President's Statement

On the one hand, our membership represent the "doers" of a significant portion of the architecture erected in this city. In this capacity, we can offer a positive forward thrust to the urban fabric—the "patina" of the city.

This is an application of talent and expertise in consort with other elements that constitute life on an urban scale—business, finance and political, social, recreational and cultural necessities and realities—to produce buildings and urban settings conducive to an improved life style.

On the other hand, by the very nature of our physical presence (as manifested by our architectural efforts), there is created an awareness of the contribution that architects can make in these days of tough decision-making by those vested with authority to effect the life style of countless citizens by the very substance of the decisions made.

The social, political and economical problems of New York City have become more complex. To put it in the most simple terms, the demands of society today, in looking to government to fill its needs, have resulted in a "shopping list" of services, most of which were undreamed of twenty years ago. At the same time, the city has exhausted its financial resources and an absence of open land in the inner city has stiffled its maneuverability to solve planning problems.

This is where the architect of 1972 comes in! Our skills must be expanded so we can successfully wrestle with the legitimate fears, needs and grievances of local communities, and to enable us to design buildings and site buildings in a manner which exceeds mere programmatic requirements, while coming to grips with the social problems and desires of the population intended to be served.

In a broader sense, as a professional organization concerned with architecture as a combination of the physical and the natural environment, we have the responsibility to speak out and be heard on those basic issues in which voices of reason, knowledge and logic are essential ingredients in the solution of complex urban problems.

The loss of faith in the government's ability to solve problems is so pronounced, we cannot afford the luxury of being mere observers of the scene. During the summer, we have spoken out on important issues of urban environment, and we will continue to do so.

The more vibrant our committee structure, the more effective our performance in the marketplace of ideas... the "public forum".

If every member contributes his expertise to NYC/AIA committee activities toward a perfection of our profession, the more effectively our skills can be brought to bear in terms of our obligation to society.

Thomas F. Galvin
Galvin Assumes Presidency
At June Meeting

Change has been a recent way of life for Thomas F. Galvin. In 1970 he was a senior partner of Brown Guenther Battaglia Galvin, Architects, and then went on to be Chairman of the Board of Standard of Appeals, and is now Executive Vice-President of the New York City Convention and Exhibition Center Corporation. Within the profession he has become President of the new York Chapter and will soon simultaneously become President of the New York State Association of Architects. Relationship with the NYSAA should be quite good this year. In his remarks at the luncheon, he vowed to carry on with our commitment to the public started with and continued by former presidents Tabler, Douglass, Todd, Cavaglieri and Frost.

Besides Tom Galvin, the officers are T.M. Prentice, Jr., First Vice President/President-Elect; Robert F. Gatje, Vice President; Samuel M. Brody, FAIA, Vice President; Kurt Karmin, Secretary; James B. Baker, Treasurer; and as Directors: Louis P. Gialcalone, Richard G. Stein, George D. Brown, Alexander Kouzmanoff, LeRoy E. Tuckett, and Judith Edelman. Michael M. Harris, FAIA, and Julian Neski were elected to the Ethics Committee; Simon Breines, FAIA, and Jan Hird Pokorny, FAIA, to the Committee on Fellows; David E. Glasser, Frederick Frost, Jr., FAIA, and Daniel Schwartzman, FAIA to the Finance Committee; and Romaldo Giurgola, Walter McQuade, FAIA, and Peter Samton to the jury for the Medal of Honor and Award of Merit.

Director's Assistant Replaced

A relatively few members are aware of the extent of work involved in monitoring the numerous activities of the NYC/AIA.

Executive Director George Lewis, whose task this is, chose as his assistant last year a young woman who was a student in Columbia’s evening architectural program. Carolyn Thompson was found by those who worked with her to be both willing and able to involve herself fully, thereby successfully removing some of the Director's enormous burden.

But a demanding job is not compatible with a demanding night school and Ms. Thompson has chosen to return to her architectural studies full time. Replacing her as Assistant now, is Martha Pope, a graduate of Ohio State where she majored in Sociology. Ms. Pope joins the staff at headquarters armed with an ‘interest in urban affairs’ and a willingness to assume appropriate responsibilities.

Institute's Legislative Assessment

The Chapter office is being asked to explain the $10 assessment bills which the Institute is sending to the members.

This one year assessment was voted at the 1972 Convention to finance a campaign to eliminate procurement of architectural services through price quotations (competitive bidding). The Convention had voted to agree with the Justice Department to a consent decree which required elimination of any provision in the Standards of Ethical Practice prohibiting fee quotations. This consent decree does, however, clearly state that the Institute can advocate the selection of architects on the basis of merit, and it permits the Institute to seek legislation and change in registration laws to that effect.

The Institute is organizing to achieve these goals, and the assessment was enthusiastically voted at the Convention to support this effort.

GL

Re: Un-consciousness
cc: Oculus

Oculus received a copy of a letter addressed to the Meetings Committee that we pass along to you. The issue raised is a subtle one, but a good indication of the conditioning of most of our minds.

Dear Committee:

Some clarification is needed regarding the invitation to the Annual Luncheon: "Members, ladies and guests are cordially invited to the ...." Are women members not ladies? Are women architects in general not ladies? So far, probably true, but- can women be guests but ladies can’t? No woman who is a guest is a lady? Can men be guests or does that category exist only to separate the ladies from the women? Are male members men and not gentlemen? Can gentlemen be guests?

It’s late for this level of unconciousness.

Sincerely,

Judith Edelman
Bard Awards

The 1972 Bard Awards for Excellence in Architecture and Urban Design were presented May 18, 1972 at a reception and ceremony at the St. Regis-Sheraton Hotel.

As is the custom in alternate years, the 1972 awards were given for outstanding achievements in privately sponsored construction completed in the past two years within the five boroughs of The City of New York. The winners were selected by an Awards Jury including: Samuel M. Brody FAIA, Morris Ketchum, Jr. FAIA, James S. Polshek AIA, and Louis Sauer AIA.

Recipients of the Bard First Honor Awards for Excellence in Architecture and Urban Design were: The National Airlines Terminal at JFK Airport designed by I. M. Pei and Partners, Architects; and the Residential Building at the Henry Ittleson Center for Child Research in Riverdale designed by Abraham W. Geller FAIA, Architect.

The Jury also expressed its special interest in three other projects it considered, primarily for the foresight and intent of their owners and initiators. The three projects included: the 139th Street Playground, located at 139th Street and Lenox Avenue, Manhattan and designed by Coffey, Levine, Blumberg and Henri Le Gendre Associates; Greenacre Park, located at 51st Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues, Manhattan and designed by Sasaki, Dawson, De May Associates, Inc. and Goldstone, Dearborn and Hinz; and Westbeth Artists Housing, located at 463 West Street, Manhattan and designed by Richard Meier and Associates.

In view of past Bard Jury unhappiness with the state of publicly sponsored construction, last year Marcel Breuer's technology building II at New York University received an Award for Merit, no First Honor Award was made, it might be noteworthy to point out that the National Airlines Terminal had its origins in a competition held by the New York Port Authority. It was a competition by invitation for a multi-terminal to be built by the Authority and leased to airlines that did not have terminal facilities. It was subsequently taken over by National.

In view of the generally distressing state of publicly sponsored construction, there may be a message here.

JAK

Mayor's Panel of Architects

Application for the Mayor's Panel of Architects for 1973 will be issued and received daily, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. from October 1, 1972 through October 21, 1972. Application blanks may be obtained at Room 1800, Department of Public Works, Municipal Building, Centre and Chambers Streets, New York City 10007.
Chapter Positions and Publicity Over the Summer

The Chapter has stepped up its efforts to make its opinions known to public officials. Some of this has reached the public through the press, radio and TV. To wit:

Harbor Village: This housing project had Board of Estimate approval in 1971, but an attempt was made within the Board to rescind the approval. Prior to two Board meetings in June, telegrams opposing reconsideration of business already settled were sent to each Board member stressing that “the good faith of the City’s commitments in the housing field is at stake.” George Lewis spoke as a member of a press conference panel at City Hall on June 8. The Board on Sept. 14 rescinded its 1971 approval.

1972 Housing & Urban Development Act: Letter to Rep. Koch, a member of the House Banking & Currency Committee, urging approval of amendments (a) to establish a research program evaluating the effects of the planning and design of Federally assisted housing on the lives of its residents, and (b) to establish a National Institute of Building Standards, including a member of the design profession on its Board of Directors.

Gateway National Urban Recreation Areas: Telegram to Rep. Aspinall, Chairman of the House Interior Committee, urging approval.

TV Interview: President Galvin was interviewed by Joseph Michaels on the program “Man in Office”, CH 4 (NBC) on Sunday, July 2, 10:30-11:00 a.m. The discussion covered a broad range of urban planning issues, and Galvin stressed the Chapter’s concern with these.

Democratic Platform: President Galvin sent a detailed statement to a Platform Committee hearing in Albany recommending inclusion of parts of the AIA National Policy Report. Supporting telegrams were sent to Bella Abzug and Ronnie Eldridge, NYC members of the Platform Committee, meeting in Washington. Important parts of the Policy Report were subsequently included in the Platform.

West Front of Capital: Telephone calls backed up by letters and telegrams to Manhattan congressmen and members of their staffs helped produce an unexpected House vote against allocating funds for extension of the West Front, a proposal involving demolition of the only remaining original facade of the Capitol and the Olmsted terraces as well.

Brooks Bill: Telegrams sent to all Manhattan congressmen supporting this Bill, which would establish a procedure for selecting architectural and engineering services for Federal contracts on the basis of competence and capacity to perform work rather than price competition. The Bill recently passed the House.

Madison Avenue Mall: Following a Times article indicating wavering on the part of the Mayor, with indications that a test closing of a few blocks would be tried, President Galvin wrote the Mayor emphasizing the Chapter’s support of implementing the complete design, pointing out that “a limited traffic test without any of the physical amenities will not provide the answer to this question as it will highlight only the disadvantages.” The Times carried an article on the Chapter’s letter on July 28.

Grand Central: The Chapter had joined the Municipal Art Society in filing an amicus curiae brief arguing that the Landmark Commission acted properly in denying the Penn Central Company’s application to demolish the facade of Grand Central and build an office tower above the Station. George Lewis and Gordon Hyatt of the Municipal Art Society were interviewed on this subject on CH 2 Six O’clock News on July 31.

Proposed Use of Electric Heat on Welfare Island: (see article this issue). President Galvin made a statement opposing the proposal on WQXR AM and FM at 6:36 p.m. August 8. Richard Stein and he were interviewed on WNYC Radio from 10:00 to 10:30 p.m. on August 9.

Energy Conservation: On Sunday, July 16 Ada Louise Huxtable had an article in the Times based on Richard Stein’s investigation into the effects of architectural design on consumption of energy. She noted that Stein had won the Chapter’s Brunner Award.

Republican Platform: President Galvin on August 8 wrote to State Senator Warren Anderson, a member of the Platform Committee, recommending inclusion of parts of the AIA National Policy Report.

GL

Courses in Hospital Planning

The Hospital and Health Committee has announced that Pratt Institute, Columbia and City College will each co-sponsor, with the Chapter, a course in Hospital Planning for architectural personnel in the academic year 1972-73.

Pratt Institute will give a 16 session credit course “Basic Hospital Planning” at the Pratt Manhattan Center at 46 Park Avenue. The course, given by William H. Brown, AIA, Director of Planning of Lenox Hill Hospital, is intended for those with little or no hospital planning experience. The fee will be $140.00. Registration will be September 11th through the 13th. Classes will start Thursday, September 14th. For information contact the School of Continuing Professional Studies, Pratt Institute, Willoughby Avenue and Hall Street, Brooklyn, 11205 or phone Main 2-2000.
Columbia University will give a 14 session “Advanced Course in Hospital Planning” with Clifford E. Wolfe, AIA, Chief of Hospital Planning of Kiff, Voss and Franklin, Architects, as Course Director. Classes will be held at Chapter Headquarters. A prerequisite for admission will be a course in Basic Hospital Planning or at least five years of experience in hospital work. The fee will be $135.00. Classes will start October 17th. For registration information contact Mrs. Noreen Clark at the Columbia School of Public Health and Administrative Medicine: Continuation Education, at 21 Audubon Avenue, New York, 10018 or phone 568-4334.

The College of the City of New York will offer an eight session advanced “Seminar in Hospital Planning” for those with considerable experience and responsibility in hospital planning. The seminar, conducted by Joseph Blumenkranz, FAIA, will be held at the City University Graduate Center at 33 West 42nd Street. The fee will be $50.00. The first session will be held in mid-October. For registration information contact Mrs. McGrath at the Chapter office.

All classes will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Upon satisfactory completion of each course, students will receive Certificates of Completion. The Hospital Committee urges early registration since all classes will be limited in size.

UDC Responds to Chapter Electric Heat Statement

Ed Logue of UDC has responded to the Chapter’s Electric Heat Statement in a letter and report documenting the opposing position of UDC. At the same time, an analysis of the UDC report, prepared for the Executive Committee by Dick Stein, sustains the Chapter’s original statement as correct and ecologically sound.

The issue in question is what kind of heating system, conventional or electrical, results in the lowest consumption of fuel in order to maintain identical apartments at similar conditions. Less consumption of fuel results in less cost, less pollutants released to the air, and less drain on the already scarce fossil fuel resources.

The UDC study attempts to show, by way of comparing costs for two nearly identical 2BR/dwelling units in NYC, one oil heated, one electrically heated, that there is actually a savings in owning and operating costs for the electrically heated dwelling unit.

In contrast, the Chapter analysis points out that the heat loss formulas used by UDC in its comparison of the two types of heating systems are not comparable, and further that Con Ed does not generate electricity at 35% efficiency as indicated in the UDC Statement.

These and other factors discussed in the report result in a conventional heating system using half as much fuel as is required by an electrical heating system; that is, the fuel at the boiler necessary to produce the required heat in the dwelling unit is half as great as the fuel required at the generating plant to produce the electricity required to deliver the same amount of heat at the dwelling unit.

Thus reasons the Chapter, electric heat is an improvement in disguise only, and decreasing availability of fossil fuel resources requires we conserve what little we have by using conventional systems. Improvement can be looked to in a total energy system that produces both electricity and heat which would result in further fuel savings.

JAK

Milton Musicus on Architects

Last July 21st President Galvin wrote to Mayor Lindsay recommending that he appoint Weston F. Weidner, Architect, as Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Works. This position was open due to the unfortunate death of John Homsey.

A most amazing, and disturbing, letter was received in reply by Milton Musicus. We publish it here:

Dear Tom:

Your letter of July 21, 1972 to Mayor Lindsay was referred to me for consideration and reply.

Although Weston F. Weidner is indeed a highly qualified architect, the major work faced in the Department of Public Works is the construction of facilities now in the last stages of design. We expect to do very little architectural work in the near future.

It is extremely important that our construction activities be subjected to some intensive critical attention and that this be done by an experienced construction man.

With this in mind, we made our selection of a Deputy Commissioner of Public Works and the announcement will be made shortly.

Milton Musicus
Administrador

Without commenting on Mr. Weidner’s qualifications, one wonders what Mr. Musicus’ concept of an architect is, as he apparently rejects the architect as “an experienced construction man”. If we take this statement at face value, who does that leave? In view of the importance of this position to the citizens of this city, I believe Milton Musicus owes us all a better explanation.

JAK
Executive Committee Actions

June 14, 1972
This was the first meeting of the new Committee.
• Approved the Brunner Scholarship Committee's recommendation that Richard G. Stein receive this year's Award.
• Reaffirmed the resolution of the previous Executive Committee to recommend a 20% dues increase to the membership.
• Agreed that the president or president-elect would attend the first session of the recently reconstituted Civic Assembly.

June 21, 1972
• Approved the LeBrun Fellowship Committee's recommendation that Robert H. Motzkin receive this year's Award.
• Made the following appointments: Kurt Karmin, delegate to the State Association; Robert Gatje, chairman of the Ethics Committee; George Brown, liaison with the Architects' Council.
• Resolved to respond to a letter from Edward Logue of U DC which took issue with the Chapter's previous statement protesting the proposed use of electric heat on Welfare Island.

July 12, 1972
• Recommended to the Mayor the name of a Chapter member to be deputy commissioner of DPW, with stress on the fact that an architect should be in that position.
• Heard past president Frost report on a meeting of the Building & Construction Advisory Council which got headlines when Administrator Walsh announced to the press that he belabored the construction industry as contributors to situations creating corruption.
• Appointed committee chairman.
• Heard Richard Dattner describe his having resigned from Planning Board No. 12 because of a decision by the City Board of Ethics that a board member may not do professional work in that area. Planned to present arguments against this policy to Percy Sutton and others.

August 9, 1972
• Dr. Hugh Luckey, President of N.Y. Hospital Council Medical Center and Walter Severinghaus of SOM presented the proposal of the so-called York Avenue Institutions to expand through using air rights over the FDR Drive.
• Heard James Baker, Treasurer, predict a sizeable deficit for this fiscal year; resolved that the fund balance which was available at the beginning of this fiscal year be applied toward this.
• Resolved to recommend that Frederick G. Frost, Jr. and Jeh Johnson be elected Institute directors from the New York Region.
• Resolved to support Mortimer Murphy of Buffalo for president-elect of the State Association.
• Heard a letter from Milton Musicus rejecting the Chapter's recommendation of an architect to be Deputy Commissioner of DPW; resolved that President Galvin respond strongly to this, especially its inference that little architectural work is about to be made available.
• Resolved to cooperate with the Building Congress in identifying points in the building process at which corruption is liable to occur.

Candidates for Membership

Information received by the Secretary of NYC/AIA regarding the qualifications of candidates for membership will be considered confidential.

Corporate
Leslie Cortesi
Linda Janssen

Associate
George C. Weiner

Welcome to New Members

The NYC/AIA welcomes the following members:

Corporate
Nada J. Williams
Frederick A. Lee
Robert J. Kleid
Ada Iosub
David L. Finci
Peter B. Halfon

Professional Associate
John J. Koster, Jr.

Associate
Dennis Davey

New York Chapter
The American Institute of Architects
20 West 40th Street
New York New York 10018
212 565-1866
George S. Lewis, Executive Director

Executive Committee
Thomas F. Galvin, President
T. M. Prentice, Jr., 1st Vice President
Robert F. Gatje, Vice President
Samuel M. Brody, FAIA, Vice President
Kurt Karmin, Secretary
James B. Baker, Treasurer
George D. Brown, Director
Judieth Edelman, Director
Louis P. Giacalone, Director
Alexander Kouzmanoff, Director
Richard G. Stein, Director
LeRoy E. Teckett, Director

Oculus Committee
J. Arvid Klein, Editor and Chairman
David P. Helgren
Norman F. Jacklin
Kurt Karmin
Joel D. Kaufman
Linda Yang