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unanimous

# Application for Membership

January 31, 1920

To the Secretary of the American Institute of Architects,  
The Octagon House, Washington, D. C.

SIR:

I hereby apply for Membership in the American Institute of Architects.

I hereby certify that the following statements are correct:

Name Victor Mindeleff

Address 3900 Tuntaw Road, Washington, D. C.  
(Number and Street.) (City.) (State.)

Place and date of birth London, England, June 2 - 1860

Graduate in architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
[If required in your case, give name of institutions and year.—Attach evidence of Diploma or Certificate of graduation.]

Holder of Scholarship in architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
[If required in your case, attach evidence.]

Passed the qualifying examinations of the Royal Institute of British Architects, or the examinations for  
first class of the Ecole des Beaux Arts \_\_\_\_\_  
[If required in your case, state which, and attach evidence of Certificate.]

If an Associate of a Chapter of the Institute, give name of chapter \_\_\_\_\_

If practicing architect, firm name Victor Mindeleff

Have been in practice independent 6 yrs. — 20 years Life Saving Service, U.S. Coast Guard; also independent

If draughtsman, employed by \_\_\_\_\_  
[State number of years.]

Collegiate and office training \_\_\_\_\_



I have carefully examined the Constitution and By-Laws of the Institute and the "Circular of Advice Relative to Principles of Professional Practice and Canons of Ethics," and I agree, if elected, honorably to maintain them.

I further agree, if elected to membership in the American Institute of Architects, that if at any time my membership shall cease, either by my own resignation or by any action taken by the Institute, I will then, by that fact, relinquish all rights of any character that I may have acquired by reason of such membership in the property, real or personal, of the American Institute of Architects, and of the Chapter of the Institute of which I am then a member.

Victor Mindeleff  
[Signature of Applicant.]

I hereby certify that the signer of this application was duly elected an Associate of the Washington  
[For use when the applicant is an Associate.]

Chapter, A. I. A., on the following date November 1917  
[Insert date of election to chapter.]

L. P. Walsh, Jr. Secretary.  
Washington Chapter, A. I. A.

We, the undersigned members of the American Institute of Architects, have carefully examined the foregoing statement and believe it to be correct. We know the applicant personally, and consider that his work and practice warrant his admission to Membership.

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_

PA. 500 2/2/20  
Must pay \$15.00 now  
yes  
no

[The signatures of three Institute members are here required unless the applicant has the unanimous endorsement of his Chapter, in which case certification to that effect should be made above by the Secretary. Unanimous endorsement is that endorsement in which each Institute member of the Chapter had an opportunity to express himself by letter ballot either for or against the member proposed. No other form of unanimous endorsement will be accepted.]

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

COPY

April 6, 1920.

My dear Mr. Mindeloff:

As Secretary of the Institute, it is my pleasure and duty to advise you of your election to membership in the American Institute of Architects, effective April 5, 1920.

You have been assigned to the Washington Chapter, and I am sending a copy of this communication to Mr. L. P. Wheat, Jr., the Secretary.

May I take this opportunity to say that the office of the Secretary at the Octagon is for the service of every Institute member. Should the occasion arise, we will be pleased to give you our best cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Secretary.

Mr. Victor Mindeloff,  
5900 Tunlaw Road,  
Washington, D.C.

P/H

COPY TO

FILES    PRESIDENT    SECRETARY    TREASURER

It is perhaps a happy analogy that your Fine Arts medal was given tonight to a musician, because I have always felt that the most wonderful thing in civilization, the most wonderful evidence of the possibilities of team play, is what an orchestra can do, the unified and harmonious effort of so many individuals under competent leadership. We would like you to carry away the thought that we have a pretty good orchestra here in Washington, who are playing well together. We have a good plan, and we hope we may count on your support in your communities to give us encouragement from there, and to make the people there feel that they want to inquire of their Congressman what he has done to help the Plan of Washington along.

I had hoped, when I was first threatened with the chance of saying a few words to you, to quote the Seville resolution as our ideal, but that part of my speech has been made so much better by a previous speaker than I could make it, that I will merely add that those things which he said, I say also with regard to the National Capital. Thank you very much. (*Applause.*)

THE PRESIDENT. We thank you, Major Grant, for what you have said. If there is one duty which rests more strongly than another upon the entire membership of the American Institute of Architects it is the large measure of responsibility which the profession of architecture assumes that it has toward our National Capital.

You may recall a few years ago that it was the American Institute of Architects which succeeded in having removed from the Mall that great blot upon the city, the old Pennsylvania Railway Station. The great president of a great railroad [Cassatt] was public spirited enough and appreciative enough, when the matter came to him through the Institute, to succeed in bringing about a change. We recall his coming to a dinner like this and accepting Honorary Membership in our organization. I want to assure you that we realize, as perhaps the people in general do not, that other harm threatens this great Plan of Washington, even more dangerous because less obvious. And we are always at the service of those who, like yourself, are interested in this great city.

#### Fellowships Announced

THE PRESIDENT (*continuing*). The last item of business is the award of Fellowships in the American Institute of Architects. The Institute honors distinction among its own

members by awarding the title of Fellow. As the members are aware, there has been a feeling that the method of selection which is very difficult, has been faulty and should be reformed. For several years earnest efforts have been under way to bring about that reform. We feel that the object has been almost achieved, although there are still some difficulties to be cleared away.

This year, in announcing the awards, I am sure you will share with me—and with all of the Directors—a disappointment that the list is shorter by half than it should be. We can only hope that another year will bring about a more complete adjustment, and that we may have your patience in the meantime in behalf of many of our distinguished men who years ago should have been recognized as Fellows.

We will ask the Secretary to read the names of those who have been elected.

THE ACTING SECRETARY. The names of the Fellows selected this year are as follows: Howard Sill, Herbert W. C. Browne, James Ford Clapp, Harry W. Gardner, Charles W. Killam, William G. Rantoul, Hubert G. Ripley, John B. Slee, Thomas Edward Snook, August C. Esenwein, F. H. Bosworth, Jr., Arthur N. Gibb, Alfred Hoyt Granger, Charles S. Schneider, W. G. Malcomson, John Robert Dillon, William J. Sayward, Robert Frost Daggett, E. Hill Turnock, J. C. Murphy, Allison Owen, Edwin H. Brown, R. Maurice Trimble, Reginald Davis Johnson, John F. Capen, Arnold H. Moses, Harry Thornton Stephens, Fred Wesley Wentworth, Edward P. Casey, Harvey Wiley Corbett, Ernest Flagg, Joseph H. Freedlander, Howard Greenley, Arthur Loomis Harmon, Henry Hornbostel, John Mead Howells, Everett V. Meeks, Kenneth M. Murchison, Stephen Francis Voorhees, Edward P. York, William H. Lord, Paul A. Davis III, Arthur I. Meigs, Charles Barton Keen, John T. Windrim, William Boyd, David C. Allison, Victor Mindeleff, and Gerrit J. de Gelleke.

(*Applause.*)

#### Installation of New Officers

THE PRESIDENT. The Convention today elected its new Officers and Directors for the coming year. In the ordinary course, six directors hold over, three new directors besides the officers are elected. One additional director this year takes the place of another by reason of the vacancy caused by the untimely death of Mr. Schnaittacher. Were it not for the lateness of the hour, I know you would be

national Capital feels that attention and action should be focussed. The architects and other civic and professional associations, which have worked for the development of an adequate Federal City, should devote their efforts to obtaining, through Congress, the authorization of the Budget Bureau's commendations for the establishment of Planning Commission jurisdictions and the appropriation of funds for the long-deferred publication of development plans. As a measure, we have paid only a service to Burnham's "make no more plans." With a re-organized, representative Commission, to include the Administrator of Federal Works and the Architect of the Capitol, we need have no further apprehension about planning which is "too little and too late."

Completed concrete church at Leavenworth, built in 1923.

To CHARLES SUMNER GREENE and HENRY MATHER GREENE of the Southern California Chapter were awarded special certificates of merit for design and execution of

work in architecture and the fine arts. Messrs. Charles and Henry Greene opened an office in Pasadena in 1894. They retired from practice in 1914.

CHARLES H. DORNBUSCH has been appointed a member of the Illinois Architectural Examining Board, filling the vacancy caused by the resignation of Jerrold Loebel.

## Victor Mindeleff

1861—1948

*By Delos H. Smith*

THE death, on March 26th, of Victor Mindeleff, F.A.I.A., deprives Washington of one of its most notable architects.

For more than half a century he was identified with the life of the Chapter and The Institute. His work remains distinctive. His designs, from the original Glen Echo Park down to the Public Roads Group at Gravelly Point, cover the period in which the very earth has shifted beneath the feet of dogma. He stood for an uninhibited architecture—individual, consistent and memorable.

The character of his work was no doubt influenced by his early years with Dr. J. W. Powell's expeditions to the prehistoric ruins of the Southwest. The sketches he drew and brought home of aboriginal Indian dwellings made a valuable contribution to American

ethnology and doubtless inspired his innate talent. And a certain common sense in viewpoint may well have been gained on the prairie.

Back East again, his domestic design showed a real appreciation of house and garden as a unit, as well as the rare feeling for form and color which made his work distinctive. The houses he designed owed much to home experience. Together with Mrs. Mindeleff, to whom he attributed all horticultural success, he made gardens to dream about and in his versatility turned to the brush for further expression. This happy gift in painting led to the creation of the flower studies and decorative panels for which he is noted. The work of architect, painter, gardener was always well done.

Removed in recent years to

Southern Maryland, he still found expression, on the drawing-board, in the delicate and careful draftsmanship—brown ink on white cloth—which created drawings that can be fairly likened to old

lace. And he still knew how to make his garden grow.

We knew and admired him as one who had not really grown old. The influence of his character and work will not easily be forgotten.

## Safety from the Architect's Viewpoint

*By Samuel R. Bishop*

A.I.A. REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONSTRUCTION SECTION, NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

Reprinted by permission from *Construction Safety* for January 1948, published by the National Safety Council, Chicago; with some revision by the author to fit a different audience

**A**T A RECENT MEETING of the Executive Committee of the Construction Section of the National Safety Council it was suggested that it would be of interest to obtain the architects' viewpoint on safety.

In considering safety from the architect's viewpoint, we must begin with the premise that the architect's interest in and responsibility for safety extend only to those building construction projects which are built from plans and specifications prepared in his office and carried forward under his supervision.

On such items of construction work, safety would seem to begin in the architect's office.

First, let me qualify by saying that safety seems to have fallen to

the architect by default, mainly because the average contractor has been rather slow to show any interest in the matter and reluctant to assume it as his responsibility, so that now safeguards are a fundamental requirement in nearly all architects' specifications.

At the same time, in some construction work, the architect may be concerned simply with the design of the project, such as bridges, viaducts, park layouts, etc., where no specifications are prepared, contracts are made by others, and the actual construction is under the supervision of the general contractor, who assumes full responsibility for the safety of his men and the public.

But in building construction,