



THE OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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ANNUAL MEETING

Perry Coke Smith became the 39th President of the New York Chapter at the Annual Lunch held on Wednesday, June 6. Other officers elected were Morris Sanders, Vice-President, Theodore J. Young, Secretary, Robert W. McLaughlin, Jr., Treasurer, and J. Gordon Carr, Recorder.

Earlier in the meeting, the 78 members present heard reports from the retiring officers, all showing the Chapter to be in a healthy condition.

Otto Langmann as retiring Secretary reported the election of 45 new members, bringing our total Chapter enrollment up to 549, a new high in our history. While all present stood, Mr. Langmann read the names of the 9 members who had died during the year.

The outgoing Treasurer reported a balanced budget, stating that our modest income from dues has been about equal to our routine requirements. However, our members have recognized the need for expanding our activities and making the work of Committees more effective, by voting an increase in yearly dues. This increase will not become effective until next January.

Meantime, an appeal to our members for voluntary subscriptions has resulted in some \$1700 to date, which will help toward financing our program of increased activities for the remainder of the year.

A number of Committee Chairmen present at the lunch presented their reports in person. ALL reports are now on file at the Chapter Office for the benefit of any member interested and particularly for the benefit of the new Chairmen about to be appointed.

AWARDS

An ambitious program of awards was carried out under Arthur C. Holden's adminis-

tration during the past year.

Honorary Associate Membership in the Chapter was awarded to Major Irving V. A. Huie, Commissioner of Public Works of New York City and member of the City Planning Commission.

Citations to Chapter members for distinguished services, outside of the usual office practice and which have contributed to the prestige of the profession, were presented to Archibald M. Brown, Ernest Flagg, J. Andre Fouilhoux, Wallace K. Harrison and Daniel Paul Higgins.

Acting on behalf of the A.I.A., the Chapter was privileged to present the Institute's Fine Arts Medal to John Taylor Arms for distinguished accomplishment in Etching. It also presented Institute Fellowship Certificates to 8 of its own members: William Lawrence Bottomley, Archibald M. Brown, J. Andre Fouilhoux, William Gehron, Alfred M. Githens, George A. Licht, Harris H. Murdock and James K. Smith.

HOME PLANNING

The widespread and growing demand for information on the small home is evidence indeed of the imminent return to a normal life. Almost each day brings to the Chapter Office a letter from a prospective home owner, many of these being soldiers from far-off shores whose thoughts are gravitating toward "the expected costs of a six-room house with bath, with floor plans and any literature you may have".

In line with this, we recently had a request from the George W. Stewart, Publisher, Inc., of 67 West 44th Street, from which we quote:

"We are projecting a group of three related books on houses, landscaping and interiors. The first book of the series to contain designs and plans of several

architects for houses of \$10,000 or less, with a running text that will clarify for the reader the advantages and disadvantages of specific elements of construction, design, style, etc. The houses should illustrate certain economic aesthetic and personal needs, namely: a house planned to be enlarged later; a house planned to suit a specific location; a house planned for a family's way of living; a house planned from the inside out (with emphasis on sizes, relations and uses of the rooms).

"The second book is to furnish landscaping plans and some alternates for the properties of the houses illustrated in the first book.

"The third is to provide advice on decorating the rooms of the houses in the first book.

"There is a tremendous national interest in books of house plans at present.

"We shall be grateful if you will call this to the attention of your members and ask those interested to get in touch with us. We feel that there is a commercial advantage in this plan for the architect who can develop this book for us."

MEMBERS IN SERVICE

Capt. Wm. Butler Hornblower writes from Somewhere in the Pacific: "I consider the card of greetings from the Chapter dinner one of the most thoughtful, ingenious and generally pleasing communications I have received during my absence from home with your own part in it by no means overlooked. It gave me the feeling that I still had a place in the sort of life from which we feel so far removed both geographically and professionally. My training, if not talent, has not for a long time been devoted to anything more edifying than the setting out of tents."

Lt. Spencer R. Smith, who has been stationed at Honolulu, and in fact was in Pearl Harbor on that famous Dec. 7th, sends his thanks for our remembering him and his greetings to "all at 115 East 40th Street who may remember me." But characteristically he has made no mention of the events of Dec. 7th.

T/3 Richard G. Stein writes a 3-page letter from the Marianas, illustrated with a pen and ink sketch of his working

quarters: "No chromium in the office, and no platinum blonde receptionist, in fact, the office was a 16x16 pyramidal tent. The boards were plywood, pilfered from a Quonset hut, desk lamps were made from the aluminum tubing found in wrecked planes, and the seat at the reference table was from a Japanese ack-ack gun. In addition to three drawing boards, the tent housed our blueprinting plant, supply cabinets, a good reference library and job files. And with a force varying from one to four, we turned out all the design work for an airfield that makes LaGuardia Field look like a rather large pasture, and in our spare time we did the engineering on a road net, some asphalt plants, quarries, rock crusher plants, and the architectural work on a score of special buildings - parachute towers, recreation buildings, equipment shelters, stages, and all the special purpose buildings that standard army drawings don't cover.

"Of course, practice is simplified here. No contracts, no bidding, building materials procured by requisition if they're available and substituted for if they're not. The whole complex has a triple identity. It is at the same time designer, builder and user. The advantages are obvious. One man, new to the island's procedure, accompanied a drawing with a specification calling for 12x12, douglas fir, west coast region, select, free of knots and checks, etc., etc. His spec writing career came to a fast focus when he discovered that what was available and used were timbers roughly 10x14 possibly from the west coast of Japan, free of knots, but with a number of 3/4" holes bored in them.

"Of course, again, there are some disadvantages too. Like the geographic remoteness of the Marianas from New York. And the unfortunate experience of an outfit similar to ours. They left their office in the evening and in the morning found it without roof and with very little in the nature of walls. The drawings looked like music rolls and bomb fragments were imbedded in everything. You can imagine that's very bad for office routine.

"What is really noteworthy, though, is the speed, high quality and scope of the work produced. All the men in the con-

struction units are doing a spectacular job. The work that has to be done is known, and from that point on, it becomes a question of doing it. The moral for the post-war period seems obvious. In construction, as in all other places of production, our capacities are enormous. The army, with its own forces, is providing shelter, working facilities, sanitary facilities, warehousing, entertainment facilities for millions of its men overseas. There is no reason why the scope of a post-war housing and regional development program need be approached with timidity. All of us are eager to see the war ended and return to a life where we can work productively. While we're thousands of miles away, the establishing of that is in your hands."

UNIFYING THE PROFESSION

This Chapter has helped the National Body materially this year in its unification program by aiding in the formation of 2 new Institute Chapters.

Our Committee on Admissions passed upon the applications of 31 members of the Bronx Society who were applying for a Charter as a new Chapter of the Institute. The formal presentation of the Charter was made at a ceremony in which our Officers and members of our Admissions Committee took part.

A similar process is being carried out for the Staten Island Society of Architects, which will shortly receive a Charter as an Institute Chapter.

Theodore J. Young, Chairman of our Admissions Committee, in his final report for the year, comments upon the unusually large percentage of foreign-born applicants of recent citizenship - a reflection on present world unrest. He also states that his Committee has been frequently faced with difficult decisions owing to the rather nebulous regulations covering membership. He urges that the questions raised by the Wisconsin Chapter on this matter, as outlined in the A.I.A. Bulletin for May, 1945, be given serious thought.

MEMBERSHIP

The following candidates have applied for admission to Institute Membership:

Felix Augenfeld	Sponsored by Ely Jacques Kahn and Joseph Neufeld
Estus P. Bardwell	" " George S. Holderness and Otto R. Eggers
John B. Bauman, O.F.M. (now an Associate)	" " Leopold Arnaud & Edgar I. Williams
Lawrence Allan Benenson (Lt. (j.g.) U.S.C.G.R.)	" " H.I. Feldman & H. Henry Sugarman
Victor L. S. Hafner	" " Wallace K. Harrison & Roy F. Larson
Joachim William Hilton	" " Hermann H. Field & Henry S. Churchill
Anton Henry Johnson	" " A.J. Daidone & A. Gordon Lorimer
Charles Leonardi (former Associate)	" " Wm. Gohron & Lessing W. Williams
Sampson Levy	" " Maxfield Vogel & Howard H. Battie
Harold Morris	" " Jos. B. Klein & Simon Breines
Robert H. Newstead	" " Chas. C. Platt & S. Brian Baylinson
Howard Stokes Patterson	" " Francis Keally & Leon N. Gillett
George Fred Pelham	" " W. Stuart Thompson & Hugh Ferriss
Gustave F. Pulitzer	" " Edgar I. Williams & L. Andrew Reinhard
Isadore Rosenfield	" " Jacob Moscovitz & Benj. Moscovitz
Vertner W. Tandy	" " John A. Wahl & William Wilson
Henry N. Wright	" " Jacob Moscovitz & Wm. Lescaze

The following candidate has applied for Chapter Associateship:

James H. Pickering Sponsored by George C. Rudolph, Jr.
and Morris Ketchum, Jr.

