmental agencies

- promotes the progressive concept and practice of adapting older buildings and neighborhoods to the needs of the present and the future.

The highlight of the year is the Preservation League's annual statewide conference which includes technical sessions, workshops, special tours, and social events.

The conference also provides the opportunity to discuss preservation problems and solutions with preservation leaders from across the state. Past conferences have addressed new directions for historic preservation in New York State, small town revitalization, and historic preservation in the Adirondack and Catskill forest preserves. Regional meetings, sponsored with local organizations, offer programs of special regional concern. Currently scheduled for the weekend of April 15, at Sara-

toga Springs, New York, is a conference on preservation and economics. There will be a special emphasis on the new provisions of the '76 tax reform act which offers some interesting new incentives for preservation and adaptive re-use. The Preservation League's leaflet and reprint series provide members with specialized reference material on a range of subjects of concern to New York State preservationists. Leaflets in the series currently include property owners guide to paint. Future leaflets now in preparation are on the subject of storefront restoration, cleaning and restoration of stonework.

Membership in the Preservation League has grown by leaps and bounds throughout the past year, and now includes many government, institutional, library and professional groups as well as concerned individuals. If you are interested in membership or attending the conference at Saratoga next month, please contact Diana Waite, Executive Director, The Preservation League of New York, 13 Northern Boulevard, Albany, New York, 12210, tel: 518 462 5658.

If the address seems familiar the League, is now sharing quarters in a restored carriage house with the New York State Association of Architects. □

*William C. Shopsin  
Vice President for Programs  
The Preservation League of  
New York State*

**Preservation Films at  
Bijoux Theater March 16**

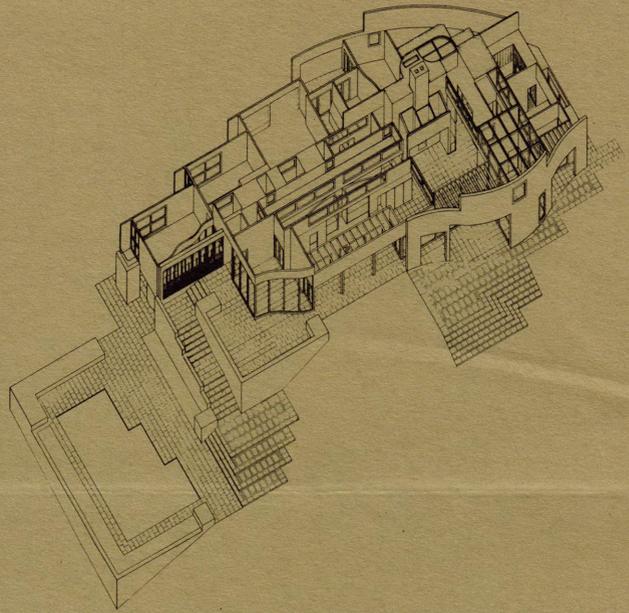
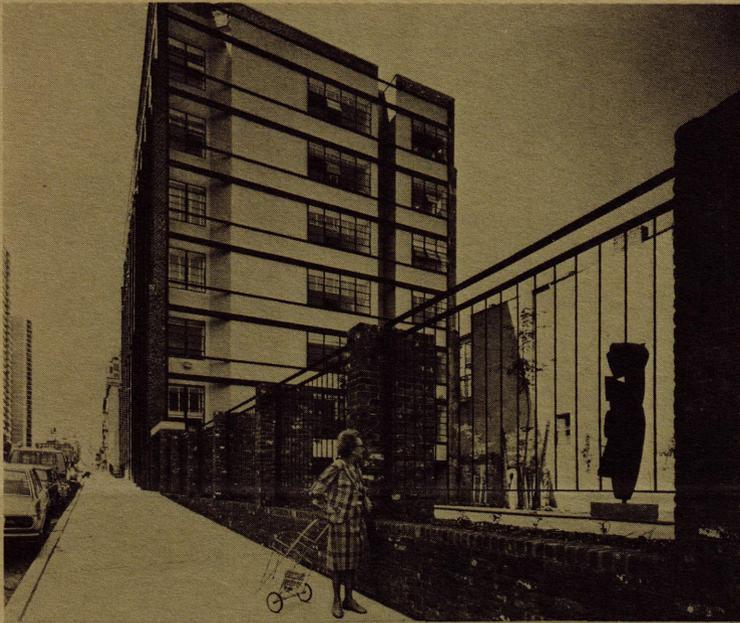
On March 16 at 5:30 p.m. the old Bijoux Theater, 111 Second Ave. will provide the setting for the presentation of two films on historic preservation. Arrangements for the screening have been made by the Historic Buildings Committee with the cooperation of New York University. This committee is currently studying the possibility of creating a film dealing with preservation.

The first film to be shown at the Bijoux will deal with the restoration of the Old Merchants House, a city landmark on East 4th Street, and the second "The Village, The Village, The Village" deals with (you guessed it) the Greenwich Village Historic District. Following the showing, Jay Cohen the creator of the second film--will discuss the film making process and answer questions from the audience.

Chapter members or committees who have contemplated similar undertakings, or who are just interested in seeing a good double feature in an old movie house are invited to attend. □

*Richard Ferrara  
Chairman  
Historic Buildings Committee*

## Annual Residential Design Award Winners Selected



The NYC/AIA annual Residential Design Awards have been made. A jury composed of Ellen Perry Berkeley, Hobart Betts and Stephen B. Jacobs selected the following:

### Awards:

●Pomeroy-Lebduska Associates with Don Weston Associate Architect for the rehabilitation of the Peales Mints loft building, Brooklyn, into the Henry Street Studios (*top left photo by David Hirsch*)

●Stern & Hagmann for a house

and outbuildings in Westchester County (*top right drawing of built project*)

●Norman Jaffe for weekend retreat house in eastern L.I. (*bottom photo*)

### Citations:

●Alfredo De Vido for Sheehy house in East Hampton L.I.

●Paul Segal for Hiro residence /studio--an apartment renovation in Manhattan

●Ciardullo/Ehmann for Plaza

Borinquen/Motthaven Infill a low rise high density low income project.

The Awards program is open to anyone within a hundred mile radius of New York City. Its purpose is to further public appreciation for excellence in the design of single-family houses, apartments and multi-family housing through display and publication of the selected designs. □

Denis Glen Kuhn