

THE
OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



The Sixty-ninth Convention

An Invitation from the Boston Chapter

The Edward Langley Scholarships of The Institute

The Semi-Annual Meeting of The Board of Directors

13th Semi-Annual Meeting of The Producers' Council

Structural Service Department—With the Chapters

Volume 9

JANUARY

1937

Number 1

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICERS 1936-1937

PresidentSTEPHEN F. VOORHEES, 101 Park Ave., New York, N. Y.
Vice-PresidentLOUIS LA BEAUME, 315 North 7th Street, St. Louis, Mo.
SecretaryCHARLES T. INGRAM, 1211 Empire Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa.
TreasurerEDWIN BERGSTROM, Citizens National Bank Bldg., Los Angeles, Cal.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For One Year (1936-37)

GERRIT J. DEGELLEK, 152 West Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wisc. (Illinois-Wisconsin Dist.)
HUBERT G. RIPLEY, 45 Bromfield St., Boston, Mass. (New England Dist.)
RICHMOND H. SHERVE, 11 East 44th St., New York, N. Y. (New York Dist.)

For Two Years (1936-38)

WILLIAM H. CROWELL, 1040 Pacific Bldg., Portland, Ore. (Western Mountain Dist.)
WALTER R. MCCORNACK, 10006 Carnegie Ave., Cleveland, Ohio (Great Lakes Dist.)
WILLIAM G. NOLTING, Keyser Building, Baltimore, Md. (Middle Atlantic Dist.)

For Three Years (1936-39)

ALBERT J. EVERS, 525 Market Street, San Francisco, Calif. (Sierra Nevada Dist.)
MOISE H. GOLDSTEIN, American Bank Building, New Orleans, La. (Gulf States Dist.)
HENRY F. HOIT, 2500 Telephone Building, Kansas City, Mo. (Central States Dist.)
MERRILL C. LEE, c/o F. H. A., American Bank Bldg., Richmond, Va. (South Atlantic Dist.)

THE OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Executive and Publication Offices, The Octagon, 1741 New York Avenue N. W., Washington, D. C.

The Sixty-ninth Convention

OFFICIAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS

TIME AND PLACE

THE Sixty-ninth Convention of The American Institute of Architects will be held in Boston, Massachusetts, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, June 1, 2, 3, and 4, 1937.

Once more The Board of Directors has decided in favor of a four-day convention, rather than one of three days.

The purpose is to give sufficient time in the afternoons to view the New England scene, at least that part of it within reasonable distance of Boston.

Information concerning hotel headquarters, reservations, transportation, and the program of events will be published in subsequent notices in THE OCTAGON.

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

President Voorhees has made the following appointments:

Convention Committee of The Institute

Hubert G. Ripley, *Chairman*

Wallis E. Howe

Henry R. Shepley

Charles T. Ingham

Richmond H. Shreve

The Boston Chapter has made the following appointments:

Ralph W. Gray, *Chairman*

Robert P. Bellows

William Stanley Parker

H. Daland Chandler

Henry C. Robbins

EARLY ELECTION OF DELEGATES

It is important that each chapter elect its delegates well in advance of the Convention.

Chapter presidents should give close attention to this duty, seeing to it that delegates are elected in strict accordance with the requirements of the By-laws of The Institute and the by-laws of the chapter.

PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION OF DELEGATES

The By-laws of The Institute, Chapter VI, Articles 1, 2, and 3, state in full the requirements for corporate meetings of The Institute. They set forth the procedure for election of delegates, state the number of delegates to which a chapter is entitled, and describe the furnishing of credentials.

All chapters are advised that these requirements are mandatory and will be strictly enforced.

Every delegate must be in "good standing" in The Institute.

Under the definition of "good standing," Chapter XVI, Article 1, Section 2, paragraph (d) of the By-laws of The Institute, a corporate member is *not* in good standing in The Institute or in any of its chapters or state association members if he is in default to The Institute or any of its chapters or is under suspension.

CHAPTER MEETINGS ON CONVENTION BUSINESS

As heretofore, The Secretary takes this occasion to urge upon each chapter president that he arrange for at least one meeting of his chapter at which Institute affairs and the general problems of the architectural profession shall be the principal subjects of discussion.

As the Convention this year will be held in the first week of June, it is recommended that the

chapters reserve their April or early May meetings for convention business.

A joint meeting of the Convention Committees of The Institute and of the Boston Chapter will be held in Boston on February 9. At that time the program will be developed—with respect to the principal subjects of discussion at the morning sessions, and the entertainment features in the afternoons.

PROCEDURE FOR MAKING NOMINATIONS BY PETITION

The Secretary hereby advises the members of their privilege of nominating by petition officers and directors, and regional directors, under the provisions of Chapter VI, Article 4, Section 1, paragraph (c) of the By-laws of The Institute.

Nominating petitions will *not* be valid as nominations of officers and directors, or of regional directors, unless they meet with the following requirements:

The petitions must be in writing and be filed with The Secretary of The Institute on or before forty days prior to the opening day of the convention or meeting whereat the elections are to take place. (This makes April 21, 1937, the last day for filing nominations at The Octagon.)

Not more than one member shall be nominated in any petition, and the petition shall contain only his name, the office or directorship to which he is nominated, the signatures of the nominators, and the name of the chapter to which each belongs.

Each such petition must contain the signatures of five or more members, and a petition or petitions containing the signatures of *not less than fifteen corporate members*, comprising not less than five members of one chapter, not less than five members of a second chapter, and not less than five members of a third chapter must be filed with The Secretary before the candidate named by the said members is nominated.

An additional requirement, for petitions nominating regional directors, is that all signers thereof must be members of chapters of the regional district whereof the term of office of the regional director is about to expire.

It is mandatory that each signer of a petition be in "good standing," which means that he is not in default to The Institute, or his chapter, and that he is not under suspension.

OFFICES AND DIRECTORSHIPS BECOMING VACANT

The offices and directorships to be filled by election at the Sixty-ninth Convention are indicated by the following list:

Offices (One-Year Terms):

President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Regional Directorships (Three-Year Terms):

Candidates for regional directorships shall be selected from the members of the regional districts where the vacancies are about to occur. Retiring regional directors are not eligible for immediate re-election unless serving an unexpired term.

The three regional directors to be elected at the coming Convention for three-year terms will represent the three districts named as follows:

Illinois-Wisconsin District:

States: Illinois and Wisconsin.

Chapters: Central Illinois, Chicago, Madison, Wisconsin.

New England District:

States: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island.

Chapters: Boston, Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island.

New York District:

State: New York. (Includes Puerto Rico, Virgin Isles, and Canal Zone.)

Chapters: Albany, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Central New York, New York, Westchester.

A CORDIAL INVITATION

Approximately forty-five years ago, the Twenty-fifth Convention was held in Boston. The President of The Institute who presided at that Convention was Richard Morris Hunt, of New York, and The Secretary was Dankmar Adler, of Chicago.

According to the records at The Octagon, that Convention was highly successful in its accomplishments for the profession, and in strengthening The Institute through the personal contacts of the delegates.

In the opening paragraphs of his address to the Convention of 1891, in Boston, President Hunt said:

"How appropriate that our annual convention should be held here today—to welcome this Chapter on having attained its majority—it being just twenty-one years since the Boston Society of Architects made application and was recognized as a Chapter of The American Institute of Architects in December, 1870.

"Since then two conventions have been held in this city, the fifth, in November, 1871, and the eleventh, in October, 1877.

"In 1871 we had the good fortune to be presided over by the first President of The Institute, Richard Upjohn, who held that office during a period of sixteen years. Thomas U. Walter, the second President of The Institute, and who served this association during twelve years, presided in 1877. Their addresses then, as on all similar occasions, were full of earnest thought, professional pride and good advice, worthy of our most careful consideration; and to them we owe much for the steady

progress of The Institute which they served to the very end of their careers."

The Institute now goes back to Boston to pledge again the ideals so well expressed in this quotation.

The Secretary cannot emphasize too strongly the fact that members of The Institute, their families, and their guests are cordially invited and urged to attend the Sixty-ninth Convention.

Every member will have the privilege of the floor and the right to participate in the convention discussions, though he may not be a delegate.

The dates selected should find New England at the most beautiful time of the year.

Why not take an early summer vacation and drive to Boston for a few days of relaxation, entertainment, and consideration of the affairs of your chosen profession?

The Officers and Directors of The Institute add their own invitation to the cordial one of the Boston Chapter, so well expressed below.

CHARLES T. INGHAM,
Secretary.

Boston Invites You

THIS sixty-ninth meeting of The A. I. A. will be held during the first week of June in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Boston Society of Architects invites you to come back home for four days and see how pleasant the old town is. For those arriving from the far west, the best route is through Cambridge.

It was in 1891 when the delegates last gathered in Convention in Boston—Benjamin Harrison was President of the United States of America, and Richard Morris Hunt, President of The American Institute of Architects—and all eyes turned with eager expectation toward the glories of Chicago. Forty-five years have passed and those glories have

become functional, while Boston still remains dynamic!

While the headquarters of the Convention will be in this city, it is intended to make the terrain of the meeting include all New England in order to spread before the delegates and their ladies the splendor—scenic, architectural, social, and economic—of this section of the United States. Remember, too, the rugged individualism of Maine and Vermont.

The New England Chapters welcome you; Technology still flourishes and Harvard is giving it a run for its scholarship.

H. D. C.

The International Congress of Architects

THE International Congress of Architects will be held in Paris during the week of July 17, 1937. The meetings will take place in the Exposition Grounds and delegates will be given special privileges and facilities within the Grounds. More

complete information will appear in the February or March number of *THE OCTAGON*.

(For further information, address The Secretary of The Institute, at The Octagon, Washington, D. C.)

The Edward Langley Scholarships of The Institute

IT WAS announced to the last Convention that several new scholarships had been made available to The Institute through the gift of Edward Langley, Architect, of Scranton, Pennsylvania, recently deceased.

In his bequest to The Institute, the only conditions Mr. Langley imposed were that his fund should be administered by a committee of The Board of Directors and the income should be used "for scholarship purposes, particularly in the aid of students, residents of the United States and Canada, in the study of architecture."

In compliance with the first condition imposed by Mr. Langley, The Board of Directors placed the administration of the Edward Langley Scholarship Fund in its permanent Investment Committee, giving that Committee the responsibility of determining what "the scholarship purposes" should be and how the income should be expended to carry out the purposes of the fund.

The administrators of the fund recognized that the Committee on Education was the one body within The Institute that had a comprehensive view of The Institute's educational program and that its counsel would be of the highest value to them in setting up the Edward Langley Scholarships. A meeting between the two Committees was arranged in Washington, D. C., December last.

At that meeting the two Committees had before them the six specific recommendations of the Committee on Education for the use of the fund and forty or more letters containing suggestions for its use submitted by members from every part of The Institute domain. From their consideration of these recommendations and suggestions, in which there was a striking unanimity of opinion, the Committees agreed unanimously on the principles that should govern the awards and grants of this fund to make it of the greatest usefulness to the profession. The Committees were convinced of the sincerity, feasibility, and broad outlook of the suggestions of the members, many of whom will recognize that the way has been opened by the conclusions of the Committees for their suggestions to be carried out.

The principles recommended by the Committees

were unanimously adopted by The Board of Directors and are set out below.

1. The Edward Langley Scholarship Fund shall be devoted to advanced or graduate work.

This precludes grants to undergraduates, it being felt that existing undergraduate scholarships were sufficient, generally speaking, and that the fund would be of the greatest benefit if used to develop better, and not more, architects. It does not preclude a grant to an architectural draftsman, who may elect to take an undergraduate year or a special course in an architectural school.

2. The Edward Langley scholarships shall be open to any architect, architectural draftsman, teacher in architecture or graduate student who is a citizen of the United States or of Canada and who gives evidence satisfactory to The Institute of his character, ability, purpose, and need.

This opens the scholarships to all engaged in the profession of architecture, comprising two broad groups: (a) those engaged in teaching architecture or those engaged in or about to engage in post-graduate work in colleges and universities or in travel; (b) those who maintain or are employed in architectural offices, whether or not they have had college training. Hence the architects themselves; their draftsmen, whether they are engaged in drafting, writing specifications, supervising the work of construction, or acting as architectural executives; the teachers in architecture; and the post-graduate students are equally eligible to be candidates for the scholarships. And the qualifications required of candidates ensure that their character and purpose and their need for the scholarship will be taken into consideration equally with their technical ability, and selections will not be made by competitive examinations.

3. The Edward Langley Scholarships shall be for Study, Research, or Travel.

This definitely recognizes that the broad field

of architectural research has an importance commensurate to that of the usual study and travel. The scholar selects the major use to which he will put his award to enable him to be a better architect.

4. The Edward Langley Scholarships shall be awarded annually to qualified candidates selected by The Investment Committee, and the grant for each scholarship shall be in the amount deemed by that Committee to be commensurate with the need and purpose of the recipient; provided only that no grant to any one recipient, in any one year, shall exceed Fifteen Hundred Dollars (\$1500.00).

The present annual income of the fund will be about \$5,000, and the limitation on the amount of an annual award ensures a number of awards each year. However, a further award in another year is not precluded if it is concluded that a second award to the same scholar will best serve the profession. The amount of each grant will be determined according to the need, in each instance.

The number of Edward Langley Scholarships given in any one year, the monetary grant to each recipient, and the use to which each recipient will put his grant, will be determined from year to year, as conditions warrant. No fixed method for selecting candidates for the scholarships will be adopted until the advantages of a method have become apparent over a series of years. Hence members must expect changes in the methods as experience dictates, and your patience and indulgence is requested, especially in this initial year.

It seems to the Committees that the principles outlined will greatly enlarge the domain of architectural scholarships, will make the influence of Edward Langley's bequest most far-reaching, and will emphasize the great value inherent in this bequest for the future of the profession.

The First Langley Scholarship Awards.

The first two awards and grants from the Edward Langley Fund were made by the Investment Committee on recommendation of the Committee on Education to two Canadian post-graduate students: one to Mr. Kent Barker, of Toronto, Canada, for graduate study during the

college year 1936-37 at the Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan; and one to Mr. Pierre Morency, of Montreal, Canada, for graduate study during the college year 1936-37 at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Edward Langley was born in Canada, and the two awards were made to Canadian students as the first acknowledgments of his request that Canadians were to be eligible for the award.

Method of Making Awards for 1937.

The candidates for the Edward Langley Scholarships will be taken from the two groups: teachers of architecture and graduates of architectural schools; and architects and architectural draftsmen from architectural offices.

Candidates will be selected from the architectural schools by the Committee on Education and from the architectural offices by the Regional Directors of The Institute.

Each Regional Director has accepted the responsibility of selecting the candidates from the offices in his district and will determine and publish to the offices his method of making the selections. The number of candidates he may select will be fixed by The Investment Committee in its instructions to him.

The nominations of candidates will be submitted to the Investment Committee by the Committee on Education or the Regional Directors, as the case may be, but before the Investment Committee awards the scholarships and makes the grants, it will refer all such nominations to the Committee on Education, asking it to weigh the evidence submitted and recommend the candidates whom it finds qualified to receive the award.

In making an award, the decision of the Investment Committee will be based on its judgment of the candidate, according to the evidence presented to it, so that the individual recommendations of the proposers, the Regional Director, and the Committee on Education in each case will be very important.

All awards of Edward Langley Scholarships for 1937, other than two scholarships already awarded to two Canadian students for the college year ending in June, 1937, will be made on or about September 1 of this year, and all nominations of candidates for such awards must be in the hands

of the Investment Committee not later than April 1, 1937; otherwise the nominations cannot be considered for this year.

Each Regional Director will give each office in his district written instructions how to make and file with him a nomination for the scholarship; meanwhile, every member who would like to present a candidate for a 1937 scholarship should write to his Regional Director immediately to that effect. This will give the Director a gauge of the number of candidates he may have from which to make his selections. In nominating a candidate, each member is urged to bear in mind the purpose and universality of the fund and that the award will be based in each case on the character, ability, purpose, and need of the candidate, and the conviction

of the Committee that the profession of architecture will be bettered by his receiving it.

The nominators must also bear in mind that very few grants are possible in any one year because of the limited funds, perhaps ten at the most. There are more than sixty architectural schools and hundreds of architects' offices that may present candidates, and it is obvious that each candidate will be in an intense competition for the award. So, to avoid unnecessary disappointments, a nomination should not be made unless the qualifications of the candidate are very distinctive and it is quite evident that the profession will be benefited by an award to him.

EDWIN BERGSTROM, *Chairman,*
The Investment Committee.

NOTE: Attention of members is called to the next to the last paragraph of the above statement, wherein they are requested to write immediately to their Regional Director if they have any person whom they would like to have nominated for a 1937 Edward Langley Scholarship. The Director will notify them and each architect's office in his district of the manner in which the members should propose such nominations to him. All inquiries in each Regional District concerning nominations should be made direct to the Regional Director of the District.

The Semi-Annual Board Meeting

THE semi-annual meeting of The Board of Directors of The Institute was held at The Octagon on December 10, 11, and 12, 1936.

All of The Officers and Regional Directors were present, except Vice-President Louis LaBeaume, who was unable to attend on account of business matters.

On the invitation of President Voorhees, the following Committee Chairmen conferred with The Board:

William Emerson—Education;
Francis P. Sullivan—Public Works;
N. Max Dunning—Structural Service;
William Stanley Parker—Construction Industry Relations;
Walter R. McCornack (also a Director)—Housing.

The Board received and acted upon preliminary reports from the administrative and board committees. These reports outlined the work of the committees since the preceding Convention and gave a general indication of the nature of the final reports to be submitted to The Board at the annual meeting preceding the 1937 Convention. (These reports serve the purpose of coordinating the gen-

eral program of The Institute, and of maintaining contact between The Board and its committees.)

The finances of The Institute were reported upon by The Treasurer, to the effect that the year 1936 showed a substantial improvement in finances over the year 1935. The Treasurer's report to the 1937 Convention will, as heretofore, give complete information with respect to the financial condition of The Institute.

As will be noted elsewhere, The Board selected Boston as the Convention city for 1937. For a while this decision was in the balance as the Louisiana Chapter made representations which could not be passed over lightly.

After naming Boston, The Board adopted a resolution recommending to the next Board that New Orleans receive preferential consideration for the 1938 Convention.

The Institute does not publish the minutes of The Board meetings. The record of this meeting is a long one, arising from an agenda of more than seventy items which required for its disposal three

full days of time and two evening sessions. However, the minutes of all Board meetings are maintained at The Octagon in printed form and are accessible there to any member who wishes to see them.

Acknowledgment is made to "H. G. R." for his account of a pleasant interlude, which came late in the afternoon on December 11—as it appears in the following article.

CHARLES T. INGHAM, *Secretary*.

A Board Meeting Interlude

THE Board Room in The Octagon is a Work of Art. Late at night when moonbeams stream across the great Axminster, in fancy one may see faint wraiths of former statesmen, beautiful belles, and breathe the departed fragrance of patchouli and pomander.

When The Board is in session, however, the air is blue with tobacco smoke and the long table is littered with papers and ash trays. Fourteen men in Chippendale chairs (or maybe they're Hepplewhite, or even Sheraton) are struggling to find a suitable definition of that creator of complex structures, the Architect: A definition that will be acceptable to Emory Stanford Hall, a most meticulous person inclined to be just a wee bit pragmatic. The technical and business equipment was fairly easy to phrase, but when it came to art, words just didn't seem to mean anything definitive.

On this point Plato would have been helpful, for he says "there is an impelling force that causes certain men to create beautiful (aesthetic) things. Why this is so, or what makes the things beautiful, cannot be described." But of course, one can't use language like that in a model form for a registration law.

The fifth session of the semi-annual Board meeting had reached this stalemate, when somebody suggested a recess to listen to the King's farewell speech to his people. "What more fitting place to hear this broadcast than the Withdrawing Room of The Octagon, teeming with historic associations?" said The President

"Mr. Secretary, is there a radio machine in the house?"

"Aye, aye, sir!" replied The Secretary, "there is in truth such an instrument on the second floor where Aglaea and Thalia and Euphrosyne and Euterpe and neat-ankled Clio ply the stylus. It is a portable contraption that may without great labor be set up and properly connected in this

room so that all may listen."

"Would it not be fitting that tea be served at the same time?" asked a timid voice.

"So be it," said The President. "Mr. Secretary, will you kindly give the necessary directions, and furthermore, present our compliments to the Muses, requesting the favor of their company during the ceremonies?"

As the appointed time drew near a recess was declared, and before one could say "Bobs your Uncle!"—or even attempted to say it—documents and papers were whisked aside and a cloth of fair linen spread over the baize that protects the polished surface of one of Duncan Phyfe's masterpieces. Seemingly out of thin air, a goodly number of large handsome bottles, embellished with rich labels, suddenly appeared; a truly magical sight. They were the relics of that famous party in the Hotel Chamberlin last May. Ice and mixing glasses, carbonated waters and generous platters of tid-bits accompanied these treasures.

Each one chose, accordingly, that which suited the taste and in solemn silence, stirred only by the flight of swallows, the company settled down to hear History in the making.

In its early days well over a hundred years ago, The Octagon was the scene of many notable events, both of social and political significance. On that gray December afternoon it seemed natural enough to visualize a distinguished company of the shades of its former frequenters. Standing by the marble chimney-piece, Colonel Tayloe and Thomas Jefferson chatting with the lovely Dolly Madison; Gilbert Stuart retailing a bit of gossip to Dr. Thornton; the hospitable Monroe; Stephen Decatur (the Admiral Peoples of his day); Webster; Clay; Calhoun, and a host of others, all listening to the firm, strong voice of a young King, a thousand leagues away, renouncing the throne of a great empire.

H. G. R.

13th Semi-Annual Meeting of The Producers' Council

BY THEODORE IRVING COE, A. I. A.

WITH a felicitous address of welcome by Henry R. Shepley, F. A. I. A., President of the Boston Chapter, the proceedings of the 13th Semi-Annual meeting of The Producers' Council were inaugurated Tuesday morning, December 15, at the Parker House, Boston, Mass., with President F. R. Gilpatric presiding.

The morning session was devoted to the routine business of reports by the Officers of the Council and the Council's Committee Chairmen.

These reports reflected gratifying results which have followed active and constructive effort and gave every promise of the growth and development of the Council's strength and usefulness.

The reports from The Producers' Council Clubs, in several instances, stressed the interest shown and support given by local members of The Institute to the joint meetings which have been sponsored by these Council Clubs.

Following the morning session the representatives of The Producers' Council and their guests were tendered a typical New England luncheon by The Producers' Council Club of Boston.

Tuesday evening, in the dining room of the Boston Chamber of Commerce, a dinner meeting was attended by nearly 200 members of The Producers' Council, The Producers' Council Club of Boston, the Boston Chapter of The Institute, and guests.

Gerald I. Carper, President of The Producers' Council Club of Boston, presided and, following brief remarks by Hon. Redfield Proctor, ex-Governor of Vermont, F. R. Gilpatric and Theodore Irving Coe, Technical Secretary of The Structural Service Department of The Institute, an informational meeting was sponsored by The Vermont Marble Co.

By means of ingenious portable illuminating equipment a most interesting demonstration was presented of the decorative possibilities of LUMAR, which is claimed to be a scientifically developed treatment to produce light-transmitting marble which, while preserving all of the qualities of the natural material, reveals certain qualities of color and form when illuminated by transmitted light.

The reflecting qualities of LUMAR when used to produce semi-indirect lighting effects were also demonstrated.

JETMAR, a new scientific treatment intended to make lighter colored marbles impervious and black in color, was shown, as well as a new use of marble for wall treatment, in thin dimensional pieces specially fabricated for a new and simple technique of installation.

The morning session on Wednesday provided an open forum on the thought-provoking subject, "The Present Trend in Merchandizing Building Materials and Its Effect on Quality." A broad and varied view-point was presented in the following addresses:

The Advertising Agency—W. C. Wheeler, N. W. Ayer & Co.

The Architectural Press—George P. Shutt, Advertising Manager, Architectural Forum.

The Building Contractor—A. B. MacMillan, Chief Engineer, Aberthaw Company.

The Producer—Marshall Adams, formerly Director of Advertising and Sales Promotion, American Radiator Co.

The Realtor-Builder—John A. Breen, Robert A. Nordbloom Company, Boston.

The Small House—Robert W. McLaughlin, President, American Houses, Inc.

Following luncheon, "The Construction of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge" was interestingly shown by a sound-moving picture which depicted the construction progress from the beginning to the completion of this outstanding structure and included many close-up views of instructive details.

The meeting proved to be the best attended and most enthusiastic of the semi-annual meetings so far held and there were many expressions of confidence in the future and the hope that in the solution of common problems there might be an ever-increasing degree of helpful cooperation and growth in the friendly affiliation of members of The Institute and those who are striving to produce worthy materials of construction and equipment.

Structural Service Department Notes

BY THEODORE IRVING COE, A. I. A., TECHNICAL SECRETARY OF THE INSTITUTE

AFTER an enforced absence of many months The Structural Service Department again takes its place in the pages of *THE OCTAGON*.

The period of its absence from the printed page has proven a time of stress and strain for the practicing architect and all others interested in the welfare and progress of the building industry.

During the past three or four years earnest consideration has been given to the problem of stimulating general recovery through a material improvement in building construction which it was believed would follow a substantial reduction in construction costs, particularly in the housing field. As a result, never in so limited a period in the history of building have so many schemes, plans, programs, and ideas been advanced to accomplish this much desired end.

In the search for reductions in construction costs it is inevitable that practical considerations are likely to outweigh and dominate the more architectural and aesthetic factors.

The widespread publicity which has been given the propaganda for reduction in the cost of housing has made the public building-cost conscious and it is, therefore, more likely to demand full value for money spent, with a minimum of expenditure for a quality or character of materials or methods of construction not in economic harmony with the type of building for which they are intended.

It is encouraging to note that there are many evidences that architects are awakening to a clearer realization of the scope of their responsibility and the character of service they must stand ready to give as their contribution in the interest of the public, as directly and indirectly related to the field of construction and its many ramifications.

Under present-day conditions the architect may no longer, with profit to his client or prestige to himself, enjoy the privileges of rugged individualism in situations where the practical use of materials and methods of construction are concerned.

Unless he is prepared to involve his client in the increased cost incidental to the use of special or exceptional materials, the Standards adopted and generally accepted by the industry should be specified and the architect should acquaint himself with these Standards before calling for others which increase the cost of the work without producing results to justify the added expense to the Owner.

Members of The Institute have cooperated and are cooperating in the work of formulating and keeping up to date the Specifications and Standards now available. It is the hope of such sponsoring agencies as The American Standards Association, The American Society for Testing Materials, The National Bureau of Standards and the National Fire Protection Association that the building industry, in the interest of simplification of practice, economy and a clearer understanding of requirements, will make the widest possible use of these Standard Specifications.

Through the activities of Governmental agencies in the building field during recent years, these Specifications have had widespread use and reference. Such use should be increased as building returns to more normal channels.

It is incumbent upon architects to be familiar with and to use these Specifications which aid in the simplification of specification writing, and provide definite and generally understood Standards which facilitate the inspection and supervision of work in the field.

It is the purpose of this Department to publish in *THE OCTAGON*, from time to time, further detailed information concerning these Specifications and Standards, with the hope that members of The Institute will take an active interest in their use and assist in the cooperative effort to render these and subsequent Specifications of the greatest possible value to the building industry and to the producers of materials used in the field of building.

The Social Security Act

IN THE OCTAGON for March, 1936 (page 10), there appeared a brief note regarding the Social Security Act and its relation to architects. Since then a number of communications have been received asking for advice concerning special clauses that owners' counsel were requiring to be inserted in the specifications. These letters indicate that doctors still disagree on occasions, as in one case counsel urges the inclusion of a special clause requiring the contractor to fulfill the requirements of the Social Security law, and in the other case he advises that where a definite contract is awarded for the work, the contractor is solely liable for any failure to observe the law, and there is no more reason to mention specifically the Social Security law than any other of the many laws which the contractor

must observe.

The purpose of this notice is not to advise as to which of these legal opinions is correct, but merely to record the facts and to suggest the wisdom of taking the advice of local counsel in view of the fact that not only the federal act, but in certain states, local statutes are involved. The fact that the act may be tested in the courts has also raised the question of the advisability of making returns and payments under protest. Again this is a matter for legal advice—either through a local chapter for the information of its members or secured by architects individually.

WILLIAM STANLEY PARKER, *Chairman,*
Committee on Construction Industry Relations.

Rotch Travelling Scholarship

THE Rotch Travelling Scholarship will this year be awarded for a term of not less than 15 months of study and travel abroad, the amount of the prize being \$2,500, payable quarterly beginning October 1.

The examination of candidates will be held early in April, but candidates must register themselves before March 1, 1937, and must fill out application blanks which will be furnished on request. The Committee of the Boston Society of Architects will make a personal investigation of all applicants,

but the right is distinctly reserved to determine after personal appearance before the Committee whether or not such candidates have given adequate promise to promote the best interests of the profession and are qualified to profit by the Scholarship. Candidates failing to satisfy the Committee will not be admitted to the competition.

For further details and to obtain copies of application blanks, apply to C. H. Blackall, Secretary, 31 West St., Boston, Massachusetts.

Emphasis

NUMEROUS communications have been received recently from private sources which imply that the Federal Housing Administration is developing plans for building purposes. As this is contrary to the Administration's policies, it is important that the public be informed that such plans as have been developed are for educational purposes only and *not for private use.*

We wish to emphasize the importance of urging all builders to secure the services of competent architects for the planning of small homes. The architect is best fitted to produce plans which incorporate all those factors tending to create stability in housing.

ARTHUR WALSH,
Assistant Administrator,
Federal Housing Administration.

With the Chapters

EXCERPTS FROM MINUTES, BULLETINS AND REPORTS

Central Illinois.

The annual meeting of the chapter was held in December in the Pere Marquette Hotel, Peoria.

Following the reading of the minutes, President Emerson made a brief address reviewing the work of the chapter for the past year, and spoke hopefully of the prospects for the coming year. He then called on the secretary-treasurer for his report which proved to be highly satisfactory, showing that the chapter is in much better condition in regard to membership and finances than it was a year ago.

President Emerson then called for reports of the Standing Committees. Professor Provine's report on the Mentorship Plan was received in writing, and read by the secretary. This committee, under the chairmanship of Professor Provine, was appointed by the chapter to prepare a list of approved "Mentors," as prescribed by The Institute, and in accordance with the provisions of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, which defines the duties of the Mentor. The importance of the Mentor in architectural education was further commented upon by President Emerson, Professor Lescher, and by the secretary, and was also discussed by other members present.

Mr. Lundeen reported on the work of his Committee on Membership, and stated that he had personally called upon most of the architects in the territory of the chapter, and that several prospects were under consideration.

Mr. Lundeen also reported on the progress being made in the Historic American Buildings Survey and referred to the mounted samples of the work of the Survey, which he had placed on exhibit in the room in which the meeting was being held. This was a fine exhibit, some very interesting pen drawings, sketches and photographs of early structures in Illinois being shown. The exhibit made a most appropriate setting for a chapter meeting.

The following officers were unanimously elected to serve during the year 1937:

President.....	E. L. Stouffer
First Vice-President.....	B. E. Hadley
Second Vice-President.....	Walter Jameson
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Frank M. Lescher
Director—for 3 years.....	F. N. Emerson

The Entertainment Committee under Robert J. Hotchkiss had planned a special program for the occasion. The meeting adjourned to permit the members to see a sound picture presented by representatives of the Republic Steel Corporation, of Chicago, on "The Story of Enduro," showing the manufacture and various uses of Enduro stainless steel. This proved to be a highly informative and educational exposition of a modern building material.

Central New York.

The annual meeting of the chapter was held following a luncheon at Drumlin's Country Club, Syracuse, N. Y., on January 9. The following officers were elected for the year 1937:

President.....	Conway L. Todd
Vice-President.....	Clement R. Newkirk
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Walter Vars Wiard
Director (1 year).....	George Young, Jr.

Regional Director Richmond H. Shreve was present and discussed several problems of immediate interest to the profession. He spoke particularly of the current controversy about the New York State War memorial and the growing tendency of government to get more and more into private business, urging the chapter members to be alert in combating this challenge to private industry.

Following the business meeting, Prof. L. C. Dillenbeck of the College of Fine Arts, Syracuse University, gave a most interesting talk in which he explained the particular application of the principles of architecture to city planning, and illustrated his point with a survey made as a collaborative thesis by four graduate students of the Department, in which they have analyzed graphically in a series of beautifully rendered colored drawings the economic, social and political aspects as applied to the City of Syracuse.

There was also on display an exhibition of current student work from the Department, which caused considerable interest among the members. Chicago.

Dinner was served to forty members and guests prior to the January meeting which was held at the Architects Club in Chicago.

President Merrill called the meeting to order

and announced that in view of the nature of the meeting only perfunctory and required business would be contracted. He asked the secretary to give a report on the minutes of the previous meeting.

Mr. Merrill then introduced Arthur Woltersdorf who had been chosen to preside at the meeting. Mr. Woltersdorf introduced Hubert and Daniel Burnham each of whom spoke of the gifts recently presented to the chapter by the Burnham family, consisting of five oil paintings, and photographs of McKim and St. Gaudens.

Following the Burnham brothers, Mr. Woltersdorf introduced Richard E. Schmidt who gave a very interesting discussion as to the location and number of buildings and plans of the Worlds Columbian Exposition held in Chicago 1892-93.

Mr. Woltersdorf then introduced Edgar Spear Cameron who gave a very interesting address as to the work of Daniel H. Burnham in the planning and conduct of the work of the exposition. He gave many personal reminiscences relating to his part of the work. Mr. Cameron was one of the artists employed at the exposition and later served as art critic for the Chicago Tribune and has written many articles pertaining to the exposition.

Following the regular program, the secretary was instructed to prepare a letter to be signed by the president, extending a vote of thanks, to be sent to Mrs. Daniel H. Burnham, Sr.

Cincinnati.

The 524th meeting of the chapter was held in Cincinnati on December 22. This was a dinner meeting and due to the nearness of the holiday season was not as well attended as was expected.

Newly elected members of The Institute and the chapter were presented. New applications for membership were reported by the secretary.

Marshall Martin reporting for the Standing Committee on Education opened a discussion on the Advisory Council. In a letter from Mr. Berold of the Cincinnati Section of the Architectural Society of Ohio, that organization offered to serve on the jury. Mr. Hanly then proclaimed the value of the Advisory Committee as a publicity instrument. Mr. Martin was instructed to report at the next meeting, after consulting with the Architectural Society, on the manner of selection of jurymen to serve on the Committee, as well as the time of meetings. Mr. Martin reported further on the

studies undertaken on the small house problem. Stanley Matthews suggested that the chapter endorse the plan presented by this Committee, which had been stated in a letter from J. W. Follin, which was read to the group.

President Van Arsdall speaking of the recently adopted working code for architects and contractors, reported increasing interest in the work of the Cincinnati Chapter from various other chapters throughout the nation.

Letters were read from William Orr Ludlow, Vice-Chairman in Charge of Industry Cooperation of The Institute's Committee on Construction Industry Relations; Samuel R. Bishop, Vice-Chairman in Charge of Health and Safety of that Committee; and William Stanley Parker, Chairman of the Committee.

Connecticut.

The 34th annual meeting of the chapter was held in Hartford on December 9.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. President Orr read his report outlining the activities of the Connecticut Chapter during the past year and urged chapter members to develop a more active and well-rounded program for the coming year. As far as the future is concerned, he felt that the larger earnings in business and industry indicated a greater demand for the services of the profession.

The secretary summarized the activities of the Executive Committee for the year 1936 and this report was duly approved. The treasurer reported on the finances of the chapter during the fiscal year and commented on the favorable decrease of delinquency in payment of dues, and the increased bank balance in chapter funds. The treasurer's report was audited and duly approved.

New business of the meeting started with a discussion of the present Registration Law and amendments proposed by the Examining Board. These amendments were prepared by the Board after a joint conference with the Executive and Legislative Committees of the Connecticut Chapter.

The secretary will notify The Board of the chapter's approval.

The officers elected for 1937 are as follows:

President.....Charles S. Palmer, New Haven
 Vice-President.....Lorenzo Hamilton, Meriden
 Secretary-Treasurer.....Herbert Gibson, Hartford

Oklahoma.

THE OCTAGON is gratified to note that during the incumbency of President Joseph E. Smay, the chapter has nearly doubled its membership.

Upon taking office, Mr. Smay announced that he would dedicate his efforts to building up the chapter. No small part of the credit for this one hundred percent increase in membership is due to the untiring efforts of George Blumenauer, Chairman of the chapter's Membership Committee.

The chapter officers and members responsible for the programs of meetings have not failed to provide interesting speakers, well-planned dinners, at which specially designed souvenirs have been presented to those in attendance, and other features of entertainment and interest.

Members of the profession and the building industry in the State of Oklahoma are aware, more than ever, that the chapter and The Institute are an important part of their professional and business life, with the result that a great many worthy architects have indicated their desire to become members of the chapter and The Institute.

The December meeting was preceded by a dinner in the Hotel Mayo in Tulsa. This was one of the best and most well-attended of the meetings held during 1936, and at the close of the meeting each member and guest was presented with a handsome piece of Frankoma pottery.

At this meeting a number of new committees were appointed, the most important being the Legislative Committee and the By-laws Committee.

The Legislative Committee is charged with the extremely important duty of revising the State Architectural License Law. As the law is now written, building operations costing less than twenty-five thousand dollars may be executed without the services of an architect. It is contemplated to revise the law to make mandatory the employment of an architect on any operation costing over eight thousand dollars.

Chapter members, in their efforts to further this revision of the law, have donated twenty-five dollars each, and some members a larger amount, to help with the financing of this legislation. The State Architectural Society and the engineers as a body have indicated their approval and have pledged their support of this vital piece of legislation.

Chapter members were enthusiastic in their expression of appreciation for the work that is being carried on by The Institute's Committee on Registration Laws, in an effort to revise and strengthen registration laws in all states.

Now that the chapter is growing in membership, President Smay announced that it is planned to divide the chapter into two groups, one in Tulsa and one in Oklahoma City, to elect temporary officers for these groups, and hold weekly or bi-weekly luncheon meetings, the two groups joining in a general chapter meeting once each month.

Pittsburgh.

The chapter held its November meeting in a private dining room at the Ruskin Apartments in Pittsburgh, with President Marlier presiding.

After the reading and approval of the previous meeting's minutes, Harvey A. Schwab, Chairman of the chapter's Committee on Education, reported on the Apprenticeship System. A motion, made by Frederick Bigger and seconded by Alfred D. Reid, was carried—to the effect that the Education Committee be authorized to draw up a contract for the proposed Apprenticeship System, this contract to be submitted to the Board of Directors of the chapter at the earliest possible moment.

An informal talk given by Everett Warner on this year's International Exhibit of Paintings closed the meeting, after which the members repaired in a body to Carnegie Institute to view the paintings.

Westchester.

The chapter meeting held at White Plains on January 15 was attended by Richmond H. Shreve, Director of the New York District of The Institute, and Frederick G. Frost, Secretary of the New York Chapter.

Questions relative to chapter organization, with special relation to cooperation with the Westchester Society of Architects, were discussed.

The group of officers elected for the organization period was reelected as officers for the year 1937. This meeting had been called on the date fixed for the annual meeting of the chapter. In view of the revised Standard Form of Chapter By-laws recently published by The Institute, there is a possibility that the date of the annual meeting and election of officers will be changed from January to a later month.

Faint, illegible text in the left column, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

Faint, illegible text in the right column, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

