FDR MEMORIAL COMPETITION WINNER ANNOUNCED

Winning Design for FDR Competition

From the six first stage winners of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Competition, the concept of a Boston and New York architectural firm won the $50,000 award as the best design picked by the jury to be the most fitting symbol of the late president. Pedersen and Tilney, in association with Joseph Wasserman, David Beer and Norman Hoberman were awarded first prize for their concept of a cluster of perpendicular tablets carrying the quotations of FDR. The tallest tablet stands 165 feet high, 68 feet wide and 7 feet thick at the base tapering to the top. The seven other tablets raised at varying angles on a huge concrete platform at several different levels would be set in a rough circle.

Selection of the finalists from the 574 entries were made by a professional jury with Pietro Belluschi, chairman, and Thomas D. Church, Bartlett Hayes, Jr., Joseph Hudnut and Paul Rudolph. Edmund Bacon served as Professional Advisor. The first six stage winners, each awarded $10,000, were:


Rolf Myller, Architect of N. Y.

Tasso Katselas, Architect of Pittsburgh.

Pedersen-Tilney and Associates, Architects of Boston and N. Y.


Joseph J. Wehrer and Harold J. Borkin, University of Michigan.

Honorable mentions were given to New York area architects including, Percival Goodman; Davis, Brody and Wisniewski; Edward Barnes; and John J. Johansen.

The memorial will be located on a twenty-seven acre site between the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials and across the Tidal Basin from the Washington Monument. The design must now be approved based on recommendations from the FDR Memorial Commission, by the Fine Arts Commission, the Parks Commission and Congress. It is anticipated that at least four to five years may pass before construction gets under way.

AIA 1961 CONVENTION

PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 24-28

"Re-designing Urban America" will be the theme of the 1961 AIA annual convention in Philadelphia, April 24 to 28. It is expected to attract some 2,000 architects from all over the country. Keynote speaker will be John Kenneth Galbraith, Harvard economist and author of "The Affluent Society" and "The Liberal Hour." Mr. Galbraith will outline the imperative economic need to revitalize our cities.

Louis Mumford and Bruno Zevi will discuss aesthetic, cultural and sociological aspects of the city. Edmund Bacon, Executive Director of the Philadelphia Planning Commission, will head a comprehensive presentation on "Re-designing Downtown Philadelphia."

Planners, municipal officials, engineers, landscape architects and members of other professions will be invited to attend the convention.

Potential convention-goers are reminded by the Host Committee that no ticket supply is endless. A card or letter to the Philadelphia Chapter, AIA, 2400 Architects Building, Philadelphia 3, Pa., will bring a complete program and reservation form.

THEATER DESIGN CONFERENCE

Chapter Members Philip Johnson, Peter Blake, and Helge Westermann served on a 13-man delegation to the International Colloquy on Theater Architecture held recently in Berlin. As a sequel to this event, an important conference on theater architecture, engineering, construction, theatrical presentation and management will be held Feb. 4-5 at New York's Juilliard School of Music. For information, address Thomas DeGaetani, President ITT, P. O. Box 291, Cathedral Station, New York 25.
LET THY VOICE BE HEARD

The small army of outraged citizenry who ascended upon City Hall last January 10 to let their voices be heard before the Board of Standards and Appeals, protesting the proposed installation of 44 bowling alleys in the waiting room at Grand Central Station, won an interesting and important victory.

It is an interesting victory because it proves that democracy is still strong. Public officials take heed of the voice of the people when the people let their voices be heard.

President Woodbridge, with Doug Haskell, Victor Gruen, Simon Brienes, and many others from our Chapter, and other Societies, plus the weight of the press and radio—John Crosby in the Tribune, Norman Cousins in the Saturday Review, WCBS in Opinion on the Air, to mention a few, added their voice to the protest and succeeded in sparing Grand Central (for the time being) from the ignominious fate planned for it by the New York Central and some clever entrepreneur.

It is an important victory because it shows the necessity for our citizenry to be ever alert to legislative activity on both local and national levels. It shows the need for a strong and vigorous Chapter that is able to speak out as it did so well on this issue and as it did during the course of passage of the new Zoning Resolution. Active participation of the membership in both Chapter and community affairs is one good way to keep alert and to let thy voice be heard.

p.j.g.

Lecture Series

To the Editor:

Your very nice story on the first two meetings in the Architectural League series was much appreciated. May I ask just one correction: the series is jointly sponsored by the Architectural League and Architectural Forum. I would not fuss about this except that the unusual size of the audiences derives, apart from the quality of the performance, from hard work and a bit of expense by FORUM as well as the League.

Fortunately, the auditorium difficulty has been solved. After the February 16 meeting at the League itself, for probably a somewhat smaller audience, the sessions on March 30 and April 20 will be held in the larger auditorium of the Metropolitan Museum, capacity 700. And for the March 30 meeting on “What has become of the International Style,” the brilliant Reyner Banham, Assistant Executive Editor of the Architectural Review of London, is coming over on a special trip.

Sincerely,
Douglas Haskell
Editor
Architectural Forum

Architect-in-Training

To the Editor:

Now, as in the past, there is a certain amount of discussion in our profession about raising the level of professional practice. One of the facets of this discussion has been the relationship of the established Architect to the Architect-in-Training.

For the benefit of the Architect-in-Training, the AIA has printed a “log” for recording the various areas of experience. This notable step has been more or less ignored. Few offices are interested in giving the young Architect a chance at variety of experience. The question I ask is, why?

All too often the beginner is pigeon-holed, or found to jump from job to job. To state the case quite bluntly, there are some people who are taking advantage of the embryonic Architect. His future as a professional as well as his economic present are being exploited.

Benevolent paternalism obviously is not the answer. Some steps have been taken in the right direction as I mentioned before. These measures have proven to be unwieldy. What can be done to make the past efforts workable? What can be done to make a more progressive program? The future of our profession depends on raising the level of professional practice, and now is the time for us to make that future.

Yours truly,
Sheldon Licht

Payola

To the Editor:

I read with interest the “Christmas Postscript” on page 4 of the December issue of the Oculus. The rationalizations contained therein are fascinating.

As I understand, payola in the form of a case of Bourbon is unacceptable to the ethical architect, but payola in the form of a substantial cash gift to the architect’s professional organization is to be received gladly. In any event, you appear to take the line that payola is here to stay.

Yours for a fruitful Christmas,
Thomas M. A. Payne, A.I.A.

Payola

The distress of payola, a breach of ethics,
To destroy or just ease by anesthetics,
Neither approach strikes at the cause,
Look at the standards and surely we’ll pause.
Bitter fruit of a society lush,
It’s seed—only you can crush!
Time and good practice will help to heal,
Until then nourish the ideal.
The field of battle is the Hall of Ivy,
There we can nurture the blossom of truth,
Restore the heritage we so strongly uphold—
Good practice and conduct return to the fold.

by a.b.
The New Year is already well under way. May it be a happy and prosperous one for every member of the Chapter. In spite of the forebodings of the economists, let us hope that architects will be as much in demand as ever and that we may be spared adverse effects of what is apparently officially a "recession." It may well be that architects can contribute significantly to revising any downward trend.

In any case, it is of the greatest importance that we devote our efforts unstintingly to the good of the profession and through it to the general good. The more evident it is that architects are primarily concerned with good, good architecture, good works, good character, good citizenship, the better it will be for all concerned.

There have been periods when we have been told we must be businessmen and all sorts of other things. Of course we must, and we should be good businessmen. But in all our urgings to become supermen, let us not forget to be good professionals, as good architects as we can.

This year the New York Chapter has been asked to be the host chapter for the 1961 New York State Association of Architects Convention in the Fall. Our Vice-President David Eggers has gallantly undertaken to direct this program. He has some excellent ideas on the subject and has enlisted, among others, the aid of our younger members under Norval White’s Chairmanship. This is a real opportunity to work for the common good and to achieve a splendid demonstration that the New York Chapter is deeply concerned for, and interested in, the welfare and effectiveness of architecture throughout the State. It is also an excellent training ground for the time when the Chapter will be host for the National Convention of the AIA in 1967. Let everyone be ready and willing to do his part with the same enthusiasm with which Dave Eggers has assumed this leadership.

The licensing or regulation of architects is a relatively recent procedure in the United States. In fact, the first licensing law in this country was enacted in Illinois in 1893, and the last of the 50 states to enforce licensure was Vermont in 1951.

Unlike many European and South American countries, there is no national licensing of architects in this country. Here, all professional registration is exclusively a state responsibility. An architectural license to practice in one state has no validity in another. Since the licensing law of each state conforms to that state’s constitutional structure, there is a wide variety of statutory patterns. It, therefore, becomes necessary for the architect who contemplates operating in a wide area to familiarize himself with the individual laws of all those states in which he anticipates practicing.

In an attempt to bring some order out of a relatively chaotic situation, members of boards of examiners of several states began holding annual meetings during the early 1920’s. This movement developed into what we now know as the “National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.” The NCARB has since then helped greatly in bringing a degree of equality to the examinations given by the individual states, in providing a clearing house for the resolution of interstate problems, and in providing a means by which an architect registered by examination in one state may use the results of this examination to obtain license in a second state without retaking the examination.

A syllabus published in 1930, revised in 1953 and again in 1959, outlines examination content effecting a degree of conformity in the duration, scope, and subject matter of architectural examinations. It serves as a general guide to the subject matter in which a candidate may be expected to prove competence.

Having passed the examination of any state which conforms to the Syllabus, including the standards of admission to the examination, and having licensure thereto by that state board, a candidate may obtain from NCARB a Council

(Continued on page 5)

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT AS CREATED BY ROLF MYLLER

New York Chapter member Rolf Myller, finalist in the recent FDR Memorial Competition has proven his abilities as both architect and sculptor. Myller, who also serves as Book Reviewer for the Oculus, had been on leave to devote full time to the final stages of the Competition.

His creation of FDR was worked up in clay as a preliminary study for the focal point exhibit in his Memorial design. Rushed as were all the finalists for time, Myller’s efforts show a great sensitivity in portraying one of our nation’s great leaders.

ARCHITECT-IN-TRAINING

The committee on the Architect-in-Training Program, under the chairmanship of Russell Colean, is presently engaged in acting as advisers to the Architects-in-Training assigned to the New York Chapter. At the present time there are 29 enrollees. These enrollees now receive notices of all technical meetings, and others which may be valuable from an educational standpoint. The committee expects an early joint meeting with the Student Chapter Committee, in order to acquaint the presidents of Student Chapters with the aims of the Architect-in-Training Program.
ANNUAL SUPPER DANCE AT METROPOLITAN MUSEUM

Returning to hallowed halls, this year the architects’ annual supper dance will be held in the beautiful and impressive main restaurant of the New York Metropolitan Museum at Fifth Avenue and 82nd Street. This delightful black-tie affair will be held on Friday, February 10, 1961, and a special highlight will be the presentation of an Honorary AIA Associate Membership to Lewis Mumford, which will be followed by a brief talk.

The Meetings Committee, headed this year by E. Allen Dennison, wishes to stress the fact that in addition to AIA members and their families, other guests, business associates, yes—even clients are welcome to attend.

An à la carte cocktail reception will start at 7:00 p.m. with background music. A hot dinner will be served at 8:30 p.m. by the Robert Day Deans catering service. Music for dancing will be furnished by Ben Cutler (in person) and his fine band from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. (and later on request). You can park conveniently in the museum parking area which will save everyone time and money.

The tickets will cost $12.50 per person. Make your plans now to reserve a table for yourself, your guests and your associates. This promises to be an enjoyable evening for everyone, so circle the date of February 10 on your calendar.

N. Y. STATE JOBS

New York State, in answer to public and federal demands for better roads, highways, and public buildings, has embarked upon an extensive program of construction and reconstruction. So great is the program that its successful and efficient completion will necessitate many years of work. Demands at present are great for qualified graduate engineers and architects. Architects in the State service are employed primarily in Albany with the Department of Public Works. Positions also exist in the Division of Housing, the State Building Code Commission, and other agencies. These positions are all in the competitive class, filled permanently through regular civil service examinations. Application blanks and further information can be obtained from the State Campus, Albany 1, N. Y.

GUEST COLUMN

THE NEXT PHASE IN ARCHITECTURE
CONFORMITY, CONFUSION, OR CONTINUITY

by JAMES MARSTON FITCH

A program for the critical examination of the main issues in contemporary architecture; a call for a new manifesto of principles and perspectives for the future.

The basic vocabulary of contemporary architecture is more truly international in scope and acceptance than ever before in human history. As a result of the last half century’s work—and especially the four great pioneers, Wright, Gropius, Mies, and Le Corbusier—we might have expected that future development would be secure and certain. Instead, in recent years, there have been increasing signs of confusion and a loss of direction. Diversionist movements of all sorts are claiming the right of succession. The broad stream of advance is seriously threatened.

Progress now appears threatened by an inflow of “avant-garde” approaches: Neo-Sensualism, New Brutalism, “Fluid Imagist,” and “Compositional Rigorists,” etc. These threaten to reduce the esthetics of the modern movement to mere “mannerism” and end in egocentric confusion. Too many modern architects are, as Bruno Zevi remarks, “too modest to follow Wright and Corbusier, but too tormented to be as great as they are.” Yet, it should be noted that these men contributed most of the major elements of which the modern idiom is constructed.

Frank Lloyd Wright gave us a vital new Space in architecture. He is, in a real sense of the term, the inventor of the modern American home, with its open plan, grace and privacy, enriched amenities, and close relationship to a coordinated landscape. Of the four great pioneers, Wright was the most poetic and romantically lyrical in his solution.

Walter Gropius, dominantly a speculative theoretician, is the most socially-committed in his architectural purpose. He represents the social and humanitarian theories of Ruskin and Morris in contemporary problems. He has exerted a major impact in the field of multiple housing, city planning, and from the time of his association with the Bauhaus, has had a dominant influence in education in design.

Mies van der Rohe, non-speculative and anti-theoretical, has interested himself in the development of profound structural purism and carried it forward with elegance and discipline. His work toward perfecting the steel frame, the glass bay, and the skyscraper establish him as a worthy successor in the great tradition of Louis Sullivan.

Le Corbusier, in addition to being a great theoretician, is perhaps the greatest architectural innovator in the world. Skyscraper-studded park cantilevered slab, continuous glass wall, piloti, sol-brise, and roof-top gardens are but a few examples of his contributions to the modern idiom.

If the next phase of architecture is to be worthy of the first, new directives for it must be formulated. These cannot ignore—they must in fact derive from—Western experience as embodied in the work of the four great makers. To develop a new esthetic as fruitful as the first one has been requires the examination of the hard core of functionalist theory and practice.

To this end the Columbia School of Architecture will assemble, in the Spring of 1961, a distinguished group of internationally recognized architects and scholars. Each will be asked to address himself to this point—namely, how he believes a new synthesis may be evolved. The sum total of these discussions should offer a broad conceptual base for Phase II, constitute a program of action as clear as the great manifestoes which galvanized the architecture of Phase I.
NEW ZONING PASSED

by E. O. Tanner

After four years in the drafting and a year in controversy and public hearings, the new comprehensive amendment to New York City's 44-year-old zoning ordinance was finally passed unanimously last month by the Board of Estimate. Climaxing the Chapter's long efforts in the new code's behalf, President Frederick J. Woodbridge, speaking for 1,215 of the City's 1,700 registered architects, urged the Board to adopt it as a "realistic, workable, and imaginative" document. Much credit for the bill's passage is also due Simon Breines and his hard-working Civic Design Committee.

The new amendment, Breines explains, becomes effective one year from adoption, on Dec. 15, 1961. Plans filed with the Department of Buildings up to 60 days before that date, or Oct. 15, will still be considered under existing regulations, but must be built within two years after the Dec. 15 deadline.

Several architects and builders, Breines reports, are already working with the new zoning, particularly in connection with Mitchell-Lama middle income apartment projects now on the boards. In further developments, an informal group of architects (consisting of Chapter members Breines, Ed Mathews, Jack Gurney, Ralph Pomerance, Gordon Bunshaft, and Detroit Chapter Member EeroSaarinen), is studying possible revisions of the new code to discuss with the Planning Commission before it becomes effective. The revisions concern modification of the "sky exposure angle" (set-back angle).
COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES
by F. MARSHALL SMITH

Legislative Committee

In a recent report to his Legislative Committee, Chairman Harry B. Rutkin reviewed a meeting of the Legislative Committee of the New York Association of Architects held December 14, 1960. He stated that proposals to the current session of the State Legislature had been considered and that it was decided to give close attention to the tightening of loopholes in the Education Law. Other items of concern are the Multiple Dwelling Law, Multiple Residence Law, Labor Law, and State Building Code.

The New York Chapter's Legislative Committee has been studying many pieces of proposed legislation on the above subjects and other matters of interest to architects, and urgently requests the backing of all Chapter members when specific recommendations are made for action on new bills.

Office Practice Committee

All too often the hardest working members of an organization serve in offices or on committees that receive the least amount of praise or publicity. One of these is the Office Practices Committee, which has twelve members headed by Samuel M. Kurtz, chairman, and H. Bourke Weigel, vice chairman. Throughout the year its members study many phases of the architect's practice, and they submit recommendations for improvements where experience shows that current methods need to be changed or clarified to make bidding more accurate or to reduce problems during construction. A few of the subjects currently under study are:

1. Issuance of transparencies of contract drawings to general contractors.
2. Hardware scheduling as part of contract drawings instead of the cash allowance method.
3. When and how punch lists should be made and used to be most effective.
4. In response to complaints by the New York Building Congress, a search for a clearer and more exact way of specifying colors in the painting section of architects' specifications. It seems that the time-honored phrase, "color as selected," makes it tough for painting contractors to give a realistic bid on painting.

AIA Members Invited to Planning Dinner Meetings

The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Planners cordially invites AIA members to its 1961 series of informal dinner meetings on challenges and problems in urban planning, transportation and renewal.

Thursday, February 16—"Central City Renewal—More Than Rebuilding."
Monday, March 20—"Providing Shelter for a Growing Metropolitan Population."
Thursday, April 13—"Politics, Administration, and Planning: The Role of the 'Decision-Makers' in Metropolitan Development."
Saturday, May 27—Annual Meeting of Chapter.
Saturday, May 27, to Tuesday, May 30—"New York Conference on Metropolitan Development."

For reservations and for information on locale and speakers at succeeding dinners as they draw near, write or call AIP Program Chairman J. Marshall Miller, Books International, 501 West 121st St., New York 27, Tel. Monument 3-8030.

BRUNNER SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship Committee has had preliminary meetings to discuss means of securing applications which would make this year's Scholarship an important one. The Scholarship, according to the terms of the grant, must go "for advanced study in some special field of architectural investigation... which will contribute to the practice, teaching, or knowledge of the Art and Science of Architecture." The Committee is anxious to have a number of worthwhile applications to choose from, and to that end has set up an Idea Subcommittee under the Sub-Chairmanship of Thomas Creighton, to stimulate such applications and suggestions for applications. Any Chapter member who has an idea—a strong feeling about the need for "advanced study" in some area of architecture—is urged to contact the Committee.

MODULAR COORDINATION

On Monday, the 20th of February, Mr. Byron C. Bloomfield, A.I.A., will bring the Chapter up to date on modular coordination at a program arranged by the Technical Committee.

The basic principles of modular planning and its effect on office practice and project costs, availability of modular materials and how and when to begin modular dimensioning as a profitable office procedure will all be thoroughly discussed.

Mr. Bloomfield is well versed in his field. With B.S. degrees in architectural and civil engineering from Iowa State University and an M.S. from M.I.T., he was first architect with the Tennessee Valley Authority, then instructor in architecture at the University of Colorado, then secretary for professional development, A.I.A. and now since 1963 executive director of The Modular Standards Association. His lecture should be of great value to those practicing modular planning as well as those considering its adoption.

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The New York Chapter extends its warmest welcome to the following new members:

Corporate
Eduardo Baranano Da Costa
Leonard Battaglia
George E. Fischer
Irving E. Gershon
Ell J. Held
Paul Reiss
Hugh A. Simpson
Stanley Salzman
Robert L. Thorsen
Howard J. Warren
Irwin D. Weisberg

Associate
David A. Brignati
Dr. Sigmund L. Friedman
Ernest P. Fiesco
Charles A. Platt
Michael H. Spector

CANDIDATES

Information regarding the qualifications of the following candidates for membership will be considered confidential by the Admissions Committee:

Corporate
Thomas Vincent Di Carlo
Eugene Meyers
Marietta M. Meyers
Melvin H. Smith

Associate

candidates:

Sponsors:

Jorge Abel Fousats
Frank Callum Frantz

John S. Fountain
Metropolitan Builder's Association Committee
Edwin M. Forbes, Chairman
Samuel M. Kurtz, Gustave R. Keene
New York State Fair Committee, 1961

Olivier de Montejus