RESIDENTIAL DESIGN ANNUAL AWARDS

The Residential Design Committee, William B. Gleckman, Chairman, has announced this year's annual awards. Gwathmey & Henderson won the award for Detached Houses, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Cooper, owners, Orleans, Mass. Edelman & Salzman won the award for Renovation of Residential Buildings Six Stories or Less for the 9G9-G Cooperative at 33 West 93 St., NYC.

Over 70 entries were submitted, most of them in the Residential Design category. The two remaining categories are Row and Development Housing and Individual Apartments. Gwathmey and Henderson, it should be noted, also won last year's Residential Design award.

Members of the Jury were Herbert Beckhard, AIA, James DeLong, AIA and Architectural Editor of "House Beautiful," Richard T. Foster, AIA, and Charles Moore, AIA. The Jury reports that its decision on the winners were based on merit rather than on comparison with other entries. Disappointment was felt about a number of the entries, sketchily presented and apparently more interested in a monotonous "form for form's sake" than in a thoroughgoing solution.

CHAPTER TO DISCUSS MASTER PLAN DEC. 18

The Regional Plan Association held its 40th Anniversary Conference on November 18 to discuss the New York City Planning Commission's proposed First Comprehensive Plan for New York City. The first volume of the Plan was outlined by Donald H. Elliott, Chairman of the Commission, in a film and slide presentation. Elliott said the remaining five volumes, one for each Borough, will be published soon. The morning panels and the luncheon were interrupted by black and Puerto Rican militants with cries of "Damn the Masters' Plan!" They expressed resentment that almost all heads of City Government are white and that there had been no participation on their part in planning.

Chapter members may join in a discussion of the Plan at a meeting sponsored jointly by NYCAIA, New York Chapter, American Institute of Planners, and the New York Metropolitan Chapter, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) on Thursday, December 18, 8:00 p.m., at the National Maritime Auditorium, 346 West 17th St. The speakers will be Donald Elliott; Commissioner Beverly Moss Spatt, who submitted a dissenting report when the Plan was made public; and Dorn C. McGrath, Professor of Planning at George Washington University and formerly Director of Metropolitan Planning, HUD. S. J. Schulman, General Manager, State Park Commission for the City of New York, will moderate.

The Chapter's Master Plan Committee, Sidney Katz, Chairman, is beginning a series of meetings to develop a position regarding the Master Plan and to discuss its implications for the profession and how the architect can most fully and effectively participate in the Plan's implementation. They will also prepare questions to present before the panelists at the Dec. 18 meeting.
OCULUS WINS AN AWARD

At the AIA Component Editors' Conference on November 13th in Washington, "Oculus" was presented with an Honor Award as "Outstanding AIA Component Newsletter in 1969." This was the first year awards were given for newsletters. It was a tie with the Southern California Chapter's "Bulletin", but we are still very happy.

AND ELLIOTT SPOKE FOR LINDSAY

On October 29th representatives of the three candidates for Mayor of New York City answered questions prepared by the Chapter and read by President David Todd. Planning Commission Chairman Donald Elliott represented Mayor Lindsay. Samuel Crystal of the Comptroller's office spoke for Mr. Procaccino. Architect Vito Battista represented Mr. Marchi, but emphasized he was speaking for himself. He also added liveliness to a meeting which otherwise had the appearance of a ritual.

Two things are obvious to most New York architects. On the positive side, Mr. Lindsay is a very design-conscious mayor. His work through the Planning Commission and the Parks Department, for example, has been imaginative and offers great hope for the future. On the negative side, the amount of new and rehabilitated housing produced during his first four years has reached an appalling all-time low. In answer to the housing crisis Mr. Elliott predicted the log jam is breaking and that the problem will be the approving of many more projects than can be financed.

Naturally, Elliott regarded the adoption and implementation of the Master Plan to be an urgent matter. He favored more City involvement in projects on the scale of Co-op City and Lincoln Center. He considered the Annadale-Huguenot plan for Staten Island good but too small in scope. He favored more community involvement in planning and agreed with all methods of obtaining sites for low and middle income housing mentioned, but with reservations about privately initiated Mitchell-Lama projects which tend to be poorly sited. Regulating land development to include housing was one means offered to build without federal or state aid. He said the long-range goal was less dependence on property tax because of their effects on rents. He acknowledged a fight within City government for resources to implement the new Building Code properly. In a vague reply to the question of unified contracts for architects and engineers working for City agencies, he said much work has been done on it.

K. K.

CHAPTER'S STAND ON WELFARE ISLAND

At the Board of Estimate hearing on Oct. 29, the Chapter supported the proposed Philip Johnson & John Burgee plan based on the Report of the Welfare Island Planning and Development Committee but noted the lack of clear assurance that the Island would be developed as a park and recreational resource and urged that "the designated open spaces be developed in such a way that the public at large throughout the city will be positively attracted to the Island". In 1961, reacting to the Gruen proposal for 20,000 units (the present plan is for 5,000), the Chapter recommended the whole Island for parks and recreation; this was reaffirmed in 1965. The recent inclusion of a stop in the new 63rd Street subway introduces a new factor. Subsequent letters from Edward Logue, Philip Johnson, and August Heckscher all affirm that the park areas will be city-wide facilities.
NOTES ON THE MORATORIUM

By David F. M. Todd

On October 8th the Executive Committee met and decided as individuals to participate in the October 15th Moratorium. The membership was advised accordingly by regular Chapter notice which read as follows:

"Members of the Executive Committee of the New York Chapter, A.I.A. who attended the meeting of the Committee on October 8, wish as individuals to participate in the nationwide Vietnam Moratorium on Wednesday, October 15th. Accordingly, we plan to attend a rally to be held in Bryant Park at 4:30 p.m. on October 15th, at which Senators Javits and Goodell, Mayor Lindsay and Representative Shirley Chisholm are expected to speak. We would be pleased to have members of the New York Chapter join us in the symbolic protest."

An issue has been raised as a result, on both content and procedure. Nesbitt Garmendia, member of the Chapter, undertook a private poll on his own. The results, and the reasons behind this poll, are discussed by Mr. Garmendia elsewhere in this issue of "Oculus." While there may well be differences of opinion, both as to the propriety of the original notice and to the significance of the poll results, the Chapter should be grateful to Mr. Garmendia for his expression of concern. His action has provided some useful information as well as ventilation.

It is interesting to note that the second question asked in the poll, having to do with the appropriateness of Chapter involvement in broad public issues (such as Vietnam) showed a fairly even distribution, with more against than for. The first question, however, having to do with the propriety of the notice itself, showed rather heavy sentiment running against the Executive Committee. The apparent inconsistency in the answers to these two questions is difficult to explain. It may lie in the wording of the questions themselves, or in the preamble to the questionnaire, or simply in the misunderstanding of the workings of the Chapter. While the Executive Committee has no intention of backtracking, it does recognize that the question on the matter of the Executive Committee's notice it was the fear of overstepping the boundaries of proper professional concern. This may be the heart of the matter. To define the limits of proper professional involvement is not an easy matter. There are different ways of looking at it.

The traditional view has held that while each individual architect is free, and is encouraged, to become active and vocal in the political arena, we should avoid such actions when we come together in our professional organization. This assumes that the liberal/conservative differences amongst us must be respected if we are to function effectively on matters of specific professional interest. It also expresses a fear that the shifting sands of politics will trap the best laid plans and that the temptation to support candidates and to speak out on issues of broad public policy can only serve to discredit our professional standing. This general view must be taken seriously. It calls for prudence in the conduct of our affairs.

Another view, not necessarily opposite, stems from the National Priorites Resolution (No. 10) as passed at the Chicago Convention this past June. The Institute placed this Resolution on a full page of the New York Times of July 8th. The Chapter placed a somewhat smaller version in the New York Times this past October 15th. Among other things, this Resolution calls for the rebuilding of our cities and asks the President and the Congress "to assume responsibility for a comprehensive reexamination and reordering of our national priorities, recognizing that we have neither unlimited wealth or wisdom, and that we cannot sensibly hope to instruct other nations in the paths they should follow when we are increasingly unable to demonstrate that we know how to maintain a viable society at home."*

Stemming from the spirit of this and other resolutions passed at Chicago, the Executive Committee has adopted as a basic Chapter policy the statement published in the September "Oculus" entitled "We Are Involved in Politics." This assumes that the Chicago resolutions marked a major shift in attitude of the entire Institute and that each Chapter has the obligation to support and implement this broader involvement of architects in the problems and processes of improving the physical environment. The quality of the environment becomes the fundamental goal. There is, in the view of the Executive Committee, a direct connection between the Resolution and the quality of the environment.

If the Executive Committee were merely looking for an appropriate sanction for its announcement, we need go no further. The issue, however, is not quite that simple. There is a danger that such a sanction can be overextended, can mistake all matters of foreign affairs as falling within our purview on the grounds of national priorities, and can rapidly reach a point of absurdity wherein our claims for advocacy within the realm of our professional competence come to mean nothing at all. It is only through careful definition of our proper role that we can be effective. Again, prudence is necessary.

Prudence, however, is not the same thing as traditionalism or conservatism. It means knowing the time of day, as well as the year, decade, and century we happen to be living in. It is my view that in these terms our announcement on the Moratorium was prudent and appropriate. Many of our members had asked what we were going to do on that day. Furthermore, the attitude of the Executive Committee was unanimous. We had hoped to avoid, however, the appearance of committing the Chapter on an issue that has so many serious and dedicated people on both sides, and particularly wanted to avoid personal offense. We claim no superiority on moral grounds. For

*Quoted in a telegram to President Nixon on Nov. 15th.
these reasons we announced going "as individuals." Only one member did not sign the notice. He was out of the country and could not be reached. As to the format of the notice, it went out on regular Chapter letterhead and was paid for out of Chapter funds. Those signing were identified as members of the Executive Committee. If the use of the letterhead and Chapter mailing facilities were improper, then the identification was also improper. The Executive Committee does not believe any of these were improper.

The Institute has, in the past, supported specific programs, such as public housing, in the interest of social concern. This has been firm policy which logically can be extended. However, the tone and language of the National Priorities Resolution can only be interpreted as having introduced a new sense of urgency and breadth of concern that have not been present in AIA affairs before. In carrying forward this new spirit there will be, I trust, no sense of politicizing the membership, but rather the assumption that we are on common ground and are reflecting the purposes of the organization.

If these comments have not clarified the position of the Executive Committee, twenty-five members may, under the by-laws, petition for a special meeting to carry on the discussion.

David F. M. Todd

NESBITT GARMENDIA ON HIS POLL

As of 12 November, 348 questionnaires were returned, based on a mailing to 1381 corporate members; of those, 44 were returned by the Post Office for one reason or another. The results:

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1. Do you feel that the Notice sent out on letterhead without consultation of the membership was proper?
2. Do you think our local Chapter should take any position on a political matter such as the Vietnam Moratorium?
3. If so, do you think a poll of the membership or a special meeting on the subject would be in order?

My thanks to those who took the time to respond to the questionnaire. Better than 26% answered, one of the best responses ever to a mailing of this type, with more than half of the members adding comments of their own. All have been turned over to Chapter President Todd and are available for verification.

Of those replying, the majority disapproved of the action taken by the 11 members of the Executive Committee, "as individuals," by a margin of more than 10 to 3. In addition, the replies were about evenly divided as to whether, as a Chapter, we should take positions in matters such as these.

Speaking to the larger point first, it is my opinion that if the Chapter is going to touch on these matters at all, it should be done only with the broadest possible participation of the membership. Why? Because we are an architectural organization and none of our leaders was elected for his political astuteness. We elected our Congressional representatives with those qualifications in mind.

As to the narrower issue, I would not have uttered a word of protest, had their "individual" views been expressed on private stationery and not at the membership's expense. Use of an organization letterhead implies membership approval of that use, apart from disapproval or disapproval of any opinion or conviction expressed therein. As you can plainly see, the membership does not approve of that use.

To those who cheered at our Chapter taking a stand—think again—our Chapter took no stand. The Executive Committee sidestepped a meaningful position one way or another. I will support Chapter involvement in these matters when it becomes that—Chapter involvement, and not before.

Nesbitt Garmendia

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES REPORT

Chairman Rolland Thompson reports that support for the ARCH-NYCAIA Training Program is the Equal Opportunities Committee's major concern. 20 students have been placed in offices for this school year (see Nov. "Oculus"). Many of them will be ready to enter college in Sept. '70.

A sub-committee including Otto Teegen, Richard Roth, Sr., and Rolland Thompson is now considering methods of raising the necessary scholarship money. As the number of students being sponsored increases, the problem of raising funds will grow.

Another sub-committee including Marcus Caines and John Wilson is being formed to initiate a formal program of visits to the city's high schools to interest students in architectural careers. This activity will be coordinated with the Chapter's Speakers Bureau. An attempt to utilize exhibition material featuring work of black and Puerto Rican Architects that is being assembled by the Exhibits Committee is also planned. In the November issue of "Oculus," Harold Levy questioned in a letter whether the Architectural Education Committee had considered two EOC recommendations at its meeting with the heads of the City's architectural schools and departments. Those recommendations were for establishing information exchanges between city schools and southern, primarily black architectural schools, as well as for encouraging the establishment of evening programs in New York schools leading to a degree. Thompson says that liaison with the Architectural Education Committee has been established.

ETHICAL STANDARDS DISCUSSION DEC. 11

The Chapter's Special Committee on Ethical Standards, Herbert Oppenheimer, Chairman, has reviewed the Institute's draft Ethical Standards proposed at the 1969 Convention to replace the present Standards of Professional Practice, and has developed a substitute draft. These drafts, which could lead to a complete redefinition of our professional role, are the subject of the special membership meeting Tues., Dec. 11, 5:00 p.m. to form official Chapter recommendations. Please attend.
A STUDENT'S REACTION TO THE $15,000,000.

The significance of the AIA's decision to raise 15 million dollars for America's black, brown, and poor white communities can only be fully determined by the recipients. However, two things do seem clear — that $15 million is a pitifully inadequate sum in terms of the pressing needs of the American people, and that white architects have begun to see that it is in their own interest to actively fight racism.

When people fight for equality and freedom, it is for real equality, material freedom. Nobody fights for integrated slums. They want decent and beautiful homes in a healthy and growing environment. Racism is the main obstacle. And racism will not die without a united struggle of the people for these common interests.

For us, this means an architecture which serves the material and aesthetic needs of the people — a new clientele whose first concern is not "how many more dollars of rentable square footage can I squeeze out of this guy," but with the totality of design — all the human, social, aesthetic, architectonic facets of the architect's creativity summoned up. It means more jobs and reconstruction projects so vast they would make the TVA look tiny. It will challenge the fads and formalism, the isolation and sterility and moribund architectural theories and practices which result from keeping architecture restricted as to race (white), class (middle and up), and sex (male).

The Convention resolution was a small first step. Now it's time to start taking swift, purposeful strides. Specifically we must press for open enrollment in the architectural schools, for the re-establishment of evening schools, and the expansion of on-the-job training programs. We must join, support, and initiate the fights for new housing. We must fight the repression and brutalizing of spokesmen for the black and brown communities. We must demand the right of people to determine the course of development of their communities.

In short, we must cast our lot with the people, because their success is our success, and their losses endanger our own interests and the dignity of our profession.

George Chaikin

Mr. Chaikin is a graduate of the Cooper Union School of Architecture and attends the School of Engineering, Dept. of Computer Services, Pratt Institute.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY — $15,000,000

The Institute has formed a Task Force on Social Responsibility, George Rockrise, Chairman, to implement the so-called "Student Proposal" Resolution passed at the 1969 AIA Convention. This called for "establishing programs and administrative structure for operating and disbursing funds in line with the $15,000,000 goal." In a parallel action, Martin Growald of SOM has been appointed the Chapter's Chairman for Social Responsibility.

While the national Task Force will direct the over-all campaign to implement the Resolution, this Chapter will also initiate and continue programs of its own.

The on-going NYCAIA-ARCH Training Program, funded by the Ford Foundation, to enable young minority students to achieve architectural school degrees is one example. A current effort to identify and assist community planning groups is another, and the Urban Planning Studio at the Real Great Society (October "Oculus") has received initial support. The Equal Opportunities Scholarship fund-raising for students entering school in Fall 1970 is now under way.

It is likely that Chapter members who are willing will be asked to volunteer some of their time — perhaps a half-day a week — to work with community groups who need assistance. Note: If you are interested in this kind of activity or have special knowledge of community-oriented organizations, George Lewis at Chapter Headquarters would like to hear from you.

CHAPTER SUPPORTS WEST VILLAGE HOUSING

At the Board of Estimate hearing November 13, the Chapter supported the proposed West Village housing. George Lewis read the statement which said in part, "Here, a non-profit neighborhood organization, The West Village Committee, has proposed to sponsor a series of low-rise buildings well fitted to their individual sites and respecting the traditions and physical scale of the area. The community expressly desires that the character of this old neighborhood be maintained and enhanced... We have much to learn from this important experiment in citizen participation. Its realization will set an outstanding example of how the continuity of a neighborhood can be maintained and its character enriched..."

The hearing represented the culmination of many years of effort on the part of the West Village Committee. The Board approved the proposal, with Comptroller Mario Procaccino voting negative. He had expressed astonishment that housing would be built with wood floor construction.

DESIGNING FOR OUTER SPACE

Score several points for Danforth W. Toan. The firm of Warner Burns Toan Lunde has been designing prototype space stations for Grumman Aerospace Corporations — living at zero gravity for extended periods of time. On November 17th Mr. Toan presented a movie and slide show called "Habitability: Man in Space" to a large, enthusiastic Chapter audience. The gap between science fiction and science fact is rapidly closing. A fascinating accompanying exhibit will unfortunately be at the Headquarters for a short time only. For some brief idea of the project you might read "Spaces in Space" in the November 1969 "P/A" or an amusing article in the November 1, 1969, issue of the "New Yorker" called "Habitability."

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITS

The Exhibits Committee promises some stimulating shows. One will cover the present stage of the Lower Manhattan Plan, another some proposals in the current revision of the Zoning Resolution, and a third the work of the State Health and Mental Hygiene Facilities Improvement Corp.
PELLISH URGES INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES

In a discussion of "An American System for Accepting New Technologies," sponsored by the Committee on Technology, David M. Pellish, AIA, Housing Technology Officer of the New York State Urban Development Corporation, expressed his belief that innovation in building techniques would be promoted with the establishment of a National Institute of Building Sciences. In Europe such an organization has been functioning successfully in advancing the use of industrialized techniques. They are about ten years ahead of us in know-how and implementation.

In this country, an N.I.B.S. should be created by an act of Congress as a non-governmental agency initially set up by government grants but normally funded by private industry. Its chief functions would be to promote research and serve as an authoritative central source of technical information and advice, and to develop uniform nationally acceptable up-to-date standards which would be incorporated into local building codes.

A proposal for an N.I.B.S. has been introduced to the Congress by Senator Javits and Representative Moorehead and has bipartisan support, but it has not yet been brought before Congress for a vote. Mr. Pellish, therefore, urges the design professions to express their advocacy of such a measure and to implement this by holding forums, education programs, and promoting dialogue over the issues involved. Such an agency as an N.I.B.S., functioning symbiotically with the construction industry would, he believes, accelerate the application of new technologies for building in the United States.

SKETCHES

AS (Architectural Student) has published another bold issue. Write to Tassin-Farachi, Publishers, 705 Laurel St., Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Seminar: The Institute and the NYSAA are sponsoring a seminar on Building Programming on Dec. 5th & 6th to be held at the Holiday Inn, 440 West 57 Street. Contact NYSAA, 441 Lexington Avenue, OX 7-8866.

NYSAA Convention: Dues were raised from $15 to $25 at this year's Annual Convention. Billing will be direct from NYSAA as of Jan. 1st. NYCAIA member Walter Rutes was elected Treasurer of the State organization.

Fellowship and Scholarship: Applications are available for a Graduate Fellowship Award and the Under-Graduate Scholarship Award of The Plastering Institute of Greater New York, Inc.

Mendelsohn: An exhibition of Architectural Drawings by Eric Mendelsohn will be on view through December 28 at The Museum of Modern Art.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Jeffrey Ellis Aronin has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects.