

(Carried.)

Mr. Day moved that the following named gentlemen be recommend for election to corresponding membership in the Institute:

A. H. Blomfield;
Merwyn McCartney;
- Mr Cook Leonard Stokes;
William M. R. French;
Emile Vaudremer.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

(President McKim finding it necessary to withdraw,
Mr. Day in the chair.)

The matter of the election of Fellows of the Institute being considered,

Mr. Sturgis moved that the number of names to be recommended to the Convention for election to Fellowship in the Institute this year be restricted to five. (Carried)

The following gentlemen were recommended for such election on motion of the members of the Board as indicated:

Mr. Stone-- Ralph Adams Cram, of Boston;

Mr. Gilbert -- William Rutherford Meade, of New York.

Mr. Hill, George L. Heins, of

Mr. Cook -- John Lawrence Mauran, of St. Louis.

Mr. McLoughlin -- Elmer Grey, of Milwaukee.

Mr. Gilbert moved that the Executive Committee be instructed to prepare a list of associates eligible for Fellowship; the list to be submitted to the Board of Directors at the January meeting. (Carried.)

The request of the University of Illinois that its graduates in architecture be put on the list of those exempt from examination as a condition to admission to the Institute was considered.

June 5th, 1919

My dear Sir:-

At the April meeting of the Board of Directors of the Institute, a report was submitted by the Judiciary Committee relative to charges of unprofessional conduct made against you for violation of Canons X and XI of the Canons of Ethics.

The report of the Judiciary Committee and the action thereon is transmitted herewith in printed form as it appears in the Minutes of the meeting.

You will note that the resolution of the Board was as follows:

"Whereas, it is always a delicate and important matter to follow with great care the rules of the Institute in a case where an architect is to replace another previously engaged, it is practically impossible to live up to those rules in a case in which the architect supplanting the other has actually been associated with the first architect on a particular piece of work. It appears that Mr. Grey not only did not take extraordinary precautions, but he failed to take even the ordinary steps essential in such a case.

The Board therefore confirms the judgment of the Judiciary Committee, and condemns Mr. Grey to suspension for one year".

Therefore, I am advising you by this registered letter that in view of the proposed disciplinary action by the Board, you are entitled to thirty days from the receipt of this communication within which to request in writing a hearing in your own defense before the Board, as to why the proposed disciplinary measure should not be imposed upon you. Should you make no such request in writing to the Secretary of the Institute within the thirty days indicated, the proposed disciplinary action will become effective without any further action by the Board. However, should you request an opportunity to be heard a time will be appointed and a place named for such hearing and you will be given due notice thereof.

Should you desire to base an appeal upon questions of professional or ethical policy, notice of such an appeal must be filed in writing with the Secretary within ten days after the receipt of this communication.

COPY TO

FILES

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

TREASURER

If no appeal is made within thirty days the findings of the Judiciary

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

Committee and the action of the Board of Directors will be communicated to all members of the Institute, as required by the rules of procedure.

Very truly yours,

Secretary.

Mr. Elmer Grey,
Wright and Callender Building,
Los Angeles, California.

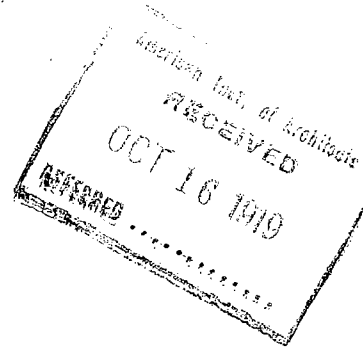
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COPY TO

FILES PRESIDENT SECRETARY TREASURER

ELMER GREY, ARCHITECT
 811 WRIGHT & CALLENDER BUILDING, COR. 4TH AND HILL STS.
 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



October
 Eighth
 1919

Mr. E. C. Kemper
 Executive Secretary
 American Institute of Architects
 Washington, D. C.

My dear Sir:

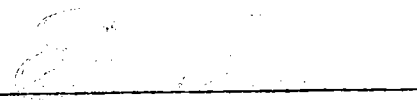
Replying to your letter of October 3ed.
 I would say that I do not intend to present my appeal
 in person at the meeting of the Board of Directors on
 November 11th. and 12th., but in writing.

I intend that it shall rest on my letter
 to the Board of Directors of June 21, 1919, on Mr.
 Rew's letter to Mr. Schmidt of July 10, 1919, and on
 Mr. Allison's letter to the Board of July 24, 1919.
 I do not know what Mr. Austin wrote so do not include
 it.

I would also request that as soon as these
 charges are disposed of either one way or the other
 (so that it is technically possible to do so) you kindly
 present my resignation as a Fellow and member of the
 American Institute of Architects.

I mention the matter now because I presume
 such resignation will have to be acted upon by the
 Board of Directors, and it is my desire to have this
 action taken as soon as it is possible.

Very truly yours,



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Grey, Elmer
COPY

2-3

October 17-1919

My dear Sir:-

Permit me to acknowledge yours of October 8 which has been carefully noted.

It is regretted that you contemplate resignation from the Institute. In order to make the same effective it should be presented in the manner indicated in the By-laws, marked copy of which is enclosed herewith. From this you will note that the resignation must come to the Secretary of the Institute through the Executive Committee of the Chapter.

Personally I desire to express the hope that you will withhold formal action in this respect until after the meeting of the Board on November 11th.

Very truly yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. Elmer Grey,
Wright & Callender Bldg,
Los Angeles, California.

K:VB

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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

23
Grey

January 10, 1920.

My dear Mr. Grey:-

At the November meeting of the Board of Directors your appeal contained in letters of June 14, 1919, June 25, 1919 and July 24, 1919, were submitted, with communications from Messrs. John C. Austin, J. E. Allison, Richard E. Schmidt and George C. Rew.

After discussion of the correspondence and the entire record, it was resolved by the Board of Directors, as follows:

Resolved, that the former decision of the Board be changed to a censure of Mr. Grey's violation of the spirit of the Canons of Ethics rather than a suspension for one year.

This action of the Board, with a review of the facts in the case, will be distributed to the Institute membership in due course, as required by the Disciplinary Rules of the Institute.

Very truly yours,

W. H. Parker
Secretary.

Mr. Elmer Grey,
Wright & Callender Building,
Los Angeles, California.

P:VB

COPY TO

FILES PRESIDENT SECRETARY TREASURER

2-3
Guy 48

The American Institute of Architects

The Octagon House, Washington, D. C.



Findings of the Judiciary Committee

Transmitted herewith to Members as required by the Judiciary Rules of the Institute.

NOTICE.

February 18, 1920.

To the Members of the American Institute of Architects:

The "Rules for the Guidance of the Committee on Practice and the Judiciary Committee of the Board of Directors" require "that all findings of the Judiciary Committee, whether in favor of or against the member involved, with the action taken by the Board of Directors, shall be reported to each member of the Institute."

At the April, 1919, meeting of the Board, the Judiciary Committee reported that it had examined charges of unprofessional conduct against the Institute members named herein, and that its findings were as stated below. These findings (in small type) and the action of the Board of Directors thereon are hereby transmitted in accordance with the Rules above mentioned.

Unauthorized Competition for an Asylum Building at Wichita Falls, Texas—Exoneration of Mr. E. Stanley Field.

The Committee on Practice found a prima facie case of unprofessional conduct against Mr. E. Stanley Field on a charge brought by the Texas Chapter, for violation of Section 14 of the Circular of Advice on Competitions, and of the Canons of Ethics relative thereto, on account of his alleged participation in an unregulated competition for the selection of an architect in pursuance to an advertisement in the columns of the Dallas News calling for plans for an addition to the Northwest Texas Asylum at Wichita Falls.

It appears that this advertisement announced that a meeting of the State Board having charge of the matter would be held at a certain date to

"meet at the Capitol all architects desiring to submit plans or desiring to bid for employment as architects for this work."

That the procedure being declared unethical and contrary to the rules of practice of the American Institute of Architects as well as of the State Association of Architects, the Executive Committee of the State Association together with members of the Texas Chapter met prior to the date

mentioned in the advertisement for the competition and it was understood as

"the sense of this meeting that no member present of either of these organizations could enter such a competition with sketches or plans prepared for this institution."

Mr. Field it appears was not at this meeting but did attend on the following day when the Committee again met with other architects who were not present the previous evening. At this meeting Mr. Field stated

"that he personally would not submit any sketches or plans and would in every way fight to uphold the ethics and rules of practice of the American Institute of Architects and that he would appear before the Board and personally plead his case and stand or fall by their decision."

That at this meeting it was agreed to go before the Board without sketches and present otherwise their respective claims for employment, to which Mr. Field agreed.

"At the same time he stated that as we all knew there were one or two architects who did not belong to the American Institute, and that if the Committee (State Board) saw fit to permit them to submit sketches, that we could have no control over this point."

An effort was made by the State Association and Chapter through their representatives to have action postponed by the State Board until a regularly conducted competition could be arranged, or if this was denied, that

"they make a selection of an architect without considering any plans that the architects had prepared and wished to submit."

In this conference

"Mr. Field objected to postponement and stated to the Board that he would appear before the Board individually and present his claims and credentials regardless of who should submit plans."

Upon the Board declining to postpone the hearing seven architects went before it, only two of whom submitted sketches;

"that when Mr. Field appeared before the Board he said nothing whatever in regard to his own employment but used all his time exalting a non-Institute firm and explaining that if they were employed, they being in Austin and he being in Wichita Falls, the work could be handled at both ends in a very satisfactory manner."

Mr. Field did not deny the foregoing statements, but in justification stated that upon learning of what he termed "unsuspected treachery" on the part of a competitor to discredit him with the members of the Board he "went to the non-Institute firm and told them that he felt that he was out of the running and the job would lay between them and the competitor in question, and that he would do anything in his power to frustrate the success of the competitor's frameup."

Mr. Field further stated:

"They then asked me how we could co-operate and I told them that as they were in Austin where Dr. Preston was they might go after the plans only, and as my strength was in Wichita Falls I might go after the supervision only, or it might be permissible for me to serve as consulting architect, that I was not sure just what we could do. I expressly stated to them that I was not in any position to make any sort of agreement with them and we would better go after the work independently, that we would not associate but could express a willingness to take the separate employment if the committee should so desire. The matter was so stated in my talk before the Board."

Findings of Judiciary Committee

The Judiciary Committee, acting upon this presentation of the case by the Committee on Practice, and the evidence accompanying the same, arrived at the following conclusions:

The Judiciary Committee is of the opinion that an unregulated competition did exist, and that while Mr. Field did not present sketches of his own, nor does he appear to have advanced any claim for individual employment as architect for the work in preference to the claims of others who appeared before the Board, he did nevertheless par-

ticipate in the competition through his endorsement of the non-Institute firm, who did present drawings, and by conveying to the Board the impression that they were free to submit plans, as appears from the evidence, and through his representing to the Board the advantages that would accrue from his association with the non-Institute firm in the supervision of the work under their plans should they be employed.

While it appears that Mr. Field did not become associated with the non-Institute firm, after the award had been made to them, which he asserts was due to the advice of President Mauran and his desire to uphold the standards of the Institute (Field to Jensen, 12-5-18), his subsequent course under the circumstances does not in the opinion of the Judiciary Committee modify his case, since the evidence shows that such association was contemplated at the time Mr. Field appeared before the Board and endorsed the claims of the non-Institute firm for employment.

In view of the evidence submitted, the Judiciary Committee finds Mr. E. Stanley Field guilty of unprofessional conduct through participation in an unregulated competition in violation of Canon 5.

Appeal of Mr. Field

At the November, 1919, meeting of the Board of Directors, Mr. Field appealed in person from these findings and testified in brief as follows:

The ethics of practice in Texas are not of standards as high as they should be and the charges against him were brought by a competitor to gratify a personal desire for revenge, because that competitor believed him responsible for his failure to win the competition for an insane asylum at Wichita Falls. Conditions of practice in Texas were reviewed at length.

Mr. Field was of the opinion that the Canons of Ethics of the Institute were being used as a club with which to gratify a personal spite.

He then read two letters which substantiated to a large degree his statements to the Board concerning the competition involved. One of August 4, 1919, was from Governor Hobby of Texas and the other of November 5, 1919, was from Mr. Otto H. Lang, of the firm of Lang & Witchell, architects, of Dallas.

Action of the Board

The Board of Directors then considered the record in the case from the beginning and adopted the following resolution exonerating Mr. Field:

Resolved, That the case of E. Stanley Field be dismissed without prejudice on the strength of new evidence submitted to the Board.

✓ Violation of Spirit of Canons of Ethics— Censure of Mr. Elmer Grey

The former Committee on Practice found a prima facie case of unprofessional conduct on the part of Mr. Elmer Grey, of Los Angeles, California, on a charge brought by Mr. Richard E. Schmidt, of Chicago, under date of August 23, 1917.

While the findings were transmitted to the former Judiciary Committee on February 2, 1918, no report appears to have been made to the Board, and the case has therefore been referred to the present Committee for consideration.

According to the evidence, as reviewed by the former Committee on Practice,

"In 1914 Messrs. Schmidt, Garden & Martin, of Chicago, designed a house at Coronado Beach, California, for Gale Thompson, and retained Elmer Grey, of Los Angeles, to superintend the work. In August, 1916, George C. Rew, a former client of Schmidt, Garden & Martin, called at their office and asked them to prepare sketches for a house to be built at Coronado. Mr. Rew subsequently made several visits to the office of Schmidt, Garden & Martin, culminating in the preparation of a set of

sketches, which were taken by him on a visit to California for the purpose of selecting a site.

"In discussing methods of procedure Schmidt, Garden & Martin stated to Mr. Rew that they would employ a California architect to superintend the construction, and later, in answer to an inquiry from Mr. Rew, they named Mr. Grey as their choice, suggesting that he call upon Mr. Grey. On October 7, 1916, Mr. Garden wrote to Mr. Grey, sending him the sketches for the house and asking him to look them over and give him his estimate of the cost, and further stating that if the work should go ahead he would probably ask Mr. Grey to superintend the construction, under an arrangement similar to the one which had prevailed in the Thompson house in 1914.

"On October 18 Mr. Grey wrote to Mr. Garden, acknowledging the receipt of the sketches and giving his estimate of the cost of the building. He also congratulated Mr. Garden upon the design, and expressed his desire to be associated with the work in the manner suggested by Mr. Garden.

"There followed several conferences between Mr. Rew and Mr. Grey, resulting in the choice of a site, and ultimately the suggestion by Mr. Rew that he would probably be better satisfied to employ a local architect than have his plans made in Chicago. He intimated to Mr. Grey that he might ask him to undertake the work. Mr. Grey then pointed out to Mr. Rew that he would not be free to do so until Mr. Rew had advised Mr. Garden of his change of plans, and effected a settlement with him. In a letter dated January 13, 1917, Mr. Rew wrote to Mr. Grey:

"I have decided to turn the job over to you and square myself with my Chicago friends as best I can."

"At the next meeting between Mr. Grey and Mr. Rew, Mr. Grey stated:

"I would accept the commission provided he would make it clear to Messrs. Schmidt, Garden & Martin that I had not tried to supplant them. This he agreed to do."

"Mr. Rew expressed some embarrassment because of the fact that Mr. Schmidt had been a life-long friend of his and a college chum. Later, Mr. Grey made several inquiries as to whether Mr. Rew had informed Schmidt, Garden & Martin, but was told that Mr. Rew preferred to do this, not by letter, but personally on his next visit to Chicago. Mr. Grey states that, because of the intimate relations between Mr. Rew and Mr. Schmidt he felt that he should leave the matter in Mr. Rew's hands. After Mr. Rew returned to Chicago Mr. Grey wrote to Mr. Garden under date of August 11, 1917, stating that he had been making plans for Mr. Rew, and explaining all the circumstances, including a disclaimer that he had tried in any way to influence Mr. Rew's decision."

It is conceded that Mr. Rew had a right to terminate his relations with Schmidt, Garden & Martin if he so desired, and after payment due them for services rendered he could employ another architect. It would appear also that Mr. Grey when approached by Mr. Rew with view to his employment, acted in an ethical and proper manner in so far as he explained that Mr. Rew must first terminate his engagement with Schmidt, Garden & Martin before he, Grey, would be free to accept the commission.

In view of the circumstances and the confidential relations existing between Mr. Grey and the architects, it does not appear however that he took the initiative as he should have done on his own account, apart from Mr. Rew's personal obligations to Schmidt, Garden & Martin, before proceeding with his own plans for the house, when he was fully aware that the architects he then represented in his dealings with their client had not been advised of the circumstances, nor their employment actually terminated by Mr. Rew.

Mr. Grey's reason for not communicating at once with the architects he represented, without leaving the matter

in Mr. Rew's hands, seems to be disclosed in his letter to the Committee on Practice of December 20, 1917, in which he refers also to the further reasons why Mr. Rew decided to dispense with the services of Schmidt, Garden & Martin, namely:

"If I had written Messrs. Schmidt, Garden & Martin immediately, against Mr. Rew's will, a hundred to one they would not have received the work anyway on account of these mishaps, and I probably would have lost out. It would have been a proceeding which, for a business man who needs what work he can get honorably, for the support of his family, would have been nothing short of imbecilic."

While, as stated, there is no evidence to show that Mr. Grey deliberately undertook to lead Mr. Rew to seek his direct employment in place of the architects who prepared the preliminary studies, his reason for not at once advising Schmidt, Garden & Martin direct was, as he admits, his fear that by so doing he would lose the commission offered him; and in attempting to justify his course he does not reason soundly when, in his letter of April 18, 1919, to the Judiciary Committee, he claims that his action has been misinterpreted and asks

"is it possible for an intelligent business man, when a question comes up which has both an ethical side and a business side, not to think of the business side as well as the ethical,"

and that

"by thinking of the business side does not necessarily mean that he is governed by that side alone,"

and finally,

"there is nothing unpraiseworthy, it seems to me, about having in mind how a question will affect one's own business providing one is controlled by ethical motives."

Findings of the Judiciary Committee

Mr. Grey's admissions and the evidence presented confirms the findings of the Committee on Practice, that by not taking every precaution possible and demanded by the confidence placed in him by Schmidt, Garden & Martin, as their representative, Mr. Grey was guilty of unprofessional conduct in violation of Articles 10 and 11 of the Canons of Ethics, although not to the same extent, perhaps, as would have been the case had he taken the initiative with Mr. Rew to supplant Messrs. Schmidt, Garden & Martin.

(NOTE: In the review of this case, Mr. Edward A. Crane, on appointment by the Board, acted in place of Mr. Richard E. Schmidt.)

The Board confirmed the judgment of the Judiciary Committee and rendered a verdict from which Mr. Grey appealed.

Appeal of Mr. Grey

The Board of Directors at the November, 1919, meeting carefully considered Mr. Grey's appeal.

Mr. Grey submitted with his appeal communications from various interested parties urging that he be exonerated; also a letter from Mr. Richard E. Schmidt stating his willingness to withdraw the charges in view of a letter sent to him by Mr. George C. Rew, the client mentioned in the Judiciary findings.

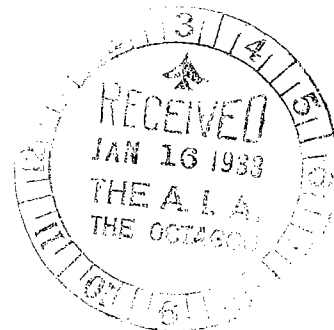
Action of the Board

After consideration of the correspondence and the entire record, it was resolved by the Board of Directors that no disciplinary action be imposed upon Mr. Grey other than a censure for his violation of the spirit of the Canons of Ethics.



170 EAST CALIFORNIA STREET
PASADENA

January 12, 1933



The American Institute of Architects,
The Octagon,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:-

With regard to the enclosed bill I handed in my resignation to the American Institute of Architects through the secretary of the local Chapter under date of January 6, 1933.

Yours truly,

Elmer Grey

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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

234
COPY

January 23, 1933

Dear Mr. Grey:

This will acknowledge, with regret, your letter of January 12th, advising that you have tendered your resignation as a member of the Institute, effective December 31, 1932.

As you know, severance of Institute membership also carries with it termination of Chapter membership.

Neither the Institute nor the Southern California Chapter can afford to lose your affiliation and support.

The Officers and Directors of the Institute are keenly aware of the financial problems which confront every practicing architect. If you contemplate resignation for such reasons I wish to write as follows:

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee of the Institute it was directed that resignations of members, submitted on account of the economic crisis, be not accepted at present. Therefore, the Institute asks that you continue your affiliation with the national body and with the Southern California Chapter - on the understanding that at the end of 1933, if conditions have not improved, your resignation will be accepted by the Institute, effective December 31, 1932 - if you so request.

May I add a personal word to this general statement of policy? We simply cannot afford to lose from the Institute men like yourself. Many of us believe that 1933 will show some improvement in the practice of architecture. We must stand together and we must carry on.

Please accept this letter as confidential, and please be advised that we are continuing you on the records at The Octagon as an active member of the Institute and the Southern California Chapter - throughout the year 1933 - unless you specifically order otherwise.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Elmer Grey,
170 East California Street,
Pasadena, Calif.

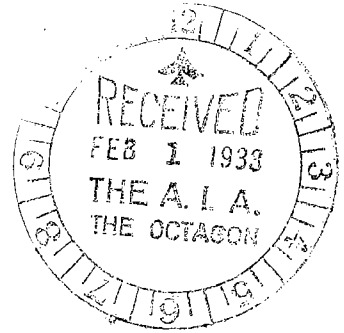
Secretary.

FCB/G



170 EAST CALIFORNIA STREET
PASADENA

January 28, 1933



Mr. Frank C. Baldwin,
The Octagon, 1741 New York Ave.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Baldwin:-

Thank you for your friendly letter
of January 23ed.

I did resign on account of financial reasons and I am glad to avail myself of the Institute's generous offer to continue my affiliation with the national body and with the Southern California Chapter on the understanding that at the end of 1933 it may be accepted by the Institute effective Dec. 31, 1932.

But I will be frank to say that, as I feel now, the mere improvement in general business conditions at the end of the year would not lead me to withdraw my resignation.

In handing it to the secretary of the Southern California Chapter I tried to make the reasons therefor clear, and I will go over them again in this letter to you.

I feel that the annual dues of the Institute are far too high as compared with other national professional bodies, such for instance as the American Medical Association or the American Bar Association. Those of the former including both national and local are \$22. while those of the latter are \$29. Ours at present are practically \$50.00

According to my way of thinking the reason for this discrepancy is not hard to find, should be remedied at once and consists of the great and unnecessary expense involved in sending so many delegates to the Conventions.



170 EAST CALIFORNIA STREET
PASADENA

In various Institute bulletins we are asked to remember the good the Institute is doing and that its continued functioning along those lines requires financial support. But the fact seems to be entirely overlooked that having the dues as high as they are is keeping a lot of desirable fellows out and the Institute itself from being a thoroughly representative body.

A large part of our money does not go toward the welfare work that is stressed but toward paying the expenses of delegates. Now I know that attending conventions is stimulating and broadening to those who are fortunate enough to be chosen; but I think that those who have that delightful and broadening experience should, with the exception of one officially elected delegate, pay for the privilege themselves.

To my way of thinking most of the solid good done by the Institute is not done by or at the Conventions but elsewhere -- and especially by the honorable attitude of individual members toward each other and toward the public in daily practice. I further feel that the work of the Conventions could be done equally well if not better by one delegate from each Chapter. Who that has attended conventions will not have to admit that their business could be done just as efficiently if not better by a large Committee and that much of the rest of the procedure is merely talk-fest and having a good time.

The way to remedy the situation I believe is not by declaring moratoriums on dues -- that is only putting off the issue -- but by a readjustment to the altered conditions of our times. I am told unofficially that the Southern California Chapter will doubtless reduce its dues shortly by one half, and I think the national body should do the same. What is the difference between keeping them as they are and having only half of them paid, and reducing them by half and having fewer delinquents? One difference I think will be that if such reduction is not made the Institute will be without many valuable members who otherwise would join or retain their memberships.



170 EAST CALIFORNIA STREET
PASADENA

Finally, I hope that one aspect of my resignation will not be misunderstood. I value my Fellowship in the Institute greatly, will be sorry to lose it, but being a member in arrears is distasteful to me -- and I refuse to pay so high a toll.

Very cordially yours,

Elmer Grey

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Grey
Calif

2-3
COPY
sent to

Messrs.
Russell
Bergstrom
Meyer

March 1st

Now Bal

February 3, 1933.

Dear Mr. Greys:

The Secretary of the Institute, Mr. Baldwin, is convalescing from an illness, so we are holding your letter of January 28th until his return to the office.

I know that he will be gratified that you are going to continue your support of the Institute and the Southern California Chapter during the current year.

At the annual meeting of the Institute Board, in Washington on March 15th, the whole financial problem of the Institute and its Chapters will be fully considered and, undoubtedly, some announcement will be made after the meeting.

Meantime, we take the liberty of sending copies of your letter to the President, Mr. Russell, to the Treasurer, Mr. Bergstrom, and to the Regional Director of the Sierra Nevada Division, Mr. Meyer.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. Elmer Grey, F. A. I. A.,
170 East California Street,
Pasadena, California.

ECK*B



170 EAST CALIFORNIA STREET
PASADENA

April 26, 1933



Mr. Frank C. Baldwin,
The Octagon,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Baldwin:-

Since a while back you honored me with a letter regarding my resignation from the Institute I will presume to write you again regarding the matter.

I am in receipt of the copy of "The Octagon" of April 1933 and have read the reports of the President, the Treasurer and the article on the remission of dues.

I call your attention to the fact that while the Board agreed upon remitting the dues of delinquents for 1931 and '32 it made no provision for those who had paid these dues but could not pay those of 1933. Thus those who did not pay their 1931 or '32 dues are let off while those who did pay them but cannot pay the 1933 dues are discriminated against.

The Treasurer's report makes it clear that a general remission of 1933 dues was not feasible, but showed that no provision had been made for their partial remission in the case of those who could not pay them. It assumed that payment in full of 1933 dues must and will be made by all members and did not take into account the wholesale resignations which may follow such stand and do permanent and irreparable harm to both the Institute's treasury and its standing.

The same report showed that there were 1128 members in arrears for 1933 as against about half that number for the two years preceding. Rather a danger signal it seems to me, yet the Board extended no hope to this very large number of 1933 delinquents in the way of recommendation of any future reduction of dues.



170 EAST CALIFORNIA STREET
PASADENA

After reading these reports I still maintain that a reduction of the dues of the Institute to make it compare much more favorably with those of other national organizations could and should be made. If definite recommendations for a reduction of 1934 dues are not soon made I predict that it will be found that a very considerable number of members will resign as I have done and the Institute will become a rich man's club with headquarters in Washington. Of course such a club is a very nice thing for those who can afford it -- but it will not be a representative body.

I was in hopes that some general action would be taken at this last Board meeting which would make the withdrawal of my resignation possible; but I see regretfully that such was not the case. As I interpret its conclusions the Board says in effect:- "pay your 1933 dues in full or get in poor standing" -- which means to such as I who do not want to pile up any more indebtedness for the future:- "Pay up or get out".

I am sorry that the Institute has taken such a stand, sorry that it cannot make provision in its membership for architects who are in sympathy with its ideals but cannot afford to pay \$49.00 annually for club dues.

Yours truly,

P.S.- In the same building with me here are two fine young architects, both talented. They do not belong to the Institute and could not think of joining on account of the dues. There are hundreds like them. If the dues were lowered it would increase the membership, bring in the same revenue and keep the Institute representative.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

Mr. E. C. Gray

May 5, 1933.

Dear Mr. Gray:

Various representatives of the Institute, including the President, Mr. Russell, have been in Washington for nearly a week in connection with the impending public building program of the Federal Government.

They are bending every effort to keep the building industry and the architectural profession in the picture.

Therefore, there has not been a moment to respond to your letter of April 26th, with regard to Institute dues.

The April OCTAGON set forth at some length the whole financial situation of the Society.

It was the sincere conviction of all of the Officers and Directors that the Institute cannot be maintained as a national society on dues of less than \$25 a year.

We have approximately three thousand members, scattered over the entire United States, and the financial support which they give to the Institute in the shape of annual dues of \$25 maintains the society as a national professional organization - with prestige and influence far in excess of its numbers and resources.

My own opinion is that the Institute is entirely different from a club or social organization and that its accomplishments, both past and present, on behalf of the individual architect are worth a great deal more than \$25 a year.

It is realized that many members cannot pay even \$5 a year under existing conditions and the Board is not terminating any memberships at present for non-payment of dues.

Please do not think that I discount the importance of your judgment in this matter, or that I am not deeply in sympathy with the financial problem of every practicing architect.

Page 2.

We are faced with a question of policy and it is the best judgment of those who have long worked with and for the Institute that the Society cannot be maintained with nominal annual dues, such as \$10 or \$15.

Of course, this is subject to reconsideration in the light of changing conditions, and I have put your letter down for attention at the November meeting of the Executive Committee.

In the meantime, a copy of your letter and of this reply have been sent on to the Treasurer, Mr. Edwin Bergstrom, with the request that he supplement the above.

Sincerely yours,

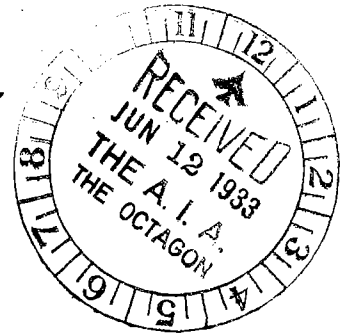
Secretary.

Mr. Elmer Grey, F. A. I. A.,
170 East California Street,
Pasadena, California.

FCB*B

cc- Mr. Bergstrom

Copy



June 8, 1933

Southern California Chapter
American Institute of Architects,
Mr. Palmer Sabin, Secretary.

Dear Mr. Sabin:-

In reply to your letter of June 2nd. relative to my resignation from the Institute I would say that under date of January 23rd. of this year I received a letter from Mr. Frank C. Baldwin, secretary of the Institute which bears on the matter of the time of acceptance of my resignation, and which he asked me to treat as confidential.

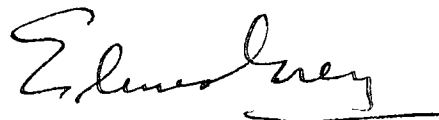
Although I still desire to resign from the Institute unless conditions in it regarding dues are changed I have been in hopes that something might be done at the November meeting of the Executive Committee which would extend hope of a radical reduction of dues for next year -- in which case I would wish to withdraw my resignation.

If the Officers and Directors of our Chapter would like to act on my resignation at once I would suggest that before doing so they get in touch with Mr. Baldwin and ask him to release the information given to me in his letter of January 23rd. If, upon receipt of that information, they still desire to act at once it will be all right with me.

In an endeavor to have the policies of the Institute altered in some particulars which would make possible a reduction of dues I have written a lengthy letter to Mr. Baldwin a copy of which I enclose. I do so because I would like as many as possible in the local Chapter to know the full reasons for my having resigned. Many of my friends have already seen this letter and endorse it; some I know will disapprove.

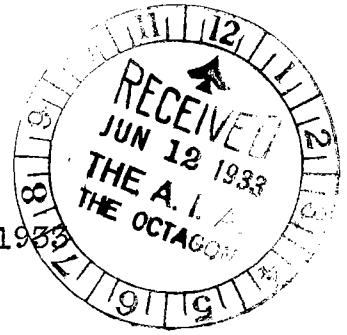
I shall regret very much terminating my affiliation with the Southern California Chapter, but feel that unless a radical change in the dues of the national body can be brought about it is quite necessary.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edmund Greig". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name. The name "Edmund Greig" is written in a fluid, connected style with a prominent flourish at the end of the last name.



170 EAST CALIFORNIA STREET
PASADENA



June 8, 1933

Mr. Frank C. Baldwin, Secretary,
The American Institute of Architects,
The Octagon,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Baldwin:-

This letter is written for the purpose of leaving on record with the Institute a more complete reason than that already given for having tendered my resignation.

For one who has received the honor of Fellow in the Institute to voluntarily relinquish it in this way may appear as though he did not appreciate it; it may be wondered why he did not first try to secure some other adjustment of his difficulty. I do appreciate it however, but back of the reason already given are others which I would like to try to explain.

The treasurer in his last report tells why, in the face of letters from twelve different Chapters and from many delinquent members asking that the dues be reduced the Board felt that nevertheless it was necessary to keep them as they are; the reason given being that they are necessary to meet the requirements of the budget. But some of us do not agree with the budget, even in its present reduced form; we feel that it could be and should be reduced still further. Also, we think that if the dues were reduced by say one half and a campaign for new members were launched on the strength of that reduction, with the budget reduced as we propose any deficiency could be made up.

It may seem presumptuous thus to take issue with those whose splendid past records caused them to be chosen to direct the policies of the Institute, but I beg to remind any who may feel that way that similar issues taken with the existing order of things have sometimes proven salutary. Not so long ago a few people in this vast country of ours took similar issue with ex-President Hoover and his policies, and some of the rest of us including myself thought that if their ideas were carried out the nation would go to the bow-wows; but so far it does not seem as though the dissenters had made much of a mistake. Policies which are in effect year after year sometimes become crystallized in forms unadapted to changed conditions; and they remain fixed until broken up by an entirely different viewpoint.

The Board stated that it has not the power to change the dues; but a future reduction of dues could at least be recommended. It may have been unsafe to reduce this year's



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dues with the budget as it is, as was suggested by the treasurer in his report; but the Institute cannot continue the present plan of remitting dues in large quantities as a permanent policy. When the books show that on March 7th. of this year there were 2558 members who owed \$94,888. for dues it indicates that some more permanent and satisfactory measure than remission of dues should be adopted, one that would bring the dues down to a figure where a larger percentage of members could pay them.

A cut in the budget further than the Board has already cut it means of course a fundamental revision of the Institute's activities; but some of us feel that that could be done without doing any harm. It seems to us that the Institute's present schedule is based not only on a financial condition of the country which no longer exists, but also upon the assumption that benefits are being or will be derived from certain Institute activities which benefits we feel are more fancied than real so far as a large majority of members is concerned. I will go into that in detail presently.

We feel that certain of these activities are such as benefit only a few of the members, that the Institute is being used to serve the purposes of these few; that to maintain the dues as they are for such doubtful purposes excludes from membership in the Institute many able architects who otherwise would join; and that thus its larger mission that of being an association representative of the rank and file of capable architects in America is being lost.

I know that many architects both in and out of the Institute feel this way and one of the reasons for writing this letter is because of the hope that at the next meeting of the Executive Committee in November something may be done to keep the Institute representative and thus hold within its ranks many members who are now contemplating leaving it.

I will now ask your patience in reading a list of some of the Institute activities which we feel could be altered or entirely done away with as suggested and the budget thereby materially reduced.

(I) Delegates:- When we have a convention there are now several delegates who travel from each Chapter to Washington or elsewhere to attend it. Their expenses are paid by the membership at large. In both the American Bar Association and the American Medical Association the delegates to a convention pay their own expenses, and prominent members of those associations with whom



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I have talked laugh at the arrangement which we now have of giving a select few of our members a delightful vacation in this way.

The benefits of a convention are not to be denied, but they are largely personal. It is a fine thing for those who attend one to meet a lot of men of high standing in that way; it broadens their horizons and creates a feeling of wider fellowship; but so far as the membership at large is concerned such benefits do not extend far. The business of a convention could be done just as well if not better by a Committee and its very considerable expense should be born by those who enjoy its privileges.

(2) Committee on Public Works:- The Institute has for years been fighting to get all our Federal buildings done by private architects. The president in his last report stated that "this is a subject in which the entire membership of the Institute is vitally interested". I question that statement unless he means it to include those who are interested adversely. There has been a great deal of propaganda issued in support of private awards of governmental work and the interest of architectural magazines has been enlisted in its favor. But propaganda is not always convincing and does not always represent a unanimous sentiment nor even a majority. No doubt many architects have been influenced by this propaganda and as a result have in a vague way thought that the idea might perhaps benefit them. But if they would turn their gaze from the propaganda and calmly consult their own prospects of getting any real benefit from public work of this character how many would find that they stood a chance?

During the time that most of this agitation has been going on a large proportion of the post office buildings were already being given out to private practice. Generally speaking it has been only the smaller buildings that were withheld. Now it is a considerable question whether, with the practical requirements of small post office buildings about the same all over the country, the government office in Washington can not turn out such plans much more economically and better than can private architects who have never planned one before. As it is, private architects have to go to Washington to get their data for such work and their plans must meet with the approval of the government office; which is as it should be because the latter has had so much wider experience in planning buildings of that character.

But granting that in the past some of the larger buildings also were done by the government office, who would profit by a change in that procedure? Would the public secure a higher type of service in consequence? Does anyone suppose that in seeking such commissions private architects would submit photographs showing the excellence



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of their work and let it go at that? Or that the awards would be made solely on the basis of merit? Only the simple minded would so suppose. If the awards were made, or could be made, by means of A. I. A. competitions it would be a different matter; but they could not be so made; they are and would be decided entirely as a matter of politics. A very few of our politically minded architects would therefore be the only ones who would benefit from such wider availability of public work. The rank and file of Institute members would not gain at all. And since the awards would be decided by politics there is no liklihood that the public would gain. In fact, in many cases the public might be much worse off; for politics, which has aptly been termed "a lively appreciation of favors still to come" is often not at all particular what quality the public will get as a result of its handing out its favors.

But whether for better or for worse, certainly those who profit from the propaganda and lobbying necessary to make such public work available should pay the bills thereof and not the many be taxed for the benefit of the few.

I know that this part in particular of my letter will not meet with the approval of some who see it -- particularly of some who would like to have closer business relations with Uncle Sam. I am aware that a number of my good friends of this kind may frown upon it; but it is my firm conviction and also that of a number of Institute members with whom I have talked that this is the correct view of the matter.

(3) Committee on Practice:- Most of us know what right and wrong is, and for those who dont we have had for years a printed Code of Ethics to which they may refer and refresh their memories; What need of anything more?

(4) Structural Service:- When the reports of this Committee first began to appear in the Institute bulletin I read some of them. But I was never able to derive any benefit from them. Finally I gave up reading them altogether. If one wishes to learn the value of a particular material there are plenty of ways to investigate and become informed without devoting a special department of the Institute to that purpose at an expense of several thousand dollars a year. I was glad to see that the Committee's work was discontinued. It may have been of some use to those who plan very large buildings, but to the ordinary practitioner it was of no value at all.

(5) Schedule of Charges:- During the many years that the Institute has had such a committee I dont know of a particle of good that it has done and for a long while it did positive harm.



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It did this, all innocently enough, by naming a rate of 5% at one time and 6% at another as proper minimum fees -- which action was at once construed by the public as proper fees for residential as well as commercial work, which they were not. Those who did residential work had for years to fight this false impression conveyed in this way. In the law, in medicine and other professional lines practitioners charge according to their varying ability (or their nerve!). Why should not the same thing hold true in architecture? As a matter of fact it does, and the Committee on Schedule of Charges might just as well disband.

(6) Registration:- Southern California architects have for years been trying to get more rigid laws through the legislature governing the licensing of architects. They finally found that they could not use the A. I. A. chapter for this purpose because its membership was not representative enough. (Of course this was largely due to the dues being so high) They could not use the Institute's Chapter so they formed a new organization which was called "The California State Association of Architects".

In order to make the membership of this new organization sufficiently representative as required by law all architects were drafted in as members. Now the necessity, or the apparent necessity of this certainly does not do credit to the Institute, which should have been representative enough to function for the purpose. In this connection we have another committee called the "Unification of the Architectural Profession" committee; but of course unification of the architectural profession cannot be accomplished when the dues of its longest established organization are so high as to preclude large numbers of capable architects in the country from joining it.

(7) Judiciary:- Many years ago I was arraigned before an A. I. A. judiciary committee on a charge of having tried to supplant a fellow architect. The evidence showed that I had asked the advice of the president of our Chapter before accepting the work. He testified by affidavit that, "Mr. Grey requested my opinion as to whether or not he would be in any way violating the ethics of the Institute in undertaking the commission. My advice to Mr. Grey at the time was that I considered him free to undertake the work and I therefore feel a measure of responsibility for his action and an interest in the outcome". The owner of the building (who had been a close personal friend of the plaintiff)



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in a letter addressed to the plaintiff, a copy of which went to the judiciary committee said:- "Mr. Grey did not attempt to supplant you in this matter. He made no suggestion direct or indirect that he be employed in place of your firm. Had he done so he would have so prejudiced me that he would not have been employed under any circumstances."

The plaintiff was a director of the Institute and had been a member of the Judiciary Committee which tried the case until removed for the purposes of the trial; so I presume the Committee was in a rather delicate position. On that account it may unconsciously have tempered its ideas of justice with those of diplomacy. At any rate, in spite of the evidence above quoted it went through a long drawn out consideration of the case and finally ended up by reprimanding me.

In consequence of this verdict I tendered my resignation to the Southern California Chapter. It was not however accepted by that body, the Executive Committee of which placed on file a resolution which ended thus:- "We, who have been closely associated with Mr. Grey for many years and have known and do know his character and his conscience, his aims and his hopes, will feel that Mr. Grey is not guilty in the slightest degree of violating the spirit of the American Institute or consciously of doing an act of injustice to any single member of it".

That action by the Executive Committee of the Southern California Chapter has constituted one of the very bright spots of my life and my greatest cause for regret in leaving the Institute will be that it necessitates severing relationship with a group of men who, in that hour of my trouble, so valiantly and so justly stood by me.

Now the expense of all this farcical procedure which necessitated extensive railway journeys by several committee members and by at least one member of the Board of Directors and which did nobody any good but did cause me considerable mental discomfort, had to be met by membership dues.

Of course the Institute should not be blamed if one of its Judiciary Committees functioned so poorly, but the activities of such a committee should be restricted -- they should be held down to only clear-cut cases of unprofessional conduct. It should not be a difficult matter to determine when a case belongs in that category and if thus held down the expense of maintaining the Committee would be considerably less.



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PASADENA

In the face of all the circumstances which have been enumerated above as existing in the Institute I have come to feel that many of its activities are unnecessary. I sometimes wonder if the principle worry of some committee members or delegates who have a conscience may not often be how they can be of enough actual service in their appointed tasks to warrant using the member's money. As a matter of fact most of them however are not able to see the actual situation as many who are not committee members or delegates see it. The system works automatically in such a way as to make them in favor of it.

About the same coterie of men year after year travel about and meet together on those jaunts, have a good time, enlarge their own horizons and naturally, being human, they come to feel that the work they are engaged in is important. Those who are selected for this purpose are of course those who take active parts in regular meetings and no criticism is intended there; but nevertheless the system operates so that they become incapable of appreciating the point of view of the large body of members who are not so active and who may have very good reasons for not wishing to be. This coterie forms a sort of club within a club, comprising a very small percentage of the entire Institute membership -- perhaps 25%. The other 75% of us pay 75% of the bills.

Now I would let all this go by the boards, charge it up to profit and loss as they say -- for nobody expects perfection from anything human -- were it not for the fact that in these days of stress there are so many demands upon what little available cash some of us have that I feel that what we do have that is left over from necessities should go to very worthwhile purposes; and I cannot see that a large portion of present Institute activities constitute such purposes. That is the only reason I am willing to give up the honor which a degree of Fellow in the Institute implies. And it was distinctly implied in my case I feel, for I was but 31 years old when it was bestowed and it had been suggested by two distinguished members of the profession on the strength of a house I had done which cost but \$3,000. Under such circumstances I naturally prize it the more.

But I also prize that feeling of satisfaction which everyone has when he feels that he is expending his resources in the most laudable ways, when he feels that they, or a part of them, are not being spent for him by others in enterprises which, under the banner of helping all, help only the few.



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This view of the situation is not fanciful. It is even supported by one who is very active in an official capacity in the Institute. In reply to my arguments about the matter he said:- "We dont want the Institute to be a representative body"!

Well, if it is not to be representative what has it to offer the average man? Or, if you like, what duty then has the average man toward it? Where then are all the fine ideals for which it is supposed to stand?

If, on the other hand, it is to be representative, then its dues will have to be brought down to where the average man can pay them.

Another Institute member who has been very active said, in reply to my arguments:- "It is a question whether the Institute should be a general organization like the American Bar Association or whether it should be academic (whatever that means in this case). I make that interpolation because any reputable architect who has the price can get in and they are glad to get him. So the standard of acceptance is not an academic but a monetary one.

Still another remark that is offered is, "We should all stand together". But to "stand together" there must be something worthwhile to stand for, and the present attitude of the Institute toward the average man does not inspire.

In my opinion the Institute, sooner or later, will have to meet that issue. Either it will become an organization which all reputable architects can join -- just as is the case with similar organizations in the law and in medicine -- or it will be an association for a select few. It is because I felt that it was drifting toward that latter goal, with which I am utterly out of sympathy, that I tendered my resignation.

Yours truly,

Elmer Gray

Copy to President Russell
" " So. Calif. Chapter.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

File

June 13, 1933

Dear Mr. Grey:

This will acknowledge your letter of June 8th to the Secretary, Mr. Baldwin, with regard to the affairs of the Institute and your pending resignation; and your supplementary letter of the same date.

The importance of your letter warrants that it be sent direct to Mr. Baldwin who is away for the summer. We have also sent copies, with copies of this acknowledgment, to the President, the Treasurer, and the regional Director of the Sierra Nevada Division, and have placed your letter on the agenda of the Executive Committee for consideration at its next meeting - this coming November.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. Elmer Grey,
170 East California Street,
Pasadena, Calif.

K/G

Copy to Mr. Russell
Mr. Baldwin
Mr. Bergstrom
Mr. Witmer

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170 EAST CALIFORNIA STREET
PASADENA

June 8, 1933



Dear Mr. Baldwin:-

Just one more word added to the enclosed:- The scheme of remission of dues is not going to work. Very few would relish going to their Chapter and making what amounts to a confession of bankruptcy. I personally know of at least two members who are in arrears, who are not going to pay the present dues and who, unless something is done, intend to allow their names to be dropped by default. They are both mighty good men too.

With over 2000 members in arrears why not adjust the dues so more will pay instead of more drop out.

The Institute can well afford to drop me but it cannot afford the wholesale defection that it will ultimately have if this matter is not adjusted to meet popular demand.

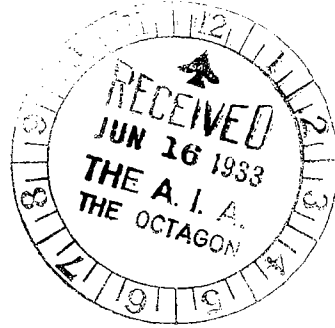
Yours truly,



170 EAST CALIFORNIA STREET
PASADENA

June 12, 1933

4/5



Mr. Frank C. Baldwin,
The Octagon,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Baldwin:

It occurs to me that the generous offer you made me in your letter to me of January 23rd. about staying in the Institute and Southern California Chapter until the end of the year, was made on the assumption that I tendered my resignation solely because of inability to pay the dues. You did not know that I was out of sympathy with some of the fundamental policies of the Institute which necessitate the present dues.

Should you find that the officers of the Southern California Chapter would prefer to act on my resignation at once please feel free to withdraw that offer. This letter is for the purpose of relieving you of any possible embarrassment in the matter.

I would like to stay in as long as there is any chance of getting things readjusted the way a lot of us think they should be; but I have no desire to stay in longer if the local officials would prefer to clear their decks. I don't know how they feel about it.

Yours truly,

Elmer Gray

Handwritten notes:
A.C.
Baldwin

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2-3
COPY

Mr. Grey

June 21, 1933.

Dear Mr. Grey:

This will acknowledge yours of June 12th, to Mr. Baldwin. He is away for the summer, and I am responding for him.

We feel sure that the Officers of the Southern California Chapter do not wish to hasten your resignation, and if you will permit, we will continue your membership without any impairment until your present letter and the previous correspondence can be considered at the meeting of the Executive Committee - in November.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. Elmer Grey, F. A. I. A.,
170 East California Street,
Pasadena, California.

BCK*B

cc- Messrs. Witmer
Russell
Bergstrom
Baldwin

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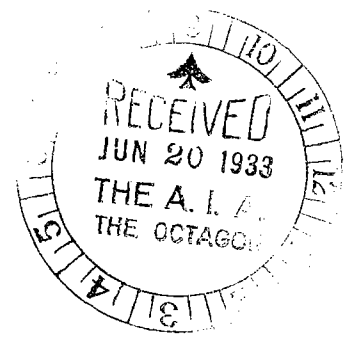
E.C.K.

I think Grey is "all wet", and would get a report from Bergstrom and Witmer and refer the matter to next Exec. Com. meeting. J.C.B.



FRANK C. BALDWIN, SECRETARY, WASHINGTON, D. C.
EDWIN BERGSTROM, TREASURER, LOS ANGELES
EDWARD C. KEMPER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
New York Avenue
WASHINGTON, D. C.



June 14, 1933

Dear Mr. Baldwin:

Herewith is copy of Mr. Grey's letter of June 8th and of my reply of June 13th.

In a letter of the 12th Mr. Russell writes:

"Elmer Grey sent me a copy of his letter of June 8th to Baldwin. He is very definite in his statements and it occurs to me that it might be a good thing to send a copy of his letter to each of the Directors.

"The charge that most concerns me is the one that the Institute is beneficial to the preferred 25% and that the other 75% are left out in the cold. This is not in accordance with my impression of the condition at all, and I would like to get your reaction and also Baldwin's on the statement itself and on the advisability of issuing it to the Directors."

My recommendation is that rather than send Mr. Grey's ex parte statement to every member of the Board it be put down for the Executive Committee, and in the meantime we ask Mr. Bergstrom and Mr. Witmer for their reactions. There may be some personal misunderstanding which could be cleared up between now and November - by a show of personal interest on the part of the Treasurer or Mr. Witmer.

His percentages are all wrong. In fact, a real basis for complaint against the Institute might be that it does too much for the architectural profession as a whole, and too little for the individual member - or even 25% of him.

Mr. Russell will receive a copy of this and is awaiting your reaction.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Frank C. Baldwin, Secretary,
The American Institute of Architects,
Nantucket, Mass.

E.C.K.
Executive Secretary.

K/G-Enc.
Copy to Mr. Russell

American Institute of Architects

Inter-Office Communication

*let
W. J. Witmer*

Subject



From EDWIN BERGSTROM

To D. J. WITMER

Date 6-21-33

DEAR DAVE:

Elmer has broken loose again. I am enclosing correspondence from Kemper, of which you may have duplicates. If so, please return copy to me. If you haven't, please read it over and then return it, and let us write Mr. Kemper regarding the matter.

E.B.

EB:MG



American Institute of Architects

Inter-Office Communication

Subject

From

To

Date

E. J. Russell

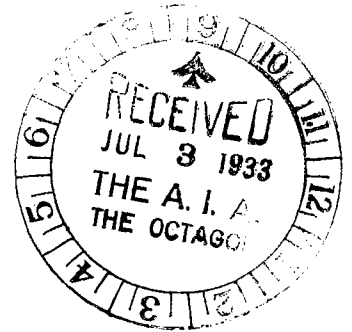
E. C. Kemper

6/30/33

Memo to Kemper

Let us hear what Bergstrom and Witmer have to say about Elmer Gray's letter, and in any event jot it down on the Agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting.

E. J. Russell





170 EAST CALIFORNIA STREET
PASADENA

January 4, 1933

Mr. Ernest J. Russell,
Chemical Building,
St. Louis, Mo.,

Dear Mr. Russell:

I am delighted to learn of
the action of the Institute in lowering
the dues.

I am of course withdrawing
my resignation and you may be interested
to know that at the same time I am able
to present a membership application of
a young architect who heretofore did not
feel that he could afford to join.

As business picks up I feel
sure that I can secure other new members.

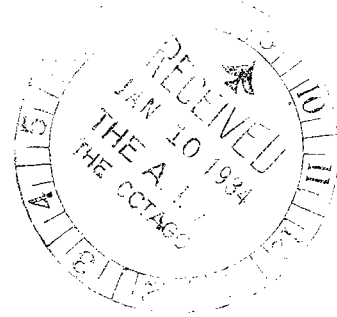
Yours truly,


ELMER GREY, ARCHITECT

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

May 13/34



January 8th, 1934

Mr. Elmer Grey,
170 East California St.,
Pasadena, Calif.

Dear Mr. Grey:-

Your letter of the 4th inst. was a pleasant surprise and is an encouragement to the officers of the Institute.

If all members take the same attitude that you do in regard to dues and pay them promptly, the Institute will be able to carry on its work.

With appreciative thanks and the best of wishes, I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "EJR", written over the word "Sincerely,".

EJR:EC

cc Mr. Kemper
(with Mr. Grey's letter)

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-COPY-

FORM 9601



170 EAST CALIFORNIA STREET
PASADENA



January 16, 1937

To the Secretary,
Southern California Chapter
of the American Institute of Architects.

FILE COPY

RETURN TO THE A. I. A.
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Mr. Newton:

Please accept herewith my resignation from the American Institute of Architects, which I desire to have acted upon immediately in order that I may retire as a member in good standing. The first installment of my dues to the National Organization for this year have been paid.

The reasons for my resigning are the same as those explained at length in letters I wrote to former Sec'y. Frank C. Baldwin and former president Ernest J. Russell under dates of June 8th. and 20th. respectively, 1933, namely that the dues of the Institute (the combined dues of the national organization and the local Chapter), as compared with those of the American Bar and Medical Associations, are in my opinion far too high. At that time I handed in my resignation, but the dues were then reduced and I withdrew it. But now those of the Southern California Chapter have been boosted up again -- which places me back in the same position I was before.

I would not now go into this matter again at any length were it not for the fact that I feel that my resignation is more than a local matter. I have the national organization to think of and my obligations toward it -- and that organization has changed officers since the above letters to Messrs. Baldwin and Russell were written. I would like to explain to the present national officers (to whom a copy of this letter will be sent) why a Fellow of the Institute is resigning -- in case they should happen to be interested.

I feel that with the dues as they are the Institute is not a representative organization; as is our State organization for instance. The latter and its enactments have been of very great service to me. Very many of the capable younger architects cannot



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afford to belong to the Institute; and also some of the older ones with whom I am acquainted. It is now an organization for the relatively affluent, the principal object of which is social enjoyment at the Conventions; in our local Chapter one half of the money from dues goes toward the delegates' expenses!

In both the Am. Bar Association and the Am. Medical Association the delegates to a convention pay their own expenses and prominent members of those associations with whom I have talked laugh at the arrangement which we now have of giving a select few of our members a delightful vacation in this way.

The benefits of a convention are not to be denied, but they are largely personal. It is a fine thing for those who attend one to meet a lot of men of high standing in that way; it broadens their horizons and creates a feeling of wider fellowship; but so far as the membership at large is concerned such benefits do not extend far. The business of a convention could be done just as well if not better by a Committee and its very considerable expense should be born by those who enjoy its privileges.

I quote from my letter to Mr. Russell:-¹³ Those who are ordinarily chosen as delegates to a Convention would naturally be apt to favor a retention of high dues. They would be so inclined because the present dues are what have made possible their delightful trips to Conventions. Lower dues would mean no more such vacations unless they pay for them themselves.

"Now I don't mean to convey that any of these fine fellows are mercenary enough to deliberately figure it out that way; but nevertheless unconsciously their point of view is apt to be affected by their enjoyable past experiences. If I, for instance, as a delegate, had crossed the continent in a Pullman, had watched the desert mountains while being served caviar and alligator pear by faultless waiters in the dining car, had met in Washington a lot of congenial souls and had seen there all the new sights, the Government buildings, the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington monument, etc. etc. and had all my expenses on the jaunt paid by others -- why I might be wedded to high dues too! -- in fact I might then like them as well as I liked Santa



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Claus when I was a kid!

"But neither my delightful experiences or the exalted feelings they evoked would be shared by the average man at home -- he would have to be satisfied with my telling him what a great thing the Convention was when I got back. Many such average men have been remarkably well satisfied with that kind of solace for years, have been mighty good natured about it."

"About the same coterie of men year after year travel about and meet together on these jaunts, have a good time, enlarge their horizons and naturally, being human, they come to feel that the work they are engaged in is important. Those who are selected for the purpose are of course those who take active parts in regular meetings, and no criticism is intended there; but nevertheless the system operates so that they become incapable of appreciating the point of view of the large body of members who are not so active and who may have very good reasons for not wishing to be. This coterie forms a sort of club within a club, comprising a very small percentage of the entire Institute membership -- perhaps 25%. The other 75% pay an inordinate amount of dues in consequence.

"This view of the situation is not fanciful. It has been supported by one who has been very active in an official capacity in the Institute. In reply to my arguments about the matter he said: 'We don't want the Institute to be a representative body'!

"Well, if it is not to be representative what then has it to offer the average man? Or, if you like, what duty then has the average man toward it? Where then, are all the fine ideals for which it is supposed to stand?

"If, on the other hand, it is to be representative, then its dues should be brought down to where the average man can pay them.

"Another Institute member who has been very active said, in reply to my arguments:- "It is a question whether the Institute should be a general organization like the American Bar Association or whether it should be academic (whatever that means in this case). The interpolation is mine, because any reputable architect who has the price can get in and they are glad to get him. So the standard of acceptance is not an "academic" but a monetary one.



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"Still another remark that is offered is "We should all stand together". But to 'stand together' there should be something worthwhile to stand for, and the present attitude of the Institute toward the average man does not offer much.

In my opinion the Institute has struggled with that issue and the "Old Guard" has won out. It is no longer an organization to which many capable architects can afford to belong. I am very sorry to have to take that view, but the conditions of my business occasioned largely by prolonged illness years ago which set me back make me feel that I cannot longer afford the combined expense of the national and local organizations.

Yours truly,



170 EAST CALIFORNIA STREET
PASADENA

January 25, 1937



Mr. E. C. Kemper,
The Octagon,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Kemper:

In going through my file drawer just now I came across the bill or statement from the A. I. A. and on it a lead pencil notation to pay the first installment ^{of dues} before March 31st.

Now my recollection was that I had paid that much (the first installment), which accounts for my saying so when handing in my resignation.

I dont suppose that it makes any difference, except that, unless I corrected my statement it might appear as though I had mis-represented the facts.

As I understand it one is in good standing, if his last year's dues are paid up to the end of the year, until March 31st. of the next year.

This is kind of a bungling way of expressing what I am trying to say, but I trust you understand.

Yours truly,

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

January 29, 1937.

Dear Mr. Grey:

This will acknowledge receipt of a copy of your letter of January 16 to the Secretary of the Southern California Chapter - which we have accepted as substantial compliance with the By-law requirement that the resignation of an Institute Member must be submitted direct to the national body and can be accepted only by the national body.

We also acknowledge your letter of January 25 with regard to the payment of Institute dues.

According to the record here, your dues for 1936 were paid in full, and in view of the early submission of your resignation in 1937 no dues will be charged against you for that year.

The two letters, above mentioned, have been submitted to The Secretary of The Institute as your resignation, and we believe that final action thereon can be taken promptly.

We will advise you in due course of The Institute's action.

By direction of The Secretary.

Sincerely yours,

ECK*B

Executive Secretary.

Mr. Elmer Grey, Architect,
170 East California Street,
Pasadena, California.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2 3
COPY

NOTICE OF RESIGNATION OF MEMBERSHIP

TO

Mr. Elmer Grey, Architect,
170 East California Street,
Pasadena, California.

Your resignation from The Institute, dated January 16, 1937,
is effective both in The Institute and in your Chapter, as of
January 19, 1937, the date it was received by The Secretary.

The Board regrets your decision to withdraw from The Institute,
and hopes that you will return to it soon.

Date January 30, 1937.

Secretary.

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COPY TO
FILES

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

TREASURER

2.3
L.H.G.
THE AMERICAN
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1941 NOV 27 AM 9:10

WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 11, 1941

Mr. Elmer Grey
U. S. Naval Air Station
Trade School Department
Jacksonville, Florida

Dear Mr. Grey:

Your letter of November 6 to the Secretary of the Institute has been referred to me.

I am sure that the use of the letters, "F.A.I.A." after the article in the Architect and Engineers was not by any intention of yours. Such mistakes happen every now and then to all of us.

Since I have for many years admired your work, I hope that you will return to the Institute membership where you most certainly belong. We are glad to have you as a resident of the Jacksonville area and look forward to seeing you. I extend to you a cordial invitation to visit us at the University, and I would be happy if I could arrange for you to make a talk to the students at some time when it would suit your convenience.

Please permit me to convey the best wishes of the officers and directors to you, and thank you for your letter.

Cordially yours,

RW:jf