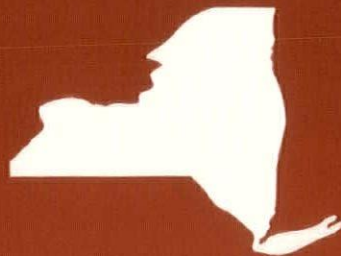


Empire State

ARCHITECT



OCTOBER 1941
VOLUME I NUMBER 5

AND THEY WERE ARCHITECTS
IT WAS A GOOD CONVENTION
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED
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Editorial Board — Albert Clay, Louis Levine, James William
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Publisher — Julian L. Kahle, 232 Anderson Place, Buffalo,
New York.

AND THEY WERE ARCHITECTS

Not visiting firemen, not regular convention guests, but distinguished, professional men who came to Central New York for enlightenment and recreation. They might have been called "The Boys from Syracuse", but that show has had its run and it was a big success and so was the 1941 annual gathering of the Empire State Architects. Regular commercial guests of the Hotel would stop and inquire, "Who is that Doctor?" and the well informed Hotel Clerk or Floor Manager would quickly answer — "Yes, he is a Doctor for all mankind; he has done his best for years to improve your view and my view by designing buildings that create a better looking city, a town with a central school you can admire, a village with a Hall that the folks are proud of. Yes, he is a Doctor, a Doctor of Design, who has made your town and my town a better place in which to live."

These men and women, assembled in Syracuse to attend the Fourth Annual Convention of the New York State Association of Architects, came to learn, came to view exhibits of modern building equipment, to gather in unity of purpose. They listened to enlightened addresses from men in their chosen profession, from speakers connected with the Government Departments allied to their activities, and remarks concerning future building activities after the emergency. The program was so diversified that it was interesting to the architect, the material men, and to any layman who well appreciates that the construction industry is the second largest in our country, so necessary in bringing "Living Comfort" to all.

Beyond the inspiring addresses, the carefully prepared papers — many open for discussion — entertainment played its part — and why not in time when entertainment is so necessary. The Thursday evening trip to the nearby Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts where there was a preview of Architectural Design and the National Ceramic Show, was enjoyed by architects and guests. This reception and the get together luncheons on Thursday, Friday and Saturday were all appreciated, plus the Annual Banquet on Friday evening where we had an opportunity to again hear from guest speaker, John B. Kennedy, so interesting last year at Rochester that he came to Syracuse to climax a well thought out entertainment program.

The printed page, even if illustrated, could not express the consensus of this gathering. Each one of us carried away

our thoughts of this splendid meeting. You heard the addresses, your deductions in the long run are your regard for your attendance. To one who has attended many conventions, practically all allied to the Building Industry, there seems one paramount feature of all gatherings of this type, — To shake hands with your associates. To renew old friendships, to make new acquaintances is of prime importance — it's the *real thing in Life*.

You find out why something was done in the past and the reason for its handling. You look forward to improvements in the future. Coöperation is such a big factor among architects, among us all, for we are all builders; therefore, unity of purpose is so important in the advancement of our profession. You learn the necessity of advancing Architecture to the public — so they may appreciate the part you play in their behalf in the construction of any project. You, in your Association with your associates at these meetings, gain in many ways, mutually helpful to all in the profession. You might term these educational sessions, "A Meeting of Minds", with all playing their part. Then, on your return from this helpful meeting, you have before you a certificate reading — "Well Paid for Time and Material Received at Syracuse".

While it was a pleasure to have attended as a guest of this 1941 Convention and to record in a meagre way some of the highlights and happenings, yet the greatest thrill is planning for the future. I can vision cities, towns and villages filled with buildings, not of past design, not exactly of the present, but a combination of what man sees as a stage setting today and wants tomorrow. Buildings with a facade so streamlined that you enter without the knowledge of passing through their portals. Rooms so lighted that you feel the presence of the blue sky at High Noon, yet no shadow, no glare, no haze at any time. So well warmed and ventilated that the rare June day, so many times spoken of, becomes a reality in your habitation. With water supply so refreshing that it seemingly comes from Nature's sparkling springs. With refuse passing through sanitary, stainless fixtures that make for greater "Living Comfort". Then on a plaque, or on the prints filed somewhere in these buildings of tomorrow, will be the name of the Architect — and they will be architects then as they are today, designing well for all mankind.

C. W. FARRAR.

IT WAS A GOOD CONVENTION

A good architect in the personnel of the Convention Committee, a good plan in the program, a good contractor in the Hotel Syracuse, and good supervision by Convention Manager Kaelber, produced a most satisfactory result, a good convention. The program included not only architects but many manufacturers who in their exhibits contributed to the success of the meeting.

With an attendance which according to early returns surpassed that of Rochester last year, the Fourth Annual Convention of your State Association devoted itself to a study of current problems. The program was packed from 10:00 o'clock Thursday to the closing session Saturday morning. Early returns indicate that 264 or more architects attended and there were at least 28 exhibitors who assisted in making the convention more interesting. This does not include those who like Buffalonian Kidd, didn't register. Highlights of the convention as seen by one observer follow:

ANNUAL BANQUET

The attendance at the banquet has been reported as 561, a capacity crowd for the ballroom. The speaker this year was again news commentator, John B. Kennedy, who with a thorough knowledge of what is going on in the world brought us up-to-date on the many conflicting trends here and abroad. Mr. Kennedy was well received and was given a spontaneous rising vote of thanks at the conclusion of his talk.

WORDS OF WELCOME

The opening session was delayed by the non-appearance of His Honor, the Mayor of Syracuse, but finally got under way at 10:35 o'clock Thursday morning. Words of welcome were spoken by Chancellor Graham of Syracuse University and Thomas L. White, President of the Syracuse Society, and later by Corporation Counsel, James Tormet.

CIVILIAN DEFENSE

One of the most interesting parts of the programs followed, with a discussion of Civilian Protection by Frederick G. Frost, Sr., Harvey Stevenson and Harry Prince. Mr. Prince lived up to all the advance notices and gave us an excellent report on conditions in England, regardless of the handicaps of censorship. In discussing the damage to the buildings he pointed out that the steel frame structure with reinforced concrete floor slabs was positively the best in withstanding the effects of bombing. Next to this type of structure would be the reinforced concrete design. Under no circumstances were wall bearing buildings found satisfactory under severe bombardment from the air. The biggest single factor in the loss of life and property is apparently fire, in which the wood frame structure is, of course, a decided hazard.

POST WAR

The program continued with a discussion of the Post War Pattern with Lorimer Rich, Geoffrey Platt and C. McKim

Norton. Out of this discussion one of the most encouraging suggestions was that of building a reservoir of proposed public work plans and specifications. These might be put into use immediately on the cessation of the present emergency program.

BOEHM ON SLUMS

George A. Boehm discussed the slum and what we could do about it. He was ably assisted by L. C. Dillenback, who explained the Syracuse studies of the same subject. It seemed to this observer that the profession might well devote more interest to the problems of replanning our cities, and to some definite plans for their solution, which might be put into effect to relieve unemployment when the defense emergency is over.

RADIO AND PUBLICITY

The luncheon program featured William Lescaze, who explained to the convention the activities of his Radio Broadcast Committee. About \$3100 remains to be raised by the architects of New York to make this program a reality. New Jersey is undertaking to raise \$1500 and it certainly seems that our share should be forthcoming. Bill also discussed the work which the New York Chapter had done in investigating the current status of the architect and the reasons why he has not been given greater recognition by the public.

HOUSING, SERVICES AND FEES

William F. R. Ballard, Frederick Woodbridge, Charles H. Higgins and Electus D. Litchfield were the speakers in the afternoon session with John T. Briggs presiding. Mr. Ballard's paper on Housing was a careful analysis of the situation with some definite recommendations which may be discussed in future numbers. The second part of the program would have been more interesting had Messrs. Higgins and Litchfield taken off their coats and discussed in more intimate fashion the problem of fees and not confined themselves to a discussion of the standard documents of the Institute. Mr. Woodbridge pointed out the many forms of partial services which can be rendered to the public and which would react favorably on the architect's income. However, as Bill Lescaze said that noon, "We haven't sold the public on engaging an architect to design a home, so why expect it to consult him on defense?"

BOARD MEETING

The evening meeting of the Board of Directors was limited to the acknowledgment of the two invitations for the 1942 convention, the designation of December 9th as the date of the annual meeting of the Board, and the decision to present to the Honorable John J. Dunnigan a resolution expressing appreciation of Mr. Dunnigan's efforts in behalf of the profession. This will be presented on the evening of December 9th at the annual meeting of the New York Society of Architects when the Board will be guests of the Society.

EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT

EXHIBITS

Photographs of the members' work were hung in the Syracuse Museum of Art. Four merit awards were made for excellence of design. The preview of the Ceramic Exhibition of the Western Hemisphere in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the National Ceramic Exhibition aroused much interest and favorable comment.

And on the tenth floor of the hotel, Convention Manager, Edwin Kaelber, had arranged an interesting exhibit of a large number of building products. The exhibitors are thanked for their material contribution to the success of the convention.

PUBLIC WORK AGAIN

Friday morning C. Storrs Barrows presided and the program opened with a discussion of the effect of Federal, State and Municipal Bureaus. Of all the subjects before the convention this received the greatest expression of opinion from the floor. Adolph Mertin presented the topic with Matthew W. Del Gaudio acting as chairman. Mr. Mertin would continue the present policy of endeavoring to secure commissions for full service for the private practitioner on public work. Lorimer Rich presented the points which he had brought out to the New York Chapter recommending acceptance of the work on a partial service basis. Sidney Strauss supported Mr. Mertin. As a result of the discussions the Resolutions Committee reported on Saturday a request that a special committee be appointed immediately to make a complete study of the problem and determine the best course of action. On the report of the committee the Board of Directors will base its policy for the year 1942. It is important therefore that all members having any suggestions on this subject communicate with the chairman of this committee.

GRACE

Thomas G. Grace broke the tension of the meeting with a number of well received stories. The Federal Housing Administration's insistence upon the employment of an architect for all projects, large or small, is of material aid to the profession. The FHA currently is one of the largest employers of capable architects in this country.

FRIDAY LUNCHEON

By the time 12:30 and luncheon had come around we were somewhat behind in our schedule. With Matthew W. Del Gaudio presiding, Daniel E. Bellows, Director of the Division of Engineering of the Labor Department, spoke on the Architect and the State Labor Law and gave us an idea of the problems of administration of the Division of Engineering from the Director's point of view. He was followed by Mr. A. J. Boase, Chief Engineer of the Portland Cement Association with an interesting and informative discussion on architectural concrete. It is suggested that Mr. Boase's talk and illustrations might very well be incorporated in a future bulletin of the Cement Association. This was followed by a sound movie prepared by the United States Secret Service entitled "Know your Money". The architects present who may at some time in the distant future be paid in cash are

now in possession of some of the pointers to be used in detecting counterfeit currency.

SPECULATIVE BUILDING

Max Cantor introduced C. Storrs Barrows, who with Mr. Cantor, Melvin L. King and David Crane, discussed the methods by which the architect could fit into the speculative building field with profit to both the public and the architect. One recommendation is that the architect shall interest himself in the project in its very early stages and participate first of all in the site plan and development.

"OR EQUAL"

Harold R. Sleeper in his speech explained among other things the difference between warranties and guarantees. A manufacturer may warrant his product against defects whereas the contractor guarantees the same product against defects. The difference being whether or not the product is manufactured under your direct control or whether it is merely installed by you in compliance with the requirements of the specifications. The words "or equal" came in for considerable discussion in which George Boehm summed up the objections to the use of the words.

E. S. A. TO THE FRONT

Saturday morning Maxwell Cantor was still on duty and introduced Julian Kahle, publisher of our magazine, and who discussed the problems of the publication. John Briggs and Maxwell Cantor also spoke briefly on the subject and the former pointed out that if each of the constituent organizations would assume responsibility for the procurement of one quarter page of advertising that we would be well on the way to a solution of our problem. The presidents of each of the constituent organizations are now called upon to assist Mr. Kahle in securing this advertising. They should either assume the responsibility themselves or appoint at once another charged with this same duty.

VIOLATIONS OF OUR LICENSING LAW

James O. Hoyle discussed the difficulties in enforcing the Education Law and pointed out some of its provisions. It should be noted that most of the difficulties involved in enforcement of our own licensing act come from the willingness of architects themselves to violate its provisions. Better enforcement would seem then to rest solely upon all our shoulders. Each of our constituent organizations should consider carefully what it may do to eliminate the many unfortunate bad practices.

PRIORITIES

Speaking on one of the most important and vital subjects of the day was Thomas Holden, President of the Dodge Corporation, publishers of Sweets Architectural Catalogue, the Architectural Record and Dodge Reports. Mr. Holden outlined the history of priorities and the reasons for their being. Perhaps the greatest encouragement to the construction industry as a whole is the fact that the volume of work which is contemplated in 1942 under the current priority regulations

will be 76% of the volume of work done in 1941. One architect remarked that 76% of zero was still zero.

COOPERATION WITH ENGINEERS

Frederick H. Zurmuhlen, President of the New York Society of Professional Engineers was unfortunately unable to attend due to a mishap in Monroe, New York while en route. The Convention unanimously adopted a resolution expressing the regret of the Convention of Mr. Zurmuhlen's accident and inability to be with us and also extending to the Society of Professional Engineers our sincere desires to cooperate with the engineering profession in all possible matters of mutual interest in the ensuing year.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

The Resolutions Committee met on Thursday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock P.M. and worked until 6:15 o'clock P.M., considering the various resolutions which were presented to it. It was necessary for them to consolidate a number of these and to iron out the several conflicts. They are reported here in the order in which they were presented and not with any attempt to consider their relative importance.

PUBLICITY AGAIN

First to be presented was a resolution introduced by the delegates of the New York Chapter requesting the A. I. A. to employ a full time public relations council to better publicize the services of the architects.

LABOR CODES

Second there was a resolution calling upon the President to appoint a committee to study the existing labor and mercantile codes and to report to the Board of Directors at its annual meeting the recommended changes in these codes. In this connection with this subject, Mr. G. Morton Wolfe, 1377 Main Street, Buffalo, N. Y., Chairman of the Committee on the Labor Law has a number of suggestions which his committee believes should be incorporated in these codes. A meeting of the entire committee will be held within the next few weeks at the most convenient point, at which time the tentative report will be presented for further discussion and revision. The other members are: Messrs. Irving M. Fenichel, 724 5th Ave., New York, N. Y., Chairman Metropolitan Area, John T. Briggs, S. Firestone, F. B. O'Connor, Merton E. Granger, Paul B. Sweeney, William Shary, William L. Phillips, Louis Greenstein, William J. Mingue, Frederick Pavlicek, Joseph D. Weiss, Russell G. Cory, Frank S. Parker, Sidney H. Hitzler, Joseph Dusenbury, Joseph Levy, Charles Platt.

Your President requests that each of you communicate at once with Mr. Wolfe regarding any changes which you believe should be incorporated in his committee's report.

PUBLIC WORKS RESERVOIR

Senate Introductory 1617 by Senator Wagner to provide a public work reservoir of useful projects was endorsed by the

Convention and the Secretary directed to notify Senator Wagner of our endorsement.

E. S. A.

The next resolution concerned our publication and revised the dues so that fifty cents per annum thereof should be prepaid for the subscription to the E. S. A. It further established that our headquarters are in Albany. This will result in a saving in the cost of mailing and will be to our mutual advantage.

ACTION ON PRIORITIES

The fifth resolution was that a committee be appointed to discuss an appropriate expression of the profession's feelings on the subject of priorities and to communicate our wishes to the proper public officials. Frederick G. Frost, Sr., is hereby designated as Chairman of this committee which will include Mr. Joseph Mathieu of Brooklyn and Mr. Matthew W. Del Gaudio of New York.

PUBLIC WORKS

The controversial participation of the private practitioner on public works was the subject of the next resolution. The President was directed to appoint a committee to solve the problem and to report its solution to the annual meeting of the Board of Directors. The President appoints the following committee:

Adolph Goldberg, Chairman, 164 Montague Street,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Alfred H. Eccles, Bridge Plaza, Long Island City, N. Y.
Lorimer Rich, 101 Park Avenue, New York, New York.

Daniel D. Streeter, 1 Hanson Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Ralph M. Rice, 655 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y.

Melvin L. King, 300 Denison Building, Syracuse, N. Y.

William G. Kaelber, 311 Alexander Street, Rochester,
N. Y.

This committee is charged with the responsibility of:

a. Making a thorough investigation of the current status of the private practitioner with respect to the procurement of commissions for the design and supervision of the construction of Federal, State and Municipal public works.

b. Studying all possible methods by which the participation of the private practitioner on such work may be increased.

c. Making a recommendation to the Board of Directors as to the proper course of action to be followed in order to put into effect their proposals.

Will every architect in New York State who has any opinion on this subject please express it at once to the Chairman of this Committee.

THANKS TO THE CONVENTION COMMITTEE

The seventh resolution introduced expressed the appreciation of the members of the Association for the excellent program and arrangements which were made for the Convention.

EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT

AND TO THE EXHIBITORS

The next was an expression of appreciation for the co-operation of the exhibitors and the advertisers in the program and the Secretary of the Association was directed to inform each.

BUFFALO IN 1942

The Chairman of the Resolutions Committee reported that two invitations had been received for the 1942 Convention and it was the Resolutions Committee's recommendation that the invitation of Buffalo be accepted. Upon introduction from the floor of an appropriate resolution Buffalo was unanimously awarded the 1942 Convention.

FINAL LUNCHEON

The concluding event was a joint luncheon with the Central New York Chapter. Paul Hueber presided. Richard H. Shreve, President of the American Institute of Architects spoke and gave an interesting account of the national picture. Emphasis was placed on the participation of our Matt Del Gaudio, Director for the State Associations, and Mr. Newkirk.

Members desiring transcripts of the proceedings of the Convention may procure the same by immediately writing Lemuel C. Dillenback, Head of the Department of Architecture, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, giving their name and address and enclosing \$1.00.

ARCHITECT APPOINTED TO O. P. A.

Morris Sanders, architect of New York City, has been appointed a member of the staff of the Office of Price Administration.

The department with which Mr. Sanders is working in Washington is concerned with the maintenance of price and quality of all durable "Consumers' Goods" — Floor Coverings, Furniture, Draperies, large and small Electrical Appliances, Glass and China Ware, Stoves, etc., etc., Office Equipment and Machines, Hardware, Lighting and — Caskets! Mr. Sanders works closely with economists and specialists, advising on fabrication, materials (Metals, Plastics, Glass, etc.) and design. The O.P.A. needs a well rounded picture of all of American industry and a specialist on production and design is necessary in achieving a broad understanding.

Mr. Sanders' design experience covers almost everything in the department: His knowledge of materials (plastics in particular) is outstanding among industrial designers. Hence his appointment. Oddly enough, his division does not include building materials.

Mr. Sanders' duties will be broad and will include liaison work between his division and comparable branches of O.P.M., the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Standards.

ADJOURNMENT

The Convention adjourned out of respect to the memory of the late Albert L. Brockway of Syracuse.

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