

THE  
OCTAGON

---

*A Journal of The American Institute of Architects*

---



*Greetings to The Membership  
The Seventy-First Convention  
The XV International Congress of Architects  
The Edward Langley Scholarships for 1939  
Structural Service Department—With The Chapters*

*Volume 11*

*JANUARY*

*1939*

*Number 1*

5  
FIRST NOTICES—THE CONVENTION—THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ARCHITECTS

---

# THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

---

## OFFICERS, 1938-1939

*President* .....CHARLES D. MAGINNIS, Statler Building, Boston, Mass.  
*Vice-President* .....FREDERICK H. MEYER, 1201 Kohl Building, San Francisco, Cal.  
*Secretary* .....CHARLES T. INGHAM, 1211 Empire Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
*Treasurer* .....EDWIN BERGSTROM, 3757 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Cal.

## REGIONAL DIRECTORS

### For One Year (1938-39)

ALBERT J. EVERS, 525 Market Street, San Francisco, Cal. (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, 110 North Seventh Street, Richmond, Va. (South Atlantic Dist.)

### For Two Years (1938-1940)

JOHN R. FUGARD, 520 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill. (Illinois-Wisconsin Dist.)  
ALBERT HARKNESS, 1428 Industrial Trust Building, Providence, R. I. (New England Dist.)  
RICHMOND H. SHREVE, 11 East 44th Street, New York, N. Y. (New York Dist.)

### For Three Years (1938-1941)

CLAIR WILLIAM DITCHY, 333 State Street, Detroit, Mich. (Great Lakes Dist.)  
ROBERT K. FULLER, 503 Insurance Building, Denver, Colo. (Western Mountain Dist.)  
EDMUND RANDOLPH PURVES, Architects' Building, Philadelphia, Pa. (Middle Atlantic Dist.)

---

LEIGH HUNT, State Association Representative, 152 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisc.

---

# 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.

## New Year Salutation of The President

TO the members of The Institute and of the profession a very Happy New Year! As to the old one, it has to be admitted at once that it was not all it should have been but, as the poet has said, man never is but always *to be blest*. If our emotions were less under the dominion of mathematics, we would realize, of course, that a new year begins for us all every morning and the processes of nature are not interrupted especially for our convenient contemplation on the first day of January.

Whether the portent be significant or not, however, this is the appointed moment for prophecy, and since it is, why should I be the only one to acknowledge that I have no gift of it? In my opinion then, the indications are promising at last for the restoration of business to normal health, subject only to the disturbances latent in European politics. From an amateur prophet, no more than this should reasonably be expected.

Presidentially, I look back on the year with confused feelings. Inevitably the thought of the wayward fortunes of the profession has been uncomfortably present to me so as to give an anxious edge to my responsibilities—a concern, however, which has rested as well upon the loyal gentlemen now serving The Institute on The Board and on many committees.

In the face of this condition, I have been all the more touched by the spirit of courage and faith which has made the personal contact with chapters such a positive pleasure. In a series of visits by your President, which included Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Florida, this was strikingly manifest. It will be no

less obvious, I am sure, when the opportunity arises for a contemplated visit to the Pacific coast.

At Newark and Jacksonville I had the particular privilege of meeting the men of the State Associations, and I observed with great satisfaction the cordiality and effectiveness of their cooperation with chapter enterprises. The Florida architects were in convention, which gave notable opportunity to meet the representative architects locally, and incidentally to perceive that in that exotic and favored clime the practice of architecture can be as serious a business as it is with the rest of us. Russell Pancoast presided; an impressive growth in the Association was reported; Franklin Adams and Rudolph Weaver gave familiar atmosphere, and a delightful company at a concluding dinner with many ladies will long be remembered. Surely there are no happier hours in the lives of architects than those in which they exchange experiences and test one another's professional sympathies at times like these. It is in that atmosphere, I think, we are at our best.

As this is a time for resolve as well as prophecy, why could we not contrive to bring the temper of this camaraderie into the realism of the office? Nothing, for instance, more becomes a man than the generous praise of his rival, whether in sport or business. And in the end we always lose when we withhold it. All of us encounter moments when it is clear some one is preferred before us and, not seldom, it is one of whom we can honestly speak well. The good word honors both in the estimate of the public. It is the great merit of this happy attitude that it can so certainly protect us from the temptations, present enough in these difficult days,

to use unfair or even doubtful means to gain advantage over our competitors. I believe we owe no less an obligation than this to the great profession of which we are members.

An unexampled opportunity is now developing in the plans for the XV International Congress of Architects at Washington for such a meeting of

minds with architects of other countries as may be memorable for generations. To the challenge of this occasion, it is hoped that the whole profession will associate with The Institute in such a response as shall be worthy of the finest traditions of American hospitality.

CHARLES D. MAGINNIS.

## West of the Rockies

(EXCERPTS FROM A SURVEY OF 1939 PROSPECTS ON THE PACIFIC COAST)

THE national trend in building during the year has been steadily upward in all classifications, with the exception of alterations and repairs, with the result that the building of the nation during October compared to last October was up 8.6%. Residential building was up 35.4% but non-residential building was off 4% and alterations and repairs were off 20%.

When you consider the above facts the conditions are not abnormal and it is well to remember that the first effort of the Government in its admirable plan to stimulate the building industry was to encourage home owners and building owners to improve, repair, paint and powder their buildings and to help finance these improvements through reasonable Government insured loans on the easy payment plan.

San Francisco alone started and completed more than \$11,000,000 in alterations and improvements to existing buildings in a single year. This program reached its peak in the early part of 1938 and will continue to decline and is now off 20% in a single year.

The second phase of the Government program, new home building, is now in full swing, stimulated by bank loans, a sound financial plan of Government-insured loans at a reasonable interest rate, monthly payments of principal and interest kept within the budget of the borrower and, must, judging by the eagerness with which the public has grasped this opportunity, be a sound plan. The result shows that residential building is up 35%. San Francisco alone during the first ten months of 1938 built 1,650 New single-family homes, enough to make an unbroken line of new dwellings eight miles long, costing about eight millions of dollars, as compared with 440 homes in 1933.

Reports on all building west of the Rockies for the ten months of 1938 show valuation up 0.6% over 1937, 10.3% over 1936 and 98% over 1935. The residential classification valuation for the ten months of 1938 gained 10.5% over 1937 and 36.5% over 1936 and was the highest for any similar period in eight years. Reports from eighteen cities in the far west show that the value of residential permits for the ten-month period of 1938 was greater than the combined total for the four full years of 1932, 1933, 1934, and 1935.

Building reports on California cities for the ten months show the total value was up 3.1% over 1937 and 11.2% over 1936, while the value of residential building was at the best level in 8 years, with a gain of 11.3% over 1937 and 34% over 1936.

• • •

From the foregoing it is quite apparent that the San Francisco Bay area, California and the far west have been making good strides recently in residential construction. This, we must remember, is the first sign of a general building recovery.

Under the stimulation of the P. W. A. and the vast Federal grants made to towns, cities and states, communities have anticipated their needs for schools and other public buildings and works and have been crowding to completion a vast area of new covered space, giving employment to a large number of architects, draftsmen, contractors and mechanics, using millions of dollars worth of building materials, thus pushing ahead the second phase of building recovery by this plan of Government stimulation. The wisdom of this plan is yet to be proven. Perhaps it would have been better if the time for completion could have been extended over a longer period.

The program of the United States Housing Authority is now well under way and in anticipation of clearing away slum areas many cities have ear-

marked millions of dollars for local use. The local authorities are slowly breaking down the resistance against Government subsidized housing and are gradually getting under way. It is apparent that this third phase of the building program will carry housing activities well past the anticipated peak and decline of single-family housing and should have the effect of stimulating large scale housing programs by private capital. This will, I feel sure, revolutionize the general conception of mass housing, with full consideration given to proper site plan, garden areas, play areas, light and sun, and will offer an example and perhaps a solution in the prevention of "blighted areas" caused primarily by the greed of the sub-divider, the crowding together of houses and the ill-advised and senseless land coverage, poor building materials and poor planning.

\* \* \*

To summarize, it would seem:

That the trend of the building cycle is definitely improving and following the usual pattern;

That the first stimulation, namely alterations and repairs of buildings, has reached its peak and is on the descending curve;

That the second phase, residential, is following a steadily upward curve and promises to continue;

That all classifications of building, except alterations and repairs, are improving and promise to continue to improve;

That the second phase of the building cycle, namely schools, hospitals and buildings of like character, is showing a rapid upward trend;

That commercial buildings, factories and manufacturing plants are still at the bottom of the cycle and await the stimulation of buyer demand;

That the building industry should be encouraged by the improved labor conditions, the stabilization of material price structure and the renewed confidence of the building public.

FREDERICK H. MEYER.

## Being An Architect in 1939

A GOOD deal is being said by architects about the sad estate into which the architect has fallen; we even hear suggestions that he is a supernumerary, that in this age, mechanized physically and spiritually, he has become just a "cog in the gears".

This somehow has a very familiar sound to me. I remember very well that shortly after I had started practice, a long time ago, I was planning, along with the rest of the architectural profession, how I could best fit into the builder's organization.

That same bogey has raised its head at well-measured intervals many times since, but nothing fearsome has happened and I question whether it ever will.

Nor do I believe that the architect is becoming a "cog in the gears", for when I look back at the architect of the nineties and compare his position with that of the architect of today, I just know that he occupies a position today about a hundred-fold more important than he did then.

And further, I am quite sure, that with the amazing number of new materials, new methods, new requirements, and new styles now at hand, the

importance of the architect in the years immediately to come will be incomparably greater than in the decades just past, when the imitator, the copyist and the traditionalist could "get by."

Moreover, the profession never before numbered so many men who have the confidence and respect of the public, men who have been honored with positions of highest trust; and if we do not discourage the good men coming into architecture by what we say about it during bad times, we may look forward to even greater usefulness and fuller recognition.

Of course, the quickest way to arrive at the "cog" state is to say loudly and publicly that we are going to the dogs; so even if I thought that the dogs would get us, which I don't, I would just now keep rather quiet about such a disaster, and instead would point out to the depressionists that in my experience faith, not wailing; courage, not fear; counting of successes, not failures—these have been the starting points of anything I have ever done that has been successful.

And here are a few of the reasons why I am glad that I am an architect even in 1939.



Because, though the going has been heart-breaking, I can see the turn in the road.

Because there is great opportunity ahead; obsolescence, depreciation, new requirements and a country-wide underbuilt condition must soon be met with unprecedented building activity.

Because the architect will be needed more than ever before; he is the only one who can express new materials, new requirements and a new conception of art in terms of building.

Because I like the company of the kind of fellows

that can be hit the hardest and complain the least.

Because architecture has turned from tradition and just started on a wonderful adventure. I want to go with it.

Because my profession is like my child, I love it because it is mine, I have given many of the hours of my life for it. It has hurt me, it has made me happy; we shall go on together to the end of the road.

WILLIAM ORR LUDLOW

## Handicapped Architects

(Editorial: *The New York Sun*)

**A** REPORT from the Chairman of the Housing Committee of The American Institute of Architects reveals that the profession is concerned about the part governmental bureaus may play in serving the public. As Federal bureaus hold mortgages and issue grants and loans for houses, so they may advance into the business of designing small dwellings for individuals who wish to build. The report argues that "the architectural profession is sadly lacking in its contacts with the average citizen, and finds itself handicapped in public understanding and sympathy with its objectives and its true worth."

Possibly, if architects are to be more successful in obtaining business in small houses, they must conduct a more extensive campaign to convince potential customers that architectural service is not necessarily costly, and can be worth the price. The rivalry of government seems at present remote. If the general public lacks sympathy with the aims of the architectural profession, it is not because some State or Federal bureau offers substitutes for private

service, but because the prevailing belief is that private service is expensive.

Attempts have been made in recent years to form associations of architects that will undertake at small cost to aid individuals in the building of small dwellings. One point that must be driven home repeatedly is that the home owner can be sure of satisfactory work if he consults an architect rather than leave the job to the judgment of a builder. The other point of which the public can then be convinced is that an architect's fee is not only a fraction of the cost of the house, but may represent an investment if the finished work endures and looks well. The architect's fee also may represent the cost of protection against wasteful methods. It may be the price of assurance that the house will have certain facilities which are of such intangible value to comfortable living that those who pay for the house often do not consider them until the dwelling is occupied.

## The Seventy - First Convention

### OFFICIAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS

#### DATES AND PLANS

**T**HIS is the first notice concerning the annual meeting of The Institute in 1939, hereafter to be called the Convention.

The fact that this will be the Seventy-first Convention is inspiring. The prospect that it will be the largest and one of the most important conven-

tions ever held by The Institute is even more inspiring.

The Convention will be held at Washington, D. C., and registration will open on Sunday, September 24, 1939. The sessions of the Convention and the International Congress of Architects will probably begin on Monday, September 25, and will

probably conclude, *sine die*, on Thursday, September 28. Thereafter, will come the proposed trips to Williamsburg and to the New York World's Fair.

As you will learn from the announcement by Director Richmond H. Shreve, in this number of *THE OCTAGON*, the program of the Convention will be coordinated with the program of the XV International Congress of Architects. There will be joint sessions, a reception by The President of The Institute, joint parties and excursions, and a grand dinner party to which every architect and his guests will be invited.

Special arrangements are being made to move the entire Convention and Congress from Washington to New York—at the conclusion of the Washington meetings, for the purpose of observing Architects' Day at the World's Fair, which day has been officially designated by the authorities of the World's Fair as October 2. Those who take advantage of this opportunity to visit the Fair will receive special attention in New York, at a minimum of expense and inconvenience. More about this feature will appear later.

Likewise, the Golden Gate International Exposition authorities have officially designated October 11, as Architects' Day in San Francisco. It is believed that special travel rates will be available from New York to San Francisco for that occasion.

The Institute will invite by direct communication all members of the architectural profession in the United States who are *not* members of The Institute to attend the Convention, to be present at its sessions, and to join with us in welcoming the distinguished architects in attendance at the Congress from the other nations of the world.

All of this imposes a special duty upon those of us who are members of The Institute. That duty is to be present at the Convention and Congress—not only for our own edification, but to demonstrate the solidarity of The American Institute of Architects to our foreign confreres, to the profession in our own country, and to the Government of the United States.

Regardless of whether or not you are a delegate, you are most cordially invited and urged to attend the Convention; you will be specially registered as a member of The Institute; and you can be of definite

assistance in making the occasion an unqualified success.

This first notice concerning the Convention will be followed by others between now and September. It is not too late for every member of The Institute to include in his New Year's resolutions a determination to attend the Seventy-first Convention and the International Congress of Architects in Washington in September, 1939. Read *THE OCTAGON* each month for news concerning the Convention and the Congress.

#### NOTICE OF NUMBER OF DELEGATES

The Secretary hereby gives notice to the members of each chapter (listed in Column 1 of the Table that follows) of the number of member delegates (set forth in Column 3 of said Table) they are entitled to have represent them, and the total number of votes (set forth in Column 4 of said Table) they are entitled to have cast for them, at the 1939 annual Convention of The American Institute of Architects to be held in Washington, D. C., on September 25, 1939; and gives notice to each state association member (listed in Column 1 of said Table) of the number of state delegates (set forth in Column 3 of said Table) it is entitled to have represent it, and the total number of votes (set forth in Column 4 of said Table) each of the state association members is entitled to have cast for it, at the said Convention. The number of delegates and the total number of votes in each case is based on the number of members of the chapter (set forth in Column 2 of said Table) who are in good standing, according to the records in the office of The Secretary on January 1, 1939. The number of member delegates that may finally be accredited to the Convention and the total number of their votes that may be cast thereat may vary from the number fixed herein if, on August 25, 1939, the number of members in good standing in a chapter is more or less than the number set forth in this notice. The number of state delegates is determined by the number of voting members in each state association member as of January 1, 1939.

A statement concerning the equalization of delegates' expenses appears on page 9 of this number.

CHARLES T. INGHAM  
Secretary.

(Continued on page 8)

## Notice of Number of Delegates to 1939 Convention (Continued)

TABLE

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
NAME OF CHAPTER BY STATE	Number of Assigned MEMBERS of each Chapter named in Column 1 of this Table who are in good stand- ing, so far as The Secretary's records show, on January 1, 1939	Number of MEMBER DELEGATES entitled to be elected by the members of each Chapter named in Column 1, based on the number of members set forth in Column 2, of this Table	Total Num- ber of VOTES that may be cast by the delegates representing the members of each Chapter named in Column 1, based on the number of members set forth in Column 2, of this Table	<i>Kansas</i>			
				<i>Kansas</i> (Wyandotte County in Kansas City Chapter)	18	2	2
				<i>Kentucky</i>			
				<i>Kentucky</i>	22	3	3
				<i>Louisiana</i>			
				<i>Louisiana</i>	27	3	3
				<i>North Louisiana</i>	3	1	1
				<i>Maine</i>			
				<i>Maine</i>	8	1	1
				<i>Maryland</i>			
				<i>Baltimore</i>	38	4	4
				<i>Massachusetts</i>			
				<i>Boston</i>	183	11	11
				<i>Michigan</i>			
				<i>Detroit</i>	75	7	7
				<i>Grand Rapids</i>	14	2	2
				<i>Minnesota</i>			
				<i>Minnesota</i>	34	4	4
				<i>St. Paul</i>	10	1	1
				<i>Mississippi</i>			
				<i>Mississippi</i>	10	1	1
				<i>Missouri</i>			
				<i>Kansas City</i>	31	4	4
				<i>St. Louis</i>	49	5	5
				<i>Montana</i>			
				<i>Montana</i>	9	1	1
				<i>Nebraska</i>			
				<i>Nebraska</i>	19	2	2
				<i>Nevada</i>			
				<i>In territory of Northern California Chapter</i>	—	—	—
				<i>New Hampshire</i>			
				<i>In territory of Boston Chapter</i>	—	—	—
				<i>New Jersey</i>			
				<i>New Jersey</i>	91	8	8
				<i>New Mexico</i>			
				<i>In territory of Colorado Chapter</i>	—	—	—
				<i>New York</i>			
				<i>Albany</i>	17	2	2
				<i>Brooklyn</i>	46	3	3
				<i>Buffalo</i>	24	3	3
				<i>Central New York</i>	55	6	6
				<i>New York</i>	369	19	19
				<i>Westchester</i>	14	2	2
				<i>North Carolina</i>			
				<i>North Carolina</i>	25	3	3
				<i>North Dakota</i>			
				<i>In territory of Minnesota Chapter</i>	—	—	—
<i>Alabama</i>							
<i>Alabama</i>	28	3	3				
<i>Arizona</i>							
<i>Arizona</i>	10	1	1				
<i>Arkansas</i>							
<i>Arkansas</i>	7	1	1				
<i>California</i>							
<i>Northern California</i>	33	7	7				
<i>Southern California</i>	93	8	8				
<i>Santa Barbara</i>	18	2	2				
<i>San Diego</i>	11	2	2				
<i>Colorado</i>							
<i>Colorado</i>	28	3	3				
<i>Connecticut</i>							
<i>Connecticut</i>	37	4	4				
<i>Delaware</i>							
<i>Delaware</i>	23	3	3				
<i>District of Columbia</i>							
<i>Washington, D. C.</i>	78	7	7				
<i>Florida</i>							
<i>Florida Central</i>	17	2	2				
<i>Florida North</i>	19	2	2				
<i>Florida South</i>	20	2	2				
<i>Georgia</i>							
<i>Georgia</i>	31	4	4				
<i>South Georgia</i>	4	1	1				
<i>Territory of Hawaii</i>							
<i>Hawaii</i>	12	2	2				
<i>Idaho</i>							
<i>In territory of Utah and Washington State Chapters</i>	—	—	—				
<i>Illinois</i>							
<i>Central Illinois</i>	26	3	3				
<i>Chicago</i>	177	11	11				
<i>Indiana</i>							
<i>Indiana</i>	22	3	3				
<i>Iowa</i>							
<i>Iowa</i>	25	3	3				



<b>Ohio</b>		
Cincinnati .....	41	5
Cleveland .....	60	6
Columbus .....	18	2
Dayton .....	9	1
Eastern Ohio .....	9	1
Toledo .....	19	2
<b>Oklahoma</b>		
Oklahoma .....	28	3
<b>Oregon</b>		
Oregon .....	30	3
<b>Pennsylvania</b>		
Northwestern Pennsylv-		
ania .....	6	1
Philadelphia .....	143	10
Pittsburgh .....	49	5
Scranton-Wilkes-Barre .	10	1
Southern Pennsylvania.	27	3
<b>Rhode Island</b>		
Rhode Island.....	24	3
<b>South Carolina</b>		
South Carolina.....	17	2
<b>South Dakota</b>		
In territory of Minnesota		
Chapter .....	—	—
<b>Tennessee</b>		
Tennessee .....	41	5
<b>Texas</b>		
Central Texas .....	13	2
North Texas.....	23	3
South Texas.....	39	4
West Texas.....	15	2
<b>Utah</b>		
Utah .....	13	2
<b>Vermont</b>		
In territory of Boston		
Chapter .....	—	—
<b>Virginia</b>		
Virginia .....	37	4

<b>Washington</b>		
Washington State.....	38	4
<b>West Virginia</b>		
West Virginia.....	10	1
<b>Wisconsin</b>		
Wisconsin .....	48	5
Madison .....	8	1
<b>Wyoming</b>		
In territory of Colorado		
Chapter .....	—	—
	2,740	255

NAME OF STATE ASSOCIATION MEMBER	Number of VOTING MEMBERS in each state association member named in Column 1 of this Table, so far as The Secretary's records show on January 1, 1939	Number of STATE DELEGATES entitled to be elected by each state association member named in Column 1, based on the number of Voting Members set forth in Column 2, of this Table	Total Number of VOTES that may be cast as a unit by delegate representing each state association member named in Column 1, based on the number of Voting Members set forth in Column 2, of this Table
1. State Assn. of California Architects .....	307	1	1
2. Michigan Society of Architects .....	415	1	1
3. The State Association of Wisconsin Architects	77	1	1
4. Architects Society of Ohio .....	166	1	1
5. Kentucky Architects Association.....	38	1	1
		5	5

January 1, 1939.

CHARLES T. INGHAM,  
*Secretary.*

### Equalization of Delegates' Expenses

IN 1916 The Institute put into effect a plan for equalizing the expenses of delegates attending conventions. The plan was sponsored by Charles A. Favrot, of New Orleans, then a member of The Board. It was supported by Burt L. Fenner, of New York, then a member of The Board and subsequently Secretary of The Institute.

That plan was in continuous operation from 1916 to 1932. In the latter year it was discontinued for constitutional and economic reasons.

As practically all conventions of The Institute are held east of the Mississippi river, it was soon

evident that the discontinuance of the equalization plan was decreasing delegate representation from chapters west of the Mississippi river, particularly those on the Pacific coast.

Obviously this condition was disadvantageous to the welfare of The Institute, and Director William H. Crowell of the Oregon Chapter, upon his election to The Board in 1935, proposed a restoration of some plan of equalization.

Mr. Crowell was appointed chairman of a special committee to investigate and report. Several reports were made, the one to The Board at the

April meeting in New Orleans in 1938 being exhaustive in its analysis of the entire problem.

At the recent semi-annual meeting of The Board a further report from Mr. Crowell's committee was presented, in support of the April report. In the discussion Director Robert K. Fuller, of the Western Mountain District, and Director Albert J. Evers, of the Sierra-Nevada District, urged upon the directors the early establishment of some form of equalization plan.

Mr. Fuller reported the action of the joint meeting of the Washington State and Oregon Chapters in favor of an equalization plan. Mr. Evers urged that the policy be adopted to assure the presence of delegates from the West Coast in order that The Institute may continue as a truly national body.

It was the unanimous sentiment of The Board

that some plan for the equalization of delegates' expenses, along the general lines set forth in the report of the Committee on Equalization of Delegates' Expenses, as made in April 1938, should be adopted.

Thereupon, The Board made a direct appropriation of \$3,000 in the 1939 budget of The Institute for the equalization of the expenses of delegates attending the Seventy-first Convention (in Washington, September 25-28, 1939). This means there will be no assessments upon the members or chapters and that the cost of equalizing delegates' expenses will be paid from the income of The Institute.

The details of the new equalization plan will be announced in due course and well in advance of the Convention.

CHARLES T. INGHAM, *Secretary.*

## The XV International Congress of Architects

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 24, 1939—WASHINGTON, D. C.

SOMEWHAT over two years ago, in July, 1936, The American Institute of Architects invited the Comité Permanent Internationale des Architectes to arrange that the XV International Congress of Architects be held in the United States. The invitation was accepted. Thereafter, the President of the United States, under appropriate action by the Congress of the United States acting at the instance of The American Institute of Architects, invited the governments of foreign nations to send official delegates to Washington, where, during the week beginning September 24, 1939, the XV International Congress will take place.

During 1937 and 1938 events moved rapidly and effectively to make a great occasion of this assembly. The Congress of the United States made an appropriation of funds for Federal participation through the Department of State, and Secretary Hull designated an official Committee on Organization of which Charles D. Maginnis, President of The Institute, is Chairman. Other members are Richard Southgate, Chief, Division of International Conferences of the Department of State; Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect of the Treasury; U. Grant-Smith of Washington, former United States Minister; Edwin Bergstrom, Treasurer of The Institute, and Messrs. Harvey Wiley Corbett, Richmond

H. Shreve, George Oakley Totten, Jr., Stephen F. Voorhees and C. C. Zantzinger.

These gentlemen, with the exception of the State Department representatives, have also been appointed the official delegates to represent the United States at the XV International Congress. Mr. Grant-Smith has generously consented to contribute his time to the work of the Committee on Organization as an officially appointed member, and as Honorary Secretary of that Committee. Mr. Grant-Smith's long experience in the diplomatic service of the nation and his familiarity with official procedure and the avenues of international communication will be invaluable in arranging for the Congress and in assisting those who will act as hosts to our foreign guests.

The Board of Directors has appointed a special Institute committee on International Congress consisting of The President, The Secretary and The Treasurer of The Institute, *ex-officio*, and Messrs. Corbett, Levi, Shreve, Totten, Voorhees and Zantzinger. An appropriation has been made by The Board to meet the expense of those items of the Congress which are the responsibility of The Institute in the reception of our distinguished visitors. The annual convention of The Institute has been set to take place in Washington at the same time as

the Congress. It will undoubtedly break all records for attendance—for reasons which every member will have brought to his attention between now and September.

In addition to the invitations to distinguished foreign architects, every architect in our own country, without limitation as to Institute membership, will be individually invited to attend the Convention and the Congress.

The preliminary announcement, or first notice of the program of the Congress, was broadcast to the world on October 1, 1938. Printed in six languages, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish, it was forwarded through diplomatic channels of the United States Government directly to official representatives of all foreign governments; as well as to the foreign architectural societies and associations of the allied arts.

The Committee has not contented itself with this effort, but in the instance of the architectural societies in each country an individually written and signed letter, in the language appropriate for that country, has been addressed to the societies' presidents and secretaries bespeaking their cooperation.

The preliminary announcement will be followed by a more complete statement in the form of a prospectus or brochure giving detailed information, and generously illustrated to suggest to our friends abroad good reasons why they should be interested in making a visit to the United States to participate in the Congress.

As this is written, the brochure is being printed at the U. S. Government Printing Office. It will be mailed under federal frank as an official document and should reach each of those reading these words, and many others, early in the current year.

Official headquarters for the meetings of the Congress will be the Auditorium of the Department of Labor on Constitution Avenue, in the Nation's Capital. This great hall, with its associated rooms and facilities, has been reserved for the use of the

Congress by the Department of State, at the request of the Committee on Organization. Here will take place the registration of official delegates, and the formal opening session of the XV International Congress of Architects. The assembly will be welcomed by representatives of the United States Government and by The President of The American Institute of Architects.

Delegates to the Congress, delegates to the Convention of The Institute, members of The Institute, visiting architects, their friends and their families, all are invited. All will be welcomed to the meetings of the Congress, to the reception which The Institute will give for those attending the Congress, to the trip to Williamsburg, Virginia, by over-night steamer from Washington via Old Point Comfort, to the formal dinner to be tendered to the Congress delegates by the Federal Government, and to the numerous sessions, trips, interim meetings and receptions which may be expected to mark the occasion of so distinguished a gathering, greater in numbers than any Congress or any Institute Convention heretofore held.

You will be interested to see the National Exhibition of Representative Buildings of the Post-War Period in the United States, and, if it can be made possible, a showing of the architecture of the two Americas.

*You must come!* You will come, we feel sure—and last but not least important you will also, we are sure, support this program of The Institute by the payment of the small sum (\$3.00) which you will find billed to you with your annual dues for the current year. Only through your help in this way can The Institute's part in this program be made effective.

Thank you—all of you.

R. H. SHREVE, *Chairman*  
Committee on International Congress of  
Architects, A. I. A.

---

### THE ROTCH TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP

The Rotch Travelling Scholarship for 1939 will be awarded for a term of not less than fifteen months of study and travel abroad, the amount of the prize being \$2,500.

The examination of candidates will be held early

in April, but candidates are requested to register themselves before March 15, 1939.

For registration and further information apply to C. H. Blackall, Secretary, Rotch Travelling Scholarship, 31 West Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

## Edward Langley Scholarships for 1939

**I**N the November 1938 number of *THE OCTAGON* there appeared an announcement concerning the Edward Langley Scholarships for 1939, and the procedure for making proposals of candidates from the offices of practicing architects and from the architectural schools.

The membership of The Institute is familiar with the general conditions governing these scholarships. It is suggested that the November notice be read, and that those who have in mind eligible candidates propose them well in advance of the closing day, which is March 1, 1939.

The two groups from which candidates may be proposed are as follows:

### Group 1 (Office) Candidates.

*Proposers.* Any architect in the United States or Canada may propose any other architect or architectural draftsman residing in the same country as a candidate for an award in **GROUP 1**.

*Form of Proposal.* Every proposal of a candidate in **GROUP 1** shall be made *in duplicate* on A. I. A. Form S70, which may be obtained from The American Institute of Architects, 1741 New York Avenue, Washington, D. C.

*Filing Proposals.* All information and data required shall be filled in on the proposal form, and both the original and duplicate proposal shall be sent to The Secretary, The American Institute of Architects, at the address given above, *so as to reach*

*there not later than March 1, 1939.* Proposals received after the date cannot be considered.

A proposed candidate may be requested to submit examples of his work and to appear before a representative of the Committee.

### Group 2 (School) Candidates.

*Proposers.* The faculty or head of any architectural school in the United States that is a member of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, or the faculty or head of any architectural school in Canada whose standing is satisfactory to The Secretary of The American Institute of Architects, may propose any teacher in such school, any student about to be graduated from the school, or any graduate student engaged in post-graduate work in the school or in travel, as a candidate for an award in **GROUP 2**.

*Form of Proposal.* Every proposal of a candidate in **GROUP 2** shall be made *in duplicate* on A. I. A. Form S70a, which may be obtained from The American Institute of Architects, 1741 New York Avenue, Washington, D. C.

*Filing Proposals.* All information and data required shall be filled in on the proposal form, and both the original and duplicate proposal shall be sent to The Secretary, The American Institute of Architects at the address given above, *so as to reach there not later than March 1, 1939.* Proposals received after that date cannot be considered.

---

## Announcing the Central Texas Chapter

**T**HE formation of the Central Texas Chapter of The American Institute of Architects has been officially completed, effective Nov. 15, 1938.

The counties of Travis, Williamson, Milam, Lee, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Blanco, and Burnet are thus transferred from the territory of the West Texas Chapter and will henceforth be the territory of the Central Texas Chapter.

The petition for the charter of the new chapter was signed by Messrs. Werner W. Dornberger, Dan J. Driscoll, Arthur Fehr, Samuel E. Gideon,

Clifford H. James, Hugo Franz Kuehne, Charles H. Page, Louis C. Page, Walter T. Rolfe, Louis F. Southerland, Roy L. Thomas, Robert Leon White, and Goldwin Goldsmith, who will be transferred from the West Texas Chapter and become charter members of the Central Texas Chapter.

The officers and The Board of Directors extend to the members of the Central Texas Chapter cordial greetings, good wishes, and a sincere welcome as the seventy-first chapter of The American Institute of Architects.



## Chapter Nullification of Convention Action

IN the August, 1938, number of THE OCTAGON, page 16, under the heading "State Organization", there was printed a resolution of the Seventieth Convention of The Institute at New Orleans in April, 1938. Immediately following was printed, at the request of the Southern California Chapter, a resolution adopted by that chapter at its meeting on June 14, 1938.

The resolution of the Southern California Chapter was considered by The Board of Directors of The Institute at its semi-annual meeting in Washington, in November, 1938, with reference to its subject matter and with reference to its possible effect upon the solidarity of The Institute.

The Board adopted the following resolution which is printed in this number of THE OCTAGON as directed.

*Whereas*, The Seventieth Convention of The Institute at New Orleans, in April 1938, adopted a resolution reading in part as follows: "The Institute should relinquish none of its present professional authority, but should aim to increase its prestige by so changing its form as to represent, organize and unite in fellowship all qualified architects; and in order to further the uniting of all unorganized architects into state societies", etc.; and

*Whereas*, The resolution of the Southern California Chapter of The Institute at a regular meeting on June 14, 1938, unanimously adopted, in which it was resolved "That we urge The Institute Board and all members who value their membership in The Institute to resist the 'unification' movement to the end that further changes may be prevented, and that The Institute may return to its traditional independent position"; and

*Whereas*, The By-laws of The Institute, Chapter V, Article 1, paragraph (b), state as follows: "Authority and Duties of Chapters. Within the territory assigned to it, each chapter shall represent and act for The Institute under a charter issued to it by The Board, and no act of a chapter shall directly or indirectly nullify or contravene any act or policy of The Institute"; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That The Board of Directors of The Institute, while recognizing the value of independent thought, deploras this action on the part of the Southern California Chapter in an attempt to nullify or contravene an established policy of The Institute, adopted in convention; (192-B-11-38) and be it further

*Resolved*, That this resolution of The Board of Directors of The Institute be published in THE OCTAGON and a copy thereof be sent to each chapter of The Institute, to each state association, and to the officers and directors of The Institute. (193-B-11-38)

CHARLES T. INGHAM

Secretary

## Status of Architect in Developing Applications for P. W. A. Grants

AT the semi-annual meeting of The Board of Directors of The Institute, correspondence was submitted from The Judiciary Committee which discussed the development of applications for Public Works Administration grants—by architects—in which it is necessary for the applying agency to file certain data as to size, cubage, cost, man hours, etc., which data, if the application is for a building project, can best be furnished by an architect.

In the judgment of The Judiciary Committee, an architect acting to supply information of the kind here described, but without definite assurance that he will later be retained in a professional capacity, has no more official standing than any private citizen who is helping the community. The fact, in itself, of his having prepared this information does not, in the judgment of The Judiciary Committee, pre-

empt for him an official or professional standing.

The Board took action by the adoption of the following resolution, the substance of which is called to the attention of the membership.

*Whereas*, In the development of applications for Public Works Administration grants on building projects it is necessary for the applying agency to file certain data as to size, cubage, cost, man hours, etc., which data can best be furnished by an architect—therefore, for the guidance of The Judiciary Committee, be it

*Resolved*, That an architect so acting, but without definite assurance that he will be retained in a professional capacity, has no more official standing than any other private citizen who is helping the community, and the fact, in itself, of his having prepared this information does not preempt for him an official or professional standing.

CHARLES T. INGHAM

Secretary



## Structural Service Department

BY THEODORE I. COB, TECHNICAL SECRETARY OF THE STRUCTURAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

### Research on Building Materials and Structures.

Reports of the results of the Research Program on Building Materials and Structures, applying particularly to low-cost housing, undertaken by the National Bureau of Standards have been awaited with much interest.

Reference to the Program in THE OCTAGON for January 1938 indicated the cooperative responses of the producers of many types of wall, floor and roof construction in furnishing specimens for test purposes. The producers of many types of building materials have also cooperated in making available test specimens of their materials.

The Research Program for which Congress appropriated the sum of \$198,000 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1937, was formulated with the advice of representatives of the several agencies of the government interested in housing—the Procurement Division, Forest Service, Quartermaster Corps and the Bureau of Standards.

The conduct of the Program was entrusted to a committee of Bureau division chiefs with Dr. H. L. Dryden as Chairman and Program Coordinator.

The "Objectives" of the Program, as formulated, contain the following recommendations which appear to be of special interest to the architect:

"The results should be made available to the public.

"The Program should include:

1. Materials, equipment and methods already in use in low-cost housing.
2. New materials and equipment, and new construction methods.
3. All available information from whatever source should be included in the reports.
4. Minimum technical requirements should be established for the elements of a low-cost house.
5. The tests should, insofar as possible, be made under service conditions and should include the effect of different materials in contact.
6. The effect of obsolete building codes in restricting the use of new construction should be determined.
7. The useful life of each construction should be determined."

The Program will not consider sociological, economic, hygienic or esthetic questions or the design of houses; but where questions involving these matters arise the recommendations of recognized authorities will be followed.

The Bureau of Standards, as a fact-finding organization, does not "approve" any particular material or method of construction, and the technical findings, which will be issued in a series of reports, are to be construed accordingly.

The following nine reports are now available and copies may be obtained from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at price noted:

Report BMS1—Research on Building Materials and Structures for use in Low-Cost Housing. 10c

Report BMS2—Methods of Determining the Structural Properties of Low-Cost House Constructions. 10c

Report BMS3—Suitability of Fiber Insulating Lath as a Plaster Base. 10c

Report BMS4—Accelerated Aging of Fiber Building Boards. 10c

Report BMS5—Structural Properties of Six Masonry Wall Constructions. 15c

Report BMS6—Survey of Roofing Materials in Southeastern States. 15c

Report BMS7—Water Permeability of Masonry Walls. 10c

Report BMS8—Methods of Investigation of Surface Treatment for Corrosion Protection of Steel. 10c

Report BMS9—Structural Properties of the Insulated Steel Construction Company's "Frameless-Steel" Construction for Walls, Partitions, Floors and Roofs. 10c

### Wear Resistance of Concrete Floors.

The National Bureau of Standards has reported the results of recent investigations concerning the wear resistance of cement mortars and concretes of the type used for floors.

The test methods utilized rotating steel discs moving in a circular path with an abrasive between the discs and the slabs tested.

Material differences in wear resistance were reported for such factors as time of troweling and length of damp-curing; delayed troweling and longer curing, as a rule, increasing the resistance to wear.

Mixes having the same cement-water ratio, but different proportions of cement, sand and aggregate varied widely in their wear resistance.

A mix of one part of cement to two parts of sand gave approximately twice the wear shown by a mix of one part of cement to one and one-half parts of sand and two parts of coarse aggregate, although each mix had a cement-water ratio of 2.26.

Metallic hardeners were found to be quite effective in reducing the wear; but liquid hardeners did not prove materially effective in the mixes tested.

#### Survey Indicating Use of A. I. A. Standard Filing System.

A survey recently conducted by F. W. Dodge Corporation indicated that out of 2,800 firms, representing 6,329 architects' offices, canvassed east of the Rocky Mountains, 41% were using the A. I. A. Standard Filing System for filing information on Building Materials and Appliances.

#### Joint Committee on Standard Specifications for Concrete and Reinforced Concrete.

The work of this Committee, on which The Institute has been represented by Messrs. Paul W. Norton (Chairman), John C. Bollenbacher, Clarence Jensen, Charles W. Killam and Charles M.

Gay, is practically completed. The Specifications are now in the hands of an editorial committee with the expectation that they will be ready for release, at least in tentative form, in February.

#### Specifications for Gypsum Plastering; Lathing and Furring.

The Specifications for Gypsum Plastering; Lathing and Furring, sponsored by the American Society for Testing Materials and The American Institute of Architects, and prepared by A. S. A. Sectional Committee A42, of which Walter R. McCornack is Chairman, was approved September 29, 1938 by the Standards Council of the A. S. A. as American Standard A-42.1-1938.

Arrangements for its publication are now being made and copies will be distributed to members of The Institute by the Gypsum Association.

#### ASTM Standards on Cement.

The A. S. T. M. has recently issued, in convenient form, the Standard Specifications and Test Methods pertaining to cement, including numerous changes made in 1938.

A proposed Method of Test for Autoclave Expansion of Portland Cement is included, as well as the Manual of Cement Testing. Copies, at \$1.00 each, may be obtained from the American Society for Testing Materials, 260 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, Pa. To members of the A. S. T. M., the cost is 75¢ per copy.

## The Producers' Council, Inc.

THE Council reports a gratifying growth in the organization of Producers' Council Clubs, composed of the local representatives of members of The Council. Cooperation between these clubs and the chapters of The Institute, in their respective localities, serves to advance the objectives which form the basis of the affiliation of The Institute and The Council.

The list of Producers' Council Clubs and their Presidents (as of January 15) is as follows:

Location of Clubs	President
BALTIMORE	C. L. Lea, Chamberlin Metal Weatherstrip Co., 2315 Cecil Ave.
BOSTON	L. B. Sully, American Brass Co., 140 Federal St.

CHICAGO	C. M. toeLaer, Otis Elevator Co., 600 W. Jackson Blvd.
CINCINNATI	R. C. Allison, Crane Co., 824 Broadway.
CLEVELAND	W. L. Hunt, Otis Elevator Co., 1375 E. 6th St.
COLUMBUS	R. A. Diedrich, Crane Co., 67 N. Front St.
DALLAS	J. L. Zeeryp, Otis Elevator Co., 1822 Young Street.
DENVER	F. E. Sullaway, Jr., Armstrong Cork Products Co., 511 Interstate Tr. Bldg.
HOUSTON	E. M. Wise, General Electric Co., 1312 Live Oak St.
INDIANA	P. G. King, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., 39 So. State St., Indianapolis, Ind.
LOUISVILLE	P. H. Craig, Armstrong Cork Products Co.

(Continued on page 16)

MICHIGAN	F. P. O'Neil, Kohler Co., 3094 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit, Mich.
NEW YORK	W. L. Keplinger, Jr., Johns-Manville Corp., 22 E. 40th St.
MINNESOTA	H. P. Wallace, Jr., Crane Co., 400 Third Ave., North, Minneapolis.
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	Wm. Wooldridge, Columbia Steel Co., Russ Building, San Francisco, Calif.
PHILADELPHIA	A. W. Fikentscher, Master Builders Co., Architects Building, Philadelphia.
PITTSBURGH	D. F. Rock, Universal Atlas Cement Co., Frick Building.
ST. LOUIS	R. P. Benjamin, National Lead Co., 722 Chestnut St.
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	J. F. Gehring, Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Co., Architects Building, Los Angeles, Cal.
WASHINGTON, D. C.	I. K. Strasburger, Chamberlin Metal Weatherstrip Co., 932 New York Ave., N. W.
WASHINGTON STATE	H. J. Baum, Crane Co., 419 Second Ave., So., Seattle, Wash.
WISCONSIN	J. W. Rapp, Chamberlin Metal Weather- strip Co., 2513 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.

**New Members.**

The following organizations have been added to the constantly growing membership of The Council:

Bastian Morley Company, La Porte, Indiana.—N. R. Feltes, Vice-President, will serve as Official Representative in The Council.

Bell and Gossett Company, Chicago, Ill.—E. J. Gossett, President, Official Representative.

Dahlstrom Metallic Door Company, Jamestown, N. Y.—Paul N. Anderson, President, Official Rep.

Fiat Metal Manufacturing Co., Chicago, Ill.—G. C. Hay, Sales Promotion Manager, Official Representative.

National Mineral Wool Association, New York, N. Y.—Wharton Clay, Secretary, Official Rep.

Vinco Company, Inc., New York, N. Y.—Leo Sherman, President, Official Representative.

## Building Industry Conference

### UNDER COLLEGIATE AUSPICES

**T**HE College of Engineering, in cooperation with the Extension Division of the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, announces a series of conferences and short courses for members of the building industry, including construction, real estate and materials men.

The first of these conferences was held in February, 1938, and resulted in a most gratifying registration of more than two hundred persons, to attend the series of addresses by architects and representatives of various branches of the building industry.

This year the series of meetings will be held on February 22, 23, 24, inclusive, in the Engineering

Auditorium at the University of Oklahoma.

A sincere attempt has been made to secure speakers of recognized ability in the field of finance and industry, to address the conference on almost every subject confronting the building industry, from "Termite Control" to "Appraisal and Valuation Methods".

All architects, and other members of the building industry, are urged to attend the conferences.

Those desiring further information should write to Joseph E. Smay, A. I. A., Director of the School of Architecture at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

## SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

The college of Fine Arts of Syracuse University announces one \$375.00 and four \$187.50 scholarships to be granted by competition on Saturday, July 15, 1939.

Contestants must be graduates of accredited high

schools, and must submit recommendations from their high school principals as to character, etc.

Complete information may be obtained from Dean H. L. Butler, College of Fine Arts, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York.

## Members Elected

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1939, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Chapter	Name	Chapter	Name
Alabama.....	EDGAR B. VAN KEUREN	North Louisiana.....	*SEYMOUR VAN OS
Buffalo.....	JAMES S. WHITMAN	North Texas.....	†DAVID S. CASTLE
Chicago.....	HARRY K. BIEG, LOUIS PIROLA	Oklahoma.....	HENRY KAMPHOEFNER
Dayton.....	WILLIAM GERALD WARD	Philadelphia.....	THEO BALLOU WHITE
Detroit.....	*GEORGE JOSEPH HAAS ROY MAYNARD LYNDON EBERLE MINARD SMITH	Pittsburgh.....	*ALFRED M. MARKS
Florida North.....	JOSEPH HENRY BRYSON	St. Louis.....	JOHN A. BRYAN GEORGE J. MAGUOLO
Grand Rapids.....	LOUIS CLIFTON KINGSCOTT	Scranton-Wilkes-Barre.....	FREDERICK C. BOLDKY
Kansas City.....	EARL HAWKINS	South Texas.....	FRANCIS WAYLAND VESEY F. TALBOTT WILSON
Minnesota.....	*GILBERT R. HORTON	Tennessee.....	JAMES CLYDE SEALE
New York.....	ANTHONY J. DAIDONE AUBREY BUTLER GRANTHAM LOUIS BANCEL LAFARGE E. JEROME O'CONNOR, ELDRIDGE SNYDER	Virginia.....	FLOYD E. JOHNSON
		Wisconsin.....	CARL EDGAR MEYER

\* Re-elected.

† Re-elected effective October 1, 1938.

## With the Chapters

### NEWS NOTES FROM CHAPTER SECRETARIES

#### Boston.

The Boston Society of Architects (Boston Chapter) in cooperation with the Boston Society of Civil Engineers and the Boston Building Congress, have actively brought to a head a form of bidding procedure for the building industry. At a joint meeting held by the Chapter this form has been unanimously adopted.

The society has also been very active in the support of a new building code which has been passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor, but at this time it is before the City Council for approval. President John T. Whitmore and others in the Society have attended the hearings and have spoken in behalf of its adoption.

The meetings of the Chapter have been enthusiastically attended by large numbers, and the membership is very active under President Whitmore's leadership.

STANLEY E. DAVIDSON, *Secretary*

#### Brooklyn.

Stephen W. Dodge, chairman of the Committee on Public Information of the Chapter, and serving on the Committee on Building Code, Laws and Regulations of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce reports as follows:

During 1938 the building industry in the Metropolitan District has shown great activity, largely aided by Federal funds through the P. W. A., W. P. A. and F. H. A.

Large apartments and rows of one family brick buildings in Brooklyn and new suburban developments are in the building reports regularly, a great increase over 1937, and with every prospect that 1939 will show further gains, as there are so many *old-law* tenements vacated or torn down, with more to follow, as the crusade for better housing goes on.

The provisions of the new Building Code, allowing Class 2 or fire protected (not fireproof)



buildings to a height of nine stories and the welding of steel have not been responsible for the increase, as about all of the new apartments are still six stories high and built with wood beams.

The large public housing developments, Williamsburg, Red Hook, Queens, etc., make wonderful homes for those fortunate enough to meet the requirements as tenants, but they can house but a small percentage of those requiring healthful homes.

The new Building Code has been in force for a year and there is great need for revisions, and the subject and forms of many amendments have had the close study of the joint committee of Architectural Societies of the Metropolitan District, the Building Congress and many other civic organizations.

The Brooklyn Chapter has recently lost by death two of its valuable and active members, Robert H. Bryson and Lester B. Pope. Lester B. Pope, on the Chapter Committee on Education, formed a powerful tie with Pratt Institute, where, as teacher of architecture he had endeared himself to many of the Chapter's younger members.

#### Connecticut.

At the annual meeting of the Chapter held at the University Club in Hartford, December 14, the following officers were elected:

President—Lorenzo Hamilton, of Meriden;  
Vice-President—Philip Sunderland, of Danbury;  
Secretary-Treasurer—Harold D. Hauf, of New Haven.

Charles S. Palmer was elected to serve on the Executive Committee.

The guest of honor at the dinner was Thomas R. Ball, A. I. A., U. S. Congressman-elect of the Second District, Connecticut. Mr. Ball spoke briefly on his activities as a "politician" and promised every member of the chapter at least a post office as soon as he arrives in Washington.

HERBERT GIBSON, *Secretary*

#### Detroit.

At the Chapter's meeting on December 15, Professor Frederick C. O'Dell, of the College of Architecture, University of Michigan, gave an illustrated lecture on his travels in Europe during the past year. Professor and Mrs. O'Dell traveled in

many countries, bringing back records of the most interesting examples of architecture and other arts.

The January meeting was held on the eighteenth, at Cranbrook, where members had an opportunity to inspect the new Institute of Science Building. Members of the Toledo Chapter had been invited for the afternoon and evening. A feature of the program was the sound film, "Today We Build", which has to do with large scale, privately owned housing.

In February the Chapter will meet jointly with the Producers' Council Club of Michigan, and in March with the Michigan Society of Architects at their Twenty-fifth Annual Convention, March 16, 17, 18 at Hotel Statler in Detroit. In this connection there is to be an architectural exhibition, building material exhibits and the Third Annual Building Industry Banquet, which in the past has had an attendance of four or five hundred persons.

The Michigan Society's Weekly Bulletin, which is also supported by the Chapter, has in preparation a Silver Anniversary Number, which will contain photographs and biographies of nearly seven hundred architects registered in Michigan.

TALMAGE C. HUGHES, *Secretary*

#### Florida Central.

The quarterly meeting of the Chapter was held December 3, in Tampa. The meeting was followed by an open discussion on the small house problem and by a dinner at one of Tampa's famous Spanish restaurants.

NORMAN F. SIX, *Secretary*

#### Florida South.

Mr. Arthur W. Kniebler, chairman of the Miami Housing Authority recently announced the appointment of the architects for the Miami low-cost white housing development.

The architects selected are Harold D. Steward, Chief Architect, Vladimir E. Virrick, E. L. Robertson and Robert Law Weed. All are members of the Florida South Chapter.

Total cost of the development will amount to between \$1,500,000 and \$2,000,000. A site has been tentatively selected in the northwest section of the city.

GEORGE H. SPOHN, *Secretary*



**Grand Rapids.**

The annual Chapter meeting was held December 6, 1938, at Casa Simmi and Chapter officers holding office during 1938 were re-elected to serve during 1939. They are as follows:

Warren L. Rindge, president; William A. Stone, vice-president; John P. Baker, secretary-treasurer; and Edwin E. Valentine, director.

The Chapter was fifteen years old last month.

The Chapter is sponsoring an exhibition at the public library of Historic American Buildings Survey work consisting of measured drawings and photographs of historical Michigan buildings. This exhibition is attracting much public interest.

JOHN P. BAKER, *Secretary*

**Louisiana.**

A meeting was held at Arnaud's restaurant on December 8, 1938. The Chapter members had been asked to bring as guests young men from their offices who were likely prospects for Associateship. Eight guests were entertained with a talk by George P. Rice on "Foundations".

Richard Koch was congratulated on being the Architectural Forum's "Man of the Month" for November.

The Chapter unanimously passed a motion condemning the demolition of old showcases in the Vieux Carre which project beyond property lines.

DOUGLAS V. FRERET, *Secretary*

**Minnesota.**

At the December meeting of the Chapter Mr. Clive Naugle of Naugle-Leck, Inc., contractors, spoke on the relations between contractors and architects. He outlined a set of principles which, if followed conscientiously by both architect and builder, would keep each from having time to step into the field of the other and consequently give the owner better service. He also read and discussed the proposed code of practice for competitive bidding and letting of building construction contracts as recommended by the builders' division of the Associated General Contractors.

A discussion of various details of the code followed, leading toward a better understanding between the two groups.

E. W. KRAFFT, *Secretary*

**New Jersey.**

At a recent joint meeting of the New Jersey Chapter, and the New Jersey Society of Architects, at the Newark Athletic Club, one hundred and ten members and guests were in attendance to honor the presence of The President of The Institute, Charles D. Maginnis.

After dinner had been served and the regular order of business dispensed with, Chapter president Holmes introduced President Maginnis and described the set-up of our Chapter and Society to him, emphasizing the harmony which exists between the two groups and the New Jersey State Board of Architects.

President Maginnis, who was greeted with enthusiastic applause, in a polished, inspiring and very human speech said that he had an early recollection of the dynamic energy of the New Jersey Chapter; that it was always an exciting moment in convention when the Chapter was about to be heard on the subject of "small houses". He was glad to know that we had successfully coordinated the various architectural bodies of the state, and felt that that should be an inspiration to the parent society in bringing about a closer contact between The Institute and the State Societies.

Replying to President Holmes' introductory reference to the fact that he was serving his second term as President of The Institute, Mr. Maginnis modestly suggested that the parent society was frequently the victim of its gentlemanly instincts. He expressed doubt as to whether he should discuss business, asserting that sometimes when he attempted to do so at the meetings in Boston he found that that chapter was reluctant to discuss serious matters and preferred to be entertained.

Continuing, President Maginnis stated that while there was a lot to be said for moderation, the modern influence was doing good to those who were too conservative. He saw many things to admire in the new order, in which thoroughly fresh and valid ideas are being exploited, but that it is difficult to recognize when the conclusion of a style has been reached.

He emphasized the truth that one must not consider the material function alone. He cited as an example the organ, which constructed by men without knowledge of aesthetic design, is lacking

in beauty, and the bare anatomy of which must be embellished if the organ is to function fully and spiritually.

After expressing distaste for the ugliness of many of our modern cities (which he felt were content if they had an oasis of beauty), he said that some people become furious at the mere suggestion that their terrible communities can be improved, and are proud of the fact that they have traffic problems which they declare to be impossible of solution.

Hastily crossing the ocean, he declared that the lovely English Cathedral City, Exeter, had slums that shamed those of London, and said that when he visited that town a guide had proudly asked him if he would like to see the slums. He urged his audience to be more active in city planning so that better towns will result.

Mr. Maginnis referred to a recent competition for small post offices and said that The Institute had approved the competition so that young men would get a chance to show their latent possibilities. While he felt that competitions have done a great deal of mischief he conceded that there might be merit in that method of selecting architects for government work, and recognized the difficulty which the government must find in putting its finger on "Tom Jones'" shoulder and saying, "You of all architects are the one to do this work".

On the other side of this controversial question, he cited the absurdity of anyone holding a competition among lawyers in order to choose one.

The meeting was concluded by an address by William Orr Ludlow, chairman of The Institute's Committee on Public Information, who made a plea for cooperation in his publicity campaign.

CLEMENT W. FAIRWEATHER, *Secretary*

#### New York.

A luncheon was recently given by the office of Shreve, Lamb and Harmon to about twenty of the younger men in the architectural profession, at which partners of that office and officers of the New York Chapter explained briefly the advantages of membership in The American Institute of Architects. The office of Voorhees, Gmelin and Walker have invited another group to a similar luncheon to be held soon at the Architectural League.

These luncheons, suggested by the very active Membership Committee of the New York Chapter, serve to bring The Institute and the Chapter before potential members with results which are very encouraging.

Competitions can always be counted on to provide fireworks in the New York Chapter. At the November meeting casual mention of competitions recently held or now suggested for certain colleges where the money is not immediately available for the building program, occasioned a new explosion. One thing led to another and soon a battle was raging around the employment of private practitioners for federal architecture (if any).

The December meeting of the Chapter has accordingly been restricted to a discussion of one phase of this problem, and the Marquis of Queensberry has been drawn upon for strict rules for this occasion. Appropriate provisions will be made for police, fire and medical protection.

Apropos of the perennial question of private architects and government bureaus, Chapter president Harmon reported, at the last Chapter meeting, a modification of the present regulations concerning the selection of private architects for buildings for the City of New York. The present approved panel of sixty architects is to be increased to not more than seventy-five, and the Committee of Selection (three members at present) will be enlarged to nine members, representing the seven architectural societies of the Metropolitan District plus the Municipal Art Society and the Fine Arts Federation.

Since the inauguration of a selective list several years ago, the spreading of city work among architectural offices has gone on apace.

ROBERT B. O'CONNOR, *Secretary*

#### Northern California.

Members of this Chapter were afforded an interesting evening when their fellow-member, John B. McCool, related his recent experiences in Persia, where, during a year's absence, he had performed archeological work for the Persian government under the Institute of Iranian Archeology. Mr. McCool was the architect member of the 1938 expedition which was directed by Dr. A. U. Pope.

His description of the architecture of the country was augmented by finely colored lantern slides of buildings that had been examined. These were representative of the art of the 14th to 16th centuries, which period he pronounced the finest in all Persian development.

Many of the buildings illustrated are entirely unknown to the outside world and he and his associates were the first foreigners of modern times who had been permitted to enter them.

The members were privileged to examine many samples of tile work Mr. McCool had brought with him. His description of the craftsmanship involved in the carving and setting of this dominant decorative material was highly entertaining.

JAMES H. MITCHELL, *Secretary*

#### Northwestern Pennsylvania.

The Chapter, at its December meeting, took steps to persuade the city officials to adhere to the city building code in the matter of requiring proper plans and specifications before issuing building permits.

J. HOWARD HICKS, *Secretary*

#### Southern California.

In addition to its regular meeting in December, the Chapter held a special noon meeting to honor Miss Catherine Bauer, of the United States Housing Authority, who was in California to assist in housing investigations.

Nearly one hundred members and guests attended the luncheon, where Miss Bauer gave an inspiring informal talk on housing. Among our guests were members of our City and County Housing Authorities.

The regular December meeting, being the pre-Christmas meeting, was given over to an entertainment conducted by the Associates of the Chapter. The Associates were given free rein and took advantage of the opportunity to poke good-natured fun at many personalities and activities of the Chapter and The Institute.

Mr. George B. Allison, introduced as "President Gurgglebottom", conducted the "Chapter meeting of 1953". Amusing reports of delegates from the "Waukegan Convention" were strangely similar to the reports given by our delegation to the New Orleans Convention.

This innovation was so successful that it will doubtless become an annual custom of this Chapter.

Officers elected for 1939 are: Eugene Weston, Jr., President; Edgar Bissantz, Vice-President; Ben H. O'Connor, Secretary; Earl T. Heitschmidt, Treasurer; Samuel E. Lunden, Director for three years; and Directors A. C. Zimmerman and George J. Adams, whose terms of office carried over from 1938.

EDGAR BISSANTZ, *Secretary*

#### Utah.

The annual election was held December 7, 1938, and the following officers elected:

Lloyd W. McClenahan, President; Lewis T. Cannon, Vice-President; and William E. Nelson, Secretary-Treasurer.

Executive Committee: Lloyd W. McClenahan, Chairman; Walter E. Ware, Lewis T. Cannon, William E. Nelson.

LLOYD W. MCCLENAHAN, *Secretary*

#### Westchester.

At the latest meeting of the Westchester Chapter, held in White Plains, the Chapter acted as host to the Westchester County Society of Architects, the Westchester County Chapter of the N. Y. S., Society of Professional Engineers and the Westchester Society of Civil Engineers, members of these groups having been invited to hear an illustrated talk on housing, given by Richmond H. Shreve of the firm of Shreve, Lamb and Harmon.

Mr. Shreve traced the history of housing during the past one hundred years. He showed that even the experts cannot agree on a proper solution. There is one point of agreement, however, namely, that housing must receive a subsidy in order to provide rent as low as six or seven dollars per room per month. Mr. Shreve then described the fifty million dollar Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. housing project in the Bronx, New York City, for which he is chairman of the Board of Design.

In conclusion Mr. Shreve emphasized the necessity of an honest basis of comparison for the different forms of housing, both governmental and private. He said that there should be no hidden subsidy, that all costs, taxes or their equivalent should be clearly stated.

R. H. SCANNELL, *Secretary*

**West Texas.**

The annual dinner, held at the San Antonio Country Club, on January 7, was the first time in the history of the Chapter that the ladies had been invited. There was good refreshment, there was good food, and there was good music for the dancing that followed the dinner. No speeches were made.

The tropical motif in the decorations was carried out by Atlee B. Ayres, and the favors were small house models. Forty members and guests were present, including sixteen from the new Central Texas Chapter at Austin.

Richard J. Werner, one of our associate members, who, at the present age of 33 is a Major in the Texas National Guard, has been selected from

National Guard personnel to serve a six-month tour of duty with the General Staff in Washington. Two other members of our Chapter hold commissions in the Texas National Guard—Ralph H. Cameron, Major (Cavalry) and Raymond Phelps, Colonel (Artillery).

These three men have worked for the last six years in initiating the movement for the building of armories in Texas, and when the final plans for financing were worked out, the inevitable politics gave the entire program of approximately seven million dollars' worth of construction to an architect who is not a member of the National Guard. However, Mr. Phelps has been retained as military advisor.

GLENN C. WILSON, *Secretary*

---

## New Books

**Profiles of Greek Mouldings.**

By Lucy T. Shoe

*Published for the American School of Classical Studies at Athens by the Harvard University Press. Price \$10.00.*

Here is a book apparently designed for architects, for it is practically devoid of text. Architects who read are rare, and writings which have affected the development of architectural design far rarer still. At the forefront probably we should put Vitruvius' ten books of architecture, which, seeming to reveal the arcana of a worshipful past, served as gospel to the renaissance; and a second revaluation of classic architecture, this time that of Greece, produced a second renaissance, less fundamental than the first, yet for this country at least, of great and lasting importance. But whereas the Roman canons were set forth only in writing, those of the Greek revival were presented largely in the drawings of Stuart and Revette.

Certainly the second technique speaks more eloquently to the modern architect than the first, but the one, like the other can lead far afield from the original, as the clumsy coarseness of much "neogrec" work in this country can testify.

The present book closes the gap and supplies the final key to a real understanding of Classic forms. For it is composed, not of restorations, nor

of small scale drawings of whole buildings, but exclusively of mouldings, recorded with the greatest care by the aid of a moulding template, and presented in full size profiles. Nothing but mouldings, to be sure, but over a thousand of them, from all over Greece and the Greek cities of Asia Minor, and for the first time one can fully realize what a vital thing a Greek moulding can be. Given the material in which they were cut—marble in the finest buildings—and the brilliant Mediterranean sunlight that revealed all delicacies of modelling, and the Greek passion for refinement, it is not surprising that mouldings should become so individual and so alive. The variety is amazing. Just as the profiles of Doric capitals vary widely and unceasingly so no two ovolos or cymatia are quite alike and many of them quite disregard our set ideas of classic form.

For the modernist who considers all mouldings deviations from righteousness, this work will be of little use, but to the modernist who seeks to grace his factual architecture with the amenities of classic taste, here is matter for much study, a corrective alike for the mass production school of standardized design, and the reaction therefrom that eschews design altogether.

The book consists of two folio volumes, one of photographs and plates of drawings, arranged by



type of moulding and by probable chronology, the other of tabular material giving dates, locations, proportions, related members, references and remarks concerning the mouldings drawn. The second volume is apt to receive scant regard from any but the archaeologist, but for him it is essential, a careful and thorough documentation. The only regret is that the large format of the two volumes makes it very difficult to consult both at once, and for the archaeologist this is quite necessary. Companion volumes of different sizes are annoying, but in this case a smaller format for the text would have proven more convenient, and if it had been possible to indicate on the plates the buildings from which the mouldings came, much need for cross reference could have been avoided. That however is a matter that will worry the architect little. To him the profiles will speak directly, and the written comment will be of no concern.

LEICESTER B. HOLLAND, F. A. I. A.

#### Taxation Turmoil.

By Walter R. B. Willcox, F. A. I. A.

*Available at a cost of 50 cents from the author at 1272 Kincaid Street, Eugene, Oregon.*

This new approach to the problem of the unearned increment is well worth reading. There is no doubt that a broader understanding of the social significance of the rent (that is, rent as distinguished from interest on man-made capital such as buildings) will eventually result in its being collected for community use. In the meantime, books such as this are contributing to the further clarification of the subject.

*From the Weekly Bulletin of the American Institute for Economic Research.*

#### American Guide Series.

Catalog—Federal Writers Project—Works Progress Administration—United States Government Printing Office—Washington, D. C. Copies on request, no charge.

The work of the Federal Writers Project, a part of the Works Progress Administration, in compiling the American Guide Series, has been mentioned in prior issues of THE OCTAGON.

The first task of the project has been to write Guide books for each of the forty-eight states, and for Alaska, Puerto Rico and Hawaii. Besides Guides for cities and towns, the project is also producing Guides for the important roadways of America, books dealing with nationalities, with folklore, history and many other subjects of social and cultural value to the American people.

"Washington—City and Capital", was reviewed in the December, 1937, OCTAGON.

Since then, many new Guides have been issued, and all have received the favorable comment of newspapers and critics throughout the country.

The new Catalog, just issued, lists the available titles of the series comprising more than one hundred and fifty Guides, and states that almost a hundred more are nearing completion.

#### Standard Annotated Real Estate Forms.

By Saul Gordon, Prentice-Hall, Inc., New York, \$10.00.

The author (Gordon's *Standard Annotated Forms of Agreement*; Gordon's *Annotated Forms of Wills*; Gordon's *A New Bankruptcy Act*; etc.) in the preface states that:

"The object of this book is to furnish an exhaustive collection of forms for use in all transactions relating to real property.

"Every form has been subjected to the test of a careful examination of the law applicable to it. Citations supporting all forms have been added by me. These have been supplemented by numerous notes. In the preparation of these notes, I have permitted myself a freedom of criticism and suggestion, born of my own experience, in order to increase the usefulness of the book.

"... These forms should prove particularly helpful to mortgagors and mortgagees, landlords and tenants, and others who may find it necessary to correct unsatisfactory or unsound economic situations . . ."

It is gratifying to note that in this volume, of some thirteen hundred pages, Mr. Gordon chose to include the Standard Contract documents issued by The American Institute of Architects.



The first part of the history of the  
country is a general account of the  
people, their manners, and their  
customs. It is a very interesting  
and useful work, and is highly  
recommended to all who are  
interested in the history of the  
country.

The second part of the history of the  
country is a general account of the  
people, their manners, and their  
customs. It is a very interesting  
and useful work, and is highly  
recommended to all who are  
interested in the history of the  
country.

The third part of the history of the  
country is a general account of the  
people, their manners, and their  
customs. It is a very interesting  
and useful work, and is highly  
recommended to all who are  
interested in the history of the  
country.

The fourth part of the history of the  
country is a general account of the  
people, their manners, and their  
customs. It is a very interesting  
and useful work, and is highly  
recommended to all who are  
interested in the history of the  
country.

The fifth part of the history of the  
country is a general account of the  
people, their manners, and their  
customs. It is a very interesting  
and useful work, and is highly  
recommended to all who are  
interested in the history of the  
country.

The sixth part of the history of the  
country is a general account of the  
people, their manners, and their  
customs. It is a very interesting  
and useful work, and is highly  
recommended to all who are  
interested in the history of the  
country.

The seventh part of the history of the  
country is a general account of the  
people, their manners, and their  
customs. It is a very interesting  
and useful work, and is highly  
recommended to all who are  
interested in the history of the  
country.

The eighth part of the history of the  
country is a general account of the  
people, their manners, and their  
customs. It is a very interesting  
and useful work, and is highly  
recommended to all who are  
interested in the history of the  
country.

The ninth part of the history of the  
country is a general account of the  
people, their manners, and their  
customs. It is a very interesting  
and useful work, and is highly  
recommended to all who are  
interested in the history of the  
country.

The tenth part of the history of the  
country is a general account of the  
people, their manners, and their  
customs. It is a very interesting  
and useful work, and is highly  
recommended to all who are  
interested in the history of the  
country.

The eleventh part of the history of the  
country is a general account of the  
people, their manners, and their  
customs. It is a very interesting  
and useful work, and is highly  
recommended to all who are  
interested in the history of the  
country.

The twelfth part of the history of the  
country is a general account of the  
people, their manners, and their  
customs. It is a very interesting  
and useful work, and is highly  
recommended to all who are  
interested in the history of the  
country.

