

Oculus

Chapter Plans Party at Seagram Building

To Celebrate Johnson's Gold Medal and Spring in New York

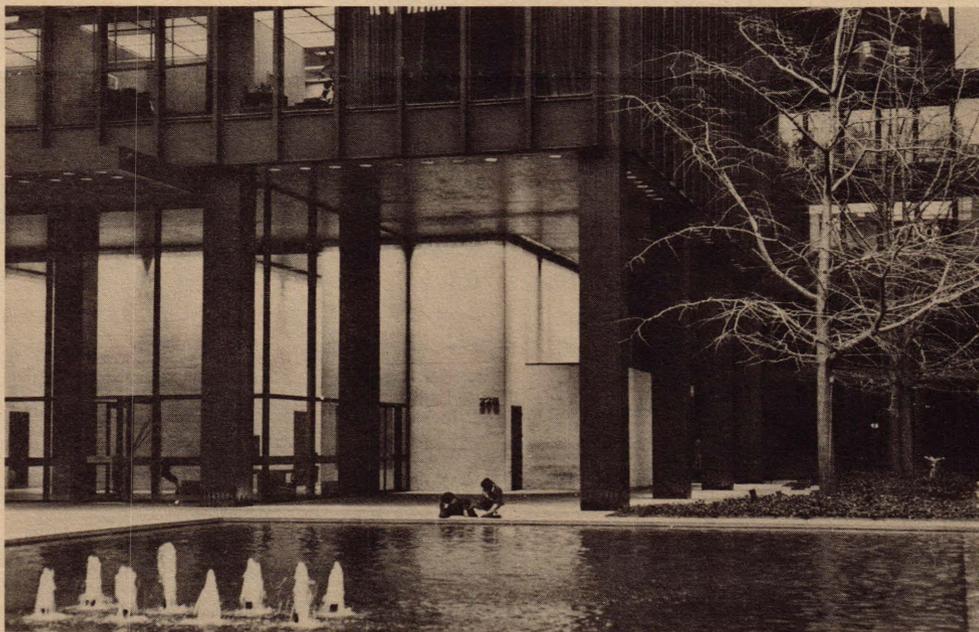
Spring + Philip Johnson getting the AIA Gold Medal in Dallas = a major cause for celebration.

The Chapter is inviting its members and others to the Seagram Building from 6:00 to 8:00 on April 26. There will be music by the Dorian Wind Quintet, assuredly brief speeches, and maybe some surprises.

Johnson is the 40th recipient of the Institute's Gold Medal, awarded since 1907 in recognition of most distinguished service to the profession of architecture. Previous recipients include Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, Eliel & Eero Saarinen, LeCorbusier, Wallace K. Harrison, Marcel Breuer and Louis Kahn.

The Four Seasons will cater the party, and we will enter through it to the Seagram lobby, which will be set up for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. It is the 20th anniversary of the building, designed by Johnson and Mies van der Rohe. Joseph E. Seagram & Sons will supply the liquid refreshments.

Tickets are \$20 per person. Join fellow members, Mr. Johnson and friends in celebrating his achievements, this special building, and Spring in New York. □



Seagram Building. Photo by Denis Glen Kuhn

Residential Design Awards Jury of Chapter

Gives One Award and Four Citations

The Residential Design Awards Jury, Doris Shaw, Editor-in-Chief, House Beautiful Magazine; G. Daniel Perry, AIA, Partner, Mitchell/Giurgola, Architects and Robert A.M. Stern, AIA, Architect, met during the month of March and selected from 35 submissions one award and 4 citations. The winners and the jury comments are on pages 4 and 5 of this issue.

This is the 16th Annual Residential Design Award presenta-

tion of the Chapter and the Jury is selected annually by the chairman of the sub-committee on Residential Design.

These winners will be made part of a travelling exhibit comprising of winners for over ten years. For information on this year's winners and the exhibit, watch future calendars. □

What?

Awkward beyond belief.

Executive Committee Allocates \$8,000 for Minority Scholarship Program, Sends on Recommended Bylaw Changes to Institute And Attends to Other Matters

●Allocated \$8,000 for the 1978-79 *Minority Scholarship Program*, part of which is expected to be provided by proceeds from the bequest of Ronald Allwork.

●Asked Anna Halpin, member of the AIA Board of Directors, to put on the Board's March agenda three recommended bylaw changes (1) to permit *advertising* to a degree consistent with the New York State regulations; (2) to permit architects to engage in *design/bid/build*; and (3) to clarify present provisions regarding *free sketches/competitions*.

●Approved *resolutions* to be submitted to the May AIA convention titled *New Life for Cities; Toward Developing Enlightened Clients; Review of Associate Membership Requirements; and Improved Communication of Institute Business to Membership*.

●Joseph Wasserman reported on a constructive meeting with Nathan Leventhal, new Commissioner of HPD, who wants to continue personal contact with the Chapter.

●Expressed dissatisfaction with AIA president *Elmer Botsai's* having been "extremely unwise" in permitting himself to be quoted in *Engineering News Record* regarding his view, drawn from his personal experience, of architects' competence.

●Viewed the proposal of the *Fisher Park Avenue Company* to build an office tower over an enclosed galleria, behind the Racquet Club, and approved a report by Rolf Ohlhausen, chairman of a special committee, which recommended that

necessary special zoning amendment be tightened to ensure sufficient retail and restaurant activity so that the public would be drawn in.

The executive committee minutes may be seen at the chapter office. □

George Lewis

Miscellany

●The Chapter has published an 83-page report titled "Preservation/Rehabilitation" which was prepared by Urban Planning Committee members Giorgio Cavaglieri, Richard Ferrara, Jay Fleishman, Walter Levi and Doris Nathan. Norbert Turkel, chairman of the committee, was in charge. Using 5 examples--a surplus school building, the Magistrate's Court and Police Precinct in Sunset Park, the Ladies' Mile, the Haughwout Building, and the Old Police Headquarters--the report is intended to *open the eyes of public officials and developers* to the possibilities inherent in threatened historic structures, and copies will be delivered to many such individuals. Copies are also available at the chapter office.

●Chapter members met March 22 with Robert Wagner, chairman of the Planning Commission, to discuss City plans for the *South Bronx*, including a new town. The necessity for an effectively administered total community plan, as against planning only housing, was stressed by Peter Samton, Charles Hughes, Joseph Wasserman, Richard Blinder, Herbert Oppenheimer and others.

●A special committee concerned with the *Radio City Music Hall* is being formed. Giorgio Cavaglieri is chairman, and those interested in participating should get in touch with him at CI 7-8134.

●*Urban Design*, formerly *Design and Environment*, is a relatively new magazine which *Oculus* thinks deserves support. It is published here in New York, and Ann Ferebee is Editor. It includes an excellent Newsletter, and the current issue has articles with titles like "Needed: A Country/City Coalition," "Energy-Related Growth," "Dallas: This town may be an unlikely place for urban design sensitivity, but it's there," and "J-51," plus as many other articles. It is a quarterly, \$11/year, \$18 for 2, and \$25 for 3 years; phone 682-0830. □

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Kent Barwick, Newly Appointed Chairman of the Landmarks Preservation Commission Meets with Historic Buildings Committee

On Thursday, Mar. 16, Kent Barwick, the newly appointed Chairman of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, met with members of the Historic Buildings Committee at the Chapter. The informal meeting was set up to discuss the Chapter's position paper on landmark preservation. (The paper was previously mailed to the membership)

The meeting occurred two weeks after Mr. Barwick's appointment and two days after he chaired his first designation hearing, which included among other items the designation of the interior of Radio City Music Hall, the Fraunces Tavern Block and the Chrysler and Chanin Buildings.

Mr. Barwick indicated his desire to meet with organizations such as the AIA early in his tenure so that their ideas and concerns could be considered as he formulated programs and policy within the Commission. He indicated that the relationship between the AIA and the Landmarks Preservation Commission should be an open, ongoing one where criticism is not looked upon with scorn but as a means of shaping policy. In addition, the AIA should press for legislation and other governmental action which it feels is beneficial to the built environment and independently press government in the areas it believes necessary. As an example, he cited the AIA's efforts, along with other organizations, in pursuing and supporting the landmark designation of Grand Central Terminal and ensuing Court action. The discussion of the Chapter's position paper touched upon such items as the review and approval procedures of the Landmarks Preservation Com-

mission and the disproportionate time consumed for small projects. The discussion gravitated towards areas of much greater concern which involve the overall community and not just architects and their difficulties.

One problem discussed was the costly care and maintenance of landmark structures which require skilled workmanship while "non-landmark" structures can be altered or retrofitted using esthetically unregulated current technologies and construction techniques. Existing governmental incentives and grants offer little or no relief to the landmark owner. In addition owners of property in historic districts, with no knowledge of the implications of designation, often proceed with work which may not be in character with the district. With over 15,000 buildings in historic districts it is difficult for the staff of seven preservationists in the Landmarks Preservation Commission to effectively monitor these buildings. It was generally agreed that this problem of maintenance and alterations is a serious one. Time will have its effects upon aging facades while mechanisms to permit their proper repair and restoration really don't exist.

A second problem which surfaced during the course of the discussion deals with surplus city owned buildings. Some of these are designated landmarks or on the national register of historic places. It was pointed out that unless some programs are initiated to actively pursue these problems, "gaps" would appear in historic districts and neighborhoods, breaking up the continuity of

massing or destroying a central focal point in a community.

It was also noted that the City leases space in office buildings, particularly in lower Manhattan, instead of using abandoned City owned buildings. In previous administrations poor maintenance and general neglect has rendered these structures useless without major repair. This is exactly the sort of problem for which the AIA, working with the Landmarks Preservation Commission and other groups, could formulate a program to recapture and reuse this architecturally rich resource.

The meeting closed on a note of genuine mutual concern and it was agreed that future meetings would be set up with Mr. Barwick and his staff in an attempt to brainstorm these problems as well as any others which may develop.

Committee members were generally impressed with Mr. Barwick's openness and knowledge of the issues. □

*Richard Ferrara, Chairman
Historic Buildings Committee*

Chapter Selects Residential Design Award Winners Four Out of Five are Converted or Renovated Structures

The Chapter's residential design jury was disappointed as in the past with the paucity of multi-family submissions.

There were only 5. In the single family residence category there seemed to be a large number of imitations of well-known personal styles; the jury in making the decisions leaned toward work which was deemed programmatically responsive and disciplined in the use of form.

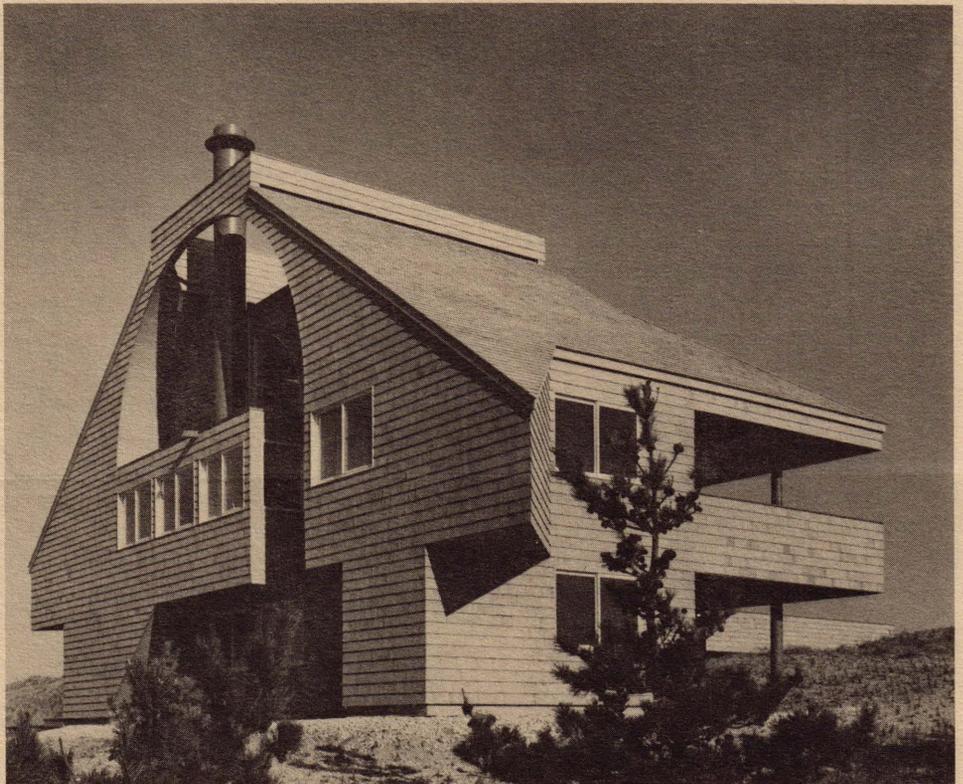
The following are the jury's comments on each of the winning submissions:

●The House on the Beach designed by Hobart Betts inside and out is a witty evocation of the characteristic shingled architecture of the Long Island shore. The plan is admirable in its organization with a clear hierarchy of spaces established in relationship to view and light. The introduction of arched and vaulted shapes articulates the layering of the plan in three dimensions.

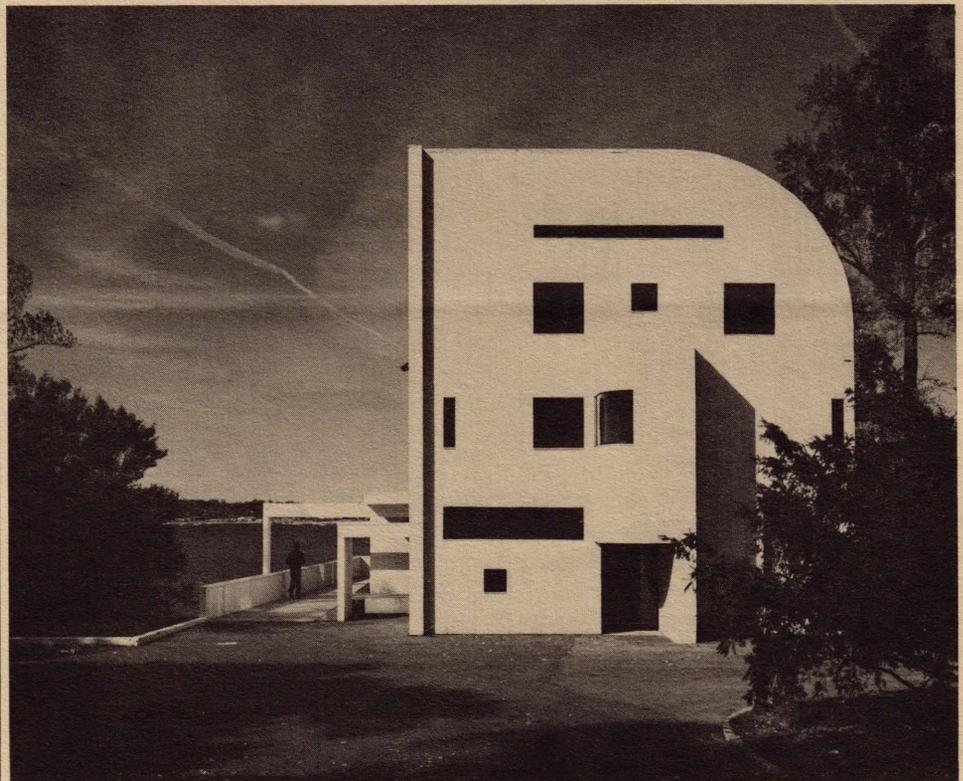
●The Richard Meier and Associates' restrained, compact remodeling of an older house suits the exigencies of the conversion process. The project happily led the architect to solution that seems easy to live in, with appropriate spatial and window arrangements.

●R.M. Kliment and Frances Halsband have very thoroughly and sensitively detailed the conversion of an unfinished studio building into a small summer retreat. The use of color and simple details represents an intensity of thoughtfulness rarely found. Unusual in that

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House on the Beach, Dune Road, East Quogue, N.Y. by Hobart Betts, Architect. Photo by David Franzen.



*House in Sands Point, N.Y. by Richard Meier and Associates
Photo by Ezra Stoller. © ESTO*

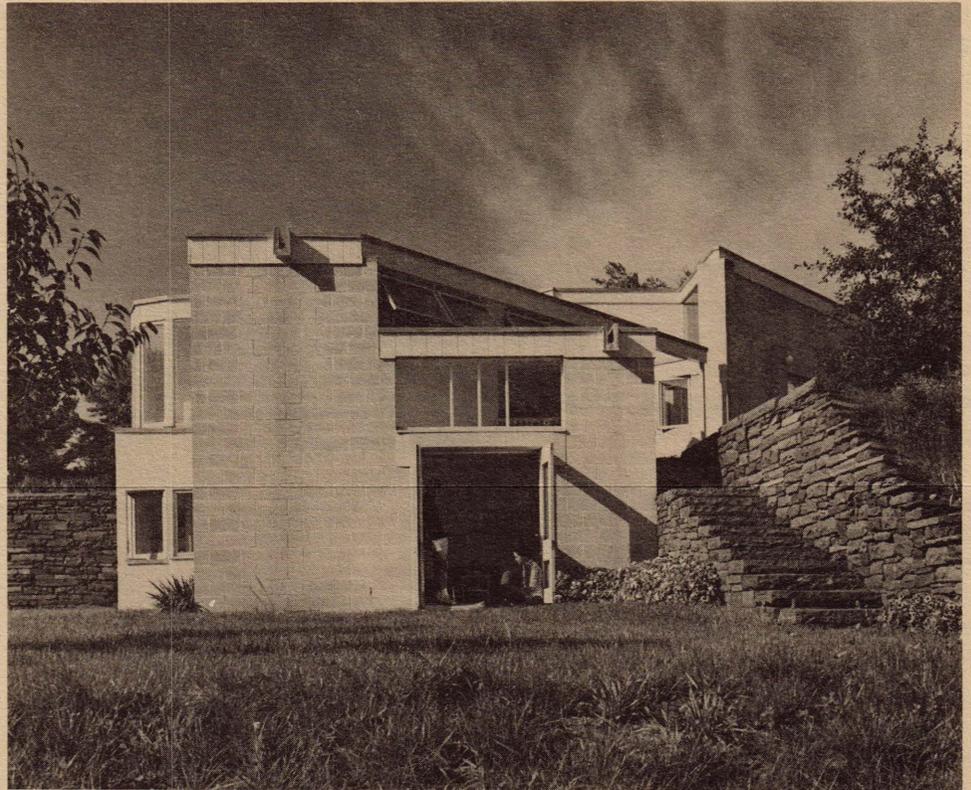
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It is a renovation of a ten year old "modern" building.

James G. Rogers acting as the designer/builder created a bold simple spatial intervention that, despite a low budget, successfully establishes a residential character in a vast old chicken coop.

The Christopher Chadbourne solution provides delightfully sensitive programming and design solutions for the reuse of a large barn complex. The proposal exploits the spatial and detail characteristics of the barn vernacular without imitation and without excessive romanticization.

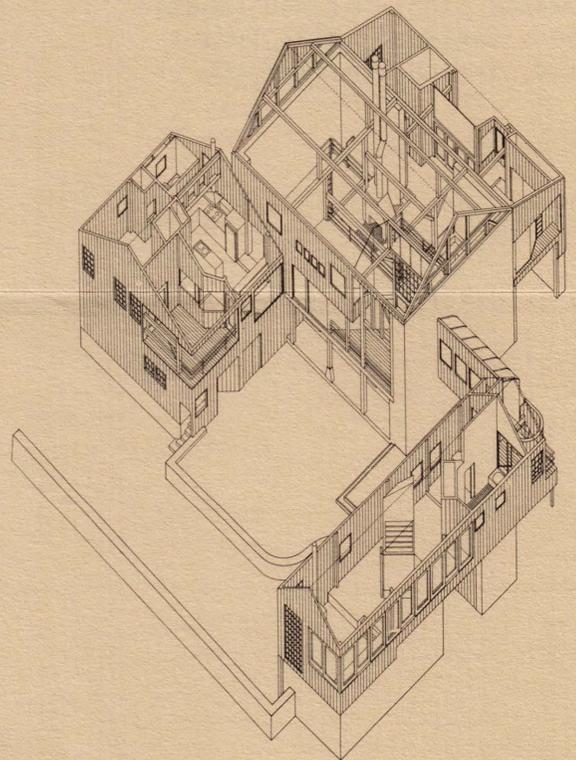
Residential Design Awards Jury



Cottage in Woodstock, N.Y. by R.M. Kliment and Frances Halsband Architects. Photo by Norman McGrath



The Chicken Coop, Stone Ridge, N.Y. by James G. Rogers Designer/Builder. Photo by Bill Maris



Barns converted into a house by Christopher Chadbourne

Overseas Practice Committee Recommends Joining American Constituency Overseas Group

The Overseas Practice Committee has been in contact with The American Constituency Overseas, a special interest group formed to represent in Washington, DC, United States citizens working abroad. The ACO is currently focusing on the serious inequities created by Section 1011 of the 1976 Tax Reform Act, as well as other disincentives resulting from the lack of political representation in Washington.

While the Committee believes it is inappropriate for the Chapter to become directly involved with an organization created to represent individuals and/or their employers, we hope all architectural/engineering firms with personnel overseas will urge their employees to join ACO.

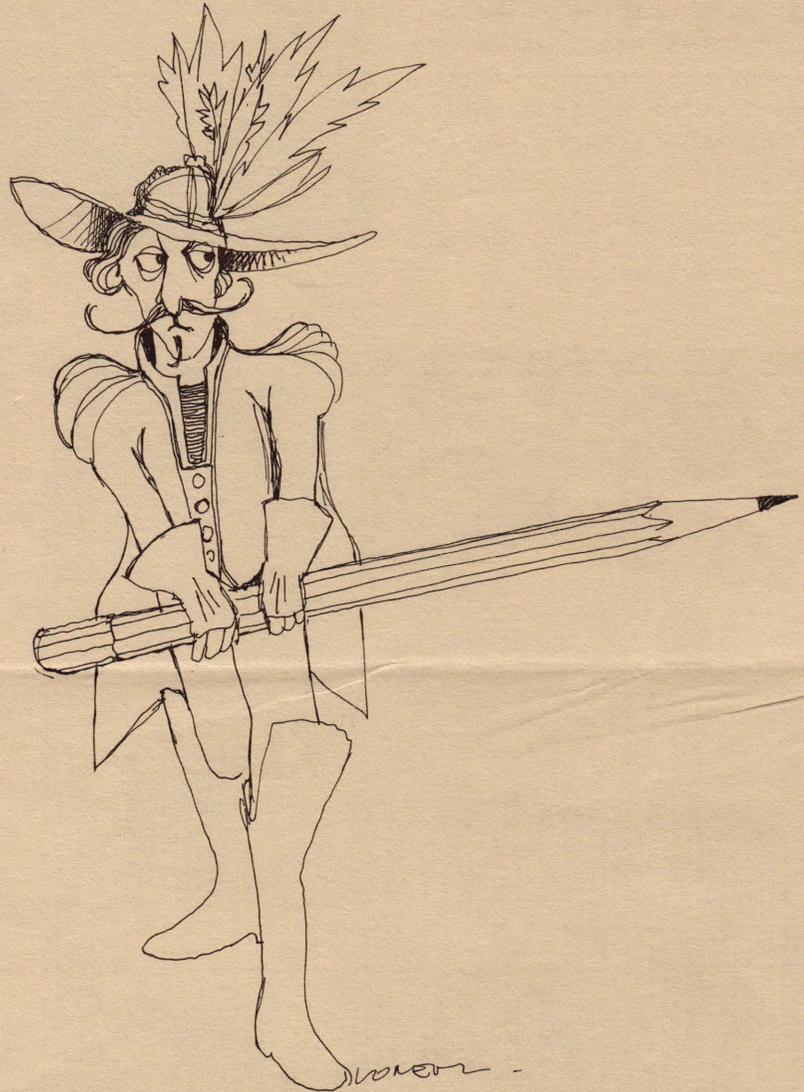
For detailed information and membership requirements, please contact: The American Constituency Overseas, 2152 DuPont Drive, Irvine, CA 92715. □

Seven Chapter Members Elected to The College of Fellows

The New York Chapter of The American Institute of Architects announces that seven of its members are among 65 architects elected in '78 to the College of Fellows of The American Institute of Architects.

The architects are Hobart Betts, Richard Dattner, Stephen A. Kliment, Alexander Kouzmanoff, Herbert Lippmann, Herbert B. Oppenheimer and T. Merrill Prentice, Jr.

Fellowship is a lifetime honor bestowed for outstanding contribution to the profession. Investiture of the newly elected Fellows will take place on May 21 at the annual convention of The American Institute of Architects in Dallas, Texas. (All Fellows of the AIA may use the initials FAIA after their names.) □



A young architect surveys the scene looking for a chance to test his skills.
Drawing by Albert Lorenz