AIA Convention At San Francisco

The Chapter was very much in evidence at the Institute's annual convention held May 7-10.

The Chapter's exhibit "The Architect and the Energy Crisis" was set up along one side of the big Civic Auditorium where the plenary sessions were held, thereby attracting wide attention. Concurrently, the Washington Post found room on May 5, in addition to Watergate, for a lengthy editorial based on the exhibit.

Several resolutions sponsored or strongly backed by the Chapter were passed, including those on the Status of Women in the Architectural Profession, Minority Disadvantaged Scholarships, Energy Conservation, Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, the Housing Fund Moratorium, and the OEO Design and Planning Assistance Program. The Status of Women resolution evoked considerable opposition from certain quarters on the basis that it was redundant, women already being treated fairly and equally. To the amazement of many from New York—notably Suzanne Stephens, covering the affair for the Forum—this had to be settled by a rollcall vote and passed by about 950-650.

The OEO Program resolution referred to Section 226 of the OEO Amendments of 1972, which was to provide funds for community design centers. Since OEO appears to be in the process of being dismantled, the resolution called for transfer of the program to HUD.

NYC/AIA Annual Luncheon June 6
Lindsay To Receive Award

Members and guests are cordially invited to the NYC/AIA Annual Luncheon, and presentation of Award of Merit to John V. Lindsay, Medal of Honor to David Brody & Associates and other Chapter Awards.

The luncheon will be at the Advertising Club of New York, 23 Park Avenue, Wednesday, June 6.

Cocktails: 11:30 to 12:30, Mary Murray Lounge, Second Floor.
Luncheon: 12:30 to 2:30, Main Dining Room, Third Floor.
Luncheon: $8.50, cash bar.

The Advertising Club of New York is one of the few remaining buildings in New York designed by Stanford White. Originally built at the turn of the century as a home for J. Hampton Robb, New York attorney, park commissioner and art collector, it has been the home of the Advertising Club since 1924. The building features art works such as the Italian Renaissance Fireplace and Mantletree dating from the Sixteenth Century.
Guest Editorial:  
Martin Schaum Comments  
On The AIA And Albany

I was extremely pleased to be privileged to represent the New York State Association of Architects during this year. I had often thought about the constructive impact that a professional society was capable of having upon the entire community and upon the Legislature which is elected to serve that community. One cannot help but notice the effects that the legislative process has had upon the practices of many of your Association’s sister professions and it is a challenge to formulate policies which not only evolve to the betterment of the society in which we live, but also, in the narrower sense, best serve the profession which one represents.

A dynamic leadership in your Association agreed with me that our best interests for the future lay in adopting an active role in supporting legislation which was deemed to be in the general interest in the broad areas of the preservation of our natural resources; housing; environmental control; Staten Island Re­development; transportation.

At the direction of the Association’s President, Thomas F. Galvin, and its Legislative Chairman, Michael Maas, the Executive Director of the Association, H. Dickson McKenna, prepared explicit memoranda which effectively reached the Legislative desks pertinent to those bills in which we had an interest.

It is my observation that the New York State Association has turned the corner so that it is now recognized in Albany as a functioning force which is creatively interested in the legislative process. It is my belief that in the coming years, it should be possible for the Association to anticipate success with legislation which is favorable to the profession itself, while continuing its part in the overall structuring of legislative affairs.

Martin Schaum is a graduate of the Harvard Law School, Class of 1958, who now practices in Mineola, New York. He served as counsel to the Senate Codes Committee for 5 years and was also counsel to the late Senator Edward J. Speno of Nassau County, and to Senator Dalvin J. Niles of Montgomery County.

Natural Environment Committee Trip

A tour of the Indian Point Atomic Energy Plant was arranged by Con Edison for members of the Natural Environment Committee on May 19, 1973. In addition to several committee members, Giorgio Cavaglieri and a number of scientists, including five biologists from the Bronx Community College, were present.

Available areas of Units Nos. 1 and 2, now in operation, were viewed; Unit No. 3, now under construction, was more thoroughly inspected. An extensive tour of the aquatic life laboratory was conducted by Dr. Cotta, the director. This facility was established to study the impact on the aquatic environment of the atomic energy plant, as well as that of the proposed pumped storage project at Storm King.

In view of the current spotlight on energy conservation, the Natural Environment Committee is engaged in a review of developments subsequent to the Chapter’s previous urgent recommendations for further study of atomic energy problems. Members wishing to join in the committee’s work are urged to call acting Chairman Marvin Mills at 956-5735.

WBN

“I Want To Build A Building.  
Can You Give Me The Names Of Some Architects?”

Few Chapter members realize that this question is asked of the staff at headquarters on the average of 3 times a week! And fewer members still, know what happens next.

For tucked into a corner just behind the reception desk is a file cabinet with three drawers of color-coded folders... one for each member or firm. Into these folders goes any information the staff manages to come across depicting the work of that member.

Considering that many members either know little about this file, or figure its just “beneath their dignity” to contribute things to it, it is a remarkable testimony to the staff’s efforts that it is as up to date as it is. For whenever they have a spare moment, if they see some pertinent information somewhere, they clip it out and put it in.

But really, they would much prefer that Chapter members help by at least sending in new brochures, changes of address and certainly magazine or newspaper clippings.

Because when a prospective client calls and requests the names of architects and information about their work, the staff replies: “Come on in and see for yourself.” And they really do.
The Office Practice Committee, chaired by Nesbitt Garmendia, established a subcommittee to study and submit recommendations regarding the manual, which is presently available from the Chapter for $5.35 a copy. Participation of the membership in this review was solicited in a March 29, 1973 memorandum.

Ralph Steinglass, the subcommittee chairman, reports that no great volume of comment has been forthcoming. Those who have expressed their views have concentrated largely on the general tone of the manual, which they felt to be rather patronizing and disciplinary. Particularly cited were the portions of Section 2 (Administrative Practice) dealing with probationary periods and leaves of absence. The statement that the firm subscribes to a policy of equal employment opportunities was felt to imply that other options are available, whereas compliance is required by law.

In the same vein, members have been especially critical, in Section 3 (Office Procedures), of the statements about availability for overtime, submission of time record forms, and observance of traffic laws. Some recommended that Section 4 (Advancement within the Firm) be less bureaucratic in approach, and mentioned the desirability of promoting discussion with superiors of career aims and opportunity for advancement. The propriety of attempting to discourage the discussion of salaries among employees was questioned, and appraised by some as counterproductive. In lieu of the detailed description of office staff positions an explanation of how the office functions was suggested; a numerical list of titles was felt to smack too much of pecking order. Inclusion of a salary scale received both favorable and unfavorable comment.

For whatever bearing it may have, it should be noted that AIA membership includes both employers and employees, united, undoubtedly, by a common interest in the welfare of the profession. In the New York Chapter, while exact figures have not been compiled, it appears that about one-half of the corporate members are employees rather than principals. The bulk of the comments received to date has, in fact, been from the employee sector. Balanced comments from a cross-section of a given office, as suggested in the committee memorandum, have not yet been received.

The committee urges that all interested members forward their views on the manual, either in writing or by calling Ralph Steinglass at 751-1540.

WBN

Natural Environment Symposium

The symposium held at the Corning Glass assembly room on April 25th was well attended, and the program developed by Manfred Riedel, the moderator, covered a broad range of pertinent topics.

Thomas Galvin, in his introductory remarks, deplored the tendency toward national uniformity of building design, and stressed the need for regional diversity to conserve energy under varying climatic conditions.

Richard Stein noted that while the effect of changes in automobile design to conserve energy and/or reduce air pollution would be felt very soon after implementation, and be virtually complete in about five years based on average car life, with something like a fifty year average building life a similar program for energy conservation would become effective at a much slower rate.

Fred S. Dubin, P. E., taking off from his article in the December AIA Journal, discussed the design prototype developed for GSA in New Hampshire. Based upon the results of that experiment, he predicted that, in the future, air conditioning and heating load analyses of alternatives for building location, orientation, mass, fenestration and internal arrangement would be of greatly increased importance. In fact, energy conservation considerations may dictate the direction of architectural design.

Eugene Gore, P. E., discussed the use of smaller modular components for air conditioning and heating systems to conserve energy in response to change in demand. Also described was the remote location of such units, where extensive site distribution is involved, to supplement the central plant under peak demand.

John Robertson Cox of the Philadelphia Chapter discussed the use of solar collectors, noting that their size, in the range of 50 percent of building floor area for residential work, was an obvious barrier to ordinary use. As a member of the University of Pennsylvania faculty, he is studying solar energy applications under a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Malcolm Wells advocated the more extensive use of greenery, terracing, and earth cover as a means of preserving the natural landscape. WBN
May 2, 1973
- Resolved to express support of Manhattan Plaza, a proposed rental housing project to be located on the block between West 42nd and 43rd Streets, Ninth and Tenth Avenues. (George Lewis so testified at the Board of Estimate hearing on May 3)
- Held a preliminary discussion of the minority scholarship program and of how funds should be allocated this year. The Scholarship Committee, James Doman, Chairman, will be making recommendations.
- Heard detailed accounts of the work of a number of committees.

Welcome To New Members
The NYC/AIA welcomes the following members:

Corporate
- Joel Ives

Associate
- Maurice Steven Capilouto
- Peter Nathan Elkin
- James Trunzo

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

Corporate
- Secundino Fernandez
- Andrzej Gorczynski
- Jack L. Gordon
- Paul Heyer
- Eugene Jaffe
- Paul Raymond Loughin, Jr.
- Martin Munter
- Roger Nicholas Radford
- Daniel Vincent Rodriguez

Associate
- John Joseph Boogaerts, Jr.

Society’s Building Code Manual Now On Sale
The new edition of the New York Society of Architects Building Code Manual is available at the Society’s office at 101 Park Avenue between 10:30 and 4:00 for $20.00 plus $1.40 tax. It can be sent by mail for an additional $1.75, prepaid. It is described as containing practically all of the other important City construction codes and ordinances in addition to the New Building Code, amended to March 3, 1973. Subsequent amendments as they are adopted prior to issuance of the next Manual may be ordered for $7.50.

The Architect As Developer
The Financing of Construction Committee has been holding a series of seminars and lectures on the various aspects of real estate development with increasing emphasis on the architect as developer. Clark Halstead, Chairman of the committee believes this will become increasingly common as the architect responds to a market that is not always eager to seek his services.

In the forthcoming year Clark wants to pursue all aspects of the architect as developer in greater depth and invites the participation on the committee of all those interested. You need not wait until next September. Call him at 687-2323.