

Oculus

New York Societies Meet on Regular Basis, Meeting Held With Wagner, and Chapter Committee Chairmen Appointed

●Organized by Doris Freedman, president of the Municipal Art Society, the presidents and executives of the MAS, the Architectural League, the Parks Council, the Regional Plan Association, the local chapter of the ASLA and the Chapter have begun to meet on a regular basis to discuss urban issues of mutual interest.

●Charles Hughes, John Belle, Joseph Wasserman and George Lewis met Dec. 14 with Chairman Wagner of the Planning Commission to discuss, informally, possible candidates for the upcoming vacancy on the Commission (Alexander Cooper's term is up), the possibilities of pursuing a general revision of the Zoning Resolution (a start was made under Victor Marrero), land-use planning if Westway goes ahead, the convention center, the subway modernization program and the commercial revitalization program.

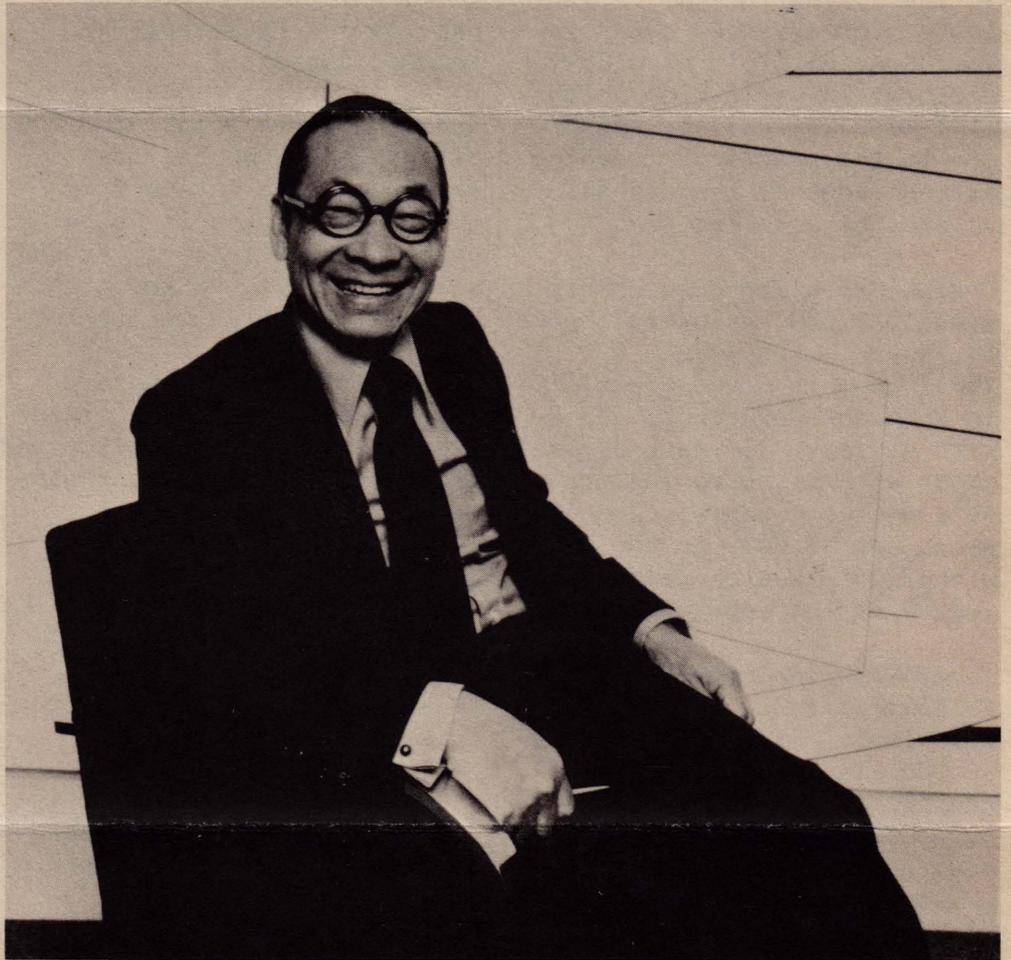
●The following new committee chairmen have been appointed:

●John Hagmann, Scholarship Aid Committee.

●Maxfield Vogel, a new Buildings Department Committee. He would welcome volunteer members.

●Samuel DeSanto, LeBrun Traveling Fellowship Committee. □

I. M. Pei to Receive AIA Gold Medal



Ieoh Ming Pei, photo by Jack Mitchell.

By the required three-quarters vote the Institute Board at its December meeting elected Ieoh Ming Pei to receive the AIA's highest award, its Gold Medal. This is the second year in a row that it has gone to a New York architect, Philip Johnson having won it last year.

Pei is the 41st person to receive the medal and the 12th New Yorker since it was first awarded in 1907. □

A Review of the Chapter's Special Purpose Funds

This is a brief summary of funds the Chapter has in its custody and how they may be used. The dollar figures are as audited on Sept.30'78.

Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship Fund, \$167,834 principal. The income may be used for scholarships as the Chapter deems proper. The Brunner Committee will solicit applications in the spring for an award "for advanced study in some special field of architectural investigation which will most effectively contribute to the practice, teaching or knowledge of the art and science of architecture."

LeBrun Traveling Scholarship Fund, \$22,889 principal, plus \$6,148. An award from the income is given biennially to someone between 23 and 30 with at least 1½ years office experience for 6 months travel outside the country. The '78 award was \$5,000 to the winner of a design competition judged by the LeBrun Committee.

James Stewardson Travelling Fellowship Fund, \$57,603 principal. An annual award, \$2,000 in '78 for one month's travel. In the spring the Stewardson Committee solicits applications from draftspersons stating the reasons for desiring to travel.

Charles S. Keefe Scholarship Fund, \$15,000 principal, plus \$3,036. The income may be used "to assist deserving American-born architectural paraprofessionals with no college education and at least 2 years experience as employees in architectural offices to improve their skills through technical school or community college training. This is a new fund,

and no award has as yet been made pending accumulation of income.

Robert C. Weinberg Fund, \$15,671. The bequest was \$12,500, with no specific directions as to use, but it could be assumed that Mr. Weinberg's interest in urban planning should be taken into account. \$1,408 was allocated in 1978 to the Chapter's publication *Preservation/Rehabilitation*.

Ronald Allwork Fund, \$200,000, of which \$90,000 has been received. The income from this 1976 bequest is to be used for architectural school scholarships to be known as "The Women's Architectural Auxiliary Eleanor Allwork Scholarships." A chapter committee is now being organized to recommend a policy and procedure for awarding these scholarships.

Nathan Walker and Theodor K. Rohdenburg Fund, \$1,572. This accumulates from a share of royalties from their book *Legal Pitfalls in Architecture, Engineering and Building Construction*.

A grant from the *J.M. Kaplan Fund* with a current balance of \$5,526 is to be used to compile and exhibit the results of student design problems in the New York architectural schools for prototypes of the community government centers required under the new Charter. Richard Stein is in charge of this program. □

George Lewis

Dues Bills

Individual.

An experiment last year to consolidate individual dues, chapter, state and national, in one invoice has been - at least temporarily - dropped because the AIA's charge for continuing the service is viewed here as too high. The AIA will, however, issue invoices consolidating state and chapter dues, and it has already sent out its own invoices.

We shall continue to urge the Institute to collect all individual dues at a lower charge. It has a computer as well as the central file on names, addresses, categories, etc. and unnecessary duplication could be eliminated if all dues were collected at one point.

Sustaining.

These bills, to be paid by architects practicing in Manhattan, are sent to all Members, and everyone must return them either with payment or marked not liable, as explained on the bill. We ask that you read the directions on the bill carefully. □

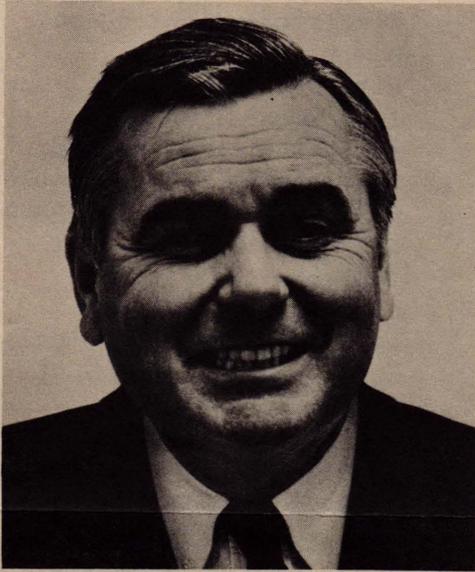
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Ed Logue is Ready for South Bronx Assignment and Foresees a Multipronged Effort that may Seem to be a Long Shot



Edward Logue.

Leaning forward on the edge of his office swivel chair, arms on his desk, Ed Logue is ready for his new assignment. He says, "the Mayor decided several months ago that the South Bronx required a virtually full time coordinator and director if it was to be pulled together, and he asked me to do the job." He goes on to say, "These are no longer the days of the Great Society. Now we have to look at how money is spent and ask if it is the best way to spend it. Over a billion dollars a year of HEW, Federal and State money goes into the South Bronx, and I think we can agree that we don't get the full value of it."

Logue foresees a multipronged effort, the most important of which is more jobs and increasing the opportunity for the South Bronx work force to find jobs elsewhere in the metropolitan area. He points out that the South Bronx has historically been a working suburb of Manhattan, and he envisions the utilization of the existing

physical plan, new low-rise housing, revitalization of existing assets - particularly the Concourse - and industrialization. Land banking is a likely possibility.

He anticipates the planning period to be 15 months from the starting date of funding. While that is going on he expects the work in the Charlotte Street area and on the Grand Concourse to proceed. Logue thinks there is "more vitality up there than people outside of the community realize." The real challenge is to put that vitality into constructive effort.

Logue admits that the South Bronx is the toughest urban area in the United States to turn around. There is "as much alienation and blight as you can find anywhere." The young look at society and find "no place for me."

But he is used to the challenge. First in New Haven between 1940 and 1960, where he directed planning and development and started the first poverty program in the country, and then in Boston, where he directed a city-wide planning and development program with an integrated human services effort. Of course, New York architects know him mostly for his work with the UDC between 1968 and '75. He is quick to point out that while the UDC was largely project-oriented, his work in the South Bronx will resemble more, as far as the human resources aspect is concerned, his efforts in the other two cities.

Logue recognizes that a turn around of the South Bronx may seem to be a "long shot." But he recalls standing in Boston's Sculley Square with I.M. Pei in the spring of 1961, just as the first draft of the master plan was finished. While they were looking at the possibilities of the City Hall Plaza they realized that there were only 10 other people in the town that believed that anything would happen.

Well, we all know the results of that long shot.□

Denis Glen Kuhn

Chapter Initiates Survey on How Codes, Regulations and Zoning Affect Housing Costs

Specific illustrations in response to that question are being sought by the Chapter's Housing Committee, Herbert Mandel, Chairman. The material will be consolidated in a report to be delivered to the Mayor's Construction Cost Task Force, of which Nathan Leventhal and Robert F. Wagner, Jr., are co-chairmen. It may also form the basis for a chapter meeting to which the heads of government housing agencies would be invited.

Firms doing housing are urged to send information to the Chapter office by Feb. 1 if possible. This can be an effective Chapter contribution to clarification of this important cost factor.□

George Lewis

Financial Analysis: A New Tool for Architects

Has the time arrived for architects to move from drafting rooms to board rooms? Is it time for architects to determine what can and should be built?

Thomas E. Selck, President of The Selk-Minnerly Group, Inc., Architects, located in Pittsburgh, Pa., says YES. In an all day seminar at Chapter Headquarters Mr. Selck presented methods of financial analysis used to determine project feasibility prior to schematic design.

Mr. Selck shared the marketing philosophy of his firm and pointed out that the purpose of financial analysis services is to garner good fee business. He showed its application to governmental, corporate and developer situations - and showed how innovative financial analysis can frequently save or even create projects which otherwise would not be built.

Participants in the seminar were taken step by step through a typical analysis to determine valuation, hard and soft costs, income, operating expenses, depreciation and all other bottom line factors.

Herbert Epstein, FAIA, brought this AIA sponsored seminar to New York. The Chapter was frankly disappointed that the seminar drew only 16 registrants, and that it had received untoward comments about the \$125 fee - which is a bargain compared to the cost of independently arranged professional seminars. □

New State Energy Code Issued

Buildings Commission Irwin Fruchtmann has issued the following memorandum:

The State Energy Conservation Construction Code, promulgated by the State Energy Office pursuant to Article 11 of the New York State Energy Law, is effective in all municipalities of the state on 1/1/79.

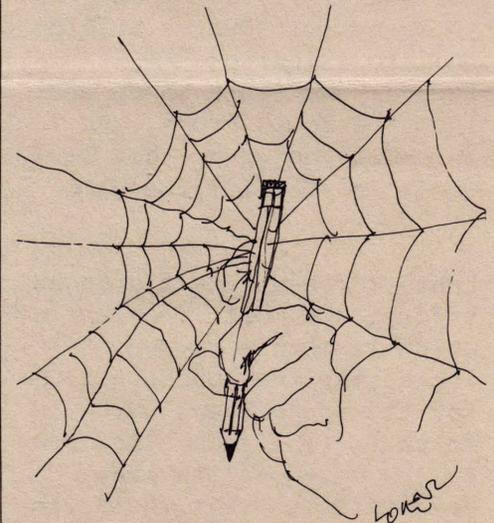
Said code shall apply to all applications filed on or after such date for new buildings, and for additions or alterations to existing buildings, as set forth in Section E101.6 of said code.

The applications shall be required to be filed by a registered architect or licensed professional engineer, licensed in New York State, and shall have a certification, or indication on plans that all pertinent data and design criteria regarding the following conform with both the State Energy Conservation Construction Code and the New York City Building Code, whichever is more stringent:

- a. "U" values of the envelope subsystem.
- b. Design inside air temperature of each room that is to be heated and/or cooled.
- c. Design outdoor air temperature.
- d. Design heat loss and/or gain through each exterior facade in BTU/hr.
- e. "R" values of insulating materials.
- f. Size and type of apparatus and equipment and system controls and other pertinent data to indicate conformance with the requirements of the Code.

- g. Electrical lighting and power design data.
- h. Fire protection construction requirements, including Building Code limitations regarding use of insulation or equipment and that they or their representative will obtain all necessary approvals for electrical work from the Bureau of Gas and Electricity.

Applications conforming with the foregoing, need be examined in conformance with Directive 2/75 only to the extent set forth therein. However, Borough Superintendents shall select a sufficient number of applications for spot checking by the plan examiners over an extended period of time.



*Waiting for the phone to ring.
Cartoon by Al Lorenz.*