

(on Diploma Ecole list in 1898)

Form of Application for Examination for Admission to Candidacy for  
Associate of the American Institute of Architects.

Received,  
DEC 30 1902

Answered \_\_\_\_\_

My name is *Charles Butler*

My address is *16 East 23 St. New York.*

I received my education in architecture as follows.....

*Ecole des Beaux Arts Paris France*  
*Admitted - April 1892.*  
*Diploma Dec 1897.*

(IF NOT NOW PRACTICING IN YOUR OWN NAME FILL OUT TWO BLANKS BELOW).

I have been employed by the following architects.....

I am now employed by.....

Signature of applicant *Charles Butler*

Endorsement of President of New York Chapter *Wm. Rufus Marshall*

Date *Dec 27 1902.*

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BUTLER & RODMAN  
ARCHITECTS

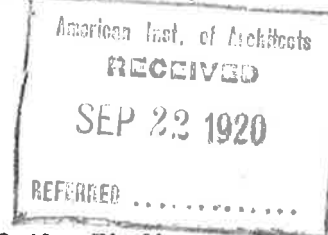
CHARLES BUTLER, F.A.I.A.

56 WEST FORTY-FIFTH STREET  
TELEPHONE 2958 VANDERBILT

NEW YORK

September 21st, 1920

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



Dear Sir

Will you be good enough to send me a copy of the Findings of the Judiciary Committee, dated July 30th, 1920, as apparently I have not received a copy of same.

Yours very truly,

*Charles Butler*  
R7

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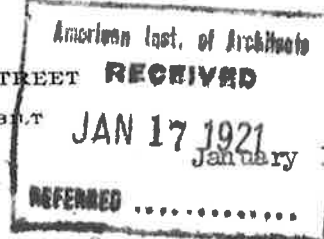
BUTLER & RODMAN  
ARCHITECTS

CHARLES BUTLER, F.A.I.A.

56 WEST FORTY-FIFTH STREET  
TELEPHONE 2958 VANDERBILT

NEW YORK

2-3



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

Dear Mr. Kemper:.

Many thanks for returning my check to the Baltimore Club. I knew I had enclosed it with some other bill but did not know where it had gone until you returned it.

I have your letter in reference to the Committee report and shall keep it in mind and try to be on time.

With best wishes for the New Year, I am

Yours sincerely,

*Charles Butler*

BUTLER & RODMAN  
ARCHITECTS

CHARLES BUTLER,

56 WEST FORTY-FIFTH STREET

NEW YORK

TELEPHONE 2958 VANDERBILT

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

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
OF ARCHITECTS  
April 2, 1925.  
APR 3 1925  
RECEIVED  
RFD.

Dear Mr. Kemper,

Will you kindly send Mr. Butler another copy of the  
program for the A.I.A. Convention (yellow pamphlet) as he has misplaced  
his, and oblige.

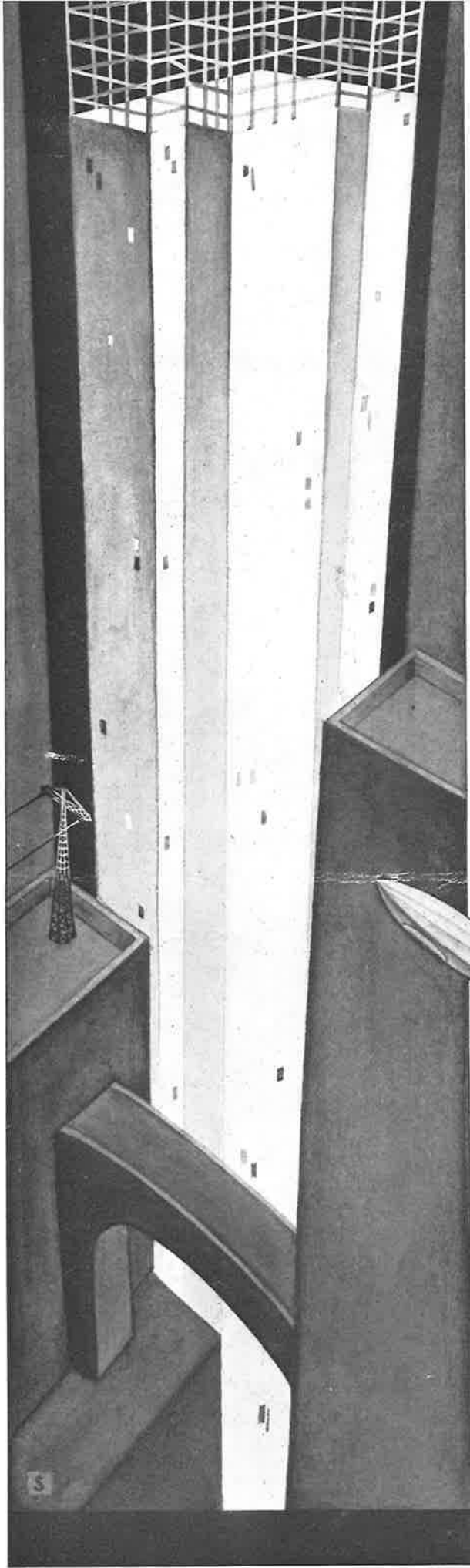
Very truly yours,

*Frieda Doehler*  
Secretary.

Sent via *Manilla Envelope*  
Prepaid *3¢* Collect .....  
Date *Apr 3 1925* .....  
By *M.D.* .....

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To be returned  
to the Octagon

2-3  
Butler

*Fried*  
*H*

*June Oct*

*Mr. Oct*

*Statement by Butler*

*The*  
**AMERICAN  
ENGINEER**

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
THE NEW YORK STATE SOCIETY  
OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

A U G U S T + + 1 9 3 1



# RECIPROCITY

## As One Architect Views the Situation

The following address, delivered to the graduating class of 1931 at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute by Chas. Butler, F. A. I. A., practicing architect, of 56 West 45th Street, New York, merits wide distribution among both architects and engineers:

Mr. President, Members of the Board of Trustees, Members of the Graduating Class, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Let me first express my deep appreciation of the great distinction which has just been conferred upon me. For an architect to be given an honorary degree by a School of Engineering is high honor indeed and far beyond my individual merit. Let me then take it as an honor conferred on my profession and as an earnest of the relations of friendship and cooperation which we are resolved to establish always more firmly between our professions.

I appreciate also the opportunity which you have given me to address this gathering of all the branches of the engineering profession and the allied schools which compose the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

I have had very little connection with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, but what association I have had with it you will, I think, admit was of the best for I had the privilege of knowing well Henry Hodge, one of your ablest graduates, and he epitomizes to me the R. P. I. Do you wonder that I have always had a high respect for the Institute?

I wrote President Ricketts some weeks ago that I thought I would speak to you today about the relations of engineers and architects, and he replied that he thought my subject was well chosen, but he feared that if enough engineers and architects and brickbats were coincidentally available, my remarks might be abruptly terminated; nevertheless, I shall speak to you of the relations between architects and engineers. Let me say first that in my judgment the establishment of your School of Architecture will prove to be one of the most valuable forward steps ever taken at this institution, from the point of view of both engineers and architects. Our two professions of necessity complete each other—We cannot create architecture without engineering, and heaven knows, you ought not to practice engineering without art.

One of the chief causes of failure in understanding between us arises from the fact that from the start of our studies in preparation for the practice of our professions we are usually segregated from each other. We think of an engineer as a man who spends his time playing with a slide rule and you think of an architect as a poseur, who wears long

hair and makes pretty pictures and does not know how to make a building stand up without an engineer to help him. That we are each of us wide of the mark in our judgment of the other does not prevent our starting out in life with settled prejudices which have been broken down by years of experience. The fact that here engineers and architects will be trained side by side, in many cases following the same courses and passing the same examinations should tend to promote understanding and mutual appreciation, on the one condition that neither group should consider itself superior, but that each should rather try to comprehend the special point of view of the other. I know that it will be invaluable for the architects to be thrown with engineers, and I feel sure that the engineers on their side will derive no little benefit from the association.

Now just to correct an impression in regard to the architects' training, let me say that I am a graduate of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, than which I am sure in your minds no place is more characterized by flowing ties and flowing beards and generally loosely flowing artistic ideas; and yet in that school of architecture, famous for its artistic teaching, we spent a full half of our second year on wood and stone construction, and the entire third year on general construction, including steel framing, although I have to admit that in my case it was so long ago that skeleton construction had not yet appeared on the scene. Just now we are taking stock of our own architectural training, and I had occasion to talk recently with one of the two men who have visited some fifty of our schools throughout the country. He told me that in his judgment and that of his colleague the art of construction was in general being better taught in the architectural schools than the art of design. As a matter of fact the day of the long-haired "artist architect" is long since over, and while an architect must be first of all an artist he must have a very wide practical knowledge of materials and methods of construction, and above all he must have a knowledge of the art of planning. You must remember that in architecture the fundamental requirement is not the exterior of the building but the plan, and this plan must be based on requirements which are eminently practical. To refer once more to the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, as you perhaps know, the culmination of the work of the French students lies in the competition for the Prix de Rome which gives the winner four years free residence and study at Rome.

By the way, it will interest you at Rensselaer, where there have always been many foreign stu-

dents, to know that the Ecole des Beaux-Arts receives foreigners on the same footing as Frenchmen and gives them free training, even though they pay no taxes and do no military service for France.

This Prix de Rome test is the one great school competition limited to Frenchmen, to which every French student looks forward, and for which the ten final competitors are chosen by progressive elimination through sketch compositions. The final twenty-four hour test is entirely devoted to the solution of a great problem of planning, and the elevations are presented at so small a scale as to be negligible, merely diagrams to elucidate the general scheme of plan.

This, gentlemen, in the school which of all others is regarded, and rightly, as the fountain-head of artistic design in architecture.

I remember my old professor in Paris saying to me one day, after I had spent some years at the school—"Butler, you have been here long enough to realize the strength of our teaching and to know that it is based on good planning. You can put forty good elevations on a good plan, but if you haven't got a good plan you never can have a good elevation." He pushed this thing so far, and kept us working so consistently on plan, that often our final competition drawings would be turned in with excellent plans, but with elevations which had hardly progressed beyond the sketch stage.

You have recently heard much criticism by architects and laymen of the proposed Radio City in New York at 50th Street and Fifth Avenue, and much of the criticism of laymen has centered around the stark bareness of the buildings. Let me assure you that such criticism is not based on the fundamental fault of this group of buildings. What we architects criticize and criticize severely is the bad grouping of the buildings and the poor proportions of the individual units. We don't care whether a building is richly decorated or plain as a pikestaff; it is obvious that ornament is appropriate in certain locations and in certain types of buildings, but the simple Empire State and the ornate Woolworth are both magnificent structures.

You need only consult your own curricula to realize that today architects are given a basic training not only in planning and design but also in construction, in heating and ventilating, sanitary and electrical engineering. Nevertheless, the work of the average architect must lie primarily in the planning and design of buildings.

I believe that I could, if given time, make the calculations for the steel of a skeleton construction building, but I am convinced that I should be ill-advised and unfair to my client if I did this work myself and failed to take advantage of the great skill and experience of the engineering profession, both in structural work and in mechanical and electrical engineering.

I read last week in "The Architectural Record" a searching article on architectural schools by Professor Gulley of our new Department. Let me assure you that he is thoroughly conversant with the faults in our existing teaching methods and the necessity of breaking with bad traditions. His attitude gives promise for the building up of a school which will give to its students a thorough grounding in the modern requirements for competent practice of our profession, so that they may in years to come reflect credit on Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

So much in regard to the architect and what his training is, or should be in a good school. Now for the engineer.

As soon as we get out in the open and begin the practice of our profession we architects come in contact with engineers and very promptly, if we have any sense, we learn that our preconceived ideas as to them are wide of the mark and though we may not be logical enough to change our ideas of the profession as a whole, we realize that the men with whom we work are almost without exception very different from what we had supposed. The group of engineers who are most called on to work with architects, structural, mechanical, electrical and sanitary engineers, fully realize what the architect is striving for and sympathize with his desire to create a building which will be not only practical but a thing of beauty, and that beauty is inherent in the design of the factory and the power house as well as in the college building and the religious edifice. In other words, these men are men of imagination and they have learned to appreciate the other man's point of view, and to see what he is striving for, and if only all engineers and all architects could be brought together, I should have no fear of lack of understanding between our two great professions.

You here at Troy are near enough to Albany to be familiar with the rather strained relations which have existed for the past two or three years between architects and engineers during the sessions of the legislature. Some of your representatives have resented the stiffening of requirements incorporated in our registration law and the stipulation that none but registered architects might design and superintend the erection of buildings. Our architects' state registration board has tried to remedy this in part by registering a number of engineers as architects, but that was only a partial solution to what many of us thought was a too strict requirement of the law. The engineers retaliated by pushing legislation which would give to any and all licensed engineers the right to practice architecture and we came back with the argument that many types of engineer were not competent in that line. Then last winter a national joint committee of prominent engineers and architects studied the question and recommended that structural engineers be permitted to practice architecture, and this report was signed by the civil

and mechanical engineer members and by the architects, but the electrical engineer member refused to sign, because he felt that this would be the first step toward the segregation of the profession of engineering into many different groups, and recently the Board of Directors of the Civils disapproved the report for the same reason.

Meanwhile, out of all this turmoil a new thought has been advanced; what do we architects care where or how an engineer has acquired his training if he knows how to do the job? If an electrical or a chemical engineer knows how, he should receive the same treatment as his structural engineer brother. We feel however that to practice architecture the engineer should have some knowledge of the art of planning, of which I have spoken. You will realize that in order to plan a theatre or an office building a man must know more than how to make a building stand up and resist wind pressure; he must be familiar with convenience planning of corridors, spacing of windows, width of aisles, sight lines, and with the planning of exits for safety of life, but if he can qualify in these particulars and in structural matters I personally, and in this I am not alone, believe that he must be permitted to do what an architect does, and I trust that this may be authorized by legislation here and throughout the nation.

Of course I feel that the exterior design of a building is of very great importance, but the laws governing the practice of architecture are based on the protection of life, health and property, and although I should like to see it admitted, we have not yet reached the point where ugliness has been defined by law as a menace to health and property. We shall have to rely on the development of imagination among you engineers; the realization that an ugly building really hurts those who look at it, to achieve this result. With better understanding between our professions I have no doubt of the future.

I have studied with interest the book of photographs of work done by graduates of the Institute—among the outstanding achievements are many bridges and of these some are remarkable by their beauty of form. The men who designed them were certainly not lacking in artistic sensibility.

A superb demonstration of art in engineering is the Hudson River Bridge now nearing completion in New York City. It is hard to conceive of anything more beautiful than this majestic structure in its present stark simplicity, and I personally trust that it will never be clothed in masonry.

You may object that it is a counsel of perfection to ask architecture to have knowledge of engineering and engineers to be not ignorant of architecture, yet we have the historical example of one of the world's greatest men, Leonardo da Vinci, who in the 16th century was not only a very great painter, but was withal a great engineer and a great architect, with no mean ability as a writer. That he was not merely the exception which

proved the rule is shown by what we know of Michael Angelo, Brunelleschi, and Sir Christopher Wren, all great architects and great engineers.

All of this is probably very boring to the great majority of you who do not expect to have to deal with our profession, but there is a moral to it which you can all apply to yourselves.

I spoke of the fact that Henry Hodge to me epitomized the R. P. I. He was a great man and a great engineer, busy on great engineering projects and yet when he came into our office to help us on small jobs, he had the same interest in and understanding of our problems that he had for the large problems; in other words, he had that great gift of imagination and the ability to put himself in the place of the other man and realize his point of view.

I read the other day in Benson's book on the Victorian era that Queen Victoria was strong on common sense but had no imagination, while the Kaiser had much imagination but no common sense and that, as a result, neither was a complete success, although he considered common sense the more important quality. You engineers are famous for your common sense, so I urge you to cultivate your imagination, while we architects should strive to acquire more of the common sense which some of us surely lack.

I understand that a Commencement address is not complete without a moral, so I leave this with you, and it is equally applicable to those who are called on to deal with architects and those who escape that contact. Cultivate your imagination and try in all your professional life to understand the other man's point of view. Even at my age I have learned a great deal in my recent dealings with your profession and you as young men can learn even more from meeting those with whom you have to deal with an open mind, with imagination, and with understanding.

Thank you.

#### Editorial Comment:

This is a splendid evidence of fairness and sincerity. However, the author, despite apparent understanding of the problem, makes the assumption, perhaps unintentionally, that engineers seek to practice architecture. They do not. The engineer maintains that designing structural members or installing mechanical, sanitary, electrical or chemical equipment is engineering whether the structure be a bridge or a building. He does not seek to qualify as an artist. He seeks the right to file the plans he prepares which comprise most of those required by departments concerned with life, health and property. Such matters as structural steel, concrete, masonry, mechanical apparatus, electrical equipment, plumbing, ventilation, etc., are the provinces of engineers rather than of architects. The Empire State Building is 95% engineering. All the engineer asks is the right of

(Continued on Page 19)

tage to the people throughout this whole country.

"The upper floors of this great sixteen-story freight station will have vast floor space, much daylight, and will be rented out for general industrial and commercial purposes. The acres of floor space facing Eighth Avenue will be occupied by stores, banks and other business interests. Every floor in the building will be virtually a ground floor, as far as shipping facilities are concerned.

"In addition to the very many large freight elevators, there will be two groups of truck elevators, the largest ever built for such service, capable of carrying the largest size truck made to any and all floors.

"The size of the building can be realized by its total floor space of 67 acres or its 5 acres of windows.

"By May, 1932, will come the completion of this tremendous freight service station—will come the fulfillment and the full realization of the hopes and plans of years of special study by experts on the staff of the Port Authority, coupled with the cooperation of the Engineers and Architects, Abbott, Merkt & Company, 22 East 40th Street, New York City.

"For about four years the Engineers and Architects have worked on and presented plans for that great project, in conjunction with the staff of the Port Authority.

"They began by studying a site that would be large enough for the needs, strategically located and particularly suitable for decidedly better freight service for all concerned.

"The volume of inbound and outbound freight was surveyed carefully in order to plan a most practical, convenient and economical way to handle all freight, and that necessitated hundreds of sketches, many of which were discarded in favor of better plans.

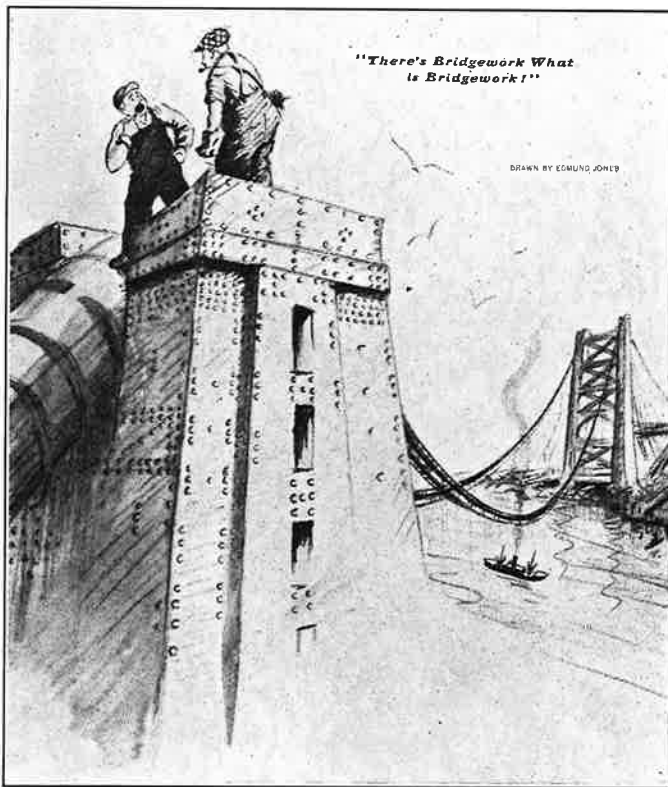
"After an interview with Mr. Hunley Abbott, President of Abbott, Merkt & Company, I was better able to add the real value to this article, which should impress all those who contemplate any construction of a like character. Mr. Abbott warned me to make any statements conservative, but I know that Abbott, Merkt & Company, Engineers and Architects, have long been recognized as among the first and foremost in their profession.

"Like the Engineers and Architects of old, they plan and supervise useful buildings—buildings that will stand the test of Time."

## RECIPROCITY

(Continued from Page 13)

every professional man to act as a principal if he be so retained. He does not seek legislation compelling the client to engage him in preference to an architect nor does he seek to practice architecture. Why cannot the engineer retain the architect in the same manner that the architect re-



## ENGINEERS BOOK SHOP

THE ENGINEERS BOOK SHOP was opened on the 15th of October, 1924, with the following objectives:

- TO conduct a retail book selling business devoted entirely to technical and scientific books.
- TO make intelligent service our watchword and keep an ear to the ground for ways and means of broadening our usefulness.
- TO provide an information service for engineers and manufacturers for the purpose of unearthing any data in print.

227 PARK AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y.  
Vanderbilt 1167

Please Mention "The American Engineer"

## LOUIS Di MENNA

CONTRACTORS

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tains the engineer, if such be the client's wish? When building departments employ architects to examine and pass upon plans for structures wherein the protection of life, health and property is paramount then such work may be construed as architecture. What the engineer strongly objects to is the practice by architects of signing, filing and

holding out the work of engineers as their own. As an example the writer calls particular attention to certain sewer plans which were submitted for his consideration and which while prepared by engineers bore in large bold type the name of a prominent firm of New York architects. No mention was made of the engineer.

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Construction  
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200th STREET AND WEBSTER AVENUE  
237th STREET AND BAILEY AVENUE  
BRONX, N. Y.

The author errs when he states that under the Architects' Law none but architects can legally design and superintend the erection of buildings. There is a saving clause which specifically refers to engineers. The Law Committee of the Board of Regents gave its opinion on the subject in February 1930.

Will some architect demonstrate the logic which contends that only engineers (in building departments and other public offices concerned with life and property) are competent to examine and approve plans that only architects can prepare and file. If engineers examine and pass upon plans, who but engineers should prepare and file such plans. The engineer accepts the proposal so ably set forth by Mr. Butler—Both are honorable professions—allow both to prepare and file plans and trust to each profession not to overstep the bounds and to eliminate incompetents.

**STUART CHASE**

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

2-3  
COPY

February 20, 1932

Dear Sir:

This will confirm our telephone conversation of today, wherein you have promised to reserve two single rooms, with bath, at \$4.00 each per day, at the Powhatan Hotel for Messrs. Charles Butler and Frederick Mathesius.

We very much appreciate your efforts to take care of these members of The American Institute of Architects.

Yours very truly,

Executive Secretary.

Powhatan Hotel,  
Attention: Room Clerk,  
Washington, D. C.

K/fhg

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23

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J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

February 20, 1932

~~CHARLES BUTLER~~  
 56 WEST 45th STREET  
 NEW YORK, N. Y.

WASHINGTON CONGESTED TWO SINGLE ROOMS RESERVED

YOU AND MATHESIUS AT POWHATAN PLEASE ADVISE HIM

E. C. KEMPER

CHARGE TO:

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
 1741 New York Avenue

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE.

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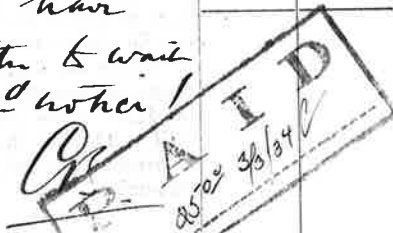
(COPY)

March 1, 1934

TO THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.  
Edwin Bergstrom, Treasurer

DR.

ANNUAL DUES, January 1, 1934, to December 31, 1934, inclusive..... Annual Dues are due and payable on the first day of the fiscal year and if not paid within three months thereafter, will be in default. (For explanation of the amount of this bill see statement on reverse)	\$25	00
<i>If I had paid promptly, I would have          my sub \$10 - sometimes it is better to wait          for a 2<sup>nd</sup> check!</i>		
Mr. Charles Butler, 56 West 45th Street, New York, N. Y.		
Retain original bill and mail this copy with your check. Your check duly endorsed will become your receipt. Special receipt will be mailed upon request. Checks payable to The American Institute of Architects. Please call attention to any change in your address or error in this bill.		


  
 A I A  
 25702 3/3/34

Mr. Butler paid \$25.00 to cover his dues  
 for 1934. (\$10.00) He did not return GIFT  
 He should receive recent form letter "B"  
 CARD

LM

PROPOSED REDUCTION OF DUES

There can be no change in the amount of annual dues for 1934 until after the Convention meets in May. The Board will recommend to the Convention and is anticipating its favorable consideration of the proposition that the annual dues for 1934 shall be \$15.00 and that \$25.00 shall be the aggregate amount to be paid by each member for the three-year period of 1931 to 1933, inclusive.

If the Convention acts favorably on the latter proposition, you will be credited or debited on this and future dues bills at the rate of \$5.00 per year until all you have paid for dues during the period 1931 to 1933, inclusive, in excess of \$25.00 has been liquidated, or until you have completed the payment of \$25.00 for that period, as the case may be.

Under the direction of the Board, the Treasurer is herewith billing you \$15.00, on account, for your 1934 dues, less \$5.00 if you are to be credited, and plus \$5.00 if you are to be debited, for 1931-33 dues. Payment on or before April 1, 1934, of the \$10.00, \$15.00 or \$20.00, as the case may be, or of \$5.00 on account thereof, will insure your good standing at the time of the Convention.

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

2-3  
COPY

March 12, 1934.

Dear Mr. Butler:

This will acknowledge and thank you for your note of transmittal and check for \$25 to cover Institute dues.

If the Convention reduces the dues to \$15, what are your wishes with respect to the balance of \$10.00?

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. Charles Butler, F.A.I.A.,  
56 West 46th Street,  
New York City, New York.

ECK\*B

*Should have  
written \$15.00  
C.R.*

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**CHARLES BUTLER**

ARCHITECT, F. A. I. A.

56 WEST FORTY-FIFTH STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE VANDERBILT 2958

**ASSOCIATES**

- CLARENCE S. STEIN, A.I.A.
- FRANK E. VITOLO, A.I.A.
- FRANK H. HOLDEN, A.I.A.
- JOHN J. KNIGHT, A.I.A.

March 15th, 1934



*Please note.*

E. C. Kemper, Esq.,  
 American Institute of Architects,  
 The Octagon,  
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kemper:

Replying to yours of the 12th, would say that having now gone through the agony of sending a check for \$25.00 I am prepared to let any balance remain to the credit of the Institute in case dues are reduced to \$15.00.

What I will do another year is another question. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Yours sincerely,

*Charles Butler*

CB:EE

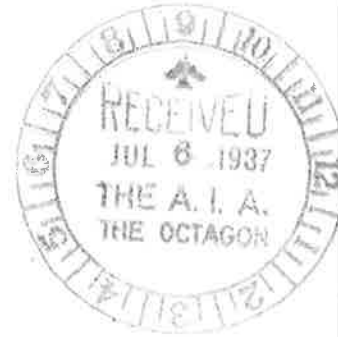
Mr. Holden's dues for 1937 were \$20.00

His dues were paid up to March 31, 1937 - \$7.00. ~~(This put him in good standing until 9-1-37.)~~

**CHARLES BUTLER**  
ARCHITECT, F. A. I. A.  
56 WEST FORTY-FIFTH STREET, NEW YORK  
VANDERBILT 3-2956

July 2, 1937.

Edward C. Kemper, Esq.,  
The Octagon,  
Washington, D. C.



Dear Kemper:

As you know, Frank Holden died on May 29th. Mrs. Holden is anxious to know whether he had any indebtedness to the Institute. I do not know what the custom is. I know that in the Chapter if a member dies owing something the charge is written off and I rather assume the same applies to the Institute. I certainly hope so, as his estate was extremely small. Will you let me hear from you at your early convenience in regard to this?

I was sorry not to see any more of you up in Boston but, as you may have heard, I was ordered off to the hospital on Thursday and spent a pleast<sup>at</sup> week having my nose treated, suffering only in my pride and my pocketbook, but unfortunately missing all the last part of the Convention.

I was, however, delighted with the results of the elections and think we are set for another good administration.

With best regards to all, I am

Yours sincerely,

*Charles Butler*

CB:EE



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

2-3  
COPY

July 6, 1937.

Dear Mr. Butler:

Yours of July 2, is at hand this morning.

We heard that you had been called away from the Convention but did not know how serious the matter was.

It is good to know that you are fit again.

The new President is making a thorough job of getting a grip on Institute affairs and now has in hand the appointment of the Committee personnels - a difficult and time consuming job under any circumstances.

We heard at the Convention, with deep regret, of the death of Frank Holden. Please assure Mrs. Holden that his dues were paid up until March 31, 1937 and that no further statement on account of 1937 dues will be sent from The Octagon.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

ECK:LF

Mr. Charles Butler, F.A.I.A.  
56 West Forty-fifth Street  
New York, New York.

CHARLES BUTLER  
ARCHITECT, F. A. I. A.  
56 WEST FORTY-FIFTH STREET, NEW YORK 19  
MURRAY HILL 2-5714

ASSOCIATES

ROBERT D. KOHN, F.A.I.A.  
CLARENCE S. STEIN, F.A.I.A.  
JOHN J. KNIGHT, R.A.  
ADDISON ERDMAN, A.I.A.

January 23, 1951

Clair W. Ditchy, Esq., Secretary,  
American Institute of Architects,  
1741 New York Avenue N.W.,  
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I note that under Article 10 Section 2 of the By-Laws members who have been in good standing for ten years and have attained the age of seventy shall, upon application, be exempted from the payment of dues and shall retain all privileges of the Institute.

As I have been a member in good standing for forty years and have now reached the age of eighty, I hereby make application for exemption from dues.

Very truly yours,

*Charles Butler*

CB:e

*Elected 1904  
714 Chapter  
1950 dues paid*

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

COPY

Bd  
2/11/51  
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Mr Butler is in good standing  
yes!

January 25, 1951

Dear Mr. Butler:

On behalf of The Secretary we are writing to acknowledge your letter of January 23rd.

As you are eligible for election as a Member Emeritus of The Institute, we shall be most happy to put your application forward.

Just as soon as final action has been taken thereon you will be notified promptly.

Sincerely yours,

*J. W. Rankin*

J. W. Rankin  
Administrative Secretary

Mr. Charles Butler, F.A.I.A.  
56 West 45th Street  
New York 19, New York

JWR/fhg

Copy to the Secretary, New York Chapter, A.I.A.

Please advise us if Mr. Butler is in good standing in the New York Chapter, so that his application may go forward.

JWR

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COPY TO

FILES PRESIDENT SECRETARY TREASURER

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

2-3  
COPY

Butler

February 2, 1961

TO: Mr. Ditchy, Secretary  
FROM: Mr. Rankin, Administrative Secretary

Enclosed herewith is an original of a letter from Charles Butler and a copy of our letter to him of January 25.

As you will see, our letter was the regular form letter sent in all such cases. There is no basis for his statement about the By-Laws that we can find. However, in view of his attitude, I felt that perhaps you would wish to reply to him rather than having the letter come from someone whose actions he has already taken exception to.

The provisions of the By-Laws referring to Membership Emeritus are on page 8, Chapter I, Article 2, Section 6 (a-1 to a-3).

You might wish to call his attention especially to the first part of the sections referred to, where the words mentioning an "application for retirement" are to be noted. You also might wish to bring out the fact that in such cases the applicant "may be exempted....by The Board or a committee...."

J.W.R.

R:dm  
Enclosures (2)

CHARLES, BUTLER  
Architect, F.A.I.A.  
56 West Forty-Fifth Street  
New York 19

Murray Hill 2-5714

January 30, 1951

Associates

Robert D. Kohn, F.A.I.A.  
Clarence S. Stein, F.A.I.A.  
John J. Knight, R.A.  
Addison Erdman, A.I.A.

Clair W. Ditchy, Esq., Secretary  
American Institute of Architects  
1741 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Sir:

On the date of January 23rd I wrote to you calling attention to the fact that under Article 10 Section 2 of the By-Laws I was entitled, in view of the fact that I have been in good standing for ten years and have attained the age of seventy, to be exempted from the payment of dues and to retain all privileges of the Institute.

I now receive from Miss Rankin, Administrative Secretary, a reply under date of January 25th to the effect that I am eligible for election as a Member Emeritus. As I read the first sentence of Section 2, I note that on application I shall be exempted from the payment of dues and shall retain all the privileges of the Institute. I see nothing in this sentence referring to election. I should assume that you might require an affidavit as to my being over seventy years. The office of the Institute is certainly able to find out from its own records whether I have been in good standing for ten years.

Under the circumstances I should be very much interested to know why I should be subject to election and why "final action" has to be taken on my application.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Charles Butler

OB:s

(dhn)

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2-3  
COPY

Butler

Miss Garvas  
See page 2  
Noted  
B

February 6, 1951

Mr. Charles Butler, F.A.I.A.  
56 West Forty-fifth Street  
New York 19, New York

Dear Mr. Butler:

There has been an unfortunate misunderstanding of and in the correspondence regarding your appraising me as Secretary of your qualifications for membership emeritus and I hasten to assure you that no offense or slight was intended.

In order to clarify matters may I quote the entire provisions pertaining to membership emeriti from the current By-Laws:

"Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 6 (a-1) Qualifications for Retirement. A corporate member who has been a corporate member in good standing in The Institute for not less than fifteen successive years immediately preceding the date of his application for retirement and either has attained the age of seventy years or is incapacitated and unable to engage in any vocation may be exempted from the payment of annual dues to The Institute by The Board or a committee of one or more of its members to which it has delegated the power. Under exceptional conditions and circumstances in any individual case, the requirement of the period of good standing may be lessened but no other requirement.

(a-2) Retirement Effective. A member's exemption by retirement from the payment of annual dues shall be effective in The Institute and in each of its component organizations.

(a-3) Member Emeritus. Every member of The Institute exempted by retirement from the payment of annual dues and titled "Retired Member" shall ipso facto become a Member Emeritus. A Member Emeritus shall be entitled to print or otherwise use the title "Member Emeritus" written in full after the initials "A.I.A." or "F.A.I.A.", as the case may be, and his corporate membership, interests, privileges, rights, titles, liabilities, and obligations other than the payment of annual dues shall be unbridged and unchanged because of his exemption.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

Mr. Charles Butler, F.A.I.A.  
Page two.

You will note in Section 6 (a-1) that exemption is not entirely automatic upon application, but requires Board action. This provision, of course, carries no discretionary powers but is intended as a proper legal procedure and check in the routine conduct of Institute affairs.

To answer your closing paragraph specifically, Mr. Rankin's use of the word "election" is understandable although - in view of your interpretation of it - regrettable. In his defense, may I say, that, whether correctly or not, the parlance of his letter has been observed generally in correspondence concerning membership emeritus as well as in other cases of corporate membership advancements where Board action, or authority delegated by the Board, has accompanied them.

]- Shall we  
change?  
R

"Final action" follows a determination of the facts and recommendation by the Board of Examiners, a precaution which obviously in the present instance seems unwarranted and superfluous, but which nevertheless, could hardly be universally dispensed with; by the same token, each case cannot be treated individually.

May I close with my personal apologies and regrets that this untoward incident should attend your transferal to the distinguished estate of Member Emeritus, and extend my best wishes for a lengthy continuance of your notable career.

Sincerely,

CLAIR W. DITCHY, SECRETARY

CWD/rh

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COPY TO

FILES

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

TREASURER

CHARLES BUTLER  
ARCHITECT, F. A. I. A.  
56 WEST FORTY-FIFTH STREET, NEW YORK 19  
MURRAY HILL 2-5714

ASSOCIATES  
ROBERT D. KOHN, F.A.I.A.  
CLARENCE S. STEIN, F.A.I.A.  
JOHN J. KNIGHT, R.A.  
ADDISON ERDMAN, A.I.A.

February 14, 1951.

Mr. Clair W. Ditchy  
The American Institute of Architects  
1741 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ditchy:

Many thanks for your good letter of February 6th, but I don't think you owe me any apology. The fault lies with me for I consulted document #247 which I note dates from 1930, where procedure covering retirement of Members appears in article #10 and was automatic, whereas, under provision of the present by-laws I note that action of the Board is required.

I am interested also to see that in Section #6A 2 when I am approved by the Board of Directors, my exemption will be effective in the Chapter as well.

I still don't understand what the Board of Examiners has to do with the case as I understand its province ~~was~~ to look us over before election as Members of the Institute. Under the circumstances I will be glad if you will ask the office in the Octagon to send us a copy of the present by-laws, document #278 and of the Chapter by-laws #273 as the Chapter office has only one copy of the current by-laws.

Thanking you for your good wishes.

Sincerely,

*Charles Butler*

RECEIVED  
CLAIR W. DITCHY  
ARCHITECT  
FEB 19

CB:s

FEB 19

To: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Job # \_\_\_\_\_



2-3  
file Butler

March 2, 1951

Dear Mr. Butler:

The documents you request in your letter of February 14th were sent and I imagine you have had an opportunity to read them thoroughly by now.

The Board of Directors, under power granted by the By-laws, delegates to the Board of Examiners the scrutiny of all prospective memberships and all changes in corporate memberships. Upon receipt of their recommendation the Secretary issues the final certification.

In the matter of memberships Emeriti, the function is purely one of scrutiny to make sure the case is in order. I cannot believe that you suggest that such a precaution can be reasonably dispensed with.

The procedure which is now followed is in strict accordance with the By-laws, and your relief from any unsatisfactory regulation is through the annual Convention where you or your delegate may propose an amendment to the By-laws to correct the deficiency. The Board at present is meticulously following a definite directive.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Clair W. Ditchy  
Secretary

Mr. Charles Butler, F.A.I.A.  
56 West 45th Street  
New York 19, New York

CWD:MSD

*file*  
CHARLES BUTLER  
ARCHITECT, F.A.I.A.  
56 West Forty-Fifth Street, New York 19  
Murray Hill 2-5714

Original sent to  
Mr. Ditchy  
March 12, 1951

2-3  
*Butler*  
B.C.

March 7, 1951

Mr. Clair W. Ditchy  
The American Institute of Architects  
1741 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ditchy:

I was much amused by your letter of the 2nd of March. You probably do not recollect when the new By-laws were put over at the Convention at Old Point Comfort in 1936. They were the result of Bergstrom's love for complicated detail and were steamrollered through the convention against some very violent protest.

The idea that the Board of Examiners and the Board of Directors should have to waste their valuable time on such unimportant items as passing on applications for transfer of a member to the status of Emeritus is typical of the red tape, characteristic of the present By-laws. I realize that the unfortunate Board is "meticulously following a definite directive", and I am sorry for them. If I were younger, I should start a movement to simplify the By-laws, but as it is I shall let some one else worry.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Signed Charles Butler

CH:h

CUB



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

NOTICE OF ELECTION—MEMBER EMERITUS

TO **Mr. Charles Butler, F.A.I.A.**  
**56 West 45th Street**  
**New York 19, New York**

It is my privilege to advise you that The Board of Directors has conferred upon you  
the title

**MEMBER EMERITUS**

of The American Institute of Architects and of its component organizations of which you are  
a member, exempting you from the payment of annual dues to The Institute and such  
organizations, effective **December 31, 1950.**

Date **April 4,** 19 **51.**

  
Secretary

John

MES, FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1953.

# CHARLES BUTLER, AN ARCHITECT, 82

## Temple Emanu-El Co-Designer Creator of Many Hospitals and Public Buildings Dies

Charles Butler, architect, died yesterday in his home at the Surrey Hotel. His age was 82. He was well known for his designs of many public buildings, particularly hospitals. He was a co-designer of Temple Emanu-El.

Born in Scarsdale, N. Y., a son of Benjamin Franklin Butler and Mrs. Ellen Grenville Parker Butler, he attended Columbia University, where he took his A. B. degree in 1891. In 1930, the university awarded to him an honorary Litt. D.

After his graduation from Columbia, Mr. Butler studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, from which he received a diploma in architecture. He also held an honorary Sc. D. degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (1931).

From 1899 to 1911, Mr. Butler was a partner here of Cary S. Rodman. On Mr. Rodman's death, he became associated with several other architects under the firm title of Robert D. Kohn, Charles Butler & Associates. In 1926, he, Mr. Kohn and Clarence S. Stein were selected for the work on Temple-Emanu-El.

### Honored by French

Other buildings of his design were the Children's Hospital at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore (1909), the Department of the Interior Building in Washington (1915) and a permanent military hospital for the French Ministry of War at Issy-les-Moulineaux, for which he was subsequently made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.

Mr. Butler was a past president of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and of the New York State Board of Examiners of Architects. In 1939, he collaborated in the designing of the New York World's Fair.

During World War I, Mr. Butler was attached to the French War Ministry as an expert on hospital construction.

He maintained an office at 56 West Forty-fifth Street.

His widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Marvin Butler, survives.

[From Late Editions of Yesterday's TIMES.]

# HARRY REA

Special

## WHITE

—Harry C. Rea, estate man, died yesterday at his home in White Plains, N. Y., after a long illness. He was 66 years old.

Mr. Rea was born in Scarsdale, N. Y., and attended the Bronx High School of Science. He was a partner in the firm of Mr. Bryan Alexander Milford, C. Rea and the son founded names in 1 active in t and mana, buildings.

A member of the Board of Directors of the American Board of Trade, Finance and Commerce, and of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce, he was an organizer of the Survivors' Club of Helene A.

## JUDGE

Special

## PHILIP

Judge Philip V. Judge of the P since J while vi was 66

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