

THE
OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



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Volume 11

APRIL
1939

Number 4

COMPARE the cost of membership in your professional organization with your lodge dues; your season's costs for seats at football games; your contributions to charity; your average tobacco bill for several months.

"Most everyone knows that charity is a very worthy cause; that recreation is quite necessary for everyone; that fraternal association is desired of every man, and that we all like to indulge in little luxuries.

"None of these things are possible, however, if your business from which you get your livelihood is depressed, disunited, unprofitable, and lacking in organization properly to promote its interests."

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.

A Report of Progress

BY CHARLES BUTLER, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL PUBLIC WORKS, A. I. A.

FOR the benefit of those members of the profession who have not seen the press release of March 19, issued by the Secretary of the Treasury, it is herewith reprinted as follows:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Secretary Morgenthau today announced a series of regional competitions for designs for Federal buildings in further development of a program aimed at obtaining the nation's best architectural talent for Government construction.

In a nation-wide experimental competition last year, the successful architect was appointed in a consulting capacity in connection with the preparation of working drawings, in addition to receiving the design prize. As a result, officials of the Treasury Department and its Procurement Division were satisfied that architects in private practice could thus be utilized to greater advantage in the Government's construction program.

"I hope," Secretary Morgenthau said today, "that these new regional competitions will develop a method that can be employed for all Federal buildings where the importance of the project is sufficient to warrant the necessary expenditure of time by top-notch competitors."

The competitions approved today by the Secretary and total limits of costs available for the respective projects are as follows:

Evansville, Indiana	
Post Office (Court House, Custom House)	\$950,000
Charleston, South Carolina	
Post Office	465,000
Leavenworth, Kansas	
Post Office (Court House).....	300,000
Burlingame, California	
Post Office	215,000

Participation in these competitions will be limited to architects in the districts in which the projects are located. Should the current method prove successful, future competitions along similar lines in other districts will be announced by the Procurement Division as projects become available. The regional boundaries set up by the Division are as follows:

District No. 1—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

District No. 2—New York City and Long Island, southern half of Ulster County, southern half of Dutchess County, Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Orange and Sullivan Counties.

District No. 3—The remaining counties of New York State.

District No. 4—Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

District No. 5—Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina,

and Tennessee.

District No. 6—Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

District No. 7—Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

District No. 8—Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska.

District No. 9—Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico.

District No. 10—Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah.

District No. 11—California, Nevada, and Arizona.

Terms of the competitions announced today require that the actual working drawings of the winning designs be prepared in the Procurement Division, with the automatic provision that their authors be retained as consultants to insure that the work is carried out in accordance with their conceptions of the designs.

The Treasury Department already has an extensive background of experience on projects such as post offices, court houses, customs houses, Federal office buildings, marine hospitals, airports, and immigration stations. Occasionally, however, appropriations are made for buildings of particularized design which require highly specialized treatment. In those cases, Secretary Morgenthau said he intends to arrange, wherever practicable, for the working drawings to be prepared in the office of the successful competitor.

In keeping with that policy, the Secretary today advised the Smithsonian Gallery of Art Commission that he recommended that the winner of the competition for the Gallery design be permitted to prepare the working drawings in his office, subject to the supervision of the Director of the Procurement Division. He said he felt such procedure would carry out the requirements in the legislation authorizing construction of the Art Gallery.

The architects throughout the country will be glad to learn of the very sympathetic and friendly attitude shown by Mr. Morgenthau toward the request that action be taken leading to the greatest possible employment of architects in private prac-

tice for public work. It is indeed rare to find a layman with as deep an understanding of the problems of the profession. The Secretary was fully in accord with the suggestion offered that competitions be held on a regional basis in order to foster the development of our heritage of diversified architectural styles. It was by his direction that the group headed by Admiral Peoples set up the districts described in the release. On the other hand, in view of the criticism of methods of handing out work by direct selection, the Secretary was unwilling to consider any method of direct selection.

While the Procurement Division is convinced that in the ordinary type of building it is better qualified than any private architect to prepare working drawings and specifications and supervise construction, it has stated definitely that in the case of private architects winning competitions it proposes to give them every facility in the matter of visiting Washington to supervise and control the preparation of these drawings, specifications and details, with due provision for traveling expenses and time spent by the architects.

Those who are familiar with the capabilities of the office directed by Mr. Louis Simon and Mr. LeRoy Barton will admit that there is much justification for the claim for efficiency in routine work made by the Division. The Secretary, however, agrees with the contention that in work of a special character the architect in private practice may be in a position to render better service in this respect and he suggested that the program of the Smithsonian Art Gallery Competition be modified to provide for more complete services by the winning architect, if he is equipped to furnish them. The options referred to in the Bulletin just issued to competitors (Bulletin No. 3, March 27, 1939) are based on the suggestions offered by Mr. Frederic A. Delano, Honorary Member A. I. A. and Chairman of the Smithsonian Art Gallery Commission, at the conference held with the Secretary in February.

The profession owes to Mr. Delano a very real debt of gratitude for his untiring assistance in securing for the private practitioner a greater participation in government work.

It would seem now to be up to the profession to prove by the excellence of the designs sub-

mitted in competition and by the outstanding competency shown by the winners, that the criticisms of architects in private practice, sometimes made by government bureaus, are today unfounded.

We now have the opportunity to prove our contention that the employment of private architects will tend to raise the standard of Government Architecture.

The Competition for the Smithsonian Gallery of Art

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT

THE Committee on Architectural Competitions wishes to express its appreciation of the action of the Commission of the Smithsonian Gallery of Art, and of the Treasury Department of the United States, for the amendment of March 27 to the program for the Smithsonian Gallery of Art Competition. This amendment permits the preparation, with adequate professional fee, of working drawings and specifications in the office of the winner of the competition.

We are sure that our pleasure will be shared by

the profession at large, whether members of The American Institute of Architects, or not, and that this will be manifested by the participation of architects of distinction throughout the country.

With the revisions that have been made in the program in Bulletins No. 1 and No. 2, etc., and in this fundamentally important additional amendment, the Committee is happy to approve this competition.

ERIC GUGLER, *Chairman*,
Committee on Architectural Competitions, A. I. A.

Housing Program Under Attack

THE established program of the United States Housing Authority was seriously threatened by a proposed amendment to the Interior Department Appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1940.

The amendment was offered on the floor of the House of Representatives when the Interior bill was under consideration on March 15. It placed an absolute limitation of \$3,500.00 as a total cost per dwelling unit on all projects receiving financial assistance from the United States Housing Authority.

This unfavorable development was called immediately to the attention of the Chairman of The Institute's Committee on Housing, Walter R. McCornack of Cleveland. In view of the substantial support given to the amendment by members of Congress, who seemed not to realize that its adoption would virtually put a stop to slum clearance projects, present and future, Mr. McCornack communicated with the presidents of the chapters of The Institute, and with the chairmen of chapter committees on large-scale housing. They

were given the facts and asked to take such action as they might deem proper in conveying the views of practicing architects to their respective Representatives in Washington.

The Chairman also went to Washington for conferences with members of Congress and Government officials. Briefs were submitted to those in authority at the Capitol and every effort was made to assist other private agencies similarly engaged in preserving the program of the United States Housing Authority from drastic curtailment.

Those efforts were successful, the unfavorable amendment was not adopted, and unless there is some unexpected development a slum clearance program is assured for at least another year.

In all discussions and statements it was made clear that The American Institute of Architects is in favor of reducing housing costs, by economies in construction and by the use of new materials and methods; and that its Committee on Housing is now actively engaged, with others, in the work of finding ways and means to that end.

Proposed Form on Services and Charges

A MEMBER of The Institute has recently sent the Committee on Contract Documents a copy of his monthly statement from which evolves an idea that may already have been adopted by other architects, but seems worthy of notice.

The form is 8½" x 11" and blank on the face except for the architect's name and address and the following note printed between double lines near the top of the page: "*Services and Charges*. Unless otherwise agreed upon, services are rendered and charges for same made in accordance with the recommendations of The American Institute of Architects, copy of which will be found on the reverse side of this statement."

As noted in this clause, the text of A. I. A. Document No. 177, "Professional Practice of Architects" (Details of Service to be Rendered—Schedule

of Proper Minimum Charges) is printed on the reverse side of the form.

This member feels that this method has prevented dispute over special charges. He suggests that the cost of printing might deter many architects from following this procedure and that if a standard form of this sort were made available by The Institute, the expense could be made insignificant and it would be more generally used.

The Committee on Contract Documents would be interested to learn if this idea appeals to architects generally, in order to determine the practicability of a standard form. Unless there was a substantial demand for it, the expense of printing and handling would not be justified. Any architect interested is requested to write to the Committee, in care of The Octagon.

Members Elected - Effective March 10, 1939

Chapter	Name	Chapter	Name
BOSTON.....	John Worthington Ames, Jr., Josiah Humphrey Child, Raymond Kermit Thompson	NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.....	*Edward F. Flanders, Juan Felipe Nakpil
BROOKLYN.....	Arthur Edward Allen	OKLAHOMA.....	Paul Harris
BUFFALO.....	Harold A. Wieland	PHILADELPHIA.....	Elizabeth Hirah Fleisher, George K. Trautwein
CENTRAL TEXAS.....	Hugh Lyon McMath	TENNESSEE.....	*Russell E. Hart
CLEVELAND.....	Donald Amsden MacCormack	VIRGINIA.....	Edward Francis Sinnott, John Bijnford Walford
DETROIT.....	*C. William Palmer	WASHINGTON STATE.....	William Aitken, Pierce Aspden Horrocks
NEW YORK.....	Lyle Franklin Boulware, Alexander S. Corrigill, Louis William Feldmann, John Monteith Gates, Harrie Thomas Lindeberg, Perry Coke Smith	WEST TEXAS.....	Robert H. H. Hugman, *Roacius Newell Waters

(*) Re-elected.

Notice of Meeting of The Executive Committee

A meeting of The Executive Committee of The Board of Directors of The Institute will be held at The Octagon in Washington, D. C., on May 5, 6, and 7, 1939.

Members and chapters having matters which they wish to bring to the attention of The Executive

Committee should address communications thereon to The Secretary of The Institute, at The Octagon, for delivery there not later than May 1, as the agenda will be closed on that date.

CHARLES T. INGHAM
Secretary

Structural Service Department

BY THEODORE I. COE, TECHNICAL SECRETARY, STRUCTURAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Research Program of the Forest Products Laboratory.

Applying particularly to wood and constructions of wood, the Forest Products Laboratory, a branch of the Forest Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, is conducting a comprehensive research program embodying several projects which are wholly and strictly within the field of low-cost housing, as well as a number of others of a broader basic character although having a somewhat direct application to phases of low-cost housing.

The annual expenditure for all projects is approximately \$250,000.

The following brief summary indicates something of the scope of this program:

Pre-fabricated houses: Service tests on plywood houses; development of new wall sections for lumber house designs; development of construction details adapted to pre-fabrication.

Vapor movement: Development of ways and means of preventing damage from moisture accumulation in walls, attics, etc., of dwellings, and other occupancies.

Glues and plywood: Mechanical and physical properties of plywood; anti-shrink treatments; fire resistance of plywood panels; service tests on panels.

Mechanical and physical properties of commercial species of wood and of various grades of lumber cut from them.

Paints and painting: Development of knowledge on the subject and formulation of rules and procedure for painting wood.

Strength of wood construction: Tests on joints and fastenings, nails, screws, etc.; development of connected structures and laminated arches.

Building Codes: Joint Sponsor with N. L. M. A., for preparation of the section on requirements for wood construction, including consideration of working stresses, for an A. S. A. Building Code.

Wood preservation: Treatment of wood with preservatives against decay, termites, etc.; development of treating methods; chemistry of wood preservation.

Fire resistance of wood structures: Development of forms of construction, chemicals, and methods of treatment.

Seasoning: Development of methods and equipment

for chemical seasoning, kiln drying, air seasoning, and the storage of lumber and wood in forms other than lumber.

Forest Products' Laboratory Publications.

Copies of the following publications may be obtained, without cost, by addressing the Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin:

Boxing and Crating
Chemistry of Wood and Derived Products
Glues and Plywood
Logging, Manufacturing and Utilization of Timber, Lumber and Other Wood Products
Building Construction Subjects
Fungous Defects in Forest Products
Mechanical Properties of Timber
Pulp and Paper
Seasoning of Wood
Use of Wood in Aircraft Construction
Wood Preservation
Growth, Structure and Identification of Wood
Wood Finishing Subjects
Air Seasoning of Wood, U. S. D. A. Technical Bulletin 174
The Preservative Treatment of Farm Timbers, U. S. D. A. Farmers' Misc. Pub. 224.

Research on Building Materials and Structures.

The following additional Reports have been made available and may be obtained from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Report BMS12. Structural Properties of "Steel-ox" Constructions for Walls, Partitions, Floors and Roofs, Sponsored by Steel Buildings, Inc.....15¢
Report BMS13. Properties of Some Fiber Building Boards of Current Manufacture.....10¢
Report BMS14. Indentation and Recovery of Low-Cost Floor Coverings.....10¢

Bulletins Referring to Wood.

The following selection of bulletins referring to the use of wood may be obtained from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at the prices indicated:

Kiln Drying Handbook, U.S.D.A. Bulletin 1136..30¢
The Gluing of Wood, U.S.D.A. Bulletin 1500..25¢

The Bearing Strength of Wood Under Bolts, U.S.D.A. Technical Bulletin 332.....	5¢
Lag Screw Joints: Their Behavior and Design, U.S.D.A. Technical Bulletin 597.....	10¢
Strength and Related Properties of Wood Grown in the United States, U.S.D.A. Tech- nical Bulletin 497.....	25¢
Moisture Content of Wood in Dwellings, U.S.D.A. Circular 239.....	5¢
Wood Handbook, U.S.D.A. unnumbered bul- letin	35¢
Guide to the Grading of Structural Timbers and the Determination of Working Stresses, U.S.D.A. Misc. Pub. 185.....	5¢

Manual of Steel Construction.

The third edition of the "Manual of Steel Construction" has recently been issued by the American Institute of Steel Construction, 101 Park Avenue,

New York City. The price per copy is \$2.00, with a special price of \$1.25 for students.

A. S. T. M. Standards.

The American Society for Testing Materials has issued a revised edition of the Index of A. S. T. M. Standards and Tentative Standards which gives information on all of the 870 Standards, as of January 1, 1939.

Copies are furnished, without charge, on written request to the headquarters of the American Society for Testing Materials, 260 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Bound volumes, containing all Standards and Tentative Specifications, are available; or copies of individual Specifications may be obtained at 25¢ each for from 1 to 9 copies and at 20¢ each for from 10 to 25 copies of the same or assorted Specifications.

Public Information

BY WILLIAM ORR LUDLOW, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

THE popular notion that "there is lots of work in Florida", which has lured many architects and draftsmen there, has led to considerable sorrow both for the architects who are already there and for those who go there. Henry P. Whitworth, of the Committee on Public Information of the Florida South Chapter writes:—"that while the average ratio of architects to the population of the United States is about 1 to 16,000, the ratio in Miami is 1 to 3,500. The logical result has been an intense competition which has gradually forced down the standards of fees and practice. The older established offices which have maintained a high standard have found it impossible to compete for certain

important classes of work, and almost none of the firms are able to obtain a financial return which their ability and experience should demand."

George H. Spohn of Miami, Florida, member of The Institute Committee on Public Information writes:—"In our publication, *Florida Architecture and Allied Arts*, we contemplate using *in toto* an exact copy of The Institute Committee's leaflet, 'The Value Of The Architect'. This will give this valuable pamphlet an additional circulation of some four thousand among people potentially interested in building."

American Academy in Rome

Dr. Gorham Phillips Stevens, former Director of the American Academy in Rome, and Director-elect of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, will return to the United States during April for a visit, and to lecture.

Dr. Stevens addressed a special meeting of the Royal Institute of British Architects in London on March 30.

His New York address will be in care of the American Academy in Rome, 101 Park Avenue.

Scholarships

Henry Adams Fund Scholarship.

The Chairman of the Committee on Education, Mr. C. C. Zantzinger, has notified the member schools of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture that the Henry Adams Funds Scholarship of \$1,000.00 will be awarded this year to an instructor in one of the schools.

According to the terms of the bequest, the scholarship is to be used "To encourage the study of architecture and the other arts associated with the Christian civilization of Europe in the period from 500 A.D. to 1500 A.D., (the Middle Ages) with particular stress on ecclesiastical architecture, by giving suitable recognition of excellence in such studies".

Cranbrook Academy Scholarship.

The Cranbrook Academy of Art announces that it has one scholarship open to architects and draftsmen who wish to study advanced architecture and civic design under the direction of Eliel Saarinen.

Requests for applications and details of scholarship should be sent to Richard P. Raseman, Executive Secretary, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, not later than June 1, 1939.

The Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellowship.

By authority of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois the Committee in charge announces the eighth annual consideration of candidates for the Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellowship.

This Fellowship was established in 1931 to promote advanced study in the Fine Arts, and yields the sum of one thousand dollars which is to be used by the recipient toward defraying the expenses

of a year's advanced study of the Fine Arts in America or abroad.

Requests for application blanks and instructions should be addressed to Dean Rexford Newcomb, College of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.

University of Pennsylvania.

The Graduate Fellowship in Architecture

One One Thousand Dollar Fellowship will be awarded.

Theophilus Parsons Chandler Fellowships in Architecture

Two One Thousand Dollar Fellowships will be awarded.

Nominations for these Fellowships will be made by the Faculty of the Department of Architecture from among candidates qualified for graduate study. Applicants are required to submit examples of work in Architectural Design, Freehand Drawing and Water Color.

Joseph V. Horn Fellowship in Architecture

A One Thousand Dollar Fellowship will be awarded by competition, conducted from May 22 to June 1 by local supervisors who will issue the program and receive the problems at the appointed hours. Applications should be accompanied by statements from those agreeing to act as supervisors.

Applications for the four Fellowships must be made by letter to the Chairman of the Committee on Prizes and Scholarships, Professor Harry Sternfeld, School of Fine Arts, University of Pennsylvania, Phila., Pa., not later than May 1, accompanied by three letters of recommendation from practicing architects or teachers of architecture.

Competition in Lithuania

Announcement has been made that the Government of Lithuania has inaugurated an architectural competition for the design and construction of a presidential palace at Kaunas, Lithuania.

Full particulars may be obtained by addressing

Mr. M. Zilinskas, Director of the Chancellery of the Council of Ministers of Lithuania, Kaunas, Lithuania, and chairman of the commission which will select the plan to be used for the construction of the palace.

With The Chapters

NEWS NOTES FROM CHAPTER SECRETARIES

Baltimore.

The February meeting of the Chapter was a joint meeting with the newly formed Producers' Council Club of Baltimore, which has received the endorsement and help of the Chapter. The high point of the meeting was the address delivered by Mr. G. Maertz, of the Westinghouse Electric Company, who spoke on the subject: "I Read the Future". Mr. Maertz, as guest speaker of the Council, dealt with the future prosperity of the country in a very optimistic manner.

D. K. Este Fisher, Jr., past president of the Chapter, gave a resume of the object and aims of the Producers' Council, and informed those present that the Baltimore Chapter was responsible in a large way for the formation of the Producers' Council Club of Baltimore.

Charles L. Lea, president of the Club, expressed his appreciation for this opportunity of a joint meeting with the architects, and hoped for continued and greater cooperation.

The Chapter went on record as approving and advocating legislation for a highway protective area, which has to do with the elimination of billboards, hot-dog stands, etc. This legislation is embodied in a Bill sponsored by the Roadside Beautification Council of Maryland. The Chapter prepared a resolution to be sent to the Senate Committee in favor of this Bill.

The meeting proved to be a successful one in that it brought about an exchange of views between the representatives of the industries in Baltimore and the architects. The general expression was that other joint meetings of this kind should be held.

The March luncheon meeting of the Chapter, at which president John H. Scarff presided, was an enjoyable and interesting one. The distinguished guest of honor was Leigh Hunt, State Association Representative on The Board of Directors, A. I. A. Mr. Hunt gave a very fine description of his trip through the many States of the country, organizing State Societies and interesting existing Societies in becoming affiliated with The Institute. The Chapter was pleased to receive the views of Mr. Hunt,

for the reason that in Maryland the architects are very much interested in unification, which seems to be one of the big problems in the hands of The Institute at this time.

Frederic A. Fletcher, a member of the Chapter, and president of the Maryland Society of Architects, spoke on unification, and outlined a plan by which State Societies may become affiliated with The Institute.

Mr. Scarff reported on the meeting on the subject of unification, held in Philadelphia on March 20, at which Regional Director Edmund R. Purves presided. One of the high lights of the meeting in Philadelphia was the banquet given by the Philadelphia Chapter, at which Mr. Abel Wolman, Chairman of the Maryland State Planning Commission, was the guest speaker. A delegation of Baltimore Chapter members attended both the afternoon meeting and the banquet.

LUCIEN E. D. GAUDREAU, *Secretary*

Central New York.

The Chapter at a meeting in Binghamton on Saturday, April 1, received the report on the Central New York Chapter prize of \$50.00 to the College of Architecture, Cornell University. The award was made to Mr. Lynton I. Briggs, for the "best solution to a problem on advanced design." A similar award to Syracuse University will be announced at the next meeting of the Chapter.

The architects of Rochester have formed an organization, known as "Architects Certified Homes of Rochester, Inc.," a cooperative venture in the small house field. The plan has been enthusiastically received by the banks, lending institutions, material dealers, and better class builders in Rochester. Financing for a year has been arranged, and the Central New York Chapter has wholeheartedly endorsed the idea.

CLEMENT R. NEWKIRK, *Secretary*

Central Texas.

The chapter held its regular monthly dinner-meeting in Austin on March 13.

Special guests were three of the officers of the

Texas Society of Professional Engineers; Walter E. Seaholm, president; F. B. Warden, vice president, and R. S. Guinn, secretary.

An open-forum discussion was held on ways and means of strengthening cooperation between the architects and engineers. Suggestions were also made to perfect the architects' and engineers' licensing laws in Texas.

An exhibition committee was appointed by the president to make the necessary arrangements for a public exhibition of recent works of the members and associates. David C. Baer, chairman of this committee, will be assisted by Samuel E. Gideon, Dan J. Driscoll, and Clifford H. James.

The Central Texas Chapter, through its Legislative Committee, has lead the way in drafting an acceptable bill setting up authority for a State building code. It is hoped that the bill will be ready for introduction in the next legislature. An informal State Building Code committee of sixteen has been formed of members from all interested groups—lay, professional, and governmental. A sub-committee composed of George C. Hawley of the Fire Insurance Department, State Board of Insurance Commissioners; C. F. Boulden, engineer; and Clifford H. James, architect, were delegated to write the bill and report back to the general committee.

CLIFFORD H. JAMES, *Secretary*

Chicago.

The March meeting of the Chapter was a joint meeting with the Illinois Society of Architects who extended a cordial invitation to the students of architecture at Armour Institute of Technology and other architectural schools in this vicinity; all draftsmen; members of the Women's Architectural Club of Chicago; the Chicago Architectural Club and all junior architects.

Questions were asked by the younger men and answered by all well-known architects such as Richard E. Schmidt, F. A. I. A., Elmer C. Jensen, F. A. I. A., George T. Senseney, A. I. A., and Emery Stanford Hall, F. A. I. A. The following are some of the typical questions asked by the younger men: "What qualifications does an architect look for in a graduate architectural student—i. e. designer—draftsman—renderer, etc.?" "What

chances does an office offer the beginner to come in contact with actual building operations?" "What amount of training in an office should a young man acquire before setting up his own shingle?" Following the regular meeting an open forum discussion on these subjects was entered into.

The success of the meeting was quite definitely established by the large number of students who sought out certain architects after the meeting to ply them with more questions, the time being so limited that it did not permit further questioning during the meeting without extending it considerably past the usual closing hour. A vote of appreciation was emphatically given by the guest students, young architects and draftsmen at the termination of the meeting. They expressed their thanks for The Institute's consideration of their problems and the very great help and inspiration they had received from the meeting.

CARL E. HEIMBRODT, *Secretary*

Cleveland.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Cleveland Chapter held February 15, 1939, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved: That the Cleveland Chapter, American Institute of Architects, is opposed to the competition for the proposed Smithsonian Gallery of Art, in Washington, in spite of the failure of The Institute to disapprove it. While we would distinctly favor a fair competition for an important public building of this character, we do not think the program as set up meets such requirements. On the contrary, we believe that this program betrays the historic position of the architect in his profession, making of him merely a paper designer and contravening his role as the true "master of the work". Furthermore, the program strengthens the position of bureau architecture, which is inimical to the best interests of the profession nationally as well as locally. In addition, we feel that the proposed compensation to be paid to the winner of the competition is definitely inadequate and out of line with the standard Institute schedule of fees for such portion of the architectural service as is included under the competition.

Be it further resolved: That while we have no authority to prevent members of the Cleveland Chapter from engaging in this competition we strongly recommend that they do not enter.

Be it further resolved: That the text of this resolution be read at the next meeting of the Cleveland Chapter, and that copies thereof be forwarded to the officers of The American Institute of Architects and the Chairman

of the Committee on Competitions, as well as to the secretaries of all local Chapters of The Institute.

NOTE: Subsequent to the adoption of this resolution the competition requirements in this case were amended. See page 5 of this number of The Octagon.

The February meeting took place at the Cleveland Society of Artists' Club. Through the efforts of Travis G. Walsh and the good follow-up work by our Program chairman, Walter Harrison Smith, we were honored in having with us, at a dinner meeting, Professor Walter Gropius, Chairman of Department of Architecture, Harvard University, who talked to us on the subject of "Educating an Architect".

The interesting talk was ended with a question and answer period, during which time the "Classicalists versus the Modernists" were enabled to continue the time-honored discussion of the profession.

Joseph L. Weinberg, president of the Chapter, presided at a short induction ceremony to welcome into the Chapter, Vincent John Collins as Junior Student Associate Member and John Tasker Howard as Junior Associate Member.

Many of the members spent a pleasant day with Professor Gropius, showing him around Cleveland, and learning at first-hand the outlook of this eminent Bauhaus leader on the present and future of architecture in general.

* * *

FRANCIS K. DRAZ, *Secretary*

Connecticut.

The past few weeks have witnessed considerable activity on the part of the Chapter's Legislative and Public Works committees. The Chapter is supporting bills recommending certain changes in the Architects' Registration Law and the Act creating the State Department of Public Works, in an effort to bring the interests of the public, the State Government, and the architectural profession in closer harmony.

HAROLD D. HAUF, *Secretary*

Detroit.

The Detroit Chapter omitted its March meeting and joined with the Michigan Society of Architects in the Society's Silver Anniversary Convention at Hotel Statler in Detroit, March 16, 17, and 18. A feature of the Convention was a comprehensive architectural exhibition which reflected great credit

on Michigan offices as well as upon the Exhibitions Committee headed by Malcolm Stirton, treasurer of the Chapter.

The entire ballroom floor of the Statler was given over to the Convention and exhibitions which included building materials exhibits arranged by the Producers' Council Club.

Registration numbered 358 and the program was considered the most successful in the Society's history. More than 1000 attended the banquet. Out of 700 architects registered in Michigan more than 500 are active members of the Society, and were represented by photographs and biographical sketches in the Silver Anniversary Number of the Society's Weekly Bulletin.

Mr. Alden B. Dow of Midland gave an illustrated lecture on Saturday afternoon, to which the public was invited. Mr. Dow was also invited to speak at the Detroit Institute of Arts and the response of the public was so great that the Director of the Institute was interested in securing other able speakers on architecture. Accordingly, Mr. D. Varon, eminent architect, author and lecturer has been engaged for April 27. Mr. Varon will speak under the auspices of the Detroit Board of Education in the afternoon and through the cooperation of Mr. Albert Kahn, he is to speak again in the evening under the auspices of the Chapter.

This evidence of interest on the part of the public in matters architectural is most encouraging and it is hoped by making the most of it even greater and more important results will follow.

TALMAGE C. HUGHES, *Secretary*

Florida Central.

The annual meeting of the Chapter was held on March 11, at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. Elections were held and Frank A. Parziale was elected President; C. W. Fulwood, Vice President; and Norman F. Six was re-elected to serve another term as Secretary-Treasurer. Carl N. Atkinson will serve on the Executive Committee for 3 years.

The Chapter accepted with regret the resignation of Col. Theodore H. Skinner, one of its most valued members.

At this meeting, the Chapter approved the action of admitting The Florida Association of Architects to The Institute as a State Association Member.

NORMAN F. SIX, *Secretary*

Florida South.

Twenty-five members and guests were present at the March meeting of the chapter.

Mr. R. S. Sweeley, now in Miami on the business of the U. S. Housing Authority, spoke briefly on the work for the local White Housing Project. He commended the work of members Virrick, Weed, Robertson and Steward for their proficiency in the handling of their work in this connection. The plans and specifications will have been completed in approximately five weeks, which sets an all-time record.

Announcement was made of John Llewelyn Skinner's appointment to the Florida State Board of Architecture, by Governor Cone. Mr. Skinner replaces Franklin O. Adams, resigned.

Member Skinner is handsomely equipped in training and experience to serve on this Board. He has a B.S. in Architecture from the University of Toronto, and a Masters degree from Harvard. He won the Nelson Robinson, Jr. Travelling Fellowship in 1920, and studied abroad for two and a half years. Soon after returning to this country he was made head of the Department of Architecture at Georgia Tech, and later held a similar position at the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida. He has conducted a private practice in the Miami district since 1925, and since 1937 has been a member of the Board of Supervising Architects for Coral Gables.

The Chapter is particularly pleased with Mr. Skinner's appointment.

MARION I. MANLEY, *Secretary*

Georgia.

At the annual meeting held in January, the Chapter elected the following officers to serve for the ensuing year:

J. Warren Armistead, President; John C. Dennis, Vice President; Joseph Cooper, Vice President; Geo. H. Bond, Secretary; J. H. Gailey, Treasurer.

Samuel I. Cooper, the retiring president was elected a member of the Executive Committee to succeed W. A. Edwards.

In accordance with the new by-laws adopted by The Institute, the election of the officers was made from the floor instead of by recommendation of the Executive Committee as has heretofore been the prescribed method.

At the February meeting the new officers were installed and a program of matters for the ensuing year outlined and directed to various committees for study and report.

GEORGE HARWELL BOND, *Secretary*

Indiana.

The Indiana Chapter held its annual meeting in conjunction with the Indiana Society of Architects at the Hotel Lincoln, Indianapolis, Indiana, February 17 and 18.

State Association Representative Leigh Hunt of Milwaukee and Regional Director Clair W. Ditchy of Detroit honored the meetings with their presence. Largely through the sincere efforts and inspiring counsel of these two gentlemen the Indiana Society of Architects voted to apply for State Association membership in The Institute. This action was taken as a first step toward fulfillment of the ideals outlined in the Indiana Resolution which was presented at the convention in New Orleans last April.

On Friday evening, an informal round table discussion of "The Problems of the Architectural Profession" was led by Mr. Ditchy, Edward D. Pierre, president of the Indiana Chapter, presiding. This meeting developed much lively discussion of a wide variety of subjects.

The annual dinner of the Chapter and State Society was held, February 18, following the business meetings of the afternoon. Results of the election of officers for the year 1939 were announced as follows:

Edward D. Pierre, President (re-elected); Merritt Harrison, First Vice President; Kurt Vonnegut, Second Vice President; John R. Kelley, Secretary and Treasurer, and Warren D. Miller, Callix E. Miller, Herbert Foltz, Directors.

Mr. Hunt and Mr. Ditchy gave brief talks concerning some of their local problems and solutions. This was followed by an illustrated lecture "A Day in Paris" presented by Mr. Robert Tschaegle, assistant curator of the John Herron Art Institute, which brought to conclusion a very pleasant and successful two day session of the Architects of Indiana.

JOHN R. KELLEY, *Secretary*

Kentucky.

Following the death of the old NRA there developed among a group of Louisville contractors a *Code Compliance Agreement*, designed to carry on the spirit of the NRA code voluntarily. The one provision of the *Agreement* that was particularly disturbing to owners and to architects alike was that prohibiting competition by members against non-signers. As can be readily understood there was some violation of this provision, with the result that fines were assessed against the violators, and an attempt was made to collect these fines in court.

It will probably be of interest to the profession generally to know that while the *Code Compliance Agreement* was upheld by the Jefferson Circuit Court, the Court of Appeals reversed the decision, basing the reversal on the count that the organization had no power to assess a fine against a member for violation of clause (d) of paragraph 11, which prohibits competition against non-signers.

A circular letter dated February 8, 1939, sent out by the general contractors division of the *Agreement* goes on to state: "— It can be positively stated, however, that only clause (d) is involved and that the *Agreement* is by no means 'killed', as a head-line in last Friday's news would indicate. The opinion of the court does not become effective until March 5 and may be further delayed if a petition for rehearing is filed. Meanwhile the entire *Agreement* is still in full force and effect."

BERGMAN S. LETZLER, *Secretary*

New York.

The most absorbing topics in the Chapter at present are the Smithsonian Competition and the recommendation by the City Planning Commission that a bridge be authorized from the Battery to South Brooklyn.

The Executive Committee of the Chapter has sent a resolution to The Institute and to the Chairman of The Institute's Committee on Federal Public Works commending the adoption of a competition for the selection of an architect for the Smithsonian Gallery, but urging wholeheartedly that the winning architect be given the right to prepare the working drawings and specifications in his own office if qualified, or, with a competent associate. There seems to be general approval of this principle by

the members of the Commission. The vital point seems to be whether appropriate modification of program will be made by March 25. This is being strongly urged. (See page 5).

The excitement over the Battery-Brooklyn bridge arises from the suddenness with which this proposal has been recommended, particularly in view of serious doubts as to its necessity and the fact that it will affect in a radical manner the appearance of the historic entrance to Manhattan Island from the Bay. The City Planning Commission produced a masterpiece of *non sequitur* by admitting "valid objections to a bridge at this location" but recommending it nevertheless. The only serious hurdle to commencing construction at the moment seems to be lack of the 40 or 50 million dollars necessary.

ROBERT B. O'CONNOR, *Secretary*

Philadelphia.

The Chapter held an informal regional caucus on March 20. As invitations could not be issued in time to make this meeting formal, no action was taken on any of the subjects discussed, except as the sense of the meeting.

The Chapter is deeply grateful for the attendance of many members from other Chapters. Among these should be mentioned: Messrs. John H. Scarff, president of the Baltimore Chapter; James W. Minick, president Southern Pennsylvania Chapter; Edward Stotz, vice-president Pittsburgh Chapter; Reah deB. Robinson, president Delaware Chapter; Arthur B. Holmes, president New Jersey Chapter; Seymour Williams (New Jersey); Lucien E. D. Gaudreau, (Baltimore); Frederic A. Fletcher, (Baltimore); James R. Edmunds, (Baltimore); Leigh Hunt, (Wisconsin); G. Corner Fenhagen, (Baltimore); Alen de Hart, (New Jersey); Pierre Blouke, (Washington, D. C.); and Miller I. Kast, (So. Pa.).

After a luncheon given by Chapter president Roy F. Larson, to the other Chapter presidents who were present, the group of about twenty-five sat down in the rooms of The Art Alliance to discuss the F. H. A. program and unification. At the discussion on unification were present three members of The Institute Committee on State Organization, Messrs. Holmes, Gaudreau and Cope. Leigh Hunt, the Representative from the State Associa-

tions on The Board of The Institute, was also present. There ensued a most lively and interesting discussion of the problems of unification and the progress made thus far throughout the country. Mr. Hunt gave a most vivid description of his visits to State Associations in Kentucky, Mississippi, Indiana, Illinois, and elsewhere, and of the success which had attended the meetings at which he had been present. Many questions were raised and some answered. At the end of the meeting a resolution was adopted, which is as follows:

Resolved: That it is the sense of this meeting that a Regional Conference be held in the Middle Atlantic District sometime this Spring and earlier than June first, consisting of representatives and members of all chapters and state associations within the District, for a frank and open discussion of the problems of unification, and, be it further

Resolved: That the time and place of this meeting should be arranged by the Regional Director, Edmund R. Purves, in consultation with the above organizations, and that it be held elsewhere than in his home Chapter territory.

In the evening the same group was joined by at least an equal number of Institute members at dinner at The Art Club. The principle speaker of the evening, introduced by Edmund R. Purves, Regional Director, was Mr. Abel Wolman, Chairman of the Maryland State Planning Commission, who gave a most brilliant exposition of the plans for the Baltimore, Washington and Annapolis regional area. Mr. William M. Ellicott, the "father" of the B. W. A. Regional Plan, also spoke.

THOMAS PYM COPE, *Secretary*

Saint Louis.

The Chapter tried an innovation at its recent meeting in starting the meeting with cocktails and a buffet supper instead of a coursed dinner. The idea warrants repetition.

Just now we are in the throes of legislative activity. The State Legislature threatens us with a bill creating the office of a "State Architect to assist the State Building Commission in the planning and construction of new buildings". About a dozen Chapter members went to Jefferson City to try to defeat the bill.

The Chapter secretary has been busy writing to representatives, Chamber of Commerce, etc. in regard to these bills. A telegram was sent to Wash-

ington, D. C. regarding U. S. H. A. legislation as requested by Walter R. McCornack. Our city administration threatens to abandon the City Plan Commission. Several of our number have volunteered to appear at the hearing by the Board of Apportionment.

We have been offered a chance to display our wares in the Art Museum for the month of October. This will afford a good opportunity in the way of public information. The nature of the exhibit has not been determined and may depend on the material available.

F. RAY LEIMKUEHLER, *Secretary*

Saint Paul.

The February meeting of the Chapter was held jointly with the Minnesota Chapter on deck the S. S. Minnesota Federal, the only subterranean river steamer on the Old Mississippi between St. Paul and New Orleans. Thus the club rooms of the Minnesota Federal Savings and Loans Association are identified. From gangplank to ventilators everything is shipshape to the last glistening cabin doorknob with the Saint Paul skyline in high photo murals to the port and starboard sides.

In joint session the chapters adopted resolutions asking the Minnesota Legislature to pass enabling legislation now before it, necessary to permit Minnesota to participate in the low-cost housing and slum clearance program of the U. S. H. A., and Congress to enact bills pending, which would assure funds for housing and slum clearance for states that have not yet participated in the program.

The very interesting moving picture in color of Cranbrook Academy of Art was shown. Mr. T. F. Ellerbe, who has been in touch with the Academy over a period of several years through his work with Mr. Milles, acted as commentator.

The Gargoyle Club and other guests increased the attendance to fifty-nine.

PAUL M. HAVENS, *Secretary*

South Texas.

The regular dinner meeting of the Chapter was held on March 14. After all business of the Chapter was taken care of the meeting was thrown open to discussion as to the Chapter's participation in the Home Show sponsored by the Houston Real Estate Board, scheduled for April 2 to 9, inclusive.

The Chapter decided to hold an exhibit at this time and a committee was appointed to arrange all necessary details. The Chapter will hold its next meeting at the Texas A. & M. College.

THEO. F. KELLER, *Secretary*

Utah.

Members of the Utah Chapter, meeting February 28, unanimously indorsed Senate Bills 66, 67, and 92, generally known as the Enabling Acts for Slum Clearance and Low Rent Housing. Lloyd W. McClenahan, chapter president, presided at the session.

Addresses were given by State Senator Wendell Gover, H. P. Kipp, representing the apartment house owners, and Frank J. Fullmer and Mark Tuttle, vice president and secretary-manager, respectively, of the intermountain branch of the Associated General Contractors of America.

Incorporated into the resolution of indorsement, copies of which were ordered sent to both houses of the legislature, was a request that the acts be amended to provide that in all *class A* cities a representative of the Architect's Association be a member of the housing authority, replacing one of the two representatives of the apartment house owners required in the bills in their present form.

WILLIAM E. NELSON, *Secretary*

Washington, D. C.

The March meeting marks, we hope, the end of this Chapter's hilarious social season. The following is a typical sample of the carryings on:

(*Mossback's Office. Draughtsmen Umforth and Tohep chiselling out working drawings.*)

Tohep: I'm tired of these damned cavedwellings. Do we have to live in holes in the ground all our lives?

Umforth: *Chisel Points* shows a swell modern lake dwelling made of a new material—wood. It's on poles over the water and is light and airy.

Tohep: Let's get out of old Mossback's office and try some of these new lake dwellings. He says cave dwellings will endure—people like them and won't take to this modern stuff.

Umforth: Well—he grew up in a cave—can't teach an old dinosaur new tricks, I guess. Moss-

back's not the architect he was and never has been.

Tohep: Say, why don't we join the Federation of Architects, Entablature Setters, Cavehewers and Treecutters?

Umforth: Mossback'd raise hell. He says he loves his chisels.

Tohep: Yeah, he may love us, but three rocks a week won't feed a family.

ALFRED KASTNER, *Secretary*

Washington State.

The March meeting was taken up principally with the welcoming of the newly elected Chapter president, Floyd A. Naramore, who just returned from a seige in the hospital. He announced his committee appointments of the next term and complimented the Membership Committee chairman upon the recent acquisition of sixteen new Associate and Junior Associate members and five prospective Institute members.

Arthur Loveless, just back from Honolulu, gave a splendid description of the Islands, recent construction there, type of living, and the native flowers. He illustrated his talk with technicolor motion pictures which were delightful, especially a choice study of close-ups of the many varieties of blooms abundant on the Islands.

Lead by the Tacoma contingent, the Chapter has been putting up a stiff fight to revise the Architect's License Laws in the State at the recent session of the Legislature. It was an attempt to make the law more stringent and give it teeth, but the solons were more interested in the other needy and the aged.

J. LISTER HOLMES, *Secretary*

Westchester.

The last meeting of the Chapter was held in White Plains on February 28, and while there was no formal meeting, a most interesting discussion on modern architecture was led by our able protagonists Messrs. Bowman and La Velle.

Those present considered this one of the most worth-while meetings held by the Chapter, and it was generally conceded that discussions of this nature are more interesting and more educational than routine business.

WILLIAM C. STOHLREIER, *Secretary*

