

Thomas Andrew J.
New York Chapter

If not reg.
(Associate of N.Y. Chapter)

Application for Membership

December 30th., 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 Andrew J. Thomas

Address 137 East 45th Street, New York City, New York.
[Number and Street.] [City.] [State.]

Place and date of birth New York City, June 13th, 1875.

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 the 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 New York Chapter.

If practicing architect, firm name Andrew J. Thomas

Have been in practice Eleven years.....

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.

Andrew J. Thomas
[Signature of Applicant.]

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

Chapter, A. I. A., on the following date December 8th, 1919.
[Insert date of election to chapter.]

[Signature] Secretary.
New York 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) [Signature]
- (2) [Signature]
- (3) [Signature]

On Priv. Com. of.....
(No. Associate - N.Y. Ch.)

[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.]

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

COPY

January 25, 1921.

My dear Mr. Thomas:-

Permit me to acknowledge with gratification, and on behalf of the Secretary, your application for membership in the American Institute of Architects, received by reference from Mr. Van Pelt of New York.

This will be acted upon at the end of the current month and you will be advised in due course of the action taken.

An essential requirement before your application can be formally considered is the remittance of \$5.00 to cover preliminary fee.

Very truly yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. Andrew J. Thomas,
137 E. 45th Street,
New York, N. Y.

K:VB

COPY TO

FILES PRESIDENT SECRETARY TREASURER

ANDREW J. THOMAS
ARCHITECT
ONE THIRTY-SEVEN EAST FORTY-FIFTH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

2-3

TELEPHONE VANDERBILT 4478-4479

January 29th, 1921.

American Inst. of Architects
RECEIVED
JAN 31 1921

Mr. Edward G. Kemper, Exec. Secy.,
American Institute of Architects,
The Octagon House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I have to thank you for your letter of the 24th instant and in accordance with your request I am herein enclosing my check in sum of \$5.00 to cover preliminary fee.

Very truly yours,



AJT/W
W

American Institute of Architects
1/31/21 *LJM*

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

COPY

March 10, 1921.

My dear Sir:

Acting for the Secretary, I am pleased to advise you of your election to membership in the American Institute of Architects, effective March 10, 1921.

You have been assigned to the New York City Chapter as an Institute member in good standing therein, and the Secretary of the Chapter so notified.

The enclosed statement for dues should receive early attention, as the engrossed Certificate of Membership is not sent until the dues for the first year have been paid. No charge has been made for first quarter of the current year.

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 shall be glad to give you our best cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. Andrew J. Thomas,
137 East 45th Street,
New York City.

K:C

Enclosure

NEW YORK CHAPTER A. I. A.

The special Committee of the New York Chapter appointed in 1925, to make recommendations for Fellowships proposes for the consideration of the Jury of Fellows the name of

ANDREW J. THOMAS

This recommendation is made because of his notable contribution to the design of tenement houses in the City of New York. The Committee believes that Mr. Thomas has probably contributed more to the improvement of the plan and appearance of tenement houses in the Manhattan district than any other Architect. While he has done innumerable such houses, the greatest effect he has had upon the decent appearance of New York tenements is due to the fact that his designs have been copied all over the City. Mr. Thomas was awarded the first Tenement House Medal of the New York Chapter, and he has consistently gone forward as a leader in this particular field.

As Architect of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company tenements and the splendid housing scheme in Bayonne, he has reached a distinguished position in his branch of the profession.

January 27, 1926.

ANDREW J. THOMAS
ARCHITECT
15 EAST 47TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

January 21, 1926.

Committee on Recommendation for Fellowship,
New York Chapter, A. I. A.,
Mr. Robert D. Kohn, Chairman,
56 West 45th Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen:-

I am forwarding you herewith the information on my work requested in your letter of January 12th, in which you asked me to furnish information to be used as a basis for a recommendation for Fellowship in the Institute.

I was born in New York City, June 13th, 1875; son of Andrew Jackson and Elizabeth M. (Kellinger) Thomas. Both parents died, leaving me an orphan at an early age and I had comparatively little schooling, and no university nor technical education. The training for my work in housing was obtained chiefly as a real-estate operator and building contractor. With this experience I entered architecture about eighteen years ago, specializing in the design of apartments, particularly the lower-priced types known as tenement houses.

I have given practically my whole attention to improving the design and construction of low-priced apartment houses. I received three of the annual medals awarded for apartment house design by the New York Chapter, A. I. A. in 1910, 1911, 1912, and honorable mention in 1914. During the war I was supervising architect of the U. S. Shipping Board Industrial Housing. Since the war I have devoted myself to the development of the garden apartment. I have served on the Tenement House Committee of the Charity Organization Society, and on the Committee on Legislation and the Jury on Apartment House Medal, both of the New York Chapter, A. I. A.

My principal writings are:

1. "Is it Advisable to Remodel the Old Tenements?" Architectural Record, November 1920.

ANDREW J. THOMAS
ARCHITECT
15 EAST 47TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

New York Chapter, A. I. A., p. 2.

2. "Garden Apartments to Replace Slums. A series of articles reprinted from the New York Evening World showing how New York can profitably build low rental homes on high-priced land", April 1924.

3. "Industrial Housing". The Bayonne Housing Corporation, Bayonne, New Jersey.

In addition, I have printed a number of newspaper and magazine articles on housing.

I am enclosing herewith, list of my more important buildings, the booklets on Slum Clearance and Industrial Housing, together with 10 photographs illustrating what I consider to be my best work.

With kindest regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

AJT/JG
B



LIST OF BUILDINGS.

1. HOMEWOOD GROUP OF FOUR APARTMENT HOUSES FOR THE CITY AND SUBURBAN HOMES COMPANY, 17TH AVENUE, 73RD AND 74TH STREETS, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.
2. FOUR LARGE BLOCK OPERATIONS, TOTAL OF THIRTY-SIX BUILDINGS, AND THREE SMALLER OPERATIONS FOR THE QUEENSBORO CORPORATION AT JACKSON HEIGHTS, NEW YORK CITY, 1920-1925.
3. GARDEN TENEMENTS OF THE METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Fifty-four buildings in six groups, housing 2125 families, New York City, 1924.
4. APARTMENT HOUSE FOR CARTERS REALTY CORPORATION (J. E. R. CARPENTER), MORRIS AVENUE AND 190TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

Improved standard of typical New York "walk-up" apartment, located on 100' x 100' corner lot, December 1922.
5. APARTMENT HOUSE "LYGON ARMS", EAST 61ST ST., BETWEEN MADISON AND PARK AVENUES, NEW YORK CITY.

Nine-story elevator apartment.
6. PRINCETON INN, PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY, 1924.
7. COLUMBIA MORTGAGE COMPANY'S BUILDING, EAST 43RD STREET, BETWEEN FIFTH AND MADISON AVENUES, NEW YORK CITY.
8. GROUP OF FIVE GARDEN APARTMENTS FOR WAGE-EARNER'S, BAYONNE HOUSING CORPORATION, BAYONNE, NEW JERSEY, 1925.
9. GARDEN TENEMENT FOR EMPIRE MORTGAGE COMPANY, (JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR.) AVENUE "A", EAST 65TH AND EAST 66TH STREETS, NEW YORK CITY.

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

- 1- Bayonne Fousing of the Bayonne Fousing Corporation, Bayonne, New Jersey.

Exterior View.

- 2- Bayonne Fousing of the Bayonne Fousing Corporation, Bayonne, New Jersey.

Garden View.

- 3- Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's Fousing, New York City.

Exterior View.

- 4- Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's Fousing, New York City.

Block Plan.

- 5- Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's Fousing, New York City.

Garden View.

- 6- Homewood Group -- City and Suburban Homes Company, New York City.

- 7- Towers Apartments -- Queensboro Corporation, New York City.

Plan.

- 8- Towers Apartments -- Queensboro Corporation, New York City.

Exterior.

- 9- Towers Apartments -- Queensboro Corporation, New York City.

Rear Garden.

- 10-Towers Apartments -- Queensboro Corporation, New York City.

Exterior Detail.

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THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

EGERTON SWARTWOUT
Architect
18 West 34th Street

April 6, 1926.

The Secretary of the Jury of Fellows,
The Octagon House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

As a member of the New York Chapter's Committee for Advancement of Fellowship, I am more than usually interested in the enclosed list of names submitted by the New York Chapter. The local Committee felt that there were so many names deserving of consideration that it would be perhaps wiser to let outsiders make a selection from a large list rather than for the local Committee to attempt to agree on a smaller one. My own personal feeling is expressed in the preference I have indicated in the enclosed list. Everett Meeks has done some interesting work as an architect but his chief claim for distinction comes from the very remarkable educational work that he has done as Dean of the Art School in New Haven. I have been thrown into intimate contact with him for a year or so and have seen the excellent results he has obtained and I think this kind of work should be encouraged. Howells is one of the older men and well deserving of fellowship, and Harmon is one of the best of the younger crowd. Thomas has done extremely valuable work in housing and Voorhees has been very active in all Institute affairs and also has done excellent work. I fully realize that there can only be a few men elected from the New York Chapter and in my opinion these five are the most deserving.

Yours very truly,

(Sd.) EGERTON SWARTWOUT.

ES:MH

G

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

COPY

HARRY B. MULLIKEN
Architect
4944 Grand Central Terminal,
New York.

April 8th, 1926.

Mr. Henry H. Kendall,
Chairman of the Jury of Fellows,
American Institute of Architects,
Octagon House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kendall:-

Among the names from the New York Chapter, proposed for fellowship in the Institute, I am glad to voice my high appreciation of all those with whom my thirty years of practice have brought me in personal touch. I mention especially Corbett, Flagg, Freedlander, Greenley, Hornbostel, Howells, Meeks, Murchison and Thomas.

Their architectural achievements are well known and each has done work tending to raise the high standard of the profession.

Yours truly,

(Sd.) HARRY B. MULLIKEN

HBM:EX

CONCERNING

OFFICE OF
GROSVENOR ATTERBURY, ARCHITECT
139 East 53rd St., New York

TELEPHONE PLAZA 5668-5669
CABLE "GROSVENATY," NEW YORK

GROSVENOR ATTERBURY, F.A.I.A.

PHILIP E. LANGWORTHY
JOSEPH P. MARSHALL

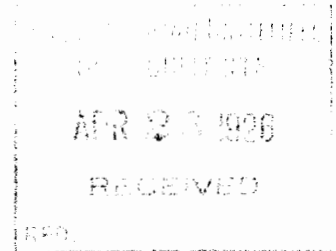
STOWE PHELPS, A.I.A. JOHN TOMPKINS, A.I.A.

W. F. ANDERSON, A.I.A.

INDUSTRIAL HOUSING
AND
COMMUNITY PLANNING

April 24, 1926

Secretary, Jury of Fellows,
American Institute of Architects,
Octagon House,
Washington, D. C.



My dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your circular, containing names of certain nominees for Fellowship in the A. I. A., and inviting confidential communications relative to their fitness.

In general, I would like to say that the list of the New York Chapter, with whom I am, naturally, most familiar, appears to be an unusually good one; the great majority are, without question, men who will not only live up to the standards of the Institute, but tend to raise it, and it seems to me that this is one of the tests for a Fellow of the Institute.

It may be sufficient for an Associate that he measures up to the ordinary rules and standards of the Institute, but when it comes to the election of a Fellow, it has always seemed to me that the test should rather be whether he is the kind of man whose relations to his fellows and clients, and the public in general, are such that the rules of the Institute might properly be tested by his personal record and practice.

In other words, a Fellow should be a practitioner who would tend to raise the standards of the Institute in every respect, and the conferring of that honor should be based, least of all, on his material success.

What I have said, in general, leads me to question one name on the list of the New York Chapter, that of Andrew J. Thomas, because, while I respect his energy, push, cleverness and ability, as the result of my contacts with him in three or four connections, I do not feel that his election as a Fellow would indicate a proper discrimination and judgment of the proper qualifications of that honor by the Institute itself, nor in respect of his influence on other aspirants.

OFFICE OF GROSVENOR ATTERBURY, ARCHITECT

STOWE PHELPS, A. I. A.

JOHN TOMPKINS, A. I. A.

April 24, 1926

Secretary, Jury of Fellows - 2

It does not seem to me that anyone should be elected a Fellow whose ethical point of view, as well as his aesthetic and architectural, is not distinctly above the average, and whose conduct in relation to his fellow practitioners is not such that it is recognized as being above question, not only technically, but in spirit.

For these reason, I should regret very much to see Mr. Thomas, at this time, elected a Fellow of the Institute.

Respectfully yours,

GA/C



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

COPY

SHREVE AND LAMB
331 Madison Avenue
New York

April 24, 1926.

Attention Mr. Henry H. Kendall, Chairman.

Gentlemen:-

Your circulars of March 29th and 30th, presenting the names of Members of the Institute suggested for advancement to Fellowship, invite communications, and because of this I am writing you with regard to the nominations made from the New York Chapter which in a number of cases seem to me to fall short of a high standard.

It is not my intention to make criticism of particular names, but rather to make certain comments which in themselves will indicate such preferences as I may have, not so much for individuals, as for standards of selection and their relation to those nominated.

As I stated at the meeting of the Executive Committee through whom the official nominations of the New York Chapter were transmitted without a selective vote of the Executive Committee, it has seemed to me desirable that in a professional field as varied as that of New York, a Member nominated for Fellowship should show an exceptional ability in some branch of his professional work, whether design, structure, equipment or administration, and also should make some valuable contribution to the profession of the building industry not directly related to his more personal or selfish business activities. Without these two qualifications, it would seem to me that an Architect in this city had failed to reach a distinctive position or to make a marked valuable contribution to the work in which we are engaged.

There are men suggested for your consideration from the New York Chapter who do not have these qualifications, or whose activities have been distinctly selfish rather than of that broad quality which, as I see it, alone deserves especial commendation. Some have done notable (or profitable!) work without participation in the work of the Institute and without sympathetic professional consideration for others. Some have gained prominence in public activity without maintaining themselves always in a position to deserve the respect of the profession. There are certain nominations, on the other hand, which by general agreement of the building industry of this city, or in a more limited sense by the approval of intelligent Members of the profession, would be unanimously preferred, and it is with regard to one or two of them that I desire to comment.

Stephen F. Voorhees has shown unusual capability in the structural design of important work and in its administration under difficult circumstances, and has gained among professional men a very high reputation for his technical competence. He has, in addition, given a very unusual amount of his time and effort to the work of the industry as a whole, particularly through his position as President for five years of the New York Building Congress. Today he is one of the leaders of the profession in New York who have the respect, not alone of his

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

COPY

colleagues, but of employers, labor, real estate men and those familiar with the financial phases of architectural problems in this city. More, perhaps, than anyone else he is recognized as an example of competent participation on the part of the Architect in the building industry as a whole.

Mr. Andrew J. Thomas has gained the respect of men of importance who frequently fail to have a respect for the Architect, and he has done this through an intelligent pursuit of the study of the problem of multiple housing, on which his work has had a notable effect, perhaps a greater effect than that of any other Architect in this field. While in his activity has not the same apparent altruism as that of others, his leadership has made possible a great improvement in an important phase of architectural work.

Mr. Everett V. Meeks has, in addition to competent participation in architectural design in the field, shown marked ability in his direction of the development of the School of Fine Arts at Yale University and its administration through this period of growth. His work has not been limited to that task, but his influence has been used to affect favorably architectural projects other than those in which he was a participant, and the result has been to help to a marked degree the standing of the profession in this city and in New Haven.

You will, I am sure, understand that it is not my thought to make any suggestion to your Jury which would indicate any doubt of quality in the choice which you will make among those names whose are brought before you. But in the absence of any opportunity to express these thoughts effectively in the New York Chapter whose Committee on Fellowship nominations made it a condition of their report that it must be accepted without review, this communication will, I trust not be considered an intrusion. The only justification which it has aside from your invitation of some such communication, lies in my feeling that the architectural profession too often presents itself unsuccessfully to the American people and that we will strengthen our standing with men of business and culture if we express commendation of those who grasp the problems of the profession and the building industry in their broader sense and participate in their solution with less selfishness than characterizes some of the nominees. The Institute may well disregard any "advancement" of the individual which does not promote "the advancement of the profession".

Very truly yours,

(S) R. H. Shreve.

The Jury of Fellows,
American Institute of Architects,
The Octagon House,
Washington, D. C.

COPY TO

FILES PRESIDENT SECRETARY TREASURER

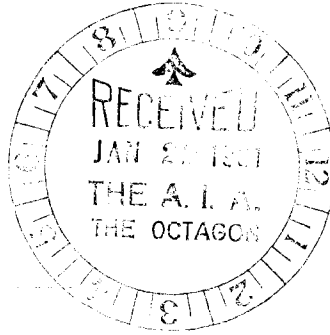
MEMO OF ACTION TAKEN BY JURY OF FELLOWS ON NAMES DISCUSSED AT ITS
MEETING ON MAY 9, 1927.

- - - - -

ANDREW J. THOMAS, New York Chapter:

In view of the fact that candidate has been a
member since 1921 only and to objections raised
from some sources action was postponed.

(Proposals for Fellowship must be filed with the Jury of Fellows, at The Octagon, not later than February 1st of any calendar year if it is desired that such proposals be acted upon prior to the second succeeding convention.)



(Issued by the Jury of Fellows)

Confidential

The American Institute of Architects

The Octagon, 1741 New York Avenue
Washington, D. C.

FORM OF PROPOSAL FOR FELLOWSHIP

(Before executing read carefully the accompanying document on Principles of Fellowship)

Name of Member Proposed—

Mr. Andrew J. Thomas (ANDREW J. THOMAS)

Street 2 West 46 St

City New York City

State N. Y.

Notice—Use Ink and Write Legibly Throughout.

Chapter of Member Proposed—

New York
(Name of Chapter)

Date of Election to Institute—

1921
(The year is sufficient)

Place of Business—Location of Best Work.

2 West 46 St apt 15 E 42 St N. Y. City
(Principal Place of Business past Five Years)

New York Cleveland and Chicago
(One or more cities in which best work is located)

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General Conditions of Fellowship: (Chapter II, Article 1, Section 1, By-laws:)

Fellowship in The American Institute of Architects is conferred upon a member who is a citizen of the United States, who, in the opinion of an authorized jury of fellows, shall have notably contributed to the advancement of the profession in design, construction, literature, education or public service.

PROPOSAL FOR FELLOWSHIP

January 15 1931

To the Jury of Fellows,
The American Institute of Architects,
The Octagon, Washington, D. C.

The following name of Andrew J. Thomas, a member in good standing, is submitted to the Jury of Fellows with a recommendation that he be advanced to Fellowship:

Name Andrew Jackson Thomas (In full)

Address 246 St N. Y. City (City and State)

Place and date of birth New York City June 13 1875

Graduate of Architecture (Name of College, University or School)

Holder of Scholarship in Architecture—

(Name of Scholarship)

If practicing architect give firm name or names, and state how long connected with each:

Andrew J. Thomas about 20 years (Firm name) (Approximate time)

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Born in New York City, June 13, 1875, son of Andrew J. and Elizabeth M. Thomas. Owing to the death of both his parents when he was thirteen years of age, he was obliged to enter business at an early age, and had a varied career, being in California in 1888-90 and in Alaska in 1896-7 at the time of the historic gold rush. In the intervening years, and after his return from Alaska, he was in the real estate and building businesses, and acquired a first-hand knowledge of the housing conditions which he has since been interested in remedying. He was married in 1902 to Grace M. J. Stewart.

Opened his office for the practice of architecture in 1910.

Principal works are Metropolitan Life Insurance Company housing; Paul Laurence Dunbar apartments in Harlem; Marshall Field Garden apartments, Chicago; Thomas Garden apartments, New York City; Bayonne Industrial Housing; five projects for Queensboro Corporation, Jackson Heights, 1920-21-22-23; City and Suburban Homes Co. garden apartments; Apartment at Radburn, N. J.; Van Tassel apartments, North Tarrytown; Also the development of the Forest Hill Subdivision, near Cleveland, Ohio; the Princeton Inn, Princeton, N. J.; Hotel Lucerne, N. Y. City, several banks and office buildings (see next page); two apartments on old Baptist Home site, E. 67th and E. 68th Sts., New York City. Several medals awarded by New York Chapter, A.I.A. for apartment house designs, one the first award of the kind. Extraordinary member, Bund Deutscher Architekten.

ACHIEVEMENT IN DESIGN

1. Architectural Work—

Commercial

Gunther Bldg., 666 Fifth Avenue *New York City*
Name of Building City or Town

Lawyers Title & Trust Company *Jamaica, N.Y.*

Lawyers Title Guaranty Co *White Plains, N.Y.*

Abeyton Corp. Building *Cleveland Hts., Ohio*

#4 East 43rd St. *New York*

Monumental

.....
Name of Monument Place

.....

.....

Domestic

Paul Laurence Dunbar Apartments *New York City*
Name of Owner Place

Houses at Forest Hill *n. Cleveland*

Princeton Inn *Princeton, N.J.*

Hotel Duane *New York*

Thomas Gardens " "
Nature of Work Place

Jackson Heights - Towers " "

Van Tassel Apts. *N. Tarrytown.*

~~Special Work~~

2. Here should follow a description of his work in design, showing special attention to the particular features the proponents believe worthy—

Mr. Thomas' work is notable for his development of the "garden apartment" type of plan, occupying only a moderate proportion of the land area, usually about 50%, and for his skilful arrangement of space, which enables him to attain this small occupancy of the land and devote the rest of the plot to garden space. Still more important is his ability to adapt this type of plan to the stringent requirements of philanthropic housing. He has changed the conception of an apartment house from an almost solid mass of building to an open plan enclosing a landscaped garden. He has developed a distinctive exterior style growing out of his principles of planning and construction.

3. Photographs, sketches, or drawings should be submitted of two or three buildings or works—

Photographs... Paul Lawrence Dunbar Apartments
Works

Thomas Gardens Apts.

Van Tassel Apartments

Forest Hill houses

Drawings... Abeyton Corp. Building
Works

Princeton Inn

Hotel Duane

Lawyers Title Guaranty Co

Miscellaneous

Sketches...
Works

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ACHIEVEMENT IN CONSTRUCTION

1. Engineering Construction

Name of Building	Place
.....
.....
.....

2. Books, Treatise, or Articles Written—

Subject	Name of Book or Periodical
.....
.....
.....
.....

3. Photographs

Works	Place
.....
.....
.....

4. Drawings

Building or Works	Place
.....
.....
.....

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Achievement in Education and Literature—*continued*

2. Here should follow a summary of particular influences that may have been created by any of the works above mentioned if known to the proponents and any recognition accorded by the profession, by societies, or by the public—

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3. Educational Work—

The proponents should direct attention to the position held by applicant, his or her particular force or influence in his or her line of endeavor, and any evidence of recognition by pupils, by the profession, or by the public of his or her achievements.

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4. If under this class applicant has also designed or executed work, then proponents should fill out also the blanks under heading (Achievement in Design)—

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

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ACHIEVEMENT IN PUBLIC SERVICE

1. Here should follow a clear statement of the field in which his activities have been directed, the influence of that leadership and what accomplishment has resulted—

Mr. Thomas has been particularly concerned with the improvement of housing conditions for the masses. His enthusiasm for this subject has been of great public service in helping to carry through many large philanthropic housing projects, such as the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's extensive housing program of 1922, the Bayonne Housing Corporation's buildings for workers in Bayonne, Mr. Rockefeller's various housing projects, including the Paul Laurence Dunbar group for Negroes, in Harlem; the Marshall Field group of ten buildings in Chicago, and several others. All of these have helped materially to improve living conditions in our great cities, and we believe his part in them constitutes a worthy public service.

2. Recite the positions of trust held by applicant in evidence of his recognition as a civic leader—

Name of Societies or Civic Groups	Place
<i>Tenement House Committee (N.Y.C.)</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Merchants Assoc. (N.Y.) Bldg. Code Committee</i>	<i>Advisory Member</i>
<i>U.S. Shipping Board Industrial Housing (War Period)</i>	<i>Supervising Architect</i>

(Proposers should sign at top of page 10)

Signatures: Submitted by Committee on Fellowship, by Capt. A. I. A.
 Group of five Members or/and Fellows— Date.....

1. J. F. Schuman
2. A. L. Harmon
3. James H. Beck
4. Quintus
5. Charles Sutton, Chairman

**BY-LAW PROVISIONS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE CONCERNING
 ADVANCEMENT TO FELLOWSHIP.**

ADDRESS COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN, THE JURY OF FELLOWS
 The Octagon, Washington, D. C.

BY-LAWS OF THE INSTITUTE.

Chapter II, Article 1. General Conditions of Fellowship.

Section 1. Qualifications.

(a) Fellowship in The American Institute of Architects is conferred upon a member who is a citizen of the United States who, in the opinion of an authorized jury of fellows, shall have notably contributed to the advancement of the profession in design, construction, literature, education, or public service.

Section 2. Prerequisite.

(a) Membership in the Institute for not less than ten years shall be a prerequisite to fellowship.

Section 3. Jury of Fellows.

(a) The Jury of Fellows shall consist of six fellows appointed by the President, two of whom shall serve for periods of one, two, and three years, respectively, and until their successors are appointed. The President shall appoint the chairman of the Jury, and shall fill all vacancies occurring in the Jury of Fellows by death, resignation, expiration of term or otherwise.

Section 4. Recommendations for Fellowship.

(a) *Method.* Any group of five or more members may recommend to the Jury for consideration the name of a member whom they deem qualified for fellowship. Such recommendation shall contain a brief statement of the notable service or achievements which, in the opinion of the nominators, justify the nomination.

(b) *Supporting Data.* Names of nominees for fellowship shall be submitted with full and explicit data to the Jury of Fellows on forms prepared for this purpose. The Jury shall then request from the chapter officials, the Directors of the Institute, and such other sources as it deems necessary privileged communications relating to the qualifications of the nominees. All recommendations shall remain on file with the Jury of Fellows for at least twelve months prior to final action.

Section 5. Rules of Procedure.

(a) The Jury shall formulate rules for its procedure subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Article 2. Election to Fellowship.

Section 1. Procedure.

(a) *Election.* Election to fellowship shall be by the Jury of Fellows. Fellows may be elected at any regular meeting of the Jury of Fellows.

(b) *Method.* Such election shall be by ballot. Four affirmative votes shall be necessary to elect.

(c) *Announcements.* The names of all fellows so elected shall be announced to the convention.

Article 3. Nomenclature.

Section 1. Nomenclature.

(a) Fellowship in the Institute shall be designated by the initials "F. A. I. A."

RULES OF PROCEDURE.

1. A meeting of the Jury of Fellows may be held at the call of the Chairman, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, and in any event this meeting should occur at least 60 days prior to the date of the Convention.

2. Suggestions to the Jury for advancement to Fellowship may be made as stated in the By-laws.

3. The validity of any objection raised to any candidate shall rest solely with the Jury, and all communications shall be considered only as informative data.

4. The Jury shall file with the archives of the Institute the original recommendation and a statement of its action with

the reasons for election in each case. Privileged communications shall not be preserved.

5. Proposals for Fellowship must be filed with the Jury of Fellows, at The Octagon, not later than February 1st of any calendar year. All proposals so filed will be considered by the Jury and those selected will be cited for the honor of Fellowship at the second succeeding convention.

6. In the event of failure to act favorably upon any recommendation within three years due notice shall be given to the proponents, the recommendation surrendered and privileged communications destroyed. No recommendation so surrendered shall again be presented within two years from such notice.

This is a revised copy of the Rules of Procedure of the Jury of Fellows as amended and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting on November 14, 1930.

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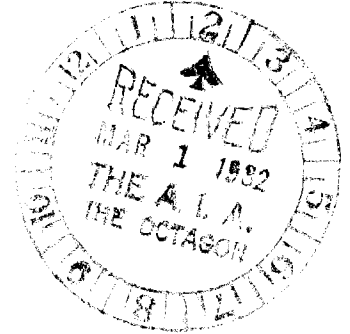
ANDREW J. THOMAS
ARCHITECT

2 WEST 46TH STREET • NEW YORK
BRyant 9-2810

M. Kohn

February 25th, 1932.

Mr. Robert D. Kohn, President,
American Institute of Architects,
101 Park Avenue,
New York City.



My dear Mr. Kohn:

I was delighted to receive your letter of February 16th, telling me of my election to Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects, and appreciate the great honor which has been conferred upon me.

If you will later let me know the exact date and time for the presentation of the certificate, I will most certainly be there to receive it.

Very truly yours,

Andrew J. Thomas

AJT:DM

March 1, 1932.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

We have your letter of February 25th, referred to this office by President Robert D. Kohn.

It has been the custom of The Institute to present the certificates of Fellowship at that particular session of the convention which is under the chairmanship of The Institute's Committee on Education.

The convention this year, as you know, will be held at the Mayflower Hotel, in Washington, on April 27, 28 and 29, and it is probable that the session devoted to the Committee on Education will be an evening session on the 28th.

This, however, will be later confirmed in a program which you will receive well in advance of the convention dates.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. Andrew J. Thomas, A. I. A.,
2 West 46th Street,
New York City, New York.

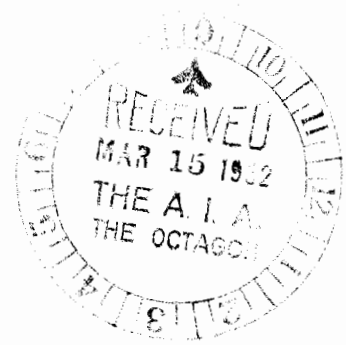
K:H:B

COPY TO
FILES

ANDREW J. THOMAS
ARCHITECT

2 WEST 46TH STREET • NEW YORK
BRyant 9-2810

March 14th, 1932.



Mr. Edward Kemper,
American Institute of Architects,
Octagon House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of March 1st has been received.

A L
I should like very much to be present at the convention in Washington, but will not be able to spend very much time there. I would, therefore, greatly appreciate it if you will inform me the time when the certificates of Fellowship will be presented.

Yours very truly,

AJT:DM

Andrew J. Thomas

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

29
COPY

File

~~April 10~~
April 10

March 16, 1932.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Your letter of March 14th:

I am not quite sure about the time of presentation of the Fellowship certificates at the Convention.

The presentations are usually made at the evening session under the auspices of the Committee on Education.

I am taking this up with the President, Mr. Kohn, and will let you know more definitely.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. Andrew J. Thomas,
2 West 46th Street,
New York City.

K-G

COPY TO
FILES

SECRETARY

SECRETARY TREASURER

30

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

2-9
COPY

March 16, 1932.

Dear Mr. Kohn:

Mr. Andrew J. Thomas writes as follows:

I should like very much to be present at the convention in Washington, but will not be able to spend very much time there. I would, therefore, greatly appreciate it if you will inform me the time when the certificates of Fellowship will be presented.

This raises the question of time of presentation for the Fellowship certificates. Often it is done at conclusion of the session on architectural education. That seems to be a good time, unless Mr. Butler has other plans.

What are your wishes in this regard?

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. Robert D. Kohn,
56 West 45th Street,
New York City.

K-G

ANDREW J. THOMAS
ARCHITECT

12 WEST 46TH STREET • NEW YORK
BRYANT 2810

File



September 22, 1937

The American Institute of Architects
The Octagon, 1741 N. Y. Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Att: Mr. T.I. Kemper.

Gentlemen:-

We thank you very kindly for your letter of September 18th, enclosing our check of \$15.00 covering 1937 dues, same being returned on account of remittance sent under date of April 7th, check #16731 to cover.

We regret any inconvenience caused you in this matter and appreciate your courtesy in returning our check sent in error.

Very truly yours,

A.J. Thomas
ANDREW J. THOMAS.

AJT:EP

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

2-3
COPY

File

May 23, 1939

Dear Professor Rusk:

We are sorry that there has been such a delay in responding to your letter of May 8th. Intervening meetings of The Executive Committee of The Institute, in Washington, have made such heavy demands on the limited staff at The Octagon that there has not been opportunity, previously, to give your letter the attention it required.

Such information as we have regarding Mr. Andrew J. Thomas, F.A.I.A., is on the attached sheet. According to our records Mr. Thomas is still living and practising at 23 West 47th Street, New York City.

Mr. John R. Thomas has never been a member of The Institute; therefore, we would have no information concerning him.

Mr. Thomas Tryon became a Fellow of The A.I.A. in 1892 and resigned his membership in August, 1914. We regret that the files of such early date as 1892 are not accessible and that we cannot supply you with any further data in his case.

With the hope that you will find this meager information of some assistance,

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary

Mr. W. S. Rusk, Professor of Fine Arts,
Wells College,
Aurora-on-Cayuga, New York.

K/g
Enclosure

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COPY TO

FILES

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

TREASURER

THOMAS. ANDREW JACKSON

Elected a member of The American Institute of Architects 1921
Advanced to Fellowship in 1932.

Address: 23 West 47th Street, New York, N. Y.

Biographical Data:

Born June 13, 1875, in New York City, son of Andrew Jackson Thomas and Elizabeth H.

Owing to the death of both parents when he was thirteen years of age, Mr. Thomas was obliged to enter business at an early age and had a varied career, being in California in 1880-90 and in Alaska in 1896-97 at the time of the historic gold rush. In the intervening years and after his return from Alaska, he was in the real estate and building business and acquired first-hand knowledge of the housing conditions which he has since been interested in remedying. Opened his office for the practice of architecture in 1910.

His work is notable for his development of the garden apartment type of plan, occupying only a limited proportion of the land area, usually about 50%; and for his skillfull arrangement of space which enables him to attain this small occupancy of land and devote the rest of the plot to garden space. Still more important is his ability to adopt this type of plan to the stringent requirements of philanthropic housing. He has changed the conception of an apartment house from an almost solid mass of building to an open plan enclosing a landscaped garden. He has developed a distinctive exterior style growing out of his principles of planning and construction.

NEW YORK CHAPTER



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

March 24, 1960

Miss Florence H. Gervais, Secretary
Membership and Records
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Miss Gervais:

The attached letter is self explanatory. I was wondering if the Institute would be interested in this matter. I have no idea whether or not some action will be taken by our Board members concerning the request for help in advancing him some funds, but I thought the Institute should be informed about Mr. Thomas' unhappy situation.

I will keep you informed as to the action taken which might act as a guide for the Institute. I have written to Mr. Thomas requesting him to fill out the Member Emeritus applications. Maybe this could be made retroactive and some funds returned to Mr. Thomas which would be one way of helping him.

Sincerely yours,

Margot A. Henkel
Executive Secretary

MAH:rr
Enclosures

P. S. I was extremely happy to meet you in Washington and would like you to know how much I enjoyed the two days of my stay which gave me the opportunity to meet all the staff members.

*Noted
MS*

MAH

DORF-SCHWARZ AND CO.
ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS
22 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 4, N. Y.
WHITEHALL 4-2235

HUBO SCHWARZ, C. P. A.
JACOB DORF

March 18, 1960

Emergency Fund
American Institute of Architects
115 East 40 Street
New York, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

I want to call your attention to the plight of one of your oldest members, Mr. Andrew J. Thomas, living at 187 East 64th Street, New York City. He is now about eighty-six years old.

I used to be his accountant in more prosperous days. Yesterday Mr. Thomas called me up and told me that he is down to his last sixty dollars.

He told me that he has many prospects of work pending. Whether anything from these jobs will materialize or not, I do not know. All I know is that he is getting Social Security of a little more than \$100.00 a month, and that he has been living on moneys advanced to him by friends and relatives, including myself.

The State of New York is also after him for some unpaid taxes of over \$500.00. The poor man is frightened and worried.

As he has always contributed to your Emergency Fund in prior years, and as I know that he is too proud to ever approach you, or any relief organization, for help, I am writing this letter to you.

If you decide to help Mr. Thomas, please do not mention that I instigated this matter, as I know it would greatly embarrass him.

Very truly yours,

Hubo Schwarz

M.H. Schwarz

NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
115 EAST 40th STREET, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

COPY

March 24, 1960

Mr. Hugh Schwarz
22 Broadway
New York 4, New York

Dear Mr. Schwarz:

Enclosed letter is self-explanatory. I am extremely grateful that you have written to us. First of all I think it is important to get Mr. Thomas to sign the applications blanks for Member Emeritus status which will exempt him from payment of dues.

Our Executive Committee is meeting on March 29th and I will place your letter on the agenda for their consideration and will keep you informed as to the action taken by the Board members.

Sincerely yours,

Margot A. Henkel
Executive Secretary

MAH:rr
Enclosure

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
NEW YORK CHAPTER
MAR 28 11:40 AM '60
NEW YORK

Members
Thomas, Andrew J.

March 30, 1960

Mrs. Margot A. Henkel, Executive Secretary
New York Chapter, A.I.A.
115 East 40th Street
New York 16, New York

Dear Mrs. Henkel:

Your letter of March 24th is received, with regard to the tragic situation of Andrew J. Thomas, F.A.I.A.

We shall, of course, be glad to take immediate action on his election as a Member Emeritus of The Institute and even if the case is not fully completed by the time of the April 19th meeting of The Committee on Membership, we shall ask for special, conditional action so that it can be made effective promptly.

I have discussed Mr. Thomas' situation with Mr. Purves, and much as he sympathizes with him in his troubles, there is no way in which The Institute can be of assistance, other than to waive any further dues payments. There just are not funds available for financial assistance to members.

Mr. Purves suggested that you take this up with Mr. LaFarge, with the thought that Mr. Thomas's colleagues in New York might do what they can to help him. I note from your letter to Mr. Hugh Schwarz that you had the correspondence on the agenda for your Chapter Executive Committee meeting yesterday, and perhaps something constructive has been arranged. We sincerely hope so.

Regretting that we cannot do more for Mr. Thomas here,

Sincerely yours,

(Miss) Florence H. Gervais
Head, Membership Department

NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

115 EAST 40th STREET, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

COPY

April 7, 1960

Mr. Max Foley
c/o Architects Emergency Committee
115 East 40th Street
New York 16, New York

Dear Mr. Foley:

Andrew J. Thomas' case, who is a member of the Institute since 1921, has been discussed at our last meeting of the Executive Committee, and the committee came up with the following motion:

"Corporate Member - Andrew J. Thomas

Due to Mr. Thomas' present financial difficulties and in consideration of his substantial contribution to the profession of architecture, particularly in the area of apartment design, it was moved, seconded and carried that

THE PRESENT FINANCIAL SITUATION OF MR. ANDREW J. THOMAS BE REFERRED TO THE ARCHITECTS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE WITH THE STRONG RECOMMENDATION THAT FAVORABLE ACTION BE TAKEN IN THE FORM OF UNDERWRITING MR. THOMAS' \$500. INDEBTEDNESS TO THE STATE OF NEW YORK AND THAT THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE REPORT ITS ACTION BACK TO THE NEW YORK CHAPTER'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. "

A letter from Mr. Schwarz, who brought this matter to the attention of the Chapter, is attached. Anything you can do in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

1883 765-8 M. A. HENKEL

APR 10 1960
NEW YORK CHAPTER
OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE
OF ARCHITECTS

Margot A. Henkel
Executive Secretary

MAH:rr
Enclosure

*Members
Thomas, Andrew J.*

*Sept
Bd. 1960*



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

NOTICE OF ELECTION—MEMBER EMERITUS

TO **Andrew J. Thomas, F.A.I.A.**
187 E. 64th Street
New York 21, 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 **January 1, 1960**

Date **April 26** 1960 .

[Handwritten Signature]

Secretary

*N.Y. Chapter
Copy to A.A.T.G. Dept*

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members
Thomas Andrew J. F.A.
X

ANDREW J. THOMAS
ARCHITECT

153 EAST 38TH STREET, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.
Murray Hill 4-0813

May 14, 1960.

The American Institute of Architects,
The Octagon, 1735 New York Avenue, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Attention of: Mr. J. Roy Carroll, Jr.,
Treasurer.

Noted
9

Dear Sir:

Re: Notice of Election to Member Emeritus.

I am very pleased to receive notification from you that
The Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects
had conferred upon me the title of Member Emeritus as of the
date of April 26, 1960, to become effective January 1, 1960.

I shall very much appreciate your conveying my thanks to
The Board of Directors for their action in conferring this title
on me.

With all best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Andrew J. Thomas

Andrew J. Thomas, F.A.I.A.,
187 East 64th Street, New York 21, New York.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



The Octagon • 1735 New York Avenue, N.W. • Washington, D. C. 20006 • EXecutive 3-7050

September 2, 1963

Mrs. Marget A. Menkel, Exec.-Secty.
New York Chapter, AIA
115 East 40th Street
New York 16, New York

Re: Death of A. J. Thomas, FAIA
(date unknown)

Dear Mrs. Menkel:

We were very sorry to learn of the death of the member indicated above.

For The Institute's Baldwin Memorial Archive records, it would be appreciated if you would have the enclosed forms filled in. Two copies should be returned to The Institute and the third copy should be maintained in the Chapter's files.

Sincerely yours,

William H. Scheick, A.I.A.
Executive Director

Enclosures

BALDWIN MEMORIAL ARCHIVE
of American Architects

NO. _____

Name: Andrew Jackson Thomas of (address) 187 East 64th Street, New York, N. Y.

Born: June 13, 1875 at New York, N.Y. Died: July 25, 1965 at New York, N. Y.

Parents: _____ and _____

Married: Grace Stewart of New York, N. Y. on _____

Children: None Niece: Mrs. Ruth Kohler, Rockville Center, Long Island, New York.
Niece: Mrs. Stanley Foster, Greenwich, Connecticut.

Education: Self-taught; see article carried by N.Y. Times, July 27, 1965 (attached)
Honorary Doctorate Degree from Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany.

Training; and practice as Principal: (Firm Names, Places, Dates, Specialization)

Firm Name: Andrew J. Thomas, Architect, since about 1915 to his death in 1965.
Specialization: Housing; developer of the garden type apartment idea
Other work: Office building for Board of Transportation, New York
Hospitals: State of New York
See also attached article from N.Y. Times, July 27, 1965 (attached)

Professional Memberships and Service: (Institute and Chapter Activities; Teaching)

Fellow of the American Institute of Architects since 1932
Member of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Other Affiliations: (Religious, Fraternal, Political, Social)

Member of the Committee on Housing and Urban Development of the
Community Service Society of New York, 105 East 22nd Street, N.Y., N.Y.

Public Service: (Civil and Military; Community, State, National)

Member of the New York National Guard
Architect with the United States Shipping Board, 1917-1918 (Robert D. Kohn, Chm)

Published Material: (Articles and Addresses; Executed Work; Biographical Data)

Many article on the subject of housing in various architectural magazines, 1920-1930
Executed Work: Housing for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., Queens, New York City.
Rockefeller Housing, Cleveland, Ohio; Bayonne, New Jersey; Bronx, New York.
Thomas Gardens, Bronx, New York. Other projects in Manhattan and Brooklyn.
Office Building for the Board of Transportation in Brooklyn, New York.
Queens County Building, in collaboration with William Gehron, Architects.
Biographical Data: See attached article from the New York Times for July 27, 1965.

(OVER)

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9/20/65

General Background: (Personal Characteristics and Accomplishments; Interests, Digressions, Travels, Friendships, Side-lights, Honors, and Awards.)

Andrew J. Thomas is a man not easily described as to "characteristics" because he was at times shy and at other times very forceful and dynamic. At times he was a sort of a dreamy, starry-eyed individual who sought to wipe out the slums of New York, and then have all of his faculties concentrated on exacting the last inch of space from the plan he was developing and the most economical method of construction possible to achieve the three dimensional objective in actual brick and mortar..... and he did make these housing jobs come to full realization, and at a time when the word; "housing", was almost unknown to the balance of the profession of architecture.

His interest, and it was the primary interest in his life; was housing and all the things that were required to further this interest, namely, the publicity required to bring the matter to the attention of those who might aid him in furthering this work. He fully understood what was needed to solve the problem, and he knew the problem by coming in contact with the early tenement-house conditions in New York. He sought to correct these conditions by the direct approach of simply building something better with no time for the sociological or philosophical sidelights which so often obscure the objectives at hand. As far as could be observed there were no digressions from the field of housing, and it was always his primary interest and concern. In point of fact, housing, beginning with the first Public Works Program under the Roosevelt Administration in 1933, became a very formidable political issue and it has grown steadily through the years to the point where in 1949 it became involved in the corollary field of city planning and thence into the Urban Renewal Programs of today. In the light of the scope of these new urban re-development programs of 1965, the garden apartments of Andrew J. Thomas may seem small, but it should be remembered that his garden type apartments were a radical improvement in the field of apartment house design and remembered, too, that this work of Andrew J. Thomas was accomplished forty (40) years ago. He was true "pioneer" in this field.

His travels were mostly made in his early years. In the direction recommended by Horace Greeley, he went West to Los Angeles and San Francisco, and one of his favorite stories concerned his travels to Alaska in the Klondike days. Later his work in various parts of the country took him to many cities, but he never seemed to have any urge to travel to Europe or other foreign lands, because he was always too busy with his all-consuming interest right here in the United States, i.e., housing.

His friendships were for the most part amongst his friends and associates in the architectural and engineering professions. One exception is recalled and that was his friendship with Mayor James J. Walker, of New York. In this connection it might be recalled that Jimmie Walker fell on evil days toward the end of office as Mayor of New York, but Andrew J. Thomas never wavered in his friendship. He always spoke very fondly of Robert D. Kohn, and their association of 1917-18 on the U. S. Shipping Board projects. He was also very friendly with William Haugaard, and was associated with him on several projects after Mr. Haugaard had left his post as State Architect and had gone into private practice. Matthew Hiller, the structural engineer, was also counted as one of his close friends, as was V. L. Falotico, the mechanical engineer. He was very proud of his Fellowship in the AIA and his doctorate degree from Heidelberg University. See also NY Times, July 27, 1965.

Principal Commissions: (Classified, with locations and Reference Data) (Above)

Compiled by: J. Davidson Stephen, A.I.A.

Date: September 15, 1965.

Acknowledgements: Mrs. Ruth Kohler, Rockville Center, Long Island, New York
Mrs. Stanley Foster, Greenwich, Connecticut.
Mr. Robert Cummings, A.I.A., West Hempstead, Long Island, New York.
New York Times, July 27, 1965

NY Times
7-27-65

TH

ANDREW THOMAS, A CITY ARCHITECT

Housing Projects Designer
Dies at 90—Fought Slums

Andrew J. Thomas, an architect who designed millions of dollars worth of housing projects for John D. Rockefeller Jr. in the city and who popularized the garden apartment, died Sunday at Harkness Pavilion. He was 90 years old.

In 1924, soon after completing a \$7 million six-block apartment development for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in Queens, Mr. Thomas said:

"I'll abolish every slum in New York if I can gain the attention and help of charitable organizations, the state and society. I'll begin as soon as the first bond issue raises the money and I'll raze 9 or 10 blocks at a time until the entire city is rebuilt."

If Mr. Thomas fell short of his goal, it was not for lack of effort. During a 75-year career, he designed model projects in Cleveland, Bayonne, N. J., Long Island City, Brooklyn, Manhattan and the Bronx.

Thomas Gardens at 840 Mott Avenue in the Bronx still bears his name. He designed the old Queens County Court House and the Board of Transportation building in Brooklyn.

But it was alleviation of slum conditions that challenged Mr. Thomas most. His grayish-blue eyes would light up with enthusiasm or blaze with impatience at anything that delayed his plans for changing the face of the city.

Opposed Remodeling

When it was suggested that remodeling was the answer to the slum problem in the city, he wrote in the Architectural Record in 1920:

"I have positively come to the conclusion that remodeling is not a practical solution. I assume that most people know how miserably deficient are the old-law tenements in the necessities of light, air, sanitation, ventilation, plumbing and heating."

In designing the Metropolitan Life houses, Mr. Thomas first planned to use 8,000 square feet of a 100x100 foot lot for each building. He found he could cut a building's size to 6,700 feet, then 6,100, finally 5,000 feet—50 per cent of the land. While the rooms were slightly smaller than first envisioned, there was more than ample compensation in the space and airiness around the building.

In the Mott Houses, which he designed for Mr. Rockefeller, the architect found he could

construct each building on 46 per cent of the land. The garden apartment was born.

"If we are going to remedy conditions," he said, "let us do it properly. There is no reason for giving a new lease of life to the conditions from which we are suffering. No building needs more than 50 per cent of the lot."

Although quite a financial success, Mr. Thomas seemed to understand the problems and needs of the tenement dweller. He could appeal forcefully to his own laborers also. When he found that other contractors were trying to hire away the men who were building the five apartment houses of his Bayonne project in the nineteen twenties, he called the workers together and told them:

"This housing is being built to provide decent homes for union men and their families. The costs have all been figured down to the last cent, including the money you fellows agreed to work for. If your price goes up we'll have to break our promise and raise the rents on our tenants, all good union men."

"You'll stand by your own people, won't you? Are you with us? Will you stick with us?"

A hundred voices shouted, "Sure!" and the work was finished.

Designed Own Dwelling

Unable to get away from his life's consuming interest, Mr. Thomas designed his own house as a hobby. It was on Fenimore Road, near the Hartsdale station in Westchester. Built in the Normandy style, it had seven rooms, including a hectagonal conservatory with a floor in various colored tiles.

The walls were hung with bird cages, and in the spacious Japanese rock garden paraded South African cranes, silver pheasants and tropical birds.

Mr. Thomas was born on Lower Broadway. At the death of his parents when he was 13, he took a job as a jeweler's helper, but he had no liking for that business. He went to Los Angeles to work as a bellhop in a hotel, and returned to the city two years later to become a rent collector for a real-estate speculator.

It was then he first saw the dark, ugly tenements. He later became a timekeeper for a contractor, and he found himself spending long nights in shanty offices figuring out construction plans. He had never taken a course in drawing or design.

"I had never taken a drawing or lesson nor had any technical schooling in architecture but I knew what people needed to make them comfortable," he said.

Mr. Thomas's last project was completed about three years ago. It was a hospital for the insane in upstate New York, the contract for which he had been awarded when he was 80.

There are no immediate survivors.

THOMAS arch 175.
copy
Thomas, Andrew

J. DAVIDSON STEPHEN
240 EAST SEVENTY-NINTH STREET
NEW YORK

April 29, 1966.

The American Institute of Architects,
The Octagon,
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.,
Washington, D. C. 20006.

Attention of: Mr. George E. Pettengill, Hon. A.I.A.,
Librarian.

Dear Mr. Pettengill:

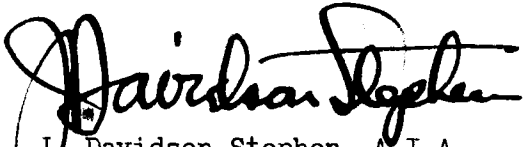
Re: Andrew J. Thomas, 1875-1965, Baldwin Memorial Archives.

Some time ago, in September 1965 to be exact, we had some correspondence in the above connection. For this reason and because I felt that it might be of interest to you as part of the material for the Baldwin Memorial Archives, I am enclosing a photocopy of a letter sent to me under date of April 18, 1966, by Mr. Ben Schlanger, the Chairman of the Awards Committee of the New York Chapter, A.I.A., advising me that the Awards Committee and the Executive Committee had approved an award to be known as The Andrew J. Thomas Award for Pioneer in Architecture which shall be an annual award provided that a proper candidate can be selected.

I trust that this enclosure will be of interest to you.

With all best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,



J. Davidson Stephen, A.I.A.,
240 East 79th Street,
New York, New York 10021.

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NEW YORK CHAPTER THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

MAX O. URBANH/PRESIDENT
DAVID F. M. TODD/VICE PRESIDENT
OWEN L. DELEVANTE/SECRETARY
H. DICKSON McKENNA/TREASURER

April 18, 1966

Mr. J. Davidson Stephen
240 E. 79th Street
New York, N. Y. 10021

Dear Mr. Stephen:

We are pleased to inform you that the Awards Committee and Executive Committee of the New York Chapter, A.I.A. has approved an award to be designated as "The Andrew J. Thomas Award for Pioneer in Architecture". This award will be on an annual basis provided that an appropriate candidate is found each year.

The New York Chapter wishes to thank you for your suggestion to establish the award to honor the work of Mr. Thomas.

Sincerely yours,

Ben Schlanger
Ben Schlanger, Chairman
Awards Committee

CHARLES E. THOMSEN, AIA/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARGOT A. HENKEL/EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
115 EAST 40TH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016
MURRAY HILL 9-7969