

Oculus

The Spirit of the Beaux Arts is Alive and Well at the Architectural League of New York

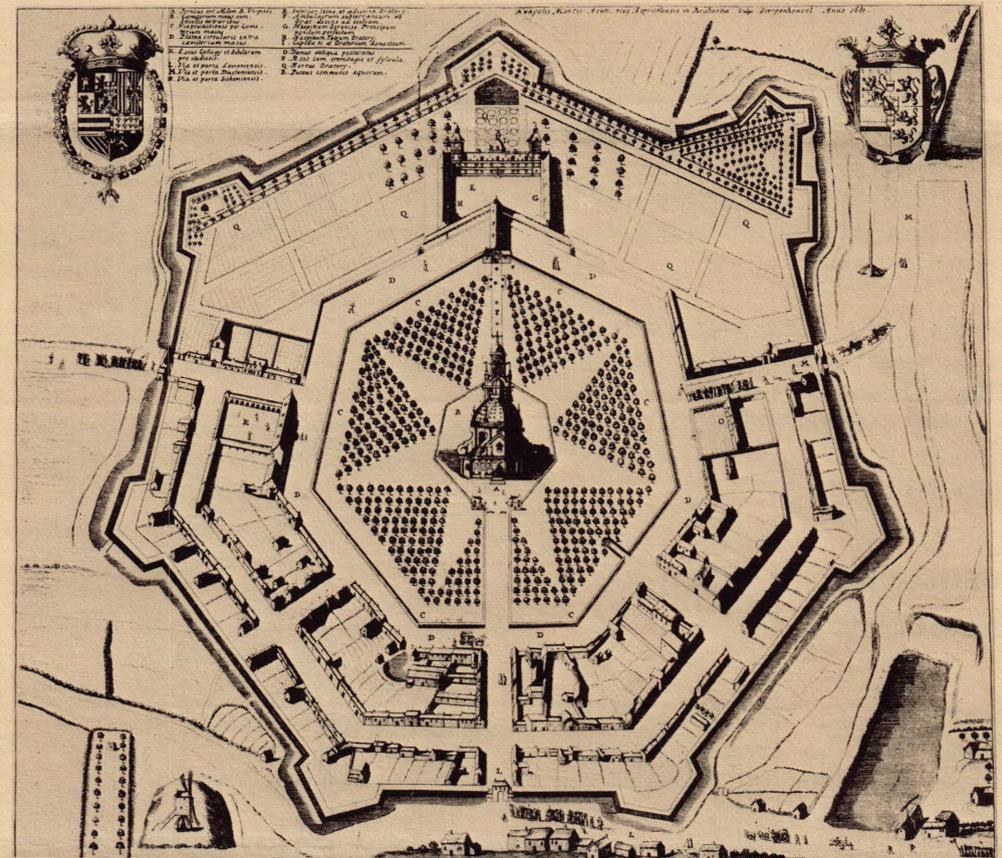
At a time when the spirit of the Beaux Arts seems to be reemerging, architects should take a look at the Architectural League of New York, an inter-professional organization that draws together the many facets of the arts field.

Growing out of the Beaux Arts tradition, the League offers a series of programs and exhibitions of interest to all its members -- architects, engineers, painters, sculptors, graphic artists, landscape architects and industrial designers.

According to Jonathan Barnett, the president, the League's purpose is to "interest, educate and entertain not only its members but the public as well." Founded by Cass Gilbert in 1881, the League is housed in the American Federation of the Arts building on East 65th Street.

During the past year, the League sponsored "200 years in American Architectural Drawings" at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum as well as "Women in American Architecture" at the Brooklyn Museum which is now on national tour.

Although the club-like organization seems to be managed effortlessly, there is careful planning and a great deal of



The Architectural League will hold a benefit sale of architectural drawings on Thursday evening Dec. 8 '77 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at 41 E. 65 St. Pictured above is a pre-Beaux Arts drawing which will be on sale. It is of a proposed new town drawn in 1653 to be on top of a peaked mountain in Scerpenheuveel, Belgium

behind-the-scenes work by its Executive Director, Marita O'Hare, and her staff.

For example, the coming spring programs have been tailored to suit the many interests of the League's members and others who participate. An exhibit of

architectural cartoons will be the culmination of efforts by Frances Halsband. A series of dinner-lectures will feature, among others, Robert Venturi and Aldo Giurgola.

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Chapter Dues to be Collected By AIA in Washington

As of Jan. 1 '78, the Institute will send out one bill for individual dues covering national and chapter dues for '78, as well as an amount to be forwarded to the State Association. This one-point collection of dues will greatly relieve the chapter staff of a collection process which has been up till now a duplication of what is also done in Washington.

The Chapter is mailing dues bills for the months of Oct. thru Dec. '77 to fill a gap: the Chapter's dues have until now been due on Oct. 1, while the Institute bill will be payable Jan. 1.

Sustaining firm dues will continue to be billed by the Chapter until such time as our system coincides with the Institute's (see following article). □

Institute Supplemental Dues Revised

Beginning in '78, Sustaining Firms will no longer pay supplemental dues calculated on a percentage of FICA. The billing will be simply \$155 for each registered architect among both employers and employees in the firm.

There will be a credit of \$85 for each registered architect who is an AIA member, making the charge for the firm per such AIA member \$70. This system is the result of a bylaw change voted at the San Diego convention, and it clearly is an inducement to encourage employees to join the AIA. □

Miscellany

● The Urban Landscape Architecture Program at City College has been fully accredited. It is one of the first undergraduate landscape programs to be located in the center of a major metropolitan area and the first to focus its design orientation on solutions to urban problems.

● The three chapter members of the 1978 NYSAA Board of Directors will be George Dudley, Carl Petrilli and Richard Roth, Jr.

● Our new delegates to the Fine Arts Federation for a three year term are Percival Goodman and Corwin Frost. They will join Jonathan Barnett, George Dudley, Abraham Geller, and Harmon Goldstone.

● Robert Esnard, President of the Bronx Chapter and recently director of the CPC Bronx office, has been named Deputy Borough President of the Bronx.

● The Chapter has joined other organizations in urging City University and NYU to keep the Hall of Fame intact as an important historic cultural monument in New York.

● Application for the NIAE "1978 Faculty Grant" of \$5,000 are available through Feb. 1. The award is to "initiate or continue a research project that will stimulate creativity in the field of architectural education." For further information, and application, contact the NIAE at 759-9154. □

Candidates for Membership

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

AIA Member

Tieh-Chi Ho
Ronald F. Thalmayr

New Members

The NYC/AIA Welcomes the following New Members:

AIA Member

Seymour Churgin
Charles Marks
Robin Moore
Richard Lee Rice, Jr.
Albert G. Saman
Steven I. Steinberg
Wim Swaan

AIA Associate

Donald Lavin
Roger Torriero

**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 1977/78
Peter Samton, President
Charles E. Hughes, 1st Vice President
George A. Dudley, Vice President
Joseph Wasserman, Vice President
Stephen A. Kliment, Secretary
Anna M. Halpin, Treasurer
Jonathan Barnett, Director
Michael McCarthy, Director
Rosaria Piomelli, Director
John Belle, Director
Roy Friedberg, 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

Stephen A. Kliment
Secretary, NYC/AIA
Cathanne Piesla
Chapter Staff Member

NIAE Plans all Day Event on Dec. 10th for High School Seniors Interested in the Profession of Architecture

The National Institute for Architectural Education and the regional Chapters of the AIA are co-sponsoring an all day event for high school seniors interested in the profession of architecture. This program will be held on Sat., Dec. 10 from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm at Washington Irving High School at 17 Street and Irving Place, NYC. It will be limited to 750 students.

In the morning half the students will meet with faculty, administrators and students from 20 northeastern schools of architecture, both graduate and undergraduate, while the other half will participate in discussion groups dealing with the practice of architecture. These discussion groups will include such topics as, architectural design, energy conservation, recycling of old buildings, community architecture, urban design and women in architecture. After lunch the groups will be reversed.

There will be three formal presentations to the group at large: a keynote address by John Johansen, an after lunch talk by Kevin Roche, and a wrap up at the end of the day by Lewis Davis. The purpose of this program is to help high school students understand what the profession of architecture is and the options that they have in terms of education for the profession.

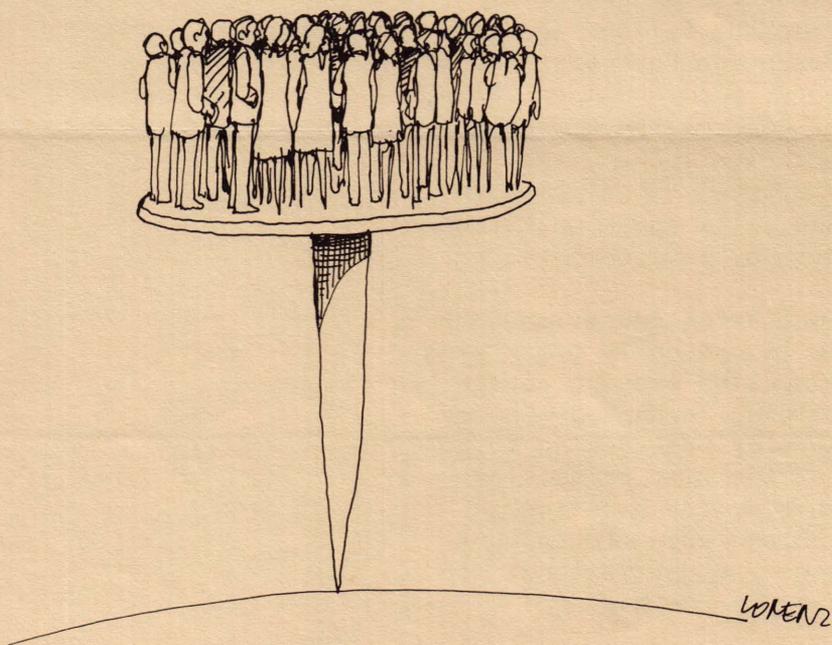
The New York Chapter is sponsoring this event with 14 other architectural organizations. Chapter members are invited to participate by attending either the morning or afternoon sessions or both to talk informally

with some of the students. Contact the NIAE office at 759-6294 if you plan to be at this unique event. □

Stanley Salzman

*The Selection Process by
Governmental Agencies
or
How Many Architects Can Fit
on the Head of a Push Pin.*

Drawing by Albert Lorenz.



Update on Possible Chapter Headquarters Move

As previously indicated in last month's Oculus, the Chapter may join with the Municipal Art Society and certain other organizations to take space in the north wing of the Villard Houses at Madison Avenue and 51st Street. This effort has been organized by MAS executive director Margot Wellington, and it may indeed happen that the Chapter may well be in this great landmark also with all the benefits of its central location.

As of now plans would call for joint use of a large space on the main floor, with MAS and the Chapter sharing the floor above. The occupancy cost seems to be within reach, and a sense of excitement and anticipation is rising. □

George Lewis

Ehrenkrantz Speaks at Chapter on Performance Specifying, Systems Building and Design

At the first of a series of events sponsored by the Continuing Education Committee, members enjoyed a two-hour review by Chapter member Ezra Ehrenkrantz of the state of performance specifying, systems building, and architectural design.

After identifying four basic determinants of building as "Image," "Behavior" "Climate" and "Economics," Ehrenkrantz wove a slide and audio show around the way these determinants have shaped his recent work.

Ehrenkrantz told how the systems movement had encouraged manufacturers to develop new products, such as acoustical partitions and ceilings for open plan offices and of how improved acoustical performance of these components permitted greater office densities by reducing the distance required for acoustical privacy.

On Dec. 15th, the Committee will sponsor a demonstration of "Pin Registered Overlay Drafting" by Rolland Thompson of Gruzen and Partners, and in February, William Allen, RIBA, former head of the Building Research Station and the Architectural Association in England, will speak on Museum and Display Environments.

The Continuing Education Committee is presently organizing a ten session evening course in Building Technology-Energy and Barrier Free Design to be held at the City University Graduate Center starting in Feb. '78 and hopes to sponsor a one or two day National AIA workshop in the Spring.

As part of its service to the



Ezra Ehrenkrantz

Chapter the committee is closely monitoring the controversial issue of mandatory Continuing Education for license maintenance and would welcome information or opinions from the membership at large.

Continuing Education material in the form of cassette recordings is available and on sale at the Chapter office. □

Ronald Woodward

Exhibits Committee to Hold First Exhibit on Working Drawings And Has Plans for Rest of Year

The Exhibits Committee of the NYC/AIA has been reactivated and is planning a number of shows, each of which will contain elements that incorporate the breadth of the profession in point of view and scale of work. In addition to presenting exhibits at the Chapter Headquarters, an attempt is being made to place exhibits in locations more accessible to the general public for casual viewing.

"Working Drawings" will be the subject of the first exhibit, beginning Dec. 19 '77, and includes a variety of sets of drawings from 15 architects of a wide range of project scales and presentation techniques, complete with some special surprise items. Future shows organized by the committee will be selected from topics such as "Architects' Offices: working environments for the professionals of environmental creation," "Variety Within One Scale: Small is Beautiful," "Variety of Scales: Architects' Work on Many Levels," "Planning for a Finite World," and "First Look Back at the Sixties." □

Paul Segal

Women's Architectural Auxilliary Forsees Active Year Starting with Membership Drive

The Women's Architectural Auxilliary will start the New Year with an extensive Membership Drive whose theme is "Involvement '78." The Big Apple is experiencing a resurgence of architectural activity, and the WAA wants to take advantage of the almost bullish atmosphere. Women are urged to get involved now, as the WAA is seeking new leadership.

The WAA, in conjunction with the Chapter has planned a number of exciting social events and philanthropic endeavors in the past and has a long history of achievement. The WAA has awarded well over \$100,000 in architectural scholarships in the past. Fund raising has included events at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the NYU Bobst Library, House Tours, a Gala at the United Nations School, etc.

The WAA offers its members the opportunity to become actively involved, socially as well as educationally and culturally, in the architectural profession. Those eligible for membership are wives, widows, sisters, mothers and daughters (18 or over) of members of the NYC/AIA and women members of the Chapter.

Potential members should contact Sally Musho, 300 East 33 Street, NY 10016, phone: 212-679-0743 □

Marilyn Thorson

A Point of View: Interior Designers Should be Licenced

In its last session, the New York State Legislature had introduced into its committees a bill calling for the licensing of interior designers. The bills did not get out of the committee last session, and more action is expected during the next one.

This is a subject which should be of interest to all architects in the state and yet very little open discussion has taken place. Despite this lack of dialogue, the NYSAA/AIA saw fit to write a strong letter opposing the bill.

As a practitioner, I can see advantages to everyone concerned, public and profession alike, in the passage of such a bill. While not perfect in every detail, the present proposed bill patterns itself on the existing title/practice act now in effect for architects, engineers and landscape architects in this state, and would in my opinion, go a long way towards upgrading the level of practice in a design field that is presently wide open and without control. Anyone, regardless of education, experience or minimum competency can call themselves an interior designer (or decorator) and practice. This bill calls for specific education and experience requirements and the passing of an examination, in order to use the title "interior designer" and to practice. Architects who presently practice interior design could continue to do so, but could not use the title unless licenced.

I can also see why some architects would be opposed to such legislation, feeling that now they are free to use this title

since it is unprotected by law in order to possibly embellish their own firm names: John Jones and Associates, Architects, Planners and Interior Designers. Since the latter two titles are unprotected, they are very often used in this way. In addition, architects are now doing many more "interior design" projects than ever before. Despite the fact that they could continue to do so, some feel that this would cut into their practices.

At the very least, this is a subject which should be taken up with as broad a base as possible. The New York Chapter will be holding a general meeting, in order to fully explore the views of its membership on this issue, and prepare to put forth its own stand on the question of licensing for interior designers. □

Laurie Maurer

Wide Range of Exhibits Relating to Architecture and Environmental Arts Planned for New York Area

The New York State Council on the Arts distributes a list of exhibitions relating to architecture and environmental arts. The following are highlights of current and upcoming exhibitions:

- Nov. 15 thru Jan. 8
To Celebrate the Moment
(Objects carefully designed and used once)

Cooper-Hewitt Museum of Design, 2 East 91 Street, NYC

- Nov. 21 thru Jan. 30
Immovable Objects II
(Subway systems around the world - station design, architecture, construction, use and as an underground city.)

Sponsored by Cooper-Hewitt Museum and Held at 6th Ave./42nd St. Subway Station

- Dec. 15 thru Jan. 15
Works of Gwathmey-Siegel
24 Houses
(Architectural Drawings and models - 1966-1976)

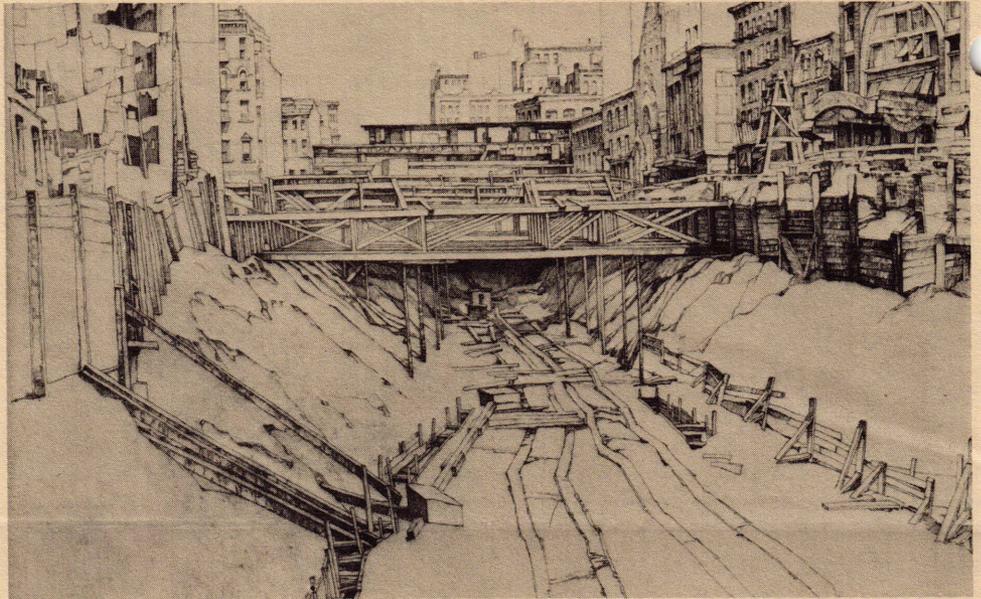
Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies 8 West 40 Street, NYC

- Jan. 15 thru Feb. 4
"Leonidov"
Russian Architecture

Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies 8 West 40 Street, NYC

- Jan. 16 thru Mar. 19
Drawings by LeCorbusier

Museum of Modern Art
11 West 53 Street, NYC



"Subway Construction in New York City, 1934." Etching by Abbo Ostrowsky. From the Immovable Objects II Exhibition. Cooper Hewitt Museum. See adjacent article.

- Jan. 17 thru Mar. 12
Place, Product, Packaging
(Commercial institutions projecting a total environment)

Cooper-Hewitt Museum 2 East 91 Street, NYC

- Jan. 22 thru Mar. 19
Warburton Avenue: The
Architecture of a Neighborhood

Hudson River Museum, 511 Warburton Avenue, Yonkers

- Feb. 23 thru Mar. 15
Images of the Home
(Architectural drawings)

Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies, 8 West 40 Street, NYC

Other exhibits are scheduled for later on in '78. They will be announced in Oculus. □

Mary Jane Clark

The Architectural League Of New York

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In summer '78, the League will offer members a tour of Finland to see the works of Alvar Aalto. And for those who stay home, a new and exciting benefit of membership in the League is the use of the bar and dining room at the National Arts Club, situated in the Tilden mansion on Grammercy Park South.

In addition to these special programs, the League will continue its popular young artists series which will have various themes for the presentation of work. □

Stephen Carter