

SEVERINGHAUS, J. WALTER

Chapter Supporters:

LaFarge, L. Bancel	)	
Eggers, David L.	)	
Lefferts, Gillet, Jr.	)	
Harris, Michael M.	:	Proposers
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Lorimer, A. Gordon	)	
Radoslovich, Michael L.	)	
Douglass, Lathrop	)	

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- ✓ Abramovitz, Max, FAIA
- Adams, Lewis G., AIA
- Carson, Robert, FAIA
- Colean, Russell, AIA
- Foley, Max, FAIA
- Frost, Frederick G., Jr., FAIA
- ✓ Harrison, Wallace K., FAIA
- ✓ Holden, Arthur C., FAIA
- Jacobs, Robert Allan, FAIA
- Ketchum, Morris, Jr., FAIA
- Mayer, Albert, FAIA
- ✓ Platt, Geoffrey, FAIA
- Teegen, Otto J., FAIA
- Woodbridge, Frederick J., FAIA'

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Goodman, Charles M., FAIA - Washington, D. C.  
Gurney, G. Harmon, Chief Architect, Housing Dept.,  
New York Life Insurance Co. - New York, N.Y.  
Morris, S.L., Jr., AIA - Houston, Texas  
Scheick, William H., AIA - Washington, D. C.  
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LaFARGE, KNOX & MURPHY

ARCHITECTS

215 EAST 37th STREET, NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

MURRAY HILL 2-8075

L. BANCEL LaFARGE, A.I.A.  
ALEXANDER D. KNOX, A.I.A.  
JOSEPH A. MURPHY, A.I.A.  
• • • •  
JONATHAN MOREY

November 19, 1959

CONFIDENTIAL

The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington 6, D.C.

Attention: Jury of Fellows

F A C T O R A L

Gentlemen:

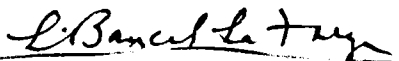
My wholehearted sponsorship of Mr. J. Walter Severinghaus' candidacy for advancement to Fellowship in The Institute for his achievement in Design is not in the least qualified by any doubt as to his personal role in the development of such projects he has been responsible for in the very large and important firm of which he is General Partner. As such, it is axiomatic that the evolution of the planning and design of each project, although actively pursued by the Partner in Charge, be the collective product of the talents, judgment and initiative of all principals, but undoubtedly the Partner in Charge must wield the major influence over his colleagues if only because he must master all the intricate threads of his particular project.

Such complex commissions as the Ford Central Staff Office Building in Dearborn, as the International Arrival Building and the United Air Lines Terminal at Idlewild, and currently as the Chase Manhattan Bank complex in Downtown New York are evidences of phenomenal vision in design and planning requiring the utmost leadership within the architectural office producing them. The Partner in Charge must first have his finger in every nerve of the strands weaving the final product, but primarily he must be highly disciplined in comprehending the importance of every smallest detail of design affecting the whole end result.

The very fact that Mr. Severinghaus has been controlling such a volume of projects within the last four years is evidence to me that he is more than qualified to stand large as a Fellow in The Institute. The photographic submissions support the standard of perfection achieved.

It is my earnest hope that the Jury will accord Mr. Severinghaus a well-deserved promotion to Fellowship.

Respectfully yours,

  
L. Bancel LaFarge

LBLaF:jr

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STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
THURLOW TERRACE  
ALBANY, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE UNIVERSITY ARCHITECT

November 30, 1959

Jury of Fellows  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue  
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

FACTUAL

J. Walter Severinghaus, a partner in the firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, has been nominated by the New York Chapter for Fellowship in the Institute for outstanding achievement in Design.

I have known Walter Severinghaus since 1937 when he joined what was then the Skidmore & Owings office temporarily located in our office (Scott & Teegen) in preparation for the New York World's Fair work. I have since that time been extremely interested in watching the development of that firm as well as his part in it. I have also served with him on numerous educational Committees in the New York Chapter.

My observations of the outstanding work he has accomplished for our profession both in design and educational service enables me to support his nomination without reservation. I hope he may receive your most thoughtful consideration for an honor to which he is eminently worthy.

Sincerely yours,

  
Otto J. Teegen, F.A.I.A.  
State University Architect

*New York Life Insurance Company* . . . 51 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

HOUSING DEPARTMENT

TELEPHONE: MURRAY HILL 5-5000



December 1, 1959

Jury of Fellows  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

FACTUAL

It is my understanding that Mr. J. Walter Severinghaus has been nominated by the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for Fellowship in the Institute for outstanding achievement in design.

Mr. Severinghaus was the partner-in-charge for Skidmore, Owings & Merrill when Manhattan House, 200 East 66th Street, was built in 1949-50. This building has proved to be an outstanding example of good planning and design and was the forerunner of a vast expansion in apartment building in this particular area of the upper eastside of New York.

I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Severinghaus on this particular building program and have worked with him on many chapter affairs since. In my opinion he is eminently qualified for Fellowship for outstanding achievement in design on the basis of his contributions to the firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in many of the examples of fine architecture that this firm has completed throughout the country over the last ten years.

Yours very truly,

*G. Harmon Gurney.*

G. Harmon Gurney  
Chief Architect

KAHN AND JACOBS, Architects

TWO PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

ELY JACQUES KAHN, F. A. I. A.  
ROBERT ALLAN JACOBS, F. A. I. A.  
JAMES B. NEWMAN, A. I. A.-A. S. C. E.  
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ASSOCIATES: ROY S. BENT, AIA  
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December 1, 1959

Jury of Fellows  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

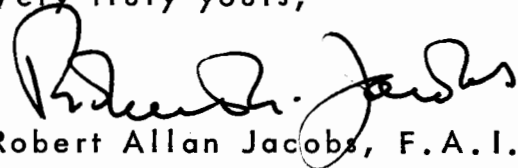
May I heartily endorse the nomination of J. Walter Severinghaus, Senior Partner of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill for Fellowship in the Institute.

I have known Walter for twenty years - since he was with Adams & Prentice, and watched him mature into one of this Country's leading architects.

Besides his tremendous record, which is now known to you, he is a man of staunch character who has devoted his life to his profession and to his community, both on a national and local level.

I sincerely believe that The College of Fellows would be distinguished by his elevation to Fellowship.

Very truly yours,



Robert Allan Jacobs, F. A. I. A.

CARSON & LUNDIN ARCHITECTS  
425 PARK AVENUE NEW YORK 22

ROBERT CARSON  
EARL H LUNDIN  
ARVIN SHAW III

PLAZA 4-1040

December 1, 1959

JURY OF FELLOWS  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C.

FACTUAL

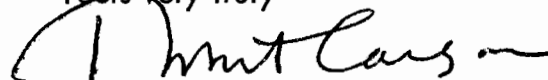
Gentlemen:

I would like to strongly recommend that Mr. J. Walter Severinghaus be advanced to Fellowship in The American Institute of Architects for outstanding achievement in design.

As one of the senior partners of the firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, certainly one of the nation's most outstanding architectural organizations; he contributes immensely to the cause of modern architecture. I have known Mr. Severinghaus personally for many years and we have worked together on numerous projects for the New York Chapter of the Institute. He is a man of genuine character, of great experience, and culture. I have personally visited and studied the most important works which were done under his guidance, such as the Ford Central Staff Office Building in Dearborn, Michigan; the Arrival Building, Power Plant and First National City Bank - all at the International Airport in New York; also the Deering, Milliken Laboratories in Spartanburg, S.C. and the Chase Manhattan Bank in New York. The variety of building types in these commercial structures indicate the broad nature of his ability.

During my last several years on the Executive Committee of the New York Chapter of the Institute, I have been impressed with Mr. Severinghaus' generous use of his valuable time on important committees and projects. He will be well worthy of the professional trust and honor that a Fellowship entails. I would like to recommend him to you with enthusiasm and confidence.

Yours very truly



Robert Carson, F.A.I.A.

RC/ck

LEWIS G. ADAMS  
FREDERICK J. WOODBRIDGE

MURRAY HILL 7-4456

HENRY R. ASTHEIMER  
EDWARD N. BLOOMSTEIN

ADAMS & WOODBRIDGE  
ARCHITECTS  
215 EAST 37TH STREET  
NEW YORK 16

December 2, 1959

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

FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

Twenty-five years ago J. Walter Severinghaus came to work as an apprentice for Adams & Prentice at a salary of \$15 a week. He stayed for about four years and was receiving \$45 when he left! It was not inflation that tripled his salary it was that he was just plain good. He learnt fast, he used his head, and his personality was a natural.

I have no personal knowledge of the part he has had in the design of the buildings listed by him and this point does not seem particularly important. I do know that he has the taste and ability to select good design, to separate the chaff from the wheat, to add a little something to good design, and to discard the inferior.

In short I heartily support Mr. Severinghaus for nomination for fellowship.

Sincerely yours,



Lewis G. Adams, A.I.A.

LGA/eg

KIFF, COLEAN, VOSS & SOUDER · ARCHITECTS  
THE OFFICE OF YORK & SAWYER

230 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

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JAMES J. SOUDER, A. I. A.  
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JOSEPH C. RAZZA  
MARY T. WORTHEN  
DOROTHY E. WOLF

December 2, 1959

Jury of Fellows  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C.

F A C T O A L

Gentlemen:

The New York Chapter of The American Institute of Architects has nominated Mr. J. Walter Severinghaus, a partner in the firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, for Fellowship in the Institute for outstanding achievement in design.

Having known Mr. Severinghaus's contributions to the work of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, particularly in the field of large scale projects, and having served on Committees with Walter, it is a pleasure for me to write a letter advocating his possible advancement to Fellowship. Those of us practicing in New York are, of course, familiar with the number of buildings in which Mr. Severinghaus had an important role in their successful development, particularly in the field of airport design and in the field of large building structures, such as the Chase Manhattan Bank.

As I feel his ability in design merits commendation, I heartily support the Institute's action in nominating Mr. Severinghaus to Fellowship.

Sincerely yours,

  
Russell Colean

RC/JY





BOARD OF STANDARDS AND APPEALS  
CITY OF NEW YORK

THE CHAIRMAN

December 2, 1959

JURY OF FELLOWS  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

Mr. J. Walter Severinghaus of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill has been nominated for a Fellowship in the Institute for outstanding achievement in design.

I have known Mr. Severinghaus for many years and I have respected his achievement in the field of design. As a member of the Engineering Board of the Port of Authority of New York, I worked with Mr. Severinghaus in the design of the International Arrival Building and came to an appreciation of his talent in design.

I would like to recommend him to you as an architect who is completely worthy of Fellowship.

Sincerely,

MHF:BS

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WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

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December 2, 1959

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JURY OF FELLOWS  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

Gentlemen:

It is a pleasure for me to learn that J. Walter Severinghaus has been nominated by the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for Fellowship in the Institute for outstanding achievement in Design.

I became acquainted with Walter through his participation in the affairs and conferences of the Building Research Advisory Board and the Building Research Institute. On certain occasions we were privileged to benefit from his broad knowledge and accomplishments in architectural design and from his philosophy of design.

I consider it an honor to add my support to his nomination.

Sincerely,



William H. Scheick A.I.A.  
Vice President - Research

WHS:jp

FACTUAL

# A. GORDON LORIMER AIA

254 WEST 54 STREET NEW YORK 19 NEW YORK PLAZA 7-5010

JULIUS NICONY RA  
JULES P. SCHERER RA  
HILDRED ZERMANN

December 2, 1959

Jury of Fellows  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

I have personally known and had frequent professional contact with Mr. J. Walter Severinghaus since 1938 when I had the opportunity to observe him in the design and erection of many exhibits for the New York World's Fair.

I was impressed then with his serious professional approach and have been pleased to see his growth in the firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. I know he has been a key member of this firm in many outstanding achievements, nationally and internationally familiar to the public as well as to the profession, as exemplified by the International Arrival Building and Power Plant at New York International Airport.

It is with great pleasure that I recommend him to the consideration of the Jury of Fellows for advancement to Fellowship in the Institute.

Sincerely yours,

  
A. Gordon Lorimer

AGL z

HARRISON & ABRAMOVITZ  
ARCHITECTS

630 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 20, N. Y.

WALLACE K. HARRISON  
MAX ABRAMOVITZ

CHARLES H. ABBE  
MICHAEL M. HARRIS  
JOHN J. HEALY  
GEORGE S. JOHNSTON

December 3, 1959

Jury of Fellows  
American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

It came as something of a shock to realize that the honor of Fellowship had not already been conferred on J. Walter Severinghaus and it is with the greatest pleasure I add my name to those already supporting his nomination.

There is nothing I can say about the outstanding character of his architecture - his works speak for themselves - but, having had the opportunity of working closely with him on a good many projects, I have had the chance to know him both professionally and personally. He is a gentleman in every sense that word implies and, as such, has my very highest recommendation for Fellowship in the Institute.

Sincerely,



Wallace K. Harrison

EGGERS AND HIGGINS  
ARCHITECTS

100 EAST 42<sup>ND</sup> STREET  
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

OTTO R. EGGERS, F.A.I.A.  
THEODORE J. YOUNG, A.I.A.  
GEORGE S. HOLDERNESS, A.I.A.  
BRADFORD N. CLARK, A.S.C.E.  
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R. JACKSON SMITH, A.I.A.  
DAVID L. EGGERS, A.I.A.  
DANIEL P. HIGGINS, JR.  
RICHARD F. EGGERS

ALLEN R. CONGDON, A.I.A.  
ARCHIE J. DOOLITTLE, N.S.P.E.  
ELIOT B. WILLAUER, A.I.A.  
GEORGE H. BUTERBAUGH, A.I.A.  
GUSTAVE R. KEANE, A.I.A.  
ALLEN C. PARRETTE, A.I.A.  
C. GATES BECKWITH, A.I.A.

PHONE: OXFORD 7-3780

December 7th, 1959

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

FACTUAL

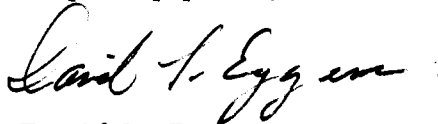
Gentlemen:

Certainly one of the most interesting and beautiful buildings greeting a newcomer to this country is the International Arrivals Building at the International Airport. Here I feel is a full and complete demonstration of Mr. J. Walter Severinghaus' design ability. Certainly it expresses a concept far beyond the average architectural appreciation.

His new First National City Bank Building at this airport is a gem of design and function. These alone set Mr. Severinghaus apart from the average architect in this city.

I strongly recommend that your Committee elevate this man of great talent to the position of Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

Very truly yours,



David L. Eggers

DLE:ju

**Ketchum and Sharp** Architects

227 East 44 Street  
New York City 17  
OXford 7-7200

Morris Ketchum, Jr., FAIA  
J. Stanley Sharp, AIA  
Robert MacKinnon, AIA  
Robert T. Handren, AIA

December 8, 1959

Rosario D'Agrosa

Leslie J. Cronk, RA  
Olivier de Messieres, AIA  
Marvin K. Geasler, AIA  
Ferdinand Gottlieb, RA  
Arthur D. Greenfield, AIA

Jury of Fellows  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

F A C T C A L


Gentlemen:

I am delighted to learn that the New York Chapter, American Institute of Architects has nominated J. Walter Severinghaus, A.I.A., for advancement to Fellowship in design. This letter is in support of his nomination.

As a partner in the firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill of New York, Walter Severinghaus has taken a very personal part in the accomplishments of that firm. He has greatly contributed to the brilliant clarity and structural expression of the projects designed under his direction. I particularly admire his careful integration of the allied building arts such as interior decoration, sculpture, craftsmanship and landscape architecture in these buildings, which include, among others, the International Arrival Building and Power Plant at Idlewild Airport, New York, The Deering Milliken Laboratory at Spartanburg, South Carolina and the new Chase Manhattan Bank Building of New York City.

I believe that he deserves advancement to Fellowship. I hope that his nomination receives your favorable consideration.

Very sincerely yours,

  
Morris Ketchum, Jr.

MKjr:vs

December 14, 1959

Jury of Fellows  
American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C.

FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

J. Walter Severinghaus has been a partner in the firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill for many years and, as such, is one of the major forces creating the high standard of design of this firm. The particular jobs which are his direct responsibility, such as the International Arrival Building at Idlewild, New York, a magnificent gateway to the United States, prove without doubt his ability. I hope his outstanding contributions will be recognized as deserving of elevation to Fellowship in the A.I.A.

Sincerely yours,

  
Giorgio Cavaglieri

GC:Gf

WILSON, MORRIS, CRAIN & ANDERSON  
MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
3330 GRAUSTARK · BOX 6216 · HOUSTON 6, TEXAS

F. TALBOTT WILSON  
F. A. I. A.  
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A. I. A.  
B. W. CRAIN, JR.  
A. I. A.  
RALPH A. ANDERSON, JR.  
A. I. A.  
RODERICK M. JONES  
JOHN C. REYNOLDS  
JAMES E. HEATON  
A. I. A.

21 December 59

Jury of Fellows  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I take this opportunity to write a letter of endorsement regarding J. Walter Severinghaus of New York City, who has been nominated for Fellowship in the A.I.A., in design.

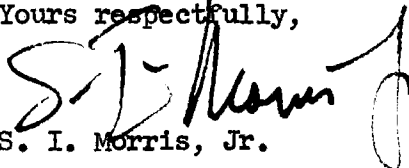
I have known Walter for about two years, and have become well acquainted with him during our association on a project here in Houston. I have watched with interest and approval his development of the design of this project.

His firm, in which he is and has been for years, I am told, a leading and very dynamic force has an outstanding record of excellent achievement and good practice, in the nation.

Mr. Severinghaus personally designed a number of buildings at the International Airport in New York City which are probably all known to you. I think that his achievement in diplomacy and handling of situations in the case of the Chase Manhattan Bank project to permit the accomplishment of his excellent bank and plaza design is a singular example of his ability.

It is my opinion that Mr. Severinghaus is entitled to the honor and recommendation of a Fellowship, and I sincerely hope the Jury concurs in this opinion.

Yours respectfully,

  
S. I. Morris, Jr.

ne



LEWIS G. ADAMS  
FREDERICK J. WOODBRIDGE

MURRAY HILL 7-4456

HENRY R. ASTHEIMER  
EDWARD N. BLOOMSTEIN

ADAMS & WOODBRIDGE  
ARCHITECTS  
215 EAST 37TH STREET  
NEW YORK 16

December 22, 1959

Jury of Fellows  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C.

Gentlemen:

FACTUAL

It is a pleasure to write in support of the proposal to advance Mr. J. Walter Severinghaus to Fellowship in the Institute on the basis of design.

As a partner in one of the outstanding firms of the country he has shared responsibility for many important and distinguished buildings. The work of S O M is so well known that it is scarcely necessary to enumerate specific examples. Mr. Severinghaus has chosen to show among other exhibits the work at the Idlewild International Airport with which I am personally familiar. It is an extraordinarily handsome and impressive composition and a very complicated one. The technical requirements of arrivals and departures have been handled with great skill and the whole vast complex has been given a scale and unity that is admirable. As is usual with the work of the firm details and finishes have been handled with great elegance.

I consider Mr. Severinghaus in every way qualified and deserving of the honor of Fellowship.

Respectfully yours,



Frederick J. Woodbridge, F.A.I.A.

FJW/eg

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
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42-15 CRESCENT STREET, LONG ISLAND CITY 1, N. Y.

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DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURE

ARTHUR G. PALETTA  
CHIEF ARCHITECT

REF. No.:

DICT. BY: MLR STENO: ES

December 22, 1959

SUBJECT:

Jury of Fellows  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

Mr. J. Walter Severinghaus, as a general partner of Skidmore, Owing & Merrill, has taken active participation in the design of: the Ford Central Staff Building in Dearborne, Michigan, the International Arrival Building at the International Airport in New York, and in the Chase Manhattan Bank in New York.

These three structures are in my opinion significant contributions to 20th Century architecture in America.

Therefore, it is my privilege to endorse wholeheartedly Mr. Severinhaus' elevation to Fellowship in the Institute.

Respectfully yours,

  
Michael L. Radoslovich, F.A.I.A.

FREDERICK G. FROST JR. & ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS

144 EAST 30TH ST. NEW YORK 16, N. Y. MURRAY HILL 5-9789

FREDERICK G. FROST JR.	F. A. I. A.
NEMBARD N. CULIN	A. I. A.
CARL J. CARLSON	A. I. A.
CARL FELTZ	A. I. A.
S. HART MOORE	A. I. A.
GEORGE J. SCHWARZ	A. I. A.
FREDERICK G. FROST	F.A.I.A.

December 22, 1959

Jury of Fellows  
American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

Re: John W. Severinghaus

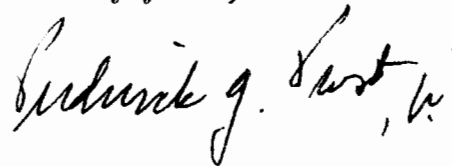
FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

As a member of New York Chapter's Committee on Fellows, I am pleased to endorse the nomination, now before you, of Mr. John W. Severinghaus for advancement to Fellowship in Design.

The work of Mr. Severinghaus' firm, Skidmore Owings and Merrill is, of course, well known to me and I regard it as averaging very high in its design quality. Obviously the work of such a large firm must of necessity reflect the contributions of many individuals having widely varying abilities and therefore no single person can be exclusively credited with the entire design performance. On the other hand, it must be true that one designer must guide each design group. Accordingly, it was of considerable interest to me to review the photographic presentation of Mr. Severinghaus' work and see which of the S-O-M projects he had been responsible for. It seems to me that his projects are among the best of his firm and that as a consequence he fully merits advancement to Fellowship for his design work.

Sincerely yours,



Frederick G. Frost, jr.

FGFjr/md

HARRISON & ABRAMOVITZ  
ARCHITECTS

630 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 20, N. Y.

WALLACE K. HARRISON  
MAX ABRAMOVITZ

CHARLES H. ABBE  
MICHAEL M. HARRIS  
JOHN J. HEALY  
GEORGE S. JOHNSTON

December 23, 1959

The Jury of Fellows, A. I. A.  
The Octagon  
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

FACTUAL

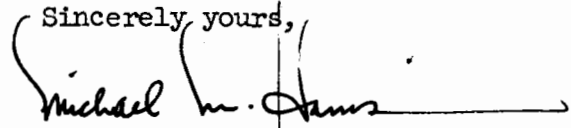
Gentlemen:

As one of the senior members of one of the outstanding architectural firms, Mr. J. Walter Severinghaus, has contributed a major share toward the distinguished work which his firm has executed. The projects which have been his direct responsibility have proven to be outstanding in their design quality, which has been largely his personal effort. These include such large scale and complex commercial buildings as the International Arrival Building and the United Airlines Terminal at International Air Port, and the Ford Central Staff Office Building in Michigan.

Although one assumes that large scale projects performed by a major architectural office are in the nature of being a joint effort, in the case of Mr. Severinghaus, it has been his personal attention, his fine sense of design and his insistence on quality, which have rendered the projects the successes they are.

For his years of devotion to the cause of good architecture and design, I recommend without qualification that he be advanced to Fellowship in the Institute.

Sincerely yours,

  
Michael M. Harris

MMH/nb

cc: Mrs. M. A. Henkel

LATHROP DOUGLASS  
A R C H I T E C T  
5 1 8 F I F T H A V E N U E  
N E W Y O R K C I T Y 3 6

December 23, 1959

Jury of Fellows, A.I.A.  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C.

FACTUAL

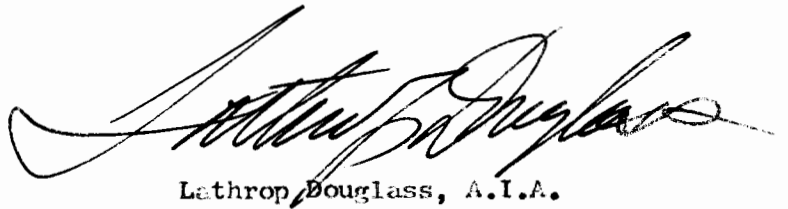
Gentlemen:

It has been the writer's privilege to reenter this country many times via the International Arrivals Building at Idlewild, a project for which Mr. J. Walter Severinghaus of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill was Partner-in-Charge. It is my enthusiastic opinion that this building is an excellent demonstration of the capability of Mr. Severinghaus in the field of architectural design.

Not only are the component parts in fine space relationship to each other, but in my opinion the entire concept shows exceptional skill in the integration of form, scale, color and finishing - in fact everything down to the smallest detail.

The First National Bank, also at Idlewild, and the large Ford Office Building in Detroit are other typical achievements of Mr. Severinghaus with which I am familiar and which demonstrate his contribution in the field of Architecture. He is without question a deserving candidate for advancement to Fellowship.

Sincerely yours,



Lathrop Douglass, A.I.A.

LD:ea

MAYER WHITTLESEY & GLASS

ARCHITECTS

December 28, 1950

Jury of Fellows  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C.

FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

I understand that the New York Chapter has nominated J. Walter Severinghaus for Fellowship, based on outstanding achievement in Design. The purpose of this letter is to give my strong support to this nomination.

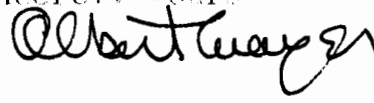
I feel that Severinghaus has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate both notable conceptual and design qualities directly in his own work, and in influencing the thinking and work of a large group of men - those directly under him and those associated with him.

On the conceptual side - if indeed it can for the moment be isolated from design, he has shown notable ability in recognizing, combining and refining the elements of complex programs - as for example, in the International Arrival Building at Idlewild - into excellent functional and visual relationships.

In the embodiment of these elements in architectural design, Severinghaus has shown notable strength and structural recognition, as well as the kind of sensitive refinement in design and detail which is generally missing in today's prefabricated skin idiom. The First National City Bank building, also at Idlewild, well illustrates this, a gem which though tiny in scale against the huge structures that assert themselves all over the place, quite holds its own in its sharply defined delicate elements: indeed furnishes a welcome and very effective counterpoint.

Severinghaus well deserves your favorable consideration, an architect of great integrity in design and a man of fine integrity of character as well.

Sincerely yours



AM:d

WILLIAM & GEOFFREY PLATT  
ARCHITECTS

101 PARK AVENUE - NEW YORK

OWEN LAU COWMAN  
GEORGE C. CROCKETT  
GEORGE H. CARLSON

December 28, 1959

The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C.

Attention: Jury of Fellows

F A C T C A L

Gentlemen:

This is to recommend to you that J. Walter Severinghaus  
be advanced to Fellowship in Design.

The photographic exhibit accompanying his application  
illustrates work of his firm for which he is respon-  
sible. The work shown is of the very highest order  
and certainly demonstrates his worthiness for the  
honor.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey Platt, F.A.I.A.

GP/gw

COMPLETE SERVICE AS OWNER'S AGENTS  
BUILDING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION  
INTERIORS, LANDSCAPE AND SITE PLANNING  
L. MORGAN YOST, FAIA  
D. CODER TAYLOR, AIA  
DONALD L. REINKING  
CHARLES POPE, JR.

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DC 20006  
ALPINE 1-3232

YOST & TAYLOR, AIA  
ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS  
500 GREEN BAY ROAD  
KENILWORTH, ILLINOIS

December 29, 1959

The Jury of Fellows, AIA  
The Octagon, 1735 New York Ave N W  
Washington 6, D C

FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

J Walter Severinghaus has been nominated for advancement to Fellowship in the Institute and I am most happy to write in support of his nomination.

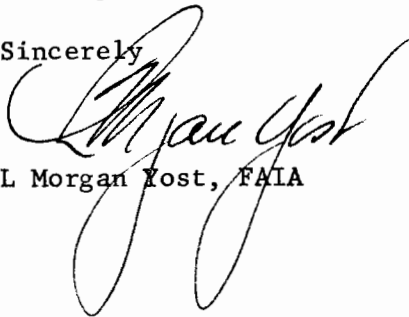
I have known Mr Severinghaus for thirty years. Since that time he has risen in and with the outstanding firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and is now a partner in that firm.

Unfortunately, important work is not always well done. The "business" interests may outweigh or obscure the opportunity and common sense in good architectural design. Therefore, we should recognize the more avidly the large work which is well done. In the case of the work of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, under Mr Severinghaus, we can see the opportunity recognized and the accomplishment realized.

Too often when we speak of such projects as the New York International Airport Arrival Building, The Ford Central Staff office building at Dearborn or the Chase Manhattan Bank we think impersonally only of S O M. The production of such works has required design experience of the highest order and the leadership to coordinate a multitude of requirements in a most meticulous manner if the result is to be fine.

In view of the accomplishments of Mr Severinghaus I feel he is entirely worthy of advancement to Fellowship in the Institute.

Sincerely

  
L Morgan Yost, FAIA

LMY:hfr



MOORE AND HUTCHINS, ARCHITECTS

800 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, NEW YORK

JOHN C. B. MOORE, F. A. I. A.      ROBERT S. HUTCHINS, F. A. I. A.

JOHN STENKEN  
RICHARD G. BERRY  
GILLET LEFFERTS, JR.  
JERRY F. LENT  
WILLIAM POTTER  
CARL B. HILLBERG

December 29, 1959

Jury of Fellows  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C.

FACTUAL

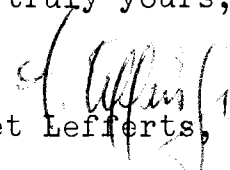
Gentlemen:

Although I have not had the pleasure of meeting Mr. J. Walter Severinghaus, I am personally acquainted with many of the design projects that he has been responsible for as "partner-in-charge" in the firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill.

His airport and bank work exemplify all the sensitivity and interest in details that have been associated with this renowned firm of progressive architects. His ability as a design coordinator is evidenced by the size and scope of his many responsible projects. Mr. Severinghaus' achievements, his design techniques, his influence on the profession - these are worthy of further honor.

I heartily recommend to you the advancement of J. Walter Severinghaus to Fellowship in the Institute.

Very truly yours,

  
Gillet Lefferts, Jr.

GL:al

HOLDEN EGAN WILSON & CORSER

December 29, 1959

Jury of Fellows  
American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Ave.  
Washington, 6, D.C.

Re: Walter Severinghaus

Gentlemen:

F A C T C A L

The work of Walter Severinghaus in design deserves the highest praise and merits consideration of his advance to fellowship in the Institute.

While I have not had the pleasure of knowing him intimately and personally, I believe that his position in his own firm and the part which he has played in the high standard of work produced, is evidence of his competence as a designer, his standing in the profession, and his integrity and ethical standards.

I take great pleasure in recommending his advancement.

Very sincerely yours,



Arthur C. Holden, F. A. I. A.

ACH/hr

HARRISON & ABRAMOVITZ  
ARCHITECTS

630 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 20, N. Y.

WALLACE K. HARRISON  
MAX ABRAMOVITZ

December 30, 1959

CHARLES H. ABBE  
MICHAEL M. HARRIS  
JOHN J. HEALY  
GEORGE S. JOHNSTON

The Jury of Fellows  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C.

Gentlemen:

FACTUAL

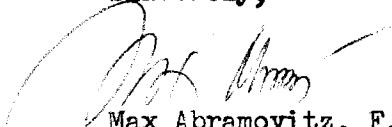
I heartily endorse the nomination of J. Walter Severinghaus to Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects for outstanding achievement in design.

I have over a period of years known of the performance of Mr. Severinghaus and his work; it has been consistent with the highest standards of our profession in the field of design and planning.

Among his work can be included such fine structures as the International Arrival Building at Idlewild, and the Ford Control Staff Office Building in Dearboen, Michigan. His contributions and standards are also evident in the fine work of his firm, Skidmore, Owings and Merrill.

I feel that his advancement will be a benefit to the Institute and the profession.

Sincerely,

  
Max Abramovitz, F.A.I.A.

MA:J

January 4, 1960

JURY OF FELLOWS  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington 6, DC

FACTUAL

J. Walter Severinghaus

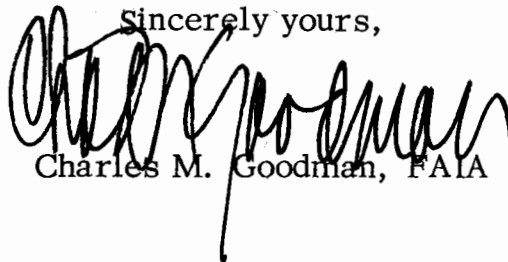
Gentlemen:

I met Walter Severinghaus during the period 1942-1946 when I served as Head Architect of the Air Transport Command. He was in service at the time and served in the Supply and Service Division of the Air Transport Command AAF, which included construction.

I had occasion to work with him on installations both here and abroad. He exhibited great ability in the organization and administration of projects and strong advocacy of a wartime military architecture that was well designed and in good taste as well as economical. He was not intimidated by the emergencies of the time in which architecture as an expression of professional value was generally lost in the shuffle. His advocacy of good design in military architecture was rare indeed. He was highly regarded by all who worked with him for his judgment, taste and attractive personality.

He has since become a partner in the firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill whose work needs no further elaboration by me. I feel sure however that the high level of design in this firm is due in no small measure to men such as Walter Severinghaus whose taste level I am personally acquainted with.

Sincerely yours,



Charles M. Goodman, FAIA

BROOKS AND CODDINGTON ■ ARCHITECTS  
3 8 2 6 NORTH HIGH STREET ■ COLUMBUS 14 ■ OHIO

December 31, 1959

The Jury of Fellows  
American Institute of Architects  
The Octagon  
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

FACTUAL

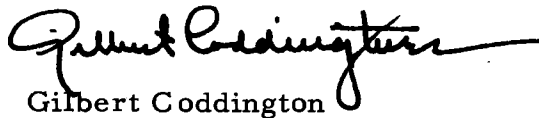
Gentlemen:

I am delighted to hear that the New York Chapter nominated J. Walter Severinghaus for advancement to Fellow in the American Institute of Architects.

As a friend, I have watched Walters phenominal advancement in our profession since we were classmates at The Ohio State University thirty years ago. His splendid background in the liberal arts, prior to his entry into the school of architecture, set him apart as a brilliant student. His design abilities blossomed as a partner in the Skidmore, Owings & Merrill firm. His unique ability to efficiently guide large scale planning projects with fine taste and great sensitivity has truly contributed much to the highest architectural design standards which their firm enjoys.

For his leadership and genuine contribution to good contemporary architectural design, I enthusiastically recommend J. Walter Severinghaus for advancement to Fellow.

Very truly yours,

  
Gilbert Coddington

gc:es



# THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

November 10, 1959

## C O N F I D E N T I A L

Re: J. Walter Severinghaus, A.I.A.

To Members of the Executive Committee  
New York Chapter, A.I.A.

An Architect is advanced to Fellowship in recognition of exceptional ability or of exceptional service. The Jury of Fellows always tries to choose wisely and with discrimination, but it is limited in precise knowledge about the nominees.

To complete Nomination this form must be filled and returned before January-February 1st. Otherwise, no action will be taken at the forthcoming Jury meeting.

It is the opinion of the Jury of Fellows that a designer, however talented, should not be advanced to Fellowship if he possesses deficiencies of character which reflect discredit upon the profession; and that no architect, regardless of outstanding service, should be advanced if the buildings which he has designed are so notably inferior in architectural design as to reflect discredit upon the profession.

To help the Jury learn such aspects, which are not normally completely supplied through regular nomination procedure, fill in the lines below which in your opinion apply to J. Walter Severinghaus, A.I.A. and return this sheet in the addressed envelope provided.

1. Has he many friends who speak well of him? Yes
2. Do they also vouch for his accomplishments? Yes
3. Would his ethics be acceptable in business? Yes
4. What is your opinion of his character? A PERSON OF  
DISTINCT INTEGRITY AND HONESTY

LiBened LaTay  
(Signature)

PAGE 1267

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# THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

November 10, 1959

## CONFIDENTIAL

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To help the Jury learn such aspects, which are not normally completely supplied through regular nomination procedure, fill in the lines below which in your opinion apply to J. Walter Severinghaus, A.I.A. and return this sheet in the addressed envelope provided.

1. Has he many friends who speak well of him? Yes
2. Do they also vouch for his accomplishments? Yes
3. Would his ethics be acceptable in business? Yes
4. What is your opinion of his character? Respected for his integrity and architectural ability.

David L. Eggen  
(Signature)



# THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

November 10, 1959

## C O N F I D E N T I A L

Re: J. Walter Severinghaus, A.I.A.

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To help the Jury learn such aspects, which are not normally completely supplied through regular nomination procedure, fill in the lines below which in your opinion apply to J. Walter Severinghaus, A.I.A. and return this sheet in the addressed envelope provided.

1. Has he many friends who speak well of him? As far as I know - yes
2. Do they also vouch for his accomplishments? I would assume they would - yes
3. Would his ethics be acceptable in business? Yes
4. What is your opinion of his character? \_\_\_\_\_

I don't personally know the gentleman

  
(Signature)





# THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

November 10, 1959

## C O N F I D E N T I A L

Re: J. Walter Severinghaus, A.I.A.

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To help the Jury learn such aspects, which are not normally completely supplied through regular nomination procedure, fill in the lines below which in your opinion apply to J. Walter Severinghaus, A.I.A. and return this sheet in the addressed envelope provided.

1. Has he many friends who speak well of him? Yes
2. Do they also vouch for his accomplishments? Yes
3. Would his ethics be acceptable in business? Without qualification
4. What is your opinion of his character? Mr. Severinghouse has been known to me for many years. He is a professional architect of the highest caliber.

Richard L. Harris  
(Signature)



# THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

November 10, 1959

## C O N F I D E N T I A L

Re: J. Walter Severinghaus, A.I.A.

**To Members of the Executive Committee  
New York Chapter, A.I.A.**

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To help the Jury learn such aspects, which are not normally completely supplied through regular nomination procedure, fill in the lines below which in your opinion apply to J. Walter Severinghaus, A.I.A. and return this sheet in the addressed envelope provided.

1. Has he many friends who speak well of him? Yes
2. Do they also vouch for his accomplishments? Yes
3. Would his ethics be acceptable in business? Yes
4. What is your opinion of his character? Very good.

Giorgio Cavaglieri, A.I.A.  
(Signature)



# THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

November 10, 1959

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Re: J. Walter Severinghaus, A.I.A.

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New York Chapter, A.I.A.

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To help the Jury learn such aspects, which are not normally completely supplied through regular nomination procedure, fill in the lines below which in your opinion apply to J. Walter Severinghaus, A.I.A. and return this sheet in the addressed envelope provided.

1. Has he many friends who speak well of him? Yes
2. Do they also vouch for his accomplishments? Yes
3. Would his ethics be acceptable in business? Very much so
4. What is your opinion of his character? Having known Mr. Severinghaus for more than 20 years, I can personally vouch for his high professional and personal qualities.

*R. Charles Lorne*

(Signature)

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# THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

November 10, 1959

## C O N F I D E N T I A L

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1. Has he many friends who speak well of him? yes
2. Do they also vouch for his accomplishments? yes
3. Would his ethics be acceptable in business? yes
4. What is your opinion of his character? excellent

Michael R. [Signature] FAIA  
(Signature)



# THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

November 10, 1959

## C O N F I D E N T I A L

Re: J. Walter Severinghaus, A.I.A.

To Members of the Executive Committee  
New York Chapter, A.I.A.

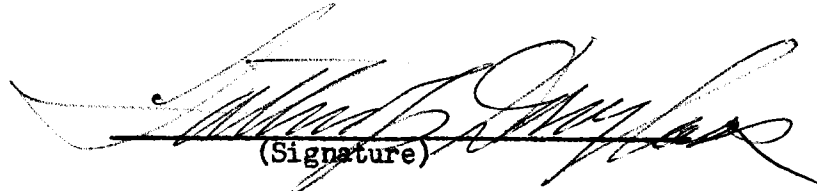
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To help the Jury learn such aspects, which are not normally completely supplied through regular nomination procedure, fill in the lines below which in your opinion apply to J. Walter Severinghaus, A.I.A. and return this sheet in the addressed envelope provided.

1. Has he many friends who speak well of him? Yes
2. Do they also vouch for his accomplishments? Yes
3. Would his ethics be acceptable in business? Yes
4. What is your opinion of his character? Excellent by reputation;  
not known personally.

  
(Signature)

NEW YORK CHAPTER



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

December 22, 1959

CONFIDENTIAL

To Chairman, Jury of Fellows  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Sir:

This is to inform you, in connection with the enclosed Confidential questionnaire, that Mr. Charles Haines is no longer a member of our Executive Committee. Consequently, although he did affix his signature to the five original nominations made by the New York Chapter for advancement to Fellowship, he will not forward any supporting letters, as provided for in the By-Laws.

We enclose the unexecuted blanks which were to have been filled out by Mr. Haines.

Very truly yours,

L. Bancel LaFarge,  
President.

LHLAF:mar

cc: Mrs. Henkel