CHAPTER HOSTS NYSAA CONVENTION AT SARANAC
by PETER VAN BLOEM

The New York State Association of Architects convention, held late last month at Saranac Inn, was by general agreement one of the most successful of recent years. The New York Chapter can take some pride as host chapter; particular thanks should go to David Eggers as Chairman and to Frederick Woodbridge, who did a fine job as master of ceremonies at the annual banquet, introducing the featured speaker, Congressman John V. Lindsay of New York. Special thanks should also go to Mrs. Robert W. Cutler of the Women's Auxiliary, and to Gates Beckwith, Roger Spross, Marshall Smith, Rolland Thompson, John Handley, Norval White, Sherman Schneider, James Cady, Earnest Fuller, and Gillet Leferts for their part in the program.

The Chapter came out well with all three of its resolutions passed. These included proposals for the formation of a World's Fair Committee and an Office Practice Committee. Jeffrey Aronin's resolution to study a proposal for licensing contractors was also approved.

Delegates voted to raise NYSAA dues from $6 to $9, which will result in a $3 increase in Chapter dues. Although the proposed reapportionment of representation, which would have upped the Chapter delegation from 33 to 49 members, was tabled, a by-law to limit delegates to represent one organization was passed. This dual representation has long been a source of annoyance to members.

Highlights of the convention included talks by Urban Renewal Commissioner William Slayton, Planning Director Charles Crangle, Developer James Scheuer, Binghamton, N. Y. development director Oliver C. Winston and Matthew Rockwell of the Washington AIA staff. Bill Conklin's job as moderator was outstanding.

NYSAA officers elected at the convention were: Frederick H. Voss, President; S. Elmer Chambers, First Vice President; Simeon Heller, Second Vice President; Allen Macomber, Third Vice President; Irving P. Marks, Secretary; and George J. Cavalieri, Treasurer. Retiring President John Briggs, retiring Treasurer Martyn Weston and retiring Regional Director Trevor Rogers were roundly applauded for their contributions.

HOUSE CONSULTING PANEL REORGANIZED

Chairman Harold Edelman of the newly reorganized House Consulting Committee urgently requests House Consulting Panel members to bring the sample books in the Chapter office up to date. Many architects are represented by houses well over ten years old. A description of the page requirements for new entries will be mailed on request.

The new committee, according to its chairman, will have two primary aims: 1) to acquaint the public with the function of the residential architect, and 2) to acquaint the architect with sources of residential work. These aims will be pursued in three categories: private houses, both urban and suburban; tract or development houses, including row housing; and houses within urban redevelopment. Any Chapter members interested in participating are urged to contact Mr. Edelman through the Chapter office.

EERO SAARINEN:
A REFLECTION

On September 9 in the chapel at M.I.T. a simple and moving memorial service was held which brought together the family, friends and associates of the chapel's late architect, Eero Saarinen.

As I sat in the chapel a flood of memories came over me.

In the spring of 1935 it was my good fortune to team up with two other traveling students of architecture, one of whom was Eero, for a trip through Sicily, Egypt, the Near East, Turkey and Greece. An incident in Sicily came most vividly to mind as I recalled the experiences of our travels. It was in the Monreale Cloisters at Palermo late one afternoon. We were marveling at the intricate inland marble columns and carved capitals, when the slanting rays of the sun struck the pool and the reflections began dancing rhythmically on the walls and vaulting. We were entranced. What moments before had been a scene of static tranquil-

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2. The resolution endorsing the continuation of the foreign buildings program of the State Department was referred to President Philip Will, Jr. and Secretary Carroll for appropriate presentation to the governmental departments involved. The Board thus carries on with its long-established support for this program.

3. The resolution regarding the elimination or modification of the "conflict of interest" provision in architectural services on Title I redevelopment projects was referred to The Executive Committee of the Board for action at their July meeting.

4. The resolution urging The Board to reestablish its Committee on Competitions and to utilize that committee to further the use of architectural competitions in appropriate private and public projects was referred for action to the July meeting of The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.

5. The resolution which praised the approach to urban planning and redeveloping by President Kennedy's administration, was withdrawn with our consent as premature with the option of again submitting it at the 1962 Dallas Convention.

The Chapter might also be interested to know that the resolution on revisions to the structure of The Institute sponsored by the Northern California Chapter, A.I.A., was referred to The Board's Committee on Structure composed of Director Harry C. Weller, Chairman; Director Oswald H. Thorson and myself.

Like the A.I.A. Chapters, the Board of Directors does a great deal of its work through committees whose progress is studied and guided by its Executive Committee. Before the end of the year, I hope to tell the Chapter about definite progress on the implementation of all these resolutions.
“ILLUMINATING” DINNER

The New York Chapter will join the Illuminating Engineering Society and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers in sponsoring a dinner meeting on November 16, at the Brass Rail, 40th Street and Park Avenue, New York. Mr. Jack Follett, New York Chapter, A.I.A., will speak on the Needle in Space for the Seattle Fair, which was displayed recently at the League. Mr. C. G. B. Garrett, head of the Department of Crystal Electronics of the Bell Telephone Company, will discuss and demonstrate the exciting new optical mesa.

Cocktails will be served from a cash bar at 6:30 p.m.
Roast beef dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets are $5.50.
Reservation requests will be mailed to all members soon.

CHAPTER LEGAL ADVISER FORMS NEW FIRM

The Chapter announces, with pleasure, that Nathan Walker, who for many years has served as our legal counsel, has formed a partnership for the practice of law with his son, Edward Nathan Walker, under the firm name, Walker & Walker.

THE NEW CHAPTER HEADQUARTERS

One of the rarest—yet most appreciated arts—is the ability to emphasize, to understand, to carry out the vision of another. But such an art comes easily and gracefully to Miss Hildred Zerman and A. Gordon Lorimer, under whose aegis the headquarters of the New York Chapter have bloomed so successfully. The office with its new room wears a new brightness and spaciousness. It immediately conveys a feeling of comfort, harmony, and efficiency.

The colors in the new room are predominantly ivory, a variety of tones in the blue-green range, and coral: (an ivory-tiled floor and L-shaped desk; deep turquoise walls; a sweeping panel of white drapery with blue and green stripes; coral bookshelves.) The transition from the existing room to the new one is easily made by carrying through the warm brown in the new, graceful desk for Mrs. Henkel, and by repeating the coral upholstery in the new chairs.

For all this, the Chapter owes deep thanks to the several companies who gave their help so willingly. Special thanks are due the following: Mr. Roy Gilb of the Mastic Tile Division of the Ruberoid Company, the Circle Flooring Company, Inc., Perfect Contracting Co., Inc., and Davis Decorators, Inc.

Many years ago, it was the practice for tradesmen to advertise their services by hanging out a symbolic sign. This method was successful where the customer's problems were simple and solutions did not depend so much on exchange of information or sitting down and talking it over. But the business of the Chapter is that of service. What more fitting symbol of its business can there be than an attractive and comfortable headquarters that plainly invites the exchange of help and information?

WILL AND HASKELL RECEIVE MEDAL

For their roles in behalf of Inter-American architectural affairs, AIA President Philip Will and New York Chapter Member Douglas Haskell, Editor of ARCHITECTURAL FORUM, have both been decorated with the Order of Cruzeiros Sul (Southern Cross) by the Brazilian Government, on the recommendation of the Brazilian Institute of Architects.

CONSULTATION REQUEST

The Chapter has been approached by a large public agency for assistance in establishing a panel of architects qualified and willing to review Contract Documents prepared by architects retained by the Agency and to inspect at intervals the progress of construction work with a view to general certification and compliance of such work.

Members of the Chapter interested in rendering such services should write to the Chapter Office and append a dossier of experience which, in their estimation, would qualify them for such an assignment.

BOOKS


"An illustrated guidebook and appraisal" it says on the jacket, and author (and Chapter member) Smith delivers on his promise.

The Grand Tourist's tweeds, bulging on one side with spare Ektachrome, a couple of bars of Cadbury's, crumbling Gauloises and grimy Band-Aids; balanced on the other by TNAOE (weight, 15 ozs.), will proclaim him to the cognoscenti as a fellow. He will organize his day more intelligently—because the maps will tell him where things are, he will observe more intelligently—because he will have been able to read the text in the taxi, and he will even comment more intelligently—because he will know the why as well as the where, when and by whom. He will know where to get more information—because he can find the architect's address in the appendix, and if (as all the 173 so fingered will simply have had to) the man has moved, he has recourse to a full list of books and magazines locally available which might substitute, though they will be less to talk about back home.

And the Tourist's wistful armchair-bound cousin is better off for this book, too. Naturally he missed the last two issues of the Review, somebody purloined his Domus, and even if his subscription to l'Aujourd'hui had not run out, he never really understood it. Here, for under $2 he can get the most thoughtfully assembled, critically appraised, well photographed set of 225 short take-outs on what has been going up in that fermenting old Continent, that will reinstate him in the running, and make him think as well.

If our Tourist or his cousin happen to be members of the New York Chapter of the AIA, they will be happy that the Brunner Scholarship was so well used—and it is quite excusable for them to bask in reflected glory.

Jan White
CHAPTER OPENING MEETING OCT. 25

The Fall Opening Meeting and dinner of the Chapter has been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 25th in Gallery "A" of the Metropolitan Club under the aegis of Mrs. Robert W. Cutler, WAA President, will continue to raise architectural scholarship funds. Other officers heading committees include Mrs. Alonzo W. Clark, Mrs. Morris Ketchum, Mrs. Irvin Leslie Scott, Mrs. Harold R. Sleeper, and Emanuel Turano of Ives, Turano Structural Steel Company and a Director of the American Institute of Steel Construction to Walther Prokosch of Tippett’s, Abbott, McCarthy, Stratton; Philip Ives and Emanuel Turano of Ives, Turano & Gardner; Harold E. Grey, Executive Vice President of Pan American Airways; H. C. Turner, Jr. of Turner Construction Co.; and Edward A. Murphy of Lehigh Structural Steel Co., for their respective parts in the design and construction of the Pan American Terminal building at International Airport, Idlewild.

NYSSAA CONVENTION

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An important sidelight at Saranac was the preconvention meeting of the new Regional Council, AIA, under Regional Director Morris Ketchum. AIA Executive Director William Scheick outlined to the meeting recent activities of the Institute, and new developments, including a fresh approach for architects to the “package deal.”

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Every year the problem of Christmas presents from contractors, subcontractors and suppliers becomes increasingly embarrassing to architects. What used to be a friendly exchange of greetings or at most a souvenir has become so inflated that the architect is often faced with the awkward alternatives of accepting gifts of substantial value or returning them. At its last meeting, the Executive Committee reaffirmed its determination to discourage such gifts as a matter of Chapter policy. It is hoped that members will help carry this policy out.

OCULUS ADVERTISING

The Publications Committee has received the blessings of the Executive Committee in its proposal to defray the considerable costs of publishing the OCULUS by accepting advertising from building materials suppliers, contractors, and other segments of the building industry. Rates have been set at $30 per column inch per insertion, with discounts for multiple insertions. Applications for advertising, and names of suggested advertisers, should be forwarded to James Cady at the Chapter office.

SAARINEN

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ity was now alive with gentle movement. I do not know how long we were thus spellbound, but the illusion of being suspended in time and space continued until the last glimmer of reflection had died away.

Eero was a man of few words, but I could tell that he had been greatly moved by what we had experienced that afternoon. Even after Cheops, Dendera, Luxor, Baalbek, Hagia Sophia, the Acropolis, and Delphi, he recalled those fleeting moments at Palermo with reverence.

Many years later, in designing the M.I.T. chapel, it is evident that Eero achieved the same serenity, the same vigor and originality that characterized the medieval builders of Monreale. I believe his chapel will take its place among the world’s great architecture, and among the lasting reminders of the greatness of its architect.

N. N. Culin